

## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Though the Trustees do not meet formally in August, we are working on many initiatives to bring forward in the Fall. The following is an overview of items for discussion and resolution in the coming months.

Our goal is to give advance notice of upcoming agenda topics so residents will be aware of emerging Village business and can comment accordingly on issues of interest.

The Trustees did add a second special meeting in July for the purpose of approving a contract for cable service with Verizon. The July approval allowed our application to be heard at the meeting of the New York State Public Service Commission, enabling some residents to begin receiving FIOS services by late Fall. Our agreement also provided for a cash stipend to the Village of \$135,000 - \$40,000 of which will be received immediately. Some of these monies will be used to upgrade and modernize the School Village cable capabilities.

Many of the proposed Fall initiatives center around improving the quality of life in our Village. As an example, the Trustees propose expanding the noise ordinance to prohibit deliveries and private trash removal from taking place between the hours of 11PM and 6AM. At present, we have no code provision addressing this issue and residents are being disturbed at 4AM and 5AM by commercial traffic.

Because we have a unique situation of residents living in very close proximity to the business district, we are mindful of the need to balance the interests of both.

We also are considering a “chalking” law encompassing the business district portion of Pondfield Road and Park Place. This type of legislation allows our parking enforcement staff to issue violations for multi-hour meter feeding. By curbing this practice, the turnover of parking spaces will increase benefiting shoppers and merchants. Also, those with long term parking needs will be diverted to more appropriate locations and free up spaces on our most congested streets. There will be a public hearing on this proposed code change at the September 10<sup>th</sup> Trustees meeting.

Another business district initiative in the very early stages of review is a policy to address the proliferation of merchandise displayed on the sidewalks. We are approaching the issue primarily as a safety concern, though some of the merchandise and signage currently detracts from the beauty of our downtown. The outdoor merchandise continues to grow, sometimes rendering sidewalks impassable without resorting to walking on curbs and in the tree wells, making safe pedestrian flow difficult.

Also on the agenda for a September 10<sup>th</sup> Trustees’ Meeting is a public hearing on another sidewalk issue. We will discuss the codification of a longstanding Village practice of requiring that homeowners, as well as merchants, be responsible for the repair and maintenance of their sidewalks. The vast majority of communities across New York State require this not only as good practice, but as a code requirement. Our goal is to promote

safer pedestrian routes to encourage more walking throughout the Village.

We are also focusing on both the service at and physical condition of our Post Office. Village officials have met with the management of the Post Office as well as a regional Post Office representative to discuss improvement. Since most of our residents require the services of our local station and the building holds a prominent location in our Village, our attention to the quality of service and general upkeep is clearly warranted.

The Board of Trustees continues to work with the School Board to engage experts in solving the flooding problems both in the school environs and other low lying areas. We await a final report from Folchetti Engineering who conducted our initial analysis and we will continue to work in concert with School officials to seek cost effective flood abatement remedies.

We anticipate a very busy Fall. Please continue to reach out to Trustees and Village staff with your ideas and concerns. To help facilitate on-going interaction, please fill out and return our village information card mailed to each residence last week. With your help, we hope to create a Village wide multi-media information network by year's end.