



The Algonquin Citizen

The Village of Algonquin: The Gem of the Fox River Valley

Spring 2006

Free Spring Cleanup Scheduled

Mark your calendar for the Village's annual spring cleanup. The cleanup program is for single family residences and townhomes that currently receive residential refuse and recycling service. This program is to encourage residents to reduce fire hazards in their homes and to "spruce up" the community. NO STICKERS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS SPECIAL PICKUP. The schedule for pickup is as follows:

Saturday, April 22, 2006: All Algonquin residences located west of Randall Road, and homes east of Route 31 (far west and far east sides of the Village)

Saturday, April 29, 2006: All homes located east of Randall Road and west of Route 31 (central area of the Village)

See the map below for a rough breakdown of the pickup areas and corresponding dates.

Items that are not longer than five feet or over fifty pounds may be left at the curb for pickup on your designated day. Clean out the garage or basement and discard old dressers, couches, grills, patio furniture, bikes, etc. The following items cannot be collected due to landfill restrictions: yardwaste, including grass clippings, leaves, brush, and tree material (see the article on page 2 for information on our free spring brush pickup); rocks, concrete, and construction materials including roofing materials, and lumber; large appliances such as freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, dryers, etc. even if broken up, cut up, crushed or flattened (please contact Environmental Field Services, Inc. at 800-480-4337 for disposal of appliances); any type of metal post, pipe, swing set, antenna, etc.; tires or cans of paint. Your regular household refuse/garbage and recyclables should not be discarded as part of this special cleanup. (The Village encourages residents to donate items in good condition to local charities.)

Please place all items at the curb by 7:00 am on your assigned day. The route is only covered once. This is a service provided at no cost by Waste Management and the Village of Algonquin once per year. If you have any questions, contact Waste Management at 800-796-9696.

Inside...

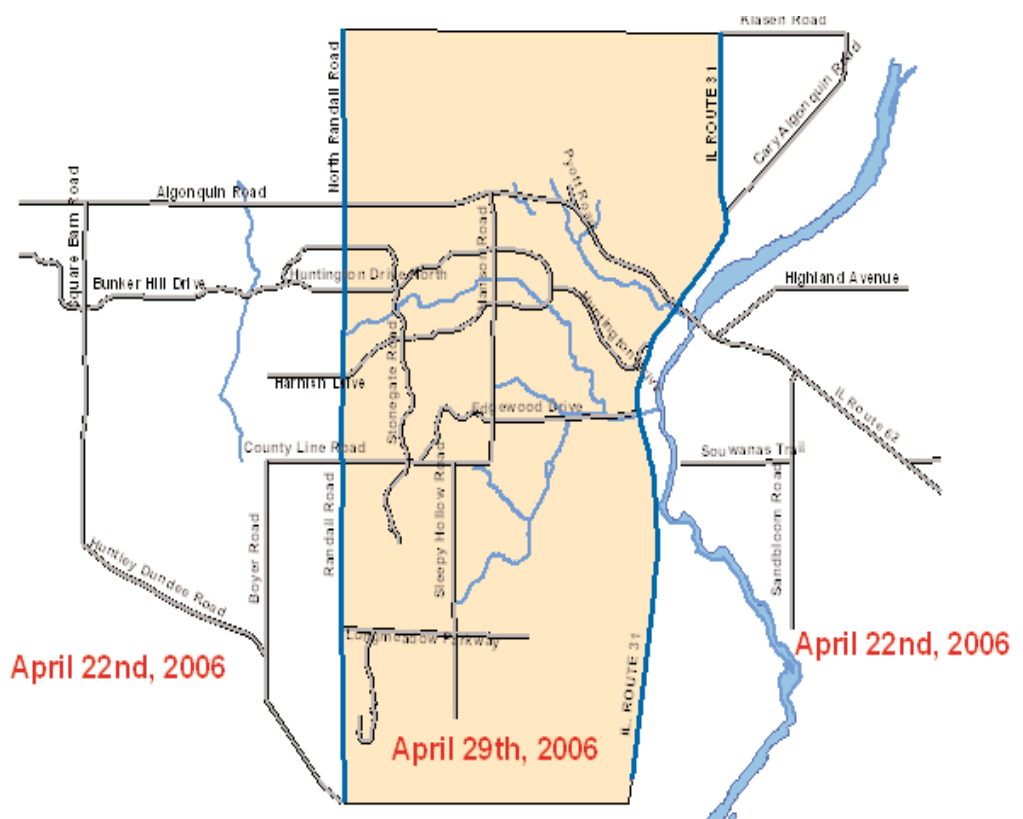
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Visit us at www.algonquin.org.

Enhanced Revenue to Fund Capital Programs

Predicted Savings for Residents... Recent budget discussions by the Algonquin Village Board during meetings of the Committee of the Whole indicated that there would be a significant revenue shortfall to fund capital improvements and infrastructure maintenance (roads, water, sewer and parks) in the Village in coming years. Existing revenue sources are inadequate to provide funding for the required capital spending plans in the next five years. A new revenue source was researched that would not overly burden residents and businesses yet will meet the needs of Village capital projects. A combination of ordinances was designed to substantially relieve Village residents and businesses of the tax burden on natural gas while placing a substantial portion of the cost of capital improvements on non-residents as they shop in Algonquin.

On March 7, 2006, the Village Board passed an ordinance that will eliminate the utility tax on natural gas and delivery charges for Village residents and businesses. The 4% Utility Tax related to natural gas will no longer apply as of July 1, 2006. A use tax fee of \$0.01027 will be implemented as a charge per therm and is designed to be revenue neutral to 1% of natural gas charges. This action does two things: 1) it deletes the 4% utility tax charges that residents and businesses presently pay on natural gas and delivery charges and, 2) it implements a use tax of \$0.01027 to be calculated on therms used rather than the volatile energy costs that have been experienced this winter. The result will be a substantial reduction of fees paid relative to natural gas for users located within the corporate limits of the Village of Algonquin. The change in billing will be effective July 1, 2006.

A home rule retailers' occupation tax and service occupation tax of three-quarters percent (3/4%) was also passed by ordinance that same evening. The Village is empowered to impose a tax upon all persons engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in the Village of Algonquin. This tax applies to retail and service sales and will be implemented as of July 1, 2006. It does not apply to sales of food for human consumption off the premises where it is sold (i.e., groceries but not food which has been prepared for immediate consumption), prescription and non-prescription medicines, or other medical supplies. In addition, it does not apply to sales of tangible personal property that is titled or registered with an agency of this state's government (e.g., cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc.). As noted above, day-to-day shopping needs for necessities such as groceries and medical items are exempt from the home rule sales tax. It is estimated that 60% to 70% of the sales tax generated in Village businesses comes from non-residents. The 3/4% tax translates to 75¢ per \$100 of goods purchased.

The home rule sales tax will be dedicated for capital needs and infrastructure improvements (such as for road reconstruction and water and sewer projects), both now and in the future.

34 Gallon Limit Enforced

Effective February 6, 2006, Waste Management began strict enforcement of the section of the contract they hold with the Village of Algonquin which states that refuse containers must be of a capacity not to exceed thirty-four gallons in size and not to exceed fifty pounds. The decision was made for safety reasons to protect their drivers from lifting overweight containers. Waste Management was to provide notification to residents with a sticker one week and then discontinue pickup the following week if the oversized container was still being used. Waste Management is strictly enforcing the container size even if the container is not full and under fifty pounds, so drivers who are on a tight pickup schedule do not need to be evaluating every container over 34 gallons to determine if it is over fifty pounds.

Waste Management's swift decision to strictly apply this portion of our contract was not communicated to the Village in advance of this change. We apologize for any inconvenience this situation has created. Waste Management will provide more advance communication of any procedure change in the future.



Spring Brush Pickup

There will be free pickup of leaves and branches by Waste Management starting April 3 and continuing until April 28. Leaves must be placed in standard paper yardwaste bags or reusable trash containers that are clearly marked. Branches should be tied in bundles not more than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter.

Place the bags or cans and bundles at the curb on your regular pickup day. Leaves placed in loose piles will not be picked up. Grass clippings and other yardwaste (such as sod, dirt, or wood chips) will still require a collection sticker. Any bags or cans which contain leaves mixed with other yardwaste will also require a sticker. The stickers for garbage and yard waste are the same.

If you have any questions about the free pickup, please contact Waste Management at 800-796-9696.



Fleet Division Recognized

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence has awarded a Blue Seal of Excellence Recognition to the Village's Fleet Maintenance Division. This award means that the professional staff that maintains the Village's snow plows, squad cars, and other municipal vehicles meets the standards of this reputable program. Congratulations to the Public Works Department and the staff of the Fleet Maintenance Division for achieving this honor!

Spring Maintenance Reminders

Spring is right around the corner. With warmer weather on its way, please keep in mind the following:

Yard Maintenance: Please remember to keep grass and weeds maintained at a height not to exceed eight (8) inches. Also, please remember that it is your responsibility to cut the grass in the right-of-ways/parkways adjacent to your property (front, rear, and side; if applicable). And, please keep all sidewalks passable by trimming hedges and bushes along public rights-of-way.

Building Permits Required: With building season approaching, please keep in mind that the Village requires a permit for most all home improvement projects prior to the start of the project.

Garage/Yard Sales: The sales shall be no longer than four (4) consecutive days each and shall not exceed three (3) sales per year per address. Signs must be limited to three (3) and shall be removed immediately at the end of the sale.

Exterior Maintenance/Repair: Please remember that the Village requires that all structures be kept in good repair, weather tight, and free of chipped and flaking paint.

Sump Pump Discharge: Remember that no person shall allow a sump pump to discharge directly or indirectly onto any street, sidewalk, or adjacent property. In addition, the outlet for discharge shall not be located within five (5) feet of the property line.

Waste Container Storage: All waste/recycle containers must be stored in a location of minimal exposure to the public view.

Roaming Pets: As a reminder, every owner of a dog and/or cat must contain their animal to the confines of the owner's real property unless the animal is under restraint. Also, the Village Code relating to dogs in the parks states that all dogs must be on a leash of not more than ten feet, may be exercised on all improved paths only (bike paths or sidewalks), and that the person walking the dog must immediately remove all excrement from the premises. The failure of individuals to police their dog waste is a detriment to the park, and a hazard to its users.

Please contact Community Development at 847-658-4184 with any questions or concerns about the above items.

Historic Commission News

Historic Preservation Month-In recognition of Historic Preservation Month in May, the Commission will host an Open House on Sunday, May 21 from noon until 4 p.m. at Historic Village Hall, 2 S. Main St. Old Town walking tours will leave from there at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. From noon to 3:00 p.m., appraiser Penney Welch will evaluate antiques for a suggested donation of \$5 for up to two items. Also look for the return of the Commission's popular vintage-photo placemats in downtown restaurants during the month.

Historic Structure Plaques-More than 60 homes and businesses in the Village currently bear a wood plaque noting the date the house was built and its original owner. Owners of structures that are at least 75 years old can once again order these plaques through the Commission. The cost is \$50. Call 847-658-4322 for more information.

Interview Project-Long-time Algonquin residents are being asked to participate in an ongoing questionnaire/interview project to preserve their memories of life in the Village. If you have stories to share and haven't been contacted already, or would like to suggest someone to participate (including former residents), please call the Historic Commission at 847-658-4322.

Vintage Prints, Postcards-More than two dozen 8x10", vintage Algonquin photo reprints, such as the one below, are now available from the Commission. Suitable for framing, the prints are \$10 each. Also offered are a set of eight postcards featuring vintage views (\$5), and Conquering the Hills, a 76-page book about Algonquin's history as a Victorian-era resort town that captured national attention with an annual event pitting the newest mode of transportation - automobiles - against the Village's steepest hills from 1906-1913 (\$10). The prints, postcards and books can be purchased during Commission workshops at Historic Village Hall, 2 S. Main St., from 8:30 a.m. to noon on the third and fourth Saturdays of each month. The books and postcards also are available at Handmade on Main, 320 S. Main St., and Beans & Books, 215 S. Harrison Street.



Sign up for Swim Lessons and Pool Passes Now!

Make a splash this summer and make it early! **Purchase your pool passes** before May 1 and save money! Season pool passes for an Algonquin family are just \$110 if purchased by May 1. To register for a pool pass, fill out the registration form in your recreation brochure and your pass pictures and passes will be distributed to you the first time you visit the swimming pool.



Board Recognizes Businesses

On February 7, 2006, the Algonquin Village Board recognized business and commercial property owners for their contributions to the Village in three areas: architecture, rehabilitation, and community service.

New Development Architectural Award

This award is presented to a new commercial development that demonstrates exemplary architectural design and/or use of material; land use that attempts to maintain the feeling of open/green space on the site; and landscaping that preserves existing features on the property. This year's winners are:
Wickes Furniture, 1500 South Randall Road
Winding Creek Commercial Center, 2713-2791 West Algonquin Road



The Woodhouse Day Spa in historic downtown Algonquin.



Village President John Schmitt presents a business award to Cucina Bella.

Rehabilitation /Improvement Award

The next category, rehabilitation/improvement award, is presented for improvements made to an existing structure that enhance the exterior of the building consistent with the zoning district in which it is located, such as the Old Town District or Business District. The recipients in this category are:

Cucina Bella, 220 South Main Street
Woodhouse Day Spa, 302 South Main Street

Community Service Award

The final category of community service applauds those businesses that make significant contributions to the community in terms of volunteer services or monetary contributions. This year's recipients are:
Let's Go Cruisin', 1700 East Algonquin Road, Unit 106
D Med SPA Wellness Care, 1451 Merchant Drive

The Village gives a hearty congratulations to these businesses for their contributions to our community.

Spring Hydrant Flushing

As a regular maintenance practice, the Village of Algonquin Utilities Division flushes all fire hydrants in the Village two times per year. This exercise not only ensures proper operation of each hydrant, but helps to move fresh water throughout the distribution system, improving overall water quality.

The practice of flushing tends to cause local disturbances of iron debris within the water system that can be drawn into the home during usage and lead to staining on light colored laundry. It is important to be mindful of the schedule and avoid doing laundry during flushing activities. Should you experience a problem with laundry staining related to flushing, the Public Works Department offers a free detergent additive to remove the stains. This product is available to residents on a one-time basis, in portion-controlled amounts, by contacting the Public Works office at (847) 658-2754. The schedule for this spring is as follows:

March 20-24

The entire area east of Main St. (Rt. 31). This area includes the Arrowhead subdivision, Jefferson St., Railroad St., and Washington St.

March 27-31

The area north of Edgewood Dr. east of Hanson Rd. South of Algonquin Rd. and west of Main St. (Rt. 31).

April 3-7

The area south of Edgewood Dr. and County Line Rd. west of Main St. (Rt. 31) and east of Randall Rd.

April 10-14

The area east of Randall Rd. south of Algonquin Rd. west of Hanson Rd. and north of County Line Rd.

April 17-21

The area west of Randall Rd. south of Algonquin Rd. and east of Square Barn Rd.

April 24- 28

The area west of Square Barn Rd.



2005 Easter Egg Hunt

Recreation Corner

It's time to slam dunk into our Mom and Son Date Night and "batter up" into the spring and summer recreation brochure! The Spring/Summer 2006 Events and Recreation Brochure was delivered to all residential mailboxes. Inside of the brochure you will find lots of action packed programs including spring and summer camps, t-ball, nature programs, special events, swimming lessons and much more. You can get a sneak preview of the brochure online at www.algonquin.org.

Mom & Son Date Night: Let's team up for a night of fun! We will jump on a large motor coach bus and head to Chicago for a date you won't forget...a Chicago Bulls basketball game! Once on the bus, we will have box dinners and watch a fun movie. When we arrive at the United Center, we will see the Chicago Bulls take on New Orleans. You may bring additional money for concessions and the gift shop. The fee is \$65 per couple and includes transportation, dinner and admission to the game. Additional participants are \$33. To register for this program, please contact (847) 658-2700 or stop by Village Hall.

For information on pool passes and swim lessons at the Lions-Armstrong Memorial Pool, please see page three (3).

Storm Water Best Management Practices Start at Home

Part I of a 2 part series...

Managing storm water runoff is often considered the job of the local government, a subdivision developer, or possibly a homeowners' association.



Certainly, good planning and implementation by any or all of these entities is important to a successful community storm water management plan. However, it is also important that individual homeowners understand their

role in storm water management and their impact on the larger community.

Recently, more community storm water plans have incorporated the concept of "no net loss" of water from the site. This policy involves keeping and using the rain that falls onto a site on that site as much as possible, rather than simply collecting the rain and sending it off site as storm water discharge. One basic starting point for such a plan is for homeowners to reduce runoff from their individual lots. Many simple yet effective methods can be used to help reduce individual runoff.

"We All Live Downstream"

Before considering some methods, or best management practices (BMPs), to reduce homesite runoff, it is important to understand why runoff is a concern. No matter where a person lives, they live in a watershed. A watershed is simply an area of land that drains to a specific point of water, whether it is a lake, stream, river, or ocean.



Watersheds vary in size from quite small to very large. For example; each small creek or lake in Illinois has a certain area of land that drains into it, and that watershed area may not be very large in acreage. However, the Mississippi River also has

a certain area that drains into it, which covers several states and millions of acres. All watersheds are interrelated since smaller ones feed into the larger ones that ultimately drain into the ocean.

Activities in the smaller watersheds ultimately impact the larger watersheds. Although homeowners may not think about it, their individual actions affect everyone "downstream" in the watershed. And, the fact of the matter is that we all live downstream from someone else.

Homeowners should take time to discover what local water-

shed they live in, who impacts them from upstream, and who they impact downstream. Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices can provide that information. This area has several watershed management committees that address local issues.

What Is Storm Water Runoff?

Storm water runoff can affect the quantity and quality of water that must be handled somewhere downstream. Excess runoff can contribute to flooding. Contaminated runoff can damage water, making it unfit for human consumption and wildlife habitat. Both situations can be costly to correct. Prevention is more effective and efficient.

Storm water runoff is the rain and melting snow that flows off streets, rooftops, lawns, parking lots, open fields, and any other exposed area. The runoff carries with it whatever can be dislodged from the various sites, such as salt, soil, leaves, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gasoline, and any other materials present on the surface. These materials are washed off a wide geographic area rather than originating from one point. That makes preventing contamination more important as well as more difficult.



As land is developed, much of the surface is paved or roofed, creating more runoff potential. Usually, storm sewers are used to carry the resulting runoff to nearby waterways. The water from developed areas often contains contaminants. Even on lawns or other open areas, water that is not absorbed can run off into the street or parking lot and then into the storm sewers.

Storm sewers are a system of underground pipes that have surface drains or inlets designed to gather storm water. Many people think that storm sewer water is treated in a sewage treatment plant just like water from sanitary sewers. But in Algonquin, as well as most communities, that is not the case. Storm water usually receives no treatment before entering local waterways.

Some communities are incorporating more natural drainage systems and increased onsite water infiltration to help reduce the quantity of runoff and improve its quality. Also, the increased use of conservation design for housing developments helps reduce storm water runoff by incorporating more open space.

NEXT NEWSLETTER... WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? Look in the summer 2006 edition of "The Citizen"(mailed with the June water bills) for a description of ways that you as a homeowner or business owner can help to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of storm water runoff in a community.

VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(ALL AREA CODES 847)

For EMERGENCY Police,
Fire & Paramedic Services 9-1-1
Village Hall, 2200 Harnish Drive 658-2700
Administration, Finance, Clerk, HR, IT, Recreation
Village Hall Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Community Development Department 658-4184
Community Devlpt. Hours: M-F, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Water and Sewer Billing 854-3440
Police Department (non-emergency) 658-4531
Swimming Pool (summer only) 458-7677

Public Works Dept., 110 Meyer Drive 658-2754

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

John Schmitt 658-7643
e-mail: johnschmitt@algonquin.org

TRUSTEES

Brian Dianis	340-2046
Jerry Glogowski	458-1639
Barb Read	854-2497
Robert Smith	658-2466
John Spella	458-8289
Jim Steigert	658-0536
Gerald Kautz, Village Clerk	

William Ganek, Village Manager

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Commission
2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Historic Commission
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
at Historic Village Hall

Economic Development Commission
2nd Thursday of the following months at 7:00 p.m.:
Jan., Mar., May, June, Sept., Nov.

VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the people of Algonquin is to foster a harmonious, distinctive community with a strong sense of place, preserving its ecological and historical richness, providing a safe and comfortable environment, through a responsible use of community resources, and developing ownership and pride in the community through significant citizen involvement in all civic, social and cultural affairs.

To this end, we will provide for the needs of today, prepare for the demands of tomorrow, and remain mindful and respectful of the past.

The Citizen newsletter is published by the Village of Algonquin as a public service for residents and businesses. The Village complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For handicapped assistance, call (847) 658-2700. For additional information regarding this newsletter, contact Jenna Kollings, Assistant Village Manager, at (847) 658-2700.



Where does my trash go after I throw it away?



Where does the rain go after a storm?

Where does it all go?

Algonquin's 4th Annual Conservation Community Day

Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Woods Creek bike path between Bunker Hill Drive and Woods Creek Lane

The Conservation Community Program was created in 2002 to educate residents on the environmentally friendly activities of the Village of Algonquin and to help ensure continued protection and enhancement of the natural resources in town. A variety of programs collectively make up "the Conservation Community Program." A large focus of the Program has been the annual Conservation Community Day event. This program concentrates on our efforts to preserve our natural areas.

This year, the Village will be spotlighting "Where Does It All Go?" as part of the FREE day of activities. Have you ever wondered where the recycling goes after you put it in the recycling bin? Where does the garbage truck take all your trash? Where does the rain water go after storms? Join the Village of Algonquin and community conservation groups on Friday, June 16, 2006 to find out the answers and celebrate the fourth annual Conservation Community Day. The day at Woods Creek will provide a variety of hands-on and learning opportunities for all ages. The event will be held on the Woods Creek bike path between Bunker Hill Drive and Woods Creek Lane. Take Randall Road, turn west on Bunker Hill Drive (near Jacobs High School) and follow until you see Woods Creek (there will be signs). The program will be conducted from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Parking is available on the street or at the library at (2600 Harnish Drive). Come celebrate our environment!

100th
Anniversary of
the Algonquin Hill
Climbs

Antique Auto Hill Climb Festival

Presented by the Algonquin Lions and Lioness Clubs
June 10, 2006, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in downtown Algonquin
For more information, visit www.algonquinhillclimb.com.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Take a moment to communicate with Village officials. Your comments, questions, and opinions are appreciated. To submit a comment, complete this box (attach an additional page, as necessary), and either mail it to Village Hall @ 2200 Harnish Drive, or place it in the drop box at Historic Village Hall or Village Hall. Comments can also be sent to webmaster@algonquin.org.

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Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____