

Racecar chassis builder leaving home garages in rearview mirror for Vineland site



[Joseph P. Smith](#)

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VINELAND — The days of working in home garages building car chassis is coming to an end for racing enthusiast Duane Grow.

But that is only so his hobby-turned-business can consolidate into a building at 1529 E. Wheat Road. He is taking over industrial space used for decades to turn out granite, tile, and marble products.

At its March 15 meeting, the Zoning Board unanimously approved Grow's plan to establish DMS Racecar Fab LLC in the former Fioresi Brothers site.

A Franklin Township resident, Grow has used his garage and ones at the homes of his brother Milton and a friend for years to fabricate racing car chassis on a small-scale basis. All that equipment and supplies soon will be at the new site, he said.

Grow said the chassis fabrication business arose from his family's participation in racing around South Jersey. His son Kyle also works on the chassis as well as his brother.

"Myself and my brother, we built our own race cars," Grow testified told the Zoning board. "And at tracks, people wanted to know who built the cars. We said, 'We built them.' And that's how we started, just word of mouth."

Now retired, Grow said chassis orders are enough to keep him steadily occupied. The business is unlikely for growth that would overwhelm the site or exceed the board approval, he told members.

"It's busy as in, 'I have the cars to build,'" Grow said. "It's very limited as the cars come in. Because usually, when the car comes in, it's built, it goes out. In the meantime, I might have another car come in that might be a quick project. Two-week project, or something like that. That car comes in. That car goes out. Do I have cars every day? No. Work-wise, I'm busy."

Project planning consultant Stephen Hawk testified the former tile business, with more employees, had used the site since 1952. The board in 1992 even approved a building expansion despite it being a residential zone, he said.



The former Fioresi Brothers business at 1529 East Wheat Road near North Main Road will reopen after a long vacancy as DMS Racecar Fab LLC which hand builds race car chassis. The Vineland Zoning Board approved the site plan on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Photo March 16, 2023
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“And I think it’s important to have a use that can be there and not be noticed,” Hawk said. “Or, noticed as least as possible. And especially even if it meets the test of having less intensity of Fioresi tile did for all those years.”

Voting to approve the project were Chairman George LoBiondo, Vice Chairman Joseph Stefano, and members Ryan Flaim, Mark Grussenmeyer, Eric Hernandez, and Victoria Lods.

Joe Smith is a N.E. Philly native transplanted to South Jersey more than 30 years ago, keeping an eye now on government in South Jersey. He is a former editor and current senior staff writer for The Daily Journal in Vineland, Courier-Post in Cherry Hill, and the Burlington County Times.