

# North Street Area Civic Association News

Website: [www.northstreetwhiteplains.com](http://www.northstreetwhiteplains.com)

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## ***What's Up With FASNY?***

By early June, the Common Council is expected to vote to grant or deny the French-American School of New York a special permit to build its regional campus at the former Ridgeway Country Club. FASNY's revised plan is for 640 students in grades 6 through 12 on 29 of the site's 129 acres, with an entrance on Ridgeway. Another 51 of those acres, FASNY says, would become a nature conservancy, open to the public and eventually include walking and bike trails. The public hearing closed on April 5 and the period for public comment has since ended. It is now up to the Council to determine if the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act have been met and to vote on the project. Because the Council has determined that the parcel to be developed is an Environmentally Sensitive Site, a position urged by NSACA and other neighborhood associations, approval requires a supermajority of five of the Council's seven votes (six members and the Mayor).

While this is a scaled-down version of FASNY's original plan, NSACA continues to oppose it, primarily because safety and traffic concerns remain substantial with the entrance planned for Ridgeway, a road not designed for so much traffic. Even now, Ridgeway doesn't handle existing vehicle or pedestrian traffic well during the periods that are likely to see FASNY's peak activity. In addition to the Gedney Association, whose members may be most directly affected, at least seven other White Plains community associations, including NSACA, are active in opposing FASNY. Even if the Council denies the special permit, it is quite possible that this more-than-six-year battle will continue in court. So stay tuned.

## ***Fighting for Better Fire Safety***

Before 2008's recession, the City cut staffing at the North Street/Ridgeway firehouse. Our engine truck had full staff, but Ladder Truck 34 was not available 86% of the time in 2016 and only 68% so far this year, leaving our community to rely on the City's two other Ladder trucks coming from further distances. We learned these worrisome facts directly from the firefighters at a recent meeting. They spoke of their safety concerns and need for more training. (See it on YouTube at: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IL2TcyFIVTg>.) So we wrote to the City leadership and had a meeting with the Mayor and his administration in late April. He said 12 new firefighters were hired and spoke of increased local service being possible after they complete training. We'll be watching, and you can, too. Check out NSACA and the White Plains firefighters union on Facebook. And please write the Mayor and Common Council about your North Street area safety concerns.

## ***Please Attend NSACA's 2017 Annual Meeting on June 7th***

The two major issues discussed above and other important matters to all North Street area residents will be on the agenda, as will whatever is on your mind about living and enjoying our neighborhood's beautiful communities. Location is the same - the downstairs meeting room of Education House at 5 Homewood Lane. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM and will

end by 9:00 PM. Hope to see you there! PLEASE NOTE: The current board has room to add members and would welcome some "new blood" with open arms. It's a compatible group that collaborates to get stuff done and usually has some fun doing it, too. Why not give it a shot?!

### ***North Street Median Getting Makeover***

You may have noticed the Eastern Redbud and American Dogwood saplings in the North Street median between Havilands Lane and Little Lane. NSACA initiated and funded this project with the White Plains Beautification Foundation by planting 10 trees last spring. Ultimate goal? Similar plantings for every North Street median all the way to Bryant Avenue. If you've recently planted a tree, you know they don't come cheap. Our target is \$30,000 for 80 more trees. While we are actively seeking support from the City for institutional donations, this is a private effort. If you are interested and able, please make a tax-deductible donation by logging on to the White Plains Beautification Foundation's website (<http://wpbf.org/get-involved/donate/>). IMPORTANT -- please make sure you specify North Street Tree Project. Thanks!!

### ***Will You Vote In This Year's Contested White Plains Election?***

Common Council Member Milagros Lecuona is challenging incumbent Tom Roach for the Democratic nomination for Mayor. Lecuona's bid for Mayor in the Democratic primary September 12th is part of a slate of Democratic Council candidates Alan Goldman, Michael Kraver and Saad Siddiqui. Besides endorsing Roach, the White Plains Democratic Committee is supporting Council incumbents John Kirkpatrick and John Martin, and first-time candidate Justin Brasch. The White Plains Republican City Committee has yet to announce its candidates. Republican Cass Cibelli said he will be running for Mayor. Please learn what you can about all the candidates' positions on North Street and Citywide issues, and make sure to vote in the primary on September 12th and in the general election on November 7th. In our relatively small community, every vote counts!

### ***German "Test" in September***

Next time you're on North Street, glance at the new entrance to the expanded German International School. Their four houses are almost ready for occupancy, with one already rented. NSACA's efforts to minimize traffic and safety issues will first be noticeable in September, when the school year begins. Only school visitors, pre-school drop-offs and certain student drivers will be allowed to use the new access street, with buses and others using Ridgeway/Partridge Road. Meanwhile, expect North Street construction over the summer to disconnect an old water line and repave between Nina Lane and Roger Place. NSACA is monitoring this situation.

#### **NSACA Board:**

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Alan Himmelstein - Vice President

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Phyllis Huberman - Board Member

Carry Kyzivat - Board Member

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