

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

Welcome back to all our residents who have been traveling this summer. Though the Trustees do not meet as a group in August, a great deal of activity still occurs at Village Hall.

This summer, the maintenance of the Village infrastructure was our number one capital priority. To this end, we expended \$300,000 on our summer paving and curbing initiative including resurfacing the entire length of Sagamore Road, a long overdue, and much needed project. Unfortunately, the summer storms destroyed over 50 mature trees throughout the Village as well as a retaining wall on Sagamore Road, adding to our list of infrastructure expenditures. In the coming months, we will be replacing some of the lost street trees and welcome any donations to the Village Tree Fund.

One of our greatest Village assets is our open spaces. Plans are now well underway for the refurbishment of both Sagamore Park and Maltby Field. Our goal for Sagamore Park is to update, re-landscape, improve safety conditions and make the area fully handicapped accessible. Our first steps at Maltby will be to completely refurbish the field area and make it usable for recreational activity. Because the area was once an ash dump as well as a snow dumping site, the current conditions render it unsuitable for play at this time. As part of stage one, we also plan to add a scenic pathway. The projects in both parks will be completed in segments as money becomes available and the weather permits.

We have also spent a great deal of time working with Village landlords, merchants and the Chamber of Commerce to help stimulate business for current merchants as well as reaching out to potential quality merchants to come to Bronxville. In the coming weeks, you will see some new stores opening but we still have a long way to go. Our Citizens' Advisory Committee will be focusing on this topic at the September 29th meeting but we also welcome suggestions and comments from any resident. As usual, please try to look locally first for your individual shopping needs.

The BAMs gas station was torn down on schedule and we are in the process of working with a traffic consultant and our police department to maximize parking while reconfiguring the difficult intersection at Kraft Avenue and Cedar Street.

Metro North continues to offer road blocks instead of constructive solutions to the increased vibration and noise conditions along the rail corridor. In lieu of using their funds for mitigation measures, Metro North has now decided to hire their own vibration engineer with, I can only assume, the goal of refuting our vibration study findings. As a result of their responses, I am more resolute than ever in seeking mitigation remedies for our residents. I will also engage the help of our Federal and State elected officials going forward.

Many of you returned home to learn of an affordable housing stipulation agreement signed by County Executive Andrew Spano.

The Village was not a party to or apprised of the agreement and the Trustees and I only learned of the settlement via traditional news outlets, and are very much in the information gathering stage.

Our County Legislator Gordon Burrows and our neighboring legislator, Vito Pinto, are holding an informational session on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30PM at the Sommer Center at Concordia College. They will present an overview of the agreement, share information from the three meetings that the County legislature held with their attorneys, the court appointed monitor and the County Planning Board. The gentlemen, along with their colleagues in the County Legislature, must vote to accept or reject the agreement by September 24th.

I urge you to read the Stipulation Agreement which is available in hard copy at Village Hall as well as on our Village website. Though quite long (38 pages) and confusing, it provides much needed information not reported in the media.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Village employees for stepping up during some of the more difficult events of the summer.

During the storms, employees came back from vacations to help, everyone offered to chip in and we were able to recover from events in record time. Our staff at all levels is very lean with positions remaining unfilled to limit spending so it is particularly gratifying to see how professionally and eagerly employees shoulder added duties. The longer I serve as Mayor, the more I realize that our Village employees are our greatest asset.