The Board of Trustees and I share these concerns and have made the state of our downtown a priority. We have been identifying solutions that range from small fixes to quite large undertakings, and I’d like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things we’ve been doing. Here’s what’s been done so far:

• I recently formed a Mayor’s Business District Advisory Group to focus on planning. One of their objectives is to identify and analyze best practices used by other communities and adapt them for use in Larchmont. Among other things, they will be instrumental to the creation of commercial area design guidelines.

• We are in the early stages of a comprehensive study of Larchmont’s downtown. This includes looking at the capacity of existing lots and on-street parking, ideas for expanded capacity, improved signage, parking time restrictions, permitted and metered parking, and the finding of improved maintenance. The recently milled and paved CVS parking lot is the first tangible outcome, resulting from the renegotiation of the CVS lease. Thanks to CVS for being a good neighbor!

• I have been in close communication with several commercial real estate and business development professionals. Their advice on how to energize the streetscape led us to change the sidewalk cafe code, allowing flexibility to consider new ideas, such as “streeters.” We’re also working to create parklets, (a parklet is a small seating area or green space created as a public amenity on or alongside a sidewalk) and we’re considering new vacant storefront regulations to lessen their negative impact on the sidewalk experience.

• The Village is gearing up for summer by hanging flower baskets and American flags throughout the business districts, adding additional planted pots and painting the Chatworth bridge. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Re-Annihilation Committee for donating to this endeavor! The Board will do whatever is possible to renovate, revitalize and reimagine Larchmont’s downtown areas. But we can’t do it without your participation. A downtown needs people walking, shopping, and gathering with friends and neighbors. It’s the people that energize and support our business districts, creating buzz and excitement about Larchmont as a destination for shopping and dining. In addition, there are very tangible benefits to the Village, such as increased sales taxes flowing back to our budget and a lower vacancy rate. A thriving downtown also helps protect our property values. Most importantly, it strengthens our sense of community and our love of Larchmont.

Keep up with Village News and Events

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Larchmont on Two Wheels

May is national biking month and the Village of Larchmont is celebrating with three exciting new bike initiatives!

**Bike Lanes**

At the beginning of the month, the long-awaited bike lanes were painted on Larchmont Avenue. The lanes will connect the Palmer Avenue business district, schools, churches, synagogues, the library, town hall and the beach! Some portions are designated as bike lanes, while others are marked with what are called sharrows-markings indicating that bikes and cars should share the road and be aware of one another.

The bike lanes are being implemented as a pilot project with the hope that they will lead to more of our residents getting around the village by bicycle. If this happens, it will eventually lead to more bike lanes on additional streets and roadways. This project has been in the works since a study was done in 2011 identifying sites in numerous Sound Shore communities that would easily and safely accommodate bike lanes.

**Helmet Safety**

Beginning in May, a new helmet safety program called Skull Patrol will be introduced, sponsored by both the Village and the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce. Larchmont police officers on bike patrol will be keeping an eye out for kids wearing their helmets correctly. If spotted by the police, the lucky kids may be rewarded by the officers with a gift certificate from one of our local merchants. Kids can then turn in the ticket for their prize and be entered in a raffle for a new bike at the end of the summer. Here’s to a safe and enjoyable biking season in Larchmont!

**Tour de Larchmont**

To celebrate the new bike lanes, the Recreation Department brought back the Tour de Larchmont on May 6. The one-mile group bicycle ride followed a route through the Manor, leaving from Constitution Park.

**Village Elections**

At the March elections the Village welcomed our newest trustee, Carol Casazza Herman. Ms. Casazza Herman had been a volunteer for several years on various Village committees, such as the Committee on the Environment and the Finance and Budget Committee, before deciding to run for the open position on the Board of Trustees. As a risk-management consultant, Carol brings invaluable analytical skills to the Village. She has already taken the lead on our comprehensive parking study. We’re very excited to have Carol join us!

Trustee Malcolm Komar, who was appointed last year to fill the vacancy left by Mayor Walsh’s election, was elected to his first full term. We’re very thankful Malcolm chose to run, as he has proven himself to be a valuable member of the team. As a Trustee, Malcolm serves as the liaison to the Board of Architectural Review, Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Environment, and the Technology and Social Media Committee, and just was appointed the trustee member of the newly created Historic Preservation Task Force. He is also the President of the Mamaroneck Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force, which operates a food pantry in Mamaroneck. Malcolm designed the Larchmont Naturally reusable bags, takes great photos at Village events and produced this newsletter!

This March we also said goodbye to Trustee John Komar who, after serving 6 years on the Village Board, decided it was time to move on to other pursuits. We’ll miss John’s thoughtful, even manner and financial expertise. We thank him for being a good steward of the Village and a good friend to all of us over the years. John will be serving as the Grand Marshall for this year’s Memorial Day parade.

**Historic Preservation Task Force**

In February the Board of Trustees passed a resolution creating an Historic Preservation Task Force. The task force will be chaired by Larchmont resident and former member of the Board of Architectural Review, Mauri Tamarin. Stay tuned for updates.

**Larchmont’s 2017 Adopted Budget at a Glance**

After eight public budget meetings and two public hearings over a four-month period, the Board of Trustees passed the 2017/18 budget for the Village of Larchmont on April 24, 2017. The total tax-rate increase is 3.96%. This increase is, in part, due to two factors: an 8.5% increase in health insurance premiums and a 6.95% increase in debt service for capital improvements. This budget maintains the current level of services in the Village. The average homeowner in Larchmont Village will pay $236 more than they paid in 2016.