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Turkeys

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To the owners of Preferred Unlimited Inc., the latest developer to announce plans for the former Ingersoll-Rand property in Phillipsburg and Lopatcong Township – and then fail to deliver. This property has held huge potential for office-retail-industrial re-use, yet each proposal by a developer or marketer has languished. This week Ingersoll-Rand Co. retook control of the 100 acres of the 388-acre tract that is in Lopatcong. An I-R official said Preferred had made payments toward the purchase of the 288 acres in Phillipsburg, but never paid on the Lopatcong section. Phillipsburg officials are considering condemning the town portion of the property and suing Preferred. This valuable brownfield site has gone untapped for far too long.

To Sarah Palin, the ex-governor of Alaska who stepped down so that she could devote more time to (fill in the blank). Spend time with her family? Stop answering ethics complaints? Begin her run for the 2012 presidential nomination? Make oodles of cash through a book tour, speeches and guest appearances? Go fishing? Lobby Congress for another "bridge to nowhere?" Negotiate a lipstick endorsement with Cover Girl? Start a Web site making fun of late-night comedians? It would have been refreshing to hear someone say, "I hate this job and I can make tons of money elsewhere." To developer Gary Strausser, whose ongoing battle with Forks Township flared up again this week. The township planning commission reluctantly agreed to take control of one of the roads in Strausser's Riverview Estates so that residents could have a paved surface. Commissioners cited what they consider ongoing headaches with Stausser, including his removal of several mature trees on Old River Road and previous disputes over completing road work. The takeover still faces approval by the township supervisors.

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