

**McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting**  
**Thursday May 23, 2013—7 pm-9 pm**  
**Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue**

**The guest speakers for the May 23 meeting are Geoffrey Wood and Steve Taylor, from the New York State Department of Transportation, Region 1. They are the Director of Design and the Project Manager for the sidewalk project on Western Avenue in McKownville and Guilderland, from the University entrance to Rt. 155..**

This, \$1,000,000++, project will construct sidewalks on both sides of Western Avenue. The construction of the sidewalk on the north side of Western Avenue will begin in 2014 and be completed from the University entrance to Rt. 155 in that same year. The south side of Western Avenue will have its sidewalk constructed the following year (2015). This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the construction of the sidewalk in McKownville and let NYSDOT know what is wanted—better drains—curbs—bike lanes—sidewalks properly sloped for drainage--for example. The design is not finished so there is time to put forth concerns and requests.

**Storm water.** At the May 7<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting one agenda item was the **McKownville Drainage District**, the district petitioned for in the summer of 2012. To great surprise, Town Supervisor Ken Runion proposed that rather than forming a Drainage District the Town would allocate \$100,000 each year to the Guilderland Highway Department for repair and replacement of storm sewers. This would eliminate the formation of the district and the previously proposed special district taxes of \$0.26 per \$1,000. The expectation is that much of the \$100,000 will be used in McKownville, although it is for all of Guilderland. Supervisor Runion indicated the Town would continue to search for major grant monies to fund portions of the McKownville storm sewer project. Mr. Runion's proposal was adopted unanimously by the Town Board. Strangely, just prior to the Town Board Meeting many McKownville residents received a robo-call asking them to oppose the drainage district. It was sponsored by the Republican Party. At the Town Board meeting, no one opposed either the drainage district or Supervisor Runion's alternative.

**The "Sue Brown Oak Tree"** was planted on April 27, 2103 at the McKownville Reservoir Park. Ricardo Lopez-Torrijos, Ellen Manning, Jim White and Sue Gutbezahel made the arrangements and conducted the ceremony. Do visit the tree and pour a bottle of water on the roots. Nurturing is what Sue Brown did so very well and we need to nurture her tree.

In a related matter, the Association would like to **stop Stuyvesant Plaza from building a parking lot on .52 acres of the very parkland where the recent tree dedication was held.** Hiring a lawyer, picketing, writing letters to Town Hall and the newspapers, boycotting Stuyvesant Plaza, are among ideas being circulated within the neighborhood. The Town Zoning Board will be reviewing the proposal this Wednesday at a public meeting. **The ZBA meeting is at Town Hall on Wednesday May 15, 7:30.** At present, there are wooden stakes in the Park showing the position of the wall that will support the parking lot. This wall will be over 10 feet high, at points, and consume much of the grassy area on the north side of the Park. **Please come to the ZBA meeting or email Jackie Suidy—zoning administrator—"Jackie Siudy" <siudyj@townofguilderland.org>, indicating your opposition.**

Ice cream sundaes will again be served at the Association meeting on Thursday May 23rd—the annual election of officers and three Board members will be held, also—nominations should be directed to Alice Torda—at 489-3613.

**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**

Debra 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