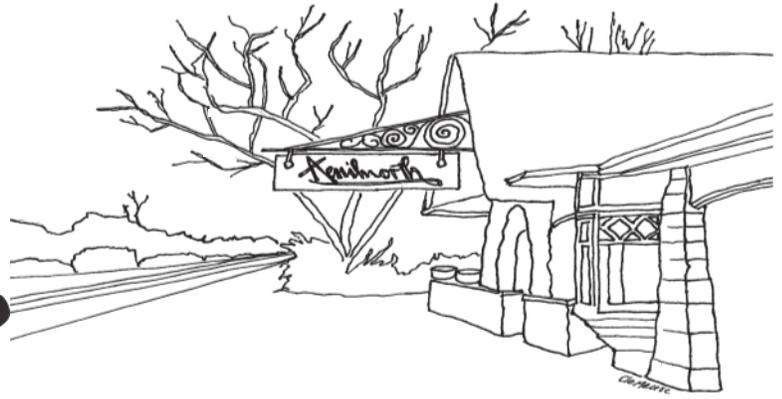


Village of

Kenilworth



419 Richmond Road  
Kenilworth, IL 60043  
847-251-1666

## Village President's Message—Vol. XXIV

September 2014

### Village President

Bill Russell

### Village Trustees

James Hughes

James R. McClamroch  
Jr.

Michael Thomas

Scott Lien

Kevin Lennon

Ann Potter

### Treasurer

Patrick Garvey

### Village Manager

Patrick Brennan

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Labor Day has passed, signaling that the end of our summer is drawing near. With one of our construction projects ending, I wanted to provide you with an update on several Village projects. This edition of the newsletter contains important information about our efforts to begin constructing a new storm sewer system. I hope that you will consider taking the time to read about our progress.



Bill Russell  
Village President

### **Improving Water Pressure and Flow**

If you recall, through periodic testing of our fire hydrants, we learned that 93% of the fire hydrants west of Green Bay Road were not capable of achieving a 1,000 gallon per minute flow rate. The majority of those were not even able to deliver more than 500 gallons per minute. The resulting engineering studies recommended replacing a number of water mains to improve our system pressure. The first wave of improvements in the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Improvement Program planned for construction of new 12" water mains on Roger, Brier and Melrose. I am pleased to report that the work is complete. During construction process the contractors encountered a number of unmarked utilities that impacted their ability to stay on schedule. Rather than forcing the utilities to relocate their infrastructure and encounter multi-month delays, the decision was made to place the new water mains eight feet below the ground; the typical depth is 6 ½ feet. The lower depth does not impact performance in any way, but contributes to the additional time and material expenses.

The unavoidable delays resulted in site restoration occurring during what are typically our hottest months of the summer. Because of this, the placement of new sod is excluded from the contractor's warranty responsibilities under the standard IDOT contract terms. Regardless, we felt it was important to restore the site without further delay – our residents have already been patient enough. While we are taking a bit of a risk that the sod will not survive, we are hoping that the residents in the area can help us keep it watered until it has 4-6 weeks to stabilize.

We are confident that the new water mains have made a significant difference in the project area and more than likely also in the areas immediately surrounding the work. To help quantify the benefit and to best locate the area for our next phase of work, the Winnetka-Kenilworth Fire Department is in the process of testing our fire hydrants. We hope to have the results of the testing in the next six weeks. Once we have that information assembled we will map the data and share the results.

### **Flooding and Surcharged Sewers**

Another major component of our KW2023 program has been addressing the long-standing problems with sewage surcharging into our basements, streets and Lake Michigan during heavy downpours. After two years of research, design and public meetings we have identified a plan designed to address our flooding both now and for the future.

While this has been written about several times before, I would like to provide a little history as to how we reached the comprehensive plan to address our flooding problems. Historically, the Village has experienced reoccurring problems with sewage backing up into our homes, streets and fouling Lake Michigan via our combined sanitary/storm sewer system. Previously, the Village has considered constructing a separated storm sewer system to address the problem, but funding had always been the primary hurdle. After a particularly strong storm in 2008 and in response to renewed resident requests to address flooding, the Village Board commissioned a Sewer and Watershed study. The study was initiated to both quantify the extent of the flooding and surcharging problems and identify alternatives to address the problem. The report determined that the Village combined sewer system while adequate when installed, is now dramatically undersized for modern demands. Accordingly, the study identified creation of a separate storm sewer and removal of the storm water from the MWRD main sanitary sewer line as the necessary action to reduce sewer surcharging. The study also provided a comprehensive plan for the separation of sewers in the combined sewer area.

Recognizing that the Village infrastructure needs went beyond just separating the sewer system, the Trustees next commissioned development of a Village-wide capital infrastructure plan to determine our water, roadway and sewer needs for a 10-year period. This was done to ensure that repairs were conducted in a systematic way. The Village wanted to avoid rebuilding a road only to dig it up a short time later to repair a water main break. The resulting master plan was aptly named the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Improvement Program or KW2023 for short. In April 2013, residents authorized the Village to sell bonds to implement the first phase of the \$24 million three phase master plan.

With funding authorized, the Village began to develop preliminary design drawings and meet with the permitting agencies. A key component to the solution recommended by our engineers was the discharge of the Village storm water to Lake Michigan through the new storm sewer system. The storm water discharge would require the review and approval of several different permitting agencies.

While meeting with authorities, the Village learned that the regulatory agencies would not permit the discharge of raw storm water to Lake Michigan. While other communities had received permits in years past, the regulatory agencies were now requiring the utilization of best practices to improve the quality of storm water discharge to Lake Michigan.

The news from the Illinois E.P.A. and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created a decision point for the Village Board. Should the Village construct a traditional storm sewer system using old technology that remains linked to the MWRD sanitary sewer, or should 21<sup>st</sup> century technology be used to improve the quality of our storm water so it can be discharged to Lake Michigan. The traditional system while less costly to construct, will leave homes vulnerable to sewage backup and will do little to solve street flooding. Reaching a decision required evaluating numerous options, levels of benefit, long-term maintenance costs and anticipated benefits. The conclusion was that we did not feel it prudent to invest your money in a traditional sewer system, which does not adequately address our flooding problems. So, we directed our design engineers to investigate the best practices for our situation. The recommended approach involved utilizing several best practices in green infrastructure technology including the use of permeable pavers and bio-infiltration areas (rain gardens & grassy swales). The forward-thinking concepts caught the attention of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). After discussing our approach, the Board of the MWRD indicated a desire to fund \$993,000 of green infrastructure improvements for the Cumberland, Roslyn and Melrose project.

As the Village worked to identify the best plan for addressing our sewer surcharging problem, public outreach was an important part of our plan. Our website, newsletters and community meetings were all used in an effort to ensure that interested residents knew what path the Village was pursuing. As a result, a number of residents in the intended project area expressed concern about how the roadway pavers, rain gardens and parkway swales would impact the neighborhood. Due to these concerns, we decided to not pursue bidding out the sewer separation project in 2014. Rather, we decided to use the additional time to allow time for resident review and comment.

### **Current Status of Sewer Separation Project**

With the water main improvements complete, we are refocusing our efforts upon the sewer separation project. In an effort to address resident questions about the appearance of the rain gardens, we have designed a rain garden / swale demonstration area at Village Hall. The project will allow residents to see what the typical rain garden and grassy swale would look like in real life. This will also let residents see how the intended work is managed around existing trees. One of the concerns expressed is that the volume of parkway work will stress our mature trees. Throughout the design process we have consulted with an arborist to ensure that we were taking strong efforts to protect our trees. We will continue to adapt the plans to favor our mature trees even after construction has started.

To help select the color of the interlocking pavers, a group of residents have volunteered their time and reviewed a number of sample colors. We are working with one firm to obtain full-size examples for the group to view

before making the final color selection.

While the majority of our design work is completed, we have also utilized this summer to engage a third party engineer to review the existing engineering plans. While we believe that the design engineers have identified and recommended strong options for the Village, we feel that it could not hurt to have an additional set of eyes look at the plans. We hope that the third party review will be completed by the beginning of October.

With a path identified and various reviews of that path being conducted, we are on the cusp of initiating construction to rectify a long-standing problem in the Village. The Village Board and I have been reviewing facts, studies, engineering reports and recommendations for several years, and feel that we are taking the approach that is in the best interest of the Village. However, I know many of you wish to ask additional questions and assess the plan. To that end, it is important that you are armed with the facts and know where to find the information you desire. To assist you we have developed a website that contains a volume of information about the sewer separation project. I hope that you will find it beneficial. Should you not find the information at KW2023.com that you desire, please call or send us an email. If we have the information available, we will provide it to you.

The Village Board and I will continue to meet and discuss our options related to this project. Additionally, I will be conducting several neighborhood meetings over the next two months in an effort to meet with residents and answer questions. Hearing from residents is a vital component of our deliberative process. It is my hope that we will be prepared to start construction of the separated sewer system on Cumberland, Roslyn, and Melrose, east of Cumnor in early 2015.

## **Other Project Updates**

### Water Plant

This has been a busy summer in Kenilworth. In addition to the other projects mentioned, we have been examining the long-term costs associated with either continuing to operate our own water plant or purchasing water from a neighboring community. This was one of the objectives in the KW2023 Plan. Our water plant is reaching the point where we need to either consider making additional upgrades to the plant, or rely upon another community to provide our water. This fact was evidenced recently when a pump failure required us to rely upon our emergency water connection with the village of Winnetka. A study is currently underway to identify the cost of both options and we hope to discuss the results at a Village Board meeting in October or November.

### Sidewalk Repairs

We are currently in the process of initiating our sidewalk replacement program. This winter appears to have been unusually rough on our sidewalks. Staff has identified a large number of sidewalks that need to be replaced and the Village Board recently agreed to shift funding to address the greater need. The Village participates in a multi-community bidding process in an effort to obtain the best replacement costs possible. I expect that you will see crews working on to replace many of our offset sidewalks in October. Our goal was to get the work done before school began, however the contractor who won the bid for the work was not available any sooner.

**Conclusion**

As a community, I believe that we are on the precipice of a significant decision that will impact our village for future decades. We have endured flooding problems for decades and the engineering studies are clear – removing our storm water from the sewer system, and discharging that water to Lake Michigan will reduce the amount of raw sewage that enters our basements, roads and our lake. Correcting that problem will take significant effort, and the use of green infrastructure will not be inexpensive. However, I believe that if we are going to proceed then we must fix our problems the right way and make smart use of current technology to be environmentally sensitive. We have been faced with this problem for a significant period of time and we are finally in a position to address it. I hope that after reviewing the relevant information, you will agree with our intended approach to improve both our conditions and those of Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Russell  
Village President

Village of



419 Richmond Road  
Kenilworth, IL 60043

**Postal Customer  
Kenilworth, Illinois 60043**

**Village President's Message  
Enclosed**

## Village of Kenilworth News

For news, updates, and additional information, see  
the Village's website,  
[www.villageofkenilworth.org](http://www.villageofkenilworth.org)

Be sure to sign up for *The Kenilworth Contact* electronic  
newsletter by entering your e-mail address on the Village  
website at [www.villageofkenilworth.org](http://www.villageofkenilworth.org).