



The Algonquin Citizen

News from the Village of Algonquin

Fall 2009

Village Showcases GIS Applications

On June 11, the Village of Algonquin hosted a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) meeting. Over 40 GIS professionals from municipal governments in the Chicago area attended to observe how the Village is utilizing GIS to streamline operations and improve efficiency.

Heena Lee, the Village's GIS Coordinator, presented the Village's new online mapping system and its features that are available to residents. The presentation portrayed how residents can access property information from their homes any time or by using the Village's kiosk, which is located in the lobby at Village Hall. Village employees Dustin Kosmach and Brian Parker showcased how the Village uses GIS to manage its tree inventory and to place work orders while employees are in the field. Meeting attendees observed some of the innovative approaches to data management the Village uses in its daily operations. **To view the Village's GIS mapping site, please visit www.algonquin.org and click on the GIS & Maps button.**



Heena Lee, the Village's GIS Coordinator, presents the Village's Online Mapping System

Trick-or-Treat Hours

Halloween trick-or-treating hours in the Village of Algonquin are from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 31. The Algonquin Police Department recommends the following tips for a safe and fun Halloween:

Tips for Kids:

- ▶ Travel in groups or go with a parent.
- ▶ Wear something that lights up such as a glow necklace or reflective tape, or use a flashlight.
- ▶ Only go to well-lit houses.
- ▶ Always go to the front door.
- ▶ Do not approach strange vehicles for any reason.

Tips for Parents:

- ▶ Parents should always inspect candy before it's eaten.
- ▶ If you cannot join your child, know your child's trick-or-treat route.

Winter Parking Regulations



Beginning November 1, 2009, parking will be prohibited on any public street in the Village between the hours of 2:00 am and 5:00 am. The winter parking hours will be in effect until April 15, 2010.

In addition, it is unlawful to park on the street after any snowfall of 2 inches or greater unless the street has been cleared of snow. 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.

Fall Cemetery Cleanup

The annual "Fall Cleanup" of the Algonquin Cemetery will begin on Monday, October 26, and will run through Friday, October 30. All summer plantings, wreaths, and other decorations that are not removed before **October 26** will be discarded.

Winter decorations, such as blankets and wreaths, may be placed on graves beginning November 15. For more information, contact the Village Hall at 847-658-2700.

This Edition:

Poster Contest Winners.....	2
Fall Brush Collection.....	3
Hanson Road Construction	4
Hydrant Flushing Schedule.....	5
Water Bill Payment Options	6

Remember to turn a porch light on if you are home and will be handing out treats. Have a safe, fun, and happy Halloween!

Visit us at www.algonquin.org



The Prairie – Born to Burn

Since the Village began creating and restoring its prairie areas over five years ago, one of our most important management tools has been to re-introduce fire to the landscape. The process of applying fire to achieve land management objectives is called prescribed burning. The following are some of the reasons we burn:

Reduce Hazardous Fuels: Accumulation of dead vegetation, underbrush, woody materials, and leaves forms a potentially dangerous ignition source for the accidental starting of a prairie fire. Planned burning reduces this ignition source, causes less damage to the landscape, and is fully controlled.



Workers perform a controlled burn at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

Improve Wildlife Habitat: Fires promote flower, seed, and fruit production, thus increasing available nuts and fruits for wildlife. Burning different areas at different intervals and in different seasons produces a diversity of landscapes, animal food, and cover sources.

Manage Competing Vegetation: Low value, poor quality, and non-native vegetation often occupy or encroach upon land intended for the tallgrass prairie. Unwanted species crowd out or suppress native trees, shrub and prairie plants. They also grow in very thick which blocks valuable sunlight from reaching the desirable vegetation. Since non-native species have not adapted to periodic fire, they cannot survive a controlled burn. Thus, they die off and leave space for the prairie to flourish.

(continued in next column)

Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners

The Village of Algonquin would like to congratulate the winners of our 2009 Water Conservation Poster Contest. The contest challenged children in grades K-5 to exhibit their best creative skills in designing a poster explaining the importance of conserving water. This year there were 22 entries all from fourth graders. The winning posters were recently on display in the Community Development Department.



Village President John Schmitt with one of the contest winners, Kylie Musslewhite

The winners were presented with their awards at the July 28 Committee of the Whole meeting, where they got their picture taken with Village President John Schmitt and also received prizes for free games of bowling at Brunswick Zone XL and free food at Sonic.

The winners are: Michael Wardach (first place), Kylie Musslewhite (second place), and Autumn Washington (third place). Congratulations to all those who participated!

The Prairie - Born to Burn (continued...)

Successful prairie conservation requires protecting prairies ranging from small remnants to entire prairie landscapes. This will ensure that populations of plants and animals can be maintained along with the natural processes they depend on. Accomplishing this requires people participating in direct management, stewardship, and restoration. North American tallgrass prairie is a human-influenced system and must continue to connect humans with nature in order to survive.

Past prescribed burning activities have occurred in the Woods Creek Riparian Corridor, Lake Drive South and Arquilla Naturalized Stormwater Facilities, Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, Ratt Creek Tributary Streambank Stabilization, Pioneer Park Natural Area, and Yellowstone Woodland and Naturalized Detention. Look for other areas to receive prescribed burning in spring 2010! For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at www.algonquin.org.

Fall Brush Collection

Free leaf pickup by Waste Management will begin on October 1 for Algonquin residents and will continue through December 15. There is no collection of yard waste from December 16 through March 2010.

All leaves must be placed in standard paper yard waste bags or in reusable 33-gallon trash containers that are clearly marked. You may 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 require a collection sticker. Any bags or cans that contain leaves mixed with other yard waste will also require a collection sticker.

Also, please remember that putting leaves and yard debris into the street or on the sidewalk is prohibited by the Algonquin Municipal Code.

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 and valuables from the vehicle. When left in the car, these items make the vehicle a target for theft. 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.

Daylight Saving Time

It's that time of the year again! Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour at 2:00 am, on Sunday, November 1.

This is also a good time to change the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. Although 90% of households have smoke detectors in their homes, one-third are estimated to have dead or missing batteries.

Farmers Market & Old Time Country Harvest Fest

Fall has arrived and for great family fun look no further than the Downtown Algonquin Partnership (DAP) merchant association! The DAP's third annual Downtown Algonquin Farmers Market continues through October 1 and offers fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, plants, and other assorted items. The weekly market is held on Thursdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the public parking lot on South Harrison Street, just south of beautiful Cornish Park.

The Farmers Market will conclude in grand style on Saturday, October 10 (Rain Date: October 17), with the annual Old Time Country Harvest Fest that will feature free games for kids, a pumpkin decorating contest, a craft fair, and a sidewalk costume parade for kids starting at 12:00 pm. Additionally, the Algonquin Historic Commission will be holding its annual Cemetery Walk on Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, with shuttle buses to the cemetery leaving Downtown Algonquin throughout this period of time. For a full listing of activities and more information about the event, please visit the Downtown Algonquin Partnership website at www.downtownalgonquin.org or contact Diane Perrone at 847-650-6794.

THE ARBORETUM AT VILLAGE HALL

The Arboretum at Village Hall (2200 Harnish Drive) features sixteen different plant species. Tours of the Arboretum may be scheduled for your class or group by calling the Public Works Department at 847-658-2754 or take a self-guided tour on your own any time.



Construction Zone

Upcoming Village Construction Information

Hanson Road Construction

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in conjunction with the Village of Algonquin, is conducting a full reconstruction of Hanson Road from Edgewood Drive to just north of Huntington Drive North. This is a complex project that requires full depth removal and replacement of the roadway system, as well as storm sewer installation, box culvert replacement at the creek crossing, installation of curb and gutter, and the installation of a bike path on the west parkway of the new roadway.

The removal of the existing roadway requires the contractor to close Hanson Road to through traffic which began in August and will last until fall 2010. There will be no possible way for traffic to pass through the construction area during this project time, so the construction area will be CLOSED to traffic for the duration of the project. However, if there is good weather, sufficient working days, and no major problems, the Village expects that the road could be fully open by July 2010. Detour routes will be posted throughout the project.

This reconstruction will happen in two phases, allowing either (not both simultaneously) the intersection of Hanson Road and Harnish Drive or the intersection of Hanson Road and Huntington Drive North to be remain open during the project. These intersection openings will accommodate the detour route and the flow of east/west traffic through the Village. However, any passage down the full length of Hanson Road during any phase of the project is prohibited, and violations will be strictly enforced.

The Village will keep a status report on the progress of construction on its website at www.algonquin.org. Please check this site often for any information, updates or changes to the project. All construction-related questions should be directed to Shawn Hurtig, Project Manager, at the Algonquin Public Works Department at 847-658-2754.

The Hanson Road project is a necessary and critical improvement to the Village of Algonquin's infrastructure and will add many benefits to the residents of the Village and commuting public for years to come. The Village of Algonquin asks for your patience during this project. Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work to complete a critical road improvement in our town!

Waste Management Route Changes

Please watch your mail for the Waste Management flyer. It will describe the pick-up/route changes that will go into effect October 5, 2009.

The following are Village construction projects that are currently in progress or planned in the near future. Please visit the Village Construction Projects page at www.algonquin.org for additional information.

Arrowhead Subdivision

The Arrowhead Subdivision road reconstruction project will conclude in September 2009. This project included the complete reconstruction of all roads in the subdivision.

Grand Reserve Subdivision

The Village will continue the completion of sidewalks, curb repairs, and the final surface paving on the roadway system in the Grand Reserve Subdivision during fall 2009.

Huntington Drive North

In fall 2009, Huntington Drive North will be resurfaced from Stonegate Road east to Briarwood Lane. This project is being funded from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at Illinois Route 31 and Wilbrandt Street, will have landscaping upgrades performed starting in fall 2009 and completing in spring 2010.

Jacobs Water Tower

Jacobs Water Tower, located on Bunker Hill Drive west of Randall Road, will undergo routine maintenance and painting starting in spring 2010.

North Harrison Street - Algonquin Hills Subdivision

North Harrison Street will be reconstructed from just north of Ericson Marine property north to the Village limits. This project is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Old Oak Terrace Subdivision

Roadways in the Old Oak Terrace Subdivision will be resurfaced beginning in spring 2010.

Edgewood Drive Information

The Village is currently seeking federal funding for the complete reconstruction of Edgewood Drive from Cardinal Drive to Hanson Road. This project will take approximately two years to complete once funding is approved.

Illinois Route 31 Western Bypass Information

This project will construct a bypass of Illinois Route 31 around downtown Algonquin. The State of Illinois has designated \$82 million for this project so far. This project will improve traffic flow and safety along this stretch of roadway.



Hydrant Flushing Schedule

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 also 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 Public Works at 847- 658-2754. The schedule for this fall is as follows:

September 21 - 27: The entire area east of Main Street (Illinois Route 31) as well as the Arrowhead subdivision, Jefferson Street, Railroad Street, and Washington Street.

September 28 - October 4: The area north of Edgewood Drive, east of Hanson Road, south of Algonquin Road, and west of Main Street (Illinois Route 31).

October 5 - 11: The area south of Edgewood Drive and County Line Road, west of Main Street (Illinois Route 31), and east of Randall Road.

October 12 - 18: The area east of Randall Road, south of Algonquin Road, west of Hanson Road, and north of Country Line Road. This includes Randall Road.

October 19 - 25: The area west of Square Barn Road to Village limits.

October 26 - November 6: The area east of Square Barn Road and west of Randall Road, south of Algonquin Road.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch Program enables the police and the community to work together to make specific geographical areas more crime-resistant. It is a neighborhood and community-based effort, designed to help citizens and the police in preventing primarily residential burglary and other neighborhood-related crimes. In harmony with the philosophy of community policing, neighborhood watch encourages strong working relationships between the police and the citizens. Anyone interested in starting a neighborhood watch group should contact Officer Amy Bucci at the Algonquin Police Department at 847-658-4531.

Once Upon a Town...

News from the Historic Commission

In conjunction with the Downtown Algonquin Partnership Old Time Country Harvest Fest, the Algonquin Historic Commission will present its Seventh Annual Historic Cemetery Walk on Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Algonquin Cemetery (Illinois Route 31 and Cary-Algonquin Road). This walk will feature five former residents who will "bring to life" elements of Algonquin's early history through stories of their lives as they meet with visitors.



Residents learn about the life of former Clerk and Civil War Veteran Vernon Ford at the 2008 Historic Cemetery Walk

Advanced tickets are not required; however, a donation at the event of \$1.00 per person is requested to help further the work of the Historic Commission in preserving Algonquin's diverse and rich history. Shuttle bus service to and from the Historic Cemetery Walk will be provided at no charge from the Old Time Country Harvest Fest at the municipal parking lot (Washington Street and South Harrison Street) and also the rear parking lot of Historic Village Hall (2 South Main Street) starting at 11:00 am and leaving every 20 minutes. Limited parking is also available at the cemetery near the water tower on Cary-Algonquin Road.

This has been a very popular event for all ages and also a great way to learn about our unique and colorful local history. Bring your entire family and discover that history can be fun!



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

Save Time and Money Paying your Water Bill

The Village is proud to offer automatic debit as an option for paying your water bill. This is a FREE service available to water customers to have your water bill paid automatically from your banking account. This option eliminates the hassle of paying postage, writing checks, and incurring late fees. Sign up online at www.algonquin.org and click on Algonquin ePay or in person at Village Hall. After you enroll, let us do the rest! If you have questions about Autopay, please contact Water Billing at 847-854-3440.

Algonquin
ePAY

Dodgeball Camp Team Wins National Tournament

In July, ten youths from Algonquin and Lake in the Hills participated in a week-long Dodgeball Camp that ended with participation at the National Amateur Dodgeball Association's National Tournament in Schaumburg. The team played over twenty rounds and even dodged two sudden death matches to win the 2009 National Title!

Congratulations to the following participants: AJ Albanese, Nicholas Albanese, Darlen Chverchko, Tommy Devita, Max Grzelak, Jared Ludwig, Peter Madrawski, Tyler Novak, Jameson Waugh, Jordan Waugh, and Coach Ryne Luche.

The Dodgeball Camp is one of many camps offered by the Village of Algonquin. Check out the Fall 2009 Events and Recreation Guide online at www.algonquin.org.

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 - Fall 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 Michael Kumbera, Administrative Analyst, at 847-658-2700.

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