

# BROOKDALE TO SELL 5.8 ACRES ON ROUTE 520 BY BID

by Marianne Klugman

On June 2, 1999 a public notice appeared in the *Asbury Park Press* stating that Brookdale Community College intends to seek sealed bids on 5.87 acres of property it owns fronting on County Road 520, adjacent to the Amoco Station behind the substation.

The description of the property adds that it retains considerable frontage on County Road 520 and Phalanx Road.

The bids will be accepted by the Board of Trustees of Brookdale Community College on June 16.

The notice further states that the bids will be opened and read in public in the Administration & Operations Conference Room 236, located in the Brookdale College Administrative Center, 2nd Floor, Parking Lot #3.

The area is zoned commercial and recently a similarly sized property was purchased across from the Lincroft School for the development of an assisted living facility.

Long time Lincroft resident and community benefactor, George Toop, whose property is in close proximity to the piece being bid, was very upset to learn of Brookdale Community College's intentions.

He states, "The residents in the area are 100% opposed to it! It is the only piece of greenery left of the original Lincroft Village which goes back to the late 1600's. The first consideration should have been the taxpayers and people of Lincroft. There is absolutely no reason why they should sell this property!"

(Mr. Toop had recently arranged to transfer his Laurel Wood Nursery property to Brookdale via a charitable remainder trust. His property was a wedge of land separating two pieces of Brookdale Community College's campus. With this transfer, the college was able to connect its properties.)

Mr. Toop explained that several years ago he had approached Brookdale Community College to dedicate the triangular shaped piece of property, being considered for sale, as a park in memory

of the founders of Lincroft. He even offered to finance some of the improvements, but he was turned down.

Mr. Toop adds, "This is contrary to what the State of New Jersey is spending one billion dollars to accomplish, that is to save Open Space by purchasing it so it stays free of development."

"The Brookdale Community College Trustees are doing exactly the opposite -- selling off Open space for development -- Open Space that the taxpayers have already paid for," he emphatically stated.

The *Lincroft Village News* attempted to contact the President of Brookdale Community College for his comments on the proposed sale but had not heard from his office by press time on June 2, 1999.

Pertinent documents for the sale of the land may be examined and copies obtained at the Purchasing Department of Brookdale Community College after Thursday, June 3, 1999.