

HAWTHORN WOODS HAPPENINGS



Winter
2020-2021
Issue 4



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Did You Know...

Did you know that even as the weather starts to turn that our award-winning Village parks are still open year-round? When the snow begins to fall, our residents can still enjoy our 23 parks and walking trails in the Village. All Village parks are open at sunrise, and close at sunset. Staying active is especially important during the winter months to help boost spirits, stay healthy, and enjoy fresh air!



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Upcoming Public Meetings

December 2020

There are no meetings scheduled for December.

January 2021

Sustainability Committee Meeting	Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m.
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, Jan 25, 7:00 p.m.
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.

February 2021

Finance Committee Meeting	Monday, Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m.
Planning Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Police Commissioners Board Meeting	Wednesday, Feb. 10, 3:00 p.m.
Village Board of Trustees Meeting	Monday, Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.
Planning, Building & Zoning Commission Meeting	Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Meeting	Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6:00 p.m.

At this time, Public Meetings are being held virtually on the Zoom platform in accordance with health regulations. All residents are invited to attend. Public meetings can be subject to change, please check the Village website for updates. The Zoom link will be posted on the meeting agenda.

Please visit www.vhw.org for calendar updates.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings to all!

As colder weather arrives in Hawthorn Woods, we are preparing to celebrate the holidays and winter season safely with newly formatted community events. Santa will be visiting the Village, and we are pleased to host a drive-through Santa visit in Heritage Oak Park this December. Our Toys for Tots collection will continue this year, as we have always been a generous community offering our help to those in need. And of course, our Village Holiday Tree will illuminate with Dark Sky compliant lights at Community Park on December 5th. We hope these and several other digital, virtual, and outdoor events unite us as one community as we close out 2020 and welcome the New Year.

We are happy to share with you that the Village of Hawthorn Woods is the recipient of several awards and accolades that were recently announced, including the America in Bloom Best Ecological Preservation Project Award for our continuing work at Briarwoods Preserve and Meadowlark Park and Arboretum. We were also recognized for our Environmental Efforts community-wide. Additionally, our Chief Operating Officer, Pamela Newton, was chosen as the America in Bloom National Champion. This prestigious award is only given to one person annually, and the Village of Hawthorn Woods is now being nationally recognized for Pam's leadership. We extend our congratulations to Pam for this amazing achievement, and are so appreciative of her dedication to our community.

Additionally, we have been named the third best city in the State of Illinois for Fit Lifestyles for 2020 by BarBend, a leading health, wellness, and fitness group. We were praised for our 23 municipal parks and open spaces, supporting our many generations of residents and visitors. Please remember to visit our parks, even as the weather turns colder. Our sled hill at Community Park and our many trails await your visit in every season.

In October, I had the honor of cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony of our newest municipal park, Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, located at the corner of Schwerman Road and Meadowlark Drive. It was great to have our former Mayor, Joseph Mancino, join us for this celebration. This is a playground like no other in the entire state of Illinois, with various play pods depicting the history of our land use from the glacial age, to the woodland and wetland habitats, and eventually our agricultural heritage. The park has a tree trail guide, a picnic grove, an outdoor classroom, accessible play pieces for all abilities of play, a walking trail, and playgrounds environmentally designed for each play pod. The Village spent all summer working on this new public park that was funded through various grants including CN EcoConnections through America in Bloom, The Chicago Regions Trees Initiative through the Morton Arboretum, and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. This new park is open all year from sunrise to sunset.



Mayor Dominick DiMaggio at Meadowlark Park and Arboretum

I am especially proud to report to you that despite the economic challenges that the pandemic has brought this year, the village has received a grant from the CARES Act that will enable the Village to will finish the year on Budget.

Village of Hawthorn Woods **NEWSLETTER**

Many other municipalities have needed to dip into their reserve funds because of reduced income this year, but the Village of Hawthorn Woods has proactively been cutting expenditures since March in order to anticipate reduced revenues. Because of these budget cuts combined with grant awards, the Village will finish the year financially on target.

This is a tremendous accomplishment for this most challenging year. I thank staff for the personal sacrifices they made with voluntary furloughs, immediate budget cuts back in March, and a relentless commitment to writing grant applications to find funding relief for the Village so that essential services could continue during the economic slowdown. What a great team effort!

As this unprecedented year draws to a close, I am grateful to live in a town with such compassionate people who offer their time and talents to serve our community and our residents. On behalf of all of us at the Village, I extend to you and your families wishes for the happiest of holidays!

Season's Greetings,

Mayor Dominick DiMaggio

2020 America in Bloom Update

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is pleased to announce that Chief Operating Officer, Pamela O. Newton, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Dwight Lund Community Champion Award by America in Bloom. America in Bloom (AIB), a nonprofit organization founded in 2001, promotes community enhancement programs that emphasize cultural heritage, community vitality, environmental leadership, beautification efforts, citizen engagement, and urban forestry.

America in Bloom sponsored their annual nationwide competition between 245 participating communities throughout the United States citing achievements in community leadership while engaging in meeting the goals of the organization. The AIB Dwight Lund Community Champion Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies community leadership through actions that reflect the AIB mission and demonstrates a vision and selfless commitment to moving their community forward.



Pamela Newton

Pamela Newton was awarded this prestigious honor during the AIB virtual conference and has tirelessly and enthusiastically served the Village of Hawthorn Woods as its Chief Operating Officer since 2009. Additionally, Pam has proven leadership service honors holding various Illinois municipal, county, and state positions since 1985.

“Pam expects excellence first from herself before challenging others to always raise the bar of performance and service. She guides staff members with extensive experience, an inexhaustible work ethic, kindness, and compassion. A community, any community, could not ask for more!” stated America in Bloom Executive Director, Laura Kunkle, as they announced the award.

“Pam Newton has been our Community Champion for years, and now we share her success story with others after receiving this national award for her accomplishments in leadership,” stated Mayor Dominick DiMaggio. “During this year of unprecedented global health and economic challenges, it is fitting that Pam Newton has received national acclaim in 2020. This award brings honor to Hawthorn Woods and the entire State of Illinois, as Pam’s talents are recognized by professionals across the nation.”

Snow Plow Know How

During the winter season, the Village performs snow and ice removal operations on village owned streets. The Village's Public Works Department offers the following information to help ensure snowplow operations are accomplished in a safe and effective manner:

- Obstructions in the Village right-of-way are not allowed. Placement of obstacles such as rocks, boulders, trees, shrubs, monument columns and monument mailboxes that inhibit snowplowing and vehicular traffic movement or that prohibit maintenance of the right-of-way or obstruct vision are prohibited in the Village right-of-way.
- Depositing snow to streets creates a hazard and is very dangerous after it freezes. When removing snow from private property, please avoid shoveling snow onto or across village streets or sidewalks.
- Parking is prohibited on any street during snowfall events. On-street vehicles impede the ability to clear the street of snow.

Please use the following guidelines to report hazardous road conditions such as ice, over two inches of snow accumulation, or drift over roads:

- Any hour of the day, visit our website (www.vhw.org) and use the Report a Concern function to send a message directly to our Public Works department regarding road conditions.
- Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., please call (847) 540-5227 to report any concerns regarding road conditions.

The Village acts with great care during snow and ice events. However, snow removal efforts may result in damage to right of ways, parkways, and mailboxes. When a properly installed mailbox is damaged during Village snow plow operations, the mailbox will be repaired or replaced with a standard issue mailbox as soon as possible. Please be sure your mailbox is located according to U.S. Postal regulations, as box placement too close to the roadway may result in damage. Thank you, be safe, and we'll see you out and about this Winter!





Hawthorn Woods Drop-Off Locations:

- Hawthorn Woods Police Department
- Inland Bank
- Spencer Loomis Elementary School
- The Goddard School
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School
- Lake Zurich Middle School North
- Helen Oliveri Real Estate Office

Happy Holidays!

Toys for Tots will be collected by the US Marine Corps and Hawthorn Woods Police Department. Bring your new and unwrapped toys to give to children in need this holiday season. Every year the Village of Hawthorn Woods participates in collecting Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots has the mission to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children. The following locations have drop-off boxes for the new and unwrapped toys:



- Hawthorn Woods Police Department
- Inland Bank
- Spencer Loomis Elementary School
- The Goddard School
- St. Matthew Lutheran School North
- Lake Zurich Middle School North
- Helen Oliveri Real Estate Office



Craft Fair Vendor Listing



Due to the COVID-19 health regulations, the traditional Hawthorn Woods Holiday Craft Fair at the Village Barn has been cancelled. However, don't let that stop you from finding unique and hand-crafted holiday home decor and gifts for your loved ones! We have created a list of talented vendors to help keep your holiday season special. Find the perfect treasure for yourself or anyone on your holiday gift list and continue to support local artists and our family-owned business community. View our vendor listing on our Website or Facebook page as we shop local and support our community.

Website: www.vhw.org/CraftFair

Facebook: [@VillageOfHawthornWoods](https://www.facebook.com/VillageOfHawthornWoods)

Village Vehicle Stickers and Dog Tags Expiring Soon

Your current vehicle sticker(s) will expire January 31, 2021. You will receive your renewal form in the mail the first week of January. Per Village Code, stickers must be displayed by January 31. Failure to purchase new stickers and/or dog tags will subject you to a penalty.

This year a unique pin number will be included on every application allowing for the purchase of vehicle stickers and dog tags using our new online portal. Residents will be able to purchase vehicle stickers, update vehicle information, and make payments through the online portal. If you are not able to use the portal, you can mail in your form with payment, or drop it off in our drop box outside of Village Hall at the double red doors. You may also phone in your payment with a credit card to the numbers listed below.



Senior rates are available for residents 65 years of age or older. To qualify for a senior rate, a copy of each driver's license is required to be on file. If you are just reaching the senior discount age, you can mail-in or drop off a copy of your driver's license that we will add to your file. Please watch for the applications in the mail the first week of January.

If you have any questions, or if you need to update any of your information at this time, please contact either Amy Belmonte at (847) 847-3537 or abelmonte@vhw.org, or Erica Rezula at (847) 847-3586, or erezula@vhw.org.



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Staying Healthy During this Winter Season

When planning for Winter holidays, keep in mind small gatherings are places where COVID-19 can quickly spread. It is important to be cautious even when you are around family and close friends. Take time to plan with care to be as safe as possible. Consider virtual alternatives as they are the safest option.



The Village of Hawthorn Woods encourages all of our residents to continue to practice healthy habits to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Village encourages residents to continue to follow the 3 W's to help keep our community healthy. Please continue to wash your hands regularly, wear a mask to protect yourself and others, and to continue to distance from others when gathering.

To view additional safety tips and updates to reduce the spread please visit lakecountyil.gov/coronavirus.