



# Village Voice

Winter 2009

The Village of Plainfield's Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 4

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

December has arrived and that means that winter "officially" begins in just a few short weeks, although it feels like winter arrived some time ago! However, we can take comfort in the fact that the holidays are here and we can spend time with family and friends. Now on to the latest Village News...

In just a few short months, we have seen the reopening of Steiner Road, the opening of the Edward Plainfield Emergency Room and Cancer Center, and the demolition of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. All of these projects continue to advance important Village initiatives. The reconstruction of Steiner Road extends an important north-south roadway in the Village while the opening of the Edward Plainfield ER and Cancer Center improves access to health care. With the demolition of the South Plant, we take another step in advancing Plainfield's Riverfront Plan. The new year also promises to bring many more exciting projects to the Village!

Although there are a number of developments under construction, the Village is not immune to budget issues during this time of economic uncertainty. For the first time in years, the Village's revenue sources are decreasing and the Village faces serious financial issues. In fact, revenues have not increased since 2006 and the population has increased by approximately 10,000 people during the same time period.

Over the past year, the Village has worked hard to maintain services in the face of declining revenues. In doing this, we have implemented a

variety of cost cutting actions including layoffs and the elimination of programs:

- The Village has eliminated 36 positions through layoffs and other means;
- Employee health insurance contributions have increased;
- Training budgets and contributions to community organizations have been reduced; and
- Some community programs have been eliminated including the 50/50 Tree Program and the Citizens Police and Fire Academy.

State forecasted revenues are underperforming and the Village is still faced with a projected shortfall for this year. Unfortunately, there is not a quick fix or simple solution for the financial problems facing the Village. And projections show that over the next three years, the problem will continue to grow as revenues decrease even further.

However, the Village remains committed to providing high quality services without raising taxes or fees. Therefore, we continue to explore ways to further reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and streamline processes while providing for the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.

We will survive these difficult economic times by working together as a community. Many community members have recognized the need to step up and have reached out to the Village. We are thankful for their support. For example, Tom Quinn of Quinn's Landscaping volunteered to help the Village and the downtown by installing holiday lights on the trees in Downtown Plainfield, free of charge. The Village truly appreciates Mr. Quinn's sense of community spirit.

Finally, I wanted to thank Police Chief Don Bennett for his many years of excellent service to the community. Chief Bennett recently retired after more than 24 years with the Village of Plainfield. His leadership has helped guide the Village during times of change and growth. We are thankful for his dedication, service, and leadership to the Village.

Also, join me in welcoming the new Police Chief, William Doster, to Plainfield. Chief Doster was sworn into office on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to say hello when you see him around town!

Happy Holidays!

Michael P. Collins  
Village President



Village Board Members and area elected officials celebrate the opening of the Edward Plainfield ER.

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## Bus Service

### Pace Service Begins in Plainfield

The Village's first transit service recently began operating. Commuters can now enjoy weekday bus service from Downtown Plainfield into Chicago with nine inbound morning trips and several afternoon return trips. Look for detailed route information for Routes 755 and 855 on Pace's web site at [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com).

Plainfield's Park-n-Ride facility is located on Village Center Drive, adjacent to Village Hall. New sidewalks and a bus shelter have been installed on the south side of Village Center Drive. Bus service is provided by Pace with the support of a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (815) 439-2824.



## Downtown Plainfield

### Lockport Street Recognized

The Village recently received a statewide award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-IL) for the reconstruction of Lockport Street. The project was selected as the award-winner in the "Implementation" category for the dramatic transformation of Lockport Street into a pedestrian-oriented shopping and dining district, and also for the planning and public participation process that was used to develop and implement the plan. The project was funded in part with a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (815) 439-2824.

### Façade Improvement Projects

The Village commends the many downtown property owners who are investing in their buildings and enhancing the appearance of the downtown. Several façade rehabilitation projects are underway

including the restoration of the building at 24034 W. Lockport Street that houses Coldwell Banker/Honig Bell, as well as improvements to Baci Ristorante at 24018 W. Lockport Street. The Village has also approved a few new façade grants. Pending façade projects include the buildings for the Tawny Tortoise at 24012 W. Lockport Street, the Silky Florist at 24008 W. Lockport Street, and the Village Flower Shop at 24117 W. Lockport Street.

The total cost of these projects is \$273,000, which will increase the commercial property tax base and generate more commercial property tax revenue. The Village provides façade grants to cover up to 50% of the project cost. The grant money is taken from the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, which is a pool of money that has been collected from property taxes paid previously by the property owners in the TIF District. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (815) 439-2824 or visit [www.plainfield-il.org/business/facadeprogram.php](http://www.plainfield-il.org/business/facadeprogram.php).

## 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. Registration is open throughout the year except during the 27 days preceding an election. Registration reopens the second day following an election.



### 2010 Election

- General Primary – February 2, 2010
- General Election – November 2, 2010
- In-Person Early/Absentee Voting for the General Primary will be conducted at the Village Hall, January 11<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays (January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). In order to vote at the Village Hall, you must reside in Plainfield Township.
- For details about becoming an election judge or for other election information, visit the County Clerk's web site at [www.thewillcountyclerk.com](http://www.thewillcountyclerk.com) or call (815) 740-4632.

### Agendas & Meetings

Village Board agendas are posted at the Village Hall and online, [www.plainfield-il.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and Workshops are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.plainfieldtv.com) and click on P-Span.
- To contact PCT, please call (815) 609-6141 or email [mgibas@goplainfield.com](mailto:mgibas@goplainfield.com).



## Riverfront



### Riverfront Developments

The Village remains active in advancing long-range efforts to establish the Plainfield Riverfront, which encompasses a two-mile segment of the DuPage River centered on Downtown Plainfield. A steering committee is overseeing the planning and implementation efforts and a charitable nonprofit foundation of volunteers was recently established to assist. Separately, the Village is also pursuing grant funding, final design, and permitting for construction of the Lockport Street pedestrian bridge which will provide a safe and inviting pedestrian connection over the DuPage River. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (815) 439-2824 or visit the Village web site: [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org).

## Green Village Initiative Continues



### Green Village Lecture Series

Plainfield's many environmental programs under the Green Village initiative will continue for a third year. The Green Village Lecture Series will once again be offered at the Plainfield Public Library on the second Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. The next session will be held on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, and will feature Beth Randall of "Joe Organizer, Inc." demonstrating various ways to make it easier to recycle and reuse various household items. Future topics will include residential energy alternatives, backyard gardening, and a "green" car show! More information on the Green Village initiative is available online at [www.plainfield-il.org/initiatives/greenvillage.php](http://www.plainfield-il.org/initiatives/greenvillage.php).

### Rain Barrels & Compost Bins

The Planning Department is preparing to offer discounted rain barrels for sale. The sale earlier this year was a huge success! The rain barrels have been recycled and were previously used for food distribution, i.e. pickles, olives. The Village is also considering a residential compost bin sales program. If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel or compost bin or would like more information, please contact the Planning Department at (815) 439-2824 or via e-mail at [jproulx@goplainfield.com](mailto:jproulx@goplainfield.com).



## News & Notes



### Village News

To receive the latest Village News, register for E-News Updates online at [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org). Registering is easy to do and only takes a minute of your time. Village E-News Updates are also conveniently available as a RSS Feed.

### Assistance Programs

The Will County Center for Community Concerns coordinates both the Weatherization and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs. These programs assist eligible Will County households save fuel and energy and pay for winter energy services. Applications are accepted at the Will County Center for Community Concerns, 304 N. Scott Street, in Joliet and at other locations

throughout the county. For more information, please call (815) 722-0722 or visit [www.wcccc.net](http://www.wcccc.net).

### Alarm Registration

When a new alarm system is installed in your home or business you are required by Village Ordinance to have a current alarm permit. Registration forms are available at the Plainfield Police Department, 14300 S. Coil Plus Drive, or online at [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org). An annual, non-refundable registration fee, of \$10.00 for a residential alarm and \$25.00 for a commercial alarm, must be paid prior to a permit being issued.

### Business Licenses

All corporate, retail, and home businesses operating in the Village are required to register and be licensed. Business license applications are available at the Police Department or

online at [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org). For more information regarding the Village Business License Ordinance or any other matters regarding the licensing procedure, please contact the Plainfield Police Department, Licensing/Permits Coordinator, at (815) 439-4805.

### Stand Up and Be Counted!

Decennial Census forms will be mailed to all residents in the spring of 2010. Residents are encouraged to participate in the Census by accurately completing the form and returning it to the Census Bureau. An increase in the Village's population will bring additional revenues and resources to the community, therefore every resident's cooperation and participation is important! For the latest Census news, visit [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov).



## Red-Light Cameras

This fall the Village received final approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to proceed with the installation of an automated traffic enforcement camera system (red-light cameras) at two intersections in the Village. Subsequently, in November, installation of red-light cameras at the intersections of Route 59 and 135<sup>th</sup> Street and Route 30 and Renwick Road was completed. While the Village previously received preliminary approval for the installation of red-light cameras at a third intersection, Route 59 and Route 126, final approval for the installation of cameras at that intersection has been delayed due to the widening of Route 59. It is anticipated that installation of red-light cameras at the intersection of Route 59 and Route 126 will occur in 2010.

The cameras installed at the intersections of Route 59 and 135<sup>th</sup> Street and Route 30 and Renwick Road have been implemented in an effort to prevent traffic accidents that result in injuries and/or fatalities to drivers and

pedestrians. The cameras will monitor the northbound and southbound traffic at the intersection of Route 59 and 135<sup>th</sup> Street and the northbound traffic at the intersection of Route 30 and Renwick Road. It is anticipated that the cameras will be operational in early to mid-December. Once the cameras are operational, the Village will issue warning notices for all violations for the first 30 days. Upon expiration of the 30 day warning period, citations will be issued for red-light camera violations. The issuance of citations is expected to begin in early to mid-January 2010.

The red-light cameras work as follows: the system operates ONLY when the traffic light is red – capturing images of actual red-light violations. The camera system captures three photographic images of the alleged violation. The first image provides a view of the vehicle before crossing the white stop line and showing that the traffic light is red. The second image shows that the vehicle has continued through the

intersection while the traffic light remains red. The third image shows the license plate of the offending vehicle. Personnel from the Village's Police Department will review all images to determine the validity of the alleged violation and only after review will a violation notice be issued. Violation notices will be issued within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the violation and will include information on how an offender can view the images of his/her red-light violation online. Violators will have a minimum of fourteen (14) days from receipt of the violation notice to pay the civil penalty amount (\$100) or request a hearing date.

As always, please continue to obey the traffic laws of the State of Illinois for your safety as well as the safety of others.



*Route 30 and Renwick Road Intersection*

## Public Works Updates

### 119<sup>th</sup> Street Project

The reconstruction of 119<sup>th</sup> Street is now complete and the finished roadway cross section is identical to the section in front of Plainfield North High School. Improvements to the bike path and streetlighting were also completed.

### Pavement Patching Program

The Village has completed a significant amount of patching on Drauden Road, south of the Springbank Subdivision, Indian Boundary Road, Wallin Drive (old Route 30), and 135<sup>th</sup> Street. Drivers should now have a smoother ride on these roadways.

### New Traffic Signals

•Work is underway for a new traffic signal on Route 59 and Industrial Drive in front of the Walmart shopping center. The concrete

foundations have been installed and the contractor is awaiting delivery of the poles, mast arms, and signal heads. It is anticipated that the work will be completed this month.

•The new traffic signal at 127<sup>th</sup> Street and 248<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been installed. It should be energized, tested, and operational by the end of this year.

### Storm Water Regulations

The Public Works Department has instituted storm water regulations as required by the EPA. The goals of the "Discharge Elimination Phase II" regulations are to prevent flood damage and improve water quality. Water that flows into storm drains carries debris with it including chemicals, oils, and refuse that are harmful to plants, animals, and water quality. Storm water is not processed or cleaned before it enters detention

ponds, retention areas, streams, and the DuPage River. This means that the things people put on the ground may end up in a nearby pond or river.

People enjoy the beauty of local water resources, please help keep them beautiful by following these rules:

- Do not dump oils, paints, lawn clippings, leaves, or other garbage into drains.
- Do not sweep refuse along the curb into the drain.
- Be sure your sump pump connects to the proper discharge, not to your sanitary sewer line.
- Avoid excessive use of ice control chemicals as they can run off and harm vegetation and waterways.

If you have any questions regarding these regulations, please contact the Public Works Department at (815) 436-3577.

## Plainfield Named Preserve America Community



The Village of Plainfield recently received a letter signed by First Lady Michelle Obama designating the Village as a Preserve America Community. The Preserve America designation is based on a community's efforts to promote heritage tourism, to protect its heritage resources, and protect and recognize its historic places. Designation as a Preserve America Community provides national recognition of Plainfield's achievements and will enhance heritage tourism efforts and other economic development strategies.

Benefits of designation include: White House recognition; eligibility to apply

for Preserve America Grants; a listing in the web-based Preserve America Community directory; inclusion in national and regional press releases; official notification of the designation to state tourism offices and visitors bureaus; and enhanced community visibility and pride.

The Village of Plainfield was platted in 1834 as the "Town of Plainfield." In the early twentieth century, the Lincoln Highway was routed through the heart of the community and further stimulated commercial and residential development. After 1939, Plainfield enjoyed the distinction of being at the crossroads of the two longest, paved highways in the world when Route 66 was realigned through the Village. Three properties in the community are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Plainfield Halfway House at the "halfway" point on the Chicago-Ottawa Trail, the 1841 Flanders House, and a 1928 Standard Oil Gasoline Station.

The community established a Historic Preservation Commission in 2004. The Commission has since designated eight local landmarks and one historic district. Plainfield is also designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG) and is an Illinois Main Street community.

Preserve America is a federal program that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the program include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

For more information on the Preserve America initiative, visit [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov).

## New Developments Under Construction



### Van Dyke Place

Construction is underway for the first phase of Van Dyke Place, the commercial development located at the northeast corner of Lockport Street and Van Dyke Road. The first buildings to be constructed include a Southern Belle's restaurant and a medical office building. At build-out, the project may include several restaurants, retail space, a bank, and multiple office buildings with a total of approximately 41,000 square feet of development. This project will expand the Village's commercial tax base by several million dollars and will also generate additional sales tax revenue.

### Retirement Community To Open

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for The Park at Plainfield, a retirement living community set to open in the fall of 2010. The Park will serve the assisted living and memory care needs of 136 residents.

"We are truly excited to be the first assisted living and memory care community in the Village of Plainfield," says Stephen Benjamin, President & COO of Horizon Bay Retirement Living. The Park at Plainfield is managed by Horizon Bay Retirement Living. "We look forward to providing high quality services to the seniors and families of this great community for many years to come."

The Park is situated on 3.8 acres and is located across from Heritage Grove Middle School, near the corner of Van Dyke Road and 127<sup>th</sup> Street.

Community features include full-service dining, courtyard with fireplace, beauty shop, 24-hour staff, scheduled transportation daily, housekeeping service, concierge services, and multiple recreational rooms and programs.

For more information, visit [www.horizonbay.com](http://www.horizonbay.com) or call 1-866-OK-HORIZON.



*Rendering of The Park at Plainfield*

## Community Calendar



### 2009 Events

Holiday Shopping Day, MSP...December 5 & 19  
 Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....December 9  
 Oswego Holiday Express, OPD...December 11-13  
 Jingle Bell Run/Walk, AF.....December 12  
 Holiday Open House, MSP.....December 12  
 After Christmas Sale, MSP.....December 26

### 2010 Events

Winter Reading Program, PPL.....January 9  
 Green Village Program, VOP.....January 11  
 Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....January 13  
 Preschool Information Fair, PPL.....January 17  
 Green Village Program, VOP.....February 8  
 Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....February 10  
 Chinese New Year & Valentine's Day Party, PPL...  
 .....February 13  
 Green Village Program, VOP.....March 8  
 Coffee with the Mayor, VOP.....March 10  
 St. Patrick's Day Parade, MSP.....March 14  
 Business Expo & Health Fair, PACC...March 27

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

AF=Arthritis Foundation.....312-372-2080  
 MSP=MainStreet Plainfield, Inc.....815-436-5510  
 OPD=Oswegoland Park District.....630-554-1010  
 PACC=Plfd. Chamber of Commerce.815-436-4431  
 PPL=Plainfield Public Library.....815-436-6639  
 VOP=Village of Plainfield.....815-436-7093

## 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](http://www.plainfield-il.org).

✓The Village Offices will be closed December 24-25, 2009 and January 1 & 18, and February 15, 2010.

✓When holidays fall on a weekday, refuse collection is delayed by one day for the rest of the week.

✓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 has ended and will resume with the first garbage collection in April 2010.

✓Christmas Trees are not considered yard waste and will be picked up on regular garbage days. They must be four (4) feet or shorter in length and 50 pounds or less to be considered packaged properly.

✓To receive Village E-News Updates via email or RSS feed, sign up online at [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org).



## 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  
 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:

Assessor.....815-436-5110  
 Chamber of Commerce..815-436-4431  
 Economic Partnership...815-327-4803  
 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.

Village Voice Editor: Amy De Boni

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](mailto:adeboni@goplainfield.com).