

## HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Warrenville: <i>A Great Value!</i>	2
<i>Sound Mitigation Program</i>	3
<i>Illegal Dumping</i>	3
<i>Fall Reminders</i>	3
<i>Holiday Schedule for Refuse Pickup</i>	3
<i>Refuse Sticker Surcharge</i>	4
<i>Route 56 Project</i>	4
<i>Recycling Facts</i>	4



**Police, Fire, and  
after hours Water &  
Sewer Emergency  
Dial .....911**  
**City Hall Hours**  
**8:00 a.m. to**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Monday - Friday**

### FEEDBACK:

Please send your feedback to:  
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Warrenville, IL 60555 or  
[avainisi@warrenville.il.us](mailto:avainisi@warrenville.il.us)  
(630) 836-3027

## MAYOR'S COLUMN

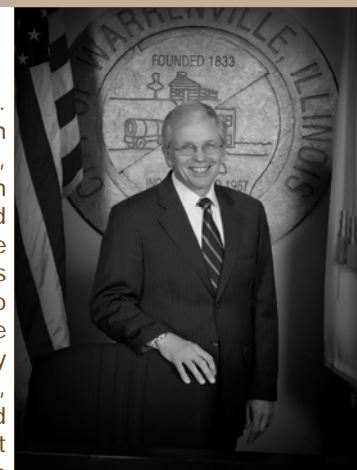
Funny how you acclimate and adapt to changes in your life. Situations that once intimidated you to the point of stomach upset become manageable, accepted as part of the program, even looked-forward-to in some cases. Some things that on first blush appear to endanger our "quality of life," and accordingly we would much prefer to avoid, can, a little farther down the road, become a "new normal" every bit as comfortable as the status quo we were so unwilling to surrender and clung to with such passion. Often, I have found, the difference comes down to acceptance, and as my old friend and mentor, Ed Clark, used to counsel me, cultivating the ability to "lean into" experiences. Ignoring and denying, or conversely, jumping in with both feet, can result in moving from "trouble" to "real trouble," and can lead to some unanticipated negative consequences. But "leaning into" an issue, engaging it without letting it engulf you, can work surprisingly well to produce positive outcomes.

I got started on this train of thought as I reflected this morning on the City's second neighborhood flood mitigation meeting held at City Hall last night (October 25). Twenty-five or more neighbors stayed around for more than two hours to get information, ask questions and share concerns with DuPage County and City representatives about potential changes to their properties that would protect them from flooding, but would come with a price: concrete walls, in some places as high as five feet. There were awkward and uncomfortable moments, and much work on the implementation of the Preferred Alternative Flood Mitigation Plan remains, but I came away from it feeling good about a couple of things.

On a personal level, reflecting on my early public meeting experience as Mayor some six years ago, I find these occasions generally don't cause me as much apprehension as they once did. Part of that is due to experience and familiarity I guess. I've done this meeting thing a lot by now. I've also, more significantly for me, come to recognize that being a member of a great team, understanding how important a clean and open process is, and in some small way helping to facilitate good decisions for the long term best interests of the community is deeply satisfying. "Leaning into" these sometimes difficult meetings almost always produces positive results for Warrenville.

Another thing that makes citizen input meetings something to look forward to is the interaction with you, our citizens. Frequently people arrive upset, skeptical, apprehensive, sometimes angry. And frequently, they have good and valid reasons to be so. That having been said, I am continually impressed by the respectfulness you afford each other as well as presenters and officials, and I especially appreciate your willingness to "lean into" whatever is causing your concern with open minds, gathering new information and correcting misconceptions with a willingness to at least entertain other perspectives. Almost always when we get together, we are able to identify common ground that allows us to keep moving forward.

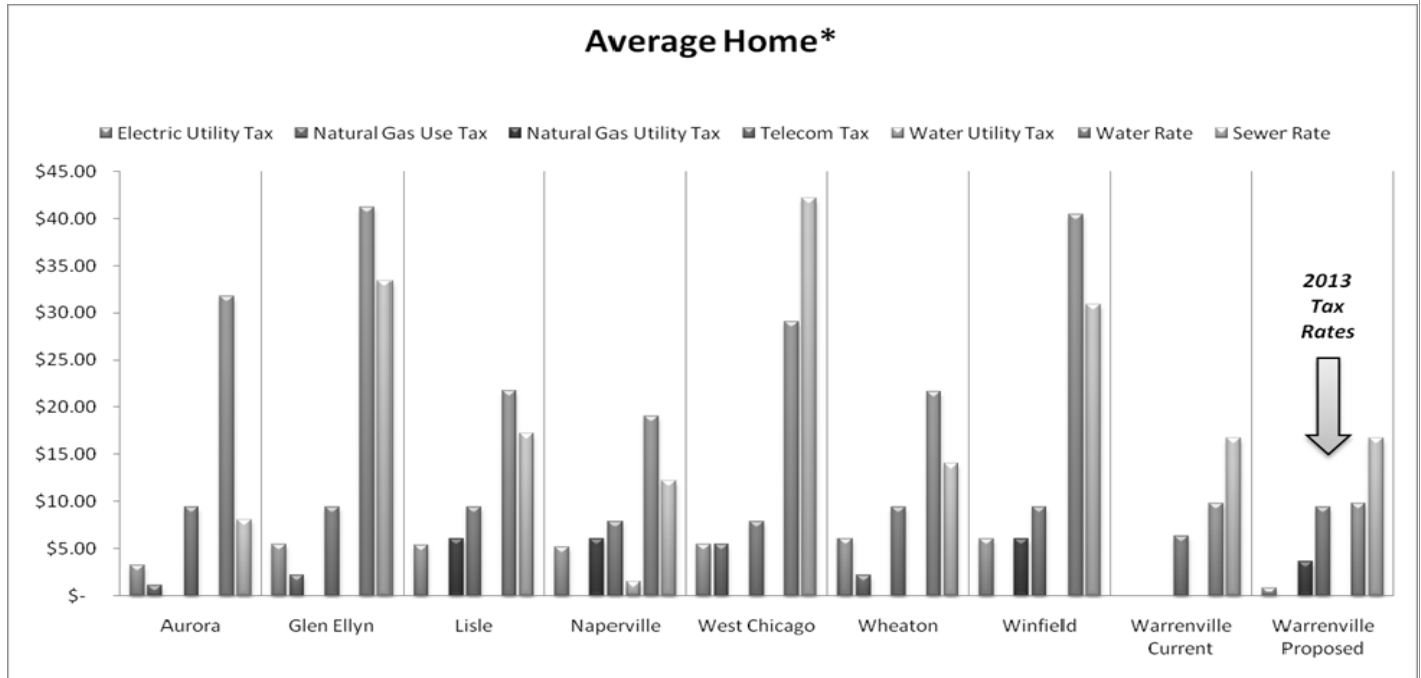
What will our flood mitigation program ultimately look like in the affected neighborhoods? Because of your input, at the very least, there will be a lot of changes to the original plan as presented. Please continue to work with us and DuPage County. We have a great opportunity to reduce flooding in Warrenville, funded by the County. For our part, the City will do its best to provide the optimum context for you to make the best decision for your neighborhood as well as the entire community. Let's continue to "lean into" this thing



# Warrenville, a Great Community and a Great Value!

Warrenville has low taxes and utility charges when compared to other DuPage communities. In fact, it's one of the best values in DuPage County. The City recently performed an analysis of surrounding communities and the household taxes and fees that apply in those communities. The 2010 survey by the DuPage Mayors and Mangers Conference also shows that all communities in DuPage County have an electric utility tax, most have some type of tax on natural gas and most have a maxed telecommunications tax. However, even with Warrenville's increase in the telecommunications tax and the implementation of the natural gas and electric utility taxes, the City still comes out as one of the least expensive communities in DuPage County to live and conduct business. Note, property tax rate information was collected, but not applied to the graph because the rates were so much higher than the other taxes, it made the graph difficult to read. However, Warrenville's property tax rate is comparable to the other communities, and that data may be viewed on the City's website at [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us).

Find out how Warrenville taxes and fees compare to other communities by viewing the chart below.



\* Average home is defined as median home value of \$242,755 with average gas and electric usage from the Department of Energy and water usage from the Water Division (100 gal./day/person with an average home having 2.5 people)

The City has compared the typical household taxes and fees to seven neighboring communities for electric utility tax, a natural gas use tax, a natural gas utility tax, a telecommunications tax (phone), a water utility tax, and water and sewer use rates. These rates were applied to an average home (defined above). As illustrated by the chart, even after the recent implementation of the new taxes to fund the Capital Maintenance & Improvement Plan are applied in 2012 and 2013, **Warrenville is still the most cost effective place in DuPage to live or run a business.**

At the October 3, City Council meeting, Council passed several ordinances that increased an existing tax and implemented new utility taxes. Specifically, the City will increase the telecommunications tax from 4% to 6% (on July 1, 2012), institute a 3% natural gas tax, institute an equivalent 1% electric utility tax, and institute a \$.04 local motor fuel tax (May 1, 2013). Visit the City's *Tax Estimator* on the Warrenville website to estimate the annual impact of these taxes on a specific household or business. Simply go to [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us), under Bulletin choose Capital Improvement Plan Funding Recommendations and scroll to the bottom.

On September 19, the City Council approved Warrenville's first ever Capital Maintenance & Replacement Plan – and the new taxes needed to pay for the Plan. This comprehensive plan addressed a \$1 million ongoing annual deficit to ensure maintenance of the infrastructure and equipment residents and business owners have invested in over the years. Proper maintenance of these capital assets ensure that the City can continue to deliver the services the residents and business owners have come to expect in a cost effective manner. To view a copy of the Plan visit [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us) and choose Forms & Documents, scroll to the bottom of the page and choose [Capital Maintenance & Replacement Plan \(CMRP\)](#).

City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25.  
In case of an emergency, contact 9-1-1 for immediate assistance.

## CN Sound Mitigation Program

As part of the requirements of the mitigation agreement with Canadian National Railway, the City launched a Sound Mitigation Program, which allowed eligible residents to make home improvements that would mitigate the sound in their home from trains. A total of 189 homes were eligible during the first two-year phase of the program, which began January 1, 2010. Phase I closes on **December 31, 2011**, and eligible residents must have submitted for their *reimbursement* by that deadline or will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.

At the November 28, 2011, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, the City Council will consider how to disburse any remaining funds, which includes funds that were not reimbursed because homeowners did not participate in Phase I or did not use all the money available to them, as well as earned interest. Council will be looking for input from impacted residents. Input can be provided to your alderman or to Assistant City Administrator Jennifer McMahon at [jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us](mailto:jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us). Residents may also attend the meeting and make live public comment.

As a reminder, currently eligible homeowners must submit for reimbursement by **December 31, 2011**, or they will no longer be eligible to participate in the program. To see if your home is eligible, contact City Hall at (630) 393-9427 or visit: [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us), choose Bulletin and then choose [Sound Mitigation Program Information](#).

## Storing Boats, Campers, or RVs in Residential Areas

Campers, trailers, truck campers, boats, motor homes, jet skis, all-terrain vehicles, and similar recreational vehicles (RVs) can be stored on single-family residential properties between November 16 and March 14, but are required to comply with the following restrictions:

- Only one RV can be stored on properties between 7,000 and 26,999 square feet in area. Up to two RVs can be stored on properties between 27,000 and 46,999 square feet in area. Up to three RVs can be stored on properties at least 47,000 square feet (approximately 1.1 acres) in area.
- All RV storage is **prohibited** on lots containing attached single-family dwelling units (townhomes) or apartments.
- RVs may not be located in front of a house, or on the side of a house facing a street (corner side yard).
- All street-legal motorized travel trailers shall be stored on the driveway, or widening thereof.
- Camping trailers, truck campers, boats, jet skis, all terrain vehicles, and similar RVs may be stored on a non-paved surface, provided the yard area is not torn up and no permanent ruts are created.
- All RVs being stored must be located a minimum of three feet from the garage and principal building and five feet from interior and rear lot lines, unless the RV being stored is five feet or less in height, in which case, it may be stored not less than one foot from a side or rear lot line if adjacent to a solid wood fence with a minimum height of one foot taller than the height of the RV, and installed on the same property on which the RV is stored.

All RVs must have current licensing and registration present on the vehicle at all times. RVs without current registration are subject to citation. Contact the Community Development Department Code Enforcement Officer at (630) 393-9050 for more information. Copies of the complete recreational vehicle parking and open storage ordinances are available upon request.

## Refuse and Yard Waste

Landscape/yard waste collection is only available until November 30. Leaves and grass cuttings must be contained in either a 30 gallon biodegradable paper bag, or a standard 34 gallon garbage container, which must clearly display a YARD WASTE ONLY decal. Decals can be obtained for no charge at City Hall. However, all containers/bundles/bags **still require the use of refuse/yard waste stickers**. Yard waste collection will start again on April 1, 2012.

No collection services will take place on November 25, Thanksgiving Day. The regularly scheduled pickup will be delayed by one day. Friday pickups will be on Saturday. For more information, Waste Management can be reached at (800) 796-9696.

## Fall Reminders

### Daylight Savings

On Sunday, November 6, at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time ends in the United States and clocks should "fall" behind one hour.



### Smoke Detector Batteries

An average of three children per day die in home fires nationwide, and 80% of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms. When changing clocks back to standard time, remember to change the batteries in smoke detectors, too. Once the batteries are changed, be sure to test the alarm. This simple act greatly reduces the risk of dying in a home fire.

City of Warrenville

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## REFUSE STICKER OPTIONS

On September 19, the City Council changed the policy that previously allowed a \$.04 limit on service charges that can be added to the cost of refuse and yard waste stickers by local retailers. Going forward, the local retailers can determine the amount of this service fee. Stickers can be purchased at Family Foods, 2S501 Rt. 59; Hometown Pantry, 3S029 Rt. 59; and Ace Hardware, 2S541 Rt. 59. Any resident who does not wish to pay a service fee can purchase stickers at City Hall for the base rate of \$2.86 (price valid through April 30, 2012). Questions about the City's residential waste hauling contract can be directed to Assistant City Administrator Jennifer McMahon at (630) 393-9427 or [jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us](mailto:jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us)

November 15 is America Recycles Day. For more information visit <http://americarecyclesday.org>.

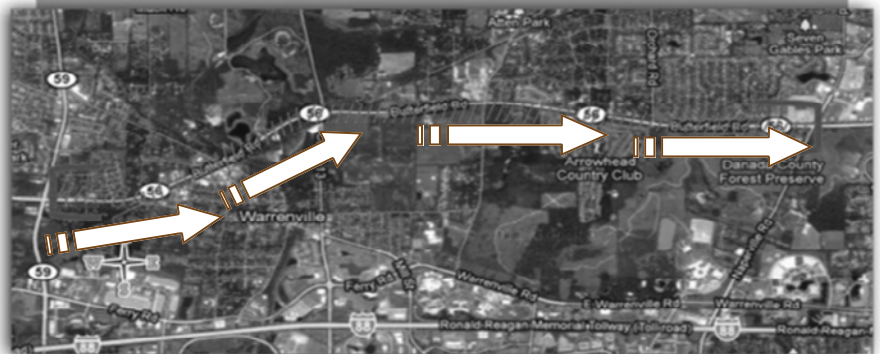


## Autumn Leaves

Autumn leaves may be raked or blown into a compost pile, used as mulch, or bagged for pick up. If bagged for pickup, stickered yard waste bags may be put out with the trash until the last full week in November.

Do not burn leaves or blow them onto the sidewalk or street, as both are illegal and may result in fines. The Code Enforcement Officer advises that the depositing of leaves upon any public street, roadway, highway, or sidewalk is prohibited by the City Code and doing so may subject an offender to a \$75 fine. Leaves clog stormwater drainage structures/inlets which causes flooding of streets and adjacent properties.

For information on how to dispose of fall leaves, contact Code Enforcement Officer Sonya Shearer at [sshearer@warrenville.il.us](mailto:sshearer@warrenville.il.us) or (630) 393-9050.



As the construction season comes to a close, paving activity has increased on the Route 56 Widening Project. Intermittent closures of side streets will continue while the contractors work to prep and pave Route 56. By winter, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) anticipates all pavement for the eastbound lanes on the south side of the road to be complete. The only exception will be the bridge over the West Branch DuPage River and pavement near the bridge, including the Batavia Road intersection. Here, traffic will remain on existing pavement until such a time when new pavement is complete.

Route 59 will be open to two lanes in each direction when construction wraps up for the winter. If there are any questions or concerns about the project, contact Senior Civil Engineer Phil Kuchler at (630) 393-9050 or [pkuchler@warrenville.il.us](mailto:pkuchler@warrenville.il.us).

### THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO in WARRENVILLE:

Check out these local organization websites or give them a call:  
City of Warrenville: [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us) (630) 393-9427  
Warrenville Public Library District: [www.warrenville.com](http://www.warrenville.com) (630) 393-1171  
School District #200: [www.CUSD200.org](http://www.CUSD200.org) (630) 682-2000  
Warrenville Fire District: [www.warrenvillefire.com](http://www.warrenvillefire.com) (630) 393-1381  
Warrenville Park District: [www.warrenvilleparks.org](http://www.warrenvilleparks.org) (630) 393-7279  
Warrenville Historical Society: [www.warrenvillehistorical.org](http://www.warrenvillehistorical.org) (630) 393-4215  
DuPage Forest Preserve District: [www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org) (630) 933-7200

For more current events, check out the  
Channel 10 message board

[www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us)