

Stuyvesant Plaza has used town parkland poorly

To the Editor:

The Stuyvesant Plaza and Janet Kaplan letter printed in *The Altamont Enterprise* July 29, 2010 made it quite clear that Stuyvesant Plaza is more interested in gaining parking for TGI Friday's restaurant than in promoting an attractive McKownville Park. The 40-foot swath of land to provide parking would destroy much of the green space that is McKownville Park.

Stuyvesant has used town land poorly: — Look at the trash and junk piled along the rear of TGIF and Hippos;

— Look at the dog house-looking structure that is at the west end of the pond that houses the Stuyvesant pump, which pumps town-owned water onto Stuyvesant Plaza lawns;

— Look at the maintenance materials piled on town land at the west end of the pond, including a large building housing a frontloader;

— In the winter, you could have looked at the crusty snow piles that were shoved onto the park path that took weeks to

melt; and

— Look at the material from planters that was dumped along the park path at the western end of the pond.

A more attractive McKownville Park would not only serve well the residents of McKownville, it would enhance Stuyvesant Plaza. Name another town in the region

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that has an attractive public park adjoining an attractive shopping center.

With time, the town will be able to improve McKownville Park — expand the green areas, add bushes and other plants to shield park users from Western Avenue traffic noise, put in a gazebo and attractive seating for park users, add trees to shield the park from the buildings and National Grid substation along Western, and repair the damage to the edge of the parkland that

has been misused by Stuyvesant Plaza cars and trucks. Since the recent re-construction to reduce Western Avenue flooding was not designed to end all flooding of the intersection, someday additional work will be done. Large detention ponds near Burger King will once again exist and then the size of the McKownville Park area can return to something more like its former size, which at one time stretched from the entrance to Stuyvesant Plaza to land now used by the Thruway and the Northway.

There are about 3,000 residents of McKownville living on one square mile (640 acres) of land—a park and green space is a wonderful addition to a fine McKownville neighborhood.

Returning the \$100,000 to Stuyvesant Plaza has been suggested by the town. While that would be an equitable end to the discussion about parkland being taken for parking, we will have to wait a little longer to see how Stuyvesant responds.

**Don Reeb, president
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Association**

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