



Community feedback and demand led us to embark on establishing a building that would serve its community, providing healthy and positive experiences for all, ranging in age from middle school to 'golden agers.' The idea of this new center is to fill a gap of connection with programs and events, welcoming all and providing a safe space for all to feel a sense of belonging. We can't wait to get started on making this dream a reality – it's long overdue!

However, there has been a little confusion and misunderstanding following a letter to the Editor placed in the 3/16/23 edition of the Bernardsville News that we thought best to clarify. Read below and please feel free to respond with questions or comments to Andi Williams, executive director: [awilliams@communityincrisis.org](mailto:awilliams@communityincrisis.org).

- When Community in Crisis (CIC) purchased the building from Gallaway and Crane Funeral Home, Inc., the future purpose of the building was always clearly communicated as well as written into the seller's/buyer's agreement that both parties signed:

'Buyer intends to use the Property as administrative offices and a location for youth, adolescent, adult and family workshops, meetings, seminars and presentations in connection with its mission of providing community outreach services for persons affected by the opioid epidemic and other addictions.'

CIC is therefore confused by Mr. Gallaway's claim in his letter that the building was to be used only for youth and family counseling which, ironically, CIC does not even do (yet)! In fact, CIC was encouraged by the thought that their new neighbor, Mr. Gallaway, would appreciate the operational schedule of a community venue that is serving its community during evening and weekend hours – something this very building had been doing for decades as a funeral home.

- Certified letters were sent to the 200' radius list of property owners that CIC purchased from the Bernardsville Borough tax office, as well as placing a notice in print in the local newspaper. We were made aware *after the fact* that Mr. Gallaway's property was not on that list, presumably because of the borough's oversight or perhaps because Mr. Gallaway is exempt from property taxes. The radius list was logically not scrutinized by CIC administrative support to ensure accuracy; that is the Bernardsville Borough's tax office's duty.
- After we received the lawsuit, CIC invited the plaintiff, Mr. Gallaway, and his attorney to sit down and discuss any concerns so that they could be resolved amicably; the plaintiff agreed to get back to us with his requests – such as lighting and hours of operation, etc. – but we unfortunately never received anything, even after requesting them a second time.
- Contrary to Mr. Gallaway's belief, none of the new construction encroaches on his property unless the subdivision undertaken by him *pre-purchase* was inaccurate? We'd welcome investigating this further with Mr. Gallaway.
- The exterior staircase Mr. Gallaway references was not unauthorized as he states – the town issued a permit for it but then, 2 months later, rescinded it stating that the staircase didn't adhere to the required 5' setback for adjoining a residential property. In actuality, Mr. Gallaway's home is still commercially zoned so it seems that the town was again mistaken in revoking the permit. In an email from the zoning officer on 1/31/23, they state:

'It was always intended for his [Gallaway] property to be in the R-4, but after research all of the changes from date to date, it was put into the D-C downtown core, which is the same zone your property is in.'

Mr. Gallaway appears to be under the impression that he lives in a residential zone which is understandable given the town's confusion on the matter.

In summary, CIC would welcome the opportunity to settle any of the obvious confusion and incorrect beliefs amicably, as we would like to be great neighbors and a huge resource for our wonderful community.

Thank you!