State of the Village of Berkeley

Greetings Berkeley residents and businesses,

Welcome spring of 2018. It can be difficult to adjust to change, especially when something is removed from what we are used to. A big thank you to residents and business owners for your cooperation and understanding of the revised public sidewalk snow clearing program. As you know due to financial considerations, the Village Board of Trustees cut back on this program in the residential and industrial sections of Berkeley. After 9 days in a row of measurable snowfall, I would say 80% of our public sidewalks were shoveled by the property owners. Thanks to all for the cooperation in this adjustment of services.

Long term, this will be a big savings for the equipment replacement budget.

The following is some of what to expect for 2018.

As mentioned in previous editions of Berkeley Matters, the Village Board has updated the 5 year Strategic Plan for the Village of Berkeley. This plan will serve as a roadmap for elected officials, department heads and staff to implement the short and long term goals that were established collectively in drafting the 5 year strategic plan. The strategic plan has been adopted by the Board of Trustees and we are in the early stages of implementing the early action items.

One such item emphasizes a greater working relationship with our governmental and civic partners that work for the Berkeley resident (library, park districts, school districts, etc.). We look forward to pursuing this agenda item with our partners in order to improve all that Berkeley has to offer its residents.

Interstate 294 Tollway expansion:

There has been much discussion and speculation of the future expansion plans of the 294 Tollway that passes through the western border of Berkeley. The Tollway is rebuilding 294 from 95th Street on the south, north to Balmoral Ave in Rosemont. This expansion will affect Berkeley significantly as six homes in town will be purchased by the Tollway as well as changes to Victoria Park.
These homeowners have been notified and the acquisition process has begun between owners and the Tollway. Much of the information coming from the Tollway was time sensitive with respect to those immediately affected by the expansion. Now that we are past that point, the overall project will be presented to the public with information available at the Berkeley Village Hall as well as the Village’s and Tollway’s websites. This construction and expansion project will not begin in our area until 2020 or so. We will provide any and all information regarding this project to our resident and business community as it is made available.

The Village of Berkeley Flood Mitigation Project of 2018 has been finalized and, as of this edition of the Berkeley Matters, is out for public bid. Our plans call for the construction phase to begin this spring and summer. This fully funded project will provide relief to the overland flooding on the north and east side of town that has caused so much damage to residents and businesses for many years. Berkeley staff will be fully prepared to update all of us affected during the construction phase of this project.

The Village Board of Trustees is very proud to announce the appointment of lifelong resident Mr. Lawrence Hammar to the position of Village Trustee. Larry will fill the vacated seat of George Stratton, who resigned due to relocation in October. Larry brings a very impressive resume to the Village Board, as he spent his entire career in law enforcement, with several years in management.

The Village of Berkeley is very fortunate to have Larry join our team and we certainly look forward to his contributions to the Berkeley community.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Lee, Jr.
President of the Village of Berkeley

The Berkeley Metra Parking lot is $1.50 per parking space per day. There are multiple payment options, with a payment kiosk to insert cash all you need is the parking space number. However, if you do not have cash other options include a downloadable application: Passport Parking available at the App Store or Google Play. Online payment options at www.m.ppprk.com and via phone by calling 708-716-0716. Just remember the parking space and your zone number is 708.
**Village of Berkeley Annual Academic Scholarship**

Applications can be downloaded or picked-up at the Village Hall, 5819 Electric Avenue. **Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 13, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year, late applications will not be considered.** Download a copy of the application from [www.berkeley.il.us](http://www.berkeley.il.us) and return it to the Village Hall.

Check local businesses, professional organizations, and service organization for other scholarship opportunities. Do not forget about the human resources department if employed, some companies pay for part, or all, of their employees’ college tuition costs or extend scholarship opportunities to immediate relatives of employees.

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**Spring of 2018 marks the 3rd year of our Beautify Berkeley Program! We are so proud of our neighborhood that we want to promote and show appreciation to our residents and businesses that have invested significant efforts into maintaining well-manicured lawns and curb appeal. May to October of each month, Village of Berkley personnel will be making a recommendation to the Village Board for those properties that are well maintained. At one Board meeting a month, the Board will select the winner and award them with a prize.**

At the end of the program season, all of the winners from the previous months will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize winning. If you’re up for the challenge, all you have to do is keep your properties manicured and wait for us to make contact with you each month. For more information on the Beautify Berkeley Program, visit our website at [www.berkeley.il.us](http://www.berkeley.il.us).

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**Welcome!! Be part of Berkeley Community Garden Club. Help us grow a sense of belonging, cooperation, and community pride. We need people like you to join us in our mission. This spring we will be voting on new leadership due to the unfortunate relocation of our former fearless leader, Brian Becker.**

Join us, become a member we are looking for people interested in leadership roles, let your voice be heard.

Over the last year the BCGC yielded many positive results, such as our Spring Fest and many cooperative events hosted in partnership with local organizations and friends like Berkeley School District #87, Village of Berkeley, Berkeley Public Library, American Legion, UPC Seguin, amongst others.

We continued in our tradition of growing and sharing our harvest with local food pantries and folks in need. Our Community Garden has the addition of waist-high raised beds to increase our accessibility to all folks.

Going forward we plan to continue doing good things right here in our community! For Earth Day we will be co-hosting an environmentally themed craft at BPL, April 28th at 11 am.

If you are interested in plot rentals, now is the time to make your reservations. For more information contact us via email-[BerkeleyCommunityGardenClub@comcast.net](mailto:BerkeleyCommunityGardenClub@comcast.net) or via phone 630-481-6442.

_to promote education and awareness of the environment for the health and well-being of the community._

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The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Elmhurst Area Branch is offering two $3,000 scholarships. Scholarship requirements as well as the application form for the scholarship can be found on the AAUW website: [www.aauwelmhurst.org](http://www.aauwelmhurst.org)

The application deadline is April 1, 2018.
American Legion Post 1016

The months of March, April and May are some of Legion’s busiest months. We are helping with District and Division Fund RAizers, this assists us in being able to do more to help our veterans in need.

As usual, the Legion will be making our annual contribution to Fisher House. Fisher House is located at Hines and helps families of veterans in the hospital with a place to stay while their loved one is in the hospital.

Our Americanism Essays and Poppy Posters are in and being judged. Letters will be going out to all our members so we can have a successful Poppy Champaign. The money collected all goes to helping our hospitalized Veterans. We will be distributing poppies May 24-26. Look for us throughout Berkeley. Our Little Miss Poppy will be meeting President Lee to give him the first Poppy on May 11.

Hoping the residents of Berkeley will join us for the annual Memorial Day Parade either as a participant or spectator. **Be part of your community!**

Berkeley Giving Tree Brings Smiles

During the holiday season, the Village of Berkeley organizes a Berkeley Giving Tree program to aid families in need in the Berkeley School District #87. The Village raises funds with the assistance of Republic Bank and Berkeley Public Library, through the generous donations of local residents, businesses and village employees. The Village’s donations to the families totaled over $5,000!

On behalf of the Village of Berkeley Board of Trustees, Republic Bank, and the Berkeley Public Library President Lee attended the December 11 Board of Education meeting and presented gift cards to District 87 School Board. Thank you to our resident, employees and our businesses sponsors include; Peterson Electric, Dunkin Donuts, GTO Automotive, Kraffkare Automotive, LeDonne’s, Berkeley Finer Foods, Robert E. Lee and Sons Construction and Rocky’s Gyros.

Teachers, staff members, and administrators at District 87 schools identified families in need. Later, the gift cards were presented to the families, just in time for the holidays.
BERKELEY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH has set a number of goals for 2018 including achieving greater visibility through presence on the Village’s electronic signs and/or installation of Neighborhood Watch street signs. In addition we are committed to further distributing our decals to local businesses and residences. Those decals can be obtained at the Library, Village Hall and Police Station.

We are also committed to our Block Captain program. If you wish to apply for a block captain’s position, contact Officer Len Norek (708) 449-8226 or Inorek@berkeley.il.us for an application, a training guide and once approved, a credential badge.

Congratulations to our newest block captains, Ivanca Sain-1500 block of Taft Ave and Richard Saviano-5500 block of Bohlander Ave.

Our next meeting on March 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m., at the Village Hall we will have a representative from Cook County explaining the new 911 system. As usual, Officer Len Norek will go over the police “blotter” and be available for a question and answer session.

Future programs will include situational awareness safety, animal control, and senior safety issues.

Want to contact Neighborhood Watch? This is how:
E-mail: berkeleyneighborhoodwatch@outlook.com
Berkeley Police Department: Officer Norek
Mail: PO Box 769, Hillside, Il. 60162

The BYBA parade is scheduled for Sunday, April 29th, with line up beginning at 10:30 am and the parade beginning promptly at 11:00 am. The parade will be leaving from Village Hall, and ending at the Baseball Fields behind MacArthur Middle School.

BYBA invites all youth to come and register.

Registration dates March 10th and 24th at 11 am-2 pm, bring a copy of the player's birth certificate.

Registrations will be taking place at the Village of Berkeley Municipal Complex Building.

- T-Ball Division 3-5 yrs. old
- Coach Pitch Division 6-8 yrs. old
- Minor Division 9-10 yrs. old
- Little League Division 11-12 yrs. old
- Junior Division 13-14 yrs. old

Electronics Recycling Event

Thursday, March 22 - Please call the Village if you will be putting out a TV that is larger than 36” or 50 pounds by March 20th.

By calling it you can ensure that your electronics pick up is on the list of large electronics to be picked up.

Berkeley Youth Baseball Association

MARCH 11th

Spring forward! Don’t forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!
**Berkeley Fire Department**

From the Firehouse to Your House

Fire Sprinklers have over a 125 year history in the United States. In that time they have assisted keeping fires small enough to be extinguished quickly by responding firefighters or completely extinguished prior to their arrival. Countless dollars have been saved in property loss, but most importantly lives that were saved by containing or extinguishing a small fire in its beginning stage.

In December, Congress passed some very beneficial reform to incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers. This was passed to offset the cost that goes along with making a property a much safer place to work and conduct business. Sec.179 has added fire protection as an eligible expenditure under the Tax Code. This has doubled the annual cap that small businesses were allowed from $500,000 to a million dollars. What makes Sec.179 such a great benefit is; it is now permanent law and will not be phased out over time for small business owners.

For more information on this promising new legislation contact the National Fire Sprinkler Association at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) or Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board at [www.FireSprinklerAssoc.org](http://www.FireSprinklerAssoc.org).

As always; if there are any fire safety questions please contact the Berkeley Fire Department at 1-708-449-9444.

**Berkeley Police Department**

The police department would like to remind all to please keep their dogs on a leash when walking them. If your dog is not on a leash, it violates village code. We wish to keep the community safe from any unprovoked dog attacks and/or bites in addition to keeping the dog(s) and other animals safe.

If you know your dog does not do well with others, please keep your dog on a tight leash to prevent any unfortunate events. The officers have been given direction to give enforcement action if they come across an unleashed dog. If found in violation of the village ordinance, you may be subjected to a citation resulting in a $100 fine.

**Blackboard Connect**

The Village of Berkeley uses Blackboard Connect service as our Village-to-resident notification system. With this service, Village leaders can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community events. To sign up visit our website at [www.berkeley.il.us](http://www.berkeley.il.us).
**Village of Berkeley Animal Tags**

It is time to think about animal tags! All dogs and cats in Berkeley must have a Village of Berkeley animal tag. Animal tags can be purchased at the Village Hall with a valid rabies certificate.

The tags can be purchased for $5.00 per animal. Tags purchased after April 15th are considered late and will be $10.00 per tag.

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**Public Works Department**

**BRUSH PICK-UP PROGRAM BEGINS APRIL 2**

All brush to be collected must be set out in the residential parkway no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection. Public Works personnel will make only one pass through the Village each scheduled day. Should a resident miss the pick-up, do not bring brush out until the next scheduled pick-up day. Brush must be properly prepared and meet the following specifications:

- Do not approach workers who are operating chipping machinery such as the wood chipper and/or chain saws.
- Branches must measure between 3 feet and 8 feet in length and be placed in the parkway with cut ends toward the street. Place branches with thorns in a separate pile.
- Place brush on the parkway in front of your home only. Branches placed in alleys are neither easily seen nor accessible.
- Brush placed in cans will be left behind for regular weekly garbage pickup.
- Brush containing anything other than branches will not be collected.
- The brush program is for home owners performing work themselves. Brush generated by tree services, landscape contractors or other services paid for by the homeowner are not eligible for this program. The homeowner must arrange for removal of any contractor-generated brush at their own expense.
- Brush removal is not the same as tree removal. The Village will not chip a removed tree this exceeds the intent of the program and is the responsibility of the homeowner to dispose of properly.

Brush piles that do not adhere to chipping requirements will be tagged by Public Works personnel. The tag will explain why the brush pile was not removed and what steps the resident needs to take to correct the problem. We thank you for your collaboration.

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**YARD WASTE PICK-UP RESUMES APRIL 5**

**Collection guidelines:** Place yard waste material such as grass, leaves, weeds, tree branches, shrubbery, etc., not exceeding 4 inches in diameter, 4 foot in length, out for pick up next to their refuse container(s) on their regularly scheduled collection day, THURSDAY.

Yard Waste is to be placed in a 32 gallon size biodegradable yard waste bag, or may be placed in a conventional refuse container (32 gallon size). Containers should be marked to indicate they contain Yard Waste Only.

Please place a very visible (YW) or (Y) on each container set out containing yard waste material. Only Yard Waste may be placed in those containers and, or bags and the containers or bags should not exceed a weight of 60 pounds each!

Tree trimmings (4' in length or less), brush etc., may also be placed out in bundles tied with twine/string. The bundles should not exceed 50 pounds in weight.

The use of plastic bags for the disposal of yard waste is prohibited because the bags clog tub grinding equipment and do not break down during the composting process.
BRAIN WELLNESS FOR KIDS
WITH MARK SCHOEPP
March 13 at 5:30 pm. Kids and parents learn about how to keep their brains healthy and happy with activities and a presentation.

A FOOT SOLDIER’S JOURNEY
Ages 13+ registration required
Honored to have Mr. Thomas M. Armstrong, author of ‘Autobiography of a Freedom Rider: My Life as a Foot Soldier for Civil Rights’ for a special presentation about life in segregated Mississippi.

DIET, NUTRITION AND THE BRAIN
WITH MARK SCHOEPP
Registration required
April 7 at 1-2 pm, join us for a program that educates adults on how what we eat effects our overall brain health.

FUN WITH FELTING
Ages 13+ registration required
Learning to felt has never easier! Join us at the library as we learn the basics of needle felting to create a small felted fox to take home.

DROP-IN CRAFT & MOVIE DAY
Come and create seasonal crafts with Miss Rachel at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm [Ages 7-13] Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

RADIO GOES TO WAR
Ages 13+ registration required
World War II marked the first time Americans could tune into their radio and bring news of the war from around the globe into their living rooms. Radio host Steve Darnell will present and exploration of this fascinating part of radio history with us!

GAME DESIGN & BLOXELS
Into video games? Ever wanted to make your own? You can with Bloxels! Come and learn how to use this wonderful technology on May 1 at 4:30 pm. Participants must bring their own tablet or mobile device with WiFi and photo capability.

BOOK CLUBS
Like to read and enjoy spending time with others who share your interest? Then check out one of our popular book clubs!

- Graphic Novel Book Club – future dates in June!
- Tween Book Club – It’s back! Join fellow tweens (8-13) as we read some great books. Enjoy each other’s company and learn new things! Snack provided. March 9, April 13, and May 11 at 4 pm. Registration required.
- Adult Book Club – Join us at the library as we enjoy some great books together. March 14, April 11 and May 9 at 7 pm.

Recurring Favorites – Don’t see your favorite program? More information is provided at www.berkeleylepl.org
Homework Central/story Time/Evening Story Time/Home-School Connections/Chess Club/ Play Doh Play Days/Lego Build/ Pokémon Club/Family Game Night/Puzzle Club/ Mad Science/ Wii Gaming/ Family-gami/Full STEAM Ahead! LittleBits Workshop/Tea & A Murder at the Library/ Crafter’s Corner
March
01 Recycling East of Taft
06 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
08 Recycling West of Taft
11 Daylight Savings (Spring forward 1 hr.)
15 Recycling East of Taft
20 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
22 Recycling West of Taft
25 Last Day to Take Down Temporary Lights
26 Administrative Hearing – 2 p.m.
28 Recycling East of Taft
30 Village Hall Closed- Good Friday /Spring Holiday

April
02 Brush Pick Up Begins Entire Town
03 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
05 Recycling West of Taft
07 Brush Pick Up West of Taft
09 Brush Pick Up East of Taft
12 Recycling East of Taft
15 Animal Tag Due
16 Brush Pick Up West of Taft
17 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
19 Recycling West of Taft
23 Brush Pick Up East of Taft
26 Recycling East of Taft
30 Administrative Hearing – 2 p.m.
31 No Garbage Pick Up Due to Memorial Day Holiday

May
01 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
03 Recycling West of Taft
07 Brush Pick Up East of Taft
10 Recycling East of Taft
14 Brush Pick Up West of Taft
15 Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
17 Recycling West of Taft
21 Brush Pick Up East of Taft
24 Recycling East of Taft
28 Village Hall Closed- Memorial day
29 Administrative Hearing – 2 p.m.
31 No Garbage Pick Up Due to Memorial Day Holiday

Electronics Recycling This March!

Brush and Yard Waste Return This April!

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony This May!
Stormwater Education: What is the Issue?

In the Village of Berkeley, there are two different underground flowage systems; the sanitary system and the storm water system. The sanitary system carries waste water from homes and businesses via bathrooms, dishwashers, sinks, washing machines and other simple waste producing necessities. Traveling through an underground system of pipes connected to homes and businesses, this type of waste water eventually finds its way to a treatment facility where it undergoes treatment making it safe to discharge and reuse. The storm system, however, enters a completely separate set of underground pipes through basins and street curb drains, discharging untreated water into nearby creeks and rivers. Polluted runoff is the nation’s greatest threat to a clean-water environment and a major concern for the Village of Berkeley and its residents.

Storm water, by its definition, is the direct byproduct of rain and snow production as it hits surfaces within our environment. This water then flows over surfaces like driveways, lawns and sidewalks, picking up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants along the way, and makes its way to basins and curb drains. Storm water management takes into consideration those things that individuals, households and public behaviors can do to lessen the pollutants that enter the system. Practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of our storm water system.

What Can You Do?

Lawn and garden activities can produce a number of instances where the runoff of fertilizers, pesticides and yard waste can enter into the storm water system. While the intent is to maintain a beautiful property, it should not be at the cost of damage to the environment. Consider adjusting some of your past practices for better results without the curbside impact:

• Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only in recommended amounts. Seek out less toxic and more environmentally friendly options that release slowly over time for a longer lasting impact.
• Mulches help retain water, reduce weed growth, prevent erosion, and improve the soil for plant growth. Wood chips are available for free at our Community Garden Club.
• Sweep up after cutting your lawn or blown grass clippings back into the yard. Grass clippings blown or swept into the street will eventually enter a storm drain and either clog the drain or degrade over time within the system. It also a violation of Village Ordinance to blow debris into the street.
• Don’t water your lawn on a fixed schedule. Water your lawn when it needs it, but even then don’t overwater it as such a practice can easily carry pollution to the storm system.
• Pulling weeds by hand instantly removes pesky plants without having to use a chemical-based weed killer saving both the environment and your money.
• When you water your garden make sure to water well, but infrequently.
• If you have a mulching attachment on your lawn mower you can leave the grass clippings on your lawn instead of fertilizer, which will add nutrients to your lawn and help it to retain moisture. Similarly, you can add compost to flower beds and other gardens to increase soil productivity and to feed and protect your plants. There are ways to compost at home or you can purchase compost in bulk from a reputable source.

For more ways that YOU can help, visit: www.berkeley.il.us