

# **NJ TRANSIT NEWS HUNTERDON REVIEW SEPTEMBER 3, 2014**

## **Solar powered community opens**

**Electricity for Village Green will be supplied by the sun**

CLINTON TWP. - A "solar powered" living community has been completed in Annandale, and a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Electricity for the Village Green at Annandale will be supplied by the ballasted ground-mounted solar farm built by developer Richard Meurer, owner of Meurer Development. The farm is adjacent to the village on the old Warren Lumber site.

"We are confident that we have built the premier ecovillage in the Garden State," said Meurer, owner of Annandale-based Meurer Development and founder of Green Power Energy, the sister firm that developed the 322 kW solar farm.

Located at 47 East Street, the Village Green offers luxury town homes, apartments, retail and office space, all built utilizing sustainable resources and construction methods.

"The original plan was for an adaptive reuse project that would involve renovating existing structures and outfitting them with solar components and energy efficient internal mechanicals," said Meurer.

With this plan in mind, he acquired the lumber yard and its outbuildings in 2010. The old lumberyard's footprint was retained, some of its structures rehabbed, and Meurer recycled much of the wood; the original office building, which dates to 1852, is being renovated. **NJ Transit**, whose Raritan line connects Annandale to Newark and New York City, refurbished the adjacent train station.

The Village Green's residences – one, two and three-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom town homes – are 52 percent occupied and retail and office space is available for lease.

"This community is proof that renewable energy systems can be attractive, functional and integrated into traditional neighborhoods," said Meurer.

In addition, Meurer has developed a 23-acre solar farm site in Raritan Township that is scheduled to be installed in 2015. He also is working on a solar project that will power a school that would require a solar farm twice the size of the one at Village Green.

"Solar power is a sound investment in a brighter future. And we are pioneering that future right here in New Jersey," Meurer said.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10. For more information call 908-730-9066.