



Gedney Association

P.O. Box 134 • Gedney Station • White Plains, NY 10605

February 17, 2012

Dear Neighbor—

The French American School of New York (FASNY) recently held a luncheon for local Realtors and presented some new details for the development of the former Ridgeway Country Club property. The presentation called "Greens to Green" contained some information we already know including:

- The proposed construction of four buildings (Lower School, Middle School, Upper School and Gymnasium / Performing Arts Center) and six outdoor athletic facilities.
- The building and facilities are to be located along or behind the existing homes on seven local streets - Gedney Esplanade, Hathaway Lane, Hotel Drive, Macy Avenue, Murchison Place, Oxford Road and Ridgeway.

There were, however, some **new details** presented concerning the development of the remainder of the property.

- FASNY is proposing a nature conservancy for the acreage that would not be used directly as school facilities (and previously dubbed the potential "Gedney Preserve").
- For those not familiar with nature conservancies, there will be no dog walking, no bike riding and no picnicking.
- It will be opened from dawn to dusk and run by "volunteers."
- They plan on allowing the site to go back to its "natural" state.
- FASNY is planning a total of 16 different entrances/access points throughout the neighborhood.
- Twelve of these access points would be from public streets including Bryant Avenue (1), Gedney Esplanade (1), Hathaway Lane (3), Heatherbloom Road (4), North Street (1) and Robinhood Road (2). There would also be one entrance from the YWCA property.
- Three small parking lots for the nature preserve would be built and located off of Hathaway (2) and Heatherbloom (1). Most other visitors will be parking throughout the neighborhood near the access points.

As a point of reference and comparison, The Greenburgh Nature Preserve, located off Central Avenue (and not in a neighborhood), is a third of the size of FASNY's proposed conservancy and gets 70,000 visitors a year. Therefore, **it is**

highly likely that we can expect more than 150,000 visitors to come to this proposed nature conservancy!

As we have cautioned throughout the past year, the plans for the property will, and have, changed. Please note that the proposed plan for the nature conservancy has not yet been submitted to the City. As part of the environmental review process under SEQRA (*State Environmental Quality Review Act*), FASNY is now preparing its response (*Environmental Impact Statement or EIS*) to the Scoping Document accepted by the Council last fall. Details of this plan and other aspects of the proposed development of the property are to be included in EIS.

Please join us in expressing displeasure with FASNY's plans to our Common Council members. Their contact information is attached.

We will continue to keep you apprised. Thank you.

Terence Guerriere
President, Gedney Association