

TOWNSHIP OF IRVINGTON  
OUTLOOK 2008  
*By Mayor Wayne Smith*

I am privileged to report that consistent with our five-year record to date, progress for 2008 will be vigorous and robust in the Township of Irvington. Our innovative, strategic programs will promote our growing community as an appealing place in which to reside and conduct business.

*Business/Economic Development and Housing Development*

Construction is underway on Krauszer's food store at 649-651 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the East Ward—the heart of Irvington's Strategic Redevelopment Plan. The new franchise is the tri-state chain's first foray into urban New Jersey after a 30-year history in the suburbs. The \$500,000 project by Maharaj, Inc. will expand an existing 2,100 square-foot liquor store to a 3,900 square-foot establishment with warehouse space, increased retail space, a loading zone and one slot for handicap parking. Planned customer amenities include faxing and copying services, and an Internet access station. The textured brick exterior building will have security lights and a surveillance system. The store is expected to open in the spring and will generate about 15 to 20 full- and part-time jobs.

The conversion of vacant lots into four market rate 2-family homes by Risan

**- more -**

***Progress 2008...Page 2***

Development, LLC has started at 780-790 Springfield Avenue in the East Ward. In addition to the three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms slated for each unit, the 1,500 square-foot apartments will feature hardwood floors and central air and heating. A 2-car enclosed garage and 2 surface parking spaces will be included with each home. The NJ Redevelopment kicked in \$203,000 toward site acquisition costs for the \$1.5 million project

Eleven more homes are planned for the East Ward in a \$4.2 million project by Brand New Day. The 1,800 square-foot, one-family homes will include 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, washer/dryer hookup, hardwood floors, central air, 2-car garage, dishwasher and range and Energy Star compliance. Depending on the incomes of the owner occupants, the properties will be sold from \$93,000 to \$190,000. The Irvington Department of Community Development and Planning will contribute \$550,000 toward the initiative; the NJ Housing, Mortgage and Finance Agency is providing additional financing. Construction is expected to commence in the fall.

We expect imminent approval for a \$35 million mixed-use structure covering 3.25 acres on Mill Road, at the border of Union. The four-level structure will accommodate 143 condominiums above retail space.

Speaking of retail, the sprawling site housing the long-standing Valley Fair department store has been acquired by Burlington Coat Factory. We are excited about the prospects for redevelopment and will apprise you accordingly.

In other development news, we celebrated the revival of the former Irvington

***- more -***

***Progress 2008...Page 3***

Motor Lodge as a franchise of the 700-member America's Best Value Inn chain on January 4. The beautifully restored 80-room building that offers single- and double-bed accommodations is strategically situated off the Garden State Parkway, near downtown Irvington and the renovated bus terminal.

In its core effort to advance business development, the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) 3.5 percent sales tax program is sponsoring a seminar on Wednesday, February 20 from 8 am until noon at the Verizon Communications Complex, 900 Clinton Avenue, Irvington. Presentations will be made on the following subjects: *Developing a Web Site, Securing State and Federal Contracts, and Getting the Most out of the UEZ*. Adenah Bayoh, proprietor of the Irvington IHOP, will serve as guest speaker. The \$1.7 million building on Springfield Avenue opened in October, seats 190 persons and has an upstairs meeting room. For more information about the UEZ seminar, please call (973) 399-5636.

**Public Safety**

Our crime-fighting endeavors will receive a significant boost with the first-ever installation of a system that detects the origin and landing of discharged bullets. The \$330,000 Shot Spotters system is being provided by federal funds.

Irvington was chosen to launch an initiative with the State Parole Board that will team parole and police officers to more closely monitor the activities of ex-offenders, bolstering public safety and reducing the potential for recidivism among the target population. The program is expected to expand throughout the state.

We will also acquire new police cars, with such equipment as upgraded

**- more -**

***Progress 2008...Page 4***

emergency lights, enhanced first-aid kits and fire extinguishers.

Other plans call for the expansion of the 11-member Irvington Auxiliary Police and the replacement of canines for the K-9 unit.

The fire station at Grove Street will undergo an \$825,000 renovation, with a new roof, wall, overhead doors, arches and floors.

**Infrastructure**

A \$5 million municipal bond will fund the repaving of 68 streets, a project that is scheduled to begin this year. They are: 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., 39<sup>th</sup> St., 40<sup>th</sup> St., 41<sup>st</sup> St., 42<sup>nd</sup> St., 43<sup>rd</sup> St., Arverne Terr., Bamford Pl., Becker Terr., Bedford Terr., Beechspring Road, Berkeley St., Berkeley Terr., Breckenridge Terr., Brighton Ave., Brookside Ave., Clinton Terr., Eberhardt Pl., Garwood Pl., Grace St., Green Terr., Harper Ave., Hennessey Pl., Herpers St., Hoffman Pl., Hopkins Pl., Howard St., Krotik Pl., Laventhal Ave., Lincoln Pl., Lindsley Ave., Maple Ave., May St., Melrose Ave., Montrose Terr., Naden Ave., Nesbit Terr., Newton Pl., North Maple Ave., Oak Ave., Olympic Terr., Orange Pl; Osborne Pl., Quabeck Ave., Rich St., Rosehill Pl., Rutgers St., Sager Pl., Selvage St., Shaw Ave., Silkman Pl., Stewart Ave., Taft St., Tichenor Terr., Tremont Terr., Union Pl., Vine Ave., West Avon Ave., Wagner Pl., Weber Pl., Webster St., Wills Pl., Wilson Pl., Wolf Pl. and Woodlawn Pl.

Municipal monies will also fund the acquisition of 3 street sweepers.

***- more -***

*Progress 2008...Page 5*

*Recreation & Youth Development*

Two of Irvington's parks have received major renovations, in time for the crush of children and other visitors who will descend upon the sites for the busy spring and summer seasons.

The 3,000 square-foot, masonry and brick community center at Chancellor Park features a multi-purpose room, office space, a kitchenette and restrooms. It replaces a field house that lacked walls and was held together only by a worn-out tin roof and supporting beams. A new walkway with handicap access, wrought iron fencing and a flagpole have been installed to enhance the entrance to the \$860,000 building.

The center houses a new youth development program by the Irvington Municipal Alliance called Project BUILD (Beautiful Unique Individuals Learning Discipline). Participants are instructed on social interaction, improving academic achievement, career opportunities, the arts and other areas designed to foster their growth and transition to young adulthood. For more information about this program, call (973) 399-6639.

A partnership with the NJ Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties led to the volunteer renovation of the Raymond C. Burgess, Sr. Memorial Park (Montgomery Park), across from Thurgood Marshall School. The new features include: two play structures, picnic tables and benches, a bicycle rack, landscaping and walkways.

Construction is underway at Orange Avenue Park, which will receive a refurbished fieldhouse with new locker rooms and showers; new fencing, upgraded

*- more -*

*Progress 2008...Page 6*

basketball courts; and landscaping. As with the building at Chancellor Park, this project is being funded by the Green Acres Program of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

We have received approval for a federal grant of \$631,000 to expand the operations of the Eisenhower Foundation afterschool program at the East Ward Recreation Center. We will advise you of specific enhancements as they develop.

As always, we will pursue those partnerships and other resources for the ongoing revitalization of the Township of Irvington. We look forward to your continued commitment, participation and support of our crucial mission.

###