

"A Place of American History"

ROBERT A. NAPOLI, Village President  
LEROY HANSEN, Village Clerk  
DENNIS BAKER, Village Trustee  
SUE BERGLUND, Village Trustee  
UMBERTO DAVI, Village Trustee  
TERRY KELLY, Village Trustee  
MIKE MISTELE, Village Trustee  
FRANK TRILLA, Village Trustee

# Village of Willowbrook

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### & PARKS FALL FUN GUIDE

August—December 2011



*President*  
*Robert A. Napoli*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"It isn't so much that hard times are coming;  
the change observed is mostly soft times going"*

*--Groucho Marx*

At the time of my election as your Village President in April, 2009, things had changed but not quite in the way which many had hoped for following the national election in November, 2008. Six months after the last presidential election, it was very clear to both the Trustees and myself that the Village was facing hard times in the years ahead as all the economic indicators pointed to a period of recession, i.e., a time during which commercial and industrial activity declines.

Economic research shows that U.S. recessions following World War II typically lasted a bit less than a year to be followed by a recovery with sharply higher growth over the next 5 quarters. However, such research also shows that when a recession is preceded by a financial crisis, the resulting economic downturn is atypical with a likely duration in excess of 4 years. Needless to say, this recession was preceded by such a financial melt-down in September/October of 2008.

Acceptance of the premise that this recession would probably extend over a period of years also accepts its corollary effect on municipal finances: ***that Village government revenues would also likely decline over the same period.*** In the case of Willowbrook this would be especially so given that this Village heavily relies upon sales tax revenues and does not impose a conventional property tax.

Rather than adopting a *reactive* response to the actual occurrence of such recessionary effects on Village government, the Trustees and I decided, instead, to take *proactive* measures to control those anticipated effects before they actually occurred. In short, we decided to err on the side of caution by accepting that the recession would likely extend for some years and by taking such measures now as would minimize the impact of those recessionary effects on Village revenues before their actual occurrence. The measures we took all come under the general heading of belt-tightening, a

*Continued on page 1*



# The Village of Willowbrook

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Meet Your Village Trustees



*Trustee Dennis Baker*

**DENNIS BAKER** is a military veteran and a retired law enforcement officer. Trustee Baker and his wife Barbara moved to Willowbrook in 1998. In 2003, he ran for his first term of office as a village trustee. He has been re-elected twice

since then, most recently in April 2011. Trustee Baker continues to enjoy his role as Community Liaison as well as having the privilege of working with the other dedicated members of the Willowbrook Village Board. Trustee Baker is currently the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and has become the senior serving Trustee on the Village Board. Trustee Baker has two children and three grandchildren.



*Trustee Suzanne Berglund*

**SUZANNE BERGLUND**, recently elected Willowbrook Village Trustee, has been a resident of the Village for 7 years. Trustee Berglund serves on the Municipal Services Committee and recently was an active member of the Willowbrook 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Trustee Berglund is currently the Executive Vice President of an interactive telecommunications firm and previously has been a regional sales manager with several nationally known computer products firms. Trustee Berglund is married to David, has two sons and is the grandmother of five.

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*Trustee Umberto Davi*

**UMBERTO DAVI** was appointed to the Village Board in May 2010 to fill a vacancy and was elected to this position in April 2011. Trustee Davi has resided in Willowbrook for twenty-three years. He has been married to Janet for thirty-

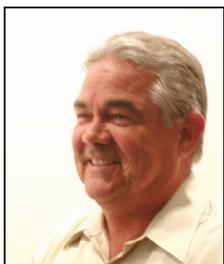
three years and they have three sons. Trustee Davi currently serves as chairman of the Finance & Administration Committee. Trustee Davi is an attorney with offices in Western Springs, Illinois. His practice is concentrated in Family and Real Estate Law. He is a graduate and Trustee of the John Marshall Law School, and has been the President of the Willowbrook Police Pension Board for the past ten years.



*Trustee Terrence Kelly*

**TERRENCE KELLY** was appointed to the Village Board in August 2008 to fill a vacancy and was elected to this position in April 2009. Trustee Kelly graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts and Fordham University School of Law. Trustee Kelly came to Willowbrook in 2005. Trustee Kelly currently serves on the Public Safety Committee. Trustee Kelly has been in the financial services business for over thirty-five years and currently works for BP Corporation North America as an Ethics and Compliance Analyst. Trustee Kelly is married to Judy and they have eight children and five grandchildren.

Trustee Kelly came to Willowbrook in 2005. Trustee Kelly currently serves on the Public Safety Committee. Trustee Kelly has been in the financial services business for over thirty-five years and currently works for BP Corporation North America as an Ethics and Compliance Analyst. Trustee Kelly is married to Judy and they have eight children and five grandchildren.



*Trustee Michael Mistele*

**MICHAEL MISTELE** was appointed to the Village Board in January 2001 to fill a vacancy and was elected to this position in May 2001. Trustee Mistele is a long-time resident of Willowbrook. Trustee Mistele serves as the chairman of the

Municipal Services Committee. Michael has earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is an Architect and a Principal at the firm of Larson & Darby Architects. Local examples of his work include the Darien and Hickory Hills Police Stations and the Indian Prairie Library. Trustee Mistele has two sons and three grandchildren. He enjoys golfing, fishing, reading, and spending quality time with his family.



*Trustee Frank Trilla*

**FRANK TRILLA** was appointed to the Village Board in February 2011 to fill a vacancy and was elected to this position in May 2011. Trustee Trilla has lived in Willowbrook for 21 years and has been the business owner of King Car Wash located

in Westmont for the past 25 years. Trustee Trilla serves on the Finance & Administration Committee. He enjoys giving back to the community. One way is by serving over 1,000 veteran's free lunch on both Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. Trustee Trilla also enjoys sports and has served as an assistant coach for the Montini Catholic High School football team. Trustee Trilla enjoys spending time with his wife Laura and two children.

# Community Newsletter

## Village Department Highlights

### *President's Message (Continued from Front Page)*

practice we first learned years ago in the homes of our parents. The economies we have taken at the Village Hall mirror what has likely occurred in many of your households: *like you, we have simply tried to make do with less.* To date, we have made spending cuts of \$1,200,000.00 which amounts to an expenditure reduction equal to 16% of the budget. We intend to cut expenses further as long as the level of government services delivered to our residents is not compromised.

This Board's proactivity in addressing the adverse impacts of these hard times on Village finances has since been extended with salutary effect to every other aspect of Village governance. In consequence, the very culture of Village government has been changed from a hands-off to a hands-on management of its essential functions by those you elected to the offices of President and Trustee. I will report further to you on this most significant development in our next newsletter.

#### *Municipal Services Department*

##### *2011 Street Maintenance Program*

The Village conducts an annual Street Maintenance Program using the revenue from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund is a Special Revenue Fund derived from a tax-based on the consumption of motor fuel, the operation of motor vehicles upon public highways and the operation of recreational watercraft upon the water of the state. The revenue collected for this fund are to be used for street improvements.

This year's Street Maintenance Program includes the full-depth patching, partial milling, resurfacing, restriping, and sidewalk/curb/gutter replacement of 2.03 miles of 15 select roadways. The specific areas included in the annual program are based on a 15-year MFT plan that has been developed by the Village staff. This 15-year plan is updated annually and presented to the Municipal Services Committee and the Village Board for review.

The engineer's estimate for the 2011 Street Maintenance Program came in at \$325,000. The Municipal Services Department is happy to report that the low bidder for this year's Street Maintenance Program was contracted to complete the work at \$269,317. This represents a savings of roughly \$56,000. The contractor began work in early-June and the project was completed the last week of July.

#### *Police Department*

##### *CALEA Re-Accreditation*

In August 2011, the Village's Police Department will undergo an extensive audit of their policies and procedures by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). A team of assessors will arrive on August 13, 2011 and examine over 459 standards consisting of 1100 bulleted items to be in compliance with. The CALEA Accreditation process is a recognized and widely accepted method for measuring the professionalism within a police department. The assessment process is conducted every three years. As part of the assessment process employees and members of the community are invited to call-in or be present at a public information session to offer public comment on the department.

The Willowbrook Police Dept. was first accredited in November of 1991, when it became the 201st nationally accredited law enforcement agency. The department has since been re-accredited five times and will be going for their sixth during the upcoming assessment. During the previous CALEA Accreditation process, the Willowbrook Police Dept. was recognized as a Flagship Agency Program. This prestigious designation is granted to the programs which exemplify the "best practices" components of CALEA standards. For more information regarding CALEA, please call 800-368-3757 or visit their website at <http://calea.org/>.

# Community Newsletter

## Village Department Highlights

### ***Administration Department***

#### *2011 Willowbrook Citizen Survey*

Many municipalities are benefiting from the use of a citizen survey. These surveys bridge the gap between the Village government and citizens who don't come to meetings, but do vote, pay taxes, and made the decision to live and run their businesses in Willowbrook. The best way to encourage good performance is to measure it, and the best indicator of government performance is citizen satisfaction. A citizen survey is an instrument that measures the level of citizen satisfaction with Village government programs and services.

The Village of Willowbrook is currently conducting its third community-wide citizen survey. The survey document was sent to 1,000 randomly selected residents in July 2011. The survey asks residents for feedback on all major Village services, from Police to Public Works to local development. Residents are asked to identify and rank advantages and disadvantages of living in Willowbrook, as well as their level of satisfaction with regard to business and residential development. Those selected to receive a survey are encouraged to complete and return the document by September 16, 2011. After the September deadline the surveys will be examined and a statistical report will be developed and published on the Village website in October 2011.

The purpose of the survey is to assess public perception of our current programs and to give residents the opportunity to make suggestions for improvement. The results of the survey play an important role in assisting the Village in planning future programs, service levels and annual goals.

#### *Grant Funding Update*

The current economic climate has resulted in a substantial decline in Village revenues. Because of this, the Village has been aggressively seeking alternative revenue sources in the form of a variety of grants. Since 2010, the Village has applied for and received roughly \$1,000,000 in capital improvement grant funding!

In 2010, the Village was the recipient of two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants in the amounts of \$216,000 and \$185,000. The first ARRA grant in the amount of \$216,000 was used to overlay Clarendon Hills Road from 75<sup>th</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Street. The second ARRA grant was earmarked for the construction of street lights at the intersection of Route 83 & Plainfield Road. In addition

to the \$185,000 in Federal funding, the Village was able to secure a \$50,000 grant from the Illinois Capital Bill that would help defray the engineering costs for the intersection lighting project.

The Village also has received confirmation from the Federal STP Program that they have allocated \$542,000 to be used during the Village's Road Maintenance Program over the next five years (2011-2016). The primary objective of the Road Maintenance Program during this time will be the overlay of Clarendon Hills Road in the northern portion of the community.

At this time, the Village has several grant applications currently under consideration with the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) as well as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). These grant applications are seeking funding primarily for capital improvements such as to the Willowbrook parks totaling over \$300,000. Examples of proposed improvements include the replacement of the backstops at Community Park and playground replacements at Ridgemoor Park and Willow Pond Park. The Village plans to continue to actively seek grant funding opportunities in an effort to defray capital improvement costs.

### ***Building Department***

#### *Village Adopts New Building Codes*

The Willowbrook Building & Zoning Division is proud to announce that we have recently adopted new Building Codes and has updated the Local Amendments to those codes. The main purpose of adopting these building codes is to provide the community with a minimum requirement for building standards and to furthermore protect public health, safety and general welfare as they relate to the construction and the initial and continued Occupancy of Residential and Commercial buildings and structures with the Village of Willowbrook. The codes that the Village has adopted are the 2009 International Code Council library of codes.

The Village's Codes are available to you online on our website: <http://www.willowbrookil.org/>. A complete list of the newly adopted Codes and Amendments along with the Approving Ordinance is available in PDF format on the website; please access: "Municipal Services", "Building and Zoning Division", and then click on the "Title 4 Codes & Amendments" link under the "Adopted Codes" heading.

# Community Newsletter

## Village Awards/Recognitions

### ***Public Works Building Receives Recognition***

On Thursday, March 24, 2011 the Chicago Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) recognized the best of the best in Public Works projects. Selected among the various projects completed in 2010 was the Village of Willowbrook's Public Works Maintenance Facility. The new Public Works Maintenance Facility received the Project of the Year Award in the category of "Structures Under \$5 Million in Cost". The award recognizes the partnership between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer and contractor working together to complete public works projects. The Village partnered with Williams Architects for the design of the Public Works Maintenance Facility and the construction was completed by FBG Corporation. Members of the Village Board and staff along with members of Williams Architects attended the 2011 APWA Awards Luncheon and were recognized for their hard work that helped make this outstanding building a reality.

### ***Village Website Receives Transparency Award***

In November 2010, the Illinois Policy Institute conducted the first Local Transparency Project audit of 16 local government agencies in the Downers Grove Township area. The audit was part of the Illinois Policy Institute's Local Transparency Project. Governments were graded on the availability of information to the public about: elected and administrative officials; public meetings; how to file a Freedom of Information Act request; budgets; expenditures; and taxing levels. Government agencies were notified of their scores, and informed how they could improve their levels of transparency before the final audit was conducted in early April 2011. Overall, results from the first audit were surprisingly low with the high score out of the 16 agencies coming in at 50.4 out of 100, the low score was a 7.5, and the average score was 26.7. The Village of Willowbrook's score was tallied at 34.25. The results of the second audit were released February 10<sup>th</sup> and Willowbrook's score improved by 52.5 pts to an 86.6. This score was good enough for second place among the 16 audited agencies in Downers Grove Township and first among municipalities. In total, the Local Transparency Project has audited nearly 100 Illinois agencies in 6 townships. Of these 100 agencies, Willowbrook is one of only fourteen to receive a passing grade. The Institute's Director of Outreach, Brian Costin stated, "Downers Grove Park District, Indian Prairie Library District, Downers Grove Library and the villages of Downers Grove, Hinsdale and Willowbrook all increased their individual transparency scores by more than 25 points. They are setting an example on how to improve online transparency on the local level and we hope the Illinois Policy Institute's Local Transparency Project continues to inspire even more improvements over the coming months and years."

### ***Village Improves its IMAP Scores***

On Friday, June 17, 2011 members of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) conducted an on-site assessment of the Village's risk management practices. IRMA is a risk-sharing pool of 73 municipalities and special service districts which manages and funds property, casualty and workers' compensation claims. The IRMA Management Assessment Program (IMAP) is a comprehensive analysis of the Village-wide and departmental risk management practices and policies. The IMAP visit is conducted every 3 years and consists of three (3) major categories: Risk Management Administration; Employment Practices; and Injury/Liability Prevention. The Village uses the IMAP results to determine specific risk management and safety areas as well as training in need of upgrading and where to expand limited resources. In the previous two IMAP evaluations conducted in 2005 & 2008, the Village achieved a rating of 78% which resulted in a compliance classification of "Good". The Village is excited to report that our 2011 rating came in at an 83% which puts our Village in the compliance classification category of "Very Good". This achievement shows a dedication to the principles of risk management and loss prevention. It is the result of the Village's effort to maintain a cost-efficient and effective workplace. Often, it is these everyday successes that make the strongest impact on the quality of municipal government.

### ***Village Seeks Budget & Financial Reporting Awards***

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) offers awards to recognize excellence in financial budgeting and reporting. One such award offered by GFOA is the Distinguished Budget Presentation award. Established in 1984, the Budget award recognizes local government's who prepare budget documents of the highest quality based on guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting. The Village staff is currently working on the necessary documentation for the Village's 10<sup>th</sup> Budget award.

The Village of Willowbrook is also seeking its 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award for its work on its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This award recognizes communities that go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare a report that evidences the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Last year, the Village was one of only 136 to receive the CAFR award. Both the award winning CAFR and Budget documents are available on the Village website for viewing.