

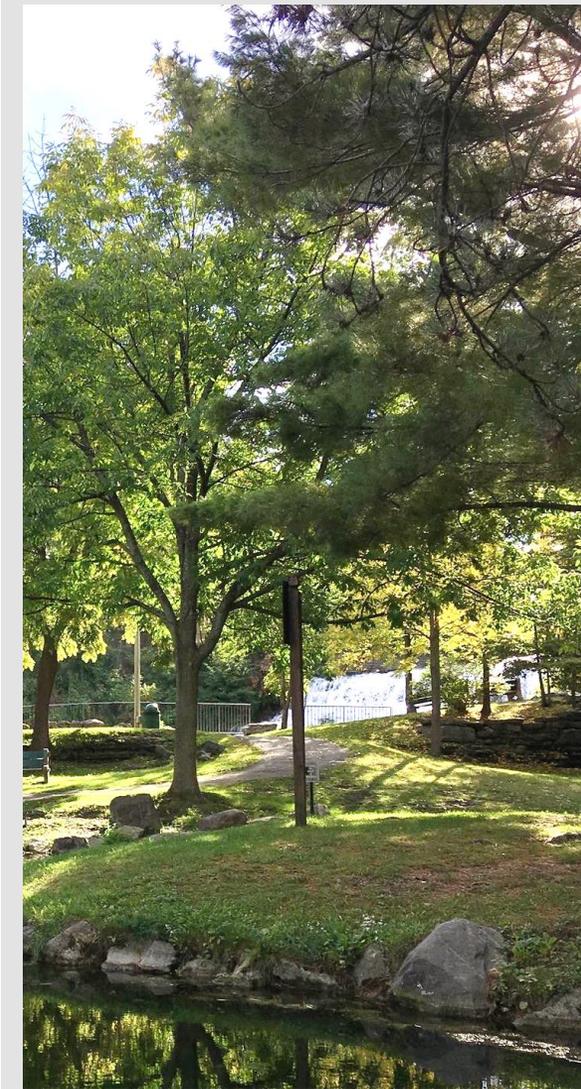
Village of Williamsville



2019 State of the Village

7 p.m. Monday, April 8

Village Hall, 5565 Main St.



State of the Village

April 8, 2019



Mayor Dan DeLano

South Union Road



- State Department of Transportation work on South Union Road – to begin during the spring - will include milling and resurfacing the pavement with a new layer of asphalt. South Union Road will be **converted from four lanes to three** within the project limits.
- The current lane configuration of two through lanes in each direction will be modified to accommodate one through lane in each direction and a two-way left turn lane. Curb ramps that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act will also be replaced.
- Rectangular rapid-flashing beacons will be added to the pedestrian warning signs at the new, marked crosswalk located between Garden Parkway and Union Place. These devices are pedestrian-activated and use flashing lights that alert motorists that pedestrians are using the crosswalk.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** A rapid-flash beacon is currently in use on Garrison Road near Park Drive. Another is planned for installation on Mill Street south of Glen Avenue.

Main Street

Permanent striping
to be painted by
DOT in the spring!

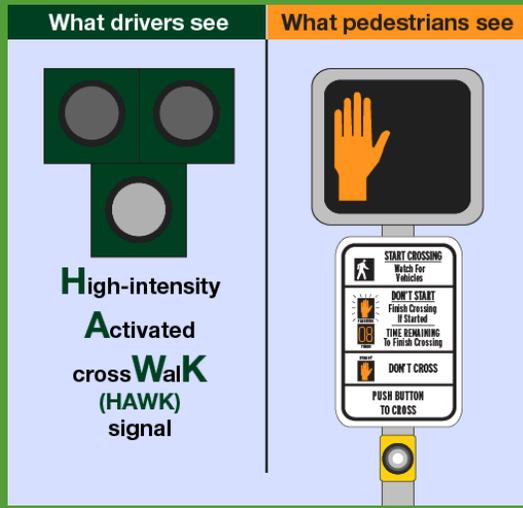
A RECENT UPDATE: It is believed there are some areas where the temporary striping has caused the parking lanes to be less than 8 feet wide, which is concerning for the safety of people exiting and entering their vehicles. One such location is near the former Starbucks location.

As a result, the DOT will conduct curb-to-curb surveys and measurements along Main Street prior to permanent striping being painted. The measurements will be taken from Reist Street to E. Spring Street.



Main Street:

A HAWK signal, new sidewalks, bulb-outs and enhanced crosswalks.



- The Picture Main Street a project was established in 2012 for the purposes of recreating Main Street as a vibrant, safer and more walkable corridor for both pedestrians and motorists.
- The cost of Picture Main Street construction was about \$3.12 million, not including the fees for the state's milling and paving. A total of \$2.5 million in grants assisted with about 75 percent of the project's costs.
- A pedestrian-activated HAWK signal was installed in front of the Williamsville Library, providing easier access for people to cross both sides of Main Street.
- New sidewalks with enhanced crosswalks assist pedestrians and make the village a more walkable community.
- Curb extensions, known as bulb-outs, were installed at intersections to shorten pedestrian crossing distance and prevent vehicles from making illegal right turns from the parking lane.

Picture Main Street – Williamsville’s traffic calming & pedestrian safety initiative!



Village Repaving Report for 2019

The Department of Public Works has scheduled the following streets to be repaved this year:

- Glen Avenue
- Arend Avenue (from Belmont Place to Stanton Street)
- Eagle Street
- Oakgrove Drive
- Cadman Drive (to consist of milling and repaving)

Village streets repaved in 2017 and 2018



In 2017 and 2018, the village repaved a combined total of 22,035 feet – or 4.17 miles - of its roadways.

- Glen Ave ext.: 770 ft.
- Reist St.: 730 ft.
- Garden Parkway Ext.: 360 ft.
- Village Square Lane: 915 ft.
- West Spring Street: 430 ft.
- Grove Street: 515 ft.
- California Drive (minus Milton-#149): 2,200 ft.
- Milton Street: 1400 ft.
- Los Robles Street (from Milton Street to California Drive): 910 ft.
- N. Cayuga Road: 1,290 ft.

Village streets repaved in 2017 and 2018

(Continued)



- Mill Street: 2,450 ft.
- Stanton Street: 885 ft.
- Chalmers Street: 850 ft.
- Belmont Place: 1,005 ft.
- Arend Avenue (from Chalmers Street to Belmont Place): 665 ft.
- N. Ellicott Street (from Belmont Place to Eagle Street): 1,500 ft.
- Academy Street (from Eagle Street to dead end): 460 ft.
- Park Drive: 1,180 ft.
- Willowbrook Drive: 700 ft.
- Highland Drive (from Oakgrove to Wehrle drives): 820 ft.
- Hirschfield Drive (from Main Street to Oakgrove: 2,000 ft.



2019-20 Village Budget

Brief Overview

- The proposed 2019-20 budget of approximately \$3.96 million is a 1.41 % increase from the current year's spending plan.
- The tax levy would increase by \$158,214
- Tax rate estimated to increase by 32 cents, from \$3.88 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$4.20 per \$1,000.
- The proposed budget does not exceed the state's 2% tax cap.
- Posing challenges to the development of the 2019-20 budget were increases to health insurance, workers compensation and a reduction in the village's total assessed valuation by about \$175,000.

A plan to revitalize Ellicott Creek



- The Village of Williamsville in 2018 received a \$49,500 grant from the state Department of State to prepare a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for Ellicott Creek. Essentially, it is a comprehensive plan that is specific to Ellicott Creek.
- The intent of the program is to identify and address issues and opportunities along the creek corridor. The LWRP will establish foundational policy direction and set forth land use and regulatory recommendations for the village's waterfront revitalization area.
- As part of the revitalization plans for the Ellicott Creek waterfront corridor, the village earlier this year established a Waterfront Advisory Committee that is charged with overseeing the project and engaging input from the public. The WAC's first meeting was held April 4.
- The project is expected to be complete within 18 to 24 months.

Consolidation of village's sanitary sewer system with the Town of Amherst



- In the Village of Williamsville's Sewer System, Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) has caused the sewer rate to be erratic and unpredictable in the past few years. These issues need to be remedied and consolidation would appear to be a way to achieve this worthwhile goal.
- The Town of Amherst has an entire Sewer Department that is much better equipped to handle sewer issues than that of the Village of Williamsville.
- Currently, sewer issues in the village are incorporated into the existing Department of Public Works staff, which performs many other tasks, including street repair and maintenance; park maintenance; storm water and sanitary sewer collection; brush pickup; tree maintenance; buildings and grounds and community beautification.
- The Town of Amherst is a willing partner with the village and the long-term goal would be to upgrade the town's sewer treatment facility.
- Village and town officials have been meeting since the fall to determine the necessary steps to consolidation, including grants that would assist in the shared services plan.

Updates from the Tree Board



The Village's New Event!

Our “Homecoming” includes the return of the Taste of Williamsville, live entertainment, children’s activities on Island Park, an open house at the Williamsville Fire Department, specials at participating retailers and restaurants, sidewalk booths featuring village organizations and committees and more!!



HOMECOMING
EXPERIENCE WILLIAMSVILLE
ON MAIN
SATURDAY, JUNE 1

We will see you there!

State of the Village

April 8, 2019



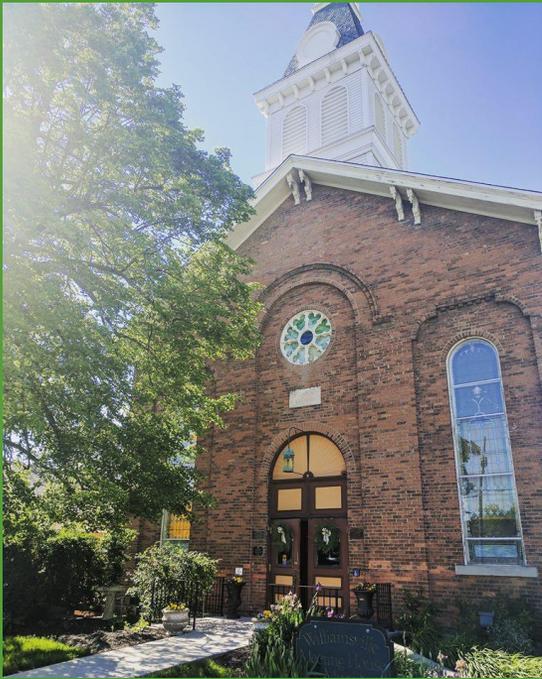
Trustee Matt Etu

Environmental Advisory Committee Updates



- This committee generally makes site plan recommendations regarding landscaping, greenspace, and green infrastructure to the Planning Board.
- The Village Board is pursuing a consolidation of the landscape ordinance to make this job more straight forward and consistent throughout our various zoning districts.
- The EAC (or select members therein) will be assuming a new role as a task force charged with setting a plan to identify clean energy upgrades that have been conducted by the village en route to Williamsville being designated a Climate Smart Community.
- The EAC will be hosting their Earth Day event again this year on Saturday, June 1, during the Village of Williamsville's Homecoming on Main festival.

Historic Preservation Commission



- In general, the function of the Historic Preservation commission is to recommend to the Village Board properties and sites for historic designation and Village land marking, but they also have an educational mandate as part of the village's certified local government status.
- The HPC has begun working on community outreach and education through:
 - ❖ Regularly publishing articles related to historic sites and events in the Amherst Bee and online
 - ❖ Producing a childrens coloring book with images of historic sites and information about them
 - ❖ Beginning to install additional informational brass plaques on histrionic landmark sites this year
 - ❖ Pursuing informational interpretive signage for current and former historic sites throughout the village
 - ❖ Appearing at local events to increase dialog with the residents about our history including Glen Park Art Festival
- Additionally, HPC is currently working on nomination application for the Lehigh Depot, Section house, and associated paraphernalia as a state and national historic site.

Parks Committee



- The functions of this committee includes overseeing the village parks: Garrison, Island, and S. Long parks, as well as Lehigh Memory Trail. They plan for park improvements and make recommendations to the Village Board. This committee has been somewhat idol for the last few years, but has a renewed vigor.
- Island Park Pool is closed, but the Parks Committee and the Village Board are working diligently to find a suitable replacement.
- Through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the village can begin filing for grants by next spring. The LWRP will only encompass Island Park and Glen Park – meaning that any major improvements to other parks are beyond the scope of LWRP process.
- As was done with Glen Park previously, the Village Board has tasked the Parks Committee with preparing a Guidance Document for the major parks in the village. Some of these facilities need only maintenance, while others may need significant investment.

Parks Committee

(Continued)



- In support of the LWRP process, the Parks Committee is examining the current and future features within these parks.
- When complete, this Guidance Document will be used to shape what is being dubbed “Picture Our Parks 2025,” a comprehensive systemwide reinvestment in our village’s urban open spaces.
- The goal is to obtain funding that will assist in realizing the parks’ full potential within the next six years.
- The Parks Committee is working with old data collected in a survey performed in 2009. The Village Board has asked the Parks Committee to update that survey, which will be provided to village residents.

COMING SOON:

The 2019 Village Parks Survey

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE FUTURE
OF OUR VILLAGE PARKS!**

The 2019 Parks Survey will go live online this week following the Parks Committee meeting on Wednesday evening.

To participate in Williamsville's 2019 Village Parks Survey, residents may visit www.WalkableWilliamsville.com and click on the top post under the "News & Announcements" category.

Once live, the survey's link will be provided within the post.

A paper copy will be sent to every household in the village as well, however we strongly encourage on-line responses. We will accept feedback until Saturday, June 1, 2019 - following the close of Homecoming on Main.

2019 Village Parks Survey



STAY UPDATED ON THE VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPECIAL FEATURE

Private: Village seeks resident input for parks survey

The Williamsville Village Board has tasked the Parks Committee with preparing a Guidance Document for the major parks in the village: Garrison, Island, and South Long parks, as well as ...

State of the Village

April 8, 2019



Trustee Deb Rogers

THE MEETING HOUSE

FRONT GARDEN AREA

The Meeting House (Existing Front Garden Area)



MEETING HOUSE GARDEN UPDATE

- ▶ For the past several years the Forest Stream Garden Club has maintained the front garden of the Meeting House.
- ▶ This past year they successfully secured a \$1,000 grant through Plant America.
- ▶ The grant money will be used to create a perennial garden in front of the Meeting House.
- ▶ All grass will be removed and replaced with historically appropriate plants.
- ▶ Project completion - July 2019.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central text. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

NATURE PLAY AREA

GLEN PARK

GLEN PARK - NATURE PLAY AREA



**NATURE PLAY AREA
ENTRANCE**



SHETLER PLAY AREA

**GRASSY KNOLL
AREA**



Nature Play - IDEAS



WHAT IS A NATURE PLAY SPACE?

- ▶ The idea behind a nature play space is that instead of the standard, cookie cutter metal and plastic structures that make up the bulk of today's playgrounds--people can incorporate the surrounding landscape and vegetation to bring nature to children's daily outdoor play and learning environments.
- ▶ By incorporating natural elements, such as trees, logs, branches, rocks, pinecones etc...children can become connected to nature and diversify their outdoor experience.

WHY HAVE A NATURE PLAY SPACE?

- ▶ Research shows that children's social, psychological, academic and physical health is positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature.
- ▶ Positive impacts include the following*:
 - ▶ Supports creativity and problem solving
 - ▶ Reduces Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) symptoms
 - ▶ Improves social relations
 - ▶ Reduces stress
 - ▶ Improves social relations

*"Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature: Why Naturalize Outdoor Learning Environments" January 2012 – www.naturalearning.org

REINSTEIN WOODS - NATURE PLAY AREA ENTRANCE



REINSTEIN WOODS - NATURE PLAY AREA

BALANCE BEAM AREA



DOG PARK

LEHIGH MEMORY TRAIL



DOG PARK LEHIGH MEMORY TRAIL





DOG PARK EXAMPLE

DOG PARK

“If we build it, they will come”

- ▶ A group of Village residents have organized to begin efforts to create a dog park in the Village.
- ▶ All funding for the creation of the dog park will be raised privately.
- ▶ The Village of Williamsville will maintain ownership of the property. The off-leash area will be an additional park amenity.
- ▶ The location of the park will be off the Lehigh Memory Trail in the triangular wooded area.
- ▶ The Village is seeking volunteers who would like to assist with this project.
- ▶ Projected completion date - Late 2020 (Contingent on fundraising)

State of the Village

April 8, 2019



Trustee Al Yates

Beautification Committee



Youth and Recreation Committee

The Williamsville Youth and Recreation Committee, in partnership with the Amherst Youth and Recreation Department, has scheduled two outdoor movie nights at Island Park.

- 9 p.m. Friday, July 19: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"
- 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23: "Ralph Breaks the Internet"



Village Co-op Market of Williamsville



- The Village Co-op Market of Williamsville started as an idea in April 2017.
- The co-op has incorporated, established a board, completed a feasibility study, formed committees, held a first official election and much more!
- The founders envisioned a cooperatively owned food store that supports local growers and producers and supports a sustainable, thriving local economy.
- A food co-op is a collectively-owned grocery store. In order to become a member-owner, an individual pays a small amount to purchase a share. Anyone can shop in the store, but only member-owners receive discounted prices.
- Additionally, a food co-op focuses on healthy food choices. Its common values are group management and decision making, social responsibility, and equality.

Main Street business initiatives



- As a way to foster economic growth in the community, village officials have developed plans to act as a connection between possible Main Street tenants and vacant storefronts.
- On March 1, a walking survey of Main Street was conducted from Union Road to Highland Drive – east and west limits of the village along Main.
- The survey found that there were 10 storefront vacancies along Main Street, two of which were the empty lot at Main and Garrison Road and the vacant building at Main and Rinewalt Street.
- Village officials have a strategy of linking current business owners and potential storefront tenants through space sharing. In mid-March, the owner of Main Street's Rove was connected to the owner of Revolver Records, which boasts two locations in Buffalo. Together, they began a conversation to discuss the viability of selling Revolver Records stock (new and used vinyl albums, CDS, tapes, etc.) at Rove. This also allows Revolver Records' owner to view the market in the village should he want his own space.
- Village officials plan to continue such shared-space ideas and work with business owners and other area elected officials to discuss other opportunities.

State of the Village

April 8, 2019



Deputy Mayor Basil Piazza

Glen Park Art Festival

&

Amherst Utility Cooperative updates

- The 10th annual Glen Park Art Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday, July 27, and Sunday, July 28.
- The art festival committee is currently in the planning stages for this decade-long event, which annually draws approximately 30,000 people to Williamsville's Glen Avenue.



- **The Amherst Utility Cooperative** (AUC) was formed in 1998 as a way of generating savings through the joint purchase of energy. Today the AUC purchases natural gas and electricity for the Town of Amherst, the Village of Williamsville, three school districts and three fire companies.