

McKownville is threatened by flooding problems

To the Editor:

For those readers who attended the Thursday, July 22, meeting at NanoTech concerning the Fuller Road-Washington Avenue intersection reconstruction being proposed by Albany County, you heard about 90 to 150 persons raise questions about pedestrian and bike-rider safety, noise from the proposed bridge to be constructed and its maintenance costs, the difficulty of persons living along Fuller Road to enter the highway with an uninterrupted stream of traffic that will result when the building of several roundabouts along Fuller Road occurs and the problems of CDTA [Capital District Transit Authority] passengers gaining access to potential bus service along the corridor.

Then you heard Steve Janack, vice president at NanoTech, create a diversion by attacking me, Don Reeb, claiming that I was completely unaware of the stormwater problems in McKownville. While no one had mentioned McKownville's stormwater problems before his attack, I responded with an explanation that is worth repeating, as best as I remember my remarks.

McKownville, as a sustainable neighborhood, is threatened

by flooding problems. These emanate from the paving over of acres of land in the vicinity of McKownville beginning in the 1950s — Stuyvesant Plaza and its office buildings, Crossgates and Crossgates Commons, the Thruway, the Northway, the University at Albany, and NanoTech.

The latter not only was built on vacant land near McKownville but then it directed its stormwater, which had been going north into Patroon Creek, to the south and into McKownville. Repeated requests to NanoTech to get its stormwater out of McKownville have gone unheeded.

Assemblyman [John] McEneny at the Thursday night meeting suggested that, with the reconstruction of the Fuller Road-Washington Avenue intersection, the contractors could redirect the NanoTech stormwater away from McKownville and back into the Patroon Creek where it belongs. The suggestion was ignored by Janack.

McKownville needs help — stormwater has already destroyed the foundation of one McKownville home. Is it that hard for NanoTech to become a responsible neighbor and get its stormwater redirected back

north where it belongs?

The one thousand homes in McKownville are at risk. Please help convince our elected officials that the threat is immediate and serious. Call or write Assemblyman Jack McEneny, Senator Neil Breslin, County Executive Michael Breslin, County Legislator Frank Commissio, Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings, and Governor David Paterson that McKownville is worth preserving.

The redirection of the stormwaters north by NanoTech would cost pennies in comparison to the \$14 million or so slated for the reconstruction of the intersection.

Much help is needed and Guilderland has commissioned a stormwater survey so that we can begin to work through the solutions to our flooding problem—but getting NanoTech stormwater out of McKownville is one important step.

I can forward your message to the elected officials, if that is more convenient. My e-mail address is donreeb@gmail.com
**Don Reeb, President,
McKownville Improvement
Association**

Editor's note: See related story.

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