

Planning Board Approves Bowcraft Site For Redevelopment

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS—The planning board last week took several steps toward satisfying the township's affordable-housing obligations when it formally incorporated two properties slated for housing into the master plan and also declared the Bowcraft Amusement Park site as an Area in Need of Redevelopment.

The Bowcraft designation comes more than two years after the board approved a redevelopment plan for the 12.6-acre property on Route 22 that will eventually see the construction of 190 apartments and 10 townhomes, with 35 of those units being designated as affordable hous-

ing. The property has been slated for housing development for some 20 years. A representative from ATA Developers, which has a contract to purchase the property, was present at last Wednesday's planning board meeting. The Area in Need designation gives the municipal government a good degree of control over redevelopment of a property.

A source told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that development of the Bowcraft property could start as early as next spring, although there is no firm timetable for the actual sale of the property that has housed the amusement park since the 1940s and which has operated during the past two years since the redevelopment

plan was approved.

The Bowcraft site is part of the township's affordable-housing settlement reached earlier this year. Other large tracts slated for housing include the former Parker Gardens site on Terrill Road, the Amberg Garden Center on Lamberts Mill Road and property on North Avenue next to the Charlie Brown's restaurant. The business district also is set for an influx of housing development as are several smaller properties off Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road.

The board last week also moved to include the Amberg and North Avenue properties in the township's master plan, a formality that was necessitated by the township's affordable-housing settlement.

In other business at the board's September 12 meeting, planner Michael Mistretta was asked to investigate three properties where the owners are seeking to have their lots rezoned or declared as an Area in Need of Redevelopment. The owners of the Ashbrook Care & Rehabilitation Center on Raritan Road, the gas station on Route 22 East at the Glenside Avenue intersection and the nearby property where the Sanguiliano Garden Center was formerly located are seeking the board's input.

Within the past few years, the zoning board of adjustment turned down expansion and redevelopment bids by the owners of the Ashbrook and Sanguiliano properties, and some planning board members last week voiced concerns about what the board was now being asked to do. Vice-Chairman Joseph Doyle asked that Mr. Mistretta first investigate the properties, their conditions and the reasons for the zoning board's denial of their earlier applications. He cau-

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WELCOME TO FANWOOD...The Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors, the borough's welcome group, had a table to greet new residents at the Fanny Wood Day street fair on Sunday.

Fanwood Council Hosts Suicide-Prevention Speaker

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – As September is National Suicide Prevention Month, Mayor Colleen Mahr and borough council members invited Dianne Grossman to speak at Monday evening's Fanwood Council meeting.

Mrs. Grossman, of Rockaway, is the founder of Mallory's Army and the mother of Mallory Grossman, who took her own life last year as a result of bullying. Mrs. Grossman and her husband, Seth, have put together the non-profit organization to help educate parents and schools alike about the dangers of bullying and to empower families to seek help if their children are being bullied.

According to Mrs. Grossman, Mallory endured nine months of bullying and taunting from other students with little to no intervention from the school district.

"We need to come together as a society and empower ourselves by being taught so that we know there is hope for our children," Mrs. Grossman said.

Mallory's Army was founded to support and educate parents and all

members of the community to the dangers of bullying and what can be done to prevent and eliminate bullying in schools and communities.

Mrs. Grossman is scheduled to speak at the All Saints' Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains on Tuesday, October 2, from 6 to 8 p.m., on the "Not My Child Syndrome." Money from tickets sold for the lecture will be given to the Mallory's Army not-for-profit group. The webpage can be found at www.mallorysarmy.org.

Awards also were given at the start of Monday evening's meeting to many local residents for their volunteerism within the borough. A proclamation and a "key to the borough" was presented to three students of Brunner Elementary School and to Fanwood residents for their hard work and efforts to raise money for local veterans.

Dante Castonovo, Olivia Hailey and Ian Weisholtz came together and held a lemonade stand fundraiser on North Avenue in Fanwood to raise money for the Valley Brook Village Community in Lyons, N.J. The Valley Brook Village has 62 furnished one-

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FARM FRESH...It was a full house at Saturday evening's five-course Farm-to-Table dinner on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. This was the second annual event to benefit and honor homeless veterans.

Superintendent Gives BOE Report on New School Year

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – Opening the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting held last Thursday evening, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes, Ed.D., gave a report on the newly begun 2018-2019 school year.

According to Superintendent Hayes, 5,626 students reported to the eight district schools within Scotch Plains and Fanwood, marking a slight increase from last year's 5,584.

In her report, she revealed that 28 new iMACS for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School media center were added, as well as 14 Chromebook carts at the middle-school level for use in science, mathematics, technology education and health classes.

Facilities upgrades for the district include new paving in the high-school parking lots, new flooring at certain locations at Terrill Middle School, new ceilings and light fixtures in the high school nurse's and attendance offices, air conditioning in certain classrooms at the high school, a new stove and ovens in the Terrill Middle School kitchen, a new range and hood in the high school kitchen, roofing replacement at Coles, McGinn, Park and Terrill, the stained glass in Park Middle School's auditorium repaired and cleaned, new sidewalks installed at Evergreen and Coles Elementary Schools, new reconfigured office space for the high school's Department of Special Services and playground repairs at McGinn and Evergreen.

Superintendent Hayes additionally noted that newly-hired special law enforcement officers were added in September to maintain safety throughout the district. These newly-hired officers include Officer Jack Redling,



PERFECT WEATHER FOR FANNY WOOD...The Fanny Wood Day street fair, pictured looking west on South Avenue, was held Sunday in downtown Fanwood under bright, sunny skies and with weather at 84 degrees.

Area Residents Oppose This Fall's Union County Deer Bow Hunt

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

COUNTY — A number of residents last Thursday spoke before the Union County Freeholder Board of their opposition to this fall's deer bow hunt in county parks. The program is in addition to the shotgun hunt to be held January to March. The shotgun hunt has been part of the county deer management plan since the early 1990s.

As previously reported by *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, the

fall bow runs from October 1 through December 31, Monday through Friday. Parks included will be the Watchung Reservation, Lenape Park, Ash Brook Reservation, Oak Ridge Park, Passaic River Park, Hawk Rise Sanctuary and Linden Municipal Landfill. The winter bow hunt season runs from January 1 through February 16, 2019, and includes Passaic River Park, Cushing Road Detention Basin and Elizabeth River Park.

The shotgun season runs January 7 through March 1, 2019 and encompasses Watchung Reservation, Lenape Park, Nomahegan Park, Ash Brook Reservation, Oak Ridge Park, Hawk Rise Sanctuary and Linden Municipal Landfill.

The latest deer hunt counts showed 68 per square mile in the Watchung Reservation, 182 per square mile around Lenape and Nomahegan Parks, 90 per square mile around Ash Brook Reservation and Oak Ridge Park, 53 per square mile in Hawk Rise Sanctuary and the Linden Municipal Landfill, 183 per square mile in and around the Cushing Road Detention Basin, and 260 deer per square mile in Elizabeth River Park in Hillside.

At last week's meeting, Kathy Shelus of Fanwood said she is "very concerned with how the public is go-

ing to be impacted for the hunting season that has now been amplified from 10 or 12 days to...120 days." She said she is worried about children and animals being injured from the use of the "razor-sharp" bows.

"I'm just wondering if this is an overkill. I don't understand why it has to be so immense," she said. "I'm just wondering, is this program really right for our county and is it right for our parks?"

Union County Parks and Recreation Director Ron Zuber responded that, "We are not hunting every day of those 100 days," noting the 100 days is put in place in order to acquire the hunting permit.

Freeholder Angel Estrada said "it is just not feasible" that a crossbow hunt will be held over 100 days, noting that weather and fall foliage will impact the days hunts will actually take place.

Mr. Zuber said the hunt will not be conducted "anywhere near playgrounds (or) trails" and that professional marksmen certified by state instructors will be used. He said hunters will not be out during the morning hours or during weekends.

"I think the misconception is that people are running through the woods with bows and arrows, and that is

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OUT FOR A STROLL...This pair of wild and crazy turkeys was spotted on the lawn of a home on Cooper Road near Raritan Road.

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