

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW: REPORT AT A GLANCE

Java with Joe

As part of our Community Outreach and transparency programs, Mayor Mancino hosted the Saturday, April 29, informational open house at the Hawthorn Woods Country Club for our Java with Joe event. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with constituents and discuss items of interest to the community in an informal setting. The event is hosted free of charge by the Hawthorn Woods Country Club and is open to all residents. Staff was also in attendance to provide follow up information, if needed.

CN/ America in Bloom Ground Up Grants Program Award Winner!

Hawthorn Woods was one of only ten communities in the United States to receive a \$20,000 grant funded by Canadian National Railroad and America in Bloom to provide \$20,000 in matching funds to restore an 11.5 acre section of Briarwood Park as a walkable natural area with new conservation opportunities. As a result of our grant team's efforts, our project was selected to transform Bridlewoods Park woodland area into a public use area with trails, a dock extending over the wetland, and specific pollinator plants that will attract the bees and Monarch butterflies.

We submitted a program called *Wish You were Here*, a play on the old style postcard themes to attract visiting monarch butterflies to stay for a night, or the season. Our goal was to replant the wetland area with attractive plant species and pollination-friendly native aquatic plants to create a habitat for the Monarch butterflies and other threatened insects whose migratory flight pattern just so happens to include Lake County. We will receive grant funds that emphasize migratory pollinators, including bees and butterflies to support the global effort of preservation for these insects that are struggling in numbers nationwide. In 2018, Hawthorn Woods will compete for a national award as a result of this grant award. We hosted Bill Hahn one of the AIB judges who visited us from Canton, Ohio on June 22, 2017. He was very impressed with our staff, our project, and our community.

Brierwoods Preserve Grand Opening

Brierwoods Preserve is the Village's newest public park, opened in fall of 2017. It is designed as a walkable natural area with new conservation opportunities. The Village replanted the wetland area with attractive plant species and pollination-friendly native aquatic plants to create a habitat for the Monarch butterflies and other threatened insects whose migratory flight pattern just so happens to include Lake County. We received grant funds to protect migratory pollinators, including bees and butterflies and support the global effort of preservation for these insects that are struggling in numbers nationwide. We scored in the top half of applicants in 2016, and placed in the top ten in a nationwide competition for 2017.

Staff devoted time and attention to the preparation for the grand opening of Brierwoods Preserve. We had several requirements of the grant which my office helped facilitate to meet the requirements of the \$20,000 in funds assigned to Hawthorn Woods. One of the requirements we needed to meet was to plan a media event with certain invited guests from various civic organizations. We had over 125 guests attend our ribbon cutting event, hosted by Mayor Mancino and various Trustees. We released Monarch butterflies into their new

preserve to symbolize our commitment to providing and maintaining a sustainable habitat for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinator species.

Fall Family Fun Fest

On Saturday, September 23, all Village departments assembled at the Aquatic Center to host our largest ever fall family fun fest. We served over 600 attendees both inside the community room and out into the parking lot. We provided lunch and snacks, train rides, an arts and crafts center, vendor demonstrations, department sponsored activities and games, large trucks display, and fire and police serve vehicles that provided great photo opportunities. We had a DJ that kept the crowd entertained, and a great time was had by all. Goodie bags full of trinkets and candy, as well as popcorn and prizes were popular take-away items from the event.

Operational Highlights for Parks and Recreation

- Replaced safety surfacing in all 11 Playgrounds
- Replaced Mulch at 46 Cul De Sac Islands throughout Hawthorn Woods
- Renovated the safety limestone warning tracks at four ballfields in Community and Heritage Oaks Park
- Repaired culvert and trail at Bridlewoods Park
- Regraded, repaired drainage and over-seeded the athletic field at Bridlewoods Park
- Built and dedicated Brierwood Preserve's Monarch Butterfly Trail and protected habitat with a grant from CN Railroad and America in Bloom
- Planted over 125 trees with the volunteer help of the local Rotary Club
- Dedicated a Memorial Bench in Heritage Oaks park
- Awarded Tree City designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation
- Conducted prescribed environmentally sensitive prairie burn at Lorraine Lakes Park as a Lake Zurich Fire Department training exercise
- Received \$150,000 grant award for playground construction at Lorraine Lakes park
- Record attendance at Community Special Events
 - Winter Carnival
 - Bark in the Park
 - Summer Concerts in the Park
 - Outdoor Movies in the Park
 - Car Shows in the Park
 - Third of July Fireworks Spectacular
 - 4th of July Parade
 - Fun Family Fall Fest
 - Holiday Craft Fair/ Tree Lightning
- New Tae Kwon Do Fitness Program
- New Summer Intern Program Launched
- Celebrated a "Decade of Service" at the Aquatic Center marking ten years of service to the Hawthorn Woods community
- Launched new expanded format for Community e-blasts, newsletters and brochures
- Environmental Committee distributed over 450 sapling trees to the public in honor of Arbor/Earth Day
- 18 members of the local Indian Princesses, planted 6 trees at Copperfield Park as a Community Service Project
- Generated in excess of \$30,000 from annual Mayor's Golf Outing benefiting all our special events which avoids the use of any tax dollars

