

REHOBOTH 7-ELEVEN REMOVES GAS PUMPS



RYAN MAVITY PHOTO

THE LAST GAS STATION in the city of Rehoboth Beach is no more. The 7-Eleven franchise on Rehoboth Avenue at the circle has removed its pumps.

Margaret Chabris, director of corporate communications for 7-Eleven, said the gasoline equipment was nearing the end of its useful life. She said based on the gas sales at the Rehoboth location, it was a better decision not to spend money to replace the pumps.

Chabris said once all the gasoline equipment is removed, the store's parking lot will be resurfaced.

The 7-Eleven was the last gas station in town after High's convenience store moved out in early 2009.

Lewes CVS pharmacy plans hit roadblock

Developer says officials ignored residents' support

By Ron MacArthur
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Plans to build a CVS pharmacy at the entrance to The Villages of Five Points have hit a stumbling block. With a 4-1 vote at their Thursday, Feb. 24 meeting, Sussex County planning and zoning commissioners recommended denial of two applications that would have paved the way for the pharmacy along Savannah Road in Lewes. County council will take the commission's decision under advisement when it votes on the applications.

Commissioners said the 4-acre parcel was restricted to community use and should stay that way. The developers, Old Towne Point LLC, had proposed to divide the parcel to allow a donation of more than half to the Lewes library or the property owners association. County council will make the final decision on the rezoning and condi-

tional-use applications when it returns from a two-week winter break.

Christian Hudson, representing Old Towne, said the commission is ignoring residents' support of the project. "There are more people on public record as supporting our application - 117 people - than any other project in the entire 35-year history of zoning in Sussex County," he said. "Considering that fact alone, the commission's vote against our project is shockingly disappointing."

Hudson thanked Commissioner Marty Ross, who cast the lone vote in favor of the applications.

"I am hopeful that the elected officials on the county council will recognize this for the travesty it is and not blatantly disregard the wishes of their voters and constituents," Hudson said.

Residents who spoke in opposition to the applications said they purchased their homes knowing the parcel in question would not be commercially developed. They also questioned the need for another pharmacy when two are already within the immediate area.

Under a plan presented by the developers, 2.5 acres of the 4-acre parcel has been offered as a donation - worth \$3 million - to the Lewes Public Library. The remaining 1.5 acres would be used for construction of the pharmacy.

The library is considering several possible locations to build a new facility within its service area; a decision is not expected until at least the middle of the year.

If the library turns down the donation, the parcel will be donated to the residents of the community.

Under a condition imposed on the original Villages of Five Points approval 10 years ago, the entire parcel was restricted to be used by a nonprofit organization for a museum, library or emergency medical services.

The developer is asking county officials to approve an amendment to the condition and a conditional use to allow for construction of a 13,000-square-foot CVS pharmacy.

The developers said they have tried for 10 years to fulfill the condition to no avail.

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