

# Vote on trash dump expansion delayed

## Council members want site tour

By **KEITH BROWN**

COASTAL MONMOUTH BUREAU

**FREEHOLD** — Plans to nearly double the capacity at a Tinton Falls trash facility were put off for at least another month last night when an advisory group to the Board of Freeholders delayed a vote on the proposed expansion.

The Solid Waste Advisory Council — an 11-member group appointed by the freeholders that makes recommendations to the board on matters relating to the county solid waste plan — put off until its next meeting a vote on a proposed expansion of the Marpal Inc. solid waste transfer station at Wayside and Pine Brook roads.

**"We don't generate waste; developers do. We're just providing a service."**

— *Rich Maio, Marpal general manager*

**S o m e** members of the council said they wanted to tour the facility before voting. The council is expected to meet again in late October.

The Marpal site accepts about 450 tons of debris daily, largely made up of construction material, large appliances and brush. The company wants to increase that to 800 tons a day and keep the site open until midnight. The facility, which sits close to several homes, shuts down at 9 p.m.

Rich Maio, Marpal's general manager, has said the company wants the expansion because the dump reaches capacity quickly and sometimes has to close as early as 1 p.m.

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But opposition from borough officials and residents in the borough and neighboring towns has mounted since the expansion was proposed in April.

Borough Council President Jerome Donlon in June authored a petition against the proposal. When he presented it to the solid waste council last night, he said it now has 780 signatures from borough residents.

"The message I brought with me tonight is that Tinton Falls is tired of being dumped on," Donlon said.

Donlon, who also sits on the solid waste council, has recused himself from the proceedings. Three other members of the council also have recused themselves because they either work for, compete with or contract with Marpal.

In a 40-minute meeting with borough officials July 21, Marpal agreed to drop a provision in its proposal that sought to process 30,000 tons of household and commercial trash annually. Donlon has credited the petition with forcing Marpal's concession.

The petition also has circulated among some Middletown residents, who say the expansion would increase already heavy truck traffic in their area.

Mary Ellen Hintz, who represented the 250-member Lincroft Village Green Association, a residents group, said the truck traffic generated by the site is a "major issue that has got to be the focus" of the council's consideration.

Wayside Road in Tinton Falls becomes Swimming River Road and eventually Middletown-Lincroft Road in Middletown.

"These roads were not designed to be haul roads — they were not designed for commerce," Hintz said.

But Maio defended the expansion, saying that rapid growth in the county accounted for much of the increased traffic and that the proposed expansion fits into the county's solid waste plan.

"We don't generate waste; developers do," he said. "We're just providing a service."

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