

HAWTHORN WOODS HAPPENINGS



Spring

2025

Issue 1



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Did You Know...

To ensure the safety and protection of our residents, all contractors performing home repairs or improvements — such as window replacements, hot water heater installations, roof repairs, interior basement remodels, room additions, or exterior patio projects — must be registered with the Village.

Before signing any home improvement contract, please email our Building Department at permits@vhw.org or contact Amy Belmonte at (847) 847-3537 or Eileen Anderson at (847) 847-3586 to confirm your contractor's registration status.



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As we welcome the new year, I would like to share the Village of Hawthorn Woods' key initiatives for 2025 intended to enhance the quality of life for our community in our continued commitment to excellence.

Priority Based Budget – The Village is in stride with its twelfth year of the Priority Based Budget document, leading the municipal community with innovative zero-based budgeting and prioritization of limited expenditures. The Budget is balanced and the Hawthorn Woods community is in a strong financial position.

Lake Michigan Water Allocation – The Village has negotiated, for the first time in the history of its incorporation, an allocation for a future Lake Michigan water supply opportunity for those residents not on individual wells. The distribution of clean, reliable, and safe drinking water is a priority project for the Village, involving a historic partnership with the Central Lake County Joint Water Action Agency (CLCJAWA).

Road Program expands in 2025 – We will continue to share *HW Paves the Way* details with the community as we begin the second full year of our street renovation and maintenance program. Streets currently without concrete ribbon borders in the original part of town are prioritized, including Sequoia, Blackhawk, Shenandoah, and Rutgers Roads.

Waste Management Contract Renewal – On January 1, 2025, the Village renewed services with Waste Management involving the execution of a new 5-year contract for refuse and recycling.

2025 Introduces a New Integrated Police Dispatch System – One of the most significant changes in the 2025 Budget is the addition of our membership into a new Regional 911 consolidation dispatch consortium with other Lake County public safety entities, including police and fire. This dispatch system is expected to become fully operational by the summer of 2025.

Lake County Old McHenry Crossing OMX Project/Transportation Initiatives – 2025 will see the advancement of a critical infrastructure initiative in town that will impact all motoring public that currently cross the CN railroad tracks on Old McHenry Road, involving a grade separation project that will allow for traffic to move under the tracks through town. Once completed, this multi-year initiative will become a pivotal transportation improvement for all residents of Hawthorn Woods, which will include new traffic lanes, new signalization, and new bike paths.

Hawthorn Woods to Advance Entry Monument Sign Program – The Village is embarking on a new placemaking initiative with the implementation of two entry sign monuments to be placed at the north and south entry points to our community. The first sign is nearing completion at the corner of Route 22 and Quentin Road.

Together we can make this year one of transformation and opportunity. On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and staff, I wish you all a prosperous and fulfilling 2025!

Warmest Regards,

Mayor Dominick DiMaggio

Introducing Recycle Coach

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is excited to announce our new relationship with Recycle Coach! Recycle Coach is an interactive app designed to provide residents with waste/recycling/landscape information unique to your address, disposal decisions, and learning modules for all ages. Some of the features of the Recycle Coach app include:

- **Collection Calendar:** Never miss a pick-up day again. The collection calendar will provide information on your pick-up day, and will even send you a reminder the day before to take your garbage out.
- **What Goes Where Search Tool:** You will be able to use the search tool to understand if certain items are recyclable or should be thrown in the garbage. You will also be able to find drop-off locations.
- **Problem Reporting:** Broken bins, missed collections, wrong information – you can let us know about it right away from the Help tool.
- **Learning Modules:** So, you think you're a recycling pro? Prove it with quizzes, polls, and other interactive features that challenge people of all ages.

Download the app at the Apple App Store or at Google Play.

Welcome to Recycle Coach

Download our free Mobile App today to become a better recycler.



Hawthorn Woods Continues Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Village of Hawthorn Woods has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 18th consecutive year! The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Village of Hawthorn Woods for our annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate our financial story.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



Community Development Update

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is excited to share the latest development updates happening within our vibrant community. Here are the highlights of our recent and upcoming community development projects:

Residential Growth and Development:

Our Village continues to attract new families, and several residential projects are planned or underway. The Hawthorn Woods Country Club subdivision is progressing steadily, with two new phases of development approved for additional residential units. M/I Homes has been steadily building out the community and is focused on completing the neighborhood in the next several years. The Village has also received numerous inquiries for new residential development and we are excited to grow our community.

Upcoming Commercial Projects:

In addition to residential growth, we're thrilled to announce several new commercial projects that will enhance the vibrancy of our Village. A new Starbucks is slated for construction near the intersection of Route 22 and Quentin Road, bringing a stand-alone, drive-thru facility to our residents. Development plans are also underway for a nine-lot commercial project located at the corner of Midlothian Road and Old McHenry Road. These commercial developments aim to support local businesses, create jobs, and provide more amenities for our growing population.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Together, we're building a bright and thriving future for Hawthorn Woods!





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Sign Up

Weekly E-Blasts
www.vhw.org > Keep In Touch

Emergency Alerts
Text Hawthornwoods to 994-11

Security Enhancements in Our Public Parks

As a reminder, our community parks are closed at dusk to ensure the safety and well-being of all who enjoy them. We kindly ask that you respect these hours and help us maintain a peaceful environment for everyone. In order to better protect our parks and prevent any vandalism, we've recently installed security



cameras. These cameras will help us identify anyone violating the park closure ordinance, or anyone causing damage or engaging in inappropriate behavior. We will take necessary actions to preserve the integrity of our shared spaces as the Police Department monitors our parks on a 24-hour daily basis.

Our parks are valuable assets to the community, providing safe and enjoyable areas for recreation and relaxation. Let's work together to keep them in excellent condition by using them responsibly and encouraging others to do the same. Your cooperation in adhering to park hours and taking care of these spaces is greatly appreciated. **Please call the police non-emergency number at (847) 438-2349 to report suspicious activity in our parks.**



Lake County Symphony Orchestra
All That Jazz Concert
March 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall Barn
Tickets On Sale Now
www.lakecountysymphonyorchestra.com