

## MAYOR'S COLUMN

The Village's Citizens' Advisory Committee met mid-month to discuss concerns and alert the Trustees to issues of importance. The committee, comprised of two members from each of the Village's seven election districts, is a microcosm of the Village as a whole. I thought it informative to share their concerns and provide a window into our discussions. I urge all residents to reach out to their representatives who are extremely diligent in directing issues to the Trustees. Members include:

District 16      Carol Holley  
                      Maggie Marrone

District 17      Liza Near  
                      Florence Kooluris

District 18      Barbara White  
                      Bill Sorensen

District 19      Charlie Meade  
                      Dale Frehse

District 20      Bill Grealy  
                      Cindi Callahan

District 21      Sondra Luger  
                      Tom Troja

District 22      Joseph Villanueva  
                      Robert Rabsey

Given the high cost of gasoline coupled with the general congestion throughout the Village, committee members are particularly attuned to energy savings and the need to make the Village more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. The goal is to urge more commuters and students to walk or bike to the train or

school. The police chief is researching the possibility of designated bike routes in the Village.

As a corollary, pedestrian safety particularly in the business district and speeding or the perception of speeding throughout the Village is an on-going concern. Committee members endorsed the Village's efforts to improve the safety at the corners near Starbucks and St. Joseph's Church. Of great interest is the timeframe for re-opening of Palumbo Place. Currently 15 school staffers are working in the trailers and anticipate a move back to the school building in early fall.

In the spirit of further protecting our environment, committee members are also very interested in the Village's new geothermal energy system, our involvement in a wind energy purchase consortium and the commitment of the village to use only organic products on Village properties. The goal is to translate municipal initiatives down to the individual homeowner level.

Committee members are also strong advocates for keeping our open spaces refurbished and attractive. We have just received a \$25,000 State grant, thanks to the efforts of Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, that will do just that. The monies will be spent to refurbish areas of Sagamore Park and Bicentennial Park this summer. We are awaiting the final report from our Girl Scout Cabin Committee, but understand that their recommendation will be to maintain and upgrade the area as passive open space.

The quality and location of lighting throughout the Village was also a committee concern, with the train station area, parking lots and business district the primary focus. Our attractive lightposts are at illumination capacity so we may need to add additional fixtures. There is a general perception that pockets of the Village are too dimly lit.

Committee members also expressed frustration with our two municipal partners - the U.S. Post Office and Metro North, both in

terms of quality of service and upkeep of facilities. Also, thanks to committee members' suggestions, we are reviewing signage in the Village and removing outdated and damaged signs in an effort to reduce the number throughout the Village.

And finally on a more global level, committee members are educating themselves on the pros and cons of two major current policy issues being discussed Statewide – the value of a County government structure and the property tax cap initiative.

I thank all of our committee volunteers for their efforts in bringing forth residents' concerns in a positive and cooperative way. We have accomplished a great deal as a result of their efforts.