

HAWTHORN WOODS HAPPENINGS



Spring

2020

Issue 1



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Did You Know...

Hawthorn Woods is working to receive the Prestigious Audubon International Community Designation. One of the first steps is developing a community-wide plan that includes direct input from residents.

Your input will inform us of the actions you take to protect the natural resources and unique landscapes that exist within the Village. Residents are encouraged to take the sustainability survey on the Village website at www.vhw.org.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Upcoming Public Meetings

March 2020

Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, March 9, 6:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Business Continuity Work Group	Thursday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn

April 2020

Environmental Committee Meeting	Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Hawthorn Woods In Bloom Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn

May 2020

Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, May 11, 6:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting	Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Police Department
Village Board of Trustees Police Pension Meeting	Tuesday, May 19, 11:00 a.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Business Continuity Work Group	Thursday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Village Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 6:00 p.m.	Village Hall
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn
Planning, Building, and Zoning Commission Meeting	Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.	Village Hall - Barn

Upcoming Special Events

Bark in the Park	Saturday, April 4, 2020 10:00 a.m. - Noon	Community Park
Golf Outing Fundraiser	Monday, May 18, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Hawthorn Woods Country Club
Aquatic Center Opening Day	Saturday, May 23, 2020 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Aquatic Center

Please visit www.vhw.org for calendar updates.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

From Mayor Joseph Mancino

Dear Neighbors,

Eleven years ago, the residents of Hawthorn Woods gave me the honor to serve them as Mayor. Today I wish to thank all of you who have allowed me this extended privilege to serve, and I wish to thank you for your citizenship which has allowed this village to become a better, more beautiful and more livable place to call home. Through the years I have had the chance to get to know you - your emails, letters, phone calls, and the impromptu grocery store meetings. Doing so has shown me the goodness of our residents, and it inspired me to work hard, always shoot straight, and never give up.

It is with gratitude that I write and inform you that I will be relocating out of town in March and as such I will be stepping aside as Mayor. What has been both a humbling and rewarding experience is one that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

As an immigrant, I can say firsthand how much I have appreciated our country and the opportunities it afforded my family, including the opportunity to become a resident of Hawthorn Woods. I have always believed in volunteerism and service to others, and serving as mayor has been the pinnacle of that belief.

I am proud to report that for the past 11 years, the Village has seen a financial turnaround, undertaken several public works improvement projects around town, and enhanced our service departments. We have been awarded national recognitions in several departments and are known as the most environmental community in the United States in 2019 by America in Bloom. We have modernized our Public Works fleet for snow and ice removal, upgraded our Police Department fleet, and increased our free special events and concert series for families. We have paid down inherited debt, and acquired no new debt. We now have a 5-year capital plan in place, and have created sustainable line item funding for future financial security. Even our Budget has had a complete renovation, and we now include a reader friendly Priority Based Budget summary document published annually and available on our website. As a result, we have been awarded the GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting Award every year for the past 10 years.

I have served with an amazing group of elected Board of Trustees that serve without compensation to set policies and procedural direction for the Village. These residents are your neighbors who sacrifice family time and dedicate their own resources to oversee Village operations. We also have a dedicated and professional staff that is second to none in the municipal arena – this I know as a fact. I have stood on the shoulders of all these people, as they humbly serve this village. Not one of the achievements we enjoyed could be possible without this team that served with me all these years. As your Mayor I have had the privilege of serving on regional councils as well, representing Hawthorn Woods on the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus as their Chairman of the Board, and serving as President of the Lake County Municipal League. Our Village is well respected in the region, in the state and in the nation.

We have earned the prestigious Safest City in Illinois award because of our outstanding Police Department. Our employees have won national competitions in their professional organizations for achieving excellence among their national peers. And we have been selected the most desirable hometown community in the United States in our population category as National Community Champion by the America in Bloom Foundation.

(Mayor's Message Continues On Next Page)

Village of Hawthorn Woods **NEWSLETTER**

Collectively, we have made the Village of Hawthorn Woods one of the most desirable hometowns to live, work, be educated, and spend leisure time. We have a commonality of preserving our rural lifestyle with modern amenities nearby. We enjoy living in harmony with our natural world, and have worked tirelessly to preserve our beautiful ecosystems. And with the Board's succession management plan, our next Mayor promises to uphold these values that drew us all to choose Hawthorn Woods as our hometown.

This volunteer experience has forever engaged my heart in service toward others. While I am moving away from town a piece of my heart will always remain here, at home. I hope to see you again as a returning friend attending one of our many special events in Hawthorn Woods in the near future so that I can thank you personally. On behalf of my entire family, we thank you for the honor you bestowed on me to serve this community as your Mayor.

With Kindest Regards and Heartfelt Appreciation,

Joe

March 17, 2020 Referendum Information **Hawthorn Woods Paves the Way**

On March 17, 2020, the Village of Hawthorn Woods will have a referendum question on the ballot regarding funding road repair and maintenance.

The road infrastructure in Hawthorn Woods is aging. An independent engineering study found that approximately 90% of the village's streets urgently need either resurfacing or reconstruction. Over the next 20 years, all the village's streets will need either resurfacing or reconstruction. With proper maintenance, the lifespan of a road in our climate is 15 to 20 years. It has been over 17 years since our last program was funded in 2003. The report identified failing pavement, roads without concrete ribbon, and aging metal culverts throughout town that need to be repaired and maintained.



One example is of the state of Kruckenber Road.

The referendum seeks to fund a financial plan for street repair and maintenance for all streets under the Village's control. As a result of your feedback, the Village reduced the amount of the request from \$1.2 Million dollars annually to \$975,000 annually. The plan calls for an annual road program using funds received through a tax rate increase. The current Village tax rate does not provide enough income to fund the required road repair and maintenance program. Voter approval is required if the village is to undertake repair and replacement of our road network. The SSA portion of your tax bill, which funded the previous road program, will be eliminated from your tax bill in 2022.

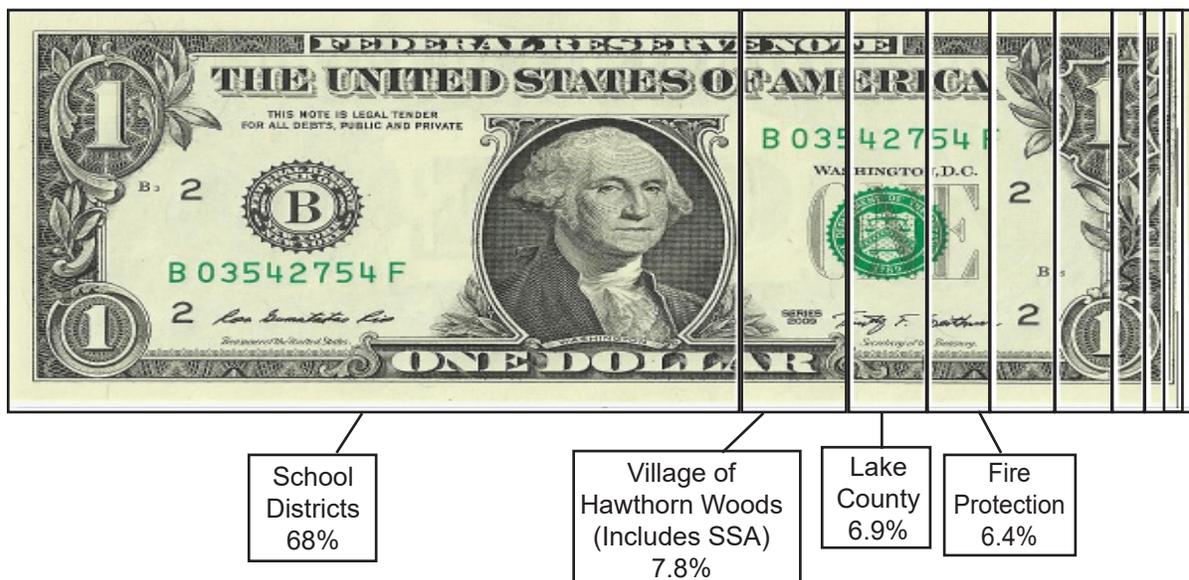
What will the program cost? For the 2020 levy year, the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$68.63 annually. The ballot will include the heading Proposition to Increase the Limiting Rate. The wording on the ballot is limited by law and cannot include a detailed description of the program.

If the referendum is approved by the public, the plan will eliminate the annual Village vehicle sticker fee charged each year for all vehicles.

The total average cost for reconstruction of one mile of road work is \$1 Million dollars. This program will provide funds to repave the roads that can benefit from an overlay and provide routine and necessary maintenance before total reconstruction is necessary.

Currently, some residents pay a higher portion of their real estate than others based on their SSA population, and some residents pay no portion of their real estate taxes for the current SSA because they were not enrolled in the SSA program as their subdivisions were not part of the Village at the time the SSA's were created. This program will include all properties in the Village based on the assessed valuation of each property. The plan will not borrow in bonding capability, incurring interest. Rather, annual street maintenance projects as outlined in the engineering plan will occur as taxes are collected.

Property Tax Allocation



Village of Hawthorn Woods property owners pay property taxes which generate revenue used to operate the Village departments, School Districts, Fire Districts, Libraries, Townships, and Township Road Districts.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is under the Property tax Extension Limitation Law which caps increases in property tax extensions for non-home rule taxing districts. Increases in tax extensions are limited to the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the year preceding the levy year.

A common misconception about property taxes is that all the money collected goes to the Village. The Village's portion of a resident's total tax bill is approximately 7% to 9%. The Village relies on a combination of sales tax, property taxes, and other fees collected to provide essential core services to its residents. The chart above illustrates the approximate breakdown of a typical residential tax bill with the top four entities that receive a portion of your property tax bill. (This depends on where you are located because the Village has multiple different taxing bodies within its boundaries, and rates vary depending on which taxing bodies serve your residence.)

Water Quality Tips

Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality

Aesthetics is only one benefit for properly maintained properties; sustainable, watershed-friendly best management practices (BMP's) are another. Nutrient and pesticide management is one BMP that homeowners and HOA boards should consider. Out of twenty nutrients required for plant growth, phosphorus is most often found in excess in streams and lakes. Phosphorus is the most troublesome pollutant because it feeds algae and weeds, which use up oxygen in the water. Some communities in Lake County have banned the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous. Residents are encouraged to comply with this important environmental consideration when buying and applying lawn treatments. When purchasing a bag of phosphorous-free fertilizer, there will be three numbers on the bag; the middle number should be zero to ensure compliance.

Test your soil before applying any fertilizer or pesticide. This will save you money since you will know the appropriate amount and type of fertilizer that is needed for your yard. If you use a lawn care service, know what chemicals are being used on your lawn.

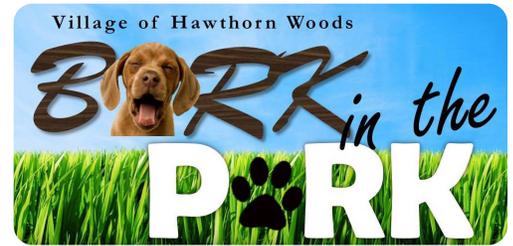
Simple best management practices can be applied by the homeowner or HOA for water quality, flood reduction and healthy natural resources which adds to the quality of life factor for homeowners and those living in the watershed. Visit Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's website to learn more water quality best management.

Bark in the Park

Saturday, April 4, 10:00am - Noon

Community Park

Dogs are welcome to gather with family and friends at Community Park in Hawthorn Woods for the Bark in the Park event. This free community event will take place on Saturday, April 4, 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 or test their skills in our agility 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 18, 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 enjoy locker room service, golf event activities, lunch, dinner, drink ticket, snacks, and an appreciation gift.



Aquatic Center Opening Day

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 a.m.

Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center is scheduled to open for the 2020 season on Saturday, May 23. Early bird rates on season passes are available through March 31. Save 10% on your season pass by registering early! Swim lesson registration will begin on March 1. Visit www.vhw.org/HWAC for details.



Aquatic Center season pass early bird rates available through March 31

Youth Soccer League

Wednesdays & Saturdays, April 15 - June 6 (no play 5/23)

Heritage Oaks Park

The Village of Hawthorn Woods and Hawthorn Woods Elite Soccer are proud to offer youth soccer for children in grades pre-k (the year before entering kindergarten) through 6th. Our league provides instruction to build upon each player's skills in a recreation-based environment where players learn by playing together on the field. Practices are held on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Games are played on Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



Pre-K - Kindergarten (2 days/week)

Registration	Code	Early Reg Fees (through 3/31)	Regular Fees (starting 4/1)
Program + Uniform	2762	\$150/res; \$175/non-res	\$160/res; \$185/non-res
Program Only	2761	\$135/res; \$155/non-res	\$145/res; \$165/non-res

Pre-K - Kindergarten (1 day/week)

Registration	Code	Early Reg Fees (through 3/31)	Regular Fees (starting 4/1)
Program + Uniform	2760	\$115/res; \$135/non-res	\$125/res; \$145/non-res
Program Only	2759	\$100/res; \$115/non-res	\$110/res; \$125/non-res

Grades 1-3

Registration	Code	Early Reg Fees (through 3/31)	Regular Fees (starting 4/1)
Program + Uniform	2756	\$150/res; \$175/non-res	\$160/res; \$185/non-res
Program Only	2755	\$135/res; \$155/non-res	\$145/res; \$165/non-res

Grades 4-6

Registration	Code	Early Reg Fees (through 3/31)	Regular Fees (starting 4/1)
Program + Uniform	2758	\$150/res; \$175/non-res	\$160/res; \$185/non-res
Program Only	2757	\$135/res; \$155/non-res	\$145/res; \$165/non-res

Youth Baseball League

Wednesdays & Saturdays, May 9 - June 27 (no play 5/23)

Heritage Oaks Park

This 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. Practices will be 1-hour on Wednesdays. Games will be played on Saturdays at Heritage Oaks Park. All players must have a uniform (included in program fees) which includes a jersey and a hat. Each player must provide their own pants, shoes, socks, and glove. Coached by the Lake County Stars.



Level	Code	Fees
6U (ages 5-6)	2750	\$125/res; \$140/non-res
8U (ages 7-8)	2751	\$125/res; \$140/non-res
10U (ages 9-10)	2752	\$125/res; \$140/non-res



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2020 Census Information

Mark your calendars – April 1, 2020 is Census Day. Postcards regarding the 2020 decennial count will be mailed to residents by the US Census Bureau in March 2020. The Census counts everyone living in the country, and the data can be used to inform important funding decisions that affect our community. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for our community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. Residents will have three ways to respond to the Census questionnaire. You can respond online, call by phone, or send it in by mail. If you don't respond, a Census Taker will follow up and assist you. For more information, visit 2020census.gov.

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2020