



# The Algonquin Citizen

News from the Village of Algonquin

Fall 2014

## Western Bypass Opens to Traffic

In September, the Illinois Route 31 Western Bypass in Algonquin opened to traffic, marking the culmination of the two-year project. The \$88 million Algonquin Western Bypass project was funded primarily through federal and state sources. "This day has been many years in the making and is an excellent example of the dedication, cooperation, and bi-partisanship needed to get a project of this magnitude done," said Village President John Schmitt. "The collaboration at every level of government and within our community has been nothing short of phenomenal."

Jurisdiction over the previous Illinois 31 through Algonquin has been transferred to the Village. Algonquin's recently completed Downtown Planning Study calls for a more pedestrian-friendly and traditional commercial corridor on Main Street.

In other transportation-related news, the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge Corridor received a \$45 million commitment from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The Longmeadow Parkway Bridge Corridor is expected to help relieve severe traffic congestion in northern Kane County and provide a significant economic shot in the arm for residents and businesses throughout the region, including the Algonquin Corporate Campus.



Federal, state, and local officials held a dedication ceremony on the Illinois Route 31 Western Bypass (Pictured L to R: John Fortmann, Dick Durbin, John Schmitt, Mike Tryon, Pam Althoff, Tina Hill)

## Bring Your Own Bag

The Village of Algonquin and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County are kicking off a new conservation effort to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags by promoting "Bring Your Own Bag" in October. The effort is to curb pollution and litter, free storm drains from plastic blockage, and protect wildlife. With the beautiful Fox River in our midst, it is critical to minimize waste by simply bringing reusable bags when shopping.



Please look for banners and signs in Algonquin area grocery stores to remind you to use a reusable bag, since many people often forget their reusable bags either at home or in the car. For more information on this program please visit [www.algonquin.org/ECO](http://www.algonquin.org/ECO).

## Trick-or-Treat Hours

Halloween trick-or-treating hours in Algonquin are from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31.

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

## Winter Parking Regulations

Beginning October 31, 2014, parking will be prohibited on all public streets in the Village between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The winter parking hours will be in effect until April 15, 2015.

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.

## Election Day

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, with polling place hours from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



You may register to vote at the Ganek Municipal Center, 2200 Harnish Drive, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit us online at [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org).

## Algonquin Earns Sunshine Award for Transparency

The Village of Algonquin has been awarded a Sunshine Award from the Illinois Policy Institute for the Village's online transparency efforts. The Sunshine Award is earned by governments that account for how taxpayer dollars are being spent by opening finances to the public and encouraging citizens to take an active, educated role in the local government decision-making process. Only 63 (including Algonquin) out of nearly 7,000 taxing bodies in Illinois have received the Illinois Policy Institute's Sunshine Award. For more information about Algonquin's transparency efforts, please visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) and keyword search "transparency" on the home page.



## Fall Cleanup and Recycling Drop-Off

The Village of Algonquin is holding a Fall Recycling Drop-Off Event on Monday, October 13, at Presidential Park (700 Highland Avenue, Algonquin) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This event is being offered in cooperation with Groot, Vintage Tech Recyclers, Friends of the Library, and Charity Pickup Service.



**Recycle:** Items that typically are not accepted in your curbside recycling such as lawn furniture, large plastic toys, grills, wood-based furniture (entertainment units, dressers, beds), clean metals, clean wood, large cardboard boxes, aluminum gutters and various electronics.

**Donations:** Various household items in good and working condition, books and media will also be accepted.

Please check online for a complete list of accepted items, prohibited items, and restrictions for this event.

For more information regarding this recycling event, please call us at 847-658-2700 or visit us online: [www.algonquin.org/ECO](http://www.algonquin.org/ECO).

## Harvest Hustle 5K

Join Algonquin Recreation for the first ever Harvest Hustle 5K Run/Walk. This walk will benefit *Recreation for ALL-gonquin*, a scholarship program designed to provide opportunities for Algonquin youth to participate in recreational activities. The event will kick off at 8:00 a.m. in downtown Algonquin. To register for the event, please visit [www.algonquin.org/recreation](http://www.algonquin.org/recreation).

## Holiday Rock on the Fox

Celebrate the holiday season with your family and neighbors at Holiday Rock on the Fox at Riverfront Park on Saturday, December 6, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Join Algonquin Recreation for the community tree lighting, candy cane hunt, visit with Santa and friends, listen to holiday music, and more! For complete details visit us online at: [www.algonquin.org/recreation](http://www.algonquin.org/recreation).



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## Fall 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. **Flushing will take place between September 22 and November 7, weather permitting.** Please visit [www.algonquin.org/publicworks](http://www.algonquin.org/publicworks) for a detailed schedule.

## Fall Brush Collection

**Free leaf pickup by Groot will begin on October 1 for Algonquin residents and will continue through December 15.** There is no collection of yard waste from December 16 through March 2015. All leaves must be placed in standard paper yard waste bags or in reusable 32-gallon trash containers that are clearly marked. You may use a large, visible red "X" to indicate yard waste. Leaves in loose piles will not be collected.

During this time period, Groot will also provide free pickup of branches. The branches must be tied in bundles which are not more than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter. Grass clippings and other yard waste (such as sod, dirt, or woodchips) will require a collection sticker. Any bags or cans that contain leaves mixed with other yard waste will also require a collection sticker. **Also, please remember that putting leaves or yard debris into the street or on the sidewalk is prohibited by the Algonquin Municipal Code.**