

August 2009
CVS/Waldbaums Update
Waldbaums too close September 5th.
CVS files site plan with Town Planning Dept.
Residents outraged!
Community would prefer another supermarket

The Kings Park Civic Association has been keeping a close watch on the proposal to replace Waldbaums with a CVS Drug Store in San Remo. We were told one month earlier that CVS had not submitted any new paperwork with the Town of Smithtown. However, since that time CVS has filed a site plan with the Planning Department. Waldbaums has also posted signage stating that the store will close on September 5th. KPCA representatives will be reviewing the site plan to see if all the recommendations issued by the Board of Zoning Appeals are being met. Furthermore, our representatives will look for any other significant changes that might be out of character with the surrounding community.

We understand that the 24 hour drive-thru window was withdrawn from the site plan after the BZA supported KPCA's concerns regarding its close proximity to the adjacent residential neighborhood to the south of the building. However, we expect a variance request for the 24 hour drive-thru window on the east side of the building sometime in the future. The KPCA will remain vigilant in protecting the surrounding residents from any future variance requests that may harm their quality of life.

While we have been contacted by many residents calling for everything from protests to petitions to a boycott of CVS and Waldbaums (owned by parent company A&P), the KPCA will study all the facts before deciding how to proceed. The Kings Park Civic Association understands that the loss of the only supermarket in the San Remo area will cause a hardship on all of our residents, especially our seniors.

The addition of CVS in that area could also hurt other "Mom & Pop" stores in San Remo as well. It is regrettable that Waldbaum's parent company, A&P, did not reach out to the community before moving forward with their plans to sub-lease the building to CVS. The KPCA knows that another independent food market (and possibly a second) was interested in the Waldbaums site. While one may argue that subletting to another supermarket is bad business for Waldbaums, many San Remo residents will now have to shop for their groceries at Stop & Shop on Rt. 25 in Smithtown, which is one of their major competitors.