



# The Algonquin Citizen

News from the Village of Algonquin

Spring 2010

## Algonquin Rolls Out Bicycle Rack Art Contest Winners

This spring you will see artistic bicycle racks being placed around the Village. The ECO-Committee and the Public Arts Commission collaborated on a bicycle rack art contest. The call for artists was announced in December 2009. The Village received 20 submittals (15 signature racks and 5 standard racks). The quality and creativity of the designs was very impressive, and 3 signature racks and 3 standard rack designs were selected to be constructed. The selected artists will be fabricating their winning designs and submitting the completed bicycle racks to the Village early this spring.

Once all racks have been installed, the Village will release a new bicycle map highlighting all the paths within the community and the location of the new bike rack art pieces. The Village is currently working with businesses to solicit sponsorship of more bicycle racks. At time of publication, Algonquin Commons has generously sponsored the bicycle rack art program. If your business is interested, please contact Katie Parkhurst at 847-658-4184.



Artistic bicycle racks will be installed in Algonquin this summer. Selected artists include: Allen Howard, Arnold Kinast, Ben Melnick, Joshua Myers

## Recycle "50 in 2010"

Since 2004, the Village with the help of Waste Management, has been tracking refuse and recycling statistics in the Village. An important indicator the Village tracks is our diversion ratio - the amount of refuse diverted from landfills by recycling. Between 2004 and 2009, Village residents recycled 43% of their waste. This rate is one of the highest in the Chicago region!

Our goal for 2010 is to divert 50% of our waste from landfills by recycling. With your help, we can continue to be a regional leader in recycling!



Progress towards this goal will be tracked on a quarterly basis and will be reported in Algonquin e-News. For more

info on this initiative, or to sign up for Algonquin e-News, please visit the Village website at: [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org).

## Village Board Meeting Time Changed to 7:30 pm

On February 16, 2010, the Village Board passed an ordinance changing the time of Village Board meetings from 8:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The new meeting time will be effective beginning May 1, 2010. The new meeting time is consistent with the Committee of the Whole meeting time. The first meeting of the Village Board with the 7:30 pm start time will be Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes of all Village of Algonquin Board and Commissions are available online at [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org).

## Earth Hour 2010

Earth Hour is a worldwide initiative for individuals to turn off their lights for one hour on March 27, 2010 at 8:30 pm in a unified call for action on climate change. Please join the Village of Algonquin and turn off your lights on March 27!



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

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



## Tree Mulching Techniques

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed competition, and improve soil structure. Mulch must be applied properly; if it is too deep or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants.



*The image on the left displays a proper mulching technique, while the image on the right is an improper, "mulch volcano" which should be avoided when landscaping*

Organic mulches are ideal for mulching applications and include wood chips, pine needles, hardwood and softwood bark, cocoa hulls (may be toxic to pets), leaves, compost mixes, and a variety of other products usually derived from plants. Organic mulches decompose in the landscape at different rates depending on the material. Those that decompose faster must be replenished more often. Because the decomposition process improves soil quality and fertility, many arborists and other landscape professionals consider this a positive characteristic, despite the added maintenance.

As beneficial as mulch is, too much can be harmful. The generally recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4 inches. Unfortunately, North American landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over-mulching. A new term, "mulch volcanoes," has emerged to describe mulch that has been piled up around the base of trees. Top dressing with new mulch annually (often for the sake of refreshing the color) creates a buildup to depths that can be unhealthy. Deep mulch can be effective in suppressing weeds and reducing maintenance, but it often causes additional problems. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-658-2754 for more information.

## Spring Cleanup Schedule

In April, the Village, along with Waste Management, will sponsor a Village-wide cleanup program for single-family residences and townhomes that currently receive residential refuse and recycling services. This program is to encourage residents to reduce fire hazards in their homes and to "spruce up" their neighborhoods. **STICKERS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS SPECIAL PICKUP.** Typical items to be discarded include toys, old clothes, couches, beds, dressers, grills, and patio furniture. Items that will not be picked up include automobile parts, landscape waste, white goods, and construction materials such as broken concrete and large amounts of lumber and brick. Please see visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) to view the cleanup schedule.

## Free Leaf/Brush Collection

Waste Management will provide free collection of leaves and branches (tied in bundles that are not more than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter) between April 5 and April 30, 2010. Leaves must be placed in standard paper yardwaste bags or reusable containers that are clearly marked with a red "X." Place the bags or cans at the curb on your regular collection day. Leaves placed in loose piles will NOT be picked up. Grass clippings and other yardwaste will still require a collection sticker. Any bags or cans that contain leaves mixed with other yardwaste will also require a collection sticker. The stickers for garbage and yardwaste are interchangeable. For more information, please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) or contact Waste Management Customer Service at 1-800-796-9696.

## Cemetery Spring Cleanup

The annual "Spring Cleanup" of the Algonquin Cemetery will begin Monday, April 5, through Friday, April 9. All decorations that are not removed before April 1, 2010 will be discarded so that the Village may begin appropriate seasonal care for the site. Beginning Monday, April 19, through Friday, April 23, the spring cleanup will be completed and mowing of the cemetery will begin.

Mother's Day and/or summer decorations may be placed on graves beginning Saturday, May 1. Remember, no planting may be done in Blocks 8 or 9 of the cemetery. No planting of bushes or shrubs, etc. may be done in any part of the cemetery, except by authority of the Village.

## Bike-to-Work Week

Mark your calendars - the week of May 17, 2010 is Bike-to-Work Week in the Village of Algonquin. Take a ride on one of the many trails found throughout Algonquin! Please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) in April and May for more information on National Bike Month in Algonquin!



# 2010 Census

The 2010 Decennial Census is upon us. The goal of the U.S. Census Bureau, is to meet constitutional and legislative requirements to count the U.S. population. The decennial census process is the largest domestic undertaking in the United States. In an effort to accurately count the population, census questionnaires will be delivered either by hand or mail to residents, beginning in February 2010. Through late August 2010, Census Bureau temporary field staff will work in neighborhoods across the United States to deliver questionnaires, collect information from those who have not returned their census questionnaire, and verify addresses. All Census Bureau employees are issued identification cards that identify them as such.

The data produced from the decennial census are used to reapportion the seats of the U.S. House of Representatives and realign the boundaries of the legislative districts of each state. Census data also are used to allocate more than \$400 billion each year in federal financial assistance and to provide a social, demographic, and economic profile of the nation's people. This profile assists in guiding policy decisions at each level of government. Make sure you are counted so the Village of Algonquin receives its fair share! For more information, please visit [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov).

## Click It or Ticket

The Algonquin Police Department will be conducting safety belt enforcement zones throughout the Village from May 14 through May 31 as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" seatbelt campaign. The goal of the "Click It or Ticket" mobilization is not to give out tickets but rather to influence drivers and passengers to buckle up and prevent injuries and fatalities.

In 2009, over 1,000 people lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents in Illinois. Many of those lives could have been saved if they had worn their safety belt. Illinois is one of only ten states with a seat belt compliance rate of 90% or more, and Algonquin has a compliance rate of 95%; however, more can be done. Of those people killed in motor vehicle crashes between midnight and 6:00 am, 73% were improperly restrained, and, after midnight, a driver is five times more likely to be involved in an accident involving alcohol. Because of this, the Algonquin Police Department will also be targeting impaired drivers in conjunction with our nighttime seat belt enforcement zones.

The "Click It or Ticket" mobilization plays a critical role in the effort to keep people safe on our roads. The Algonquin Police Department is a proud proponent of saving lives by encouraging motorists to buckle up.

## Emerald Ash Borer Update

The expected infestation of ash trees by the emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to develop. EAB is a devastating insect which is relatively new to us and will most likely eliminate the ash species as a viable plant in our area. Presently, the Village has identified just over 200 Village-owned trees that are infested. All of these trees have either been removed or are slated for removal. It is our expectation that this spring, our infestation will continue to dramatically increase.

Treatment options available include homeowner products available at local retailers or treatments provided by qualified arborists. The only product endorsed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture is Tree-age, which is only commercially available and must be applied by a professional. 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.

The Village will be responsible for the removal of infested ash trees located on Village properties. Please report potential new infestations by calling the Public Works Department at 847-658-2754. For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer, please visit: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)





## Construction Zone

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](http://www.algonquin.org) for additional information.

### 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.

### Hanson Road Reconstruction

The project is near completion on the portion of the roadway between Edgewood Drive and Huntington Drive. In early spring, the roadway will be closed in this section in order to safely complete the bike path, restoration, sidewalks, and various other improvements. It is expected to be closed for six weeks, at which point work on the intersection of Huntington Drive will begin. This will involve a full closure of the intersection at Huntington Drive, which should last approximately six weeks.

### Ratt Creek Tributary Restoration

The finishing touches on the riparian corridor adjacent to Edgewood Drive will be completed in early spring. The native plantings will be installed, along with the completion of grading and seeding.

### Old Oak Terrace Subdivision

Old Oak Circle, Plymouth Court, Maplewood Lane, and Kingsbury Court will be resurfaced as part of the roadway restoration project. A small amount of curb work, sidewalk, and apron will also be included in the project that is scheduled to start in the spring.

Additional projects may be completed should federal funding become available.

## Sump Pump and Downspout Discharge

With the spring rains approaching, the Village would like to remind residents that the discharge from a sump pump or roof drainage downspout shall not discharge directly or indirectly on or over any public street, sidewalk, bike path, or right-of-way. This is especially crucial during winter months when icing becomes a concern. In addition, the outlet of a sump pump discharge hose shall not be located within five feet of any property line, nor shall such discharge be cause for standing water on any adjacent property. If you need assistance in determining a long-term solution for your water discharge, please contact Vince Kilcullen with the Public Works Department at 847-658-2754.



## Recreation Corner

*Upcoming Spring Activities and Events*

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

### Mom & Son Date Night - 3 Years and Older

**March 12, 2009 - 5:45 pm - 11:00 pm (Fee: \$78 per couple)**

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. Additional participants are \$39.

### Spring Break Lock-In at Brunswick Zone XL

**March 19/20, 2010 - 8:15 pm - 6:30 am (Fee: \$62 per person)**

Don't be a Spring Break Gutter Ball by missing this event! Spend an evening with your friends having fun around town. We will start off the evening with a trip to the movies to see Johnny Depp's performance in Alice in Wonderland. Then we will spend the rest of the night at Brunswick Zone XL, where you can enjoy cosmic bowling, the game room, pizza, the laser tag room, or billiards. Fee includes admission to the movies, transportation, unlimited cosmic bowling, shoe rental, laser tag, a timed game card, billiards, pizza, soda, breakfast, and supervision by Recreation Staff. Please bring a pillow, sleeping bag, and comfy clothes to change into. Drop off and pickup will be at the Algonquin Village Hall. Registration will be taken through Friday, 3/12!

### Algonquin Egg Hunt - All Ages

**March 27, 2010 - 10:00 am (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 - 10:15 am - 11:15 am (Fee: \$5-\$17 per person)**

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 visit <http://www.algonquin.org/recreation> or call 847-658-2700 for additional information on pricing and registration for these and other programs.



## Business Award Winners

The annual Algonquin Business Awards are part of the Village's Business Retention Program that aims to highlight the accomplishments businesses and commercial property owners have made to improve the quality of life in the Village of Algonquin through physical improvements to their property or contributions to the community. These businesses help make Algonquin the great community it is today. At the February 2 Village board meeting the following entities were recognized:

**Old Strandell Building, 2025 East Algonquin Road**

**Marotta Building, 150 South Main Street**

**Wal-Mart, 1410 Randall Road**

**Brunswick Zone XL, 1611 Randall Road**

**Downtown Algonquin Partnership**

Congratulations to all the award recipients!

## Downtown Farmers Market

Spring is just around the corner, and the Downtown Algonquin Partnership (DAP) merchants' association will once again be holding its annual Farmers Market set to begin Thursday, May 20. The weekly Farmers Market is held in the public parking lot on South Harrison Street (one block east of Route 31) and runs every Thursday from 8:00 am-1:00 pm throughout the summer. The Farmers Market will conclude on October 9 with the annual Old Time Country Harvest Fest which will feature free games for kids, a pumpkin decorating contest, craft fair, and other fun family activities. The DAP is always looking for new members and volunteers to help with the Farmers Market. For information about how to get involved and support the Downtown Algonquin Partnership, call 847-458-9779, or visit the group's website at [www.downtownalgonquin.org](http://www.downtownalgonquin.org).

## Tornado Information

The days are getting longer and the mercury is slowly climbing. Before you know it, all of the pleasures of spring will be here, and most of us can't wait. But before we get busy with spring activities, we should all stop and plan for some of the other events that spring springs upon us - tornado season. Although tornadoes have occurred in each month of the year in Illinois, most occur between April 1 and June 30. Illinois averages about 42 tornadoes a year, but record numbers have occurred in recent years - 120 in 2003 and 124 in 2006.

Are you and your family ready for the 2010 tornado season? If you want to learn more about how to prepare your family and enhance their safety during severe weather, visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency website for the latest information about tornadoes at:

<http://ready.illinois.gov/during/tornadoes.htm>.

## Once Upon a Town...

*News from the Historic Commission*

With the arrival of the railroad in 1855, the first significant wave of prosperity and development took place in the Village. Since the primary occupation of area settlers was dairy farming, dairy-related business and industries were among the first to develop. On the site immediately south of the railroad depot and west of Main Street, a cheese factory was constructed in the 1870's, producing cheese from the milk provided by the local dairy farmers. The factory operated for a period of nearly 20 years until 1890, when it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.



**Borden Milk Factory in 1909. The Railroad Depot is visible at far right**

On this site, a factory to produce condensed milk was then erected which was acquired by the Borden Milk Company. The new factory employed 75 people and processed the milk from over 1,500 local cows. The factory continued to be the town's largest employer for the next several decades.

During Algonquin's devastating fire on August 16, 1895, which burned nearly half of the west side of Main Street, the water reservoir and fire hydrant at the Borden factory provided the water to fight the blaze. The Borden factory had the only fire hydrant in the entire Village at the time. The factory eventually closed as much of the dairy industry moved to Wisconsin. The building was demolished in 1930, and the property then became the site of the E. M. Melahn Construction Company until the 1990's. The site is currently vacant and is located on the west side of South Main Street between Huntington Drive and the Prairie Path Bike Trail.

For more information about the Historic Commission, please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org).





## 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  
**Swimming Pool** .....847-458-7677

## Village Meetings

### Village Board

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

(Time changes to 7:30 pm after 5/1/10)

### 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

*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.*

## 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 22 - March 28:** 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 29 - April 4:** The area north of Edgewood Drive, east of Hanson Road, south of Algonquin Road, and west of Main Street (IL Route 31).

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

**April 12 - April 18:** 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 19 - April 25:** The area west of Square Barn Road to Village limits.

**April 26 - May 7:** The area east of Square Barn Road, west of Randall Road, and south of Algonquin Road.

## Daylight Saving Time

It's that time of the year again! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 am, on Sunday, March 14.

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.

## Village of Algonquin - Spring Newsletter 2010

### Village President

John Schmitt

847-658-7643

johnschmitt@algonquin.org

### Board of Trustees

Brian Dianis

847-340-2046

briandianis@algonquin.org

Jerry Glogowski

847-458-1639

jerryglogowski@algonquin.org

Robert Smith

847-658-2466

robertsmith@algonquin.org

Debby Sosine

847-658-3480

debbysosine@algonquin.org

John Spella

847-458-8289

johnspella@algonquin.org

Jim Steigert

847-658-0536

jimsteigert@algonquin.org

### Village Clerk

Gerald Kautz

### 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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For handicapped assistance, call 847-658-2700. For additional information regarding this newsletter, contact Michael Kumbra, Management Assistant, at 847-658-2700.

