

Public participation is invited. When called upon, please approach the microphone and state your name. Kindly limit your remarks to 3 minutes.

VILLAGE OF VILLA PARK
Village Hall, Board Chambers
20 South Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

G.R.E.E.N. Commission

September 15, 2026

6:30 PM

Chair Person: Mike Storino

Commissioners: Lee Ann House, Jennifer Hamilton, Rhonda Kollman

Board Liaison: Trustee Deepa Kumar

Staff Liaison:

- 1. Call to Order - Roll Call**
- 2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**
- 3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
- 4. Amendments to the Agenda**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on August 18, 2026
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Composting Educational Campaign
 - b. 2026 Pumpkin Smash
 - c. Village Town Hall
- 7. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Keep Villa Park Clean and Green
 - b. Leave the Leaves
- 8. Commissioner Comments**
- 9. Chairman Comments**
- 10. Village Board Liaison Comments**
- 11. Staff Liaison Comments**
- 12. Adjournment**

The Villa Park Village Hall is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. An elevator is operational at the north side entrance to the Village Hall during normal work hours and also during evenings. Individuals with special needs are requested to contact the Village's Compliance Officer at (630) 834-8500 so that reasonable accommodations can be made for those persons.



MEMORANDUM

TO: G.R.E.E.N. Commission
FROM:
DATE: September 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on August 18, 2026

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:

VILLAGE OF VILLA PARK
Village Hall, Board Chambers
20 South Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

G.R.E.E.N. Commission

August 18, 2026 Minutes

Chair Person:

Commissioners: Jennifer Hamilton, Lee Ann House, Rhonda Kollman, and Mike Storino

Board Liaison: Trustee Kumar

Staff Liaison:

1. Call to order: 6:32 p.m.

- Present: Jennifer Hamilton, LeeAnne House, Rhonda Kollman, and Mike Storino
- Absent: none

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

- None

3. Public Comments on Non-agenda Items

- None

4. Amendments to the Agenda

- None

5. Approving July 21, 2026 Minutes

- Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the July 21st minutes, commissioner Kollman made a second to the motion, a vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously

6. New Business

a. Assigning Commissioner Roles

- Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to make commissioner Storino chairman of the G.R.E.E.N. Commission. Commissioner Kollman made a second to the motion, a vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Storino made a motion to make commissioner Hamilton vice chair of the G.R.E.E.N. Commission. Commissioner Kollman made a second to the motion, a vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to make commissioner House secretary of the G.R.E.E.N. Commission. Commissioner Kollman made a second to the motion, a vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Keep Villa Park Clean and Green Campaign
- The commissioners had a discussion about this campaign and came up with several ideas. No formal decisions were made.
- c. Leave the Leaves Campaign
- The commissioners had a discussion about this campaign and came up with several ideas. No formal decisions were made.
- d. Educational Campaign Ideas
- The commissioners had a discussion about other potential Educational campaign ideas.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Composting Program

- The commissioners had a discussion about composting and a composting program. There was a discussion about coming up with ideas on ways to educate villagers on private composting. Decided to continue looking into community composting.

8. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Hamilton discussed the commission being involved with the Go Green Villa Park Halloween Pumpkin Smash. She made an additional comment.
- Commissioner Kollman put out a reminder about an upcoming shred event on September 12, 2026 at the Public Works Garage. She made an additional comment.
- Commissioner House did not make a comment.
- Chairman Storino made a comment.

9. Chairman Comments

- None

10. Village Board Liaison Comments

- President Patrick said the commission's first formal recommendation for fishing pole recycling was received. He said it would be on agenda for the upcoming village board meeting for board consideration. He made an additional comment.

11. Staff Liaison Comments

- None

12. Adjournment

- Commissioner Kollman made a motion to approve adjournment, commissioner House made a second, a vote was conducted, and the motion for adjournment passed unanimously at 6:52 p.m.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: G.R.E.E.N. Commission
FROM:
DATE: September 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Composting Educational Campaign

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:



MEMORANDUM

TO: G.R.E.E.N. Commission
FROM:
DATE: September 15, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 Pumpkin Smash

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:



MEMORANDUM

TO: G.R.E.E.N. Commission
FROM:
DATE: September 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Village Town Hall

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:

DRAFT



Did You Know?

About 5 million birds of over 250 species pass through the area during migration.

Bright lights and reflective glass can disorient them and cause fatal crashes.

Protect migratory birds.

Turn off unneeded outdoor lights and close blinds between 11 PM and sunrise during fall migration (Aug. 15th – Nov. 30th).

Keep Villa Park Clean and Green
G.R.E.E.N. Commission

DRAFT



Did You Know?

Milkweed is the only plant that monarch caterpillars can eat.

Fall is the best time to plant milkweed seeds because a winter freeze breaks their dormancy so they sprout in the spring.

Support monarch butterfly populations.

Plant native seeds (like Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, or Butterfly Weed) before the ground freezes.

Keep Villa Park Clean and Green
G.R.E.E.N. Commission

DRAFT



Did You Know?

Local storm drains flow directly into Salt Creek and nearby wetlands.

Leaves, grass, soap, and trash that enter storm drains break down in waterways. Nutrient-rich leaves and grass cause harmful algae blooms that deplete oxygen for aquatic life.

Protect aquatic ecosystems.

Keep pollutants like leaves, grass, soap, and trash out of storm drains, gutters, and pavement.

Keep Villa Park Clean and Green
G.R.E.E.N. Commission



Leave the Leaves

Don't bag your leaves this fall.
Enrich your soil and protect pollinators instead!

Move fallen leaves to garden beds, around
shrubs and trees, or mulch them into your grass.

Scan the QR code
for more information:

insert code
to webpage

DRAFT

Keep Villa Park Clean and Green
G.R.E.E.N. Commission

Proposed text for Villa Park G.R.E.E.N. Commission web page is below.

Leave the Leaves, Responsibly

The Village of Villa Park encourages residents to use fallen autumn leaves in their yards. Not only will it save you time, energy, and resources spent raking and bagging them, but it enriches your soil and protects local pollinators.

REMINDER: Open burning of leaves and blowing or dumping them into streets, ditches, or storm drains is prohibited.

Why Leave Your Leaves?

- Decomposing leaves provide nutrients back into your soil. Free fertilizer!
- A leaf layer holds onto soil moisture to help reduce erosion and runoff.
- Leaves provide winter shelter for native pollinators like butterflies, bees, and fireflies, helping the local ecosystem.

How to Leave Your Leaves, Responsibly

A dense sheet of leaves can smother your lawn. To leave your leaves while keeping your yard healthy:

- Gently move fallen leaves into your garden beds and around trees and shrubs to create an insulating layer. Keep leaves a few inches away from trunks to prevent rot.
 - Tip: Use a rake instead of a leaf blower to reduce neighborhood noise and emissions.
 - Tip: Water your leaf layer after placing it down to help it stay in place.
- Evenly disperse a layer of fallen leaves across your lawn and mow directly over them. Mulching and breaking up the leaves enriches the roots and soil without blocking sunlight.
 - Tip: Use an electric mower to reduce neighborhood noise and emissions.

If your trees or shrubs show signs of fungal disease, those leaves should instead be bagged and set out for yard waste pickup so the spores don't overwinter and re-infect your plants.

Pest Prevention Guidelines

- Keep leaf layers to a maximum of 5 inches thick to prevent nesting areas for pests.

- Keep about a 12 inch gap between leaf piles and structures such as houses, garages, sheds, and tree trunks to prevent rodents from burrowing near them.

Want more information? Visit:

- [U.S. Department of Agriculture: Leave the Leaves](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation: Leave the Leaves](#)
- [University of Illinois Extension Podcast: What to Do with Fallen Leaves](#)
- [Chicago Botanic Garden: Fall Leaves Tips](#)
- [Dupage County Forest Preserves: Be-leaf-in](#)

This initiative is brought to you by the Villa Park G.R.E.E.N. Commission.

Have questions? Reach out to us at green@invillapark.com