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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Planners defer action on Silver St. request

By NICK HENDERSON
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — The Planning Board deferred further action on a contested Silver Street Texaco expansion amid growing concern over traffic, noise and legal standing.

Motiva Enterprises, represented by local attorney Malcolm McNeill, came to Tuesday's Planning Board session armed with more traffic stats and testimony from a national noise expert. The company has applied for approval to add a Dunkin'

Donuts drive-through and an automatic car wash to the site.

Still, that was overshadowed by doubt that the project even meets city zoning regulations. Ultimately, the panel voted to defer that decision to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, a body that has final interpretation of the volumes of regulations for building and land use. The ZBA is expected to hear an appeal Aug. 17.

Attorney Don Bryant, one of the increasing number of neighbors opposed to the expansion, has argued it is not a legal

expansion. He intends to file an appeal to the ZBA by Friday contesting Building Inspector Tom Clark's administrative decision in favor of continuing the nonconforming use. The building inspector is given the authority to interpret zoning laws, but his decision is subject to appeal.

At issue is whether the business, as expanded, could continue the current nonconforming use. About one-third of the site is in a residential district, but was grandfathered in the mid 1960s to allow a gas station to operate.

Planning Director Steve Stancel said though he stands by Clark's decision, he supports the idea of an appeal. However, he wishes it was more timely as a delay is unfair to the developer. "I'm a little concerned a month has gone by and an appeal hasn't been filed," he said.

The board also cast doubt on figures presented by traffic consultant Don Rhodes, ordering a peer review of the findings to be funded by the developer.

More than a month since the approval process became public, neighbors still

filled the seats at Tuesday's meeting express their disgust with the expansion. "It telegraphs the message that this town that is past its prime," said the David Slater. He implored the board to serve the heritage of the older neighborhood as a gateway to the city.

McNeill argued there is a limit to his client is obligated to do in order to minimize the effects of an expansion.

"We have a responsibility to bear our share of that impact, but that is the extent of our responsibility," he said.

Kids SOAR at Cochecho Arts Festival

By NICK HENDERSON
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — Ordinary household junk became music to the ears during the Cochecho Arts Festival's first children's concert of the season.

Souls Originating Art Rhythmically, also known as SOAR, took to pipes, boxes, washboards, barrels, and just about anything that carried a tune during their performance at the Dover Public Library on Tuesday morning. The Tuesday Children's Series is presented by the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Liberty Mutual.

The cast consists of 11 middle-school-aged children who tour the area to promote recycling through music. Their talent recently won them an appearance in a commercial for the national chain Kitchen, Etc.

Audience members participated in the fun by spinning canvas on a wheel while painting to make artwork.

The group's creative use of objects included hitting and blowing into copper and PVC pipes in various depths of water. The end result was an eclectic mix of percussive and brass sounds to the delight of about 300 onlookers.

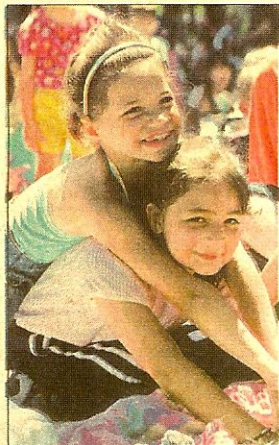
All of SOAR's instruments were found in scrap piles, garages and on the side of the road on trash day, said Jeff Erwin, the show's director and producer.

Erwin, who is also a performer, got the audience involved in a rap, prompting them to shout the lyrics, "It's a junky beat. It's a funky beat."

At the end of the hourlong session, a long line of children and parents waited to look at the instruments and talk to the band members.

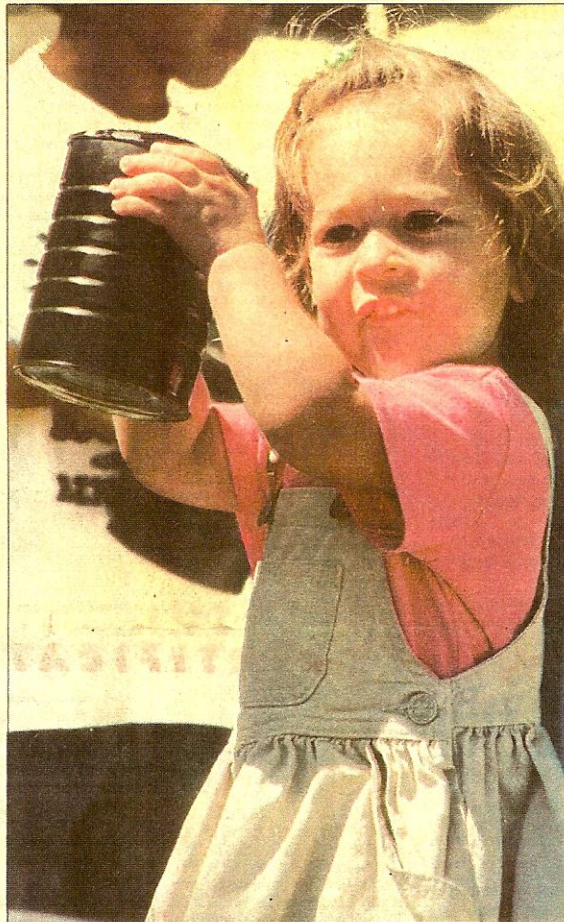
Next on the Tuesday Children's Series is the BJ Hickman Magic Show at 10:30 a.m. on July 18.

All Cochecho Arts Festival performances are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce at 742-2218.



SOAR TO THE MUSIC — Above, 8-year-old Rebecca Behr, left, of New Durham and her friend, 8-year-old Courtney Dutra of Barrington, sit together on the lawn in front of the Dover Public Library on Tuesday morning. They were enjoying the group, Souls Originating Art Rhythmically, as part of the Kids Summer Concert Series. Also making the most of the event, at right, is 2-year-old Emma Spartachino of Rochester as she makes music from a tin can.

Rebecca VanDriesen/Staff photographer



Rules change

Dover board says no early release for some teachers

By MICHAEL GILLIS
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — The School Board on Monday made it mandatory for all high school teachers to remain at school on early release days.

The board has already attached that condition to next year's four early release days at the elementary and middle schools.

Now that the high school is shifting to an eight-period day, as opposed to 10, it is eligible for early release days, according to Superintendent Armand LaSelva.

Board member Nick Skaltsis suggests that staff development meetings held on early release days be mandatory for professional staff, including art and music teachers, and guidance counselors. Skaltsis has initially opposed early release days, arguing that the proposed teachers' contract does not provide adequate time for training and staff development.

That contract is before the City Council for adoption.

"I feel very uncomfortable voting on early release days," he said at Monday's School Board meeting.

In addition to mandatory attendance, high school staff on early release days: School Board agreed the staff development meetings should last longer, from two hours to three hours and 15 minutes.

As was done for the elementary and middle schools, the board directed high school officials to ensure that early release days are as routine as possible.

Board members had suggested that early release days are too often disruptive and that students accomplish too little, if any

Rochester School Board chairman mulls application for 'Survivor'

By KATHELEEN CONTI
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — A Rochester School Board member might try to win \$1 million — even if it means eating the occasional rat.

Mark Chrusz, board member and

wide range of questions.

"(It asked) what's your favorite this, what's your favorite that. What would you do for a million dollars... what do you read. It's a pretty intense application,"



he sent to Los Angeles for final interviews with "Survivor" producers.

According to Chrusz, he would have to undergo required physical and psychological examinations to be selected.

In its current season, the show's concept has 16 people stranded on an island with few supplies and little food.

Rochester official may leave post

By TERESA ROBINSON
Rochester Bureau Chief

ROCHESTER — After just more than three years on the job, Public Works Director David Ford is considering leaving his position.

do enjoy the job now and all the people here." In preparation of a resignation the city is ready to advertise the position and begin a regionwide search for new public works director.

"It comes as no surprise to any