



Village Voice

Spring 2010

The Village of Plainfield's Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 1

Mayor's Message - From The Desk of Michael P. Collins

Once March arrives, I know that we are out of the woods as far as winter weather and if we do have snow it won't last for long. After all, it's just a few short weeks until spring officially arrives followed by Easter!

Although the Village continues to face serious fiscal challenges, there is still development and construction occurring around town this year. We have developments such as The Park at Plainfield and Van Dyke Place under construction and scheduled to open later this year. We will also see the expansion of Diageo and the construction of the Heritage Woods Supportive Living Facility and the Plainfield Fire Protection District's new campus this year. That's quite a bit of development which we are thrilled to have in town.

You will also see quite a few capital improvement projects occurring around town this year. We are extremely fortunate to be receiving grant monies totaling over **\$2.5 million** to assist with all of these projects. With these grant dollars, we will be resurfacing Wallin Drive and Drauden Road as well as portions of 127th Street, Ridge Road, Indian Boundary Road, County Line Road, and Walker Road. Additionally, the installation of temporary traffic signals on Essington Road at Route 126 will also be paid for in part by grant funding. Finally, the construction of the pedestrian bridge on the south side of Lockport Street, over the DuPage River, will be funded by a \$1,000,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which was supported by Representative Cross.

We are also working to position ourselves for when the economy turns around. One of the central goals of the Village's Strategic Planning process is to make the Village a more competitive environment for businesses and new development during these difficult economic times. Therefore, the Village is now formulating a new sustainable business plan that will maintain the Village's high standards and create a more business-friendly environment.

The Business Plan begins with the premise that in today's economy villages must recognize the reality of the marketplace and that the market trumps all previous policies. As an example, the Village may wish to continue charging an average of \$35,000 in impact fees on a new home but it is clear that the market will not sustain this amount in the future. Therefore, Staff is in the process of formulating a new schedule of impact fees that will put the Village in a far more competitive position to attract homebuilders when the market recovers.

Another critical component of the Business Plan is recognizing that the Village receives 44% of its revenue from sales tax and that it continues to be important to retain the retailers that we have recruited over the past decade and to attract new commercial development. As part of the Business Plan, the Village has been working with the Buxton Group, a market analysis company, to look at the shopping patterns of Village residents to determine the retail needs of the community. It is important that the Village provides residents with the shopping choices that they are looking for and that we keep the sales revenue in the Village.

The Village Board and I will continue our commitment to maintain the quality of life that Village residents enjoy. We have no intention of lowering the Village's high standards and we believe that there is nothing inconsistent between creating a business-friendly environment and maintaining and preserving the Village's existing character. It is my hope that this new sustainable approach towards development will put the Village in a far more competitive position to attract new commercial development and to slowly revitalize the housing market.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the 2010 Census. You will be receiving a form from the Census Bureau in the coming weeks. I encourage you to complete the form and return it promptly. Everyone's participation is important to insure an accurate and complete count!

Michael P. Collins
Village President



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New Landmark



The Village recently approved the landmark designation of the Darr-Gaylord House on Lockport Street. The Darr-Gaylord House is one of the best examples of a Queen Anne style home in the Village. The structure is circa 1897 and is in pristine condition with its original design and materials largely intact. The house has been lovingly restored by its current owner, Ms. Betty Gaylord. With the addition of the Darr-Gaylord Home, the Village now has a total of nine homes that have received landmark designation. For more information on these homes, visit the Village web site at www.plainfield-il.org.

Conservation Efforts

Conservation Plainfield Update

Conservation Plainfield (CP) has another full schedule of programs and events planned for the spring. "Save the date" for the following events:

- Conservation Plainfield will be exhibiting at the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on Saturday, March 27 at Plainfield Central High School. Be sure to stop by the Conservation Plainfield booth for information and to enter the raffle for a chance to win a rain barrel or tumbling composter!

- The annual Earth Day Expo will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Village Hall. Check the local newspapers for details as the Expo nears!

- CP will host the DuPage River Sweep on Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are encouraged to form a team to participate in this annual watershed cleanup event.

For more information about Conservation Plainfield, please visit www.conservationplainfield.com.

Water Conservation

The Village's year-round outside water usage ordinance permits lawn sprinkling between the hours of 6:00 and 10:00 a.m. and/or 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. for:

- ◆Even numbered addresses on even numbered calendar days only.

- ◆Odd numbered addresses on odd numbered calendar days only.

- ◆The watering of gardens, trees, shrubs, and flowers (with a handheld hose or watering can) is permitted any time.

- ◆Watering violation penalties: The first violation at a residence receives a warning notice. After a residence receives a second warning notice, a \$50.00 fine is generated and sent to the home by the Police Department.

If you have underground sprinklers installed, please advise the contractor of these times so the timers may be set for the appropriate days and times.



CLERK'S CORNER

~Michelle Gibas, RMC/CMC~

Notary

The Clerk's Office provides free notary services. Simply bring your unsigned document along with proof of identification to the Clerk's Office. **Please note: You must sign the document in front of the notary.**



Voter Registration:

Are you registered to vote? Have you moved or had a name change since you last voted? To register to vote, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a United States Citizen.
- Provide two forms of identification.

The Village has registrars available to assist you with the voter registration process between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

General Election - November 2, 2010

- In-Person Early/Absentee Voting for the General Election will be

conducted at the Village Hall. In order to vote at the Village Hall, you must live in the Village and in Will County. The Village will also conduct early voting for all of Plainfield Township. Dates for Early/Absentee Voting will be posted when available.

- For election information or details about becoming an election judge, visit the County Clerk's web site at www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call (815) 740-4632.

Freedom of Information Requests

For details on how to file a Freedom of Information Request, visit the Village web site at www.plainfield-il.org.

Agendas & Meetings

Village Board agendas are posted at the Village Hall and online, www.plainfield-il.org, 48 hours before all meetings. Agenda topics are also posted on Plainfield Community Television.

The public is welcome to attend all Village meetings. At the beginning of

Board meetings, Mayor Collins offers the opportunity for comments from the public on items not on the agenda. Village Board meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and Workshops are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.



Plainfield Community Television

- Plainfield Community Television (PCT) airs all Village Board, Plan Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission Meetings live.

- PCT also airs programs provided by the Plainfield Television Group on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

- Community events are posted on the message board.

- To watch PCT, tune in to Comcast Channel 6, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, or visit www.plainfieldtv.com and click on P-Span.

- To contact PCT, please call (815) 609-6141 or email mgibas@goplainfield.com.

Red Light Camera Q&A



The red light photo enforcement cameras within the Village were active beginning December 14, 2009. During the first 30 days of operation, motorists who committed a red light violation received a “warning notice” in the mail and no action was required on behalf of the recipient. The 30-day warning period ended January 12, 2010. Violations occurring after that date result in the issuance of a citation. Red light camera citations are issued to the registered owner of the vehicle and are sent via U.S. Mail.

The Police Department has received many questions concerning the red light photo enforcement cameras. The most frequently asked questions and the answers to those questions are below.

Where are the red light cameras within the Village? The cameras are currently located at the intersection of Route 59 and 135th Street only for traffic traveling northbound and southbound on Route 59, and at the intersection of Route 30 and Renwick Road only for traffic traveling westbound on Route 30. Cameras are planned for the intersection of Route 59 and Route 126 once improvements to the intersection are made in conjunction with the Route 59 widening project.

Does the Village incur any costs associated with the red light cameras? No, the agreement with the vendor, Lasercraft, Inc., is cost neutral to the Village.

Are there signs at the intersections warning motorists that red light cameras are present? Yes, signs are present (for the direction that cameras are present) stating the intersection is red light camera enforced. Orange flags are currently attached to the signs. These signs are required by Illinois State Law to provide motorists with ample warning of the presence of the cameras.

Does the red light camera take photographs of the driver or passengers? No, the red light camera only takes photographs of the rear of the vehicle.

What determines a red light violation? For a red light violation to occur, the front wheels of the vehicle must be clearly behind the painted white stop line located at the intersection and the vehicle must then continue to proceed through the intersection, while the light is red.

What if I enter the intersection when the light is yellow? No citation will be issued provided the front wheels of the vehicle are past the white stop line when the light is yellow.

Can I still turn right on red without receiving a citation? Yes, right turns on red are legal at all the intersections within the Village that are red light photo enforced. In fact, the

Village is currently not issuing automated red light citations for any right turn on red violations. However, please complete your right turn on red legally by coming to a complete stop before proceeding into the intersection.

What if a photograph of my vehicle is taken but I did stop, just past the white stop line? In this situation, no citation will be issued since you did not proceed through the intersection.

Who approves the citation? A Plainfield police officer reviews every violation and determines whether a citation is warranted based upon a violation of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

How do the cameras work and do the cameras take pictures of every vehicle? The cameras are activated only if the red light system determines that a vehicle will likely not stop in time for the red light. Therefore not every vehicle is photographed.

If I receive a citation, may I view my violation? Yes, on the citation you receive, instructions will be included to guide you through the process of viewing your violation online. You will be able to view both photographs and a video of the violation.

If someone else was driving my vehicle at the time of the offense, am I responsible for paying the citation? Yes, the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for payment of the citation.

Will the citation affect my driving record? No, the citation will not affect your driving record. However, if you have five (5) or more unpaid red light citations, your driver’s license information may be forwarded to the Illinois Secretary of State for suspension of your driving privileges.

May I contest my citation? Yes, you may contest your citation by appearing before a hearing officer. Instructions on how to contest a citation are printed on the citation.

How do I pay the citation? You may pay your citation in person at the Plainfield Police Department via cash, certified check, or money order. Personal checks are also accepted. You may also pay your violation by mail and online via credit card; simply follow the instructions on the citation and/or web site. The cost of the citation is \$100.00.

What if I do not pay the citation? If you fail to pay the citation, your information may be turned over to a collection agency, which may negatively affect your credit score.

Inquiries regarding a citation should first be made to the Lasercraft Incorporated Customer Service Department at (866) 409-5004. In addition, the Plainfield Police Department has created a voice mail box where callers may leave messages, which will be checked daily by the officers assigned to the red light photo enforcement program. Simply call (815) 436-6544 and follow the prompts to the red light photo enforcement extension.

Severe Storm Season Awareness



The Plainfield Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) encourages all Plainfield residents to remain alert and aware during severe storm season. February 28-March 6, 2010 has been declared Severe Storm Awareness Week by the National Weather Service (NWS). Each year, an average of 31 tornadoes touch down in the State of Illinois. Residents can prepare themselves by learning how the weather warning system works and the differences in terminology.

When a **watch** is issued it means that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop within the next 6-12 hours. Trained weather spotters from the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency and other organizations will position themselves throughout the area to report on any development of severe or potentially severe weather.

When a **warning** is issued it means that severe weather (a severe thunderstorm or tornado) has either been spotted or indicated by radar approaching the immediate area. If the storm is a tornado/funnel cloud, warning sirens will be sounded. This is the indication that everyone should take shelter either below ground or on the first floor in the interior of the building. Make sure you take your NOAA battery-operated radio with you, so you can hear updates on the storm. Do not go outside to look at the storm and do not call 911 to see

why the sirens were activated. (Remember, weather permitting, the warning sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.) The sirens will not sound an all clear signal. Listen to your radio to find out when the storm has passed.

Unfortunately, the Plainfield area is no stranger to severe weather, all residents should monitor their televisions or NOAA radios for changing weather conditions and be ready to move to shelter should a severe storm approach.

For additional information related to severe weather or emergency preparedness, please contact Plainfield Emergency Management Agency Director John Konopek at (815) 439-4803 or via e-mail: jkonopek@plainfieldpd.com or look for the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency on the web at www.plainfieldema.org.

Riverfront Project Progresses

The coming year is expected to witness the start of construction on the first stages of the long-range Plainfield Riverfront Master Plan. In addition to the Lockport Street Pedestrian Bridge, plans are underway to construct a temporary path network in the area to be known as West Electric Park, on the west bank of the DuPage River, south of Lockport Street. The path system will provide access to more than 40 acres currently owned by the Village that already offers a beautiful park-like setting. The goal is to construct the path system with donated funds and materials, along with volunteer effort, at no cost to the Village.

The Plainfield Riverfront Foundation was formed in November 2009 to champion fundraising and public awareness for the Plainfield

Riverfront. Foundation volunteers will participate in the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We encourage you to stop by the Riverfront booth to learn more about the project. The Foundation is also planning several special events to provide opportunities for public access to the Riverfront, to increase awareness of this amenity, and to help raise funds for future projects. For more information, visit www.plainfieldriverfront.com.



New Developments

The continued vitality of Downtown Plainfield and the Van Dyke Road corridor is reflected in the anticipated completion of the first phase of Van Dyke Center, a 50,000 square foot commercial development at the corner of Lockport Street and Van Dyke. Additionally, construction should soon start on Heritage Woods on Van Dyke Road. Heritage Woods will provide a 78,000 square foot supportive living facility at an affordable rate for seniors.

The Village continues to see the expansion of one of its largest employers, Diageo, which will be starting construction on a new 23,000 square foot addition to their facility on 143rd Street and Van Dyke Road. Construction will also begin this spring on the new Plainfield Fire Protection District campus on 135th Street. The new campus will include an administrative center and a fire station.

Code Enforcement



Spring will soon be here and the Code Enforcement Unit would like to remind everyone of some of the basic violations that we encounter during the spring and summer months. High grass and weeds are very common once the weed season officially begins on May 1. Grass and weeds cannot be higher than eight (8) inches. Other examples of violations that Code Enforcement will be looking for are: garbage and debris on property, peeling paint on buildings, stagnant water, and vehicles (including boats and trailers) parked on the front lawn.

There are two ways to file a complaint with Code Enforcement:

- 1) Call Code Enforcement at (815) 439-4806.

- 2) File a complaint online at <http://cityview.plainfieldpd.com>. When filing a complaint, you will be asked to describe the alleged violation and the location. Once the complaint has been filed, an inspection for the Code Enforcement Officer will be generated. You will also be given a case number so that you can check the status of your complaint in the future.

Please keep in mind only Code Enforcement complaints can be filed online. If you have a complaint about overnight parking or parking over the sidewalk, please contact the Police Department at (815) 436-6544.

If there is an empty home near you that needs attention, please do not take care of or mow that property. It will cause confusion as to whether the property needs to be addressed or not. Please remember that the code enforcement process takes time and the situation will be taken care of as quickly as possible.

Building Permits

The mission and purpose of the Building Department is to safeguard and protect the health, safety, and general welfare of Village residents through the application of the adopted codes and ordinances.

Ordinances require permits for the construction, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building or structure. Excavation work and re-grading may also require permits prior to commencement. Permits are required but not limited to the following improvements: commercial and residential remodeling, additions, decks, fences, garages, sheds, hot tubs, pools, roofs and siding, lawn sprinklers, driveways, and patios.

If you have any questions regarding permitting or if a permit is required for a specific project, please contact the Building Department at (815) 439-2937. Additional information is available online at www.plainfield-il.org.

The Building Department has relocated to the Public Works Facility at 14400 S. Coil Plus Drive, and is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Capital Improvement Projects

119th Street Project

119th Street has been completed with the exception of the streetlight poles and some final landscaping. The remaining work is scheduled to be complete by April 30.

ARRA Grants

The Village was able to secure American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grants to resurface Wallin Drive, from Route 126 to 143rd Street, and Drauden Road, from Rock Drive south to the Village boundary. Both projects are scheduled to begin in April.

Route 59/Walmart Traffic Signal

The installation of the new traffic signal on Route 59 at Walmart has been delayed due to a problem with existing utilities. The location of one of the traffic signal poles was redesigned and the revised plan has been approved. The new signal pole is scheduled to be

delivered in late March and the signals should be installed this spring.

Route 59 Construction

- Work on Route 59, from Union Street to Caton Farm Road, will begin as soon as the weather breaks this spring. It is anticipated that the removal and reconstruction work on the “new” northbound lanes will be completed by the end of 2010.

- Route 59 - Union Street to Route 126: The utility relocation work is scheduled to be complete by the end of March and this project will be in full swing this construction season. The current plan is to have both north and southbound lanes reconstructed by the end of 2010.

Lockport Street Pedestrian Bridge

The plans for the future Lockport Street Pedestrian Bridge are nearing completion and should be ready for

bidding this summer. This project will provide a pedestrian crossing over the DuPage River, directly south of the existing vehicle bridge. Special thanks to Representative Cross who assisted the Village in obtaining a one million dollar grant from the State for the bridge.

Lockport Streetscape Receives Award

The Village received a “Project of the Year” Award from the American Public Works Association, Southwest Branch, for the Lockport Streetscape Project. The project now moves on to the State competition.



Community Calendar



Green Village Program, VOP.....	March 8
Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....	March 10
St. Patrick's Day Parade, MSP.....	March 14
Senior Seminar, TRIAD.....	March 23
Business Expo & Health Fair, PACC...March 27	
Egg'straordinary, MSP.....	April 1
Green Village Program, VOP.....	April 12
Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....	April 14
Earth Day Expo, CP.....	April 17
Senior Seminar, TRIAD.....	April 27
Lake Renwick Bird Watching Begins, WCFP....	
.....	May 1
Green Village Program, VOP.....	May 10
Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....	May 12
Spring Fest, MSP.....	May 15-16
DuPage River Sweep, CP.....	May 22
Senior Seminar, TRIAD.....	May 25
Cruise Nights Begin, MSP.....	June 1

*For information on the events above, please contact the organization listed.

CP=Conservation Plainfield.....	815-439-2824
MSP=MainStreet Plainfield, Inc.....	815-436-5510
PACC=Plfd. Chamber of Commerce.....	815-436-4431
TRIAD=Plfd. Police Department.....	815-267-7207
VOP=Village of Plainfield.....	815-436-7093
WCFP=Will Cty. Forest Preserve.....	815-727-8700

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✓All businesses as well as commercial and residential alarms in the Village must be registered with the Police Department. Please contact the Records Department at (815) 436-6544 for more information.
- ✓No parking is allowed on Village Streets between 1:00 and 6:00 a.m.
- ✓Village curfew hours are: Under 16 years old: Sunday-Saturday: 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; 16 years old: Sunday-Thursday: 11 p.m.-6 a.m.; and Friday-Saturday: 12-6 a.m.
- ✓To report streetlight outages, contact Public Works at (815) 436-3577. Please provide the exact location to insure timely repairs.
- ✓To automatically pay your water/sewer/garbage bill, simply complete a direct pay application and submit it with a voided check. Applications are available by calling (815) 439-4257 and online at www.plainfield-il.org.
- ✓The Village Offices will be closed May 31, 2010.
- ✓When holidays fall on a weekday, refuse collection is delayed by one day for the rest of the week. Memorial Day is Monday, May 31, 2010.
- ✓Waste Management requires that residents use waste containers that are 32 gallons or less in size. All items must be curbside by 6:00 a.m. on your pickup day.
- ✓Yard waste pickup will resume with the first garbage collection (April 1, 5, or 7 depending on your collection day) in April. All yard waste must be placed in brown Kraft bags.
- ✓To receive Village E-News Updates via email or RSS feed, sign up online at www.plainfield-il.org.
- ✓Stand up and be counted! Be sure to complete and return your 2010 Census Form as soon as possible. The results of the 2010 Census will bring additional revenues and resources to the community and every resident's cooperation and participation is important to insure its accuracy and completion.

Information You Can Use

Village Contacts & Departments:

Administration	815-436-7093
Building.....	815-439-2937
Code Enforcement.....	815-439-4806
Community Television.....	815-609-6141
Emergency Mgmt.....	815-436-6215
Law Enforcement.....	815-436-6544
After Hours.....	815-436-2341
Planning.....	815-439-2824
Public Works.....	815-436-3577
Utility Billing.....	815-439-4257
Village Clerk.....	815-439-2921
Water/Wastewater.....	815-436-3577

Local Service Numbers:

AT&T.....	800-244-4444
Comcast.....	866-594-1234
Crime Stoppers.....	800-323-6734
Digging-J.U.L.I.E.....	800-892-0123
Electric-ComEd.....	800-334-7661
Emergency.....	911
Garbage-Waste Management	
.....	800-747-2278
Gas-NICOR.....	888-642-6748
Indian Prairie School Dist.....	630-375-3000
Kendall Cty. Assessor.....	630-553-4146

Wheatland Assessor.....	630-851-9740
Wheatland Township.....	630-851-3952
Will County Animal Control.....	
.....	815-462-5633
Will Cty. Health Dept.....	815-727-8480

Plainfield:

Art League.....	815-556-9278
Assessor.....	815-436-5110
Chamber of Commerce.....	815-436-4431
Fire District.....	815-436-5335
Historical Society.....	815-436-4073
MainStreet.....	815-436-5510
Park District.....	815-436-8812
Post Office.....	815-436-9641
Public Library.....	815-436-6639
Senior Transit.....	815-740-6201
School District.....	815-577-4000
Township.....	815-436-8308

Oswego:

Fire District.....	630-554-2110
Park District.....	630-554-1010
Public Library.....	630-554-3150
School District.....	630-554-3447
Township.....	630-554-3211

Village Board

President

Michael P. Collins

Trustees

Margie Bonuchi
Paul Fay
Larry Kachel
Bill Lamb
Garrett M. Peck
James Racich



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Village Hall Hours:

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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The Village welcomes comments and questions on this issue of the Village Voice, via mail (see address above, Attn: Amy De Boni) or e-mail: adeboni@goplainfield.com.