

# Latest bid is denied

By Seth Augenstein  
Staff Writer

Liongate Drive, the small cul-de-sac off Broad Street, sits mostly quiet, even as development plans aimed at adding hundreds of residents there continue to be filed with state agencies.

On April 7, the latest application to develop on one of the largest undeveloped areas in Bloomfield was denied yet again.

The application of John DeSimone Inc. called for 38 townhouses to be built on the 5.72 acres of property on Liongate Drive. DeSimone was seeking stream encroachment permits from the Department of Environmental Protection, which would allow the construction of the townhouses on the land — a tract characterized as a wetland.

It was the third such application that DeSimone had submitted to the agency. Filed on Dec. 30, 2005, and modified in March 2006, the application was an attempt on the part of the developer to revise the plans, a process made necessary by state's new stringent stormwater management regulations.

The site, located on the southern side of Liongate Drive, is entirely surrounded by the Third River. The wetland's drainage runs right off into the

See **PROPOSAL**, Page 2

# Proposal is third one that failed

There was catastrophic flooding in the area in 1999, due to the effects of Tropical Storm Floyd.

"We have an opportunity to pre-serve the property," Bloomfield Third Riverbank Association member Nick Joanow said at Monday's council meeting. "We certainly can develop, in terms of health, safety and welfare for the residents."

It was partly due to the activism of Joanow and the Bloomfield Third Riverbank Association that the council announced its intentions to purchase the property early in 2005. The council was seeking \$4 million in state Green Acres funds.

But the negotiations with owner Patricia Copeck broke down by this year's Jan. 13 deadline. Since the township needed a contracted deal and specific settled amount, the township could not proceed further with its pursuit of the Green Acres money.

The area around Liongate has become a battlefield between developers and environmentally-minded resi-

dents over the last few years. In July of 2005, the controversial zoning ordinance of the township was passed, which permitted a slightly higher density of townhouses on the Scientific Glass site.

That passage led to some public displays of anger and opposition from the Bloomfield Third Riverbank Association and other organizations. However, no progress has been made on construction at the site, since Department of Environmental Protection approvals are still pending to Arthur Fefferman and developer AFC Fairways.

Prior to Scientific Glass, Greenbrook Estates was built on its adjoining property on the northern side of Liongate Drive. The 68-unit condominium complex is located right next to the encroaching swamp land that is part of the Scientific Glass property.

Staff Writer Seth Augenstein can be reached at 973-743-4040, ext. 105, or at [independentpress@thelocal-source.com](mailto:independentpress@thelocal-source.com).

## BLOOMFIELD THIRD RIVERBANK ASSOCIATION UPDATE

**FLOODING CONCERNS PROMPT THE NJDEP TO REJECT BUILDING PLANS FOR LIONGATE DRIVE**

For a full copy of the NJDEP letter, go to:

[WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/THIRDRIVERBANK](http://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/THIRDRIVERBANK)

For more information, or a hard copy of the letter,

call Nick Joanow at 973-748-6379