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.
Welcome 2009! As the economy slows, many of us are in a financial pinch. What better time to look at how we are using resources and treating our environment. We are doing it here at Village Hall. We are updating lighting as needed at municipal facilities to ensure that it is cost effective and energy efficient. The Public Works Department’s Fleet Division is using an alternative to diesel fuel that is clean air-friendly and saves in operating costs. The Village has always been committed to providing service to the community in a manner that is efficient and yet meets our high standards. We encourage you to join us in our effort to conserve natural resources; reduce, reuse, recycle; treat our natural areas with respect; and enjoy free recreation activities by exploring our pristine parks. Some of our accomplishments over the past year include:

- **Commercial & Industrial Development.** While residential growth has slowed significantly in the region, Algonquin has experienced some new commercial growth. Also, several new industrial buildings have broken ground in the Algonquin Corporate Campus, which will increase the number of jobs as well as shopping and dining opportunities for residents.

- **Focus on Traffic Infrastructure & Safety.** Traffic and transportation continue to be a focus for our community. The Village monitors regional traffic improvements that will alleviate traffic congestion, such as the Longmeadow/Bolz Road bridge corridor and the western bypass of the Routes 62 & 31 intersection. Please help us by driving safely through our community and obeying all traffic laws.

- **New Services.** We unveiled several new programs in 2008, including a municipal court that is intended to be a more convenient option for both staff and residents wishing to contest Village-issued tickets. Look for a new map feature on our web site in early 2009 that will give you access to data on parks, trails, businesses, and more!

- **Efficient Operations.** Elected officials and staff continue to evaluate and refine programs to ensure that they are operating efficiently. We’ve also focused on diversifying our funding base. As a result, the Village’s property tax rate continues to remain stable and avoid increase.

- **Communications.** Communicating with you, the public, remains a priority. Have you visited our web site lately? Check it out—www.algonquin.org. We are adding new features on a regular basis.

- For additional accomplishments, please visit the web site.

This year’s calendar focuses on our environment—our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, water, air, trees, and earth. And what a beautiful earth it is. Once again this year, talented residents captured the essence of our community through their camera lenses. Most of the pictures gracing this year’s calendar were submitted as part of the Village’s 2008 photo contest. We encourage all residents to take the time to look around you and enjoy Algonquin—not only our beautiful landscape, but our restaurants, parks, schools, public art, shops, downtown, trails, and all of the other amenities that our community offers.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2009.

The Elected Officials and Staff of the Village of Algonquin

Photo credits, top to bottom: Aspen Landings and the Fox River (photo by Brenda Vodicka), the Lions-Armstrong Memorial pool (photo by Ron McKinney), the clock tower in downtown’s Cornish Park (photo by Cyndie O’Doherty), and monuments marking a bridge crossing in Cornish Park (photo by Don Stien).
The Village of Algonquin is formally organized under the Trustee-Village form of government, and combines the strong political leadership of elected officials (in the form of the Village Board) with the professional experience of an appointed local government administrator. The Board consists of a President, six Trustees, and a Village Clerk, elected at large to serve overlapping four-year terms. The Board appoints the Village Manager to carry out its directives and oversee the delivery of public services. The Village Manager also supervises the daily operations of the Village and all of its departments.

In 1995, the Board passed an ordinance which modeled the Village’s government after the Council-Manager form. According to the Illinois City/County Management Association, “under the council-manager form, power is concentrated in the elected council, which hires a professional administrator to implement its policies. This appointee serves at the pleasure of the council and has responsibility for preparing the budget, directing day-to-day operations, hiring and firing personnel, and serving as the council’s chief policy advisor.”

Remember to vote in April! Three seats, the president’s seat, and the clerk’s seat are up for election.
Many years ago, before “going green” became mainstream, Algonquin quietly began focusing more and more on how our actions impact our environment. Over the years, our commitment to our natural resources—open space, water, trees, air quality, and so on—has been strengthened through new and growing initiatives.

We have an environmental liaison committee, composed of representatives from each department of the Village, that proposes, considers, and evaluates projects that can benefit our community. The Committee’s objective is “to bring together representatives from all departments of the Village to work collaboratively to achieve the Village’s goal of promoting and implementing environmentally-friendly strategies both internally through Village operations and externally through working with the community to implement “green” practices.” We are currently updating our Environmental Action Plan; look for this important document to be posted on-line later this year.

We invite you to join us in our efforts. Bike instead of drive. Convert your lights to energy-efficient bulbs. Did you know that you can get two free Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs at Village Hall to get started? Visit our community swimming pool to cool off in the summer and avoid using water to fill your own pool. Do you have suggestions for us at Village Hall? Give us your thoughts via e-mail to webmaster@algonquin.org.

Our Parks & Forestry Division maintains 678 acres of parkland and open space for you to enjoy—both active parks with playground equipment and sports fields, as well as passive parks where you can sit under a tree and read a book. For a map of the parks, open space, and trails in the Village, visit www.algonquin.org. Speaking of trails—we have over 36.7 miles of trails winding through our town!

The Algonquin Recreation Division sponsors FREE Family Nature Walks, guided by a local volunteer and nature expert, through Algonquin’s trails and parks. The Village hosts Conservation Community Day along the Woods Creek Corridor every June. We collaborate with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County to sponsor river clean-up days and other events. The Historic Commission conducts tours of the Village cemetery every fall. Information on these and other outdoor events can be found in the Recreation brochure, Village newsletter, and on the website at www.algonquin.org.

Join us in celebrating our unique and wonderful landscape and the hidden treasures that define Algonquin!

*Photo by Brenda Vodicka.*
### Meeting Schedule

#### Village Board
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm
Held at Village Hall

#### Committee of the Whole
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Held at Village Hall

#### Planning and Zoning Commission
2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm
Held at Village Hall

#### Historic Commission
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm
Workshops 3rd and 4th Saturday of each month at 8:30 pm
Held at Historic Village Hall

#### Economic Development Commission
2nd Thursday in January, March, May, June, September and November at 7:00 pm
Held at Village Hall

#### Police Commission
Quarterly, the 3rd Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 6:00 pm
Held at Village Hall

#### Police Pension Board
Quarterly, the last Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 5:30 pm
Held at Village Hall

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**January 2009**

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**NOTE:** Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Call Village Hall at (847) 658-2700 to confirm meeting times or check www.algonquin.org.

Historic Commission meetings will be held at the Historic Village Hall (2 South Main Street) located at the corner of Routes 31 & 62.
To carry out services for the public, the Village relies on vehicles—for police patrol, snowplowing, street sweeping, transporting lawnmowers, and more. A professional, certified Fleet Maintenance Division oversees maintenance and upkeep of over 300 vehicles and pieces of equipment. This is one area where the Village truly makes a difference. The Fleet Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department is currently using at least B20 biodiesel fuel during warm weather months (colder weather causes this environmentally-friendly fuel to thicken), and is supplementing fuel supplies with thousands of gallons of locally gathered used vegetable oil. Internal Services Superintendent Vince Olsen is recognized nationally as a leader in implementing programs such as using vegetable oil to fuel municipal lawn mowers and vehicles. This important program involves collecting used vegetable oil from local restaurants and homeowners, filtering it through a simple process, and using it to supplement our fuel supplies, resulting in an environmentally-friendly fuel source. Additionally, the used vegetable oil is free, so not only is the Village using a recycled clean fuel, but we are also saving money. This effort has allowed the Village to save approximately $7,000 to $8,000 per year.

The photographs at left show the entire filtration process. It is done economically, with minimal investment in equipment. We have not seen any reduction in vehicle performance due to this program. On the flip side, we are actually reducing pollution and contributing to cleaner air.

In October 2008, Mr. Olsen represented the Village at the Sustainable Cities Symposium, sponsored by the State of Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council. As part of a panel of experts on local green initiatives, Mr. Olsen spoke about the Village’s program of converting used vegetable oil to biodiesel fuel for Village-owned lawnmowers and diesel trucks. The Fleet Division has also been recognized by Government Fleet Magazine as one of the top 100 fleets in America, for the past two years, largely due to their focus on environmentally-friendly operations.

For more information on these programs, contact Internal Services Superintendent Vince Olsen at (847) 658-2754.

What is biodiesel fuel?
Biodiesel is the name of a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources. Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesels to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression-ignition (diesel) engines with little or no modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel refers to the pure fuel before blending with diesel fuel. Biodiesel blends are denoted as “BXX” with “XX” representing the percentage of biodiesel contained in the blend (ie: B20 is 20% biodiesel, 80% petroleum diesel).

Source: www.biodiesel.org

What else is the Fleet Division doing for the environment?
- **Idle Policy.** The Village has a strict anti-idle policy for all municipal vehicles. This policy reduces vehicle emissions as well as saves fuel and cost. (There are occasionally exceptions to this policy for police cars running lights and Public Works trucks that are providing electricity for equipment.)
- **Lawn mower replacements.** The Village replaced gas burning mowers with small diesel mowers that burn used vegetable oil.
- **Hybrid vehicles.** The Village owns three hybrid vehicles with plans to focus on purchase of hydrids whenever appropriate, resulting in savings of $5,300 per year on fuel costs.
- **Smaller Engines.** Cars purchased for police squads now have V6 engines instead of V8, resulting in savings of $35,000 per year.
Village Information

Looking for information regarding public meetings, recreation programs, breaking news, and other things happening in Algonquin? There are many ways to find out what is going on at Village Hall and around town:

- “The Algonquin Citizen,” the Village’s newsletter, is published and mailed with your water bill four times per year and is also available on-line.

- For recreation programs and events, take a look at our seasonal Events and Recreation Brochure.

- Attend a meeting (the meeting schedule is posted on our web site and on the January calendar page).

- Check out our web site at www.algonquin.org for agendas, minutes, breaking news, Recreation brochures, and other current information.

Or, give us a call at (847) 658-2700.

We are happy to serve you!

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Groundhog Day
Presidents’ Day
Overnight Ski Trip
Ash Wednesday
Algonquin has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the air that we breathe by joining the Clean Air Counts (CAC) initiative. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus recognized Algonquin as a Clean Air Counts community in 2007. CAC is an innovative, voluntary approach to reducing smog-causing emissions in the Chicago metropolitan region to achieve compliance with standards of the federal Clean Air Act and to improve air quality in our community. The Village has achieved silver status participation in the CAC community campaign for its dedication to improving air quality.

The Village is making a visible difference through many initiatives, including:
- Use of energy-efficient lighting and Energy Star approved products
- Implementing purchasing guidelines that give priority to low VOC (volatile organic chemicals) air-friendly products
- Following an anti-idling policy for all Public Works vehicles that prohibits idling for more than three minutes for gasoline engines and five minutes for diesel engines (except for certain circumstances, such as when a vehicle is running equipment)
- Developing an expansive parks system and setting aside land for green space
- Converting grass detention areas to naturalized areas
- Using clean fuel alternatives to operate municipal vehicles
- Funding a tree replacement and planting program

Joining CAC means that the Village is making a commitment to undertaking voluntary efforts to reduce smog in the Chicago region. We will continually assess opportunities to reduce emissions and conserve energy in areas related to transportation, energy, operations and maintenance, and development.

CAC is a six-county Chicago regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region V, City of Chicago, and Illinois EPA. The Village’s goal is to continue our efforts in this area in a cost-effective manner, focusing efforts in areas that produce cleaner air while at the same time resulting in significant cost savings for the Village and its residents.

Photo by Todd Weber.

When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves. - David Orr
Spring Cleanup

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.

Pick Up Schedule is as follows:

April 11 ~ East of Route 31, including homes on the East side of Route 31.
April 18 ~ West of Route 31, East of Randall Rd, North of County Line Rd., including Gas Light Subdivision.
April 25 ~ West of Route 31, South of County Line Rd and East of Randall (excluding Gas Light Subdivision), and all homes West of Randall.
Our Urban Forest

Our landscape in Algonquin is covered with trees—mature oaks, crab apples, river birch, pine. Because of Algonquin’s commitment to preserving and nurturing trees throughout our community, we have been awarded the Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for twelve years.

The Village demonstrates our commitment to our urban forest in many ways, including the following programs spearheaded by the Parks & Forestry Division of the Public Works Department:

- The Public Works Department employs seven certified arborists who are trained in tree preservation and care.
- The 50/50 Tree Replacement Program provides funding to cost share installation of new or replacement trees in public rights-of-way with residents.
- We work collaboratively with the school districts to provide annual hands-on educational sessions to over 350 local students. Sessions include Arbor Day presentations and topics such as tree identification, climbing and working in trees, and arboriculture as a career.
- Each of the 21,000+ Village-owned trees are pruned and assessed at least once every five years. Trees with problems are diagnosed and treated, and trees that have failed are replaced as funds become available.
- The Village’s Tree Preservation Ordinance ensures that valuable tree stock is protected, especially when new development occurs.

There are a few pests and diseases that are threatening our urban forest, including emerald ash borer and gypsy moth. Education is part of preservation, so please take the time to familiarize yourself with these threats! More information can be found on the Village web site and in the newsletter. Also, please visit the arboretum of trees behind Village Hall to see species that thrive in our community.

For more information on the Village’s tree preservation policies, please call the Parks & Forestry Division at (847) 658-2754.

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug. - Helen Keller

Photo credits, top to bottom: Janiece Manciet, Vince Maranto, Don Stien, Nirda Derose, and Jenny Reece.
Cemetery Cleanup

The Village Public Works Department coordinates an annual “Spring Cleanup” of the Algonquin Cemetery. This year’s cleanup will begin Monday, April 6 and will go through Friday, April 10. All winter decorations, such as blankets and wreaths, and other decorations that are not removed before April 1 will be discarded. Beginning Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24, 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 Friday, 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.

Summer Pool Pass

Purchase a 2009 summer pool pass for the family. **Early Bird Specials** for pool passes start April 1 and go through April 30. Register now and save! Pool Opens Saturday, June 7.

Upcoming Village Events

April 5 ~ Egg Hunt and Brunch with the Bunny
June 19 ~ Conservation Community Day
July 16, 23, 30 ~ Summer Concerts
July 23-26 ~ Founders’ Days
July 26 ~ Founders’ Days Fireworks
August 4 ~ National Night Out
August 6,13,20 ~ Summer Concerts
October 24 ~ Halloween Hoopla
December 11 ~ Winter Wonderland
December 19 ~ Brunch with Santa

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Early Bird Pool Pass Sold Through April 30

Early Bird Pool Pass Sale Ends April 30
Maybe you've heard it from your children, perhaps you read it in the Village newsletter, or saw it at Conservation Community Day: EVERY DROP COUNTS! Hundreds of fourth graders in elementary schools throughout the Village shout it out when Village personnel visit their classrooms every spring to talk about water conservation. Conserving water is and will continue to be critical for our community. You see, there is a finite amount of drinking water on our planet, and we want to ensure that we have plenty of it around for generations to come. In Algonquin, we get our water from aquifers underground. Water use has been so significant over the past ten years that we are using water faster than it can replenish in the aquifers. In an effort to preserve this natural resource, the Village implemented a comprehensive water conservation program in 2002. It contains many components, including the following:

- **Water System Status**: The water status regulates the use of outside water for the purpose of watering landscaping. Need to know the current status? Check out the signs posted at entrances to the Village, or visit www.algonquin.org. Residents who do not abide by the water system regulations will be ticketed and fined, so be sure to monitor the status and abide by the regulations.

- **Surcharge Rates**: Billing rates triple for excessive water use during the summer months. If you exceed the threshold, your rates will increase. This is to encourage residents to be especially cognizant about water use during the summer months, when demand for water is at its peak and our water resources are taxed.

- **Education**: As mentioned above, Village employees visit classrooms each spring to talk to local children about the importance of water conservation, and how they can help not only conserve water but save their families money by reducing the amount of water that they use.

For more details on the Village’s water conservation program, visit www.algonquin.org and click on the water status icon. Additional resources for water conservation tips:

- www.savingwater.org
- www.H2ouse.org

We need your help! Please join us in promoting water conservation in our community by:

- using mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture.
- using drip irrigation systems for watering plants without wasting water.
- aim sprinklers to water only plants, not sidewalks, driveways, or streets.
- watering your lawn only once a week. A good soaking once a week is perfect for a healthy lawn.
- keeping mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, which weakens plants.
- washing only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- taking a short shower instead of a bath; this saves about 15 gallons.
- using the garbage disposal sparingly; compost instead.
- installing water-efficient showerheads, toilets, and appliances.
- checking for leaks regularly and fixing them immediately. A small leak can waste a lot of water and cost you money.
- turning off the water when brushing your teeth and shaving (you can conserve up to 9 gallons of water per brushing).

Talk to your co-workers, family, and friends about ways to save water; perhaps even turn it into a contest! Speaking of contests—the Village sponsors a water conservation poster contest for children. Check the web site in the spring for more information.

*We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.* —Thomas Fuller

Photo credits: photograph of the new water main under the Route 62 bridge—Village of Algonquin; porous pavers by Cyndie O’Doherty; bridges over the Fox River by Don Stien. Porous pavers are desirable because they allow for enhanced water filtration and quicker return to aquifers versus asphalt or concrete.
It's a Good Day for a Picnic

Algonquin boasts a variety of parks offering playground equipment, fishing, pavilion/gazebo, walking/bike paths and much more. Take time to enjoy one of these parks today!

Algonquin Lakes Park ~ 700 Lake Plumleigh Way
Braewood Park ~ 1001 Gaslight Drive*
Broadsmore Park ~ 2051 Broadsmore Drive
Cornish Park ~101 South Harrison Street
Gaslight Park ~ 700 Terrace Drive
High Hill Park & Nature Reserve ~ 501 Kirkland Drive*
Hill Climb Park ~ 801 Circle Drive
 HOLDER Park ~ 1040 Timberwood Lane**
Jaycees Field ~ 1295 Parkwood Court
Kelliher Park ~ 800 Square Barn Road
Lions-Armstrong Memorial Pool ~ 599 Longwood Drive
Merrill-Pioneer Park ~ 1250 Getzleman Terrace
Presidential Park ~ 700 Highland Avenue
Riverfront Park ~ 201 North Harrison Street
Spella Community Park ~ 2610 Harnish Drive*
Stoneybrook Park ~ 1200 North Huntington Drive
Towne Park ~ 100 Jefferson Street
Village Hall Arboretum ~ 2200 Harnish Drive
James B. Woods Park ~ Wintergreen Terrace
Willoughby Farms Park ~ 2001 Wynnfield Drive**
Yellowstone Park ~ 1420 Yellowstone Parkway
* Great place for sledding
** Ice Rink, weather permitting

May 2009

Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive ~ Algonquin, IL 60102 ~ Phone: (847) 658-2700 ~ www.algonquin.org

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Village Offices Closed

Holiday refuse pick up change: There will be no pick up on Monday, May 25. This week, pick up will be postponed one day.
Every June, the public is invited to join the Village and local conservation and environmental groups to celebrate our natural areas and share ideas for how to “green” our lives. The Village has been sponsoring Conservation Community Day since 2002. Stroll along the Woods Creek Trail to experience presentations and hands-on educational opportunities for all ages, from learning about native landscaping and how to install rain gardens to using recycled materials to build crafts.

The Woods Creek Corridor is truly a treasure. Nestled among trees and wetlands, it runs from Algonquin Road (near the Winding Creek subdivision) south to the Algonquin Area Library on Harnish Drive, through the Grand Reserve subdivision and Ted Spella Community Park to County Line Road. Bike, walk, jog or roller blade along this scenic, paved path that parallels Woods Creek. The path travels through wooded areas, restored wetlands, and prairie, and provides opportunities to see fish and other aquatic animals. The path also has interpretive signage, to explain why Woods Creek is protected and a value to our community.

To learn more about Conservation Community Day, visit www.algonquin.org or read the spring edition of the Village’s newsletter, “The Algonquin Citizen.”

—Native American Proverb
Water Conservation

Global water consumption has risen almost ten fold in the last century, and many parts of the world are now reaching the limits of their supply. Population continues to increase while water supplies dwindle.

The Village of Algonquin instituted a water conservation program in 2002. An essential goal of this program is to minimize seasonal stress on our water supply and to encourage residents to limit outside water use.

One important component of the program is our water system status that informs residents and businesses of our outside water restrictions. To check the water system status, see signs posted on main streets throughout the Village, or visit the Village’s web site at www.algonquin.org.

**Green signs indicate outside watering is permitted except for watering landscape between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.**

**Yellow signs indicate even/odd days for watering, before 9:00 am and after 6:00 pm. Even addresses may only water on even calendar days and odd addresses may only water on odd calendar days, before 9:00 am and after 6:00 pm.**

**Orange signs indicate even/odd days for watering only between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 am. Even addresses may only water on even calendar days and odd addresses may only water on odd calendar days.**

**Red signs indicate no outside water use is allowed at any time. This includes all use of water outside, such as washing vehicles, power washing and watering landscaping.**
In late 2008, the Village of Algonquin was featured at the 95th Annual Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference’s Innovations Showcase in Chicago. This stemmed from a collaboration called “Check Your Air for Clean Air” between the Village and Dundee-Crown High School environmental science teacher Gary Swick and D300 students. The Village and D300 jointly applied for and received a grant from the Illinois Science Teachers Association (ISTA) through the ISTA’s “Cool Communities” program. The Village and D300 used these grant funds to buy equipment and promotional materials for the “Check Your Air” initiative. The Check Your Air program combines classroom education with real-world applications from the Village to improve fuel efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. The environmental science students at Dundee-Crown High School take their “Cool Bus,” a donated school bus that runs on clean biodiesel fuel provided by the Village, to local events to promote environmentally-friendly community practices such as keeping tires properly inflated. The school used the grant to purchase tire gauges and other equipment, which the students use to check tire pressure and fill tires at local community events. Why is it important to keep tires inflated? Poorly inflated tires increase fuel costs and emissions, because they are less “round” and require more energy to begin moving and to maintain speed. And, besides saving fuel and money and minimizing emissions, properly inflated tires are safer and less likely to fail at high speeds. So look for opportunities to get your tires inflated as part of this program!

Many elected officials and municipal employees from around the state visited the Village’s booth at the IML Conference and gathered information on implementing a similar program in their communities. Participation at the Innovations Showcase was a positive opportunity for Algonquin and D300 to be recognized by fellow Illinois communities as state leaders in environmental practices and to highlight their cooperative relationship.

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**Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.**

-Frank Lloyd Wright
Calling all Shutter Bugs!

The Village of Algonquin is looking for unique photos. These photos are used for the Village’s annual calendar and other publications. Whether it is digital or dark-room processed, we are interested in what Algonquin means to you. Participants should keep in mind that all entries must be taken within the Village of Algonquin and may include the following: animals, nature, people, community events, Main Street, parks and family. Applications for this year’s contest are available online at www.algonquin.org, or you may pick one up at the Village Hall, located at 2200 Harnish Drive.

Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive ~ Algonquin, IL 60102 ~ Phone: (847) 658-2700 ~ www.algonquin.org

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Village Offices Closed
Independence Day

Historic Commission Workshop 8:30 am
Summer Concert
Founders’ Days July 23 - 26
A River Runs Through It... And what a river it is! Not only does the charming Fox River wind through our town, but so do several other creeks, streams, and wetlands. In many ways, our Village has been defined throughout history by our waterways. The Algonquin Historic Commission tells of how the Fox River attracted boaters and swimmers from the “big city” in the late 1800s and early 1900s during Algonquin’s days as a tourist town.

The Fox River and other creeks in town are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Village works collaboratively with these agencies to regulate and maintain the beauty of the water bodies in town. The Utilities Division carefully treats our wastewater before dispensing it back into the Fox River. Our Public Works Department coordinates projects to prevent erosion from damaging our creeks. The Village works with local environmental agencies, such as the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, to sponsor events, such as river and creek clean up days, to promote awareness about the importance of the Fox River and other waterways in town.

What is a wetland? Wetlands are critical components of our community that contribute in endless ways. They provide many benefits: protecting and improving water quality; providing fish and wildlife habitats; storing floodwaters; maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. Also, wetlands offer recreational opportunities, aesthetic benefits, and provide sites for research and education.

Over the past ten years, the Village has been preserving, creating, and enhancing wetlands within its jurisdiction. Sites to visit include:

- High Hill Park and Nature Preserve (located off Harnish Drive)
- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve (located on Stonegate Road)
- Falcon Ridge Nature Preserve (on Huntington Drive)
- Arquilla Naturalized Stormwater Basin (on Arquilla Drive)
- Woods Creek Corridor (off Bunker Hill Drive or Woods Creek Lane)

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_The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river._

—R. Perot
Garage Sales

Please follow these guidelines when conducting a garage sale:

- There is a limit of three garage sales per calendar year at one address.
- A sale may last no longer than four consecutive calendar days.
- A maximum of three signs may be posted, only during the dates of the sale. A sign must have its own support to be affixed to the ground. Do not attach signs to street poles, lamp poles or other signs. Signs must be removed within 24 hours of the last day of the sale.

Home Improvements & Repair Projects

Most home projects require a building permit, including sheds, decks, fences, patios, and pools. Interior projects such as basements, electrical work, and plumbing projects also require a permit. Please contact the Community Development Department at (847) 658-4184 for details. Permits may take three weeks for approval. Please submit your requests accordingly.
What is a natural area? Natural areas are unique biological ecosystems that consist of wetlands, naturalized detentions, native woodlands, streams, and prairies, to name a few. They help keep our ecosystem in balance by providing habitat communities for plants and animals. The balance assures that the natural cycles of precipitation, transpiration, growth, and the food chain remain intact.

Algonquin's Natural Areas ordinance, passed in 2008, is an initiative on the part of the Village to identify and protect unique natural areas that belong to the public. By creating a public policy that recognizes and protects these areas, the ordinance assures that there will be no alteration or misuse of these environmentally-sensitive lands that will cause irreparable damage. It is also an effort to create a system of nature preserves for future generations.

Occasionally, it is necessary to conduct a controlled burn in some of our natural areas. Before farms and housing developments replaced most of Illinois' native prairies and wetlands, wildfires were a natural part of our area's ecosystem. Over hundreds of years, native plants and animals adapted to a habitat periodically rejuvenated by fire. Today, by contrast, less than 1% of the land in Illinois is classified as prairie, and wildfires are suppressed to protect property. But in doing so, we have removed an essential element of the natural prairie/wetland environment. In the process, we have tipped the balance against native plant and animal species that depend on fire to survive. To restore the balance, the Village performs controlled burns on Village-owned natural areas. Burning helps to stop the growth of invasive and non-native plants. Prairie and wetland plants have roots that can reach up to 12 feet deep while invasive species have roots that stay near the surface. Therefore, the burn will harm the roots of the non-native species and the prairie and wetland plants can thrive. Burning also returns essential nutrients to the soil. It is also critical to note that these burns do not harm wildlife. Native species have an instinctive response to fire. Birds fly away; frogs, turtles, and insects either go to open water areas within the wetland or hide underground; and small rodents burrow underground as the fire only passes over the surface of the land. Be assured that the Village conducts these permitted burns with the utmost care.

The Lake Drive South naturalized detention basin was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2008 with a Conservation and Native Landscaping award. This project was spearheaded by the Public Works Department, and involved installation of native plants to improve water quality and provide habitat for birds and other species. The Arquilla Drive naturalized detention project was also recognized by the U.S. EPA in 2007.

How can you help? Support the conversion of mowed, grassy detention areas in your neighborhood to natural areas with native prairie plantings. Do not encroach on natural areas such as wetlands. Do not fertilize or apply pesticides to your lawn, as those substances can end up in our streams and rivers. Plant native vegetation in your yard or install a rain garden. Do not pour ANY substance (i.e. antifreeze, used motor oil, etc.) into storm drains. These lead directly to wetlands or streams, and contain more pollutants than the natural vegetation can filter!

Become a natural areas steward in your neighborhood, or volunteer to work on restoration projects going on in conservation areas near your home. For information on how to become a steward for projects in Algonquin, contact the Public Works Department at (847) 658-2754. Remember—one person CAN make a difference. If every person or household does one small thing, the collective effort can produce results!

Photo credits. Bottom photo by Heidi Maranto. Top photo from the Public Works Department.
F.A.Q.s  
(Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. I would like to have a block party. How can I get barricades to block the street?

A. You may obtain a Block Party Permit application online at www.algonquin.org or call Public Works at (847) 658-2754. Please allow at least seven days for processing.

Q. How can I stop solicitors from coming to my door?

A. Solicitors and handbill distributors must obtain a permit from the Police Department and/or the Village Clerk’s Office. “No Solicitors” placards are available at the Village Hall which should deter all solicitation. If you are concerned about a particular solicitor, please call the Police Department at 9-1-1.

Q. Where can I register to Vote?

A. The Algonquin Village Hall. Please bring two forms of identification, one with your name and current address and another with your proper name. To register by mail visit www.elections.il.gov. Once registered to vote, you do not need to register again, unless you have moved or changed your name.

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Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive ~ Algonquin, IL 60102 ~ Phone: (847) 658-2700 ~ www.algonquin.org
The Village has been proactive over the years to create a comprehensive park system to serve all residents and visitors to our town. Development of these parks are funded mainly through developer donations and grants, with maintenance and upkeep paid for through the general funds. The Village has received over $6 million in grant funding for park development over the past ten years. For a complete listing of Village parks and trails, visit our web site at www.algonquin.org. A few of our favorites are highlighted below:

- **Ted Spella Community Park**: Named in honor of late Village President Salvatore “Ted” Spella, this park will be over 120 acres once it is completed. Located south of the library on Harnish Drive, it boasts a sled hill, trails, playground equipment, and open space.
- **Cornish Park**: You can't miss the distinctive clock tower at this new signature park located at the southeast corner of Route 62 and Harrison in downtown Algonquin. This park is always filled with people fishing, enjoying the fountains, gathering under the gazebo for a wedding, kicking a soccer ball around, and clambering on the playground.
- **Riverfront Park**: Also situated downtown along the Fox River off of North Harrison Street, this picturesque park hosts the Village's annual summer concert series.
- **Presidential Park**: One of the more seasoned parks in the Village, this park is busy! Sounds of cheering parents watching their children play soccer and baseball at this sports-oriented park that is located off of Highland on the east side of the Village.
- **Algonquin Lakes Trail System**: This subdivision, built on the site of a retired gravel pit, has three beautiful lakes and a trail system that goes for miles.
- **Woods Creek Corridor**: See the month of June for details on this trail.
- **Snapper Field**: Home to baseball fields, tennis courts, a playground, and the Village’s Lions-Armstrong Memorial Pool & Splashpad, this site is a sure hit in the summer!

In the words of the Village’s Recreation Superintendent, “Take Time for Fun” - visit one of your parks or trails this weekend and enjoy nature!
### Free Leaf and Brush Pick Up

Free pickup of leaves and branches takes place October 1 through December 11. Leaves must be placed in standard paper yard waste bags or a reusable trash container (33 gallon or smaller) that are clearly marked. Place the bags or containers at the curb on your regular trash pick up day. Branches must be tied in bundles which are no longer than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter. Leaves placed in loose piles will not be picked up. Grass clippings and other yard waste will still require a sticker. Stickers for garbage and yard waste are interchangeable.

### 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.

### Trick or Treat Safety Tips

- Wear something that lights up such as a glow necklace or reflective tape, or use a flash light.
- Travel in groups or go with a parent.
- If a parent cannot join their child, know your child’s trick or treat route.
- Only go to well lit houses.
- Always go to the front door.
- Always inspect candy before it is eaten.
- Do not approach strange vehicles for any reason.

**HAVE A SAFE, FUN, AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

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**Village of Algonquin**

2200 Harnish Drive ~ Algonquin, IL 60102 ~ Phone: (847) 658-2700 ~ www.algonquin.org
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Buy Recycled

Reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy recycled... You’ve heard it over and over. Are you practicing these four easy steps to helping the environment? You bet! Algonquin residents have embraced recycling, and the proof is in the numbers. We have one of the highest residential recycling rates in northern Illinois according to Waste Management, the Village’s residential waste and recycling hauler. The 64 gallon recycling carts issued to each household in the Village certainly help. If you find that you are filling yours to the brim every week, you can get a second one for a nominal fee by calling Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696. Did you know that even the recycling carts are made from recycled material? It’s true! The plastic in the carts includes recycled milk cartons collected from Algonquin households. How else can you help?

- **REDUCE.** Only use the packaging, paper, and other products that you need. Don’t waste!
- **REUSE.** Use reusable bags when grocery shopping.
- **RECYCLE.** For a list of what you can recycle through the Village’s program, go to www.algonquin.org.
- **BUY RECYCLED.** Buy recycled paper, ink, and other products whenever possible.

Other recycling efforts that the Village practices include:
- encouraging businesses to recycle.
- recycling construction material during public works projects.
- converting used vegetable oil into fuel for our lawnmowers and diesel vehicles.
- using recycled newspaper and wood fiber in the hydromulch produce that we use to apply grass seed.
- mulching removed trees and using the mulch in planter beds and tree rings. This mulch is also available free for residents; it can be picked up at the Public Works facility.
- working with Waste Management to distribute educational material to residents on a quarterly basis.
- using recycled products for parks projects. All purchased playground safety surface is recycled lumber from demolished homes, discarded pallets, and tree removals. Lumber decking used at various park sites (including Angel Towne playground) is made of recycled lumber pulp and milk containers. The rubberized safety surfacing used in our park system is made from recycled car tires.
- following internal guidelines for recycling. Every office in the Village has a recycling bin. Village staff also recycle ink cartridges, batteries, computers, light bulbs, scrap metal, and other materials.

This list describes only a handful of our recycling initiatives. Please join us in our efforts, and look for more information on future recycling events!

*Waste not the smallest thing created, for grains of sand make mountains, and atoms infinity.* - E. Knight
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**Village Staff and Contact Information**

**Administration Department**
(847) 658-2700

Bill Ganek, Village Manager
Jenna Kollings, Assistant Village Manager
Jack Walde, Finance Director
Todd Walker, Human Resources Director
Sarah Stefan, Recreation Superintendent

**Community Development Department**
(847) 658-4184

Russ Farnum, Community Development Director
Craig Arps, Building Commissioner
Tom Jacobs, Assistant Building Commissioner
Katie Parkhurst, Senior Planner
Ben Mason, Senior Planner

**Police Department**
(847) 658-4531

Russ Laine, Police Chief
Ed Urban, Deputy Chief
Steven Kuzynowski, Deputy Chief

**Public Works Department**
(847) 658-2754

Bob Mitchard, Public Works Director
Michele Zimmerman, Asst. Public Works Director
Andrew Warmus, Utilities Superintendent
Al Mozola, Streets Superintendent
Steve Ludwig, Parks & Forestry Superintendent
Vince Olsen, Internal Services Superintendent

Visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) for up-to-date Village happenings. Or give us a call at (847) 658-2700 for information, comments, questions, or concerns.
The Village has demonstrated commitment to being a good steward of our environment by signing on to two important programs: the Greenest Region Compact, and the Cool Cities program.

**Greenest Region Compact**
This Compact is an initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors’ Caucus to voluntarily improve the region’s air, water and land; reduce greenhouse gases; minimize waste; and reduce energy consumption. The compact challenges local governments to modify their operations and practices, and to provide the tools and resources to residents so the entire community can get involved by implementing “green” practices at home as well as in neighborhoods and schools. By joining in this effort, the Village agrees to implement several strategies, including:

- Promoting residential water conservation practices;
- Enacting e-waste recycling programs; and
- Participating in the Northern Illinois Energy Project’s Residential Lighting Program.

In addition, the Village will implement programs in at least four of the following five areas: air strategies, to promote non-automotive travel and reduce pollution; energy strategies, to reduce consumption; land strategies, to promote tree coverage; waste strategies, to increase recycling; and water strategies, including promotion of Stormwater Best Management Practices.

The Village already has many of the practices outlined by the Greenest Region Compact in place at this time. Staff is developing and implementing programs to meet the other strategies outlined in the Compact and to offer opportunities, both educational and participative, to residents and local businesses to get involved.

**Cool Cities**
The Cool Cities program emphasizes solutions to minimize our community’s impact on global warming. The Cool Cities program is a grassroots effort started by the mayor of Seattle, WA and facilitated by the Sierra Club to help solve global warming through reducing heat-trapping emissions, lowering energy bills, saving taxpayer dollars, and protecting our environment. There are four steps to this program, with the ultimate goal to reduce global warming CO2 pollution in the Village to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Due to population growth since this time, a per capita measure will be used. Efforts are focused in three major areas: cleaner vehicles, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. The Village has met with the Sierra Club, who is spearheading this program, to discuss ways to meet the goals of the program. Steps include:

- **Step 1: Take the Cool Cities Pledge**—COMPLETE!
- **Step 2: Conduct a Global Warming Emissions Inventory**—IN PROGRESS.
- **Step 3: Create a Solutions Plan**—IN PROGRESS.
- **Step 4: Implement and Monitor Progress**

Stay tuned for more information on the Village’s environmental initiatives!

*Background photo by Jenny Reece.*
**Winter Wonderland**

Photo provided by David Cook, photo contest participant.

Blustery winds and piles of snow and ice brings our Public Works Department into full snow removal operations. The Snow and Ice Control Plan urges all residents to aid the Village in promoting safety by remembering the following:

- It is unlawful to park on any public street in the Village at any time after a snowfall of 2” or greater. No parking is permitted on any street within the hours of 2:00 am and 5:00 am from November 1 to April 15. No parking is allowed between 2:00 am and 5:00 am on Routes 31 and 62 any time during the year.
- You must keep public walks free of snow and ice.
- Refrain from depositing snow or ice onto the roadway once streets have been plowed. Only business owners along Main St. in downtown are permitted to deposit snow in the street.

Thank you for helping us in our efforts!

**Sledding Hills**

Stop by one of our parks and enjoy the winter weather! High Hill Park on Harnish Drive, Braewood Park on Gaslight Drive, and Spella Park boast great sledding hills. Holder Park located on Timberwood Lane, and Willoughby Farms Park located on Wynnfield Drive host seasonal ice rinks.

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**December 2009**

**Village of Algonquin**

2200 Harnish Drive ~ Algonquin, IL 60102 ~ Phone: (847) 658-2700 ~ www.algonquin.org

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**1st**

- Village Board 7:00 pm

**2nd**

- Committee of the Whole 7:30 pm

**3rd**

- Historic Commission 7:00 pm

**4th**

- Holiday Parade

**5th**

- Hanukkah Begins

**6th**

- Planning & Zoning Commission 7:30 pm

**7th**

- Free Leaf & Brush Pick Up Ends

**8th**

- Village Board 7:00 pm

**9th**

- Historic Commission 7:00 pm

**10th**

- Christmas Eve

**11th**

- Christmas Day

**12th**

- Village Offices Closed

**13th**

- Historic Commission Workshop 8:30 am

**14th**

- Brunch with Santa

**15th**

- Kwanzaa Begins

**16th**

- Holiday refuse pick up schedule:
  - Friday 12/25 pick up will be Saturday 12/26
  - Friday 1/1 pick up will be Saturday 1/2

**17th**

- New Year’s Eve
The Village of Algonquin has received the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers’ Association (GFOA) and the GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR/audit) for four years in a row (2005-2008). Both documents contain a wealth of information on the Village and its operations; visit www.algonquin.org to view this information.

Algonquin’s fiscal year starts on May 1, and the budget is adopted by the Village Board at their first meeting in April every year. Below is a brief summary of budget information for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, plus some additional interesting statistics from 2008.

The Village operates under several different fund types: general operating and service funds cover the major ongoing maintenance and operation expenses of the Village (public safety, public works, recreation, etc.). The water and sewer operating fund is self-funded from user fees and accounts for maintenance and upkeep of the Village’s water distribution system, water treatment plants, and wastewater system. The capital funds get their funding mainly from new development, the 1% utility tax, and the home rule sales tax, and pay for new park development, major street reconstruction, and large, one-time capital infrastructure projects. The debt service funds are used to retire debt previously issued by the Village. Special and other funds include the swimming pool, hotel/motel fund, and other unique accounts.

Expenditures by type of fund are as follows:

| General Operating & Service Funds | $19,524,700 | 58% |
| Water & Sewer Operating Fund | $5,495,670 | 16% |
| Capital Funds | $6,099,700 | 18% |
| Debt Service Funds | $1,502,000 | 4% |
| Special & Other Funds | $1,295,600 | 4% |

Statistics for 2008…

Number of Employees
- Full Time 154
- Part Time 7
- Temporary 58

Land Area
12.37 Square Miles

Population
30,482 (per the 2007 special census)

Building Inspections
4545

Building Permits Issued (for new construction & remodeling)
1967

Property Maintenance Inspections/Citations
2101 / 64

Miles of Roadway Maintained by the Village
124.6

Park Sites
21

Parkway Trees & Planting Sites
21,000

Developed Park Acreage
221

Police Offenses & Services
15,460

Miles of Water Main
160

Miles of Sanitary Sewer
135

Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, Illinois 60102