



"A Place of American History"

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FRANK TRILLA, Village Trustee

Village of Willowbrook

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER & PARKS SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Robert A. Napoli
Mayor

May — August 2013

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

"With all the temptations, dangers, and degradations that beset it, politics is still I think, the noblest career that any man can choose."

--Frederick Scott Oliver

As I am not a candidate for re-election, you are necessarily being asked to choose a new Mayor at the next municipal election scheduled for April 9, 2013. Such being the case, this message is, effectively, my 'farewell address' to you, the people of Willowbrook.

At the outset, please permit me to say that it has been a high honor and a distinct privilege to have represented you as your Village Mayor. In that capacity, I have striven to do the very best I could to justify the office you have entrusted to my care these last four years. This being said, I freely acknowledge that it is for you, not I, to judge whether my service as your Mayor has been equal to the test of the office over that trying period. In this regard, I fully recognize that, though much good work has been done during my mayoralty, more such work needs to be done in the years ahead. However, notwithstanding this recognition, I have reluctantly been forced by personal considerations to conclude that such future work will have to be done by others. Fortunately, the new Mayor Elect and Board of Trustees are well-versed in the activities and problems of municipal governance. That shared experience of its elected officers, supported by the professional expertise of an adept staff, works well for successful Village governance in the years ahead.

My impending departure from the office of Mayor will end a period of public service to this Village's government extending over a period of nearly 16 years commencing with my initial appointment as a Board Trustee in September, 1997. Like so many others who have served the Village before me, I will soon leave public office with a genuine sense of gratitude for the governance opportunities you have given me over those years. Like the great historian quoted above, I believe that 'politics', when properly understood as service to others, is among the noblest of life's work. Knowing my colleagues on the Village Board as I do, I feel confident in saying that they also view politics through the same altruistic prism. Thus, I predict you will continue to

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The Village of Willowbrook

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Mayor's Message (Continued from Front Page)

express your satisfaction with your Village government in future opinion surveys.

As this message is in the nature of a farewell address, I want to now close on a cautionary note, namely: that the Village in the future avoid any resemblance to the fiscal waste practiced by the Federal and Illinois governments. Their tax and spend habits have resulted only in the expansion of the size of those governments at the expense of the private economy. Were Willowbrook to adopt such tax and spend practices, the negative effect on its business and commerce would not be long in coming. Fortunately, your Mayor Elect and Village Trustees are opposed to the adoption of such wasteful fiscal practices (All I am suggesting here is that you give them your complete support for such a policy of fiscal solvency).

I also would like to thank my predecessor Mayor Gary Pretzer for appointing me to the Village Board and recommending me as his successor.

In conclusion, please accept my best wishes to each of you for a healthy, prosperous and successful future. May God continue to bless each of us, our troops and our beloved America.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Napoli
Mayor

Grant Funding Efforts

Over the course of the last four years, the Village has been able to bring in over \$1 million in grant funding for a variety of projects. Examples include two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants in the amounts of \$216,000 used to overlay Clarendon Hills road from 75th Street to 79th Street and \$185,000 used for the construction of street lights at the intersection of Route 83 and Plainfield Road. Grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) was utilized to replace all three backstop structures at Borse Community Park. The Village has also received confirmation from the Federal STP Program that they have been allocated \$542,000 to be used during the Village's 2016 Road Maintenance Program. The primary objective of this funding will be the overlay of Clarendon Hills Road in the northern portion of the community. Moving forward, the Village plans to continue to actively seek grant funding opportunities in an effort to further defray capital improvement costs.

Community Newsletter

Village Highlights

Governor's Home Town Award

Throughout the last 4 years, the Village has achieved many accolades worthy of recognition. For the first time in Willowbrook's history, the Village was honored with a Governor's Home Town Award in recognition of its 50th Anniversary celebration events. The Governor's Home Town Award recognizes the best in Illinois volunteerism. Over the course of a year and a half, our 50th Anniversary Committee made up of residents, elected officials and Village staff conducted 28 planning meetings in order to plan three events. The events became known as: "The Birthday Bash", "The Family Fun Day", and "A Dickens of a Holiday". All three events were developed to give an opportunity for Village residents to interact with local officials, businesses and Village staff. The events were made possible through the vigorous fund raising efforts of the 50th Anniversary Committee as well as the generosity of local businesses. In total, over \$17,000 was raised which helped fund the majority of the events. In all over 125 volunteers offered up more than 2,500 volunteer hours to make this celebration a success.



Cost Saving Measures

Over the years, I have worked with the Village Board and staff to find ways to cut and reduce spending to achieve fiscal balance without raising taxes yet still maintaining Village services. In the past four years, approximately \$1.4 million has been cut from the budget through outsourcing staff, consolidation and reductions. The end result was an 18% reduction in expenditures without any reduction in Village services. I leave your Village in very sound physical condition based on the policies set by the Board of Trustees and administered by the staff. Our Village is in better fiscal condition than the State of Illinois or the Washington D.C. government operations. We have faced our financial obligations and made sound fiscal judgments so that we have balanced our budget in addition to adding to our surplus funds.

Parks & Recreation Department: Master Plan

This past summer the Village contracted with Design Perspectives, Inc. to develop a comprehensive master plan for the Village's Parks & Recreation Department. A thorough evaluation of the park system will help determine what direction the Village Board, Park & Recreation Commission, and Village staff would like to take the department. The master plan will also be an invaluable resource when applying for grant funding in the future. As part of the master plan process, Design Perspectives held a series of focus group meetings with Willowbrook residents as well as gathered information through the use of surveys. All of the survey responses along with the focus group meeting input has been compiled and the Village expects to receive the final master plan soon.

Community Newsletter

Upcoming Village Projects

Chick-Fil-A

The Village is excited to welcome Chick-Fil-A into the Willowbrook Town Center. With the addition of Chick-Fil-A, the Willowbrook Town Center will be 100% occupied. Chick-Fil-A is targeting August 2013 for its opening. Chick-Fil-A will also be constructing a new Willowbrook Town Center identification sign.

Willowbrook Town Center Occupancy

With the addition of Chick-Fil-A, the Willowbrook Town Center will have a 100% occupancy rate. In 2009, the Willowbrook Town Center had 16 tenants and was at a 79.4% occupancy rate with over 40,000 square feet of retail space available. Currently, the almost 200,000 square feet of retail space within the Willowbrook Town Center is fully occupied by 26 tenants.

K-Mart Site Re-development

Recently, the K-Mart site was purchased by Pete's Fresh Market. Village staff has been in discussions with the new property owner regarding the re-development of the site.

LED Streetlight Grant

In February 2012, the Village received preliminary approval from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on a \$92,000 grant earmarked for improvements to the Village's streetlight fixtures. The Village expects to receive final approval by this summer at which time it will begin a project which will replace the Village's antiquated, energy inefficient streetlight fixtures with new, energy efficient LED technology.

Upcoming Route 83 Construction

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has approved a construction project which will include the resurfacing of Kingery Highway from Cook County Line to Knollwood Road and from Knollwood Road to Butterfield (Rt. 56). The resurfacing project will take place in the 2013 construction season. At the October 8th meeting of the Village Board, a request by IDOT to perform the construction activities related to this project at night (8 PM until 5 AM) was discussed and approved. The rationale for allowing the nighttime work was to attempt to maintain traffic flow during peak morning and afternoon hours.

Route 83 Median Landscaping Project

Following the 2013 resurfacing project of Route 83 by IDOT, the Village of Willowbrook will be applying for an I.T.E.P. grant to complete a landscape improvement project on the medians of Route 83 from I-55 north to 63rd Street. If awarded the grant, the Village will be able to transform its main arterial road into a picturesque thoroughfare. Included within the landscaping project are new Village entrance signs clearly identifying Willowbrook to motorists. The estimated cost for the completion of this project comes in at over \$800,000. Fortunately with the grant funding, the Village would only have to cover about 20% of the amount. The Village will be applying for the funding during the upcoming year with the project slated for spring 2014.

Community Newsletter

Village Highlights

Public Safety

Willowbrook's Police Department was re-accredited for the sixth time by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The CALEA Accreditation process is a recognized and widely accepted method of measuring the professionalism within a police department. The assessment process is conducted every three years by a group of assessors who ride with the officers, review written materials, and interview individuals in an effort to review the police department's compliance with roughly 460 standards and 1,100 bulleted items. During the last audit, the Willowbrook Police Department was nationally recognized by CALEA as being one of the few police departments to be awarded the status of Meritorious Flagship Police Department. This prestigious designation is granted to programs which exemplify the "best practices" components of the CALEA standards.

In the Village's most recent annual citizen survey, 88.7% of respondents rated the "Overall Performance" of the Willowbrook Police Department as "Good" or "Excellent". Most importantly though, the survey category titled "Feelings of Safety and Security within the Community" received the highest rating from residents with roughly 89% of respondents reporting their feelings as "Good" or "Excellent". Public safety department was reorganized resulting in improved neighborhood coverage.

Village Water Rate Information

As you might be aware, effective January 1, 2013, the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) instituted a 20% increase in water rates being charged to the Village. This increase is in part due to a 15% rate increase imposed by the City of Chicago on the same date. Unfortunately, there is little the Village can do to reduce the impact of this rate increase on our residents. To illustrate this point, I would like to provide a brief history of the Village's water rates.

Since 2001, the Village has only had to raise its water rates twice. The first increase was a 20% increase in May of 2010 in response to increases of 14% and 17% by the City of Chicago and the DWC. The second Village increase of 20% came in March of 2012, in response to a 10% increase in 2011 and a 30% increase in January 2012 by the DWC. In an effort to minimize the effect of these increase, the Village Board approved a 6% discount program for any resident who uses the minimum (9,000 gallons) of water during a given quarter. As the Village's water infrastructure ages, the Village must maintain and fund the necessary repairs to the system. Regrettably, the Village must pass along a portion of these rate increases imposed by the City of Chicago and the DWC to its water users.

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WILLOWBROOK

Visit us at our website located at www.willowbrookil.org

Village Officials

Mayor

Robert A. Napoli

Village Clerk

Leroy Hansen

Village Trustees

Dennis Baker Terry Kelly
Sue Berglund Mike Mistele
Umberto Davi Frank Trilla

Village Administrator

Timothy J. Halik



Village of Willowbrook Contact Information

Village Hall	323-8215
TTY	920-2257
Police Department (emergency)	911
Police Department (non-emergency)	325-2808
TTY	920-2269

Village Hours: Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Police Department Hours Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—11:00 p.m.

www.willowbrookil.org

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