

Message from the Mayor

The Village of Williamsville had another successful year in 2023. There were several projects completed, many events, and exciting accomplishments.

While 2023 was a great year of accomplishments, I want to take a brief moment to reflect back on March 31, 2023 for our neighboring community. An EF-2 tornado hit the Village of Sherman, leaving many residents' homes and belongings damaged. As a community, we know firsthand how devastating this is. We teamed together with Sherman to help however possible, and it was incredible to see the way the Sherman and Williamsville communities and residents come together. Thank you to everyone who played a part in the clean up and relief.

Each year, the Village of Williamsville strives to complete projects and to provide services that will improve the condition of our village and assist residents. In 2023, streets were oiled and rocked, and the sewer plant upgrade was completed. Williamsville also continued to offer many services for our residents. Some of these services include cardboard recycling located behind our police department and our limb and leaf bag pick up. Thank you to our public works department, who works hard to make this service possible.

I am also pleased to say Williamsville received a Trees Forever grant in 2023. This grant allowed us to plant 9 new trees around Lake Valor. Thank you to all the volunteers that came and helped with this project. Also, thank you to our staff who worked on the grant that allowed that allowed us the opportunity to plant the new trees. Lastly, thank you to the Arbor Day Foundation for naming us a Tree City USA Community, which has greatly benefited our community.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize all the Williamsville Community Foundation did for our community this past year. It takes a lot of planning and hard work to pull these events off. Each month they gather together to see how they can give back to the community. They plan everything from monthly quarter auctions to donate to a local charities to all the events throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming a member and giving back to our community, please contact Bill Fawns, WCF president, at 217-415-7798, or attend any of their meetings. Their meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, but due to the holidays, January's meeting will be on January 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Whether you donated or attended an event, thank you for your involvement within our community last year. I hope your family has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thomas R. Yokley

Community Calendar

- Jan. 1: Village Hall & WPLM Closed for New Years
- Jan. 2: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- **Jan. 8: Village Board Meeting at the Village Hall**
- Jan. 9: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- Jan. 9: WPLM Board Meeting
- Jan. 9: Foundation Meeting at the Village Hall
- Jan. 11: Quarter Auction
- Jan. 15: Village Hall & WPLM Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 16: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- **Jan. 22: Village Board Meeting**
- Jan. 23: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- Jan. 25: Book Club at WPLM
- Jan. 30: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- Feb. 3: Garden Club Meeting at WPLM
- Feb. 5: Foundation Meeting at the Village Hall
- Feb. 8: Quarter Auction
- Feb. 12: Village Hall Closed for Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 13: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- Feb. 13: WPLM Board Meeting
- **Feb. 13: Village Board Meeting**
- Feb. 19: Village Hall Closed for Presidents' Day
- Feb. 20: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- **Feb. 26: Village Board Meeting**
- Feb. 27: Coffee Hour at WPLM
- Feb. 29: Book Club at WPLM

Village President
Thomas R. Yokley
217.306.0004

Economic Development
Trustee
Heather Hofferkamp
217.622.5408

Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks & Storm Sewers
Trustee
Patrick Gettleman
217.750.1077

Water & Sewer
Trustee
Matt Bunger
217.473.2690

Public Safety
Trustee
Sharon McMillan
217.836.2006

Parks & Recreation
Trustee
Dave Carter
217.566.2349

Finance
Trustee
Skylar Tierney
217.638.2402

Village Clerk
Karen Winger
217.566.3806

Treasurer
Heidi Darow
217.566.3806

Williamsville Public Library and Museum

Thank You Jean Forness

When Jean Forness started as director 17 years ago, the library was in a room inside the Community Center. Not long afterwards it moved into the Depot. Eventually that library merged with the local history collection in the box-cars to become the Williamsville Public Library and Museum, which later on built a new building on the former site of the Williamsville Christian Church. Jean oversaw tremendous changes and helped make WPLM what it is today. Along the way, she has made countless friends, worked with amazing volunteers, and guided WPLM on its journey to being a place with something for everyone. Jean's contributions to WPLM and our community were recognized at the November WPLM board meeting, where she was presented with the plaque naming the Forness Multi-Purpose Room. Although she has retired, Jean's legacy will continue as the Williamsville Public Library and Museum continues to grow and change with our community.



Jean with the WPLM's Board Members after being presented with the plaque naming the Forness Multi-Purpose Room.

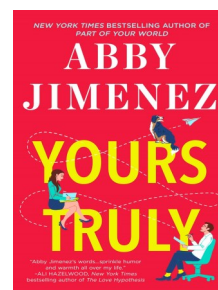
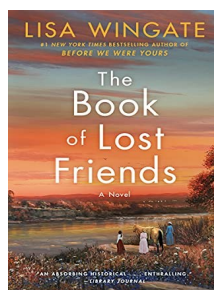
Online Resources

WPLM has a variety of online resources that are always available with your WPLM library card. When you search the online catalog, you will see the newest additions to our collection, and you can request items from WPLM or one of nearly 500 libraries in the Illinois Heartland Library System. WPLM patrons can access e-books and audio-books through the Cloud Library and Libby. You can also stream music, TV shows, movies, and more with Hoopla.

Databases for research are also available. Ancestry.com is accessible at WPLM on the public computers or with your own device. Two additional databases can be accessed from anywhere. Heritage Hub is searchable for obituaries and death notices back to the 1700's. NewsBank includes the State-Journal Register digital collection. The searchable database extends back to 1985 for both news stories and obituaries. The NewsBank link also includes decades of digital news magazines from Air & Space, Popular Science, and over 40 other titles.

Book Club

The WPLM Book Club will resume meeting on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Nancy Richardson fireplace alcove. The next meeting, on January 25th, will be discussing *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate, and the February selection, on February 29th, is *Yours Truly* by Abby Jimenez. Any adult is welcome to attend any book club meeting. You can check out the monthly selections, whether you plan on attending the book club or not, because WPLM always requests extra copies of the titles.



Donations & Recycling

Thank you to everyone who attended WPLM's Book Adoption event in November. We plan to host another event in the spring. If you have books to donate, please visit WPLM during regular hours: Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. WPLM is also accepting certain items to be recycled. Unwanted holiday lights can be dropped off until the middle of January. The lights will be recycled in partnership with BLH Computers. Eye glasses and ink cartridges are always accepted in the WPLM foyer. Batteries are not currently accepted. Please help reduce waste by using rechargeable batteries.

WPLM News (Continued)

Local History

The WPLM volunteers and Jean Forness have created another impressive local history display! The new museum exhibits featuring local businesses are now open to the public. You can learn something new and enter to win a \$20 McDonald's gift card by completing the Local History Quest. It is a short set of questions that are easily answered by viewing the new exhibits. Thank you to everyone who participated in the interviews connected to the featured businesses. Those interviews are being edited and uploaded. Follow WPLM on Facebook to be one of the first to find out when they will be available to the public.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



The new year is a great time to start (or restart) 1000 books! Kids and parents can stamp, color, or add stickers to the log pages to track each book read. If you know a toddler who likes to have the same book read multiple times, don't worry! Each time a book is read, it counts, even if it is the same book. For every 100 books read, kids get to pick out a free book for their home library, and get a coupon for a free happy meal from the McGraw family McDonalds in Williamsville.

Williamsville Fire Department

Teaching fire safety to your children from a very early age is very important. Once you start the conversation, be sure to reiterate it frequently. It is best to plan ahead and be prepared. Go over escape plans, what to do in the event you see smoke, how to call 911, etc. A great resource to help kids learn about fire safety in a fun interactive way is to head to www.sparky.org, a National Fire Protection Association website for children. There you can find videos, interactive games and printable activities, like the coloring page below, for all ages.



Williamsville Garden Club

New Year

Happy 2024! The Williamsville Garden Club hopes everyone had a great holiday season! The beginning of a new year is an exciting time filled with new goals and plans for the coming months!

Thank You

Thank you to those that generously donated to the garden club this past year! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

New Members and Meetings

If you are interested in joining the Williamsville Garden Club, you can contact Nique Scarbrough at 618-315-1099. Regular garden club meetings are usually on the first Saturday of the month. However, the next meeting will be on Saturday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the Williamsville Public Library and Museum, due to the club taking December and January off.

Garden Tips for Winter

***Protect Your Plants:** Plants and soil cannot withstand road salt well. If your plants are located where they are heavily exposed to salt, you will want to take precautionary measures to protect them. This can be done by creating a shield of landscape fabric into a fence with wooden stakes. For areas next to sidewalks and driveways, choose salt-resistant plants and/or rely on salt-free ice melters.

***Build a Compost Bin:** You can check your nearest garden center for three wooden pallets. Use them to build a three-sided bin. To build your bin, use extra large plastic zip-ties to fasten them together so that you have a back and two sides. Then, place your new composting system somewhere that is mostly sunny.

***Get Rid of Dead Trees:** Winter is a great time of the year to get dead trees cut down. During winter, there is no foliage to work around or to obscure the view of those cutting the tree down.

Source: *The Savvy Experts from Savvy Gardening* (<https://savvygardening.com/5-garden-tips-winter/#:~:text=First%2C%20place%20a%20thick%20layer,will%20be%20ready%20to%20plant!>)

More Winter Garden Planning Tips from USU

Utah State University gives great tips for planning out your garden for next year. Below is a few of them, and you can head to their website for more details.

- Research catalogues to determine new vegetable varieties to try in your garden next year.
- Plan out and design the vegetable garden. Rotating crops helps reduce disease buildup.
- Consider growing herbs and/or microgreens indoors. This is a great way to add fresh greens to your diet.
- If storing bulbs, check to make sure they are firm. If they are soft or rotten, remove them.
- Look for specific gardening information at USU's website, garden.usu.edu. Here you will find growing guides for fruits, vegetables, and herbs, as well as, tips on soil, lawn, yard, tree, shrub, and flower care. Also included are monthly tips, the basics of gardening, information on drought, events, classes, and more.

Source: *Information by Utah State University Extension Horticulturists* (https://extension.usu.edu/news_sections/gardening/winter-garden-planning-tips-1)



Village & WCF News

Happy New Year!

The Village of Williamsville staff & board members would like to wish you & yours a happy, healthy & prosperous 2024!

Snow Removal

Please make sure that your vehicles are not parked on the street during snow and ice storms. The Public Works Department will plow and salt main roads first and then will concentrate on secondary streets and cul-de-sacs. Thank you for your cooperation!

Thank You Postal Workers

This time of year is extremely busy for the United States Postal Service. Please do what you can to keep your mailbox or PO Box empty and make sure it is easily accessible.

Postal workers are also working late delivering packages and mail this time of year. It is helpful to keep an outside light on so workers can see your house number and to help keep them safe. Lastly, when you see them out, please be patient with them and don't forget to let them know you appreciate their hard work!

Thank You from the WCF

The President of the Foundation and the Williamsville Community Foundation Board would like to thank all of the volunteers and community for their participation and support throughout 2023. Also, thank you to all those that donated to our organization throughout the past year. Having your support is something we never take for granted, and we are looking forward to the upcoming year.

Important Dates for 2024

January

Jan. 1: Closed (Holiday)
Jan. 8: Village Board Meeting
Jan. 15: Closed (Holiday)
Jan. 22: Village Board Meeting

February

Feb. 12: Closed (Holiday)
Feb. 13: Village Board Meeting
Feb. 19: Closed (Holiday)
Feb/ 26: Village Board Meeting

March

Mar. 11: Village Board Meeting
Mar. 25: Village Board Meeting

April

Apr. 8: Village Board Meeting
Apr. 22: Village Board Meeting

May

May 13: Village Board Meeting

May 27: Closed (Holiday)

May 28: Village Board Meeting

June

June 10: Village Board Meeting
June 19: Closed (Holiday)
June 24: Village Board Meeting
June 30: Fourth of July Celebration
(*Subject to change)

July

July 4: Closed (Holiday)
July 8: Village Board Meeting
July 22: Village Board Meeting

August

Aug. 12: Village Board Meeting
Aug. 26: Village Board Meeting

September

Sept. 2: Closed (Holiday)
Sept. 9: Village Board Meeting

Sept. 23: Village Board Meeting

October

Oct. 14: Closed (Holiday)
Oct. 15: Village Board Meeting
Oct. 28: Village Board Meeting

November

Nov. 11: Closed (Holiday)
Nov. 12: Village Board Meeting
Nov. 25: Village Board Meeting
Nov. 28 & 29: Closed (Holiday)

December

Dec. 9: Village Board Meeting
Dec. 23: Village Board Meeting
Dec. 24 & 25: Closed (Holiday)

Any changes will be posted on our website at willamsville.illinois.gov.

Board Meetings

The regular semi-monthly meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Monday of each month and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, unless otherwise stated.

The public is always encouraged to attend. Special board meetings and committee meetings are scheduled as needed.

Dates and agendas for all meetings are posted on the board near the door of the Village Hall and may also be reviewed on the Village of Williamsville's website.

Minutes for previous board meetings can also be found on the Village of Williamsville's website.

WWW.WILLIAMSVILLE.ILLINOIS.GOV

Village of Williamsville

141 W. Main St.
217-566-3806

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Water Emergency:
217-306-5803

Village Fax: 217-566-2105

Police Non-Emergency:
217-566-3634

Fire Non-Emergency:
217-566-3311

Library: 217-566-3520

Post Office: 217-566-3651

Village of Williamsville

141 West Main Street
Williamsville, IL 62693

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