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Press Release

Winthrop Harbor Sustains Storm Damage, Power Outage

July 1, 2011 – Winthrop Harbor, IL. The village of Winthrop Harbor sustained substantial damage throughout the community due to a fast moving storm which struck the evening of June 30th. High winds damaged structures and brought down hundreds of trees and power lines, with numerous incidents of trees falling onto homes, businesses and roadways. Several thousand residents and businesses, including all of North Point Marina, were left without electricity, and numerous natural gas leaks and water line breaks were reported to the emergency 911 center.

Village authorities are working closely with Commonwealth Edison toward restoring electric service and to assess the damage throughout the village. Winthrop Harbor Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Public Works personnel are ensuring the well being of residents, clearing roadways and responding to the myriad of calls for service as quickly as possible. Residents and visitors are reminded to stay away from downed power lines and trees, and to call the 24-hour Dispatch center at (847) 872-2131 to report any dangerous situations.

As of Friday morning only one injury was reported, a non life-threatening leg injury sustained by a slipholder at North Point Marina.

The Winthrop Harbor Community Center, located on 7th Street, is open as a cooling center and for residents with special needs who are without electricity. Commonwealth Edison is also supplying a cooling bus which is parked at the intersection of 10th Street and Fulton Avenue.

The Lake County Emergency Management Agency is assisting the village with specialized personnel, and McHenry County and Kenosha County will also be sending teams of personnel and equipment to aid in the clean-up effort.

“While our community sustained a lot of damage to structures, trees and power lines, we are very pleased that no fatalities or life-threatening injuries occurred as a result of this storm”, said Mike Bitton, Director of Police Administration. “We are grateful to the numerous outside agencies that have responded to our call for mutual aid, and we are especially proud of all our village personnel who responded, many on their own time, to aid the effort.”, said Bitton.

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