

July 4, '07

## What is McKownville?

McKownville, New York is about one mile square with 914 (mostly owner occupied single family) residences and 3,000 residents. It is bounded by the New York Thruway, the State University at Albany, the Northway (I 87) and the City of Albany and is located at the eastern end of the Town of Guilderland in Albany County. It includes portions of four major highways (Western, McKown, Fuller and Schoolhouse) while many of its other 39 streets dead end into the two interstates (the Thruway and the Northway), the Krumkill stream and the State University at Albany campus. Along the four major highways there are about 100 residences. The Stuyvesant Plaza shopping center serves the residents as McKownville's "downtown". The McKownville community is coincident with the boundaries of the McKownville Fire Department boundaries and includes several University buildings.

There are at least nine historic and/or architecturally important buildings in McKownville: a McKown home across from the Pub at 1245 Western, the Knowles family farm house on the corner of Knowles Terrace at 1261 Western, the Frank Lloyd Wright "prairie style" home at 1423 Western, the older home on the Holt-Harris property off of Norwood Street, the Davids' home at 1455 Western, the home that was once Dr. Mastrianni's office at 1461 Western, the Macomber residence at 1430 Western, and the Strassburg home and the accompanying old barn at 1 McKown Road.

There are (or will be) about 20,000 jobs both within McKownville and nearby—in Stuyvesant Plaza, on the campus of the State University, the Nanoscale College and CESTM on Fuller Road, the Harriman office park (after it is redeveloped), in medical offices, at several New York State offices and in various office buildings behind Stuyvesant and along Western in McKownville and just east and west of McKownville along Western Avenue. The Pyramid-Crossgates shopping center, another large employer, is nearby.

McKownville has 78 retail shops and restaurants (60 in Stuyvesant Plaza and 18 along Western in McKownville) and another 24 restaurants and retail shops within walking distance (in the University Plaza and near Homestead Avenue and Western in the City of Albany).

McKownville has the east branch of the Krumkill stream, which runs from the University pond then behind the Best Western Motel, and the west branch from the reservoir/pond at Stuyvesant then southeast behind BurgerKing and at the end of Brookwood, Arcadia and Hillcrest/Wood/Gaskill streets.

McKownville borders about 80 acres of open space at the end of Warren and Mercer (owned by the University at Albany) that also borders the Northway. Another large open parcel is on McKown Road near the entrance to Woodscape. Abele Park is our developed outdoor recreation site and the pond at Stuyvesant is slated to become another. The Pinebush and Rensselaer Lake are important nearby outdoor recreation sites while the State University campus is used by many residents for outdoor recreation.

The streetscapes—sidewalks and street side trees—as well as the homes make McKownville an unusually attractive neighborhood. McKownville has about a dozen “carriageways” or “alleys” in its older section.

McKownville is well served by CDTA, the Guilderland Library and School district, the Guilderland water district and the Guilderland Sanitary sewer district. For nearly a century, the McKownville Fire Department has protected our community.

CESTM, SUNYA, Harriman campus, the Thruway, the Northway, the Nanoscale College, the City of Albany and the Town of Colonie are readily accessible to McKownville residents and are assets and objects of concern.

Within the next four years or so, the McKownville Corridor Study will be implemented and the streetscape will be much improved with new or improved sidewalks, curbs, gutters and pedestrian crosswalk signals along Western Avenue, Fuller Road, Schoolhouse Road and McKown Road.

Written by Don Reeb, April 1, 2007, revised July 4, 2007.