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[www.franklin.mi.us](http://www.franklin.mi.us)

Hello Villagers:

I'd like to give you another late season update on Streetscape activities in the village center. As construction is winding down, many Villagers have called with questions – keep them coming!

*Asphalt, Winter Shutdown and Clean up:* Franklin Road was reopened on Friday December 4, courtesy of some unexpectedly good weather. Thank you ASI and NFE, our contractors! The layer of asphalt Villagers will drive on through the winter is level and has been striped. You may notice that the roadway is a couple inches lower than the curbs and that asphalt has been added near the curbs to create a little ramp to level out the road with the curb. This is to avoid damaging our new curbs this winter when the roads are plowed. Those ramps will be removed in preparation for the finishing layer that will be installed this spring.

ASI, the construction contractor, is in the process of removing the orange barrels and other equipment now that the asphalt layer that will take us through winter has been installed and the road reopened. A staging area for their equipment near the Huda School will be cleaned up and will be restored in the spring once all work is done.

*Storm Sewers:* What was anticipated to be some repairs to the drains and pipes that move rainwater off of the roadway turned into a major replacement project. This was not a planned item for the streetscape budget. We live in an old village and these are surprises that anyone who has started a remodel in an old home has experienced. After the engineers started digging, they found sediment, buried drains and cracked pipe that in some cases was not buried as deep as it should have been. This affected the west side of Franklin Road the most. The work is done and the drains should be good for many years.

*Gardening in December:* Our goal is to restore the tree canopy that existed in the village using varieties of trees that will be beautiful and disease resistant. Trees are being planted now along Franklin Road. Jerry Johnson, who provides the village with road maintenance, is a Villager and has worked very hard to get the trees we wanted and placed at various locations along Franklin Road. 33 newly planted trees have been or will be planted in front of the Franklin Post Office, Comerica Bank, Perlmutter's, the Lakeside Building, Slade House and the Costello's building and on other properties in the ROW. Shrubs and some bedding plants are being installed now in front of businesses and near light fixture locations. Click here [Franklin Landscape.pdf](#) for detailed information on tree types and locations and other features of the streetscape landscaping.

*Light fixtures:* The electrical work to supply power to the new light fixtures is done and we are waiting for delivery of the streetlight poles and small pathway lights that will be installed along Franklin Road at the end of January 2021. Take a look at the pictures on the website at this link [light poles.pdf \(franklin.mi.us\)](#) to see the design, which will complement the various building styles in the village.

*Rock Wall:* Instead of sloping the lawn to the street, as originally planned in front of the Van Every building on the east side of Franklin Road near 14 Mile, a split stone capped wall will be installed where the “rusty” rocks were removed to retain the original flat lawn. The wall will be short and will allow visitors to sit on the flat stone top. The stone wall is reminiscent of similar retaining walls in the village. We will delay installation until spring and will install an erosion control fence in that area now.

Please call the office at 248-626-9666 if you have any questions. The village web site [www.franklin.mi.us](http://www.franklin.mi.us) is a good place for information and is where you can find past streetscape updates.

Best Regards  
Pam Hansen  
Village Trustee