

Wesley's World

AUGUST 2015

What's Keeping the Village Busy

From
Mayor
Marshall
Katz



Streetlights

The Village received an online petition requesting full street light coverage for Willow Tree, Wilder and Lime Kiln roads. The petitioners were concerned about being seen by cars on these roads at night as well as roaming black bears. In response, the Village looked into the costs of adding these lights (at least \$12,000/year) and reached out to the residents of the affected roads to make sure their opinion was considered. About 40 people contacted the Village in response to our outreach efforts with 2/3 against the addition of these lights.

On July 21st the Village held a meeting with residents concerning this issue at which many people spoke out both for and against the lights. Advocates for the lights talked about how streetlights enhance safety. Those against noted that reflective sashes or flashlights (as opposed to area lighting) highlight pedes-

trians against a dark background for greater safety. They also noted: a desire to keep the area natural; the rural nature of the Village; increased light pollution; the cost to the Village; and that bears are not deterred by lights.

The Village Board in considering the safety issue, reached out to the Ramapo Police for statistics concerning pedestrian accidents on these roads. We were informed that in the last 10 years there has been only one pedestrian accident on those roads, and it occurred at the lighted intersection of Juniper Terrace and Lime Kiln Road.

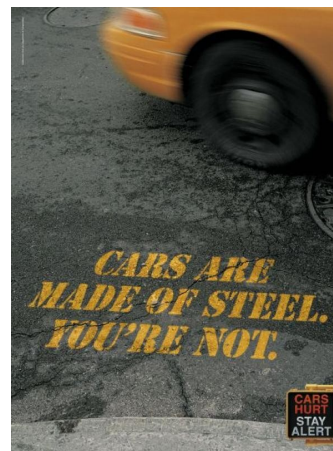
Due to the lack of evidence that the addition of these lights would enhance safety, and in the face of the objections of many residents who live on these roads, the Village Board decided to take no action on adding lights, but instead to conduct outreach to encourage the wearing of reflective sashes.

Reflective Sashes and Pedestrian Safety

As an outgrowth of the discussion on streetlights above, I delivered packages of reflective sashes to 13 synagogues in the Village along with a letter

requesting that their Rabbis or Presidents address their congregants concerning pedestrian safety. They were asked to focus on: wearing reflective clothing/using flashlights; using sidewalks where available; walking facing traffic; walking single-file when cars are approaching; protecting their young children who are walking with them; and not assuming cars can see pedestrians. They were also reminded that any Village resident can obtain up to 10 reflective sashes for free at Village Hall.

Of course, safety is not just in the hands of pedestrians. Drivers must be responsible and patient. At most a driver will lose a few seconds of time by driving safely and being patient, which is little to ask for in light of the lives that may be



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saved. Our Police have been asked to step up their patrols of the major roads in the Village at those times of day and night when people are walking on our roads.

Sidewalks

The Village is aware of the need for more sidewalks, especially on our main roads, and has received petitions asking for them. We conducted a study to determine the costs of adding sidewalks to one side of Wilder, Willow Tree, Lime Kiln, Grandview and Spook Rock roads and have pegged the amount at about \$5 million. I have reached out to our State Representatives for grant money to pursue these projects.

Our East Willow Tree Road sidewalk project for which we are receiving Federal grant money is moving along. After months of paperwork and waiting, we finally received all the approvals necessary from the Federal Government and New York State to insure that we will receive the grant

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Committee Forming to Address Issues at Greg Sikorsky Park

By Trustee Howard Richman

Last year the Village Board made substantial capital improvements to Village-owned Greg Sikorsky Park. The park is located on Lime Kiln Road just west of the Lime Kiln School. It has two ponds, walking trails, and a playground for our youngest residents. The Village spent about \$68,000 from our dedicated parks fund for the project. New fencing and new playground equipment was installed, and walking paths were refurbished. We now have a first class playground for our youngest residents and walking trails for all to enjoy.

We also have a commercial landscaping service that maintains the park and removes trash at a cost of \$825 per month, and professional inspectors that look at the equipment on an annual basis to determine if any repairs need to be made.

However, it has come to our attention, both from residents complaints and from our own personal observations, that some users of the park are abusing the facilities. We have received complaints of litter in the park. Also, trash receptacles are not being utilized, or if full on a weekend, trash is not being removed from the park by the users, but is just left on the ground to attract animals. Some of the equipment is being abused to the point that it is in need of repairs that far exceed normal wear and tear.

Mayor Katz has asked me to head up a committee of residents to tackle the problem. The goal will be to suggest to the Village Board a list of Do's and Don'ts for our park and have it codified so it can be posted at the entrance of the park and enforced by our Code Enforcement Officer if need be.

Please contact our village clerk, Camille Guido-Downey or myself at Village Hall if you are willing to

volunteer. I promise you that the endeavor will be rewarding in helping out our community, but not very

time consuming. I anticipate one or two meetings this Fall to accomplish our goals.



Fall Lawn Care and Stormwater Runoff

Don't leave lawn care until spring. Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn and control weeds. In fact, healthy lawns help area lakes and streams. Thick grass helps prevent soil erosion and absorbs rainwater. By soaking up rainwater, lawns can decrease the amount of stormwater runoff that funnels pollutants into drinking water supplies, lakes and streams.

Here's how to keep your lawn healthy in the fall:

- Mow your grass at a height of two to three inches.
- Even though it is cooler in the fall, lawns still need regular watering to maintain plant health and survive winter conditions. Water until the ground begins to freeze.
- Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn, specifically around Labor Day and right after your last mowing. Apply just before it rains to help save water.
- A soil test is a good idea, especially when concerned about acidity or nutrients.
- Remove a limited number of

weeds by hand or spot-treat with a herbicide.

- Sweep up and reuse lawn care products that fall on streets, sidewalks and driveways.

Here's how to recycle your yard waste:

Compost: Composting recycles nutrients and helps keep debris out of streets and stormdrains.

Mulch: You can use leaves, whole or shredded by a power mower, as winter or spring mulch spread two to three inches deep on top of shrubs and perennial beds.

Bag: If you must, rake and bag your leaves for pickup. Biodegradable bags are available for free at Village Hall, and the Village will pick up leaves for mulching on November 23, November 30, December 7 & December 14.

To learn more about backyard composting, soil testing and what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 845-429-7085.

With thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County.

Trash Survey Results – You Spoke and We Listened

In July the Village reached out to residents on our email list to ask them their thoughts on our current trash collection service provider, and changes to our service we might consider to save money. Over 230 people responded and most were in agreement on all the items surveyed.

In summary

- 88% of residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the current service;
- 83% are satisfied or better with our current contractor, Interstate Waste Services;
- 65% of residents want to keep sideyard pickup;
- 77% were not interested in switching to toter service (where you are supplied with a rolling garbage can that must be brought to the street each pickup day);
- 72% were not interested in switching to alternate week recycling;
- 81% were not interested in reducing pickups to once a week;
- 44% were interested in switching to monthly bulk pickup. However, since this change would not provide any significant savings, there is little incentive to consider it.

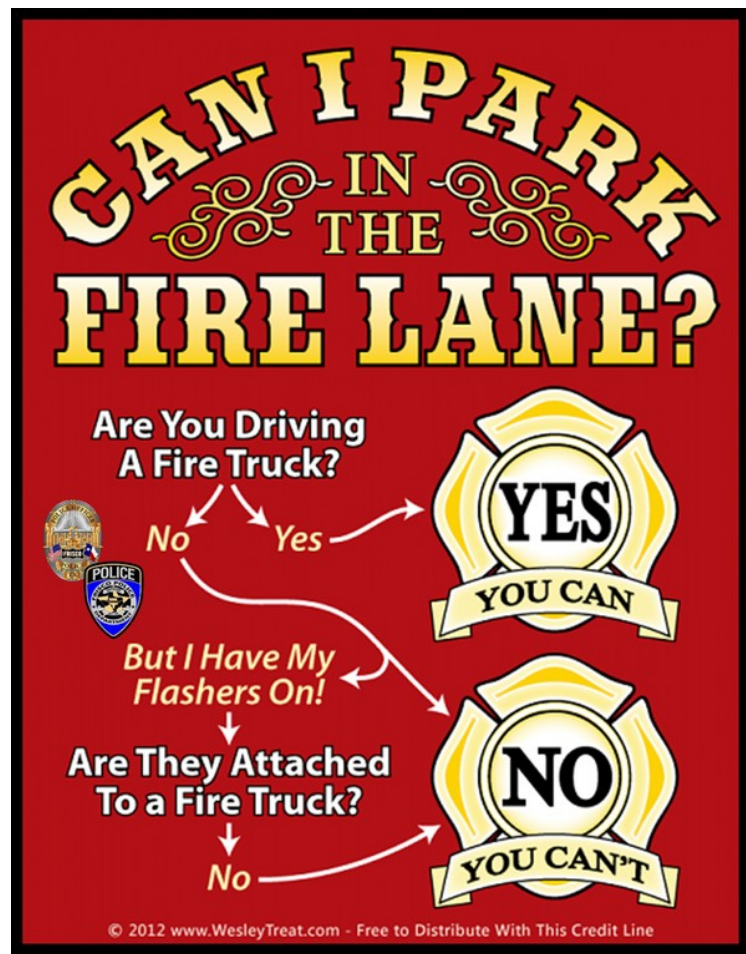
Full survey results including all the comments we received are posted on our website <http://www.ecode360.com/documents/WE3180/public/197791210.pdf>.

The Village has shared the survey results with our current contractor in hopes that they will use the information to do an even better job.

The Village Board appreciates all the feedback we received on this issue and will move ahead with specifying the current level of service as part of the bid package that will be put out later this year.



A Message From the Fire Department



Village of Wesley Hills

432 Route 306
Wesley Hills, NY

Phone: 845-354-0400
Fax: 845-354-4097

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #70
MONSEY, NY 10952

*Sign up for Village
Eblasts to get Village
announcements and
other important local
information.*

*Send a request to
mayor@wesleyhills.org*

WWW.WESLEYHILLS.ORG

FALL LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14



What's Keeping the Village Busy

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money that has been allocated to us. We signed a contract with HVEA, an Engineering Consultant which will run the project, and had a kickoff meeting with the State DOT. HVEA has already started the survey work which will be needed to determine which side of the road is the best location for the sidewalk, and will be needed to determine if right-of-way purchases or easements are needed. The clock has started ticking and we have until September 2016 to resolve any right-of-way issues and get an approval to proceed to construction or risk losing the funding. The Village will hold a public hearing on October 7th or

8th to get input from residents on the preliminary project plans. All East Willow Tree Road residents will receive written notification of this meeting. In addition, if you are on our email list, you will receive notification of this meeting.

Generator

We have installed a generator at Village Hall to be able to continue to operate for our residents during power outages. In addition to being able to keep Village Hall open and assist residents, we also hope that residents without power, heat or air conditioning will take advantage of the generator by visiting Village hall to charge their devices, warm up, or cool down.

