



2 Lagoon Drive  
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Village of  
Hawthorn Woods  
-Illinois-

# Happenings

ISSUE 1301  
**2013**  
December



ICON Builders work crews are busy paving new streets in Hawthorn Trails

## this issue

- Re-Financing Bonds **P.1**
- Permits are Important **P.2**
- Bench & Tree Memorials **P.3**
- Vision Meeting **P.4**

## Special Events

**Family Movie**  
Dec. 15, 2014  
7pm @ Village Barn  
*Nightmare Before Christmas*

**Available**  
Dec. 16, 2014  
Aquatic Passes  
Dance Registration

**Senior Luncheon**  
Jan. 8, 2014  
Noon @ Village Barn

**Public Forum**  
Jan. 15, 2014  
7:30pm @ Village Barn  
*Creating the Vision Master Plan Forum*

**Community Presentation**  
Jan. 16, 2014  
7:00 pm @ St. Matthews  
*The Real Story About Bullying*

**Board Meeting**  
Jan. 21, 2014  
7pm @ Village Barn

**First Night Winter Carnival**  
Jan. 31, 2014

## Re-Financing of Special Service Area Bonds

Special Service Area (SSA) bonds were issued in 2003 and 2004 to finance road improvements within the Village. The bonds were issued in three service areas: SSA 1, 2 & 3 respectively, and were issued based on the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of property in each area covered by the bonds. The equalized valuation of the bonds at the time of issue was as follows: SSA1 \$83M; SSA2 \$91M; SSA3 \$90M. At time of issuance, SSA2 was less developed in terms of number of homes, than either of the other SSAs. The current equalized valuation in each of the SSAs is as follows: SSA1 \$105M; SSA2 \$177M; SSA3 \$108M. Under the current structure, SSA bonds are the obligation of the individual taxpayer; the Village has no obligation to pay the underlying taxes for the bonds.

When the bonds were originally issued, they had a feature which would allow the Village to retire the bonds early, at a call date of June 30, 2013. The finance committee conducted a study over the past several months to determine a financing vehicle for the replacement of the SSA bonds near the current call date of June 30, 2013. SSA bonds are not an ideal source of financing for road improvements, due to the limited nature of funding provided by an SSA, and the need to make road repairs in the future. The recent road study, conducted by Christopher Burke, was an outgrowth of the work done by the finance committee, and indicated that some \$18 million in road repairs needed to be undertaken by the Village within the next 15 years.

**Among the items considered by the finance committee to replace the existing SSA bonds were the following:**

- 1) Replace the SSA bonds with general obligation bonds of the Village. This option would require the passage of a bond referendum.
- 2) Replace the SSA bonds with a revenue bond, known as a backdoor referendum, which would allow the Village to issue bonds provided the plan was not objected to by residents. This option was rejected because it lacked transparency and would result in taxation without a referendum.

3) Replace the existing SSA bonds with a lower-cost SSA, and plan for a general obligation bond at a later date.

Based on current economic conditions, as well as the difficulty of planning for a referendum in a limited amount of time, the finance committee agreed that refinancing the SSA bonds as General Obligation Debt certificates, would be the preferred method of refinancing. In addition, the refinancing of the existing SSA bonds would result in tax savings for individual homeowners in much the same way as refinancing an existing home mortgage would result in interest rate savings.

In order to accomplish our dual goals of refinancing the existing SSA bonds at lower interest rates, as well as establishing a direct debt obligation of the Village, our bond counsel, Bridgeview Partners, developed a structure which would allow both goals to be satisfied. Under the new structure, a General Obligation Debt Certificate would be issued in the amount of approximately \$6.2 million. These proceeds would be used to pay off the existing SSA bonds 1, 2 and 3. At the same time, new bond ordinances would be passed which would allow substitute SSA bonds 1, 2 and 3 to be issued. These new SSA bonds would be used to levy tax collections from existing homeowners. The underlying new SSA bonds would then be transferred as assets to the General Obligation Debt Certificates, and funding for the new debt certificates would be provided for by the underlying SSA tax collections.

As a result of this structure, the credit rating of the Village was raised to Aa3 by Moody's Investor Services, which is crucial to continuing the economic turn-around begun in 2010 by the current Village Administration. In addition, individual property holders will receive reductions in their annual SSA levy based upon the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of their homes.

The table presented below provides indicative annual tax savings for each resident, based upon the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of each household, by SSA area.

SSA #	Estimated Savings for \$300K FMV Home*	Estimated Savings for \$350K FMV Home*	Estimated Savings for \$400K FMV Home*	Estimated Savings for \$500K FMV Home*	Estimated Savings for \$750K FMV Home*
SSA1	26.60	31.10	35.54	44.43	66.65
SSA2	15.84	18.48	21.12	26.40	39.61
SSA3	25.86	30.17	34.48	43.10	64.65

\* Based on EAV  
(Equalized Assessed Valuation)  
being 1/3 the FMV (Fair Market Value)  
of home before homeowner  
exemptions.



Signup for our eblasts at  
www.vhw.org for info on  
special events & news!

## Hawthorn Woods Comprehensive Plan Vision Workshop - Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Village Hall Barn | 2 Lagoon Drive, Hawthorn Woods | 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Save the date to join us at the Community Vision Workshop on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. Participants will engage in an interactive workshop format where small "breakout" groups will work together to map out their "visions" for the future of the community. The meeting will conclude with general agreement regarding the long-term role and character of Hawthorn Woods and the projects and improvements that will be desirable in the future. All community members are encouraged to attend.

## We Need Your Input!

The Village is in the process of inventorying existing conditions to establish a baseline for its new Comprehensive Plan. Input from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders is key to developing a plan that truly reflects the needs of the Hawthorn Woods community.

Please visit [www.hlplanning.com/hawthornwoods](http://www.hlplanning.com/hawthornwoods) to provide your input and help shape Hawthorn Woods' future. Just click 'Get Involved' and fill out a brief questionnaire or create your own custom map of the community.

For any questions or comments related to the Village of Hawthorn Woods Comprehensive Plan, please contact Brian Sullivan, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation & Executive Projects Manager at 847.847.3531 or [BSullivan@vhw.org](mailto:BSullivan@vhw.org).

## Elected Officials

**Mayor Joseph Mancino**  
jmancino@vhw.org  
(847) 438-1887

**Trustee Kelly Corrigan**  
kcorrigan@vhw.org  
(847) 847-3551

**Trustee Michael David**  
mdavid@vhw.org  
(847) 847-3549

**Trustee Dominick DiMaggio**  
ddimaggio@vhw.org  
(847) 847-3550

**Trustee Neil Morgan**  
nmorgan@vhw.org  
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**Trustee Peter Ponzio**  
pponzio@vhw.org  
(847) 847-3553

**Trustee Steve Riess**  
sriess@vhw.org  
(847) 847-3554

## SAVE THE DATE 2014

- January 31  
First Night Winter Carnival
- April 12  
"Bark in the Park" Pet Event
- May 12  
Village Golf Outing
- May 24  
Aquatic Center Opening Day
- June 13 - Every Friday  
Farmers Market &  
Concerts in the Park
- July 3  
Fireworks
- July 4  
Fourth of July Parade
- August 15  
Movie in the Park
- September 6  
Fall Family Fun Fest
- September 19  
Friday Market/Concerts End
- November 29  
Village Craft Fair
- December 5  
Village Tree Lighting

## RECREATION OFFERINGS 2014

Go to our website after 12/9 at [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org) and click on Parks and Recreation to be transported to a wonderland of program options for youth, teens, adults, seniors and families! We have something to peek every interest; fitness, athletics, self-improvement, arts and crafts and special events. Our programs will be held at various locations: the Aquatic Center, Barn, St. Mathews & local businesses.

## Why Get Permits & Inspections

- Helps protect property value • Makes selling property easier • Improves safety • It's the Law

There are many important reasons to obtain the required building permit(s) and to obtain required inspections for your construction project:

**Helps Protect Property Value-** Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with codes adopted by Hawthorn Woods, the value of your investment could be reduced.

**Makes Selling Property Easier-** When property is sold through a multiple listing association, the owner may be required to disclose any improvements or repairs made and if permits and inspections were obtained. Modifications to a home without a building permit may result in costly remedies.

**Improves Safety-** Your permit allows the code official to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction to provide for public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, and your friends or future owners. Mandatory Inspections act as a system of checks and balances resulting in a safer project.

**It's the Law-** Work requiring permits are made such by the Village of Hawthorn Woods ordinances. Work without a permit may be subject to removal or other costly remedies.

Some projects requiring permits you may not realize. Some of the projects that require a permit include furnace, air conditioner, water heater, siding, roof, driveways and window replacement. Before starting any project, please call the Building Department staff at either 847-847-3527 or 847-847-3537.



## Vehicle Stickers / Dog Tags due by January 31st

Once again, the Village Board did NOT increase the cost of vehicle stickers this year. All vehicle stickers are due January 31, 2014. The late fee on all vehicle stickers is the original fee plus half through February 28. After February 28, the late fee increases to double the original amount.

Payment can be made at Village Hall, 2 Lagoon Dr., Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm or Saturday, January 25, from 9am to noon. For mailing, please print the form from [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org). To order by phone with credit card, call (847) 847-3537 or (847) 847-3527. Per Village Code, stickers must be displayed by Jan. 31.

Schedule of Fees	Before Jan. 31	Feb 1st - 28th	After Feb. 28th
Passenger Car	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$60.00
Motorcycle	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00
Senior (1 per res, 65 yrs+)	\$5.00	\$7.50	\$10.00
Trucks (up to 8000 lbs)	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$60.00
Trucks (8001 - 14,000 lbs)	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$80.00
Trucks (over 14,000 lbs)	\$55.00	\$82.50	\$110.00
Antique (with antique plates)	\$15.00	\$22.50	\$30.00
Recreational Vehicle	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$60.00
Scooter (under 250cc)	\$15.00	\$22.50	\$30.00
Replacement / Transfer	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Dog Tags	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$20.00

## Fitness Boot Camp (1/4 -4/26)

All-Ages Fitness Boot Camp mixes traditional calisthenics & body weight exercises with interval training & strength training. This is a great way to get a full body strength & cardio workout. You'll be challenged more than you would if you were working out on your own. Plus, it's fun!! When was the last time you did a crab walk or a bear crawl? Well, it's time!! Come join us at the Village of Hawthorn Woods Barn and see for yourself! Anyone can do it...the class caters to all levels and ages. We've had regular attendees ranging from age 14 to 60. And now and then, some of the regulars have even brought their younger kids.

New this year is a 5-session BOOT CAMP BASICS class Jan.4 - Feb.1, before the Fitness Boot Camp class. The goal is to get you comfortable with the class format and to learn all of the basics before moving on.

Visit [www.VHW.org](http://www.VHW.org) for details & signup.



## Education Enrichment

**Winter Session 2014: Jan. 13th - March 7th**  
Minimum 4 children / Maximum 8  
\$160 for eight (8) weeks

### PRESCHOOL ENRICHMENT:

Course covers reading, writing, and math. Your child will learn interactive Jolly Phonics activities, number & letter formation, and have the opportunity to discuss his/her reaction to literature.

### KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:

Course covers reading, writing, and math. We use the Jolly Phonics program used in many school districts to teach concepts such as letter sounds, blending, and identifying sounds in words. Your child will be challenged in reading comprehension as well as shared reading & writing activities.

For more information, please contact [seema@earlyeducationenrichment.com](mailto:seema@earlyeducationenrichment.com)



## Memorial / Honorary Bench Program

**Our Commemorative Bench Program is the perfect way to celebrate the life of a special friend, colleague, or family member. These honorariums help fund our ongoing programs, while also recognizing someone near and dear to your heart.**

Benches can be installed or adopted to remember a special person or as a unique gift to celebrate anniversaries, births and other special occasions. With a gift of \$650, you can install a new bench at a designated location in the Park, Municipal Property, or where a bench is needed. Along with the installations, you can write an inscription that will be engraved on a commemorative plaque that will be installed on the bench and a certificate suitable for framing. Benches that are installed on village-owned land will be enjoyed by everyone while they relax on the bench.

A team of trained and dedicated Public Works staff will install the bench and beautify it with wood chips around the bench each spring and fall. Every time you visit the bench with your loved one's name, it will very gratifying to your family and your village. Questions about the Commemorative Bench Program can be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department at 847-847-3531.



## Memorial / Honorary Tree Program Celebrate a Life by Planting a New Beginning

Give a gift that will last several lifetimes! Planting a tree in a Hawthorn Woods Park or other village-owned land is a wonderful way to honor a loved one and also provides a gift to the whole community. Trees are planted in the village so everyone can enjoy the shade, beauty and enjoyment a living tree provides.

Planting a memorial tree is a remembrance of the past and at the same time a renewing of life. Planting a tree in a Village of Hawthorn Woods Park is a great way to solve gift-giving problems and is a wonderful tribute to a loved one or friend. A team of trained and dedicated Public Works staff will plant the tree in the spring or fall. With each tree purchase you will receive a certificate suitable for framing with a location of the tree and a plaque will be put on the tree with your loved one's name on it. Each tree is accompanied by a one year guarantee. It's a gift that can last through several lifetimes, a gift that keeps on giving. The price to reserve and plant a tree is \$250.

Questions about the Memorial Tree Program can be directed to the Parks & Recreation Department at 847-847-3531.

## Ela Library Rated One of the Best in the Nation

**One of the nation's best libraries is in Lake Zurich. The Ela Area Public Library recently accepted this prestigious recognition from Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service. They awarded Ela Library with a 5-Star Rating, the nation's highest honor.**

The national rating was developed by Library Journal and compares U.S. public libraries on the quantities of services they deliver based on per capita statistics for library visits, number of items borrowed, program attendance and public Internet use. The index gives libraries an indication of how they stack up with their peers. Ela Library was rated in the category of operating expenditures of over \$5 million but less than \$10 million. In its category, 10 libraries nationwide were given a 5-Star Rating and only three

are located in Illinois. Within its peer group, Ela Library received the highest score in Illinois, and the 4th highest score nationally. The rating is a remarkable honor for staff, the Library's Board of Trustees and the community.

**"This 5-Star Rating is a terrific recognition that we are providing a level of service to the community that far exceeds the norm,"** said Matt Womack, Ela Library's Executive Director. **"We want to be among the best libraries in the country, and this rating shows that we belong in that conversation."**

More than 7,500 libraries across the country were evaluated, but only 262 received a starred rating. Scores were based on statistics submitted in 2012. This year marks the first time Ela Library has achieved a 5-Star Rating.

**HONOR**  
*someone's*  
**achievements**  
*during*  
**their lifetime**  
*with a*  
**Commemorative**  
**Bench or Tree**

## JOIN OUR Weekly Eblast

Learn what is going on in the Village every Thursday in your e-mail! News, Meeting Notices, Road Closures, Recycling, Special Events, Updates from the Mayor and More.

Text **HAWTHORNWOODS** to 22828 to get started!

Or sign up your email at [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org), or by calling 847-847-3531.



## Hawthorn Woods Elite Soccer Club VICTORY!

Congratulations to the U17 Elite Soccer Club and their Head Coach Tom Chmela on winning the President's Cup title. The President's Cup is a national tournament giving clubs an opportunity to compete with teams from across the state/nation. We are proud to report our U17 (age group of girls under 17) worked hard to fight through their bracket to win this title. They will now represent Illinois in the regional games being held June of 2014 in Kansas City. Good Luck, girls. The Village of Hawthorn Woods is behind you all the way!