



VILLAGE OF

Palatine Newsletter

February 20

Work to Begin This Spring on Cedar Street Between Daniels and Palatine Road

Improvements are continuing in the Cedar Street corridor from Palatine Road to Illinois Avenue. The improvements, which began in 2005, started from the south and have progressed northward over the last two years. In 2005, repairs were made to the pavement base, new curbing was installed, and resurfacing completed from Illinois Avenue to Pleasant Hill Blvd. In 2006, similar improvements were made from Pleasant Hill Boulevard to Daniels Road.

Beginning this spring, work will get underway on roadway rehabilitation on Cedar Street between Daniels Road and Palatine Road. The entire corridor will have new curb and gutter, additional storm sewers installed at each intersection, and a uniform pavement width will be created to match the roadway improvements completed in 2005-06. In addition, sidewalk gaps will be filled, and the pavement will be resurfaced.

Questions? Contact the Engineering Department at (847) 359-9044.



Cedar Street, before and after

2007 Will See Major Improvement Projects For Streets, Lighting, Landscaping and More

The coming year will be a busy one in Palatine, with more than \$11.5 million budgeted for 61 projects, from streets to sewers, flood control to forestry. Among the budgeted items are major improvements to Cedar Street (see column to the left), and \$1.7 million worth of upgrades to the Illinois Avenue fire station (see page 9). Here's a quick look at some of the other key projects in the works for 2007.

Street Improvements:

- Reconstruction of First Bank Drive, Northwest Highway to Hicks Road
- Partial rehabilitation of Winslowe Drive, south west of Rand Road
- Widening of Dorset Street, Elm Street to Cedar Street

Lighting Improvements:

- First Bank Drive, Northwest Highway to Hicks Road
- Colfax Avenue, Northwest Highway to Brockway
- Tulip Way, Capri Drive to Lilac Drive
- Lilac Drive, Capri Drive to Tulip Way

Pedestrian Improvements:

- Pedestrian signals at Palatine Road at Quentin Road, and Northwest Highway at Sterling Drive.
- Sidewalks on Rand Road from Dundee to Williams; Northwest Highway from Williams Drive to Warren Drive; and Northwest Highway from Morrison Avenue to Palos Avenue.

- Railwalk extension: from Smith to Maple (continued on page 4)



Summer is in the Air!

Well, maybe not quite yet, but it won't be too many more weeks before trees start to bud, flowers begin to pop out of the ground, and another season of great Palatine summer events is upon us.

It's not too early to mark your calendar for:

Palatine Farmers Market: June through October

St. Nectarius Church Greekfest: June 22, 23 and 24

4th of July celebration: June 30 through July 4

2007 marks the Palatine Jaycees' 50th anniversary, and they're celebrating in style by putting on the longest running 4th of July festival EVER!

Street Fest: August 24-26

Fun, food and festivities for the entire family!



Portions of 44 Streets May be Resurfaced in 2007

The Village of Palatine has compiled a list of 44 streets targeted for resurfacing in 2007. If bids for the work come in higher than expected, some of the streets may have to be eliminated from this year's program. A total of \$2.4 million has been budgeted for street resurfacing this year.

Using both on-site visual inspections and computer projections, the Department of Public Works has recommended that 44 sections of the streets, listed at the right, should be resurfaced to keep them from deteriorating further and to extend their life an additional 12 to 15 years. Some of these streets have had extensive water-main and sewer repairs done in the last year, and because of this work, need resurfacing.

The average time from start to finish on any one street, not including pavement markings and landscaping, is 40 days. Improvements planned include the spot replacement of curb and gutter, adjustment of manholes and inlets, and asphalt overlay.

Work is expected to start in mid-March with an anticipated completion date of mid-July.



Street

Anderson Drive
Ash Street
Bel Aire Terrace
Benton Street
Benton Street
Borders Drive
Bothwell Street
Cedar Street
Clyde Street
Consumers Avenue
Countryside Drive
Drovers Lane
Eaton Court
Echo Lane
Elm Street
Garden Avenue
Glencoe Street
Greeley Street
Greenwood Avenue
Greenwood Avenue
Grissom Drive
Haddington Court
Haig Court
Hale Street
Hampton Court
Hunting Drive
Linden Avenue
Newkirk Lane
Olde Virginia Drive
Park Place Drive
Peebles Road
Pondview Drive
Richmond Street
Slade Street
Slade Street
Sparrow Court
Three Willow Court
Timberlea Drive
Washington Street
Westminster Drive
Westmoreland Drive
White Willow Bay
Wilshire Court
Wilson Street

From

Williams Drive
Kenilworth Avenue
Tahoe Trail
Colfax Street
Gilbert Road
Roselle Road
Helen Road
Illinois Avenue
Glencoe Road
Northwest Highway
Northwest Highway
Whitehall Drive
Mallard Drive
Elm Street
Home Avenue
N. Elm Street
Glenwood Street
Brockway Street
Lincoln Street
Palatine Road
Cooper Drive
Peebles Drive
Westmoreland Drive
Palatine Road
Kenilworth Avenue
Mallard Drive
Palatine Road
Churchill Drive
Cardinal Drive
Illinois Avenue
Haddington Court
Willow Street
Brockway Street
Cedar Street
Plum Grove Road
Gilbert Avenue
Illinois Avenue
Farm Gate Lane
Greeley Street
Willow Street
Old Hicks Road
Illinois Avenue
Morris Drive
Plum Grove Road

To

Winston Drive
Palatine Road
Pompano Lane
Northwest Highway
Helen Road
White Willow Bay
Palatine Road
Cul-de-sac
Palatine Road
End of R.O.W.
Sterling Drive
Kensington Court
Cul-de-sac
Elm Street
Dundee Road
Hicks Road
Northwest Highway
Palatine Road
Baldwin Road
Lincoln Street
Williams Drive
Cul-de-sac
Cul-de-sac
Colfax Street
Cul-de-sac
Cul-de-sac
Lincoln Street
Victoria Drive
Williams Drive
Cul-de-sac
Borders Drive
Cornell Avenue
Plum Grove Road
Smith Street
Oak Street
Cul-de-sac
Cul-de-sac
Cunningham Drive
Plum Grove Road
Cornell Avenue
Nichols Road
Dead End South
Cul-de-sac
Benton Street

Was Your Parkway or Mailbox Damaged During the Snowplowing Season?

If so, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 705-5200 to report it. Public Works crews inspect every parkway in the Village to check for damage at the end of the snowplowing season. However homeowners whose parkways or mailboxes have sustained damage are invited to call and make sure they are on the list.

Crews will repair damaged parkway areas with black dirt and seed. Please note that damage caused by salt is not included in the parkway repair program. In nearly all cases, grass damaged by salt will regrow, although sometimes more slowly than the homeowner would like.

Mailbox post damage is usually caused by the force of wet, heavy snow being pushed against the post by plow, rather than the post being struck by the plow its. Public Works crews will repair or replace damaged posts and reinstall the mailbox.



Important Voter Registration and Early Voting Information for the April 17 Consolidated Election



The following offices in the Village of Palatine shall be elected during the Non-Partisan Consolidated Election held April 17, 2007:

COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT #2 – to be elected by District #2 electors

COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT #3 – to be elected by District #3 electors

COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT #5 – to be elected by District #5 electors

VOTER REGISTRATION

The last day to register to vote for the April 17, 2007 Consolidated Election is **Tuesday, March 20, 2007**. Individuals may register anywhere in the State of Illinois that offers voter registration (i.e. Village/City Halls, Township Halls, County Offices). Two forms of identification are required showing the applicant's name and current address (i.e. driver's license, checkbook, piece of mail, utility bill, etc.).

To confirm that you are a registered voter, visit this website, www.voterinfo.net.com or call the Cook County Election Department at (312) 603-0906.

EARLY VOTING (no reason or excuse needed) Monday, March 26th through Thursday, April 12th

Registered voters in suburban Cook County can vote early from Monday, March 26, 2007 through Thursday, April 12, 2007 at any one of 32 early voting sites located throughout suburban Cook County, as well as downtown Chicago. The Village of Palatine, 200 E. Wood Street, is one of the early voting sites.

Early voting will be conducted on touch screens that store every ballot style in the county, permitting any voter in suburban Cook County to vote at any location. Early voters must show a current government-issued photo ID (Illinois driver's license, a State ID, or a passport).

Visit www.voterinfo.net.com for a complete listing of early voting sites.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING (a reason is required) ONLY AT COOK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

In-Person Absentee Voting will take place from Friday, April 13, 2007 through Monday, April 16, 2007 **only** at the Cook County Clerk's five suburban offices and their downtown office.

ABSENTEE VOTING THROUGH THE MAIL (must have a reason to vote early)

If you prefer to vote absentee by mail, or if you have children away at school who wish to vote absentee, you may download an application for an absentee ballot at www.voterinfo.net.com.

For additional information, please visit the Village of Palatine's website, www.palatine.il.us

ELECTION JUDGES

If you are interested in being an Election Judge, please contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at (312) 603-0965 or visit their website at www.voterinfo.net.com/sub/electionjudges.asp for more information.

Advisory referendum is on April 17 ballot

Should the Village of Palatine Provide the Funds to Save the Patten House?

The Patten House, a historic landmark in the Village of Palatine that dates from 1898, is for sale, and Village of Palatine voters are being asked via an advisory referendum on the April 17 election ballot if they would like to buy it.

Palatine voters will be asked if they favor spending an amount not to exceed \$1.75 million to purchase the house and rehab it for use as a community building, most likely an arts center.

The Palatine Village Council members feel it is important to ask voters' opinion before deciding for or

against purchasing the property. The referendum question is advisory only, meaning that the Council will take voters' wishes into consideration before making a final decision regarding purchase of the property.

The house, which is located at the corner of Wood and Benton streets, has long been considered a Village landmark, and appears in the left corner of the Village's official logo. It was originally built in 1898 by Charles H. Patten, a prominent banker who served as Palatine's Mayor from 1894 to 1895.



photo courtesy of Curtis Newborn

Isolated Problems Remain, But Significant Progress Made in Neighborhoods Prone to Flooding

Following two exceptionally heavy rainfalls in the fall of 2001, the Village Council adopted an aggressive program to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding in areas where property damage was occurring. Four areas of the Village were identified. Studies by four independent consultants identified \$20 million in needed flood improvements. \$10 million was bonded to cover the critical improvements under Phase 1 of a two phase program. The remaining \$10 million in Phase 2 have been programmed in the Village's Capital Improvements Program over a series of years. For more detailed information on this flood control program check out the Village's website at www.palatine.il.us/engineering.

By the fall of 2004, most of the Phase 1 flood mitigation improvements had been completed in the Palanois Park, Buffalo Creek, Winston Park and the South Central neighborhoods. Many of the areas that experienced major flooding problems in 2001 did not experience any flooding or the severity of the flooding was greatly reduced on October 2nd when 4+ inches of rain fell. However some flooding problems still persist.

While major strides have been made in these four areas as well as other areas around the Village, some more remains to be done. Both during and after the October 2nd storm, Village personnel were out throughout the Village responding to flooded areas and gathering data that would be useful in determining what could be done to reduce future flooding. A number of improvements were identified and have already been completed since October 2nd. The Village has hired outside consultants to investigate the causes and develop possible solutions to flooding that occurred in the north Winston Park area and the Capri Gardens and Pinehurst neighborhoods where the causes are more complex. Additionally the Village continues to fund various programs in the budget to address flooding concerns in other areas of the Village.

Awesome Art on Display -- Check It Out!!!

Commuters, coffee lovers, everyone passing through the train station will notice the recent installation of large paintings by residents of Little City. This is the result of a partnership between the Village of Palatine, Metra, Little City, and PIAC working together to showcase the creative talent of local artists.



Street, Sidewalk, Lighting Improvements for 2007

(continued from page 1)

Landscape Improvements:

The Winston Park water tank site on Kenilworth, and the Gateway Entrance at Algonquin Road at Roselle Road will be enhanced with trees, flowers, and shrubs this summer. In addition, the Cedar Street bridge at the West Branch of Salt Creek will be enhanced with a new facade, new lighting, brick pavers, and landscaping.

Flood Control Improvements:

The Village Council is committed to an ongoing program to reduce flood hazard in areas of the Village that have historically experienced significant flooding issues following heavy rainfalls. This year, the areas identified for additional flood control measures are:

- Colfax Storm Sewer Replacement – Quentin to Maple
- Gilbert – Glade Detention Pond
- Creek Improvements for Buffalo Creek, from Capri Drive to Baldwin Road
- New creek outfall structures at various locations
- Storm sewer inlet rehabilitation

Watermain Improvements:

Key projects included in this year's budget are replacement of the watermains at Big Oaks, Creekwood and Barrington Woods; well and pump station improvements at Well #16 (Bonhill); and water-main extensions at Coolidge and Elm.



Top photo: Tree planting on Brockway Street. Center photo: Street lighting installation on Capri Drive. Bottom photo: Installation of water pipes on Cedar Street.

Overnight Parking in Palatine: Here's What You Need to Know

The in-laws are visiting from out of town, but there isn't any room for their car in the driveway. What to do? According to the Village of Palatine's Overnight Parking Ordinance:

It is unlawful to park a vehicle on any street, alley or parkway for longer than 15 minutes between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00a.m., except for physicians on emergency calls. When a vehicle is left standing in violation of this section, a police officer will issue a citation.

Why is overnight parking restricted in this manner? For several important reasons:

- ❑ It enables the Village to keep people from using the street as a parking lot.
- ❑ It limits the number of vehicles parked on the street at night, which makes it possible for snowplowing crews to completely clear the streets during the winter months.
- ❑ It may provide the police with helpful information when a ticket has been issued to a vehicle that did not have permission to park on the street (i.e., the car may have been used for criminal activity in a neighborhood).

What are the choices when friends or relatives are overnight guests at your home and there is no room in the driveway for their vehicle? The Village allows each residence FIVE grace days each calendar month. If you need to leave your car or a visitor's car on the street, you will need to:

- ❑ Call the Palatine Police Department's non-emergency number, (847) 359-9000 and inform the Desk Assistant that you would like overnight parking permission.
- ❑ Provide: (1) Your full name, address and phone number; (2) the location where the vehicle will be parked (if different than your address); (3) the number of vehicles you are requesting to be parked on the street; (4) the license plate numbers of each vehicle, along with the make and model and the number of days you are requesting permission for overnight parking, remembering that a maximum of five days per calendar month are permitted.

Remember that you are still required to park legally on the street – don't block fire hydrants, park with the left wheel to curb, or within five feet of a driveway or where signs prohibit parking.

If you have questions or need further information, call the Police Department at (847) 359-9000.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator Joining Village Staff in April

Beginning in April of 2007 the Palatine Police Department will add a new position to its staff: a Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator. This officer will be responsible for overseeing the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program Ordinance which will become effective in April.

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is an educational tool created to assist rental communities, condominium and townhouse communities, and any rental dwelling unit. This voluntary program has been in place in the Village since 2003. The new ordinance was created as a means to standardize this program. The program is designed to enable property managers and owners to work cooperatively with the Police Department to eradicate criminal activity taking place on their property.

Previously, property managers and owners participated in the program on a voluntary basis. With the adoption of the new ordinance, owners and managers will be required to attend an educational seminar to learn about safety, criminal activity and prevention as well as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which includes considerations such as landscaping, lighting, locks and security features.

Once an owner or manager has attended the seminar, he or she will then adopt and enforce a Crime Free Addendum which is added to their existing leases. This will ensure that owners and managers will monitor for and prohibit criminal activity on their properties.

By taking these specific actions, the owners, managers and Police Department can help provide a more enjoyable living experience for all of Palatine's residents.





Interested in a Law Enforcement Career? The Palatine Police Department Is Now Accepting Applications

A career with the Palatine Police Department offers many advantages. Our Police Department is a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency offering challenging career opportunities including Patrol, Investigations, Crime Prevention, Gang/Tac Units, and more.

The current starting salary is \$53,160 with merit increases to \$74,149 after 6 years of service. Palatine police officers receive excellent fringe benefits and outstanding pension benefits resulting in payouts of 50% of salary after 20 years of service and up to 75% after 30 years.

APPLICANT MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

- Must be between 21 and 34 years of age
- Bachelor's degree from accredited 4-year college
- Vision: 20-40 both eyes corrected/uncorrected
- Successfully complete a written exam / physical ability test

Applications are now available at the Palatine Police Department, 200 E. Wood Street. The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. The Fire and Police Commission will conduct the written examination on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. at Palatine High School, 1111 N. Rohlwing Road. The Physical Ability Test will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. the same day and at the same location.

THE VILLAGE OF PALATINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The 'Green Menace', Part I Emerald Ash Borer Ready to Stage a Comeback This Spring

They are gone, but only temporarily. Once the weather warms, the emerald ash borers will be back in force, attacking and killing ash trees.

With literally thousands of ash trees in the Village at stake, Public Works officials wasted no time in addressing the problem when the emerald ash borers first made their appearance in the Chicagoland area five years ago. Public Works crews have identified every ash tree on public property in the Village – 4,300 of them. Ash trees represent about 20% of the Village's entire tree population on both public and private land. That's why controlling the spread of the borers is so important.

Be watching for "The Green Menace, Part II" in the April edition of the Village of Palatine newsletter. We'll be providing information on identifying diseased ash trees as well as other important information.

Village Council Adopts 2007 Budget With No New Taxes or Fees

There is good news times two in

Palatine's 2007 annual Operating Budget. Not only are there no new taxes or fees, but there is also a REDUCTION in the Village of Palatine real estate tax rate to \$1.04 per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation, a decrease of .3%.

This is the lowest rate since the extension of Lake Michigan Water to Palatine in 1982. The 2007 Operating Budget totals \$63,752,345.

The Village of Palatine has a proud history of providing exceptional services to a diverse group of stakeholders. The 2007 Budget was developed around

Operating Expenditures



a Maintenance of Effort approach with expenditure caps. All non-personnel costs were capped at a 2.0% increase over the previous year unless there were outstanding contractual obligations.

The 2007 Budget will serve as a strategic guide for our organization in the coming

year. It reflects the service levels expected by our residents, while living within our financial means. The budget prioritizes core services and administrative functions and reflects one of the leanest and most efficient municipal corporations within the suburban Chicago area.

Thinking About a Fence, Deck, Pool, Room Addition Or Other Home Improvement?

If you are planning a residential project that involves structural changes to your home, such as building a deck, enclosing a deck, bedroom addition, or adding a stair, you will need a building permit. There are other projects that may require a permit, too.

A permit is required when . . .

The Village of Palatine requires permits for indoor or outdoor structural work, freestanding structures (such as a fence, shed, or pool), or major changes to the living area of a home. The permit process ensures that minimum safety standards are met and that construction meets local building and zoning requirements. Make sure you understand the building codes and local ordinances before proceeding with a major improvement project. Yes, you need a building permit for the following residential projects:

- Replacing a roof (tear-off)
- Building a deck
- Most demolitions
- Adding a fireplace
- Adding rooms
- Replacing an electric stove with a gas model
- Adding or altering the electrical system
- Constructing a new driveway
- Building a fence or replacing an existing one
- Replacing an air conditioning and/or heating unit
- Replacing or adding a sidewalk or driveway
- Installing a pool or hot tub

Most contractors will pull the necessary permits as part of the contracting job. Spell it out in your contract.



A permit is NOT required when . . .

You do not usually need a building permit for the following residential projects:

- Replacing portions of the roof with the same material
- Painting exterior or interior walls
- Replacing a window or door with the same size unit
- Installing new flooring
- Replacing a faucet or plumbing valve

If you are still uncertain whether you need to obtain a building permit, call the Building and Inspection Services Division at (847) 359-9042. Ask to speak with a Project Development Professional, who will be happy to assist you.

Permit Costs*

Permit fees vary with the type, size and complexity of the project. They are determined using a number of factors that vary from project to project. As a rough guide, fees have ranged anywhere from 1% to 3% of the construction cost. Please verify latest costs with a Customer Service Representative.

Over the Counter Permits

For small single family residential projects there is an expedited permit called an OVER THE COUNTER PERMIT. Projects that are eligible to receive an over the counter permit include:

- Fence installation
- Shed installation
- Driveway installation
- Concrete patio & private concrete walk
- Residential tear-off roof & re-roof install
- Residential deck installation
- Above ground swimming pool
- Air condition installation
- Sewer repair or replacement
- Lawn sprinklers
- Electric service revision
- Dumpster/screening enclosure

Check our website at <http://www.palatine.il.us/permits> or visit us in Village Hall for over an the counter permits brochures.

Improved Lighting Being Installed on First Bank Drive, North Court

As part of the Village's ongoing effort to improve lighting along arterial streets, the existing street lighting on First Bank Drive, North Court and West Court is scheduled to be upgraded. Work will begin late this spring on a new lighting system that will replace the existing system.

The new lighting will be on 20-foot poles, replacing the 14-foot poles currently along the corridors. The new lighting is scheduled to be operational as soon as late summer.

Weekly updates on the progress of this project will be posted on the Village homepage: www.palatine.il.us

Those with questions are invited to contact the Engineering Department at (847) 359-9044.



Palatine's Flood Management Efforts Earn Honors, Lower Flood Insurance Rates for Residents

Palatine's longterm commitment to aggressive floodplain management was recognized early in January when Anthony Lowe, Director Mitigation Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, presented the Village Council with a plaque honoring its efforts in achieving a Community Rating System (CRS) of Class 7.

The National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System was implemented in 1990 to recognize and encourage community floodplain management that exceeds the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards. Since its voluntary participation in the program began in 1993, the Village of Palatine has undertaken a series of meaningful activities to protect its citizens from flood losses. Some of these extra efforts included:

- More restrictive floodplain regulations
- Increased flood protection such as higher freeboards requirements, compensatory storage for fill placed in floodplains, and higher substantial improvement requirements
- More frequent inspections and maintenance of creeks and other storm drainage facilities
- Continual outreach programs altering the community to floodplain construction regulations, flood insurance availability and requirements
- Providing assistance to property owners in determining if their property is in a flood hazard area
- Preserving floodplain (currently 229 acres) as open space

There are currently 20,000 communities nationwide in the National Flood Insurance Program but only 1,048 participate in the CRS program. Of those 1,048, only 207 have achieved a CRS rating of 7.

What all this means is that any homeowner in the Village of Palatine who must carry flood insurance because their home is located in a flood hazard area receives a 15% reduction in their flood insurance premiums. Those homeowners outside of a flood hazard area who choose to carry flood insurance will receive a 5% reduction on top of the reduction already offered them because theirs is a reduced risk policy.

Holiday Refuse Pick Up Schedule for 2007/2008

Mark your calendar for these holidays that will affect your solid waste collection. Save and post this handy schedule for reference throughout the year and save yourself from hauling the trash to the curb a day early or missing your collection entirely for the week.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Pickup</u>
Mon., May 28, 2007	Memorial Day Observed	ALL collections will be one day later than usual
Wed., July 4, 2007	Independence Day	WED collections will be one day later than usual
Mon., Sept. 3, 2007	Labor Day	ALL collections will be one day later than usual
Tues., Dec. 25, 2007	Christmas Day	TUES & WED collections will be one day later than usual
Tues., Jan. 1, 2008	New Year's Day	TUES & WED collections will be one day later than usual

Curbside yard waste collection resumes April 2, 2007 and continues through November 28, 2007.

For further information regarding solid waste collection, please contact the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090 or visit www.palatine.il.us.

Palatine News Briefs

NEED A NEW SIDEWALK?

If the sidewalk in front of your home is uneven, severely cracked, or deteriorated in a way that meets specific safety standards, you can have it replaced for half the actual cost through the Village's 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program. The cost to the homeowner for 2007 is approximately \$40.00 per sidewalk square. Requests for participation in the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program can be made by calling the Department of Public Works at (847) 705-5200 between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

The Village's Hazardous Sidewalk Program is designed to identify and eliminate the worst tripping hazards, at no cost to the homeowner. The Village has been divided into areas, and each year one of the areas will be inspected and the **MOST HAZARDOUS SIDEWALKS REPAIRED**. The area targeted for this year is bounded approximately by: Cunningham to the north, Northwest Highway to the south, Hicks Road to the east, and Smith Street to the west.

Call the Department of Public Works at (847) 705-5200 between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday for further information about the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program or the Hazardous Sidewalk Program.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT ILLINOIS AVENUE FIRE STATION

Construction is well underway on a 3,400 square foot addition to the Illinois Avenue Fire Station that will provide new living quarters for the five firefighters assigned to that station each day. The addition includes a new washroom, locker areas, kitchen, dayroom and offices.

The existing western portion of the building will be remodeled later on to provide training and exercise space. A new classroom will provide public meeting space, and a new roofline will give the building a much more residential look and eliminate maintenance problems in the years ahead.

The projected completion date for the new addition is June 1. The remodeling phase is due to be completed in September of 2007.

HOW WOULD A NEW TREE LOOK IN YOUR PARKWAY?

Planting trees has multiple benefits for us all. They add beauty, charm, and stately maturity to a community, not to mention cleaner air and a better environment. That's why the Village of Palatine offers a 50/50 tree planting program to encourage residents to plant parkway trees in front of their homes. Through the 50/50 program, the Village and homeowner share the cost of the tree, which includes planting and a one year guarantee. The homeowner's share ranges from about \$110.00 to \$250.00, depending on the size and species of tree selected. Call the Department of Public Works, (847) 705-5200, for an application for the spring 50/50 parkway tree program. The deadline for applying is **April 20**.

Please note: If the Village has removed a parkway tree within the last year, it will be replaced at no charge to the homeowner. Trees that were removed will be replaced with approved varieties according to availability.

FREE MONEY!

Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias' office will conduct Cash Dash searches and traveling office hours for residents from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. March 16 at Palatine Village Hall. The Cash Dash program reunites Illinois residents with lost, forgotten and abandoned funds legally known as "unclaimed property." The treasurer's office is holding more than \$1.4 billion in unclaimed property and wants to give it all back. A bilingual representative from Giannoulias' office will search names on the state's online database, process inquiry forms for residents and answer questions on other programs offered by the Treasurer's Office, including low-interest loan programs for day care providers, small business owners, nonprofit organizations and people with disabilities. Residents also can learn about the tax exempt Bright Start College Savings program. To learn more visit www.treasurer.il.gov

NEED MULCH?

We've got it, and it's free. We'll even deliver it to you for the nominal fee of \$8.00 per cubic yard, with a three cubic yard minimum. The mulch will be dumped on the apron of your driveway. Call the Public Works Department, (847) 705-5200 after March 19 to schedule a delivery. Deliveries will begin in April.

Or if you prefer, you may pick up mulch from the bins in front of the fenced area at the Smith Street Recycling Center from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Bring a shovel and containers and help yourself.

While it is not considered landscape quality, the mulch is double ground and perfect for the area at the base of trees, around flower beds, and other places in your landscape design.

New Palatine Ordinance Bans Smoking in All Public Places

In light of mounting evidence demonstrating the health risks posed by secondhand smoke, the Palatine Village Council has passed an ordinance banning smoking in all public places in the Village.

The Clean Indoor Air Ordinance, which became effective on January 2, 2007, prohibits smoking in all restaurants including bars and outdoor dining areas, cafeterias, shopping malls, sports arenas, theaters, auditoriums, public transportation facilities, restrooms, elevators, hotels, motels, retail and service establishments, commercial and industrial buildings, banks and financial institutions, educational institutions, health care facilities, libraries, government and Village-owned buildings, and enclosed places of employment.

Smoking within 15 feet of any public entrance is also prohibited.

Violators may be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$500 for subsequent offenses.

The ordinance is designed to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in all public places and places of employment, thereby guaranteeing the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air.

Palatine's smoking ban is part of a regional effort by five neighboring suburbs -- Palatine, Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Arlington Heights and Rolling Meadows -- all of which have passed similar smoking bans.



New Law Requiring Carbon Monoxide Detector Alarms In Residences Became Effective January 1, 2007

The Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act, effective January 1, 2007, requires every dwelling to have at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in an operating condition within 15 feet of every sleeping room. This alarm may be combined with a smoke detector as long as the combined device complies with specific standards, and there is a distinctly different alarm tone for smoke from the one for carbon monoxide detection.

There are many companies that manufacture these alarms, so to assure that you are purchasing a dependable unit, remember to look for the approval label from Under Writers Lab (UL), Under Writers Lab Canada (ULC), or Factory Mutual (FM). These testing labels assure that the device has been tested and will meet all the code requirements.

This Act, which pertains to both new and existing structures, requires:

- Every "dwelling unit" must be equipped with at least one operable carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes.
- The alarm may be combined with smoke detecting devices provided the unit complies with respective standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard.
- A "dwelling unit" means a room or suite of rooms used for human habitation, and includes single family residences, multiple family residences, and mixed use buildings.
- If a structure contains more than one dwelling

unit, an alarm must be installed within 15 feet of every sleeping room in each dwelling unit.

- The building owner must supply and install all required alarms. The owner/landlord must ensure that the alarms are operable on the date of initiation of a lease. The tenant is then responsible for routinely testing and maintaining the alarm (including batteries). The tenant is required to notify the building owner.
- The building owner is required to furnish one tenant per dwelling unit with written instruction on the proper testing procedures and maintenance.
- The carbon monoxide alarms required under this Act may be either battery-powered, plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the structure's AC power line with secondary battery back-up.

Exceptions to the Act:

Those residential units in a building that:

- Do not use fossil fuel for heat or hot water;
- Are not connected to a garage; and
- Are not sufficiently close to any ventilated source of carbon monoxide to receive carbon monoxide from that source.

For more information contact the Palatine Fire Prevention office at (847) 359-9029, or the Fire Department Public Education office at (847) 202-6302.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

Expansion of Detention Basin at Imperial & Glade Designed to Reduce Flooding During Heavy Rainfalls

The existing detention basin at the southeast corner of Imperial at Glade is scheduled for improvement as part of the Village's annual Capital Improvement Program.

At its current size, the detention basin is subject to overloading in a storm intensity that is expected to occur yearly, causing the intersection of Imperial at Glade to experience frequent flooding. The planned expansion of the basin, which will occur on Village-owned land, will increase its capacity so that it is capable of handling a storm with an intensity expected only every 10 years.

In addition, this detention basin expansion will improve local drainage problems and improve the water quality discharged into Salt Creek.

In April of 2006, a neighborhood meeting was held to present the conceptual plan for the basin

expansion, show the types of plantings that could be used, and gather neighborhood input on the overall improvement. Using input from this meeting, construction plans were prepared and permit applications filed with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which is a requirement since this area is connected to Salt Creek.

Key items that have been incorporated into the plan include:

- the installation of plants above the high-water limits at the perimeter of the facility to help provide a buffer for the neighborhood
- a sidewalk to be extended along the project site, and
- the use of plant materials dictated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Plant material are mesic prairie plantings along the side slopes and bottom of the expanded basin. The project limits and photos of the

typical planting after establishment can be found at: <http://www.palatine.il.us/engineering/imperial-glade/index.htm>

This winter necessary permits have been obtained and the project has been put out for bid. Construction of the stormwater improvement will begin in mid February with the substantial excavation to be completed by the end of March.

This improvement will be supported by Federal Funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Weekly updates will also be available on the Village homepage: www.palatine.il.us

If you have questions, contact the Engineering Department at 847-359-9044.



Do You Have a Feline Who is 'Catting Around' The Neighborhood?

If so, perhaps you are unaware that leash laws pertain to cats as well as dogs. Although many cat owners seem to believe it is perfectly okay to let FiFi or Bruiser sow his or her wild oats and then return home when hungry or tired. Cats should not be out roaming the neighborhoods. Here's why:

IT'S THE LAW: Village ordinance specified fines starting at \$20 for either a cat or dog found running at large. Repeat offenders can receive a maximum fine of \$750 along with a possible mandatory court appearance. Owners may also be responsible for impoundment and kennel boarding fees.

IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE OVER POPULATION OF CATS, IF THE PET IS NOT SPAYED OR NEUTERED.

Millions of cats across the country

do not survive due to disease, starvation or trauma. Many of these may be offspring of your family's pet if it is allowed to run at large.

YOUR CAT'S SAFETY IS AT RISK: Allowing your cat to roam freely, puts them at risk for getting into a 'cat fight' with another cat or, much worse, a larger wildlife opponent.

DISEASES: When you allow your cat to run at large, he or she makes the daily trek back home with untold microscopic germs as 'hitchhikers'. Unless your cat gets a daily shower after each outdoor adventure, these microscopic visitors are on your furniture, bedding, carpeting, and elsewhere throughout your house -- the same carpeting that small children crawl and play on.

Although many villa attempt to capture some of these free-roaming felines, it is impossible to remove them all. For every one picked up, imagine how many kittens are opening their eyes at that same moment? Not to mention the cost. Your tax dollars are paying to house and feed all these strays. They also help support wonderful organizations such as PACT, Heartland, Almost Home and countless others that foster and try to find permanent homes for these animals.

**SO PLEASE:
BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER.
SPAY/NEUTER
VACCINATE MICROCHIP
AND ABOVE ALL**

**KEEP YOUR FELINES INSIDE,
FOR THEIR SAKE**

Palatine Citizens Corps Honored for Achievements; New Equipment and Training Designed to Ensure Residents' Safety

The Village of Palatine Citizens Corps' newsletter and website were both recently honored with first place awards from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) in the Local Emergency Management Division.

These honors recognize the Village's broad-based commitment to preparing for emergencies as a means of protecting residents' safety. Several new pieces of equipment have been purchased in the last year to help ensure that goal:

A \$15,000 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trailer containing tools and equipment that would assist volunteers in responding to a disaster in Palatine was unveiled during the 2006 Fourth of July Parade.

An Alerting AM radio station which allows the Village to broadcast live and pre-recorded messages went "live" in 2006. The \$33,000 station can be heard on 1660 AM on the radio dial in a five mile arch from the area of Smith Street and Northwest Highway. Funds for both this project and the CERT trailer were also obtained through an ITTF grant.

Volunteers and professional responders participated in several disaster exercises last year to test their skills in disaster-based scenarios. These drills will better prepare participants to react efficiently and effectively in a disaster.

Purchase of cots and other equipment/materials that would assist in establishing a shelter for displaced residents following a disaster.

Certifying more volunteers: Seven CERT classes with 90 participants were held last year. These volunteers are now better trained to help themselves, their family members and neighbors in the critical first 72 hours following a disaster.



These accomplishments and countless others were the result of thousands of hours of hard work and dedication by volunteers, many of whom began their involvement by taking the free 20 1/2 hour CERT training that prepares attendees to take care of themselves and their families in the aftermath of a disaster. Classes are held periodically throughout the year in the Village Emergency Operations Center. **The next training will be held on March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19 and 21.**

"We could not do all that we do without the tireless work of our volunteers," said Tom Smith, Palatine's EMA Coordinator. "These people understand that in times of crisis it is going to take professional responders and the general citizenry working together to effectively respond to any disaster."

For more information on volunteer opportunities or to register for the free March CERT class, contact EMA Coordinator Tom Smith at tsmith@palatine.il.us or visit the EMA website at www.palatine-ema.org.



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