

# HAWTHORN WOODS HAPPENINGS



Fall

2020

Issue 3



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## Did You Know...

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is an affiliate with the national environmental initiative Bee City USA®. We join many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving landscapes for pollinators. We are proud to do our part for sustainability in our region.



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

I send you warm greetings this Autumn season to you and your loved ones. Even amid a global pandemic, the Village of Hawthorn Woods continues to remain tenacious in pursuit of ambitious environmental achievements and lifestyle enhancements for our community.

I am proud to announce the Village of Hawthorn Woods' designation as an International Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association. The Village is only the second community to receive this prestigious designation in the State of Illinois. The first was the Village of Homer Glen in 2011.

The International Dark-Sky Association, founded in 1988, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the night sky from the negative effects of artificial light at night. There are twenty-eight International Dark Sky Communities worldwide, and the Village of Hawthorn Woods is now pleased to be the twenty-ninth. With the adoption of our new Municipal Lighting Ordinance in September of 2019, the Village takes a comprehensive approach toward reducing light pollution, conserving energy, protecting nocturnal wildlife patterns, and promoting public safety. We are confident this Ordinance will serve as a model for all communities within Lake County and we will continue to educate and promote the importance of sustainably maintaining our dark sky with the use of appropriate lighting at the right time and in the right amount. I am proud to be part of a Village that desires to preserve its rural nature and fights to maintain the natural beauty Hawthorn Woods has to offer. The Village plans to conduct safely distanced dark sky activities, including stargazing classes, night photography, movies under the stars, and virtual classes designed to instruct our constituents in identifying the constellations and inform them of upcoming celestial events. As an International Dark Sky Community, the Village will continue its commitment to preserving the natural wonder of the night sky for current and future generations while remaining among the safest cities in Illinois.



*Photography from  
Hawthorn Woods at night.*

In another recognition earned, The Village of Hawthorn Woods is also pleased to have been named the Third Best City for Fit Lifestyles in the State of Illinois for 2020, according to BarBend.com. BarBend.com is a leading health, wellness, and fitness independent website, founded in 2016. A Fit Score was formulated for each Illinois municipality based upon eleven criteria, such as population, obesity rate, exercise opportunities, municipal recreation areas, and access to healthy foods. The Fit Score for the Village of Hawthorn Woods is 84.05, preceded only by the communities of Long Grove and Lake Forest.

The Village has always encouraged an outdoor, active lifestyle with a total of twenty-three public parks, hosting a variety of amenities accessible to all mobilities, such as walking trails, nature preserves, playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, and lush open spaces.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is dedicated to maintaining our environment, the preservation of our Dark Sky, the protection of our natural resources, and the health and wellness of our residents through recreation, and we are proud to be recognized in these endeavors. The autumn beauty of our Hawthorn Woods community awaits your visit. I wish you and your family good health and hope to see you out enjoying one of our twenty-three parks and municipal nature preserves this fall.

Warmest Personal Regards,

*Mayor Dominick DiMaggio*

# Parks & Recreation

The Village of Hawthorn Woods Parks and Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life for all of our residents. During these unprecedented times, we aim to provide community members with recreational programs and events that builds self-confidence, engages others with their community, and provides mental and physical well-being. Although recreation looks different today, we will continue to work to provide our residents of all ages and abilities with new and fun opportunities. We are offering some in-person outdoor activities this fall such as Taekwondo, Soccer, and Baseball. Be on the lookout for new virtual programs to be offered throughout the year.



The Village proudly owns and maintains 23 park, open space, and natural area sites. These sites make up a total of 183.5 acres. Parks are open and available for use to our community. Fall is a great time of year to get outdoors and admire the beauty of nature as the colors of the trees begin to change. Our trails are perfect for individual or family activities such as walking, running and biking. Tennis courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds are open and will remain open as long as our region remains in phase 4, or as otherwise directed by local or state health agencies. All park goers must practice safe social distancing.

## America In Bloom 2020 Update

America in Bloom is a non-profit, volunteer organization which promotes and facilitates community enhancement programs through the use of community engagement by sponsoring a national competition between participating communities throughout the United States each year.

This is the third year the Village of Hawthorn Woods has been a proud and award-winning participant in this competition. Typically, a panel of America in Bloom judges would spend two full days touring a participating community. However, this summer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tour was strictly virtual, involving five separate, extensive zoom meetings between the panel of judges and our Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee volunteers, Mayor Dominick DiMaggio, the Village Board of Trustees, and several staff members and residents. They virtually met our business owners and residents through live video excursions through our parks, businesses, and home gardens.



Last year, the Village won National Champion in our population category for the second year in a row, along with the Outstanding Achievement Award in Environmental Efforts and the Cultivating Inspiration-Community Mentoring Award. We look forward to the feedback and suggestions we will receive from our panel of judges to help improve the quality of life for our residents with a welcoming and vibrant place to live, work, and play. We are encouraged to beautify Hawthorn Woods through the use of colorful plants and trees, sustainable environments, a celebration of heritage, and planting pride through volunteerism.

The winning communities for this year will be announced in October during the America in Bloom Virtual Symposium.

Please visit [www.vhw.org](http://www.vhw.org) for updates.

# Village of Hawthorn Woods **NEWSLETTER**



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## Yard Waste Information

The yard waste service collects grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs and other yard waste materials and takes them to facilities where they can be used to create renewable energy or compost.

Residents have many options to participate this year. The first option is to make an annual payment of \$118.00 directly to Waste Management and receive unlimited service ranging from April 1st - November 30th. To register for this service, please contact Waste Management Customer Service at 1 (800) 796-9696, or visit the Waste Management Customer Service.

Alternatively, yard waste stickers are required for individual landscape waste bag pickups throughout the season and are available for purchase at Village Hall, directly through Waste Management, or at Hawthorn Gardens on Old McHenry Road. For a contactless purchase, please contact Amy at (847) 847-3537 or at: [abelmonte@vhw.org](mailto:abelmonte@vhw.org), or Erica at (847) 847-3586 or at: [erezula@vhw.org](mailto:erezula@vhw.org) and stickers will be mailed to you remotely. Please allow time for delivery when purchasing through Village Hall and Waste Management. Stickers must be applied to each paper bag or bundle of brush for individual pick up at curb.