



Schillergram

SCHILLER PARK UPDATES



Mayor's Update

Welcome 2017! I can't believe how quickly the year went. Hope your holidays were happy and the New Year is starting off right.

As we look back on the past year, we've seen great things happening for Schiller Park and many accomplishments.

First, I am happy to report that the Village Board approved my recommendation of a 0% Tax Levy for the coming year. Property taxes are a huge burden on our residents and I am glad to see that the trustees agreed with my opinion and saw the importance of keeping our part of the property taxes in check. Speaking with our Village Manager and Finance Director, we were in agreement that our excellent current financial status did not warrant an increase. Therefore, a 0% levy was presented to the trustees for discussion and approval.

Please keep in mind though that this only pertains to the Village's portion of your tax bill. Other taxing bodies, such as the school districts and township, may have increased their levies, which we have no control over. However, as many of you know and have taken advantage of, I've offered tax appeal seminars with the assessor's office and the board of review. Many of our residents have been helped tremendously with reductions in their assessments when they appeal. I will continue to offer these seminars in the future.

The decision to go with a 0% levy will help residents, long-time businesses and some new businesses. Let's look back at 2016 and forward to 2017:

- A new laser tag facility, I-Combat, and micro-brewery Short Fuse opening up in early or late spring on River Street taking over the old Atlas Toyota buildings. The owners are also developing other portions of the property for future developments.
- A new Jimmy John's on Irving Park Road which is currently under construction and plans to open also in early or late spring.
- Plans are still moving forward for a hotel complex on the corner of Irving & Mannheim Roads.
- The restaurant pad on Mannheim Road is being marketed and pursued by interested parties. The Village wants to make sure we get the right fit into that area.
- Demolition of the old Hostess buildings is complete and construction of new industrial/office buildings has begun bringing the prospect of more jobs and revenue to the village.
- New stores coming into the old Aldi building; Dollar store, laundromat, pizza parlor. Plus the mall has seen a new nail salon and will welcome a new hair salon also.
- Numerous new businesses have started to call Schiller Park their home and many projects were completed and others are remodeling and revamping to improve their facilities.
- Construction of the new pedestrian sidewalk at 25th Avenue over Crystal Creek. This was a prized project of mine that I'm so proud to see completed. It has made walking, biking, and getting to and from

the Metra so much safer and easier. No more walking into the street!

- Several streets and alleys were repaved and patched throughout the Village as we continue with our yearly comprehensive infrastructure rebuild/replace schedule.
- Pedestrian crosswalks were completed on Lawrence Avenue by Forester and River Road Avenue. Again, more safety improvements.
- New Village website was launched offering residents numerous ways to contact the Village and see what's going on in town. Also, Village Board meetings are now recorded and placed on the website for those who cannot attend, lending to better transparency and information.
- We are getting closer and keeping on top of the final remapping of the flood plain map which is awaiting approval by FEMA. Once approved, over four hundred homes will be removed from the flood map. This is good news to residents who are paying high flood insurance premiums.
- Illuminated stop signs were installed around the four schools in town from our Safe Routes to School grant helping to insure safety for our children and warning for motorists who ignore stop signs.
- The Village was awarded the prestigious Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its outstanding commitment of the Village to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.
- The Village's Comprehensive Planning process continues with upcoming public forums and continued talks with the Canadian Pacific Railroad for the future use of the land that sits right in the middle of our town.

The vision and plans for our Village are in the making and the future looks bright!

I would like to address two areas in town that I get a lot of questions on. What is happening on the corners of Irving and River (vacant gas station) and River and Lawrence (old car wash)? These remain empty but not due to a lack of trying to get them filled. The old car wash property is privately owned and includes the Denny's. Despite the fact that the owner has received numerous offers on the property from potential developers, the owner keeps upping his price and is not being cooperative in selling. As for the empty gas station; several developers came with plans for the corner, but it does present numerous challenges. First and foremost is ingress and egress. It's difficult to get in and out of the property which doesn't make for good business and second, since the property has been empty for so long, any new owners would have to pull the tanks which costs well over a million dollars.

The Village will continue to do what we can to get these properties new businesses. No one more than I would like to see these prime areas of our town vibrant again.

MAYOR
BARBARA J. PILTAVER

CLERK
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RICHARD W. DESECKI
CATHERINE GORZYNSKI
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ROBERT LIMA

VILLAGE OF SCHILLER PARK
9526 West Irving Park Road
Schiller Park, IL 60176
(847) 678-2550

Hours :
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon.-Fri.)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Sat.)
www.villageofschillerpark.com

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

We've had some wonderful events take place since the last Schillergram. The Halloween Howl and our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Smash were loads of fun for the kids. Our Veteran's breakfast was well attended and the Vets were so appreciative of the recognition. Thank you to Fire Chief Pete Chiodo and members of the St. Beatrice Knights of Columbus for helping out with the event. Our main event was Santa's Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting which is always a huge success and popular with the residents. Although a very cold and snowy day, it didn't stop people from attending and having a great time. Thanks to all the volunteer elves and especially to my assistant Sandra for organizing the event. We also did a Santa Toy Drive visit that had Santa's Elf, aka Tim Frey SP resident bring smiles to children's faces all the while collecting toys. We visited over 37 homes, which took us a bit longer than anticipated, but we made all the

visits in one night (in Santa fashion). All the toys were then donated to Leyden Family Service. (See pictures below)

Make sure you pick up a 2017 Village calendar from Village Hall so you don't miss any of the upcoming events and visit our website often for updates, events and so much more information.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! We hope to see you at our Comprehensive Plan public forum which will be coming up at the **Community Center on Monday, February 27th at 6:00 PM.** We want you to be part of Schiller Park's future plans.

Working for you with a vision

Mayor Barbara

mayor@villageofschillerpark.com

847-671-8500



Schiller Park Firemen collecting for Salvation Army at S. P. Walgreens



Schiller Park Autumn Leaves Club Annual Christmas Banquet

Police Chief's Corner

Watch Out For Ruse Burglaries



Unfortunately, we live in a world where unscrupulous scoundrels prey on trusting, normally elderly, residents. They tend to target the elderly by profiling homes typically owned by senior citizens. It is known as a “Gypsy Ruse Burglary”; whereas, the homeowner is distracted so that an accomplice can enter the household in order to search for cash and valuables.

Gypsy Ruse Burglaries occur during daylight hours. The offender will, literally, walk right into the home for the purpose of stealing jewelry and money. Very often, the homeowner is either in or just outside of the house.



Here is how the ruse burglary works: Typically, a Caucasian male with dark complexion, dark hair, and dark eyes will approach the senior with a subterfuge in order to get the inhabitant sidetracked. He is oftentimes mistaken as Hispanic by victims. Once the elderly man or woman of the house is diverted and/or lured to another area, an accessory enters the premise through a door that was left unlocked, combing for money and jewelry. During the encounter, the perpetrators

often communicate to each other on a two-way radio or cell phone in a language other than English. Once the ill-gotten gains are secured, the partner in crime gives a signal and both leave abruptly. Later, the resident realizes that their hard-earned valuable assets have been pillaged. Characteristically, these individuals have not been violent and if exposed, they will give a quick-witted excuse as to why they are in the home.

The ‘Ruse’ is a believable story that gets a trusting individual sidetracked so that they are unable to see an unlocked door or a specific area of the house, like the master bedroom. Here are some successful examples of how it is accomplished:

- *A fake utility worker who needs to check the water in the basement because of a broken water pipe next door;
- *A phony Village employee needs to locate the victim’s gas lines;
- *The victim is persuaded to go to the rear of their yard because they are installing the neighbor’s fence and they need the victim to show them the property line;
- *A lie that gets the victim into the basement in order to fill a bucket of hot water needed for a bogus reason;
- *While soliciting landscaping services, the victim is brought to the rear of the property;
- *They are tree trimming in the area and need to show the resident the work to be performed;
- *While soliciting driveway repairs, the victim is lured to the rear of the property in order to show them other things that can be fixed;
- *They are a contractor and need to show the victim some concrete work that needs repair;
- *The victim has a leaky chimney and they need to show you what repairs are needed;
- *The victim is lured to the rear of the garage because they are installing speed bumps in the alley.

As you can perceive, there are numerous ploys that can be used to divert a trusting individual’s attention in order for them to accomplish their illegal objective. Typically, walking out to your yard, you do not lock your door. So, once distracted, another can walk in undetected. Within a matter of a few minutes, they are on their way with your money and jewelry.

Senior citizens are asked to be extremely cautious when an unsolicited individual approaches and tries to control your movements. Always check utility worker’s identification cards. Call utility companies or the Village to verify worker’s presence. Most of all, please do not hesitate to call the police if you suspect something just doesn’t feel right. Officers are always glad to be of assistance!

Fire Department & Red Cross Offer Free Smoke Alarms



In 2015 in the US, 365,500 fires in the home occurred. On average, about 13 out of every 5 fire-related deaths occurred in homes that either did not have a working smoke alarm or ones that did not have a smoke alarm at all. This spring, the Fire Department is partnering with the American Red Cross to help our community become safer. Through the American Red Cross’ Home Fire Campaign, FREE smoke alarms will be provided to anyone in town who is interested. The installation of the smoke alarms is also a free service. Dates to choose from for installation are April 8th, April 15th or April 22nd. This must be a scheduled appointment and you can do so through the Village. Either stop by Village Hall and fill out the request form, or go to the village website at www.villageofschillerpark.com and download the form and then email, fax, or mail it in. Sign-ups will start in January so don’t miss out on this great opportunity to keep your homes and families safe! Hearing-impaired alarms are also available for order. Smoke alarms can help save lives and no home should be without one.



Schiller Park Blood Drive Results

Schiller Park again had a successful blood drive on December 22nd. 31 units of blood were collected from 36 potential donors. 6 were deferred and one donor contributed the “Double Red” donation counting for 2 units.

There were several milestones this month. John Kusiak (pictured) achieved 23 gallons! He is extremely proud of this accomplishment; as he should be. William Giordano achieved 11 gallons – no small feat in itself. Gwen Cooper and Jackie Vendegna both achieved 3 gallons and Bob Golab reached the 1 gallon club. Congratulations to you all!



Raffle prizes were awarded to Emerich Catomy who won a \$25 gift certificate from the Great Escape Restaurant, generously donated by Brian Great. Jackie Vendegna won a free 6 month gym membership to the Schiller Park Recreation Dept.

Snacks and goodies were provided by the St. Maria Goretti Women’s Club, Jackie Vendegna and JoAnn Michonski. Life Source provided snacks and beverages.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Mark your calendar for the next drive scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st from 1 to 7 pm at the Schiller Park Community Center, 4501 25th Avenue, Schiller Park. Giving blood saves lives. Do your part to help!

Historical Society Update

The Historical Society has brought on board a trained curator, Katlyn Froslan. She has already brought our volunteer staff up to date in many areas.

The Society continues to meet Monday mornings from 9 AM – 12:00 Noon. Do residents know we also meet to work the third Tuesday evening of the month from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM? Please come and join us. We welcome volunteers!

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.

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 2017

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 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. 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).

A Message From Your Health Board Regarding Winter Weather Safety

Here are some tips and tricks to make your winter safer. Keep warm outside by wearing several layers of clothing and proper footwear. Prevent trips and falls by wearing non slip winter footwear. When walking outside walk slowly and deliberately, no need to hurry and risk slipping and falling. Be sure to shovel and use salt on walkways to keep them snow and ice free. When driving be sure to leave more room between you and the car in front of you as stopping distances are increased in inclement weather. Pet friendly melt products are available too. Keep an extra set of warm clothing and a blanket in your car in case the car breaks down and you have to wait for the tow truck or a ride. Have a Happy and safe winter and Happy New

Community Development News

2016 was a very busy and productive year at Community Development. We were excited to welcome a number of new businesses into the Village including: MyKitchens LLC at 9416 Irving Park Road, Routes Rental Car at 3901 Mannheim, Airport Van Rental at 10501 Delta Parkway, EOC All-Stars at 3721 25th Ave, and Lollipop Lounge LLC at 9823 Lawrence Avenue.

We are looking forward to 2017 and have a number of exciting new businesses expected to come to town this year including: iCombat at 5050 River Road, Short Fuse Brewing at 5040 River Road, Kitchen and Bath Direct at 3977 25th Avenue, Avers Machine at 3999 25th Avenue, and two brand new industrial buildings on the old Hostess sites. We are excited to welcome these new businesses and look forward to seeing the future growth of the Village!

Finally if you have a home improvement project in mind for this coming year we encourage you to come talk to us and see if you need a permit in advance. It is better to plan for a permit review and approval rather than finding out later and then possibly suffering through a costly delay in your project. We are open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday in the west side of the Community Center, 4501 25th Avenue. We can be reached at (847) 671-8555 or through the Village website at www.villageofschillerpark.com.

Schiller Park Night at DePaul Men's Basketball

On Monday, February 13th at 8:00 PM at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont the Village of Schiller Park and DePaul Athletics are hosting a "Schiller Park Night" with discounted tickets and a chance to see national power Villanova take on your hometown DePaul Blue Demons. The tickets are \$40 each for the best seats, \$20 (regularly \$30 each - save \$10), \$15 (regularly \$20 - save \$5), or \$10. The group promo code is "Schiller" and you can call (773) 325-SLAM (7526) to order tickets or visit <http://tinyurl.com/DPUPROMO>. Please come join us for this fun family activity in the last season the Blue Demons will be playing at the Allstate Arena. If you have any questions about this event please call Brian Bursiek, Assistant Village Manager at (847) 671-8534.

Game Details:

Date: Monday, February 13th

Time: 8:00 PM Tip-Off

Location: Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL

Event: DePaul Men's Basketball vs. Villanova Wildcats

Use Promo Code: **SCHILLER**





Please Join The



Schiller Park Lions Club

At Our
ANNUAL PASTA DINNER
As We Celebrate

100 YEARS OF LIONISM

Sunday, January 22rd, 2017

12:00 - 5:00

at the

Schiller Park Community Center
4501 N. 25th Avenue
Schiller Park, IL

Donation

Adults - \$15.00 Children 6 -11 - \$5.00

Children 5 and under Free

Questions? Call Lion Ken or Lion Glenda Wagner
(847) 678-3918



Bring a non-perishable item for the Leyden Food Pantry
and receive a FREE raffle ticket for each donated item!



Calendar of Events

Village Board Meetings

Thursdays, January 19th and February 2nd
and 16th and March 2nd 7:00 PM
Village Hall 2nd Floor Boardroom

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 16th
Village Offices Closed

Autumn Leaves Senior Club Meetings

Tuesdays, February 14th and 28th
and March 14th and 28th 1:00 PM
Community Center

“Schiller Park Night” – DePaul Men’s Basketball vs. Villanova

Monday, February 13th 8:00 PM
Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL
See Article in this Newsletter for
How to Buy Discounted Tickets

Presidents Day

Monday, February 20th
Village Offices Closed

Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 21st 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Community Center

Village Comprehensive Plan – 2nd Public Forum

Monday, February 27th
6:00 PM at the Community Center

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 AM
Set Clocks Forward &
Change Smoke Detector Batteries

Historical Society Open House

Saturday, March 18th 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Schiller Park Library

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

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Produced by The Village of Schiller Park.
Brian Bursiek, Assistant Village Manager, Editor

Recreation Department Offers Trips



The Schiller Park Recreation Department has joined the Park District of Franklin Park in offering these community trips. Register at the Recreation Center or for more information please call 847-671-8580.



Second City Comedy Show

Chicago, IL • Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Ages: 21 years & up • \$75.00 per person
Depart: 5:30 p.m. - Return: 10:30 p.m.

Need a laugh? Join us at Second City for comedy show and night full of laughs. Second City has grown and become one of the world’s premier comedy club, theatre and school of improvisation. Fee includes transportation, ticket and dinner (at the theatre) before the show.

Volo Auto Museum

Volo, IL • Sunday, April 23, 2017
Ages: 21 years & up • \$40.00 per person
Depart: 10:00 a.m. - Return: 4:00 p.m.



Explore over 33 unique exhibits featuring hot rods, muscle cars, antiques, cars from TV shows & movies, and so much more. Shop around in their three antique malls for some souvenirs. Fee includes admission and transportation.

Recreation Department Youth Programs Offered



The Schiller Park Recreation Department offers a variety of youth programs to keep the children busy during the winter months. Some classes offered include beginning guitar or keyboard, voice lessons, dance, gymnastics, soccer, basketball, Taekwondo, archery, volleyball and Zumba. We also offer some parent-tot classes so mom or dad can enjoy time with their children while trying a new program. Visit www.villageofschillerpark.com and download a copy of the current Recreation brochure for additional information on ages, dates and fees. Register at the Recreation Center or for more information please call 847-671-8580.

Village Comprehensive Plan 2nd Public Forum

Monday, February 27th • 6:00 PM at the Community Center
Please come out and share your thoughts and ideas about Schiller Park’s future and hear what ideas our Comprehensive Plan team has come up with so far.

Lawrence Avenue & Des Plaines River Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvements are Complete!

The Village is pleased to announce that Phase 2 of our pedestrian crossing improvements on Lawrence Avenue is now complete. The latest improvements were made at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue and Des Plaines River Road. This follows similar improvements that were made earlier in 2016 at Lawrence Avenue and Forster Avenue near Washington School.

These improvements involve a modern push button crossing, which includes a proper and safe walk signal, and depressed curbs for the easier and safer crossing of handicapped persons and people using a stroller.

Overall the goal of these two 2016 projects was to make crossing Lawrence in the Village safer in multiple locations for both children and adults alike. The Village is pleased that these projects were a success and will continue to look for ways to improve pedestrian safety in town. If you have a concern about a particular pedestrian safety issue please don’t hesitate to contact the Village at (847) 678-2550.