



VILLAGE OF  
Willow Springs

# MESSENGER

FALL 2023 EDITION



*KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED*





# Message from the Mayor

Dear Willow Springs Residents,

As the seasons change from summer to fall, I am happy to share some updates from our wonderful community.

Summer events in Willow Springs were outstanding. Movies in the Park, Concerts in the Park, Blues Fest and Willow Fest attracted unprecedented numbers of attendees. These joyous events bring our community together, making it stronger and more vibrant. Village staff executed these events seamlessly. Sponsors and volunteers play a vital role in these events, and their support is appreciated. In the seasons to come, you can expect more events such as Wicked Willow, Paint Night, Winter Fest and more.

Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents continues with several infrastructure improvements completed this summer, and more projects planned before the year's end. This year, approximately \$500,000 has been invested in road repairs, sewer system upgrades, and upgrading public facilities.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the support and involvement of our amazing residents. Your dedication to making our community thrive is inspiring.

As we enter this fall season, I hope that you will take part in our events, enjoy the changing colors of our surroundings, and continue to be the heart of our community.

On behalf of myself and the Village Board of Trustees, we hope that you have a joyful and healthy fall season.

Warm regards,



Melissa Neddermeyer  
Willow Springs Village President



# Public Works DEPARTMENT

Welcome Fall!

As the cool weather continues, our crews are busy preparing the Village's easements, green spaces, roads, and parks for winter.

We strongly encourage residents to remove dead trees & branches and trim overgrown shrubs and plants located on their property. A clear pathway to your home along with proper address identification is pleasing to the eye and serves as a safety measure to enable first responders and medical personnel quick access to your home.



**Please review the following and ensure your home is safe & up to date.**

- Use reflective address numbers at least 3 inches high on all signs. This should be visible from the street both day and night.
- Homes utilizing multiple or shared mailboxes need additional signage displayed near your driveway on a post or other structure.
- Homes utilizing street mailboxes need numbers displayed on both sides of the box for visibility from both directions.
- Drive past your home at night and see if you can identify your home with just signage.

**Public Works leaf pick-up season starts in October and goes on until the end of the year, or the first major snow fall, whichever is first. There is no set schedule for leaf pick-up.**

Please pile leaves only in small or medium batches along your front easement near the street as close to the curb as possible without obstructing vehicle or pedestrian pathways. Do not pile leaves on any of the storm sewer inlets. Any leaf piles containing yard waste or branches WILL NOT be picked up by Public Works.

Don't forget you can also discard your yard waste (grass clippings, weeds, leaves, brush material, plants, pinecones, small branches) on your garbage pickup day. Please make sure you place the waste in brown paper yard waste bags and purchase a yard waste sticker for **\$2.50 from the Village Hall** to attach to the bag. LRS Waste Management Services also rents yard waste containers for this purpose for the season (4/1 to 12/31). You can contact them at **773-685-8811** for this service.

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Be safe and have a happy fall!

Thank you,

**Keith Grantland**

Director of Public Works

kgrantland@willowspring-il.gov

(708) 839-3027

# Police Department NEWS

In our last edition, I mentioned that we were planning for the upcoming Blues Fest and Willow Fest. I am happy to report that both events went off without a hitch. The success was primarily due to planning, and a great team effort, from both within Willow Springs and outside assistance. In the policing area, we received great assistance from the Lyons Police Department, Cook County Sheriffs Office, Summit Police Department, McCook Police Department, AG Valley Railroad Police, Bridgeview ESDA, Hodgkins ESDA, Chicago Ridge ESDA, and Monterrey Security. Congratulations and thanks to all involved, particularly our volunteer residents who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of both events, which were the highlights of our summer.

We have been working to keep our ranks full, and we have had a number of recent retirements and hires. Congratulations to Police Officer Jaime Annen who was recently hired full time. Jaime comes to us from the A.G Railroad Police. Additionally, we hired a new Community Service Officer, Liliana Madrigal. Both Jaime and Liliana bring great energy to the department and are welcome additions.

Corporal Ed McKinney was honored at the September 14, 2023 Village meeting, and received his retirement star from Village Board President Melissa Neddermeyer. Ed worked thirty years as a police officer in Palos Hills PD, Countryside PD, and came to us in Willow Springs in 2017. He will be sorely missed. But on a bright note, we now have two openings for Corporal, and will be testing soon to fill those vacancies. Upward mobility is important to the morale of the department.

Finally, we have also hired three new part time officers, Michael Vesconte, Daniel Seropian, and Joseph Feuler, all three have a wealth of experience in policing, and we continue to interview for incoming officers. There seems to be no shortage of qualified officers who want to work here. We expect to keep our ranks full to provide the best police service to our residents.

Happy fall everybody!

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

**TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**FALL 2023**

**About Fire Prevention Week**

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires. Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?  
**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**

**Pay attention to fire prevention.**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
fpw.org

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**Call our Fire Prevention Bureau to schedule a safety speaker for your organization!**  
630-654-6284

**WWW.TRISTATEFD.COM for more information!**

Contact our Fire Prevention Bureau at 630-654-6284  
for information on free smoke alarms and free loaner emergency access boxes  
We're here to help!

# Community EVENTS



VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS PRESENTS

## WICKED WILLOW

CANDY - BONFIRE - HAYRIDES - PONIES - PETTING ZOO

**TUESDAY, OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup> LIONS PARK**  
 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM      201 PARK STREET

Village of Willow Springs Presents

## Winter Fest

Join us for delicious food, photos with Santa, & gifts for all kids.

\*Event is open for those with special needs from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Saturday, November 18, 2023  
 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Royalty West Banquets  
 8675 Archer Avenue Willow Springs, IL

## Paint Night

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 6:30-9:00PM

WILLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER  
 8156 ARCHER AVENUE,  
 WILLOW SPRINGS, IL 60480

**thehennhouse** provides a uniquely creative experience for arts & crafts lovers of all ages. We provide all the materials, you just follow our easy instructions and add your own personal touch. We will be making a seasonal piece stenciled on wood.

\$35 per person  
 Pre-register with the village hall, space is limited.  
 Bring your favorite beverages and snacks!

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER EVENT SPONSORS

- |                          |                                    |                             |                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Absopure                 | Greg + Arlene Lauriano             | Pleasant Dale Park District | TPS Sports + Fitness        |
| AFSCME Local 2912        | Hyper-IT                           | Rowell Chemical Corporation | Tressler LLP                |
| Argo Roofing Company     | Justice Willow Springs Water Comm. | Royalty West Banquets       | WDCB 90.9 FM                |
| Bruce Zartler            | Keith's Cartage & Excavating       | Sandi Auto & Truck Repair   | Willow Springs Friendly Tap |
| Chester's Tavern & Pizza | Kustom Towing Inc.                 | Senator John Curan          | Willow Springs Remax Market |
| CIC Transportation       | Liuna Local 225                    | Sinnott Tree Service        | Willow Springs Senior Club  |
| City Social Marketing    | Louis F. Cainkar, LTD.             | Steak & Egger               | Windy City Blues Society    |
| Dark Water Studio        | Mo's Willow Pub & Grub             | Teamsters Joint Council 25  | Young at Heart              |
| Golf Rush Amusements     | Nino's Italian Beef & Hot Dogs     | Technicraft Collision       |                             |
| Grand Prairie Transit    | Novotny Engineering                | Township of Lyons           |                             |

# Beautification COMMISSION

Summer's bounty at Legacy Garden Park is a sweet memory for the gardeners who harvested the last of the fruits and vegetables their boxes produced. Before ending the season, the Beautification Commission celebrated the re-dedication of this project on Friday, August 25, 2023. Many neighbors and Village officials attended to view the exciting enhancements realized in the last months.

The Openlands/ComEd Matching Grant secured in Fall, 2022, kicked off the possibilities that followed. The grant funds made possible the addition of lovely murals decorating the water tank fences and Little Library, constructed by Gold Award Girl Scout Kiley Mahoney. The addition of a spacious gazebo and picnic benches gave gardeners a place to relax and space for educational programming. Eagle Scout Zach Walsh and his fellow scouts added walkways throughout the park to ease the way for gardeners and visitors. A beautiful Redbud tree and native plants were the finishing touches to this lovely space.

Best of all was the camaraderie and sense of community the Park brought to our Village. Gardeners traded produce and ideas; and fresh vegetables and fruit were donated to the Grace Lutheran Church Food Panty. The Park became a meeting place strengthening neighbors' bonds. The Commission's vision became a reality.

As we begin the dormant gardening season, Commissioners are energized to secure funding for further enhancements. Fundraising is key! The Paving the Way to History Brick Project has been a welcome way to support our work and leave a lasting legacy in the Village. Applications to purchase a specially-inscribed brick to be installed in the Village Hall walkway are available on the Village website.

The ever-popular "Not So Serious Bingo" will return on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 7pm to 10pm at the Community Center. Please mark your calendars for a fun evening benefiting Beautification Commission projects.

We are very grateful to all who have supported our work and look forward to continuing our efforts to bring beauty and strong community bonds to Willow Springs. Commissioners are eager to hear your suggestions and comments. Please reach out to us with your ideas. Thank you!



# Community GROUPS

## **WILLOW SPRINGS SENIOR CLUB**

Greetings from the WS Senior Club. We are happy to introduce three more new members, Carol, Art & Linda! We are so happy to welcome you to our family!

On a very warm, very breezy day, we celebrated June with a picnic at Lions Park. In addition to delicious food, we played bingo, had a horse race, 50/50 and great camaraderie. It's easy to have fun and make memories with great friends!

Tri-state Fire Department representative EMS Director, Jim Gutierrez attended our August meeting to demonstrate how and when to use the AED equipment at the Community Center. His presentation was informative, interesting, and easy to understand. THANK YOU JIM!

We are planning a food drive this fall to benefit the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry. Finally, we are in planning stage for our Christmas Party in December. Time is flying!

We have an extensive paperback library for your reading pleasure and a small group of card players (open to more) who meet on Mondays from 10:30 – noon. Some of the "guys" hangout on Wednesdays from 10:30 – noon. Stop by and visit.

Hopefully, by sharing our activities and news YOU might decide to join us. Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Community Center, 8156 S Archer. Doors open at 10:30, there's a brief meeting at 11AM, followed by lunch, a raffle and bingo. For more info contact member Chairperson Nancy Phillips at 708-209-5581.

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

In this fast paced world we live in it is hard to keep up with the many changes that are occurring daily. Our members are trying very hard to piece in the past and record the missing parts that are still out there waiting to be collected.

We are going to present a program entitled "In Person History Chat" at the Community Center on October 14th, 2023 and are hoping we can bring people together with their stories of the history of the village before they are completely gone. Time is running out and soon they will be gone forever. This meeting is open to the public at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. We may also have virtual participation. We hope many citizens will attend and join us for this event.

## **WILLOW SPRINGS LIONESS LIONS CLUB - Continued on back page**

The Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club was present and sponsored fun gift bags at Willow Fest for all the special needs kids and adults. Lion Luna was there also to put smiles on all. It was a true honor to help out at this most special annual event. Also, some of our members helped in the beer tent.





# VILLAGE OF Willow Springs


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 Like us on Facebook

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

The Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club held their annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser September 17. We had a fantastic turnout and want to thank the community and beyond for their continued support.



LIONESS LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST



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