

**COPY OF SAFETY LETTER THAT MAILED TO ALL
VOB RESIDENTS THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 07, 2009.**

December 07, 2009

Re: 2009 Year End Safety Update

Dear Neighbor,

As many of you know, Safety in Brookville has been my No. 1 Priority. Whether it's vehicular safety, school bus safety, bicycle, jogger and pedestrian safety, you're Village Trustees, Board Members and Staff continues to be proactive on this very crucial subject.

As the year comes to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on actions we have taken over the past 12-18 months to promote and improve safety in Brookville.

In September 2008 and again in February 2009, we had two Village Trustee Meetings devoted specifically to (1) addressing traffic accidents (2) speeding and (3) general safety concerns within the borders of our Village.

Dozens of residents turned out to discuss these issues and what could be done about them. Attendees at these meetings included our OBPD Chief Maurice Sullivan, State Senator Carl Marcellino, Assemblyman Rob Walker and NYS DOT Regional Engineer, Frank Pearson. We wanted them to hear first hand about our safety concerns – and we thank them for all their continued help and support.

The biggest item on the agenda was Cedar Swamp Road/ Route 107 and the safety hazards it too often presents. (Although we like to think of Route 107 as a two-lane “residential” road, it is in fact, a NYS owned and operated major road that cuts through our Village from north to south and over which we, as a Village, have no control other than to express our concerns to NY State officials.) A number of thoughts and ideas were generated at those two meetings and since then, the following

(over, please)

Action Steps have been taken:

1. **NYS DOT Traffic Surveys Conducted On Route 107.** The NYS DOT surveyed Route 107 for the purpose of determining length of time residents wait to exit from side streets onto the road...average speed of motorists as they traveled Route 107 ... possible road conditions causing accidents... and finding solutions.
2. **Traffic Lights Re-Calibrated To Create Traffic “Gaps” Onto Route 107.** One of the solutions was to create “traffic gaps” on Route 107 by adjusting the timing of lights, which in turn slows traffic. Although this has resulted in more “gaps,” unfortunately, it has also increased the number of slow-speed, rear-end collisions on Route 107.
3. **Initiative To Reduce Speeding On Route 107.** I’m sure you have all noticed that the OBPD has stepped up its Speed Surveillance, issuing more tickets to drivers who don’t adhere to the 40 MPH speed limit. Ticketing is up substantially over last year. Police presence also acts as a reminder not to speed. The OBPD anticipates that speeding will decrease as motorists get used to the idea that Route 107 is a highly patrolled roadway.
4. **Grants For 2 Electronic Speed Monitors Received.** Proven to be a non-invasive, effective way to reduce speed, Assemblyman Rob Walker loaned us a monitor that was installed on the northbound side of Route 107 until we could get a Grant for two new monitors. This is now underway and we expect to have these two monitors in place on Route 107 within the next few months. In addition, the Village purchased a third portable monitor that will be set up on Brookville Road and that can be moved to different locations on an “as needed” basis.
5. **Repair Work On Route 107 At Woodedge Lane.** The NYS DOT’s survey showed a higher than normal accident rate during wet weather at this location. They agreed to install new drainage and to re-grade the road at this site. Work is underway. The NYS DOT expects the job to be completed within the next 45 days.
6. **Accident Rate on Route 107:** To date, there have been no fatalities on Route 107 in our Village during 2009. As stated above, the accident rate has actually increased slightly due to the timing change of traffic lights. A review of recent accidents indicate a vast majority are now slow-speed, rear-end collisions occurring during peak traffic times and, according to the OBPD, can be attributed in many cases to driver inattention (cell phones, texting). Both police and NYS DOT traffic engineers anticipate that as motorists become accustomed to the new traffic flow patterns that these types of accidents will decrease.
7. **New Signage At Route 107 & Northern Blvd.** We suggested, and NYS DOT agreed, to install signage at this intersection to encourage motorists to travel west on Northern Blvd. to Glen Cove Road for the fastest way to 495W. This has been completed.
8. **Preventative Care For Our Community Of Trees.** You may have noticed cutting, removal and pruning taking place on our Community of Trees along the Village “right of way.” We are taking this preventative action to reduce the potential of dead trees and limbs from falling on our roads.
9. **Our Swift Reach 911 Program Is Now In Place.** Carlos Castillo, our Village Emergency Manager, and Winnie Citarella, our Deputy Clerk, spearhead this program through the Town of Oyster Bay. SR911 is a computerized telephone calling system that can be used to notify you of an emergency situation such as a severe storm, evacuation or a dangerous situation. Over 80% of our residents are registered for SR911. We have already used this service for Heavy Road Work Advisories and Safety Courtesy Messages.

10. **Our Road Staff Work Year Round.** The pruning, cutting and clearing of trees, bushes and foliage that obstruct sightlines and vision on our roads is a never-ending job for outdoor staff, Richard Holdcroft and Alan Robbins. In the winter, they are the ones who put out the sand barrels/scoops on every street corner for emergency use. The Village owns light snowplow equipment and sanders that they use for early snow clearing and light storms. During heavy storms, we also supplement their work efforts with contract snow removers. And during road emergencies, Richie and Alan are on 24-hour call.
11. **Safety Follow Up.** Our Village Staff make safety a year-round issue and each person deserves a big round of thanks. Ellen Collins, our Village Clerk, has spent long hours following up with the NYS DOT, with Assemblyman Walker's office, and the OBPD – all to make sure that nothing “falls through the cracks.” Tim Dougherty, our Building Superintendent, has worked tirelessly in an effort to repair and correct problems along Village roads. This summer, boulders were removed and portions of Brookville Road were repaired, re-graded and re-surfaced to improve safety conditions. (You will recall that we had nearly every road in the Village repaired or repaved just five years ago.) And Angela Mannino, our resident liaison, handles questions regarding safety matters and makes sure they get to the proper personnel.
12. **Safety Is No Accident.** An informed motorist seems to be our best line of defense. If we truly want Safety to be our No. 1 Priority, than this message must be one that is carried by every Village resident. And to that end, I welcome any ideas you may have on how to increase safety on our roads, to reduce speeding and to improve our accident rate. No idea too big or too small. Please email me your thoughts to: mayor@villageofbrookville.com

One final note: A number of years ago, the NYS DOT wanted to convert Route 107 to a 4-lane, limited-access highway similar to Route 106. The DOT mentioned that again as a possible solution to our current problems. In the past, Brookville residents resisted this idea, as it would have totally changed the character of our Village.

As I continue to talk to residents, it seems that resurrecting this old idea is still in **strong disfavor** as it would increase traffic... increase speed limits... and increase serious accidents (not to mention the land that would have to be confiscated by the State, the hundreds of trees that would have to be removed and the inconvenience of a road under construction for years). Again, I welcome your thoughts on this subject.

Before closing this letter, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy, Healthy & Safe Holiday Season and year ahead. Thank you for electing me as your Mayor. I consider it a privilege to serve our community.

Sincerely,



Caroline Z. Bazzini
Mayor

Please email me any thoughts/comments to: mayor@villageofbrookville.com