

Dear Friends,

What's more appropriate for your Village Trustees to be asking than "How are we doing?"

The late Mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, got it. The purpose of government is to listen to the people. This is the philosophy we have adopted at Village Hall. If you call you will be heard. If we can fix a problem we will, if not, we will work on it. You have a very responsive Board and village staff. You can schedule a meeting with the Mayor.

Here are some of the more difficult concerns heard from residents.

"Deer are eating my hostas!" Yes, they are eating my plants as well and I spend time and money spraying with repellants. Spraying, of course, just chases them to another garden and doesn't really solve the overall village problem. The DEC came to Village Hall and talked about controlling the deer population. Most of the control ideas have safety problems, are too costly, or just don't work very well. For the moment, we have taken the position of watching how the deer problem is handled on the East End, where the deer density is higher and the problem more serious.

"My road is in need of re-paving!" We plan to resurface each year as much as we can afford. We have to prioritize and do what fits the budget. This means please be patient.

A portion of Moriches Road was repaved this year, adding to the section repaved last year. We also repaved Farm Road and Harbor Hill Road. Your tax money, approximately \$200,000 of it, was spent on repaving this year. Asphalt and labor are expensive. To conserve tax dollars our highway department does the prep and the after-paving work.

"Cars and trucks speed dangerously!" If you walk a dog or jog, push a baby carriage or ride a bike on one of our narrow, winding roads you know all too well that this is a problem. Runners clubs, motorcycle groups and bicycle clubs use our roads. Sometimes people dangerously walk with their backs to traffic, sometimes a bicyclist doesn't move over to wave you by. And - we are in a hurry! Yes, sometimes it's the residents of the village that drive too fast. We all do it, it's really hard not to speed on some roads especially on the roads with a down slope. We ask all residents to please drive safely along our village roads.

"If I need the village police why do I have to dial 911, even if it's not an emergency?" This is just the way the system works today, and I know some feel uneasy dialing 911. Tell the 911 operator you live in Head of the Harbor and need a Head of the Harbor policeman. Frankly, our police are on duty to respond to your calls, this is what they do. Please use 911 for any timely response. If you call the office phone, the police will eventually get the message, but there will be a delay. Our police are normally out on patrol, and a 911 call is the only way to reach them, for any reason, not just an emergency.

Please continue to visit our web site, www.villagehohny.org. and sign up for the Alert System.

Warm regards,

Doug

Douglas A. Dahlgard
Mayor