

# McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting

Wednesday March 28, 2012

Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue, 7pm

Since the previous meeting, on Wednesday November 30, 2011, the electronic sign requested by Stuyvesant was denied by the Guilderland Zoning Board of Appeals. As a flashing sign it was prohibited by the Guilderland Zoning Ordinance. We are please that the Zoning Board enforced the law as it is written.

It is wonderful that dozens of people wrote letters to express their opinions on the matter of the flashing sign. The significant number of citizens who attended and spoke at the Zoning Board meeting was also impressive. Community support and involvement is truly the key to keeping McKownville the type of community we are happy to live in.

The Holt-Harris property is still in the hands of the Holt-Harris inheritors. We know of no change in the owners' terms of sale. We can only hope that with time they come to see the benefits of working with the community.

The McKownville neighborhood did an unbelievably fine job of demonstrating to the University at Albany that we value our neighborhoods and are willing to work to maintain it in both size and quality. Hopefully, the clear action by McKownville residents will forever dissuade the University from buying and developing property in McKownville.

The University did announce that the football stadium--on the site of the Giants practice field--would go ahead. That site is in Guilderland but Town Zoning laws place no restrictions on State government property uses.

The sidewalk along Western is still in process of being designed. What a great day that will be when McKownville gets usable sidewalks on both sides of Western in McKownville. When will it be built---maybe 2012, maybe 2013--but the money is there along with the commitment by the Town and the State. Therefore, they are coming.

Drainage--storm water flooding---continues to be a problem. In 2010, The Town contracted Delaware Engineering to do a Drainage Study (it is available on the Town web page). We are fortunate to have such a good document to use as a basis for discussion. The proposed complete solution is of course very costly. Nevertheless, it is the belief of the McKownville Improvement Association's Board that we should try to take steps towards addressing this issue. It is clearly understood that an immediate or even projected complete solution to our storm water issues are not possible unless a great windfall of money should appear but as a community we should start thinking about what steps are possible. Drainage is a neighborhood problem and it needs neighborhood involvement and a group effort to work toward a solution. Come to the meeting on March 28, 2012 to join with your neighbors to begin a discussion on the issue of Storm Water.

The McKownville Tree Committee—Ellen Manning Chair—again provides the opportunity to buy trees for planting. The brochure is printed on the reverse side of this announcement. While McKownville has numerous trees they are more often than not located in the rear of the property rather than along the street—and it is streets trees that make a neighborhood much more attractive to neighbors and potential neighbors. If you have a place for a street tree, please consider planting one now. Thank you.

#### Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood Street, 489-3909  
Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Road 482-6081  
Martha Haraus, Secretary, 1445 Western, 489-3855  
Paul Haldeman, Treasurer, 5 Country Road, 456-9557

Sue Brown  
6 Westlyn Place  
482-2355

Bill Meehan  
7 Country Rd.  
456-4564

Alice Torda  
2 Knowles Terrace  
489-3613

#### Members of the Board

Janet Reilly  
18 Norwood  
446-1766

Jim White  
8 Brookwood  
459-9176

Ellen Manning  
3 Norwood  
482-3779

Marian Hoyle  
22 Glenwood  
438-6544

Angie Parsons  
136 Arcadia  
489-3616

David Shub  
3 Parkwood  
438-1547