

HAWTHORN WOODS HAPPENINGS



Spring

2018

Issue 1



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Brierwoods Preserve

(pictured above)

The Village of Hawthorn Woods renovated and opened Brierwoods Preserve in the fall of 2017. This 11.5 acre preserve features beautiful walking trails, an observation deck overlooking a wetland area, and various natural elements including trees, butterflies, plants, and wildlife. Visit the newest sanctuary in town between sunrise and sunset to enjoy its award winning natural elements.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Upcoming Public Meetings

March 2018

Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, March 12, 6:00 PM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Business Continuity Work Group Meeting	Thursday, March 15, 10:00 AM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, March 26, 7:00 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, March 27, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn

April 2018

Environmental Committee Meeting	Thursday, April 5, 7:00 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, April 9, 6:00 PM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, April 23, 7:00 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn

May 2018

Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Police Commissioners Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 9, 3:00 PM	Village Hall - Police Department
Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, May 14, 6:00 PM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Business Continuity Work Group Meeting	Thursday, May 17, 10:00 AM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Police Pension Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 22, 6:00 PM	Village Hall - Committee Room
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, May 22, 6:30 PM	Village Hall - Barn
Village Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day	Monday, May 28, All Day	Village Hall
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Tuesday, May 29, 7:00 PM	Village Hall - Barn

Upcoming Special Events

Bark in the Park	Saturday, April 7 10:00 AM - Noon	Community Park
Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser	Monday, May 21 10:00 AM	Hawthorn Woods Country Club

Please visit www.vhw.org for calendar updates.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

With the seasons changing and spring around the corner, now is a great opportunity to invite everyone to start venturing outdoors into one of our many gathering places. On April 7th, the Village of Hawthorn Woods will be hosting our popular Bark in the Park event at Community Park. From 10:00am until noon, we will have a variety of fun activities for your dogs and fun for the whole family. On this special day, we will design enclosures for small and large dog off-leash exercise areas. We will also have special treats for dogs, and dog owners, so come out and join us for a fun Saturday in April.



I am also pleased to let you know that the Village has received a \$150,000 grant to develop a new playground off of Schwerman Road near Meadowlark Drive to serve the recreational needs of the north central part of town. This spring, we plan to hold the second in a series of neighborhood planning meetings to gain your input on the amenities designed for the nature-themed park.



At the end of 2017, the Village mailed a survey to registered voters seeking your input on our major infrastructure needs and we greatly value your feedback and support. Over 20% of our voters returned their surveys, and we thank you for such a great participation rate. Once the streets thaw and the roads are re-evaluated, we will be conducting an update to our Pavement Management Report, which details the surface condition of each of our roads in town. This ranking helps our professional engineers determine if a road can extend its drivability with a grind and overlay of pavement, or if a complete reconstruction from the sub-base is warranted. Once the data, metrics, cost, and analysis of our roads are updated, it will be available to the public for review.

On behalf of the entire Village Board, I wish you and your family a wonderful spring season. I hope to see you out and about town at one of our many community events we have planned for you.

Warmest personal regards,

Joe

Hawthorn Woods Ranked 17th Nationally Most Popular Small Town in 2017

Hawthorn Woods has been ranked #17 in a national study on the most popular small towns to relocate to in 2017. moveBuddha analyzed data of the most searched towns with populations under 10,000 to create this list. Hawthorn Woods is proud to be a preferred destination in the state of Illinois and across the nation. Visit www.vhw.org to read moveBuddha's article and see the complete list.



Infrastructure Improvement Plan Update

Over the past three months, the Village of Hawthorn Woods has been engaged in a public outreach process designed to inform residents about the Village's street and drainage needs, and to evaluate support for a proposed referendum to fund these improvements.

We are grateful to the hundreds of residents who participated in our public opinion mail survey and informational open houses. The Village also greatly appreciates the efforts of a Citizen Task Force, comprised of Homeowners' Association (HOA) representatives, business and civic leaders, and other community members, who helped guide the Village's funding proposal. Your feedback is guiding how we move forward to fund our highest priority street and drainage needs.

After months of community feedback, this is what we have learned:

- While a majority of respondents would support or consider supporting a referendum for street and drainage improvements, there is a need for continued community dialogue. Many voters are unsure about which special service area (SSA) they live in, how the proposed bond measure would impact their taxes, the timeline for street and drainage improvements, and the lifespan of streets in Hawthorn Woods.
- Three-quarters of residents responding to the mail survey believe their streets are in very good or good condition. The reality is that at least 90% of the Village's streets need to be either resurfaced or completely reconstructed. Many streets have already reached the end of their lifespan. There is a gap between many residents' perceived condition of the Village's streets and the actual condition of our roadways. When you see the surface of your road deteriorating, the sub-base is often in need of repair or replacement. The Village desires to improve roads before they deteriorate to the point that costly reconstruction is needed.
- A large percentage of Village residents are not overly concerned about drainage issues. There are, however, severe drainage problems that can potentially impact all Village homeowners and their property values. For example, large diameter, corrugated metal pipes are deteriorating under roadways village-wide, as is the Village's storm sewer system that could impact all homeowners. This concern is not visible to most homeowners, but impacts every property owner.
- Many residents overestimate the percentage of their taxes that go to the Village. The reality is that approximately 6% of a homeowner's property taxes go to the Village to fund police and law enforcement services, snow and ice operations, public works and facilities duties, park, recreation and special events programs, and other local services. For a homeowner with a \$500,000 home, this equates to about \$770 annually, which is collectively well below what is needed to fund street and drainage improvements. The Village receives a relatively small portion of your property taxes. Other taxing districts receive the majority of the taxes you pay.
- Most residents are concerned about the estimated tax impact associated with funding street and drainage improvements. We agree. Every effort will be made to reduce the size of the request and the tax impact. For example, as a result of your feedback, the Village will remove \$500,000 from the referendum question and seek alternative funding opportunities for walking and bike paths to connect our community to parks and schools.



Kruckenberg Road



Owens Road



Falkirk Road

Infrastructure Improvement Plan Update (continued)

Unfortunately, the longer the Village waits to address street and drainage projects, the more it will cost. Currently, the cost to completely reconstruct a street is approximately \$1,000,000 per mile. The Village has nearly 57 miles of village-owned streets.

The Village is also experiencing what will happen if we are not proactive in replacing the deteriorated large diameter, corrugated metal pipes below our roadways. While we had the funds in savings to replace three major large diameter culverts under Bruce Circle North, Onondaga and Darlington Roads without raising taxes, we have depleted the funds in our Capital Expenditures line item. We will have spent over \$650,000 to complete just these three repairs. The Village has many more large diameter, corrugated metal pipes that have deteriorated and need to be replaced with reinforced concrete pipes. Our infrastructure is aging and reinvestment in our community is necessary.



Darlington Drive Culvert

At their final meeting in 2017, the Citizen Task Force recommended that the Village Board place a referendum on the ballot in November 2018 rather than March 2018. This would give the Village more time to discuss the funding proposal with residents, including our community's many active HOAs. The Village Board agreed with the Citizen Task Force recommendation to take more time to gather community feedback.

In the coming months, the Village will continue to meet with HOAs, host public outreach meetings, and offer other opportunities for residents to share their thoughts and recommendations and have their questions answered. Visit www.vhw.org/InfrastructureImprovementPlan for answers to the top 20 questions posed by residents.

Thank you in advance for your continued participation in helping the Village define a funding proposal that is acceptable to you, our local taxpayers. We will work tirelessly on your behalf to design the most economical solution to our aging infrastructure needs and our current flooding issues. We respect that you have the final word, and look forward to working together to keep Hawthorn Woods our safe and secure hometown.

Local Road Improvements

Darlington Drive Culvert Replacement Project

Darlington Drive remains closed at the choker culvert nearest to Old McHenry Road due to the failure of the corrugated metal culverts that carry the water from Forest Lake Drain under Darlington road. All permitting has been completed for the construction of this project. The Village went through the bidding process and the contract is expected to be awarded to the contractor at the February Village Board meeting. The contractor will likely begin construction of the replacement of the culverts and the new roadway in March or April of 2018. Construction is expected to be completed by May 1, 2018. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation during this reconstruction project.



Darlington Drive Bridge

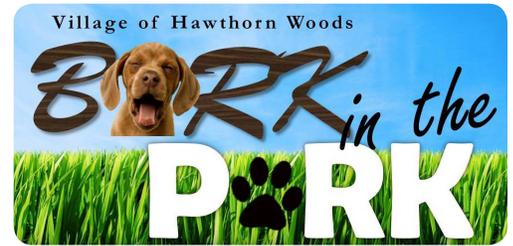
Schwerman Road Resurfacing Project

Schwerman Road is planned to be resurfaced from Fairfield Road to Gilmer Road in the summer or fall of 2018, as a result of Hawthorn Woods' application for federal grant assistance. At the Village's request, Hawthorn Woods and Fremont Township worked together to request the reclassification of Schwerman Road to a Federal Aid Urban (FAU) Route, which allows the Village and Township to request federal funding, up to 80% of construction and construction engineering. The Village and Township were successful in the FAU reclassification, as well as securing the funding for the project. The Village is receiving over \$300,000 in federal funding for the Village's portion of this improvement. The Village continues to seek alternative funding sources for our aging infrastructure.

Bark in the Park

Saturday, April 7, 10:00am - Noon
Community Park

Dogs are welcome to gather with family and friends at Community Park in Hawthorn Woods for the Village of Hawthorn Woods Bark in the Park event. This free community event will take place on Saturday, April 7 from 10:00am - Noon. Dogs can run, jump, roll over and play with other friends. A variety of vendors will be available to pamper your best friend. Our canine friends will enjoy treats, pampering, fun activities and more! Dogs can run freely in our off-leash area. We encourage all dogs in attendance to be up to date on all vaccinations, including influenza. Please leash all dogs.



Golf Outing Fundraiser

Monday, May 21, 10:00am
Hawthorn Woods County Club

Grab your clubs for a wonderful day on the course. You are cordially invited to the Village of Hawthorn Woods Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser held at the exclusive Arnold Palmer designed course, Hawthorn Woods Country Club. Enjoy 18 holes of golf on this magnificent course. Sponsorship opportunities are available. All proceeds benefit Hawthorn Woods community special events. Golf attendees will enjoy: locker room service, golf event activities, lunch, dinner, drink ticket, snacks, and an appreciation gift bag.



Aquatic Center Opening Day

Saturday, May 26, 11:00 a.m.

The Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center is scheduled to open for the 2018 season on Saturday, May 26. Season pass early bird rates are available through March 31. Save 10% on your season pass by registering early! Swim lesson registration will begin on March 31. Visit www.vhw.org/HWAC for details.



Aquatic Center
season pass
early bird rates
available through
March 31

New Co-Ed Youth Baseball

Registration deadline: March 31



The Parks and Recreation department is proud to introduce a co-ed baseball league for children ages 5 through 10. This league is for players of all levels who enjoy the game of baseball and want to play in a fun and constructive environment. The league will provide instruction at practices and during game play to improve upon individual skills and team strategies. Players will build character as we focus on sportsmanship, teamwork, and positive attitudes.

A 1-hour practice will be scheduled each week by the volunteer coach. Games will be played on Saturdays at Heritage Oaks Park. The spring 2018 registration deadline is March 31. All fees will increase \$10.00 on April 1. Registration is available in-person, online, by mail, or by fax. All players must have a uniform which includes a jersey and a hat. Uniforms are included in your program fees. Each player must provide their own pants, shoes, socks and glove. Visit www.vhw.org/YouthBaseball for details.

Come out to the ballpark on Saturday, April 14 between 10:00 a.m. and Noon for our Field Day Open House event! Players and their families will be able to meet the coaches and see the game fields. We will have a home run derby competition (hitting from the tee), a race around the bases, and a throwing contest.

6U (Ages 5-6)

April 30 - June 23 (no play 5/26)

Fees: \$110/Res; \$125/Non-Res

Code: 2098

8U (Ages 7-8)

April 30 - June 23 (no play 5/26)

Fees: \$110/Res; \$125/Non-Res

Code: 2099

10U (Ages 9-10)

April 30 - June 23 (no play 5/26)

Fees: \$110/Res; \$125/Non-Res

Code: 2100

Youth Spring Soccer League

Registration deadline: March 31

The Parks and Recreation department teams up with Hawthorn Woods Elite Soccer to offer youth soccer for children in grades pre-k through 6th. Our leagues provide instruction to build upon each player's skills in a recreation-based environment where players learn by playing together on the field.

Players will practice for 1-hour on Wednesday evenings. Levels will be scheduled 4:30-5:30pm or 5:30-6:30pm. Games will be played from 9:00-10:00am or 10:00-11:00am on Saturdays. All practices and games are held at Heritage Oaks Park. The spring 2018 registration deadline is March 31. All fees will increase \$10.00 on April 1. Registration is available in-person, online, by mail, or by fax. All players must have a uniform which includes jersey, shorts and socks. Previous players may wear their old uniform. Visit www.vhw.org/YouthSoccer for details.

Pre-K - K (2 days/week)

Wed & Sat, April 18 - June 9 (no play 5/26)

Program + Uniform \$125/res; \$145/non-res
Code: 2089

Program Only \$110/res; \$130/non-res
Code: 2088

Pre-K - K (1 day/week)

Sat, April 21 - June 9 (no play 5/26)

Program + Uniform \$100/res; \$115/non-res
Code: 2087

Program Only \$85/res; \$100/non-res
Code: 2086

Grades 1-3

Wed & Sat, April 18 - June 9 (no play 5/26)

Program + Uniform \$125/res; \$145/non-res
Code: 2083

Program Only \$110/res; \$130/non-res
Code: 2082

Grades 4-6

Wed & Sat, April 18 - June 9 (no play 5/26)

Program + Uniform \$125/res; \$145/non-res
Code: 2085

Program Only \$110/res; \$130/non-res
Code: 2084





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Employee Spotlight

Welcome Officer Brian Cvitkovich

Officer Brian Cvitkovich was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Hawthorn Woods Police Department on August 4, 2017. Officer Cvitkovich earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Illinois State University. He completed his basic training this past fall and is currently conducting his field training, working alongside seasoned officers. His field training will be complete in mid-March, at which time he will begin solo patrol. Officer Cvitkovich stated, "I feel very fortunate to be accomplishing my dream of becoming a Police Officer in such a wonderful community as Hawthorn Woods, and I look forward to continuing to build relationships with residents every day." We welcome Officer Cvitkovich to Hawthorn Woods and thank him for his dedicated service to the community.



From left to right: Sgt. John Tennant; Ofcr. Brian Cvitkovich; Sgt. Sarah Canada