



Bill Russell
Village President

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Village President's Message—Vol. XXV

August 2015

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Summer is once again upon us and as you would expect it is a busy time for the Village. In this edition of my newsletter, I would like to provide you with a short update on several of our active projects. As always, please feel free to call our Village staff if you would like more information about any of these initiatives.

Intergovernmental Efficiency Task Force

The state budget has been the topic of many news articles lately as our legislators work toward a balanced budget proposal. In the Village we have been passing and more importantly maintaining a balanced budget for many years. Achieving this level is largely due to the efforts of many local leaders and Village staff. We continue to work diligently to actively pursue options to provide services in the most efficient way possible and manage your tax dollars wisely.

Our Village staff has been successful in achieving efficiencies by partnering with neighboring communities. For the past several years, we have participated in a joint bidding group with local communities and are one of five founding members of an inter-governmental information technology consortium. While we have achieved some notable successes, I believe that the highest level of success can only be achieved through active pursuit of the next achievement. To that end, I have formed an ad-hoc Intergovernmental Efficiency Task Force. The task force is comprised of representatives from the Village, Joseph Sears School, the park district and our library district. Their charge is to identify opportunities for sharing resources and generating efficiencies among our entities so that we are jointly using the total tax base of our community in the most efficient manner.

Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Improvement Program

Our work on the KW2023 Infrastructure Improvement Program is continuing. As you may recall, we developed plans to reduce the flooding problems plaguing the east side of the Village for decades. The plan involves constructing a separate storm sewer system to minimize the sewer, basement, and street flooding as well as minimizing the discharge of raw sewage to Lake Michigan. However, even a traditional separated storm sewer system cannot relieve flooding if the storm water is accelerated into an already over-taxed metropolitan sewage system. To address this excess stormwater, we worked with specialists to design a green infrastructure approach to stormwater management. The proposed system incorporated porous pavers, parkway rain gardens, and underground temporary stormwater detention in an effort to improve the quality of the stormwater to a responsible level for release into Lake Michigan.

While conducting resident outreach regarding the program, we heard concerns from the community that the porous pavers and rain gardens may make neighborhoods aesthetically different, create additional maintenance, and increase tire noise. As a result, we contracted a third party engineer to reevaluate the overall approach and ensure that the green system would function as proposed. The third party engineering firm did determine that the proposed green infrastructure approach would function as intended. The engineer also recommended that the Village further investigate the use of porous asphalt in lieu

of permeable pavers. The Village Board's Public Works Committee reviewed these alternative systems, and while the porous asphalt's overall characteristics are not as good as permeable pavers (i.g., durability, proven effectiveness, maintenance), the committee found that porous asphalt is nonetheless a viable alternative and that the resident concerns over appearance and noise outweighed the advantages of porous pavers. Therefore, the committee recommended that the construction plans for Cumberland, Roslyn, and Melrose were revised to

Cumberland Avenue Flooded After a Recent Storm

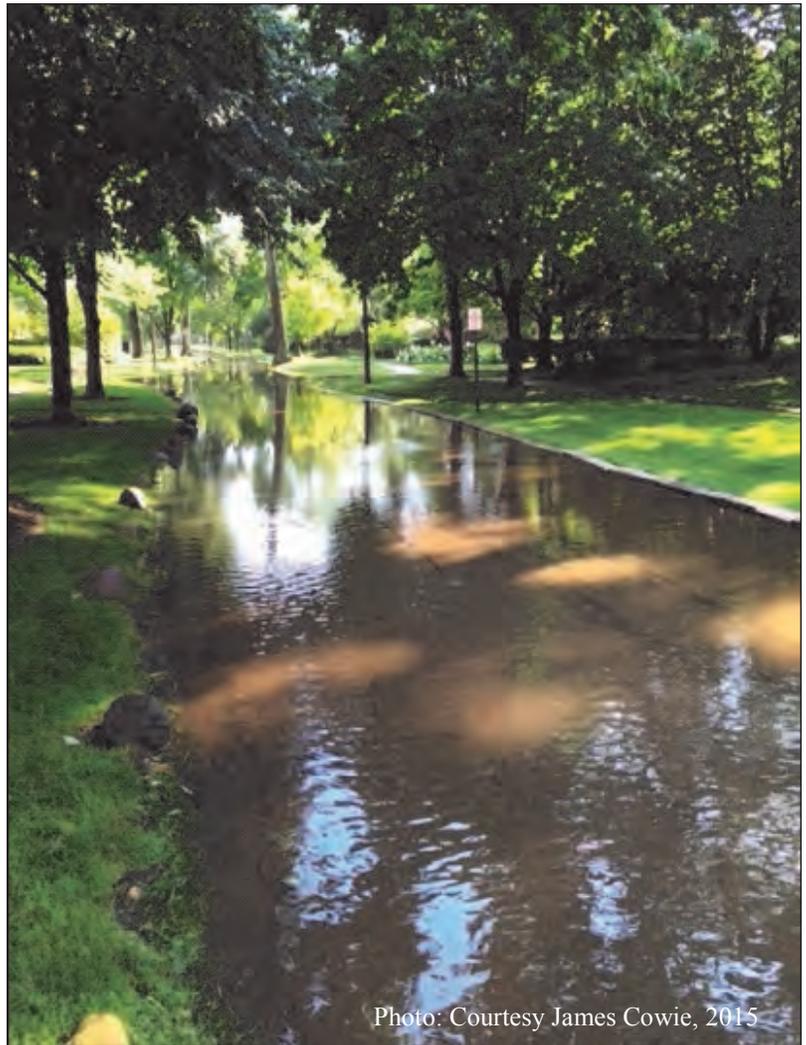


Photo: Courtesy James Cowie, 2015

include a porous asphalt road surface in lieu of permeable pavers. Additionally, the committee recommended the use of porous parkways (turf grass with a lowered center) rather than rain gardens in parkways.

The construction plans are currently being revised and will be available for review upon completion. Once the plans are redrafted, they will be placed on the website for review. The next step will be discussion of the plans at a public meeting which will be announced in advance. While the Village Board has not yet made a final decision, I am hopeful that we will reach a decision point later this year.

Our work toward identifying a potential route to release our stormwater to Lake Michigan is continuing. As we delved into meetings with the regulatory agencies and learned that there seems to be no hard target for stormwater quality, it became apparent that achieving the necessary permits would be a long and time-consuming process. Therefore, we asked our engineers to determine if connecting the new green stormwater system to the metropolitan sewer line on Sheridan Road (MWRD's Interceptor) while we work through the permit process would be effective. The answer was "yes." While the ideal solution (and preferred long-term option) is releasing our stormwater to Lake Michigan, our combined sewer neighborhoods will see flooding relief even if the new storm sewer is connected to the Sheridan Road metropolitan sewer line. Therefore, we feel it is appropriate to proceed with designing a new green storm sewer system, even if we don't have permits in hand to discharge the water to Lake Michigan. In the interim, our stormwater can continue to be directed to the Sheridan Road metropolitan sewer, just as it is today. However, the new sewer will also be protected against surcharge through mechanical devices designed to prevent the sanitary sewer from surcharging back into our basements and storm sewers.

Update Regarding Water Plant Analysis

I previously brought to your attention problems that we were encountering with the equipment at the water plant and the renewed examination of our long term potable water delivery options. Our problems with water and vacuum pump failures certainly expedited the urgency of our analysis. As a result, we have examined our options over the past year and conducted several studies related to both the water plant and our rate structure. The data indicates that with the age of our water plant, likely future capital needs, and current water rate, it makes better long-term financial sense to purchase water from one of our neighboring communities. This is of course, if we can achieve a favorable long-term water rate with making a reasonable capital investment.

The mid-term future capital needs of our water plant have been analyzed. While we have the option of selling bonds to invest further in the plant, we do not know what regulatory changes may be forthcoming. Since we do not produce the volume of drinking water that our neighbors produce, our capital expenditures have a higher impact upon our water rates. Conversely, the neighboring communities of Wilmette and Winnetka produce more gallons per year, so their capital investment is less impact per gallon produced. The

bottom line is that a water plant for a small community will never be efficient. Currently, the signs are pointing toward it making more long-term sense for us to purchase our drinking water. Therefore, the Village Board and I have directed our Village Manager to proceed with identifying the best option for the Village and reporting back to us. If all proceeds as anticipated, the Village Board will consider options later this year.

Revising Regulations – Steep Slope Zone and Drainage & Grading

Last year, a number of residents approached the Village Board to request consideration of additional regulation regarding construction in the bluff, credit for permeable surfaces, and additional drainage controls. While several of our surrounding communities have ordinances addressing these issues, the Village had not encountered circumstances where it became necessary. In response to the new requests, the Village selected consultants to help engage the community to determine what, if any regulation changes are warranted.

In concert with the review of our existing ordinances, several residents asked the Village Board to consider enacting a temporary moratorium on construction in the bluff area. The purpose was to protect the steep slope area from erosion and construction practices that may damage the sensitive slope leading to property

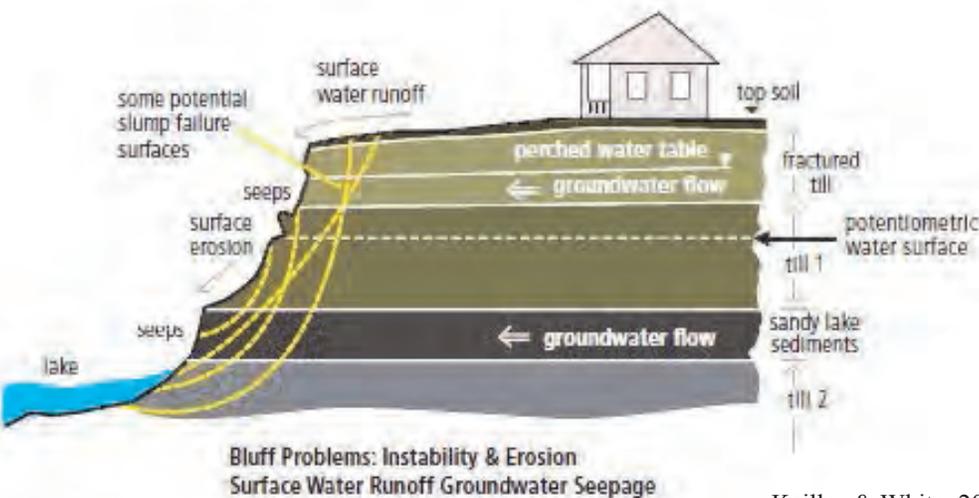
damage.

The Building, Planning and Zoning Committee held several public meetings and hearings on the issue and ultimately

recommended that the Village Board approve a temporary moratorium.

On June 17th, the Village Board approved a six month

moratorium on construction in and within 20 feet of the steep slope zone. In recognition of the potential need for utility or emergency work within the zone, the moratorium provides specific exemptions.



Keillor & White, 2003

moratorium on construction in and within 20 feet of the steep slope zone. In recognition of the potential need for utility or emergency work within the zone, the moratorium provides specific exemptions.

Initiating a moratorium is not taken lightly by your Board of Trustees and there were split views on this issue. In the end, I feel that the moratorium provides a temporary protection against potential damage to property and provides us time to review and enact effective ordinances. Recognizing the impact of the moratorium and the likelihood that it will take us many months to fully vet a Kenilworth-specific ordinance, I am taking steps that may help shorten the duration of the moratorium. I have recommended that the Building, Planning and Zoning Committee hold a public hearing on a steep slope ordinance on an expedited basis, so that we may have an ordinance in place that protects the lakefront and does not burden the lakefront homeowners with ongoing uncertainty.

Closing Thoughts

It is a busy summer for your Village. We have already completed our sidewalk repair program, completed several rounds of pothole patching, and completed asphalt and concrete street patching projects. Happily, several more months of warm weather remain; therefore, we will soon be cleaning and televising the combined sewer system and repairing some failing sanitary sewer pipes with a cured-in-place liner. While these projects are very important, our top goals remain, (1) working to reduce our sanitary sewer surcharge flooding events (KW2023) and, (2) identifying the long-term source of drinking water. For current information on our projects, meeting schedules and agendas, as well as staff contacts, please visit our website or sign up for the Kenilworth Contact. If you have any questions or concerns about our day-to-day operations, please feel free to contact our Village Manager, Patrick Brennan by calling Village Hall.

Sincerely,



Bill Russell
Village President

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Comcast	TV / Internet	866-594-1234
ComEd	Electricity	800-334-7661
Republic Svc.	Refuse/Recycling	847-981-0091
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Village of



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Village President's Newsletter

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Village of Kenilworth News

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