



The Algonquin Citizen

News from the Village of Algonquin

Winter 2008

Jason Schutz – Groundwater Operator of the Year

The Village of Algonquin is proud to announce that Chief Water Operator Jason Schutz was named Groundwater Operator of the Year on September 11, 2008 by the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association (IPWSOA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). He was recognized with this distinction at the IPWSOA annual conference in Springfield. "Operator of the Year" is the highest professional honor operators can receive in recognition of service and performance in the waterworks industry.

Algonquin's water system is very complex due to the geography of the town, with the low-lying river valley, steep bluffs, and flat upland features. The system is divided into several zones to accommodate this varied topography, which presents operational challenges for Mr. Schutz and his staff, challenges that the Water Division is skilled and trained to handle.

Mr. Schutz has been employed with the Village for over ten years. He holds a Class A license with the IEPA. Mr. Schutz is responsible for oversight of the Village's three water treatment plants and nine wells which provide potable water for residents and businesses in our community.



Algonquin's Chief Water Operator Jason Schutz

S&P Raises Village's Bond Rating

The Standard & Poor's (S&P) underlying rating on the Village of Algonquin's general obligation bonds has been raised to AA+ from AA, reflecting strong tax base growth, revenue diversification, and a strengthening financial position. Algonquin is the only municipality in McHenry County to achieve this high credit rating.

According to Finance Director Jack Walde, the rating increase is "a positive sign amidst serious fiscal challenges presently facing our economy." Municipal bond insurers consider a municipality's bond rating when assessing bond insurance premiums; local governments with high ratings pay lower interest rates, which benefits taxpayers. Additional information on the Village's finances, including the Village budget and comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) can be viewed on-line at www.algonquin.org or in person at Village Hall, 2200 Harnish Drive.

Holidays on the Fox Parade

Come join the Village of Algonquin, Chamber of Commerce, Algonquin organizations and businesses on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 3:30pm to kick off the holidays with the annual Holidays on the Fox parade. The parade will walk north on S. Harrison St. from Mega Home Improvements, cross over Algonquin Road (Illinois Route 62) and end at Riverfront Park. At the park, carolers and entertainment will be on hand to help Santa and his elves pass out FREE cookies and hot cocoa to all those who are awaiting the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bring your neighbors, friends, and family to enjoy the holiday cheer!

Lock Your Vehicle

The Algonquin Police Department would like to remind residents to make sure they lock their vehicles overnight and while they are unattended. This includes removing keys from the vehicle. If possible, valuable items should be removed from the vehicle, as they only make the vehicle more of a target. Don't become a victim! Make it difficult for a thief to target you by following these simple theft prevention tips and keeping your belongings safe.

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Visit us at www.algonquin.org



It's Our River Day Celebration a Success!

On September 20, 2008, over 100 people gathered at the Fox River as part of the state-wide "It's Our River Day" celebration. The day was a great success thanks to the support of numerous individuals and organizations, which took place at Cornish Park.

The purpose of "It's Our River Day" is to honor and preserve the rivers of Illinois. In Algonquin, the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the Village of Algonquin came together to co-sponsor a celebration of the Fox River. The day's events included talks by several speakers including Congressman Don Manzullo, Olivia Dorothy from the Lt. Governor's office, Trustee Brian Dianis, and many others. Following the speakers, attendees suited up with gloves and bags provided by the Sierra Club and hit the dirt, scouring for trash and recyclables. They collected approximately 1,000 pounds of trash and 15 bags of recyclables from the shores of the Fox River.



Prairie Coast Paddler Kayakers demonstrate on the Fox River at "It's Our River Day"

During the last part of the event, the St. Charles Canoe Club and Prairie Coast Paddlers gave canoe and kayak demonstrations. The two groups demonstrated paddling techniques and water safety, and drew cheers from the crowd with an Eskimo roll or two! Once again, thank you to all those who made the event a success!

Article was re-printed with permission from the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a non-profit, citizen organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the environment. For more information about The Defenders, including membership and upcoming environmental events and activities, please go to www.mcdef.org.

Scouts Help Restore Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

Members of Algonquin Scout Troop 368 recently worked with the Village in a volunteer project to restore the woodlands at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, located on Stonegate Road. Earlier in the year, Public Works staff cleared out a substantial portion of the invasive tree species as well as herbicided and removed exotic brush and grass species. As part of the Scout project, 60 Red Oaks were planted as well as 60 native prairie grasses and flowers. The area was also seeded with mesic prairie, a native grass species.



Scout Troop 368 working with Village staff members Michele Zimmerman and Tim Wegrzyn at Arbor Hills

An exotic species, by definition, grows in a region or habitat where it does not belong. Often these invaders have been introduced either accidentally or intentionally from another part of the world. When an exotic species invades a habitat, it displaces native plants by out-competing them or by preventing sunlight from reaching the forest floor.

Most Northern Illinois woods are dominated by oaks and hickories. The nuts of these trees require unlimited sunlight to germinate and grow. Once the woods are clogged by exotic brush there is no longer sufficient light for the oak and hickory seedlings to survive. Over time, the older trees will die and there will not be young trees to replace them. Both oaks and hickories are important food sources for many animals.

After the clearing and seeding process has been completed the woods will attract a greater variety of insects, birds and mammals. This is due to the biodiversity that is introduced when an area such as this is restored and enhanced. Watch as this area grows and matures over the next five years! This is a great example of what our native natural areas and wetlands used to look like before invasive species and development took over.

"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty."

~ John Ruskin

Sidewalk Snow Removal

With winter weather once again approaching, please remember that the Algonquin Municipal Code states that any person occupying a property within the Village shall remove snow and ice accumulating on the adjoining sidewalks within 24 hours after any snowfall has ceased. If snow and 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 code pertains to all front, back and side area sidewalks that adjoin your property. Snow should never be blown or shoveled into the public streets as it is prohibited by Village code. Such placement of the snow may create a driving hazard for other motorists, especially if the Village plows have already passed through the area.

Please contact the Community Development Department at 847-658-4184 with any questions.

House Numbers

Village inspectors routinely identify homes that are without the proper house identification numbers. Village Code requires that all properties be identified with numbers that are attached to the front of the building, visible from the street or roadway, of no less than 4 inches in height. The numbers shall contrast with their background. Numbers only on mailboxes do not meet code requirements as many areas of town have mailboxes set in groups. Please remember that this is for the safety of you and your family in emergency situations should the a fire district or Algonquin Police Department have the need to identify your property promptly. Please contact the Community Development Department at 847-658-4184 with any questions.



House Numbers should be at least 4" in height

Village Recognized by EPA

The Lake Drive South Naturalized Detention Basin has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a 2008 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award. The abundant native plants surrounding the basin stabilize the shoreline, help improve water quality, and provide excellent habitat for birds and other species. Congratulations to Assistant Public Works Director Michele Zimmerman and the Public Works staff for enhancing the sustainability and biodiversity of the Village!

Winter Parking Now in Effect

Beginning November 1, 2008, parking will be prohibited on any public street in the Village between the hours of 2:00am and 5:00am. The winter parking hours will be in effect until April 15, 2009. In addition, it is unlawful to park in the street after any snowfall of 2 inches or greater. The snowfall parking ban is in place for your safety, and will remain in effect until snow removal operations have been completed. Violators will be issued tickets. Residents with special parking issues should contact the Algonquin Police Department at 847-658-4531. Short-term parking may be allowed under special circumstances.

Village Evaluates Snow Removal Plan

The struggling economy and the high cost of oil have impacted the Village's winter strategy and snow plan. The companies providing salt have increased the delivery price of salt three fold, thus creating a financial burden on the Village of Algonquin and surrounding municipalities. This may result in the Village having a more limited quantity of salt on hand for the upcoming snow season compared with past winter seasons.

Rest assured, our elected officials in local and state government are aggressively researching alternative solutions to this challenge. However, it is imperative that we begin preparations for the upcoming winter months immediately. Therefore, the Village will pay an increased price for salt this season with anticipation that a solution to the high cost of salt will be determined by next fall.

In order to adjust to these increased prices and lack of supply, the Streets Division of the Public Works Department will review their snow plan and make every attempt possible to preserve the integrity of the service we have provided in the past. Stopgap methods such as mixing sand or gravel with the salt, prewetting the salt with brine or calcium chloride, and changing the way the drivers distribute the salt will help limit and control the amounts used during a storm event. Due to a combination of severity of snowstorms, a possible lack of salt supply, and reduced salt application, the condition of the roads during a snow event may be such that drivers have to take extra precautions when traveling during severe weather.

We ask residents to be patient during these tough fiscal times. Also, please be sure to drive with patience and caution at all times, especially during severe winter weather. Make room for snow plows and travel at safe speeds. Safety is our primary concern and we want all the drivers using Algonquin roads to encounter safe and uneventful travels.

Village's Environmental Efforts Showcased

The Village of Algonquin's environmental efforts have recently been presented at two important area events. The Village participated in the Illinois Municipal League Conference in Chicago in late September. The Village featured a collaboration with environmental science teacher Gary Swick and students from District 300 on the "Check Your Air for Clean Air" program. The program provides students with classroom education coupled with real-world applications from the Village to approach the practical challenges of fuel efficiency and implement projects to reduce carbon emissions.



District 300 students learn the benefits of properly inflated tires

In addition, the Village was invited to speak at the Sustainable Cities Symposium, sponsored by the State of Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, in Lisle in late October. As part of a panel of experts on local green initiatives, Vince Olsen, Internal Services Superintendent, spoke about the Village's program of converting used vegetable oil to biodiesel fuel for Village-owned lawnmowers and diesel trucks. These two programs are part of a larger effort on the part of the Village to promote environmentally -friendly and cost-efficient programs in the community. Look for more information in the 2009 calendar/annual report, which will be distributed to Village households at the end of the year.

Free CFL Bulbs?

Visit <http://www.algonquin.org> for more information!

Lawn Fabric Blankets

Lawn fabric blankets can be an ideal way to control wind and water erosion when growing a lawn. The fabric is primarily biodegradable; however, the nylon netting often remains, typically along lawn edges and overlapped areas of the roll, without biodegrading. If you have any lawn fabric on your lawn or parkway, please be sure to pick up and remove any excess nylon netting after the grass is established. The netting is susceptible to blowing away, can obstruct storm sewers, and risks becoming tangled in lawn mowing equipment.



Recreation Corner

Upcoming Winter Activities and Events

The following are just a few of many events the Village of Algonquin offers over the winter months:

Michigan Avenue & Zoolights Trip - All Ages

December 13, 2008 - 8:00am - 9:00pm (Fee: \$15)

We are off for a day of shopping and sight seeing down the magnificent mile! The bus will drive up and down Michigan Avenue to popular shopping areas such as Water Tower Place and Chriskindlmarket.

Winter Wonderland 2008

December 19, 2008 - 6:30pm - 8:30pm (Fee: \$8)

Join Santa Claus and his elves at his annual Winter Wonderland in the gymnasium at Algonquin Middle School. You will be able to visit Santa Claus, have your picture taken, play games, watch holiday carolers, make crafts, and take home some holiday cheer at Winter Wonderland.

Breakfast with Santa - All Ages

December 20, 2008 - 10:00am - 11:00am (Fee: \$0 - \$15)

Spread the holiday cheer and smile from ear to ear when you have Breakfast with Santa this year. You will get a chance to stop at a few craft stations, have your picture taken, and tell Santa all about your list. This scrumptious all-you-can-eat, breakfast buffet at the Golf Club of Illinois will keep both the kids and parents happy.

X-Treme Winter Paintball Trip - 12-17 Years

January 2, 2009 - 9:00am - 5:30pm (Fee: \$55)

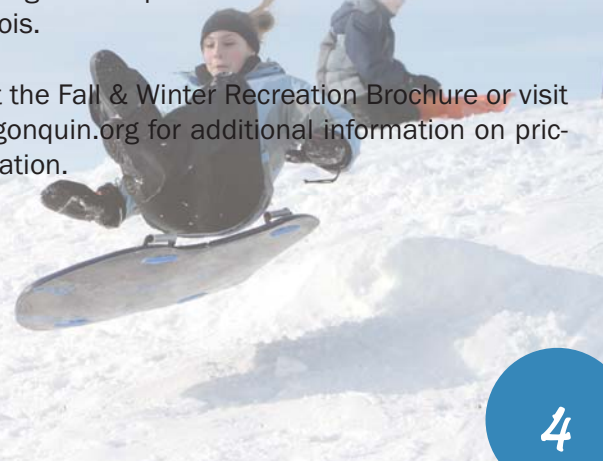
A Winter Break Paintball Trip! Are you ready to take it to the extreme at CPX Park in Joliet, Illinois? No matter what land you choose to spend your day in, you will find the scenery is always changing with 5 major areas, 13 wooded fields, and a target range.

Overnight Ski & Snowboard Trip - 11 Years+

February 6 - 7, 2009 - 8:00pm - 9:00am (Fee: \$85)

Join youth from around the state of Illinois for a night of unending fun and entertainment. The Village of Algonquin, in cooperation with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association, will be joining teens from around the state for the annual Illinois Teen Overnight Ski Trip at Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort in Galena, Illinois.

Please consult the Fall & Winter Recreation Brochure or visit <http://www.algonquin.org> for additional information on pricing and registration.



Digital TV Transition - Are You Ready?

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. A TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service does not require a TV converter box from this program. For more information on the TV Converter Box Coupon Program, visit: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>.

Have you received a Bad Check in Algonquin?

The Algonquin Police Department is now investigating all "Bad Check" cases that occur to both businesses and consumers in the Village. "Bad Checks" can include "Not Sufficient Funds (NSF)" checks, "Account Closed" or "Account Not Found" checks, as well as counterfeit and forgery cases.

Please visit the Village Of Algonquin website (<http://www.algonquin.org>) or contact the Police Department to obtain a copy of the new Bad Check Crime Report if you feel you have been a victim of a "Bad Check." To be eligible for this program, the check(s) in question must have been presented and accepted as payment within the Village of Algonquin.

If you have any questions about the new program, please contact Detective Montgomery at 847-658-4531 or you can contact the Investigations Division directly by e-mailing douglamz@algonquin.org.

2008 Photo Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to all of the 2008 Photo Contest Winners! This year's contest featured 19 photographers submitting over 150 photos. Winners were recognized at the October 28, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting.

All entries may be viewed on-line at <http://www.algonquin.org>.

Once Upon a Town...

News from the Historic Commission



Residents learned about local history and enjoyed fall colors during the Algonquin Cemetery Walk. Photograph by 2008 Photo Contest participant Don Stien.

During the October Algonquin Cemetery Walk, hundreds of residents toured the Cemetery to see and hear about people from the last two centuries who made our town what it is today. Fortunately, you don't have to wait until next October to find out about the history of your town. The Historic Commission holds workshops every third and fourth Saturday morning (8:30am – 12:00pm) on the second floor of Historic Village Hall (2 S. Main St.) These workshop meetings are open to the public. You might have questions about the history of your house, need help with architectural elements, have a need for family information, or you may have come across artifacts or photos of Algonquin past that you want to identify. Even if you are just plain curious about area history or whatever the reason, you are welcome at the workshop meetings!

"The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present."

~ David Thelens

Portable Advertising Signs

As there are a number of construction projects in the Village due to this summer's hail storms, the Village would like to remind all residents that the placement of portable signs advertising contractors conducting work on site are prohibited by the Algonquin Municipal Code. Please refrain from the display of any portable yard signs (with the exception of garage sale, for sale and political signs); the Village will remove the signs. Repeat offenders may be subject to penalty. Thank you for your cooperation.

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY (Police, Fire, & Ambulance).....911
Village Hall - 2200 Harnish Drive
Administration.....847-658-2700
Community Development.....847-658-4184
Police (non-emergency).....847-658-4531
Public Works - 110 Meyer Drive
General Inquires.....847-658-2754
Water/Sewer Billing847-854-3440

Village Meetings

Village Board

First and Third Tuesday of each month - 8:00 PM

Committee of the Whole

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month - 7:30 PM

Planning and Zoning Commission

Second Monday of each month - 7:30 PM

Historic Commission

Second Wednesday of each month - 7:00 PM

Economic Development Commission

Second Thursday of the following months - 7:00 PM

January, March, May, June, September, November

Winter Storm Safety

Winter in Illinois can vary from mild temperatures to extreme cold, from rain and ice to heavy snow. In the past 100 years, Illinois has averaged five severe winter storms per year. These storms can cause damage, disruptions to transportation and utility systems, as well as health hazards.

Are you prepared for these challenges of winter? If you would like to learn more about preparing your family, your vehicle, and your home for the inevitable cold weather, then the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's Winter Storm Preparedness guide is for you! The guide can be found at <http://state.il.us/iema/publications/publications.asp> under Disaster Assistance and Preparedness. It provides useful information on frostbite, hypothermia, preventing frozen water pipes, what to do if you're stranded in your vehicle, preparing a winter storm survival kit, plus many other useful tips for being prepared for winter.



Village Holiday Hours

Village offices will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, November 27, 2008

Friday, November 28, 2008

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Thursday, January 1, 2009



It has been a pleasure serving you this year. The Village of Algonquin elected officials and staff wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

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.

Village of Algonquin - Winter Newsletter 2008

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The Algonquin Citizen newsletter is published by the Village of Algonquin as a public service for residents and businesses. The Village complies with the American 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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