

1897



Village of
CARPENTERSVILLE
FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Building a Better Tomorrow . . . Today

Summer 2003

Three Village Trustees Elected in April

Carpentersville residents elected one incumbent and two newcomers as Village Trustees on April 1.

Judith Sigwalt, re-elected to a second term, is proud to have been part of the Village Board team that held the line on taxes and approved a new waste water treatment plant and west side fire station. "I am proud of my work on the Park Committee and the Hispanic Committee," Sigwalt said. "When the budget was tight, I helped raise \$10,000 for new playground equipment, and organized the Candle Light Bowl to raise funds for the D.A.R.E. program. When I see a need that the budget can't support, I try to find a way to raise the funds that are needed."

James Frost, a retired accountant, is a 45 year resident of the Village. Frost served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 10 years, and participated in the annexation of the 1,100 acres to the west that brought dynamic commercial and residential growth to the Village. All three of the Frosts' grown children are currently Carpentersville residents.

Robert Whitehouse, principal at (continued on page 2)



Trustee
James Frost



Trustee Judy Sigwalt



Trustee Robert Whitehouse

Two New Police Bikes Now on the Beat, Thanks to Meadowdale Apartments

The Carpentersville Police Department received two Giant Brand 26 Speed Police Patrol Bicycles valued at \$750.00 each from Meadowdale Apartments, 303 L.W. Besinger Drive, Carpentersville. Mr. Ollie Besinger, Assistant Manager of Meadowdale Apartments, presented the check for \$1,500.00 to the Police Department. The bicycles were purchased from Prairie Bicycle Shop in Algonquin. This brings to four the number of police patrol bicycles owned by the police department.

"We have a great working relationship with the Police Department," Besinger said. "Anything we can do to help the Department and the Village helps us, too."

Two officers, Officer Kenneth Cram and Officer Giacomo Accomando, just completed the 40-hour Police Bicycle Officer Training and Certification presented by the International Police Mountain Bike Association, the only nationally recognized police bicycle officer training and certification organization.

"We appreciate Meadowdale Apartments' support of our Department," said Police Chief Robert Lowen. "Their donation will be a real asset to our community policing efforts."



Ready to ride! (l to r) Officer Ken Cram, Police Chief Robert Lowen, Ollie Besinger, and Officer Giacomo Accomando with the two new police patrol bicycles donated by Meadowdale Apartments.



The Village Hall will be closed on the following holidays:

4th of July
Friday, July 4

Labor Day
Monday,
September 1

Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday,
November 27 & 28

Christmas
Wednesday &
Thursday,
December 24 & 25

New Year's
Day
Thursday,
January 1

Three Trustees Elected in April

(continued from page 1)

Dundee-Crown High School, a position he has held since 1994. He has been employed by School District 300 since 1973. Whitehouse, who is a 1969 graduate of Dundee High School, received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science and Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University. "I hope to bring stability and experience to the Board, as well as a vision for the future," Whitehouse said.

Tornado Tips

A Tornado Emergency siren is used only when a tornado has been sighted in the Dundee Township area. This is intended to alert everyone in the area that a tornado has been spotted and immediate action should be taken.

When the tornado sirens sound, you should lie flat, face down, in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert with your hands covering your head if you are outside and no shelter is available. You can also take cover under a viaduct or highway overpass.

If you're at home, go to the basement. Stay away from windows, doors, and walls that face the outside. If no basement, then go to the smallest room, closet or hallway near the middle of the house on the lowest level possible, or get in the bathtub and cover yourself with a blanket or cushions from a couch.

July 31 Is Deadline for Purchasing Village Vehicle Stickers, Dog Tags

July 31 is the deadline for purchasing and displaying your 2003-04 Village vehicle sticker. This year the Village sent out new forms with return envelopes. Simply return the forms with any corrections and payment in the enclosed envelope. Blank forms are available in the Finance Department if you need them.

July 31 is also the deadline for purchasing 2003-04 dog tags.

Volunteers Roll Up Sleeves to Spruce Up Keith Andres Park

Earlier this spring, members of Boy Scout Troop 369 from Lake in the Hills volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to pick up debris in Keith Andres Park. The scouts' project was part of the Village's ongoing effort to rescue the park from years of neglect and return it to a usable and enjoyable open space for Village residents.

Last fall Public Works crews spent four days in the park picking up truckloads of debris that had accumulated over the years. The Village's long term plan is to develop walking trails throughout the twenty-five acre park.

False Alarms: A Real Danger to Police — And a Waste Of Your Tax Dollars

False alarms add up. According to the United States Department of Justice, police officers responded to approximately 38 million alarms -- primarily burglar alarms -- in 1998 at an estimated annual cost of \$1.5 billion. More than 90% of these were false alarms. Nationwide, false alarms account for 10 to 25% of all calls to police. Police response to false burglar and fire alarms is a very costly and dangerous undertaking.

The danger comes in when homeowners mistake officers for an intruder and when traffic accidents occur due to the officer responding to an alarm.

In order to reduce the costs and and potential danger associated with false alarms, the Village Board amended Chapter 10 of the Carpentersville Municipal Code to require that a permit be obtained prior to the installation of all new automatic burglar or fire alarms. In addition, alarms installed or maintained after the effective date of this ordinance (April 5, 1994) must also pay a one-time \$20.00 permit fee.

The ordinance now also specifies charges for police or fire response to false alarms. Up to three false alarms are permitted in a calendar year without charge. The fourth and fifth false alarms carry a \$50.00 fee each. Six false alarms or more in a calendar year, you will be charged \$100.00 for each time.

The fees are designed to enable the Village to recover some of the costs associated with dispatching a squad car and officers to the scene, as well as to encourage alarm owners to maintain their alarm systems to minimize false alarms.

Alarm holders will have the opportunity to appeal these fees within 10 days of the invoice. Failure to pay the required permit and service charges may result in any or all of the following:

- (1) Suspending of police response to the address;
- (2) Turning the account over to a collection agency;
- (3) Issuing a notice to appear in court to the account holder.

Noncompliance with this ordinance may result in a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense, and each day that the violation continues, including the applicable court costs.

If you have questions concerning the false alarm ordinance or a bill you may have received, contact the Police Department alarm billing clerk or the Records Section Supervisor at (847) 551-3481.

Looking for Information? Check Out Our Website!

Are you new to Carpentersville? Are you looking for information about Village programs and services? Want to email a message to a Village staff member or elected official? Our website can enable you to do that and more!

Among the things you'll find are:

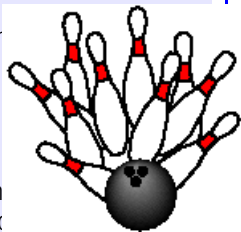
- An expanded section of important information for new and existing residents
- A list of Village Boards and Committees
- Approved Village Board minutes
- A list of upcoming Board agendas and events
- Employment Opportunities at the Village
- Department Information
- A history of the Village

Check it all out at <http://vil.carpentersville.il.us>



Come On Out to the Candlelight Bowl!

The second annual D.A.R.E. to Star United Candle Light Bowl fundraiser will be held at 6:30 PM on July 19 at Liberty Lanes (on Besinger Drive behind the Meadowdale Shopping Center). The event will include a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and over \$2,000 in raffle prizes. The all-inclusive price includes a family style buffet provided by Masi's. Cost is \$30 per person, \$50 per couple. Call Judy at (847) 426-6969, or Steve at (847) 426-3439, ext. 237 by July 16.



New Water Main Installation Underway

Crews are currently installing approximately 2,700 lineal feet of 12-inch water main with new fire hydrants, valves, and water service connections. The new water main is being installed on Sparrow from Thrush to Hazard; on Hazard from Sparrow to Monroe; and on Monroe from Hazard to Tee Lane. The roadway will also be resurfaced as part of this project.

Water Bill Too High? You May Have a Leak That's Costing You Plenty

A high water bill may indicate you have a leak. Even a small leak can waste enough water for you to notice the increase in your bill. Fixing the leak can save you from paying higher than necessary water bills.

On average, each family member uses 2,500 to 3,000 gallons of water every month for indoor activities. Outdoor water use -- washing cars, filling swimming pools or watering the lawn or garden -- can drastically increase your water bill.

How to Determine If You Have a Leak

You can use your water meter to help you detect a leak. Go to your meter and look for a glass dial similar to a clock face. There will be an odometer style wheel and a sweep hand. Write down the reading on the odometer style wheel and the position of the sweep hand. There will also be a low flow indicator on the dial face. If the low flow indicator is moving when you are not knowingly using water, this is a good indication there is a leak.

After reading the meter, do not use any water for at least one hour. Hint: You can read the meter just before you leave the house for work or shopping, or conduct the test overnight. Take a second reading after a minimum of one hour. If you did not use any water, the two readings should be the same. If the reading has changed, or the sweep hand or low flow indicator has moved, you almost certainly have a leak.

Toilets: the most common source of leaks

Listen and look for running water.

1. Put several drops of food coloring into the tank. If the coloring shows up in the bowl, there is a leak in the toilet.
2. See if the flapper valve drops squarely on to the drain opening. If not clean or replace flapper.
3. Check flush handle to see if it sticks in the flush position or you have to shake handle to stop water flow. Repair or replace.
4. Check water level in tank so it is at least 1/2 inch below overflow tube. If not readjust float setting.
5. Replace overflow tube if it has any holes in it.



Faucets, Bathtubs and Showers

1. Replace washer in leaking faucets.
2. Replace cartridges or complete fixtures on washerless faucets.
3. Check outside faucets, replace washers as needed.



Important Phone Numbers:

Village Hall:
426-3439

**Community
Development
(Code
Enforcement or
Building
Department):**
551-3478

**Engineering
Division:**
551-3480

Public Works:
551-3476

Water Facility:
551-3492

Sewer Facility:
551-3490

**Underground
Division:**
551-3493

Street Division:
551-3494

**Finance/Water
Billing:**
551-3476

**Police or Fire
Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Police
Non-Emergency:**
551-3481

**Fire
Non-Emergency:**
426-2131

**AFTER HOURS OR
WEEKEND
SEWER BACKUPS
OR WATER
PROBLEMS
REQUIRING
VILLAGE
RESPONSE:**
428-8784

Village's New Mosquito Abatement Program Now Underway



A few friendly reminders

Please remember to keep grass and leaves out of the street, and away from curbs and gutters.

When grass and leaves work their way into the storm sewer system, they can clog drains and cause street flooding.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

When discarding white goods, please call Waste Management at 800-414-5325 to arrange for a pickup.

The Village has contracted with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. for a mosquito control program this summer.

Concerns about the West Nile Virus, which is spread by mosquitoes, as well as general health and comfort considerations, are behind the Village's decision to hire a company that specializes in mosquito control. The primary focus of the program is larva control designed to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Routine "lavracing" will be performed in typical mosquito breeding places -- street catch basins, subdivision drains, roadside ditches, flood channel ravines, and other public right-of-ways. In addition, Clarke will be installing two traps to monitor the presence of adult mosquitoes.

You, as a property owner, can help eliminate mosquito breeding grounds

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or any other water-holding container.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in your yard.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts clear of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use.
- Make sure your backyard pool is properly cared for while on vacation.
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete.
- Change the water in bird baths and plant pots or drip trays at least once each week.
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.



What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Encephalitis is a mosquito-borne infection of the brain caused by West Nile Virus, a close relative of the St. Louis encephalitis virus. West Nile Virus is commonly found in Africa, West and Central Asia, and the Middle East.

Although it is not known how the virus was introduced to the United States, it may have entered in an infected traveler, bird or mosquito. It is thought to have been introduced to the New York City area in 1999 and was found in four eastern states by the end of 1999. Since then, the virus has progressively worked its way throughout the U.S.

Humans contract the West Nile Virus from the bite of an infected female mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird carrying the virus. West Nile Virus is not spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds or other animals to people.

School is almost out -- please drive carefully



This newsletter is published by
The Village of Carpentersville
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Robert Whitehouse, Trustee
Karen Roeckner, Trustee
Jim Frost, Trustee
Judith A. Sigwalt, Trustee

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Kaye Lowman, Newsletter Editor

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