

Supervisor Brian Kulpa's December 2021 Column



The popular holiday song goes, “All I want for Christmas” and as I watched my children writing their letters to Santa, I thought about my wish list for the Town. It is an infinite list, one of numerous projects and initiatives. One such project is improving the safety of the town’s crossroads that are heavily trafficked as a cut-through to avoid busy thoroughfares. The town is focused on a multi-step approach to addressing this longstanding issue.

Cut-through traffic is a problem on many roadways, notably Oakwood Drive, Brompton Road and Park Club Lane. The Dana Heights community and Burroughs Road residents also struggle with this problem. The town was designed with major arterial roads running east and west, such as Main Street, Sheridan Drive and Maple Road. However, there is a lack of north and south running roadways designed to allow for good traffic movement. So when the certain roadways get congested, motorists bypass those, abandon their route and find a neighborhood street to cut through.

Not only does this bring a large volume of traffic to residential areas, motorists just passing through accelerate quickly and speed down these streets. This creates a dangerous situation for families, children pedestrians and other motorists. In frustration, I’ve seen neighbors work together to erect “Drive Like Your Children Live Here” warning signs along their street, hoping to appeal to drivers to slow down. In another effort, I met with residents on Park Club Lane to walk the roadway, to not only hear their concerns but see them firsthand. From there, the Town funded a study that will assist us in fixing the problem.

The Town is currently running several traffic studies to determine next steps to addressing the issue. We expect to have data and results in early 2022 that will guide us in implementing traffic management improvements. In the future, we can apply successful tactics to additional streets.

In addition, the town will be pushing the New York State Legislature to amend New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) to allow local towns to control the speed on town roads. This issue has been petitioned before by communities around New York State and is supported by the Association of Towns. Currently, New York State Department of Public Works sets speed limits. That is not the best way to serve residents. We need to have that control here at the town level. We shouldn’t have to be stuck at 30 MPH on these streets that have documented cut through issues. One suggestion for addressing the cut-through issue would be to drop the speed limit to 20 MPH, but NYSVTL and DOT has not been in support of that, which is why we should have local control.

The Town will also continue to push for funding from the infrastructure bill to be used sidewalks and other safety measures. I have been and will continue to work with State Legislators to bring change in Albany that will have a significant impact back here in our homes.

Safety is always a priority, and I look forward to reporting on the success of these projects soon. For now, drive safely, especially as the weather turns to winter, and have a very happy and healthy holiday season.