

# Summer Time!

Village of Winnebago Summer Newsletter 2020



*The annual Fourth of July Celebration has been canceled due to COVID-19 guidelines.*

## VILLAGE WIDE GARAGE SALES

After thorough consideration, the Village of Winnebago has decided not to organize or facilitate village-wide garage sales due to COVID-19 guidelines.



Street resurfacing has begun in the Village. Please use caution when traveling.





## *Village Of Winnebago President's Message*

**Frank Eubank, Jr.**

Since my last newsletter article that was written in October, we have seen many changes in our lives that none of us could ever have anticipated during our lifetimes. Something that has always been a constant in Winnebago has been the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Fireworks. My previous article was all about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and how we could make the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> of July even better. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee was hard at work during that time planning the event since September, which is when they normally start every year. Last year we were told by our fireworks vendor that in order to have a fireworks show on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July the cost would be a minimum of \$20,000. Since the July 4<sup>th</sup> will be on Saturday, we looked into the possibility of maybe having the fireworks show on Friday, July 3 or Sunday, July 5. If we had the fireworks on either of those dates, then we could look at a less expensive fireworks display. We needed to notify our fireworks vendor which day we wanted the display by March so they could begin preparing for our show. After consulting between the trustees of the village board and the volunteers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, it was determined that we really should have the fireworks event on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with the parade as we have done for so many years.

The village has generally allocated at least \$12,000 annually over the past few years toward the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration activities. Donations year round help with keeping the costs down. The village board asked the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee to see if they could obtain pledges from various businesses and individuals by the middle of March. The goal was to see if we could fund the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities strictly from donations or at least know that the maximum paid by the village would be \$10,000. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee came through with flying colors and so did our area businesses and families. We were well on our way with pledges that would have brought us to our initial goal of \$10,000 and believe that additional donations would have been forthcoming. But then we were all hit with the Stay at Home Order in March.

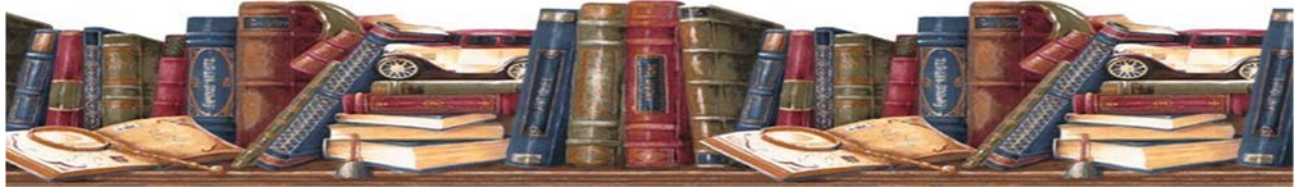
When most of the area businesses shut down and many people were now at home – some with no jobs, we had to look at the reality of the situation and also try to predict the future. At that time in March and early April, we had no idea how long places would be closed and what the financial effect would be on area businesses, individuals, and the village. I spoke with our salesperson from our fireworks vendor about the uncertainty of whether, financially, we would be in a position to have the fireworks show and, also, whether we would even be allowed to have groups of people gather for a large event. He let me know that we would have additional time to sign a contract through about the middle of April. Fortunately, we did not sign a contract previously. Although the company would have allowed us to postpone the fireworks show if we had signed the contract, we would have had to have the fireworks display within six (6) months of July 4. We would not be able to receive our money back. Since we were unable to predict the future, we felt that it would be best to not sign a contract and not obligate the village and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee to pay for a fireworks show and, possibly, not have one at all. We also did not want to cause any financial stress to our donors, so we notified the ones that had already given a donation that we would gladly refund their donations or they could leave the donations for the following year.

We still had thoughts of at least having a parade, since that is not as a significant expense as the fireworks display. However, as we are seeing, we have the Restore Illinois Plan that sets out phases toward getting back to normal. Looking at the time line of these phases, we would not be able to have a large gathering until Phase 5. We are currently in Phase 3 that allows for gatherings of no more than 10 people. Phase 4 will allow up to 50 people. Governor Pritzker believes that we may achieve Phase 4 by June 27, 2020. The Illinois Municipal League, a staunch advocate for the municipalities in the State of Illinois, has advised us that we should cancel all large gatherings for the summer. We felt that it was prudent to follow this advice, so along with the cancellation of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, we have also canceled the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. It is never an easy decision. As government leaders, we need to take into account many factors, which include the health of the village's budget, the health and safety of our residents, the health and safety of those working in the village, and the health and safety of our own employees. I have to give a big THANK YOU to our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee that is made up completely of volunteers. They continue to come up with great ideas and work hard to make sure everyone else has an enjoyable experience while in Winnebago on 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

We understand that some people want something to look forward to, something to celebrate, to kind of break the monotony of only going out for essential purposes. We had hoped that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July would have been a time for that, but we realize it will be much later before we again can all get together. What I would suggest is that since we will not be having our 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities this year, and many other area municipalities will not be having their festivities, celebrate with your family and close friends by visiting our local food establishments. Outdoor dining is now available and, hopefully, we will soon be transitioning into indoor dining as well. Please plan to continue supporting each other and our businesses – some businesses that have been open during this time period and, especially those that are just now opening back up since being closed in March. Remember that we are all one community – GO BAGO!

## Winnebago Public Library : Book Returns—the DROP BOX IS OPEN!

Watch for More Information [www.winnebagopubliclibrary.org](http://www.winnebagopubliclibrary.org)



# TRASH TALK!

**Q: What materials do you accept for recycling?**

A: The following items may be placed in your recycling container

- plastics 1-7
- cardboard
- writing paper
- magazines
- newspaper
- junk mail
- chipboard
- phone books
- aluminum, aluminum foil and tin cans
- juice boxes, milk cartons
- glass (brown, clear, green)
- envelopes

**Q: Do I need to separate the recycling materials by type?**

A: No. All items may be commingled together in the recycling bin

**Q: What holidays do you observe?**

A: We observe the following federal holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. If your scheduled collection day for that week is on or after one of these holidays, your collection for that week will be delayed by one day.

**GILL'S  
FREEPORT  
DISPOSAL, INC.**

## VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

### *PAYMENT OPTIONS*

Water bills, permit fees and police fines can all be paid with a credit or debit card online using Illinois ePay on our website at [www.villageofwinnebago.com](http://www.villageofwinnebago.com).

**NEW!** Phone payments are now available for water billing (only) via an automated phone payment system. The phone number for this service is **877-712-3629**. Please have your water account number available when using this system.

Automatic debit from checking or savings account – An [ACH Authorization Form](#) must be on file at the Village Hall for this option.

Payments can be dropped off at the Village Hall or deposited in our drop box slot located on the front of the Village Hall building.

**Mailed payments should be addressed to:**  
Village of Winnebago  
108 W Main Street



## Utility Contact Information

Should the Village of Winnebago need to notify you of water related emergencies, please provide a working phone number to the Village, and an email address if available so we can keep you informed!

Village Office: (815)-335-2020, or  
[cparent@villageofwinnebago.com](mailto:cparent@villageofwinnebago.com)



The Winnebago Park District Staff and Board are working towards **#keepingourcommunity** safe so until further notice the Dylan Mastroianni Playground will be closed along with the Tennis courts, Basketball courts, Softball field and Baseball field. The park is open to enjoy the shelter, the green space and the path. All WPD programs are on hold at this time and this includes Summer Fun Camp as well. Those who have signed up for camp will be contacted as soon as we can open up!

We are anxiously waiting to hear the "Shelter in Place" has been lifted so we can start our programs again! We miss our participants and missing seeing all the activity in the park. Adult Fitness Classes are being offered via Zoom Monday - Thursday at 6 p.m. Check our website [www.winnebagoparkdistrict.org](http://www.winnebagoparkdistrict.org) and our Adult Fitness Facebook page for more details. Thank you to those who participated in the 3K Spring Fling run. Also thank you to Mrs. Melancen who has been providing a weekly Art Project on Facebook. Watch Facebook and our website for more virtual classes and activities.

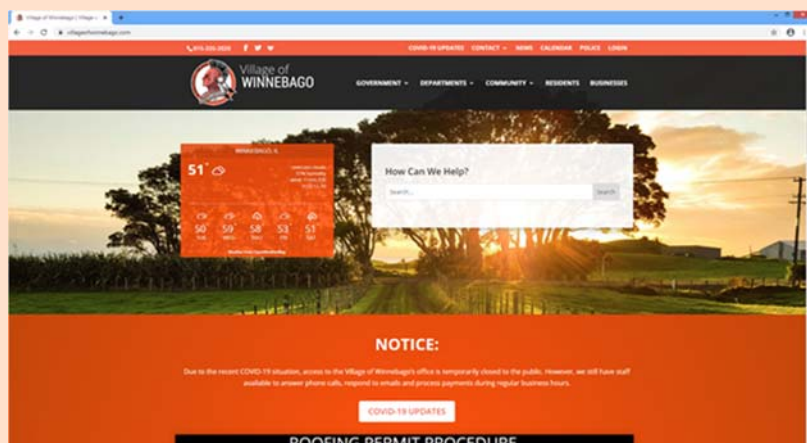
The office is closed but Jen and Michelle can be reached at: email at [info@winnebagoparkdistrict.org](mailto:info@winnebagoparkdistrict.org) or Facebook with any questions or concerns.



To register for programs or for more information visit [www.winnebagoparkdistrict.org](http://www.winnebagoparkdistrict.org), email [info@winnebagoparkdistrict.org](mailto:info@winnebagoparkdistrict.org) or call 815.335.3211

Be sure to check out the Village Website for meeting notices, and important announcements.

[www.villageofwinnebaago.com](http://www.villageofwinnebaago.com)



## 2020 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING DATES

January 13, 2020  
February 10, 2020  
March 9, 2020  
April 13, 2020  
May 11, 2020  
June 8, 2020  
July 13, 2020  
August 10, 2020  
September 14, 2020  
October 12, 2020  
November 9, 2020  
December 7, 2020

All regularly scheduled Board meetings are held in the Village Hall and begin at 7:00 PM

With my appointment as Chief of Police for the Village of Winnebago, I would like to utilize a portion of this message to thank everyone who supported me and sent congratulatory remarks regarding my appointment. Without all of you, this ambition may not have happened.

The first few months of my time as Interim Chief and then as the appointed Chief have been trying times. First with the outbreak and restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, then the unfortunate medical emergency suffered by one of our most famous officers, and the most recent highly publicized events in Minnesota and around the country/world. This has brought our agency to unprecedented times with trying to provide the same level of police protection the residents of Winnebago have grown to expect, while taking steps to protect those officers that protect you. We take pride in serving everyone in the Village to the best of our ability, providing compassion, professionalism, and respect to everyone we encounter.

I would just like to ask everyone to be mindful of others during this time. No one knows what anyone else may be going through, it may be financial hardships, or just the lack of human interaction. We are all adjusting to the situation as best we can, hoping life can return to normal as soon as possible.

- Chief Jeff White



*The Winnebago Community Historical Society is happy to announce the award of a \$1200 Neighborhood Grant from HomeStart and CFNIL. Awarded funds will be used to improve the grounds on the north side of the Town Hall.*

*Want to know more about the society, programs or Winnebago area history? Check out our new website at <https://wchs61088.org>. We'd love to hear your feedback about the new site or other ideas.*