

Industrial site study partly ready

By **KELLY NICHOLAIDES**
STAFF WRITER

East Rutherford to look at results this week

EAST RUTHERFORD — A \$44,000 study could lead the way to transforming the borough's dilapidated industrial areas.

Part 1 of the study, released recently and to be discussed at Monday's Planning Board meeting, centers around 10 parcels totaling less than 20 acres and scattered around Oak and Poplar streets and Central and Paterson avenues.

The parcels total \$19.8 million in property value and improvements and include a former shingle company, a medical supply building and a host of industrial operations that are long gone, with some ex-

ceptions. All, including the public rights of way, qualify as areas in need of redevelopment through non-condemnation methods, according to the study.

The 118-page Part 1 was written by Remington, Vernick & Arango Engineers, the Planning Board's engineering firm. Two more parts will be released in the future.

Three areas — Carlton Hill, Central Avenue and Hackensack Street/Railroad Avenue — were approved for the study by the Borough Council in February. The Central Avenue study includes analysis of

the area within Central Avenue, Herman Street, Paterson Avenue, Hoboken Road and Oak Street.

Speedier process

Borough officials want to attract tax ratables into its industrial, light-industrial and mixed-use zones. If the Central Avenue report is approved at the Planning Board meeting, the borough could enter into partnerships with private developers and accelerate redevelopment rather than go through the lengthy process of revising the master plan for one or two properties

at a time, elected officials said.

Redevelopment could include a mix of housing and commercial space under state redevelopment and housing law, but not condemnation.

Borough officials said they were not interested in acquiring the properties but want to speed up and accommodate the redevelopment process.

The report details a history of the properties, including one dating to the early 1900s. Several, including the former Flintkote site on 7.2 acres on two lots, are under state Department of Environmen-

tal Protection oversight because of industrial contaminants.

Other problems, including poor drainage, have created breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects and vermin.

The examined properties include a 1.2-acre Conrail right of way in the light-industrial area on Hoboken Road near Central Avenue. It meets criteria for smart growth in a metro planning area, which would qualify it as an area in need of redevelopment. Smart growth is a term given to planning practices designed to combat suburban sprawl experienced in New Jersey and other states in the postwar era.

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Daughter tells of 'enormous stress' for pair

Christie associate, husband found dead in murder-suicide

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVILLE — A member of Republican Governor Christie's transition team and her husband were under "enormous stress" in the weeks before he fatally shot her and then killed himself, their daughter said.

Lorraine "Lori" Bramhall told the Daily Record of Parsippany that John Bramhall believed his wife of 54 years, Joan, was suffering from dementia.

Lori Bramhall disagreed with the assessment, saying her mother could be "forgetful" but there were no apparent changes in her personality.

But longtime friend Keith Pierson told the newspaper that Joan Bramhall did appear to have some mental issues.

Pierson said Joan Bramhall recently asked him whether President Richard Nixon, who died in 1994, was still alive, and he sometimes noticed that she had a "vacant" demeanor.

Authorities have not said what might have prompted the murder-suicide in the couple's Denville home. A medical examiner ruled that Joan Bramhall's death was a homicide; John Bramhall's death was ruled a suicide.

A family member found the bodies Thursday morning and called police.

Joan Bramhall was a former

Morris County clerk who was well-known in Republican political circles. She retired in December.

In a statement, Christie hailed Bramhall as an "outstanding public servant but an even better person" who would be sorely missed by family and friends.

"She was an extraordinarily selfless and generous person to friends and family alike," Christie said. "She honored me and Mary Pat with her friendship for the last 20 years. We considered her a dear friend, and we are terribly saddened by her tragic passing. We send our condolences to Joan's family."

Estrangement

John Bramhall, a builder of high-end homes, was laid-back and loved to go on hunting trips, friends told the newspaper. When his wife retired after 15 years as county clerk, she said the couple hoped to travel and cruise to Alaska.

Lori Bramhall said that she and her father were estranged and that he had obtained domestic violence restraining orders against her and three of her adult children Wednesday. Those orders were dismissed Friday.

"My father said I wasn't allowed to talk to my mother. I loved my mother, and she loved me," Lori Bramhall said, noting that her parents at various times had raised all six of her children because she was dealing with substance abuse problems.

the court system.

"Jessica had passion for children and was attending college to pursue her dream of aiding underprivileged children," said Deborah Gelok, her stepmother and JGF organizer, adding that Jessica had interned at the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Erica Fisher-Kaslander, CASA director, attended the August 2013 outing and provided an update on the progress of children now referred to as "Jess' Kids."

"Earlier this year, JGF presented a check for \$11,000 to CASA from the golf outing last August," she noted.

The sixth annual Jessica Gelok Foundation Golf Outing will take place on Aug. 21 at the Ballyowen Golf Course in Hamburg. The cost per golfer is \$175, which includes breakfast, lunch, and a two-hour bar with steak-and-surf dinner. The cost for non-golfers is \$75, which in-

cludes dinner, cocktails and a free day at Minerals Sports Club (bring a swimsuit). Registration will be at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

"There will be an extensive prize table and incredible sports memorabilia silent auction table," said Deborah Gelok. "All interested golfers can still sign up."

Registration and donations can be made to the Jessica Gelok Foundation, c/o Willowbrook Mall Management, 1400 Willowbrook Blvd., Wayne, NJ 07470. For more information, contact Don Gelok 973-725-0827 or Joe Johnson 973-417-8251 and the Ballyowen Golf Club at 973-827-1444.



VIOREL FLORESCU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hareefa Taylor, 14, spraying silly string on Ahmed Mahmudi, 12, at the Eid Extravaganza.

Eid

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Bergen, who is originally from Morocco, said she enjoyed the event, and liked that there was plenty to interest young children and teens. Rabiya Mehr of Bergenfield, who is of Pakistani descent, said "it's nice to see the community getting together."

Some 65 vendors sold items that included jewelry, scarves and colorful cultural clothing such as abayas and kurtis. Some showcased impending events such as a convention at the New Brunswick Islamic Center this month and a conference — Inspiring American Muslim Youth — planned for Seacausus in April 2015.

Children were able to take part in a number of events from a wa-

ter-balloon toss to a tug of war, a three-legged race to a scavenger hunt — the latter carried out by snapping pictures with cellphones.

There were sports such as basketball, frisbee and soccer, as well as a ball of inflatable bounce houses and games for the youngest.

"It's pretty fun," said Michelle Rueda, 11, of Hackensack, as Syeda Islam of Paterson began to apply a henna tattoo to her hand.

Islam, a 22-year-old biology major at Montclair State University, applied henna tattoos throughout the event, drawing intricate designs and florals free-hand in single and multiple colors.

"I love it. It's amazing," said Safia Abulaila of Holmdel as she admired the work on her hand and wrist in black, red and brown.

"You get used to it," Islam said of her abilities. "I just do it off the

top of my head — it just comes."

Amid the festivities there were signs of more serious matters. The booth for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund had a handwritten sign noting "4,000 more children in need of medical care since July!!!" T-shirts for sale at some stands bore slogans such as "Peace for Gaza," "Help Syria Now," and "Liberate Palestine."

An organization called For The Needy and Hungry Foundation showcased photos of the poor in Pakistan — including a tent city and children and adults lining up to be fed — and detailed their efforts to help with food, education, and medical care.

"We came to show the community that there are people out there that need help," said Khalid Sheikh of Fort Lee, one of the founding members of the two-year-old group.

Fire damages kitchen of diner in Clifton

CLIFTON — About 30 firefighters extinguished a two-alarm fire within an hour at the Lexington Diner Saturday, authorities said.

No one was injured, and the diner, at 351 Lexington Ave., was evacuated before fire companies arrived, Clifton Fire Chief Vincent Colavitti Jr. said. The fire depart-

ment got a call about a smoke condition at 1:07 a.m.

The diner had about \$100,000 in damage from the fire and smoke, as well as firefighting operations, Colavitti said. It will likely be closed for a while for repairs.

Firefighters found the blaze in the walls and ceiling of the kitchen

behind appliances, Colavitti said. They were had to move the appliances to reach the flames and had to rip open the walls.

They quickly knocked down those flames while other firefighters went onto the roof to make sure it hadn't spread there, he said.

— **Stephanie Dazio**

Golf outing will benefit services for distressed kids

By **TINA PAPPAS**
STAFF WRITER

WAYNE — The Jessica Gelok Foundation, carrying on its namesake's advocacy of Passaic County's children in distress, will be sponsoring its sixth annual golf outing this month.

JGF was formed by the family and friends of Jessica Gelok, who was struck by a car and killed on Route 23 on Oct. 19, 2008. She was 26 years old.

The Gelok family said all proceeds from the golf outing will go to Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Founded in 2007, the non-profit organization recruits, trains and supports citizen-volunteers who advocate for children in the community and in the courtroom, and locates safe, healthy and happy homes for abused and neglected local children otherwise lost in



This month's golf benefit is in honor of Jessica Gelok, who was fatally struck by a car in 2008.

cludes dinner, cocktails and a free day at Minerals Sports Club (bring a swimsuit). Registration will be at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

"There will be an extensive prize table and incredible sports memorabilia silent auction table," said Deborah Gelok. "All interested golfers can still sign up."

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inch-diameter main with a 12-inch main, he said.

"It's an upgrade," Simone said. "They've had some breaks on that line over by the Recreation Center and Jackson Street. They felt it's time to replace it."

— **Matthew Kadosh**

Verizon bid to upgrade cell system hits a snag

Little Falls puts off decision on zoning variance

By **MATTHEW KADOSH**
STAFF WRITER

LITTLE FALLS — Verizon Wireless wants to reinforce its service with what it considers an unobtrusive "small network node wireless communications facility" on the rooftop of a two-story building near the Route 46-Lower Notch Road interchange.

But when the company on Thursday night sought the necessary zoning variance for the facility, which would accommodate an expanding information network burdened by smartphones, it faced challenges from both the public and the Planning Board.

"Coverage is becoming unreliable because of the demands the new devices are putting on the network," Frank Ferraro, an attorney representing Verizon Wireless, said in seeking a variance that would allow the wireless installation in a business zone.

The board heard testimony from Verizon Wireless and residents, but in the end delayed approving the use variance, choosing instead to wait for feedback from its local fire officers on the safety of the proposed site design.

Ferraro told the board the facility would enhance the network and facilitate communication

among cell-tower sectors by placing a 24-inch tall canister between two towers — one in Little Falls and another in Totowa.

Representatives for the company, who described the antennae as a canister the approximate size of a "spackling bucket," said the new installation would include one equipment cabinet on the rooftop of the building.

"It's a very low-power installation," Ferraro said. "You can tell by the size of it. Normally, you're dealing with four to six cabinets."

Glenn Pierson, a radio frequency engineer contracted by Verizon Wireless, told the board that the facility would sit between a cell tower hidden behind "stealth panels" on the roof of the Holiday Inn on Route 46 in Totowa and another cell site on Clove Road in Little Falls. "The Totowa site is running out of data," he said.

The new facility, he said, is intended to handle increased cell traffic, which comes with roadway traffic on Route 46, and assist with cell coverage at a nearby multi-family dwelling.

He said the technology is needed because cellphones are working all the time now, whether people are talking on them or not, because they have location and navigation services.

Bikers

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care," said Jon Fitzgerald, executive vice president and chief development officer of the foundation.

The funds raised Saturday — each year the event brings in around \$500,000 — will go toward the renovation of the hospital's emergency room, said Sanzari, an avid motorcycle collector.

The more than \$40 million in renovations began in 2013 and include constructing 80 private rooms for patients, Sanzari said. He added that the work should be completed by the end of this year.

Saturday's event saw around 600 bikers — an average turnout, Sanzari said. But since the run started more than a decade ago, Sanzari said he has noticed it has grown to include different types of riders, rather than the typical police or fire motorcycle clubs.

"It's not just bikers — it's everybody," Sanzari said.

And though normally the bikers ride over the George Washington Bridge and back, this year the riders bypassed the span because of heavy traffic, said Fort Lee police Lt. Ricky Mirkovic.

Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino, a member of the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club, led the riders Saturday. Saudino, who has been riding since he was 18 and has a red Harley-Davidson, said he has participated in the event for seven or eight years to support the hospital. He added that while motorcyclists often have a bad image, bikers and their clubs support many charities every year.

"They're the most generous people as a group that you'd ever meet," Saudino said.

Steve Cuardino, a member of Palisade Park's fire department, rode Saturday with the Strength & Honor Motorcycle Club. Cuardino said the ride always offers a great experience, not just for the views but also the camaraderie among the riders in supporting the hospital's mission.

"Everybody knows why they're here," Cuardino said.

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Little Falls water-main upgrade to take 6 weeks

LITTLE FALLS — A contractor for New Jersey American Water Co. is upgrading a worn water main that runs through the township into Woodland Park.

"It's supposed to take about six weeks," said Phil Simone, superintendent for the township Public

Works Department.

"It's connecting Paterson Avenue and Main Street with the new main. It's going all the way down to Route 46 in Woodland Park and tying into the existing water system there," he said.

The company is replacing a 10-