

Editorial

Wish Mets And Yanks Well In Their Parks' Last Season

Every Opening Day is special, but Opening Day 2008 is exceptional. After the 2008 baseball season ends, both Shea Stadium, home of the National League Mets and the eponymous Yankee Stadium, home of the venerable American League team, will be torn down and replaced by two new fields.

Next year, the Bronx Bombers will move into a \$1.3 billion new Yankee Stadium, under construction just across 161st Street. The Mets will call Citi Field home; it will rise on what is now the Shea Stadium parking lot. The \$800 million ballpark will be environmentally as well as fan friendly through a variety of design, construction, and operational principles, ensuring that Citi Field meets or exceeds high environmental standards.

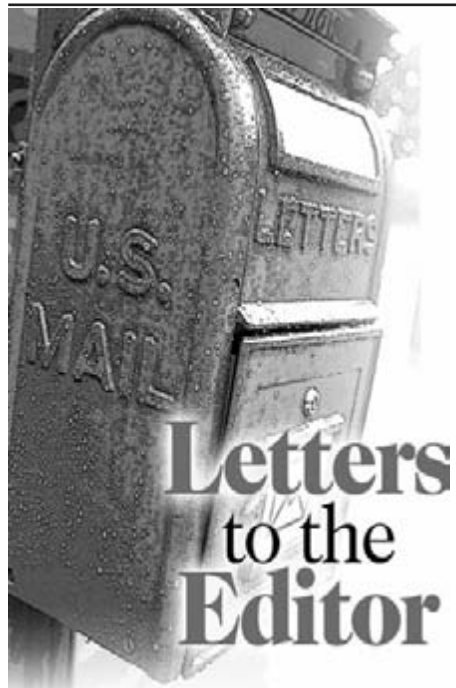
The Yankees are due to open their last season in the House that Babe Ruth Built—so named after Ruth hit a home run before 74,200 fans on opening day in

1923—in a game against the Toronto Blue Jays. What would have been the only Yanks' home opener ever played in March was rained out Monday afternoon. It was postponed until Tuesday night; it had not yet started at the time the *Gazette* went to press. The Mets played their Opening Day game on Monday against the Florida Marlins on their opponents' field in Miami. They won by a score of 7 to 2. (Go Mets! Squish the Fish!) They will officially open their last season at Shea Stadium on April 8 in the first of two games against the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Mets and Yankees have histories that intertwine. The two teams face each other in interleague games several times each season and last contended against each other in a Subway Series for the 2000 World Series title, the first postseason Subway Series since 1956. The Yankees played at Shea Stadium, in 1974 and 1975 while their home in The Bronx

was being remodeled. They may be rivals, but both call New York City home and both hold a place in the hearts of all New Yorkers, whatever their team affiliation may be.

Wherever they play, and whoever their opponents, our Major League Baseball teams are a source of pride as well as a means of entertainment. They show the rest of the Major Leagues and the rest of the world what it means to be a New Yorker—grit and perseverance, determination in the face of what can be overwhelming odds and sometimes defeat, as well as pride in achievement and grace and courtesy in victory. As the bittersweet final season of both of New York City's ballparks opens, we wish both Mets and Yankees a glorious and victorious 2008 and a warm welcome when they start the first season in each of their new homes in 2009.



Letters to the Editor

Ognibene Protests Move

A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.

Hon. Philip Ragusa
Chairman, Queens County Republican Party
14-15 157th Street
Whitestone, N.Y. 11357

Dear Phil:

I was shocked and dismayed to learn that the Queens County Executive Committee of the County Republican Party met on March 26th, 2008 for the purpose of endorsing a candidate in the 30th Council District Special Election without extending an invitation to me. As you may recall, I made a personal phone call to you two (2) weeks ago to notify you that I had filed with the Board of Elections and with the New York City Campaign Finance Board as an official candidate for election to that vacated office. It is unfathomable that you would hold a clandestine meeting and invite only one of the announced candidates to speak and ask for

the county support. As you are aware, I served as the first councilman in the newly created 30th Council District for ten (10) years, seven (7) of which were served as the Minority Leader of the City Council, the second highest elected Republican office in the City of New York. Many of my colleagues in the party, including you personally, and in government, had advised me that they believed my service to both my community and to the party represented the hallmark of dedicated service by an elected official.

In a time of political and electoral turmoil, where the candidates must run for the above office three (3) times in 18 months and dedicate their time to election rather than governmental matters, I believe my 'hands-on' experience and proven record make me an ideal candidate that will be ready to serve on day one. I would have greatly appreciated the opportunity to make my case before the members of our Executive Committee, and I am deeply saddened that you did not give them an opportunity to hear and evaluate all the candidates.

Very truly yours,
Thomas V. Ognibene
Candidate 30th CD

Change Of Address Requests

A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.

Honorable Jack Potter
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'enfant Place SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010
Dear Postmaster General Potter:

I am writing to bring to your attention a very serious matter concerning the processing of United States Postal Service (USPS) "change of address" requests, and to urge that the USPS take immediate action to change its procedures. Specifically, I am requesting that the

USPS mandate that all persons requesting a change of address be required to appear in person at their local post office and to present proof of identity, and that confirmation notices be immediately sent to those who allegedly requested that their mailing address be changed.

The serious shortcomings in the USPS current procedures regarding change of address requests were brought to my attention by one of my constituents in Queens, New York, who fell prey to identity theft as a result of these procedures. Without her knowledge, a person pretending to be her went to the local post office and filed a change of address request. My constituent was not aware that this had happened until the USPS sent her a confirmation notice, three weeks later, regarding the address change. She immediately went to her local post office to cancel the change of address, but the damage had already been done.

Soon thereafter, my constituent began receiving calls from her insurance company, her credit card companies and other creditors to inquire about the change of address and/or to question suspicious charges on her accounts. Thousands of dollars of unauthorized charges had been made in her name, and new accounts had been opened without her knowledge. My constituent is now dealing on a daily basis with the dreadful aftermath of this scenario, which may have been prevented had the USPS had better security and anti-identity-theft procedures in place.

For the sake of my constituent and the many other unsuspecting postal customers who might ultimately find themselves in this unnecessary and dreadful situation, I strongly urge that the USPS make immediate changes in its change of address procedures to protect their identity and security. I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience, and strongly believe that speed is of

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