

Montclair's Afterglow Way to receive sectional improvements

Unlike Elton John, residents of Montclair's Afterglow Way will not have to say goodbye to the yellow brick road.

Pavement covers a portion of the brick-covered Afterglow Way.

During its May 5 conference meeting, the Montclair Township Council approved a \$56,120 contract with TC Landscape Contracting of Toms River for reconstruction and drainage repairs to Afterglow Way. Those funds, as well as \$9,800 for traffic control by the Montclair Police Department while repairs are being completed, will be taken out of the township's 2015 capital budget, according to the resolution.

In spring 2014, the preservation and safety of the brick road was a major topic of discussion among neighbors, spilling over to council and 3rd Ward meetings. Research conducted by the township showed that the brick road is not inherently unsafe and that repair costs are comparable between brick and paved roads.

At the time, resident Thomas O'Beirne had poured pavement over a portion of the road. O'Beirne later filed a suit against the township that was recently resolved, according to Township Attorney Ira Karasick.

Karasick told The Montclair Times that as part of the agreement between O'Beirne and the township, O'Beirne will remove the pavement he poured along the curb and will put the bricks back in place. The township, in turn, will raise the street up to the level of O'Beirne's driveway, according to Karasick.

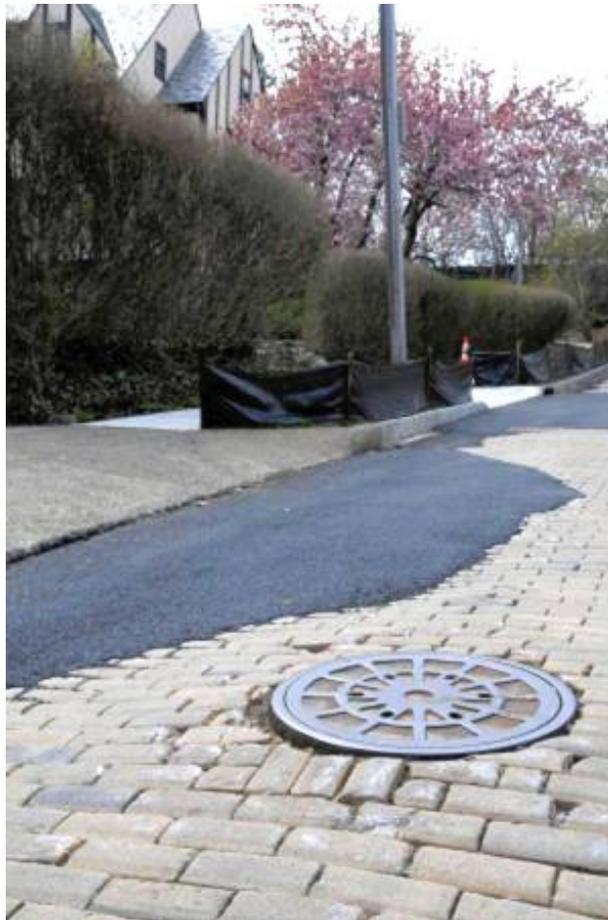
Third Ward Councilman Sean Spiller said on Tuesday that the resolution with O'Beirne comes at a perfect time, as the township was already scheduled to make repairs to the road this year.

Much like other road repairs in the township, the improvements on Afterglow Way will be segmented and not include curb-to-curb reconstruction, Spiller said. The primary focus of the roadwork will be repairing storm drains and deep depressions on the roadway, according to Spiller.

The road's existing bricks will be reused on the repaired road, said Spiller said, who noted that he believed the residents are pleased to see Afterglow Way remain as a brick road.

"I think you see it in many cities, unique character," Spiller said. "It adds to the diversity of the community. We're excited to come to a resolution."

As the township has already received and accepted a bid for the project, Spiller said, repairs to the road should occur in the near future.



Contact Andrew Segedin at segedin@northjersey.com