

October 28, 2015

I am very pleased to report that the Village has just cleared yet another hurdle in our plan to address the drainage issue that has plagued the West End of Floral Park for decades. On October 19th, the Nassau County Legislature approved an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Village whereby the County has committed \$1.75 million towards the Village's plan to build a recharge basin for stormwater runoff on the state owned property at Belmont Park. I want to thank Nassau County Legislators Richard Nicoletto and Vincent Muscarella for their support and guidance in getting this agreement approved by the Nassau County Legislature.

As anyone living in the West End near the border to Belmont Park can attest, there is a clear need for an additional stormwater retention facility for stormwater runoff from roadways within the Village of Floral Park as well as stormwater from the Village of Bellerose and Bellerose Terrace. When there is a major rain event, flooding in this area is common. The Village previously commissioned an engineering study by Dvirka & Bartilucci which identified the construction of a new basin near the existing basin on the property of the State owned land operated by the New York Racing Association at Belmont Park as the most viable solution for addressing the need to provide additional stormwater retention.

Approximately a year ago, I reported that the Village received written confirmation from County Executive Ed Mangano's office that Nassau County was committed to entering into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Village to provide funding for the construction of a new basin and related drainage work at this location after permission for this construction was received from New York State.

Armed with that support from the County (and with an identified funding source), the Village then proceeded, with the support of Senator Jack Martins and Governor Cuomo's office, to obtain the necessary approval from the New York State Franchise Oversight Board for a five acre easement on Belmont's property for the recharge basin. The Village obtained that approval last Spring and since then we have been working with the County Attorney's Office with regard to drafting and finalizing the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement.

Although obtaining approval from the County Legislature of the Inter Municipal Agreement is certainly an important step in this process, it is still not the final step. Now, with the Inter Municipal Agreement in place with the County, our engineers, Dvirka & Bartilucci, can prepare the extensive engineering plans for the recharge basin and the piping that will connect certain Village streets to the recharge basin in Belmont. These engineering plans must be submitted to the State Office of General Services for review and approval. Once approved by OGS, the Village should then receive final approval of the easement for the recharge basin and can then finally solicit bids for the project and, ultimately, construct the recharge basin.

It certainly has taken several years and a tremendous amount of effort to get this important project even this close to fruition. A cynical observer might point to this as an example of government dysfunction. I would disagree however. Although certainly a laborious process, at each step of the way the Village has had the good fortune of being able to rely on the support, advice and

advocacy of our state and local elected officials as we all work together, across political lines, to address a clear need to alleviate a problem confronting our residents.