

• EDITORIAL •

Road resurgence

Hanover Township is nothing if not on the move. >> **RELATED ARTICLE**

Burned by the major recession of the late 2000's, the township took steps never to be hurt like that again and other municipalities are playing catch up.

Hanover Crossroads is now at full occupancy. Please see page 1.

The township was the first in the area to initiate an Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) in the early 2010's. Neighboring Morris Township followed suit with its own EDAC several years later.

The township has initiated a study on how to upgrade properties along the Route 10 corridor. Those upgrades are in the future.

If you're looking for something going on right now to show evidence of Hanover's resurgence, there is no better place to look than on East Hanover Avenue, a Morris County-owned road, where Hanover is out front and Morris Township, which shares its border with Hanover there, is following.

Twenty years ago, the area was littered with shuttered industrial buildings with debris strewn about and contamination polluting the soil.

Hanover had the insight years ago to change the zoning along the roadway from industrial to mixed use and retail, allowing retail where once only factories and chemical plants stood.

It was out of necessity. Long gone are the days Hanover was a paper board manufacturing Mecca. No one was using the Whippany River for mills or transportation. The township has converted into a bedroom suburb of New York City and needed to find new ways, to put it crassly, of finding money.

The former Litton Industries, which had been closed for years due to environmental issues, was just a shell of a weed-infested building on the eastern end of the township. It will now be home to a BJ's Wholesale Club.

But it's not all building up over on that end of the township. Near Morris Plains, on the Hanover side of American Road off East Hanover Avenue, the township changed a zone about eight years ago to allow for 68 housing units of Water-view at Townhomes.

The township received 18 acres for open space from the developer of the townhomes. This open space is directly adjacent to the 70 acres of open space which Hanover is acquiring from the state as part of the old Route 24 right-of-way discontinued when the state decided not to complete Route 24 into Mendham.

Moving farther east, the 88,000-square-foot Greater Morristown ShopRite opened in 2014 off Horse Hill Road on East Hanover Avenue on the former Fipicar plastics manufacturing plant site. Along with a brand new 122,000-square-foot Wegmans opening off Ridgedale Avenue in the northern end of the township, Hanover is now another kind of Mecca, that of supermarkets in northern New Jersey.

All this came at a price, but for the developers, not the township. Hanover Crossroads, which noted this week it had attained 100 percent occupancy for its new shopping center, the westernmost property development so far on the road at Ridgedale Avenue, had to remove contaminated dirt from the site, the former Berlex Labs property that had been vacant for the previous two years.

Crossroads was the one development that was a bumpy ride. It had promised to be a new Lowes home improvement store and soil removal had been approved for it. But Lowes backed out and Hanover Crossroads had to scramble to find new tenants. Those tenants, in the form of TJ Maxx, Auto Zone, Quick Chek, Home Goods, International House of Pancakes and others, have allowed the complex to be up and operating and now filled.

Morris Township has also become part of the land changes along the road. Two years ago, Colgate-Palmolive next to the Mennen Arena, which is across the street from what will be the BJs, announced it was leaving Morris Township.

In less than a year, a redevelopment plan was in motion and approved for the site that would include offices and housing. Anyone who has driven along East Hanover Avenue in the past five months will immediately notice the vacant moonscape where Colgate once stood.

In addition, the new BJ's means a traffic signal will be going up on the avenue, creating a safer road in front of Mennen Arena.

So far, no new new proposals for development along the roadway exist. It has been busy enough. But rest assured, if proposals do come, Hanover Township will be the first take advantage.

It has begun: The Uncivil War

The UnCivil War. It has begun.

The far left and the far right in America are now at war with each other. And I was a minor casualty of the war this past week, when a micro aggression was visited upon me by a Facebook friend.

The events in Charlottesville of a week or so ago were the flashpoint. An alt-right, white supremacist group wanted to protest in favor of their racist, neo-Nazi views. Liberal counter-protesters, including the alt-left group Antifa, were present to counter the alt-right group.

Violence broke out between the two groups at least twice, in the videos that I've seen. Perhaps the police who were present – if ineffectual – could say which side struck first. But neither side is blameless for this violence.

The violence hit a fever, tragic pitch when a person drove a car directly into a crowd of the counter-protesters, killing one young woman.

For the record, I abhor Nazis, racism, and anything else that denies the dignity of every individual and his or her natural and constitutional rights. And I don't personally know a single conservative who does not feel the same way.

And capitalism, as an economic system, favors the best person for the job in all situations. There is no room for racism or discrimination among the greedy, I guess you could say.



Tim Smith
USUALLY RIGHT

The author, a Republican, is a former Roxbury Township mayor and councilman and government efficiency activist. He is the owner of Aurora Private Wealth in Parsippany. He can be reached at roxburytims@gmail.com. His column alternates with that of George Stafford, a Democrat.

Conservatives are not white supremacists; by the same token, liberals are not anarchist Antifa members.

My former Facebook friend put up a taunting post on my timeline. She wanted to know why the conservatives were so quiet following the events that had occurred, and in particular why people were still supporting Trump.

Her apparent point was that, if conservatives were not apologetic about what had occurred, they obviously supported the white supremacists.

My response was factual. Trump had made some very presidential comments, and he had also called out "many sides" as being responsible for the violence. I called the attack by the car horrific, and said that I abhorred the neo-Nazis.

Nonetheless, this could not fend off a hysterical, morally imperious response from both my young lady friend and a friend of hers. It was very clear to me that the two of them were not seeing things in any rational sense, but were instead simply looking to vent anger at anyone that did not kowtow to their view of things.

I'm not sure if they even saw Trump's actual tweets. They were magnanimous, lofty, aspirational. He denounced hate, called it un-American, and exhorted all of us to stand together against it.

But he meant both types of hate – the obvious, un-American hate of white supremacists, and that of alt-left, violent, anarchical Antifa members. And that was his crime. Doing so made it seem as if he saw moral equivalence of the two, and that sent the left into outer space.

I would immediately agree that Trump did not give a full-throated denunciation of the racist group that planned the rally. However, we have come to the point where failing to do so strongly enough is the equivalent of supporting whomever you are supposed to be denouncing. Trump came out with a stronger denunciation two days later, but the damage was done.

I can tell you what went through my mind when I first heard Trump's words and his denunciation of "many sides" for the events

in Charlottesville. A full-throated denunciation of the neo-Nazis was unnecessary, and the reason is that it is self evident to most of us reasonable people that such views are abhorrent to virtually all Americans, conservative and liberal alike.

The percentage of Americans who are white supremacists, I would venture to guess, is less than one half of one percent. To accuse conservatives or Republicans of sharing their views is factually incorrect and morally wrong.

Quite frankly, such an accusation bears false witness against other people. Conservatives are not white supremacists and are not neo-Nazis; by the same token, Democrats and liberals are not anarchist Antifa members.

I cut off my former Facebook friend because she made a personal attack on me. I appreciate respectful disagreement from friends, but not personal attacks. And worse yet, her attack was completely unfounded, offensive and frankly, shocking.

And please don't miss my point; I am not comparing the death of a young woman to being called a racist.

But this seems to be what we have come to. The far left considers the use of verbal attacks to be violent. If that is the case, then I was attacked violently the other day.

It may be time for me to call the police. The UnCivil War has hit home.

Life as an incremental rental

My longtime friend Rowena recently went to a lovely outdoor wedding complete with a few surprises. Surprising to her, anyway.

First off, she was one of only two people in a hat. The other one was a man, a senior citizen who wanted to secure some shade.

The fact that the groom wore a rented outfit was to be expected. These events often feature Rental Boy.

What was not expected (by her anyway) was that all the bride's attendants also wore rented dresses.

It's the trend now, Rowena was told. And when you stop to think about it, why isn't that a great idea?

Being a bridesmaid these days can be a big deal. Apart from all the parties, planning and travel, there's the perpetual bride mantra to her attendants. Traditionally, after she says Purple is definitely your color, her motto, repeated like a rosary, is: "And, you can wear it again."

I don't think that's a deliberate lie, more an example of what my dad used to call the triumph of optimism over experience.

By the time she's 32 years old (people get married later now), the average American woman ends up with maybe half a dozen costly clunkers in her closet.



Marian Mundy
TODAY'S MUNDY

The columnist can be reached at marianhmundy@gmail.com.

Tell me, and be honest now, have you or anyone you know ever worn a bridesmaid dress again? See? I knew it.

It's not breaking news to mention how wedding expenses can rocket from reasonable to Outrageous with record speed. (I don't understand the need for a special person to come in and draw lines around your eyes and color your face, but that's just me.)

So it's only common sense to lighten the load for the young people.

If renting outfits is a brilliant idea, why stop with the bridal party? Why not parental rental? Aunts? Cousins? Everybody! That old shade seeker could rent a straw boater with a wide brim.

You could have a totally rented event. Guests could order their outfits online, then stop and pick them up on the way in. A space could be reserved for that purpose. Get there early, get dressed, get on with it. That could be the new mantra.

I guess I'm really behind the times. Evidently I'm the only woman in Weeville, N.J., who hasn't yet ordered from renttherunway.com. I

just found out that my granddaughter is renting a dress for a big formal party she's going to. Smart girl! She doesn't want her closet to become a burial ground for dead dresses.

My own closet, and I suspect yours too, has a sizeable mausoleum section. I can now donate this with a clear conscience. The next time you see me at an event, you will be looking at Rental Girl. Or rather, Rental Granny. Although I may "rent" it from my stylish cousin.

Don't get me wrong. This doesn't mean Ivanka Trump and her ilk have to hang up their shingles. Along with those two eternal certainties, death and taxes, we need to add a third: Women buying clothes.

But it's truly amazing what can be rented today. My daughter has absolutely forbidden me to suggest renting a bridegroom along with his suit and having a trial marriage. She said it's a stupid and totally unamusing notion. I think it makes perfect sense. We differ:

These days you can rent mansions, chain saws, ponies, container ships, potted palm trees,

fully equipped offices, transgender escorts, yurts, jewelry, clowns, seemingly anything the human brain can envision. You can rent your whole life and everything in it, just about.

And when it ends, it wasn't so long ago that people rented paid mourners for funerals. This is true. Look it up.

I have an idea that I am offering free to prospective entrepreneurs. Your clothing service could rent out a pre-packed weekend suitcase for busy working people, filled with everything needed for a mini-vacation: shorts, pants, tops, bathing suit, flip-flops, toiletries, etc. Call it something like Think Inside the Box and deliver it to the workplace. It's a rental world.

Some of us may not realize it, but we are already living on Rent-Another-Planet. Mother Earth is our landlady.

She owns the place, we don't. We just get to live here. She lets us use her stuff. If we wreck it, there are no refunds. We humans already owe back rent.

We have an urgent obligation to preserve our space and keep it clean and livable for the next tenants. Or she will raise the rent and alter the place until no one will be able to live here. And we can't go en masse to Rent-Another-Planet.

Editor
Jim Lent
O: (908) 766-3900 ext. 245
F: (908) 766-6365
jlent@newjerseyhills.com

Advertising Representative
Melissa Drozdoff, (908) 766-3900 ext. 250
melissad@newjerseyhills.com

Subscriptions
(908) 766-6960
circulation@newjerseyhills.com

Classified Advertising
Thea Giardina
1-800-624-3684

Out & About
Roberta Burkhart
O: (908) 766-3900 ext. 225
F: (908) 766-6365
happeningseditor@newjerseyhills.com

Hanover Eagle

PUBLISHERS

Elizabeth K. Parker
and Stephen W. Parker

NEW JERSEY HILLS MEDIA GROUP

Executive Editor Elizabeth K. Parker
Asst. Executive Editor Philip Nardone
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