



VILLAGE OF  
Willow Springs

# MESSENGER

SUMMER 2023 EDITION



*KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED*



# Message from the Mayor

Dear Willow Springs Residents,

As summer embraces our beloved town, I hope that this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

Summer in Willow Springs is a time of vibrant energy and community engagement. Our town comes alive during these months, offering many events and activities for residents of all ages.

In this newsletter you will find more information about Blues Fest, Willow Fest, Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, and more. These events are the perfect setting to strengthen bonds, meet new neighbors, and create lasting memories.

Willow Park and Lions Park are newly renovated. Legacy Garden Park has been enhanced as well. Let us not forget our miles of bike trails and many forest preserves. These places provide the perfect backdrop for outdoor fun with family and friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Village's hardworking employees, volunteers, and community partners. Their tireless efforts ensure that each resident's experience is enhanced and enriched.

As we embark on summer, let us take advantage of all Willow Springs has to offer. Embrace the outdoors, partake in community events, and make memories that will last long after summer fades.

Thank you for your support in making Willow Springs a remarkable place. The Village Board of Trustees and I wish you all a safe, joyous, and unforgettable summer!

Warm regards,



Melissa Neddermeyer  
Willow Springs Village President



# Public Works DEPARTMENT

Hello Summer!

As we roll into summer, there are many projects scheduled for Public Works. First, you may have noticed the street resurfacing that includes 85th St. from Wolf Rd. East to the cul-de-sac, Hess Ave. from Wolf to German Church Rd., Oakwood and Maple Ave. from Prospect Ave. to 87th St. We have also completely replaced the parking lot at our community center.

We have completed the installation of new park equipment at Willow Park, and at Lions Park. There is more to come for both locations such as new drinking fountains, new benches, and other enhancements planned for this summer.



Public Works is building new Village welcome signs and new building signs for the Police Department and Public Works. We hope to have this project completed by mid-July.

This Spring, Public Works built a new flower box at the veteran's memorial wall located at the corner of Archer Ave and Willow Springs Rd.

Branch pickup has started for the season with the south side of the river being picked up on the **1st and 3rd Mondays** and north side of the river on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of the month.

Please call public works if there is ever anything we can assist you with! Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our many planned events this season.

Thank you,

Keith Grantland, Director of Public Works  
kgrantland@willowsspring-il.gov  
(708) 839-3027

## Willow Springs Veterans Commission

Hello veterans. We are considering forming the "Willow Springs Veterans Commission". Right now we are looking to see how many of our Willow Springs Veterans would be interested. The Veterans Commission would do things like, get guest speakers from the VFW, American Legion, DAV, share resources family picnics and more. Anyone interested can e-mail Trustee Mike Kennedy at [mkennedy@willowssprings-il.gov](mailto:mkennedy@willowssprings-il.gov) or Trustee Tom Arra at [tarra@willowssprings-il.gov](mailto:tarra@willowssprings-il.gov). You can also call or stop in at the village hall and give your information. If you're not interested, we would still like your information to keep you posted of any events or information we can pass on to you. We would like your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and branch of service.



# Police Department NEWS

## Comings, goings, promoting, and planning - Lots of happenings at WSPD!

First, to create greater efficiencies within the police department, our restructuring is under way. We created the position of lieutenant, formalizing the role of second in command of the department. This required some creative administrative work, but it was well worth the effort, creating upward movement within the department, while improving our performance. We are proud to announce that Sergeant Michael Jurak has filled that position and was promoted during our village meeting on May 25 in front of his proud family and friends. Mike is a sixteen-year veteran of the department and has been a member of our regional SWAT team for seven years. He is extremely hard working, and an example of the American dream. Born in Poland, he came to America at nine years old, and his career potential is limitless. Congratulations to Mike and his family!

At the same time, Corporal Ed McKinney has announced his retirement effective August 28. Ed is a thirty-three veteran of law enforcement, spending the last seven years here in Willow Springs. Congratulations Ed, good luck and thank you for your service! Corporal McKinney worked the overnight shift, and his retirement has opened the door for part time officer Rachel Martin to flip to full time. Rachel comes to us from Elk Grove Village Police. She brings a lot of energy to her job and is enthusiastic about her new assignment. She will be a great asset to our department.

Finally, with the summer approaching, we are busy creating our safety plans for our upcoming Blues Fest and Willow Fest. As always, WSPD will be ready to ensure safe events here for our visitors and residents.

Garry McCarthy

Chief of Police  
Willow Springs Police Department

**TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

SUMMER 2023

**Know Where to Go**  
When Sheltering from a Tornado

Top floor rooms DO NOT protect you.

If you have no basement, move to an interior room with no windows.

Exterior rooms and rooms with windows DO NOT protect you.

NO PLACE OUTSIDE is safe from a tornado.

Quickly move to your basement and bring your emergency supply kit.

**TORNADO SAFETY**

**PREPARE YOUR PETS**

- Get pets ready at the first sign of an approaching storm
- Put your dog on a leash and your cat in a carrier
- Move pets to the shelter well ahead of the storm

**PET PREPAREDNESS KIT**

- Keep In Mind - Familiar items can help to reduce stress for your pets
- Include pet food and medicine in your emergency kit
- Put favorite toys, treats, and/or bedding items for your pet in your emergency kit

**END OF SUPPORT FOR KIDDE RAPID ENTRY BOXES**

Kidde has discontinued fabrication and support of the Kidde / Supra series of rapid entry key boxes. The district will no longer be able to replace broken or damaged keys and currently installed boxes can not be repaired or supported. Owners of commercial and residential Kidde / Supra boxes will be required to install a Knox box by June of 2024. Call the Fire Prevention Office for details and information on how we can help with the replacement of the rapid entry key box. 630-654-6284

# Community EVENTS

THE VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS  
— ANNUAL —  
**WILLOW  
★ FEST ★**  
AUGUST 11-13, 2023

**WILLOW  
SPRINGS  
BLUES  
FEST**  
JULY 29, 2023  
12 PM - 10 PM

LOVE FOR THE BLUES

**MUSIC.  
FOOD.  
BEER.**

Willow Springs +

VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS

**CONCERT  
IN THE  
PARK**

**07.21.23** FEATURING: FRED & FRIENDZ  
LIONS PARK - 201 PARK STREET  
LIVE MUSIC FROM 7:00PM - 9:00PM

BRING A BEVERAGE & A BLANKET OR CHAIR

THE VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS  
— 15TH ANNUAL —  
**BENEFIT CAR SHOW**

*Custom. Classic. Street Rod. Muscle*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10  
2023**  
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VILLAGE OF WILLOW SPRINGS

**MOVIE IN  
THE PARK**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023

THE SANDLOT	LIONS PARK 201 PARK ST.	7 PM START FREE ENTRY FREE POPCORN
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# Beautification COMMISSION

Please save the date! The re-dedication of Legacy Garden Park will be held on Friday, August 25 at 6:30 pm. Please join us! The Park, located at 105 Kazwell, has been a labor of love for the Beautification Commission and so many who have worked to make it a reality. The project was initiated by a grant from the Main Street Association of Realtors in 2019. Fourteen garden boxes were installed, along with four ADA-accessible boxes. Lending their expertise and many hours of work to creating a special place for residents, Keith Grantland and the Department of Public Works have been great partners.

This project has developed with proceeds from fundraising activities sponsored by the Commission and enthusiastically supported by our neighbors. Not So Serious Bingo in the winter and bingo during Willow Fest not only generated much-needed revenue, but brought the community together to enjoy fun and fellowship. Residents looking for a way to securely dispose of documents have found Shredding Days, sponsored by the Commission, helpful. Your donations are always welcome! The Paving the Way for History Brick Project has been a meaningful way to support the Commission through the installation of commemorative bricks on the walkway leading to Village Hall. There is still time to participate! The application to purchase a brick is available on the Village website.

This year, Legacy Garden Park has bloomed with the added support of a matching grant from the ComEd Openlands Green Region Grant Program. Enhancement of the butterfly garden, lovely artwork created by Joanne Kubinski, and a gazebo with picnic tables for relaxation and community outreach educational programing have brought the Park to new heights for gardeners and visitors alike.

Two important enhancements were provided by younger members of our community. Zachary Walsh, of Troop 69, completed the Eagle Scout rank by constructing pathways throughout the Garden with the support of volunteers. Visitors are now able to navigate easily from the water tank to garden boxes.

Kiley Mahoney, of Troop 50738, earned the Girl Scout Gold Award by constructing two Little Libraries for the enjoyment of our residents. The Little Library installed in the Garden Park is stocked with a variety of books, many relating specifically to gardening. The second Little Library is located at Healing Waters Park. The contributions of our younger participants has been an extra-special bonus for us.

As we look ahead, we hope the Governor's Hometown Award to recognize Legacy Garden Park is in our future. The Garden Park project has had a significant impact improving the quality of life for residents. Most importantly, it is made possible by the collaboration of volunteers working together.

The generosity and support of our neighbors have made possible the projects we pursue. We welcome your suggestions and comments as we dedicate ourselves to the mission of beautifying and enhancing our Village for residents and businesses. Beautification meetings, announced on the Village website, are open to all. Public comment is encouraged. Please stay up-to-date with our news on the Beautification Facebook page and NextDoor. Details will be coming soon about our popular Harvest event to be held at the end of September. Gardeners will proudly display the fruits of their labor and even share their bounty.



# Community GROUPS

## **WILLOW SPRINGS SENIOR CLUB**

The members of the W.S Senior Club would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to Maryann Zima for serving as our Treasurer for the past 18 – yep, EIGHTEEN years. Maryann resigned at the end of 2022 and we want her to know how much we appreciate all that she did for our club.

Welcome to our three new members; Diane, Ed and Nancy! We are happy you have joined us and look forward to getting to know you.

In April we participated in the Village Craft show with a bakery table. Some of our members attended a show at Starved Rock in May which featured a buffet lunch and Dueling Pianos (FANTASTIC). We also attended St Catherine's 55+ Club meeting for dinner and musical show, and again for a program about Al Capone. On May 24th our President presented four monetary "awards" to students at WS School. Our annual picnic will be held in June with a catered lunch, bingo, 50/50, horse race and just plain fun. On June 26, 14 members will be attending a Motown Revue at Starved Rock. We do try to keep busy!

We are always open to new members – won't you consider joining us? We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 11AM at the Willow Springs Community Center, 8156 S Archer. Dues are \$10/year and \$10/month which includes lunch. If you would like more information about our Club, please contact Member Chairperson Nancy Phillips @ 708-209-5581. She's waiting to hear from you!

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

For those of you who are not aware, we have an account on FACEBOOK. Our member, Ron Leffler is in charge and has been keeping it going. Keep those pictures and historic notes coming. We enjoy the postings and interest in our group. We also have some great displays for your viewing. Stop by and take a look.

Our project is moving along but very slowly. We do have approval from the Cook County Forest Preserve and now we have a problem with IDOT about parking. Seems like a lot of little things have to be worked out to proceed to the finish line.

## **WILLOW SPRINGS LIONESSE LIONS CLUB**

The Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club hosted a Spring Fashion Show on May 20. Guests enjoyed an array of delicious food and drink with new and stylish fashions from Chico's. Models were members of our club and of the community. A gift basket raffle ended the afternoon. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors and to all who attended.

In March, we awarded Vince and Andrew from Willow School Amazon gift cards for their winning submissions in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest! We provided pizza and dessert to the whole class.

On May 24, we awarded our annual educational scholarships to two Lyons Township seniors at their awards ceremony. Willow Springs residents Gabriella Brown and Stella Ligammari both received \$500 scholarships and certificates.

Thank you to the community for purchasing from our Spring Flower Power fundraiser. Our club earned just under \$400. This money helps us to continue supporting our mission and various organizations. Keep an eye out for our Fall and Holiday Flower Power fundraiser later this summer.

The Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club meets the second Wednesday of the month except July. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. at the community center at 8156 Archer Avenue. New members are always welcome.

Upcoming events are Aunt Martha's Baby Shower on June 10, Willow Fest August 12 and our annual Pancake Breakfast on September 17. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest details. Have a great summer!





VILLAGE OF  
**Willow Springs**

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 Like us on Facebook

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

## Township of Lyons

The Township of Lyons is a hub of resources and opportunities! The Township provides free notary services, assistance with all matters related to your property tax, and we even have free transportation services for seniors!

Additionally, the Township of Lyons regularly hosts community events like native plant sales, shred events, and we have presentations about interesting topics relevant to our community.

This fall we will begin hosting a Repair Café! On October 21st and November 18th from 10 am – 1 pm at 6404 Joliet Road, Countryside, the Township of Lyons will provide a space where people learn how to repair and fix small appliances together! Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering or if you would like to RSVP to reserve a spot for a repair.

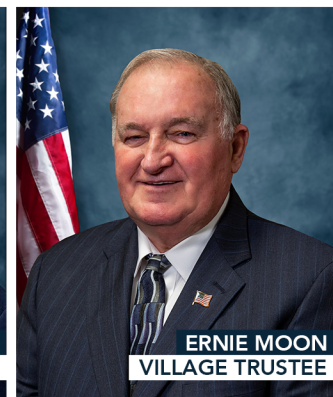
Please contact us for more information on upcoming events or to be placed on our email list by calling (708) 482-8300 or check out our website at [lyonstownshipil.gov](http://lyonstownshipil.gov)



**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