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The planned apartment project behind Hawley Village Apartments will be accessed along a right-of-way off Church Street. The empty parcel where the apartment buildings are planned is in the background. The right-of-way is between 715 Church Street, at left, and 719 Church Street, on the right. PHOTOS BY PETER BECKER/TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Developer of apartments in Hawley still needs approvals

Proposal for two-building complex made in 2023

Peter Becker
Tri-County Independent
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hawley Borough Council heard an update April 8 about the proposed two-building apartment complex at the end of Barker Street, behind Hawley Village Apartments, yet to break ground after nearly three years in the borough and state permit process.

Developer Herb Tannebaum received council's vote of approval for a resolution to proceed, subject to confirmation that a required environmental review of potential rare species and habitat was accomplished, and approvals are granted by the Hawley Area Authority (sewer) and Aqua Pennsylvania, the water company. These steps are needed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The borough will also confirm that the land development plan for the project, referred to simply as "The Hawley," was approved.

Following a hearing in May 2023, the zoning hearing board rejected a 60-foot single building, which was 25 feet higher than the zoning ordinance allowed. The developers modified the plan and received the council's conditional use approval in January 2024 for two buildings, side by side, not exceeding the maximum allowable 35 feet.



Two new apartment buildings, planned behind Hawley Village Apartments, would allow vehicles to exit onto Barker Street along a right-of-way seen on April 13, around the side of Hawley Village, at left.

Each building will be 150 feet long and 72 feet wide and have a gable roof. One is to have 22 apartments and the other 24, for 46 total. Parking for 80 vehicles is planned.

The plan is to have traffic enter along an easement between 715 and 719 Church Street and exit around the southeast side of Hawley Village Apartments to reach Barker Street.

The developers, under the corporate name of Hawley Partners LLC, purchased the 3.3-acre parcel for \$240,000 and filed the deed on June 4, 2024. The parcel remains a fallow field, with groves

of trees and underbrush. The rail bed and track border the property on the north side.

The new apartment project will be the third in line on or just off Barker Street, following Barker Street Apartments, which opened in the 1980s, and Hawley Village Apartments at the end of Barker Street, constructed in the mid-1990s.

Peter Becker has worked at the Tri-County Independent or its predecessor publications since 1994. Reach him at pbecker@tricountyindependent.com.

Politics looms over potential retirement of U.S. Supreme Court judge

Vacancy would allow for fourth Trump appointment

John Krugel
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – When Donald Trump was asked about the prospect of conservative Justices Samuel Alito or Clarence Thomas retiring, the Republican president voiced his support for the U.S. Supreme Court's two oldest members to remain on the bench.

"I hope they're going to be around a long time," Trump told reporters on Feb. 20 after the duo sided with him in a dissent to the court's 6-3 ruling striking down his sweeping global tariffs. "I hope they're going to stay healthy. They're great people."

Alito, 76, and Thomas, 77, have given no public indication that they are planning to leave their lifetime posts on the nation's top judicial body. They did not respond to questions from Reuters about whether they intend to retire this year.

But discussion among experts about a possible vacancy has increased as the two men draw closer to the average age of retirement for Supreme Court justices since 2000 – about 80 years old – and with the November midterm elections looming. Any vacancy would give Trump the opportunity to make a fourth appointment to the court. The last president to appoint four justices was Republican Richard Nixon, who served from 1969 to 1974. Trump made three appointments during his first term in office, giving the court a 6-3 conservative supermajority that has moved American law dramatically rightward since 2020.

Election considerations

The U.S. Constitution assigns the Senate the power to confirm a president's judicial nominations. Republicans currently hold a 53-47 Senate majority. If Democrats take control of the chamber in the midterms, they would be expected to try to block Trump's nominee to fill any vacancy created by the retirement or death of a sitting justice.

"The window for Trump to nominate a Supreme Court justice – or any federal judge – with a friendly Republican Senate could be closing by the end of this year," said John Yoo, who served as a Justice Department lawyer under Republican

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Pennsylvania bills set to modernize deer tags, create youth trapping program

Brian Whipkey
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The House Game and Fisheries Committee passed legislation April 14 to allow hunters to electronically tag their big game harvest, get a mentored youth trapping license and participate in more deer hunting opportunities.

The committee approved House Bill 2363 to create modern tagging and reporting options of big game harvests like deer and turkey to the Pennsylvania

Game Commission.

Sponsored by Robert Merski, a Democrat from Erie County, the memo for the bill reads, "While the tagging of a big game harvest is a fairly straightforward process, perhaps there is a faster, more convenient way to do it through the use of technology. Currently, a hunter must complete a harvest tag that contains his or her name, address, license number, and the location where the big game animal was harvested. The tag must then be affixed to the carcass. However, given that the majority of individuals now car-

ry a smartphone, it would seem prudent that the tagging and reporting process be updated to accommodate current and future digital technologies as additional options for our sportsmen and women."

During the hearing, he said, "The goal of this legislation is simple, to modernize the process that has not kept pace with the way people communicate, report information and use technology today. For decades, Pennsylvania has relied on a paper-based tagging and reporting struc-

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Rep. Robert Merski of Erie speaks to the House Game and Fisheries Committee on April 14 about his bill to allow hunters to electronically tag their harvested big game animals in Pennsylvania. PA HOUSE VIDEO

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