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Hi

This Sunday--January 11, 2004--there is a Board meeting of the McKownville Improvement Association at the McKownville Firehouse, 7pm. And there is a public meeting on Thursday January 22, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Express at 7 pm.

Before the McKownville news, my daughter and son-in-law who live in Providence , Rhode Island are expecting a baby on Saturday January 10, 2004--our first grandchild--so I may not be at the Board meeting. If the birth occurs on time the meeting will still occur----- with Bill Meehan presiding, assuming that he agrees.

Agenda----Thruway flyover, Western Avenue, blue house, the committee reports on sidewalks, speed limits, the pond, trees, the treasurers report, Kiwanis---and two new items--water problems in the basements of homes along the west side of Glenwood and not-for-profit status of the Association..

Thruway flyover----I received a response to my freedom of information request from the Thruway Authority. Rather than the 1280 pages and \$420 cost they had previously indicated, the Authority provided my request free of charge and in one page. The letter said it did not have any drawings to share, no information about air pollution and enclosed a few pages of data on accidents (data I had already seen that Todd Gifford had shared with me). So we still are being given nothing.

I will send letters to Assemblyman McEneaney and County Legislator Mary Lou Bartolotta Connolly thanking them for their offer to pay for the freedom of information pages from the Thruway Authority and explaining why the Association will not be needing the money along with a copy of the Authority's response. Copies of the Authority's letter will be sent to Senator Breslin along with thanking him for his interest and support and to Supervisor Runion and Todd Gifford.

I think that the Association need be prepared to begin a door to door petition drive to stop the flyover--along with letters to the newspapers and other public objections--but this all needs to be discussed at the Board meeting.

Western Avenue--nothing is happening yet though the Town is doing a great job on snow removal from the sidewalks. Blue house--nothing yet.

The reports from the committees will be the other agenda items.

Glenwood Street water--the basements of the seven or s homes closest to Western and several homes along Western in the block from Glenwood to Parkwood have been very bothered with basement water. The Town has checked the alley storm sewer pipes--they are not the responsibility of the Town but the Town has been generous in dealing with them--and they are not malfunctioning. The Town--Todd Gifford of the Highway Department and others--sent people to check several of the basements and the fire department helped in pumping out some of the basements. The storm sewer pipes are quite small in diameter--about 8 inches according to Ken Runion--so with a big runoff they can not handle the flow and it just goes elsewhere. Solutions?????. Eventually the Town will construct new storm sewers in the streets, like it did recently on Providence, Mercer and Warren, and then the problems should mostly be gone--but that takes lots of money and will not happen for a few years. In the mean time?????????

My neighbor and Tree Committee member Ellen Manning informed me that she checked the State Department files and found that the Association had become a 501-C-3 corporation--a nonprofit corporation--back in the 1970's. This gives us more of an official status. Additional papers to make us tax exempt need yet to be filed and that will be done shortly.

I asked Todd Gifford to be the speaker at the January 22 meeting and he said he would be glad to but that snow storms have a way of interfering with his plans so that he could not promise anything until he gets a better idea of the weather.