

***November 2, 2015***

In the most recent Mayor's Message, I updated our residents about the solution to one of the major drainage issues affecting our Village. The Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Village and Nassau County discussed in that Mayor's Message is long awaited and welcome news. The drainage improvements that the Inter-Municipal Agreement provides will allow all our neighbors in the West End bordering Belmont Park to quietly enjoy their homes and property without the constant threat of flooding.

Addressing that drainage problem is part of our long term plan to address all of the drainage and road problems in our Village. Last June, during another public information forum, we introduced our proposed multi-year road improvement program. It is the intent of the Village that through the use of short term, low interest financing, together with gradual and incremental increases in the funds the Village dedicates to road repair, the Village will continue to improve our roads and drainage, thereby alleviating the need for extensive, temporary repairs.

The first phase of this multi-year program is being rolled out now. This past September the Village solicited bids for three road and drainage projects involving Lowell Avenue, Raff Avenue and the intersection of Cedar and Hickory Streets. The Village Board recently awarded this \$1.9 million contract for road and drainage improvements to Valente Contracting Corp.

Lowell Avenue and Raff Avenue will be reconstructed in their entirety in the Spring. The major drainage project, at the intersection of Hickory and Cedar, will alleviate an equally long awaited problem. This is one of the lowest elevated intersections in the Village and the subterranean drainage piping lacks sufficient size to efficiently convey water off the street: During severe rain events, this slow run off causes severe ponding and soon flood waters creep up driveways into basement windows, flooding residents' homes in the area. The engineered solution for this problem has been known for years—the size of the drainage pipe that conveyed water from this intersection needed to be increased from 18 inches to 30 inches. What was preventing the implementation of this proposed solution were approvals by the Nassau County Department of Public Works. The County needed to analyze any additional velocity and volume of water into the drainage infrastructure that would result from increasing the size of the pipe that flows from the intersection so as not to negatively impact the existing drainage balance. The drainage water flows from the intersection to larger piping under Cherry which then conveys these drainage waters to the Plainfield Drain then southerly to recharge basins downstream and Jamaica Bay.

Recently, through the consistent, tireless advocacy by the Village on behalf of our neighbors and residents of Cedar and Hickory, we were finally given permission to increase and replace the 18 inch pipe, which flows under Hickory to Cherry, with a new 30 inch pipe. Prior to these proposed improvements all water flowed from the West End and the South Side to the Plainfield Drain. Therefore, it was important to mitigate the amount of water entering the Plainfield Drain, or the areas at Zinnia and north to Clarence and beyond would be subject to additional significant

flooding. The development of the new recharge basin at Belmont Park, relieving drainage water entirely from the equation, was the most vital component of this combined solution. This new recharge basin will relieve millions of gallons of water from the existing drainage infrastructure. By reducing water volume in one area a greater velocity of water may enter the Plainfield Drain from another without negatively impacting the areas around the Plainfield Drain especially those areas north of Zinnia. In fact, by reducing the water volume entering the system upstream, the flooding which has occurred several times downstream at the Town of Hempstead Senior Housing Center, new apartment complex and the shopping center just south of us at Plainfield and Elmont Road will be mitigated as well. This solution is the best and most effective regional solution to a decades long problem for several communities. While we may have waited a long time, good things come to those who wait and I am confident that the Dvirka & Bartilucci design will improve our quality of life today and will be enjoyed for generations.

The mobilization work has already begun and installation of the subterranean drainage piping will begin the second week in November. Some curb work and apron work on Raff will begin in the first week of November. In the Spring, work on both Lowell and Raff Avenues including new subsurface road installation, new asphalt wearing surface, new curbs, sidewalks, driveway aprons, trees and restored and/or new drainage work will be installed.

Other major road reconstruction projects are planned for successive years. This multi-year road reconstruction plan is an ambitious plan, but one I am confident we can complete with your continued support. The tax cap has greatly compromised our ability to engage long range planning, but to continue to ignore our roads is neither sound practice nor a sound economic plan. By addressing these and other needed road rehabilitations now, we will save future dollars in continuous temporary road repair. The improvement to road drainage mechanics today will extend the life, beauty and enjoyment of our new roads well into the future.