

Village of Gilberts

On the Ballot

Volume 9, Issue 1

Spring 2015

The Village of Gilberts has added a referendum question to the April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election Ballot to ask voters whether to issue bonds to finance the extension of a high speed fiber optic network throughout the Village. The *NetworkGilberts* project would be set up to allow multiple broadband providers to offer competitively-priced fast internet, phone and video services to every residence or business, without having to carry the upfront cost and risk of installing their own network.

To build *NetworkGilberts*, the Village is asking voters whether to issue \$5 million in general obligation bonds to be repaid over 20 years. The question will formally appear on the ballot as follows:

Shall Bonds in the amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 be issued by the Village of Gilberts for the purpose of installing a Village-wide fiber optic network, bearing interest at the rate of not to exceed 5%?	YES
	NO

If approved, homeowners would pay about \$150 more each year in property taxes for a \$250,000 home (about 1.8% increase on current tax bills or about \$12.50 per month) for the network. The Village would not provide any broadband services directly; residents would subscribe with broadband providers who sign up to use *NetworkGilberts*. Residents would also have to cover the estimated \$250 cost of connecting their home to the neighborhood control box. As with current providers, residents would likely pay either a one-time setup fee or pay monthly over the term of a service contract.

The Village is bringing the referendum question to the voters this April due to a favorable bond market and a competitive contractor bidding environment. *NetworkGilberts* would also capitalize on a private investment to bring high-speed internet to the Conservancy, a new subdivision at the northern end of Gilberts. The Conservancy's fiber optic cable would serve as the backbone for *NetworkGilberts*, and would be constructed at the developers cost.

To learn more about the *NetworkGilberts* project and the upcoming referendum question on the April 7 ballot, please visit www.networkgilberts.com or contact Village Hall at (847) 428-2861 or info@villageofgilberts.com.

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**2015
Consolidated Election**



April 7, 2015

Lead Poisoning

Illinois is the leading nation in the number of lead-poisoned children in the US, with Kane County having the second highest in the state. Nearly 1,500 children in Kane County have documented elevated blood lead levels. A major source of lead exposure to children is lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in deteriorating buildings. Lead might also come from soil.

If you are buying an older home, be sure to ask for a lead inspection. If you are concerned about the possibility of your child having lead poisoning, even if they seem healthy, ask your doctor to test the child's blood lead levels. Contact the Kane County Health Department at 630-444-3040 for additional information regarding the prevention of child lead poisoning.

Garage Sale

Mark your calendars! The Village Wide Garage Sale is scheduled to run from June 4th through June 7th. Please note, a permit is not required to participate in this event.



125th Anniversary

The countdown has begun for our quasiquintennial or 125th Anniversary. Even though June 3, 2015 marks the official anniversary date, this year's celebration will take place Saturday, May 30th during Community Days. Among the festivities, ECC's culinary arts class will be baking a special anniversary cake. Please continue to check the village website and Facebook page for further details.



Pension Board

The Village of Gilberts is seeking community volunteers to serve on the Gilberts Police Pension Board. The Board meets four times a year. The volunteer has a fiduciary responsibility to oversee the pension funds and may be called upon to review a potential disability claim.

For more information contact Village Hall at 847-428-2861.

Permits

With spring quickly approaching many of us begin to plan outdoor home improvement projects. Please remember that most home improvement projects require a building permit. Please contact the building department at 847-428-4167 with any questions or if you are uncertain if your home improvement project requires the issuance of a building permit.

JULIE

JULIE provides Illinois excavators and underground utility owners with a continuously improving, one-call message handling and delivery service committed to protecting underground utilities and the safety of people working or living near them. Be sure to call JULIE (811) prior to digging.

Yard Waste

The Village of Gilberts yard waste pick-up service will resume on Thursday, April 2nd and Friday, April 3rd depending on which day your regular garbage day pick-up falls on. Please remember you may place yard waste in 30 gallon biodegradable brown paper bags or in open 30 gallon garbage can.

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us at this year's Easter Egg Hunt which will take place once again at the Eagles Club, 325 Raymond Dr. on Saturday, March 28th. The first hunt will begin promptly at 10:30. This event does take place outdoors, so dress accordingly, and don't forget to bring a bag or basket to carry your eggs home in.



Library News

A 3D printer has been added to the many resources available at the library. Explore how to create designs for 3D printing by registering for one of the Intro to 3D classes being offered for those in Grades 4-6, Grades 7-12 or for adults. Be sure to visit the library and take part in National Library Week, April 12-18 with "Meet N Greet our 3D Printer" taking place at the Randall Oaks Library on April 12 at 2:00 pm.

Focus Group

The Village of Gilberts and the YMCA has formed a Focus Group. The purpose of this focus group is to help determine future sports and recreational activities for residents of all ages (youth, teen, and adults). If you are interested in participating and would like information on the next meeting please visit the Village website at www.villageofgilberts.com or visit our Facebook page.

Help Wanted

The YMCA is in need of students of all ages who are interested in employment, internship and volunteer opportunities. If you are a student who would like helping at the before and after school program, day camps or with the youth sports programs please contact Jennifer Alberts at 224-699-5801 at jennia@gcfymca.org.



Play Ball

The YMCA offers Youth T-Ball for ages 4-6 and Coach Pitch for ages 7-10. Both practices and games will be held at Memorial Park. Open registration runs through April 10th with registration taking place at their office or online at pvfymca.org.

For additional information please contact Brad Duewel at 224-699-5802 or email Brad at brad@gcfymca.org.

Summer Fun

The YMCA provides summer adventures that promote a healthy spirit, mind and body. Children will participate in activities which include arts & crafts, games, sports, songs, swimming and weekly off-site field trips. Early Bird registration ends May 1st.

For additional information on summer camp contact Jennifer Alberts at 224-699-5801.

Planning to Seal Your Driveway?

Did you know many sealants used to maintain and protect a blacktop driveway contain coal-tar, which carries a significant amount of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are of concern because of their harmful impacts on humans and the environment. They are persistent organic compounds, and several PAHs are known or probable

human carcinogens and toxic to aquatic life. Studies have found that PAHs are significantly elevated in stormwater flowing from surfaces where coal-tar sealcoats were used as compared to stormwater flowing from areas not treated with the sealant. If you are planning to seal your driveway in the future, please consider the use of an asphalt

emulsion based sealant or consider hiring a contractor that will use an asphalt emulsion based sealant. These sealants contain approximately 1/1000 of PAHs by volume compared with coal-tar based sealants.

For further information on ways to protect our environment visit the IEPA website at www.epa.illinois.gov.

Village of Gilberts
87 Galligan Road
Gilberts, IL 60136

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Village President

Rick Zirk

Board of Trustees

Dan Corbett

Nancy Farrell

Louis Hacker

David LeClerc

Patricia Mierisch

Guy Zambetti

Village Hall

87 Galligan Road

847-428-2861

Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tuesday open to 7:30 pm

Administration

Village Administrator

Ray Keller

Assistant Administrator

William Beith

Village Clerk

Debra Meadows

Public Works Facility

73 Industrial Drive

847-428-4167

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Departments

Building, Finance

Public Works, Utility Billing

Police Department

86 Railroad Street

Non-Emergency 630-232-6840

Emergencies Dial 911

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Save the Date

Community Days 2015 will be held at Town Square Park from **Thursday, May 28th thru Sunday, May 31st**. The current band line up includes Pirates Over 40 on Thursday, Hip Pockit and American English on Friday, as well as Sonic 7 and Modern Day Romeos on Saturday. In addition to the bands on stage, a wide selection of food vendors will be available, children's activities will take place throughout Saturday and Sunday afternoon which include crafts, a petting zoo and a magic show. New this year on Saturday is "Touch-A-Truck."

Shuttle Service

New location for 2015!

Parking for the shuttle bus service will be at Town Center Park at 301 Columbia Lane. Park and leave your vehicle. Free shuttle service will be provided by the YMCA on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:00-10:30 pm to help transport everyone to and from the festival.

Volunteers Needed

Contact Village Clerk Debra Meadows at 847-428-2861 if you wish to volunteer at Community Days. All of the wonderful volunteers help make this weekend a great one!



**Find us on
Facebook**

Gilberts Community Days

Visit www.gilbertscommunitydays.com for access to the complete band line up, food vendors and schedule of the weekend's event.



Village of Gilberts

Special Report

This proposal will be a referendum on the April 7th ballot

NetworkGilberts

NetworkGilberts is a proposal to build a high speed fiber optic network that would be available to all residences and businesses in Gilberts. If approved, the referendum would authorize the Village to issue up to \$5 million in bonds to build the network that would support high-speed Internet, phone and video broadband services. For further information please visit NetworkGilberts.com

Why now?

Why is this being proposed?

Address resident concerns

Over the last few years, the Village has heard resident complaints about their internet service, the lack of service and limited service options. Some residents and business owners complained they were without service options or choice in providers. Residents have said that their households are increasingly dependent on reliable, fast internet services to work from home, stream video, support online homework and gaming programs and connect multiple computers, tablets and devices simultaneously. However, small communities like Gilberts have not seen network building prioritized as in urban markets. This infrastructure expansion opportunity will allow interested service providers to provide service choice and competition to interested Gilberts residents.

Opportunity to piggyback on a private project

An opportunity

Low interest rates

Recently, however, the Village Gilberts has an opportunity that it wants to present to residents. The developer of the 900+ home Conservancy subdivision (at Galligan and Freeman Roads) is installing a fiber network to provide high speed Internet to that development. The Village can piggyback on that developer-paid network and bring fiber to every neighborhood in Gilberts. The timing is also beneficial because of exceptionally low interest rates (currently less than 3 percent for 20 years).



In Illinois, the municipalities of Aurora, Highland, Princeton, Rochelle, Rock Falls and Urbana have developed fiber optic projects to bring high speed Internet and other services to their residences and businesses. If the referendum is approved, Gilberts would be the only community in this area to offer this amenity to its residents and businesses.

April 7, 2015

Special Report

Cost to taxpayers

If approved, the Village will sell up to \$5 million in bonds and pay them off over 20 years. This will result in an increase in the Village portion of your property taxes of about \$150 annually for a \$250,000 home. That would equal a 1.8 percent increase on the typical property tax bill or about \$12.50 a month.

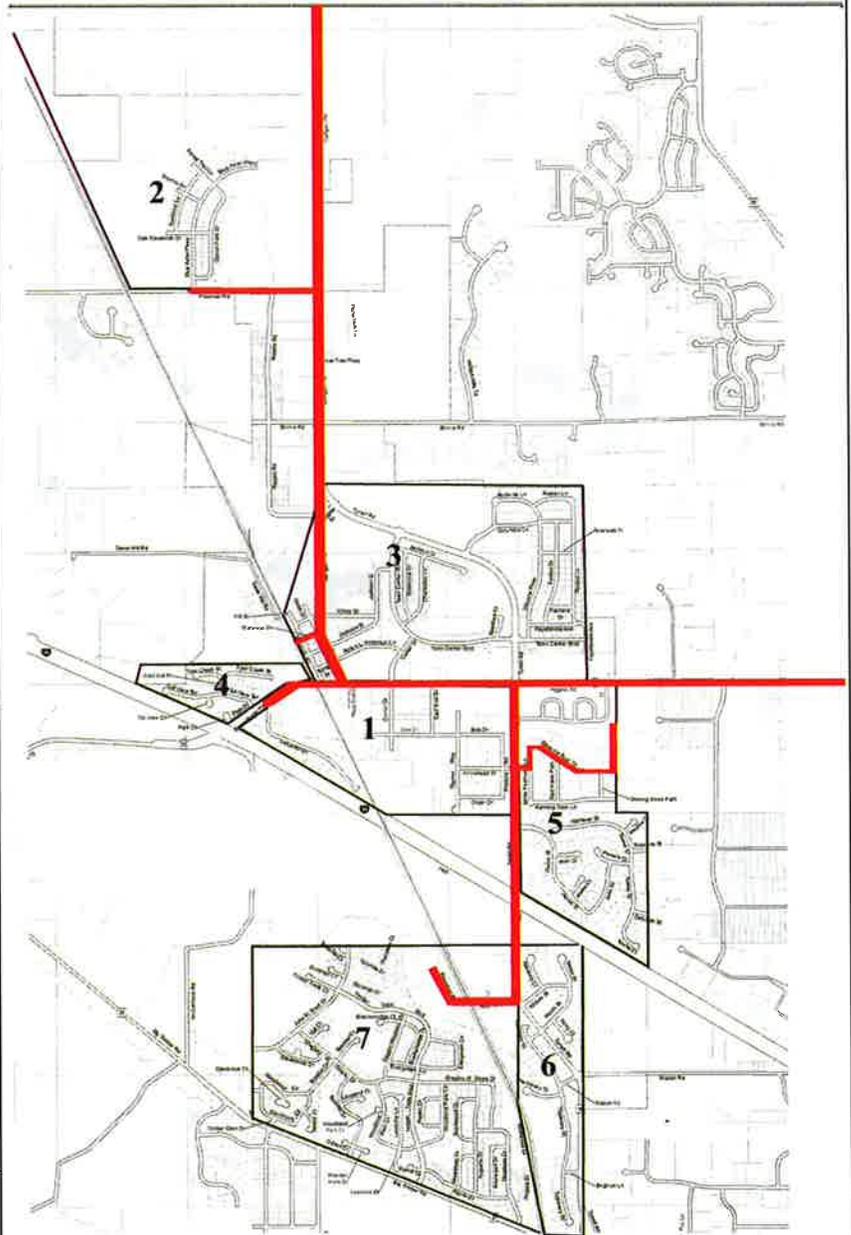
Like any broadband service, residences and businesses would have to work with a broadband service provider to install a one-time drop from their neighborhood box to their home. The estimated cost of the drop is \$250, typically paid as an upfront setup fee or rolled into the monthly cost of a service contract.

What can this do for me?

A fiber backed network supports fast internet connections to websites, downloads, uninterrupted streaming, and the ability to serve simultaneous multiple users. Many companies now deliver music and video services across the Internet. Access to fast broadband allows individuals and families to use these services without interruption.

Benefits

The presence of broadband supports home based businesses and is a factor when a business is looking to begin, expand or relocate. For many school children and college students, fast broadband allows access to a broad range of educational and research material in a variety of formats.



The red line shows the developer funded fiber backbone. This backbone network is being constructed at the developers cost. If the referendum is approved, NetworkGilberts would build its fiber network off of this backbone to all neighborhoods.