

To the Editor:

Reject Consolidation. Support de-de-consolidation. I have received overwhelming support for my proposal for de-consolidation, but many people have mentioned that I set my sights too low. We need to not only de-consolidate the Borough and Township, but further de-consolidate the Borough.

Acting as an un-elected, un-appointed, un-named (and perhaps un-wanted) representative of the Tree Streets, I am starting an initiative to create a new municipality. This will be “the hole in the hole in the doughnut”. Its geographical boundaries will be Chestnut Street, Nassau Street, Harrison St., and Hamilton Avenue. To avoid confusing people about the municipality in which they are driving, the portion of Hamilton Avenue that runs through the new municipality will be re-named.

The municipality will be named based on a vote by residents. It must be noted that Princeton Walk, Princeton Cove, Princeton Village, Princeton Borough, Princeton Run, Princeton Ridge, Princeton Commons, Princeton Junction, Princeton Heights, Princeton Glen, Princeton Meadows, Princeton Township, Princeton Path, Princeton Mews, and Princeton Landing have all been used by developers in neighboring towns.

The new municipality, let’s call it Princeton Arbor for now to underscore the Tree Streets that it encompasses, will be a coveted location. In its 1/25 square mile it has a coffee shop, two Chinese restaurants, a fish store, a renowned sub shop, a local watering hole, a liquor store, and a quirky book store. University studies have shown that these are the primary requirements for a vibrant community. Local residents will delight in the Spruce Street Park with Maggie’s Playground, which will give “The Arbor” more parkland per square mile than any other municipality in New Jersey. And seniors will be well represented and cared for in our local Senior Center.

Small details remain. The Arbor needs a police force, an elected leader, a governing body, a zoning board, a municipal building, a town clerk, a dog catcher, service sharing agreements with the Borough and Township, and a legal staff of three to negotiate and litigate with the Borough and Township and to fight for PILOT payments from the University. Since the concept of economies of scale has been widely discredited, it’s foreseen that the creation of the Arbor will have little to no impact on residents’ taxes.

Most importantly, each resident will have a voice. With a population estimated in the mid-to-high three figures, each Arbor resident will have important civic responsibilities. It will be required that all legislation be posted on the Arbor’s Facebook page, and each resident will have the opportunity to assess the legislation and a responsibility to vote on it. No longer will people from such far off places as Moran Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue be able to dictate how we will live our lives.

My fellow Tree Street residents, I urge you to reject consolidation. Rather, take up your pens and write the word “de-de-consolidation” on your ballot. Consolidation will be defeated, and our collective dream of a place of our own will be one step closer to reality.

*Jim Levine
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