



VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbor:

During the last few years we have become so accustomed to warm temperatures and low amounts of snow, we begin to think our little Village is in a southern climate. This year, the law of averages has caught up with us.

Instead of temperatures averaging around 37 degrees, we have been treated to arctic blasts and learned a new term, "Polar Vortex," which means "miserably dangerous cold spells" and school closings! We owe a tremendous debt to all the hard working members of our Public Works and Public Safety Departments for the exceptional effort they have put forth keeping our streets clear and passable, and our Village safe, throughout this record breaking winter.

Normally our snow storms are spread out with time for the prior storm's snow to be fully cleared before we receive the next batch. But not this year. Just from December 1 to February 15, Public Works has had to respond to more than 45 snow and ice events. We have had more than 66.8 inches of snow to mid-February, already making this the 3rd snowiest winter on record.

Our crews have had to work 12 hour shifts, 24 hours a day repeatedly just to keep our streets open and passable. We are running out of places to put the snow we move to clear our downtown parking lots. The process involves stockpiling the excess snow at key points and then as time and weather permit, trucking it to remote storage lots to await a spring like melt.

It is very difficult to maintain ice free streets when the temperatures continuously fall to an arctic level, as they have so repeatedly this winter. Even salt does not work at those temperatures. We use a variety of methods, including various pretreating solutions, to try and minimize the accumulation of ice on our streets.

Our Public Works crews, through their tireless dedication, have worked many "miracles" this winter to keep our streets usable. They have used over 1000 tons of salt so far as compared to our normal total winter usage of 600 to 700 tons.

While the snow has been blowing, both the Village and the Northwest Water Commission ("NWC") have each continued to separately study if a partnership would be in each of our best interests. The NWC has been exploring, for example, whether its potential expansion to include additional users, such as Des Plaines, is feasible and appropriate. The indications are that it will be many months before the NWC completes its strategic planning and is prepared to make decisions. At the same time the Village staff has continued to work with our consultant, Strand Associates, on developing the Village's cost models for the various options for the future of our water facility.

The models will permit the staff to evaluate all feasible and practical options for upgrading the Village's existing Water Treatment Facility; includes a review of options within the Village's property that contains the existing plant, other beachfront options, and other alternative locations within and outside of Glencoe's corporate limits, as well as options that would include the Village no longer producing water.

It is expected that it will take 10 to 12 months before the Village and the NWC complete their due diligence process. Once the Village staff complete their reviews, we will begin a public process of explaining the options and will seek your input on what is the appropriate next step.

They say that in Illinois we only have two seasons, snow and construction. Even in our little Village there are times when that appears to be true. Once the snow stops and summer comes Writers Theatre expects to break ground for its exciting new structure. Village staff are already working on the plan for mitigating the expected downtown disruptions that any construction project of this size entails.

When we add to the Writers project, the resurfacing of some of the downtown streets previously scheduled for this summer, it is clear that our challenging winter will be turning into an interesting summer as well. ■

Sincerely,

Larry Levin

Village Board President