

Last Week's Editorial Missed the Facts about the Fanwood TDR Process

I have admired your reporting staff's fair coverage of Fanwood's Transfer Development Rights (TDR) for Historic Preservation initiative. I was surprised, therefore, to find that your recent editorial concerning our TDR efforts contained several inaccuracies. It is important that Fanwood residents have facts and not misinformation.

Your editorial stated incorrectly that other New Jersey communities have abandoned their TDR demonstration initiative, "considering TDR to be too complex." That simply is not true. All six communities selected by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Office of Smart Growth in 2005 to receive TDR demonstration grants, including Fanwood, are moving forward with their TDR programs.

You argue there are "less burdensome" ways for Fanwood to address its historic preservation objectives, presumably by making our existing zoning preservation ordinance mandatory. Such a process would prohibit all homeowners in the district from altering their homes without approval of the Historic Preservation Commission. This "less burdensome" way would create, in effect, a mandatory homeowner's association without the consent of the affected property owners. By contrast, the TDR initiative is strictly voluntary and as a bonus, provides compensation to historic property owners who elect to preserve their homes on their own.

You state that the Vision Plan for the South Avenue Corridor, a document that grew out of our public visioning workshops, will encourage too much density.

That argument overlooks the fact that this area will most certainly be developed regardless of whether we plan for it or not. We have chosen to proactively plan for redevelopment so that we can control the process and ensure that our community's vision for the South Avenue corridor is honored. Fanwood residents consistently identify improving the South Avenue corridor as an important goal and that they do not want a developer to decide what goes where in a piece meal fashion.

You state that the Vision Plan for the South Avenue corridor, coupled with the Downtown Redevelopment Area plan, could generate "over 300 residential units." The South Avenue Corridor Vision Plan does include opportunities for additional residential units. However, there are several scenarios for this residential development currently being discussed by the planning board, and most of them would contribute far fewer than the number your editorial cites. Incidentally, the South Avenue corridor is currently zoned to allow 83 residential units; these could be built today even if we did nothing to plan for our future.

Throughout this process, all Fanwood residents have been encouraged to participate in shaping the future of our community. As we move forward with this proposed program, it is critical that all questions are asked and all alternatives are weighed fairly with the correct facts. I urge everyone to get the facts on the Fanwood website visitfanwood.com/tdr to understand this proposed vision for our community.

Jack Molenaar
Fanwood

Looking for the Truth About Geese Population Control in County

Whether you love, hate or are indifferent to the geese population in Union County, one thing is for certain - the freeholders dealt with it the same way they deal with most every issue; by not dealing with it much beyond a photo op.

Since 2003, the county has been employing a company, which swoops in while the geese are molting and can't fly away. The birds are picked up at random, leaving others their group behind and then brought to a slaughterhouse. The meat is distributed to a soup kitchen.

There was never a comprehensive plan to manage the problem. An Open Public Records Act request seeking documentation of what methods were tried was returned with a brochure about managing geese populations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The only paper trail of the county addressing the problem involves press releases featuring freeholders up for reelection. There is a freeholder with a shovel planting high grass in Rahway Park. A motorized toy boat would zip around the lake as the cure. They claimed that the geese problem was well in hand.

A press release regarding the use of boarder collies as a means of goose con-

trol dated April 2001 featured all three campaigning incumbent freeholders and the sheriff. Stated Freeholder Mingo, "A significant drop in the number of geese and their unhealthy droppings has been achieved." Sheriff Froehlich said, "Border collies are extremely effective in geese control..." Freeholder Mirabella said, "...our concerted efforts will keep the flocks of geese from spoiling our parks and golf courses..." Freeholder Ruotolo said, "The dogs arrive and the geese just fly away. The geese stay away when the dogs leave. They eventually return, but in smaller numbers each time. The program is working."

In 2004, Freeholder Estrada said, "everything that we have tried up to now has been unsuccessful." The county manager stated, "These methods proved to be ineffective on a large scale."

The approximate cost to slaughter the geese is \$336,850 to date. More humane efforts are long over due. There was never a comprehensive plan in place to deter the geese population until the county instituted a plan to slaughter the geese yearly.

Tina Renna
unioncountywatchdog.org

Letters to the Editor

Conflict of Interest: Governor Corzine and Girlfriend Carla Katz

When the *New York Times* did a story last week telling of the \$6 million our governor gifted to his former lady friend, the president of a powerful labor union, my reaction was an unequivocal "get outta town," and I know I wasn't alone. One can only speculate as to the number of middle-aged women who found themselves wondering, "just what does Carla have that I don't" and then promptly purchasing a pair of black Steve Madden stilettos.

Certainly there is more to the Jon and Carla saga than shoes and the generous parting gifts she received when their personal relationship ended. Truth be told from a governmental perspective versus a personal one, it is hard to separate what should be on the public need to know list and what shouldn't.

During last year's budget debacle, the governor made it abundantly clear that he, and not the legislature, should be the entity that must do the contract negotiation with the unions; he got his way. That said, he, and no one else made his relationship, including the financial arrangements with Ms. Katz, a matter that would be coming to the bargaining tables.

He began digging himself into a hole that is now the size of the Grand Canyon. Seems he will be riding the rapids sooner rather than later as more information starts cruising down the mighty Colorado because the media is hot on the trail. One could question the wisdom of his advisors when he insisted that the union negotiations stay in the governor's office; perhaps he just didn't listen, which would not be surprising, but at any rate, what was he thinking?

Now that the door has been opened, it cannot be slammed shut with a curt, "it's personal," which was tried unsuccessfully a few months back. Damage control appears to be kicking in, evidenced by the review that the governor called for by a bi-partisan ethics panel, comprised of two individuals appointed by the man himself, which concluded among other things that this personal relationship did not influence their contract negotiation ability - what a shocker.

And just this week, Carla chatted with Cyndi Adams, celebrity gossip columnist of the *New York Post*, saying she is not keeping any secrets about Jon, and they had just realized that they couldn't stay together because of their respective careers. Wonder what gem this week will bring as the aforementioned tactics haven't quite resonated with the public.

Governor Corzine and Ms. Katz with their liaison and its connection to the state

treasury is a reporter's dream; a bit of digging has turned up an incredible new nugget almost weekly. Though there is nothing illegal about the financial arrangement, the twists, turns and motivations are real cocktail party conversation and could be the makings of a TV mini-series.

Why did he absolve the mortgage he held on her home, why did he give her \$6 million and provide for her children's private school educations? What would cause her to purchase a condo in the same building where he resides, and what does his new main squeeze think about that? Was it really necessary for them to have attorneys draw up a "Palimony" settlement of sorts? And the big question is how can the two of them honestly believe that the public would buy into the claim that though having an intimate relationship for an extended period of time, they were able to sit across the table from each other without any personal feelings, good or bad, or otherwise entering into the equation?

The latter is why this story will not go away, why the media keeps digging and why the public continues to discuss it. Actually, many are angry. Are we gullible little people who should allow ethical lapses to be shoved under the rug - and then pick up the tab with our tax dollars while the perpetrators go on their merry little way telling us what we should blindly accept and think? Well, I think not.

Patricia Quattrochi, Garwood
GOP Candidate for Freeholder

School Set for 125th Anniversary

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches here at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School, I look with great pride at our students' and faculty members' accomplishments over 2006-2007 - all of which *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* have spotlighted with great care and generosity. I thank you for providing our school with a vast readership that appreciates interesting and thought-provoking local news.

An exciting time is approaching at Wardlaw-Hartridge. In September, we celebrate our 125th anniversary. Guest speakers and unique events will help us celebrate our history. I hope you will join us. Have a very pleasant and relaxing summer, and I thank you.

Michelle LePoidevin
Dir. of Communications
Wardlaw-Hartridge

Downtown WF Activity Schedule is Announced

WESTFIELD - The Downtown Westfield Corp. (DWC) announced details of its summer activities.

The "Sweet Sounds Downtown" jazz performances will take place on sidewalks and street corners in Westfield for nine consecutive weeks on Tuesdays from July 3 through September 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. Rain dates are the following evening on Wednesday. The jazz nights, now in its 11th year, will include 40 different musical groups over the season to enhance dining and shopping in downtown.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final book of the Harry Potter series, is making its way to the Town Book Store on July 21. In celebration, a Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt will be held in downtown Westfield from July 1 through 21. Local merchants will be participating by hanging a purple poster in their windows with unique clues inside.

Sidewalk Sale Days will take place rain or shine in downtown Westfield from Thursday through Sunday, July 12 to 15. Retailers will set up tables on the sidewalks with their bargains. In the event of rain, retailers may hold indoor sales.

The sixth annual 5K and Pizza Extravaganza will take place on Wednesday, July 25. The 5K run will start at 7 p.m. on the corners of East Broad and Elm Street and will finish at the same location. Registration and packet pickup will begin at 5 p.m. at Quimby and Elm Streets on the day

of the race. The race will take place rain or shine. For entry fee and sign up information, see westfieldtoday.com.

Parking tokens were created by the Town of Westfield for businesses to provide one-hour of parking for their customers at any meter or pay station. Shoppers are reminded to ask for a token from participating businesses. Since the start of the program, over 14,000 discounted parking tokens have been sold to downtown businesses. Parking tokens, along with refillable parking cards up to \$200 may be purchased at the Office of Parking Services located at 425 East Broad Street in Westfield. Call (908)-789-4044 for further information.

For more information on the DWC, call Sherry Cronin at (908) 789-9444.

N.J. Tax Department Extends Filing Date

TRENTON - The State of New Jersey Tax Department has extended the filing date from June 1 to Wednesday, August 15, 2007, for those who haven't yet filed for the following programs:

1. Fair homeowner rebate for homeowners and tenants.
 2. Property tax reimbursement forms PTR-1 and PTR-2 (tax freeze) for property owners over 65 and those on Social Security disability.
- For assistance, call Ed Evans at the Scotch Plains Public Library at (908) 322-5007, extension no. 208.



Law Offices of STAHL FARELLA & SAROKIN, LLC

Criminal Defense
Civil & Employment
Litigation
DWI & Municipal Court

220 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-301-9001
www.stahlesq.com

Don't Forget! Pick up your monthly edition of Wine News at . . .

PETERSON'S WINES

1120 SOUTH AVENUE, WEST
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090
908-232-5341

Smart Wines

From Everywhere at Every Price

MARTIN CODAX ALBARINO \$14.99
Albarino is Northwest Spain's claim to white wine fame. There is a slight tingle on the tongue with this that helps make it refreshingly perfect for summer. Lots of flavor: peach, pear and lemon. Medium bodied, it matches well with poultry and seafood, but we like it just fine on its own.

DOMAINE DU JONCIER LIRAC \$21.99
A blend of the usual Southern French grapes: syrah, Grenache, mourvedre and cinsault. Plums and spice stand out here, but there is plenty of black fruit and earth as well. It's round and lush in the mid-palate, with a good finish. A grilled steak comes to mind, but a beef dish from the local Chinese place just might be perfect.

SUAVIA SOAVE CLASSICO \$14.99
Soave has had its reputation severely damaged by mass produced jugs of watery industrial wines. Forget all of that, this is something entirely different. Light and clean with lovely floral and anise aroma. Nice touches of lemon and apple. Great with salads, before dinner, or with fish or light pasta. Soave, the way it's supposed to be.

Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$13.99	750ml
BV Coastal Cabernet/Merlot	\$7.99	750ml
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$9.99	750ml
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml

Your Favorite Value Wines

Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
Vendange Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$6.99	1.5L
Fetzer Cabernet/Chardonnay	\$12.99	1.5L
Cavit Pinot Grigio	\$12.99	1.5L
Walnut Crest Cabernet	\$8.99	1.5L
Cesari Pinot Grigio	\$10.99	1.5L
Bolla Soave	\$10.99	1.5L
Beringer White Zinfandel	\$8.99	1.5L
Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$10.99	5L
Carlos Rossi Burgundy/Chablis/Paisano/Sangria	\$9.99	4L
Opici Homemade Barbarone	\$11.99	4L

Your Favorite Cordials

Baileys	\$17.99	750ml
Romana Sambuca	\$18.99	750ml
Kahlua	\$16.99	750ml
Southern Comfort	\$14.99	750ml
Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml

Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80	\$29.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$35.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$26.99	750ml
Smirnoff	\$19.99	1.75L
Stolichnaya	\$31.99	1.75L
Skyv	\$24.99	1.75L
Wolfschmidt	\$13.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L
Chivas Regal	\$54.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black	\$56.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Red	\$29.99	1.75L
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Whiskey

Jack Daniels	\$36.99	1.75L
Jim Beam	\$25.99	1.75L
Seagrams 7	\$15.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Gin

Bombay Sapphire	\$35.99	1.75L
Tanqueray	\$31.99	1.75L
Hendricks	\$28.99	750ml
Beefeater	\$28.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L
Seagrams	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Rum

Captain Morgan	\$25.99	1.75L
Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Malibu	\$24.99	1.75L

SPRING SPECIAL!

10% OFF Any 2 bottles of wine with this coupon

Mix & Match is O.K. Sale items are excluded. 750ml only. Expires 06/20/07

Check out our Fine Cigar Selection!

Now at Peterson's Wines

20% OFF Any 12 bottles or more of wine

10% OFF Any 6 bottles or more of wine

Mix & Match is O.K. Sale items are excluded. 750ml only.

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 9am to 9:30pm • Sun. 12pm to 8pm

We reserve the right to limit quantities while quantities last. Not responsible for typographical errors. All prices do not include state sales tax.

WESTFIELD MORTGAGE

774 Central Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 518-0800 • (866) 518-0800

NEIL SULLIVAN
President, Westfield Mortgage
www.westfieldmortgage.com

The loan you want, the service you deserve.

SUMMERTIME SAVINGS

THE MATTRESS FACTORY

www.mattressfac.com

Mattresses & Box Springs Made on the Premises

• Open To The Public •

IRON BEDS

RELOCATED FROM: Garwood

Tired of Your Mattress

- Futons
- Brass Beds
- Bunkie Boards
- Electric Beds
- Folding Cots
- Split Box Springs
- Crib Mattresses
- Sofa Bed Mattresses
- California King Sizes

LATEX MATTRESSES

FREE DELIVERY • SET-UP • REMOVAL

Fanwood Factory Showroom
35 South Avenue, Fanwood
(908) 322-4178 or Toll-free (877) MATT-FAC

MON-FRI 10 TO 6 THURS 10 TO 8 SAT 10 TO 5 SUN 12 TO 5