

## **MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN**

At the Village Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for July 13, 2009 there will be a public hearing on the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is our annual funding of major improvement projects for the Village in the coming year. Usually we budget just over one million dollars for a variety of projects ranging from street paving to the purchase of police cars. Sometimes there are large items, for instance, the funding done years back to renovate and modernize Village Hall.

This year we have asked our department heads to be as frugal as possible given the difficult economic times. As we did with our general operating budget, we have pared back all spending in our capital plan to include only those items we considered absolutely essential and time sensitive.

This year we are proposing a CIP funded at \$839,000. For comparison purposes, the revised 2007/2008 CIP was \$1,322,248.63. The original 2008-2009 CIP was budgeted at \$1,194,000.00. At \$839,000, the 2009/2010 CIP is the smallest CIP in recent history.

However, despite the smaller size, we believe that the CIP has enough in it to maintain a good standard of regular improvement to our Village infrastructure. Here are some of the items in the proposed program: \$75,000 for improvements to the Central Garage roof. The Central Garage is a building dating back to 1942 and with the exception of some minor repairs and improvements through the decades the garage remains in fairly much the same design as originally built. In the near future, we will be looking to make major improvements to this dated facility. Public Works Superintendent, Rocco Circosta, is exploring grant opportunities to help pay for garage improvements. We hope to integrate new "green technology" in our renovated facility as we did when we renovated Village Hall in 2007. In the meantime, the roof repair is essential for continued operation of the Central Garage.

There is money in this CIP to paint the Library's wooden exterior. The wood siding has not been painted since the Library renovations almost 10 years ago. There is some wood deterioration along the base of the south side which will also be repaired as part of the overall project. We are combining monies for this project from an existing open capital item with some additional funds encumbered from the 2008-2009 Library operating budget. This will allow us to do the project with only a new supplemental expenditure of \$20,000 through the 2009-2010 CIP.

\$80,000 has been included in the proposed CIP for the Police Department. The plan provides for the purchase of two new police vehicles, as part of our rotating schedule of police vehicle replacement. Our police cars run twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. They must be in top condition at all times to respond to emergencies. Though they take a beating from everyday use, we have also been very successful auctioning our used police vehicles via the internet which helps control the overall cost of maintaining

good cars. The plan also provides for the cash match of a grant that will pay for an electronic finger print scanning machine.

The greatest share of the CIP is funding for the Public Works Department and its activities. \$400,000 is budgeted for street paving and curb replacement and/or repair. Some of the streets on our list this year include: Woods End Lane from Locust Street to the Village line, Hawthorne from Midland to Studio, Sycamore from Midland to Tanglewylde, Sagamore from Pondfield to the Village line, Cedar Street from Pondfield to Kraft and Merestone/Valley from Valley Road to Sagamore. If possible, we may include an additional street or two. Streets are selected for paving based on two important criteria. First, the use of a street by the greatest number of vehicles is considered and second, the overall condition of a street. Some streets like Sagamore are so expensive that the lion's share of paving monies is absorbed in a single project. Our Public Works crews will also back-up our new paving program with aggressive pothole filling and crack sealing of other Village streets.

There is also another \$130,000 budgeted for various sanitary and storm sewer repairs throughout the Village. This is an annual investment that provides for the regular on-going maintenance of the Village sewer system.

Copies of the proposed CIP are available at Village Hall for all interested in reviewing our annual program.