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Village of Kenilworth Newsletter

Volume 3

www.villageofkenilworth.org

January/February/March 2006

Welcome to the Village of Kenilworth Newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you informed of activities and information impacting our Village. Also refer to the Village website or call Village Hall if you have questions.



Letter from the Village President

Special points of interest:

- Village Board Actions January—March 2006
- Home Rule Committee Formed
- New Village Employees
- Community Affairs
- Special Village Committees
- Calendar
- Architectural Tours of Kenilworth
- Park District Update and Summer Camp Information

The Village has started 2006 at full speed. We continue to move forward on a variety of issues facing Kenilworth.

As we approach the spring, I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of safety. My top priority is the safety of our Village and residents. We need to be keenly aware of our crosswalks, railroad crossing, busy and not so busy streets, pedestrians, motor traffic and bicycles as the weather warms up.

Our Village is beautiful and thankfully, our residents like to walk to and from school, the train, and enjoy our parks, the beach and our neighbors. The Police Department in concert with the Village staff work together to ensure our safety.

Our Police Department operates under the philosophy of education and enforcement. They work closely with residents to educate us on the laws of our Village as well as on issues we face regarding safety and security. In addition to the educational component, they professionally enforce the

laws to ensure our safety.

During the past year, the Board has been working to address construction concerns. The building department has actively implemented changes and the Police Department has supported the Village efforts with increased enforcement action. We have seen many improvements in sites throughout the Village and are prepared to meet the challenges that will accompany the upcoming construction season.

In January, the Police Department conducted a railroad crossing safety campaign to address unsafe and illegal practices at the Kenilworth Avenue Railroad Crossing. Over the past several months there has been a growing level of concern about pedestrians walking around the crossing gates after the gates are down in order to catch a train. On occasion, we have heard of motorists driving around the railroad crossing barricades. This is against the law. The most recent safety campaign included

educational activities as well as firm enforcement and has involved hundreds of commuters. We are seeing significant improvement in safety at the railroad crossing.

To assist in addressing complaints about speeding vehicles, the Police Department has recently purchased a new portable speed display unit which attaches to street signs or posts. This new technology will allow us to track and display speeds on some of the narrower streets as well as streets upon which our current speed trailer can not be placed.

The Police are working closely with the schools to address ongoing safety concerns around parking and congestion. We will work together to solve this issue to ensure the safety of our children.

Let's join the Police and the Village staff to make our Village the safest place it can be. As always, we welcome your thoughts, suggestions and active participation in areas of interest to you. Meeting dates are on the website, posted in the Train Station, at the Village Hall and listed in this Newsletter. We look forward to working with you. Thank you for your continued support.

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Village Update

Blue Ribbon Committee on Home Rule Investigation

At the January 2006 Village Board Meeting, President Tolbert Chisum announced the formation of a "Blue Ribbon" Committee to study the issue of home rule as it relates to the Village of Kenilworth. Resident Doug Petrie has agreed to serve as Chair the Home Rule Investigation Committee. The Committee has been charged to report findings to the Board at the June 2006 Board Meeting.

Additional members of the Committee include: Will Hagenah, Jack Mills, Richard Nicolaides, and Jane Williamson.

Two New Members to the Building Review Commission

Two positions on the Building Review Commission became open due to expiring terms. Jane Hopper and Richard Schumacher were nominated and approved by a unanimous vote of the Village Board to fill the two positions, each for a three year term. Ms. Hopper is a registered Interior Designer and received a B.S. in Home Economics, Interior Design from the University of Missouri. Mr. Schumacher is a former Village Trustee for eleven years, and has served in many capacities in the Village. He is a former Quaker Oats executive and has a B.S. in Business Administration from Lehigh University.

If the Gates are Down.....

Do Not Cross

In January, the Police Department conducted a railroad crossing safety campaign to address unsafe and illegal practices around the Kenilworth Avenue Train Crossing. There has been a growing level of concern about pedestrians walking around the crossing gates when they are down. During this campaign, police officers have interacted with hundreds of commuters, distributed safety fliers, issued warning tickets as well as citations. Safety fliers have been posted in the train station and informational messages have been posted on the local cable channel and on the Police website. The Police are also working with Metra to post new signage indicating penalty fines. The possible penalty if a ticket is issued ranges from \$250-\$500. This will be an on-going campaign to keep our residents safe!

Thanks & Honors

The Village Board has passed a Resolution of Appreciation for Retired Water and Electricity Superintendent, Ben Mercieri, and for Former Trustee James D. Wilson. Mr. Mercieri served the Village and our residents for 35 years. He oversaw the completion of important community improvements, the benefits of which will be realized for many years to come. Mr. Wilson served as a Village Trustee for two and a half years and served on the following committees: Building Planning and Zoning, Building Review Commission, Architectural Review Commission, Plan Commission, Police & Fire, and Water and Electricity Committees. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to service.

The Board also approved resolutions of sympathy for the unexpected loss of former resident Charles Shaw and for long time resident William B. Graham. Both gentlemen contributed significantly to the Village and will be missed.

New Addition to Village Staff

Maryann Van Dyke has joined the Village staff as Finance Administrator. Her background is in governmental fund accounting. Maryann comes to us after serving Zion Township for eight years as Accounting Manager. The

responsibilities of the Finance Administrator include the day to day management of the Village assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Mary Ann lives in Zion, and has three grown children and one new grandchild.

New Water Department Superintendent

Kevin Zeoli is the new Water Department Superintendent. He and his wife have three children and live in Mundelein. Kevin comes to Kenilworth from the City of Evanston where he was employed in the Water Dept. for 20 years, including thirteen years as the Maintenance Supervisor. His duties in Kenilworth include, operations, maintenance, and

repair of the Village's water treatment plant, including the water distribution system. He is also responsible for the reading and repair of all water meters, maintenance and repair of fire hydrants and he oversees the maintenance and repair of the street lights and traffic control signals.

Board Action Update

Current Activities and Actions of the Board of Trustees

In this issue, the business of the Board of Trustees during the months of January, February, and March 2006 is highlighted. The actions taken by the Board relating to the headlined committee are listed below.

Plan Commission

- At the February Board Meeting, returned the question of the Proposed 517 Greenwood Avenue Subdivision to the Plan Commission for further consideration.
- At the March Board Meeting, approved a Resolution Approving the Tentative Plat of Subdivision for 517 Greenwood Avenue with a 25 foot side yard setback along the angled north/west lot line of the lot. Storm water drainage engineering studies will be conducted prior to approval of a final plat.
- Recommended the Village further study irregularly shaped lots to provide more clarity for future situations.
- Approved engagement of Houseal Lavigne Associates for Commercial Area and Comprehensive Planning Services.

Building Planning and Zoning

- Passed Ordinance #948 Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Kenilworth, 1969, as Amended Regarding Vegetation Rows. The purpose of the Ordinance is to keep the Village tradition of open front yards. The topic was proposed and reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee and reviewed by the Building, Planning and Zoning Committee prior to public hearings. The Ordinance expands the definition of sight triangles to include the intersection

of driveways at the front lot lines. To maintain consistency with the Village's fence requirements for front yards, Ordinance #948 limits the height of extended vegetation rows used as a boundary or barrier in the front yard to a height of 4 feet along the property line in the required front yard (excluding properties along Ridge Road and Sheridan Road).

- Passed Ordinance #949 Amending the Zoning Ordinance of 1969, as Amended, Regarding Building Permits. This Ordinance eliminates virtually all references to building permits from the Zoning Ordinance in order to provide consistent language between the Building code and the Zoning Ordinance.
- Passed Ordinance #950 Amending the Municipal Code of 1959 as Amended Regarding Building Permit Length and Extensions. The Ordinance brings clarity to building permit time sequences and provides for a permit extension mechanism. It also provides for the duration of a building permit for fences, impervious surfaces or work valuing less than \$50,000 to have a permit time of twelve months, rather than the current eighteen months. The extension provision allows for a six (6) month extension, with a total of twelve (12) months of such extensions allowed. Extensions may be granted because of delays resulting from strikes, fire, windstorm or other circumstances beyond the applicant's control. The Ordinance also establishes a late work fee escrow, in order to allow the Village to have funds to cover its costs and expenses in the event the permit holder fails to comply with the necessary final inspections by the time of expiration of the permit.

- Approved Resolution R2006-03 Setting Late Fee Escrow and Permit Extension Fee. The Resolution set the amount of the fee escrow.

- A discussion on Ordinance #951, Amending Chapter 32 of the Municipal Code, 1959, as Amended, regarding Subdivisions was referred back to the Building Planning and Zoning Committee.

Community Affairs

- Referred the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation on Zoning Credits and Zoning Variance Standards to the Building Planning and Zoning Committee for their consideration.
- Referred the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation on Historic Preservation to the Community Affairs Committee for further study.
- Approved a Resolution Extending the Term of Appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee for an additional eight months in order to allow it to work with the Plan Commission on the Comprehensive Plan.

Finance

- Approved the authorization of Manager Slankard to negotiate a final audit agreement with auditing firm Sikich, Gardner & Co. for a four year contract to conduct the auditing of the Village, Park District and Police Pension Board accounts.
- Introduced strategic forecasting template for use in planning 2007 budgeting process and long term financial plan.

News You Can Use

Upcoming Recycling Events

April is Environmental Awareness Month. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is sponsoring several Document Destruction Events. The dates for the Spring and Summer 2006 are:
 Wilmette— April 22
 Arlington Heights— April 29
 Palatine— June 10
 Evanston— July 15

Questions on these events and others, please check the website at www.swancc.org or contact Mary

Keep a Watch on Your Cats

Some residents are concerned about the safety of birds and other small mammals when cats are allowed outside without a leash or a bell. Please be aware of the danger a roaming cat presents and consider putting a bell on your cat's collar as a warning to birds or other small mammals that the cat is coming.

Keep the Skokie Ditch

The Village would like to remind owners of property on the Skokie Ditch to make sure that their portion of the Skokie Ditch is clean and flowing.

During your spring clean up, or before, please remove all leaves, branches and debris from the Ditch, so that properties downstream aren't faced with a monumental clean up job, and to minimize potential flooding and backup problems.

Thank you!

Board Action Update Continued

Police and Fire

- The Department is currently creating a new eligibility list for the purpose of hiring a new Police Officer.
- A portable speed display unit has been purchased to help in slowing traffic on narrow or difficult streets in which a speed trailer can not be used. The device can be attached to signs or similar poles.
- The Annual Police Department Report was presented at the March Village Board Meeting. It is an impressive recap of the work the Department accomplished in 2005. To see the entire report, please go online to the Police website: www.kenilworthpd.org.
- A report of the E-911 February Board meeting was reviewed.

Public Works

- Approved the low-bid contract from Arbor Green Ltd. of

Glenview for the annual tree trimming program. Tree trimming is taking place now.

Water and Electricity

- A total of 313 street lighting stops were made in 2005, of which 244 were for burn outs, 14 for damage and the rest for various electrical problems. We have 419 street lights in the Village.
- A main break to the water pipes was repaired at 331 Essex Road.
- In January, 19 water meters were removed and reset.

Other

- Approved Joseph Sears School 2006 Benefit Raffles.
- Approved the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation raffle and game.

- Approved the reappointment of Officer Earl Tuckman and Lieutenant Phil Brunell to the E-911 Board.

- Approved the Family Service Center of Glenview, Kenilworth, Northbrook and Wilmette raffle request.

Upcoming Board Issues

- Building Planning and Zoning is addressing the following issues: revision of the subdivision code, zoning credits, zoning variation standards, residential design guidelines for new houses, and zoning dimensional standards.
- Community Affairs is creating an RFP to secure information on costs for website redesign.
- The Water Committee is studying the reduction of the cost of water.

In More Detail

This section will give more detail or focus on specific issues of interest or special committees that are looking into important issues on behalf of the Village. In future issues we may also highlight a specific area of Village activity.

An Inside Look into Community Affairs

Community Affairs Committee
John McGinnis, Chairman;
Trustees Craig Miller and Cristy Laier, Members, is the standing Board Committee that is tasked with looking at issues that go beyond the bounds of the roles of the other standing committees. In recent years, the Community Affairs Committee has led the discussions on diverse topics such as the Village's recycling program and yard waste collection programs; interaction with the Beautification Committee/Council of Garden Clubs on community landscape enhancements; beautification of the Village's Water Tower Park site; oversight of the Village's cable TV franchise agreement; discussion on holiday displays; and community identification signage. Additionally, over the last two years, the members of the Committee were also involved in the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Planning's deliberations.

Currently, the Committee is working, along with Village Clerk Bob Hastings, on the review and redevelopment of the Village's website, www.villageofkenilworth.org. Under Clerk Hastings direction, a number of improvements have been made to the Village's current site. However, given the limitations of the site and software, redevelopment of the site is necessary. The Committee is interested in feedback from residents and users of the site in terms of features that should be incorporated in a new web site. Clerk Hastings will be working with a small group of local residents to provide technical advice and assistance on the development of the new website. Within the next month, Clerk Hastings will be developing, for the review and approval of the Committee, a Request for Proposals for

redevelopment of the website. The Village looks forward to the opportunity to improve this important communication medium. To submit comments on the website, go to info@villageofkenilworth.org on the webpage.

At the request of a resident, the Committee also recently discussed requiring cats to wear bells. The concern was generated by loss of small wild animals due to hunting by cats. The Committee concluded that state law does not give the Village authority to regulate cats. However, the Committee agreed that it would attempt to raise awareness on this issue, and encourage cat owners in the community to be sensitive to their neighbors and small animal lovers.

If you have an issue of Community concern, please contact the Village and we will do our best to assist you.

Calendar

Residents are encouraged to attend Village Board and Committee meetings. Upcoming meetings follow with dates, subject to change. Check the website (www.villageofkenilworth.org) or call Village Hall to confirm. Meetings are generally held at Village Hall unless otherwise noted.

April 2006

- 4/3 - Plan Commission Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 4/5 - Finance Committee Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- 4/6 - Park District Board Meeting—5:00 p.m.
- 4/10 - Village Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- 4/13 - Building, Planning and Zoning Committee—7:30 p.m.
- 4/19 - Building Review Commission—7:30 p.m.
- 4/25 - Building, Planning and Zoning Committee—7:30 p.m.

May 2006

- 5/1 - Plan Commission Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 5/3 - Finance Committee Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- 5/4 - Park District Board Meeting—5:00 p.m.
- 5/8 - Village Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- 5/9 - Building, Planning and Zoning Committee—7:30 p.m.

June 2006

- 6/1 - Park District Board Meeting—5:00 p.m.
- 6/6 - Building, Planning and Zoning Committee—7:30 p.m.
- 6/7 - Finance Committee Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- 6/12 - Village Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.
- 6/20 - Building, Planning and Zoning Committee—7:30 p.m.

In More Detail

AD HOC Committee

The Ad Hoc committee has continued to meet to work on the following topics: Zoning Incentives for Existing Structures, Historic Preservation and continuing work on educational opportunities for the community about protection of the character of Kenilworth.

At the January Village Board Meeting, the Committee presented its recommendations on Zoning Credits and Zoning Variance Standards. To see the full recommendation go to the Village Website or stop by Village Hall for a copy of Ad Hoc's recommendation. The topic was forwarded to the Building, Planning and Zoning

Committee for their consideration.

At the March Board Meeting, the Committee's recommendation to establish National Register Historic Districts was presented. The recommendation called for the creation of a Historic Preservation Ordinance which establishes a Historic Preservation Commission to accomplish the immediate goal of establishing National Register Historic Districts in the Village. It was forwarded to the Community Affairs Committee for further study and consideration.

The committee is now focused on its work towards the residential

component of the Comprehensive Plan. The Ad Hoc Committee's work will be blended with the Plan Commission's work toward a full Village Comprehensive Plan.

Kelley Bergstrom has been appointed as a new member of the Ad Hoc Committee, replacing Bob Smietana. Mr. Bergstrom is President of Bergstrom Investment Management. He has a long career in the real estate arena.

Ad Hoc Committee Members include: John McGinnis, Chairman, Cristy Laier, Beth Baxter, Kelly Bergstrom, Tim Dugan, Bill Folland and John Vitt.

Plan Commission

On November 17, 2005, January 12, 2006 and March 6, 2006 the Plan Commission met and heard public comments on the application submitted by 517 Greenwood LLC for Tentative Subdivision Approval at 517 Greenwood Avenue. This application proposed to move the common lot line between the two existing lots of record, resulting in two reconfigured lots. This is the first plat of subdivision that has been presented to the Village in many years. The hearings involved much discussion with residents as well as the applicant and legal counsel. The Commission presented its recommendation to accept the Tentative Plat of Subdivision for 517 Greenwood Avenue at the February Village Board Meeting. The Board remanded the issue

back to the Plan Commission for further consideration. The Commission met again on March 6th to address the Board questions. The Commission presented their recommendation at the March Village Board Meeting to accept the Tentative Plat of Subdivision with several changes, including a self-imposed 25 foot side yard setback along the angled north/west lot line. The subdivision was granted, as was a variance to account for the irregular shape of the lot. It was confirmed that prior to a Final Plat being approved, storm water drainage engineering studies would be conducted in compliance with the Illinois Plat Act.

The Plan Commission has also been soliciting Requests for Proposals from planning firms to

provide consulting services to assist the Village in developing a Comprehensive Plan, including the Village Commercial District. After considering the proposals and conducting interviews at the February and March meetings, the Plan Commission recommended engaging the services of Houseal Lavigne Associates (HLPlanning.com) for developing and implementing the Commercial Area and Comprehensive Planning Services.

The members of the Plan Commission are as follows: Robert Smietana, Chairman, Tim Dugan, Gwen Sommers Yant, Henry Mawicke, Dirk Degenaars, Elizabeth Bannon, Susan Hoopes, Tolbert Chisum (Ex-officio, Village President), Robert Cunningham (Ex-officio, ZBA Chairman), Thomas Feeney (Ex-officio, Park District President).

Updates from Around Town

Chicago Architecture Foundation Adds Two Tours of Kenilworth to the 2006 Schedule

Planned in the 1890s as an ideal suburban village, Kenilworth is a treasure trove of residential architecture designed by distinguished Chicago architects. Walk Kenilworth's leafy streets, learn its history, and see remarkable examples of Queen Anne, Prairie, progressive Chicago Modernist, Revivalist and Austrian-Successionist inspired houses. The architect and Kenilworth resident George W. Maher was instrumental in planning the village and his

many residential commissions display the evolution of his design career.

Other noted architects along the North Route are: Franklin Burnham, Joseph Lyman Silsbee, Walter Burley Griffin, John Van Bergen, and Nimmons and Fellows.

The South Route also includes the work of Franklin Burnham, Daniel Burnham, Frank Lloyd Wright, Tallmadge and Watson, and

Richard Schmidt.

The North Route of this tour will be given on May 28, August 27, October 22, 2006. The South Route of this tour will be given on April 23, June 25, September 24, 2006.

Meet at the Kenilworth Train Station at 1:00 p.m. on the date you desire to attend. Tickets are \$10 a person. For more information visit the website at: www.architecture.org.

Architectural Tours Coming Out of Hibernation

The Kenilworth Historical Society is pleased to tell you that on Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m. Bill Hinchliff, noted architectural historian recently featured in the Chicago Tribune, is "coming home" to conduct a tour of Kenilworth's west side, along with Kathleen Cummings, a Maher scholar and lecturer at Northwestern University.

The tour will begin in our museum (415 Kenilworth Ave.) with the exhibit "The Suburban ideal, Revisited", which examines the various architects and house styles found in the village. The walking part of the tour will center on the Kenilworth Community Development which was the George W. Maher and Son's planned development on the west side, the

site of the original North Shore Country Club. Tickets for the lecture-tour are \$10 and will be available at the door. For more information call the museum at (847) 251-2565.

The lecture tour is sponsored by Pleasant Home Foundation which maintains the John Farson house, designed by George Maher.

Park District Update

2006 has been full of excitement! The Saturday morning pee-wee basketball program, for grades 1-3, was enjoyed all. It is wonderful to watch the children increase their skills and learn the importance of good sportsmanship. It is also great to see past players now in the role of referee. Thank you to our Sears alumni, for another fantastic year!

On to baseball! The K.P.D. is pleased to offer a baseball clinic for students in K-8 grades. The clinic will be run by The Illinois Baseball Academy. Questions, call Heidi Higgins, 251-3131.

We are excited to announce for the first time a Kenilworth Lacrosse

program! Questions, call Chip Kenyon, 251-2233. T-ball for K-1 grades will be from April 29-May 20. Questions, call Rick Peterson, 251-6557.

We hope residents have been enjoying the new and improved playground next to Townley field. We are anxious to start work on Pee Wee playground. We hope to break ground sometime in 2007 or as early as our budget will allow. We have been told that there are some residents who would like to help in order to see the improvements happen sooner. If you would like to donate an item or a monetary amount towards the new Pee Wee playground please contact Katie Narwoud, 251-1024.

Little Springs/ Sports Plus

Sign-up for camp is now! We have many new things planned to make camp enjoyable for all the ages!

Camp dates: June 19th to July 28th. Camp applications were mailed out and are available now.

Blythe Zajakowski, Little Springs & Jodi Barasky, Sports Plus

For more information see: www.villageofkenilworth.org/park_district.htm or call 847-251-1666



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Visit us on the web at
www.villageofkenilworth.org

Contact information for all
Village areas

Village Hall
419 Richmond Road
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-1666
Open 8:30-12:00, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Max Slankard, Village Manager
Mary Cole, Office Coordinator

Kenilworth Police
Department
419 Richmond Road
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-2141 – Non-Emergency
John Petersen, Chief

Winnetka/Kenilworth Fire
Department
428 GreenBay Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
847-501-6029 – Non-Emergency
Scott T. Smith, Chief

Public Works
440 Ivy Court
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-9210
Ignazio Fiorentino, Superintendent

Water and Electricity/
Kenilworth Beach
1 Kenilworth Avenue
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-1094—Water Plant
847-251-6642—Beach
Kevin Zeoli, Superintendent

Kenilworth Park District
440 Ivy Court
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847-251-1691
Thomas Feeney, President
Lou Maggi, Superintendent

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