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Parker Homes welcome addition to Monroe

As a Monroe resident and township employee for 20 years, Francis E. Parker Homes is a welcome addition to the township.

Parker has 100 years of quality long-term care for the aging in residential communities. They provide social enhancements for the local community with education, health fairs and professional services. The beautifully landscaped campuses are in residential communities where neighbors enjoy the beauty of the well-maintained, secluded area.

Recently, Parker has purchased a parcel of land on Schoolhouse Road to share their Leading Age onAging. The neighbors near the proposed location appear unhappy, as they voice their concerns about their personal needs.

Their complaints include a visual defamation to the area and the concern about their real estate values.

The twelve homes located on Schoolhouse Road presently view the New Jersey Training School for Boys, with durable barbed wire for the homeowner's safety. The new development that is currently under construction in the area will have vacant lots and empty houses seen by all township residents for years during this stagnant economy — also a Schoolhouse Road visual defamation. The future Parker application could have been an additional 20 homes with only cleared farmland, another visual defamation, versus the embellishment of preserved land being proposed by Parker.

Mayor Richard Pucci and the Planning Board have had the great vision to create an intergenerational community in the last 30 years. Monroe Township's population is nearly 50 percent senior citizens who live on fixed incomes and willingly pay the taxes on the new elementary and high school.

The residents that live amongst the new schools on Applegarth and Schoolhouse roads have to deal with the development yet understood the need to have new schools for the children. Certainly, the same unhappy taxpayers that oppose the Parker site will patronize these schools.

Let us not fail to recognize the rewards of one of the best long term care facilities in the country and in the top 10 percent of long term care employers. Parker will bring 150 jobs to Monroe Township during a time when unemployment is at its highest level since the Great Depression. There is a trickle-down effect on all the local business, too. The shopkeepers, food vendors, contractors, etc., will benefit from a wealth of income shared in the Monroe community.

The problem is some people are afraid of the unknown, not taking into account the growth pattern of an aging community. Aging can be a gracious way of growing older. Children are entitled to an engaging education and the elderly are entitled to the quality care of Parker Homes in their local neighborhoods.



It's great that everyone wants to live in Monroe Township and we all have to expand our minds and see the great window of opportunity for everybody, young and old.

Lori Morell Monroe Township



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