

Caroline Connors
Editor
The Beverly Review

November 25, 2011

Dear Editor:

We want to thank Pat Thomas on the wonderful article on the need to preserve the Evergreen Golf Course. We at the Beverly Improvement Association and many others are working very hard to keep the Evergreen Golf Course as green, open space, but we need lots of help from your readers and their friends and relatives. This is not a “done deal,” we can assure you. With your help, it will be like two other “done deal” projects: the Cross Town Expressway through our neighborhood and the homes to be built in the forest on the eastern portion of the Dan Ryan Woods.

Let us repeat: It is not a done deal. We already know that Meijer and Menards have heard from some of you and are concerned about the opposition of the public to this development. We have met with the developer who listened to our proposal for the Cook County Forest Preserve District to acquire the land. We have had several meetings with our elected officials so they understand our opposition to this development and the use of any Chicago or Illinois funds to help it. Alderman O’Shea, Senator Maloney, Representative Burke, and Representative Cunningham have been very helpful in making sure that our views are heard.

We have a committee of the Beverly Improvement Association and many others and we have a three prong approach. The first prong is to get you, your friends and your relatives regardless of where they live, and the folks on your e-mail lists to write, call, and e-mail Menards and Meijer and tell them that you will not shop at any of their stores if they destroy the Evergreen Golf Course by building there. This is not a local issue; this is an environmental issue that effects everyone. This is an issue of whether we are going to be good stewards of nature’s resources so that our children and our grandchildren are going to have clean air, clean water, and the benefits of nature. We have already gathered hundreds and hundreds of signatures and we intend to do that in the thousands. By the time that you read this, you should be seeing our signs throughout the community. If you are interested in having a sign, please contact us via the website at thebia.org.

The second prong is to make sure that our state and local elected officials do not use any local funds to promote this development or to carve up Western Avenue. This requires you to write and e-mail Governor Patrick Quinn and our local state senators and representatives and Mayor Rahm Emanuel and your alderman.

The third prong is to provide a permanent solution so that there is not a new development proposed two years from now with different stores. The solution is to contact the President of the Cook County Forest Preserve District Toni Preckwinkle, Commissioner John Daley, Commissioner Jerry Butler, and the other commissioners to purchase the land and make it part of the Dan Ryan Woods. You need to remember that the Forest Preserve

District is a separate entity from Cook County and, as reported in the Chicago Tribune, does have money to purchase land. The Dan Ryan Woods is the smallest forest preserve in the entire county and probably the most heavily used. It would greatly benefit from the additional acreage.

The solution is a win win for everyone. The Evergreen Golf Course stays open and green and available for recreation by all of us, the developer gets paid for the land, and the stores locate on vacant commercial land in Evergreen Park and Chicago that is already brown space. We all benefit.

Please help us on this important effort to preserve green space

Sincerely,

Michael Alving
Ed Blough
Sal Campbell
Tom Carpenter
Benjamin Cox
Collins Fitzpatrick
Neil Glynn
Frank Iglesias
Otto Kaiserauer
Roberta Kleinman
Jean Ryan
Tony Wilkens
Heidi Zimmerman