

# The Independent Press

JUUNE 4,1998

## Approach to parking shortage is smart

### EDITORIAL

Instead of coming to the township right off the bat with multi-million dollar plan to construct a massive parking structure in the heart of the business district, the Bloomfield Center Steering Committee has taken a more creative approach to remedying Bloomfield's parking shortage.

The committee appeared at a council caucus meeting May 26 with several ideas for increasing parking space at little or no cost.

Among Those suggestions is the elimination of curbs cuts, which no longer lead to driveways, to make room for more curb parking. And confusing parking signs could be eliminated to encourage shoppers to use all of the spaces available.

The committee also recommended that street cleaning on Mondays and Tuesdays in the business center be rescheduled. The three-hour parking prohibition is needed to accommodate the cleaning cuts into available parking space. Also, making uniform the various sizes of Bloomfield's parking spaces could make room for more parking. The committee looked at three sample areas and discovered that such a plan would increase the amount of parking in those areas by 10 percent.

The committee will evaluate those and other ideas during the next 60 days and then return to the council. Perhaps with a more concrete proposal.

Meanwhile, students from the New Jersey Institute of Technology on June 17 will present their proposal for increasing parking in the area bounded by Bloomfield Avenue, and Broad and Liberty streets.

The students were asked to look for ways to create more parking and develop a realistic, feasible plan that takes into account the overall impact on the business district.

Not only does the committee's partnership with the NJIT architecture students give the opportunity to work on a real world dilemma, it is a creative, no-cost way to get a fresh perspective on the business center's need for parking.

While the tendency in other towns might be to propose high-cost solutions to parking shortages, the Bloomfield Center Steering Committee is taking the correct approach in looking for some simple solutions first before considering the need for a time and money consuming project, even if that is what Bloomfield needs to keep its business center going.

