

## Northfield Village Caucus

**April 23, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at Youth Services located in Glenview IL by Tracey Mendrek, Chair at **7:05** pm.

Caucus Members present at the meeting were:

Frank Charhut	Tracey Mendrek
Jonathan Don	Bobbie Moore
Kathy Estabrooke	Jerry Mulick
Emilian Geczi	Keith Reed
John Kemper	Cricket Trutter-Hauff
Finley Maxson	David Woodyatt

Tracey presented the agenda. Cricket Trutter-Hauff moved to approve, Jonathan Don seconded. Agenda was unanimously approved. Tracey then presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Frank Charhut moved to approve, Jerry Mulick seconded. Agenda unanimously approved.

First order of business is to present/approve new members. Keith Reed, Membership Chair presented the slate of:

Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins  
Ken Bley  
Tom Bolling  
Ken Bond  
Patrick McCarthy

Three of the 5 members were in attendance. The three candidates were asked to leave the room. Keith gave a quick refresher of each of the candidates' bios prior to his presentation for voting. Keith motioned to accept these five (5) new members to the Northfield Caucus. Bobbie moved and Jonathan Don seconded the motion. All five (5) members were unanimously approved.

Keith said he is chasing 4 more candidates and would like them to attend the next meeting. He passed a listing of the current members.

The new members were asked to return to the meeting. Tracey welcomed them to the Caucus and thanked them for their willingness to serve. She asked those current members to introduce themselves to the new members. Each member gave their name, address, length of Northfield residency and length as a Caucus member.

With Ruth Luchessi out of town, there was no specific financial report. Tracey stated that no spending had occurred since our last meeting. She reported that we will need funds to conduct our next survey. She asked us to think of fund raising ideas.

Knowing that there would be questions on the state of the Willow Road construction and the flood issue, Tracey called Stacy Sigman for an update.

Tracey handed out a Willow Road Reconstruction flyer (Exhibit I) and three new pieces created by the Village on Willow Road and the Willow Road Construction Process (Exhibit II), Willow Road Landscape Plan (Exhibit III) and most importantly [How to] Stay informed about the Willow Road Redevelopment Project (Exhibit IV). So far, construction is slow because the utility companies are still working to relocate their facilities which are in conflict.

Tracy asked us to report anything we see that doesn't seem right and to call if we have anything we want them to be aware of. Use the Village webis

Tracey read an email from Stacy regarding the Village flooding situation:

Not much news on the floods. Northfield, like the region, was again hard hit. We are filing with the County for emergency funds. Unfortunately, if the State and/or County are declared a disaster area then Federal funds are generally only made available to pay for public (Village) costs not private home owners. The new storm water system, associated with the Willow Road project, for Churchill and Bosworth is under design and is expect to be installed in 2013. The other two projects which help the rest of the alphabet streets and the area north of Willow will come in 2014 and 2015 as they will have to tie into the new giant Willow Road drain and can't go until that is ready. Our plan is to try to have those both done at about the same time. We are also working with Cook County on a long term plan for Winnetka Avenue and hope to be able to see major drainage improvement as part of that work. Unfortunately, the County is not clear on the timing/funding for this work so right now we have no way to anticipate when that may actually take place. We are hoping that Phase I design work may get started in 2013.

Frank Charhut - Finance Chair let us know that the Village created and passed its budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Frank commended the Village Board for their diligence in presenting and passing a sound and responsible budget.

Tracy asked the membership to consider what committee that wish to serve on.

- Bylaws
- Communication
  - Survey
- Platform
- Membership
- Finance
  - Fundraising

Tracy also reminded us that we need to consider Caucus electronic voting. More specifically we need to find a way to make emergency voting via email, on certain, issues a reality.

Tracy stated that our next meeting will be with the Northfield Library Board member. She will be discussing how to keep the Northfield library.

Tracy then asked for any additional business. With no additional business at hand she asked for a motion of adjournment of the regular business meeting. Frank made a motion to adjourn. Jerry Murlick seconded. The motion was approved. The regular business meeting was adjourned.

Tracy then introduced Nancy Bloom, Executive Director of Youth Services who gave us an overview of the services provided by Youth Services. Their Missions Statement is: Youth Services is dedicated to the mental health, character development and physical well-being of children and families in our communities.

All area residents are able to use their services. Most of the attending Caucus members had no idea that this organization existed and were very impressed with their mission and its execution.

Nancy and Laura Welch took us on a tour of their modern state of the art facility.

We concluded the tour at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Estabrooke  
Secretary – Northfield Village Caucus



# Willow Road Reconstruction

From IL 43 to I-94

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Contract # 60T35 Willow Road between IL Route 43 (Waukegan Road) and I-94 will be reconstructed to two lanes in each direction separated by a median. Aesthetic improvements are planned throughout Willow Road corridor with special emphasis in the downtown area.

These improvements will consist of new sidewalks on both sides of the road. Drainage improvements including enclosed storm sewers, ditch/swale modifications, storm water detention and water quality swales. Additional upgrades to the watermain and sanitary sewers system are also planned. The existing bridge over the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River will be replaced. While the existing bridge over the Edens Expressway will be modified to reconstruct the south sidewalk and parapet.

Traffic signal modernization will be provided at Willow Road and IL Route 43, Fox Meadow Drive/Three Lakes Drive, Sunset Ridge Road, Wagner Road, Old Willow Road/Northfield Road and Central Avenue/Happ Road. The traffic signals will be interconnected. Roadway lighting is included along Willow Road in the Northfield downtown area between Old Willow/Northfield Road intersection and east of the Central Avenue/Happ Road intersection. Intersection lighting will be provided at Willow Road and Fox Meadow Drive/Three Lakes Drive, Sunset Ridge Road, Wagner Road and at the pedestrian only signal near Churchill Street.

At Westbound I-94 exiting to Eastbound Willow Road, the ramp terminal at Willow Road will be re-aligned and the exit ramp along I-94 will be widened and reconstructed to provide an additional 1,500 feet of auxiliary lane. At Eastbound Willow Road entering onto Eastbound I-94 towards Chicago, the entrance ramp along I-94 will be widened and reconstructed to provide an additional 1,000 feet of auxiliary lane.



*Project Start Date:* **Spring 2013**

*Project End Date:* **October 31, 2014**

*Project Cost:* **\$27,000,000**

*Project Municipalities:* **Northfield, Northbrook,  
Glenview & Northfield Township**

*Project County:* **Cook**

A project specific web page has been created on the Department's website which includes more detailed information about this project; the address to the site is noted below. If you have any questions after reviewing this Flyer and the web page, please use the "Contact Us" section on the site and a response will be sent to you.

For any questions or concerns regarding the Willow Road Reconstruction project, please visit our website

**<http://www.dot.state.il.us/Willow Road/index.html>**



## Willow Road Construction Process

To help you follow the progress of the Willow Road redevelopment project, we want to explain in detail IDOT's plan. Construction will proceed in phases with the goals of maximizing efficiency and safety for pedestrians and motorists, alike. Throughout the two-year construction period, IDOT's plan is to keep at least one lane of traffic open in each direction throughout the corridor. The following is a brief overview of how IDOT plans to phase the improvements:

- **Pre-Phase I – Preparation Work**

This work is currently underway and includes relocating the underground and overhead utilities that are in conflict with the project; installing temporary traffic signals at each intersection; removing trees, medians or other conflicts along the corridor; installing erosion control measures and other fencing to protect the work zone and adjacent properties; and finally, installing a temporary lane/pavement on the south side of the roadway to allow one lane of traffic to remain open both east and west bound. Once completed, Phase I work begins.

- **Phase I – North Side Construction**

During this initial construction phase, temporary traffic controls and barricades will be installed to shift all of the traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, to the south side of the corridor. The contractor will then work on the north side of the project to install the utilities, curbs and gutter, storm water system, roadway and sidewalks. Once completed, Phase II work begins.

- **Phase II – South Side Construction**

During this next phase of work, the temporary traffic controls and barricades will be relocated and the traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, will be shifted to the newly constructed north side of the corridor. The contractor will then work on the south side of the project to install the utilities, curbs and gutter, storm water system, roadway and sidewalks. Once completed, Phase III work begins.

- **Phase III – Center Construction**

During this final phase of roadway work, the temporary traffic controls and barricades will be relocated, and the vehicular traffic will be shifted so that the westbound traffic is on the far north side of the corridor and the eastbound traffic is on the far south side of the corridor. During this phase, the pedestrian sidewalks will be open on both sides of the street. The contractor will then install the center medians and the curbs, gutter and roadway in the center portion of the corridor. Once completed, Phase IV final restoration work begins.

- **Phase IV – Restoration**

During this final phase of work, the contractor will complete the final grading; place new top soil and seed; install 569 new trees, 848 shrubs, and about 11,000 perennials in the parkway and medians; and complete all of the final finishes including the decorative bridge and lighting details in the Village Center.

This multi-phase process is expected to take about two years to complete. The roadway and sidewalk work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014, and then the planting and restoration work will take place immediately following in the spring of 2015. Regular updates will be available throughout the construction process. To follow the progress and monitor traffic conditions please check in at <http://northfieldwillowroad.blogspot.com/> or on Facebook at Willow Road Construction Project or Twitter @willowroadcp.

### Willow Road Landscape Plans

As the first stage of the Willow Road redevelopment project begins, workers are preparing the landscape for construction. Trees in conflict with the new roadway have been removed, while other trees, tagged with ribbon, will be protected. An arborist will prune these trees to maximize their chances for surviving the construction process.

For the new Willow Road, IDOT, the Village of Northfield, Hitchcock Design Group and the Chicago Botanic Gardens developed an extensive landscape plan. In total, 569 new trees, 848 shrubs, and about 11,000 perennials will be installed. Click here to see the final landscape plan. The new plantings will provide for:

- Enhanced gateway medians on the east and west ends of the project
- Planted medians throughout the corridor
- Perennial plantings in the medians and at enhanced intersections, and
- Parkway trees on both sides of the whole roadway

Along with the new plantings the final plan provides for decorative lighting, brick sidewalks, and a decorative stone bridge in the Village Center area.

To follow the progress of the work and monitor traffic conditions stay tuned to <http://northfieldwillowroad.blogspot.com/> on Facebook at Willow Road Construction Project or Twitter @willowroadcp.



### Stay Informed about the Willow Road Redevelopment Project

The Village of Northfield has established a communication plan to help residents get regular updates on the construction of the new Willow Road. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plans to start their redevelopment of Willow Road this spring. With an estimated 30,000 cars traveling along this corridor a day, Village officials hope to make it easy for residents and commuters to stay informed and plan their daily activities.

For live traffic updates, detailed maps of the project design, and up to date information on the construction activity follow the progress through the following:

Willow Road web page <http://northfieldwillowroad.blogspot.com/>

IDOT web page [www.dot.il.gov/willow\\_road/index.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/willow_road/index.html)

Facebook Willow Road Construction Project

Twitter @willowroadcp

Instagram willowroadcp

e-news Sign up at [www.northfieldil.org](http://www.northfieldil.org)

Please note that the Twitter and Facebook accounts have been set up as a way to keep our citizens informed about the construction project. They will not be monitored for feedback. All inquiries on the project should be sent directly to IDOT at <http://tinyurl.com/idotadmin>