

EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY



Ocean Grove

SCOTT LONGFIELD

IT'S YOUR TURN

Letters to the Editor

Pool, Banquet Hall Proposed for Shrewsbury's Waddell Hall

To the Editor:

Since the Wardell House, next to the Borough Hall in Shrewsbury, is vacant, I propose the building is converted into a public space that would benefit the residents of Shrewsbury and the public in general.

For example, the space might be converted into an indoor swimming pool. Not only would residents enjoy the benefits of the year round physical recreation, but also the borough could cover costs by renting the pool to private parties and local school and private swim teams. Since the Shrewsbury Borough School does not currently have a swim team, the school could generate one around the new pool.

The Wardell House could be converted into an indoor swimming pool by gutting and installing a pool on the first floor. The upper floors can be used for locker rooms, social rooms, etc. If the building is too small for a pool, with some adjustments, the pool could be partially extended outdoors.

Another idea is to convert the Wardell House into a banquet hall like The Shadowbrook. The space could be rented out to weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, sweet sixteens and other private parties, once again covering the cost of operation. The borough school might also use this space for proms, dances, fundraisers and graduation. Cutting educational costs would only lower taxes for borough residents.

My final idea is to combine the two and create a banquet hall where the floor opens up into a pool. An example of such a facility is in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

With a little elbow grease, this would be a "win-win situation" for all!

Jack Crilly, age 13
Shrewsbury Boy Scout, Troop 50

Monmouth County Legislators Lead on Open Space

To the Editor:

Monmouth County legislators should be commended for their leadership and hard work protecting clean water, open space, and farmland. Assembly members Mary Pat Angelini, Caroline Casagrande, Robert D. Clifton, Ronald S. Dancer, Amy H. Handlin, Sean T. Kean are among the first to sponsor an assembly bill to give New Jersey voters the choice this November to renew funding for open space, farmland, and historic preservation.

These leaders know that open space preservation is one of the strongest means of protecting our environment and economy. They know that both our quality of life and industries such as tourism, agriculture and pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, depend on clean water and preserved lands. Renewing preservation funds is in the best interest of Monmouth County.



COURTESY DORN'S CLASSIC IMAGES

Two River Moment

Before there was McLoone's Rum Runner on Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, there was the Ship Ahoy Restaurant in that location during the 1950s.

TRT STAFF™

Owner Newport Media Holdings, LLC
President Domenic M. DiPiero III
Chief Operating Officer Donna Rovere

Editor Michele J. Kuhn
Sections Editor Judy O'Gorman Alvarez
Senior Reporter John Burton
People Page Lynne Ward
Photo Editor/Sports Scott Longfield

Sales & Mktg. Operations Director Peggy Ierardi
Sales Specialists Tracey A. Hall
Suzanne Fish Anderson

Classified Sales Specialist Tracey Lucas
Production Manager Chris Draper
Layout & Design Cyndy Mernick

75 West Front Street Red Bank NJ 07701
732-219-5788 • Editorial Fax: 747-7213 • Advertising Fax: 224-0806
Email editor@tworivertimes.com Website www.tworivertimes.com

Michael Gooch, Owner, 2004-2014
Geraldo Rivera, Owner, 1991-2004; Publisher, 1996-2004
C.C. Dyer, Publisher, 1996-2001
Claudia Ansonge, Founder and Publisher, 1990-1996

Founded in 1990

To Subscribe

The Two River Times™ is mailed to subscribers' homes for delivery on Friday. One-year subscriptions within Monmouth County are available for \$30. Elsewhere in New Jersey and across the United States the rate is \$32 per year. You may subscribe by calling 732-219-5788 and asking for the circulation department. Please allow at least three weeks for processing your order. You may charge your subscription to MasterCard or VISA.

Letters To The Editor

The Two River Times™ provides an open forum for community discussion and welcomes letters to the editor and longer opinions for our Editorial and Commentary page. Letters and opinion pieces may be emailed to editor@tworivertimes.com or sent via regular mail to 75 West Front Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Letter writers must include name, address and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

THE TWO RIVER TIMES™ (ISSN 10552618, USPS006094) is published weekly, except the last week in December for \$30 per year (Monmouth County) / \$32 per year (outside Monmouth County) by Newport Media Holdings, LLC, 75 West Front Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Periodical postage paid at Red Bank, NJ.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE TWO RIVER TIMES™, 75 WEST FRONT STREET, RED BANK, NJ 07701

The views expressed herein by any contributor to *The Two River Times*™ newspaper are not those of *The Two River Times*™ newspaper or its editors, publishers, advertisers, editorial board and/or owners. *The Two River Times*™ newspaper takes no position with respect to the accuracy or otherwise as to the content of any article published or opinion expressed herein.

The N.J. Senate has already voted with an overwhelming bipartisan supermajority to place a question on the ballot this November to let the voters decide on dedicating existing corporate business tax revenues to fund open space, farmland and historic preservation. A recent poll by NJ Keep It Green shows that 76 percent of likely voters support the proposal.

The N.J. Assembly has until early August to pass the legislation, which, if approved by the voters, would reallocate the existing 4 percent of Corporate Business Tax revenues already dedicated to environmental programs for the next five years, with no direct impact on the state budget. In response to our state's fiscal constraints, the legislation provides reduced, but critical baseline funding for preservation programs. The bill, if approved, would increase the Corporate Business Tax dedication by 2 percent or approximately \$50 million, starting in 2019.

The Monmouth Conservation Foundation is proud to acknowledge the leadership of Monmouth County legislators who understand that assuring clean water, parks, open spaces, farmland, and historic places is a bipartisan issue that is vitally important to the future of Monmouth County.

William D. Kastning
Executive Director

Monmouth Conservation Foundation

Recycling, Reconstruction and Business Expansion in Monmouth County

To the Editor:

At the last meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the board authorized an award of bid for an asphalt recycler for the county Department of Public Works and Engineering. This equipment will allow the Divisions of Bridge and Highway to take waste asphalt from construction projects throughout the year and turn it into high quality hot mix, reusing it for road repairs. This will reduce our disposal and operating costs, along with being environmentally friendly. The cost of the recycled material is 75 percent less than the cost for new material.

Last year, the county spent over \$150,000 for cold mix, base material and disposal of waste material. As an added benefit, every ton of asphalt the county recycles will benefit Freehold Township in the amount received from the state of New Jersey in its tonnage grant.

As the liaison to the Department of Public Works and Engineering, I would like to thank fellow Freeholder Serena DiMaso for her support and assistance in obtaining a grant for the purchase price. This is a win-win opportunity for both the county and the taxpayer.

Additionally, as liaison to the Department of Public Works and Engineering as well as the Freeholder representative to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, I am pleased to report that the board recently received confirmation that the county will receive, through the state Department of Transportation, \$10.6 million for the reconstruction of the Sunset Avenue Bridge O-10. This includes the anticipated \$9.4 million in the actual construction cost and the \$1.2 million in construction engineering services which was recently awarded to GPI.

At a recent meeting held in Asbury Park, the Sunset Avenue Bridge O-10 was a topic of discussion with the public. I am very pleased to announce that the bridge will soon be replaced with federal money.

My thanks and appreciation NJTPA and NJDOT for all their assistance and for funding this much needed bridge replacement between the City of Asbury Park and Ocean Township.

Lastly, to bring everyone up to speed with what has been happening with economic development within our county. Our Grow Monmouth Business Roundtables continue to be conducted. Recently in Howell, my economic development team and I were joined by Mayor Bill Gatto and Deputy Mayor Rob Nicastro for a productive discussion with local business owners.

Since then, the economic development team has fielded many follow up calls from businesses needing assistance. As liaison to the Department of Economic Development, I have stressed the importance for a continuum in the following up of issues that are discussed during these roundtables.

Most recently, for example, Manalapan Mayor Jordan Maskowitz and I sent a letter to all Manalapan businesses outlining issues from the roundtable that was held there, and the actions that took place to remedy the concerns expressed by the businesses owners. It is great to see that we are making progress in addressing the business' concerns as we continue to go from town to town.

My recent visit to Wall Township marked another in the series of roundtables conducted. Wall Mayor Clint Hoffman was also present as we discussed any issues those businesses were experiencing. These roundtables are part of an initiative I began in order to help municipalities build better relationships with their business community while providing businesses an opportunity to address their challenges.

Thomas A. Arnone
Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders