



Staff Photo by Dan Oliver

Light Up the Sky

A traffic light sought by Allendale residents for the past 10 years will be in operation within two weeks at the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Franklin Turnpike. The

crossroads has had the highest incidence of accidents of any borough intersection, and petitions and a number of demonstrations have taken place concerning the situation.

Ridgewood Herald-News May 6, 1971

Allendale Council Proposes Crestwood Municipal Offices

By PAT HALL

ALLENDALE — The Borough Council is recommending purchase of the entire 70-acre Crestwood tract in a letter being mailed out today to all residents, presenting this plan and two alternatives, with a public hearing slated May 25 at the Northern Highlands Regional High School, 8:30 p.m.

Other proposals are to do nothing about Crestwood, in which event it probably would be subdivided and eventually developed. The third proposal is to purchase only 25 acres of the parcel.

The letter points out fully the costs and facts of each proposal and notes the council is anxious to get the opinions and feelings of residents.

The owner of the property is S. T. Van Houten and Sons, local real estate firm.

The council points out the economics of the situation will not be much more expensive to taxpayers than the development of the land into a residential area. The coun-

cil foresees a municipal complex with a library and a municipal park area.

Present municipal office facilities are crowded, with the council moving to house the police headquarters in a residence on Cottage Place, under a temporary leasing arrangement.

The space formerly occupied by the police is now housing municipal offices, some of which were previously in the homes of the part-time borough employees who manned them.

Back in February, Mayor Albert Merz said the borough had a serious space problem and could either build an addition to the Borough Hall on Franklin Turnpike or buy the Crestwood Lake property for a new municipal complex. He said a decision would be forthcoming within 60 days.

Centralization of municipal offices and functions was recommended by a study of

the state Dept. of Community Affairs, which reviewed the borough's administrative processes at the request of the borough.

Crestwood is currently a private lake club on West Crescent Avenue. Back in the '60s it was the subject of controversy when the Duro-Test Corp., a light bulb manufacturer, sought to buy the property with a proposed change to industrial zoning of part of it. The area is still zoned residential.

Originally farmland, the man-made lake is more than 11 acres and includes wooded areas and recreation fields.

According to Richard Van Houten, preliminary approval for a subdivision of 83 homes on the property has been given by the Planning Board. "But at the moment, since the borough has shown an interest, we're waiting to see what they are going to do," he said.