

Sewerage Authority offering some help

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The residents of Monroe Street returned before Boonton's Board of Aldermen with more questions and concerns about the recent construction project being conducted on the road. Chiefly, they worried that the project might take even longer than the original end date, which still remains May 31. Now, they say, there has been a three-week period where no work has been carried out by the contractor.

"We've made some suggestions," Monroe Street resident Leon Doty said, "and all were denied. I wish we had gotten one reason for certain things that happened, and we didn't."

Present at the meeting were both the executive director of the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority (RVRSA), Edward Ho, and the senior manager for the contractor, Frank Kendrick. The latter was able to explain the three-week pause in construction that ended on May 6.

"I don't want to pretend that I'm giving you excuses," Frank Kendrick said. "The rates that we're experiencing with the sewer flow that's coming off the dual 24-inch siphon force main underneath the expressway brought a lot more flow in because of the recent rain events that we've had and the thaw from colder weather."

While it is a sanitary system, Kendrick explained, any kind of run-off and rain events will cause leakage in ground water that goes into manholes, cracks, and any laterals that contribute to the system. The three weeks allowed the contractors to reanalyze what kind of

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JOSEPH UNTERKOFER

Boonton resident

sewage pumps they'll need to work efficiently and prevent overflow.

Finding parking spaces and bringing in groceries is still a struggle for those who live on the side where the three large pipes are raised. This is where key frustrations lay for many residents living on Monroe Street.

To this, Kendrick offered aid from one of his employees, James Pringly, who was instructed by the senior manager to help residents on Mondays and Thursdays to carry trash cans over the pipes and then return them once the contents of cans are emptied into the garbage trucks.

He also advised the meeting attendees to go to Pringly if they need something carried over to their properties.

"The good news is, even though you did have this unexpected delay, you're back on schedule," Monroe Street resident Joseph Unterkofler said. "What more can we ask for? You people have done your best to make sure we're not going through July or August and that you're going to be done by the end of May."

Unterkofler also commented that Ho had been very helpful to residents.

"Ed Ho basically, of all the people we've talked to, has given us straight answers," Unterkofler said. "A week ago at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I was coming home in my car filled with heavy articles. I parked there at my house in front of the pipes. I turned around and there was a blue vehicle with high capacity flashers on, and Ed gets out and says, 'Joe, you don't have to take anything out of your car. I'm going to unload it for you.' And I had some very heavy packages."

Kendricks also added that he has contingency plans if unforeseen weather events cause enough trouble for construction to halt, but the senior manager was confident that it should still end by the original date.

The next meeting of the Boonton Board of Aldermen will be held on Tuesday, May 31.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PIERFRANCESCO BACCARO

The new sewer pipe installation project in Boonton has turned Monroe Street into a one-way road. Residents also have to traverse across provisional "foot bridges" to get to their homes.



A labyrinth of sewer pipes line Monroe Street in Boonton as the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority installation project is under way. It is expected to be completed by June.