



## Village President's Message—Vol. XXVI

*January 2018*



Ann Potter  
Village President

Happy New Year! Sometimes it does not seem possible that it is 2018. As a young person growing up in Kenilworth in the 1970's, the year 2020 seemed like an eternity away. Indeed, our community's Centennial celebration in 1996 seems like yesterday rather than 21 years ago. Now the Village Board and I are discussing project planning for 2019 and 2020. Before I delve into what we are considering for the future, however, let me to update you on what we've accomplished in 2017.

In January, the Village began acquiring drinking water from the Village of Wilmette. After years of analysis, the board decided it would be more cost effective in the long run to install a new pumping station at Glendenning and Kenilworth Avenue rather than to sink additional money into our ageing, and failing water plant. The long-term agreement with Wilmette should allow us to maintain our water rates at their 2016 level for years to come. A number of residents including me, had a higher than normal water bill this fall and several questioned whether this was a result of an increase in their rates. The higher bills were the result of a very dry fall and some glitches with the timely transmission of water usage from the meters in previous months.

May of 2017 brought some changes to the composition of our Village Board. Cecily Kaz and Jeff Bedwell were elected to their first terms as Village Trustees while Scott Lien was reelected for his second term as Trustee and Peter Shaddek and Alison Winslow continued their terms. Tim Ransford was also elected Village Clerk. Bill Russell stepped down as President in May 2017 and I succeeded him. Also, during the year Trustee Joe Konen and his wife, Judy, moved out of the Village, unfortunately necessitating his resignation from the Board. To fill his position, former Trustee James McClamroch, Jr. agreed to return to our Village Board. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to President Bill Russell and former Trustees James Hughes, Kevin Lennon, and Joe Konen for their service to our community. Their dedication and service has been critical in improving our Village in both the short and long terms.

Earlier this year, the Village combined police dispatching services with the villages of Winnetka, Northfield and Glencoe. In 2015 the state required dispatch centers serving less than 25,000 people to combine operations. The communities examined options from

### Village President

Ann Potter

### Village Trustees

Scott Lien

Peter Shaddek

Alison Winslow

Cecily Kaz

Jeff Bedwell

James R. McClamroch, Jr.

### Treasurer

Patrick Garvey

### Village Clerk

Tim Ransford

### Village Manager

Patrick Brennan

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starting their own dispatch center to contracting with an existing provider, and ultimately decided to contract with the Village of Glenview. Our officers still patrol the streets, but they are now dispatched on calls from a radio center in Glenview. The police department's front desk continues to be manned during regular business hours and our lobby in the Village Hall remains open 24 hours. There is also a convenient video kiosk available to contact the dispatch center after 5:00 p.m. The change reduced our annual cost of providing dispatch services and the savings are being directed toward addressing our growing police pension liabilities and public safety expenses.

The Village retained its Aaa rating with Moody's Investor Services in 2017. Many communities have been experiencing increases in their public safety pension liabilities, reductions in state revenue distributions and other expenditure pressures. Kenilworth is no different. The situation has caused some communities to either be downgraded or receive a negative outlook from their rating agencies. Despite the challenges we have been able to maintain Moody's highest rating and a stable outlook due to our conservative financial practices and method of addressing our pension liabilities.

We recently completed several significant improvements to our water distribution system. A new 12" water main running under Kenilworth Avenue and the railroad tracks provided us with a second large-volume connection between the two halves of our water system. This allowed us to perform maintenance on the other 12" water main running under the tracks. The 1926 water main was improved with a cured-in-place liner. The new liner, expected to last 40+ years, eliminates leaking joints and protects against a catastrophic break to the water main. We have been making a number of important improvements to our water distribution system over the past 5 years that are designed to improve fire hydrant flow rates, reduce water loss, and improve the dependability of our system.

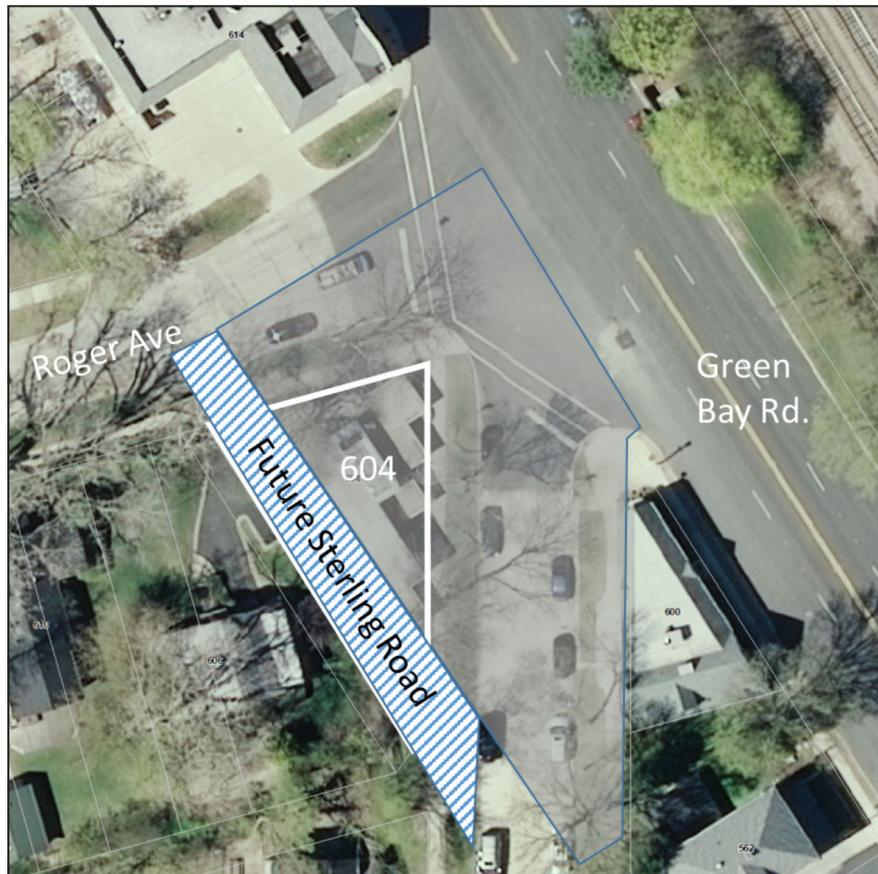
This was our first full season with the green infrastructure system on Cumberland and Melrose Avenues and Roslyn Road. The new system separated the formerly combined sewer into separate storm and sanitary sewers. The KW2023 project was funded in part by support from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) as a means to reduce basement and roadway flooding. Several significant rain storms put our new system to the test in 2017. An MWRD monitoring station showed that the 42" storm sewer at Melrose and Sheridan had a peak of 10" of water during the significant rain in October. The new system is performing even better than expected and we will continue to monitor the project to identify future opportunities to improve.

In the past few weeks the Village took a significant step toward improving the intersection of Roger, Sterling and Green Bay Road. The three-way junction has been studied for many years and an important component to improving its safety was the acquisition of 604 Green Bay Road. I am happy to report that after several years of on and off discussions, we reached an agreement for the purchase of the property. The closing occurred on December 28<sup>th</sup> and we are in the process of developing plans to remove the small office building and reorient Sterling Road. As an added benefit, the reconfigured intersection will provide new frontage on Green Bay Road. It is our hope that the newly configured property may attract investors interested in bringing new development to the Village.

Looking toward the future, there are a number of notable projects being planned for 2018 and beyond, the largest of which is Phase II of the Kenilworth 2023 Infrastructure Improvement Project. You may recall

that there are two primary objectives for the project: 1) to reduce the incidents of sanitary sewer surcharges into basements, streets and Lake Michigan, and 2) improve the flow rates at our fire hydrants to a level acceptable to the Winnetka Fire Department. As the Public Works Committee works with staff to affirm the areas for improvement, there is a consensus that the southwest quadrant of town requires increased water flow rates and the southeast quadrant has the highest need for flooding relief. As we work to identify the exact streets to be improved, we are also working on identifying options for funding Phase II of the three-phase capital improvement plan.

During the past three months of Village Board Meetings, we have been discussing options to obtain funding for Phase II in a way that would not increase the amount of property taxes directed toward debt payments. In December 2018, the Village will have made its last payment on a bond that is funded by \$416,000 in property taxes. Another funding source for our Village operations and projects has been an annual debt service authority. That amount has been set at \$600,000 since 1999 when it was first authorized by a voter referendum. With the retiring of the 1998 bonds, in December of this year, the Village can extend its debt service authority by \$400,000 without an increase in the Village's debt service portion of residents' property tax bills.



Improved Sterling Road Intersection

On the March 2018 ballot, voters will be asked to approve this increase of the debt service authority. Should the voters approve the referendum, the Village Board will have a new option for helping to fund Phase II of the KW2023 program. If approved, the Board plans to combine this new authority with a mix of existing fund balances and grants to finance the next wave of infrastructure improvements. Phase II project designs will be initiated in 2018 based upon the outcome of the March referendum.

Also in 2018, we'll begin the design work on a number of capital projects. You may recall that the Village was successful in obtaining a federal grant to help rejuvenate the western section of Kenilworth Avenue. I am also pleased to report that we were recently successful in obtaining another federal grant to rehabilitate the eastern half of Kenilworth Avenue. The grant will cover 70% of the design and construction cost for the \$800,000 project. Design work will occur in 2018 with the goal of paving in 2019.

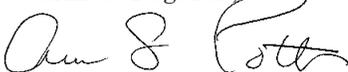
Given the response rate for our survey on the future of the now de-commissioned water plant, we recognize the deep and broad interest in the future of our lakefront facilities. Thanks to all who participated. While the long-term future of the water plant will take a while to sort through, we are planning to make some short term and much needed improvements to amenities for our beachgoers in time for this summer.

You may have noticed that each summer our elevated water tank turns an unpleasant green under the bulb section. The green is caused by mold that is able to adhere to the paint which has lost its protective coating over the years. A recent inspection of the tank confirmed that the tank needs to be recoated (painted) soon as it is starting to rust in spots. In 2018 we will be starting the design work for the recoating specifications. The cost to recoat the interior and exterior of the water tank will be in the neighborhood of \$275-300,000. We have been saving funds in anticipation of the work which is likely to happen in 2019. Until then, we will give the water tank another scrubbing in the summer when the mold makes its return.

Finally, as we embark on 2018, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the dozens of residents who volunteer their time, energy and expertise by serving on our commissions and community boards. The Village Board and staff rely on their input to maintain our town's character and create the starting points for Board decisions. I also wish to thank you for the support that the community has shown for our village staff and Village Board, a sentiment I most heartily echo. Over the past five years, we've seen a number of changes dealing with many aspects of village life, including significant infrastructure projects. We recognize that these have most certainly been inconvenient for many of you. Despite that, nearly all of the neighbors I have spoken with are able to see benefits of these undertakings and believe that the dust and inconvenience are a price worth paying for these long needed improvements.

I wish each and every one of your all the very best in 2018.

Warmest Regards,



Ann Potter  
Village President

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