

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Village Hall has stayed very busy this summer laying the groundwork for Fall projects and completing our promised summer initiatives.

Our contract terminated with WCI on August 29th. The Trustees worked very hard at protecting the Village's interest relative to all possible outcomes and placing ourselves in the best legal position. We will be discussing all our options in the coming months. There is currently a great deal of interest in the project from national builders.

- Our curbing/paving program will be completed by the second week of September – approximately one week behind our ideal schedule. We are trying something new near Starbucks by using patterned paving in the crosswalk. It has been used in other communities to both better demarcate the crossing area as well as alert drivers to reduce speed. Let us know what you think because if it proves successful we would do the same at other intersections, most notably the crosswalk from Valley Road to Botticelli Bridal shop.
- The Village just recently received the vibration and noise study commissioned in the Spring to monitor the effects of the third track on our residents living in the Metro North corridor. There will be a public meeting on September 18th at 7PM in the Library with the engineers to review their results, explain the ramifications and take questions. The meeting will be televised and hard copies of the study are currently available at Village Hall.
- A landscape architect specializing in municipal properties has been commissioned to draw up plans for the rehabilitation of both the Girl Scout Cabin property, per the cabin committee recommendation, as well as Sagamore Park. We anticipate improving these two open spaces this Fall as well as some refurbishment of Bicentennial Park.
- We also recently received our macro flood mitigation study report commissioned jointly by the School and the Village. We plan to meet with school officials and the experts to review the recommendations in the coming weeks. On a more micro flooding level, we meet this week with the County representatives to review our grant applications for mitigation monies for individual neighborhoods including Garden Avenue and Paxton Avenue areas. Because the area near the intersection of Meadow Avenue and Garden Avenue floods much too frequently, we have contracted to videotape the pipes from the tennis courts to the Bronx River to see if we can locate any cracks or possible obstructions.
- In our continued quest to improve the service at and condition of our post office, I am meeting with the Postal Services' Regional Director and members of Congresswoman Lowey's staff on September 10th to see if we can press for

improvements. It has come to our attention that a small sample of Villagers have recently received a survey assessing the quality of the post office. We have made copies of the survey and they are available at Village Hall. I urge you to help us present our case by filling out a survey so we can bundle the results and present them to the postal authorities.

- In an effort to encourage our students to walk to school, the Village is adding marked crosswalks near the intersection of Masterton Road and Pondfield Road to provide a safe and designated walking route to school.
- In our continuing efforts to be green, the Village is participating with the Town in an E-waste day on Saturday, September 20th from 9AM to 3PM at the Anne Hutchinson Elementary School on Mill Road. Items accepted include TVs, all computer equipment, air conditioners, faxes, phones, washers, dryers, refrigerators, lamps, small appliances and alkaline batteries. I am also proud to report that the Village's recycling tonnage has increased by 44% over the past two years.
- To maintain tax equity going forward, the Trustees are contemplating mechanics of a revaluation cycle going forward. We are in the early stages of discussion but we are looking at an approach that ties any reassessment to the acceptable ratio of dispersion or inequity as opposed to the method of revaluing after a fixed amount of years regardless of the equity of the roll. We will discuss this at length both at our October Trustees Meeting and in subsequent newspaper columns.
- Negotiations continue with our police union and the Teamsters representing our Public Works employees and we hope to reach fair and responsible agreements expeditiously.
- School construction is progressing on schedule which will allow us to reopen Palumbo Place to traffic in mid-Fall.