

# VILLAGE OF Hawthorn Woods Happenings

ILLINOIS FALL/WINTER 2011

2 Lagoon Drive ♦ Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047 ♦ [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org) ♦ (847) 438-5500



Rural by Design

## Special Events

- **Veterans Day**  
Nov. 11  
Village Hall closed
- **Family Movie Night**  
"The Polar Express"  
Nov. 18, 7 p.m. — Free Event  
Village Hall
- **Village Board Meeting & Public Hearing on Proposed 2012 Budget**  
Nov. 21, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall
- **Thanksgiving**  
Village Hall closed  
Nov. 24 — 25
- **Holiday Craft Fair**  
Nov. 26, noon to 4 p.m.  
Village Hall
- **Tree Lighting**  
Dec. 2, 6 p.m.  
Village Hall 
- **Holiday Closures**  
Dec. 23, 26  
Dec. 30, Jan. 2  
Village Hall

## Join our Email

Are you getting our e-blasts featuring information about special events and Village news?

If not, sign up on our new website, [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org). Click the link that looks like the above "Join our Email" picture.

## Village Launches New Website

Same Web address, but new look and features

The Village of Hawthorn Woods' new website is loaded with interactive new features to make it easier to find information and reach out to elected officials and staff with questions and concerns.

[www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org)

Visitors to the website can now request records on-line, use the new "Report a Concern" application to report potholes and park damage, and inquire about invoices and payments. The improved search feature makes finding information much easier, as the entire document is scanned for matches.

The goal of the new website is to increase transparency while also providing residents with a more user-friendly experience.

To give the new site a hometown feel, the Village is holding a photo contest. Photos will be judged on how they best capture the spirit of Hawthorn Woods. The best photos will be featured in a special photo album on the website, and the first place photo will be incorporated into the slideshow on the home



- The new "Report a Concern" feature lets residents notify the Village of roadway, park maintenance, and general public works concerns and receive feed back to know the status of the repair.
- A smart phone App allows anyone to take a picture of the damage and immediately upload it. The App will give us the location of the damage and create a work order.

page. All submissions should be e-mailed to [dfitzgerald@vhw.org](mailto:dfitzgerald@vhw.org) by November 30. By entering the contest, participants agree to give the rights of the photo to the Village.

As always, please remember to sign up for the Village's customizable e-mail list and emergency notification system.

## Third Annual Fall Family Fun Fest Lives Up to its Name



Residents line up for a chance to get behind the wheel of a Village snow plow at the Third Annual Fall Family Fun Fest held September 10. This year's festival included a salute to local emergency responders as a 9/11 tribute. Village staff volunteered their time in order to keep this fun tradition alive despite the tight budget, and saw a record turnout.

You can use your smart phone to see a full photo gallery of the event at our website using the QR code to the right.



## From the Desk of the Chief Operating Officer

# Village negotiates Waste Management contract extension

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has been hard at work meeting with various waste hauling companies to secure the best rates for residential garbage services.

The Village Board, at its October meeting, voted to extend the municipal contract with Waste Management in an effort to control prices for residential pick up and create money saving initiatives for Village residents.

I will highlight a few of the cost saving measures we secured:

- Negotiations, which began in 2010, included a residential rate freeze for the past 2 years with 0% increase in billing prices.
- Garbage pick up rates for the next 5 years will now have a limit on rate adjustments based on actual CPI indexes from the State of Illinois with a floor and ceiling of 2-4 percent compared with the 4.5-6.9 percent annual rate increases we have experienced in the past.
- Residents can choose from a variety of pricing options based on weekly or twice weekly options and can choose to keep current services without interruption. All residents will receive a pricing option to help them choose the service that fits into their budget.
- The annual spring clean up event will continue free to all residents each May for a once a year unlimited pick up service.



COO Pam Newton

## Park and Recreation Events

### Holiday Craft Fair returns for a second year of great buys

The Village of Hawthorn Woods will be hosting the second annual Holiday Craft Fair. It will take place on Saturday, November 26, from noon – 4 p.m. at the Barn, located at 2 Lagoon Drive. Admission is free.

The quaint surroundings of the Barn at Village Hall will be home to a variety of vendors. Handcrafted items, delicious sweets, and home-based businesses will make it easy to get a jump on holiday shopping...there is something for everyone. Don't miss out on this festive event!

If you are interested in being a vendor at the Holiday Craft Fair, please contact Kelly Carlson at [kcarlson@vhw.org](mailto:kcarlson@vhw.org) or (847) 847-3533. Please visit the Village website at [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org) to download the booth application form.

### Family Movie Night in the Barn

The Village is hosting free Family Movie Nights in the Barn this fall. The events are a fantastic way to spend a Friday evening while getting to know your neighbors.

holiday classic "The Polar Express" (G), will be screened Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Barn.

Bring blankets and pillows to sit on, and the Village will provide free refreshments.

- Senior rate discounts will continue. For those residents needing back door pick ups, that option will remain available.
- All residents will receive in March a free 95 gallon recycling toter to replace the 65 gallon version. (You may also decline this option if you prefer the smaller version.)
- Residents can eliminate the need for leaf bag stickers and purchase an unlimited seasonal option for \$110.00, which is reduced from this year's price of \$118.00
- In 2012, residents can purchase leaf bag stickers at Village Hall at a reduced rate in October and November at \$2.00 which is reduced from the current \$3.00 price.
- Hawthorn Woods will be serviced by a new fleet of environmentally responsible CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles phased into operations in the Village.
- Hawthorn Woods will receive emergency disaster assistance, and environmental programs like CFL recycling kits, battery depository program, and other eco-friendly assistance.
- Hawthorn Woods will receive community sponsorship for patriotic events, portable toilet and sinks for special events, and roll-off dumpsters for wind events at no charge to the Village.

## Hawthorn Woods Farmers Market



Thanks for making our first year of the Hawthorn Woods Farmers Market a success. Watch for us next season starting in June!

## Business spotlight



Brian Yeo, pictured above, is using a new machine and solvent at Cherry Hill Cleaners that is friendlier on the environment and produces superior cleaning results.

## Cherry Hill Cleaners goes green

Brian Yeo, owner of Cherry Hill Cleaners in Hawthorn Woods, proudly touts the new eco-friendly dry cleaning services he provides with a sign in the front window.

Earlier this year, Yeo, a Hawthorn Woods resident, installed new machinery that uses a special, organic solvent that is completely biodegradable. The solvent does not irritate the eyes or skin, while also not damaging clothes and keeping colors vibrant. Yeo demonstrates how safe the solvent is by pouring a small bit onto his fingers and then bringing it to his nose for a sniff.

"It used to be too harsh to touch and had a much stronger odor," Yeo said.

Yeo said the new equipment and environmentally-friendly solvent lead to better quality dry cleaning for his customers. He said the change also helps him keep ahead of the curve as environmental standards for dry cleaners continue to get tougher.

Yeo's Cherry Hill Cleaners, located at 107 W Gilmer Road, has been in business for more than 12 years in the Village. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Note: Business Spotlight is a new feature that will showcase a different business located in the Village each issue.*

## Police: Beware of 'ruse' burglaries

*Thieves work in teams to trick owners out of home, steal valuables*

The Police Department is warning homeowners of "ruse" burglaries. Lake County municipalities have received an increase in burglaries that occur during the late morning and afternoon hours, usually before 5 p.m.

Victims are generally targeted because they are elderly and the probability that they live alone. Offenders typically work and travel in pairs, with one distracting the homeowner while the second enters the home through a second entrance to search and steal cash, jewelry and other items.

Storylines include inquiries about the homeowner's water supply or pres-

sure, offers of home repair, and tree trimming.

The police department warns that no soliciting is allowed within the village limits and no utility or other agency representative should be allowed inside your home without a scheduled appointment and proper identification.

If a solicitor comes to the residence, make note of the vehicle they are driving, their attire and physical characteristics, and never leave the front door when speaking to a solicitor.

If you suspect something is suspicious please immediately call 911 or police dispatch at (847) 438-2349.

## Police warn: Don't drive while distracted, it's dangerous and can be deadly

Distracted driving is any activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of a crash, such as texting, dialing or talking on the phone, changing the radio station, eating, drinking, smoking, reaching for something on the floor, etc. There are three main types of driving distraction:



Chief Jennifer Paulus

- Visual – taking your eyes off the road.
- Manual – taking your hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive – taking your mind off what you are supposed to be doing.

Texting and driving uses all three! The number of fatal crashes involving distracted driving continues to rise. Using a cellular phone or texting while driving increases the chances of being involved in a crash by 400%.

In 2009, Secretary of State Jesse White formed a Distracted Driving Task Force that led to the passage of several items of legislation:

- It is illegal to compose, read or send a text message at any time while driving.
- It is illegal for anyone to use a wireless phone while driving in a school zone or construction zone unless it is in hands-free mode.
- It is illegal for drivers under the age of 19 to use a cell phone at any time while driving (except in an emergency) as part of the graduated driver's license program.

Give your full attention to the road and get there safely!

**"Using a cellular phone or texting while driving increases the chances of being involved in a crash by 400%"**

## Know the rules when it comes to burning leaves

*Fall burning season ends November 30*

Village code stipulates that fall burning is allowed Saturdays and Wednesdays between October 15 and November 30. All fires must be started between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and all fires must be extinguished by 6 p.m.

Only dry leaves and branches may be burned, but the branches must not be larger than an inch and a half.

Burning must be done on private property and all open fires need to be at least 20 feet from the edge of any street and at least 10 feet from any adjoining property line. Also, burning is not allowed within 20 feet of any building, structure, stream, pond, lake, or marsh.

Anyone who decides to burn needs to have a water source and the means to use it to immediately extinguish the fire. Also, a person 16 years of age or older must supervise the fire at all times until it is extinguished.

## New voter card coming

Lake County has redrawn and re-numbered all of its voting precincts based on the results of the 2010 Census.

The county will send all registered Hawthorn Woods voters a new voter card in November that will let them know their new precinct number, representative district and voting site for election day. For more information, visit [www.LakeVoterPower.info](http://www.LakeVoterPower.info).

## Consider Habitat donations

When planning your next home improvement project, consider donating your old fixtures to Habitat for Humanity Lake County. The organization accepts new and gently-used building materials, fixtures and a variety of household items for resale at their ReStore in Gurnee.

All accepted donations are tax deductible, help build Habitat homes, enables home repair for people at reduced and affordable prices and is eco-friendly. Check out Habitat for Humanity Lake County at [Habitatlc.org](http://Habitatlc.org) or call the ReStore at (847) 249-3160 for more information.



*Village snow plow crews clear a street during the Blizzard of 2011. The Public Works Department is already preparing for this year's snow events.*

## Village prepares for snow season

Remember the Blizzard of 2011? So does the Village Public Works staff, who worked around the clock to clear Village roads.

As we prepare to enter yet another snow season, please keep in mind that the Village is divided into six snow and ice removal routes that are each 10 center lane miles in length. Each is made up of a mix of primary and secondary roads, and cul-de-sacs.

Village staff pre-treats the roads before

the snowfall begins with a beet juice solution placed on the roadways and an application of salt to prevent the snow from bonding with the pavement.

Primary roads are plowed first, followed by secondary roads and then cul-de-sacs.

During the snowfall, keeping main roads open and passable is the main objective. Once the snowfall has stopped, clean up begins with plowing curb-to-curb. Cul-de-sacs may be cleaned the day after a major storm.

## Village vehicle stickers, dog tags due Jan. 31

Vehicle stickers and dog tags will both be due Jan. 31, 2012.

In 2009, the Village Board changed the due date to align the fee structure to the Village's fiscal year. In 2011, the due date was extended to April 30 to allow residents to adjust to the change. This year is the first in which the new due date will be in full effect.

The cost of stickers and dog tags remain the same as last year. Cars are \$30, motorcycles are \$20, and dog tags cost \$10.

The senior rate, available to those age 65 and older, for vehicle stickers is \$5. This rate is limited to one discount per senior, and the Village requires your driver's license number to process the dis-

count.

Application postcards will be mailed during the last week of December.

Payment can be made via the mail, over the phone with a credit card, and in person. Village Hall will open on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Village accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

Late fees of double the original cost go into effect on Feb. 1, 2012. That is in addition to any tickets that may be received for noncompliance.

If you have any questions regarding vehicle stickers or dog tags, or if you do not receive a renewal postcard in the mail by January, please call Village Hall at (847) 438-5500.

## Mayor's Message

# Mayor highlights 2011, looks forward to 2012

Dear Neighbors,

As another year closes at the Village of Hawthorn Woods, I can't help but to reflect on the time I have served as your Mayor. Looking back at the beginning of my tenure, I am amazed at the progress we have made, and the challenges we have faced and are facing today. I have learned to approach all issues, whether considered a crisis or not, as an opportunity to seek excellence and improve our community.

We have made great strides in achieving our goals, and this year has been very productive.



Mayor Joseph  
Mancino

In October, we introduced our newly designed website, a consummation of hard work and cooperation by our project team. I hope you have had a chance to see it, and would welcome any input from you on the new design. We continue our efforts in transparency with this project.

At our last Village Board meeting, the Board directed staff to place our 2012 budget on public display for the next 30 days. You can download the document from our website or obtain a copy at Village Hall. I am so pleased with this plan, and it shows that our Village is on solid ground, with a working plan for the future. I hope you can take some time to review the document, and I welcome any comments.

2012 is shaping up to be a great year for us, with programs designed to better

address community needs, a budget that shows a reduction in spending, and our cash reserves continuing to grow. We have righted the ship, and we are now focused on the future.

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and we have some terrific family events in the coming weeks. I hope to see you at some of our gatherings. Check our website often for details.

I thank all of you for your continued support and trust you afford to our Board. It is truly a privilege to serve as your Mayor.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Mancino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

## Hawthorn Woods presents balanced Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

### Significant Changes

#### Savings Opportunities:

1. Risk Management — \$45,000 savings in general liability/workers compensation insurance
2. Dispatch Services — \$12,000 savings in dispatch services based on lower call volumes
3. Aquatic Center Personnel Services — \$20,000 savings due to reduction in overtime, efficient scheduling, and decision to outsource concession operations
4. Medical, dental and vision coverage — \$18,000 anticipated decrease due to a favorable renewal

#### Additional Revenue Opportunities:

1. Plan Review Fees — \$10,000 additional revenue generated due to employment cooperative with the Village of Mundelein
2. Building inspection fees — \$34,000 additional revenue generated due to employment cooperative with the Village of Mundelein
3. Use Tax — \$23,000 additional revenue based on estimated actual 2011 results and Illinois Municipal League per capita forecasts
4. Franchise Fees — \$18,000 additional revenue based on anticipated 2011 results

#### Forecasted Declines in Revenue Sources:

1. Sales Tax — \$15,000 decline based on actual 2011 results
2. Telecommunications Tax — \$27,000 decline based on 2011 actual results

#### Increased Expenditures for essential operations:

1. Unemployment Insurance — \$10,000 increase
2. Computer system upgrade — \$12,000 increase for server and computers
3. Funding for police pension contribution at ac-

### General Fund sees 2 percent reduction in spending

On October 17, 2011, the Village Board voted to place the draft 2012 Village budget on public display for 30 days.

This draft budget, which represents a 2 percent decrease in General Fund expenses from the 2011 Budget, is balanced and reflects our determination to allocate available resources in a responsible manner by incorporating best financial management practices into every Village department.

This budget was prepared in accordance with the goals of improving the quality of Village services provided to the Village's residents and businesses and keeping expenditures and other levies conservative.

We are confident that this budget provides the means to maintain essential Village programs and services, while rebuilding the Village's fund balance reserves and initiating planning for capital equipment replacement, securing our financial stability.

In this proposed budget, our cash reserves are accruing and our operating expenses are reduced from the previous year.

Our financial forecast for fiscal year 2012 is strong.

The Village finances have improved considerably during the last three fiscal years, from zero cash reserves in 2009 to an anticipated \$500,000 (17% of Operating Fund) of best management practices in 2012. However, as we celebrate this significant turn around, there is still significant work to be done to achieve our goal of financial stability.

We will continue to closely monitor revenues and expenses to ensure that the Village remains on course.

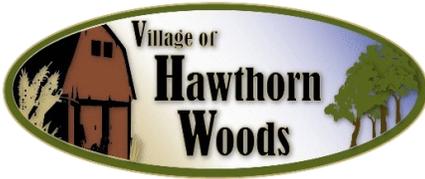
We encourage all residents to review the 2012 draft budget. Copies are available for review at Village Hall. In addition, please visit [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org) to review the entire draft on-line.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Kristin Kazenas, Chief Financial Officer, via email at [kkzenas@vhw.org](mailto:kkzenas@vhw.org) or via phone at (847) 847-3590.

A public hearing on the 2012 Recommended Budget will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 21 at Village Hall.



CFO Kristin  
Kazenas



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Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047  
(847) 438-5500  
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Public Works Dept.: (847) 540-5227  
Recreation Dept.: (847) 847-3531  
Police Dept.: (847) 438-9050

Newsletter Editor: David Fitzgerald. [dfitzgerald@vhw.org](mailto:dfitzgerald@vhw.org)

## Hawthorn Woods Elected Officials:

**Mayor:**  
**Joseph Mancino**  
[jmancino@vhw.org](mailto:jmancino@vhw.org)  
(847) 438-1887

**Trustees:**  
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(847) 847-3554

### SAVE THE DATE!

## Tree Lighting Set for December 2

*Santa, carolers, and plenty of holiday spirit on tap at Village Hall*

**T**is the season — almost, anyway. The Village of Hawthorn Woods will host its Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 2 starting at 6 p.m.

Santa will arrive by fire truck for the festivities, and then venture inside the Barn, where he will be available for visits. Entertainment includes carols sung by the Stevenson High School Choir.

Holiday refreshments will be provided by the Village.

Come kick-start the season with family, friends, and your neighbors! As always, the event is free and open to the public.



Hawthorn Woods residents gather for one of the first Tree Lighting Ceremonies in this archive photo.