



May/June 2018

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Water Rate Reduction



The Village Board approved a residential water rate reduction of 10.60% effective with the August 15<sup>th</sup> billing cycle at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. As part of the new rate structure water will be billed based on exact usage, which means no more minimum bill for water usage. The current water rate of \$13.20 will be reduced to \$11.78. The commercial/institutional rate structure will now be

billed on a 2-tier system; 0 – 400,000 gallons will be billed at \$16.51 per 1,000 gallons, this rate has not changed, and to the extent that a commercial/institutional customer uses over 400,000 gallons in any billing cycle, the rate for water per 1,000 gallons in excess will be billed at \$20.75 per 1,000 gallons. This is just the first step in our evaluation of water and sewer rates. We expect to complete an analysis of the Village’s sewer rate by years end.

**NO  
PARKING  
2 AM  
TO 6 AM**

As a reminder to our residents, Chapter 14, Section 14-33 of the Village Code of Ordinances prohibits “overnight” on street parking from 2 A.M – 6A.M.

In the event you are unable to park your car in your driveway for any reason; overnight guest(s), driveway repair, home repair, broken down car, etc., PLEASE contact the us at 708-503-8100 to let us know so that your car is not issued a parking ticket!

This will assist our patrol officers in keeping a friendly and watchful eye on your neighborhood and help keep everyone safe. The Olympia Fields Police Department exists to serve our residents but we need your help.

## June is Alzheimer’s Awareness Month

June 2018 has been designated as Alzheimer’s Awareness Month. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s is growing. An estimated 5.7 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer’s. In order to protect one of our most precious resources, residents are reminded to:

- Keep a list of people to call on for help.
- When someone with dementia is missing – Call 9-1-1 immediately!
- Ask neighbors, friends and family to call if they see the person alone.

- Keep a recent, close-up photo and updated medical information on hand to give to police.
- Is the individual right or left-handed? Wandering generally follows the direction of the dominant hand.

The Department needs your help and community involvement to continue to keep Olympia Fields a safe and wonderful place to live.

**Remember, if you see it, if you hear it  
REPORT IT!**

## Springtime Home Renovations = Building Permits

Over the last several years the Village of Olympia Fields has had a growing number of residential restoration projects. This is good news because these projects increase your property values.

If you're starting a construction project or just replacing an exterior door or a fence, please remember the project will most likely require a building permit. You can contact the Building Department to get information about required building permits. You will need to pay the required fees, possibly submit plans and have inspections performed during the construction. That way you will know your project is safe.

There is a very important reason why building permits are required for construction. Building codes help insure that the structures in which we live, work and play meet the standards against collapse, fire and other potential dangers. If structures are not up to code, insurance companies may not pay on damage claims, and property owners can be liable for damages if someone is injured.

If you have any questions about the requirements of a building permit, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Department (708) 503-8000, or stop by Village Hall at 20040 Governors Highway for more information.



# The Buckthorns Are Gone – What to Do Next



**Highbush Cranberry**



**Service Berry**

Congratulations – you’ve removed every buckthorn tree or sapling from your property and by keeping after them, you’ll make sure they don’t come back. Buckthorn seeds can remain viable in the soil up to five years. Follow-up control of seedling that emerge is important.

Now is a great opportunity to redesign your landscape to conserve energy, create wildlife habitat, and beautify your home! There are many native plants to consider that will add beauty, diversity, and natural

food sources for songbirds to your woodland area. Some shrub and understory tree suggestions are:

- Chokeberry
- Buttonbush
- Highbush Cranberry
- Arrowood

- Serviceberry
- Nannyberry
- Wild Plum
- American Hazelnut

The University of Illinois Extension Program offers an excellent resource for selecting shrubs at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/shrubselector/>

If you have questions about a tree on your property, Olympia Fields residents may contact the Village’s arborist, Joe Galloy at (708) 503-8200 for a free consultation.

Remember, state law requires you to call JULIE (811 or 800-892-0123) before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth.

## 2018 Summer Landscape Award Program

This annual program recognizes homeowners who exhibit pride in ownership by maintaining beautiful landscapes. Top three honorees receive a nursery gift certificate respectively valued at \$100, \$75 and \$50.

**All nominations must be submitted to the Village by the Homeowner Associations by July 2.** The home reviews will be conducted July 10, by the Beautification Committee. For more information call the Village at 503-8000.



# Branch Pick Up Program

The Village is offering a Branch Pick Up Program to our residents.

Branch pickup is for branches cut down by the residents. The program is not for branches removed by a tree service. If you have a tree cut down, the contractor must remove the branches and logs.

The Village does not have the resources or equipment to pick up logs, stumps or branches more than 10-inches in diameter. Once the branches are cut, stack them in the front of your property by the street and contact the Public Works Department to schedule a pickup.

Weather permitting, the Public Works Department will be out on Fridays to

pick up branches on our scheduled list.

Your regular refuse company should pick up all other yard waste such as weeds, flowers or grass clippings. Please do not mix these with branches or we will not be able to remove for disposal.

The goal of the Public Works Department is to ensure that the needs of our residents are met.

Please know that if you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (708) 503-8200.



# Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste pick up has started and will run through November 30th for Home-wood Disposal customers.

All yard waste should be placed in a brown paper yard waste bag with a yard waste sticker attached to it and placed next to your garbage cans for collection. Stickers are available at the Village Hall for \$2.46 per sticker.

Republic Waste customers do not require yard waste stickers.

