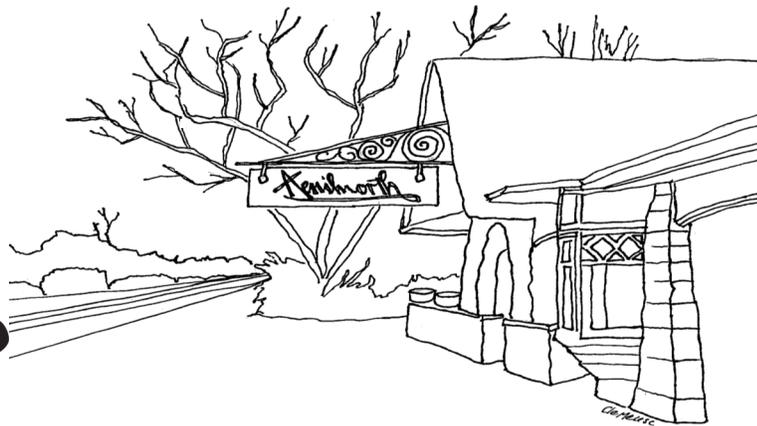


Village of

Kenilworth



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Kenilworth, IL 60043

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org

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Village President
Fred G. Steingraber

Village President's Message—Vol. IV

Dear Residents:

It is hard to believe, but the seasons are already changing and a touch of fall has already been in the air. Hopefully you have had an enjoyable summer - enough to last through another Chicago winter.

At the same time, your Village Trustees have continued to be actively engaged in working on our 2009-2010 Priority Agenda issues. Like so many agendas, or best-laid plans, events often occur that were not on the agenda. This was certainly true with respect to our ComEd power outage problem in June and July, which we have continued to pursue. I am pleased to report that we can confirm a Village meeting with ComEd to be held on Tuesday evening (7:30 p.m.), October 20th, at the Kenilworth Club. This will be an important opportunity to learn firsthand what fundamentally caused this problem, why it wasn't preventable, and how ComEd will secure a longer-term solution that will provide uninterrupted service during extreme weather conditions. So, please note this date and time on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

As with the power outage, we have recently encountered another challenging issue related to our Village finances. The financial market meltdown has caused an unprecedented decline in the financial reserves of all public pension funds, including the Village of Kenilworth. The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) for public employees lost nearly 25% of its value in 2008 alone. The Police and Firefighter Pension Fund reserves experienced a similar decline. Like most communities, our Village has a legislatively mandated responsibility for funding the pension benefits of police and other municipal employees. Those lost reserves must be replaced beginning in the current Fiscal Year 2010 on top of the already escalating normal costs to fund these pensions, which have nearly doubled over the past decade.

The funding for public employee pensions comes from three sources - employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment returns from the funds held in reserve to pay for pensions. Since employee contributions are capped by the General Assembly and investment losses are a primary reason for this dilemma, the fiscal burden falls upon the employer contributions (i.e., local taxpayers) to keep these funds at required levels.

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Recognizing the financial impact on taxpayers, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) board took steps to mitigate its investment losses and offered an option to municipalities to cap their fund contributions for municipal employees (excluding Police and Fire) to a 10% increase per year by increasing the payment schedule. However, a similar cap on contributions to Police and Firefighter funds requires separate legislative action by the Illinois General Assembly.

Our community, as a member of the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC), sought such a similar legislative remedy this year. Working with Senators Susan Garrett and Pam Althoff, the NWMC succeeded in getting Senate Bill 2011 approved by the Illinois Senate. However, opposition from the State Police and Firefighter unions stalled Senate Bill 2011's advancement in the Illinois House. Members of the General Assembly will have one final opportunity this calendar year to provide relief from this substantial spike in public safety pension costs during their fall veto session on October 14-16 and 28-30. Waiting until next year for legislative action will be too late. The 2009 property tax levy must be finalized this December for inclusion on the 2010 tax bills.

Even prior to this event we anticipated having to budget an increase in Kenilworth's Police Pension fund of 13.2% (\$29,178) for Fiscal Year 2009/2010. With the absent legislative action in Springfield, we now estimate there will be an additional 30% (\$75,134) to 40% (\$100,178) increase in funding required for the Police Pension Fund. This increase will reduce the property tax revenue otherwise available to the Village to pay for Village operations. The increase in pension contributions will require the Village to consider increases in fees, reductions in services, and an increase in property taxes to avoid increasing the size of the Village current expected annual operating deficit.

If you desire some relief on your tax bill next year from the escalating supplemental pension fund contribution, I would recommend that you write or e-mail our State representatives as soon as possible to encourage them to support Senate Bill 2011 during this legislative session. Our State Senators and Representatives are reachable as follows:

State Representative, Julie Hamos

256-W. Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 6207
Springfield phone: 217.782.8052
Springfield fax: 217.552.7204

State Senator, Jeffrey Schoenberg

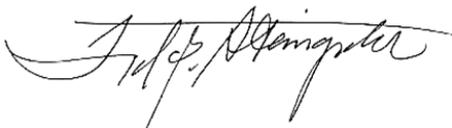
218-A State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
Springfield phone: 217.782.2119
Springfield fax: 217.782.0715

Local Office: 820 Davis Street, Suite 103
Evanston, IL 60093
Local phone: 847.424.9898
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e-mail: Julie@juliehamos.com

Local Office: 820 Davis Street, Suite 102
Evanston, IL 60201
Local phone: 847.492.1200
Local fax: 847.492.1202
e-mail: senator@jschoenberg.org

For additional information on Kenilworth's pension obligations, visit www.villageofkenilworth.org. I thank you very much for your continued support and assistance in helping the Village to amortize the cost of this adjustment over a longer period of time.

Sincerely yours,



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

Thank you Rev. Myers & Dr. Croghan!

Kenilworth has and always will continue to be a community of volunteers. Two outstanding residents, the Reverend Robert Myers, Ph.D., and Dr. John Croghan, M.D., are outstanding examples of residents who offer their assistance during times of need.

The Reverend Robert Myers, from Kenilworth's Church of the Holy Comforter, has been the Kenilworth Police Department's Police Chaplain since 2002. As Police Chaplain, Reverend Myers serves the community by assisting the Police Department in its response to individuals and families during times of crisis. Often with little notice, Rev. Myers is called upon to lend emotional support during emergency incidents. Whether he is asked to intervene in family disputes, support police officers with the difficult task of delivering death notifications, or responding to the scene of a police emergency—Reverend Myers' role as Police Chaplain has proven to be a tremendous service to the Village of Kenilworth and an exceptional resource for our Police Department.

Dr. John Croghan and the Kenilworth Police Department are in the second year of a Police Physician pilot program. This program was recently created to improve safety by providing police staff with a supplemental medical resource to aid the Department in its service to the community. Through this initiative Dr. Croghan volunteers his time and expertise by periodically consulting on health and medical matters. For example, Dr. Croghan and the Police staff have recently shared information regarding the growing concern over the health risks associated with this year's seasonal influenza virus and the H1N1 pandemic. Whether it is to discuss the risks of this year's flu viruses or last year's local outbreak of Pertussis, Dr. Croghan has generously volunteered his time to help promote good health in the Village of Kenilworth.

Village officials and the Kenilworth Police Department are very grateful for Reverend Myers' and Dr. Croghan's voluntarism!

Time for Parkway Tree Planting

It is parkway tree planting time again in Kenilworth! You should have received a letter in the mail letting you know about the program and the trees available for donation. This program has a long and storied tradition in Kenilworth and helps maintain the quality of life the Village is known for.

Trees are an important part of the Village's character, and the Village and its residents must be proactive in maintaining and continually renewing our tree population. The Village's Tree Planting Program offers a good choice of trees for planting on parkways and private property, at a reasonable price.

Recent years have been hard on Kenilworth's parkway tree population. Infestations and diseases such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease, have resulted in the loss of many trees. This year alone, the Village has had to take down 38 trees including 10 Ash trees damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer, and 20 Elms infected with Dutch Elm Disease. If you have any questions, visit our website: www.villageofkenilworth.org.

The Parkway Tree Planting Program is a way to give back to the community in a way future generations will thank you for!

Recycling Available at Village Hall

Old cell phones, DVDs, MP3 players, print cartridges, digital cameras, and laptop computers can all be brought to Village Hall to be recycled. This program is sponsored by the non-profit group, Recycling Avenue. The disposal container is by the front desk, and items can be brought in any time of day.

Computer monitors, printers, personal computers, and toner cartridges are not accepted. In addition to E-waste, you may bring in your old prescriptions and sharps to the Police counter and a disposal container for compact fluorescent light bulbs sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is in the front lobby as well. If you have any other questions of what to do with old batteries, old appliances, spent motor oil, etc., please visit:

www.swancc.org/greenPages/greenpages.html



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**Includes information on upcoming meeting
with ComEd & call for community support**

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, September 30—Public Works Committee Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 1—Park Board Meeting—5:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 5—Plan Commission Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 6—Finance Committee Meeting—5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 13—Village Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 19—Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 20—ComEd Public Meeting—7:30 p.m.

For more information, see the Village's website, www.villageofkenilworth.org.