

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

This past week, the Village received positive news on many fronts that will enhance the Village and relieve some taxpayer burden.

We received notification from Assemblywoman Amy Paulin's office that the Village is a recipient of a \$175,000 grant to refurbish Sagamore Park. Built almost 20 years ago through the efforts of the Junior League, it is long overdue for repair. Our goal for the park is three-fold; to ensure that the play equipment and the environs meet 2009 safety standards, to incorporate landscaping and screening to make the entire area more attractive to neighboring homes and to make it fully accessible for any child who wishes to play there.

Probably, the most used square footage in the Village, we need to make it a park we can be proud of while at the same time being very respectful of its location in a residential neighborhood.

We also received a check for \$25,000 from Assemblywoman Paulin's office to help defray the costs of the recent refurbishment of our Bicentennial Park. Senator Jeffery Klein awarded the Village \$30,000 that funded Senior Citizen initiatives, and some of our recent traffic pattern improvements throughout the Village.

We have also reached out to Senator Klein to help us fund the clean up and revitalization of the Malby Park area. Funds have been set aside from the proceeds of the Girl Scout Cabin insurance settlement, but supplemental monies are needed to complete the envisioned improvements.

Per the recommendations of the Girl Scout Cabin Committee, the vision for Maltby is a passive park and open outdoor space where residents can toss a ball, picnic and walk on a landscaped path. This configuration also leaves open the option to develop the park further should the community want a structure built at a later date.

Preliminary architectural plans for both parks are available for inspection at Village Hall.

Additional good news was notification on Monday that Route 22 will be repaved in the Village from Hobart Street to South Road. Long overdue, we joined forces with Supervisor Colavita and Mayor Fitzpatrick to urge the State Department of Transportation to focus attention on the condition of the roadway. Route 22 is a State road so Villages and Towns are not allowed to repair, add crosswalks or otherwise maintain State property which has been a source of frustration to residents along the route. The stretch of road will be milled, paved and the elevation of existing drainage structures will be reset. Work is set to begin this August and will be completed during evening hours.

As a reminder, in this year's Village Capital Budget, which will be discussed in open hearing at the July 13th meeting, certain Village owned streets are scheduled for repaving and/or curbing. They include Sagamore Road from Pondfield Road to the Tuckahoe border, Cedar Street from Pondfield Road to Kraft Avenue, Merestone Terrace from Valley Road to Sagamore Road, Hawthorne Road, Sycamore Street from Midland Avenue to Tanglewylde Avenue, and the Bronxville portion of Wood End Lane. If possible, we will

try to include a few more streets in conjunction with an aggressive program of pothole filling and crack sealing on many other Village streets. All of the work will be completed by Labor Day.

And finally, the cost of remediation and removal at the BAMs gas station is coming in slightly under budget, which is extremely welcome news given the potential unknowns involved in items such as asbestos removal. Costs include demolition, asbestos abatement, soil and sludge removal and environmental testing. We are on schedule as well as on budget and still project to have a 40 plus space parking lot in place by Labor Day.

The stars must have been aligned for us this week and we can only hope for continued good fortune. I thank our very attentive State legislators who have listened and responded to our needs. Since no stimulus money has come our way despite our best efforts, their help is particularly needed and appreciated.