

Local

Monday, June 9, 2008

NEW JERSEY HERALD

A-7

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Today

GREEN

What: Township Committee
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 150 Kennedy Road

HARDYSTON

What: Recycling Forum
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 149 Wheatsworth Road

OGDENSBURG

What: Borough Council
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 14 Highland Ave.

HAMBURG

What: Land Use Board
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 16 Walkill Ave.

FRANKFORD

What: Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 151 Route 206

NEWTON

What: Town Council
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 39 Trinity St.

Tuesday

HARDYSTON

What: Board of Education
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Hardyston Middle School, 183 Wheatsworth Road

OGDENSBURG

What: Board of Education
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Ogdensburg School, 100 Main St.

FRANKLIN

What: Borough Council
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 46 Main St.

HARDYSTON

What: Township Council
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 149 Wheatsworth Road

OGDENSBURG

What: Land Use Board
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 14 Highland Ave.

SANDYSTON

What: Township Committee
When: 9 a.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 133 Route 645

MONTAGUE

What: Township Committee
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 277 Clove Road

Wednesday

HAMBURG

What: Board of Education
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Hamburg School, 30 Linwood Ave.

VERNON

What: Planning Board
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 21 Church St.

BRANCHVILLE

What: Zoning Board
When: 7 p.m.
Where: New Branchville Firehouse, 1 Railroad Ave.

FREDON

What: Open Space Committee
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 443 Route 94

Thursday

FRANKLIN

What: Economic Development Committee
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 46 Main St.

VERNON

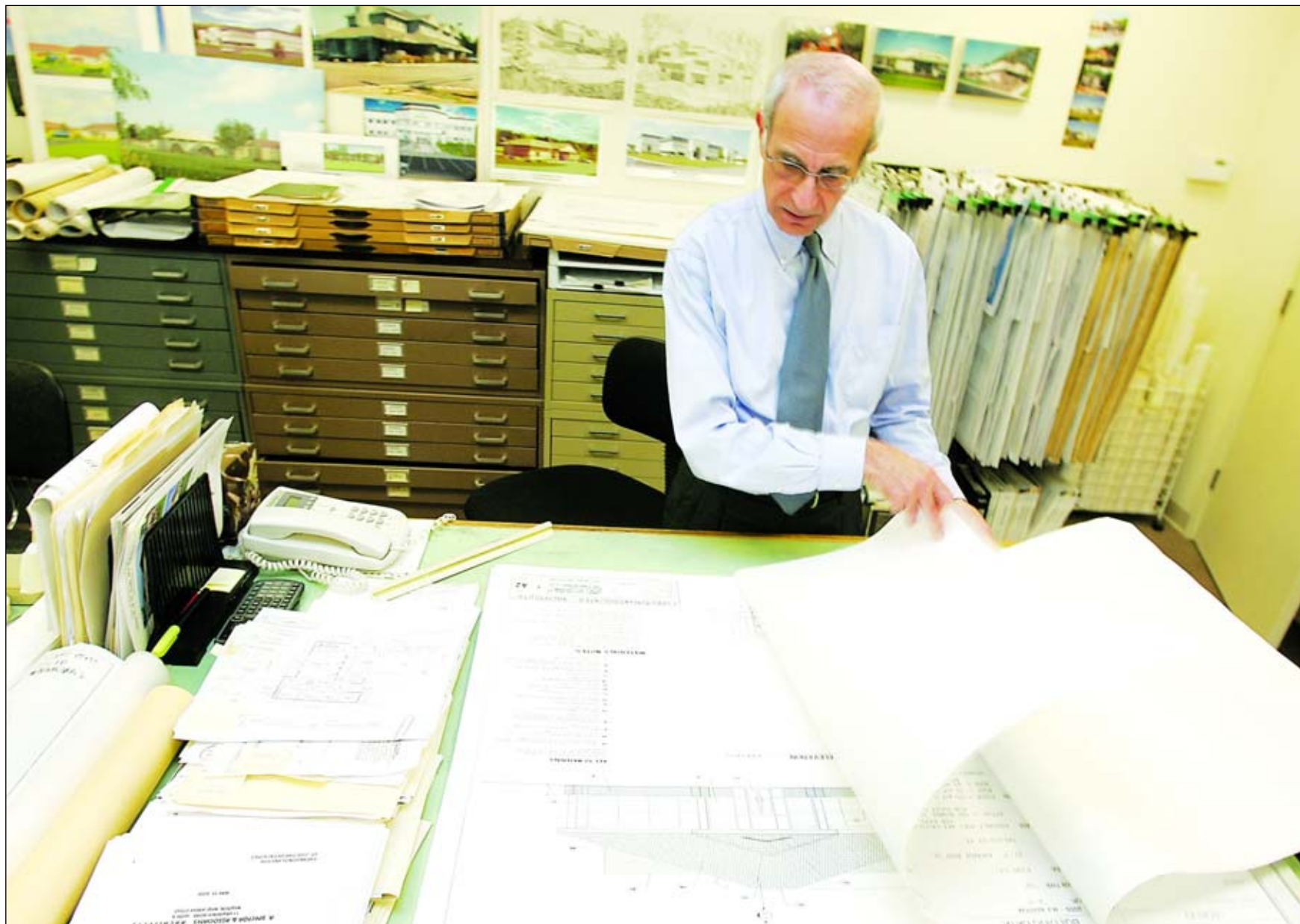
What: Environmental Commission
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 21 Church St.

SUSSEX COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

What: Board of Education special meeting
When: 5 p.m.
Where: Sussex County Technical School, 105 North Church Rd., Sparta

FREDON

What: Township Committee
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Municipal Building, 443 Route 94



Architect Alan Spector goes over schematics in his Andover office.

ARCHITECTURE: MUSIC TO HIS EARS

By ELISA D. KELLER
 ekeller@njherald.com

Alan Spector doesn't like to call himself "meticulous," but 34 years as an architect in Sussex County has given him a particular attention to detail.

When designing a new building, he takes everything into consideration, whether it is the atmosphere he wants to create, a specific color scheme or if a kindergartner can easily open the door to his new classroom.

During a recent visit to two of the buildings he designed for Project Self-Sufficiency's new campus, he immediately noticed when a door was slightly out of alignment with its frame or a few screws were missing on the underside of a hinge, scribbling down notes for the project manager.

"These are like my children," he said, pointing to photos of the various county buildings he's been involved with, from the Chatterbox restaurant at Ross's Corner, to Laddey, Clark and Ryan's window-filled law office in Sparta, to his own passive solar home in Lafayette, which uses energy 80 percent more efficiently than the average home through geothermal heating and solar orientation



Comparing building to creating music, Spector thinks of himself as the composer, starting out with paper sketches of his artistic vision.

This early, creative stage is his favorite part of the job. The second phase, the formal construction blueprint, which includes specific code requirements and structural aspects, serves as the "conductor" of the building.

"This is where we combine practicality with the artistic," he said, pulling up a three dimensional Computer Aided Design, or CAD, on a monitor. In this medium, he can travel through the building and view it

SUSSEX COUNTY

ON THE JOB

A look at working in and around Sussex County

from any perspective.

Depending on the size of the project, Spector then calls in mechanical engineers, structural engineers, contractors, plumbers and other specialists, who work together on the project like an orchestra would play a piece of music.

"It's an orchestra that's going a little berserk," he laughed, "but the drawings keep them in line as a conductor (would)."

When the owners can finally move into the space, Spector describes this as the audience enjoying the music.

Their presence also modifies the building as things are changed and expanded through the years, making houses in particular a very personal project to work on.

"I try not to be too attached to the design," said Spector, using famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright as an example of being too close to one's work. It's said that Wright would sometimes sneak back into his buildings and rearrange the owner's furniture.

"I try to listen to the client and not let my ideas overshadow them," Spector said. "It's fun to see it all coming together."



Spector points out some last-minute details to Project Self-Sufficiency board President Beverly Gordon as he takes final notes on the new Project Self-Sufficiency main building.



Spector walks away from the Project Self-Sufficiency children's building that he designed following an inspection of the site.

A cardboard model of one of Spector's designs sits in a glass display case in his Andover office. The evolution of technology has moved the visualization phase of his work from scale cardboard models to digital renderings.



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 PHOTOS BY DANIEL FREEL
 NEW JERSEY HERALD
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