

To: Doug Smith
From: Don Reeb
Agenda for September 19, 2007 meeting

This is too long—use what you want.

Officer Roger Ginder and Sgt Adam Meyers will be the guest speakers at the Sept. 19 meeting. They will have the time from 7pm until about 8pm. (They are going to propose a “women’s defense class”—so don’t be surprised.)

Recently there have been five safety problems in the McKownville—neighborhood disturbances at the end of Providence Street and at the end of Parkwood Street and vandalism of the sidewalk along McKown Road; (4) numerous vehicles cutting through the 1436 Western Avenue property (Germano’s Garage) endangering pedestrian’s and others along McKown Road and Western Avenue; and (5) speeding along McKown Road as well as Western Avenue and other streets in McKownville. These are the incidents that prompted us to ask the Guilderland police to come and talk with us tonight.

1. Tom Gebhardt from the University Police will help us out in patrolling the area at the end of Parkwood, since a portion of that area belongs to the University. The emergency telephone number for the Campus police is 442-3131 as well as 911.
2. The path from Parkwood onto the University has become much too wide and is in danger of becoming an access road for cars. John Giarrusso at the University said that the University would get some trees etc. planted in the area to narrow the path and prevent it from becoming a driveway into the University.
3. New residents. Using Town records, there were 23 home buyers in McKownville for the 18 month period January 1, 2006 to July 1 2007. This does not include purchasers in Woodscape or in the condominiums off Schoolhouse Road That is about one a month. There are about 750 homes in this section of McKownville.

4. Fraida Varah Real Estate (1414 Western) provided sales data for all of McKownville for the same time period. Her data indicates there were 32 home buyers in the older section of McKownville in this same period and 20 more in Woodscape and the condominiums. The later two sections contain about 200 homes.

5. It is interesting that home sales in Woodscape and in the condominiums near Abele Park occur much more often, proportionately, than in the rest of McKownville. This might suggest that McKownville contains two housing markets—one for longer term residents and another for those desiring more brief house ownership. McKownville welcomes both. And we welcome all 50 or so newer households to McKownville.

6. Surveyors stakes are out and about the McKownville Reservoir. The path behind the State University Psychology center has been improved quite a bit with tree chips. It is now a nice path for walking. The north side of the pump house has been defaced with graffiti but Bill West said that it would be removed. The construction near the reservoir is for Stuyvesant's sand and salt.

7. The refuse/trash at the bus stop near 1450 Western, which is also near the Burger King, is a problem. Anita Behn called to see if something could be done. NYSDOT and CDTA have been asked to help but no response as of yet. Mr. Runion said that he would try to get some answers also. Meanwhile the trash is being picked up by neighbors.

8. Mr. Runion convened a McKownville Zoning Task force last year and Steve Harausz, Mark Macomber and three Board members of the Association met frequently at town hall with Don Cropsey, Jan Weston and others and completed a 30 page report which the Town Board accepted. The report contained more than a dozen recommendations. Mr. Runion said recently that the Town will review and act on those recommendations, starting in October. Basically, the idea is to bring the Zoning in

McKownville into line with the Corridor Study which was completed in 2003. Copies of the Zoning Study are available .

9. The McKownville Farm Stand was a great success. It was open 6 days a week and people really used it. Everybody loved it and we have every reason to believe that it will be back again next year. Passonno has been very generous in permitting the Barber's to operate their farm stand on its property. So thank them if you get a chance.

10. The dentists at 1424 Western asked to meet with members of the Association to discuss a proposal to replace the two buildings at 1424 and 1422 Western with a new dentist office containing about 50% more space. We indicated that that was not acceptable and suggested that if they wanted a larger building it would be better if they relocated their practice to the old Denny's site—1512 Western—where it would still be in the neighborhood but there would be sufficient parking. The Denny's site already contains a commercial looking building. It is the strongly expressed desire of the Association to keep Western Avenue looking as much like a residential street as possible. The loss of another home would not be an improvement.

11. Alice Begley, the Town historian is writing a book on Guilderland and is looking for older photographs of McKownville. Her telephone number is 456-3032 or she can be contacted through Town Hall at 356-1980.

12. The palm reader building—1210 Western—is gone (along with the sign). David Quadrini, the owner of the building, said no decision has been made about its future.

13. The Zoning Board Hearing on the Shabbos House is taking place this evening. The proposal is for a 10,000 square foot (+5,000 square foot basement) building plus a front porch and a back deck with 5 parking spaces plus one handicapped space and 30 parking spaces “promised” by the University. The new part of the proposal concerns the storm drainage system. The County refused to permit the building to run its storm water into Fuller Road, largely because of the perpetual flooding problems on Western

at Fuller. Therefore the Shabbos is proposing to build a recharge basin on its property, under and next to the parking spaces at the rear of the lot. The Association is concerned about the size of the building, its design, the loss of an older home, the loss of privacy to the neighbor at 318 Fuller, the reliance on parking spaces which are neither owned nor leased by the Shabbos, the storm water system which the consultant has said "...it will need to be monitored regularly...", and the obvious difficulty in finding a reuse of a very large building without its own parking when the building becomes vacant (since all buildings eventually become vacant).

14. The Tree Committee has met—the order form is on the reverse of this month's flyer. **Call on Sue Brown, Sue Gutbezahl, Ellen Manning and Ricardo Lopez Torrijos.** Thank you once again for your hard work. Do plant a tree this year. It will help the environment, the neighborhood, and yourself.

15. We received 12 financial donations this year. Thank you very much. **Call on Paul Haldeman for a treasurer's report.** So we have more than enough money for another year.

16. Jim White and Steve Haggerty and the McKownville Fire Department and the Association will again be hosting another Halloween Party. If you have not attended one do come. The little kids are just overjoyed with the games and prizes and clown and treats and watching them have such fun will make you feel really good. You can volunteer, just contact Don Reeb or Jim White or any of the firemen. But do come and have some ice cream. Just so you know, the Fire Department pays for nearly all of the Halloween party---so do express most of your thanks to our McKownville Fire Department please. It has been helping the community for nearly a hundred years—putting out fires, pumping out basements, directing traffic on Western Avenue when it gets flooded once again, keeping the community safe and helping it have some fun from time to time, too.

17. The building at 1434 Western—the old Tusang-Barhydt building, looks much better. Hansen Flooring has done a nice job painting and decorating

the front and west side. Congratulations. Stuyvesant has also done some nice work redoing portions of its property along Fuller Road. McKownville is looking better.

18. The Schoolhouse Road work is in process as is the new building on the NanoTech campus. The Harriman campus has some new tenants but there is no announcement on the reconstruction of its road network.

19. The empty lot at 1257 Western, the former Garrison property, looks much better. The Town has been working to clear the dead trees and get it graded so that it can become a lawn that is easily mowed. The Fire Department elected Jim White to supervise its maintenance and use.

20. The sidewalks are in process. We probably should hold a parade along our sidewalks when they are finished—but it is wonderful to have them. If you do not realize that this is an historic occasion then you don't know how long McKownville has waited. The November 17, 1925 minutes of the Association indicates that sidewalks were a major concern (along with natural gas service, street lights, street car service, and drinkable water). A petition containing 276 names (190 adults) was sent forward by the neighborhood. They got some sidewalks, and we got some more. And it is great.

21. **Meet the Candidates** night will be held at the next meeting, October 17th. I hope that all of you plan to attend. Voting and elections is what it is all about—if you want better sidewalks, better storm sewers, better protection—in short, a better neighborhood—plan to vote. But first, come and ask questions and meet the candidates.

Doug—you may want to say something to Town Board Member Mike Ricard if he is at the meeting—about welcoming his family to McKownville—his two sons purchased the home at 43 Norwood Street and they will be moving in shortly.