

To: The Editor, Altamont Enterprise
From: Don Reeb
Subject: Stuyvesant Plaza
Date: April 28, 2011

Guilderland is being asked once again by Stuyvesant Plaza to transfer Guilderland Town parkland near TGIF (Fridays) to Stuyvesant Plaza for a parking lot. This is approximately the same request that Stuyvesant and TGIF made about a year ago. Many strongly objected to the transfer of the parkland at that time and the request was withdrawn.

The parkland is still our parkland--McKownville's and Guilderland's---it should not be taken for private use—not last year, not this year, never. The request by Stuyvesant is outrageous.

The piece of land in question—a portion of the nice green lawn on the west side of the Stuyvesant Plaza Western Avenue entrance--is the only nice park-like part of our park. Stuyvesant Plaza "gave" about \$140,000 to the Town to rebuild the pond in the park and last year the Town offered to return the money to Stuyvesant. A portion of the \$140,000 was used by the Town to rebuild the pond pumping station that provides free water to Stuyvesant for watering its lawns. Moreover, Stuyvesant Plaza has misused the Town parkland bordering Stuyvesant Plaza—piling snow on parkland—permitting trash to be thrown onto parkland—permitting dumpsters to be placed on parkland—pushing dirt and other debris onto parkland. The Town was so upset with Stuyvesant's misuse of parkland that it threatened recently to fine Stuyvesant thousands of dollars.

Town land presently used by Stuyvesant--all four pieces--that directly behind the Starbucks and neighboring stores--that next to the liquor store--that where Stuyvesant Plaza equipment is stored---that at the Western Avenue entrance to Stuyvesant--should be professionally appraised and fair rents charged Stuyvesant for its use--if the Town decides to rent it to Stuyvesant at all. Giving free use of Town land to a private company should be illegal. (The land where the Stuyvesant Plaza equipment is stored and the parking lot next to the liquor store would be wonderful "park and ride" lots, for example, and possibly CDTA would be quite willing to pay for that use).

Stuyvesant should be charged a fair price for the pond water taken by Stuyvesant to water its lawns and plants---again if the Town cares to sell the water to it. Giving away Town water to a private firm should be illegal.

Stuyvesant Plaza has for too long taken advantage of McKownville and Guilderland. It is time to stop.

I recommend that Guilderland residents consider boycotting Stuyvesant Plaza stores, especially TGIF. I also recommend that you call and email Ed Swyer, the owner of Stuyvesant Plaza (c/o Janet Kaplan, manager). Her email addresses is jkaplan@stuyvesantplaza.com while her telephone number is 482-8986, ext 202 and tell her that Stuyvesant should not take our parkland.

In addition, I recommend that Guilderland residents call Town Board members and inform each how unhappy you are that Town parkland might be transferred to Stuyvesant Plaza and that Stuyvesant Plaza should not be permitted to misuse parkland or use Town land and water for free. We demand better than this from our Guilderland Town officials. Our five Town Board members are Ken Runion, Paul Pastore, Patti Slavick, Warren Redlich and Mark Grimm. This is your community—if you do not protect it, who will?

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