

## Parker at Monroe plans going before Planning Board

**MONROE** — A plan to build a nursing home facility on Schoolhouse Road will go before the township Planning Board on Thursday night.

The Francis E. Parker Memorial Home Inc., which operates nursing care and assisted living facilities in Piscataway, Highland Park and Piscataway, applied to the Board to build Parker at Monroe.

Parker originally was seeking to build a home with 96 beds for residents who need skilled nursing care and 32 assisted-living beds. A Parker official said, they withdrew the portion of the application seeking approval for the 32 assisted-living beds but will continue to move forward with plans to build a facility with 96 nursing-home beds.

Because of anticipated interest in the project, the Planning Board meeting will be conducted at 7 p.m. at Marasco Theater at Monroe Middle School, 1626 Perrineville Road.

Parker officials said the Schoolhouse Road site is a good location because seniors who need long-term care deserve to live in a quiet residential neighborhood and the facility is consistent with the residential nature of the neighborhood. The facility

would be about 150 feet from the main road and would include access via a tree-lined boulevard.

More than half of the 28-acre site will be donated to Monroe Township for preservation, Parker officials said.

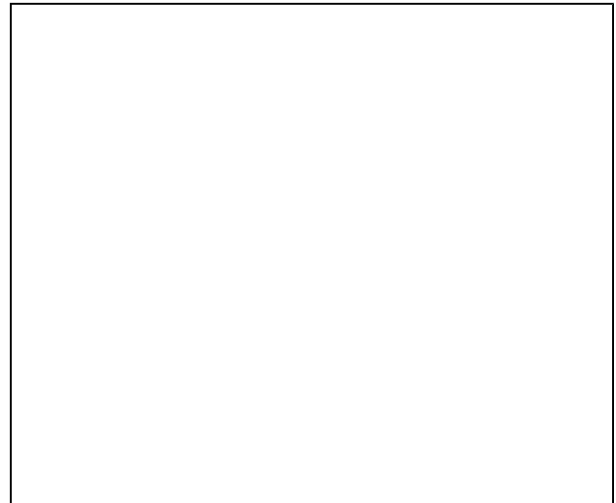
Parker officials said traffic engineering studies have been done of the area and have found that Parker at Monroe would have a nominal impact on local traffic. Parker also is proposing off-site improvements at the intersection of Schoolhouse Road and Spotswood-Gravel Hill Road, the officials said.

Parker also said that the facility would not adversely impact property values in the neighborhood.

Groundbreaking is targeted for the spring of 2012, with the grand opening planned for late 2013.

About 300 residents from the township and an additional 400 residents from

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outside Monroe have made applications expressing interest in services offered at the facility, Parker officials said.

But not everyone is pleased with the plan.


“I’m not opposed to the facility itself. I’m opposed to the location,” said Jennifer Hluchy, a Schoolhouse Road resident for almost 17 years. “It’s very surprising they picked that location. It’s a residential neighborhood and the access is a residential, secondary road. These facilities are large, commercial enterprises that generate lots of traffic. It will make our residential area suffer and set a negative precedent for other residential neighborhoods in the township.”

Hluchy said it’s also an issue of public safety.

“There is a rural quality to this neighborhood,” she said. “There are four working farms on this street. We have equestrians that ride their horses on the road and a Yeshiva school. There are no sidewalks and students often walk in the street.”

Hluchy said she also believes the project will result in decreased property values.

An attorney has been hired by residents not in favor of the plan, she said.

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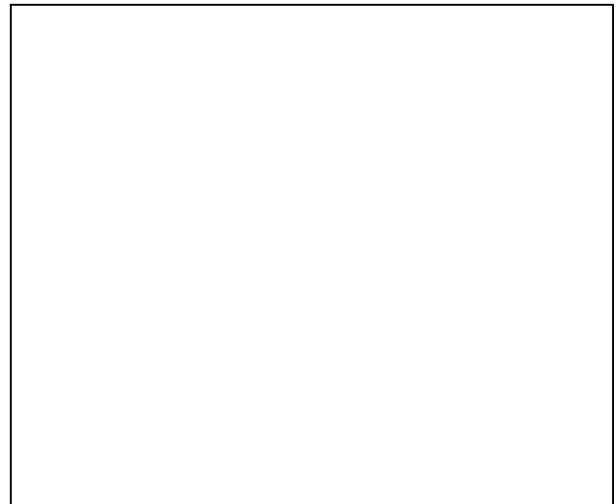
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