

# Marple OKs DCCC's Campus Expansion

By Leslie Krowchenko

The Marple Commissioners voted unanimously, Jan. 14, to grant final land development to Delaware County Community College for the construction of a multi-story addition.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) complex, with a 105,000 square feet devoted to science, engineering and mathematics and 32,000 square feet for the technological programs, will be built on the 122-acre main campus, bordered by Route 252 and Media Line Road. DCCC leases a facility on Malin Road from the Delaware County In-

termediate Unit and the construction would allow the relocation of the operation to the new building.

The college received a variance from the Zoning Board last year for a reduction in parking spaces in connection with the project. The institution has 2,161 stalls on the main campus and was given permission to install 109 paved spaces and 100 spots in reserve. The new lot would be in close proximity to the current ones and the variance would prevent the removal of additional trees on the wooded property and avoid the creation of increased impervious surface.

As Marple's current fee structure does not address the magnitude of the \$50 million project, a letter of understanding was drafted between the township and college. DCCC will pay \$500,000 at the time of the building permit application, followed by \$250,000 when the permit is approved, for use by the township for roadway, intersection, traffic signal and other related improvements. The college would also provide a one-time \$33,095 stormwater management fee for all phases of the project, including periodic inspections during the next 10 years, and escrow a maximum of 5 percent of the

cost of construction and improvements for inspections. An additional \$100,000 would be placed in escrow for improvements to the traffic signal and a left-turn lane at the Route 252 and Timberlake Drive entrance.

DCCC also agreed at a later date to discuss the feasibility

of extending Cedar Grove Road through the campus to address traffic concerns at the intersection with Route 252 and the possibility of renting, leasing or donating a portion of the grounds fronting Media Line Road for the construction of an EMS facility housing a joint ambu-

lance corps.

"It could have become a legal issue and I'm glad the township was able to amicably solve the matter," said township solicitor Frank Daly. "I'm more comfortable that it is resolved now."