

Eagles beat Colts on last-second field goal PAGE B1**Get rewarded by Whole Foods**

Whole Foods Market Inc. will test a rewards program in its West Windsor store this month. While other grocery chains have had rewards programs in place for years, the largest natural-goods retailer in the U.S. is just getting started. / **Page B10**

Demolition date nears for former medical center

The former University Medical Center on Witherspoon Street is set to be demolished Friday, after permitting, Princeton engineer Bob Kiser said. Kiser and other town officials Monday morning met with representatives of AvalonBay, the developer with plans to turn the hospital site into 280 housing units, to discuss when demolition will take place. The latest estimate given was sometime this week, and Kiser said the town will meet with AvalonBay again Friday morning to confirm the razing. John Mucha of Yannuzzi Wrecking and Recycling Corp. told residents during a neighborhood meeting earlier this month the demolition process is expected to last three to six months.

What about the dust?
 ■ During demolition work, water will be sprayed over the site to keep dust down so it's not kicked up by trucks driving around," Mucha said previously, adding this will address about 90 percent of demolition dust.
 ■ Storm drains also will be covered with fabric to keep out unwanted particles, and there will be dust monitors at each corner of the property.
 ■ A weather vane also will be in place to show which way the wind will be blowing, Mucha said.

And the noise?
 Residents can expect to hear the twisting of steel, the breaking of concrete slabs and the rumbling of dump trucks throughout the process, as building materials are either crushed and reused on site or hauled away to a recycling facility. AvalonBay hired Cerami & Associates to monitor noise

TRENTON

Mayor gets 31-page to-do list

By Jenna Pizzi
Times of Trenton

Seventy days into his term in office, Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson has released his transition team report detailing the critical and operational changes that his advisers recommend he make to improve city government.

The 31-page document posted on the city's website Monday night separates the recommendations into those that are critical, which should be addressed immediately, and those that are operational,

which would mean modifying the way some services are delivered.

Jackson said he will consider the recommendations of the team as he addresses the issues facing the city.

"I am grateful to my Transition Team for producing such a thoughtful, clear and concise document," said Jackson in a news release. "I will carefully consider its recommendations going forward as my administration addresses economic and civic issues on behalf of the people of Trenton."

In writing the report, the transition team noted that because of Trenton's financial instability, many of the recommendations made will not be able to be put in place until funding is found.

"Many of the proposals contained herein are likely to be deemed unaffordable, albeit desirable, in the near term," the team wrote.

Critical recommendations include:

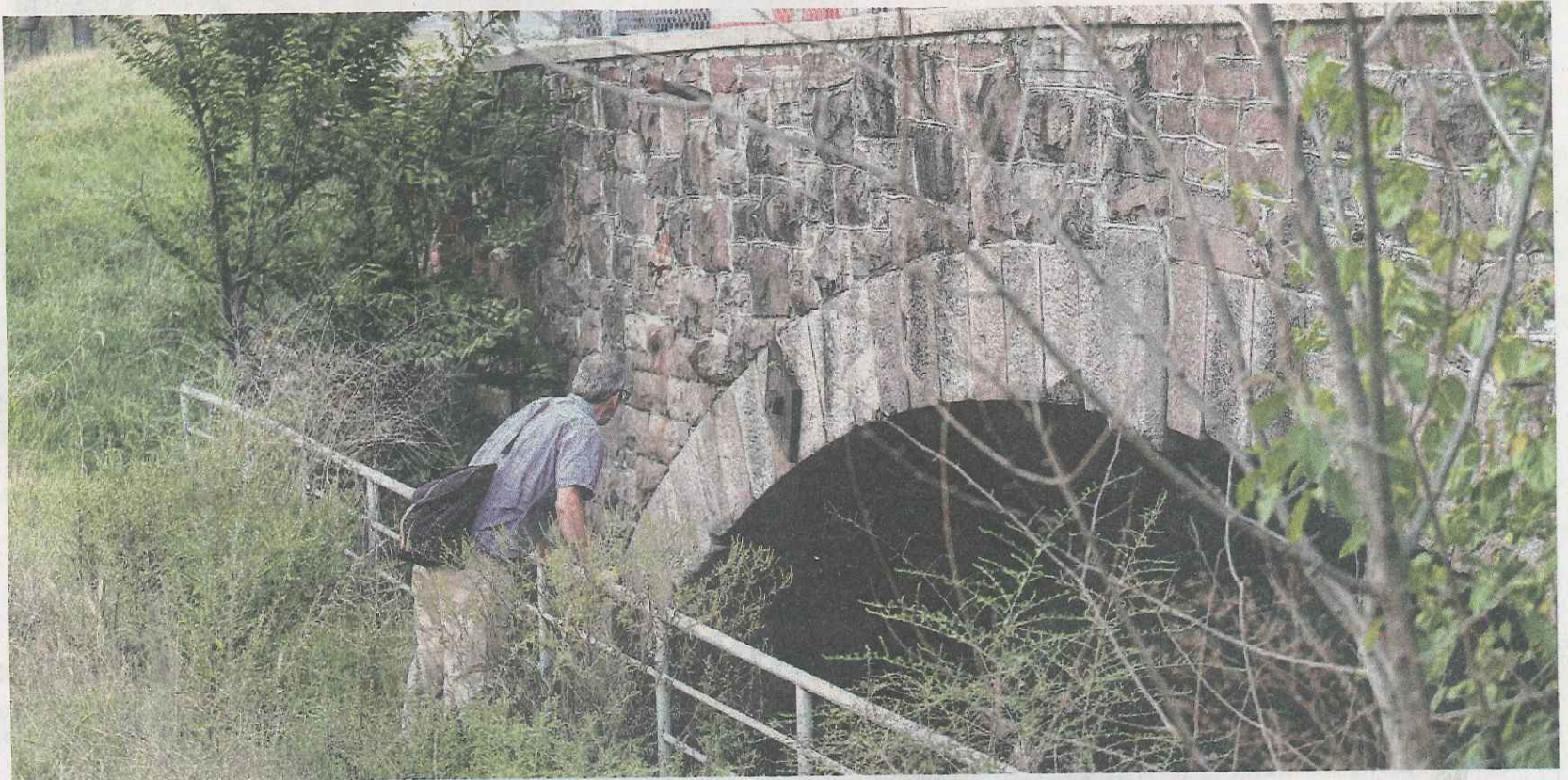
■ Reach a collective bargaining agreement with city labor unions, including fire and police, who have

been working with expired contracts. Contract with an experienced labor attorney to represent the administration in the negotiations.

■ Audit individuals whose salary is funded by federal Community Development Block Grant Funds because of the misuse of these funds by former Mayor Tony Mack's administration.

■ Find alternative funding source for those individuals whose

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**A tour around the site of the covered-up Assunpink Creek in Downtown Trenton is conducted Monday.** (MARTIN GRIFF/TIMES OF TRENTON)

TRENTON

Project to reopen Assunpink Creek to bring 'green space' downtown

By Jenna Pizzi / *Times of Trenton*

In the works since 2007, the plan to reopen the Assunpink Creek in downtown Trenton is on track to be completed in about a year and a half, project leaders said at a public meeting Monday night.

The creek was closed off by a long, curving culvert decades ago by the Army Corps of Engineers. But it was slated for resurfacing after the Army Corps determined that the culvert prohibited fish from migrating into the Delaware River and, in 2006, its roof collapsed.

"At that point it became a safety hazard," said Matthew Brener, an engineer and project manager with Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions, a firm hired by the city to lead the

project.

"It wasn't built correctly," Brener said during a public meeting about the project hosted by New Jersey Future. "The culvert was filling with water all the time and it degraded the roof panels."

By 2007 the area was stabilized but remained fenced off, creating an unsightly overgrown lot in the middle of the city's downtown area and adjacent to the historical Mill Hill Park.

Starting in 2015, the area will be transformed into a meadow with the creek running through.

"This will provide 2 acres of green space right in the middle of downtown," Brener said.

The project is 75 percent funded by the federal government with the city of Trenton kicking in 25 percent through a grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Peter Kasabach, the executive director of NJ Futures, said his organization has worked as a facilitator with the project leads to help the it through, though he noted it has been in the works for many years.

"We have been working with them when

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Assunpink

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things get stuck," Kasabach said. "Most of the stucks have been unstuck."

The creek will be dotted with shrubs and trees and surrounded by a low-maintenance meadow so as not to be too much of a burden on the city's public works department, which will be tasked with maintaining the area once the project is completed.

Brener said the project has been designed to have no impact on flooding in the area.

"This is not a flood control project and it is not going to make it worse," he said.

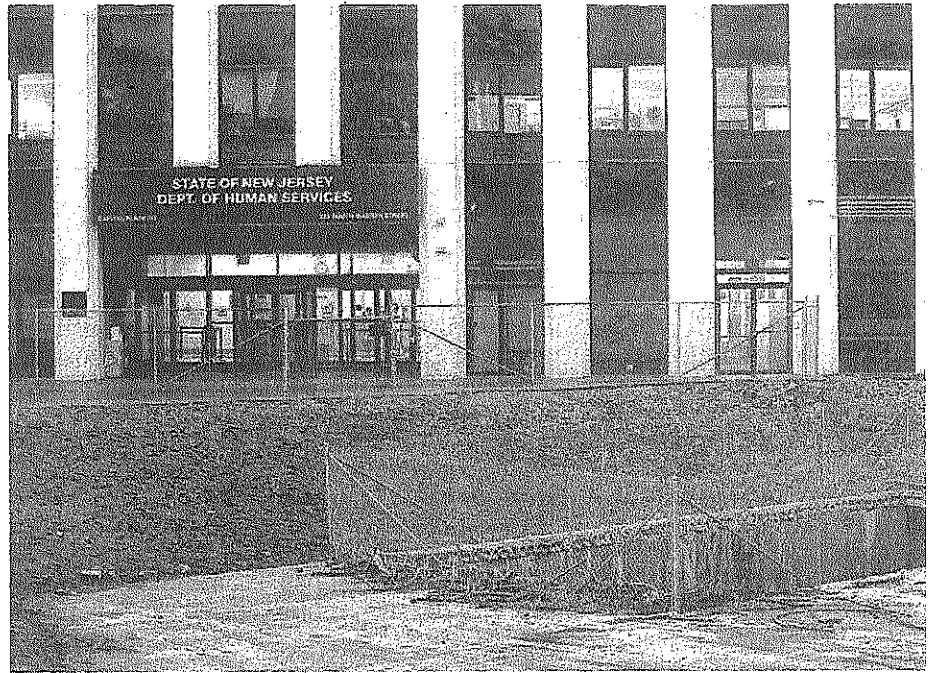
The city is working with the DEP on a permit regarding the flooding and water levels and expects to receive the OK shortly.

Brian Mulvenna, the project manager with the Army Corps of Engineers, said the corps is conducting other flood mitigation projects along the creek, but this is not one of them.

A small piece of the culvert near the South Broad Street Bridge will remain in place because Veolia, a thermal energy company that supplies steamed and chilled water for HVAC systems to buildings downtown, has pipes that cross the culvert.

"We spent about a year and a half doing alternatives analysis," Brener said. "It is a very technically complex piping project."

"What turned out to make the most



Collapsed concrete covering over the Assunpink Creek by the Department of Human Services is visible during a tour around the site of the covered up Assunpink Creek in Downtown Trenton between S. Broad and S. Warren Streets, E. Lafayette Street and Assunpink Drive on Monday, September 15, 2014. (MARTIN GRIFF/TIMES OF TRENTON)

sense and what was the most affordable option was to leave a small piece of the culvert in place."

The project will tie into renovations and other projects in Mill Hill Park. Those include the reconstruction of the Jackson Street pedestrian bridge and the placement of interpretive signage at the entrances.

The project also will go along with the planned restoration of the South Broad Street Bridge, which is set to be completed by the Mercer County Department of Transportation.

That project is still in preliminary planning stages.

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