

I saw the national unemployment numbers on Friday which were reported at a 50 year low and less than 4 percent. Later in the day I read the newspaper and was going to count the number of help-wanted ads but soon lost track due to the volume. In addition to these, "help wanted" solicitations, I personally know all large local employers have signs in front of their facilities advertising for help. I am sure there are areas of the country less fortunate, but from a local perspective, if all available jobs were filled; the national rate would drop another percentage. Recently, our Village and many of our local companies participated in an area-wide job fair held at the Berkshire School facilities. It was very successful but open positions still remain. We are fortunate to live in an area that is overly blessed with employment opportunities. Our goal is to do all we can to support and ensure the trend of prosperity continues.

It is satisfying to see capital improvements, both private and public, being completed. An improving village fosters future improvement. I will be expressing my appreciation monthly for the residents' approval of the income tax increase which gives us the ability to maintain the infrastructure of our community that will benefit all residents and visitors to our Village. We appreciate those private entities that also invest in our village adding jobs and amenities to our community. We take pride in maintaining an attractive and mechanically sound village. We insist that all village-owned property sets an example for neatness and well maintained properties.

I wish all residents had the same goals for their properties. Our zoning inspector works very hard to ensure compliance but as I drive around this village, I cringe at the condition and upkeep of some of the properties. I always put myself in the position of how I would feel if I was neighbor to some of these properties. It is very unfair when the condition of a property negatively impacts the value of neighboring properties. It is not a financial issue with the properties I am referencing as it doesn't cost anything to be neat. We will be looking at ways, in addition to our neat streets financial assistance program, to resolve these eyesores and improve the aesthetics of our Village. If I sound irritated, it's because I am.

I am happy to report that the private road for the residents of Cardinal Point has finally been completed. A fair and cooperative deal was constructed between the new owner and the residents. The Village was able to assist in a non-financial position to finally resolve the road issue that has been there for many years. I mention this as I just read a letter to the editor in a local paper describing how the road was impassable and the developer was being non-responsive. The developer did step up to the plate and did the right thing which is appreciated.

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