

Mineola Concert Honors Vet



The Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra performed as part of the Village of Mineola's Summer Concert Series on Friday, July 11. (Photos by Geoffrey Walter)

By GEOFFREY WALTER

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Three years ago, Bryan Dilberian's life irreversibly changed, some would say for the second time. The first had occurred during his junior year at Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn in Junior ROTC, when he decided to join the army because of the 9/11 attacks.

"Every New Yorker should have said 'hey, let's join the infantry and let's go back at them,'" he said on Friday, July 11 at Memorial Park during a Village of Mineola fireworks show and concert by the Nassau

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Strike Worries Commuters

By MARLO JAPPEN

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A potential Long Island Rail Road strike due to a contract disagreement between its union and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority could leave many commuters stranded at the Mineola Train Station next week.

"I think it's unfair to a lot of people," said Bryan Jean-Pierre of Westbury as he waited for his train in Mineola.

Jean-Pierre, a restaurant manager in New York City, said the strike would be a strain for him. He plans to carpool if the strike occurs.

More than 5,400 LIRR employees are threatening to walk off their jobs as early as Sunday, July 20 if a deal is not reached. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he would not intercede, but MTA officials said to not expect help from Washington.

"I strongly believe that a resolution can be reached in a fiscally responsible manner," MTA CEO Thomas F. Prendergast said in a letter to Congress.

However, union leaders argue that the LIRR has been without a contract since 2010.

"The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has demanded benefit cuts and other concessions from workers," LIRR Union officials state in their own letter to Congress. "Union

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CVS Slammed As 'Bad Neighbor'

By RICH FORESTANO

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CVS Pharmacy is looking to maintain a large storage container at its 17 East Jericho Tpke. property in Mineola. However, they've already been housing containers at two village locations illegally, according to village officials.

At a public hearing last week in front of the Mineola Village Board of Trustees, CVS reps were called "horrible neighbors" before the board postponed its decision on the store's request.

Village officials said CVS had been

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This container sits behind the CVS Pharmacy at 17 East Jericho Tpke. in Mineola.

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issued violations for the containers as well as property upkeep and snow removal.

"[CVS] says they want to be good neighbors; I don't believe it," Mayor Scott Strauss said. "CVS has not been a good neighbor since [they] came into Mineola."

A container had also been housed at the East Jericho site and a second location at 410 Jericho Tpke. CVS withdrew its request to use the container at that spot and removed it last week.

"I have violation after violation and summonses for both locations for failing to maintain your property," Strauss said. "What I want to see is the property taken care of."

District manager William Soho claims he was unaware of violations at the two sites. He's been running the two locations since last November. Soho refused to speak with reporters after the meeting.

"From a pharmacy legality perspective and the changing of the times from a back-room storage perspective, the needs for items in back rooms have changed from [ten years ago]," he said. "Pharmacy record keeping is crucial. You cannot keep them in storage containers and they have to be on site for pharmacy audits."

The container is located in the rear of the building. The property sits on the southeast corner of Roslyn Road, directly across from the old Entenmann's property, which will give way to a Walgreen's.

"The need for the container is additional storage space for season merchandise," the company's legal counsel Rachel Scelfo said.

Scelfo said the 17 East Jericho Tpke. store is 11th busiest of the 120 Long Island locations while the 410 Jericho store is ranked 90. She was unsure, however, if the container would be permanently stored at the site.

"The business grew and I think

that's what's causing the need for storage," she said.

Trustee Paul Cusato said he visited 11 CVS locations, including Williston Park, New Hyde Park, Albertson, East Hills, Westbury, Glen Oaks, Floral Park and Garden City. Not one had an outside storage container, he said.

"I've got to tell you I'm angry and upset that you took a total disregard and disrespect to the residents," he said, pounding on the dais. "I also find it ironic that you removed the second trailer and all of a sudden, the grass is cut before the hearing."

Store manager Rich Von said CVS-contracted landscapers come monthly to maintain the property. But trustee Dennis Walsh was curious about snow maintenance from this past winter.

"Can anyone explain why they didn't come shovel snow," Walsh said. "Every time there was ice, people couldn't walk."

Soho pointed to the other 17 sites he manages and while not all of them have containers, some do, without issue.

"I have removed a plethora of trucks and trailers from other communities," Soho said. "While this is predicated by the [village] and the CVS lawyers and the violations, we do, from my perspective, I have other pods and trucks at other stores where we haven't had town issues."

Mineola resident Dan Olsen of Andrews Road says he was told when the building was erected, that there would be no outside storage at any time during Mineola hearings in 2007.

"Ever since CVS came in, it's been a disaster," he said.

Strauss offered one piece of advice: "abide by the conditions."

"CVS is not doing their job," he said. "Because if they were, the grass would be cut, the items in the previous decisions would be adhered to and they're not."

Free Obituaries

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members ask for nothing more than what federal boards have already recommended."

Michael Burnett, 39, of Glen Cove predicts a last-minute settlement of some kind.

"No way is the government going to let this happen," he said. "New York would come to a standstill."

Burnett uses the LIRR six days a week to commute to his job at the Cold Spring Country Club. He said he can't afford alternative means of transportation.

"I'd lose my job," he said. "I don't have any options."

The strike would affect 300,000 weekday riders, and Burnett imagines that traffic would move at a "snail's pace" if commuters were forced to drive or take the bus.

"The negative economic and human impact of a strike would be huge, and the only responsible option is to keep talking and working to reach an agreement which is fair and does not result in an added financial burden on riders," said Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council Chair Mark Epstein.

Carol Catalano, of Carle Place, was ready to board the LIRR train in Mineola. She was headed to Penn Station to take an AMTRAK.

"I don't really use the LIRR much," she said. "Anytime you rely on mass transportation it comes back to bite you," she said.

But for commuters, the strike is more of an issue.

"I'm against it," said commuter Al Tessier, who uses the station in Mineola to commute to his IT job. "I would have to drive and that would be a huge headache."

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Michael Burnett uses the train six days a week to commute to his job.