

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

This time of year is particularly busy for the nineteen gentlemen in our Department of Public Works.

The leaf collection season flows into snow season and interspersed are the final road resurfacing projects, lighting needs in the wintry months and the completion of fall plantings.

Thanks to the generosity of Villagers and the initiative of young high school resident Henry Blais, creator of the "Village Tree Fund", we will be planting 30 new street trees throughout the Village in the next few weeks. We have identified locations for ten of the trees and welcome your suggestions as to placement of the remaining trees. Just e-mail your ideas to us at bronxvilledpw@optonline.net. We also ask that you continue to donate to the Tree Fund if you can because the many modest contributions have combined to make a real difference.

It is particularly gratifying that the Tree Fund was the brainchild of one of our younger residents and we continue to be most receptive to creative ideas to improve our village.

On the same subject, as a reminder, leaves should remain on private property near curb's edge. Leaves deposited in the right of way present a real driving hazard especially on our narrow streets and often then migrate to catch basins impeding efficient drainage. Please continue to bag grass clippings and help speed up leaf removal by separating leaves from twigs and branches. Our leaf vacuum truck cannot ingest branches and separating debris is quite time consuming for our staff but required to avoid damage to our equipment.

Bids are in for the repair and replacement of the retaining wall on Sagamore Road near Avon Road with the goal of completing the work before the winter season.

Our plans for the refurbishment of both Sagamore Park and Maltby Field are progressing on schedule. We expect final architectural plans by week's end with work slated to begin in early spring.

Our Public Works Department is also addressing some water mitigation measures in the neighborhood along Route 22. Hard to fathom, but the State built the road without an active drainage system along the Bronxville

stretch. We are currently adjusting some road elevations, modifying curb cuts and cleaning pipes and catch basins as we continue to petition the State to address the drainage issue.

Our frustration with the level of service and quality of repairs undertaken throughout the Village by both Verizon and Con Edison is on-going. They continue to dig up our streets and leave unsightly metal plates as temporary repairs for months on end. As a matter of policy, no future permits will be issued to either entity, save for emergency repairs, until all prior projects are repaired to our satisfaction.

The Village's newly formed Green Committee is up and running thanks to the efforts of Deputy Mayor Bellitto. Additional members are always welcome.

In the same vein, I want to thank the Bronxville Rotary Club, under the leadership of Sheryl Donner, for donating four additional recycling receptacles to be placed on the West Side and near the School. This expands on a recycling initiative begun by former Rotary President, John Stephens.

Our request for a visit by the County's Mobile Shredder Unit turned out to be a big success. Over 140 residents availed themselves of the services and 2.5 tons of paper were collected. Based on this success, we have scheduled an E-Waste Day on May 15th. Hard to dispose of items such as appliances, TV's and computer monitors will be collected on this date.

We continue to repair and replace light fixtures throughout the Village. Two poles in our business district were demolished in traffic accidents and the lights adjacent to the Bank of New York present a constant problem. Because our fixtures have a unique decorative quality, the lead time for manufacture is lengthy. We endeavor to balance the need for safe well-lit streets, energy conservation and the preservation of the lighting aesthetic that defines the Village.

For our residents in the Cedar Street area, the much needed repaving will take place on two successive early mornings, a departure from our tradition of all night paving in the business district. This is an effort to minimize the disruption to both our residents and our merchants.

Many of you have called expressing concern with what is an admittedly dangerous situation on the Palmer Avenue sidewalk near Brooklands.

Unfortunately, the sidewalk and damaged retaining wall are County property and County government has yet to address the repair despite repeated calls from the Village.

Finally, it must be noted that all of the above projects will not be completed without the vigilant efforts of our small but amazingly loyal Public Works Department. So many of our DPW employees spend their entire working careers with the Village and become very much a fabric of our daily lives. Five of our gentlemen have been with the Village over 15 years, an additional five over 20 years and two fellows have served the Village for over 30 years. This fall marks the 25th year of service for Guido Minardi and the 35th year for Maryann Urrico, truly the face of the department.

It is a privilege to work with such hardworking and honorable employees so please help them out this fall by making their jobs a little bit easier.