

Village of



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Village of Kenilworth Newsletter

villageofkenilworth.org

July 2009

Village President's Message - Vol. III

Dear Residents:

While many of us are still a bit numb and frustrated about the power outage problems we have experienced over the past weeks, I assure you the Village continues to press for a clear explanation as to the real source of the problem and, more importantly, commitments from Commonwealth Edison to deliver a sustainable solution. We are now expecting to have a meeting with Commonwealth Edison next week to provide further insight on these matters.

However, I wanted you to know that despite the time being devoted to our electrical power problems we have, in parallel, been working on a number of other projects to keep the Village functioning effectively. Some highlights from our first two Village Board meetings with the new trustee group include the following:

- After 18 months of work, including public hearings, the Plan Commission recommended and the Village Board approved a number of amendments to our Zoning Ordinance regulations to bring them into alignment with the Kenilworth Comprehensive Plan. These amendments reduce the number of business districts in the Village from three to one and make changes regarding permitted uses. The Plan Commission has also recommended Zoning Ordinance amendments pertaining to Planned Unit Development (PUD) regulations and parking requirements for consideration at the August Village Board meeting for approval. These actions are critical to the implementation of the Kenilworth Comprehensive Plan with respect to our ability to retain and entertain proposals for commercial development and redevelopment in the Green Bay Road and Park Drive Business District
- Approval of an ordinance consolidating six standing committees of the Board of Trustees into four committees
 1. Community Affairs and Police and Fire have been consolidated into a single committee of Community Affairs and Public Safety
 2. Streets, Drainage & Public Works and Water and Electricity have been combined into a single Public Works committee
 3. Building, Planning, and Zoning will continue as a stand alone committee
 4. Finance will also continue as a stand alone committee
- This consolidation will reduce the Village staff workload, reduce the number of committee assignments for Trustees from 3 to 2 each, and reduce the total number of meetings the staff and Trustees are preparing for and would otherwise need to attend. This will free up time to devote to the more critical issues facing the community.
- In addition, we will be convening the future Finance Committee meetings as a committee of the whole Board of Trustees, at least, every other month. This is intended to improve the understanding, attention, and focus of all Trustees on Village finance matters and hopefully reduce the total time spent rehashing discussions and decisions.
- The Board has agreed to a series of business-like guidelines to improve Trustee communications, preparation for meetings, conduct, and process at meetings. Among the several guidelines to improve meeting effectiveness and efficiency will be a requirement that board materials are received by Trustees at least ten days in advance of meetings to permit adequate study and inquiry time in advance of Village Board meetings.



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

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- As you now should be aware, the Trustees have completed all of the appointments to the four Trustee standing committees and to all six of the Village Boards and Commissions, including the Architectural Review, Building Review, Zoning Board of Appeals, Plan Commission, 911 Emergency Telephone, and Police Pension Fund:
 - ◆ With respect to the Trustees, there are a total of four new Trustees and three continuing Trustees. All four of the Trustee standing committees are represented with new members. Three of the four Trustee standing committees have new Chairpersons, two of whom are new Trustees.
 - ◆ With respect to membership of the six Boards and Commissions, five of the six have new Chairpersons. 20 representatives are continuing members and 15 are new appointments.
 - ◆ The decisions on appointments and assignments attempted to take into account the following:
 1. Qualifications/experience and interest
 2. Maintaining a balance of continuity while introducing new individuals who expressed an interest and a commitment to the time required
 3. Requests from Chairpersons and Trustees
 - ◆ We encourage residents who have an interest in Village service to complete an expression of interest form which is on our Kenilworth website (www.villageofkenilworth.org) so we may learn who may be available when vacancies occur and new appointments are required.
- We have appointed a new Treasurer, Steve Hoopes, the Managing Director of Public Finance with Mesirow Finance. Steve has an excellent background and great experience in understanding the public finance issues communities like Kenilworth face.

Looking ahead:

- We will convene an orientation meeting for all Board and Commission appointees in September
- We are putting together a Trustee agenda of high priority items for the entire fiscal year 2009/2010 to include the following:
 - ◆ Securing a longer range electrical power plan and commitment from Commonwealth Edison to upgrade our system
 - ◆ Determining ASAP whether there are any real opportunities for securing Federal stimulus funding for high priority issues facing Kenilworth

- ◆ Drafting a clear Public Works plan of priorities including items such as timing, and financial requirements for areas with serious deficiencies
- ◆ In anticipation of retirements in the next few years, we are preparing a longer-range plan for the Police Department, beginning with a study of a possible joint dispatch operation with Northfield and Winnetka who have recently inquired about Kenilworth's interest in exploring this possibility
- ◆ Exploring possible opportunities for closer collaboration and more effective and efficient deployment of Village and Park District resources
- ◆ Taking up further recommendations from the Kenilworth Revenue Expenditure Special Committee, including organization of the Village Public Works Departments to secure more effective and efficient resource deployment
- ◆ Reviewing/establishing appropriate vendor contract guidelines (qualifications, selection process, and performance evaluation process)
- ◆ Looking at appropriate productivity benchmarking metrics for Kenilworth
- ◆ Reviewing Village Reserves and financial policies, pension funding, and longer-term financial plans
- ◆ Developing a comprehensive communications strategy to serve the interests of residents, Village staff and the Village Trustees as it relates to the Village's priorities, services, performance, and finances
- ◆ Preparing a preliminary set of priorities for the Village Board for fiscal years 2010 through 2013

All of the above, as well as a number of other items in process are important. However, as you know, we have limited personnel and financial resources, and the Village is going to have to concentrate on those items which are most critical for the community going forward, recognizing that trade-offs and sacrifices will have to be made by everyone. To accomplish this, we will be attempting to prioritize items/issues, present alternatives, and define the cost/benefit dimension as best we are able.

We look forward to keeping you informed on these and other developments including how you can assist in achieving a reasonable consensus on the priorities for the Village.

Sincerely yours,
Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

Kenilworth Recycles: Answers to Common Questions

Question: Where can I get recycling bags?

Answer: Bags are available in the Village Hall lobby 24 hours a day for residents to pick up after business hours and weekends. Residents are asked to sign in on the appropriate sheet at the front counter and are limited to two bundles per visit.

Question: What items are accepted?

Answer: Items that can be recycled include aluminum cans and trays, glass jars and bottles, plastic water and soda bottles, paper products such as cardboard, cereal boxes, junk mail, magazines, office paper, and phone books. Please do not include anything that may contaminate recyclable materials such as animal waste, diapers, liquids, garbage, messy food containers, lawn waste, broken or non-traditional glass (ceramic, light bulbs, mirrors, window panes, etc.).

Question: Where can I recycle small electronics?

Answer: 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, there is a separate disposal container for compact fluorescent light bulbs sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). If you have any other questions including what to do with old batteries, old appliances, spent motor oil, etc., please visit www.swancc.org/greenPages/greenpages.html.

Question: Why do I see my recycling thrown into the garbage truck with all the other garbage? Does Kenilworth recycle?

Answer: Yes! Kenilworth does recycle. When Perrin Brothers picks up the garbage and the recycling, they put the garbage deep into the truck. If there are recycling bags, they will often pick up several homes' recycling and place them at the edge of the back of the truck and then create a pile of recycling bags at a corner in order for easier and more efficient pick-up later in the day for all recycling to take to the recycling center.

If you have any questions about recycling, you can call the Village at (847) 251-1666.

Water Department Flushes Fire Hydrants

The Kenilworth Water Department and Winnetka/Kenilworth Fire Department will be flushing fire hydrants on the west side of Kenilworth July through September. Flushing hydrants aids in determining water system capacities, and in pre-planning for emergencies. At this time, fire hydrants are also checked for visibility and accessibility to fire personnel in the event of a fire.

During the hydrant flushing process, sediment accumulations are removed from the system. You may notice water discoloration for a brief period of time after the flow test in your area. While the water is safe to drink, it can discolor laundry. Residents will receive notice via door hangers and signs will be posted on the street before hydrant flushing begins in a particular area. If you experience discoloration of your water, run it for approximately twenty minutes or until the discoloration subsides. If the water does not become clear after following the procedures, please contact the Water Department at (847) 251-1094.

Village Sidewalk Replacement Program

The Village of Kenilworth is accepting requests for the inspection of the public sidewalk in front of your property for replacement as part of the Village's shared cost replacement program. Only cracked, deteriorated, or offset sidewalks are eligible for this program.

The Village has offered this program for a number of years. This year, the Village Board budgeted \$10,000 for the cooperative program which allows property owners the opportunity to have the cost of sidewalk replacement shared on a 50/50 basis with the Village.

The cost for sidewalk replacement is \$4.20 per square foot. For reference, a typical sidewalk panel is twenty-five (25) square feet. Therefore, the "per panel" total cost should be approximately \$105.00, and the Village would pay 50%, and the homeowner would pay 50% of this total cost.

Please consider participating in this program if the sidewalk in front of your home meets the eligibility requirements. If you elect to participate, we will inform you as to the exact cost prior to you making a final commitment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Works Superintendent Ignazio Fiorentino at (847) 251-9210. Thank you for your consideration!

Sign Up for CodeRED Notification System

CodeRED is an ultra high-speed telephone notification system to keep residents informed in the event of a public health or public safety emergency. The service relies on a database of published phone numbers, but not all phone numbers are listed. All numbers submitted will be used for emergency purposes only. When you receive a CodeRED message, 9999119999 will show up on your caller ID. It is easy to mistake a CodeRED alert for a solicitation call. Keep in mind there is no need to contact authorities about the message unless you have further information. To register a contact number or if you have any questions, visit the Kenilworth Police Department website, www.kenilworthpd.org.

Be A Good Neighbor

With summer already in bloom, residents are encouraged to remember to be kind and considerate to our fellow residents. Even though Kenilworth already has a vibrant and friendly character, it never hurts to keep your fellow citizens in mind. The following are some things to keep in mind.

- Put out garbage cans and recycling bags the night before pick-up, not earlier.
- Be sure to park in front of your home rather than in front of your neighbor's home, and take caution that the vehicles are not blocking street or sidewalk traffic.
- Keep your sidewalk free of obstacles and participate in the Village Sidewalk Replacement Program (see page 2).
- When you mow your lawn or trim trees and bushes, please ensure clippings do not go into your neighbor's yard.
- Trim back bushes and trees so they do not overhang on the walkway.
- Recycle as much as you can!

Have you Visited
www.villageofkenilworth.org?

Village of Kenilworth
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