

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting

Thursday March 21, 2013—7 pm-9 pm

Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue

Our first public meeting of 2013 should get us in the mood and ready for spring.

Sandra S. Walck, Garden Designer---will be our first featured speaker at this March 21st meeting. Sandra is a professional garden designer and has been working in the Capital District for 25 years. She specializes in using native plants and emphasizes using ecologically sound practices and completely organic materials. The most immediate place to enjoy Sandra's gardening design is around Creole Restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. She, also, works with the Pine Bush association. Sandra will give a short presentation and then she will gladly answer questions about the gardening challenges and opportunities that our area presents.

Storm sewers---after the petitions containing 406 signatures were delivered to the Guilderland Town Board the Town Board directed Delaware Engineering to prepare the necessary papers for filing the request with NY State to form a Special Storm Water Sewer District for McKownville. **Town Supervisor Ken Runion will speak at our March 21 meeting and answer questions about the proposed storm sewer district.**

Up-coming meetings ---Thursday April 18 and Thursday May 23 are the Association meeting dates for the remainder of this fiscal year. There are a number of community improvements we should discuss — a better pedestrian crosswalk light at Mercer/Fuller, lowered speed limits on Fuller Road and Western Avenue, a pedestrian crosswalk light at Knowles-Brookwood, an island, for safer pedestrian crossings, near the University entrance, and other improvements. Suggestions are welcome.

Ice cream sundaes will be served this week, so come early, bring a friend, enjoy yourself, and do your part to make sure that McKownville continues to improve as a community.

Now a bit of catching up on McKownville news:

It is with great sadness that we inform those who may not know that **Sue Cobb Brown**, a long time Association Board member from Westlyn Place, passed away in November. A moment of silence and a few brief comments about her extraordinary contribution to the community will be part of our meeting. In addition, the community will plant a tree in her honor in McKownville Park---the Tree Committee of the Association (Ellen Manning, Sue Gutbezahl, Laura Whalen, Janet Reilly, and Ricardo López-Torrijos) will conduct the tree planting ceremony. An email announcement will be sent when the dedication date draws near. The Tree Committee, which Sue helped to found, and its **announcement concerning trees for sale this spring**, is on the reverse side of this flier. Remember—a tree planted in front of your home is a benefit to you and your neighborhood.

Western Avenue Sidewalks--- the Western Avenue sidewalk design is in progress at NYSDOT. Construction could begin in 2014.

Stuyvesant's Flashing Sign---the electronic sign proposed by Stuyvesant Plaza for its Western Avenue entrance was denied by the Town. The Association argued that it would violate the Town's zoning ordinance on several grounds. We are pleased that the zoning regulations were upheld.

Stuyvesant Plaza---about one-half acre of land was provided to Stuyvesant Plaza by the Town through an easement in 2009 for construction of 26 parking spaces. This land borders (south of) TGIFriday's. The land had long been part of the McKownville Reservoir property. The Town Planning Board has discussed the parking plan and it was sent on to the Town Zoning Board; further discussion will occur at their April 3 meeting. Since the easement has been granted the discussion is now focused on issues such as lighting and other portions of the "Special Use Permit," a permit required before construction can begin on land uses involving businesses.

University and Nano-Tech---surely all residents are aware that Fuller Road roundabouts have been constructed and the University is busy building a new football stadium and other buildings. We are pleased to note that our best information tells us the ten acres of the Holt-Harris property is not under consideration by University for ownership and development.

Treasury--- we appreciate the nearly two dozen residents who responded to the request for donations to the Association. The Treasury now has \$330, enough for another year of operation. Thank you.

Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood St. 489-3909
 Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Rd. 482-6081
 Martha Harausz, Secretary, 1445 Western, 489-3855
 Paul Haldeman, Treasurer, 5 Country Rd. 456-9557

Members of the Board

Debbie Trees 8 Ayre Drive 489-1519	Janet Reilly 18 Norwood 446-1766	Laura Barry 3 Waverly 813-9694
Bill Meehan 7 Country Rd. 456-4564	Jim White 8 Brookwood 459-9176	Angie Parsons 136 Arcadia 944-7311
Alice Torda 2 Knowles Terrace 489-3613	Ellen Manning 3 Norwood 482-3779	David Shub 3 Parkwood 438-1547