

# Communicator

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A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SCHILLER PARK



## MAYOR'S UPDATE

## VILLAGE PLANS BUSY 2008

I hope everyone has survived this very tough winter, it has been one of the worst winters in recent memory. I am happy to see that spring is at least officially here even if we have a few more days of cold weather before things warm up for good. In any case what I want to talk to you about is the Village's plans for major projects over

the next year. There are a number of important projects scheduled that should make our wonderful little town even better.

First off we are planning some street resurfacing for this summer. The list of streets includes Kolze Avenue (the entire stretch north of Irving to the dead end), Lawrence Court (Rose Street to Kolze Avenue), Sunnyside Avenue (Scott Street to 25th Avenue) Sunnyside Court, Agatite Court, Wilson Avenue, and Hirschberg Avenue (Montrose Avenue to 25th Avenue). Kolze Avenue will also get new water mains as part of this project. Further details on this program will follow later in the spring.

In another piece of good news the Village is moving ahead with the relocating of utilities to make way for the long awaited Crystal Creek flood control project. After several years of significant effort the Village was finally able to obtain all the property easements necessary for the construction of the Crystal Creek project and is now able to begin preparations for the project itself. The next step is relocation of the Village's water service pipes that are in the way of the projected creek construction. Other parties, ComEd, Nicor, and the State of Illinois also need to take certain steps before construction can begin, but it looks promising for Creek construction to happen in 2009.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has notified the Village that a resurfacing of Irving Park Road throughout the Village is scheduled to begin in May and last until August. This project is a welcome development given the increasing deterioration of Irving Park Road in recent years, particularly during the recently concluded winter. The Village has been encouraging IDOT to do this work for several years and is continuing to press for reconstruction work to be done on River Road, which is on the State scheduled to be done in 2009.

The Village will also pave Sally Lane this summer as part of the ongoing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which has previously provided partial funding for the paving of Jill Lane, Suzy Lane, and the connecting alley in recent years. Lastly the Village has received encouraging news that pavement patching of 25th Avenue through another grant program will start in the spring of 2009. Engineering work and bidding of the project are expected later this year.

As you can see the Village has a busy slate of projects this summer and into 2009. We believe these projects will benefit the Village significantly as we move forward. Rest assured we are continuing to plan for the future so that Schiller Park will remain a wonderful community in which to live and raise a family in the coming years.

Yours for a better Schiller Park,



Anna Montana,  
Mayor

## **DRIVERS TAKE NOTICE: RED LIGHT CAMERAS ARE COMING TO IMPROVE INTERSECTION SAFETY**

In an effort to enhance safety at some of Schiller Park's most dangerous intersections, the Village Board has approved the installation of an automated traffic enforcement system, also known as Red Light Cameras, for various intersections within the Village. The installation of the cameras at 2 intersections began in March 2008.

According to recent studies conducted by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Red Light Camera Programs can decrease red light violations up to 60%. Traffic accidents caused by red light runners are among the most serious, often resulting in severe injuries and fatalities. Studies have shown that approximately 1,000 people die and 176,000 people are injured annually in the United States because of drivers running red lights. There are two types of Red Light Violations: (1) Right turn on red without coming to a complete stop and (2) Entering an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red.

A common misconception is that the cameras will be photographing everyone as they drive through the community. In fact, sensors placed in the pavement activate the camera only when a vehicle enters the intersection during the red light cycle. A total of 3 photographs will be taken plus 8-10 seconds of digital video. The images include: the car entering the red light intersection, the car passing through the intersection and finally, a close-up of the license plate. All 3 images, plus a link to view the video footage on-line, will be provided to the vehicle's registered owner who is mailed the violation. According to Illinois Law, it is illegal to photograph the faces of either drivers or passengers.

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **IS THE CITATION VALID IF IT WAS NOT ISSUED BY A UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER?**

Yes. These violations are reviewed and authorized by sworn officers of the Schiller Park Police Department. Each reviewing Officer has been specifically trained in the operation and review process of the Red Light Photo Enforcement Program. These tickets are treated as a civil violation (just like a parking ticket) and will not impact the registered owner's driving record or insurance rates.

#### **WHAT DO I DO IF I RECEIVE A CITATION?**

If you receive a citation in the mail you should follow the instructions on the back. Detailed information is provided on how to pay or contest the violation. Should the individual decide to contest the violation, he/she may do so through the Village's adjudication program.

#### **WHAT IF I WASN'T DRIVING THE CAR?**

Under Illinois State Law, HB 4835, the registered owner of the vehicle is liable for any automated traffic law violations that occur to the vehicle, regardless of who is operating it.

Additional information regarding the Red Light Camera Program is posted on the Village of Schiller Park's website – [www.villageofschillerpark.com](http://www.villageofschillerpark.com). For immediate questions, please contact the Village's Police Department at 847-678-4794.

## **IRVING PARK ROAD CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has notified the Village that the resurfacing of a nearly 2 mile long portion Irving Park Road between Des Plaines River Road (Schiller Park) to a spot just west of O'Hare Cargo Road (Bensenville) is expected to begin in May 2008 and be completed in August 2008. This includes the entirety of Irving Park Road located in Schiller Park. The Village will provide further details when they become available.

The Village is pleased to be able to report this development. The Village has been aggressively encouraging IDOT to resurface Irving Park Road for some time due to the obviously deteriorating condition of the roadway. When completed the project should result in a major improvement for the residents and businesses of the Village.

In other IDOT road construction news - - Mannheim Road and a portion of Lawrence Avenue in the Village were repaved last year and more importantly Des Plaines River Road is currently on the preliminary IDOT schedule for 2009. That is subject to change but the Village will continue to encourage IDOT to keep River Road on their agenda for next year.

## **RTA OFFERS FREE RIDES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

**S**tarting March 17th the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and PACE began allowing seniors (Age 65+) who are residents of Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Will Counties to ride free on buses and trains.

In order to take advantage of the new program seniors will need a valid photo ID card issued by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Seniors that already have a RTA Seniors Reduced Fair Card will be able to use that card to ride for free. Those seniors that do not already have a card can apply for one at more than 200 different sites around the region.

The Schiller Park Village Hall is a registration site for applying for a card. If you come to apply for a card you will need: 1) a government-issued picture identification card that verifies your age and 2) two photos of yourself that are approximately passport size (1 1/2" square). If you don't already have a photo the Village Hall staff can take one for you. Village resident seniors can obtain a photo for free, non-residents will be asked to pay a \$3.00 fee to cover the costs of film. Please keep in mind that processing for a card, which is handled by the RTA, is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks.

More information on the program can be obtained at [www.rtachicago.com](http://www.rtachicago.com) or by calling (847) 836-7000.

# 9-1-1 CENTER UPGRADE

The Village of Schiller Park recently upgraded their 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center. This state of the art facility located in the municipal building is called a "public safety answering point" (PSAP).

When a person calls 9-1-1 anywhere in the country, the call is automatically routed to the appropriate PSAP. This is accomplished by comparing the caller's telephone number with a database, providing certain information, including a caller's address. Specially trained personnel then obtain information about the emergency and dispatch the appropriate agencies (Fire, Police & EMS). While this method worked well with the traditional (wired) telephone, a caller using a cell phone could not automatically provide address information and the caller would not always be directed to the correct PSAP, causing a delay in response. There have been a number of incidents around the country where this inability to locate a caller resulted in death. With the increased use of cell

phones as the primary phone in a number of households, a major upgrade was necessary to continue to provide a timely response. Most newer cell phones have this GPS location chip built in (check with your cell phone provider to verify that your phone is GPS capable). As this technology improved, the village's ability to track these calls needed to improve as well. The Village's Emergency Telephone System Board, consisting of public safety officials, a Village board member and a member of the public, worked with the telephone companies and equipment suppliers to create a new computerized dispatch center, which became operational this winter.

Now, utilizing satellite technology, a cell phone caller's location is displayed on a computer map in front of the dispatcher. If the caller is in a moving vehicle, the location will be updated every few seconds and be displayed as moving on the map. The accuracy is very high and this can be invaluable for those instances where the

caller is unsure of their location. Another advantage of this map display is when a number of calls are received simultaneously. An example is when a car crash occurs and a number of bystanders all call 9-1-1. Before this upgrade, the dispatcher would have to answer each call, in order to find out what the caller was reporting. Now, if there were a concentration of callers in one neighborhood and another caller from another part of town, the dispatcher would be able to tell at a glance that there were multiple incidents. This will speed up the response to these multiple events.

Other enhancements include dedicated workstations for the dispatch personnel, with touch screen computerized radio and telephone. All of the required equipment is now within easy reach of the dispatchers. This will allow them to perform their duties in a more efficient manner allowing them to perform their duties even better than before.

## VILLAGE RECYCLING EFFORTS MEET WITH SUCCESS

The Village has long supported recycling as a way of helping our environment. The recycling of paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum by Village residents has been ongoing for many years and has redirected thousands of tons of materials from landfills back into the economy. Even more impressively our contractor GROOT has recycled nearly a million tons of material previously earmarked for disposal over the last 11 years. In March of 2005 the Village provided large wheeled recycling carts (replacing the smaller blue bins) to all single family homes to further increase the ability of Village residents to recycle while improving aesthetics and decreasing the incidence of spilled recycling materials blowing around the street.

The Village is happy to report that the recycling cart program has been a success both in terms of improving the appearance of the Village and in terms of enhancing our recycling volumes. In 2004 the last full year of using the smaller blue recycle bins, the Village recycled 561.9 tons of material. In 2005 this number jumped to 716.51 tons (a 27% increase) and has stayed above that level each year since including 723.27 tons in 2007.

As part of its commitment to recycling, the Village has made recycling as convenient as possible by teaming with GROOT, our waste hauling

contractor, to allow for the emptying of a single dedicated recycling container. No sorting of

wheeled container. This recycling program's success has been driven by the commitment of the

**RECYCLING FACTS**  
**GLASS NEVER WEARS OUT - IT CAN BE RECYCLED OVER AND OVER AGAIN**

**AN ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLED TODAY WILL BE BACK ON THE GROCERY SHELF IN 90 DAYS**

**RECYCLING ONE TON OF NEWSPAPER SAVES APPROXIMATELY 17 AVERAGE SIZE FIR TREES, 7000 GALLONS OF WATER, AND KEEPS 60 POUNDS OF POLLUTANTS OUT OF THE AIR**

**IF ALL THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY WERE RECYCLED 41,000 TREES WOULD BE SAVED DAILY AND 6 MILLION TONS OF WASTE WOULD NEVER END UP IN LANDFILLS**

**5 RECYCLED SOFT DRINK BOTTLES MAKE ENOUGH FIBERFILL FOR A MAN'S SKI JACKET. 36 RECYCLED BOTTLES CAN MAKE ONE SQUARE YARD OF CARPET**

Village, GROOT, and most importantly the residents of Schiller Park to make the effort to help our environment. Please participate in the program by using your provided recycling cart. If you have any questions about the program or need a recycling cart please contact the Village at (847) 678-2550. Brochures from GROOT about the trash collection and recycling programs are available at the Village Hall. GROOT can be reached at 1-800-244-1977.

colored glass, plastic, aluminum, and paper into separate containers is required - all of these items can be commingled in your single



**SHOWN ARE (FROM LEFT) JOHN MITCHELL, AMERICAN RED CROSS COMMUNITY LIAISON AND MAYOR ANNA MONTANA AFTER SIGNING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ENTERING THE VILLAGE OF SCHILLER PARK AND THE RED CROSS INTO A PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES.**

# TORNADO SAFETY

Each year about a thousand tornadoes touch down in the US. Only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. The chances that a tornado will strike a building that you are in are very small, however, and you can greatly reduce the chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be ALERT to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. Young children or the mentally challenged may not recognize a dangerous situation. The ill, elderly, or invalid may not be able to reach shelter in time. Those who ignore the weather because of indifference or overconfidence may not perceive the danger. Stay aware, and you will stay alive!

If you don't regularly watch or listen to the weather report, but strange clouds start moving in and the weather begins to look stormy, turn to the local radio or television station to get the weather forecast. Also listen for the Village's tornado sirens located near Washington School (9600 block of Lawrence Avenue), near Kennedy Park (3900 block of Scott Street) and at the Village Municipal Building (9500 block of Irving Park Road). These sirens will be activated any time there is a tornado warning for the Village.

## THE BEST PLACES IN YOUR HOME DURING A TORNADO ARE:

In a basement, away from the west and south walls. Hiding under a heavy work-table or under the stairs will protect the family from crumbling walls, chimneys, and large airborne debris falling into the cellar. During an April 8th, 1998 tornado in Birmingham, Alabama one family survived because when a hutch toppled it was held up by the dining room table they were under. That table helped deflect the debris that would have struck them. Old blankets, quilts and an unused mattress will protect against flying debris, but they should be stored in the shelter area. Precious time can be lost by trying to find these items at the last minute.

In a small, windowless, first floor, interior room such as a closet or bathroom. The bathtub and commode are anchored directly into the ground, and sometimes are the only thing left in place after the tornado. Getting into the bathtub with a couch cushion over you gives you protection on all sides, as well as an extra anchor to the foundation. Plumbing pipes may or may not help hold the walls together, but all the extra framing that it takes to put a bathroom together may make a big difference. If there is no downstairs bathroom and the closets are all packed with "stuff," a hall may be the best shelter. Put as many walls as you can between yourself and the tornado. In a pinch, put a metal trash over as much of you as you can. It will keep some flying debris from injuring you. Even that may make the difference between life and death.

Wherever it is, the shelter should be well known by each member of the family. If you and your family will conduct annual emergency drills (fire, tornado, etc), everyone will remember what to do and where to go when a tornado is approaching--automatically and without panic. Choose a friend or family member in another part of town or elsewhere to be a "contact person" that will be called by everyone should the family members become separated.

## DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK

The best method for determining whether or not a leak exists is to take actual water meter readings. This method checks the entire internal plumbing system for water leaks. Take a water meter reading just before going to bed, or when no one will use any water for several hours. Take another meter reading in the morning before any water is used, or after a few hours of non-usage. In theory, the two readings should be the same. If they are not, and you cannot account for use by a humidifier, ice cube maker, toilet flush, or water softener, you have a leak and further investigation is recommended.

From our experience, ninety percent (90%) of the leaks in residential plumbing systems are found at the toilet tank. Malfunctioning water softeners and humidifiers run a distant second and third. We encourage you to check for a leak.

Toilets leak at the bottom of the tank around the flapper plug or at the top of the tank at the overflow tube. One easy option for checking for a toilet leak is to place dye tablets (these can be obtained for free at the Village Hall) in the toilet tank and then wait 15 minutes (do not flush), if the color migrates from the tank into the bowl then you have a leaking toilet. Other options include testing the flapper plug or overflow tube.

To test the flapper plug, carefully remove the lid from the toilet tank and mark the water level in each toilet tank with a pencil. Shut off the water supply to the toilet. If the water level

remains on your mark for 10 minutes, the flapper plug isn't leaking. If the water level drops below the mark, the flapper plug is leaking and should be repaired or replaced. The water level in the toilet tank should be at least 1" below the top of the overflow tube. If the water level in the toilet tank is at the top of the overflow tube, that is where a leak may be occurring, and the float which controls the water level in the tank should be adjusted so that the water level in the tank is at least 1" below the top of the tube. Toilet tank leaks typically result from worn parts or from

misalignment of some part of the flushing mechanism. Most repairs can be done by an experienced "do it yourselfer". If you are not sure you can handle the job, call a plumber. It's important to stop the leak.

Water leaks can be very costly. A "typical" toilet leak at today's rates can add \$300.00 to a single water bill. Our information is provided as a courtesy with hopes of action on your part which may minimize an unnecessary waste of water and expense to you.

## FIRE DRILLS KNOW YOUR WAY OUT

Fire drills are a big part of being safe in school. Fire drills prepare you for what you need to do in case of fire. However, as important as fire drills are in school they are equally as important at home.

The following 10 steps outline a plan for developing a fire drill in the home. You should practice this plan at least every six months until you are comfortable with how to escape from your home in a fire.

**STEP 1:** Explain to the family that it is just as important to have fire drills at home as it is in school.

**STEP 2:** Draw a simple diagram of your house and go over it carefully as a family.

**STEP 3:** Find two escape routes out of every room. As a family, visit each room and ask everyone how they would get out of the room in an emergency.

**STEP 4:** Practice opening windows, taking off screens and using portable ladders (if you are on a second floor). Children must be able to open windows and window locks and use collapsible ladders if they are on a second floor.

**NEVER BREAK OUT WINDOWS!** This could cause fire and smoke to be drawn into the room where you are at and with no window you will not be able to keep the smoke and fire out and

you safe. If you do not have an escape ladder, us a blanket thrown over the window sill to indicate that someone is still in the room.

**STEP 5:** Make sure there are no security bars on any bedroom windows—or if there are, that they can be easily opened and closed.

**STEP 6:** Sleep with bedroom doors closed, and teach children that if the smoke detector goes off, they should feel the door with the back of their hand before opening it.

It is a very good idea to install additional smoke detectors inside of the sleeping units as well as in the adjacent hallway to protect you in your bedroom when sleeping.

**STEP 7:** Using the back of your hand, check for heat, starting at the bottom of the door and working your way up. Also, you should be able to put the back of your hand on the doorknob which will also help you determine if there is any fire on the other side of the door.

**STEP 8:** Teach children to crack open the door if they do not feel any heat. They should stay low and check for smoke, and if there is smoke they should look for another way out.

**STEP 9:** Make sure everyone knows a place for all family members to meet away from the fire.

**STEP 10:** Make sure that once everyone has escaped, everyone knows not to go back into the burning building until firefighters say it is okay.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGNUP REMINDER

As most of you are aware by now the Village's Emergency Telephone System Board ("ETSB") has contracted with the NTI Group to provide the Village with access to a notification system capable of quickly calling residents to deliver an emergency or informational messages. Messages could be an emergency evacuation request due to a chemical spill, a simple notification of an impending water shutoff due to a main break, or possibly a request to help police find a missing child.

Residents need to know this system exists and be ready for pre-recorded messages from the Village. If you would like to verify your contact information, or would like to add additional phone numbers or an e-mail address for notification go to our web site, [www.villageofschillerpark.com](http://www.villageofschillerpark.com) and click on the Connect-CTY link provided on the main page. If you have any questions about this notification system feel free to contact the Fire Chief at (847) 671-8545 or via email at [firechief@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:firechief@villageofschillerpark.com).

## PUBLIC WORKS STREET SWEEPING HAS BEGUN

Public Works will operate the street sweeper from Monday March 31st through Monday November 17th this year. The 30 miles of streets in town are all swept on a regular schedule during this time and the sweeper averages about 130 miles per week. This adds up to more than 30 weeks of street sweeping and an average of over 4,000 miles each year.

All street sweepers need a significant amount of routine maintenance to be kept in good operating condition. Due to the need for this ongoing maintenance the sweeper sometimes needs to be taken out of service for a day or more for the maintenance to be performed. Public Works generally rotates the days the sweeper will be used for its various tasks to ensure that all needed work is done, and that there is still time for maintenance of the sweeper as well.

The Public Works Department also wants to remind residents that they need to avoid parking on the streets during the street sweeper's scheduled cleanings. Each street is clearly marked with signs indicating the days that street parking is prohibited. Residents living on streets that are swept on Fridays should make sure they do not leave their garbage carts (which have been left out for pickup) in the street because they interfere with street sweeping. GROOT has been notified to ensure the carts are not left in the street after the trash is picked up.

Following these rules makes the job easier for the sweeper driver, ensures your street will be cleaned more effectively, and finally can save you a ticket from the police. Please contact the Public Works Director Joe Meyers at (847) 671-8554 with any questions or concerns about the street sweeping program.

## MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PLAN IF DISASTER SHOULD STRIKE

- Maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. These low cost devices also can lower insurance costs in many cases.
- Teach all family members how to switch off water, gas and electricity at your home. This can be a vital measure after a disaster.
- Choose a place outside your neighborhood or general area where your family would convene if separated and cannot go home. Also, arrange for a friend in another state to be your emergency contact, since it is often easier to call long distance than locally in a disaster.
- Take a CPR course.
- Consider neighbors, especially those who are disabled or seniors, who might have difficulty evacuating.

# DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

## WHAT IS THE DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION?

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

As a result analog television sets receiving free TV using an antenna will not work after February 17, 2009. Television viewers with these sets that are not connected to a pay TV service will need to take action before February 17, 2009, to ensure their TV sets continue to work.

## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Consumers have a variety of options. Options to explore include:

- Keep your existing analog TV and purchase a TV converter box. A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after February 17, 2009, or
- Connect to cable, satellite or other pay service, or
- Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

## WHAT IS THE TV CONVERTER BOX COUPON PROGRAM?

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The program allows U.S. households to obtain up to

two coupons, each worth \$40.00, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes.

Please keep in mind that a TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service does not require a TV converter box from this program.

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

- Apply online
- Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009). Hearing-impaired consumers can use our TTY service by calling: 1-877-530-2634 (English/TTY) or 1-866-

495-1161 (Spanish/TTY).

- Mail a coupon application to: PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. Coupon Applications can be obtained online.
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

Certified converter boxes are available from both national and local retailers. Call ahead to confirm availability of coupon-eligible converter boxes on the day you plan to shop.

Converter boxes can be purchased at any of these national retailers currently participating in the program: Wal-Mart; Circuit City; Radio Shack; Best Buy. Further retailers participating in the

program can be found at the program website.

Converter boxes can also be purchased online or by telephone and can be shipped directly to your home. To purchase online please visit the BSAT e-shop at dtv.bsat.net.

To purchase by telephone please call the Radio Shack DTV Telephone Order Center at 1-877-RS-DTV-4U (1-877-773-8848).

*Have more questions? Not sure if you need a converter box?*

Visit the government website at:

[www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), for more information.

## SCHILLER PARK SURVIVES ROUGH WINTER

With winter having just officially come to an end on March 20th it is perhaps now safe to reflect on what a rough season it was this year. The snow was the most our area had received in many years and the sheer number of storm events was staggering. The temperature repeatedly dropped into the low single digits and was actually below zero on a number of occasions. The roads were ravaged

by the worst potholes we've seen in a long time and the water main breaks occurred at their same increased winter rate thanks to the severe freezing of the ground. It was definitely the harshest winter in recent memory and it put a strain on the resources of the Village, in particular the Public Works Department.

The Village is happy to report that through solid planning and a lot of hard work the Village was able to survive the winter while providing the quality level of service our residents expect. While many Chicagoland communities were forced to severely curtail their salting operations and/or use sand on their roads, the Village was able to continue to salt with only a minimal disruption of our normal procedures. That the Village did this while avoiding paying the massive prices (as much as 400% over the normal price) that many

communities had to pay for salt later in the winter is even more remarkable.

As for the potholes, the Village was very aggressive in repairing our streets and was in regular contact with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) about the serious pothole problems on the State Highways within the Village that IDOT is responsible for maintaining – namely Irving Park Road, Lawrence Avenue, Mannheim Road, and Des Plaines River Road. Unfortunately IDOT was not as responsive to pothole complaints and the result was that the State Highways in the Village were not in very good shape. Hopefully the resurfacing of Irving Park Road this summer and the possible resurfacing of River Road in 2009 will help alleviate the severity of the pothole problems in the future.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT SUMMER JOB OPENINGS

The Village of Schiller Park is currently accepting applications for seasonal positions including aquatic staff, day camp counselors and park maintenance. The new WATER PARK has openings for those seeking to be a part of an exciting team of staff members. If you are up to the challenge then apply in person at the Recreation Center.

Aquatic staff openings include: lifeguards, attendants, cashiers and concession workers. Hours and pay vary with positions. Lifeguards are required to be Red Cross certified and training opportunities will be offered. Applications are available at the Schiller Park Recreation Center located at 9638 W. Irving Park Rd, Schiller Park. For additional information please call (847) 671-8580.

*The Village of Schiller Park is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## YARD WASTE & BRANCH COLLECTION

If you're planning on doing some yard work this summer you might want to brush up on the Village's processes for yard waste and branch collection. Since there are different rules and pickup days for yard waste and branches it is important to know and understand the specific rules for each program.

### YARD WASTE:

This includes items like grass clippings, twigs, shrubbery, and dead plants or flowers. Collection is made by GROOT (our normal garbage hauler) on the normal pickup day of Friday. You have two options for curbside disposal of yard waste – (1) Utilize a 30 gallon or smaller generic, biodegradable, paper bag (plastic not acceptable), or (2) Use a 35 gallon or less sized garbage can for landscape waste only (this must be marked with Village supplied stickers stating "landscape waste"). These stickers can be obtained at Village Hall and are free. This service is provided until November 21st.

### BRANCH PICKUP:

This service is provided directly by the Village's Department of Public Works and is done on Monday throughout the summer. Please ensure your branches are out at the curb prior to 7:00 AM on Monday morning. Please keep in mind that the branches must be 4' or shorter in length. The Public Works crew will come by and "chip" the branches into woodchips. The chips are then used by Public Works in various projects in the Village. If you have questions about the branch pickup program or you are interested in getting some woodchips from the Village's stockpile please contact Joseph Meyers, Director of Public Works at (847) 671-8554.

If you have any questions about either the yard waste program or the branch pickup program please don't hesitate to contact the Village at (847) 678-2550.



**SHOWN AFTER BEING PRESENTED WITH A PLAQUE THANKING THE VILLAGE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ARE (FROM LEFT) FIRE CHIEF TOM DEEGAN, TINA KRAJEWSKI (WHOSE DAUGHTER ALLYSON HAS SPINAL MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY), FIRE COMMANDER PETER CHIODO, MAYOR ANNA MONTANA AND MDA REPRESENTATIVE EMILY NILES. THE SCHILLER PARK FIREFIGHTERS RAISED OVER \$1,400.**

## WITH SPRING FAST APPROACHING - HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS BEGIN TO BLOSSOM

If you're thinking that this spring or summer is the time to tackle that long thought of home improvement project, then your very first step is to become familiar with Village procedures, the permit process, and required inspections. The permitting and inspection process assures that your contractor is licensed, quality work is performed, and current zoning and building codes are being properly followed. A building permit is required for many construction projects.

Additions, alterations, garages, decks, driveways, patios, sidewalks, window replacement, siding, gutters and downspouts, sewer repairs, lawn sprinkling systems, pools, fences, fireplaces, electrical upgrades, and plumbing are some of the improvements that will require a building permit.

Other issues to consider before applying for a permit would be, depending on the scope of your project: Have your plans been drawn by a design professional, stamped and submitted for review and approval? Have you thoroughly checked the background and history of the contractor and asked for references?

Our office routinely compiles a list of contractors licensed to do work in Schiller Park. We cannot make recommendations or referrals, but this list is available for anyone to review. If you have any questions regarding permits, the permitting process, or are not sure if a permit is necessary for your project, please contact the Community Development Department at 847-671-8555.

Becoming informed before the work starts will prevent mistakes and costly corrections. Beginning a project without a permit will result in additional fees and possibly fines.

## COMMUNITY POLICING CORNER

Mayor Anna Montana & the Village Board along with the Schiller Park Police Department are proud to be presenting "Movies in the Park" again this coming summer. These events have been a huge success in recent years and the Village expects this year to be another great one. The Police Department will be hosting these events again this year at Stalica Park, located at the corner of Irving Park Road and River Road.

We plan on having four movies shown on the first Saturday in June, July, August, and September. The first movie is scheduled for Saturday June 7th at dusk. Movie titles and exact start times will be announced at a later date. Please check future issues of the Communicator and the Village website for more information. If you have any questions or comments about this event please contact Officer Frank DeSimone of the Police Department via phone (847) 678-4794 or via email at [fdesimone@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:fdesimone@villageofschillerpark.com). As always the Mayor and Village Board wish to thank the Police Department, Recreation Department, and Audio Visual One for their assistance in making these fun family events possible.

## WEST COOK SOLID WASTE AGENCY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

June 6th & 7th, 2008 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Triton College - Northwest Student Parking Lot - 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove

Visit [www.villageofschillerpark.com](http://www.villageofschillerpark.com) for more information

# AROUND TOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## RENOVATED SHELL ON IRVING PARK ROAD

The former Clark Station at Irving Park Road and Judd has reopened as a Shell station featuring an expanded convenience grocery. Please patronize our Schiller Park businesses!

## PARADISE 4 PAWS

An innovative new pet boarding business will soon open at 10516 United Parkway. Much more than just a kennel, "Paradise 4 Paws" houses pets in private rooms. It includes an indoor Jacuzzi, exercise area, pet food and toy

retail sales with on-site grooming and veterinary care. "P4P" chose Schiller Park for our proximity to O'Hare, catering to frequent business travelers. Each pet room has a webcam so traveling customers can check in on Fluffy via the internet. *USA Today* recently published an article on this creative business. Welcome Paradise 4 Paws!

## HUMBOLDT MANUFACTURING

The Village would like to welcome Humboldt Manufacturing to 3801 25th Avenue. Humboldt provides testing equipment for soil, concrete, and asphalt. Humboldt is a national leader in construction materials testing equipment. Schiller Park is proud to have a high-tech leader in the engineering testing industry.

## HOME REPAIRS FOR MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTS – 0 % INTEREST DEFERRED LOANS

Schiller Park participates in a Cook County program, through the West Suburban Neighborhood Preservation Agency (WSNPA), that provides home repairs for low and moderate income residents. Repairs up to \$25,000, include roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical etc. that are necessary for basic health and safety. The program pays for the repair and the resident has 20 years to pay back the loan interest-free. Each year, 5% of the original loan amount is forgiven. Please note that the program requires a building permit from the Village. For more information please pickup an informational pamphlet at the Community Development Department (4501 25th

Avenue) or the Village Hall, or you may call the WSNPA at (708) 410-2300.

## PLANNING FOR SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Spring is the time to start planning for major construction projects. Any project involving a building 'footprint' change (addition, second story addition, new garage, patio, deck, swimming pool etc.) needs to comply with zoning and storm water ordinances. Please find your property's 'plat of survey' and visit the Community Development Department for a courtesy review of your plans. Early planning will help us avoid the summer rush and allow time to perfect your plan.

## 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  
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