TOUCH A TRUCK 2014

Thanks to all who attended the Village of Willowbrook’s seventh annual Touch a Truck event. Over three hundred children got the opportunity to play and explore among a variety of vehicles. Thank you to the following organizations who came out to display their vehicles: Gower School District, Tri State Fire Protection District, US Post Office, Willowbrook Police Department, Integrated De-Icing Services, Republic Services, Dr. Alexis Newman with her pet ambulance and representatives from the Darien Army Reserves. Thank you also to Regency Centers and Hinsdale Lake Shopping Center for allowing us to hold this big event in your parking lot!

New to this year’s Touch a Truck include from left to right: Integrated De-Icing Services, O’Hare Airport and Dr. Alexis Newman, Partners and Paws Ambulance.
Dear Residents,

As the first quarter of the Village’s fiscal year draws to a close, I would like to take a minute to reflect on what has been accomplished so far as well as what is in store for the rest of the year.

In 2004, the Village adopted a long-range space needs plan that included the construction of a new village campus including a new village hall, police station, recreation center, and public works facility at 700 Willowbrook Centre Parkway. While the public works facility was built on that site in 2008, the Village Board decided to shelve the village campus plan because of the downturn in the economy in 2009. The estimated cost of the village campus concept at that time was around $15 million.

Fast forward to 2013, the Village Board approved the purchase of two adjacent buildings to the current Village Hall at 825 and 835 Midway Drive for $890K and $900K respectively, with the intention of the creation of a new village campus. The new village campus concept has been divided into three phases. The Village Board moved forward on Phase 1 with the approval of a contract with FBG Corporation in the amount of $1.4 million for the renovation of the 835 Midway Drive building. This building will serve as the new Willowbrook Village Hall/Administration building (see the architect’s rendering below). Phase 2 of the project will be the transformation of the current village hall building into a new police station. The village campus concept will conclude with Phase 3 which will consist of the renovation of the 825 Midway Drive building into a community resource center that will house the Village’s Parks & Recreation related activities. Ultimately, the Village hopes to complete the village campus plan at a price of under $5 million. Far below the 2004 cost estimate of $15 million.
Mayor Trilla’s Letter to the Residents

On the grant funding front, we are excited to report that on April 5th, Governor Quinn announced the recipients of the 2014 Open Space and Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant awards and the Village of Willowbrook was named as one (1) of 46 local park jurisdictions in Illinois and the only one in DuPage County that was awarded a 2014 OSLAD grant. The extensive OSLAD application process included an in-person presentation in Springfield by village staff and me. The $400,000 grant award will be used to complete a comprehensive renovation of Willow Pond Park (Plainfield Road & Adams), which will be completed in two (2) phases over the next two years. Phase 1, which will be completed in the fall of 2014, will include the deepening and dredging of Willow Pond in an effort to provide a better habitat for the native plants and fish. Phase 2, which will be completed in 2015, will include the installation of several new or improved park amenities, including a green roof park shelter, a nature based playground, and a nature themed splash pad as well as a solar power lit walking path and additional fishing stations. The success in the OSLAD grant application process can be attributed to the Village Board’s decision to fund a Parks & Recreation Master Plan in 2013. I believe this project will greatly enhance one of the Village’s most visible parks by creating a destination for families throughout the area.

The Village continues its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management program in 2014 with Year 2 of removals and replacements. For those not familiar with EAB, on January 8th, 2013, the Village received official notice from the Illinois Department of Agriculture that the Village had its first confirmed case of EAB. The EAB is a small, metallic green beetle native to Asia that has been decimating the Midwest’s ash tree population. In response, the Village partnered with Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants to conduct a comprehensive tree inventory which revealed the Village had almost 700 ash trees which accounts for roughly 22.6% of Village owned (i.e. parkway or park) trees. The Village developed an EAB Management Program that called for the systematic removal and replacement of all Village owned ash trees over the course of the next 4 years. During the first year of the program, the Village removed 239 trees. For Year 2 of the program, the Village’s consultant arborist has identified 230 trees for removal. The trees marked for removal/replacement can be identified by the large red dots that have been painted on their trunks. This year’s program is underway and should be completed by the winter. As part of the program, the Village’s tree removal contractor, Pessina Tree Service, offers Willowbrook residents a reduced rate for ash tree removals on private property. Please contact the Village if you are interested in more information on the private property pricing offered by Pessina.

In 2001, the Village installed a state of the art water meter reading system that allows resident water meters to be read wirelessly as opposed to manual readings made by a meter reader. This wireless system includes a device called a Meter Transmitting Unit (MTU) installed at each water account location. Each MTU transmits the water meter reading from that location to one of the three Data
Mayor Trilla’s Letter to the Residents

Collection Units (DCUs) in town, which in turn, transmits the readings to the Village’s water billing software. The lithium batteries within the MTUs are now in need of replacement Village-wide. Therefore, new MTUs must be installed. The Village made the decision to hire an outside contractor to replace all of the 1,714 MTUs starting this September.

The owner of the Pete’s Fresh Market Development, located at the former K-Mart site (Plainfield Rd and Route 83), hopes to make this their flagship store. Everyone is anxious to get this project underway, but we need to be patient while the applicant prepares their final submission of plans. We still anticipate a successful project completion in 2015.

On Tuesday, June 24, 2014 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 69 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 three (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 2008 & 2011, the Village achieved ratings of 78% and 83%. The Village is excited to report that our 2014 rating came in at 92% which puts our Village in the compliance classification category of “Exceptional”. This score also qualifies the Village as an IMAP Accredited organization. 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.

Our Police Department recently hired a new officer Christine Danan. Officer Danan is currently going through training at the Police Academy. I would also like to thank Jo Bice for her time and effort on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and welcome her successor Robert Poinke.

Sincerely,

Frank Trilla, Mayor
Important Holiday Dates to Remember…

Santa’s Calling You
Thursday, December 11 between 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Program #350F

Children’s Holiday Party
Sunday, December 14
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Hinsdale South High School
Free
RSVP: 630-323-8215

For further information about these programs please turn to page 6 of the Fun Guide.

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**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

- Animal Control: 630-682-7197
- Anna Emery Hanson Center: 630-325-3857
- Anna M. Jeans School: 630-325-8186
- Burr Ridge Middle School: 630-325-5454
- Clarendon Hills Post Office: 630-323-0309
- College of DuPage: 630-858-2800
- Commonwealth Edison: 1-800-334-7661
- Downers Grove Township: 630-968-0451
- DuPage Co. Forest Preserve Dist.: 630-933-7200
- DuPage Co. Information: 630-682-7000
- Flagg Creek Reclamation District: 630-323-3299
- Gateway Special Rec. Assoc.: 630-325-3857
- Good Samaritan Hospital: 630-275-5900
- Gower Middle School: 630-323-8275
- Gower West School: 630-323-6446
- Hinsdale Central High School: 630-570-8000
- Hinsdale Hospital: 630-856-9000
- Hinsdale South High School: 630-468-4000
- Holmes School/Dist. #60 Office: 630-323-2086
- Humane Society: 630-323-5630
- Indian Prairie Library: 630-887-8760
- LaGrange Memorial Hospital: 708-245-9000
- Maercker School: 630-968-6165
- NICOR Gas: 1-888-642-6748
- Oak Brook Post Office (60523): 630-990-4224
- Secretary of State (Lombard): 630-629-0380
- States Attorney: 630-682-7050
- Suburban Hospital: 630-323-2372
- Westmont Post Office (60559): 630-968-0855
- Westview Middle School: 630-963-1450
- Willowbrook Carrier Annex: 630-323-3950