



The Villager

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE



TAKE IN THE VIEW: Titled “A Butterfly’s View of the Garden,” a nearly 1,700-square-foot floral-themed mural now spans along the eastern exterior wall of Village Hall. The mural was created by Chris Piontkowski. Financial support for the mural was made possible through community donations collected during village garden walks from 2012 through 2019. Further details about the mural are on page three.



Get your Halloween costumes ready !

The Village of Williamsville will observe its annual trick-or-treating from 6 to 8 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31 !

The village reminds participants that houses with porch lights on will be sharing candy; if a house’s porch light is not on, please respect that the residents are not taking part in Halloween festivities.

Please have a safe and fun evening in the village!

IN THIS ISSUE:

The New Playground – Page 2 | Village Hall Notes – Page 6 | Snow Policy – Page 7

Island Park receives new playground



Community volunteers on Sept. 11 and Sept. 13 worked with village officials to build a new playground at Island Park. A state grant assisted in funding the playground, which opened on Sept. 25.

The Village of Williamsville on Friday, Sept. 25, officially opened a new playground that features an array of amusing apparatus, including handicapped-accessible play items, as well as swings, slides and a net climbing structure.

The playground, set near the front of Island Park, replaces the former structure that was outdated and becoming a safety hazard after being used by the community for more than 25 years. This is the second new play area the Village of Williamsville has opened since August 2019, when Nature Play at Glen Park was introduced to the community.

The Island Park playground is the first in a series of upgrades planned for the village's parks within the next five years. In spring 2019, the Parks Committee – an all-volunteer panel – initiated the creation of a guidance document, referred to as Picture Our Parks 2025.

The five-year plan calls for the reinvigoration of Island Park, the complete redevelopment and renewal of South Long Park, as well as minor improvements and capital projects for the balance of village parks.

To fund the playground and its installation, the village is acquiring a State and Municipal Facilities program grant totaling \$125,000. State Assemblymember Karen McMahan, D-Amherst/Pendleton, is assisting the village in securing the grant.

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In addition to a We-saw, specialty equipment in the playground design includes:

- An Oodle swing, which accommodates up to six children and is wheelchair accessible
- A friendship swing, allowing two people to face each other on the same swing
- Two of the fastest spinners that allow up to six children at one time
- The only Eclipse Net climbing structure in Western New York
- A three-dimensional rock climber
- A two-person slide that is 8 feet high

Additionally, the playground is equipped with swings, slides and toys for ages 2 to 12, and is conveniently situated around the existing park gazebo to provide an oasis from the sun or a place for a picnic. The playground was designed by Parkitechts, a playground design and build company.

Input for the project was provided by the Village Board, area students, the Parks Committee, and a Playground Build Steering Committee, which was charged with the task of establishing a community-based build of the playground.

The full version of this news story is available on the village's website, www.WalkableWilliamsville.com.

Mural showcases a 'butterfly's view'



"A Butterfly's view of the Garden," is located in the village's Pocket Park next to Village Hall. The mural was created by Chris Piontkowski.

The Village of Williamsville on Oct. 14 officially dedicated its first piece of community art – a 99-foot wide by 17-foot high floral-themed mural created by Chris Piontkowski of Buffalo.

The mural is titled "A Butterfly's View of the Garden."

Artist Chris Piontkowski, left, waits as village Beautification Chairperson Deb Habes prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open the mural to the community. The extensive floral-themed mural is within the village's Pocket Park, which is situated between Village Hall and the Williamsville Library.

The village's Beautification Committee, led by Chairperson Deb Habes, commissioned Piontkowski for the vibrant-colored mural, which was created using outdoor latex paint and spray paint.

Habes said the mural serves to acknowledge the many native plants and flowers within the Pocket Park garden. She added that the artwork will also be an extension of the committee's work to show the importance of gardens.

"Part of our mission is to provide our vanishing pollinators, such as the endangered Monarch butterflies and honeybees, with the plants and flowers that they feed upon," she said. "The wall mural will be a celebration of nature's floral beauty."

Recently, Piontkowski was involved in the "Works, From Home" project, which was sponsored by the Albright-Knox Public Art Initiative.

"It's been an honor for me to be welcomed by the community to bring a mural that brings positivity and helps raise awareness about the importance of certain plants to pollinator insect populations," Piontkowski said. "I knew going into the project that we were going large and vibrant but I never fully imagined the impact it would have on such a big scale. The flower choices represent pollinator friendly, native growing species that I hope serve as a reminder to live colorfully."

The Beautification Committee's financial support for the mural was made possible through community donations collected during village garden walks from 2012 through 2019. Funds raised from basket raffles during the annual garden walks were earmarked for village garden improvements in the form of artistic projects, such as a mural.

"This mural is our gift to the community," Habes said.

The mural, Habes said, will serve to acknowledge the many native plants and flowers within the Pocket Park garden. She added that the artwork will also be an extension of the Beautification Committee's work to educate the community on the importance of gardens.

The full version of this news story is available on the village's website, www.WalkableWilliamsville.com.



Village Board begins 2020-21 year



Trustee Eileen Torre on Sept. 15 won a special election to serve a nine-month term on the Village Board. The special election was originally scheduled to be held in June. Through an executive order, Gov. Andrew Cuomo postponed all of the state's village elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Torre garnered 234 of the 356 total votes. The remaining 122 votes were for write-in candidates.

The Village of Williamsville has been Trustee Torre's home for over 27 years. Torre's love for the village has led her to volunteer on many committees throughout the village and the Town of Amherst.

The trustee said she is a fierce advocate of the environment and served on the Environmental Advisory Committee for over eight years and is co-founder of Village Earth Day. Torre wishes to work closely with all residents and knows that open dialogue is essential for a thriving, healthy community.

Torre is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. She is married to her husband, Nelson, and they have two adult sons.

The Village Board started its 2020-21 year on Sept. 28, when it held its annual reorganization meeting. Minutes and recordings from all of the board's meetings are available for viewing on the website.

Further board details are available on the village's website, www.WalkableWilliamsville.com.



Fall is my favorite season! Colorful leaves, pumpkins, apple picking and the crisp autumn air.

It seems like just yesterday that summer 2020 began; and what an unusual summer it was. Each year my family and I look forward to relaxing summer days in the Village. However, due to COVID all the summer milestones were canceled. The Memorial Day parade, Old Home Days and Glen Park Arts Festival to name a few.

Nonetheless, we managed to have a most enjoyable summer filled with lots of family time spent at our Village parks. Grab a blanket and snacks and off we'd go, sometimes on foot and others by bike.

Garrison, South Long, Island and Glen Park all had something fun to offer.

Perhaps now more than ever we will look back with a greater sense of gratitude for our parks and be thankful to live in such a walkable community.

Some say "the best things in life are free" and I tend to agree. Our Village parks certainly support that way of thinking.

With gratitude,

Williamsville Mayor Deb Rogers

An autumn reminder from the Village of Williamsville:

It is a great time of year to trim your trees, but please leave the ones by the street (within the right-of-way) to our village professionals. If you are ever unsure whether or not a tree is your property or village property, please contact Village Hall by calling 716-632-4120.



Are you interested in becoming a community volunteer?



You can now apply on the village's website!

On our homepage, simply click the blue bar that reads "Become a Village Volunteer!"



For more information, call 716-256-1225 !



**THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
ARTS AND CULTURE &
YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEES**



in coordination with the Williamsville Business Association

PRESENT...

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
HALLOWEEN**

WHERE:

Island Park on Main Street during the Williamsville Farmers Market, located between the library and the Williamsville Municipal building.

WHEN:

8 am – 1 pm, Halloween, October 31



WHAT:

Halloween Activities



Decorate Trick or Treat Bags

Youth and Recreation will provide art supplies and bags for you to create your trick or treat masterpiece.

Create a Funky Pumpkin, a Gaudy Gourd or a Silly Squash

Arts and Culture will provide non-traditional pumpkins, gourds, squash and art supplies at Island Park.



Trick or Treat (10 am – 4 pm)

Village businesses will have candy available for trick or treating throughout the day.





Notes from Village Hall

Public Works Department | 40 S. Long St. | 716-632-5009

BRUSH AND METAL PICKUP: Pickup from November through February is available by appointment on Fridays only. Call Village Hall at 716-632-4120 to arrange a pickup.

GARDEN AND YARD WASTE: Please note that garden and yard waste is picked up by Modern Disposal on regular garbage days from April through November. Waste must be placed in paper bags or open containers for pick up before 7

a.m. Do not use a garbage or recycling tote. Containers may not weigh over 60 lbs.

SNOW CLEARING REMINDERS: Snow may not be deposited onto any public street or alley from any private driveway. Piling of snow must also not prevent access to any fire hydrant or sidewalk. Additionally, all hydrants and sidewalks must be cleared from any snow accumulation.

Building Department | 5565 Main St. | 716-631-7080

PERMIT INFORMATION: It may be fall, but home improvement projects are still moving ahead! If you have a project planned, please [check with the Building Department](#) to inquire

about any necessary permits. If any construction work is started without a permit, the permit fees may then be doubled. It is better to contact us before you begin your project!

Village Clerk's Office | 5565 Main St. | 716-632-4120

PLOWING PERMITS: Winter is coming! If you plan to use a snow plowing service, the contractor must have a permit from the

Village of Williamsville. Please make sure your vendor has a valid [snow plow permit](#). For more information, contact the Clerk's Office.

Village Court | 5565 Main St. | 716-632-0450

TICKET INFORMATION: Have you found yourself with a parking ticket or other legal matters to take care of in the village? Check out the [Village Court website](#) for information

and resources that may be of assistance. Court fees may be paid by credit card by downloading a payment form on the website. Court is in session at 9 a.m. Fridays.



Sidewalk Snowplow Policy

As approved by the Village Board in Nov. 2019

To all of our residents of the Village of Williamsville:

The Village of Williamsville believes its residents deserve the **highest standards** from its municipal services. During the winter months when snow and ice accumulates on roads and sidewalks, it is of great importance that the village provides clear paths for the community's safe travel.

As such, village officials have established a priority route for sidewalk snow plowing. When snowfall amounts reach at least 2 inches, a Department of Public Works employee will be assigned the task of plowing sidewalks. The plow route begins with a series of streets that are listed as priorities within the village limits.

The eight streets that are within the sidewalk snowplow's priority route are:

- Evans Street
- Glen Avenue
- Garrison Road
- Main Street
- Mill Street
- South Cayuga Road
- South Union Road
- Wehrle Drive

The streets on the list are deemed a high priority by village officials because the sidewalks lead to and from public areas, such as **schools, parks, the library, government buildings, and our local business district**. Village-owned properties, such as Village Hall, 5565 Main St., and the Meeting House, 5658 Main St., are also included in the priority route.

Following the completion of clearing sidewalks within the priority route – and if snow accumulation is either minimal or has ended – the snowplow will then be used to clear snow from the sidewalks of all remaining streets within the village.

It is estimated that clearing of all sidewalks within the village (including the priority route) can be completed in three to four days. Snowstorms of greater accumulations would require more time.

However, it is important to note that village code stipulates that property owners are ultimately responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks along their properties. The Village of Williamsville is providing sidewalk snow plowing as a courtesy within the community; **a property owner still has the ultimate responsibility of making sure their sidewalks are clear of debris and snow.**

While our DPW crew works diligently to clear snow on roads, sidewalks and parking lots, village officials request the patience of motorists and pedestrians who are traveling in the community. For questions or more information, contact our offices at Village Hall by calling 716-632-4120, or visit www.WalkableWilliamsville.com.

Sincerely,

Keaton T. DePriest
Director of Community Development
Village of Williamsville