

McKownville Improvement Association
Public Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn, 1442 Western Avenue

We enjoyed seeing many of you in person at our March meeting and we're looking forward to another good turnout on Wednesday, and to another full agenda. Biagio DelVillano from Delaware Engineering will update us on the status of the storm water drainage improvement project. Thirteen candidates are running for three open seats on the Guilderland Board of Education. The election will take place on Tuesday, May 17. The candidates will have the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves and tell us why they wish to serve on the BOE. Our last speaker will be MIA secretary Laura Barry. As many of you know, Laura has compiled lists of trees and shrubs appropriate for planting in McKownville, and posted them to our website. She will share a presentation that she has created highlighting the advantages of incorporating native plants into our environment.

In last month's meeting announcement we noted our sadness over the loss of a number of mature trees that once lined the streets of McKownville. We are beyond pleased to tell you that the Town of Guilderland is formulating a plan to preserve many of the trees throughout our town, and to encourage replanting of trees whenever possible. You will be hearing more about this over the coming weeks. In the meantime, the Town has for some time had a policy of planting native trees in our parks.

Our last meeting before we break for the summer will be held on Thursday, May 19. **For now, we continue to encourage you to wear a mask to our meetings.**

NOTE: We are grateful that a few people support the McKownville Improvement Association with occasional unsolicited donations, but I don't remember when we last asked our neighbors to contribute toward the cost of printing our flyers, paying for our website, providing refreshments for our meetings, and other miscellaneous expenses associated with running this all-volunteer organization. Without some additional donations our funds will be depleted by this fall. Donations in any amount will be very much appreciated. In fact, it seems to me that small donations made by a large number of neighbors may be the most meaningful way to keep an organization like ours going. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it off to any of the board members listed at the bottom of this notice, bring it to the upcoming public meeting, or mail it to our treasurer, Martha Harausz, 1445 Western Ave., 12203.

Supervisor's Update: Supervisor Barber will be away but provided a few community updates. The Highway Department will pave Mercer, Warren, Providence, Knowles, and Waverly, weather permitting, in late June after the school year ends to avoid conflict with buses. The Parks Department will soon install the new playground, bathroom, and other upgrades at Abele Park and install benches in Westlyn Court Park, which is now owned by the Town. National Drug Take Back Day takes place on Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Guilderland Public Library's auxiliary parking lot. Please take the time to responsibly dispose of unwanted prescriptions (remove identifying information from labels), over-the-counter drugs (no needles or sharp objects), and vape pens and e-cigarette devices (batteries removed).

Other news:

Caring Closet donations: At our March meeting Amanda Beedle spoke to us about The Caring Closet Guilderland, created to provide Guilderland students in need with personal grooming and hygiene supplies. On Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, volunteers will walk around McKownville, including Woodscape, and collect donated items that people leave outside their homes. The rain date is May 15. The volunteers have a lot of ground to cover, so it will be helpful if you let them know if you are going to donate items. To get in touch with Amanda, or for a list of items that are needed, please send an email to: TheCaringClosetGuilderland@gmail.com

Programmable Digital Signs: At their April 5 meeting, Town Board members unanimously voted to prohibit programmable digital signs, and the Town Code will be revised accordingly. (Thank you very much!)

Historic District: The State Historic Preservation Office has forwarded the 'McKownville-Country Club Highlands' nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places to the National Park Service. We anticipate that approval is now only a few weeks away.

Guilderland Historical Society: The Guilderland Historical Society meets regularly, and throughout the year hosts a variety of events pertaining to the history of our town. On April 21, McKownville resident Bill Kidd will speak about the history of McKownville and the Country Club Highlands Historic District. His presentation will include information about some of the early residents, and subsequent development that shaped the residential and commercial character of our neighborhood. The meeting will be held online. Further information about the GHS, and how to join the Zoom meeting, may be found here: <https://www.guilderlandhistoricalsociety.org/ghs-2022-programs>

Website: Our website (<https://mckownville.org>) contains a wealth of information about McKownville, the Association and ongoing projects, and links that may be useful to residents. The lists of recommended trees and shrubs may be found starting here: <https://mckownville.org/2projects/1trees/McK-trees-intro.html>

Subscribing to our email list:

A reminder: if you don't already subscribe to our email list but would like to receive occasional updates from us, please go to the webpage <https://mckownville.org/MIAallsubunsub.html> (or use the link to this form on the Meetings page of the website) and submit your request. Be sure also to respond to the confirmation email message; if this does not appear in your inbox soon after making your request, please check your spam/junk folder.

McKownville Improvement Association Officers and Board Members

Ellen Manning, President, 3 Norwood St., 482-3779

Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Rd., 482-6081

Laura Barry, Secretary, 3 Waverly Place, 813-9694

Martha Haraus, Treasurer, 1445 Western Ave., 489-3855

Richard Goldstein, 24 Warren St., 222-4434

William Kidd, 16 Elmwood St., 438-1151

Angie Parsons, 136 Arcadia Ave., 944-7311

Renee Parsons, 5 Waverly Place, 495-1554

Don Reeb, 5. Norwood St., 489-3909

Debra Trees, 8 Ayre Dr., 489-1519

Jim White, 8 Brookwood Ave., 459-9176

Wes Yang, 311 Ridgewood Circle, 458-2435