

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting
Wednesday April 18, 2012
Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue, 7pm

At the March meeting, it was noted that National Grid would replace faulty gas pipes on Knowles Terrace. The residents on Knowles Terrace have had the problem of water getting into the gas pipes that then shuts down the pilot lights on furnaces, hot water tanks and stoves. Letters and phone calls to National Grid and NYS Public Service office got action and the pipes are being replaced.

Other news: Washington Avenue Extension is being rebuilt so that more buildings for NanoTech can be constructed. Though many residents expressed doubt that this was a reasonable use of \$26 million—the cost of moving the highway—it is happening. In addition, sound barriers on the Thruway near Woodscape—something McKownville residents have been requesting from the Thruway Authority for many years--will be installed in 2012 or 2013. Concerning the Holt-Harris property: nothing more has come from the real estate firm handling the property for the owners. Therefore, the proposal to create a woodland park on the 10-acre site is moot for the time being. The University is busy building a dorm, a business school building and other buildings. The field at the north end of Knowles is being excavated for its football stadium. A new sidewalk along Western is still in process of being designed. When will it be built---maybe 2012, maybe 2013--but the money is there along with the commitment by the Town and the State. The stakes with pink/red tags along Western Avenue---there is one near Dr. Esmay's ex-office and another near the end of Norwood Street—mark the State right of way—not the location of the sidewalk.

The Zoning Board's Hearing on Wednesday April 18, 2012, 7:30pm at Town Hall, will again consider the request for a home occupation on Providence Street. The applicant wants to operate a "garage-attic-basement cleaning-disposal service" from his home and park a trailer on his lawn for storage. At the recent Hearing, several neighbors sent emails objecting to the business and a neighbor and I spoke against it. Attend the Hearing or email your comments to cropseyd@townofguilderland.org or call 356-1980 and ask to speak to Don Cropsey to register your comments.

This month's meeting will be focused on storm water problems in McKownville and what can be done to reduce McKownville's flooding problems. In 2008, the Town and the McKownville Improvement Association cooperated in conducting a drainage (and sidewalk) survey of problems in McKownville. Over 200 Survey's were returned (the 31 streets surveyed have 693 homes). Some 53% of respondents reported property flooding problems and residents assumed (correctly, given the US Geological Survey data available) that the rising water table is a problem. Of the more than 200 respondents, some 40% have sump pumps, while over 21% have water proofed their basement walls, about 16% have regraded their property to reduce flooding, and more than 4% have put in auxiliary electric generating equipment to operate sump pumps when the electricity gets interrupted. One home has used sand bags to divert storm water from entering the basement.

However flooding is more than a basement problem—the storm water needs to be moved out of the neighborhood more quickly and that means the storm sewer pipes need to be improved. That is what needs to be addressed—how the neighborhood is going to get this done---and that is the focus of the April meeting.

Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood Street, 489-3909
Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Road 482-6081
Martha Haraus, Secretary, 1445 Western, 489-3855
Paul Haldeman, Treasurer, 5 Country Road, 456-9557

Sue Brown
6 Westlyn Place
482-2355

Bill Meehan
7 Country Rd.
456-4564

Alice Torda
2 Knowles Terrace
489-3613

Members of the Board

Janet Reilly
18 Norwood
446-1766

Jim White
8 Brookwood
459-9176

Ellen Manning
3 Norwood
482-3779

Marian Hoyle
22 Glenwood
438-6544

Angie Parsons
136 Arcadia
944-7311

David Shub
3 Parkwood
438-1547