I would like to take this opportunity to inform you how your Village supplies drinking water to all Village citizens. As you are aware, the Village’s water rates were increased effective March 1, 2012. The Village’s increased rates are a direct result of the City of Chicago’s unilateral water rate hike. 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 first provide you with some background as to how your water makes it from Lake Michigan to your home.

The Village of Willowbrook is a member of the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) which is comprised of 28 charter communities. The DWC purchases its water from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water. Your water begins its journey when it is drawn from the Harrison-Dever crib in water that is 35-feet deep. The water is transported to the Jardine Water Purification Plant, the largest water treatment plant in the world, located just north of Navy Pier.

The treated water next flows to one of eight pumping stations located throughout Chicago, where it is sent to the DuPage Pumping Station in Elmhurst. The water is then distributed to the various members of the DuPage Water Commission. The DuPage Pumping Station has a pumping capacity of 185 million gallons per day. This water is delivered through more than 202 miles of water mains to each of the DWC’s customers including Willowbrook.

In 2011, the Village of Willowbrook purchased approximately 368 million gallons of Chicago water through the DWC. The Village’s water is received through a 20-inch supply main where it is sent to the Village’s pumping station complex before heading to one of the Village’s three above grade storage structures (water towers). While at the pumping station, the water is analyzed and

Continued on page 1
Willowbrook P.D. Participates in St. Baldrick’s Event

What began as a challenge between friends has grown into the world’s fastest growing volunteer-driven fundraising opportunity benefiting childhood cancer research. The St. Baldrick’s Foundation coordinates its signature head-shaving events worldwide, where volunteers gather donations and have their heads shaved to support children with cancer. On March 18, 2012, the 4th Annual Kerry Piper St. Baldrick’s event was held on a beautiful Sunday in Willowbrook. The Kerry Piper event had a great turnout with 269 people (men & women) getting their heads shaved. The event organizers set and surpassed a lofty fundraising goal of $100,000. In fact, with donations still being counted the grand total is estimated to be over $117,000!!! The Willowbrook Police Department had several officers participate in the event by getting their head’s shaved. Our officers did a great job representing the Village at this inspiring event. For more information on this event and others like it visit www.stbaldricks.org or call 1 (888) 899-BALD (2253).

New Signs in Village Parks

If you are wondering why the Village parks look different these days, it may be due to the new park identification signs installed this past November. The old, deteriorating signs have been replaced with colorful, modern looking signs. These green and red signs are visible in each of our 10 parks and highlight the new Village logo. The sandblasted, cedar signs have also been updated to include the park hours and the Village’s website. The sign beds have been improved thanks to the efforts of the Village’s public works department and the Garden Club. The next time you are out for a stroll in one of the Village’s parks be sure check out these new markers.
chlorinated as required to ensure the quality of the water before it is pumped to the Village’s residential and retail customer base. Lake Michigan water is a higher-quality source than the combination of deep and shallow wells that previously provided water to the Village of Willowbrook.

After the City of Chicago draws the water, filters, treats and pumps it to the DuPage water station, it charges the DWC $2.51 per 1,000 gallons, up from $2.01 per 1,000 gallons last year. The DWC then adds $0.48 per 1,000 gallons, up from $0.29 per 1,000 gallons last year. DWC then sells water to its members at a price of $2.99 per 1,000 gallons. The DWC charge is to cover their costs of operating and maintaining the equipment/infrastructure necessary to distribute the water to each of the 28 communities that make up the DWC. The increased City of Chicago/DWC prices equate to a 30% increase in cost to our Village. The table listed below illustrates the cost increases by Chicago and the DWC between 2011 and now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011 Cost per 1,000 Gallons</th>
<th>2012 Cost per 1,000 Gallons</th>
<th>Cost Increase per 1,000 Gallons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago</td>
<td>$2.01</td>
<td>$2.51</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuPage Water</td>
<td>$0.29</td>
<td>$0.48</td>
<td>$0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>$2.30</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regrettably, the Village cannot provide water to its residents and maintain its own water infrastructure system without passing along a portion of this 30% price increase. The Village decided that water rates would be only increased by 20% to our residents. We are not passing the additional 10% rate increase along to our residents.

Additionally, the Village Board approved a 6% discount for any resident who uses the minimum amount (9,000 gallons) of water during a given quarter. This discount was developed to help out the seniors in town who are on a fixed income, and it also benefits conservation-minded residents who actively attempt to limit their water usage.

Historically, the recent 20% water rate increase marks only the second water rate increase by the Village in over 10 years. The last increase was on May 1, 2010, when the Village of Willowbrook raised water rates 20% in response to the DWC raising their rate 17%. The increment amount was intended to fund a future water tank maintenance project. On May 1, 2011, the DWC again raised water rates to the Village by 10%. This time the Village decided not to raise rates but chose to absorb the increase rather than passing it along to our residents. Overall, the DWC has raised water rates to the Village by 57% over the past 3 years. Again, this is primarily due to rate increases by the City of Chicago. The Village in turn only raised water rates 40% during this timeframe while absorbing 17% of the increase.

As the Village’s water mains and equipment age, the Village must maintain and fund the necessary repairs to our water system infrastructure. The Village’s water tanks represent a portion of this
infrastructure that need to be drained, sand-blasted, and re-coated (both inside & outside) roughly every 16-18 years. The protective coating on the current water towers are between 10-13 years old, meaning in the next 6-8 years the Village will have to fund a maintenance project to complete this work. The projected cost for this infrastructure maintenance project has been estimated at roughly $1 million. Previously, the Village elected to issue bonds to maintain the water towers. The Village Board and I are planning to fund these future infrastructure repairs without issuing debt. This will save you and I as taxpayers money by not having to pay interest. It is our plan to have a sufficient enough reserve to be able to pay for the infrastructure improvements, without having to take on additional debt.

Your Village Board and I as well as the Village staff will continue to strive to find and implement the most cost effective, fiscally responsible and equitable policies and programs possible during these tough economic times. Our goal is to minimize the ever-increasing cost of local government to our citizens imposed by other governmental authorities such as the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission.

In closing, please accept my best wishes for your good health, prosperity and happiness this year.

My Best,

Mayor Robert A. Napoli

Grant Funding Update

The Village was the recipient of an Illinois Capital Grant from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity in the amount of $60,000. The funding will be used for a drainage improvement project in the Knolls and Stanhope developments. The project will consist of outfall improvements to Knolls Lake located at the northwest corner of 63rd Street & Route 83. The drainage improvement project will lower the water level at Knolls Lake by about a foot. In the past, this area has experienced flooding issues. This project will help alleviate flooding concerns for both Willowbrook residents as well as businesses.

Village Receives CAFR Award

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Village of Willowbrook by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This award marks the 23rd consecutive time the Village received this distinction.
The Willowbrook Retail Inventory is an economic development tool that details each of the Village’s ten retail properties. Village residents can use the Inventory to find specific businesses within Willowbrook. Growing retailers and business owners looking to open a new business or expand or relocate their current business can use the Inventory to quickly identify potential locations and landlord contact information. In fact, Endure It! Sports utilized the Inventory to locate their current business location. The Inventory also helps Village staff monitor the health of the business community within Willowbrook.

As noted in the most recent Retail Inventory update the Village’s current retail vacancy rate is 9.31% (or 75,248 sq. ft). This total includes new businesses Strive Martial Arts, HoneyCuts, GameStop & Subway as well as businesses that have closed their doors such as Ace Hardware and Blockbuster Video in the Hinsdale Lake Commons and Amcore Bank in the Patio Retail Center. The current vacancy rate has decreased since January 2010 when the vacancy rate for the Village was at 13.42% (or 107,528 sq. ft). This represents a decrease in vacant retail space of 4.11% (or 32,280 sq. ft). The Retail Inventory can be found on the Village’s website www.willowbrookil.org under the Planning & Development Department.

The Village has decided to endorse the Energy Savings Program developed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Through this program residential customers (who use under 100kWh of electricity) will have the option to purchase their electricity from a company other than Commonwealth Edison (ComEd). The power is provided by Integrys Energy Services. This program provides an 18% guaranteed savings through June, 2012 of the power generation portion of the bill. This translates into about a 12% to 13% savings of the overall electricity bill. Rates are guaranteed to be less than ComEd’s rates for the second year of the program through June, 2013. For joining the program, customers will also receive four (4) compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

The power generation portion of your electricity bill is about 65% of the total bill. Other parts of the bill include the transmission of the electricity to your home. If you have not made a change at this point, it means that your power generation is supplied by ComEd. It is important to note that if you change to a different power supplier, ComEd will continue to distribute the electricity to your home and collect payment on a single bill, the way it is done now. Competition and lower energy rates today make it possible to lower the power generation portion of your bill. It is estimated that lower rates will be found at least through June, 2013.

More information and enrollment for this program can be found at www.integrysenergy.com
At Community Bank of Willowbrook we treat our customers like friends and neighbors, not numbers. As a true community bank we appreciate our customers and the communities we serve.

COMMUNITY BANK of WILLOWBROOK
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK

6262 S. Route 83 | Willowbrook, IL 60527
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Willowbrook, Illinois 60527-5594
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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  Monday—Friday
Hours             8:30 a.m.—11:00 p.m.

www.willowbrookil.org

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