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'The Toll Is Strangling Us'



Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of the Rockaways, in continuing efforts to roll back the toll on the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge, meet with a representative of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and a representative of Borough President Donald

Manes. Looking at a map of the Jamaica Bay area including the Rockaway Peninsula are (left to right) Rand Bergner from the MTA; Vincent O'Connor, president-elect of the Chamber; Irving Schneider, executive director of the Chamber, and Deputy Borough President Larry Gresser.

Chamber Keeps Pressing For Bridge Toll Rollback

The Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge is unique - different from all other toll facilities operated by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

Nowhere else in the city of New York do you pay a toll to travel within a borough! Not only that, but the Cross Bay Bridge connects two points within the same police precinct, the same community planning board district, and the same school district and the same postal zone.

These facts were emphasized by Vincent O'Connor, president-elect of the Chamber of Com-

merce of the Rockaways, at a meeting with officials of the TBTA.

In continuing pressure for a toll rollback on this bridge, O'Connor pointed out that the doubling of the toll this year - from 25 cents to 50 cents - represents a 400 percent increase in less than three years.

Loss of ridership since the September 1 increase, he continued, exceeds 14 percent.

At this rate, the toll increase will net the MTA a little over \$1 million on a yearly basis, he said.

Whatever increase the MTA or
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Library Is Saved

No public libraries in Queens will be closed as a result of budget cuts. This includes the Arverne Branch.

According to reports, the plan offered under a compromise plan by the Queens Borough Public Library's trustees and accepted by the National Association of Colored People, calls for most of the libraries in the borough to stay open on staggered days to allow staffs to service more than one branch. Thirteen branches will stay open every day except Sunday, and 38 branches will be paired so that half are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the other half on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, with the personnel shifting from one library to another.

There also will be three libraries - in Long Island City - open only two days a week, manned by the same staff.

According to Judge Mark A. Constantino of the United States District Court, with whose encouragement the compromise was worked out, the agreement eliminates the need for a civil rights suit involving alleged discrimination in the closing of the branches including Arverne.

But, he added, he still will hear a suit over the financing of the branches being brought by the NAACP.

Far Rockaway lost one ladder company earlier.

One hundred angry demonstrators in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn blocked the doors of the firehouse closed there on Saturday to effectively block the doors of Engine Company 212, and stop the company from answering its last eight calls. The calls were answered by the company taking over, and all were false alarms.
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Ladder Co. 171 In Neponsit Shut

Ladder Company 171 at 402 Beach 169th street reportedly was closed Saturday without a ripple among community residents.

That the closing was imminent was carried in a front-page story in The Wave on November 13.

Four firehouses and three other fire companies throughout the city were closed at the same time. The firehouse closings bring to eight the number shut down in the city's fiscal crisis.

Corporation OK'd As Fund Raiser For New Hospital

Aim: To Use 19th St. Site

The Public Health Council of the State of New York has unanimously approved the establishment of the Rockaway-Five Towns Hospital Development Corp. for the purpose of raising funds to lead to the purchase, operation and rebuilding of the hospital on Beach 19th street in Far Rockaway.

The approval was reported by the Public Health Council on Friday, November 21, according to Ada Zakin, acting co-chairman of the Hospital Development Corp.

The next step should be formal

incorporation, according to Sidney Lipstein, acting counsel for the Hospital Development Corp.

Lipstein said the application for Public Health Council approval went out in the spring. Before that, local people involved went through a series of hearings, including the Comprehensive Health Planning Board and the Regional Health Planning Council, leading to consideration by the Public Health Council.

The purpose of the Hospital Development Corp. will be to solicit funds from the community for the purpose of constructing a hospital on the Beach 19th street site, as stated in the application

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Pressure On For Centers To Stay Open

In spite of reports to the contrary, there is no definite word that the senior citizens centers in Rockaway will stay open.

According to reports, the center at St. Gertrude's Church is first on the list to go. "But I think we'll stay open," says Jack O'Connor, director of the center.

Borough President Donald Manes is asking that the closing of the senior citizens' centers be reconsidered.

So far, he says, nothing final has been heard either way, either that they will not be closed or that a definite date for closing has

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Design Work On Schedule In Far Rock Revitalization

Design work is proceeding on schedule for spring construction in Far Rockaway shopping area revitalization.

According to Ada Zakin, chairman of the Far Rockaway Shopping Area Revitalization Committee, the timetable includes completion of an environmental-impact study by the City Planning Commission about December 5 and a report on an Internal Review of the CPC statement about December 19. Thereby, the final draft could be submitted to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in early January.

This timetable, she said, came from Deputy Administrator David Love, and was based on submission of the environmental impact study by the city's Department of Air Resources - including noise and air pollution by November 19.

The design work proceeding on schedule will include widening of Mott avenue from Redfern avenue to Beach Channel drive; redesign of the intersection of Beach Channel drive and Mott avenue and repaving of Dix

avenue from the rear exit of Waldbaum's Shopping Center.

It is possible that advertising for bids for this work could take place at the beginning of March with the possibility of the first shovel in the ground by the end of that month, said Mrs. Zakin.

Two urban design members of the City Planning Commission, Patrick Too and Fred Lee, she continued, have described several renderings drawn up depicting several methods for decoration of the facades of stores on Central avenue and many ways in which walk-ways could be developed to enhance the shopping area in order to attract shoppers.

On December 17, she said too, the Revitalization Committee will invite the owners of property in the shopping area, the merchants on the avenue and all interested people to view these renderings as well as those of other designers and planners who have presented their ideas of development at past meetings.

The committee is, she continued, eager for the input of a

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