



Fall 2007

The Algonquin Citizen

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

-Mark Your Calendars for These Fall & Winter Events in the Village of Algonquin-



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

The Village of Algonquin Halloween trick-or-treating hours are from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. on Wednesday, October 31, 2007. Please keep in mind the following tips for safe trick-or-treating:

- * Algonquin Police Department strongly recommends that all Halloween participants be accompanied by an adult.
- * Never go trick-or-treating alone. If an adult is unable to go along, make sure to travel in big groups.
- * Walk, don't run.
- * Only go to well-lit houses.
- * Do not approach strangers in vehicles for any reason.
- * Always go to the front door.
- * Carry flashlights.
- * Don't eat any of your candy until an adult can check it.



Remember to turn a porch light on if your home is participating in handing out treats. Have fun!

Winter Wonderland

Come visit Santa Claus, have your picture taken, play games, watch holiday carolers, make crafts, and take home some holiday cheer at Winter Wonderland. Don't forget to bring your letter from home to drop it in Santa's mailbox! All children will receive one polaroid photograph with Santa.

Friday, December 14, 6:00-8:00pm
Algonquin Middle School
\$8 per child

Parents and children under the age of one are admitted free of charge with a paying child.

Water: Our Most Precious Resource

*An educational public program by
the McHenry County Defenders
in cooperation with the Village of Algonquin*

Presenter: Cindy Skrukud, Ph.D.
Chair, Water Resources Protection Committee, McHenry County Defenders
Clean Water Advocate, The Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter

Thursday, October 18, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Beans & Books Coffee Shop
215 South Harrison Street, Algonquin



Benjamin Franklin once said, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." While the summer rainstorms of 2007 may have left us thinking that we had too much water on our flooded lawns and in our basements, maintaining an adequate supply of quality water from our underground aquifers is actually a growing concern in McHenry County, which is 100% dependent on its groundwater resources as a drinking water source. You are invited to join us in this presentation from the Water Resources Protection Committee of the McHenry County Defenders, which will provide an opportunity to learn about both quantity and quality issues related to water in our county. Handouts providing a wealth of ideas on ways to preserve our water supply will also be available. Village officials from Algonquin will be present to answer questions specific to Algonquin. The hope is that by becoming educated and taking action now, we will never have to learn first hand the truth of Benjamin Franklin's famous quote.

This event is free and open to the public.



DOWNTOWN ALGONQUIN FARMERS MARKET

Did you know that the Downtown Algonquin Partnership merchants' association has been operating a Farmers Market in the Village's Old Town District since mid-July? The weekly market is held on Saturday mornings from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm in the public parking lot on South Harrison Street, just south of beautiful Cornish Park. Fresh fruits and vegetables are sold at the market, which runs through October 20.

**Check out the Fall 2007 Recreation Brochure
available online at www.algonquin.org.
Register for classes now!**

Village Witnesses Fantastic Turnout for National Night Out



On Tuesday, August 7, 2007 the Village of Algonquin hosted a National Night Out event at the Lion Armstrong Memorial Pool and Splashpad and Snapper Field. The purpose of the event was to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



Despite the balmy summer heat, over 400 residents gathered together for the event with local public safety agencies and businesses. The evening included free food, drinks, games, music, swimming, a bike rodeo, and demonstrations on how to extinguish fires. One of the highlights for Algonquin National Night Out 2007 included a softball game between the Algonquin Public Works Department Staff and the Algonquin Pool Staff. The game was close, but in the end the Public Works Staff was victorious!

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's event, scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

National Night Out Stats:

900 Scoops of Ice Cream Scooped
600 Bag of Chips Served
585 Hot Dogs Served

Algonquin Lifeguards Take 7th Place in State Lifeguard Games

The Village of Algonquin is pleased to announce the accomplishments of the swimming pool staff during the summer of 2007. On August 4, four members of the Algonquin Pool and Splashpad staff participated in the annual Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's Lifeguard Games. This event is an opportunity for lifeguards throughout the state to demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to overseeing community swimming pools, waterparks, and beaches. David Bethke, Teresa Champa, Andrew Lunt, Kathleen O'Malley, and Derek Korbecki represented Algonquin in this event, which involved 48 teams from throughout Illinois. Overall, the staff placed 7th in the competition. The team was tested in various life rescuing events. The event categories included spinal injury management, two-person rescue, CPR & First Aid, surveillance, and team spirit. "The Algonquin pool staff has a great responsibility to maintain a safe, friendly, and family-oriented facility throughout the summer. I am very proud of their talents both in and away from the Algonquin Pool that make them leaders and model citizens in our community," commented Sarah Stefan, Recreation Superintendent.

...cont'd on pg 4



Conservation Zone



"In My Backyard"
Natural Areas Stewardship Program



Public Works Department

Functions and Values of Wetlands

Understanding these Critical Zones

Wetlands are important features in the landscape that provide several beneficial services for people and wildlife. Some of these services, or functions, include: protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. These beneficial functions, considered valuable to societies worldwide, are the result of the inherent and unique natural characteristics of wetlands. Additionally, wetlands offer recreational opportunities, aesthetic benefits, and provide sites for research and education.

Over the past ten years, the Village of Algonquin has been preserving, creating, and enhancing wetlands within its jurisdiction. Sites to visit and walk along include:



- 1) High Hill Park and Nature Preserve - located on Harnish Drive
- 2) Arbor Hills Nature Preserve - located on Stonegate Drive
- 3) Falcon Ridge Nature Preserve - located on Huntington Drive
- 4) Arquilla Naturalized Stormwater Basin - located on Arquilla Drive
- 5) Woods Creek Corridor - located off Woods Creek Lane or Bunker Hill Drive

Functions of Wetlands:

Water Storage-

Wetlands function like natural tubs or sponges, storing water and slowly releasing it. This process slows the water's momentum and erosive potential, reduces flood heights, and allows ground water recharge, which contributes base flow to surface water systems during dry periods. Although a small wetland might not store much water, a network of wetlands can store an enormous amount of water. The ability to store floodwaters reduces the risk of costly property damage and loss of life.

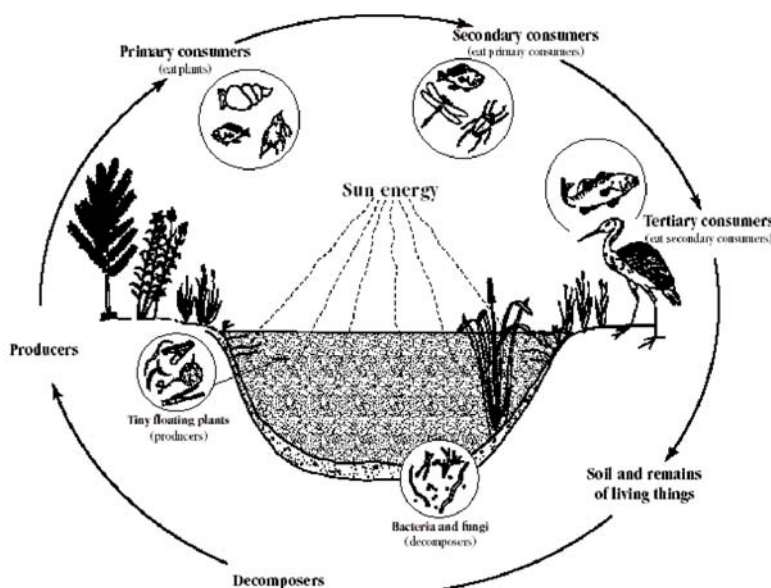


Water Filtration-

After being slowed by a wetland, water moves around plants, allowing the suspended sediment to drop out and settle to the wetland floor. Nutrients from fertilizers, manure, leaking septic tanks, and stormwater that are dissolved in the water are often absorbed by plant roots and microorganisms in the soil. Other pollutants stick to soil particles. In many cases, this filtration process removes much of the water's nutrient and pollutant load by the time it leaves a wetland.

Biological Productivity-

Wetlands are some of the most biologically productive natural ecosystems in the world, comparable to tropical rainforests and coral reefs in their productivity and the diversity of the species they support. Abundant vegetation and shallow water provide diverse habitats for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plant life flourishes in the nutrient-rich environment, and energy converted by the plants is passed up the food chain to fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife, and to us as well.



The above diagram represents a typical wetland food web with birds, fish, plants, etc.

Did you know?

-In 1991, wetland related eco-tourism activities such as hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and photography added approximately \$59 billion to the national economy.

-An acre of wetland can store 1 to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater.

-Up to one-half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands.

-Although wetlands comprise only about 5% of the land surface in the United States, they are home to 31% of our plant species.

Rainy Days... Detention Ponds to the Rescue!

We experienced a very wet summer, and homeowners may have found water in areas closer to their homes than typical. The Village received many telephone calls from concerned residents about water collecting in low areas of their property or in nearby parks. These sites are all designed to handle storm water runoff and will empty over a period of time. All of the detention ponds, swales, and storm sewer systems are designed to prevent flooding of homes and businesses.

How does it work?

Properties are normally graded to direct the water to flow to the side yards and back yards, often collecting in a swale. This water then drains to the storm sewer system. Detention ponds are designed to collect water during a storm event and hold that water for a period of time before slowly releasing the water. This allows the receiving water bodies to handle the excess rainwater over a period of time instead of all during the storm, which may cause flooding. The storm sewer system empties into the nearest wetland, river, or stream. This is why proper use of fertilizers and storage of chemicals is critical to prevent environmental degradation to our natural areas. There may be instances in extreme storm events or over a period of time with tremendous rain that these systems may not keep up with the rain; however, they are designed and sized to handle 100-year flood events.

It is critical for property owners not to build berms, gardens areas, mulched playground areas, or any other obstacles (such as stacked firewood or smaller storage sheds) in these drainage swales, nor should they ever attempt to change the engineered swale. These items obstruct the flow of water and can cause flooding and standing water in the adjacent properties.

Property owners can help to reduce the effects of flooding and standing water by implementing stormwater best management practices on their private property. By installing rain gardens and native landscaping, homeowners can help facilitate groundwater infiltration and recharge. The deep root systems of native plants help to pull excess water down into the soil, leaving less to run off into storm drains and detention basins. Allowing roof drains and sump pumps to discharge into native landscape areas or bio swales also keeps run off from entering the storm sewer system, thus lessening the amount of water that eventually gets to stormwater basins, streams, and rivers, and reducing the chance of flooding in these areas.



Lifeguards, continued from page two

With nearly 45 American Red Cross-certified staff members, the Algonquin Pool & Splashpad staff provided swim lessons to over 1,100 students this summer. The Village offers a number of opportunities to the staff for achieving certifications not only in teaching swimming lessons, but also in lifeguarding. To become a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard, candidates must complete a 32-hour course which entails a variety of preventative lifesaving and safety techniques. As part of the certification process, participants must proficiently demonstrate their acquired skills in both written and physical skills exams. The physical skills consist of water-related injury prevention, CPR, first aid, use of an automated external defibrillator, administering oxygen, spinal injury management, and water rescue skills. In addition to the training they receive in their certification program, all staff members practice their skills once a week and are audited throughout the summer.

If you are interested in learning more about summer employment at the Algonquin Swimming Pool and Splashpad, please contact the Village at (847) 658-2700.

Important Dates to Remember...

October 1: Free leaf pick up begins

October 27: Halloween Hoopla

October 31: Halloween

November 4: Daylight Saving Time

December 24-25: Village Hall Closed

November 22-23: Village Hall Closed

December 1: Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting

December 14: Free leaf pick up ends

December 14: Winter Wonderland

Fall Brush Pickup

Free leaf pickup by Waste Management began on October 1 for Algonquin residents, and will continue until December 14, 2007. There is no pickup of yard waste from December 15 through the end of March 2008.

All leaves must be placed in standard Kraft paper yard waste bags or reusable 33-gallon trash containers that are clearly marked. (You can use a large, visible red "X" to indicate yard waste.) Leaves should not be placed in loose piles.

During this time period, Waste Management will also provide free pickup of branches. The branches must be tied in bundles which are not more than four feet in length and two feet in diameter. Grass clippings and other yard waste (such as sod, dirt, or woodchips) will still require a collection sticker. Any bags or cans that contain leaves mixed with other yard waste will also require a collection sticker.



Winter Reminders

Winter Parking is in Effect as of November 1

As of November 1, it is unlawful to park on any public street in the Village between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. until April 15. (No parking is permitted on Route 31 and Route 62 between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. at any time of the year.) It is unlawful to park in the street any time after a snowfall of 2" or greater. For your safety, the snowfall parking ban remains in place until snow removal operations have been completed. Residents with special parking needs should contact the Algonquin Police Department at (847) 658-4531. Short-term parking may be allowed under special circumstances.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

Section 5.08 of the Algonquin Municipal Code states that any person occupying property within the Village shall remove the snow and ice accumulating on the abutting sidewalks within 24 hours after any snowfall has ceased. If snow or ice cannot be removed, the surface shall be sanded or otherwise treated to lessen the hazard for pedestrians until the climate permits removal. Please remember that this pertains to all (front, back, side) sidewalks that adjoin your property. When you clear your driveway of snow, do not shovel, blow or plow into the street as it is prohibited per Village Code. This creates a driving hazard for other motorists, especially if the Village plows have already passed through the area.



Fall Hydrant Flushing

As a regular maintenance practice, the Village of Algonquin Utilities Division flushes all fire hydrants throughout the Village two times per year. This exercise not only ensures proper operation of each hydrant, but helps 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 cause 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 fall is as follows:

September 24-28 (This area has already been completed.)

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

October 1-5 (This area has already been completed.)

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

October 8-12

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

October 15-19

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

October 22-26

The area west of Square Barn Rd. to Village limits.

October 29-November 2

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

Visit us at www.algonquin.org.



Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

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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
Debby Sosine 658-3480
Robert Smith 658-2466
John Spella 458-8289
Jim Steigert 658-0536
Gerald Kautz, Village Clerk

William Ganek, Village Manager

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.



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AAYO Registration Scheduled for November 9-10, 2007



AAYO has announced a change in registration dates and location for baseball and softball.

The AAYO 2008 Baseball & Softball "in person" registration venue has changed. The AAYO November registration will be on Friday, November 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, November 10 from 9:00 am to noon. The location will be WESTFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL.

Please pass this information on to friends and neighbors in order to alert registrants of the venue change.

For more information, please visit the AAYO website at aayo.net.

Daylight Saving Time

When: November 4, 2007

It's that time of the year again! Don't forget to change your clocks back one hour.



The National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend that you also change the batteries in the smoke and carbon detectors in your home when you change the clock for Daylight Saving Time. The goal is to reduce the number of deaths due to fire incidents. A study determined that 90% of households have smoke detectors in their homes but 1/3 are estimated to have dead or missing batteries.