



VillageViews

The newsletter of the Village of Libertyville, Illinois

A Message from the Mayor

As I enter the final year of my third term I've looked back over what we've accomplished and what still needs to be done while I'm Mayor. I never expected my last year to begin the same way my initial term in office began, with an economic downturn. Add to that the COVID crisis and it looks to be an interesting last year. I was looking forward to all of my "last events" – my last Memorial Day ceremony, my last Farmer's Market watermelon cutting, my last Libertyville Days Parade, and many other events. Many of those events are now canceled or drastically changed. So how will Libertyville look as I end twelve years in office?

I truly believe Libertyville will come out of this as strong as we have ever been. Seeing how the community has come together during the COVID crisis gives me great confidence that we will all work to continue to make our community one of the most desirable in Illinois and a place where our children want to return after they've grown up.

Each year the Village Board has a meeting to discuss goals for the coming year. Over the past 11 years we've accomplished a number of these goals. However, some goals listed when I first took office remain. We still have not completed the development of the Trimm Property which was the subject of a legal settlement between the property owner and the Village nearly 15 years ago. Several proposals have been presented but none have proceeded past the planning stage. The development of the Trimm Property has delayed resurfacing the commuter lot, which is badly in need of repairs, since the development includes a property swap with the Trimm Property. We are currently working with Lexington Homes on a new proposal to develop the property. Under the terms of the lawsuit agreement the developer is permitted to construct up to 130 units on the property. The new plan has a lower number of homes proposed for the property.

Another goal which has proven elusive is the sale of the Golf Learning Center (driving range) of the Sports Complex. This is the property located on the corner of Peterson and Route 45. While it was for sale for many years, we received no offers which would substantially reduce the debt on the complex which has been a burden to taxpayers for many years. We currently have an offer

on the property which will allow us to complete the sale of the land in late summer. The sale of this property will reduce the current debt owed on the property.

Another goal was saving the Liberty Theater. We were very close to completing that goal when the COVID crisis hit. As a result, that proposal fell apart and the property owner is moving ahead with their request to demolish the building. I am still attempting to find a purchaser who will save the building but the current financial situation makes it very difficult.

I was also determined to begin resolving the issues we've had with flooding in various neighborhoods in the community. A stormwater study determined that we need to make \$45 million in upgrades to our storm sewer system to ensure that none of our residents suffer damage as a result to water in their homes. Unfortunately Libertyville grew from East to West and all of our drainage runs from West to East so instead of our storm sewers getting larger as they head towards the Des Plaines river, they get smaller. We have begun working on the \$45 million program to resolve flooding issues but this will not happen overnight. This year we are doing the engineering on two of the twelve projects that need to be completed. The Rockland Road and Ames to Drake area engineering will be completed this year with construction planned in the Village's 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Many things have been accomplished over the past 11 years thanks to our dedicated staff, great board members and the many volunteers who serve on our commissions and in groups like MainStreet Libertyville, the Libertyville Civic Center Foundation, Libertyville Rotary Club and many others too numerous to name.

We have a downtown that is the envy of communities throughout the State. We have completed reconstruction of the Libertyville train station to make it an inviting building for residents and visitors. We have constructed a second parking garage to provide parking for the busy downtown. We have also done considerable planning to provide guidance to future boards while being conservative with spending and listening to our residents.

Our income has not kept pace with our expenses due to changes in the funds provided by the State despite

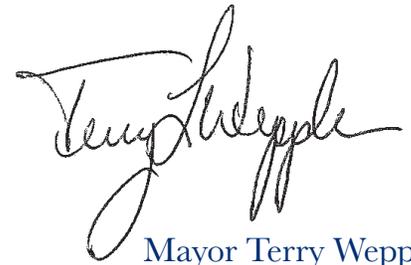
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A Message from the Mayor

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lowering the number of employees we have since I took office. There are many challenges ahead for the Village and our residents. These are challenges that will be faced, and I believe handled well, by future mayors and boards.

As I begin my last year in office I would like to ask our residents what you believe we should accomplish in the coming fiscal year. I'm happy to hear your input on what issues the Village should be addressing at this time. As always, I welcome input from all of our residents. You can email me at tweppler@libertyville.com with any comments. I look forward to hearing from you.



Mayor Terry Weppler

Libertyville 2030 Comprehensive Plan

The Village of Libertyville is currently undertaking a collaborative planning process with community residents and stakeholders to update its Comprehensive Plan! This plan outlines important policies and strategies related to land use and development, infrastructure and capital improvements, housing and neighborhoods, open spaces and natural resources, transportation, historic preservation, quality of life, and community sustainability and resiliency.

GET INVOLVED!

The process for developing the Comprehensive Plan provides a unique opportunity for community residents and stakeholders to participate in the planning process and communicate their ideas regarding Libertyville's future. Do you want to share your thoughts on the future of Libertyville? Give us a call or send us an email. For more information about what has been completed to date, visit the following website: www.libertyville.com/compplan • **Contact** John Spoden Phone: (847) 918-2028 • **Email:** jspoden@libertyville.com

Community Events/ Programs Update

Summertime typically brings many events and programs to the Village. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic certain events/programs have been canceled or post-poned. Please see the list below for further details. All dates are subject to change. For up to date information regarding these events visit the Village's website at www.libertyville.com/calendar.

Independence Day Fireworks—Canceled

Village Band Concerts—Canceled

Dog Days—Canceled

Lunch in the Park—Canceled

Car Fun 21—Canceled (June)

Arts Festival—Canceled

Vehicle Sticker Extension Reminder

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Village has extended the purchase deadline of annual vehicle stickers from May 1, 2020 to July 1, 2020.

Residents do not need to purchase or display the 2020-2021 vehicle sticker until July 1, 2020. Vehicle sticker purchases can be made via mail (recommended) or walk-up to the Police Department Records Division at 200 E. Cook Avenue.

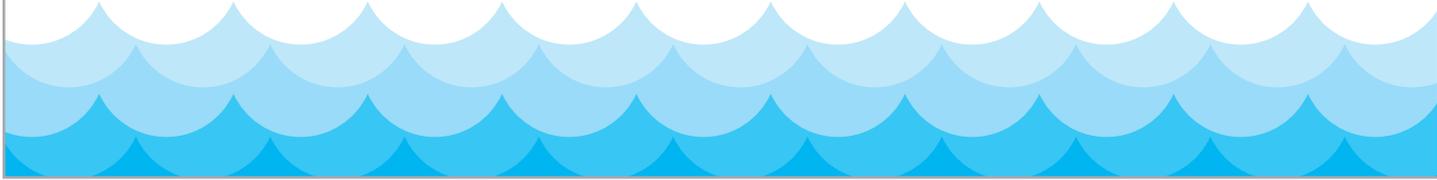


Farmer's Market

The annual MainStreet Farmer's Market which is held in Cook Park is open for business! Each Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through October 22. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the rules of the market have changed to protect guests, volunteers and farmers/vendors. To view the rules visit www.libertyvillefarmersmarket.org.

Water and Sewer Bills

Get your water bill electronically! Email waterbill@libertyville.com with your name, email, and property address. Note that once you begin receiving an electronic bill, you will no longer receive a paper copy in the mail. Your water bill can also be paid automatically from a bank account. Visit www.libertyville.com/waterbillform for an application. If you prefer to pay online with a credit card, you will need your account number and PIN (check the top right corner of your bill). Review your account history by accessing your account online.



Annual Water Quality Report

To view the Annual Water Quality Report, please go to www.libertyville.com/2020CCR. This report contains important information about the source and quality of our drinking water. If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call the Public Works Department at **847-362-3434**.

Recreation Department Update

Due to COVID-19, the Village's recreation programming and facility offerings will continue to be impacted into the foreseeable future. We look forward to a future return to normal programming and Sports Complex operations! The Village has developed a limited recreation program guide which can be found online at www.libertyvillesportscomplex.com. If you are entitled to a refund for a program cancellation or membership, you will automatically receive a refund via check to your address on-file and do not need to contact us to request it. Please allow us several weeks to process refunds.

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Severe Weather Preparation

When severe weather hits unexpectedly, the risk of injury can increase, so planning makes sense. Prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes as if you know in advance they are coming.

Whenever warm, moist air collides with cool, dry air, thunderstorms can occur. It is important to plan and to be prepared for severe weather when it occurs.

Advance planning for thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and floods requires specific safety precautions. Often by the time we are aware of an approaching severe storm, we have little if any time to prepare for it.

Advance planning for severe weather requires specific safety precautions. You can follow many of the same steps that you would for all extreme weather events. Keep an emergency kit on hand. Some items to include are:

- *A majority of lightning strike victims were either outdoors in an open area, or taking part in an activity near the water such as fishing, tubing or swimming.*
- *A battery-operated flashlight, a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio, and extra batteries for both*
- *An emergency evacuation or shelter plan, including a map of your home and, for every type of severe weather emergency, routes to safety from each room*
- *A list of important personal information, including:*
 - *telephone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends*
 - *insurance and property information*
 - *telephone numbers of utility companies*
 - *medical information*
- *A first aid kit that may include:*
 - *non-latex gloves*
 - *assortment of adhesive bandages*
 - *antibiotic ointment*
 - *sterile gauze pads in assorted sizes*
 - *absorbent compress dressings*
 - *scissors*
 - *adhesive cloth tape*
 - *NOTE: Customize your first aid kit to meet your individual and family needs.*
- *A 3-5 day supply of bottled water and nonperishable food*
- *Personal hygiene items*
- *Blankets or sleeping bags*

The Village's Green Electric Aggregation Program

During the last 10 years Village residents have saved over \$3.5 million as the result of the Village's electrical aggregation program. In August, the Village's current contract with Dynegy is set to expire. Energy supply costs have become much more competitive, with ComEd's energy supply rates now matching our current aggregation supplier's pricing.

Given current solar and wind generation systems' more favorable costs the Village sought bids through the Village's electrical aggregation consultant and is now offering a renewable energy supplier alternative. Village residents and small businesses will pay exactly the ComEd rate, which has continued to decline from a high of 9¢ per kWh in 2010 to current 6.913¢. The Village will be designated an EPA Green Power Community, with a significantly reduced carbon footprint—at zero cost to residents and the Village.

In early June a notice was mailed from the Village to all residents and small businesses at their ComEd billing address announcing the renewal of our Electric Aggregation Program. You do not need to do anything to participate, unless you have your own contract with another supplier, in which case you must take action to enroll. As of January 1, 2020, no supplier may charge an early termination fee.

Review your notice carefully, as ratepayers receive different notices, depending, for example, if you've already enrolled with another supplier. Some accounts will remain with ComEd and others will enroll with Chicago-based MC Squared Energy Services.

If you have questions, email the Village's aggregation consultant, Sharon Durling, at sdurling@NIMEC.net or call NIMEC at 800-727-3820 to leave your name and question. No action is needed to participate (unless you have already selected an alternative supplier.) By participating, you will never pay more than the ComEd rate. To learn more visit the Village's website at www.libertyville.com/aggregation.



Recent Rainfalls

For the third consecutive year, the month of May resulted in a record-breaking volume of rainfall, topping the previous records of May 2019 and May 2018 before that. The Village of Libertyville and Lake County continue to observe significant growths in rainfall totals every year, which is something that we know many of our residents experience first-hand.

Several rain events at the end of this past month resulted in residents observing standing water either in their yards or within the roadways. The ponding of stormwater in this manner is anticipated during events like the ones recently experienced, as sewers are often not designed to immediately handle volumes and runoff rates of that magnitude. It is important to understand that often standing water itself does not necessarily mean that there is an issue with the system. In most instances, the water should notably begin to recede as the rainfall lightens and the downstream sewers are able to clear out. Often this can be observed within hours of the rain stoppage, if not sooner. This would be a sign that the system is functioning properly, and the sewers just needed a chance to catch up with the rates of which the rain was falling.

Residents may have also witnessed large rushes or 'streams' of stormwater flowing through portions of their property. These large concentrated flows may not necessarily appear during lighter, standard rainfalls, but may have been much more evident during the events recently experienced. This would also be anticipated for properties that are downstream of surrounding areas with a defined drainage channel and is not necessarily cause for concern. This often reflects that water is following its intended path, which ideally is occurring along side or rear property lines. If these large concentrated flows are observed directly against the foundation of a home, it would be at that point that additional flood-protection measures should be considered.

We continue to monitor the rainfall trends and the impacts throughout Libertyville. The Village has already adopted a Master Stormwater Management Plan (available on the Village website) and is currently reviewing funding mechanisms needed to proceed with the projects identified under the plan. Stormwater management continues to be a top priority for Village staff and will continue to be moving forward.

50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program

The "50/50" tree program is an opportunity to plant a new or replacement tree within the Village by sharing the cost of purchasing and installing the tree with the Village.

The program is intended to replace trees that have been removed from the Village parkways, mostly due to disease or poor health. Residents are encouraged to participate in this voluntary program. The Village does limit the quantities of the most commonly chosen species to alleviate the possibility of future diseases and insects from devastating several hundred trees. This will help to ensure that a single species is not overplanted and provide for a diverse tree population.

The program is available on a first come, first served basis. Trees are typically planted in the fall, are 2-inch caliper in size and include a one-year warranty.

For tree planting information contact Parks Staff at **(847) 918-2074**.

Support the Local Businesses

Many of our businesses throughout the community are open in some capacity. Whether it is in-person, online or by phone you can find a business in Libertyville to meet your needs using our Business Directory on our website at www.libertyville.com/businessdirectory.

Please also Get Your Forks Out! and check out the Village's dining website www.libertyvilledining.com to select from one of our 86+ restaurants. Can't decide, play restaurant roulette on the dining site to help you find a great option. Consider ordering carry-out, delivery or sending a meal to a loved one!



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Fireworks Safety

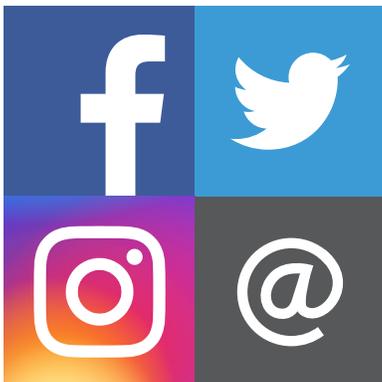
Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. However, fireworks are not safe in the hands of consumers.

Fireworks cause thousands of burn and eye injuries each year. In Illinois the following fireworks are illegal: Bottle Rockets, Firecrackers of any size or type, Sky rockets, Roman Candles, Chasers, and any ground items other than those identified as approved consumer fireworks.

One of the approved consumer fireworks most often encountered is the sparkler. Don't be misled, sparklers are extremely dangerous if not handled with extreme caution. The risks associated with Sparklers include flying sparks and the temperature at which a sparkler burns. These seemingly safe fireworks can cause third degree burns and eye injuries if not handled appropriately. As with any dangerous item, adult supervision is advised, don't let children play with Sparklers while unattended or without guidance.

Keep your summer safe and legal, follow all manufacturers safety guidelines on consumer fireworks and don't use illegal fireworks.

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