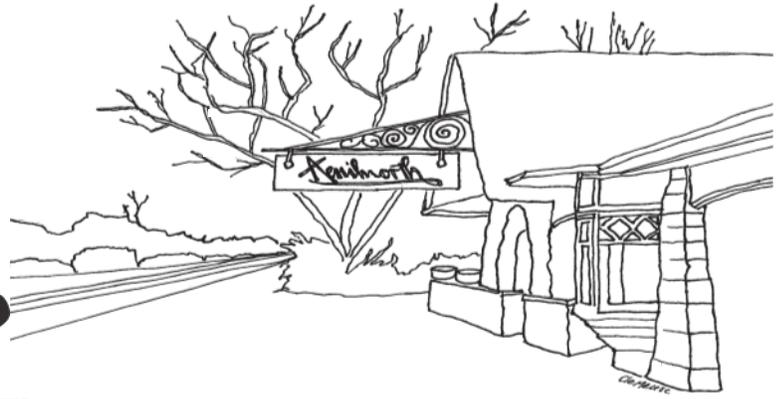


Village of

Kenilworth



419 Richmond Road
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-1666

Village President's Message—Vol. XX

March 2013

Our Beach and the April 9th Bond Referendum



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

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Village Manager

Patrick Brennan

Dear Kenilworth Residents,

It has come to our attention that information is currently being circulated by some residents regarding the Village Bond Referendum and the Skokie Ditch that appears to have washed away the facts. Specifically, these residents assert that the Village Board is indifferent to pollution at the Kenilworth beach. **Nothing** could be further from the truth. As explained in person to some shore residents, one of the purposes of the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program is to reduce sewage runoff into our streets, yards and basements, and specifically to reduce uncontrolled sewage overflow into Lake Michigan. This letter shares the facts as they currently exist in an effort to ensure that residents have accurate information upon which to make their decision on the April 9th Bond Referenda, whatever that decision may be.

East Kenilworth has a combined sewer and storm water system that drains into a large Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) sanitary pipe, commonly referred to as the MWRD Interceptor. It runs along Sheridan Road down through Wilmette. The Skokie Ditch also drains into the MWRD Interceptor at Sheridan Road. Historically, storm water floods from our streets and the Skokie Ditch into the MWRD Interceptor, displacing the flow of sewage within the pipe. During a 10- year rain event (which seems to occur more frequently these days) the Kenilworth Avenue sewer connecting to the MWRD interceptor has a water flow demand three times greater (319%) than the maximum capacity. As a result, during heavy rain storms sewage tainted flood water cascades over the interceptor retaining wall into our lake and contaminating our beach. When the decrepit sewage system is surcharged during heavy rains, it backs up into our streets, yards and houses. Sewage migrates from our streets into the lake. One of the purposes of the storm water remediation is not only to reduce flooding, but to separate the sewage from the storm water and give that sewage priority in flowing into the MWRD Interceptor, away from our basements and the lake.

The Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program is currently divided into three phases. The first phase is anticipated to take three years to complete and is the subject of the current bond referendum placed on the General Election Ballot. The program has two primary objectives, namely to reduce basement flooding and improve water pressure at our fire hydrants.

Efforts to Reduce Flooding

The proposed storm water projects are designed to improve upon current conditions by impacting the quality of water reaching Kenilworth's Lake Michigan shoreline by:

- Separating storm water from sewage through construction of separate sewer systems;
- Reducing the likelihood of storm water surcharging the MWRD system and sending sewage to Lake Michigan;
- Improving the current quality of the water within the Skokie Ditch before it reaches our shoreline;
- Improving the Skokie Ditch by reducing erosion; and
- Protecting our natural resources through employing best management practices for addressing storm water run-off.

To reduce flooding in the Village, an engineering firm recommended that in the first phase of improvements the Village:

- Obtain permits from regulatory authorities to restore the historic flows of the Skokie Ditch;
- Implement a plan to improve water quality within the Skokie Ditch;
- Continue sending low-flow rate storm water to the MRWD interceptor and direct remaining flow to the Skokie Ditch;
- Increase the capacity of the Cumberland Avenue sewer interceptor by replacing the 10-12" main with a 24" sewer main;
- Construct new storm sewers on:
 - Cumberland Avenue between Abbotsford Road and Liecester Road;
 - Melrose Avenue between Cumnor Road and Sheridan Avenue with a connection to the Sheridan/Skokie Interceptor; and
 - Warwick Road between Cumberland Avenue and Melrose Avenue; and
- Clean the sewers on the west side of the Village to improve flows and identify maintenance concerns.

Efforts to Improve Water Pressure

At the present time, 94% of the fire hydrants on the west side of the Village and 38% on the east side have water flow rates less than 1,000 gallons-per-minute, which is less than the expected standards for residential neighborhoods. Further, 83% of the west side fire hydrants have flow rates less than 500 gallons-per-minute; half of the expected flow rate.

The 2012 infrastructure study concluded that the Village should improve water pressure, increase flow rates and create redundancies in the water distribution network. Implementing the recommendations will improve the flow rates at fire hydrants which are significantly below the expected flow rates, as well as increase the overall water pressure in the area. The major water projects recommended for the first phase include:

- Increasing the size of the water line on Roger Avenue from Ridge Road to the Water Tank to eliminate existing restrictions in the water main;
- Replacing the existing water lines on Brier Street between Roger Avenue and Melrose Avenue, and on Melrose from Brier Street to the alley just west of Green Bay Road with a 12" water main; and
- Replacing the existing water main on Cumberland Avenue between Roslyn Road and Essex Road and fully reconstructing the roadway.

However, with respect to the plans outlined above no construction or modification projects have been approved for the Skokie Ditch or the Skokie/Sheridan Interceptor. The Bond Referendum is to provide funding for the infrastructure projects generally, not to make a specific decision as to the Skokie Ditch and its drainage. If any changes are made to the Skokie Ditch drainage into the lake, they will only occur after receipt of permits from regulatory authorities and after public discussion with Village residents having ample opportunity to comment.

Most importantly, the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Program is not about one specific solution benefiting a select group citizens, whether living on the beach or elsewhere, but is rather about the overall improvement of the dilapidated infrastructure throughout the Village. Flooding and pollution are only part of the problem. Low fire hydrant pressure exists on our west side and ancient water mains routinely crack as we experienced this winter. Without proper infrastructure funding, we cannot attack these issues in a planned and cost effective manner. *Without infrastructure funding, pollution from the sewage overflow will only continue.* Repairing and replacing our infrastructure is an investment in the future of our community and our property values.

What is Next?

What is our next step? We will not know the answer to that question until after the General Election votes are tallied. What we do know is if the bond referendum is not approved, funding will not be available to commence the repairs and improvements outlined in this newsletter. On April 9th, Kenilworth voters will be asked to consider the following question when voting:

“Shall bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$9,750,000 be issued by the Village of Kenilworth, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of paying the cost of water, sewer, and related road improvements within the Village, bearing interest at the rate of not to exceed 4.0%?”

With municipal bond rates for highly-rated communities hovering around 3.0%, a number of residents have asked about the 4% interest rate specified in the referenda. If the referendum is passed by voters on April 9th, the Village will seek the best bond rate possible which we believe will be better than 4%. Since the exact rate cannot be known until the bond sale, the Board of Trustees selected a conservative rate that would accommodate any sudden changes in the market rates while maintaining a cap on the overall rate.

For additional information about the infrastructure projects planned, studies, and related information, please visit the Village website at villageofkenilworth.org. If something that you are looking for is not there, please feel free to call our Village Manager Patrick Brennan at 847-251-1666 to see if the information is available.

Want to Learn More About the Projects Planned?

Do you have questions about the Bond Referendum or the proposed projects to be undertaken?

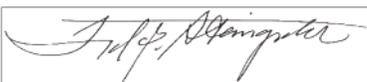
Village Trustees and the Village Manager will be available to meet with residents at Village Hall during the dates and times listed below. No appointment is necessary – just walk in!

In the event you are not available during any of these times, please feel free to call Village Hall at 847-251-1666 for alternate arrangements.

Thank you for allowing us an opportunity to share some important facts with you regarding this matter. If you would like to review additional material, it continues to be available on the Village website at www.villageofkenilworth.org.

Date	Time
Tuesday, April 2 nd	5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3 rd	5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4 th	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8 th	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sincerely Yours,



Fred G. Steingraber
President, Village of Kenilworth

Village of



419 Richmond Road
Kenilworth, IL 60043

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**Village President's Message
Enclosed**

New Voting Location

The voting location for all registered Kenilworth voters on Tuesday, April 9 will be at New Trier High School, located at 385 Winnetka Avenue.

Voters should follow signs leading to the auditorium south lobby at New Trier High School to cast their ballots.

The Church of the Holy Comforter will not be a voting location for the April 9 election.

Please call Village Hall at 847-251-1666 if you have further questions.

Be sure to sign up for *The Kenilworth Contact* electronic newsletter by entering your e-mail address on the Village website at www.villageofkenilworth.org.