



Schillergram

SCHILLER PARK UPDATES



Mayor's Update

As I write this, we were in the midst of a minor snow storm so we finally got our white Christmas a week late. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays though and had a wonderful New Years!

With 2016 upon us, we not only look back on the many accomplishments but look forward to future opportunities and new horizons.

The Village will continue to maintain our great community with successful projects and programs.

- Ash Tree Removals were completed and more than 85 new trees were planted.
- Dozens of sidewalks were replaced during our 2015 sidewalk program.
- The Village purchased a new sidewalk "Scarifier" which repairs trip hazards from sidewalks that are not necessarily replaceable sidewalks but just need "filing" down. This saves a tremendous amount of money by not having to replace the whole sidewalk but ensures the safety of residents. You'll see this used more in the Village in the upcoming year.
- Continued street sweeping – streets are still clean with less sweeps and lower cost.
- We continue to use a commercial contractor for our lane marking program, but have taken over many of the areas with in-house personnel. Cost saving and efficient.
- Our street program completed paving the sections of Linn Ave., George Place, and the Irving Park Road alley, and numerous patches at various locations throughout the Village.
- Mapped localized flooding and gave engineering advice to neighbors on how to stop or minimize stormwater.
- A contract was awarded and engineering plans completed for construction of new pedestrian crossing improvements at Lawrence Avenue and Forster Avenue in the spring of 2016. We are also looking to plan pedestrian improvements for Lawrence Ave. and River Road.
- Received over \$125,000 in grant money for school walking safety. This will entail installing new solar powered stop signs and radar.
- We continue our partnership with the Village of Franklin Park and Christopher Burke Engineering in the remapping process of the flood plain after the Crystal Creek improvements were completed. Hopefully, this remapping will help numerous homes get removed from the flood map.
- We continue our sewer improvement projects with televising, replacing sewer linings and repairs.

- The Village is diligently working with IDOT and our engineers on obtaining a stop light at Irving Park Road and Old River Road.
- Our main facilities, which include Village Hall, the police and fire departments and community development building, are getting old, cramped, and outdated. Flooding has occurred in the village hall basement which required extensive cleanup and repairs. Making minor repairs for now will hopefully buy us some time to complete our long-term planning for an updated village complex. This will all be taken into consideration when working on our comprehensive plan for the Village.

The Village also took initiative to develop and improve Schiller Park. We approved the Argent development project at Mannheim and Irving Park Roads with the prospects of two new Marriott hotels, retail and restaurants. We also agreed to have Ginkgo Planning and Design to help us prepare a comprehensive plan for our community going forward. You'll hear more about the hotel project as it progresses. We'll be asking for your input and ideas for our comprehensive plan too. These are major breakthroughs for the future development and success of Schiller Park.

Despite the fact that some companies have moved out of Schiller Park due to outgrowing their facilities or union problems, we have welcomed twenty new companies as well. Plus, many of the now vacant buildings are under contract with prospects of new businesses and redevelopment. Schiller Park's largest industrial park has gone, in 2.5 years from a rate of 50% vacancy in 2013 to 100% occupancy rate in 2015. The Village continues to emphasize to business prospects our location with close proximity to O'Hare and major highways.

Although our two new major parking garages, Pre-Flight and Wally Park, are not exactly "entertainment" districts, they are bringing in a considerable amount of new revenues for our Village.

Our Community Development Department is hard at work recruiting more developers and businesses to the area. The future is definitely bright for the continued success of our vision.

We took action to strengthen the Village financial status and programs:

- A new "Crime Free Multi-Housing" ordinance is designed to assist tenants, owners, and managers of rental property in keeping drugs and other illegal activity away from their property and out of our town. The benefits of this program will be a

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MAYOR

BARBARA J. PILTAVER

CLERK

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TRUSTEES

LAWRENCE FRITZ

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MOSES DIAZ

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9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon.-Fri.)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Sat.)

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Mayor's Update Continued from page 1

stable, more satisfied tenant base, increased demand for rental units, lower maintenance and repair costs, increased property values, improved personal safety for tenants, landlords and managers, and peace of mind for everyone involved.

- The finance department in conjunction with our auditors, have been diligently working on improving our financial reporting for the yearly audit. Compiling this information now will bring us closer to our goal of obtaining an award for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- The Village maintains an excellent credit rating of AA- from Standard and Poors due to the fact that we refinanced some of our outstanding bonds with regard to our TIF districts. The Westgate TIF is now generating more revenue which will help fund our TIF payments in the future.
- We are still awaiting word on the status of our grant funds of \$600,000 to be released by the State. Our projects were approved for this money, but with the stalemate in Springfield, our grants have been held up. These monies will be used to install a pedestrian crossway over the Crystal Creek on 25th Ave on the East side, repair of a lift station to help with flooding problems, along with other improvements throughout the Village. We are hoping these funds get released soon.
- Village revenues will increase with the recent passage of the Municipal fuel tax, revision of outdated building permit fees and gaming revenue. The MFT is specifically earmarked for the village's police and fire pension obligations and infrastructure repairs. Other revenue will be generated by the 2% increase in the Village Tax Levy which was approved by the Village trustees at the December, 2015 meeting; despite my opposition to raising it and recommendation to keep it at 0%.
- Village Board approved funds to develop a new Village website which should be rolled out in spring of 2016.
- Our proposed senior bus program is being discussed. Hopefully, once we iron out all the costs and other factors, this can start on a trial basis. Getting seniors more involved in community events and helping them with better independence is important.
- Staff are working on revamping our handicap parking policy to assure spaces on streets (especially those with limited parking) are being used properly and not being abused.
- We continue with our senior snow plowing and grass cutting programs which have greatly expanded in the past couple years.

The past year has also seen a number of successful events such as the Historical Society Open House, the Mayor's Senior Breakfast, Victorian High Tea, Village wide garage sales, our first ever 5k Dog Walk, Movies in the Park, Rockin in the Park concerts, Kids and Pets 4th of July parade and picnic, Family Fun Day and Car Show, Police National Night Out, Shred event, Make a Difference Day, Halloween Howl, our 1st Pumpkin Smash, Fire Department Ice Cream social and Open House events, Veterans Breakfast and our ever successful Santa's Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting.

2016 is looking good for Schiller Park and we hope you'll be a part of it with ideas, participation and feedback.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Working for you with a vision.

Mayor Barbara

mayor@villageofschillerpark.com

847-671-8502



Santa's Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting event was a huge success!



Police Chief's Corner

Interim Chief of police — **George Carpenter**



The Schiller Park Police would like to provide crime prevention tips to help you survive the winter months, and beyond.

If You See Something, Say Something

SEE SOMETHING



SAY SOMETHING

Cold weather and snow do not eliminate crime, and the police need your assistance to maintain community safety. Please call 9-1-1 whenever you observe a person, vehicle or circumstance that makes you feel uneasy. Trust your instincts. We need your help to keep our neighborhoods safe.

If You Like It, Lock It

Make a habit of double-checking to see that your garage door and all house doors are closed and locked, even when you are home. Lock your car doors and windows every time you park, even for a quick trip into a favorite coffee shop. Never leave items of value in plain view in your car; put them in the trunk. Remember that cell phones, iPads, designer purses and other items of value are preferred targets for thieves.

Drop It and Drive

I am still new to this wonderful community, but there is plenty of street traffic and I see drivers with a cell phone to their ear much too often. Two years ago this month, a new law went into effect in Illinois that makes it illegal to use an electronic communication device while driving. This includes cell phones, unless you have speaker phone capability in your car AND the cell phone is not in your hand. Remember, no cell phone use in school zones.



Texting or otherwise using an electronic communication device while driving is both distracting and dangerous. About 20% of traffic crashes are directly related to distracted driving. The Schiller Park Police Department reminds you to give your full attention to the roadway, especially during the winter. Remember that when driving a car, that is your 'full-time job'!

Schiller Park has low crime, but is not without crime. Thank you for helping your Police Department keep Schiller Park safe in the New Year.



Sy Petrosino, an eight-year old resident, prepares to join police officers in the annual Toys for Tots parade.

Schiller Park Firefighters Participate in Charity Event!



This December, two members of the Schiller Park Fire Department participated in an amazing event called Operation North Pole. Many groups and volunteers organize ONP, but one of the largest organizers is the Des Plaines Fire Department. ONP is hosted entirely for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses and their families. With the emotional and financial stresses a family with a child battling one of these illnesses may face, ONP makes every effort to ensure that the entire family participates and shares in the day's festivities. This was held in the 28,000 square foot main floor ballroom of the prestigious Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont Illinois.

The magical experience includes, breakfast, a festive train ride to the North Pole, a visit with Santa, winter wonderland fun, entertainment, treats, personal wish list gifts, and much more! FF/PM Blaine Schneider and FF/PM Jessica Warden got to participate and witness first-hand how wonderful this event truly is. Their job was to be in what is referred to the "Gauntlet", which greets the families as they come off the train and enter the Winter Wonderland. All the police and firefighters that volunteer as part of this kneel, applaud, and high-five the children as they come through the hall. It was truly heartwarming! We found this event to be something we would love to be a part of again in the future!



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Chicago celebrated the Grand Opening of its new headquarters at 10525 Delta Parkway in Schiller Park on December 9. Festivities included a blessing by Assistant Spiritual Advisor Fr. Gerry Kelly, ribbon-cutting ceremony in coordination with the Chamber by O’Hare, and open house for Society members, donors, volunteers, and local dignitaries. Village President/Mayor Barbara Piltaver, Trustee Larry Fritz, Trustee Russ Klug, Village Manager Brad Townsend, and Community Development Director John Zalud were on hand to welcome the Society to the Village of Schiller Park.

The new headquarters, conveniently located off Interstate 294 at Irving Park and Mannheim Roads, will serve as a central donation drop-off and processing center, truck dispatch center, and SVdP Chicago administrative office.

“We are thrilled to be part of the Schiller Park community,” CEO James Lonergan said. “Ease of highway access and our 30,000 square foot facility allows us to efficiently and effectively process more donations to serve our brothers and sisters in need throughout Cook and Lake counties.”

SVdP is the oldest charity in Chicago and serves approximately 800,000 needy families and individuals every year. More than 2,000 volunteers bring help, hope, and the compassion of Christ to the most vulnerable of our society, assisting with food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and emotional and spiritual comfort.

Donations are always needed and welcome. Gently used clothing, furniture, and household items may be dropped off at any one of the three SVdP thrift store drop-off sites in Chicago, Libertyville, and Orland Park. Additional convenient ways to donate include more than 60 drop boxes located at Catholic parishes throughout the area, and free furniture pick-up service available by calling 773-779-6700. In addition a drop-off center is now available at the new location in Schiller Park.

Visit svdpchicago.org for updates and more information about accepted and unaccepted donations and donation drop-off locations. In general, all donated items should be gently used, clean, and in working condition – items your family and friends would enjoy using.

“We are a closer community when we treat each other with dignity and respect. Many people who come to us for help may be one paycheck away from poverty. If we can help them by providing a bridge or fill a gap or a need, we may be able to lead some of these people out of poverty,” said Lonergan.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago is a Catholic lay organization that administers food, clothing, financial and other forms of direct assistance to the poor and those in need in Cook and Lake counties. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago has been serving the needy since 1857 and operates three thrift stores and 44 food pantries. To learn more or to donate, please visit www.svdpcchicago.org.

Keep Your New Year’s Resolution

Purchase a fitness membership at the Recreation Center and keep your resolution this year! Open 7 days a week they offer a variety of cable machines, free weights and cardio equipment. Each new membership includes a complimentary orientation. Rates start as low as \$100 per year (just over \$8.33 per month) for an adult resident membership.

In addition we offer a variety of adult fitness classes and both youth and adult athletic leagues and programs. So get off the couch and call today for more information to start the New Year off on a healthy note. For more information please call 847-671-8580.



Around Town Community Development News

Why Should I Get a Building Permit?

This is a question many people ask themselves when planning alterations to their home or property.

When a resident or local business applies for a permit they will be assured that their construction drawings will be thoroughly reviewed and that each phase of the project will be inspected to ensure the work is completed in compliance with locally adopted building codes. Additionally, the plans examiner and field inspector can be a resource to provide technical guidance on a project.

Furthermore, there are legal and financial liabilities that you may face when you don’t get a building permit. Work without a permit is illegal and can pose serious complications for you when you try to sell your house.

Any fire and homeowners insurance you have may be invalidated if you do work without a permit. If there is a fire in your home, the insurance company can use the illegal work as an excuse not to pay your claim.

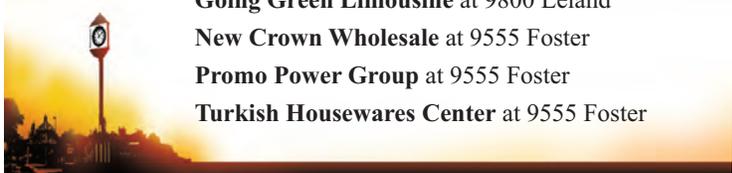
If you are planning on starting a building project and are not sure if a permit is required please contact Community Development at 847-671-8555 and we can answer any questions you have.

John Zalud, Director of Community Development

New Businesses in Schiller Park!

Community Development is excited to announce the arrival of a number of new companies to the Village of Schiller Park. These new businesses are diverse and help to make Schiller Park one of the most attractive places for companies to locate and help to provide a diverse workforce in the Village. Some of the highlights have been:

- Going Green Limousine** at 9800 Leland
- New Crown Wholesale** at 9555 Foster
- Promo Power Group** at 9555 Foster
- Turkish Housewares Center** at 9555 Foster





Exciting New Classes offered by The Recreation Department

New for the winter, the Recreation Department will be offering several new classes to challenge children and encourage their creativity. Young engineers or budding computer programmers will have a chance to explore exciting new areas. These classes include Beginning FUN-gineering, Fun-gineering, Intro to Robotics and Programming, and Video Game Programming. Ages include grades 4-12 and vary by program.

The Recreation Department is teaming up with the Park District of Franklin Park, to offer new programs to get children active. Tot Rock and Kid Rock classes use music and movement for sensory stimulation and to help develop fine and gross motor skills while helping with imaginative play. Children in these programs will use maracas, tambourines, hand bells, bean bags, parachutes and other instruments and props. Tot Rock is offered for 12-24 month olds, while different Kid Rock classes are offered for 20 month up to 4 year olds.

Additional information is available in the Winter Recreation brochure, online at www.villageofschillerpark.com or by calling the Recreation Center at 847-671-8580.

120th Anniversary of the Eden Memorial Park Cemetery

A special event was held in Schiller Park celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the Eden Memorial Park cemetery located at 9851 W. Irving Park Road. The cemetery was created in 1895 and remains the oldest entity in continuous operation in Schiller Park. Indeed, it predates the creation of the Village of Schiller Park by 20 years.

The event was celebrated by the Schiller Park Historical Society, and the owners of the cemetery, Jim, Mark and Tom Battista. Mayor Barbara Piltaver attended the celebration with her husband and a number of Society members and families whose loved ones are buried at the cemetery.

The event included a virtual walk through the cemetery via video in the historic building chapel, followed by an actual "walking tour" through the cemetery. Abundant facts and stories were told about the interesting people buried there including the founders and some of Schiller Park's most historic figures. James Stauber, who founded Ace Hardware, is buried there. Many regional religious and political figures are resting there.

Refreshments and treats were provided and a special event for the children was held. The cemetery created a small field where the children could "dig" for treasures. Mystery items were found under the surface of the specially prepared area and kids were allowed to keep their discovered treasures.

Cemetery operators invited all area residents to visit the cemetery during November and explore the amazing history. Information about the cemetery and questions about making arrangements at the cemetery is available by calling 847-678-0603.

**Eden Cemetery
Founded 1895**



Schiller Park Blood Drive Update



The most recent Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, December 15th at the Community Center. The results of the drive were as follows:

- 33 people showed up to donate
- 28 of the 33 people were regular donors
- 5 of the 33 people were new donors
- 3 of the 33 were deferred

Of the eligible remaining donors three (3) were able to contribute a "double red" type of donation. One milestone was reached:

Paul Raven – 5 Gallons

Thanks to everyone who donates! Congratulations also to the seven lucky winners of raffle prizes generously donated by the Village of Schiller Park, McDonald's, and Fratelli Coffee. Donating has its rewards!

The Blood Drive volunteers are always looking for donations of raffle prizes. Any business interested in donating can contact the Mayor's office at (847) 671-8502

The next Blood Drive is **Tuesday, February 16th at the Community Center from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM.** Please consider coming out and donating blood. It can save a life!



Ho Ho Here's the Winner

Several residents entered the Best Decorated Holiday House this year. The Recreation Department judged these houses and displays, looking for creativity and variety. Several of the houses were outstanding, making the judging more difficult. The winning entry will receive a choice of a free 6 month fitness membership or a 2016 Pool Pass. Thank you to all who participated.





Calendar of Events

Village Board Meetings

Thursdays, January 21st, February 4th and 18th
and March 3rd

7:00 PM

Village Hall 2nd Floor Boardroom

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 18th
Village Offices Closed

Autumn Leaves Senior Club Meetings

Tuesdays, February 9th and 23rd
and March 8th and 22nd

1:00 PM

Community Center

Presidents Day

Monday, February 15th
Village Offices Closed

Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 16th 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Community Center

Free Senior Breakfast

Wednesday, February 24th at 9:00 AM
Mirage Restaurant at Four Points Hotel

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 AM “Spring Ahead”
Set Clocks Forward 1 hour
& Change Smoke Detector Batteries

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26th at 11:00 AM
Kennedy School Field

The Village welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Please email your comments to mayor@villageofschillerpark.com
or send them via regular mail to Schillergram Comments, Village of Schiller Park,
9526 W. Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, IL 60176.

*If you would like a response to your comments please include your return address and
phone number. All information will be kept confidential.*

Schillergram

A Periodic Publication distributed to the residents and businesses of Schiller Park.
Produced by The Village of Schiller Park.
Brian Bursiek, Assistant to the Village Manager, Editor



Public Works UPDATE

Winter is here.... Bringing Snow, Snow and more Snow!

Everyone's cooperation and patience with the Public Works Department during snow plowing and salting operations is greatly appreciated.

Below are a few reminders:

- ➔ It is unlawful to place snow (by shovel, snow blower or plow) on cleared streets.
- ➔ In order to minimize a windrow of snow from a Village plow at the end of your driveway please place snow on the parkway.
- ➔ For snowfall over 3 inches, it is unlawful to park any vehicle or to allow any vehicle to remain parked on snow routes until snow removal operations are completed.

It is also very helpful to our snowplowers if vehicles are kept off of village streets (if at all possible) during snow falls or icy conditions. This allows plows and salt trucks clearer access to street plowing and salting.

Another concern is frozen water pipes!

There are several common causes we find in homes with frozen pipes. Among the most common is one that is not easily controlled – Mother Nature can leave your pipes very vulnerable with quick drops in temperature. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing so insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be. Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Seal up any leaks that may allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With extreme temperatures, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze. Disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

When the cold hits

Even when well insulated, extreme cold can still harm your pipes. A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight. Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls and keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night.

If you are traveling

Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F if possible. Have someone check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing.

Report possible main breaks

The Department of Public Works is available to repair water main breaks 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you know of a possible water main break during business hours, please contact the Village Hall at (847) 678-2550. After business hours, call the non-emergency number for the Police Department at (847) 678-4794.

On a warmer note, the 50/50% Tree Planting Program will resume in spring 2016.

Parkway trees provide several benefits to the community and homeowner including the following:

- Reduced cooling costs
- Improved air quality
- Increased property values
- Reduced storm water runoff

Village residents will be able to request a parkway tree from an approved list of species for the cost of \$100.00 per tree. The Village will cover the remaining cost of the tree in addition to the cost of delivery and planting. Residents interested in participating in the program should contact the Public Works Department @ 847-671-8550 or jbllum@schillerparkil.us. The Village arborist will evaluate the parkway and determine if there is room for a new tree and provide options and recommendations for a new tree(s).

2nd Annual Complimentary Senior Breakfast Announced!

Mayor Piltaver has announced her 2nd Annual Complimentary Senior Breakfast for Wednesday, February 24th at 9:00 AM at the Mirage Restaurant at the Four Points Hotel, 10255 W. Irving Park Rd. Please R.S.V.P. to Sandra Rosario in the Mayor's Office (847) 671-8502 and also advise as to whether you need transportation to the event. We look forward to seeing you there.