

Westport News
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Need A Ride To the Parade?

World War II veterans who wish to participate in the Memorial Day parade (Monday, May 26) and need a ride in the parade, please phone me at 227-7680 so that I can arrange for cars.

TED DIAMOND
WESTPORT

'The Sky Is Not Falling'

Dear P&Z Commissioners,

I wanted to bring some perspective to the "Y" application and the zoning regulations. When I built my house in 1955 there was an adjoining piece to the west that rose in a gentle slope to North Avenue. It was about 30 acres,

heavily treed and owned by George O. May. When the town bought the property in 1956, it was clear cut and all the trees burned on site. That is not what is happening to this property. The dirt was heavily moved to make 10-foot and 15-foot-high banks in order to put in the fields. The buildings were also put on an embankment. Of course you know it as Staples, which I can see from my living-room windows.

After three building projects the school is as you now see it. The building is 400,000 sq. ft. in size compared to the "Y's" 100,000. There are 720 parking spaces as compared to the 350 at the "Y." This means the size of the building is four times as big and the parking more than twice as much as is being proposed. This is also a triple-A zone. There have been many variances requested for the high school and this last enlargement would have needed too many variances. Therefore the land of Bedford Middle School and the Wakeman fields were all combined to make 100 acres. This is all in a triple A Zone.

The traffic for the school was eased by improvements made to North Ave. Some would say the traffic is only when school is starting and when it lets out. That would be wrong. There are many activities at the school such as athletic events, night school, fundraisers, plays and concerts, etc. The traffic on Long Lots and especially Cross Highway in the morning and evenings is mostly from the eastern towns, as people go to and from work and is very heavy. Sometimes the cars are backed up to my road in the morning. But the

line moves through the stop sign at North Avenue fairly rapidly. Let me remind you that these are not state roads.

The area is home to three schools, a church and a hospital (which is for profit!) I always believed that all parts of the town should share some of the responsibility. There's a transfer station, sewer plant, highway garage, brush site, railroad station, post office, fire stations, beaches, private schools (for profit), State Park and Longshore. The above uses are all in residential zones. The argument that the property values will decrease has not been born out by the homes near these facilities. There are houses selling for millions of dollars in the area. The people in the Old Hill section of town should accept some of the burden all the rest of us have. Come on in, the water's fine and the sky is not falling!

ANNE C. GILL
WESTPORT