

# Courier News

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## SOMERVILLE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT CREATES CHARITABLE GARDENS

BY WALTER O'BRIEN • STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 27, 2009

**FLEMINGTON** — A landscape architect is trying to make the world more beautiful by renovating the gardens around a local landmark at no cost to the borough.

David Chewey and his team at Garden Associates Landscape Architecture of Somerville have arranged to donate the design, project management, garden materials and installation labor to bring the historic Fleming Castle back to life.

Pushing a lawn mower around Linden as a boy of 15, Chewey developed a passion for landscape architecture. He attended Cook College of Rutgers University in New Brunswick and earned his degree in landscape architecture in 1988. He started Garden Associates in 1990.

After almost 16 years of handling every step of the process, Chewey decided to focus his company on design and project management. He mentored some of his former installation employees into their

own contracting companies, many of which still handle installations for Garden Associates.

In 2007, Chewey and his team started the "Garden Beautiful" charitable arm, donating services and resources to Eagle Scout projects for the Boy Scouts of America, renovations for local parks, therapeutic gardens for schools for children with disabilities and more.

"Everybody should be exposed to landscape architecture," Chewey said.

Chewey's brother-in-law, Rob Ozimek, who works with the Borough of Flemington Department of Public Works, suggested Fleming Castle Museum as a project for the charitable division.

Fleming Castle was built around 1756 by the town's namesake Samuel Fleming. It may be the last surviving 18th century building in the borough, and has been a museum since 2005.

"We wanted to put the gardens back the way they were," Chewey said. "We'll keep the historical context and period style but, it will be used as a destination for functions and weddings with a tent or gazebo."

Garden Beautiful already has arranged donations of materials and coordinated with Doug Miller of Miller Landscaping in Flemington and Fred Hensler of Green Piece Landscaping in the Pittstown section of Franklin Township to handle the labor. Volunteers still are need to transport the materials from the nurseries to Fleming Castle, Chewey said.

"We'll be doing the work in the spring, and in May, we'll have a big party with a ribbon cutting," he said.



Staff Photo by Walter O'Brien

David Chewey, president of Garden Associates Landscape Architecture in Somerville, displays his company's design for an environmentally sustainable green roof. Chewey and his team will renovate the gardens around the historic Fleming Castle Museum as a charitable community project.



Left: Rendered drawing of Fleming Castle's historic rejuvenation project to be installed this spring. For more information about Garden Associates Landscape Architecture, Inc. or Garden Beautiful Charity please visit [www.gardenassoc.com](http://www.gardenassoc.com) or call 908 823 3330.