



The Algonquin Citizen

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

Summer 2005

Recycling Cart Program Approved for Algonquin



Jump on the bandwagon—RECYCLE! The Village of Algonquin uses a volume-based (sticker) program for garbage, and there is no cost for recycling. So—the more you recycle, the less garbage you put at the curb, meaning more savings for you.

Please keep a look out for more detailed information that will be sent to each household as the implementation date for this program nears. We anticipate implementation later this summer.

If you have any questions about this program, please call Village Hall at (847) 658-2700.

The Village of Algonquin is pleased to announce the implementation of a new recycling cart program. The Village, in conjunction with Waste Management, will be providing each single-family and townhome residence in the Village of Algonquin with a 64 gallon recycling cart, which will replace the existing, small 18 gallon bins. Promoting recycling has always been a priority for the Village, and this program is intended to increase the amount of recyclables that we divert from landfills. The new 64 gallon carts (an example is pictured at left), take up the same amount of floor space as an 18 gallon bin, and have many advantages, as follows:

The carts are on wheels, making them easy to pull to the curb.

You have much more room for your recyclables, meaning that you can recycle more. This leads to less material clogging up landfills. It should also reduce your garbage, saving you money on stickers!

The carts have lids, eliminating recycling litter from blowing all over your neighborhood and keeping recyclables clean.

When the program is implemented, you will receive a flyer that will describe the recycling program in more detail, including acceptable recycling materials (same as current program—glass, plastic, aluminum/metal cans, newspaper, and other mixed paper products).

When the carts are distributed later this summer, garbage sticker prices will increase to \$1.80. When the Village's contract with Waste Management is renewed, on September 1, 2006, sticker prices will be \$1.95 each. This price is locked in through the term of the contract, which expires on August 31, 2011.

We look forward to working with you to better our environment!

The Village has applied for a grant to partially fund this project through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Water Conservation Measures in Effect

Water is a valuable natural resource. This summer is anticipated to be hot and dry, and region-wide we are several inches below normal precipitation amounts. As a result, our wells are at record lows. In order to ensure water quality and quantity, we are looking to you, Algonquin residents and businesses, to join our efforts to protect and conserve this precious resource.



The watering restrictions and surcharge rates on water use that were revised last year are still in effect. This includes the following:

Water System Status: The water system status informs residents and businesses

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DON'T MISS THE 2005 FOUNDERS' DAYS FESTIVAL!

Grab your friends and family and head to downtown Algonquin for the 2005 Founders' Days Festival! The Founders' Days Festival takes place annually in Towne Park in historic downtown Algonquin. It is sponsored by the Algonquin Founders' Committee (a separate agency which is not affiliated with the Village of Algonquin). Visit the Founders' web site at www.algonquin-foundersday.com for more information and directions to the park. Food vendors include Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Chamber of Commerce, Buena Vista Restaurant, Fay's Kabobs, John's Food, Knights of Columbus, Lee Concessions, Mr. Funnel Cake, and the Riverview Restaurant. The event boasts delectable food, great music, and an amazing fireworks spectacular on Sunday evening. The schedule is planned as follows:



THURSDAY, JULY 28

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
7:00 to 7:30 p.m.
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

Carnival for Special Kids
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Taste of Founders'
Carnival for All (wristbands)
Opening Ceremonies
[Vito Buffalo's Orchestra](#)
Social/Beer Garden Open
Designated Driver Program
Towne Park Closes

FRIDAY, JULY 29

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Founders' Market & Bazaar
Dog & Cat Show
Children's Games
Moonwalk
Family Petting Zoo
Taste of Founders'
Bake Off - Registration
Bake Off - Judging
Carnival (wristbands)
Bike Decorating Contest
Algonquin/LITH Rotary Club
Fish Fry
Carnival (regular prices)
Social/Beer Garden Open
Designated Driver Program
[Waterhouse](#)
[Mr. Myers](#)
Towne Park Closes

SATURDAY, JULY 30

11:00 a.m.
1:30 to 10:00 p.m.
1:00 to 10:30 p.m.
2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
2:00 to 10:00 p.m.
2:00 to 10:00 p.m.
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
8:45 to 10:15 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

"Once Upon a Time" Parade
Carnival (regular prices)
Taste of Founders'
Family Petting Zoo
Social/Beer Garden Open
Designated Driver Program
[Twisting Roses](#)
Algonquin Idol
[Kimi Hayes](#)
[Atomic Punks](#)
Towne Park Closes

SUNDAY, JULY 31

7:00 to 7:45 a.m.
Founders' Run Check-In
8:00 a.m.
Founders' Run 10K, 5K, & 5K Walk
9:00 a.m.
Founders' Children's 1 Mile
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
10:00 to 11:15 a.m.
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
2:45 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.



Kids' Kraft Korner
Little Mr. & Miss Pageant
Family Petting Zoo
Carnival (wristbands)
Taste of Founders'
[7Deez](#)
Social/Beer Garden Open
Designated Driver Program
[American English](#)
Duck Races - 1st Heat
Duck Races - 2nd Heat
Duck Races - Finals
Towne Park Closes

RIVERFRONT PARK -

SUNDAY, JULY 31

9:00 p.m.
The Founders' Days Festival
Fireworks Spectacular



*Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Bands are highlighted in [blue](#).

Social/Beer Garden

Friday and Saturday
Last Ticket Sold at 9:30 p.m.
Last Beer Served at 10:00 p.m.

Gate Charges

Friday - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 2 p.m.
Sunday - Noon
Adults \$3.00, Children 4-12 \$2.00

Summer Maintenance Reminders



Grass and Landscaping

The sun is out and the grass is growing; it is finally summertime again! With the nice weather comes the outside maintenance of your home and lawn. Grass and weeds must be maintained so that they do not exceed eight inches in height. Also, please remember to mow any adjacent right-of-ways, whether in the front or rear of your yard.

In addition, please take all measures to prune trees and bushes near public sidewalks to allow for clear passage at all times.

Park Rules for Dogs

The issue of pet waste continues to be a problem in not just the parks, but also the Village of Algonquin as a whole. The current Village Ordinance regarding dogs in the parks states that all dogs must be on a leash of not more than eight feet, may be exercised on 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 collect their dog waste is a detriment to the park, and a hazard to its users.

Please be considerate of your fellow park users, so that we may all continue to enjoy the use of these facilities without additional restrictions.

Keep Sidewalks Clear

Please be kind to your neighbors, and refrain from parking over the sidewalk. Obstructing the public right-of-way can force children, strollers, and other walkers into the street to go around your car, creating an obvious safety hazard. The Algonquin Municipal Code states that "no part of any motor or recreational vehicle, when parked, shall encroach over a public sidewalk" (Chapter 23, Section 15).

Holiday Lights

Are your holiday lights still adorning your front porch or bushes? If so, please remove your holiday lights and tuck them away until the next holidays arrive.

News from the Algonquin Police Department: Protect Yourself!

In an effort to prevent burglaries, residents are urged to keep their vehicles locked and to not leave their wallets or other valuables such as cellular telephones, or CDs and tapes in their vehicles. Additionally, residents should try to keep vehicles in their garages and keep their garages closed and locked. Most garage and vehicular burglaries occur during the night time hours. These types of burglaries are most frequently committed by teens who travel through residential areas on foot and who proceed to examine all of the vehicles in that area, as well as any open garages. This practice is commonly referred to as "garage shopping", "car checking", and "car hopping". These offenders are usually in a hurry and typically will not waste their time trying to forcibly enter a locked car or garage in which they cannot see something that they want.

As always, residents are encouraged to promptly contact the police department to report any suspicious persons/activities in their areas and to be a "good neighbor" by keeping an eye on each others' cars and homes.

Understanding the Woods Creek Corridor Ecosystem

The Woods Creek watershed and the riparian corridor surrounding the creek have undergone many changes over the past 150 years. The prairie and savannas were converted to agriculture and by WWII the creek was straightened and deepened to improve agricultural drainage. Even the marshy lands next to the creek were in crops. The plant and animal communities that flourished along the stream disappeared. In the 1990s as the Village grew, land in the watershed changed from agriculture to commercial, residential, and institutional uses. The Village worked with developers and ecologists and ecological engineers to acquire and restore the ecological integrity of the riparian corridor.



Meadow, prairie, and floodplain forest species were planted along the creek to restore the plant communities. Even the old meandering creek channel was restored between Bunker Hill Drive and Algonquin Road. Controlled burning and other techniques are being employed to manage these communities as they slowly develop. Perhaps, while strolling one of the paths, you were fortunate to spot a great blue heron fishing in the creek or maybe while having a morning cup of coffee you spotted a deer wandering in a meadow area. As the plant communities begin to thrive, the habitat improves, and a diverse animal community also will develop. The restoration and conservation activities in the watershed also have attracted scientists from DePaul University who are conducting several different research projects along the creek and in the nearby wetlands.

Over the past several years, scientists and land managers have watched with interest the increase in beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity in the creek. Beavers, sometimes called "Nature's Engineers", are especially noticeable this spring and summer. They alter the flow in the creek by building dams that create pools and meadows. These species rich areas become part of a diverse and dynamic ecosystem. Even though beaver are a welcome addition to the Woods Creek corridor, the Village will monitor their activities to make sure that their population does not grow out of control or that they do not cause damage to private property. Please, do not destroy or tamper with the beaver dams; however, if a problem develops, call the Public Works Department at (847) 658-2754. As predators return to the stream corridor, a natural balance should develop between herbivorous species such as beaver and deer and predators.

Crews Removing Mulch - Help Us Save Trees!

Parks and Forestry Crews have been, and will be, seen in neighborhoods this year removing and adjusting mulch improperly applied on parkway trees. Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed competition, and improve soil structure. Properly applied, mulch can give landscapes a handsome, well-groomed appearance. But if it is too deep or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm. The generally recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4 inches. Unfortunately, North American landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over-mulching. A new term, "mulch volcanoes," has emerged to describe mulch that has been piled up around the base of trees. Your assistance in providing for the long term health of these trees by providing proper mulching is greatly appreciated.

Problems Associated with Improper Mulching

- o Deep mulch can lead to excess moisture in the root zone, which can stress the plant and cause root rot.
- o Piling mulch against the trunk or stems of plants can stress stem tissues and may lead to insect and disease problems.
- o Some mulch, especially those containing cut grass, can affect soil pH. Continued use of certain mulches over long periods can lead to micronutrient deficiencies or toxicities.
- o Mulch piled high against the trunks of young trees may create habitats for rodents that chew the bark.
- o Thick blankets of fine mulch can become matted, and may prevent the penetration of water and air. In addition, a thick layer of fine mulch can become like potting soil and may support weed growth.
- o Anaerobic "sour" mulch may give off pungent odors, and the alcohols and organic acids that build up may be toxic to young plants.



Improper "Volcano" Mulching, above.



Proper mulch application, shown above.

Proper Mulching

It is clear that the choice of mulch and the method of application can be important to the health of landscape plants. The following are some guidelines to use when applying mulch.

- o Inspect plants and soil in the area to be mulched. Determine whether drainage is adequate. Determine whether there are plants that may be affected by the choice of mulch. Most commonly available mulches work well in most landscapes. Some plants may benefit from the use of slightly acidifying mulch such as pine bark.
- o If mulch is already present, check the depth. Do not add mulch if there is a sufficient layer in place. Rake the old mulch to break up any matted layers and to refresh the appearance. If mulch is piled against the stems or tree trunks, pull it back several inches so that the base of the trunk and the root crown is exposed.
- o Organic mulches are usually preferred to inorganic materials due to their soil-enhancing properties. If organic mulch is used, it should be well aerated, and preferably composted. Avoid sour-smelling mulch.
- o Composted wood chips can make good mulch, especially when they contain a blend of leaves, bark, and wood. Fresh wood chips may also be used around established trees and shrubs.
- o For well-drained sites, apply a 2-4 inch layer. If there are drainage problems, a thinner layer should be used. Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunks. Place mulch out to the tree's drip line or beyond.

Remember: if the tree had a say in the matter, its entire root system (which usually extends well beyond the drip line) would be mulched.

(WATER CONSERVATION, continued from page 1)

on outside watering restrictions. To check water system status, see signs posted on main streets in the Village, check the web site (www.algonquin.org), or call Village Hall at (847) 658-2700.

CONSERVATION: Green signs indicate that outside water use is permitted except for watering landscaping and lawns, which is prohibited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

EVEN/ODD: Yellow signs indicate even/odd days for watering before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. Even addresses may only water on even calendar days, and odd addresses may only water on odd calendar days.

RESTRICTED: Red signs indicate no outside watering allowed at any time.

The Village has a zero tolerance policy. If you are watering illegally, you will be issued a ticket and fined \$100 for the first offense.

Surcharge Rates: Surcharge rates are in effect for late May through early September (bills received in July, August, and September). Billing rates will triple for water consumption above 18,000 gallons per billing period. Check your water bill to see what your average consumption is, or check your water meter to monitor water consumption levels.

For tips on conserving water, visit www.algonquin.org and click on the "water status" link.



Water system status signs are located throughout the Village on main streets.

Important News from Nicor Gas

In 2002, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved Nicor Gas' Customer Select program, allowing customers to choose their own natural gas supplier. Customer Select is a completely voluntary program.

Depending on the supplier, customers will find some offers that "lock in" their gas price for a period of time, and other offers where gas costs vary from month-to-month (like Nicor Gas' gas supply charges). By comparing offers and making the choice that's best for you, you may be able to save money on the cost of your natural gas.*

Occasionally, suppliers participating in the Customer Select program may call or visit your home to market their current offers. This is a normal way of doing business for them, and it should not alarm you. However, please be aware that these suppliers are not Nicor Gas employees and you are not obligated to purchase anything from them. If you are ever in question about a utility employee or salesperson who visits your home without an appointment, Nicor Gas recommends that you ask to see their company identification.

Whether you continue purchasing your gas from Nicor Gas or choose a new supplier, Nicor Gas will continue to deliver your gas and respond to all natural gas emergencies.

For more information on Customer Select and a list of current suppliers, visit nicorgas.com and click on "Choosing Your Supplier."

*Savings may depend on several factors, including the amount of gas you use, the terms of your agreement with your supplier, and the natural gas market.



Exposed wood framing and mechanical systems suggest an efficient and budget-conscious public works facility and staff. "The wood helps create a warm, welcoming environment for staff and visitors," says Robert Mitchard II, Director of the Algonquin Public Works Department.

Public Works Facility Recognized for Functionality and Design

The Village of Algonquin has received two 2004 "Project of the Year - Public Works Structures" (\$2 - \$10 million category) awards for its new public works facility. The first award was presented at the local level by the Fox Valley, Illinois branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The Chicago Chapter of the APWA presented the second award at the regional level. The project will also be considered for the same award at a national level at the APWA International Congress in September, 2005.

Construction of the \$7.2 million, 67,000 square foot facility was completed in February, 2004. It was designed by Legat Architects, Inc. of Oak Brook, Illinois. "The facility is both practical and attractive. It is sensitive to budget, employees, and the surrounding community," says Mark DeVries, Fox Valley Branch Selection Committee Chairman and APWA Chicago Chapter Committee Member. "The design's foresight also makes the project a stand-out; the building can easily accommodate future additions as the Village grows."

In December, 2001, the Village's public works site consisted of two small garages, and separate offices in old wood-frame houses. Village representatives, Legat Architects, and Lamp Construction (general contractor) undertook a formidable challenge: to design and construct a new public works campus to meet several goals:

- o Adhere to established budget
- o Address public works department's functionality and efficiency needs
- o Incorporate aesthetic elements required for all Village facilities

"Every design element that the Village demanded was incorporated into the project, while maintaining a keen eye on budget and functionality," says Robert Mitchard II, Director of Algonquin Public Works. He calls it "one of the most efficient and technically advanced public works facilities in Chicagoland."



The design draws from the style and materials of other Village facilities to connect the public works department with the community it serves.

Safety Around Power Lines - Reminders from Commonwealth Edison

ComEd has developed six safety tips as a reminder for you to be aware of the power lines where you live and work. Electricity is an essential service, but it can be dangerous if not properly used. Follow these safety guidelines. They will help to protect you, your family, and your employees.

1. Always assume power lines are live.
2. Never stand ladders near power lines.
3. Keep all cranes, scaffolding, and high reach equipment away from power lines.
4. Keep yourself and others away from any fallen power lines.
5. Do not climb or trim trees near power lines.
6. You are required by law to call J.U.L.I.E. at 1-800-892-0123 to locate gas, electric, and telephone lines before you dig. Whether you are planting a tree, building a fence, or laying foundation, contacting a line with a shovel or pick can damage power lines - and injure or kill.

For more ComEd safety information, log on to www.exeloncorp.com and click on "residential" or "business". Select ComEd and look under "Safety". ComEd is committed to the safety of their employees and customers.

Visit us at www.algonquin.org.

