

Wesley's World

JANUARY 2015

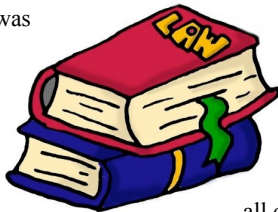
Village Laws Now Available on Your Computer and Mobile Device

Last month the Village took a major leap into the future when it completed a project that resulted in the re-codification of its laws in a user friendly, web-based format that makes our laws more easily accessible.

Since the Village was established in 1982, our laws have been updated on a periodic basis with additions and alterations which reflected technological, demographic, and environmental changes. For example, over the years new laws have been passed to deal with new technologies such as solar energy installations and cellular towers, demographics changes such as the need for different types of religious gatherings, and environmental issues such as updates to our wetlands laws.

Despite our best efforts over the years, these updates to

our laws introduced complications and inconsistencies as well as made it difficult to determine where in the law to find answers to questions from residents and contractors.



Our project working with General Code (our contractor), involved a complete review of

all our laws with edits to weed out complications and inconsistencies, a reordering of our laws to put each law in its logical location within the code, and reconciliation with updates to New York State Law with which the Village may have inadvertently been in conflict.

In addition to the general cleanup, the new law is now hosted on the Internet by General Code in a flexible, easy-to-search format that works on both desktop com-

puter and mobile browsers. There is even an app that can be installed on your Android or Apple device. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store by searching for "eCode search".

Inserted into the appropriate locations within the code you will find links to the various forms and checklists the Village uses for projects such as Building Permits.

Also available and searchable on the website are current and historical Agendas, Meeting Minutes and Village Budgets.

Our Village website www.wesleyhills.org has been updated to link with the Village Laws on General Code's site.

Going forward, General Code will continue to encode changes to our laws to ensure consistency and continue to keep our Village Laws easily accessible to our residents.

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VILLAGE SPECIAL ELECTION

NYS State Law requires that our Village hold a Special Election to fill the unexpired terms (ending March 31, 2016) for the positions of Mayor and Trustee currently being held by Marshall Katz and Ruth Ivey respectively who were appointed by the Village Board last August.

The election will take place Wednesday, March 18th.

Polls will be open at Village Hall from 6:00am to 9:00pm.

Any questions should be addressed to the Village Clerk

Wesley Hills Receives a \$1 million Grant

This past October the Village of Wesley Hills was one of four Rockland County proposed projects to receive a portion of \$70 million that New York State was granted from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program. The \$1,028,175 the Village will

receive is to be used to construct a sidewalk on the northern side of East Willow Tree Road from Route 306 to McNamara Road. In addition to the Federal funds, the Village will need to contribute 25% matching funds up to an additional \$342,725.

The Village applied for this grant in recognition of the large amount of pedestrians we have walking on our narrow roadways at all times of day and night. This project is a welcome addition to the recently completed, State funded,

Winter Fire Safety Tips

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn (combustibles) at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as furnaces, hot water heaters, fireplaces, woodstoves or space heaters.
- Have a three foot "Child Free Zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install/replace central heating units and or hot water heaters according to local codes and manufacturers instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year prior to use.
- Turn off portable space heaters



- when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a strong and sturdy screen to prevent sparks and ashes from flying into a room.
- Fireplace and wood stove ashes must be cool before removing them. Ashes must be placed into a metal container only and removed from the home. Place the metal container a safe distance from any building.
- Make sure you have a minimum of one smoke detector on each level of your home. One in each bedroom is also preferred.
- Make sure you have a minimum of one carbon monoxide detector

on each level of your home.

- Do not store flammable items such as gasoline, oils or propane inside your home.
- Develop and practice a Home Escape Plan with your family. This should include making sure your family knows at least two ways out of your home and a place to meet once outside.
- Never try and fight a fire! Always call 911 first!
- Avoid using extension cords for continued use. Extension cords are only for temporary use.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or multi plug adapters.

Chris Kear

Village Fire Inspector

*Stay Safe, Warm & Healthy
this winter season!*

Get to Know Your Justice Court

The Justice Court of Village of Wesley Hills holds sessions on the second Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. and fourth Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. of every month. The Court also conducts arraignments seven days a week, for all felony and misdemeanor arrests that occur within the Village of Wesley Hills.

The Justice Court has jurisdiction over a variety of civil, as well as criminal cases. Cases involving zoning violations, traffic infractions, small claims, summary proceedings, and criminal matters are heard in the Village of Wesley Hills Justice Court. The Court conducts hearings, bench trials, and jury trials.

The courtroom was constructed in March, 2001, and is one of the finest courtroom facilities in the County, and has greatly enhanced the administration of justice.

Judge Philip G. Schnelwar has been the Presiding Justice for the Village of Wesley Hills Justice Court since 1989. Judge Schnelwar had previously served as a prosecutor in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office for 17 years, where he was the Bureau Chief of the Major Offense Bureau, the Supreme Court Bureau, and the Homicide Bureau. Since 1988, Judge Schnelwar has had his law office in White Plains, N.Y., where he maintains a general practice of law that specializes in criminal defense.

The Honorable Michael Silvermintz has been the Acting Village Judge since June, 2014. Judge Silvermintz has in excess of 20 years of legal experience in commercial law and litigation. Judge Silvermintz is presently a real estate developer and investor.

Jayne Homyak has been the Clerk of the Justice Court since 2007.

If any information is needed concerning

the Village of Wesley Hills Justice Court, please contact the Court Clerk, Jayne Homyak at (845) 354-0404.

The Village would like to thank the following people/business who have donated services to the Village:

Rt 59 Gutters - Cleaned Village Hall Gutters

John Layne - Performed electric wiring for new Village Hall entrance

Classic Builders - Provided General Contracting for new Village Hall entrance

Please note, this is not an endorsement, but rather an expression of appreciation.

Stormwater and its Effects on Waterways

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns while picking up a variety of materials on its way. The quality of runoff is affected by a variety of factors and depends on the season, local meteorology, geography and upon activities which lie in the path of the flow.

What's the Problem

As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports pollutants to surface waters. Although the amount of pollutants from a single residential, commercial, industrial or construction site may seem unimportant, the combined concentrations of contaminants threaten our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies. Pollution conveyed by stormwater degrades the quality of drinking water, damages fisheries and habitats of plants and animals that depend on clean water for survival.

Pollutants carried by stormwater can also affect recreational uses of water bodies by making them unsafe for wading, swimming, boating and fishing. According to an inventory conducted by the United States Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA), half of the impaired waterways are affected by urban/suburban and construction sources of stormwater runoff.

Examples of Pollution in Stormwater

- Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can promote the overgrowth of algae, deplete oxygen in waterways and be harmful to other aquatic life.
- Bacteria from animal wastes and illicit connections to sewerage systems can make nearby lakes and bays unsafe for wading, swimming and the propagation of edible shellfish.
- Oil and grease from automobiles causes sheen and odor and makes transfer of oxygen difficult for aquatic organisms.
- Sediment from construction activities clouds waterways and interferes with the habitat of living things that depend upon those waters.

Careless application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers affect the health of living organisms and cause ecosystem imbalances.

- Litter damages

aquatic life, introduces chemical pollution, and diminishes the beauty of our waterways.

What can be done?

Significant improvements have been achieved in controlling pollutants that are discharged from sewage and wastewater treatment plants. Across the nation, attention is being shifted to sources of pollution, such as stormwater runoff, that are not normally treated by wastewater treatment plants. Stormwater management, especially in urban areas, is becoming a necessary step in seeking further reductions in pollution in our waterways.

The best way to control contamination to stormwater is usually at the source, where the contaminants can be identified, reduced or contained before being conveyed to surface water. More often than not, it's more expensive and difficult to remove the combination of contaminants that are present at the end-of-pipe where stormwater is finally discharged directly to a receiving water body. Sometimes, significant improvements can be made by employing best management practices, or "BMPs"

Homeowners should see to proper storage of chemicals, good housekeeping and just plain paying attention to what's happening during runoff events can lead to relatively inexpensive ways of preventing pollutants from getting into the runoff in the first place and then our waterways.



Wesley Hills Receives a \$1 million Grant

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Route 306 sidewalks as well as the upcoming County funded, Forshay Road project, that will bring sidewalks on Forshay road to the intersection (and soon to be traffic circle) at Willow Tree Road.

As a Federally funded project, the planning, supervision and coordination aspects of this project will not be simple. The planning process alone is expected to take a couple of years, so your patience is appreciated.

The Village is looking for additional funding for potential sidewalks on Willow Tree Road, Lime Kiln Road, Grandview Avenue, Wilder Road and Spook Rock Road. We have recently hired a Grant Writer to assist us in finding funding, asked our Village Engineer to develop rough cost estimates for various sections of sidewalks, and have met with State Senator Carlucci, and State Assemblyman Zebrowski to ask for their assistance.

Kudos to Village Trustee, Howard Richman, for his working in preparing the successful application for this grant.



Village of Wesley Hills

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

*Send a request to
mayor@wesleyhills.org*

WWW.WESLEYHILLS.ORG

LETS RESPECT EACH OTHER

Our roads are shared by pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Safety for all can only be ensured if we respect each other.

- Pedestrians should use sidewalks when available. They should walk single-file facing traffic when there are no sidewalks and vehicles are approaching. At night light reflectors or flashlights are a must on our dark streets.
- Cyclists should follow all traffic laws, ride with traffic, and single-up / move to the right when cars are trying to pass.
- Drivers should pay special attention to pedestrians and cyclists and give them as wide a berth as possible. At most you will lose a few seconds of time while being careful not to take a life.

Who's New at Village Hall



The Village recently hired David Santos as our acting Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Santos will be driving around the entire Village on a weekly basis to ensure compliance with our local codes such as property maintenance, signs, litter, parking, etc. He will also be keeping an eye on our shopping center to ensure safety by keeping the fire lanes clear as well as acting on complaints we receive from our residents.

Village resident Michael Silvermintz was appointed Acting Village Justice. He will be covering sessions at our Justice Court when Judge Phillip Schnelwar is unavailable.

