

Wesley's World

JANUARY 2016

For Safety's Sake—Please Slow Down!

From
Mayor
Marshall
Katz



Through my observations as well as from people who have contacted me, it is clear that our Village residents are not driving as safely as they should in their own neighborhoods.

This speeding problem is backed up by the traffic study mentioned in the article on page 3 concerning East Willow Tree Road.

I recently reached out to two of our neighborhoods with a letter pleading for people to think about how their actions could lead to tragic conse-

quences and to adjust their driving accordingly. I thought it might be a good idea to share the letter with the entire Village as the problem is not limited to just two neighborhoods.

Dear Residents,

I have received complaints recently from your neighbors concerning speeding cars in your neighborhood and I hope you will take this message to heart before tragedy strikes.

The vast majority of the people driving in your neighborhood are the people who live there and these are the people who are driving dangerously. We all tend to become comfortable with the roads with which we

are familiar, and drive on them faster than we would on unfamiliar roads. However, as you know, there are many pedestrians, children, adults and the elderly using your streets at all times of day and night and one of the best ways to ensure their safety is to slow down.

A Police Officer from the Town of Ramapo



Police Department who covers the Village recently told me that, "the vast majority of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Recycling Success	2
Village Revenue Insight	3
East Willow Tree Sidewalk Update	3
Farewell & Welcome	4

speeders are local residents." In addition, our Justice Court Clerk estimates that 85% of the speeding tickets in our Court were issued to our own residents. This supports the fact that this is a local issue that can only be fixed by our own residents making an effort to control their speed and prevent tragedies.

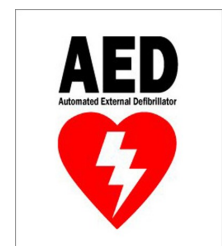
Mayor Marshall Katz

Automated Electronic Defibrillator Installed at Village Hall

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been installed at Village Hall in the hallway between the Senior/Community

Center and the Village offices. This is an electronic device that can be used to treat a person who has gone into cardiac arrest.

Village staff has been trained in its use. Hopefully, it will never be needed, but just in case, we are prepared.



Recycling Success in Wesley Hills

Recycling of paper and containers is not only the right thing to do for the environment, it also is a source of revenue for the Village. When you leave your recyclables at the curb in the **Green (commingled glass and plastic containers)** or **Blue (waste paper)** bins on Wednesdays, our trash contractor delivers them to the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority's recycling center where the items are weighed.

For every ton we generate, the Village is paid \$35, and those dollars add up! In 2013, the Village received \$13,159. In 2014, that number rose to \$16,472 and in 2015, we received \$16,555.

In terms of tonnage, in 2013 we recycled 411 tons, in 2014 471 tons and in 2015, 473 tons.

While we are not in competition with neighboring Villages, Wesley Hills is one of the top local recycling communities. In terms of tons of items recycled per person in 2013, Wesley Hills was in 9th place among the 18 Villages that are members of the Authority. In 2014, we moved up to 7th place, and in 2015, we have moved up to 5th place. In addition, the five year annual recycling tonnage increase for Wesley Hills is 23%. **Congratulations to all our residents and keep up**

the good work!

If you ever have any questions about what to recycle and where to recycle it, the Solid Waste Authority provides that information [here](#) and the Village has similar information posted [here](#). Of course you can always call the Village at 354-0400 or the Authority at 753-2200 to get answers to your recycling questions.



Keep Plastic Bags Out of Your Recycling Bins

Plastic Bags are a no-no in recycling. They cause problems in sorting and interfere with the efficiency of the recycling center. If you are looking to recycle your plastic shopping bags, many local supermarkets and home improvement stores have bins for them.

As of June 1st, the Village trash collectors will no longer collect recyclables that contain plastic bags or are put out in plastic bags.

2016 Hazardous Waste Weekend Drop-Off Schedule

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open for weekday drop-off service Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8am to 1pm at the Fire Training Center, 35 Fireman's Memorial Drive, Pomona.

These are the dates the center will be open for weekend drop-off (also 8am-1pm)

March 12th

April 10th

May 7th

June 5th

July 9th

August 7th

September 17th

October 16th

November 5th

December 4th

Insight into Village Revenues (or Besides Property Taxes Where Does the Money Come From)

Wesley Hills, with a budget of nearly \$2 million, does its best each year to lighten the property tax burden on our taxpayers by bringing in money from other sources.

Here are just a few of the funds we have or will receive this fiscal year (amounts indicated as received are at 7 months into our fiscal year):

New York State or Federal Funds:

- CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) and Extreme Winter Recovery funds from New York State to repair our roads - \$49,090 budgeted \$63,255.45 (actual NYS allocation)
- AIM (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities) - \$17,000.00 budgeted, 16,602.00 received
- State Senator Carlucci has obtained a \$50,000.00 grant for the Village, \$10,000.00 of which will be applied to the generator that was installed at Village Hall and the balance of which will go to offset some of the Village's share of the costs of the East Willow Tree sidewalk project.
- State Assemblyman Zebrowski has obtained a \$12,000.00 grant for the Village for repairs to our Senior/Community Center.
- The Justice Court Assis-

tance Program awarded the Village a grant of \$1,535.00 to replace the DVR for the security camera system at Village Hall.

Rockland County:

- Sales taxes – The Village receives a share of the Rockland County sales tax - \$100,000.00 budgeted, \$56,762.00 received.
- Recycling revenues (see the recycling article on previous page) - \$17,000 budgeted, \$16,555 anticipated.
- Mortgage tax – the Village receives a share of the Rockland County Mortgage Tax - \$80,000.00 budgeted, \$93,116.77 received.

Wesley Hills Generated:

- Taxes on Utilities and Cable Franchises that are granted use of the right-of-way owned by the Village to deliver their services to our residents - \$124,000.00 budgeted, \$90,047.77 received.
- Fines levied by the Justice Court - \$43,000.00 budgeted, \$31,380.00 received. These funds are budgeted to cover approximately 60% of the cost of running our own Justice Court.
- Fees related to construction in the Village such as Safety Inspections, Road Openings, and Zoning and Planning Board applications - \$108,500 budgeted, \$94,469.68 received. These funds are budgeted to cover

about 85% of the salaries and fees paid to our Building Clerk, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector and Village Engineer (though some of the Engineer's expenses are not specifically related directly to construction projects, bringing the coverage percentage from these fees up).

- Rent for Cell Tower at Village Hall - \$33,000.00 budgeted, 19,475.89 received.

East Willow Tree Sidewalk Project Update

Even though construction has not started, significant behind the scenes work has been taking place on the Village's East Willow Tree Road Sidewalk Project. Our Engineering Consultant has been hard at work completing a Draft Design Report which was recently submitted to New York State and has been posted on our website [here](#)

The report describes the project at length, shows a proposed plan, an environmental review, traffic studies and accident data. In addition, a public informational meeting was held on October 8th, and the Village Board has completed and submitted a required environmental review of the project.

On the positive side, the survey work that was conducted indicated that the project will not require the Village to make any right-of-way purchases which will hopefully allow us to come in under budget and will speed up the project.

On the negative side, the traffic study noted that vehicle speeds on East Willow Tree Road regularly exceed the 30mph posted speed limit with many people traveling at 45mph. Please slow down for safety!



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**Upcoming
Village Election
March 15, 2016
6am—9pm
at Village Hall
Positions up for
vote:
Mayor
2 Trustees**

Farewell and Welcome

The Village would like to bid farewell to the following residents who have served on our boards:

Dr. Willie Bryant, a long serving member of our Zoning Board of Appeals who served from 1983 to 1992 and again from 2007 to 2015 retired from the board for health reasons and has since passed away. Dr. Bryant had a longstanding reputation of service to both our Village and in the wider community, a tradition that is being continued by his surviving family members.

The Village appreciates his long service and extends condolences to his family.

The Village thanks Cheryl Klein, and Orin Ben-Jacob who served on the Planning Board from 2014 to 2015, and Jacob Joshua Herbst who served on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2014 to 2015.

The Village would like to welcome the following residents who joined our boards this year:

- Dennis Dale – Zoning
- Joe Moskowitz – Planning
- Marilyn Blocker – Planning
- Menny Schwab – Zoning