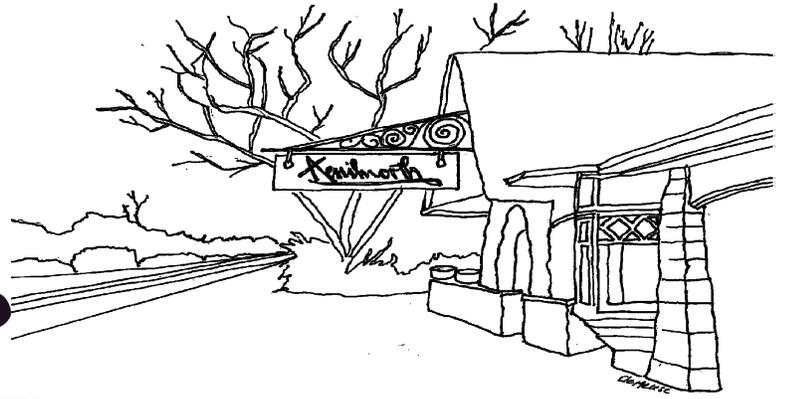


Village of

Kenilworth



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Village President's Message—Vol. XIX

February 2013

**Repackaging Infrastructure Program Into Phases
And Bond Referenda**

Following the unsuccessful vote in November on adopting Home Rule status to finance infrastructure improvements, the Trustees have now undertaken a detailed review process to repackage the program into separate phases. This will begin with Phase 1 being funded through a bond referenda which has been placed on the April 9, 2013 General Election Ballot, as suggested by many who opposed the Home Rule strategy.

While this will not provide for the significant savings projected through Home Rule it will allow us to begin to address some very serious problems which the Village is already encountering. This first phase will largely focus on the repairs and replacements required in our 100+ years aging and failing sewer, water, and roadway infrastructure.

On January 22nd, the Village Board met and unanimously authorized a referenda question to appear on the April 9th General Election Ballot. The question asks Kenilworth voters if the Village may borrow the funds (issue bonds) necessary to implement the first phase of the sewer, water, and related roadway repairs identified in the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$9,750,000. Many of you are aware of the pervasive and significant infrastructure problems and plans being put into place in other communities to address them. Our neighbors in Winnetka and Northfield have approved and started significant projects in the areas of sewer, water, and roadway repairs, costing in the range of \$30 - \$40 million each.

A large number of meetings and countless hours served as the foundation for assessing the critical infrastructure needs of the Village of Kenilworth to determine which projects should be considered in the first phase of the expected three-phase Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program. Throughout all discussions and meetings, there were two objectives that were determined to be of the highest priority. The first and likely most widely recognized objective is reducing the occurrences of water surcharging into basements and roadways. Additionally, and equally important, is improving the water pressure at our fire hydrants, which have unsatisfactory flow rates (water pressure). The Village Board of Trustees set these two objectives as the primary focus for the first phase of the repair and replacement work.

Water Surcharging into Basements and Roadways

Determining which issues would have the greatest positive impact upon residents was clear upon examining recent engineering studies. In 2010, the Village Trustees commissioned an engineering firm to conduct a sewer and watershed study (2010 Sewer and Watershed Study). The study examined the watershed area and the capacity of the existing sewer system during both the so-called 5- and 10-year rainstorm events, in addition to the system capacity prior to surcharging (maximum capacity). It was determined that the combined sewer capacity in the following areas is significantly undersized for both a 5- and 10-year rainstorm event.



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

It was determined that the combined sewer capacity in the following areas is significantly undersized for both a 5-year and 10-year rainstorm event. The table below shows the results of the analysis with flow rates expressed in cubic feet per second. Column 2 reflects the current capacity of the sewer system and Columns 3 and 5 reflect the demand upon the system during the 5-year and 10-year rain events respectively. As you can see from the table, the system demand (Columns 4 and 6) exceeds capacity which results in surcharging in every catchment area by a factor of as much as 6.8 times capacity.

(1) Catchment Area	(2) Current Capacity	(3) 5-Year Rain Demand	(4) Demand/ Capacity Ratio	(5) 10-Year Rain Demand	(6) Demand Capacity Ratio
Melrose Avenue	6.2	23.8	3.8x	29.9	4.8x
Kenilworth Avenue	41.9	111.1	2.6x	133.7	3.2x
Oxford Road	11.9	66.7	5.6x	80.5	6.8x
Abington Avenue	23.7	32.4	1.4x	38.9	1.6x

For reference, a 5-year rain event in our area is classified by the Illinois State Water Survey, Bulletin 70, as either 1.79" of rain in a 1-hour period, or 3.8" in a 24-hour period. Receiving 2.1" of rain in a 1-hour period or 4.47" in a 24-hour period is classified as a 10-year event. Today's engineering best-practice standards call for new systems to be capable of handling at least a 10-year rain event. Keep in mind we have even had 100-year rains in Kenilworth, for example, in the 1980s. The simple reality is the Kenilworth sewer system was not designed to convey the storm water demands of today.

The storm water-related sewer plan under Phase 1 of the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program is to address the undersized sewer system leading to the interceptor with the Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation District (MWRD) near Winnetka Road, increase the sewer capacity connecting to the MWRD interceptor near the Skokie Ditch and Sheridan Road, and make improvements to both the interceptor structure and the Skokie Ditch outfall to Lake Michigan as allowed by the permitting agencies. The Phase 1 sewer improvements are intended to improve the storm water flow rates over the Melrose Avenue catchment area, thereby reducing surcharging and flooding in the area.

Improving Water Pressure at Fire Hydrants

The critical need to improve portions of our potable water infrastructure is also quite clear when examining the engineering reports. During the January 22nd Village Board meeting, the Trustees and public present were shown a graphic that depicted the results of a fire hydrant flow test conducted by the Winnetka Fire Department. The results revealed that of the 47 fire hydrants west of Green Bay Road, 39 of them (83%) had flow rates less than 500 gallons per minute and an additional five had flow rates between 500 and 999 gallons per minute. The threshold target flow rate to address a residential structure fire as recommended by the Winnetka Fire Department is 1,000 gallons per minute. In all, ninety-four percent of our fire hydrants in residential areas west of Green Bay Road are below the recommended flow rate. On the east side of Green Bay Road, the situation is moderately better with 38% of the 63 fire hydrants falling below the 1,000 gallon per minute threshold.

To improve the fire hydrant flow rates, the engineers recommended four projects specific to fire hydrant pressures as well as several other water main replacement projects. The projects are intended to increase the volume and pressure of water within the target area, as well as increase the water system dependability. Our fire hydrants receive water from the same underground network of water lines that supply our homes with drinking water, so replacing or upsizing water mains generates benefits to both our drinking and bathing water supply and our network of fire hydrants.

Three Phases of Improvement Over 10 Years

With the two high priority initiatives established, our Village staff worked with an outside engineering firm to divide the 10-year Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program into three phases. The first phase, for which we will be seeking financing, is designed to be completed in three years and includes projects which will address two of the five flooding area mitigation initiatives and two of the four fire hydrant pressures improvements. The total cost of engineering, construction, and bond-related expenses for Phase 1 is estimated at \$9,750,000. While we will not be able to accomplish all of the projects for these two high priority initiatives (water surcharging and water pressure) within the first phase, the remaining projects will be divided among the remaining two phases.

April 9th General Election Voting

When voting in the April 2013 General Election, Kenilworth voters will have an opportunity to decide if general obligation bonds may be used to fund repairs and replacements to the sewer, water, and related roadway infrastructure work. The proposed projects for Phase 1 of the repairs are outlined by year in the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program matrix, a copy of which is available on the Village website. Should you review the program matrix, please remember that Phase 2 and Phase 3 will remain in a preliminary plan state until we have an opportunity to assess the impact of the Phase 1 work. Over the next several years there are a number of factors that could impact the timing and need for the proposed projects. For example, the Village of Winnetka is proposing to undertake \$43 million of storm sewer improvements. Whenever possible, we intend to work closely with our neighboring villages and taxing bodies to determine if there are any opportunities to work cooperatively on project bidding and/or timing.

Estimated Tax Adjustment for Phase

In an effort to help residents understand the expected costs associated with issuing bonds, the projected adjustment in residential property taxes has been calculated. Utilizing the most current information available, the impact of borrowing \$9,750,000 is anticipated to result in a 2.83% adjustment to property taxes. For example, the adjustment related to the issuance of the bond is projected to result in an additional \$566 per year for residents with a \$20,000 property tax bill. The calculation was determined assuming a bond term of 20 years at a rate of 2.7%, which is consistent with bond rates achieved by similar communities. If the worst-case bond rate of 4.0% was assumed, the property tax percentage increase would be 3.21% rather than 2.83%.

Conclusion

It is my sincere hope that the information provided in this newsletter will provide you with a better understanding of the need for improvements to our infrastructure, plans, priorities, and rationale behind why the Village Board of Trustees has undertaken this initiative. Next month I hope to provide additional detail regarding the major sewer and water infrastructure initiatives intended to be undertaken in Phase 1 if bonding authority is granted. In the interim, should you wish to obtain additional information, please feel free to refer to the Village website (villageofkenilworth.org) which offers further information related to the proposed infrastructure projects. Should you not find the answers that you need on the website, please feel free to contact our Village Manager, Patrick Brennan, or any of your Trustees to seek an answer to your question. We will certainly do our best to be available to answer your questions related to these critical issues.

Sincerely Yours,



Fred G. Steingraber
President, Village of Kenilworth

Village of



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**Village President's Message
Enclosed**

Upcoming Meetings

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

- **Tuesday, February 19 - Village Board - 7:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 4 - Plan Commission - 7:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 11 - Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 18 - Village Board - 7:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 20 - Architectural Review Commission - 7:30 p.m.**