



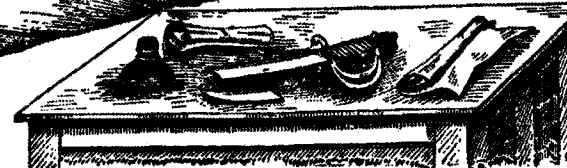
Celebrate Flag Day Today

Happy Father's Day

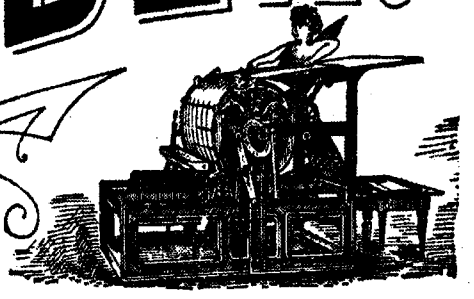


WESTFIELD

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OUR 117th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 24-2007

USPS 680020
Periodical - Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Published Every Thursday Since September 3, 1890
www.goleader.com

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SIXTY CENTS

New Prospect St. Home Structure To Use Green, Sustainable Energy

By **MICHAEL J. POLLACK**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — After the single-family dwelling and detached garage at 1221 Prospect Street are demolished, the structure to be built on the lot will be “totally green and sustainable, and I think the first one in Westfield,” Town Engineer Ken Marsh said.

He said local residents and a few builders have formed a business — Solar Realty, LLC — to “promote the

use of solar and alternative energy.” The house to be built, which would feature a heat exchanger and rain garden, would be LEED (The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

“It’s pretty exciting,” Mr. Marsh said. “It’s something we wanted to get into. They’re looking at other sites in town... We can build in green, sustainable standards into our land-use ordinance. When a developer steps forward willing to do this... it’s a ben-

efit to us. It gives us a case study and gives us data on how well it’s going to work.”

He added later, “We have to talk about energy; (we) have to talk about green, sustainable types of construction. The time is here.”

Responding to a question from First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse, Mr. Marsh said there is no language in the zoning code that governs the placement of solar panels.

Second Ward Councilwoman Jo

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Westfield Town Council

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Ann Neylan said, "I'm concerned a little bit about the aesthetics." Mr. Marsh said both the panels and roofs would be darker colors. In addition, the panels will be located in the back of the building. He said those viewing the structure from the front won't see it.

Ms. Neylan responded, "I can foresee it being an issue...I think this is something we are going to have to address as a council because I think we should try to be proactive."

Westfield resident Kimberly Benou, president of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP), addressed the council on securing a date to utilize the South Avenue Train Station lot to stage a league fundraiser.

After explaining the nature of the organization - to provide "hands-on support for families in crisis" - JLEP received permission to use the train station lot on Sunday, October 14, for Touch-A-Truck.

The one-day event calls for a variety of trucks and cars, including everything from racecars and monster trucks to the original Batmobile, to be brought in for kids to climb and explore. Junior League member and Second Ward Councilman Vicki Kimmins said Fire Chief Dan Kelly is "on board," and the armory has spoken about lending Hummers to the event.

Beginning yesterday, TV-36 now features a "new look," Town Administrator Jim Gildea said. The town's communication advisory board approved a two-year agreement for free upgrades with TelVue. Mr. Gildea said the "very exciting" opportunity allows for "a lot more capability" at the station.

Mr. Gildea said the changes affect "the town's time only." He said if the arrangement does not work out, TV-36 can terminate the agreement at any time.

Under the Code Review and Town Property Committee report, Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said the planning board sent back the revised Historic Preservation Ordinance with "unanimous approval."

The Historic Preservation Commission will next meet on June 25, and Mr. Foerst said soon thereafter, the town would act formally on the revisions.

In conjunction with the ordinance's revisions, the committee spoke about designating the Burial Grounds of the Presbyterian Church, and other properties, including the Miller Cory house, as historical entities by town ordinance. In the past, distinctions have been "piecemealed," Mr. Foerst said.

The committee also reviewed ordinances in regards to Portable On Demand Storage (PODS) and dumpsters, referring to legal counsel potential changes that would require permits for PODS and/or dumpsters.

Mr. Foerst said the changes would have two effects. First, it would provide fees to cover the administrative cost. "More importantly," he said, the town would have the ability to "control when and where they are placed. Now, they can be placed haphazardly in areas, and that may present health and safety and traffic problems."

A month ago, the town enacted a new ordinance that implemented a \$750 fee for calling special meetings of the planning board and board of adjustment. Previously, no such fee existed.

"Based on the experiences of [town planner] Judith [Thornton], she is compiling a list of the local markets of what it costs to file for variance applications," Mr. Foerst said. "In her

estimation, we are fairly under market as to what our costs are."

Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, in his role as Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee chair, said downtown parking signage would be improved in terms of aesthetics and customer friendliness.

Two-sided exterior wood signs with lot numbers would appear at the entrances and exits of all lots. Interior signs, featuring an off-white-and-blue design consistent with the streetscape, would specify the hourly fee and permitted times.