

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting
Wednesday May 16, 2012
Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue, 7pm

This month's meeting is focused on storm water problems in McKownville and the proposal to create a **Drainage Special District** for a major portion of McKownville. It is felt that the formation of this district is necessary in order to get the storm water pipes and storm water catch basins in McKownville inspected, serviced, cleaned, maintained and repaired on a regular basis. This has not been done in the past, partly because of the lack of a **Drainage Special District** and many of the pipes and basins are located on private land.

The pipes were used to drain both septic tank leach fields and storm water. Since the installation of a sanitary sewer system in the 1970's the pipes and catch basins are used only for storm water drainage. The Town Highway Department services them in emergencies, but to limit Town liability it needs permission to do so when the pipes are on private land. The formation of a **Drainage Special District** would give the Town ready access to the pipes and catch basins.

Delaware Engineering in 2010 issued its Town of Guilderland financed survey of the drainage problems in McKownville. It estimated \$6.5 million to construct adequate drainage pipes and catch basins. Neither the Town nor McKownville property owners can afford this. The Town is looking for grants and has had some success. In the meantime, the best hope to reduce drainage problems in McKownville is to improve the maintenance of the present system of pipes and catch basins.

The Town of Guilderland in 2008 conducted a storm water survey of homes within the Association's boundaries, which are the same as the McKownville Fire District. Of the 867 homes in the district, 232 surveys were returned and half reported flooding problems. Of those responding 40% have sump pumps, more than 4% have put in auxiliary electric generating equipment to operate sump pumps when electricity is interrupted and 48% said a modest tax to reduce drainage problems would be acceptable.

Therefore, to maintain and improve the McKownville drainage system, the Association is proposing the creation of a **Drainage Special District with a tax of \$0.26 per thousand-dollars of assessed property value**. For a \$150,000 home, this would amount to a yearly tax of \$39.00. For a \$200,000 home, this would amount to \$52.00. No more than \$15,000 of the yearly revenue will be used each year for maintenance with the remainder deposited in a fund and used along with grant money for improvements as they occur. The district boundaries will be those of the McKownville Improvement Association and the McKownville Fire District but not including the following streets---Gaskill, Wood, East and West Dillenbeck, the Woodscape streets, Coralberry, Elderberry, and Strawberry. Their benefit from inclusion in the **Drainage Special District** would be too small to justify their paying the tax.

Finally, an election of officers and Board members will occur at the meeting---Alice Torda is serving as the nominations chair---to enter a nomination call Alice at 489-3613 or make the nomination at the meeting.

Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood Street, 489-3909
 Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Road 482-6081
 Martha Harausz, 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

Laura Barry
 3 Waverly
 813-9694

Angie Parsons
 136 Arcadia
 944-7311

David Shub
 3 Parkwood
 438-1547