I would like to present a brief history of the past three years during which time I have served as your Village Mayor. I was asked by the retiring Village Mayor, Gary Pretzer, to finish out his term. My selection was approved by the Board of Trustees in July of 2008. I was elected to a full four-year term in April 2009.

During my first year, I had an opportunity to become more involved with all facets of Village operations. In September of 2009, I recommended to the Board that a study be conducted by a professional management consultant to review any and all Village operations – including staff, policies, and procedures. The Board of Trustees approved a consulting contract in October of 2009 and a full report was received by the Board in January of 2010. I wanted our Village to have an objective and impartial overview of its operations in order to be able to provide the most efficient and economical services for the citizens. Once the report was received, a further in-depth operational analysis was conducted by the Mayor and staff with direction and input from the Board of Trustees. This led to a series of considerations on how to best streamline operations (i.e. reduce costs without reducing essential services to the citizens).

While federal and state governments have continued to manipulate revenues and spending as well as increase taxes, your Village Board and staff has worked together to find ways to cut and reduce spending to achieve fiscal balance without raising taxes while maintaining the same level of Village services.

Over the past 18 months, approximately $1.2 million has been cut from the budget. This was accomplished in three ways: attrition, outsourcing, and consolidating staff positions within the Village. For instance, in the past, the Village employed both a full-time Director of Municipal Services...
Meet Your Village Clerk

**Village Clerk Leroy Hansen**

**LEROY HANSEN** is a sole proprietor and attorney based in Willowbrook. Leroy and his wife Kathleen have 5 children and 15 grandchildren. In 2006, Leroy was appointed to fill the position of Village Clerk replacing long time Village Clerk Patrick Spatafore. He has been re-elected twice since then, most recently to a 4-year term beginning May 1, 2009. Mr. Hansen received a law degree (Juris Doctor) from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law, a master’s degree (M.A.) from Roosevelt University, and a bachelor’s degree (B. Ed.) from Chicago Teachers College. Leroy is a member of the Illinois Bar Association and serves as the legal advisor to the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce. He also is on the Board of Directors for the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Kiwanis Club. In his free time, Leroy enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and the occasional round of golf.

**Governor’s Home Town Award**

An award presentation was held at the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 to honor the Village of Willowbrook as a recipient of the 2011 Governor’s Home Town Award for History and Historic Preservation in their population division! The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) presents the Governor’s Home Town Awards to recognize the contributions of thousands of Illinois volunteers for their hard work and dedication towards improving their communities. Willowbrook’s yearlong 50th Anniversary celebration was the project the Village submitted for consideration. On September 8, 2011, Mayor Napoli along with members of the 50th Anniversary Committee and Village staff presented Willowbrook’s project to a panel of judges in Springfield. This was the first time the Village of Willowbrook has ever won this prestigious award.

In June 2009, Village staff and community volunteers began planning a yearlong celebration to honor the 50th anniversary of the Village of Willowbrook’s official incorporation, which was Continued on page 2
and a Village Administrator. After a full review of municipal functions, it was decided that the Village is in essence built out and only maintenance of the public infrastructure is needed for streets, sidewalks, water lines, sewer lines, parks, etc. Therefore, this position did not require a full-time employee. The same process and decision was made for the position of Village Administrator. The final result was the appointment of Mr. Tim Halik as the Village Administrator, who also handles Public Works. He is a 17-year employee of the Village who has capably handled the duties of both Public Works and Village Administration.

Our Village has a very high credit rating, AA/Stable. This places our Village in the top 50 of nearly 7,000 state, county, and local public agencies in the State of Illinois. This high rating ensures that if we need to borrow any funds, we will pay the lowest interest rate available at the time of the need.

The Village has only one capital bond debt. It is in the amount of $2.2 million used for the erection of the Public Works garage in 2008 and for the completion of the 75th Street extension from Quincy Street east to Madison Street. The Public Works building is only the second major building built by the Village; the other being the Village Hall which was constructed in 1978. The Public Works building came in $250,000 under budget due to the diligent oversight of the staff and Village Board. Now for the first time, all of the expensive and necessary public works equipment: two 5-ton dump trucks, one 1-ton dump truck, and a backhoe, are being housed in the new garage, which will extend the useful lives of this equipment.

The Trustees and I are on the same page in our shared commitment to maintaining the fiscal integrity of this Village. In order to accomplish that, we have implemented various economies and efficiencies over the last 18 months which have already resulted in cost savings equal to 16% of the Village Budget.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Village Board of Trustees, the Village Clerk, the Administrative staff, the Public Works, Public Safety, and Parks staff for their efforts in providing and maintaining the high level of services needed to run the Village.

We Americans are an optimistic and resourceful people with a proven track record of overcoming adversity and thereby confounding the odds-makers. Being such optimists, the Board and I will continue to work for the good of all. Remember, even though we are elected officials, we are also tax-paying, voting residents of this community. Therefore, we will continue to operate your Village as it should be on a professional, conservative, and sound fiscal basis.

The holiday season we now enter upon is a celebration of hope. In that spirit, let me say to each one of you that I hope your holiday season is filled with happiness, health, and prosperity. Finally, on behalf of the Village, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.
Continued from the Inside Front Cover

January 18, 1960. A 50th Anniversary Committee was formed and their mission was to commemorate the anniversary with historical pictures and celebrate by planning community-wide events. Over the course of a year and a half, the Committee conducted 28 planning meetings. In total, the 50th Anniversary Celebration had over 125 volunteers who donated more than 2,500 hours.

The Governor’s Home Town Award recognizes the very best in Illinois volunteerism. The Village will be displaying Governor’s Home Town Award winner signs at various entrances to town, be on the lookout. Mayor Napoli and the Board of Trustees are extremely proud of the all the individuals who volunteered their time to make Willowbrook’s 50th Anniversary celebration a success. The 50th Anniversary Committee combined the efforts and talents of Willowbrook citizens, business owners, elected officials and Village staff to develop an outstanding celebration worthy of recognition by the State of Illinois. Please join Mayor Napoli and the Board of Trustees in congratulating a fine group of devoted volunteers, citizens and staff!

New Refuse/Recycling Contract

The Village recently entered into a new four year contract for single family residential solid waste and recycling collection services with Republic Services, Inc. The new contract is similar to the previous contract and will officially go into effect January 1, 2012. Willowbrook will continue to operate using the toter collection system under a three day collection schedule (Mon, Tues, Weds). In the coming weeks, Republic Services will be mailing an informational brochure to all single family residences outlining any program changes.

The most significant change in the new contract is the inclusion of a “Senior Discount Rate”. Residents age 65 and older are eligible for a 10% discount off the 35 gallon toter service.

Waste stickers are also available for purchase for excess refuse or yard waste. Willowbrook waste stickers can be purchased at four locations:

- Willowbrook Village Hall
- Dominick’s (63rd & Rt. 83),
- Jewel (303 Holmes in Clarendon Hills)
- Walgreens (Plainfield Rd & Madison)

With the holidays right around the corner, it is important to note that Republic Services will collect Christmas Trees (free of charge) placed at the curb through the third week of January.

More detailed information regarding the Village’s new refuse contract can be found under the Municipal Services Department section of the Village’s website or by calling the Village Hall.
Community Newsletter

Village Highlights

New Electronics Recycling Law Passed

On January 1, 2012 electronics will be banned from landfills in the State of Illinois. Please be aware, waste haulers within Illinois, will no longer collect and dispose of any electronic devices or materials. According to the US EPA, electronics are complex devices which are made of wide variety of potentially harmful elements, such as lead, nickel, cadmium and mercury. The Village of Willowbrook and other communities cooperate with Downers Grove Township & DuPage County to offer both periodic and one-time special event drop-off locations.

An example of a recurring electronics recycling event would be the Downers Grove Township Highway Department’s Electronics Recycling Event held on the 3rd Saturday of the month (8 AM-Noon) at 813 Quincy Street in Westmont. At the event you can drop off unwanted electronics and more to be recycled. If you have any questions, please call (630) 719-6625. For a comprehensive list of electronics recycling locations, companies & events, visit DuPage County’s website to view the DuPage County Recycling Guide (dupageco.org/recycling).

The follow items are examples of items which may no longer be disposed of in the trash. These items must be recycled.
• Televisions, monitors
• Printers, facsimile machines, scanners
• Computers, keyboards & mice
• Video game consoles & VCRs
• Cable boxes & satellite receivers
• Portable digital music players
• DVD/CD recorders and players

New Public Comment Procedure Developed

Recently, the State of Illinois passed an amendment to the Illinois Open Meetings Act mandating that any person shall have the right to address Village public officials at open meetings under rules established by the particular governing body holding the meeting. In response to the amendment, the Village Board felt it would be appropriate to develop a procedure for public commentary at the Village’s meetings. The new public comment procedure establishes that every meeting will have a “Visitor’s Business” item near the beginning of the meeting where public comments can be heard. Visitors who wish to speak must fill out a sign-in sheet. Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes on topics that relate to Village business. Public commentary should be addressed to the Village Board in a respectful manner. Any questions regarding the new public comment procedures should be directed to the Village Hall at (630) 323-8215.

Grant Funding Update

The Village was the recipient of an Illinois Capital Grant from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity in the amount of $46,000. This money will be used for a backstop construction project at Borse Memorial Community Park. The first phase of the project began in early November. This phase consists of the demolition of the old, rusty, arched backstops and construction of 16 foot, galvanized steel backstops with a 6 foot overhang. The final phase of the project will consist of the construction of permanent dugout canopies at each of the park’s 3 fields. The Parks Department hopes the entire project will be completed by Spring 2012.
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Village Administrator
Timothy J. Halik

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