

Library parking lot petition now online

On March 12 The Hour published an article about The Lofts @ Mott Avenue. At that time Norwalk Library had set up a petition for residents concerned with the intended use of the parking lot adjacent to the library, that being the construction of a 69-unit apartment building with parking for 90 cars.

Interestingly, it appears that to satisfy our Zoning Commission, these parking spaces can be off property and leased from neighbors' lands. So of the 90 there are 30 spaces which would be leased and contracted for every time a lease expires. If there is no renewal, what then?

I have watched our library grow from a predominately paperback collection to a center of activity for all ages. The improvements, largely a result of Library Director Christine Bradley, now include technology workshops, subscription databases, book clubs, city historical collections, museum passes, ESL tutoring sessions and, ummm, books! Yet because of Ms. Bradley's dedication and defense of the library, Jason Milligan, part of the management team for the Lofts @ Mott Avenue, described her as being completely dismissive and unreasonable. Ironic.

Unfortunately, full use of all that is offered is difficult because of the parking problem. For decades I have listened to

politicians talk about purchasing this parking lot but nothing ever came of it. Now there is pending construction, like it or not, and that will be the absolute end of any possible expansion of the library.

There is a petition at the library, which is now online. For those who wanted to sign the petition about the parking lot but could not find a parking place to do so, the petition is now online at www.norwalklib.org.

Time is of the essence. This could be a crucial point in a now or never situation!

**Maureen Odell
Norwalk**