

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2017—7 pm-9 pm
Hampton Inn, 1442 Western Avenue

The guest speaker for Thursday's meeting is **Guilderland Town Supervisor Peter Barber**.

As many of you may know, the owners of **Crossgates** have proposed the construction of a 200-bed motel on the site near Ted's Fish Fry on Western. While this land is not in McKownville it is of interest to us because a number of poor planning and implementation issues made by Crossgates in the past have hurt us as their neighbors. The dangerously designed ramp road from the Northway into Crossgates has been the location of at least one fatality and many accidents. This poor design is especially concerning at high traffic times, such as holidays, but it can also occur at random times. Storm water runoff from the mall resulted in changing what was once a lovely McKownville Reservoir into the stream we now have. One might ask, will we ever get our reservoir restored? As we consider this motel project what areas of concern and interest should our neighborhood focus on? Stormwater management, the results of expanded bus service to the mall, the attractiveness of the Western Avenue streetscape, improve traffic access from the Northway, these are a few of the areas that might concern us. Finally, how do we insure that this motel will not make this section of Western Ave more dangerous for pedestrians or vehicles.

The future of Sandidge Way continues to be of great concern to the neighborhood. Albany City has been considering rezoning the properties to permit the destruction of the eleven homes on Sandidge Way and construction of 173 apartments. Wednesday March 9, 2017 another hearing was held at Albany City building. McKownville residents once again testified that the apartment complex would cause problems—storm water runoff, traffic safety and congestion, inappropriate land uses in a single family residential area, congestion at the Tri-Centennial roundabout on Fuller, and this but adds to the strain on McKownville which is already threatened by future expansion of SUNY Poly and SUNY Albany. The Common Council committee delayed a decision. The date of a future meeting is unknown. **Other News.** The Wolanin trucks parked on his Pinnacle Place property have been removed though giant treads—possibly from old army tanks—are still there. The Town was asked to have them removed. Burger Fi restaurant to be built on the former Getty station site is still in process. The "Palm Reader" house near City Line Café is possibly slated for destruction and replacement by a commercial building. The Town will again convene a hearing on the proposal. The Holt-Harris property has not yet been transferred to SUNY Albany ownership from Albany Foundation ownership. Its planned use is still unknown. The neighborhood is still hoping that grant funds from the State that are needed for reconstruction of our storm sewers will be forthcoming. An auto repair garage is again available in McKownville—on the corner of McKown and Western. Several of the foreclosed homes in McKownville have recently been purchased and are now occupied and that is great news. Future meetings are scheduled for April 20, May 18, and June 15—each at 7pm in the Hampton Inn. Please come—vest with concerned neighbors—enjoy an ice cream sundae—and help your neighborhood.

Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood St. 489-3909
 Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Rd. 482-6081
 Ellen Manning, Secretary, 3 Norwood St. 482-3779
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