

## **ROADS**

### **Street Sweeping**

Another area that directly ties into the drainage work is spring street sweeping. The Village currently does not own a pickup street sweeper, so this spring we hired a contractor to complete the street sweeping. This is important not only for the appearance of our streets, but also for overall maintenance of our drainage system.

After winter, a significant amount of sand, gravel and debris accumulates along the roads. When that material is simply pushed toward the ditches, it can build up in the drainage areas and culverts, reducing the ability to move water properly. This can create additional work for staff because those ditches and drainage areas then have to be cleaned out again to maintain proper drainage.

We have also begun discussions as part of our budget planning about the possibility of purchasing a pickup sweeper. That is something we will need to consider carefully, including the purchase cost, maintenance, operating costs and whether owning the equipment makes financial sense compared with continuing to contract the work out. The goal is to look at the overall picture and determine what makes the most sense for the Village in the long term.

### **Improving Traffic Safety**

- Another improvement we've made this year is the installation of new guardrails. This project was made possible through the SGI Traffic Safety Fund grant, which allowed us to complete an important safety improvement without having to fund the entire project through municipal taxation
  - The guardrails serve an important purpose. They provide an additional level of protection in areas where there is a safety concern, while also helping to slow traffic through the area. This isn't only about protecting residents and motorists – it is also about protecting our Public Works employees, particularly during snow removal.
  - We would like to make residents aware of how we plan to manage snow around all guardrails....following snow removal, the plan is to blow the snow over the guardrails where possible rather than pushing, piling and keeping the snow along the roadway. This will help prevent the road from becoming narrowed and will also help prevent excessive weight and pressure from being placed against the guardrails. We are asking residents to help us with this as well. Please do not push or pile snow from private property against the guardrails.
- The installation of the new three-way stop at the Village Office intersection, which was also made possible through the SGI Traffic Safety Fund grant. This is a busy and important intersection within our community. After careful consideration, it was determined that the previous 2-way stop was not providing the level of traffic control and safety that was needed. The decision to add a third stop sign was made with one primary goal in mind: to slow traffic down and make the intersection safer.
  - It takes only a few minutes to get from one end of the Village to the other. The extra time it takes to stop at a stop sign, follow the posted speed limit and drive safely is not going to make a meaningful difference in anyone's day. It is not intended to

inconvenience residents. It is intended to encourage everyone to slow down and pay attention. The few extra seconds it takes to slow down and stop are worth it when the goal is keeping everyone safe.

Keeping our streets safe is up to all of us. The Village can install signs, improve intersections and make infrastructure changes, but we can't make our streets safe on our own. Safety ultimately comes down to the choices we make as drivers. We all have a role to play in keeping our community safe – following the speed limits, stopping where required, paying attention to pedestrians and other vehicles.