

# Village of Scarsdale



*Jonathan J. Mark, Mayor*

*Stephen M. Pappalardo, Village Manager*

*Matthew J. Callaghan*

*Carl L. Finger*

*David S. Lee*

*Deborah Pekarek*

*Marc Samiwick*

*William Stern*

*Office of the Village Manager*

*Scarsdale, New York 10583*

*914-722-1110*

*Fax: 914-722-1119*

*www.scarsdale.com*

March 14, 2016

Mr. Bruce M. Freyer  
25 Autenreith Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Dear Mr. Freyer,

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 9, 2016 regarding the resurfacing of Autenrieth Road. Regarding the validity of the stated paving of Autenrieth in 1999, our records indicate that the entire road was resurfaced from Popham Road to Church Lane including the Oakwood triangle. I was not present at the time of the work and accept your questioning as your prerogative. Relative to sounding the alarm on road resurfacing, the increased capital spending in this area over the past few years indicates the prioritization of this work. Funding for road resurfacing represents the single largest reoccurring expense in the capital budget, with \$1,285,000 and \$1,535,000 appropriated in FY14/15 and FY15/16 respectively. An amount in excess of \$1,000,000 is proposed for the FY16/17 capital budget as well.

Funding at these levels is not without consequences, as determining which capital projects to fund in the context of available non-property tax revenues and acceptable tax rate increases, is an annual exercise of forced choices with many worthy and necessary projects deferred. Over the next few years, major infrastructure rehabilitation work is necessary on the Heathcote Road Bridge (\$1.5M), sanitary sewer system (\$3M), water storage tanks at Garden and Ardsley Roads (\$2.3M), various stormwater flood mitigation projects (\$6M) and the Public Library (\$12M). The Village uses a combination of cash transfers from the General Fund, borrowing, grants, special reserves and dedicated fees to fund the capital budget. The cash transfer from the General Fund is proposed at \$1,464,900, which has a direct impact on the tax levy and tax rate increases which equate to 3.7% and 3.69% respectively. Since reporting publically on the FY 16/17 budget, a number of residents have expressed their concern to the Village Board and administration that these tax increases are too high, and further cuts or greater use of fund balance as a revenue be used to decrease the burden on the taxpayers. I mention this not to diminish your concern for the paving of Autenrieth Road but to place it in context with the entire budget and capital needs of the Village as balanced with the concerns of the taxpayers.

Additionally, please be advised that the Village Board has been very involved in the budgetary decisions relative to road resurfacing and much discussion has taken place over the past 3-5 years on this subject. The current funding levels are the result of that public discourse. I'm sure Mayor Mark will get back to you with his own thoughts. As for your presence when the Village Engineer inspects Autenrieth Road, I will ask that he contact you at the appropriate time. As I stated in my previous letter, the roads chosen for resurfacing are based on our pavement management survey and the visual observations of our Public Works and Engineering staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Pappalardo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen M. Pappalardo  
Village Manager

Cc: Jonathan I. Mark, Village Mayor  
Robert Cole, Deputy Village Manager  
Benedict Salanitro, Superintendent of Public Works  
Frank Balbi, Village Engineer  
Josh Ringel, Assistant to the Village Manager

Bruce M. Freyer  
25 Autenrieth Road  
Scarsdale, New York 10583  
917.838.6930

March 9, 2016

Stephen M. Pappalardo  
Village Manager  
Village of Scarsdale  
1001 Post Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

RECEIVED  
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE  
MANAGER'S OFFICE  
2016 MAR 11 AM 11:00

Dear Mr. Pappalardo:

Thank you for your reply to my letter of February 24<sup>th</sup>, regarding the paving/curbing of Autenrieth Road.

The background paragraph of your letter, while illuminating, had already been spelled out in an article in the Scarsdale Inquirer of last spring in which many of the village officials commented on their shame for the condition of many, if not most, of the roads in Scarsdale.

Allow me, if you will, to question you on the supposed 1999, repaving of Autenrieth. I have lived at the above address since 1977, and at no time, since that date, was this street paved. It has been patched and re-patched hundreds of times to its present deplorable condition, a fact that has been attested to by several letters you have received recently from a number of my neighbors.

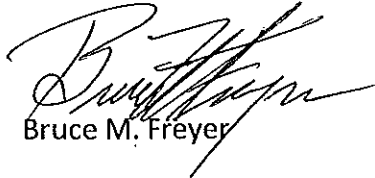
I fully appreciate budgetary restraints on providing sufficient funds for infrastructure and the fact that, over the years, the village has attempted to increase funding for roads. As the Village Manager, I would think that it would be part of your job to use your professional expertise, and that of your staff, to voice a dire concern to the Village Officials over the road network of the village you manage and to ring an alarm bell when you see the conditions of the roads falling into the abyss. Maybe you have and the alarm has fallen on deaf ears.

Having said this, I believe that it is now time to enlarge the circle of this conversation to include the elected officials of this community – the Mayor and Village Board. To this end, I am enclosing a letter addressed to Mayor Mark.

I have one other request. I would like to be present when the Engineering staff inspects Autenrieth Rd., to determine where it will fall on the list of roads to be paved/curbed in 2016. If you would please let me know the date and time of this inspection, I will make myself available.

Thank you again, for your reply and I look forward to hearing from you on the date and time of the street inspection.

Sincerely,



Bruce M. Freyer

Bruce M. Freyer  
25 Autenrieth Road  
Scarsdale, New York 10583  
917.838.6930

March 9, 2016

Jonathan I. Mark, Mayor  
Village of Scarsdale  
Village Hall  
1001 Post Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

RECEIVED  
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE  
MANAGER'S OFFICE  
2016 MAR 11 AM 11:00

Dear Mayor Mark:

I am attaching three letter to this communication to you: 2 to the Village Manager; 1 from the Village Manager. They are all self explanatory.

I am writing to you, as I indicated in my response letter to Village Manager, Pappalardo, out of an outrage over, not only the condition of my street, but that of well over 90% of the streets of this village.

Allow me, if you will, to share some of my thoughts with you in the context of what, I hope, will be taken as constructive criticism. My street, as expressed by me and many of my neighbors, is not only a disgrace, it is dangerous to drive on, walk on and forget trying to bike on. It is a disaster waiting to happened and not if, but when, it does happen, it will be, in the words of one of my neighbors to the Village Manager, a massive law suit for the village for blatant neglect. Unfortunately, what I have just written not only applies to Autenrieth, but to many other roads in our village.

I am a willing tax payer, as are all of my neighbors and fellow Scarsdaleans. We pay a high price to live in this village and we expect that for that price, the village and its management will respond with the highest quality infrastructure: education, safety, utilities and EVEN STREETS AND ROADS. For a village with the prestige that Scarsdale has to pave/curb a little over 3% of its roadway per year is disgraceful and it has resulted in the total breakdown of our road structure.

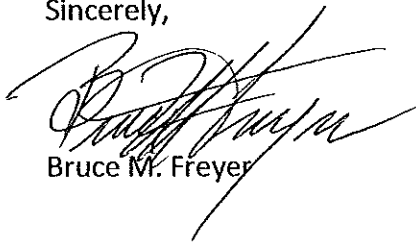
We, the residence of this village, have invested a great deal of our wealth in the property we own. We have done this because we value the the integrity of the village and what it stands for. But, in all honesty, the village has totally failed us when it come to the infrastructure of our

streets and roads. Where is the talent and creative imagination of the leadership of this village that has allowed this to happen? If the only answer is money, why have you, representing our leadership, not simply laid the cards on the table and asked us to step up to the plate and increase the tax that would provide us with roads worthy of this community? Why have you not floated a bond to cover the costs to give us good roads? Why have you not explored other avenues of revenue to pay for this vital element to our infrastructure. I truly believe that there is not a member of this community that would not pay their fair share to have at least 20-25% of our roads paved and improved annually. We have invested heavily in our homes and without the proper roads to travel to and from them, to have emergency vehicles able to safely travel on them, to be able to walk and bike on them where there are no sidewalks, we are investing in a village with no pay back to our investment and taxes. Is this what Scarsdale stands for? Do you expect potential buyers to purchase million dollar homes on streets that are falling apart? Is the village investing its fair share in the investment we have made and are continuing to make? Certainly not in its roads.

We have stood by this village and supported it by our taxes and commitment to live our lives here. It is time that the village do its part. Autenrieth Road needs to be paved and curbed – not this summer, not this fall not next year – but this spring. And this applies to many other streets in Scarsdale as well.

Let's begin to live up to the reputation this village has established. Lets not only have great schools and beautiful homes; let's have good and decent streets on which to drive, walk and bike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce M. Freyer", written in a cursive style with a large flourish at the end.

Bruce M. Freyer

# Village of Scarsdale



*Stephen M. Pappalardo, Village Manager*

*Jonathan I. Mark, Mayor*

*Matthew J. Callaghan*

*Carl L. Singer*

*David S. Lee*

*Deborah Pekarsk*

*Marc Samwick*

*William Stern*

*Office of the Village Manager*

*1001 Post Rd, Scarsdale, New York 10583*

*914-722-1110*

*Fax: 914-722-1119*

*www.scarsdale.com*

March 4, 2016

Bruce M. Freyer  
25 Autenreith Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583


Dear Mr. Freyer,

Thank you for your letter concerning the roadway and curbing conditions on Autenreith Road. By way of background, the Village owns and maintains roughly 79 miles of roadway with annual capital budget appropriations allowing for the resurfacing of approximately 2-3 miles. These funds, which have increased steadily over the past five years averaging roughly \$1,200,000 annually or approximately 2.25% of total budget expenditures, allow for the full depth restoration of the roadway as well as the installation or resetting of granite curbing where necessary. The curbing better protects the edge of the roadway while enhancing drainage and longevity of the road surface. This program allows for the resurfacing of each Village residential roadway every 30-35 years with the main arterial and collector roads paved more frequently.

The paving list is determined annually based on a seasonal visual inspections by Village Engineering staff and road condition information provided in our Pavement Management survey completed by an independent engineering firm specializing in roads. The tentative 2016/17 resurfacing program includes the full depth restoration of Autenreith Road, which was last repaved in 1999. Please be advised however that this list will not be finalized until spring when Engineering staff re-inspect the roadways for the severity of any winter damage and adjusts the paving list accordingly. At this time staff also makes final determinations on the related curbing work.

Thank you for your letter, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 722-1110 or via email at [manager@scarsdale.com](mailto:manager@scarsdale.com).

Sincerely,

  
Stephen M. Pappalardo  
Village Manager

CC: Robert A. Cole, Deputy Village Manager  
Benedict Salanitro, Superintendent of Public Works  
Frank Balbi, Village Engineer  
Josh Ringel, Assistant to the Village Manager

**Bruce M. Freyer**  
**25 Autenrieth Rd.**  
**Scarsdale, NY 10583**  
**917.838.6930**

Mr. Stephen M Pappalardo  
Scarsdale Village Manager  
Scarsdale Village Hall  
100 Post Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

February 24, 2016

Re: Paving of Autenrieth Rd.

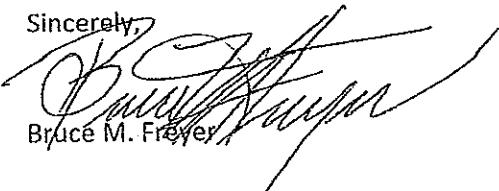
Dear Mr. Pappalardo:

I have lived at 25 Autenrieth Rd. since 1977 (39 years). In that period of time the road surface and curbing of the street has fallen into a state of total disrepair. The curbing, in most locations, has sunken to paving level or below, causing rain erosion to the property in front of many residences. The surface of the road, if you can even call it a surface, is in a state of total decay, having been repaired so many times that it is absolutely dangerous for driving, not to say walking on it, as we have no other alternatives since there are no sidewalks.

Last Spring the Scarsdale Inquirer carried an article on the deplorable conditions of the streets in Scarsdale, a community with high taxes and a decaying infrastructure. We, the residents, have invested heavily in our property and this village to maintain the high standards of its reputation. The time has come for the village to step up to the plate and do its part in maintaining the investment we have made in our homes and community. The time has come for Autenrieth road be properly curbed and paved. The road, in its present state, is a disgrace to this village.

I welcome a reply to this request at your earliest convenience and intend to go house to house on this street and urge my neighbors to make their voices heard on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce M. Freyer

Cc: Residents of Autenrieth Rd.