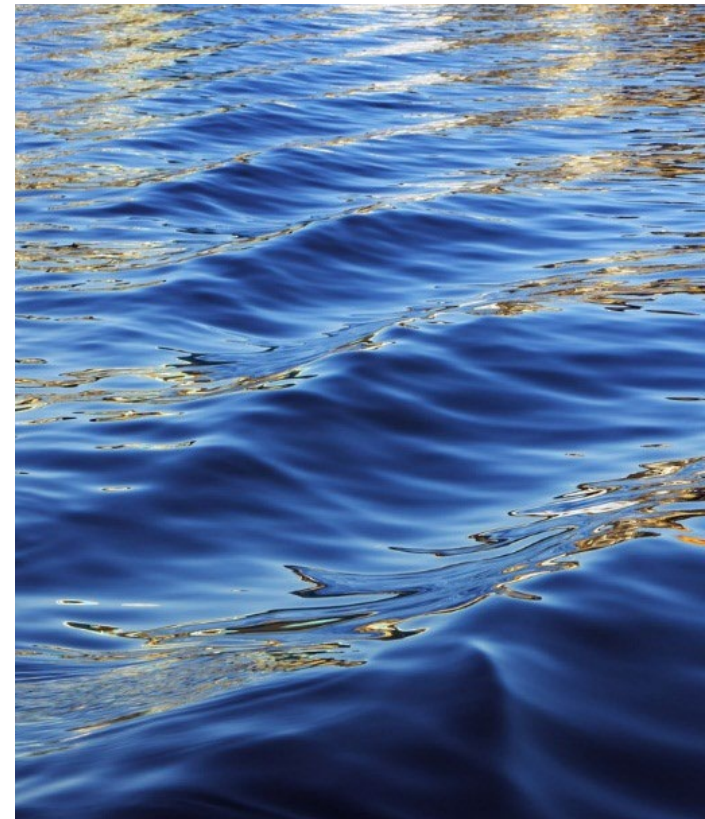




# Coal Tar Sealant – to Ban or not to Ban?





# Local Governments Role?



Provide



Protect



Serve



Inform



# Local Government tools

Ordinance

Newsletter

City  
Leaders

License

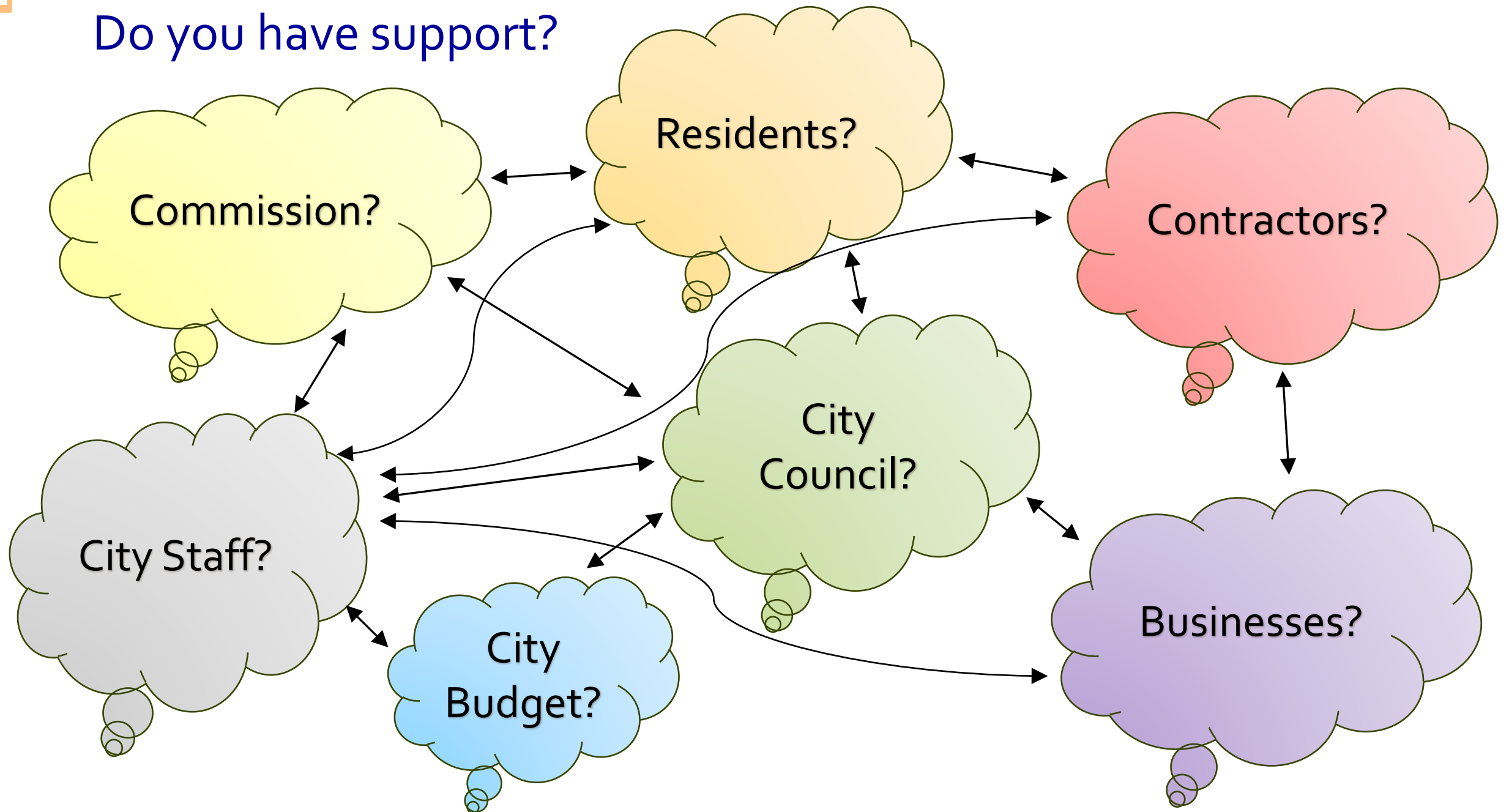
Commission

Residents

Social  
Media



# Do you have support?



**Warrenville City Hall**

3S258 Manning Ave, Warrenville, IL  
60555

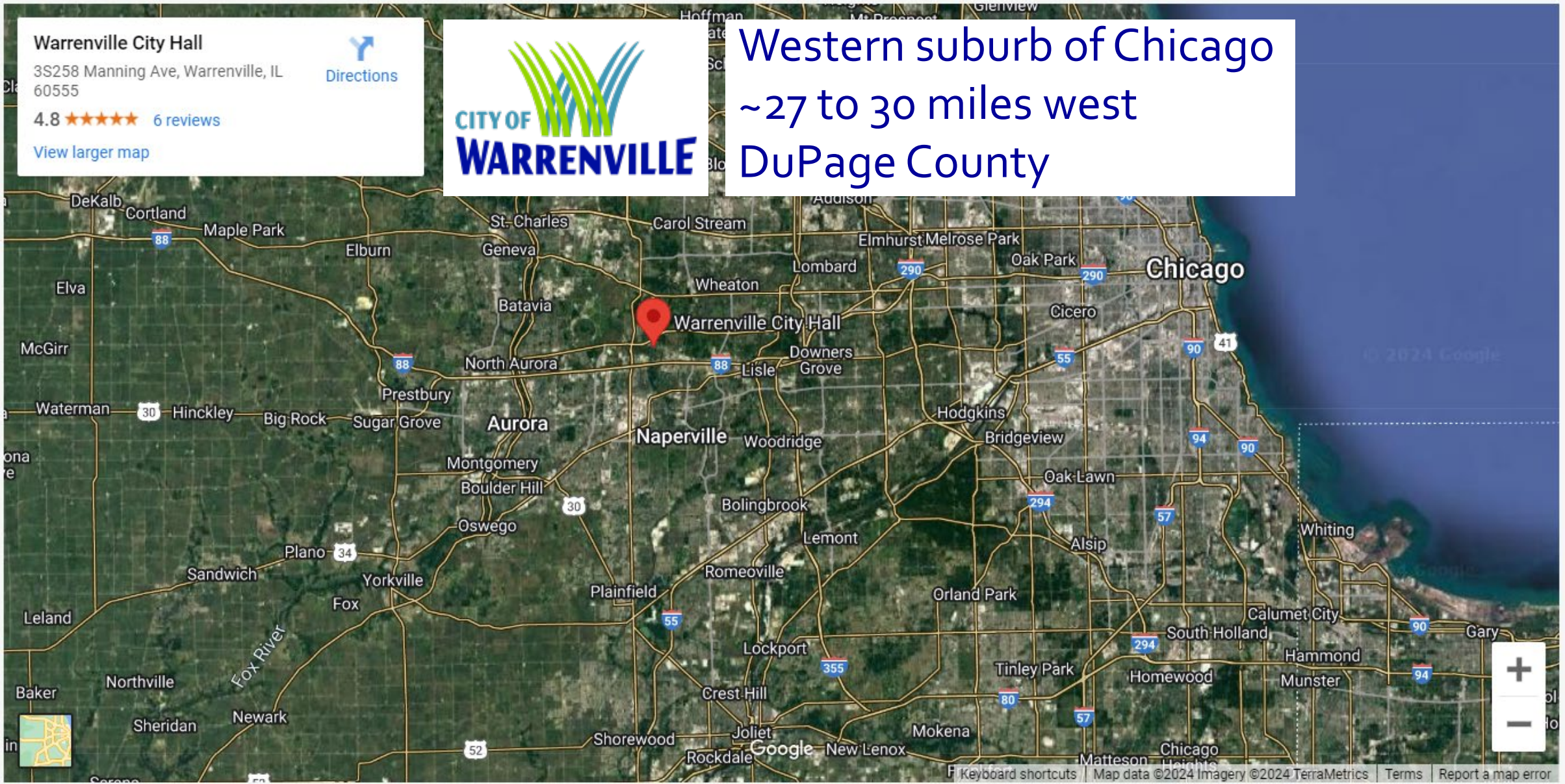


4.8 ★★★★★ 6 reviews

[View larger map](#)



Western suburb of Chicago  
~27 to 30 miles west  
DuPage County



Source: <https://www.google.com/maps/embed?pb=!1m18!1m12!1m3!1d400104.61601626512d>

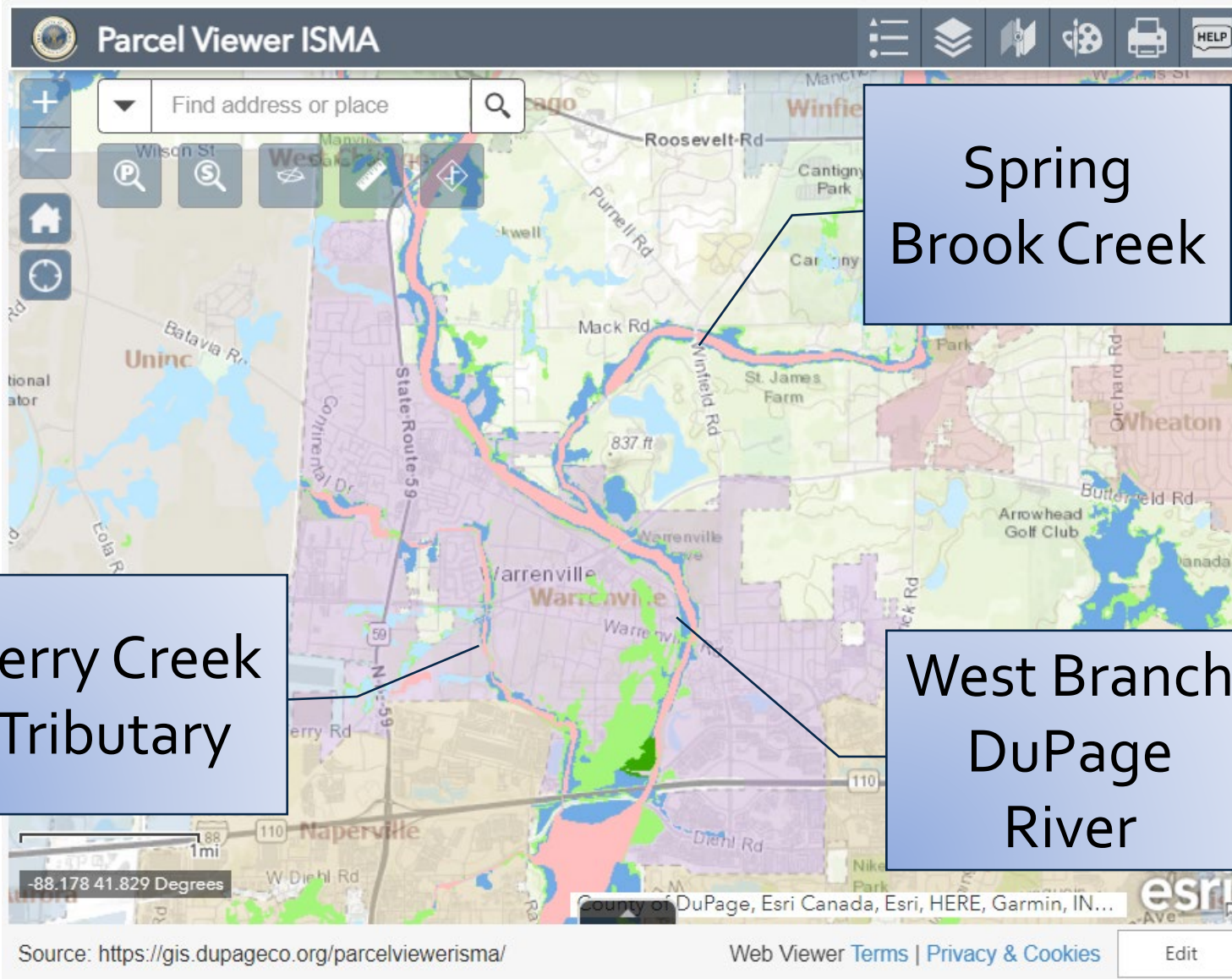
[Web Viewer Terms](#) | [Privacy & Cookies](#)

[Edit](#)

# Preserves and Rivers

Warrenville residents enjoy:

- Small town feel, natural beauty in an urbanized County
- Access to Warrenville Grove and Blackwell forest preserves
- Ability to kayak
- Paths through nature



# Environmental Advisory Commission



- Began as Natural Areas Commission circa 1986
- Five commissioners – Warrenville residents
- Educate the public about environmental issues
- Make recommendations to City Council
- Plan and participate in environmental events



# Environmental Advisory Commission – Coal Tar Origin

## New doubts cast on safety of common driveway sealant

Extremely high levels of toxic chemical in coal tar found in booming suburb

January 18, 2011|By Michael Hawthorne, Tribune reporter

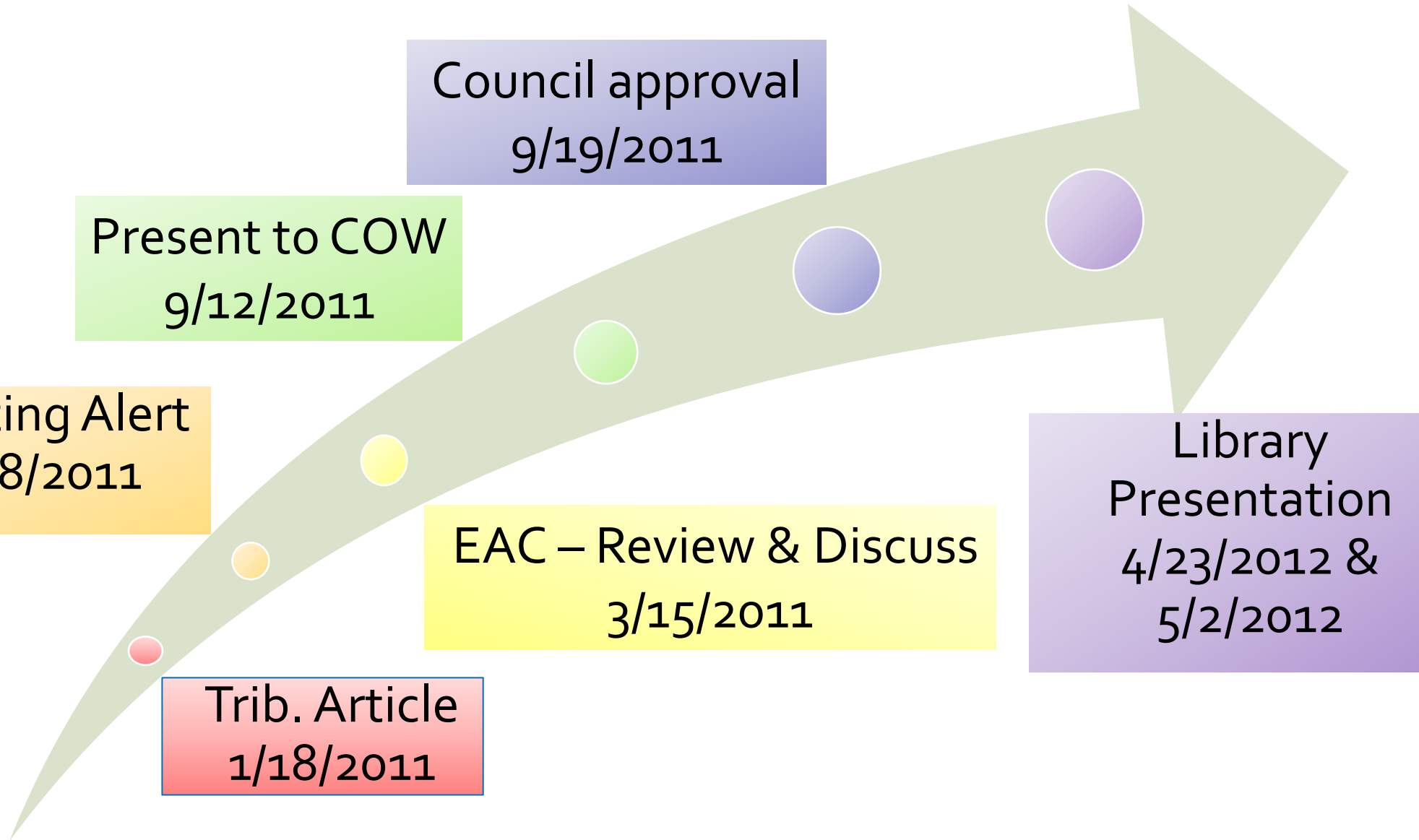


McHenry County village of Lake in the Hills.  
(Stacey Wescott, Chicago Tribune)

- 2011 Tribune article
- USGS - driveway dust – Lake in the Hills -high levels of PAHs
- Coal tar workers diagnosed with cancer
- EPA – clean up in Oak Park and Little Village.

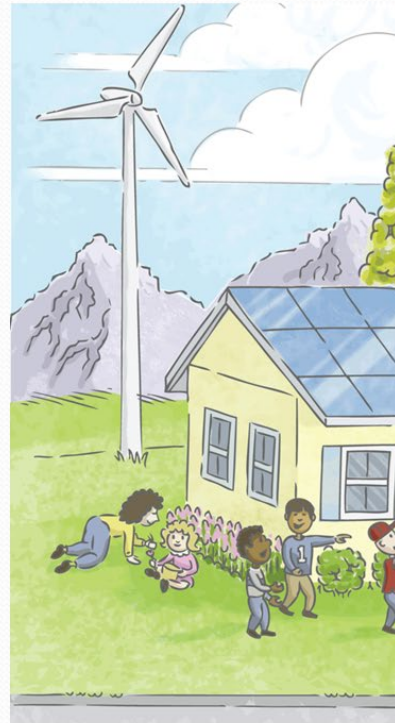


# Environmental Advisory Commission – Coal Tar Education



# EAC – Library Presentation Highlights

## Coal Tar-Based Sealants: Human Health Hazard and Waterway Contaminant



[Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat—Potential Concerns for Human Health and Aquatic Life](#)  
USGS Fact Sheet 2016-3017, p. 5



# EAC – Library Presentation Highlights

## Health Hazards

- PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) in the dust are known human carcinogens.
- Skin contact with high concentration of PAHs causes skin irritation and rashes.
- Developmental and reproductive effects have been seen in lab animals exposed to high concentrations of PAHs.

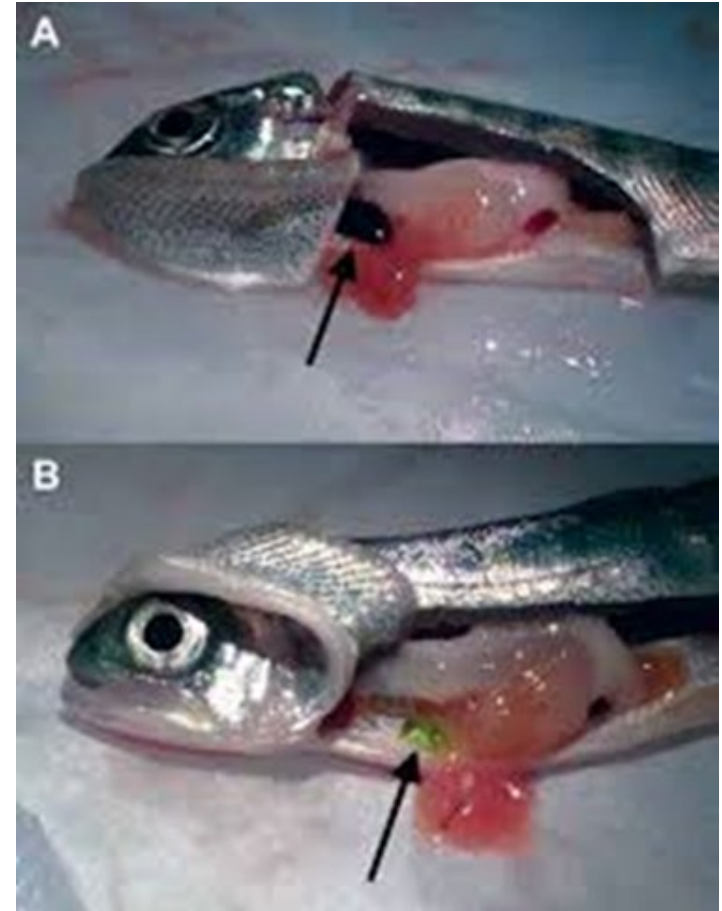


By [Jessica Schultz](#) | January 11th, 2019

# EAC – Library Presentation Highlights

## Waterway Contamination

- According to information published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), PAHs are toxic to some animals (including humans), birds, fish, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants.
- Aquatic invertebrates, the insects and other small animals that live in streams and lakes, are particularly susceptible to PAH contamination, especially bottom dwellers (benthic invertebrates) that live in the mud where PAHs tend to accumulate.

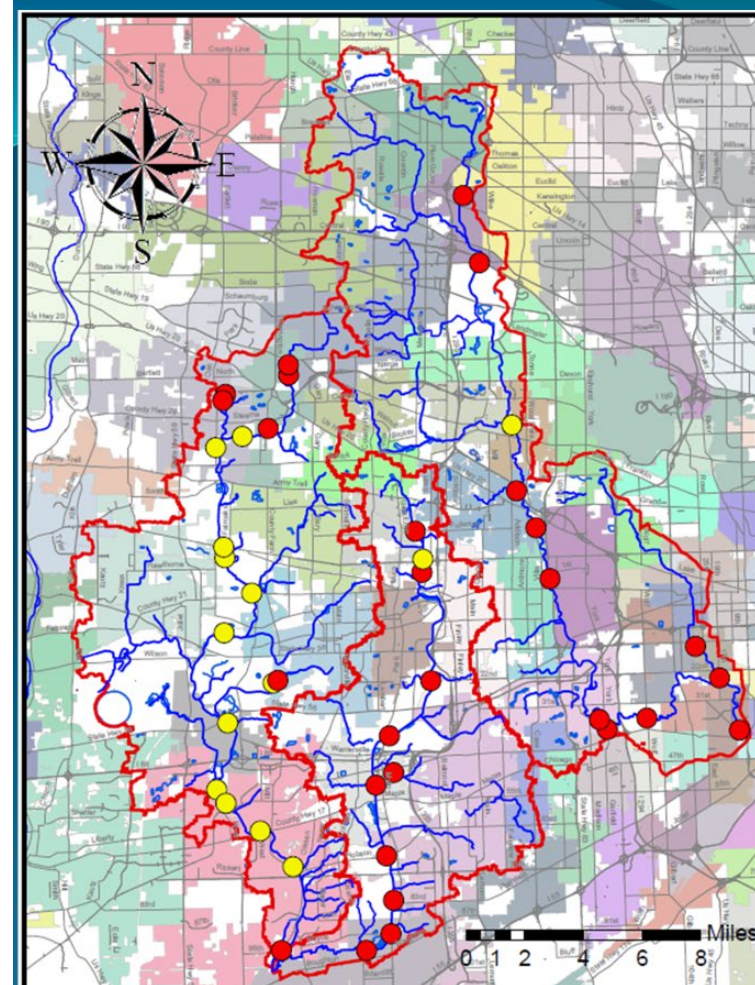


NALMS, 2017 spring article by Jenifer McIntyre

# EAC – Coal Tar Sealant Presentation Highlights

## Local findings

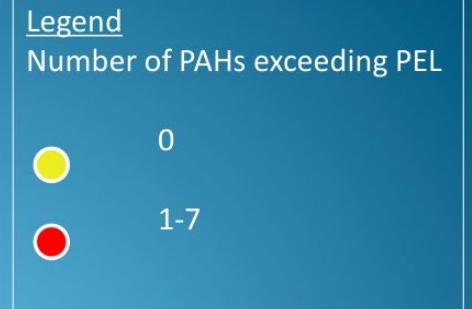
- A 2005 study by the USGS (United States Geological Study) showed surprising and unexpected levels of PAHs in local streams and rivers attributable to run-off from parking lot sealants (Mahler et al. 2005).
- PAHs are very persistent in the environment.



Sites with PAH compounds exceeding Probable Effects Levels (PEL) for Aquatic Life

Of 42 sampled sites in the DRSCW program area 10 were below the PEL.

All sites sampled were above threshold effects levels



# EAC – Coal Tar Sealant Presentation Highlights

## Asphalt Sealants:

- There are no known significant drawbacks to using only asphalt-based sealants on existing blacktops.
- Coal-tar sealants tend to dry and crack, require reapplication, and can be slippery when wet.
- Asphalt-based sealants are an economical option and do not contain significant amounts of carcinogens.

[Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat—Potential Concerns for Human Health and Aquatic Life](#)  
USGS Fact Sheet 2016-3017, p. 5

Setting	PAH concentration* (milligrams per kilogram)	
	Coal-tar-sealcoat settings	Non-coal-tar-sealcoat settings
• (A) Sealcoat products	66,000	50
• (B) Pavement dust	2,200	11



# EAC – Coal Tar Sealant Presentation Highlights

## MASTERSEAL™

ASPHALT BASED PAVEMENT SEALER



THE SMART CHOICE FOR PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

### Advantages:

- User friendly - no irritating fumes
- Deep, rich black color
- More flexible - won't check crack

PRODUCT #	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	PRICE
S1010P	5 - Gallon Pail	52 lbs.	\$ 35.99
S1010D	55 - Gallon Drum	580 lbs.	\$ 338.99

## COAL TAR PAVEMENT SEALER

FORMULATED FOR ADDED FUEL & UV RESISTANCE

### Advantages:

- Deep, rich black color
- Oil and fuel resistant
- Reduced fume formulation for user-friendly application

PRODUCT #	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	PRICE
S1000P	5 - Gallon Pail	54 lbs.	\$ 37.99
S1000D	55 - Gallon Drum	595 lbs.	\$ 353.99



# EAC – What followed?

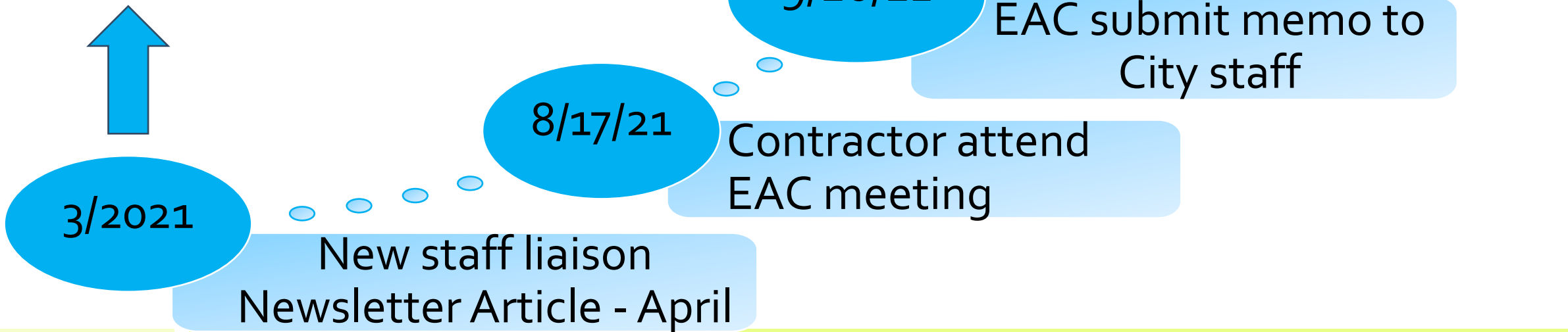




# EAC – What now?



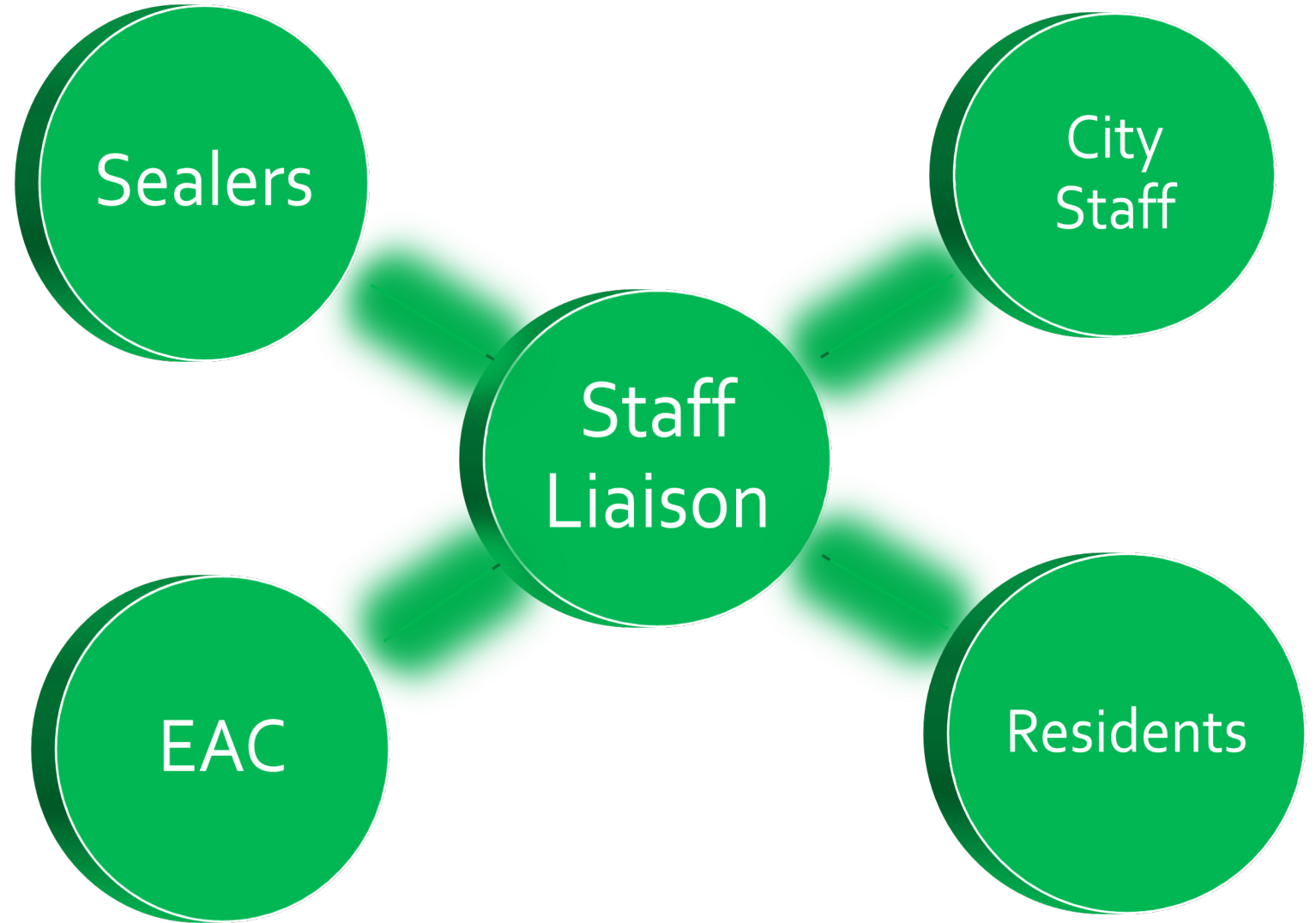
Coal-tar sealants on driveways: if you are choosing a new driveway, opt for concrete, gravel, or pavers. If you have a blacktop drive, avoid using coal-tar sealants, which contain such high levels of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) that would have to be treated as hazardous waste if not slicked over blacktops. This too can be tracked inside, where people and pets alike are exposed, and is linked to cancer, autoimmune disease, and reproductive and developmental effects. If a sealant is really needed, choose an asphalt-based one. Beware of companies that drive around sealing driveways, as they are unlikely to be using the safer substance.



# Why was there a delay for the ban to go into effect?

*Education, coordination, collaboration lead to successful implementation*

- Coordinating EAC digital outreach with Comm. Coord.
- Mailer to Sealers, HOAs and Commercial Prop Owners
- Creating license
- Relaying process to departments



# EAC – Sample digital outreach

## DRIVEWAY SEALCOATING COAL-TAR BAN



Coal tar-based products contain high concentrations of chemical compounds known to be carcinogenic to humans. Coal tar is not sold by major home improvement stores like Home Depot and Menard's, and asphalt-based sealants are a readily available alternative to coal tar-based sealants.

Effective January 1, 2023, City Code will prohibit selling and using coal-tar-based sealant products within the City. Pavement sealcoating professionals will need to obtain a City license prior to performing pavement sealcoating work in Warrenville. A list of sealcoating professionals licensed to work in Warrenville will be posted on the City's website when available.

Ask driveway sealing professionals what type of sealants they use and whether they are licensed with the City.

Learn more at [warrenville.il.us](http://warrenville.il.us) under "News."

City of Warrenville Government  
December 27, 2022

**PAVEMENT SEALCOATING LICENSE REQUIRED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1:** City Code will prohibit selling and using coal-tar-based pavement sealant products.

The ban applies to all homeowners, business owners, property owners, HOAs, contractors, and anyone who might apply or sell coal tar pavement sealants within the City.

- Pavement sealcoating contractors will have to obtain a City license before working in Warrenville.
- The fee is \$100, and the annual license expires on December 31.
- Contractors will be required, when applying for a license, to submit Safety Data Sheets for the products they use.

Coal tar-based products contain high concentrations of chemical compounds known to be carcinogenic to humans.

Asphalt-based sealants are a readily available alternative.

A list of sealcoating professionals licensed to work in Warrenville will be posted on the City's website when available (based on when the sealcoating companies register with the City).

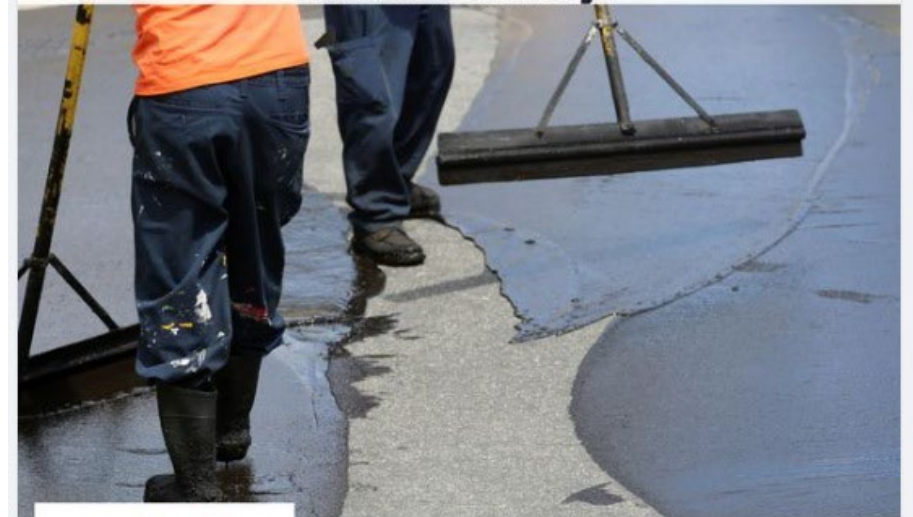
Ask driveway sealing professionals what type of sealants they use and whether they are licensed with the City.

Learn more about the coal tar ban at: [warrenville.il.us/faq.aspx?TID=29](http://warrenville.il.us/faq.aspx?TID=29)

Sealcoating contractors can view the application at: [warrenville.il.us/401/License-Types](http://warrenville.il.us/401/License-Types)

#WarrenvilleIL

**Effective January 1**



CITY OF  
**WARRENVILLE**

**Pavement sealcoating  
license required**

# EAC – Sample Mailer outreach



City of Warrenville  
35258 Manning Avenue  
Warrenville, IL 60555  
(630) 836 3050 tel  
(630) 393 1531 fax  
[www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us)

## COAL TAR BAN ORDINANCE FAQs

November 1, 2022

[Name of Company]  
[Address of Company]  
[Address of Company]

Dear [Name of Company]

We are writing to inform you that The City of Warrenville has passed ordinance O2022-05, Title 3, Chapter 28, which bans the use of coal-tar products effective January 1, 2023. This ordinance not only prohibits the use and sales of coal tar products within City limits, but also requires that pavement sealing contractors register with the City to obtain a pavement sealing license. Contractors will be required, upon applying for a license, to submit Safety Data Sheets for the products they will be using. Additionally, contractors will need to provide a current license, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and an invoice of products being applied when requested by City staff out in the field. License stickers will not be issued to contractors to confirm registration, but a list of approved contractors will be available on the City's website.

Similar ordinances banning the use of coal tar exist in several area communities, including Highland Park, Wilmette, Winnetka, Vernon Hills, South Barrington and Evanston. Coal tar is not sold by major home improvement stores like Home Depot and Menard's, and asphalt-based sealants are a readily available alternative to coal tar-based sealants.

Please review the FAQ handout created by the Environmental Advisory Commission. For more specific questions about the ordinance and license application process, contact Civil Engineer David Romero at [dromero@warrenville.il.us](mailto:dromero@warrenville.il.us)

### What is coal tar sealant?

Coal tar sealant is the black, viscous liquid applied to many asphalt parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds in North America to protect and enhance the appearance of the underlying asphalt. Coal tar sealant is a potent source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life (USGS 2021).

### What are PAHs?

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons – or PAHs – are aromatic (airborne) toxic chemicals that are formed whenever anything with a carbon base (such as wood, gasoline, or meat) is burned. They are known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, and/or teratogenic (causing birth defects), and they are major contaminants of not only paved areas, but adjacent homes and local rivers.

### What is the purpose of the ban?

The purpose of the ban is to protect the people and waterways of Warrenville. Coal tar is a known human carcinogen (USGS 2015) and very toxic to aquatic life. Coal tar is the single greatest source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in the West Branch of the DuPage, which runs through Warrenville.

### Who does the ban affect?

The ban applies to all homeowners, business owners, property owners, HOAs, contractors, and anyone who might apply or sell coal tar pavement sealants within The City of Warrenville.

### When does the ban take effect?

The City of Warrenville has passed ordinance O2022-05, Title 3, Chapter 28, which bans the use of coal-tar products. The ordinance takes effect starting January 1, 2023.

# License Application on Website

The screenshot shows the Warrenville website interface. At the top left is the Warrenville logo. The navigation menu includes 'How Do I...', 'Our Community', 'City Government', and 'Doing Business'. Below the navigation is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook and YouTube. A sidebar on the left lists various services: 'ding mits', 'ndas', 'vice jests', and 'line tents'. The main content area is titled 'Pavement Sealcoat/Sealant' and contains the following text:

- ▶ Tobacco Dealer
- ▶ Video Gaming
- ▼ Pavement Sealcoat/Sealant

Any contractor seeking to perform pavement sealcoat work within the City of Warrenville must first obtain a pavement sealant license.

The annual license expires on December 31 and the fee is \$100. Contractors will be required, upon applying for a license, to submit Safety Data Sheets for the products they will be using.

Keep in mind that the City of Warrenville no longer allows contractors to use sealants that contain coal tar. To review the ordinance banning coal tar use, click here for the [City ordinance](#), or to learn more about the coal tar and its harmful effects click here for [the FAQ](#).

[Complete the Pavement Sealcoating Application \(PDF\)](#)

View a list of [licensed pavement sealant contractors \(PDF\)](#)



Office Use Only:  
License # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

3S258 MANNING AVE, WARRENVILLE, IL 60555 PH 630-393-9427 FAX 630-393-1531

## WARRENVILLE PAVEMENT SEALANT PROFESSIONAL LICENSE APPLICATION

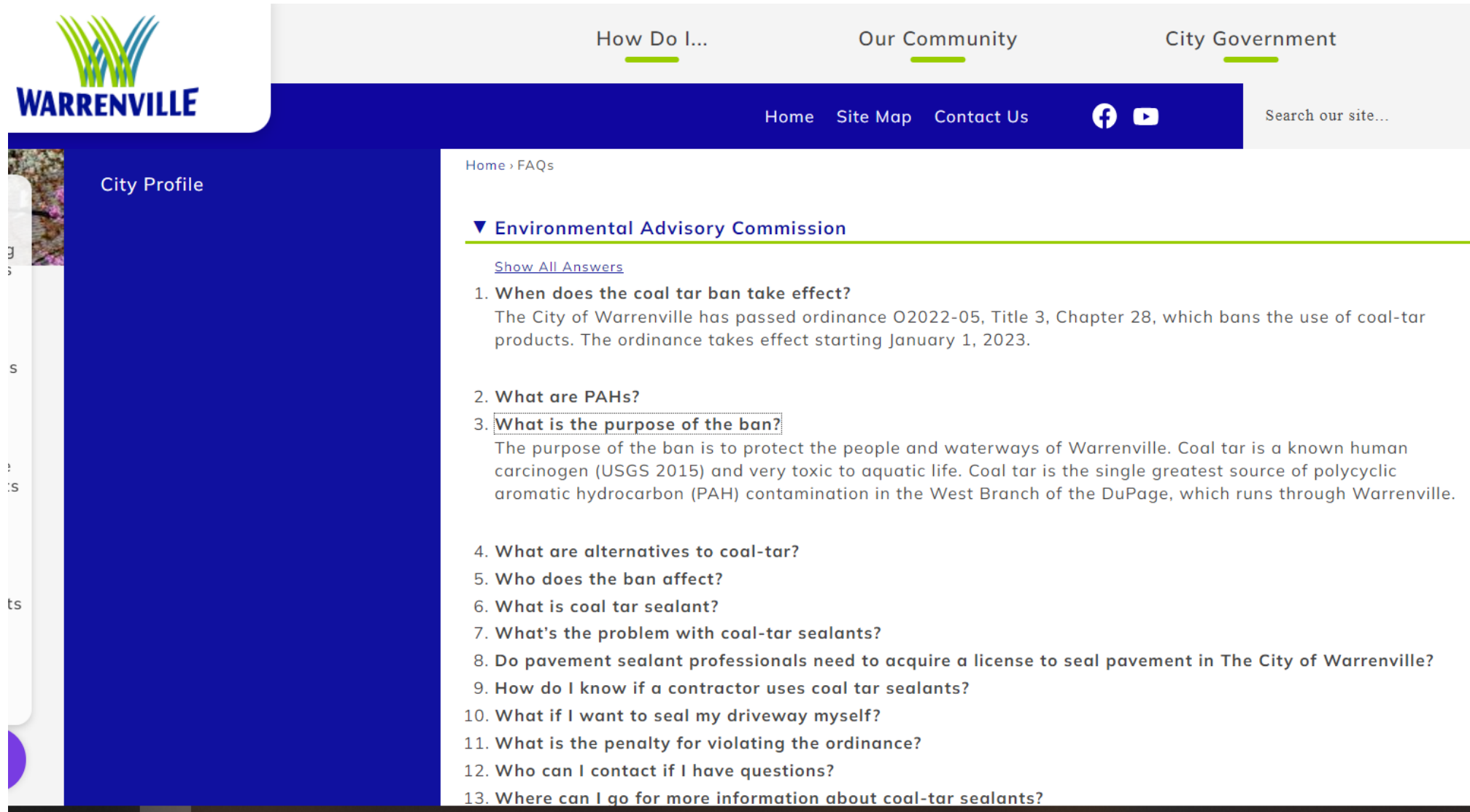
### Applicant Information:

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# FAQ on Website



The screenshot shows the Warrenville website's FAQ page. At the top left is the Warrenville logo, which consists of a stylized green and blue grass icon above the word "WARRENVILLE" in blue capital letters. The top navigation bar is light gray and contains three main categories: "How Do I...", "Our Community", and "City Government", each with a green underline. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "Home", "Site Map", and "Contact Us", along with Facebook and YouTube social media icons and a search bar labeled "Search our site...". The left sidebar is dark blue and features a "City Profile" link. The main content area is white and shows the breadcrumb "Home > FAQs". The primary heading is "▼ Environmental Advisory Commission" with a green underline. Below this is a link for "Show All Answers". A list of 13 questions is provided, with the third question, "What is the purpose of the ban?", highlighted with a dotted border. The answer to this question explains that the ban aims to protect people and waterways from coal tar, a known human carcinogen and aquatic toxin, specifically mentioning the West Branch of the DuPage River.

WARRENVILLE

How Do I... Our Community City Government

Home Site Map Contact Us

Search our site...

City Profile

Home > FAQs

▼ Environmental Advisory Commission

[Show All Answers](#)

- 1. When does the coal tar ban take effect?**  
The City of Warrenville has passed ordinance O2022-05, Title 3, Chapter 28, which bans the use of coal-tar products. The ordinance takes effect starting January 1, 2023.
- 2. What are PAHs?**
- 3. What is the purpose of the ban?**  
The purpose of the ban is to protect the people and waterways of Warrenville. Coal tar is a known human carcinogen (USGS 2015) and very toxic to aquatic life. Coal tar is the single greatest source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in the West Branch of the DuPage, which runs through Warrenville.
- 4. What are alternatives to coal-tar?**
- 5. Who does the ban affect?**
- 6. What is coal tar sealant?**
- 7. What's the problem with coal-tar sealants?**
- 8. Do pavement sealant professionals need to acquire a license to seal pavement in The City of Warrenville?**
- 9. How do I know if a contractor uses coal tar sealants?**
- 10. What if I want to seal my driveway myself?**
- 11. What is the penalty for violating the ordinance?**
- 12. Who can I contact if I have questions?**
- 13. Where can I go for more information about coal-tar sealants?**

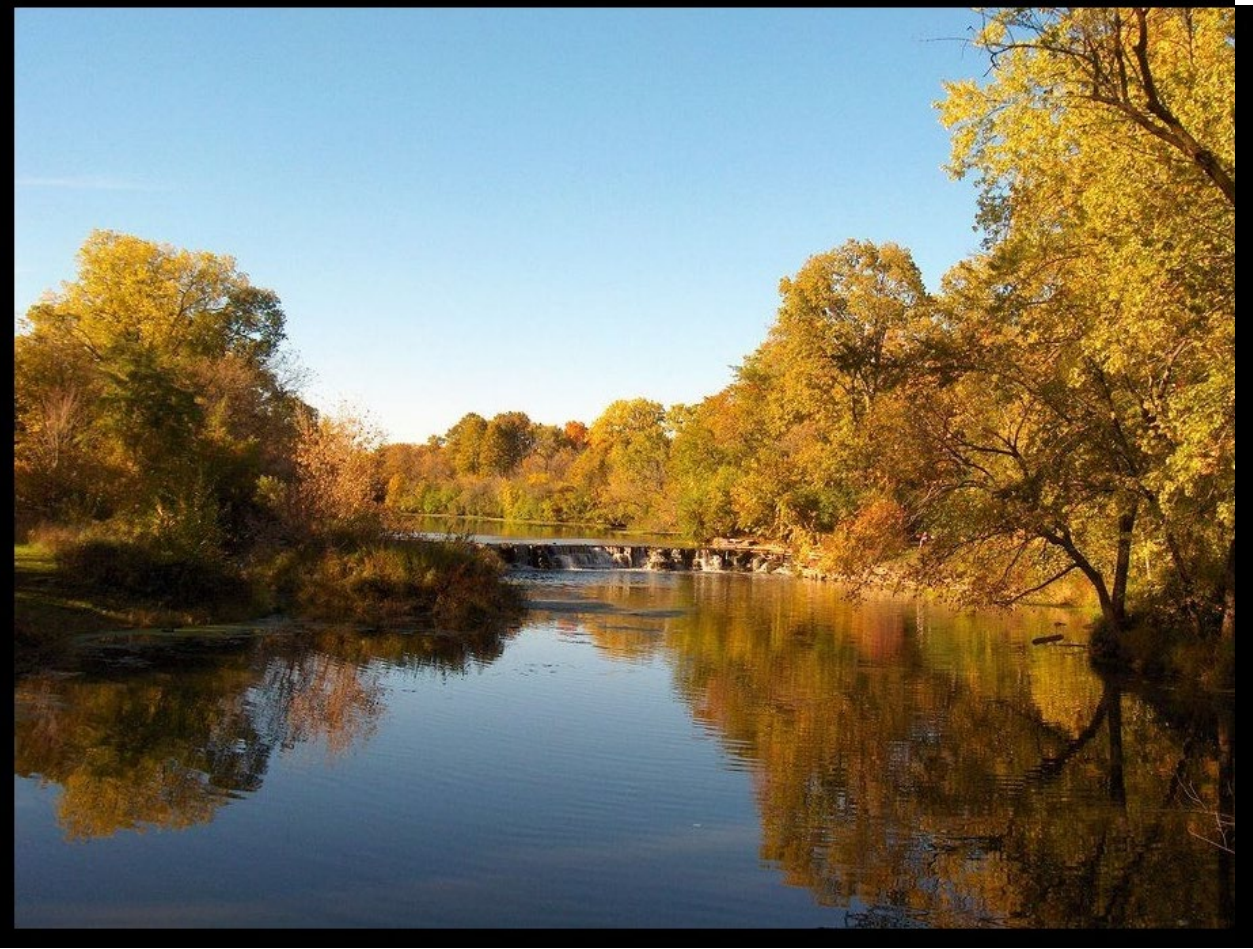


# First Year License Results

- 13 Pavement Sealcoat Licenses issued
- Code Enforcement Officer received one code violation request
  - Contractor did not apply coal tar
  - Contractor did not have license



# Facebook Comments



B & E Seal Coat Products , Inc.



May 4, 2022 · 🌐

#Goodnews! The City of Warrenville, IL (30 miles west of Chicago) now has the FIRST AND ONLY ban of toxic coal tar sealers in the #DuPage County!

...<https://dupagepolicyjournal.com/.../622897411-city-of...>



1



Like



Comment



Share





# Facebook Comments

**PAVEMENT SEALCOATING LICENSE REQUIRED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1:** City Code will prohibit selling and using coal-tar-based pavement sealant products.



David Kratz  
Have surrounding towns passed the same ban on coal-tar based sealcoating?



1y Like Reply



6 comments

Send

Top comments



Connie Schmidt **Top Contributor**  
I don't know about the fee, but requiring that only sealants that do not contain coal tar products is a good thing. Susan N C Price is right. Bad for environment and health of all critters including humans .



1y Like Reply



Susan N C Price  
coal tar based sealants are bad for the environment -- alternatives exist



1y Like Reply



Monica Griesemer  
Anything to make a buck!



1y Like Reply



Pat O'Connor  
I am paying



1y Like Reply



Dave Robertson  
Our money-hungry mayor is at it again...



1y Like Reply



# Closing Thoughts

- Coal tar sealant effects animals and humans
- Plenty of data to support the effects
- Affordable alternatives are readily available
- Other communities have adopted bans
- No matter community size – action is possible
- Progress can vary in rates of success
- Don't give up – multiple factors affect progress
- Education, coordination and collaboration are key



# Questions?

- David Romero, PE - Civil Engineer [dromero@warrenville.il.us](mailto:dromero@warrenville.il.us)
- Kristine Hocking, PE, CFM - Senior Civil Engineer  
[khocking@warrenville.il.us](mailto:khocking@warrenville.il.us)