

Parking relief for Main Library

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 HOUR STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — Patrons of the parking-strapped Main Library on Belden Avenue have gained some additional space.

On Tuesday, representatives of the Norwalk Public Library System and First Taxing District announced the availability of a number of parking spaces at the district-owned property at 3 Belden Ave. next door.

Of the 33 parking spaces at 3 Belden Ave., the 11 nearest People's Bank will be made available to library patrons at all hours and the remaining 22 spaces will be made available to them after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

"Obviously, we have a tenant that has over eight years to run here, but we control these 11 spaces and we've agreed to let the library use these at any time," said Frank N. Zullo, First Taxing District Commission chairman, standing in the parking lot at 3 Belden Ave on Tuesday afternoon. "And the tenant, who has been very helpful, has agreed to let us use their parking of the remaining (22) spaces after 5 o'clock and on weekends and at night and on holidays."

At present, the library has 13 spaces of its own in a small parking lot at the west side of the library building. Patrons using the spaces at 3 Belden Ave. will be asked to walk along Belden Ave. to the Mott Avenue entrance to the library.

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Zullo credited Patsy Brescia, library board member and former city councilwoman, and the library board for helping put the parking arrangement together.

Signs will go up in the parking lot in the near future, informing motorists of the parking availability for the library, according to Taxing District officials.

Christine Bradley, Norwalk Public Library director, said the library will place notices inside the library and also inform patrons by email of the additional parking.

"This will really help because we'll get some (additional parking) for during the week, Monday through Friday, and then we'll have use of the lot on the off-hours," Bradley said.

Also present for the announcement were Taxing District Commissioners Thomas Cullen, Marija V. Bryant, Treasurer Elsa Peterson Obuchowski, General Manager Dominick M. DiGangi, Norwalk Public Library Board of Trustees President Stanley M.



Hour Photo/Alex von Kleydorff

With new parking signs ready to be posted behind the library on Belden Avenue, from left: Marija Bryant, First Taxing District commissioner Chris Bradley, Director Norwalk public Library, Stan Siegel, President library Board of Trustees, Mayor Harry Rilling, Elsa Peterson Obuchowski, First Taxing district Treasurer, Dominick Di Gangi, General Manager, First Taxing District, Thomas Cullen, First Taxing District Commissioner and Patsy Brescia, Library board member Frank Zullo First Taxing District Commission Chairman.

Siegel and Mayor Harry W. Rilling.

"We approached the First Taxing District. They were very gracious in helping us come up with this plan for now," Rilling said. "Obviously, we know that this is a short-term fix and we're exploring some longer-term fixes, something that can make permanent parking available, so that people can come

and use the library and not have to worry about finding parking."

Representatives of James P. Murphy Insurance Planning Benefit Services — the tenant at 3 Belden Ave. — were not present at the announcement. Company President James P. Murphy told *The Hour* in May that he was willing to offer some of the spaces to the library.