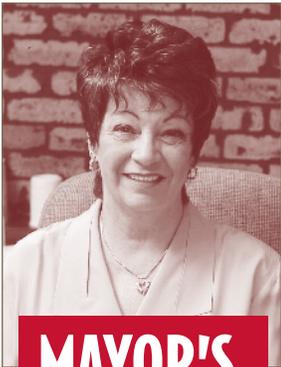


Communicator

OCTOBER
2010

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SCHILLER PARK



MAYOR'S UPDATE

VILLAGE HALL DISABILITY ACCESS PROJECT UNDERWAY!

The Village is very happy to report that construction of the Village Hall ADA improvements (“Americans with Disabilities Act”) is underway and should be complete by roughly early-December. Improving access to the Village Hall has been a goal of my administration and I am glad we are on the verge of accomplishing it. The project involves a new wide sloped walkway (w/ handrail) to the front door, a new larger front stoop, and an elevator on the west side of the building to get people to the 2nd Floor Boardroom. Improvements to the bathrooms on the 2nd floor will result in one bathroom becoming fully handicapped accessible.

Unfortunately this important project is causing some short term inconvenience to residents and others visiting the Village Hall. During the project the front entrance to the Village Hall has been shut down while the new sloped walkway, front stoop, and front doors are being constructed. During this time customers have been entering through the side door on the parking lot side of the building and making their way to the front counter via a hallway. The Village greatly appreciates the patience and good humor shown by our residents during their visits to the Village Hall while construction has been underway.

There is also a construction area in the Fire Department driveway where the elevator tower is being constructed.

During construction a dumpster has been located in the Village parking lot near the front of the Village Hall. The handicapped parking spaces normally located there have been temporarily relocated right next to the temporary entrance side door.

The Village is excited that this project to improve access to local government for people facing physical challenges is nearing completion. The sloped walkway will not only help handicapped individuals get to the front counter, but will also aid seniors that struggle with stairs and moms with strollers. The elevator will improve access for the handicapped and seniors to Village Board and other meetings held on the 2nd floor. Lastly the new fully ADA compliant bathroom on the 2nd floor will be available to attendees of those meetings.

Finally I want to thank those volunteers, restaurants, and businesses that helped make the Village’s 2nd Annual Car Show & Family Fun Day such a big hit for a 2nd straight year. Their hard work paid off with another fine event that was enjoyed by hundreds.

Yours for a better Schiller Park,



Anna Montana,
Mayor

CRYSTAL CREEK UPDATE

In mid-September work on the Creek project had to be temporarily halted due to safety concerns relating to getting Nicor utilities moved at several locations, including Irving Park Road. The utility relocating work by Nicor is now complete and work has resumed. Also temporary fences have now been installed in all locations as was discussed in our last update.

Recently work has been concentrated on Irving Park Road, which when completed will result in a new culvert under the roadway. Our completion estimate for the Irving Park work remains mid-November with all lanes anticipated to be open at that time. In addition other

work has been going on at Hirschberg and Wehrman for the installation of new culverts under those streets. Once the Irving Park and other culvert work, is completed it is anticipated that crews will soon begin excavation for installation of the new block walls for the Creek and after that, installation of those walls.

The Village anticipates that there will be winter construction on the project, but how much, and of what type, will be heavily dependent on weather conditions. If we experience a mild winter more work can be done while the opposite would be the case for a harsh winter.

The Village will continue to provide regular updates on the project on the Village website and in future newsletters as further progress is made. If you have further questions regarding this project please contact the Village Hall at (847) 678-2550.

VILLAGE OFFERS FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM!

The Village of Schiller Park now offers free electronics recycling to residents through a partnership with Vintage Tech Recyclers and West Cook County Solid Waste Agency (WCSWA). The Village is participating in this effort to better our environment. Since most electronics contain toxic substances such as mercury, it is much better for the environment for these items to be properly recycled rather than dumped in landfills with other trash. The program is funded by grant money obtained by the WCSWA and comes at no cost to the residents or the Village.

Village residents can drop off eligible electronic items at the Village Street Department Garage (located directly behind Village Hall) between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM Monday-Friday. The drop-off point is located inside the Street Garage at the rear of the first garage bay. Items eligible for drop-off include computers, monitors, DVD players, stereos, copiers, fax machines, and many more. A flyer containing all the relevant details can be viewed by visiting the website (www.villageofschillerpark.com) or the Village Hall. The Village is very happy to be able to offer this free service to our residents and employees and hope that many take advantage of this convenient way to help the environment.

VILLAGE CAR SHOW A BIG HIT AGAIN!

The Village Car Show and Family Fun Day proved to be a big success on September 12th as once again more than 165 cars registered for the event. The weather was wonderful and another large crowd turned out to view the cars and enjoy the free activities and rides with their kids. Additionally more than a dozen local restaurants once again turned out to offer some tasty options. It was a

terrific event that exceeded our expectations yet again.

Mayor Anna Montana and the Village Board wish to heartily thank all the volunteers who turned out for the event and helped make it such a big success. Their hard work and good planning led to a wonderful event with terrific results. Also appreciated were the local restaurants who

shared their culinary talents. In addition, thanks go out to the organizations/companies that lent trucks/vehicles free of charge to the event. Finally, an extra special thank you from the Village goes out to Philip Meier of Castle Metal for being such a big help in putting on the Car Show event. Mr. Meier graciously allowed his property to be used for the car registration process which was

a big help in making the event run so smoothly.

The Mayor and Village Board hope that all of the residents who attended had a good time and were able to spend some quality time with their families. The Village looks forward to making the Car Show & Family Fun Day a successful and fun event for many years to come!

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

VILLAGE IMPROVES STALICA PARK

The Recreation Department completed Phase I of a 3 phase plan to update Stalica Park. Phase I focused on improving the ball field with underground drainage tile, sod and new infield mixture. The lip between the infield and outfield had grown larger over the years and was brought in with new sod. The result is one of the best softball fields in the area which helps accommodate the maximum of 64 teams who are attracted to our Village softball leagues each summer and fall. In addition to the hundreds of league players, many local families, schools and corporate groups enjoy using the ball field.

Phase II is scheduled for construction this fall and will include replacing the aging play equipment for 2 to 5 year olds with modern equipment that meets the current safety guidelines and is ADA accessible. A fence will be added to help keep the children in the play area and away from the parking lot. This work will also include some landscaping improvements.



The final phase plan calls for the replacement of the rest of the play equipment and the renovation of the basketball courts. For more information on this project please contact John Bealer (Director of Parks & Recreation) at jbealer@villageofschillerpark.com or via phone at (847) 671-8580.

"SCHILLER BARK PARK"

Many Village residents were present in June as Mayor Anna Montana cut the ribbon and dedicated Schiller Park's newest park – the dog park. After receiving a number of good suggestions during the dog park naming contest, Zach Grassi had submitted the winning name: Schiller Bark Park. The Mayor and Board congratulated Zach during the ceremony and presented him with a certificate and family season pass to the water park.

The dog park is located on Ruby Street at the North end of the Metra Station parking lot. The park was designed for residents to bring their four legged family members and let their pets enjoy

off leash exercise while socializing with other dogs and dog owners. Amenities include a double gate for safety, water fountain with dog bowl, benches, waste bags and garbage receptacles. To use the park, residents must purchase the normal Village dog tag for \$7.00. Non-residents may purchase tags for \$10.00 which are



"MAYOR ANNA MONTANA AND PRIZE WINNER ZACH GRASSI CUT THE RIBBON AT THE DOG PARK OPENING CELEBRATION"

available at the Village Hall, Recreation Center, or Community Development Department.

For a complete list of dog park rules or additional information please visit www.villageofschillerpark.com where you will find "Bark Park" under the "Recreation" tab and then the "Park" pull out menu or you can call the Recreation Department at (847) 671-8580.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

HALLOWEEN CONCERT & COSTUME CONTEST!

The Village and Autumn Rise Horror Shows are cooperating to offer a new and exciting event to the Village of Schiller Park community. On Saturday October 30 at 6:00 PM at Clocktower Park on Irving Park Road a new event will be held. Live music including many Halloween favorites will be offered as well as a costume contest.

Other treats and prizes will also be offered. Come dance, sing-a-long, and have some spooky fun at this free family friendly event.



HALLOWEEN HOWL

Sunday, October 31 • 7-8:30pm
Recreation Center
9638 Irving Park Road

Grab your goodie bag and head on over to the Recreation Center for a “spooktacular” night of fun activities, games and goodies. The Village sponsors this great indoor event offered as a safe activity regardless of the weather. Don’t forget to wear your costume and bring a bag for your goodies.

Thank you to the many kind businesses in the community that donate to this special event and the volunteers who make sure everyone is having fun. The Halloween Howl is intended for children ages toddler – 10 years old. For additional information contact the Recreation Department at (847) 671-8580.

VILLAGE INSTALLS NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN!

You may have noticed that the Village Hall’s old marquee sign was removed this past summer and wondered what was going on. The answer was quickly made clear! The Village installed a new electronic sign that allows for more community messages and emergency announcements. The new sign is much more efficient since the messages can be changed using a computer and also allow for greater variety of messages to be displayed. Increased display options have provided increased awareness of the various Village events and announcements, provided for better service to community groups looking to promote their events,

and finally (and perhaps most importantly) it will allow the Village to post emergency announcements when needed on a more timely basis. The Village is very excited about the new sign’s capabilities and believes it is a pleasing addition to the appearance of Village Hall.

Also please know you can submit your organization’s proposed Village Hall Electronic Marquee Messages to Audrey at the Village Hall. The form to use is available for download online in the “Documents” section of the Village website (www.villageofschillerpark.com) under the category “General”.

FROM THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

SCHILLER PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Update - We are now on Facebook! Please visit us: “Schiller Park Historical Society”. Share your knowledge of local history. We welcome all areas of information. Or ask us, if we don’t know we will research it until we find it. That’s what we do.

Over the years we have interviewed many residents, about their families, life in early Schiller Park, memorable events. From Fairview to Frogtown there are many stories as yet untold and we need them! The Soo Line for instance? How long did Fairview School exist? What do you remember about Lincoln School’s expansion 1955-1965? Where did all the creeks go? Are your wheels turning thinking about the past?

So - see you on Facebook, or call us at (847) 671-8513 or e-mail us at sphometownnews@yahoo.com, or better yet, come visit us in the History Room at the Library. The coffee pot is always on!

SNOW REMOVAL

Snow is plowed from heavily traveled arterial streets before it is removed from less traveled side streets. Parked cars must be removed from Village streets after a three-inch snowfall. Without parked cars, snow can be removed from curb- to- curb to allow proper drainage of snowmelt and to prevent ice patches. The parking ban remains in effect until streets and curbs have been completely cleared of snow. The police will ticket vehicles in violation of the parking ban, except on certain streets where parking is allowed after a snowfall.

Do your part to keep our streets clear of snow and ice. Do not shovel or blow snow onto Village streets. Snow deposited on the streets interferes with efficient snow plowing operations, impedes traffic flow and creates a danger to motorists. The danger is created when the deposited snow is compacted and hardens into ice patches.

If you have a fire hydrant in front or near your home or business, help the Fire Department by making sure the hydrant is clear of ice and snow at all times and is able to be seen from the street.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW MEMBER

The Schiller Park Fire Department recently swore in its newest member FF/PM Adam Niemand. Adam was number one on the eligibility list and brings the department back up to full strength. Adam attended the NIPSTA Fire Academy and Hazardous Materials School. He will rotate among the three shifts during his probation. During the probationary period he will be evaluated and continue his training. Congratulations and welcome to Schiller Park.

HOMEOWNER'S PRE-WINTER CHECKLIST

There are many things homeowners can do to protect their families and homes from the ravages of winter. Here's a short checklist.

- Test your furnace before the weather gets very cold.
- Consider having your heating system checked by a professional
- Have your humidifier and furnace air filters cleaned and checked
- Make sure attic ventilation vents are free of debris
- Have chimney cleaned and checked by a chimney sweep
- Caulk around window frames
- Remove, drain and coil all garden hoses

- Turn off the interior cut-off valve for each outdoor faucet so that water can't freeze in the pipe that connects the two
- Keep your gutters clean at all times. It is better to clean them several times rather than wait until the end of leaf season.
- Test your basement sump pump
- Make sure all smoke detectors are working with fresh batteries
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm near the furnace
- Make sure your house number is well lit and clearly readable from the street
- Check all handrails to make sure they are strong enough to prevent a fall and extend far enough to provide ample support
- Make sure all entrances are lit by lights connected to motion and light detectors

BURN AWARENESS

Nearly 250,000 children in the U.S. ages 17 and under are burned each year seriously enough to require medical attention; 15,000 require hospitalization. Burns are one of the more common injuries in the United States.

A burn is an injury to the skin-our largest organ and one of astonishing complexity.

Our skin is a water-tight bag securing precious fluids that carry oxygen and protein to the cells. It shields us from armies of hostile micro-organisms, all eager to wreak havoc inside the body. In winter, the skin serves as a natural overcoat, and in summer it serves as an air cooler. Each square inch of skin contains one yard of blood vessels, four yards of nerves, one hundred sweat glands, and three million cells.

There are different classifications of burns that affect the skin.

A superficial burn is the least severe. It reddens the skin and can be painful but is not a threat to life.

A partial thickness burn destroys the top layers of the skin and causes blistering and white, pink or red splotchy patches. This burn is very painful and can lead to permanent scarring and possible skin graft.

A full thickness burn destroys all layers of the skin. This burn will look dry and leathery, white, brown or charred. There is little or no pain at first. Grafting is necessary because there are no skin cells left to reproduce themselves.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Every 61 seconds fire strikes a home somewhere in the United States. If you have a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it, you might

be able to prevent a small fire from becoming a big one.

The National Safety Council and the Schiller Park Fire Department recommend that you keep several in the home: one in the kitchen, where so many fires occur; and another in the basement, workshop or garage.

However, use your fire extinguisher only if:

- You've first called the fire department.
- Everyone is out of the house
- The fire is small (confined to its origin in a mattress, wastebasket, cushion or small appliance).
- You can fight the fire with your back to an exit.
- Your extinguisher is in working order and you know how to use it.
- You know that you must get out fast if your effort is failing.

The Schiller Park Fire Department will be conducting fire extinguisher training classes on a regular basis. A minimum of 5 individuals is necessary for a class to be held. Please contact the Department using their non-emergency number (847) 678-5136 to express interest in attending a class.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS: AROUND TOWN

SCHILLER PARK FEATURED BUSINESS: EXCEL SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY, INC.

Excel Screen Printing & Embroidery has been in business since 1985, providing Screen Printing services to customers throughout the United States.

In 2005 Excel Glass, Inc. became a part of the Excel family with the addition of decorating services for Glass, Ceramics, Stainless Steel and Plastic; most of them items related to the promotional products industry. Excel moved to Schiller Park in 2006.

Excel Screen Printing & Embroidery, Inc. has a full time artwork department with 40+ years combined experience staff. The art department is equipped with the latest in hardware and software providing embroidery-digitizing services in house.

The Screen Printing Department is equipped with the latest technology in automatic printing. Excel's Embroidery department is equipped with three machines with a combined total of 42 heads, up to nine colors each.

Excel is the only company in the state of Illinois with a state of the art Glass Leer, which allows them to print on glass. Excel can therefore provide full service glass and ceramic screen printing.

Excel Screen Printing & Embroidery, Inc. has an experienced team of customer service representatives. Every question, request, quote or inquiry is taken care of with the utmost efficiency.

Excel Screen Printing & Embroidery, Inc.
10507 Delta Parkway
Schiller Park, IL 60176
Phone: 847.801.5200
Fax: 847.801.5205

SCHILLER PARK / FRANKLIN PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce provides training, information, and socializing for the businesses and residents of Schiller Park and Franklin Park. Upcoming events:

October 6: Annual Fire Prevention Week event at Franklin Park Fire Station 2

October 27: Illinois Department of Employment Security seminar

November 4: Business Expo & Career Fair with East Leyden High School.

November 18: Leyden Family Center seminar

December 8: Christmas Luncheon

December 16: Christmas Lights Tour at Brookfield Zoo

More information can be found at www.chamberbyohare.com

NEW BUSINESSES IN TOWN

Extreme Windows & Doors
3740 25th Avenue Suite D

Rockwell Collins
4749 25th Avenue

Seguros MiGente Inc.
4849 Scott Street, Ste LL-18

Cabinet Land & Kitchen & Bath
5136 Pearl Street

LAS Hardwoods
9501 Winona Street

BPB Trans. Corp.
9950 Lawrence Avenue, #314

Joe's Taxes
9950 Lawrence Avenue, #101C

A & A Quality Electronics
10201 Belle Plaine Avenue

Crimson AV
10513 United Parkway

Please patronize Schiller Park businesses!

FALL LEAF CLEANUP TIPS

It is that time of year again... time to start raking those leaves! The Village has a couple of important tips to pass along about taking care of your fallen leaves:

First it is important to avoid placing your leaves in the street. The presence

of large amounts of leaves substantially slows the process of street sweeping and can damage the sweeper. Street sweepers are not designed to clear large volumes of leaves. More importantly leaves left in the street can clog the Village's storm sewers and end up causing flooding of the street.

Second if you want to have GROOT the Village's garbage hauler haul away your leaves you can use the same procedure as you use for landscape or yard waste. In the case of yard waste you may use either a 30 gallon

(or smaller) biodegradable paper bag or a 35 gallon (or smaller) trash can used exclusively for yard waste. Your yard waste cans must be marked with a printed yard waste sticker(s) that can be obtained for free at the Village Hall during normal business hours (9-5 Monday-Friday and 9-12 on Saturday). If you do not properly mark your yard waste cans or you mix your yard waste with other trash your cans will not be picked up.

- *Around Town: continued from previous page.*

HEALTH UPDATE

The Village Board of Health provides numerous health-related events throughout the year.

- Quarterly Blood Drive
- Autumn Flu Shots
- Stop Smoking Clinic
- Flu Seminar

This is in addition to overseeing our food service sanitation program and communicating with the Cook County Health Department. The Board of Health also mans our emergency shelters. If you have any health-related comments or questions, please visit the village web site, www.villageofschillerpark.com, and click on "Contact Us" then select "Public Health" from the dropdown menu.

ANIMAL FEEDING

Schiller Park has the benefit of proximity to the large open spaces of the Des Plaines River and Forest Preserve. These large natural areas house many species of animals that then spend time in our neighborhoods. While it is ok to set out a bird feeder or to keep a birdbath it is not permitted to set out food for wild animals and/or stray cats. This only encourages them to multiply and it creates a health hazard. Please do not feed the wild animals in our midst. Also remember that because wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, possums, and squirrels will happily eat cat food, dog food, or bird seed it is important to secure your pet food.

The Village and Leyden Township both offer free trapping and removal. If you need a trap, please call Community Development at 847-671-8555.

VACANT HOMES

In these difficult economic times, Schiller Park unfortunately has a few homes that are vacant. Our property maintenance program tries to identify these properties and ensure that the grass is cut and that the home is secure. It is helpful when concerned neighbors inform us of a new vacancy. This can be done through the Village website www.villageofschillerpark.com by selecting "Contact Us" then selecting "Property Maintenance" or by calling Community Development at (847) 671-8555. The Village's first task is to post a sticker or door hanger. If you see a Village posting, rest assured that we are aware of the vacancy. Unfortunately it often takes time to find the bank that holds the mortgage and to ensure they are caring for the property, but we make every effort to do so as quickly as possible. Often, neighbors notice new issues (a broken window, raccoons, etc.), so please feel free to call or submit complaints using the website.

FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

With the start of the fall season, we know that winter is not that far behind. That means it is time to get your home ready for the cold months ahead. Take a few minutes and walk around the exterior of your home. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are free from obstructions and will drain properly. Caulk or fill gaps around windows, doors or siding to prevent areas in which the cold air can enter your home. Turn off and drain your outside water spigots to prevent your water lines from freezing. On the inside, change the air filters on your furnace to make sure it is running as efficiently as possible. Before starting your furnace, you may want to have it cleaned and checked by a professional. It is also a good time to change the batteries and test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are functioning properly. Carbon monoxide detectors should be located within 15 feet of all sleeping areas. Smoke detectors should be located in every sleeping room along with one on every floor of your home.

Along with cold weather, come interior remodeling projects. If you are planning a remodeling project, you will want to check with the Building Department as soon as possible to see if your project will require a permit. The building permit provides the homeowner with a record of construction being done according to code. We issue two types of permits, homeowner and contractor. Homeowners performing their own work will be required to sign a "Certificate of Responsibility". Contractors should be licensed with the Village and carry insurance. Don't be afraid to ask for the proper documentation.

If you have questions about the building permit process, feel free to contact the Building Department at (847) 671-8555 or visit us at 4501 25th Avenue. Someone will be available to assist you from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Community Center (4501 25th Avenue)

Santa & his friends will be there to ring in the holiday season – activities will include visiting with Santa, face painting, balloon animals, and refreshments. The Village hopes you and your family will be able to enjoy this free family event. Remember to bring your camera! For further information about this event please contact Audrey Meyers in the Mayor's office at (847) 678-2550.

WATER LEAK TIPS

The Village wants to advise its water customers that even a small leak in a pipe, faucet, toilet, or shower can add up to a large bill if

not repaired promptly. A particularly common problem is a leak in the toilet tank that can be constantly running, but with no sound to reveal its presence. Checking your toilet for a leak is especially easy to do – you can simply add dye to the water in the tank and wait 15 minutes without using the toilet or flushing to see if the dye color migrates from the tank to the bowl. If the bowl water becomes colored then you have a leak and

should get it fixed soon. The Village has dye strips available at the Village Hall to assist you with checking your toilet or you can use simple food coloring.

Another problematic issue occurs when a resident goes on an extended vacation and leaves their water service on during their absence. If there is a leak while they are gone water will continue to flow and the resident may

end up with a large bill when they return from their trip. A simple solution to this is to turn off your water service while you are away so that a small leak doesn't keep flowing during that time.

The Village has a free handout that offers water leak tips and suggestions available at the Village Hall or online at www.villageofschillerpark.com.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION! The Village of Schiller Park values your opinion and offers this opportunity for residents and business people to communicate with your elected officials and the administration. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated. If you need more space, attach a separate sheet. As a resident of Schiller Park, it is my opinion that...

Kindly check if you would like your name kept confidential. YES NO

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

(Responses cannot be provided if name and address are not given) **PLEASE RETURN TO: COMMUNICATOR - VILLAGE OF SCHILLER PARK - 9526 IRVING PARK ROAD - SCHILLER PARK, IL 60176**



9526 IRVING PARK RD.
SCHILLER PARK, ILLINOIS
60176
847-678-2550

- Mayor
ANNA MONTANA
- Village Clerk
CLAUDIA IRSUTO
- Village Trustees
LAWRENCE FRITZ
ANTHONY CLEMENTI
RICHARD DESECKI
ANGELO PASSIALIS
CATHERINE GORZYNSKI
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