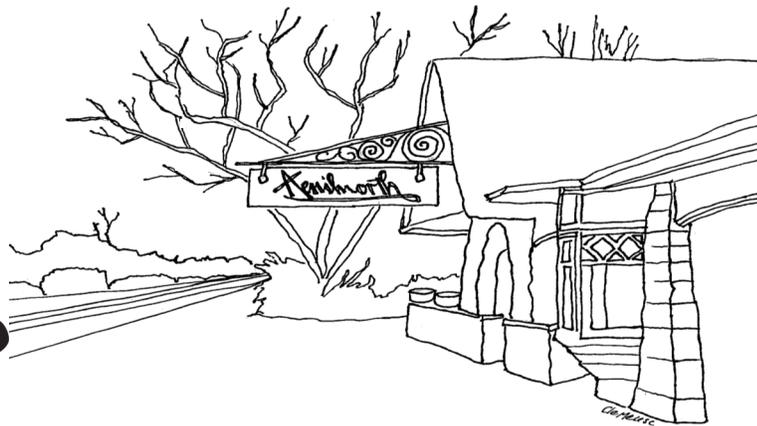


Village of

Kenilworth



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Village President
Fred G. Steingraber

Village President's Message—Vol. IV

January 2011

Dear Fellow Residents,

Greetings to you all as we enter the New Year. We extend our best wishes for good health, much happiness, and an improving economy and financial picture for our Village.

It has been a number of months since my last newsletter and for good reason. We have been quite busy on multiple fronts — addressing our Village priorities and the actions necessary to deliver the desired results. As we say in business, much of the “low hanging fruit” has been or is now being picked and with good results. We are transitioning to a more substantive phase where the complexity of issues is greater, the time required to complete the work is longer, and the risks and opportunities are more significant. As a result, what I am going to do in this newsletter is summarize the highlights for 2010 and outline the focus of some key initiatives going forward in 2011.

2010 in Review

Kenilworth, like communities across Illinois and around the country, has been intensely engaged in reviewing service priorities, levels, and available resources to meet the expectations of residents, while striving to achieve a balanced annual operating budget. This has been, and continues to be, a challenge in view of the high service expectations of residents, the declining share of the property tax revenue which the Village receives (just dropped to 12.6% of total property tax revenue collected), the growing costs of public employee benefits, especially pensions and the de minimis commercial revenue available to the Village.

Notwithstanding three consecutive years of General Fund operating budget deficits, the Kenilworth Village Board has budgeted and is encouraged that we are projecting to report a balanced operating budget for the current fiscal year 2010-2011 (Ending 4/30/11). This is being achieved through a combination of the following initiatives:

- Consolidating the Village Public Works into a single department and reducing significantly the supervisory costs, while increasing the job or skill enrichment and the flexibility to deploy personnel across a broader range of tasks. Estimated annual savings \$125,000.



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

- Holding the line on expenditures, including wages and existing contractual arrangements which have included, among other things, legal costs, changing audit firms, and reducing health care premiums.
- Increasing fees for services which were below market and in some cases hadn't been adjusted for multiple years.

Undertaking a broad series of initiatives to lower the costs of procured services by collaborating extensively with other communities. Some of these include the following:

- Joined the Suburban Tree Consortium for joint purchasing and planting of parkway trees. The benefits of Kenilworth joining the Suburban Tree Consortium include increasing buying power and economies of scale by merging orders with multiple entities, and the loss of newly planted trees is decreased because of more stringent specifications and better relationships with area nurseries..
- Executed a joint community contract for concrete sidewalk and curb removal and replacement with the Villages of Wilmette, Northfield, and Lincolnwood. This process allowed the Village to reduce its contract pricing for concrete removal and replacement by 5% when compared to the existing Village contract pricing. This reduction allowed the Village to repair and replace more concrete under the current year's program
- Privatized street sweeping services via a joint contract with the Village of Glenview. This also allowed us to forego the purchase of a new sweeper at a cost of \$150,000+.
- In response to an initiative by the Village of Glenview, began working with 22 municipal representatives from throughout the region on municipal partnering initiatives for public works capital projects and purchased materials and services
- Detailed study of opportunities with neighboring communities for shared public safety services

As a result of these and other measures, the Village continues to forecast a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Following completion of the Kenilworth Comprehensive Plan, a great deal of work has now been carried out, resulting in updating the business district zoning regulations and new sign regulations which will address signage throughout the community. The Plan Commission expects to present the new signage regulations for consideration at a public hearing scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. This past year the Village has witnessed some increased interest by the private sector in the Village's Business District. In November, the Village Board approved a special use permit for "The Daily Method" a new physical fitness concept incorporating ballet barre work, core conditioning, stretching and orthopedic exercise. This new business is expected to open in the former Kenilworth Realty building at 410-412 Green Bay Road. Additionally, Sherwin-Williams Paints will be before the Architectural Review Commission on January 19, 2011 with exterior renovations for the former Chase Bank building at 614 Green Bay Road.

In addition to balancing the operating budget, the Village Board approved a plan to begin addressing Kenilworth's long-delayed capital needs through the use of its existing bonding authority to issue General Obligation Limited Bonds for capital projects. As a result of the bond issue, the Village Capital Budget includes needed equipment replacement for such things as a police vehicle replacement and infrastructure improvement for such things as sewer televising and lining, road improvements, and developing a plan for possible storm sewer improvements. As a result of the bond process, the Village received an upgrade of its bond rating from double A-one (Aa1) to Triple-A (Aaa).

2011 and Beyond

Some of the critical initiatives which we will be working on in 2011, which are more complex, take more time, and present greater risk and opportunity include:

- A shared dispatch service study with the Villages of Northfield and Winnetka
- A longer range Police Department staffing and organization
- A public pension education program for residents
- Village and Kenilworth Park District shared services and costs
- Green Bay Road development
- Possible storm water management improvement projects
- A study to assess the longer term water department infrastructure needs, timing, and capital costs.

Four of the above seven projects are well underway and we expect to complete work necessary to reach key decisions on all within this fiscal year (FY2011). Implementation for those approved will commence and be carried out throughout the next Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

As a result of the significance of some of these major initiatives, we plan to dedicate from time to time an entire President's Newsletter on such topics. Specifically, we plan to issue the next President's Newsletter before the end of the month of January, which will exclusively address the Long Range Police, Public Safety, and Security Plan, including a shared dispatch service.

We, of course, welcome your feedback on our plans and progress. This is always important. At the same time we have to be realistic and accept that almost any recommendation and decision taken won't end up pleasing everyone. Nevertheless, we are committed to serving the best interests of the overall Village and to having considered the relevant alternatives for addressing issues, while having an appropriate rationale when turning some alternatives down.

As always, I thank you for your continued interest and support.

Kindest regards,



Fred G. Steingraber

News You Can Use

- **Christmas Tree Collection Ends January 28, 2011**—Please place your Christmas tree at the curb for collection by Friday, January 28, 2011. Be sure to remove all decorations and lights prior to disposal. After this date, trees will not be collected.
- **February 7, 2011 Plan Commission Public Hearing on DRAFT Sign Regulations**—The Plan Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on proposed amendments to the Kenilworth Zoning Ordinance to implement changes to the Village's existing sign regulations. Please visit the Village's website at www.villageofkenilworth.org for more information on the proposed regulations. A copy of the draft ordinance is expected to be posted online by Friday, January 21, 2011.
- **2011 Dog License Renewals Available**—Dog License Tags for the calendar year 2011 are now on sale at the Village Hall. Pre-printed applications for dog owners on file were mailed out at the end of November. Dog licenses are due by January 31, 2011. Applications are available at the Village Hall and on the Village's website. The price is \$30.00. Please call the Village Hall at 847-251-1666 if you have any questions.



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Village President' Message Enclosed

Upcoming Meetings

- January 18, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. – Village Board
- January 19, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. – Public Safety / Community Affairs Committee
- January 19, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. – Architectural Review Commission
- January 31, 2011 – 8:00 p.m. – Plan Commission
- February 1, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. – Village Board Committee of the Whole (Finance)
- February 3, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. – Park Board
- February 3, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Committee
- February 7, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – Plan Commission (Public Hearing Draft Sign Code)
- February 15, 2011—7:30 p.m.—Building Review Commission
- February 16, 2011—7:30 p.m.—Architectural Review Commission
- February 22, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. – Village Board

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