

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN

As has been my practice for the past few summers, this will be my last column until Labor Day when most Villagers have returned from summer holiday. July, as you might expect, has been quieter at Village Hall than the Spring months. This extra time has allowed us to tie up loose ends, evaluate our priorities and create a "to do" list for the Fall. We have many initiatives/challenges ahead on many fronts and I wanted to share with you the projects that the Trustees and I will focus on in the coming months:

- We are committed to the refurbishment of Village open spaces especially Bicentennial Park, Sagamore Park and Maltby Field. Over \$275,000 in grant monies for Sagamore Park and Maltby Field, secured for the Village by our State Legislators, still has not been released to us by the State. We have done all the planning and prep work for these two park projects and will begin as soon as we have money in hand.
- The property revaluation project is running smoothly and on-schedule with new values most probably ready by January 1, 2011, in time for the next tax roll.
- The paving and curbing program is underway and will be completed by Labor Day.
- A public hearing on proposed "Green Zoning" legislation will take place at the September Trustees' meeting. We will be one of the first Westchester communities to enact this type of legislation and we ask that you review its contents on our website and bring your opinions forward. Our goal is to encourage green energy solutions, while at the same time setting standards that ensure no negative impact on neighbors.
- Our disagreement with Metro North remains on-going. They have now taken issue with our vibration study conclusions so we have enlisted our engineers to counter Metro North's latest assertions.
- We will be working with Legislator Burrows and the County government to ascertain their plans for flood mitigation on the County owned Scout Field as a result of a joint appropriation of \$550,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the County government. Though not a party to this particular grant request, we continue to apply for mitigation monies for Village properties. Just this past week, we did receive some good news from the State of New York. We had made a grant submission for \$6 million that was initially denied, but after our appeal, the State has granted us a second review.
- Cablevision continues to operate without a franchise agreement with the Village and we are not witnessing good faith bargaining on their part. We will re-double our efforts to get them back to the table.
- A bid has been awarded for the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Cedar Street and Kraft Avenue with work slated for Fall completion.

- We continue a vigorous defense against United Water's exorbitant rate increase of 50% over three years that is currently before the Public Service Commission. Deputy Mayor Bellitto, Superintendent of Public Works Circosta and I will be testifying this week on the Village's behalf but we ask that you make your voices heard as individual rate payers by:
 - * Writing to the Honorable Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 or electronically at secretary@dps.state.ny.us or
 - * Calling a 24-hour toll free "Commission's Opinion Line" at 1-800-335-2120
- Our issue with unruly groups of teens continues unabated now even on Summer weekday nights so we continue to have extra police patrolling the business district/school areas. Just this past weekend, \$2,400 worth of Village benches were destroyed by vandalism.
- We will repair and/or replace some of our historic and decorative street signs that have lost lettering over the years.
- While we wait for a new opportunity to present itself for the Kensington Road property, we plan to invest funds to repair the lot and make the area more aesthetically attractive.
- Lighting at the tennis court complex will also be upgraded.
- At some point in the not too distant future, we need to direct funds toward the refurbishment of our Public Works Facility. The building has not been upgraded since its 1942 construction and it is badly in need of repair as well as not meeting the needs of a 2010 Public Works operation.

Since the Trustees and I opted to forego a large capital improvement program this fiscal year due to budgetary constraints, the changes you will see throughout the Village in the coming months will be more modest but still significant to maintaining the beauty and safety of our Village.