Algonquin Now Offers Remote Virtual Inspections

The Village of Algonquin is pleased to offer customers the option for Remote Virtual Inspections (RVI) for many inspections required during permitting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village proactively sought a reliable alternative to in-person inspections that would allow construction to continue during this time when social distancing is a requirement. The RVI method is quick and easy and allows Village inspectors to clearly see and then certify, thereby ensuring that all safety requirements and building codes are met.

“Our immediate need was a safe and reliable inspection method during the pandemic” stated Acting Village President Debby Sosine. “However, due to its many customer service and cost-effective advantages, we envision the RVI to be a routine tool for our inspection services for the foreseeable future.”

The Village’s RVI program follows best practices and guidance from the International Code Council to ensure effective and consistent service delivery. The benefits of RVI include the convenience of specific date and time requests, as well as not having to worry about an inspector entering resident’s homes. All that is needed is an internet connection and a smartphone or tablet to be able to enjoy this new and convenient program. Additionally, since this eliminates driving a vehicle to inspection sites, RVI is a more environmentally-friendly option to traditional inspection methods.

For more information about online permitting and inspections, please visit www.algonquin.org/permits.

Maggie Auger Appointed Village Clerk

Maggie Auger was appointed Village Clerk at the November 18 Algonquin Village Board meeting. Auger, a retired attorney, most recently served as a Kane County Board member, representing District 23 for two terms. Prior to that, Auger served the Village of Algonquin for 18 years with roles on the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Auger’s appointment fills the vacancy left by longtime Village Clerk Jerry Kautz, who passed away in October. Her term will run through April 2021.

The Village Clerk is an elected position with administrative responsibilities for the day-to-day activities of the Village Clerk’s Office, which are managed and carried out by Village staff. The more public aspects of the position include roll calling during public meetings, overseeing the local election process, taking minutes, certifying Village agreements, and administering Oaths of Office for Village officials.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

With winter weather officially here, please remember that the Algonquin Municipal Code states that any person occupying and/or owning 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 weather 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 motorists, especially if the Village plows have already passed through the area. The Municipal Code is available online at www.algonquin.org.
**Winter Parking Regulations**

Don’t forget that winter parking regulations are in effect and parking is prohibited on any public street 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, 2021. 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 or submit an online request for overnight street parking at www.algonquin.org/police.

**Holiday Lights Recycling**

The Village of Algonquin will be offering holiday lights recycling through January 18 at the Ganek Municipal Center, 2200 Harnish Drive. A container for your unwanted lights will be available in the first floor lobby during normal business hours. Items that will be accepted include mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, and extension cords of any length. Please be sure to remove all tinsel, garland, and other decoration items from the light sets before they are dropped off. Elgin Recycling will recycle the light sets collected and help reduce waste sent to landfills.

**Stoneybrook Park Project**

The Village of Algonquin is transforming Stoneybrook Park as part of our commitment to improve recreational opportunities and conserve natural spaces for the community.

The Stoneybrook Park Development Project will renew this park and provide amenities for all ages, including basketball courts, gaga ball pit, bocce ball courts, bags platforms, pickleball courts, picnic shelter, sand volleyball court, playground, walking trail, and 15-space parking lot. The project is currently underway and will be open for full use by next summer. For project information and to sign up for e-mail updates, please visit the project website at www.stoneybrookparkproject.org.

**Holiday Hours**

Happy Holidays! Village offices will be closed on 12/24, 12/25, and 1/1. Groot will operate on a holiday schedule the week of 12/21 and 12/28, with Friday service being delayed by one day. Please visit www.algonquin.org for more details.

**2021 Snowman Photo Contest**

Build the best snowman in town this year! Get your family together and make a snowman during one of this year’s snowfalls. After you have built your snowman, stand next to it and have someone take a picture.

Submit photos to recreation@algonquin.org (electronic photos only). **Photos are due by March 8, 2021.** Winners will be published in a future recreation guide and on our website.

For more information or to browse and register for recreation programs, please visit www.algonquin.org/recreation.

**Christmas Tree Collection**

Groot will collect Christmas trees at no charge on your normal collection day throughout the month of January.

In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. All lights and decorations must be removed. Trees should not be placed in plastic bags, and any trees over six (6) feet tall should be cut in half so one person can handle them. Also, trees should be placed on top of the snow. Trees buried under snow could result in Groot not collecting them. Please contact Groot Customer Service at 1-800-244-1977 with any refuse or recycling inquiries.