

Communicator

JUNE
2009

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SCHILLER PARK



MAYOR'S UPDATE

VILLAGE PLANS BUSY SUMMER OF PROJECTS

As we enjoy the last days of spring here in Schiller Park, I wanted to talk about some of the projects the Village has planned for this summer. Despite the tough economic climate the Village remains on firm financial ground and once again passed a balanced budget for the new fiscal year which began on May 1st.

The Village's sound financial situation has allowed continued funding of needed improvements and projects. Probably the most important is the Crystal Creek Project which the Village has been diligently working on for several years. The good news is that the State's plans for the project are nearing completion, with bidding anticipated this fall and construction of the project to commence as soon as this coming winter. More details on the progress of this important project can be found in this newsletter.

Another project scheduled for this summer includes replacing the guardrails on the Irving Park viaduct. This much needed improvement will be funded primarily through Federal Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds and will replace the older single rails with a more modern design which incorporate modern safety improvements. Also planning for repaving the badly worn alley between the 5100 block of Michigan Avenue and the 5100 block of Forster Avenue has

begun with construction anticipated in late summer or early fall. In the West Gateway Development Area on Mannheim Road a new super gas station with car wash and convenience store, is under construction and should be completed in the fall. More details on this can be found in the "Around Town – Community Development News" article in this newsletter.

Also you may have noticed that the sidewalk and pavement patching work on 25th Avenue is nearly complete. This wonderful project, funded primarily through federal grant money, has added a lot of new sidewalk and pavement patches to 25th Avenue and has improved the ability of Village residents to get around town.

I am very happy to be able to report on the progress of these projects and am looking forward to a fun summer. I hope everyone is able to spend some time enjoying the Village's new Water Park, now in its 3rd year, which opens on Monday, June 15th, 2009.

Yours for a better Schiller Park,



Anna Montana,
Mayor

2010 CENSUS INFORMATION

THE 2010 US CENSUS IS LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY!

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. It is required by the U.S. Constitution and has happened every ten years since 1790. The next census is in the spring of 2010.

WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

- Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats.
- Census information is what the federal government uses to make decisions about what community services to provide, construction projects to fund, etc. They distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local and state governments each year.
- The state distributes gas tax funds based on census population. This money goes directly into road construction right here in Schiller Park.
- Businesses make marketing decisions based on population data. If you want a certain store to locate in or near Schiller Park, they will look at census info to make that decision.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

- The census response takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. The information you give is strictly confidential.
- Further information is available at www.census2010.gov

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

When you receive your census packet in the mail, simply fill it out and return! If you do not receive one, the census will set up stations in local offices (library, community center, etc.) for you to visit and respond on-the-spot.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RESPOND TO THE 2010 CENSUS!

CRYSTAL CREEK PROJECT UPDATE

The Village has been working for years in conjunction with the State of Illinois on a major project to improve storm drainage in the Crystal Creek Basin. The project runs from the Des Plaines River (near Des Plaines River Road and Lawrence Avenue) all the way to the Franklin Park border near Mannheim. About half of this project (from the railroad tracks to the river) has already been completed. This helped, but sadly did not eliminate problems from the record rains we received last summer. We wanted to provide you with an update on the remaining parts of the project.

Trustees Fritz and Desecki, along with Village staff, recently traveled to Springfield to meet with representatives of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We feel the meeting was very constructive. This is important because the DNR is the agency responsible for completing construction plans and obtaining the necessary permits for the next phase of the project, which is from the railroad tracks on the east and just south of Irving Park Road on the west, near Wehrman Avenue. This is a difficult and long process in part because permits are required from several agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the North Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District.

We are pleased to report that meaningful progress is being made. As of this writing, the ACE has approved the permit, which allows the DNR to complete the actual construction plans. The plans themselves are estimated to be 85% complete. Because of these developments, the DNR has indicated the project can be bid as early as November of this year, with construction beginning later in the winter. The Village has facilitated this process by completing the acquisition of easements, making sure utilities are moved out of the way, and fronting money for certain DNR responsibilities in order to keep the project moving.

Completion of this phase of the project will go a long way towards reducing overland flooding concerns in the area along the Creek north of Irving Park, and even to the south as water will flow more easily with completion. Of course, because the plans and funding for the project are dependent on the DNR, we will continue to work with DNR, and our State Representatives to move this project along.

We will continue to provide updates. If you have further questions regarding this project please contact the Village Hall at (847) 678-2550.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT OFFERS DAY CAMPS

The Recreation Department offers a Day Camp for ages 6-13, Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with various time options available. The Recreation Department also offers a Mini Camp for ages 3-5, Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For more information on dates and fees please contact the Recreation Department at (847) 671-8580.

AROUND TOWN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

FOUR POINTS SHERATON NAMED #1 BY CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS!

Crain's Chicago Business recently rated Schiller Park's Four Points Sheraton as the top O'Hare Airport Hotel. The article quotes manager Arun Sharma in identifying the hotel's convenience and customer service as paramount. The Four Points has a 24-hour shuttle and O'Hare arrival and departure information on TV's in the lobby. The 295-room hotel features 13,000 square feet of meeting space. For more information visit www.fourpointsohare.com

O'HARE SHELL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The O'Hare Shell is under construction on Mannheim, south of Irving Park Road. It will feature a convenience store, Turtle Wax car wash, Subway, Baskin Robbins/Dunkin Donuts, and possibly a pizza parlor. Completion is projected for September.

SCHILLER PARK A LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

As featured on Channel 2 (CBS) News, the Great Escape restaurant is constructing a 100kW wind turbine that will supply the restaurant's power. Inside the

restaurant will be a computer display showing all facets of the turbine's operation – wind speed, energy generation, energy storage etc.

MANOR TOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A HIT

Employees, customers, suppliers, and friends gathered on May 15 to celebrate Manor Tool's 50th anniversary in business. Mayor Montana presented Tom Simeone with a State of Illinois proclamation from the office of State Senator Don Harmon. Food and door prizes kicked off Manor's second half-century of success.

SCHILLER PARK / FRANKLIN PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOB TRAINING INITIATIVES

The Chamber is working with East Leyden High School and Triton College to establish job training programs. In our current economic times, it is imperative people train for well-paying jobs with openings in the field. If your business or you personally have any input, please contact www.chamberbyohare.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SCHILLER PARK / FRANKLIN PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 5-7 PM

Business After-Hours at Russo Power Equipment, 9525 W. Irving Park Rd in Schiller Park. A festival of tools and power equipment with food and networking to boot.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 8-10AM

"Meet your Reps". This is a once-a-year opportunity to meet State Senator Don Harmon and State Representative "Skip" Saviano. They update us on happenings in Springfield and take questions from their constituents. This event will be at the Anna Montana Water Park on Scott Street in Schiller Park 8:00-10:00 am

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Think Summer! The Chamber's annual golf outing and barbeque at Bloomingdale Golf Course.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 5-7 PM

Business After-Hours at Luxury Motors in Franklin Park. Whatever your taste in luxury automobiles and grilled foods, this will be a great evening for you.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 5-7 PM

Community Policing Update. Get the inside scoop on what our local police departments are doing to prevent crime.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 5-10 PM

Chamber Night at the Races, Maywood Park. Win, place or show at this popular Chamber event.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 8-10 AM

Community Development Update. The Chamber's annual update on what is going on in Franklin Park and Schiller Park. Where enquiring minds go to find out!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Business Expo and Job Fair

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Plant tour: Scot Forge at 9394 W. Belmont in Franklin Park.

The Chamber of Commerce promotes local commerce by responding to the needs of businesses and the general public. Full event information and online registration at www.chamberbyohare.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

"THIS IS 9-1-1, WHAT IS YOUR EMERGENCY?"

When emergencies happen, you want to get help fast. That's why 9-1-1 was created. Dialing 9-1-1 on your telephone is the fastest way you can get help for yourself or someone else.

Years ago, people had to find the right phone number in an emergency. If there was a fire, people phoned the fire department. If there was a crime people called the police department. If someone got hurt, an ambulance had to be called. Finding a number for any of these emergency workers could be very confusing — especially if a person was in a hurry or did not know where they were calling from.

Today, it's as simple as dialing 9-1-1. With those three numbers, you can reach the fire department, the police department, or an ambulance. When you call 9-1-1, an emergency operator, called a dispatcher, immediately connects you to the agency you need. If you think that you need the police, fire or ambulance right away CALL 9-1-1 and NOT the business phone lines.

When shouldn't you call 9-1-1? Do NOT call 9-1-1 if someone dares you to call or you lost your dog.

Never call 9-1-1 as a joke or just to see what might happen. When the emergency dispatcher has to take the time to talk to people who don't have a real emergency, other people who call and do need help right away might have to wait.

WHAT'S COOKING? (SAFE COOKING TIPS)

- Adults should give cooking their full attention and never leave the stove or oven unattended.
- Everyone should wear tight-fitting clothing while cooking. Oversized or long, draping clothes can easily brush against a hot burner and catch fire.
- Aim pot handles towards the center of the stove and away from the traffic in the kitchen.
- Keep the stovetop neat and clean.
- Place a rubber or non-slip mat on the floor. If your floor frequently gets wet from spilt liquids or oils, a rubber mat will keep your shoes from slipping on the liquid.
- Flammable items should be stored far away from the stove. This includes: pot holders, dish rags, towels, curtains and food packaging.
- Never use the oven or stove range to heat your home. This is not only a fire hazard, but if you have a gas oven/stove you are letting gas into the air.

BABYSITTING

If you are babysitting, you are responsible for your own safety and others. Here are a few tips:

- Know the family's name.
- Know the address of the home.
- Know how to contact the parents.
- Have telephone numbers of close relatives, neighbors and the doctor's name and number.
- Have emergency numbers available.

EXAMPLES OF SITUATIONS WHERE YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 9-1-1 ARE:

- If your house or another house is on fire.
- If someone suddenly seems very sick and is having a hard time speaking or breathing or turns blue.
- If there is a car accident.

The best way to handle an emergency is to be prepared before one happens—know your own address and phone number. The 9-1-1 dispatcher will need your name, location and type of incident that you are calling about. Speak clearly and slowly and DO NOT hang up until the dispatcher says it is okay.

CAMPING FIRE SAFETY

When camping, exercise special care with flammable liquids and any open flame near tents. Always take precautions.

- Use a tent of flame retardant material.
- Use a flashlight or battery operated lantern inside the tent.
- Heat or flame producing appliances (e.g. lights, heaters, cooking appliances) should never be used inside or close to a tent,
- Pitch your tent at least 15 feet upwind from grills and fire pits.
- Maintain at least a three foot clear area, free of leaves, dry grass, pine needles, etc. around grills, fireplaces, and tents.

CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- Observe all fire laws or ordinances regarding regulations.
- Scrape away grass and needles within a 10 foot diameter.

- Build your campfire or cooking downwind; far away from your tent.
- Use a designated fire pit if available.
- Have a supply of water or a fire extinguisher readily available before building your fire.
- Small children should never build a fire, even with adult supervision.
- Never use a flammable liquid (especially gasoline) to start a fire or to light hot coals.
- When near campfires and grills, wear snug-fitting, tightly woven. Or short sleeved garments.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Before you leave your campsite, make sure coals are thoroughly extinguished before disposal.
- An extinguisher of some type (e.g. shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher) is an essential piece of equipment for all campers.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Keep at least one corded touchtone wired telephone in your home. When weather keeps you from getting to the office or your child's school, or when the Village sends out an emergency message through its emergency notification system, the dial-tone provided by this type of phone may be your only method of communication. Remember, home phones that are cordless do not work during a power outage, while in most cases a corded phone will continue to work.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TIPS

HOW TO AVOID SENIOR SCAMS

As sad as it is, there are crooks that specifically target senior citizens. These criminals prey on seniors because of their friendly and trusting attitudes and often take advantage of them. Unfortunately many seniors are reluctant to report these thieves to the police. The Police Department wants to help resident seniors and their families by offering support and some helpful tips to avoid these scams.

For instance many seniors do not know that giving out their Medicare number can be the same as giving out their credit card number. It is also important to remember to be cautious when an offer seems too good to be true – the reality is that these “great” deals are often scams. Typical crooks use the mail, telephone, or even go door-to-door to meet seniors and then target them for their scams. They sometimes pose as opinion poll takers who want the senior’s opinion and then seek to gain personal information they can use in identity theft or other scams.

Some things that can be done to limit the exposure to fraudulent scams aimed at seniors:

- Encourage unannounced visits by family and friends.
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of valuables.
- Maintain a safety deposit box for cash, jewelry, financial records, stock certificates, bonds, & checkbooks.
- Arrange for direct deposit of all social security, pension and investment checks.
- Review all incoming mail of a financial nature. Watch for unusual or unauthorized activity.

In particular please report suspicious door-to-door offers to the Police Department immediately so that officers can quickly find and question the individuals involved. Sometimes these are innocent and legitimate solicitors, but on occasion they are not and an alert senior can help prevent crimes against their neighbors by calling the Police, even if they don’t fall for the phony sales pitch themselves.

For further questions about the steps you can take to protect yourself or your family members please contact the Police Department at (847) 678-4794.

MOSQUITO SEASON IS UPON US

Along with the return of mosquitoes comes the risk of West Nile Virus (“WNV”). Over the past several years Illinois has continued to experience cases of WNV and it remains a public health concern.

The house mosquito (*Culex pipiens*) and related species of *Culex* are the primary carriers of WNV. They breed in stagnant water with heavy organic content and hot summer temperatures increase *Culex* mosquito production. Most house mosquitoes in a community are produced locally. The *Culex* mosquito doesn’t fly more than 2 miles from its original breeding site.

Schiller Park, like many other area communities, helps fund a mosquito control program administered by Leyden Township to help keep mosquito populations to a minimum. Our businesses and residents can assist with this effort.

TO HELP REDUCE THE MOSQUITO POPULATION, CHECK YOUR PROPERTY AND FOLLOW THESE SUGGESTIONS:

- ☑ Remove anything and everything that can hold water.
- ☑ Remove or empty water in old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles or other places where mosquitoes might breed.
- ☑ Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use. If unused, drain swimming pools and keep dry during mosquito season.

- ☑ Change water weekly in bird baths, plant saucers and trays.
- ☑ Store boats and other equipment covered or upside down and remove rainwater weekly.
- ☑ Water bowls used by pets should be emptied and refilled daily.
- ☑ Fill holes around homes, businesses and parking lots that may retain water.
- ☑ Keep gutters around homes and businesses in good repair to avoid water build-up.
- ☑ Keep weeds and grass cut short. Adult mosquitoes look for shady places to rest during hot daylight hours.
- ☑ Be sure screens in homes and businesses are intact and tight fitting to prevent entry of insects.

PERSONAL PROTECTION:

- ☑ Apply mosquito repellent containing not more than 30% DEET primarily to clothing. Follow directions on container especially with regard to children.
- ☑ Keep skin covered when traveling through wooded areas. Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks.
- ☑ If at all possible, stay indoors at dawn and at dusk.

If you experience fever, headache, body aches, stiff neck, confusion or muscle weakness contact your family physician. If there are any questions regarding the information above, please contact the Health Inspector at (847) 671-8563.

THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

SCHILLER PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By June Oulund

People often ask, "What do you DO at the Historical Society?" The answer covers a multitude of subjects.

One is locating ancestors or former residents. We have several internet savvy people who know how to track down those illusive people. And we get just as excited as the searcher when we find their "missing person."

We interact with District 81 as we share with the students our knowledge about their home town. Just recently Washington

School fourth graders went on the historic bus tour. Eighth graders in the Docent Program finished their history project and received certificates of completion.

American Legion Post 104 and the Fire Department personnel also spend time with the kids. Another DARE season just finished. We at the Society are privileged to attend these ceremonies and mementos of the occasions are housed in the History Room. A side note, in a recent visit to Hines Hospital, I saw the stones that the fourth

graders had painted. They flank the walk to the Recreation Center there.

The Society is also the Depository for the records of the men and women whose names are on the Memorial Wall in Clocktower Park. The albums are available for viewing to anyone interested in reading about our fellow Schiller Parker's tours of duty. We are at work Mondays 9:00 AM – 12 Noon and we welcome visitors. We also welcome "history nut" volunteers as there is plenty to do. Call (847) 671-8513.

GRASS NOT BEING CUT?... CALL THE VILLAGE

It is the obligation of every property owner in the Village to maintain their property. The requirement that homeowners maintain their property is part of the Village Code and is enforced by the Community Development Department. This is important because properly maintained homes help the appearance of the neighborhood and keep property values strong.

Proper maintenance includes the building(s) and any yard that may be attached to it. Properly maintaining the yard requires, at a minimum, cutting the grass throughout the growing season. The Village would appreciate your help to ensure that the grass is cut regularly at all properties within the Village, so please let us know if you notice a property where the grass is not being cut. The Village tries to identify all the properties where the grass is not being cut but sometimes one may escape our notice so it helps to have observant residents help us keep our list complete.

Please contact the Community Development Department at (847) 671-8555 if you see a house where the grass has been neglected for an extended amount time. Thank you for helping!

EAST LEYDEN H.S. HONORS SCHILLER PARK NATIVE

At a ceremony on May 18, 2009 East Leyden High School inducted five former graduates into the "Alumni Wall of Fame". One of these graduates was Schiller Park resident Richard Nardini who graduated from East Leyden in 1952. Mr. Nardini is a long time Village resident who worked for the Chicago Sun Times for an astounding 56 years. He also served as a Board Member of the Leyden School Board for 36 years, 29 of those as Board President. The Village congratulates Mr. Nardini on the achievement.

VILLAGE CAR SHOW & FAMILY FUN DAY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

The Village will be hosting a Car Show and Family Fun Day this fall on Sunday, September 27th from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Metra Station on Ruby Street. This wonderful family event will include a car show and a host of other family friendly events and activities. Among the activities already planned are a D.J., pony rides, and "touch-a-truck" (including both Police and Fire Department emergency vehicles), with more to come.

Also local restaurants will be on hand to serve some tasty favorites.

If you are interested in registering your car for the car show applications are available at the Village Hall. If you have any other questions about this event please contact Audrey in the

Mayor's Office at (847) 678-2550.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

The Mayor and the Village Board are proud to be sponsoring another season of Movies in the Park this summer. The schedule is to show four (4) movies on Saturday evenings weather permitting. All movies will start at dusk. Don't forget to bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating. The Village hopes many residents are able to come and enjoy this free event.

JUNE 13, 2009

Journey to the Center of the Earth in 3D
(3D Glasses will be provided)

JULY 11, 2009

The Dark Knight

AUGUST 1, 2009

Hotel for Dogs

SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

Bolt

CLOCKTOWER PARK

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Village's well received series of free concerts at Clocktower Park is returning for another season of good music and family fun this coming summer. These family friendly events are always fun and you can't beat the price – they're free! Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or a blanket for seating. The following is the updated schedule for this summer:

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 17, 2009 - 7:30-9PM

Tangent (Classic Rock)

WEDNESDAY - JULY 15, 2009 - 7:30-9PM

White Saddle Band (Country & Western)

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 19, 2009 - 7:30-9PM

Ronnie Barnes & The Highway Kings
(Pop)

RECREATION DEPARTMENT OFFERS GREAT AMERICA TICKETS

This summer the Recreation Department is once again offering discounted tickets to the Great America Amusement & Water Park in Gurnee, IL.

Regular Admission tickets are just \$33.00 (a \$21.99 savings from the normal price) and a season pass is only \$73.00.

Tickets can be purchased from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Monday-Friday and Saturday & Sunday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Recreation Center.

SCHILLER PARK POLICE FOP LODGE 170 5TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY AUGUST 28TH
FOX RUN GOLF LINKS - 333 PLUM GROVE RD - ELK GROVE

Registration • 10:30AM

Lunch • 11:00AM

Shotgun Start • 12:00PM

Golf, Dinner Cost • \$110.00 per golfer

Dinner Only • \$40.00 per guest

Hole Sponsorship • \$150.00 per hole

Awards will include:

Closest to the pin

Longest Drive

Lowest team score

Hole in one contest

Also at the outing:

Door prizes

Raffle prizes

Split the pot

SPONSORED BY CROSS ROADS CHEVY

A special \$10 raffle will be held for a chance to win free granite countertops installed by Euro Marble (Retail \$5,000)

If you cannot attend our outing, donations are always accepted and appreciated.

All money raised from the outing will benefit local charities.

Please contact any of our officers or call the FOP members below.

FRANK DESIMONE 847-489-9536

MICHAEL MARRAZZO 847-343-0571

WILLIAM MARTIN 847-812-7875



Schiller Park Recreation Department Staff volunteered at the 2009 Special Olympic Track and Field Meet. Pictured from left Amber Lemar, Dave Lemar (Supt. of Parks), Judy Biondo (Recreation Supervisor), John Bealer (Director), Ashlyn Bealer, and Renee Wutke (Dept. Secretary).

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
- RODNEY TOLE



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