

## Dodd hopes to negate Byrne housing order

By RAMONA SMITH  
Staff Writer

An attempt to override Gov. Brendan T. Byrne's plan for breaking down zoning restrictions in New Jersey municipalities surfaced in the New Jersey Senate today.

Sen. Frank J. Dodd, D-Essex, former Senate President, began drawing-up legislation to override an executive order that would allocate low-cost housing goals to municipalities.

State officials are expected to propose specific goals for each community by July under the order, released yesterday by Byrne.

The executive order links a community's chances for state and federal aid to its willingness to provide low and moderate-income housing.

It is Byrne's attempt to comply with a 1975 New Jersey Supreme Court decision that requires growing communities to zone for low and moderate-income housing.

But Dodd said today that he was considering legislation that would override the Byrne order. Byrne could then veto that legislation but his veto could be overruled by a two-thirds vote in each house.

The court ordered Mount Laurel Township in Burlington County to provide areas where low and moderate-income housing could be built.

BYRNE'S ORDER is an attempt to push municipalities across the state to end exclusionary zoning practices — without legislative debate.

Byrne said yesterday no municipality would be forced to comply with the housing allocations he has ordered drawn up. But he confirmed a municipality that fails to move toward the state-determined goal might lose out on some of its state aid.

"They are still voluntary guidelines," the governor said, "where a municipality can say, 'we don't want

the aid.'"

Byrne's order directed state officials to give priority "where appropriate" to communities moving toward their housing goals when the state awards grants for open space preservation, sewer systems, road repair and a range of other services.

Byrne directed an official in the

Division of State and Regional Planning to allocate housing goals to each county and municipality by next February — near the start of a gubernatorial election year.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, there have been reports Byrne would attempt to implement the Mount Lau-

rel decision by executive order in the belief the legislature was unwilling to deal with the controversial and complex area of land use.

Yesterday, the official picked by Byrne to allocate housing goals said he expects to have his initial proposal ready in July.

Richard Ginman, director of the

Division of State and Regional Planning in the Department of Community Affairs, said public hearings then would be conducted over a fairly extensive period before the allocations are put in final form.

According to Ginman, an earlier study suggested the state needs an

(Continued on Page B6, Col. 3)

## E. Windsor applies for housing funds

By MARK JAFFEE  
Staff Writer

East Windsor Township has become the first developing suburb in Mercer County to seek federal Community Development funds.

Numerous suburban areas across the country have chosen not to apply for the funds because of the requirements for low and moderate-income housing which accompany the federal money, according to federal Department of Housing and Urban Development officials.

In fact, earlier this year East Windsor's neighbor, Hightstown, lost \$78,000 in federal aid because it refused to develop more low and moderate-income housing.

However, East Windsor, under the pressure of an exclusionary zoning law suit, agreed in February to upgrade low-income areas in the township and ease its zoning ordinance to permit the construction of low and moderate-income housing.

According to Michael Pane IV, the township attorney, the Community Development money will be used to provide streets and sewers for the "small lot district," created under the law suit agreement.

The small lot district, near Airport Road, is currently a low and moderate-income area.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, between the township and the Mercer County Legal Aid Society, the township is going to upgrade the area and make more small lots available for homes.

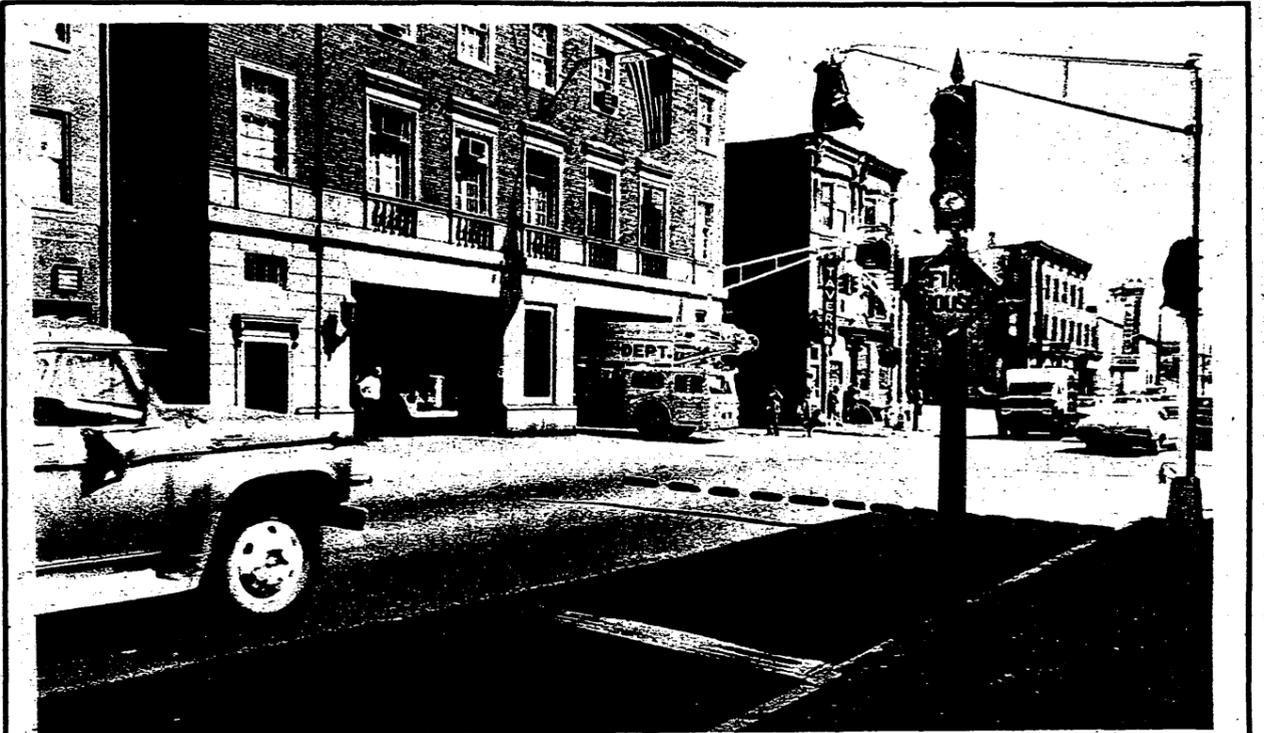
A lot for a single family home in this district will be 5,000 square feet, as opposed to a 10,000 square-foot minimum in most of the township.

"Basically what we are going to do," Pane said, "is provide infrastructure for under-developed neighborhoods." He added that no decision has been made on how much money the township will seek.

East Windsor has hired the Lambertville-based firm, Econotech, to help prepared the application for the federal funds.

In order to obtain the money the township will have to include a housing plan in its application, which shows how East Windsor is trying to meet the low and moderate-income housing goal set for the community by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Mercer County Planning Board.

That goal states that in the next 25 years the East Windsor-Hightstown area will need between 900 and 1,629 low and moderate-income housing units.



Staff photo by Greg Gendon

City fire officials fear that the new traffic signal being installed in front of Fire Headquarters will result in autos blocking the firehouse doors. Dotted line indicates where the cars probably would stop, making it difficult for engines to turn onto Perry Street.

## New light signals trouble for firemen

By JOHN REILLY  
Staff Writer

Trenton's new traffic signals placed in locations specified by the federal government, may cost city firemen precious minutes as they leave Fire Headquarters on Perry Street.

Traffic stopped at the new light installed by the state in front of the firehouse will block the path of fire trucks making right hand turns out of the building onto Perry Street, fire officials say.

With the old signals, traffic is stopped 60 feet west of the intersection with Stockton Street. The new signal is only half that distance from the crossing.

Fire Chief Daniel George said even now fire trucks are sometimes forced to pull out of the firehouse and then back up slightly before proceeding west on Perry Street toward Board Street.

Although traffic will be directed to stop where the old signal is located, Chief George said motorists will automatically pull up to the new traffic signal.

That will prevent any right hand turns, he said. State officials were told of the problem, according to George, but they said the placement of the new standards was done according to federal regulations.



HELEN McDONALD  
— flags are waving

## THE 'McDONALD PROBLEM'

### Republicans scheming to dump her

By HENRY BRYAN  
Staff Writer

Helen McDonald, a farmer's daughter who became the first woman to sit on Hamilton Township's governing body three months ago, already has her fellow Republicans talking privately about dumping her.

The polite solution to the "McDonald problem," some GOP officials say, is to subject her to an open primary when she comes up for reelection in 1977. Such a development would test her right to carry the party banner.

The 57-year-old councilwoman, according to many political observers, has caused more problems for the Republicans than the Democrats.

To many, her white hair, disarming smile and backyard chatter about her mother's heart pacemaker and daughter's college plans, conjures up images of the average, harmless civic do-gooder. But friends and foes alike say she isn't necessarily harm-

less. Her career as a neighborhood activist has included fighting noise at the racetrack on the Trenton State Fairgrounds, raising money to fight polio, cancer and kidney diseases, campaigning for the replacement of the railroad bridge at Sweetbriar Avenue, and since 1953, fighting for flood control in her home district.

During last year's campaign, she was dubbed the "Queen of Cornell Heights."

McDONALD BARELY won election to her council seat as the low vote-getter among four GOP councilmen riding the coattails of Mayor John Rafferty in November. Out-going Democratic Committeeman John Marion was little more than 100 votes behind McDonald.

"I'd like to thank all of you for bringing the Coffee Machine to its knees ... in Hamilton Township," she announced victoriously over the

microphone in Cedar Gardens Restaurant Nov. 4, referring to Mercer County Democratic Chairman Richard Coffee.

With that statement, Helen McDonald set the tone for her first three months of her two-year term as councilwoman.

Still in the role of civic gadfly, she continues to send out her own press releases, blasting the actions of the local government now run by Republicans like herself.

"Her motivation seems to be vindictive," said one Republican official, "from the time she became active in the Republican Party, she had a vendetta for the Democratic Party."

Councilman Frank Metzger observed that McDonald has the right to speak out on the issues "with no obligation to follow some party line." Councilmen Metzger, John Lacy and Donald Tamotus have said that their colleague usually acts for "personal

reasons," rather than political considerations.

In the formative stages of the new government, McDonald argued in closed council meetings against Rafferty's recommendations for keeping any holdover Democratic appointees not covered by civil service.

SHE HAS OPENLY fought the reappointment of holdover Betty Sweeney as welfare director by the local board of assistance.

She blasted the majority opinion of her three council colleagues in approving the reappointment of engineer John DiMemmo, a Democratic appointee and campaign enemy of McDonald.

She was furious over retaining James Stewart as building inspector, pointing out that he was treasurer of the Hamilton Township Democratic Club.

She abstained last week on the vote

(Continued on Page B3, Col. 1)

## Outdated form proves taxing

By RAMONA SMITH  
Staff Writer

Thousands of New Jersey residents who don't owe the state any unearned income tax may be rushing to file their tax returns by tomorrow's deadline.

Outdated information on a printed tax-return form may be giving them unnecessary work.

The forms, printed last year, tell taxpayers that no tax is due from individuals earning less than \$7,500 and couples earning less than \$15,000.

But the legislature doubled those limits early this year — after most of the forms had been sent out.

Individuals earning less than \$15,000 and couples

earning less than \$30,000 do not have to pay the tax — nor do they have to file the tax returns.

An estimated 120,000 New Jersey residents will have to pay taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains, royalties from capital investments and income from estates and trusts under the new law. There is no tax on the first \$1,000 per person (\$2,000 per couple) in income from these sources.

Authors' royalties are excluded from taxable income under a ruling released last week by Attorney General William F. Hyland.

There is a \$25 late filing fee for missing tomorrow's filing deadline under the new tax.

## Work won't be finished till late July at Washington Crossing State Park

By J. STRYKER MEYER  
Staff Writer

Construction of new parking lots, a new entrance and an overpass across Route 29 at Washington Crossing State Park will not be completed for the Fourth of July.

The construction has been delayed because companies bidding on the contract were above the state's original estimate of \$580,000, according to David Barth of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The delay has set back the completion date for construction to July 31,

Barth said today.

The Schiavone Construction Company submitted the lowest bid of \$640,000 for the park improvements. Since the Schiavone bid was above the estimate, department officials had to receive Commissioner David J. Bardin's approval to award the bid and the budget bureau had to appropriate the difference in costs, according to West Demman, the Department spokesman.

CONSTRUCTION, according to Barth, will not begin until the last

week in April.

Construction was supposed to begin on the roads last week Barth said. And the bids were supposed to be awarded April 1.

The Department of Environmental Protection has an agreement with the Department of Transportation to do the road construction and to award the bids, though the project is budgeted by the environmental agency.

The only new construction in the state park began last week. Workers are building the new visitors center.

(Continued on Page B6, Col. 3)