

Crossgates/Pyramid Expansion

1 message

Rick Bult <rick.bult@fastsigns.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Mon, Mar 2, 2020 at 6:49 PM

Hi Ken, I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Rick Bult and I've owned Fastsigns of Saratoga Springs for the past 6 years. But, since 1968, I've been a resident of the Town of Guilderland, only recently moving to Saratoga in order to be closer to my office. But without a doubt, I will forever call Guilderland my home. As a graduate of GHS class of 1982, I can recall driving down Western Ave to go to Friendly's, and perhaps going further down the road to Stuyvesant Plaza. Back in 1982, there was a large stretch of the Pine Bush between the two, and when I returned home from college in 1986, there was Crossgates Mall. As my life in Guilderland continued, and as I raised a family there, I can't even begin to count the number of hours spent in Crossgates, and the tens of thousands of dollars that I have spent there raising a family! I look back at almost 2 decades worth of pictures with Santa Claus, all from Crossgates Mall, along with a random Easter Bunny here and there. The mall has been, and always will be, a big part of my life, and the life of my children.

Now I get to watch it flourish as it makes the transition from retail to entertainment. Perhaps what makes me smile the most, and on some nights upsets me the most, is that the mall continues to thrive and remain busy during a time when many other malls have turned into a ghost town. I believe that is a direct result of the forward thinking management at Pyramid Management Group, and the efforts they have put in to attract the likes of Dave & Busters, Maggie McFly's, Skyloft, The Funny Bone and now Apex Entertainment. An empty mall would be the last thing I would want to see, and consequently the last thing the Town would want, as it's one of the main attractions to the area in my opinion.

I am writing today to show my support for the proposed mixed use redevelopment plans that Pyramid has for their property along Rapp Road and Western Ave. The addition of the hotel on their property seems to be a great option for travelers coming to the area that otherwise would have stayed in Albany. And now for people looking to rent a unit and call Guilderland their home, this latest project seems to be a wonderful thing for families looking to call Guilderland their home. I'm sure there will be some who feel that this is too much, but when you consider the demographics of who will be moving here, I believe that these are the families that Guilderland would want to have as part of our community.

There are many reasons why I still love Guilderland, and why I wish nothing but the best for its continued success. It's why I will gladly attend the Planning Board meeting on the 25th to share my opinion as well. But I wanted to reach out personally, introduce myself, and share these thoughts.

If I can ever be of help, of course do not hesitate to reach out, and I will see you later this month, Regards, Rick

Rick Bult

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