

The Village Voice

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Machesney Park



ALPINE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS COMING IN SUMMER OF 2021!

The Village is excited to announce that Alpine Road between Schnuck's and Lowe's is scheduled for improvement during the summer and fall of 2021. It's hard to believe, but Alpine Road was built over 30 years ago! Fortunately, it won't be necessary to fully reconstruct the roadway, which is a much more expensive (*and lengthy*) option. Construction will begin in early June and will wrap up in mid-October and construction crews will be making the following improvements this year:

- (1) Replacing the bad areas of underlying pavement and broken curbing;**
- (2) Repairing the storm sewer inlets along the side of the side of road;**
- (3) Replacing the old traffic signals at the intersection of Gladys and Alpine (at the high school) with new, modern signals that will help the intersection function more efficiently; and**
- (4) Placing a new surface on Alpine Road using technology that helps extend the life of the pavement by slowing the reflective cracking process.**



Existing pavement conditions on Alpine Road

Construction will occur over a number of stages, and of course, things may arise during construction that might require us to adjust our staging plans. The first stage will be to close the center lanes between Pine Al and Roosevelt in order to remove the existing raised median and place temporary pavement that will be used in future stages. Next, we'll close the outside lanes of Alpine Road during which time milling, patching, curb removal/replacement and inlet repairs will be completed in the closed areas. There will be a number of sub-stages where various side road intersections will be closed in order to make any necessary repairs on Alpine and re-profile the pavement on the side streets in order to provide a smooth transition from the existing roadway into the final surface of Alpine Road. Once those improvements are complete, the new driving surface will be placed and pavement markings will be applied.

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for an online subscription
of this newsletter.



Machesney Park's Single Family Rehab Program Progress

Single Family Rehab Program Update. For the past 20 years, the Village has received grant funds from the Illinois Housing Development Authority to provide low-income households with opportunities to repair their homes and bring them up to current Building Codes. Our two-year grant has been extended to April, 2022, because of delays caused by Covid-19. With the grant money from the State, the Village is able to assist 8 homeowners with renovations this year. Fortunately, the Village may have enough funds to assist two more homeowners before April of next year.

It is unknown as to whether grant funds will be offered by the State again in the future. Our rehab program is generally open to property owners who fall below certain income thresholds and who can demonstrate the need for assistance. If additional funds become available, the Village will send out a press release, and we will notify the public by posting information on Facebook and the Village website. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Penny Miller at (815) 877-5432.



Before Pictures (Front & Back of the Home)



After Pictures (Front & Back of the Home)

Machesney Park Recycle Center



8409 N. 2nd Street
815-637-1343 • www.knib.org
Wednesday 2 pm - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 12 noon

E-WASTE

Air conditioners, *approved electronics, computers, dehumidifiers, flat screens, freezers, monitors, refrigerators, water coolers, televisions
(*See website www.knib.org for approved electronics)

Fees for E-Waste

Projection/Wood Console TVs - \$25 • Large TVs/Monitors (19" & over) - \$20
Freon Removal - \$20 • Small TVs/ Monitors (under 19") - \$15

PAPER (preferably brought in paper bags)

Books, magazines, mail/office paper, newspaper

CONTAINERS

Clean glass & plastic bottles/containers, clean metal cans

CARDBOARD

Chipboard, flattened/clean/dry (no pizza boxes)

CLOTHING

Clean items wearable or not, purses, shoes, belts, hats

HOUSEHOLD

Bedding, curtains, soft-sided luggage, stuffed toys, throw rugs

MISCELLANEOUS

Egg cartons, auto/marine batteries, cell phones, dishwashers, extension cords & wires, gutters/downspouts, holiday string lights, hot water tanks, lawnmowers (drain oil/gas), metal items-almost all kinds, metal/electrical tools, metal pipe conduit, metal pots & pans, metal shelves, microwaves (remove glass tray), outdoor grills (without tanks), plastic 6-pack rings, snow blower (drain oil/gas), stainless sinks, stoves, vacuums, washers/dryers

Business Electronics accepted - Please call 815-637-1343 for an appt.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Hazardous waste, pizza boxes, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, paint, smoke detectors, CO detectors, gift wrap, styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic packaging, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassettes

Visit the website at www.knib.org for more information.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Coming Soon - Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers and Chick-fil-A

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers Moving Forward



Plans for Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers are moving forward following delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Freddy's features made -to-order steakburgers, shoestring french fries, and frozen custard. The restaurant chain, who purchased property from the Village, is planning to commence construction on their property in front of Lowe's in 2021.

Chick-fil-A coming to Machesney Park



Chick-fil-A has acquired property at the southeast corner of Alpine Road and Route 173 and plans to open a new restaurant soon. Construction plans have been submitted to the Village and are under review.

Property pins, stakes and survey markers are legally protected

The State of Illinois' Plat Act says that anyone who removes a stake, PIN, monument or other survey marker is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. This requirement is not a local Ordinance and therefore the Village is not responsible for enforcement. The only way a complaint can be investigated is if there is substantial evidence (*actual proof*) that the PIN was removed/adjusted. That usually means there needs to be photo or video evidence that a violation has occurred.

Formal complaints can be filed with either the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department (815-282-2600) or the Illinois State Police (815-239-1152). Fines start at \$250 and could be as large as \$2,500 if someone is convicted.

Illinois Registered Land Surveyors are the only individuals who are authorized to place, remove or adjust survey markers.



ZONING APPROVAL & REGULATING DEVELOPMENT

Floodplain Recreation and Improvement Plans Approved

Last year Village Staff consulted with Fehr Graham Engineering and Environmental to draft a plan to transform the Village-owned floodplain properties into park space. This park space would incorporate trails and paths, river overlooks and fishing docks, passive recreation and native plantings.

The Village owns over 160 properties in the floodplain that were acquired through ongoing flood hazard mitigation efforts made possible with grant funds from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This Floodplain Recreation and Improvement Plan was presented during a Facebook Live event in April of 2020, as well as a public open house in March of 2021.

The open house was attended by approximately 30 residents who live near the proposed park space. Some attendees voiced concerns and asked questions. Others applauded the Plan.

One common concern was that the Village would use eminent domain to take additional properties to add to the park space. This is absolutely not the objective. Passive recreation improvements would only be made on land that has been acquired through the voluntary buy-out program, or on public right-of-way. Another concern was that proposed park improvements, such as parking lots and bike paths, would divert floodwater onto neighboring properties. The Village and the IDNR have regulations in place to prevent any development in the floodplain from obstructing or redirecting floodwater, or raising flood levels on nearby land. The Village must comply with these regulations just as citizens do, and we cannot make any improvements in these areas unless they are permitted by the IDNR.



Floodplain Recreation and Improvement Plan, Public Open House, March 16, 2021.

There is no guarantee or timeline for when any proposed improvements identified in the plan would be completed. This Plan is a vision for improving Village-owned lots if and when funding is available to make the park improvements. To view a copy of the approved plan, please email carrieh@machesneypark.org.

United States®
**Census
2020**

The Village extends our appreciation to all the residents of Machesney Park for your quick and complete Census 2020 responses. Nearly all households have now been counted.

82.6% of you responded on your own by mail, phone, or online. This is an outstanding self-response rate. Nationally, only 67% of households self-responded.

Due to delays caused by the pandemic, total population numbers will not be available until later this year.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S
Don & Dorothy Dexheimer and Dan Milligan
for submitting the most correct answers!

Here are the results of the Machesney Park quiz from the Fall/Winter 2020 Village Voice. The Village appreciates everyone who took the time to participate and thank you to Robin's Nest Cafe for contributing gift certificates that were awarded to our winners. The correct trivia answers are below:

- Which year was the Village of Machesney Park incorporated?
 1981
- The Village was named after whom?
 Fred Machesney, aviator and founder of the Machesney Airport
- Which animal name is not found in any roadway names in the Village?
 Deer
- Which U.S. city name is not found in any roadway names in the Village?
 Portland
- The word "hawk" or "hawkeye" is found in how many roadway names in the Village?
 11 - Coopers Hawk Trl., Coopers Hawk Cir., Gray Hawk Dr., Hawkeye Ct., Hawkeye Trl., Hawks Ridge Rd., Hawks View Dr., Nighthawk Cir., Speckled Hawk Trl., Summerhawk Rd., Whistling Hawk Dr.
- How many roadway names in the Village are a presidential surname?
 2 - Roosevelt Rd. and Wilson Ave.
- How many Winnebago County Forest Preserves are located in the Village?
 1 - Atwood Homestead Forest Preserve
- Why is Machesney Park a Village rather than a City?
 Villages are governed by exactly 6 trustees and 1 Village President, as Machesney Park is.



3 Reasons Why Lawn Care Maintenance is Important:

1. Boost the curb appeal & value of your home.
2. Weeds can overtake the growth of nice looking turf grass.
3. Tall grasses & weeds provide cover for snakes and rodents.

Grass/Weeds

Every property owner and tenant is responsible for mowing their lawns. All grass and weeds must be maintained at or below a height of 7 inches. If the Village sends you a written notice regarding grass/weeds, please keep in mind that if you do not have the violation corrected within 7 days, the Village can have the property mowed and the property owner will be billed for the cost and fined for the violation.

Garbage Collection

All residents are required to carry garbage service. To help residents get the best rates possible for refuse removal, the Village negotiated garbage service for the entire Village through Rock River Disposal. If you are new to the Village, please call RRD at (815) 965-2489 to set-up a new account and arrange for garbage service.

Garbage day in the Village is every Friday. Please do not place your cans out for collection any earlier than Thursday. All containers must be removed from the curb within 24 hours after collection services are complete.

Garbage Tote/Can Storage

Garbage totes/cans must always be stored in your side or rear yards, alongside or behind your house. Village Ordinance prohibits storing garbage during non-pick up days in front of your house. If you are using store-bought cans, they must have a tight-fitting lid on when stored. DO NOT store garbage outside in bags. Doing this will help prevent litter in your neighborhood, and with warmer temperatures in the future it will prevent smelly trash.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

New Parking Regulations

In June of 2020, the Village Board adopted new parking regulations for residential areas. **The most notable change is the allowance of recreational vehicles (RV's) to be parked in the front driveway area of a property between April 15th and October 15th.** RV's cannot block or extend over a sidewalk or into a public right-of-way at any time. **The other important change now requires all vehicles to be parked on a hard surface in any yard – parking on the grass is no longer permitted.**



Existing gravel driveways that were installed prior to the adoption of the Ordinance are non-conforming surfaces (*grandfathered*). Most parking requirements are enforced by the Machesney Park Division of the Winnebago County Sheriffs department and violations can be subject to parking tickets that cost \$50 per day the violation exists.

	Motor Vehicle Parking	Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking	Trailer & Recreational Transportation Equipment Parking	Boat Parking
SURFACE	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.
LOCATION	(2) Must be parked in front, side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.
SEASONAL ALLOWANCES		*Between April 15 th and October 15 th each year, RV's may be stored in the front yard area on a driveway, so long as it doesn't block a sidewalk.		*Between April 15 th and October 15 th each year, properly trailered boats under 25 ft. in length may be stored in the front yard area in the driveway. **For lots with frontage along the Rock River, boats may be stored between the structure and the street.
OTHER RULES	(3) Vehicles with license plates above an "A", "B" or "C" are prohibited. (4) Must be operable and currently licensed.	(3) Must be maintained in good condition and watertight. (4) Must be Operable and have current registration. (5) May not be occupied for human habitation.	(3) Semi-tractor trailers are not allowed.	(3) Must be stored on trailers designed and intended for hauling the boat or watercraft. * Canoes and kayaks are exempt from this.

FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES



Budget

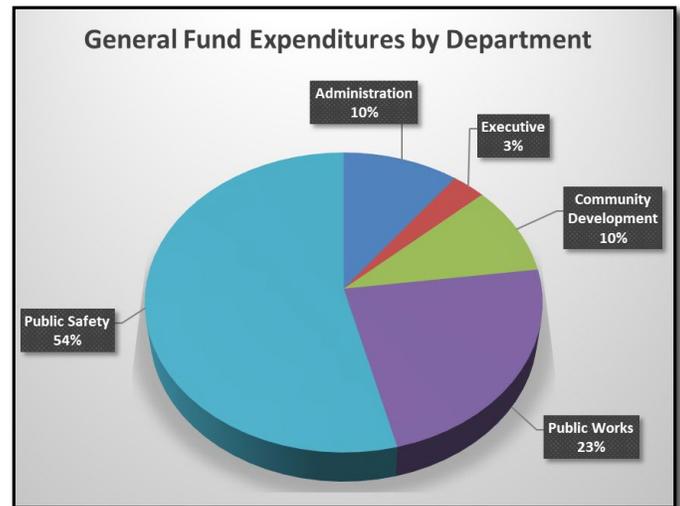
The Village's Budget is our primary tool to guide our decision-making over the coming year. The budget is drafted every year with careful consideration using a conservative approach to estimating revenue. Expenses are contemplated with as much, if not more, consideration to efficiency so that the Village can continue to maintain our zero general fund property tax rate and minimize tax burdens on our residents.

Our annual budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 continues to ensure that residents enjoy the benefit of quality government services at one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the region. As a guiding document, the budget will reflect the Village's goals for the upcoming year.

Organizational Goals

- ✓ Ensure that Machesney Park is a safe, clean, and enjoyable community.
- ✓ Demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and honesty in public activities to inspire public confidence and trust in the Village.
- ✓ Maintain fiscal integrity and efficiency through ethical and responsible management of public funds.
- ✓ Aggressively pursue economic development opportunities to grow our community.
- ✓ Provide a safe and supportive work environment for employees.

In April, the Village Board will be approving a balanced budget for the fiscal year May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022. A copy of the proposed budget is available on the Village's website.



Flood Buyout Update

Unfortunately, what was already a slow process has now been stretched longer due to the impacts of COVID-19. The Village currently has two grants under review with FEMA and we hope to hear by late summer whether we can proceed. However, if we hear anything sooner, we will be in contact with eligible homeowners to advise of a timeline. FEMA has changed their grant programs over the past year and so the Village is reviewing the new requirements for funding.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the buyout program, please visit the Village website <https://machesneypark.org/voluntary-flood-buyout-program/> or contact Michelle Johannsen, 815-877-5432, michellej@machesneypark.org.

Alpine Road Improvements

(Continued from page 1)

The Village will be in communication with residents and businesses along Alpine Road throughout the entire project, and this includes the residents in the neighborhoods surrounding Alpine Road, as there will be periodic side street closures that will affect the neighborhood traffic patterns. Letters will be sent to all residents and businesses before major traffic control changes occur; the Village will post weekly updates to <https://machesneypark.org>; and the Alpine Road Project will be posting updates to Twitter so that we can provide updates as we go. Finally, lighted message boards will be in place to help inform the general public of the construction.

There are a few things that all of us can do to help keep the delays to a minimum. First, if you don't absolutely NEED to use Alpine Road once construction starts, please avoid it. If possible, find alternate routes to get where you need to go. . . please use IL 251, Forest Hills Road, or Perryville Road. You'll be happier and the contractors will be safer – which will help keep the project moving at a faster pace. Second, please realize that traffic on other area streets is going to increase as we all try to find different routes, so please exercise some patience, courteousness, and slow down when going through neighborhoods and using alternate routes. If you live near Alpine Road, please be prepared for delays throughout the duration of the construction project. Finally, and most importantly, if you must travel through the construction zone PLEASE do so with caution, slow down and obey the traffic control speed limits, and avoid using your cell phone.

Questions regarding the project can be directed to the Public Works Department at Village Hall by calling (815) 877-5432 or by emailing chadh@machesneypark.org.



UPDATES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Discharge of Grass in Roadways

Spring has sprung, and the grass has begun to sprout and grow quickly. As homeowners, businesses and contractors are beginning to mow lawns around the Village, please be aware that it is illegal to discharge or place grass clippings and other yard debris into the roadway. Blowing grass clippings or yard waste from a lawn mower into the street may often seem like an “out-of-sight, out-of-mind” approach to yard maintenance, but there are many reasons not to do this.

The Village needs to ensure that drainage systems function properly and when debris is deposited into the roadway, blockages occur which can damage drainage systems or possibly create flooding. Grass clippings in the roadway can cause a very dangerous situation for pedestrians and motor vehicles using the roadway. Please be aware that homeowners could be liable for injury and open themselves up to litigation should an accident or injury occur due to a traffic hazard resulting from grass clippings blown onto a roadway. Freshly cut grass can be slippery and could cause a motorcyclist or bicyclist to lose traction and crash.

The best way to dispose of the clippings is to use mulching blades on the mower. They have a special shape which shreds the grass after cutting and deposits it on the lawn. Not only does this eliminate the discharge blowing out on the side, it also adds valuable nutrients back to the soil.

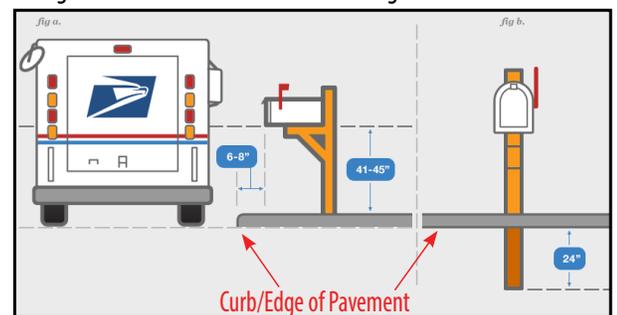


The Village's waste hauling company, Rock River Disposal, takes yard waste from April to December each year and offers residents a legal and safe way to dispose of grass and yard waste. Grass clippings and yard waste can be set out as part of their weekly garbage pickup in cans marked with an X or in the brown yard waste recycling bags. As you are mowing your lawns this spring and summer please be mindful and ensure that you do your best to keep the yard waste off the roadway and keep our roadways clean and safe.

USPS Mailbox Regulations

The United States Postal Service requires that residential mailboxes meet a number of regulations to ensure the on-going delivery of your mail. The Village is reminding residents to make sure that your mailbox meets the USPS regulations so that your mail gets delivered. Below is a list of regulations that should be followed to ensure proper installation of a mailbox:

- ✓ Mailboxes must be placed 6 to 8 inches away from the curb or edge of pavement; the incoming mail slot or door must be 41 to 45 inches from the ground.
- ✓ Your house number must appear on your mailbox using numbers that are at least 1 inch tall. Numbers must be positioned visibly on the front or flag side of the box.
- ✓ Curbside mailbox posts should be buried less than 24 inches deep and made from wood no larger than 4 inches high by 4 inches wide. Steel or aluminum pipes with a 2-inch diameter are also acceptable.



Erosion and Sediment Control



Residents and contractors that do work within the Village of Machesney Park are required to obtain an erosion control permit for any project that disturbs more than 100 sq. ft. of soil. Erosion control permits are an important part of the process that is also required by the EPA in an effort to control site runoff. Soil erosion and sedimentation are major contributors to waterway pollution. Sediment runoff from unprotected construction sites can clog pipes and pollute ponds, lakes and wetlands. The Village requires that an erosion control plan be put in place and maintained throughout a construction project. The fine for non-compliance of either obtaining or maintaining a permit can be a minimum of \$250 to \$750 a day for a property found in violation of this ordinance.



300 Roosevelt Road
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

PUBLIC SAFETY



Machesney Park Division of the Sheriff's Department

The Village of Machesney Park is proud to have 20 outstanding Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies that are dedicated to serve the citizens of Machesney Park 24/7. These deputies conduct various traffic details throughout the Village of Machesney Park to reduce speeding and distracted driving in order to keep the citizens of Machesney Park and its visitors safe. Every morning and afternoon you will see Machesney Park Deputies stationed or patrolling around the various grade schools around the Village of Machesney Park keeping children safe when they are going and leaving their schools. These same Deputies randomly visit schools and interact with the children throughout the school year. By having these positive interactions we will continue to build relationships with these children, teachers, and parents throughout our community.

It's about the Kids! • It's about the Safety! • It's about Caring! • It's about Time!



National Night Out

National Night Out this year will be on August 3rd, 2021. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is planning to host this event at the new community Strong House at 825 Marie Avenue as a block party. The Sheriff's Department will partner with the United Way to co-host this event. The Winnebago County Sheriff's department C.O.P.S. unit and our police explorer unit will be at the Strong House to assist with the event and answer any questions that citizens might have this day. With all the unknown COVID restrictions at this time we will not know what restrictions will be taken or even if this event will be hosted at the Strong House. Please keep an eye on the Village's social media pages for more up-to-date information.

2021 Village of Machesney Park President and Board of Trustees



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Village President/Mayor



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Trustee - District 1



Jake Schmidt
Trustee - District 2



James Kidd
Trustee - District 3



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POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS