



VILLAGE OF
Willow Springs

MESSENGER

FALL 2024 EDITION



KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

Message from the Mayor



WILLOW SPRINGS
VILLAGE

Dear Residents,

As we transition from a wonderful summer to cooler months ahead, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for making this summer one to remember. Our community came together for a variety of events, and it was heartwarming to see so many of you participate and enjoy our Village events.

This summer, we also focused on enhancing our parks, municipal buildings, and infrastructures. Thanks to your feedback and support, we made several improvements that will not only benefit our community for years to come but also pave the way for a brighter future.

As we move into the fall and winter seasons, I hope you will join us for upcoming seasonal events that will continue to unite our community and bring joy. Be sure to check the village calendar for details.

On behalf of your Village officials and staff, we wish you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please remember that we are here to help.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community. Together, we continue to make Willow Springs a truly special place to live, work and thrive.

Kind regards,



Melissa Neddermeyer
Willow Springs Village President



Public Works DEPARTMENT

Welcome to Autumn!

As cooler weather approaches and natural colors begin to decorate our streets and nearby woodlands, we hope you took the time throughout the summer to enjoy the landscaping efforts throughout the village. We certainly hope you appreciated improvements around our parks and open spaces, as well.

In the meantime, the Public Works crew remains busy with late season branch chipping, landscaping, and mowing, and many other "summertime" operations.

The branch chipping service continues through the end of September. If you have branch chipping needs after this time, you may be able to schedule a pickup by contacting the Public Works department. The service will be dependent on the weather as well as the availability of equipment.



Fall leaf collection is one of our most daunting and busiest tasks—and we accept that challenge! The service begins in October and will continue every week through the end of December or until the first major snowfall. We will often simultaneously operate our two leaf vacuum trailers in different parts of the village. However, please respect that there may be a time lag between leaf pile collection services at your residence.

Here are a few reminders to help us serve you:

- Place leaf piles in your easement as close to the curb or road edge as possible.
- Avoid placing leaf piles in the streets; this may obstruct vehicle or pedestrian pathways.
- Do not place leaf piles in/near storm water systems features (i.e.: do not cover storm drain inlets or place leaf piles in ditches, etc.).
- Avoid mixing branches, landscape material, and plant material in leaf piles; such mixed piles will not be collected.

Public Works has done street repair work by patching potholes and performing minor cut-fill-resurfacing projects. We can continue to perform similar tasks during the fall season as the need arises. More major repairs were part of the Fall Resurfacing Road Project (contracted work). This project improved the following streets:

- 85th street from west of Wolf to the end
- Park street from Archer north and the Lions Park parking spaces
- Vinewood from Elm to Hilton

As always, we are pleased make efforts to provide you with excellent services throughout the year. Please contact me to report any problems, to make a request, or to offer your input. Have a great autumn season, and we hope to see you around town or at one of the village events.

Keith Grantland
Director of Public Works
kgrantland@willowspring-il.gov
(708) 839-3027

Police Department NEWS



Great work, Great appreciation

On May 5, 2024, Police Officer Joe Fuelner WSPD responded to a single vehicle crash at Archer Ave and Lagrange Rd, which is the border with the Village of Justice. Upon arrival, Officer Fuelner along with Corporal Morahan from Justice Police Department observed a severely mangled vehicle with two persons trapped inside. The driver was bleeding profusely from an enormous gash in his leg. Because of the condition of the vehicle, Corporal Morahan could see the injury but couldn't reach the victim. The officers quickly determined that the victim would not survive without a tourniquet. Officer Fuelner couldn't see the injury from his position but was able to reach the victim. With Corporal Morahan's guidance, Officer Fuelner was able to apply a tourniquet to the appropriate location on the victim's leg to stop the bleeding, in spite of the victim's active resistance to the officer's actions. Both victims survived, clearly because of the officer's coordinated efforts, and were eventually extricated from the vehicle. Both officers were awarded a lifesaving medal at the Willow Springs village meeting on June 20 by Willow Springs Mayor Melissa Neddermeyer and the Village Board of Trustees.

The month of May was dedicated to Police Appreciation and memorials across the country for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I was happy to accept two banners (and a box of donuts) from the students at Pleasantdale Elementary School, expressing their gratitude for the work that our officers do on a daily basis, along with Police Officers Matt Engel and Justin Haubenreiser. The banners were displayed in our roll call room for the month.

Thank you to everyone in our community who supports our efforts.

It is a great pleasure to serve you!

Garry McCarthy

Chief of Police

Willow Springs Police Department

gmccarthy@willowsprings-il.gov

Community EVENTS

LIONESS LIONS CLUB HALLOWEEN BINGO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2024
7PM-10PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER
8156 ARCHER AVENUE

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL
BOOK OF 10 GAMES, 3 SPECIAL GAMES, & 1 DABBER
only \$20.00 CASH ONLY
Regular bingos win gift baskets/gift cards
Special Games Win Cash

HALLOWEEN DRESS CODE
Wear your Halloween Costume
Best Costume will win a Prize

BYOB - Bring your favorite Beverage
Hotdogs & Chips will be available for purchase
Bring your friends and neighbors
Must be 18 or older to attend

All proceeds support community programs, projects & 50/50 administrative costs

VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS PRESENTS

WICKED WILLOW

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
5:00PM - 7:00PM | FREE EVENT

CANDY - BONFIRE - HAVIDES - PONIES - PETTING ZOO
TRICK-OR-TREATING: 3PM - 4PM
LIONS PARK | 201 PARK STREET

Fundraiser!
Fall Flower Bulbs
Tulips - Daffodils - Allium - Mixes - More!

Order Flower Bulbs & Support Our Cause!

Online Orders Delivered Directly To Your Door!

Thank you for supporting the Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club

Our Fall FlowerPower Fundraiser runs through October 15, 2024.

Visit our dedicated website to order all of your fall bulb needs.

Visit Our Personalized Website By 10/15:
WillowSpringsLionessClub.lpfundraising.com

Contact For More Information:
Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club

Turn In Paper Order Forms By: n/a

WILLOW SPRINGS LIONS CLUB

PRESENTS
LAS VEGAS NIGHT

RAFFLE ♥ BIG WHEEL ♠ POKER ♦ BANG ♣
♦ BLACK JACK ♣ TEXAS HOLD-EM ♥ CHUCK-O-LUCK ♦

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
7:00 PM TO 12:00 AM

1st Prize: \$250.00 CASH 2nd Prize: \$200.00 CASH
3rd Prize: \$150.00 CASH 4th Prize: \$100.00 CASH

Refreshments

ROYALTY WEST
8675 S. Archer Avenue ♦ Willow Springs, Illinois
Donation: \$10.00 License CG-276

LIONESS LIONS CLUB UGLY SWEATER BINGO

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2024
7PM-10PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER
8156 ARCHER AVENUE

UGLY SWEATER SPECIAL
BOOK OF 10 GAMES, 3 SPECIAL GAMES, & 1 DABBER
only \$20.00 CASH ONLY
Regular bingos win gift baskets/gift cards
Special Games Win Cash

UGLY SWEATER DRESS CODE
Wear your UGLIEST SWEATER
Ugliest sweater will win a Prize

BYOB - Bring your favorite Beverage
Hotdogs & Chips will be available for purchase

We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries.
Bring a non-perishable item & get a free raffle ticket for a special raffle.

Bring your friends and neighbors
Must be 18 or older to attend

All proceeds support community programs, projects & 50/50 administrative costs

VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS PRESENTS

WINTER Festival

NOVEMBER 23
DOORS OPEN AT 3PM

SANTA | FOOD | GIFTS FOR KIDS | FREE EVENT
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (SPECIAL NEEDS ONLY) 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (OPEN FOR ALL)

FIREWORKS IN FRONT OF VILLAGE HALL @ 7:30 PM

ROYALTY WEST BANQUETS | 8675 ARCHER AVE.



FRONTLINE

As a resident, you have the ability to request your own entries that will be directed right to your Law Enforcement Agency. **FRONTLINE** is available on our website under the Police Department page, or on the Village App.

- OVERNIGHT PARKING
- VACATION WATCH
- KEY HOLDERS
- CONDITION REPORT
- AT RISK RESIDENTS

Beautification COMMISSION

As the temperatures dip and the days become shorter, your Willow Springs Beautification Commission is reflecting on a busy summer while planning for fall and looking to the future. The team of seven Commissioners has a new look moving into Fall. We said farewell to two of our Commissioners Jan Posch and Nikki Chibucos. They are thanked for their years of service to the Village of Willow Springs Beautification Commission. Their dedication and hard work helped us achieve our past goals and laid a strong foundation for what's to come.

Two new commissioners were added to the team of seven. Christine Michalek was appointed in May. No stranger to volunteering, Christine also helps out at her daughter's school and with the Lioness Club. Rebecca Scott joined the Commission in July. She's a long-time area resident and as a Commissioner hopes to contribute to and support the natural beauty of our area.

Fall is a great time to review our year and what a year it was!

Legacy Garden Park Community Garden plots were a resounding success with several returning and three new gardeners this year. Additionally, we tended to the butterfly garden, removing invasive plants and planning for next summer.

We hope you had a chance to enjoy one of our hosted events. The Willow Fest Bingo Tent was a hit with many groups returning from past years. Funds raised will support our efforts in 2025. Learning Programs took place during the summer with topics including everything from plant care to insect appreciation. Turning our focus to Fall, watch for our goodie bags at Wicked Willow on October 31. They are sure to delight our future gardeners!

Please visit or donate to our Little Free Libraries, located throughout the village. They embrace the goals of, "building Community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access." The donation bin is located at Village Hall.

- Healing Waters Park (Willow West Drive & 85th Street)
- Historic Bus Stop (Archer Avenue & Flavin Road)
- Legacy Garden Park (105 Kazwell Street)
- Willow Springs Train Station (Village Hall Circle)

Paving the Way for History, the commemorative brick program, continues. Take the opportunity to honor a special person by purchasing an inscribed brick to be placed in the Village Hall walkway. Order forms are available on Willow Springs Village website.

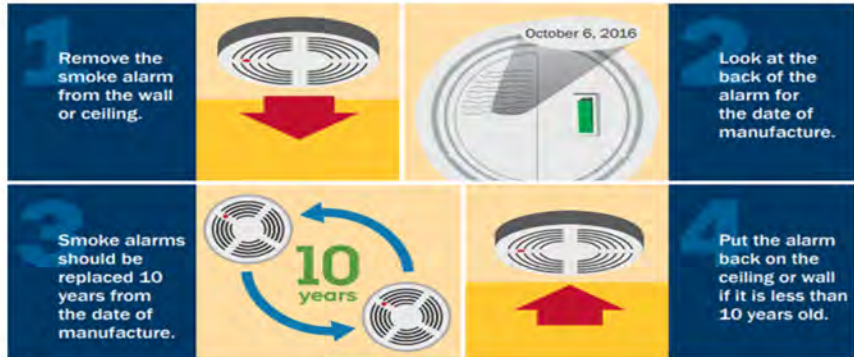
Next Steps for the Commission will be discussed during our "dormant gardening season" . We will be looking to the future as we continue to advance and support the beauty of our Village.

The Beautification Commission is grateful to the Willow Springs community for your support of our work and interest in our efforts. We meet quarterly at the Village Hall with dates and times posted on the Village website. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Remember to follow us on Facebook and NextDoor.

Community GROUPS

TRI-STATE FIRE & PROTECTION



Every Home Needs Working Smoke Detectors!

The Fire Prevention Week 2024 campaign highlights this year focusing on smoke detectors. Every home, and every level of your home should have a working smoke detector.

Smoke detectors have a life span of not more than ten years. Check the date on the back of your smoke detector and if it older than ten years you should replace it. New battery operated smoke detectors now have a sealed ten year battery so you don't need to change the batteries every year.



Contact our Fire Prevention Bureau at 630-654-6284 for information on free smoke alarms (Limited to one per home) and free loaner emergency access boxes

WILLOW SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Open Wednesday mornings & 1st Saturday each month

We are happy to report we are still keeping busy collecting our village's history as we receive information from the public. We are announcing another presentation of our history that will take place at the community center on October 12, 2024. Our member, Ron Leffler will be the commentator for this program. He did a great presentation on the last program we held in the spring.

JUST A REMINDER, WE ARE STILL OPEN THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. WE HOLD MEETINGS ON THESE DAYS WHICH BEGIN AT 11:00 A.M.



CHICAGO & JOLIET ELEC



VILLAGE OF
Willow Springs


One Village Circle
Willow Springs, IL 60480

Phone: (708) 467-3700

Fax: (708) 467-3710

Web: www.willowsprings-il.gov

Email: info@willowsprings-il.gov

 Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/villageofwillowsprings.il

Willow Springs Veterans Commission

The Willow Springs Veterans Commission is looking to support our Willow Springs Veterans. The Veterans Commission will host events such as guest speakers from the VFW, American Legion and DAV, host family picnics, and more. We are working to share available resources with local veterans so please let us know how we can help you. Anyone interested can call or stop in at the village hall for more information. If you're not interested in being a member, we would still like your contact information so that we can keep you posted of any events. Please provide us your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and branch of service. Thank you for your service!

