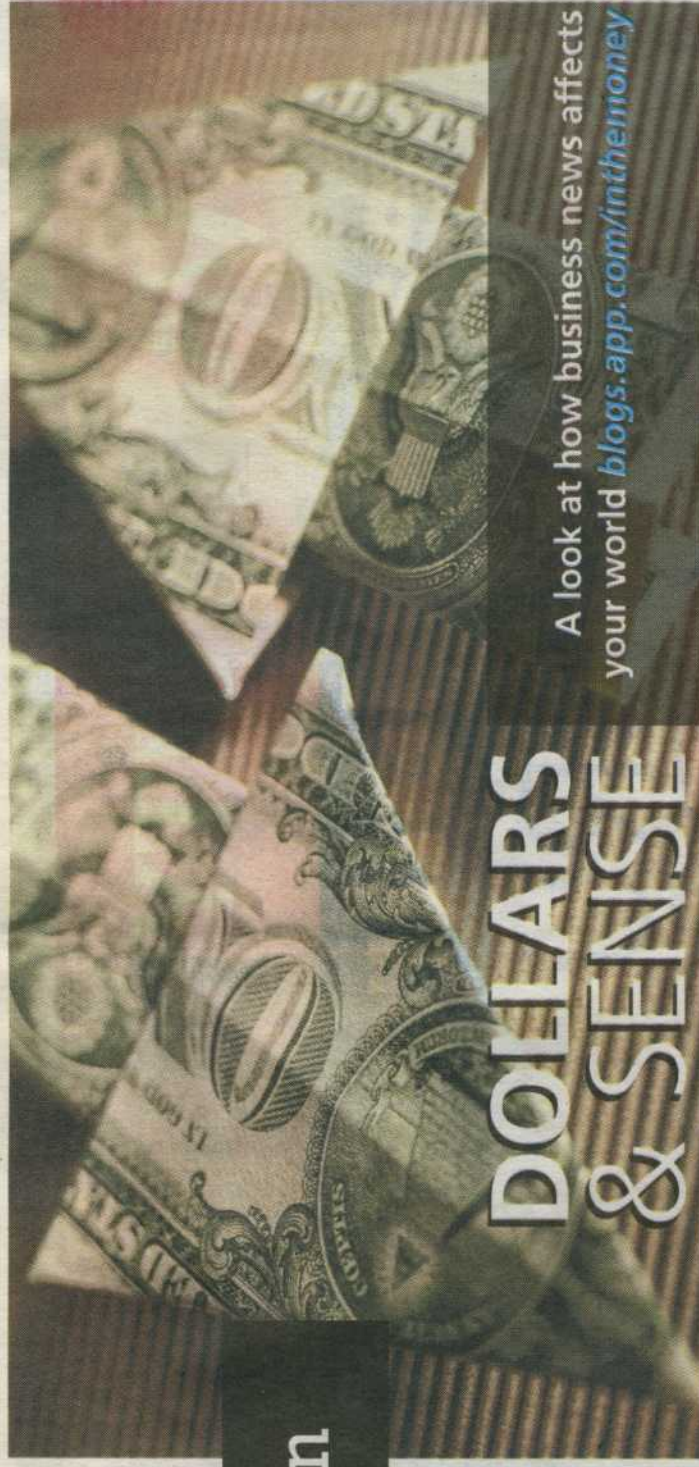


# today

ocean



## DOLLARS & SENSE

A look at how business news affects your world [blogs.app.com/inthemoney](http://blogs.app.com/inthemoney)

### MEMORANCE DAY



## Jackson seeking decision on plan

Pinelands panel conference set for Thursday



By Amanda Oglesby  
@OglesbyAPP

**JACKSON** — Nearly two years have passed since municipal officials presented investors with a master plan that set a vision of the township as a center for business in New Jersey. Since then, Jackson has waited for approval from the Pinelands Commission, which oversees portions of development planning throughout the 100-square-mile township.

The master plan has languished before the commission for more than a year without a decision. Last week, commission spokesman Paul Leakan said the commission and township officials are planning to meet Thursday to break the impasse.

"We have identified a number of problems or concerns with the Jackson Township master plan and its recommendations," said Leakan, who declined to name the issues pending the meeting.

See JACKSON, Page B2



Construction of a Meridian Health medical mall nears completion in Jackson. AMANDA OGLESBY/STAFF PHOTO

MISCONDUCT CASE

# Charge spurs



Vietnam veterans present a wreath during New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation Remembrance Day Tuesday, honoring all those who served in the military during the Vietnam era from 1959 to 1975. MARY FRANK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# OVERDUE HONOR

## Vietnam vets receive state medals, thanks

By Bill Bowman  
@BillBowmanAPP

**HOLMDEL** — Getting state recognition for his service in the Vietnam War was never a high priority for Charles Corsillo.

"For a long time, I was just preoccupied with work and other things, and I just didn't think it was really something I needed to do for myself," the Manalapan resident said. "But recently I've had a change of heart. I think it's important for my kids and my wife and my father and father-in-law."

Corsillo, who served in the Navy during the war, was on hand Tuesday at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial for the annual Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day ceremony. Despite its name, medals also were awarded to veterans of World War II and the Korean War as well as Vietnam.

Corsillo was one of about 30 state residents, many from Monmouth and Ocean counties, to receive state-issued Vietnam Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medals or the state's highest military honor, the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

A Navy petty officer 3rd class when his enlistment ended, Corsillo was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

More than 100 veterans and family members attended the event, held against the backdrop of the state's Vietnam War memorial. A number of veterans searched the memorial's granite panels for the names of friends killed in the war.

Keynoting the event was Brig. Gen. James Grant, director of the Joint Staff, New Jersey Army and Air National Guard.

Grant spoke about how his older brother, a Marine



Brig. Gen. James J. Grant places a medal on Vietnam veteran Edward F. Pine, of Union Beach, during the ceremony. MARY FRANK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



**MOVING TRIBUTE**

For a video of the ceremony, visit [APP.com](http://APP.com) or scan the QR code.

Addressing the Vietnam-era veterans, many of whom returned home to scorn, Grant said, "That stigma is gone, and I say publicly to each and every one of you, welcome Veterans of previous wars

"If we listen and open our minds and ears to veterans from all wars, we do much better," he said.

Veterans of previous wars



today

# JACKSON

Continued from Page B1

Jackson officials directly involved in the approval either could not be reached for comment or are declining to speak about it until after the Thursday meeting.

"These are complex issues at this time," Leakan said. "We want to meet with the town and try to come to a resolution on this. ... We're hopeful that after this meeting, we'll have a path forward."

Two years ago Jackson officials envisioned a new future for the once-rural township. The master plan looks to attract civilian contractors serving Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to southern portions of the township. It lays out the possibility for a solar farm on a former landfill site and plans new commercial corridors through northern Jackson near the township's three exits along Interstate 195.

## Seeking tax relief

Behind the development plan lies the goal of stabilizing taxes for the township's residential tax base, which has ballooned in two decades, according to the U.S. census.

In 1990, Jackson was home to 33,000 people. By 2010, nearly 55,000 were living in the township.



## PEEK INSIDE

Visit [APP.com](http://APP.com) for a video about the

progress of construction of a Meridian Health medical mall in Jackson.

dential to commercial development, as that increases, hopefully they (the commercial sector) pick up a bigger share," said township Business Administrator Jose "Joey" Torres.

The township's residential tax base is worth \$5.8 billion, while its commercial area is assessed at \$607 million, according to Michael Campbell, the municipal tax collector. Jackson's residential to commercial ratio for tax collection is about 87 percent to 9 percent, Campbell wrote in an email to the Asbury Park Press. The remainder is vacant land, farms and apartments.

The average tax rate in Jackson, accounting for the fact that each of the four fire districts has a different tax rate, is about \$2.025 per \$100 of assessed property, Campbell said.

In 2012, Jackson homeowners paid \$117.1 million in property taxes, while businesses there paid \$12.3 million, he said.

## Progress continues

## WHAT'S NEXT

Officials from Jackson and the Pinelands Commission are scheduled to meet Thursday to break an impasse over the township's master plan. The plan has not yet received approval because of problems neither side would discuss before the meeting. Jackson hopes to attract civilian contractors to the southern portion of the township surrounding Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, but the Pinelands Commission must approve the plan in the ecologically sensitive area, which remains heavily forested.

Bennetts Mills Road under way by Meridian Health. That building broke ground in November 2011 and is scheduled to open later this year. It will house a fitness center, doctors' offices, and medical imaging centers and labs.

The second is a 1,541-unit housing complex by "Man of La Mancha" composer Mitch Leigh called Jackson Twenty-One. That project calls for 2.9 million square feet of shop and office space to be built between Freehold Road and West Commodore Boulevard.

"Good progress is being made on these projects," said Leakan.



Vietnam veterans salute after presenting a wreath during the ceremony, held by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. MARY FRANK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# VETERANS

Continued from Page B1

"I laid the foundation that we followed," he said.

Raymond Zawacki, deputy commissioner of the state Department of Veterans' Affairs, thanked the veterans for "being there when we needed you to serve this great nation. Without you, we would not be here today."

"The sacrifices you made bring us together

today and keep us safe and secure in this great land of ours," he said.

## For his 'brothers'

Charles Johnson Jr. of Eatontown, a Marine staff sergeant during the war, said his Vietnam Service Medal was for his "brothers who didn't come home."

"I feel honored to wear this medal in their honor," he said.

May 7 was designated as the state's Vietnam

Veterans' Remembrance day by the Legislature in 1991.

More than 200,000 state residents served in the military during the Vietnam era, from 1959 to 1975, according to a news release on the event.

Anyone interested in applying for the medals can call 800-624-0508, ext. 7, to request an application.

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# BOARD

June 10. Edward Bertuccio, to replace Richard P. Starob, 62, who retired af-