

Score one for Mid'town

Middletown's open space and historic preservation efforts got a boost last week with the news that the Monmouth County Historical Association has acquired the circa 1851 John Dorset Taylor house on King's Highway.

The house, referred to as the Taylor-Butler House after the late owner George W. Butler, includes five acres of land and is next to Marpit Hall, the association's first museum house, which is also associated with the King's Highway Taylor family.

It's interesting to note that the house was only 50 years young when the association was founded in Middletown in 1898 by a group of enlightened people who recognized the value of preserving the county's rich heritage.

The acquisition will give the association a major and welcome presence in the heart of historic Middletown.

Unfortunately, the news isn't

as good for residents of the Lincroft section who were shocked to learn that Brookdale Community College plans to sell a 5.9-acre tract on Phalanx Road to help finance a new college building.

The land was separated from the rest of the campus when Phalanx Road was realigned some years ago and is currently zoned for neighborhood commercial use.

Lincroft residents apparently assumed it would forever remain part of the college and are rightfully concerned about the continued development of Lincroft center and increasing traffic congestion.

The college has every right to sell the land, but as a public entity and significant presence in Lincroft Village, it also needs to weigh that right against the concerns voiced by its neighbors and the possible negative impact on the community.