



VILLAGE OF  
Willow Springs

# MESSENGER

WINTER 2025 EDITION



*KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED*

# Message from the Mayor



Dear Residents of Willow Springs,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. As we enter a new year filled with opportunities, I want to reflect on our shared journey as a community and share some important updates.

First and foremost, it is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the passing of Trustee Ernie Moon. Trustee Moon dedicated his time, energy, and heart to serving Willow Springs. His commitment to service and compassion for others will never be forgotten. Trustee Moon's legacy will live on through the initiatives he championed and the positive impact he left on our Village.

Amid this moment of reflection, I am proud to share a milestone that marks a bright chapter for our community. Through careful financial planning and a commitment to fiscal responsibility, we have officially paid off the Village's debt. This achievement is a testament to our administration's hard work, the residents' support, and our determination to secure a sustainable future for Willow Springs. You can expect to continue to see more projects and programs that will further enhance our Village for generations to come.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce an update to our summer festival traditions. This year, Willow Fest, Blues Fest, and Car Show will be held together during the last weekend of July.

Please mark your calendars for July 24th through July 27th, and stay tuned for more details on what promises to be a memorable time.

I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as your mayor. Together, we continue to make Willow Springs a vibrant place to live, work, and thrive. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Village Hall.

Wishing you an excellent new year filled with joy and blessings.

Warm regards,

Melissa Neddermeyer  
Willow Springs Village President



# Police Department NEWS

Good news, bad news, good news

On Tuesday, December 10, Willow Springs police conducted our annual "shop with a cop" program with local youth. Volunteer officers took thirteen resident children to Walmart on Joliet Road for an evening of shopping, financed by both the Village and Walmart, the event was again a great success! The kids shopped with vigor and were treated to rides in police vehicles with lights and sirens blaring back to our headquarters to rendezvous with their families for pizza and pop. Everyone had a great time. I would like to thank Mayor Neddermeyer and Walmart for hosting the event, and kudos to Tammi Phelan who organized it.

On Monday, December 23, at approximately 1140 pm, we were reminded of the dangers of police work. Corporal Mike Prohaska, and Police Officers Justin Haubenreiser and Ruben Rodriguez were involved in a traffic stop at 6600 LaGrange Rd. for aggravated speeding. While Officer Haubenreiser detained the offender in his vehicle, Corporal Prohaska and Officer Rodriguez assisted in the investigation at the scene. Unfortunately, an underage, intoxicated driver was speeding and plowed into the rear of Corporal Prohaska's vehicle as it sat on the side of the road with flashing lights, pushing it into the rear of Officer Haubenreiser's vehicle. Officer Rodriguez was on foot, and barely escaped serious injury as the crash occurred. Corporal Prohaska was transported to the hospital and is suffering from whiplash type injuries but is expected to be ok. Everyone else escaped injury.

The driver was arrested and charged with several felonies. It should be noted that more police officers are killed in car crashes annually than any other cause. The good news is that nobody was seriously injured. The bad news is that both of our vehicles were brand new, recent purchases by the village.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Hodgkins Police Department for their professional response and assistance during this event.

**Garry McCarthy**  
Chief of Police  
Willow Springs Police Department  
gmccarthy@willowsprings-il.gov



# Beautification COMMISSION

If the gray days of the season seem bleak, the Beautification Commissioners encourage you to look for the winter beauty that surrounds our community. Birds drawn to feeders; along with squirrels trying their best to reach the delicious treats or perhaps a deer or two strolling down the road or path. Evergreens, grasses, and perennials creating visual appeal against the backdrop of snow, rain, or gray days. We enjoy finding beauty in all seasons and use the winter to plan for warmer days. Here are a few dates for you to mark on your calendar.

Request a garden plot at Legacy Garden Park beginning **March 1, 2025**. Fresh tomatoes, zucchini, and peppers are just some of the harvest our gardeners have enjoyed. Applications can be found at the Village Hall or the village website.

Attend an educational event at Legacy Garden Park.

**April 16** - Planning Your Vegetable Garden  
What to grow when and how.

**May 3** - Kitchen Scrap Gardening  
Fun for all ages. Learn how to be environmentally friendly and save on grocery bills.

**June 21** - Insect Zoo and Vermicomposting  
A touch and feel experience with unusual bugs. Learn how insects function and play an important role in the environment around you.

**July 16** - Plant Clinic  
The basics of diagnosing, treating and preventing problems in the garden caused by insects, diseases and non-living factors. Bring your plants and pictures!

**August 23** - Monarch Family Fest  
Fun for all ages! Learn about our state insect, their life stages, habitats, the challenges facing their population, how to become a monarch waystation.

September (date TBD) Harvest Fest  
Crafts, food, and a scarecrow decorating contest to celebrate the end of the growing season.

The Little Free Libraries have been a hit with the community and we appreciate those who not only take a book, but share a book! In the words of Stephen King, "Books are uniquely portable magic." Enjoy the magic - stop by one of our Little Free Libraries. Donations are accepted at the 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)

The Beautification Commission appreciates the support of the community and continues to seek ways to enhance our environment and offer opportunities for community members to enjoy the beauty of each season. Our meetings are held quarterly at the Village Hall with dates and times posted on the Village website. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

# Public Works DEPARTMENT

Public Works wishes you a pleasant New Year. We hope you've enjoyed the change of seasons and the festive decorations throughout the village.

## 1000-gallon liquid de-ice solution application system

Otherwise, Public Works and its fleet are prepared to take on the challenge of the winter season. While we still apply salt to our roadways, we also apply liquid anti-ice/de-ice solutions. These solutions delay and prevent the bond of ice to pavement, thus requiring little to no road salt. The solutions are cost effective and less intrusive to stormwater/meltwater drainage systems and their outlets.

(Please note that any mist overspray is unintentional, not harmful, and washes off vehicles easily.)

**Please help us to serve you better this season by being mindful of the following:**

- No parking on village streets after two inches (2") of snowfall
- Do not shovel/blow snow into the street
- Homeowners are responsible to ensure mailboxes, sidewalks, and fire hydrants adjacent to your property are clear and accessible
- Exercise patience and yield to snow removal vehicles in your vicinity

## 600-gallon liquid de-ice solution storage station at Public Works

Public Works follows this priority list for snow removal and/or salt or brine application:

- Through streets
- Side streets
- Cul de sac
- Public lots
- Alleys
- Pedestrian areas



Thank you in advance for your support this winter season as we aim to maintain clear and safe passageways throughout the village. To contact Public Works for any issues, call 708-839-3027 or send an email to [kgrantland@willowsprings-il.gov](mailto:kgrantland@willowsprings-il.gov). You may also call the Village Hall at 708-467-3700 and leave a message.

# Community EVENTS

**Cop On a Rooftop Bingo for Special Olympics**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2025**  
**7PM-10PM DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**  
**WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**8156 ARCHER AVENUE**

**Come out and support a great cause**

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

**BYOB - Bring Your Favorite Adult Beverage**  
**Food will be available for purchase**  
**Bring your friends and neighbors**  
**Must be 18 or older to attend**

All proceeds support this community program





**Lioness Lions Club Valentine Bingo**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025**  
**7PM-10PM DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**  
**WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**8156 ARCHER AVENUE**

**Valentine 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**

**BYOB - Bring Your Favorite Adult Beverage**  
**Food will be available for purchase**  
**Bring your friends and neighbors**  
**Must be 18 or older to attend**

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




VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS

**ADULT MOVIE**

**\* NIGHT \***

**FEATURED MOVIE**

**DATE NIGHT**

**★ COMMUNITY CENTER ★**  
 8156 ARCHER AVE. WILLOW SPRINGS, IL

FEB 28TH | DINNER CATERED BY SPRING FOREST DELI

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED | \$20 PER TICKET

**LIONESS LIONS CLUB SHAMROCK BINGO**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2025**  
**7PM-10PM DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**  
**WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**8156 ARCHER AVENUE**

**Shamrock 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**

**BYOB - Bring Your Favorite Adult Beverage**  
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**Fundraiser!**  
**Spring Flower Bulbs**  
 Dahlias • Lilies • Perennials • Seed Mats • More!

**Order Flower Bulbs & Support Our Cause!**  
 Online Orders Delivered Directly To Your Door!

Thank you for your continued support. Our Flower Power Fundraisers are held during the Spring, Fall & for the Holidays. We earn money on every purchase. And if we sell more than \$500, we earn 50% of every order. Currently, our SPRING Program is in full force. Orders begin shipping April 1, 2025 & website orders are due by May 15, 2025. These flowers can be shipped directly to your home or across the United States for family & friends. Happy Shopping & thank you for your support!

Visit Our Personalized Website By 05/15:  
<http://WillowSpringsLionsClub.fundraising.com>

Contact For More Information:  
[willowspringslionslions@gmail.com](mailto:willowspringslionslions@gmail.com)

Turn In Paper Order Forms By: **N/A**



**The Willow Springs Lions Community Dinner**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025**

The Willow Springs Lions will be serving-up "the other white meat" a boneless Pork Chop on a Bun, Baked Beans and Coleslaw Dinner.

Adults \$10.00

FREE DRINKS!  
 Bring 2 or more items for our local food pantries per person and receive a free soda or bottled water.

Take OUTS available

The Willow Springs Senior Center  
 8156 Archer Avenue • Willow Springs  
**Noon to 5:00 PM**

100% of all proceeds will be used to fund local programs!

Ticket information:  
 Mike Weeg 708-839-1056 & Mike Smigielski 708-839-5178



- JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> ADULT MOVIE AT COMMUNITY CENTER
- MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> EASTER EGG HUNTS
- APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
- JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALES
- JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> MUSIC IN THE PARK
- JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> VEHICLE STICKERS DUE
- JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> MUSIC IN THE PARK
- JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup>, 26<sup>TH</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup> WILLOW FEST
- JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> BLUES FEST

# Community GROUPS

## WS Parks & Rec

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The Parks and Recreation committee is looking forward to 2025 with some exciting events.

We have a Dinner and Movie at the Community center planned for Feb. 28th at 6:00 – buffet dinner catered by Spring Forest Deli and movie Date Night starring Steve Corell and Tina Fay. Tickets are **\$20.00** per person. Look for more information and ticket sales soon!

We have 3 concerts planned for the summer and 2 movies in the parks.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

## WS Historical Society

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This year we are hoping to complete our project that we started 30 years ago. We have just about laid out the plan for completion and with a little help from the Public Works Department we are determined to finish it.

This project started out as an honor to the C.C.C. men who gave so much to this country. At the time we began, we joined with Chapter #77 C.C.C. Alumni and it's members. We discovered the remains of the parking area used by the original camp. We spent months meeting with the Forest Preserve District and the Village of Willow Springs. We were finally given permission in June of 1994. The actual camp #612 was located on the hill above the parking area. The pictures are of the camp.



- AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> MOVIE IN THE PARK (LIONS PARK)
- SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> MOVIE IN THE PARK (WILLOW PARK)
- OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> FOOD PANTRY
- OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> WICKED WILLOW
- NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> WINTERFEST/COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

- DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> FOOD PANTRY




VILLAGE OF  
**Willow Springs**

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Web: [www.willowsprings-il.gov](http://www.willowsprings-il.gov)

 Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/villageofwillowsprings.il](https://facebook.com/villageofwillowsprings.il)

WILLOW SPRINGS LIONESS LIONS CLUBS  
**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OR COLLEGE FRESHMEN

The Willow Springs Lions/Lioness club is currently accepting applicants for their academic scholarship. To qualify you must be currently enrolled or accepted to an accredited college, university, or community college, as a full-time student with a 3.0 or higher GPA. You must be a Willow Springs resident for one year or more and you must be involved in extracurricular activities. If this sounds like you, please contact Lioness Cindy Layer at [Clayer@willowspringschool.org](mailto:Clayer@willowspringschool.org).

Applications are due by Friday, February 21, 2025



**MELISSA NEDDERMEYER**  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT



**TERRY CARR**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**ERNIE MOON**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**FRED POSCH**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**TOM ARRA**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**MIKE KENNEDY**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**RICK MIKA**  
VILLAGE TRUSTEE