



# The Algonquin Citizen

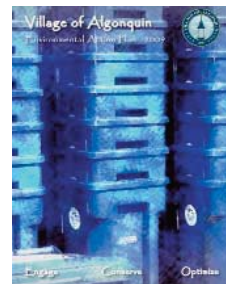
News from the Village of Algonquin

Winter 2009

## Inaugural Environmental Action Plan Developed

On October 6, 2009, the Village Board formally endorsed the Village of Algonquin's Environmental Action Plan (EAP). The EAP serves as a roadmap to becoming a sustainable Algonquin by defining the scope of the Village's environmental efforts and outlining specific strategies the Village is currently employing or will employ to meet our environmental objectives. This plan will be updated on an annual basis and will serve as a critical component to the overall vision of the Village of Algonquin.

In order to be more environmentally conscious, the EAP is available exclusively online at [www.algonquin.org/ECO](http://www.algonquin.org/ECO). Any comments or questions on the Environmental Action Plan or any other of the Village's environmental efforts may be e-mailed to [ECO@algonquin.org](mailto:ECO@algonquin.org).



**Algonquin's EAP is available online**

## Sidewalk Snow Removal

With winter weather officially here, 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.

## Winter Driving Safety

Winter road conditions are unpredictable and often hazardous. The Village of Algonquin would like to remind motorists to take caution and drive carefully during snowy and icy conditions. **The Village's efforts to clear and de-ice our roadways are intended to enhance safe travel through our community but cannot completely replace safe and conservative winter driving habits.**

In order to deliver the most cost-effective and environmentally-responsible service, the Village's snow removal plan will continue using the strategies adopted during the 2008-2009 winter season, which includes using less salt on roadways. These strategies further include mixing sand or gravel with the salt, pre-wetting the salt with brine or calcium chloride, and overall changes in salt distribution methods.

The snow removal plan will help control the amounts of salt used during a storm event; however, these adjustments may yield results that deviate from road conditions in the past. Examples of these results could be rutting, ice build-ups at curb lines, wind rows of snow protruding out from curb lines, and a possible light cover of snow at flat and straight locations of roadways.

To ensure motorist safety, a heavier distribution of de-icing materials will be used at intersections, hills, and curves. Again, the Village will make every attempt to safeguard to the level of service experienced in the past; however, there is never a substitute for safe driving. **Please be sure to drive cautiously and carefully this winter season!**

## Village Wins Budget Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the Village of Algonquin for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

To view the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget, please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org).

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Visit us at [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org)

# It's Our River Day

On September 19, over 140 people joined together at Cornish Park in Algonquin for the second annual “It’s Our River Day,” co-sponsored by the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the Village of Algonquin. The event is part of a state-wide program that emphasizes the importance of Illinois’ rivers. On behalf of the Village, Trustee Bob Smith welcomed everyone to Cornish Park. Speakers included Gary Swick (Friends of the Fox River), Cindy Skrukrud (Sierra Club/Defenders), and Bill Donato (Defenders). The main speaker was Jeff Jolitz (Algonquin Historic Commission) who discussed the history of the Fox River, including the role of the river as it relates to the environment.



Prairie Coast Paddler Kayakers demonstrate on the Fox River at “It’s Our River Day”

The Sierra Club once again provided bags and gloves for the clean-up and snacks and water to help folks make it through the day. This year over 500 pounds of trash and 30 pounds of recyclables were collected! Friends of the Fox River representatives educated volunteers about the group’s stream monitoring program. Representatives from two paddle groups, the Prairie Coast Paddlers and the St. Charles Canoe Club, spoke about their respective boats and clubs and demonstrated some paddling techniques. Additionally, the Mack Hot-terson band generously donated their time and great music! A special thanks to everyone who came out for the event. With the mix of people, schools and businesses, it was truly a community event in Algonquin!

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](http://www.mcdef.org).

## FAQs: Salt Use

The Algonquin Public Works Department answers your frequently asked questions regarding a more effective and environmentally-friendly use of salt:



**Q: How does salting my driveway and sidewalk impact the environment?**

**A:** The salt is eventually washed away with snowmelt and rainwater and finds its way into surface or ground water. The majority of pollutants found in water are not derived from a direct source, such as an industrial plant pipe, but from sources “dispersed” throughout the environment. These dispersed sources are known as nonpoint sources (NPS). During the winter months, NPS pollution from excessive salt usage is a major concern. When salt reaches larger bodies of water and accumulates, it can affect every aspect of the aquatic ecosystem.

**Q: How can I reduce my salt use?**

**A:** There's no substitute for muscle and elbow grease for snow and ice removal. Remove as much snow as you can during the storm if possible. Use a hoe or other tools to chip or scrape ice off the surface before any deicers are applied. Deicers work best when there is only a thin layer of snow or ice that must be melted.

**Q: What type of salt should I use?**

**A:** The table below shows how the main ingredients of common de-icing products compare. Check the package closely to see what you're buying. Often it’s a product that contains several of the ingredients listed below, but the first one listed is usually the main ingredient.

Label	Temperature	Environmental Impact
Calcium Chloride	-25 F	No Cyanide Chloride Impact
Magnesium Chloride	5 F	Less Toxic Safer than Calcium Chloride
Sodium Chloride	15 F	Contains Cyanide Chloride Impact
Calcium Magnesium Acetate	22 to 25 F	Less Toxic
Sand	No Melting Effect	Accumulates in Streets and Streams

Please visit [www.algonquin.org/publicworks](http://www.algonquin.org/publicworks) for more information.





## Reclaiming Today's Water for Tomorrow

Did you know that the Algonquin Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is one of the first in northern Illinois to effectively remove the nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients biologically from the wastewater effluent (treated water) and thereby reduce pollution to the Fox River? The removal of waste and chemicals from the wastewater is achieved by a series of physical and biological processes. The biological removal of the nutrients improves the habitat of the Fox River by reducing algae in the river and allows native aquatic plants, fish and other wildlife to thrive.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility also has minimized the use of chemicals throughout the entire wastewater treatment system. Instead of disinfecting the treated water with chlorine, which can produce harmful byproducts in the receiving waters, the treated water is disinfected with ultraviolet (UV) light. At the end of the treatment process, the treated water passes through a bank of UV lights (which are similar in appearance to a row of fluorescent lights) and disinfects disease-producing microorganisms without leaving harmful byproducts.

Additionally, the Algonquin WWTF has an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)-approved Water Reclamation Program which has been in existence since 2005. The Public Works Department can use the treated water as a non-potable water source for street sweeping, landscaping, cleaning sewers, and other uses.

For more information or to arrange a tour of Algonquin's WWTF, please call 847-854-3459.

### Hanson Road Construction

The Illinois Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Village of Algonquin, began the full reconstruction of Hanson Road from Edgewood Drive to just north of Huntington Drive in August. This fall, crews removed the old roadway, performed site grading, relocated existing utilities, installed storm sewers, and installed the base roadway.

Hanson Road is scheduled to temporarily re-open to traffic in late December (weather permitting) through April 2010 when construction resumes. Please visit the Village Construction Projects page at [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) for additional details.

### Winter Parking Regulations

Just a reminder that parking is 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, 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.

### Keeping your Water Pipes Warm and Working

When temperatures drop below freezing, water pipes in your home can freeze and become damaged, potentially causing water leaks. Here are a few practical tips for homeowners to help protect against frozen water lines:

- Eliminate drafts and other sources of cold air near water piping. Repair or close up any openings, particularly in garages, and attic spaces. Also be sure to close any open windows or doors.
- Install pipe insulation or a UL-listed heat tape that will help protect vulnerable pipes from freezing. These products can be purchased at a local hardware store.
- Install a Styrofoam cover or pipe insulation over the water meter to provide protection. These products can be purchased at a local hardware store.
- Maintain the temperature of your home at 55 degrees or higher.
- Drain water lines to outside faucets, including the disconnecting any garden hoses. If possible, drain the water lines supplying the outside faucets from inside the home. Also, drain water from lawn sprinkler systems and any supply lines leading to swimming or garden pools.

We hope you find these tips useful this winter season. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact the Utilities Division of Public Works at 847-658-2754.

## Service Spotlight: Neighborhood Watch

The Algonquin Police Department is charged with protecting the safety and welfare of the public. In addition to patrol duties, the Police Department has several officers dedicated to community outreach. The philosophy of the Police Department is to be proactive on issues affecting the community. The Department emphasizes programs that provide interaction and assistance to area residents.



*Officer Amy Bucci Discusses Crime Prevention Tips with Local Residents*

One of these programs is the Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program. The Neighborhood Watch Program enables the police and the community to work together to make neighborhoods 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.

Neighborhood Watch Programs are known to instill a greater sense of security and well-being. They can also reduce the fear of crime in the community as well as create a greater "sense of community" and put the "neighbor" back into "neighborhood."



In 2009, the Police Department worked with seven neighborhoods to establish and develop their own neighborhood watch groups. Additionally, officers are generally available at community events to increase awareness of the Department's crime prevention programs. Please contact Officer Amy Bucci at 847-658-4531 if your neighborhood is interested in starting a watch group, or visit [www.algonquin.org/police](http://www.algonquin.org/police) for more information.



## Recreation Corner

*Upcoming Activities and Events*

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

### **Kid Rock Winterpalooza - 1-6 Years with Parent**

**January 18, 2010 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm (Fee: \$12)**

Come in from the cold to play at Kid Rock's Winterpalooza! Enjoy musical activities about playing in the snow, sledding, building a snowman, ice skating, and more! Our unique, child-friendly rhythm instruments, movement props, and creative play based on a winter wonderland theme are sure to warm you up even on the coldest of days.

### **Overnight Ski & Snowboard Trip - 12-20 Years**

**February 19 to 20, 2010 - 8:00pm - 8:00am (Fee: \$83)**

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. This trip includes an instructional lesson for all levels of skiing and snowboarding. We will meet at the Village Hall and depart from the parking lot to Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort in Galena, Illinois.

### **Mom & Son Date Night - 3+ Years**

**March 12, 2010 - 5:45pm - 11:00pm (Fee: \$78 - \$88)**

It's time to team up for a night of fun! Bring the little man in your life, and let us transport you to 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 a soda at the concession stand.

### **Village of Algonquin Egg Hunt - All Ages**

**March 27, 2010 - 10:00am (Fee: FREE)**

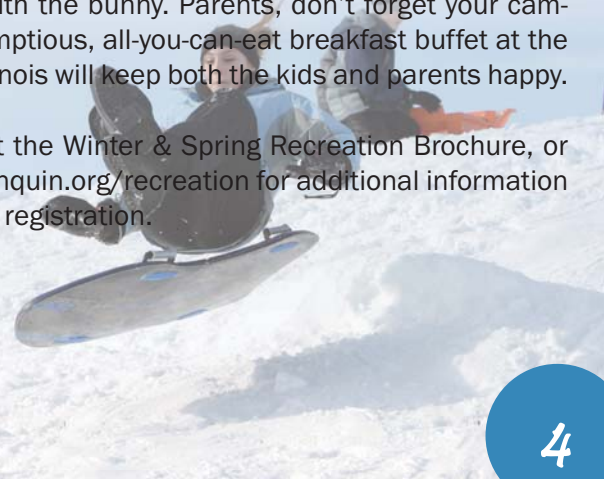
Grab your best basket and meet the Bunny for the Village of Algonquin's third annual Egg Hunt! The Egg Hunt is open to Algonquin Residents and is a FREE event. There will be 14,000 eggs for participants to collect as quickly as possible!

### **Breakfast with the Bunny - All Ages**

**March 27, 2010 - 10:15am - 11:15am (Fee: \$5 - \$17)**

Hop on down the trail to Breakfast with the Bunny. You will get a chance to stop at a few craft stations, play games, and have time to visit with the bunny. Parents, don't forget your camera. This scrumptious, all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at the Golf Club of Illinois will keep both the kids and parents happy.

Please consult the Winter & Spring Recreation Brochure, or visit [www.algonquin.org/recreation](http://www.algonquin.org/recreation) for additional information on pricing and registration.





## Ted Spella Leadership School - Now Enrolling!

Applications are now being accepted for those persons interested in attending the fourth Ted Spella Leadership School. The program is a cooperative effort between the Village of Algonquin and the Algonquin/LITH Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the program is to cultivate future community leaders. The primary objective of the program is to bring together, from a cross section of the Village, participants who are eager to expand their involvement. This includes participation of "up-and-coming" leaders, as well as existing leaders, who want to enhance their role in the community.

Participation in the Leadership School will require a serious commitment of time and energy from all attendees. The program consists of an overview of critical community issues; readings and seminars regarding leadership concepts and ethics; and nine day-long sessions (one per month) addressing topics of community interest and concern, including: Education, Local Government, Economic Development and Growth Management, Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Media and Public Relations, History, Community Service Organizations, and Leadership and Ethics.

For each of the above listed topics, participants will be provided with background information to read prior to the discussion. An expert in the particular field will lecture on the topic, and a panel of practitioners will debate current issues. The panel may also provide the class with case studies or problem areas that are typically encountered, and they will be asked to provide their thoughts on how to best manage "delicate" situations or chronic problems.

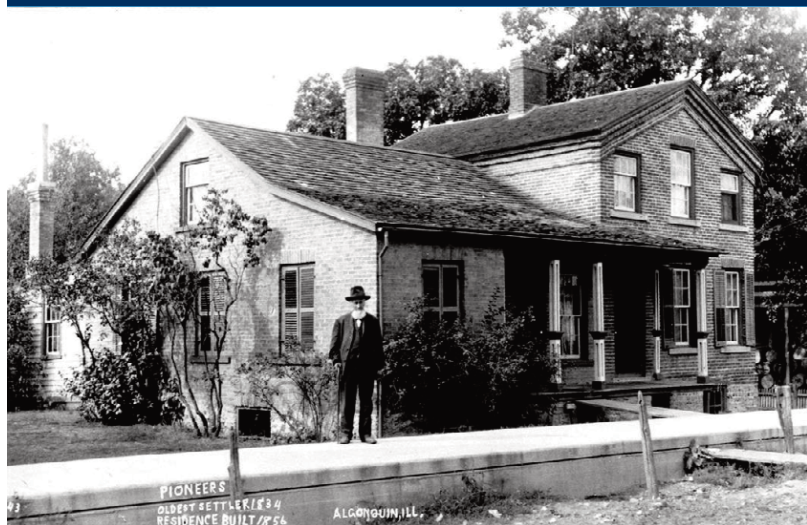
Do not delay; the class will be limited to only 15 participants. The program will start the second week of May 2010 with classes through January 2011 and a graduation ceremony in February 2011. Please visit the Chamber website at [www.algonquin-lith-chamber.com](http://www.algonquin-lith-chamber.com) for the complete description of the leadership school and the application.

## ComEd Appliance Recycling

If you have an older, working second refrigerator or freezer, it's probably costing you more money than you think. Did you know that it could use up to five times more electricity than a newer model, consuming nearly \$150 in energy each year? As part of a program to save energy and the environment, ComEd will pay you \$25 and recycle your old fridge or freezer at no charge—pick up included! For more information, please call 1-888-806-2273, or visit ComEd's website at [www.ComEd.com/ApplianceRecycling](http://www.ComEd.com/ApplianceRecycling).

## Once Upon a Town...

*News from the Historic Commission*



*Richard Gillilan standing on the just finished cement sidewalk on South Main Street in 1910*

To welcome in the New Year, take a journey with us as we look back 100 years into the Historic Commission archives to see what Algonquin residents experienced in 1910:

- Huge snowstorm hits area, dropping 30 inches of snow with drifts up to 15 feet high. Trains are stopped until tracks are cleared.
- St. John's Lutheran Church dedicated a new pipe organ.
- A new "Hill Road" was built expressly for use in annual Auto Hill Climb event (held on present day Huntington Drive).
- In June, hotels are at capacity with buyers from across America in town for an auction of the famous "Haeger Holsteins" offered by local livestock breeder Robert Haeger.
- Mrs. Joseph Johnson gets the first gas cook stove in town; many others follow and order one after visiting the Johnson home to see it work.
- N.W. Railway Company announced plans for a new passenger station in Algonquin to be built for \$21,000 (up to nine passenger trains daily plus freight trains).
- Borden Dairy factory is Algonquin's largest employer.
- Cement sidewalks are installed on Main Street, raising the level of the sidewalks up to two feet in some places. (Many of the old wooden walks were under water after a heavy rain.)
- Northshore Electric Company is trying to bring 24-hours-a-day electric service to Algonquin (current electric service was only 6:00am until midnight).
- Village Hall gets its first telephone service installed.
- Many homes are quarantined with scarlet & typhoid fevers.
- Population of Algonquin is 642.

We invite anyone interested in researching or "experiencing" Algonquin's past to please join us at one of our Saturday morning workshops held on January 16 and 23, February 20 and 27, or March 20 and 27 from 8:30am until 12:00pm at the Historic Village Hall, 2 South Main Street. We hope to see you there!

## 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 Billing** .....847-854-3440

## Village Meetings

### Village Board

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

### Committee of the Whole

Second and Fourth Tuesdays 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

*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.*

## Bicycle Rack Art Contest

The Village of Algonquin announces a call for artists to participate in its new bicycle rack art contest. In an effort to promote cycling, additional bicycle racks need to be installed in commercial areas and parks. The Village decided to combine this goal with an art competition to create unique bicycle racks for the Village. Each artist will be required to submit a design of the proposed bicycle rack. If their design is selected, they would be required to construct the bicycle rack.

The Village will partner with local businesses interested in sponsoring a bicycle rack in front of their business. If your business is interested in participating, please contact Katie Parkhurst at 847-658-4184. All submittals are due by February 1, 2010. Please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) for full details of the contest including design criteria and application form.

## “The Citizen” Goes Green

As a way to become more lean and green, “The Algonquin Citizen” is going electronic and will be available only on the Village website starting with the Spring 2010 edition.

Still want ‘The Citizen’ sent directly to you? Sign up for Algonquin e-News, the Village’s e-mail announcement system which provides timely news reports from the Village to your Inbox. Algonquin e-News will link you directly to the latest version as well as archives of “The Algonquin Citizen.”

You may enroll and view past issues on the Village website ([www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org)) by clicking the Algonquin 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.

## Village of Algonquin - Winter Newsletter 2009

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### Village Manager

William Ganek

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.

