

March 2009

McKownville, a Guilderland neighborhood of nearly a 1,000 homes, has suffered from flooding problems for many years. Local newspapers and television have made all capital region residents aware that the intersection of Western Avenue and Fuller Road, near Stuyvesant Plaza, is often flooded. Thousands of commuters have found themselves stranded on Western Avenue, Fuller Road, Schoolhouse Road, the Northway and other nearby roads during this flooding, despite the best efforts of the volunteer McKownville fire department and Guilderland police to set up emergency barricades and divert traffic. Additionally, more than one McKownville homeowner has had to rebuild damaged basement walls caused by storm water flooding. Dozens of homeowners regularly experience extensive basement damage caused by storms that overwhelm sump pumps and other responsible homeowner actions taken to protect their property.

Generally, our storm water problems have occurred along with a rising ground water table (nearly four feet since the early 1990's according to a local USGS test site). However, a deteriorated storm water piping system that was abandoned some 30 years ago, the capping of several local artesian wells, the construction of federal highways (the Thruway and the Northway), new commercial development (Crossgates, Crossgates Commons), and new State government development (the University, NanoTech, and the Harriman campus) in or bordering the McKownville neighborhood have undoubtedly added to our flooding problems.

Paying for a new storm water system through our property taxes would be prohibitive. It would make it very difficult for many of our modest income homeowners to continue to live in McKownville if they faced significantly higher property tax bills. That is why Guilderland Town Supervisor Ken Runion requested nearly \$6 million in federal Stimulus Funds be allocated for the building of the McKownville storm sewer system.

I hope that you will support this request and help guide the Stimulus Fund allocation process so that both McKownville residents and local commuters can look forward to a much needed storm sewer system in the very near future.

March 2019

Sen. Charles Schumer---Use the website <http://schumer.senate.gov>, then click on the "Contact Chuck" button, or his postal address is O'Brien Federal Building, 1 Clinton Square, Room 420, Albany New York 12207

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand--Use the website <http://gillibrand.senate.gov>, or her postal address is O'Brien Federal Building, 1 Clinton Square, Room 821, Albany, New York 12207

Congressman Paul Tonko--Use the website www.house.gov/tonko, then click on the "Contact Me" button, or his postal address is O'Brien Federal Building, 1 Clinton Square, Room 827, Albany, New York 12207

Sen. Neil Breslin E-mail Breslin@senate.state.ny.us, or his postal address is New York State Senate, The Capitol, Room 414, Albany, New York 12248

Assembly member John McEneny E-mail McEnenJ@assembly.state.ny.us, or his postal address is New York State Assembly, Legislative Office Building Room 648, Albany, New York 12248

This is my letter---it might help you write yours.

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

As you probably know, the Town of Guilderland Town Supervisor Ken Runion has applied for money from the Federal Stimulus Funds--about \$6 million--to rebuild the storm sewer system in McKownville, a neighborhood of about 1,000 homes at the edge of the State University at Albany campus.

We have severe storm water problems: more than one homeowner has had to rebuild basement walls caused by storm water damage. Generally our storm water problems stem from the rising ground water table (nearly four feet since the early 1990's), the deteriorated storm water piping system that was abandoned some 30 years ago, the construction of federal highways (the Thruway, the Northway, etc), commercial development (Crossgates, Crossgates Commons), and State government development (the University, NanoTech, Harriman campus). So you see--it was not all our fault.

Paying for the rebuilding through our property taxes would be prohibitive--it would make it very difficult for many of our modest income homeowners to continue to live here if they faced significantly higher property tax bills.

So please, help guide Mr. Runion's request for the Stimulus Funds through the allocation process so that McKownville residents can again feel secure about the future of their homes and their neighborhood.

Sincerely:

*Don Reeb, president, McKownville Improvement Association,
5 Norwood Street,
Albany, New York 12203*