

The Journal News | Wednesday, February 14, 2007

3 men petition town for sidewalk

Greenburgh residents
say walking along
Chatterton is unsafe

Rebecca Baker
The Journal News

HARTSDALE — It takes Raymond Frost Jr. only 10 minutes to walk to his job at Petco, but it's the most dangerous part of his day.

To get to the store on Central Avenue, Frost has to walk along Chatterton Parkway — a steep hill where drivers in speeding cars routinely ignore a flashing sign telling them they're going too fast. He walks on the side of the road because there are no sidewalks.

"I move over so I don't get hit," the 28-year-old said. "Traffic is bad."

After four years, Frost and his two roommates, Jason Kingsley and Yaniv Gorodischer, decided they had enough. They collected more than two dozen signatures from neighbors supporting a sidewalk on Chatterton Parkway, and they plan to present that petition to the Greenburgh Town Board on Feb. 28.

That all three have Down syndrome doesn't limit their determination.

"We're not nervous," Kingsley said. "Just excited."

Best friends Kingsley, Frost and Gorodischer, who call themselves The Three Musketeers, share a house run by Westchester ARC, an organization that provides services to people with developmental disabilities.

When the men moved into the house in September 2002, Town Supervisor Paul Feiner came to their housewarming party. Kingsley questioned the lack of sidewalks, and Feiner told him he could pass around a petition to get the town to build them.

When the men were finally fed up with their treacherous commute late last summer, Emily Kingsley, Jason Kingsley's mother, crafted the petition.

"This is what community activism is about," she said.

The men spent several weekends collecting signatures from neighbors. When one neighbor balked because he didn't want to deal with snow removal, the men had the perfect comeback.

"We offered to shovel the snow for him if he couldn't do it," Kingsley said.

Tony Degregorio lives a few houses down from the men. He isn't thrilled that a sidewalk would take over part of his lawn, but he signed the petition to support Frost and his friends.

"They're a good group of guys," he said. "I see Ray walking against traffic. It scares the hell out of me. It's a good thing they're doing."

Please see **SIDEWALK, 2B**



Seth Harrison/The Journal News
Standing on Chatterton Parkway in Hartsdale are, from left, Jason Kingsley, Yaniv Gorodischer and Raymond Frost Jr. They have petitioned Greenburgh to build a sidewalk on the street.

3 roommates petition town to build sidewalk

SIDEWALK, from 1B

Feiner praised the men for exercising their rights as citizens and petitioning their government. He said they show that group homes should not be feared.

Some residents "are the nicest people you'd ever want to meet," he said.

But sidewalks are not cheap. At \$15 per square foot, a 4-foot-wide, half-mile stretch of sidewalk on Chatterton Parkway would cost at least \$158,400, said Al Regula, Greenburgh's public works commissioner.

The town has \$250,000 in its capital budget for sidewalk construction. Town Board member Francis Sheehan said other neighborhoods have asked for sidewalks, but safety concerns determine where the town builds them.

Kingsley has no doubt that Chatterton Parkway is unsafe. The 32-year-old was almost hit by a car while walking to the bank to cash his paycheck. Frost was walking with him and luckily saw the car first. Kingsley also remembered seeing two cars collide on Chatterton Parkway.

"It happened right behind me,"

If you go

What: Greenburgh Town Board meeting
When: 7:15 tonight
Where: Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Ave., Greenburgh

he said. "I felt a little bit scared."

Kingsley, who at 19 co-wrote a book about growing up with Down syndrome, has the longest commute — a 45-minute walk to the Westchester ARC building in White Plains, where he sorts mail. Gorodischer walks 20 minutes to catch a ride to Armonk, where he sorts mail, shreds documents and stocks the pantry at the law offices of Boies, Schiller & Flexner.

Gorodischer, 29, is optimistic that The Three Musketeers can win over Town Hall.

"I hope when the sidewalk comes, it'll be a success," he said with a smile. "All for one, and one for all."

Reach Rebecca Baker
at rebaker@lohud.com
or 914-694-5064.