

Greystone is focus of new group

Denville mayor among those seeking to keep history, space

DENVILLE TWP. – Mayor Ted Husa is a founding trustee of a new non-profit organization, Preserve Greystone, dedicated to protecting the open space and historic buildings on the former Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital property on the border of Denville Township in Parsippany.

Husa is a founding trustee of the organization and he said it is important to the township and surrounding communities the open space and historic buildings are protected.

Officials in Denville and other communities pushed for the county to purchase the site when the hospital closed because the large tract could have proven to be an attractive property for developers seeking to build housing on what is already a heavily-developed and traveled Rout 10 corridor.

The fate of the Kirkbride Building, the main building of the former Greystone Hospital, other historic structures and the open space that surrounds it, is currently in the hands of the state.

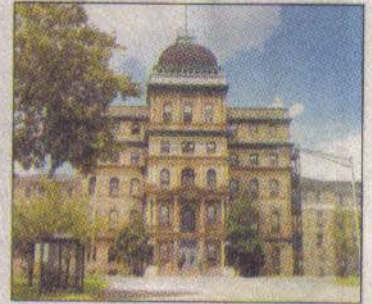
The Kirkbride building and certain surrounding parcels are owned by the state, while much of the 130 acres is owned by the county.

The organization's goal is to raise awareness and ensure the survival of the historic Kirkbride building and the surrounding land as open space.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, New Jersey voters approved a \$400 million bond measure to fund preservation of historic sites, open space and farmland.

"The recent passing of this ballot question reinforces New Jersey's commitment to preserving the state's historic sites, open space and farmland," said Husa.

"Preserve Greystone is intent on protecting the Kirkbride Building and working with public officials and professional ex-



A new group is trying to preserve the historic main building on the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital grounds.

perts to promote sustainable uses. The group is focused on developing new uses for the building instead of demolition of a storied piece of the state's history," he added.

Preserve Greystone is made up of preservationists, historians, environmentalists and concerned citizens. To ensure the survival of the Kirkbride Building, the organization has applied for 501(c)3 status and is seeking members and funding to continue this growing effort.

Other founding trustees are Marion Harris of Denville and Dave Bogert of Rockaway. Sue Schmidt of Denville, president of the Ayres/Knuth Farm board is a trustee.

Since early 2009, members of Preserve Greystone have blanketed local communities to generate awareness and to gain public support. A petition campaign has netted an estimated 800 signatures from local citizens. In addition, in December 2008, the nonprofit organization sent members and private citizens to Trenton to testify.

This organization currently has some educational posters with historic Greystone scenes on display on the second floor gallery at the Morris County Library, Hanover Avenue, Whippany. They will be on display the entire month of December