

## Things are Getting Brighter in Wesley Hills

From  
Mayor  
Marshall  
Katz



The Village Board is always looking for ways the Village can save money without reducing services. Here are some projects that have brightened things up considerably.

At Village Hall we took advantage of an opportunity presented to us by Orange & Rockland (O&R) to upgrade all of our indoor light fixtures from incandescent and fluorescent bulbs to brighter, more efficient LEDs. This \$6,118.63 project covered 118 bulbs and fixtures in Village Hall and 100% of the cost was picked up by O&R. O&R calculated that this project will save the Village \$579 each year in electricity costs. In addition to the savings, the work environment for our employees was enhanced with the elimination of the flicker and dimness of the 15+ year-old fluorescent lights.

Another, more lucrative, project with O&R, replaced our old parking lot lights with LEDs. The old Metal Halide lights

were expensive to operate and maintain. Each time a bulb or ballast went bad the Village faced charges of up to \$700 to bring in an electrician with a bucket truck. The replacement project cost \$9,274.27 and O&R picked up 24% of the expense leaving the Village spending only \$6,743.61. O&R calculated that this project will save the Village \$1,968 per year giving us a pay-back period on the project of 41 months. The new fixtures also come with a 10-year warranty, so it will be many years before the Village faces another repair bill.

A third project, currently in process, concerns our streetlights. In addition to the cost of electricity, the Village pays O&R a monthly fee to lease streetlights. A couple of years ago I looked into the 2 options O&R offered for LED streetlights, but due to the high

lease costs, the Village would have spent more money each year for every streetlight we upgraded, despite the electricity savings. These rates were a strong disincentive for the Village. In light of Governor Cuomo's initiative to reduce electricity usage in New York State, I contacted the State Public Service Commission (PSC) about this issue. It turned out that the PSC had already opened a rate



case. So, I added my comments and analysis to the case record. The PSC recently came through, and O&R is adding 6 more LED options at monthly lease prices that reduce costs.

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O&R is also mandated by the PSC to allow the Village to replace up to 2% of our streetlights each year at no cost. With 305 streetlights, this comes out to 6 per year. I suspected that many other municipalities in O&R's service area do not take advantage of this program, and asked if O&R would allocate some of the unused upgrades to the Village. O&R came through in spades, offering the Village 192 replacements, or almost two-thirds of our inventory. This will save the Village around \$10,000 per year at current electricity rates.

In addition, the Village Board passed a resolution to join a program that allows O&R to replace any other streetlights that fail with LEDs at no cost to the Village.

## In Memoriam—Robert Frankl

By Marshall Katz

Our first Mayor, Robert (Bob) Frankl, passed away last month. The flag at Village Hall was flown at half-staff for a week in honor of Bob.

In memory of Bob, I wanted to share with you my comments, and those of Trustee, Ed McPherson:

*It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Robert (Bob) Frankl who served as Mayor of our Village from its inception in 1982 through December 2007 when he handed over the mantle to David Goldsmith. Even after retiring from public life, Bob's love of our Village continued. He would call me from time to time to ask how the Village was doing or to comment on something he read about in the Village newsletter or an email I had sent out. I will miss those calls. The sympathies of the entire Wesley Hills' community go out to the Frankl family.*

Marshall Katz, Mayor

Village Trustee, Ed McPherson, who has served on the Village Board from its first meeting in 1983 through today, had these words to say about Bob:

*Mayor Bob Frankl epitomized Wesley Hills. He was our founding Mayor and served us for more*

*than a generation. He had a profound effect on the development of our Village.*

*Bob and I were a generation apart; his defined by the Korean War, and mine by Vietnam. Bob was my friend, mentor, and*

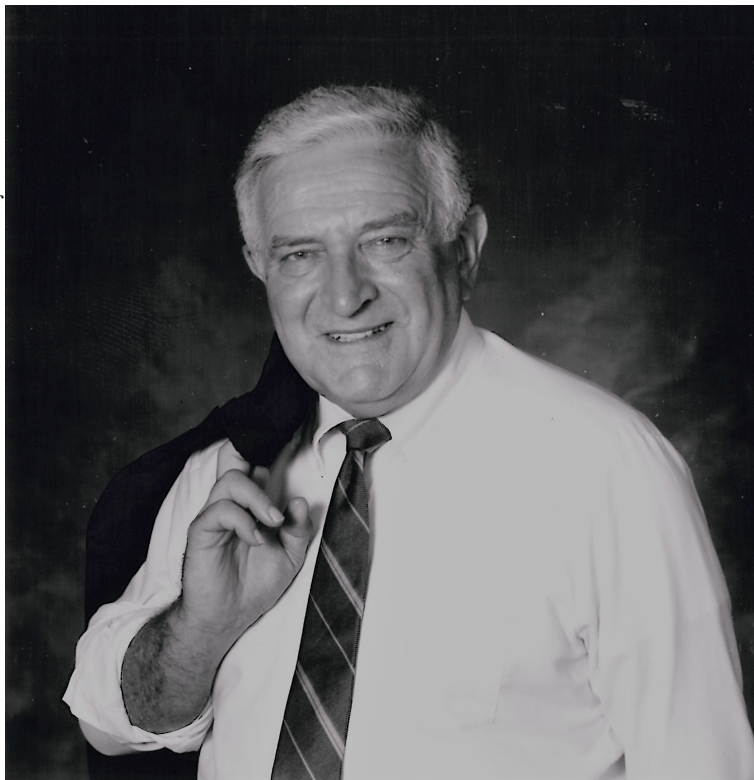
*emulation. Bob was an important participant in this process and in large part it defined his life. The 'success' of Wesley Hills as an attractive, viable, and desirable place to live is a testament to Bob Frankl's work and accomplishments as our Mayor.*

*I extend my sympathies to the Frankl family on their loss. They needn't feel sad, but should feel proud of the person he was.*

Ed McPherson, Trustee

I received a number of nice emails from residents who knew Bob and wanted to share their thoughts:

- *Thank you for the respect shown to our own past & loved Mayor Robert Frankl. He indeed was one fine gentleman, and also served his country proudly. My family and I extend our sincere sympathy to his family and to many of us who were a part of the Founding and beginning of our cherished Village of Wesley Hills.*
- *Thank you very much for your honor of Mayor Frankl. We are friends with his son Steve and let him know about your heartfelt newsletter about his dad. He was a special man, and as you stated, he did so much for Wesley Hills.*
- *Bob was a special man that had a tremendous love for*



*teacher. Always calm and reasonable, he listened to what I said and never criticized, but kept me focused. I actually spent more time in my adult life with Bob on the Village Board than I did with my own father. Bob imparted his wisdom subtly, often by what he did not say. I have come to appreciate his method and kindness.*

*Many brilliant and dedicated people, most of whom were volunteers, worked to establish and guide Wesley Hills and helped to make our village an example for*

continued next page

*Wesley Hills. While he and I often sparred (and rarely agreed), we were always able to shake hands, smile at one another and find a path forward. His kind manner and generous spirit will be missed by all.*

- *A good Mayor and a Nice man he married my son & daughter-in-law in the Village Hall.*
- *Your news about Bob Frankl's passing has deeply saddened me. We moved in to Doe Drive in 1966, thus we shared the inception of the Village of Wesley Hills, and shared its history during the following decades along with Bob. We lost touch after he*

*retired from the Village, but I had an additional, closer, connection with him. He was related (cousins?) to my very good friend, Dr. Peter Herman. I have known Rhea, his lovely wife, and if I recall correctly, one of their daughters was my daughter's classmate. I just recently heard that sadly, Peter Herman also passed away a couple of weeks ago. Rhea and I went to his wife's funeral together a few years ago.*

- *I knew Bob Frankel as well and always found him to be warm, friendly and extremely kind. Our children were in school together through Ramapo High School. His*

*wife Rhea was active in the PTA and that is where we became friendly. My deepest sympathies to Rhea and family. Bob was one of the group who worked hard to form our Village and it is a testament to all who did, that we have a serene and peaceful place to live.*

- *Bob Frankl was always available to the members of our Pomona Heights community. He was a friend as well as our Mayor.*
- *Any of us founding residents will remember his availability and humility. How fortunate that we had such a leader at our beginning.*

## Sidewalk Update

The installation of sidewalks on the north side of East Willow Tree Road from McNamara Road to Route 306 is rolling along. The



work began mid-April at the McNamara end of the road, and has already progressed as far as Arcadian with drainage, wall construction, curb installation and sidewalk construction taking

place. Further up the road, Orange & Rockland has been moving utility poles that are in the way and Suez will be moving a fire hydrant. Construction is anticipated to be completed this September, with landscaping work being done during the following Spring.

In other sidewalk news, the Village was disappointed to learn that we were not chosen for a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to continue the sidewalk along the north side of Willow Tree Road from Route 306 to Wilder/Forshay. The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), which was involved in the awards process, noted that the applications across the State

for this round of funding far outstripped the availability of funds. Fortunately, the DOT was willing to share the details of the review of Wesley Hills' application with the Village. We received many pointers on how to improve our chances in the next round of funding which is expected in 2018. The Village Board has decided to make some investments that will improve our chances of being chosen next time.







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*Sign up for the  
Village Email List*

*Send a request to  
[mayor@wesleyhills.org](mailto:mayor@wesleyhills.org)*

[WWW.WESLEYHILLS.ORG](http://WWW.WESLEYHILLS.ORG)

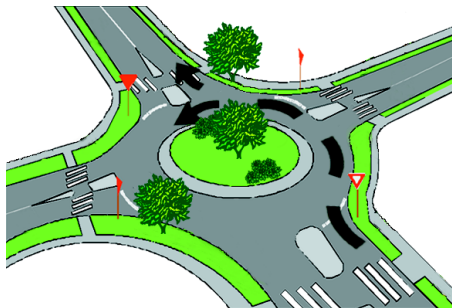
## Use of Greg Sikorsky Park by Groups Requires a Permit

Village Law requires that groups of 15 or more who want to use our park apply for a permit. The application may be picked up at Village Hall or downloaded from our website. The fee for a permit is \$100 and requires a certificate of general liability insurance. Permits can take up to 7 days to be processed. The penalty for violation is \$500 per offense.

If you see a group without a permit using the park, you can notify the Village during our office hours or call the Ramapo Police at all other times.

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

## Roundabout 101



The roundabout installed by Rockland County at the Intersection of Willow Tree, Wilder and Forshay Roads has been praised by some of our residents and panned by others. Regardless of your feelings about the roundabout, it's there and not going away soon. Therefore, it behooves us all to understand how it works and navigate it safely.

The New York State Department of Transportation has a brochure on the use of roundabouts at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/regional-offices/region10/repository/roundabo.pdf>. Below is a summary:

- Upon approaching the roundabout, stay to the right of the median island and **SLOW DOWN** to 10-15 mph. Be sure to look for cyclists merging into the travel lane, and yield to pedestrians at the crosswalk.
- Before entering the roundabout, **YIELD** to traffic on your left in the roundabout. Remember to be prepared to stop if there is not a sufficient gap in circulating traffic.
- **ENTER** the roundabout when there is a sufficient gap. All traffic is moving in a counter clockwise direction.
- **CONTINUE** slowly around the roundabout. Do not pass bicyclists ahead of you in the roundabout, as your speeds should be nearly equal.
- Use your right turn signal and **EXIT** the roundabout carefully. Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk, and stop for them.

The general operating principle is **YIELD-AT-ENTRY** to traffic already in the roundabout and pedestrians in the crosswalk.