

ATTENTION SHOPPERS: *A Message From*

CROP'S

Fresh

MARKETPLACE

Fall 2019

To Our Customers and Community:

On behalf of the Cropper Family (which includes all of our co-workers), we want to again thank you for supporting our family-owned, independent market that has been part of this great community since the early 1950s. Since reopening under the Crop's name, we've become the largest employer (and taxpayer) in the Township. And we have been continuously improving our store, owing so much of our success to you, our loyal customers who believe in shopping local for high quality at affordable prices.

While our passion and focus are on food and service, lately we've been getting a lot of non-culinary questions about the Township's decision to "take" and confiscate a substantial and important part of our land – without prior notice and an opportunity to discuss - through a process called eminent domain. That unprecedented action, taken to benefit an out-of-town developer and a foreign-owned grocery store chain, is at the heart of a decade-long development dispute involving our store and shopping

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center, and the property across our parking lot (yes, the one with the COMING SOON GIANT Market sign) supported by the Township. We think it's time you got the facts about what's going on (without getting too technical, or, excuse the expression,

mixing apples and oranges), because one way or another, you'll likely be impacted by the outcome.

Sadly, we have never seen relations more strained between local businesses and the Township's officials (with few exceptions), and we're concerned about this breakdown. We just don't understand, for example, why the Township would recently sponsor a local business town hall and "welcome" guests with refreshments purchased from a neighboring New York-owned chain grocer. There was no explanation and, in fact, no discussion at the meeting of any of the concerns raised by local businesses.

We were not surprised given the fact that they have used legal sleight-of-hand (eminent domain) to arbitrarily seize part of our land for a new and unnecessary road so shoppers can easily access the proposed GIANT. You should know that when we bought the former farm property on which the store is located, we spent tens of thousands of dollars to ensure easy access in and out, not only for our development, but the one proposed for the parcel now proposed as the site of the GIANT (to be clear, we do not oppose competition, but want a level playing field). And those traffic plans were approved by the Township.

To this day, the Township has never given us a straight answer to why it then partnered with out-of-towners – the developer and GIANT - to the detriment of the oldest locally owned business and others in our

center? Instead, they've forced us into court to get those answers, and at considerable expense to our family.

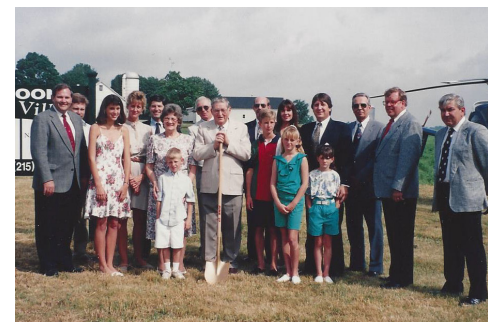
In our view, the Township has engaged in illegal private land condemnation and unfair competition aimed at undermining our business and that of the other shopping center merchants. If you didn't know, the proposal backed by the Township and Carlino East Brandywine Development (CEBD) firm would favor Amsterdam's Royal Ahold company, which owns the 200-unit GIANT stores.

We'd like to hear any of your questions or concerns, so feel free to contact us in store, or via email at info@cropsmarketplace.com

Thank you again for your support and your patience.

Sincerely,

John, Connie, Chad, Melissa, and Amanda Cropper



Above: Bob Cropper and family at ground breaking ceremony in 1994

