

Conversation with the Mayor July 2, 2007

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This Has to be Said

Usually these columns pretty much write themselves. (You suspected that, didn't you?) They get organized in my head and then I start to type. My goal is to keep you informed as to what is happening in the Village in the areas which may not be covered by the newspapers. I want you to know about the good things that are happening in this wonderful little community. Sometimes, however, you need to know about situations and problems which together we can address.

We are at the beginning of a long and, from the looks of it, a good old fashioned hot summer. The kids are out of school and looking for something to do. 98% of them have found a place to be and things to do that will entertain them and keep them happily occupied until Labor Day. It is the other very small group that we need to come together about. There has been a rash of so far minor incidents, primarily trespassing and property damage. You may see it happening and many of you have called Chief Dalton and asked that the Village Police do something about the situation. Rarely, however, will anyone sign a complaint. Without that complaint, the officers' hands are tied and there is nothing to prevent the damage from happening again. The few kids responsible for the damage get away with it and, too often, repeat it.

Am I looking to lock up our young teens for the summer? Absolutely not! What I would like to see is that they learn that there are consequences for their actions. If you break the law, and trespassing and intentionally damaging someone else's property, is breaking the law, there is a price to pay in one way or another. I have always thought that if a child is to get in trouble better it happen when he or she is younger and can learn from it. Once they reach the age of 16, it is an entirely different situation. In some cases, it is a life changing situation, and not for the better. Bottom line: We are not doing our young people a favor by not holding them accountable for their actions.

I ask you also to be aware of, for your own safety and theirs, the boys who have taken on a new game which is literally life threatening. It is a variation of the game chicken, only in this case, one player doesn't know he or she is playing. The boys will wait at the side of the road until a vehicle is almost in front of them and then make a mad dash on foot, bike or skateboard across in front of the oncoming vehicle. This has been reported to us by a number of people. I had a bicycle cut in front of me on a side street, but reports of incidents on Main and Canandaigua Streets, where there is much more traffic, have come in. Remember all the talk about the trash trucks? I wouldn't want to see a trash truck hit a youngster on a skateboard. Nor would I want to be the driver of a truck or car involved in this 'prank'. If you see this, report it. Not only is dangerous and dumb, it is illegal.

The Chief has asked me to remind parents that children under 14 are required to wear bike helmets, ones that fit properly. Why the helmets? To protect the riders from serious

injury. The serious, cross country cyclists, mainly adult, all wear them for exactly the same reason. Our kids should, too. Fun shouldn't end in the Emergency Room.

While I am on this tangent. No anonymous letters. The newspapers won't print them and the Village Board cannot, in good faith, give them any credence. Their content may be accurate and important, but without a signature, they will not accomplish their goal.

But to end on a lighter note: Highway Superintendent Mike Boesel asked me to let you know that there is mulch available at the Town Barns on Kent Street. Bring your containers and help yourself. He reminds us also that you can bring brush and yard waste to the barns rather than wait for the regular monthly pickup. Bring some, take some. Your yard will look better for your time and effort.