

binding referendum that would allow his voters to voice their opinion on expansion of the Tilcon quarry across Federal Hill.

The Pequannock River Coalition (PRC) has taken a stand on many natural resource issues, including the spread of the Tilcon quarry. It is our position that increased flooding, loss of open space and wildlife habitat, a huge drop in nearby property values, violation of their own steep slope ordinance, and failure to agree with local, county and state planning are all good reasons to oppose a bigger quarry.

However, as we have said with similar concerns, voters in our local communities deserve to be heard. A non-binding referendum on this issue makes sense.

Yet, Mayor Dunleavy doesn't trust his voters to make an informed decision. He says they just don't know enough to form the right opinion. Aren't these the same voters who put him in office? Perhaps they should be questioning that decision too.

Even if Dunleavy feels that only those attending meetings on this issue should be heard, he is failing to hear them. His council and Planning Board meetings have been packed with citizens opposed to the quarry expansion. But their beliefs and opinions have been dismissed.

Repeatedly Dunleavy raises the red flag of COAH, attempting to scare residents with the prospect of more development. Not so! We urge you to visit the New Jersey state website and search for the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). It no longer exists. Governor Christie abolished it and when he did this back in 2011 said, "I've always believed that municipalities should be able to make their own decisions on affordable housing without being micromanaged and second guessed from Trenton. The Department of Community Affairs will work with municipi-

another 70 acres of preserved open space to them on Federal Hill.

Whether voters in Bloomington support or oppose the huge quarry expansion, they should have a voice. A non-binding referendum on the ballot is a great way to achieve this.

If the mayor truly wishes to inform the public, PRC now challenges Mayor Dunleavy to an open debate on this topic anytime, anywhere. We guarantee a lively and informative session prior to the referendum.

What are Dunleavy and his cohorts afraid of?

Ross Kushner,
executive director,
Pequannock River Coalition,
Newfoundland

SOS views fine as a thrift store threat

DEAR EDITOR:

Treasures Thrift Store in West Milford, the fun place to shop, is in danger of closing. Although Strengthen Our Sisters (SOS) has provided this wonderful service to the community for the last 20 years, we are facing \$6,000 in fines, which will adjudicate at a trial scheduled for July 14 in West Milford Municipal Court.

SOS provides community service in many ways besides sheltering homeless and battered women and children. We refurbish and sell clean items that otherwise would be discarded and taken to our already overflowing landfills and recycling centers. With the donated furniture and household goods, we set up these homeless battered women and their children in their new homes. Although welfare occasionally gives very limited furniture to those that are eligible, those are few and the furniture has often been described as "cardboard."

In addition we give items to

We also run a car donation program. When people give a car, it must first be registered in our name and then the title flipped over to the person receiving the auto. These transactions entail certain fees, which either party involved may not always have the funds for immediate processing. Last week there were two unregistered cars in the parking lot that were part of the fine.

The other reason is the accumulation of donated items, such as clothing, toys, broken furniture, that accumulates in the parking lot overnight. We don't have money for a Dumpster and as of yet, the town is not willing to donate or provide such for this community 501(c)(3) service project. We cannot block the lot entrance as that is not allowed. A camera was installed to oversee this area, but was knocked down along with several windows broken. Although we clean up as quickly as possible, accumulation happens. We take this responsibility very seriously, as do the dedicated volunteers who work the thrift store; but we need the good will and support of the town rather than the punitive \$6,000 fine. If there needs to be punishment, we would gladly accept it in the form of additional community service, although we provide this every day.

This wonderful historic site at 196 Lincoln Ave. is not only a valued landmark, but also provides a much-needed service to the community. We urge you to help by signing a petition which is posted in the thrift store.

In addition we hope you'll offer your time and donate a few hours working in the store - we especially need muscle for furniture pickups - right now we only have two women doing this.

Sandra Ramos,
founder,
Strengthen Our Sisters,
North Jersey

NDS

MICHAEL LAWSON
Publisher

MATT FAGAN
Editor

GARRY DEYOUNG
Advertising Sales Manager

CORY CADRAIN
Circulation Manager

107405
-5623

Letters to the Editor Policy

Email your letters to: suburbantrends@northjersey.com or send them to: Editor, Suburban Trends, 505-509 Main Street, Butler, NJ 07405. Letters may be edited and may be published, reproduced or distributed in print, electronic or other forms. The views in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of *Suburban Trends* or its affiliates. Mailed submissions should be typed, doublespaced, and signed. A phone number should be included for verification. Letters which cannot be verified or are anonymous will not be published. Not all letters will necessarily be published.