

A Message from Nancy Johnson
Tree Board Chair

With the reconstruction of Main Street come questions regarding our many beautiful street-trees. Yes, some will have to be removed to make way for this upgrade. The New York State DOT Forester worked closely with the East Aurora Village Tree Board to preserve as many trees as possible. So while you will see some removals, what you will also see are many trees being pruned of dead branches and fertilized, a healthy move to prepare them for the stresses of construction. We will see barriers surrounding those trees to be saved, which will protect them from damage as well.

While this is a painful process in many ways, it will also mean a great deal of positives where the street-trees are concerned. For years we have lived with the declining maples on the area between Riley and Pine Streets. These tree pits were constructed before the invention of structural-type soils, which allow for much better root growth and water retention and prevent the roots from buckling sidewalks. In addition, the new trees will be planted in connecting pits topped with brick. This allows for even more root growth, and for water to seep between the bricks and reach the roots. Water is so vital, and lack of it is why we see so many young street-trees failing to thrive. The village has committed to watering all new tree plantings following the reconstruction.

Where our trees are concerned, let's all take some advice from Ralph Waldo Emerson: *Adopt the pace of nature...her secret is patience.*