



The Algonquin Citizen

News from the Village of Algonquin

Spring 2009

Chief Laine Elected as President of the IACP

The Village of Algonquin is pleased to announce that Police Chief Russell Laine became President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) on November 12, 2008. The IACP organization has been instrumental in the development and implementation of sophisticated law enforcement standards that we see today and what we will see in the future.

Under Chief Laine, the Algonquin Police Department has developed programs and policies that are "state of the art" in professional law enforcement. Over the years, his involvement in IACP has brought resources to the Village that have allowed Algonquin to be involved in programs at the developmental stage. He introduced the DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program in its infancy, and Algonquin was one of the first communities in the area to teach it at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. We have also seen many other "firsts" in Algonquin's Police Department under Chief Laine's direction.

The Village of Algonquin will continue to benefit from IACP resources and the law enforcement voice that impacts the development and implementation of laws, law enforcement training, standards, and professional policies.



Police Chief Russell Laine is sworn in as President of the IACP in November 2008

Algonquin Police Receive Traffic Safety Award

The Algonquin Police Department (APD) was awarded first place in the IACP's Traffic Safety Award. The award is issued to departments that have excelled in the area of traffic safety including training, enforcement, public education, and effectiveness of the program. The award was presented at the IACP Conference in San Diego, California. This is the third time the department has received this prestigious award.

Over the past years, the seat belt use rate in Algonquin has gone from 75% to the present 95%, higher than the state average of 90%. "Making sure people are properly buckled up is the single greatest factor in preventing deaths or injuries in crashes and because of our high rate, we have one of the lowest injury rates for crashes

in the state and our lowest amount of injury crashes in 20 years," stated APD Sergeant Wade Merritt.

Police Officers Honored

Algonquin Police Officers Rob Schuett and Brian Siegfert were recognized at the January 6 Village Board meeting by receiving the Algonquin Police Lifesaving Award. On November 6, 2008 the officers responded to a report of a child who fell out of a second story window. Upon arriving on scene, the officers performed CPR on the one-year-old toddler until emergency personnel from the Algonquin/LITH Fire Protection District arrived. The toddler is currently on the path to recovery.

The Village of Algonquin applauds Officers Schuett and Siegfert for their courage and composure during a very intense situation. Thank you Rob and Brian!

Earth Hour 2009

Earth Hour is a worldwide initiative for individuals to turn off their lights for one hour on **March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm** in a unified call for action on climate change. Please join the Chicagoland region and turn off your lights on March 28!



Visit www.earthhourus.org for more information.

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Visit us at www.algonquin.org



Algonquin Selected for Chicago Wilderness Alliance

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance is a regional effort that connects people and nature. In late 2008, the Village of Algonquin was selected to join more than 230 other organizations to work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all living things by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

This alliance will allow the Village to pursue a more collaborative effort in its current environmental initiatives in the areas of green infrastructure, community involvement, natural area restoration, and climate change.



One of many wetlands in Algonquin. Photo provided by Don Stien, 2008 Photo Contest Participant

Some of the Village's most recent accomplishments in these areas include converting turf grass detention basins to naturalized basins, which naturally filtrates water as it returns to underground aquifers. The Village is also currently enhancing two oak/hickory woodlands as well as two wetland nature preserves. Furthermore, the Woods Creek watershed is actively managed by the Public Works Department. Most recently, a newly created 20-acre wetland was planted in Spella Park.

Algonquin's acceptance into the Chicago Wilderness Alliance will help the Village develop workable and sustainable relationships with organizations that have a similar passion for the environment and natural preservation of our area, while reaching both local and regional biodiversity goals.



Reducing Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) at Home

The Village of Algonquin Utilities Division of the Public Works Department answers the following frequently asked questions about household grease disposal:

Should I be concerned about reducing grease from my kitchen?

Have you ever had a backup of sewage in your home or in a sewer pipe outside your home? If so, chances are a buildup of food scraps, fats, grease, and oils have combined with other solids to plug your pipe. A sewer backup is a health hazard, spreading disease-producing bacteria. It also damages the environment when it overflows outside and spills onto your or your neighbor's yard. Prevention in the home is the best way to stop sanitary sewer overflows due to grease buildup.

Where does this grease come from?

Fats, oils, and grease come from meat, dairy, butter, and lard used in cooking, baking, and preparing foods. Fats, oils, and grease left on plates, pots, and pans are washed down the drain with hot water. They can solidify and build up in the colder pipes in your home, in your sewage pipes connecting to the Village sewer, and in the main Village sewer.

How can I reduce fats, oils, and grease from entering my pipes?

Dispose of food waste properly. Be sure to scrape plates into your garbage can before rinsing and wipe pots, pans, and dishes containing fats, oil, or grease before washing. Also, do not pour fats, oil, or grease down drains! Pour it into an empty tin can or glass jar and dispose of in the garbage when cooled. Furthermore, reduce the use, or stop using your garbage disposal – it contributes solids and grease that get trapped in the pipes. Instead, give composting a try.

For more information, please contact Cathy White, Environmental Compliance Coordinator at 847-854-3459 or at cathywhite@algonquin.org.

Making a New TV Purchase?

As television broadcasting transitions from analog to digital broadcasting, you may be considering purchasing a digital TV. Please remember to recycle your TV instead of putting it in a landfill. Televisions contain lead, mercury, and other toxins which harm the environment. Please contact the Kane County Environmental Management Department at 630-208-5118 or consult the McHenry County Green Guide at www.mcdef.org/recy.pdf for more information on how to properly dispose of your old television.

Japanese Beetles – Plan Now!

Last summer Algonquin experienced infestations of the Japanese Beetle. It is important to realize that after this invasive species breeds, it lays its eggs in your soil and lives there most of its life as a white grub. Trees are not the cause or host of this pest, but simply a food source. Treatment is not prescribed as the feeding typically does not kill trees. After spending the fall and winter underground as white grubs, the beetles pupate and various plant species can fall victim to the beetle's appetite, which is most commonly found in linden trees.

Japanese Beetles are approximately 3/4" long and are distinguished by their blue/green/brown/silver color which is shiny, similar to metal. If the beetle is left alone, it is more likely that they will kill grass than trees. Japanese Beetle damage occurs to the leaves of trees as they are eaten, with only the leaf veins remaining. Trees can be treated with a foliar application or an injected systemic insecticide. The best way to treat for beetles is to eliminate them in their larval stage in the soil. Applying a turf grub control treatment in early to mid-May will reduce and control the adult populations. Please share this information with your neighbors. Working together to treat the turf this spring will help control the Japanese Beetle in Algonquin.

Water Billing Changes

The Village recently began using new water utility billing software to more efficiently process payments. If you are an Online Bank user, you created a vendor profile in the "pay bills" section of your checking or savings account. Update the account number in this profile to include your 7 digit Account Number and 6 digit Customer Number, separated by a dash (i.e. 1234567-123456), which are located on your billing statement. This allows the Village to receive your payment electronically rather than a check which is mailed. **This change does NOT affect customers who have previously enrolled in our ACH (direct debit) program.** As an ACH customer, the wording "BANK PYMT" will be printed on the coupon portion of your statement. Please contact Water Billing at 847-854-3440 with any questions.

Cemetery Spring Cleanup

The annual "spring cleanup" of the Algonquin Cemetery will begin Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10. **All winter decorations such as blankets and wreaths that are not removed before Wednesday, April 1 will be discarded.** The spring cleanup will conclude the week of April 20 and mowing of the cemetery will begin.

Summer decorations may be placed on gravesites beginning Friday, May 1. Remember that no planting may be done in Blocks 8 or 9 of the cemetery. Furthermore, no planting of bushes or shrubs may be done in any part of the cemetery, except by authority of the Village.

Emerald Ash Borer Info

In June 2008, the Village of Algonquin confirmed infestations of the highly destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The arrival of EAB in Algonquin will undoubtedly destroy any ash trees in our area that have not been treated properly. As these trees start to fail, please remember that the Village requires a Tree Removal Permit for trees over ten (10) inches in diameter, or for the removal of more than four (4) trees over four (4) inches in diameter. These permits are free and are required in order to ensure that contractors are in compliance with Illinois' quarantine requirements for handling ash debris. Since Algonquin is within a quarantine zone for EAB, the Village is requiring contractors to have an EAB Compliance Agreement on file with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. These contractors may be found on the Compliance Agreement List at the Illinois Department of Agriculture website (www.agr.state.il.us/eab).

The Village further recommends that citizens always hire arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. This certification ensures that an individual has the knowledge necessary to perform in the best interest of your trees. Certified arborists can be found at www.treesaregood.org. Hiring qualified individuals helps protect against unnecessary spread of this pest to our neighbors both inside and outside of the Village.

The Village is responsible for the removal of ash trees located on Village properties. As an infestation occurs, the property owner adjacent to a Village-owned parkway or right-of-way that hosts an ash tree will be notified of the pending infestation. Property owners will be given the option to have the Village pre-harvest their parkway/right-of-way tree, or to allow it to stay until it is infested or otherwise compromised in a way that dictates its removal. Again, it is just a matter of time until the species fades, and the Village will ultimately make the final decision when a Village-owned tree must come down, but this option will allow you to either enjoy the tree as long as possible or to confront the issue directly. This option will only be offered in areas where the Village has made a positive identification of the pest. Extensive information relative to EAB can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info. Please be advised that if you have an ash tree you wish to preserve, you should start treatments immediately and as prescribed for the life of the tree. For more information on EAB specific to Algonquin, please visit www.algonquin.org.

Public Meeting Notice: Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study

The Village of Algonquin is developing a Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study to analyze several alternatives that would improve pedestrian safety and movement across Randall Road. A public input session was held at Jacobs High School this past fall to gather comments and suggestions for adding pedestrian enhancements to Randall Road. Several pedestrian crossing options were proposed at the meeting, including bridges, tunnels, and a variety of surface-level improvements.

Over the last few months, the Village has worked to design some concepts and evaluate the costs and benefits of adding various types of pedestrian crossings to Randall Road. Several different options will be presented to the public for review and comment on **Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm in the Jacobs High School Auditorium (2601 Bunker Hill Drive)**. All residents, business owners, exercise enthusiasts, and motorists are encouraged to attend to participate in the planning process for this important project. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to check in and register; the program will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and last for about two hours. The public is asked to park on the southeast side of the school and enter through the Athletics and Activities entrance. For more information, contact Ben Mason, Senior Planner, at 847-658-4184.

Leadership School Project Benefits Food Pantry

Each year, the Algonquin-LITH Chamber of Commerce and alternating villages (Algonquin or Lake in the Hills) sponsor the Ted Spella Leadership School for residents and members of the community. As part of the class, student groups must complete a community-oriented service project. This year, a group created a website for the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Food Pantry.

The mission of the Algonquin-LITH Food Pantry is to provide temporary, immediate access to food for families in need living within the boundaries of Algonquin and Lake in the Hills. The pantry is supported by the Villages of Algonquin and Lake in the Hills as well as many area residents and volunteers who comprise the staff that oversees the operation of the pantry.

For information about the Algonquin-LITH Food Pantry, please visit their new website at www.alith-foodpantry.org, or for information regarding the Ted Spella Leadership School, visit www.algonquin-lith-chamber.com.



Recreation Corner

Upcoming Winter Activities and Events

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

Mom & Son Date Night - 3 Years and Older

March 13, 2009 - 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm (Fee: \$65/Couple)

It's time to team up for a night of fun! Each participant will receive a commemorative Mom & Son Date Night photo and other fun items to help make the night complete. Then we will jump on the bus and head out to the Allstate Arena for a date you won't forget - a Chicago Wolves hockey game! Once we arrive at the rink, participants will receive a voucher for a hot dog and soda at the concession stand. You may bring additional money for concessions and the gift shop. Fee includes transportation, dinner, and admission to the game. Price is based per couple. Additional participants are \$33.

Algonquin Egg Hunt - 12 Years and Younger

April 5, 2009 - 10:00 am (Fee: FREE)

Grab your best basket and meet the Bunny for the Village of Algonquin's Fourth Annual Egg Hunt! The Egg Hunt is FREE to residents of Algonquin only. There will be over 15,000 eggs at the Golf Club of Illinois for participants to pick up as quickly as possible. All participants must be accompanied by an adult throughout the duration of the event. The hunt will be held on the driving range portion of the facility. There will be no pre-registration for the Egg Hunt. We will begin promptly at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 5, 2009. The Golf Club of Illinois is located at 1575 Edgewood Drive.

Breakfast with the Bunny - All Ages

April 5, 2009 - 10:20 am - 11:20 am (Fee: \$0 - \$15)

Hop on down to Algonquin's Breakfast with the Bunny. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at the Golf Club of Illinois. Come make crafts, play games, and take a picture with the Easter Bunny. Pre-registration is a must for this event. Participants ages 1 and younger will be admitted at no charge, but they must be pre-registered. Registration must be completed by Friday, March 27, 2009. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Early Bird Pool Passes

Available April 1 - April 30

Take advantage of pool pass discounts for the 2009 season!

Please visit <http://www.algonquin.org> for additional information on pricing and registration for these and other programs.



Parking Reminder

The Village would like to remind residents and visitors of the following regulations when it comes to parking your vehicles and trailers:

- ◆ Parking on public streets after a snowfall of two (2) inches or more is prohibited. This allows for plows to safely remove snow from streets.
- ◆ Commercial vehicles are not permitted to be parked on streets in residential neighborhoods for a period longer than two (2) hours. This includes one-ton trucks or larger and trailers or truck tractors.
- ◆ All vehicles must be parked on an improved surface of asphalt, concrete, or brick pavers.
- ◆ Vehicles should be parked completely in your driveway so they do not obstruct any sidewalk.

Please help do your part to ensure that the Village of Algonquin remains a safe place for all!

Planning a Home Project?

The snow is almost gone and warmer weather is on its way! Now is the time to start planning your home projects. As a reminder, a building permit must be obtained prior to the start of any work which includes constructing, enlarging, altering, replacing, repairing and installation of roof coverings, siding, patios, decks, gazebos, porches, detached accessory buildings, sidewalks, and fences. Permits are also required if you are replacing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Also, please remember that all holiday lights should be removed from exterior displays by no later than March 1 of each year. Any exterior string of lights or exposed light bulbs are prohibited except those that are temporarily displayed in conjunction with traditionally accepted civic, patriotic, or religious holidays for a duration not to exceed 60 days.

Please call 847-658-4184 for any questions relating to building permits or property maintenance codes.

Spring Household Cleanup

The Village of Algonquin along with Waste Management will hold a Village-wide cleanup program for single-family and town homes in the Village on April 11, April 18, or April 25, depending on your neighborhood. Stickers are NOT required for this special pickup. Items that will be collected include furniture, grills, and old clothes. Items such as automobile parts, white goods, landscape waste, or construction materials will NOT be collected. Please look at the 2009 Village calendar or the Village website (www.algonquin.org) to determine when your neighborhood will have its collection.

Once Upon a Town...

News from the Historic Commission

"I remember in the good old days" is a saying often heard expressed when some of our long-time residents talk about life in Algonquin when the population was less than 2,500 citizens.

Historic Commission members know all too well that recording the unique history of Algonquin involves much more than just gathering information from official sources such as deeds, legal documents, meeting minutes, or records from other organizations in the Village.

To this end, one of the Historic Commission's ongoing projects is to gather and make a record of the memories and often unwritten information from former or current long-time residents. By sharing these memories, the information learned allows us to gain an insight and understanding of the daily life of residents and visitors to our village over the years. Clearly, gathering the history of any community must include the stories of the daily lives of the people in addition to the lands, buildings, and organizations within a village.

Do you remember the swimming pool located in Towne Park, the blizzard of 1936, or how Algonquin celebrated the end of World War II? Were you at the first Founders' Days celebration in 1960? What else do you remember about growing up in Algonquin?

If you can recall any of these or other experiences of living and growing up in Algonquin from years past or know of someone who might be able to share some of this type of information, please contact the Historic Commission at historiccommission@algonquin.org. The Historic Commission would greatly appreciate the opportunity to say "thanks for the memories" and help record Algonquin's unique and colorful past for future generations of Algonquin residents!

Algonquin e-News

The Village of Algonquin is proud to announce the launching of Algonquin e-News! Algonquin e-News is the Village's new e-mail announcement system which provides timely news reports from the Village to your Inbox. Additionally, users may also track progress and view history of their service request submitted to the Village online.

You may enroll and view past issues on the Village website (www.algonquin.org) by clicking the e-News logo on the right side of the screen. The Village will NOT provide your e-mail address to any marketing or spamming organizations and users may cancel their subscription at any time.

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
Swimming Pool847-458-7677

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

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

As a regular maintenance practice, the Village of Algonquin Utilities Division flushes all fire hydrants throughout the Village twice a 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. Weather permitting, the spring hydrant flushing schedule is as follows:

March 23 - March 29: The entire area east of Main Street (IL Route 31). This area also includes the Arrowhead subdivision, Jefferson Street, Railroad Street, and Washington Street.

March 30 - April 5: The area north of Edgewood Drive, east of Hanson Road, south of Algonquin Road, and west of Main Street (IL Route 31).

April 6 - April 12: The area south of Edgewood Drive and County Line Road, west of Main Street (IL Route 31), and east of Randall Road.

April 13 - April 19: The area east of Randall Road, south of Algonquin Road, west of Hanson Road, and north of County Line Road. This includes Randall Road.

April 20 - April 26: The area west of Square Barn Road to Village limits.

April 27 - May 8: The area east of Square Barn Road, west of Randall Road, and south of Algonquin Road.

2009 Annual Report & Calendar Correction

The 2009 Village Annual Report & Calendar that was recently distributed to your home has an incorrect time for Village Board meetings. They start at 8:00 pm on Tuesdays, not 7:00 pm as noted in the calendar. The Village of Algonquin apologizes for any confusion that this may have caused.

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 - Spring Newsletter 2009

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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.

