



NORGATE NEWS

AN IRREGULAR PUBLICATION OF THE
NORGATE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Spring 2015



Holiday Party Report

The Norgate Civic Association held the first of what it hopes will be traditional annual holiday parties on the evening of December 5, 2014, at the Onderdonk House. Despite a rainy evening, the turnout was outstanding, 36 adults and 9 children. Ample food and drink were provided by the association and attendees enjoyed the company of their neighbors so much that the Onderdonk House remained open for additional time so that dinner and conversation could continue. This was a great event! Don't miss it when it comes around again in December 2015.

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the Norgate Civic Association met on February 17th to consider several important issues. The first was a change in leadership necessitated by the resignation of two of our officers, the second concerned dangerous traffic and safety issues in the neighborhood, and the third had to do with the proposed rehabilitation of Memorial Field by the Manhasset Union Free School District (UFSD).

Leadership Changes

In January both our President, Dorothy Price Hill, and our Vice-President, Eric Breitweiser, tendered their resignations. Dorothy and Eric both found that family and business obligations prevented them from devoting the time they wished to the NCA. At its meeting the Executive Board accepted their resignations with thanks for their service. The Board then acted pursuant to Article V, § 6, of the NCA By-Laws to fill the vacancy in the office of President and elected Chris Quirin to serve in that capacity until the next annual meeting in June. Eric will continue his indispensable service as the designer, organizer, and motivating force behind the Norgate Gardens along Norgate Road and Highmeadow Lane, and in the meantime the office of Vice-President will remain unfilled.

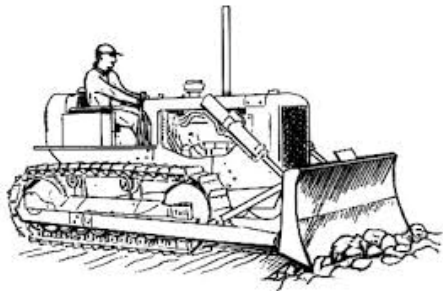
Traffic & Safety

Greater traffic volume to and from the Manhasset Secondary School campus has dramatically increased the pressures on Norgate streets before the morning opening of the school day and at dismissal time in the afternoon. In the morning a long traffic jam occurs as cars back up along the school road that connects Memorial Place with Dennis Street. In order to avoid the congestion, parents drop off their children on Dennis and they walk on the lawns of residents or through the idling traffic to reach school property. Parents then make frantic U-turns to avoid the school road bottleneck. In the afternoon, parents park illegally along Dennis Street to await the dismissal of their children. The street is choked with parked cars, students leaving the campus, and speeding traffic exiting the school property. Another bottleneck then arises at the intersection of Dennis Street and Plandome Road as a line of cars backs up at the stop sign next to Olive Duntley Florist. The perennial problem of cars using Dennis Street and Norgate Road to avoid the traffic light at Plandome Road and Northern Boulevard is still with us. Drivers



routinely speed and run through stop signs, posing a danger to pedestrians and other cars. All this increases the pressure on Norgate Streets, makes it more difficult for residents to enter and leave the community, and threatens the safety of persons using the streets for normal activities.

Memorial Field In December, voters of the Manhasset UFSD approved a \$20 million bond issue for improvements to the schools, including a more than \$1 million renovation of Memorial Field. The renovation will include (1) re-grading and the installation of a new sod playing surface, (2) the enlargement and replacement of the present four red-clay tennis courts with new DecoTurf, hard-surface courts, (3) the removal of the present playground, (4) the relocation of the war memorial and flagpole, (5) the construction of a new field house and restrooms, and (6) the paving of a path across the east end of the field from Dennis Street to Memorial Place. Recently a proposal has surfaced to install an electronic scoreboard as part of the redevelopment. The upgrading of



Memorial Field by the schools has the potential to increase noise and congestion in Norgate. As the saying goes, “if you build it, they will come.” As a result, the Association will advocate vigorously for our residents during the final stages of the planning for the Memorial Field renovation. We oppose the erection of a scoreboard and public address system. Renovation of the tennis courts raises questions about drainage and the possible need for replacement of the now old and compromised retaining wall that supports the higher prop-

erty of the homes that lie to the west of the courts. Adequate plantings will be needed to screen the homes of residents from the noise and activity on the field. The locations of improvements such as the new field house and relocated memorial and flagpole have not been announced and we will want to insure that they impact surrounding residents as little as possible while at the same time serve users of the field. The cleanliness and aesthetics of Memorial Field are important, as well as the use of both sides of the streets in Norgate for parking at athletic events, and the possibility of a fire truck or ambulance not having access to a residence in need of those services.

Meeting with Public Officials The Executive Board determined that it would be advisable to hold a meeting with representatives from the schools, elected officials, and the police department to discuss concerns of the Norgate community.

On March 16th President Chris Quirin and Jim Pelzer got together with Charles Cardillo, the Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Dean Schlanger, Principal of the Secondary School; Armand Markarian, the School District’s Director of Buildings, Facilities and Grounds; Deputy Inspector John Conti, from the Nassau County Police Department; and Sabereh Samet and Diane O’Donnell from the Town of North Hempstead. All were very supportive of the pressing need to regulate traffic in Norgate. Next steps include review and amendment of the parking restrictions on Dennis Street and greater enforcement efforts by the police. Unfortunately, budget issues have resulted in the termination of the police department’s POP Units (Problem Oriented Patrol) and that will make a sustained enforcement push more difficult than in the past. School officials reported that plans are in place to begin the replacement of the Memorial Field tennis courts this



coming summer with work to begin on the refurbishment of the field itself to begin after the end of sports in the fall.



Spring Clean-Up. Norgate will again participate in the Earth Day Cleanup Event sponsored by the Town of North Hempstead. Norgate's efforts will take place on Saturday, April 25th, between the hours of 10 AM and 2:00 PM (rain date, Sunday, April 26th). We'll meet at the corner of Norgate and Highmeadow Roads and concentrate on a general clean-up of the area between Northern Boulevard and the neglected house at 22 Norgate Road. Then, under the direction of Eric Breitweiser, we'll prepare the Norgate Gardens area for seasonal plantings. The clean-up will entail raking, weeding, pruning overgrown vines and bushes, and removing trash along Norgate Road. The Norgate

Pillars will be inspected and will be repaired and repainted as necessary. As time permits, other work will include cleaning the garden areas at the dead ends on Highmeadow, Robin and Normandy. The Town will supply garbage bags and free t-shirts for the first ten residents who take part. We're hoping that our Councilwoman, Anna Kaplan, will come by to say hello and see what we've accomplished. She has been very helpful with Norgate issues and we'd like to have a good turnout of residents to assist with the work and to greet her when she arrives.

Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations' Web Site Norgate now has a presence on the [Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations' web site](#). You will find news about Manhasset civic projects on its home page and you can click on the [NCA tab](#) for specific news about Norgate.

Concerns, Comments, and Suggestions Many factors, including traffic on our streets and the renovation of Memorial Field, will affect the quality of life in Norgate. The Executive Board would like your input so that the officers can convey your concerns to the School District, Town Hall, the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, the police, and state and town code enforcement officers.

Your concerns, comments, and suggestions should be sent to the Norgate Civic Association's e-mail address at Norgate@manhassetcivic.org.



Public officials seem to be more attentive when receiving requests from local civic associations. Concerns of our residents can be reported by the officers of the Association to the appropriate public officials and by our representative to the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, which will work with us to support our interests. There's a lot that we can accomplish together!