MAYOR’S MESSAGE

“Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays”

On behalf of everyone here at the Village Hall, we extend to all the warmest and best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season. May the spirit of this wonderful time be with each of you and your loved ones.

As this season rapidly approaches, it is well to recount the blessings we today all enjoy in America, a country that Lincoln called “the last best hope on earth”. Let us give heartfelt thanks to our veterans and our active armed forces for the steadfast protection they have always given our freedoms. Let us as well extend our sincere gratitude to those volunteers who, in their many charitable works of mercy, have always extended “helping hands” to those among us most in need. As we recount our many blessings, let us also not forget the enormous, generational debt we can never repay our grandparents and parents for the many sacrifices and acts of devotion they gave our generation. We need to always remember that “we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.”

As Mayor, it is my sincere pledge to you that I will continue to work to reduce expenses, but not services, and not increase your Village taxes. The last year has seen a continued improvement in our overall financial condition. Your Village Board and I pledge to continue on this proven path.

On a personal note, I want to express to you how truly grateful I am for the privilege and honor of serving as your Mayor. It is a job I love but could not do without the support, hard work and dedication of many people who care about this Village. In this regard, I extend my sincere thanks to all our employees, our commission members, our professional staff and our Village Board for their unstinting commitment given to making Willowbrook the excellent community in which we can all take pride of place.

My best,

Robert A. Napoli
Mayor
The Village of Willowbrook

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Electric Aggregation Referendum

Municipal electric aggregation has become a common topic of conversation among Chicagoland municipalities. Municipal electric aggregation refers specifically to the situation where a municipality organizes the pooling of its residents to become a buying group. The municipality then seeks out competitive bids from electric providers on behalf of this group in an effort to obtain better pricing, terms and services than would be available to an individual resident. Most municipalities that have undertaken the aggregation process have experienced electric bill savings for residents and small businesses.

Under state law, in order to receive authority to negotiate on behalf of our residents, voters would have to approve a referendum. The referendum question will appear on the April 9, 2013 Consolidated General Election ballot. If voters approve the referendum, the Village will create a Plan of Operation and Governance, and hold at least two public hearings to discuss this plan, which are requirements by Statute. Once the plan is in place, the Village can solicit bids from suppliers who are licensed as alternative electric suppliers in the State of Illinois. Bids are reviewed, and the Village determines if and with whom it will enter into an agreement for energy supply. If favorable pricing does not exist, the Village will not enter into an agreement and remain with ComEd. The intent of this initiative is for the Village to continue to explore new ways to try and save the residents and small businesses of Willowbrook money.

~ In Memoriam ~

On October 24, 2012, Donald H. Shultz, former Willowbrook Trustee and second Village President, passed away.

Donald Shultz was born and raised in Lyons, IL to Carl and Clara Shultz. Don graduated from Knox College in 1950 and after service in the U.S. Army, he married Lucille Vasta in 1954. With his wife Lucille, Don raised a family of four girls and a boy – Mary, Lisa, Marla, Katherine, and John. Don was also a grandfather of fourteen.

Don devoted his life to public service spanning seven decades. Don was elected to the position of Village Trustee in 1967 and was elected as the second Village President in 1969. Don resigned his position of Village President in 1974 when he was elected to the DuPage County Board. During his tenure as Village President, the Village began to grow both with respect to population and land. Don oversaw the annexation of many properties into the Village. Under President Shultz, the administration also developed the Village’s first ordinance code book. Don will always be remembered for his tremendous leadership, generosity and devotion to friends and family.
We feel one of the best ways to encourage good performance is to measure it, and the best indicator of governmental performance is citizen satisfaction. An annual citizen survey is a direct, common instrument used to measure the level of citizen satisfaction with Village government programs and services.

Willowbrook just completed its fourth community-wide citizen survey. The survey document was mailed to 1,000 randomly selected households in August 2012. 233 completed surveys were returned. Residents were asked to identify and rank advantages and disadvantages of living in Willowbrook, as well as their level of satisfaction related to business and residential development.

Among the specific highlights of the 2012 Willowbrook Citizen Survey:

- 98.7% responded that they were “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the overall quality of life in Willowbrook. In fact, more than half (57.1%) replied they were “Very Satisfied” with the quality of life in Willowbrook.
- 86.9% of survey respondents report that feel as though they receive a fair level of service for the tax dollars paid to the Village of Willowbrook.
- When asked to rank the top non-residential developments they would like to see, respondents answered as follows: 1. Restaurants, 2. Retail, 3. Light Industrial, 4. Theaters, and 5. Medical Facilities.

The results of the annual survey will be used during this year’s budgeting process to help guide our resources to the appropriate areas.

The Village has always sought to maintain high standards in budget and financial reporting. The development of high quality budget and financial documents is an excellent way to keep you the public informed as to where your tax dollars are being spent. Each year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) offers the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Village Budget document and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to governments that prepare the highest quality documents based on guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting.

We are excited to report that the Village of Willowbrook was approved as a recipient of both the Distinguished Budget Award (Fiscal Year 2011-12) and the CAFR Award (Fiscal Year 2010-11). These awards represent a significant achievement by the Village of Willowbrook. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. This was Willowbrook’s 10th consecutive Distinguished Budget Award and its 23rd consecutive CAFR Award. The current year budget document and CAFR have been completed and submitted to GFOA for consideration for awards. Both the award winning Budget and CAFR documents are available for download on the Village’s website or can be viewed at the Village Hall or Indian Prairie Public Library.
Municipal Services Department

Upcoming Route 83 Construction

Earlier this year, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) published its Management Monitoring Schedule for DuPage County. The schedule included a construction project for the resurfacing of Kingery Highway from Cook County Line to Knollwood Road and from Knollwood Road to Butterfield (Rt. 56). These projects were slated for 2017. In September, the Village received notice from IDOT that the project has been accelerated and is now slated for 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 (8:00 PM until 5:00 AM) was discussed and approved. The rationale for allowing the work to be performed at night was to attempt to maintain traffic flow during the peak morning and afternoon hours. The Village will continue to provide updates with respect to this project.

2012 Road Maintenance Program

At its regular meeting on May 14, 2012, the Village Board approved a contract with James D. Fiala Paving Company to complete the 2012 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funded Roadway Maintenance Program. The contract amount awarded was $188,947.82 and included the re-paving 2.22 miles of streets located in the northeast quadrant of the Village, replacement of worn pavement markings, and sealcoating and re-striping of Village owned parking facilities. Given the low unit price received for the sealcoating work, the Village was also able to sealcoat the asphalt walking path through Community Park and the Village-owned bike path along 75th Street.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan

Unfortunately, it is believed Willowbrook has EAB infested trees within the Village limits. Therefore, it is necessary and prudent to develop a plan of action for how to deal with this unfortunate problem. In May 2012, the Village Board approved a proposal to conduct a stem by stem inventory of all publically owned trees as well as develop an EAB management plan. As part of the inventory, EAB infected ash trees will be identified throughout the Village. From this list of infected trees, the Village will begin a phased removal and replacement process over the next several years.

Police Department

In lieu of spending your tax dollars, we used Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proceeds awarded to the Village for drug based arrests and confiscations for the following purchases:

LiveScan Fingerprinting System

The Police Department recently upgraded to an inkless fingerprinting technology known as LiveScan. Prior to the upgrade, the Village had been using ink pads when taking finger prints. The LiveScan technology captures an individual’s fingerprint and demographic data in a digital format that can easily be transferred to the Illinois State Police repository for processing. The $9,563 cost of the LiveScan system was funded entirely by DEA funding.

New Squad Car Purchases

The Police Department added two new vehicles to their fleet with the purchase of a new patrol vehicle as well as a K-9 vehicle. The total cost of these two vehicles came in around $72,000. Because of the use of the DEA funding, the Village did not have to pay for the vehicles out of the Village budget.
Community Newsletter
Village Department Highlights

Parks & Recreation Department

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

This past summer the Village Of Willowbrook contracted with Design Perspectives Inc. to develop a comprehensive master plan for the Village’s Park and Recreation Department. A thorough evaluation of the park system will help determine what direction the Village Board, Park and Recreation Commission, and Village staff would like to take the Park and Recreation Department. A master plan would be an invaluable resource to help give the direction we need to move forward and provide numerous gains in the future. In addition, an updated, comprehensive park and recreation master plan is essential in determining specific projects to pursue grants for, especially Open Space and Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grants offered through the state of Illinois.

Design Perspectives is currently in the process of surveying community members in the hopes of determining what kind of programs, facilities and park amenities, if any, need to be added, enhanced or eliminated. If you would like the opportunity to complete this survey, please visit our website at www.willowbrookil.org or pick up a copy of the survey at the Village Hall.

Starting in January, Design Perspectives will be holding focus group meetings with area residents to get feedback on three areas of the Park and Recreation Department. These meetings will conclude with a community wide information gathering meeting. These meetings are open to any Willowbrook resident and will be held in the Village Hall’s Council Chambers. To be included in one of these discussion groups, please contact Kristin Violante, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, at 630-920-2251.

Wed, Jan. 9, 7:00 p.m. - Recreation Programming
Thurs, Jan. 10, 7:00 p.m. - Park Amenities
Tues, Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m. - Programming Facilities
Thurs, Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m. - Village-Wide Meeting

Grant Funding Update

The current economic climate has resulted in a decline in Village revenues. With this in mind, the Village Board and I have directed Village staff to aggressively seek alternative revenue sources in the form of grants. In the past year, the Village applied for and received grant funding for a variety of projects including: new backstops and dugouts at Borse Community Park and energy efficient LED street lighting upgrades.

Community Park Backstop Replacement Project

The Borse Community Park backstop replacement project was funded by a $46,000 capital grant from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The first phase of the project which consisted of the demolition of the old, rusty, arched backstops and the construction of 16 foot, galvanized steel backstops was completed in 2011. This past summer, the remaining grant funding was spent on a second phase in which permanent dugout canopies were constructed on each of the park’s 3 fields. These ball fields service over 50 youth and adult teams.

LED Streetlight Replacement Project

The Village has also been working with DCEO on a $92,000 grant which will be used for LED upgrades to the Village’s streetlights. The project the Village has submitted is a streetlight replacement project in which the Village's antiquated, energy inefficient streetlights will be replaced with new LED technology. The Village’s current streetlights range from 24 to 49 years old. The grant funding will be used for Phase I of a multi-phase project. The new LED lighting heads will use a fraction of the energy the old heads used, will provide more uniform lighting disbursement, and will also save money on future maintenance. Converting to LED technology will also reduce carbon emissions making it an environmentally friendly project. The Village currently has 168 streetlights and using the grant funding is hoping to retrofit at least half of these fixtures depending upon material and labor/installation costs.
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
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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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