

# Church Avenue Residents and Merchants Brace For 'Dry Days' Ahead

By Craig McGuire

Cooperation from the Department of Environmental Protection is helping the Flatbush community brace for the impending replacement of water mains along Church Avenue.

"We have had a steady informative and cooperative ongoing relationship with the DEP for the past eight months," said Community Board 14 District Manager Terry Rodie. "We have formed a task force to help address the problems that will arise."

"Nobody's enthused about the project, but it is necessary," said Mario Cavallino, who manages the Church Avenue Business Improvement District. "We have an antiquated system, one of the oldest in the city, which has caused at least one or two breaks every winter."

According to DEP Di-

rector of Planning and Projects Sybil Dodson, "The existing mains are about 100 to 125 years old and were installed by the Flatbush Water Company."

A new 12-inch water main will be installed to replace the existing four-inch, six-inch and eight-inch mains on Church Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Ocean Parkway.

"This project will minimize the possibility of water main breaks and leaks which could cause unscheduled disruption of water service along Church Avenue," said Dodson.

The Church Avenue installation is the final leg of a massive borough-wide replacement project which is installing 73,000 lineal feet of water mains in Brooklyn, costing taxpayers an estimated \$8 million.

Tentatively scheduled to begin in late July once preliminary testing is com-

pleted, the main replacement should take approximately six months and will necessitate the digging up of local streets.

Permanent pavement trench restoration may not be completed until next spring, depending upon weather conditions.

"Generally, the contractor will be on site between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.," informed Dodson. "Work may proceed later into the day if unexpected subsurface conditions are encountered."

"Weekend work at Ocean Parkway, Coney Island Avenue, and possibly Ocean Avenue could require two to four weekends to complete," added Dodson.

## Water To Be Cut Off

Water service interruption required for this project will affect businesses.

"We have conducted

surveys of merchants along Church Avenue and how water shut-offs will affect them," said Rodie, "and we have submitted this information to the DEP."

"There are going to be problems, like water disruption," said Cavallino, "but this is not elective surgery. This is something that has to be done."

"Generally, water will be shut off in the area where the contractor is working only during the work day [8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.]," said Dodson. "A water shutoff notice will be given to a building the day before the water is shut off at the premises."

"Any one area can expect shutdowns of five regular work days and two additional half-days," added Dodson. "Water will be restored at the end of the work day."

As with any major street construction project, a traf-

fic plan had to be outlined.

"Due to the amount of traffic flow along Church Avenue, it is required that there always be two-way traffic," said Rodie. "To accommodate this, the contractor is required to provide flagmen along the route to direct traffic."

"And any work done at intersections will be conducted on the weekends at night, but two-way traffic will always be maintained," added Rodie. "And, bus service along Church Avenue will not be disrupted."

When the plan was first introduced to the community, merchants voiced concern that their business will be hurt during the holiday season.

"At the request of the merchants, the project will start at Ocean Avenue," informed Rodie, "so as to minimize the disruption to businesses during the holiday season."

"The longer we wait," noted Cavallino, "the worse the inconveniences would be once the project is started."

The contractor will excavate the street to install the new main, transfer water services from the old mains to the new, abandon the old mains, and complete intersection pipe work.

Trenches will generally be back-filled the same day, and then temporary pavement will be placed or plated.

Traffic will be restored to full use of street at the conclusion of the work day.

Residents and merchants with additional questions can contact CB 14 at (718) 859-6357, or call the DEP 24-hour emergency hotline at (718) DEP-HELP, or 337-4357.

There will also be a field office located at 282 Flatbush Avenue.

# P.S. 235 Secures Funding For 10 Classroom Expansion

By Craig McGuire

They were repeatedly told it could not be done, but the tireless efforts of dedicated parents at one East Flatbush school have moved the Board of Education to action.

"We've been struggling to get an addition onto P.S. 235 (at 525 Lenox Road) for over a year now," said Parents Association President Daniel Joseph. "It was a battle with the school board, which told us there would not be funding avail-

"Like most of the schools in East Flatbush, P.S. 235 is experiencing difficulties due to the overcrowded conditions," said Joseph, a resident of the community for the past eight years.

"We met with representatives from the school board at least three times," said Joseph, one of which was attended by Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines. "And it was the chancellor who saw the reasoning behind the request."

the school system," said Board of Education spokesman Bob Terte.

While \$2 million has been allocated for the 10-classroom pre-fabricated addition, a construction date has yet to be set.

"Earlier this year, a site was proposed at 5811 Ditmas Avenue, several miles from the main school, as an annex," said Joseph. "This would have further divided an already fractionalized school."

tive in the spirit of cooperation of the Compact for Learning," explained Joseph.

The Compact for Learning focuses on parent involvement in curriculum development.

The Ditmas annex would have cost taxpayers an estimated \$7 million.

"The \$2 million cost of the addition," said Joseph, "is much cheaper and cost-effective."

"The chancellor has in-

