

Village of

Kenilworth



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Village President
Fred G. Steingraber

Village President's Message — Vol. XII

September 2011

Dear Fellow Residents,

I hope your Summer has been enjoyable. In my case, I just wish we could hold on to it a little while longer — a sign of aging I expect. Nevertheless, the arrival of Fall, back to school, and football all beckon and each for different reasons, may again be enjoyed. As we enter this change of seasons I want to bring you up-to-date on the progress being made on several fronts by the Village.



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President

Audited Financial Results 2010/2011

As you know, our fiscal year is from May 1 through April 30. The Village was presented with our independent audit report for 2010/2011 last month, and I am pleased to report we received a clean audit, meaning in the auditors opinion, the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the respective financial position of the government activities, the business type activities, and each major fund of the Village as of April 30, 2011, and the respective changes in financial position are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. Copies of this report are available at the Village and on the Village's website at www.villageofkenilworth.org for anyone interested in reviewing it.

Fiscal Year 2011 was a challenging year in several ways. Despite the decreases in the State of Illinois income tax, State sales tax, utility tax revenues and investment income, the Village General Fund achieved a surplus of \$206,000 versus our budget of \$49,000. This is attributable to the diligence of our Village staff in achieving reductions in general government expenses, public works and public safety, without compromising quality, safety, or service. Following three years of successive General Fund deficits, this now represents the second year in a row the Village has generated a surplus in the General Fund.

Financial Outlook 2011/2012

Looking ahead to the current fiscal year (FY 2011/2012), we do not foresee any prospect for economic improvement, nor material change for the better in our tax and fee-based revenue, except perhaps in building permit revenue. Despite this outlook, we are budgeting a surplus again for the third year in a row.

You may ask why we are budgeting and building surpluses? The answer is:

- After three years of deficits in 2008, the Revenue Expenditure Special Committee I chaired was commissioned to find a way to generate sustainable balanced General Fund budgets going forward.

- The Village had and continues to have an inadequately maintained infrastructure (streets, sewers, hydrants, facilities, etc.).
- The Village has not historically budgeted for asset replacements which have limited useful lives.
- The Village's Reserve Policy has been pegged at six months of annual revenue while many communities have 9 to 12 or more months. Our school district has a reserve level of more than 10 months. The reality is Kenilworth's reserves have been running between 2-4 months the past couple of years at a time when property tax revenue has flattened, State income sales and other taxes have declined, and the State of Illinois has been running way behind on all payments of any kind to municipalities.

The bottom line is we have focused strictly and intensely on cost reduction as opposed to property tax increases to get us through this difficult economic period. But, we are over-exposed to the risk of facing major repairs and replacements with totally insufficient reserves to draw upon. Therefore, we will require an increase in our reserves for the General Fund, which we are attempting to secure through thoughtful annual cost savings. This 2011/2012 budgeted surplus has been put together again through a combination of cost reduction, outsourcing, shared service, joint procurement, and collaboration with other communities rather than a property tax increase.

To borrow a well-known tagline from Home Depot — “more saving — more doing”. That's the power of the Village Team!

Infrastructure/Capital Improvements

At the same time, in this fiscal year (2011/2012), we have issued a General Obligation Bond (\$593,000) to cover the following high priority capital and infrastructure items:

- The completion of total road reconstruction, including streets, curbs, and some sections of sewers — for Ivy Court and Leicester Road, from Woodstock Avenue to Oxford Road.
- In addition, the Metra rail line crossing has recently been restructured/resurfaced on Kenilworth Avenue between the rail crossing and Green Bay Road at little cost to the Village. The only cost for Kenilworth was the resurfacing of the portion of Kenilworth Avenue between Green Bay Road and the Union Pacific railroad right of way.

The above have already been carried out and completed this summer. Other items covered by the bond funding will include:

- Possible Village Hall lobby renovation required to address changes that may be needed, depending on the outcome of the ongoing joint dispatch study (Kenilworth, Winnetka, and Northfield)
- Sidewalk and curb replacement
- Replacement of a 7-year old police vehicle
- Fire hydrant replacements
- Street lighting system and wiring improvements
- A salt spreader for the Public Works Department pick-up truck
- A sewer camera

In addition, the existing reserves of the following funds were or will be drawn upon for completing infrastructure improvements:

Motor Fuel Tax Fund — interim repair and resurfacing of these streets to extend their useful life:

- Roslyn Road
- Cummings Avenue
- Roger Avenue
- Essex Road from Cumberland Avenue to Winnetka Avenue
- Warwick Road from Essex to Cumberland

These were completed this summer

- Sewer Fund — design and possible further engineering study of storm water improvements.
- Water Fund — water system valve replacement at various locations throughout the Village.

Work In Progress on Kenilworth Priorities

There are a range of initiatives the Village is or will be addressing, including the following:

1. Examining options for further shared service, collaborative purchasing and outsourcing. For example, the recently implemented intergovernmental agreement with the Park District is already producing benefits for the Village residents as well as each tax jurisdiction (the Village and the Park District). The staff of the Park District on a day-to-day basis is now working together with the Public Works staff of the Village under the Village supervision to increase flexibility, provide job enrichment — new skill development and to redeploy their staff to higher value-added work activities. For example, just this step alone has enabled the Park District to reduce the cost of the Kenilworth Village and Park District lawn/park maintenance over 60% by outsourcing this work. In addition, a far more transparent and accurate accounting and realistic allocation of costs between the two organizations is now in place.
2. Completing the Shared Dispatch Service Study. The results of the study are just about complete and will be reviewed by the Trustees of each of the three Villages for approval in the very near future.
3. Completing the Long Range Police Plan. The research work has been completed and an implementation program is expected to be reviewed by the Community Affairs and Public Safety Committee in the next month and the Trustees shortly thereafter.
4. Conducting a study of alternative water delivery options.
5. Completing an updating of the Kenilworth Village Code to codify all Village amendments since 1959, the last time the book was updated.
6. Developing Zoning amendments pertaining to alternative energy devices and installations.
7. Carrying out the annual tree planting program. This is a long and storied tradition in Kenilworth to sustain the quality of life in the Village. The program offers a variety of trees for planting on parkways and on private properties at reasonable prices. This is a way to give back to the community and future generations for something very worthwhile. We hope you will give consideration to this request.
8. Exploring the creation of a Kenilworth Village Foundation to provide a means for interested residents to support the mission and initiatives of the Village which often times cannot be fully addressed due to a lack of public funding.

9. A working group has been commissioned to undertake a review of our Village Property maintenance ordinance and enforcement as well as our building review ordinance and the process for handling requests for demolition.
10. This year, the Village Board started an initiative to promote the use of one of the Village's most precious assets; the Kenilworth Beach. The Village Board adopted a special event policy for use of public property throughout the Village and established a fee schedule for the hosting of private events at the Kenilworth Beach. During this first year, Kenilworth Beach has been the site of two weddings and the Kenilworth Club hosted their SummerPalooza event at the beach in June.

Green Bay Road and Park Drive Business Corridor

As you may have noticed, improvements to the Village can be observed along the Green Bay Road and Park Drive business corridor. Recent new business additions and redevelopment hold great promise for the future of Kenilworth. The Kenilworth Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2008 and developed to address long-range planning issues, is having a positive impact on the business district, and finally attracting new establishments to the Village. Added revenue provided to the Village can be used to enhance and maintain the high quality of life and service that should define Kenilworth. The following are examples of recent new businesses added to the community:

- **i2i Optical** — 521 Park Drive — opened in April with top designer brands and the newest optometry equipment.
- **Sherwin Williams** — 614 Green Bay Road — opened in July and offering professional supplies and expert advice for painting and remodeling.
- **The Daily Method** — 410 Green Bay Road — opened in August, a physical fitness facility offering modern exercise techniques, including athletic ballet.
- **The Last Detail** — 624 Green Bay Road — planned opening in October at the Automobile Galleria and will focus on classic automobiles.

A focus on improving the Green Bay Road shopping district will have multiple positive impacts on Kenilworth. An appealing and inviting business area will attract desirable stores, shops, and restaurants, providing residents enjoyable destinations near home while protecting the architectural integrity expected of Kenilworth. If you know of owners of businesses or investors who may be interested in facilitating the accomplishment of this mission, which you would like to see in the Village, encourage them to consider Kenilworth. Contact our Village Manager, Brad Burke, or Community Development Director, Susan Criezis at 847-251-1666. It is important to continuously infuse the Village with fresh ideas and new investment so Kenilworth can remain a vibrant, unique community of the highest quality.

Transitions and Additions to Our Kenilworth Team

The Village took the opportunity to express their enthusiastic gratitude in August, including a large turnout of residents, for a reception at the Kenilworth Club, to honor and acknowledge the 44 years of the exceptional service of Mary Cole. Mary has been a vital source of information for the people of our Village and has had a lifetime of wonderful public service which we all have appreciated. We extend our very best wishes for her good health and happiness in her retirement.

New Village Hall Employees

Ms. Taylor Jones was recently hired to fill the Office Coordinator position. Taylor comes to the Village with a bachelor degree in mass communications and business administration from Illinois State University. She has experience in luxury property management in Chicago. Taylor started her service to the community on September 19 and she is looking forward to being a part of the team. Many of you will be meeting her as you visit Village Hall over the coming weeks.

Mr. Kyle Kordell recently began his service to the Village as Administrative Intern from Northern Illinois University. Kyle is studying for a masters in Public Administration, and as part of his studies, is working as a two year intern. He recently moved to Illinois from southeast Michigan and is pleased to be starting his career in the Chicago area.

Building Review Commission Appointments

Mr. Ron Cortina has been a Village resident for 14 years. Ron has a bachelors from Pace University and masters from University of Chicago, both in business administration. Ron currently is with Goldman Sachs in Chicago and has served on the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association and Kenilworth United Fund. His term on the Building Review Commission will last until April 2012.

Ms. Katy Knoer has lived in Kenilworth for three years. She has a bachelors degree from Northwestern in art history and masters in business from Dartmouth. Katy has experience in advertising, is on the board of Feed the Dream, and is a Sears School volunteer. Her term will last until April 2014.

Plan Commission Appointment

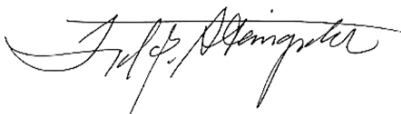
Ms. Joby Berman has been a Village resident for 26 years. She graduated from the University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon, and the Stanford Executive Program. Joby has worked for the Illinois Tollway and Chicago Transit Authority. Joby was recently appointed to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission and her term will last until April 2012.

In closing, I want to again acknowledge the high quality of our dedicated Village staff and the initiative they are taking in responding to these challenging times. We are indeed most fortunate to have such committed individuals. I also greatly appreciate the important work and dedication our Trustees and members of the Village Board and Commissions in carrying out their work. I hope you will take the opportunity to express your appreciation to these individuals for their invaluable work and service to Kenilworth, especially in these trying times.

I would also like to remind you of the opportunity which exists for each of you to apply your unique experience and talent to our Village needs through service on one of our several Commissions, Boards, Special Working Groups, and/or the Board of Trustees. Please feel free to contact the Village Manager, Brad Burke, or me if you would like to volunteer or have questions. The volunteer application is on the Village website at www.villageofkenilworth.org.

Finally, I thank you for your interest in our community. It is critically important for residents to feel connected to Kenilworth and the Village Hall. Citizens that care about the public interest and participate by attending Board or Commission meetings or simply staying knowledgeable through reading the Kenilworth Contact, the Village President's Message, and discussing issues with neighbors, represent the social contract that holds a community together. Please visit the Village homepage if you wish to subscribe to the mailing list of the Kenilworth Contact or would like further information about the Village.

Kindest regards,



Fred G. Steingraber
Village President
Village of Kenilworth



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**Village President's Message
Inside**

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Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday, October 3—Planning Committee—7:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 4—Finance Committee—6:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, October 5—Park District—5:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 11—Building Review Commission—7:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, October 17—Village Board—7:30 p.m.**

For more information, see the Village's website, www.villageofkenilworth.org.