

Leyden Family Services Available Over the Phone



Do you need help applying for government programs? Do you need assistance receiving all the benefits you are eligible for? Leyden Family Services can assist you to apply for Medicare, Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and can also provide prescription assistance.

Leyden Family Services is also helping income-eligible households to apply for utility bill assistance for gas and electric service through LIHEAP and other programs that will make a payment directly to the utility company on your behalf. To be eligible, households must meet program requirements and income guidelines. Households must be able to provide all required supporting documentation. Call (847) 455-3929 to schedule an over-the-phone appointment for assistance with any of the services mentioned.



As a reminder, Schiller Park's new waste hauler is Flood Brothers and the new pick-up day is TUESDAY. Flood Brothers is providing all the same services residents are used to, including garbage, recycling, yard waste, and bulk pick-up. If you have questions or if you need a new cart, call (847) 678-2550.

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9526 Irving Park Road
Schiller Park, Illinois 60176
847-678-2550



SEPTEMBER 2020



Mayor's Corner



OUR COMMUNITY ENDURES

I want to thank everyone in Schiller Park for being so diligent about adhering to the County and State health guidelines that are helping to bend the curve during the global pandemic. By following these guidelines, we are showing concern and respect for our loved ones, neighbors, employees and colleagues.

I am inspired by the compassion and acts of kindness I have witnessed during these trying times. I am pleased to see our residents continuing to check in on elderly neighbors and to offer to shop for groceries or to run errands.

The threat of COVID-19 is not gone yet, but we can continue to make progress by wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing and frequently washing our hands. Please restrict gatherings to smaller groups when meeting up with neighbors and friends. If you or your kids feel sick, please stay home. These practices help prevent people, even those who may be asymptomatic, from spreading the virus to others. Also, discuss getting an influenza vaccination with your health care provider to help protect you against the seasonal flu.

As if the pandemic was not enough, we recently endured a storm, called a derecho, that included tornadoes with winds more than 75 mph that produced widespread severe damage. I want to thank our public works department for cleaning up after the storm that uprooted many trees, damaged fences, tents and buildings, and that created many power outages that lasted for days. I am proud of our dedicated public works employees and thank them for the quick and thorough response in addressing the damage and assisting our businesses and residents in reestablishing our beautiful community.

Together we have faced many challenges as a united and caring community, and together we will endure.

ENJOY SCHILLER PARK'S DINING ESTABLISHMENTS

Due to the virus, many of us have not been able to travel this

year and enjoy a summer vacation. State regulations required that the Village cancel most of our annual community events. But we can still enjoy the warm weather by getting together outdoors at our local restaurants and bars. Many establishments will be set up to serve patrons outdoors into the fall and some are offering special promotions. Schiller Park restaurants have something to please everyone! You can find great pizza and delicious Italian-inspired dishes. Our local eateries also provide traditional cuisine like steaks, chops, burgers and pub fare. We also are home to many restaurants that specialize in a wide range of ethnic food including Asian, Indian and more.

Supporting our local businesses is important to maintaining their longevity through the health crisis and help them avoid closing their doors. Please consider visiting our local food establishments for pick-up, delivery, limited indoor dining or outdoor service.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RESPOND TO THE CENSUS!

Please make sure Schiller Park has a complete and accurate Census count. Our Village benefits from a complete count because the Census determines how federal funds will be distributed to our community. It is critical that everyone responds, or Schiller Park will be undercounted. Put simply, it means we will not get the funding we deserve to support healthcare, housing, education, roads, transit, and other programs in our Village.

It only takes a few minutes to respond. The Census questions are simple to answer. The questions include the number of people living in your household, their ages, sex and race. Anyone living in your household, even temporarily, should be included in the count. The information is not shared with any other agencies, including law enforcement.

You may respond to the Census online at www.mycensus.gov or over the phone at (844) 330-2020. If you need assistance, please call Village Hall at (847) 678-2550. Assistance is available in English, Polish and Spanish. Census workers have started going door-to-door to all addresses that have not responded. Avoid a home visit by answering the simple questions online or over the phone today!

IN SCHILLER PARK, EVERYONE COUNTS!

Mayor Nick Caiafa

Clock Tower Park Renovation Nears Completion

Expanding green space, modernizing the place we play and gather, and providing greater access to recreational opportunities for our families helps to ensure that Schiller Park will continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Final touches are being made on the newly renovated Clock Tower Park. Thanks to a \$156,000 Open Spaces grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Village was able to expand and upgrade the park. IDNR funds helped the Village to purchase an adjacent house, allowing it to incorporate that space for park use. The funds were also used to add a new playground, allowing children who live close by to have a safely accessible play area near their home. Families will no longer need to safely navigate crossing Irving Park Road to gain access to a playground. In fact, every area in Schiller Park now has an accessible playground without having to cross main streets.

Funding also supported amenities including a rain garden and enhanced landscaping. In addition, a \$9,000 ComEd Green Region Program grant supported biodiversity by enhancing natural habitats, including the addition of a new Pollinator Garden. Together, these enhancements help to create a serene and peaceful green space for the community.

Clock Tower Park is the Village's primary gathering place to enjoy community events and is home to our Wall of Honor. Due to generous private donations, Clock Tower Park will also display new flags. Upgrading this park helps to beautify our community, enhance our quality of life and expand our green space.



Viaduct Drainage Improvement and Repaving Bobby Lane Scheduled for Fall



Mayor Nick Caiafa thanked State Representative Brad Stephens for helping IDOT to prioritize completion of the storm water drainage improvement at the Lawrence Avenue viaduct and for securing funding to repave Bobby Lane.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has started a vital drainage improvement project on Lawrence Avenue, which has long been a safety concern for motorists. The improvement project will provide enhanced storm water drainage at the Lawrence Avenue viaduct during heavy rainfalls. The improvements will allow motorists to move safely through the area and help deter traffic back-ups.

State Representative Brad Stephens, who represents Schiller Park, was able to work with the State's Department of Transportation (IDOT) to move up the construction date to this fall for the drainage improvement project at the Lawrence Avenue viaduct. In addition, Representative Stephens helped to secure \$150,000 in funding to repave Bobby Lane this fall.

Please note that Lawrence Avenue traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction while drainage improvements are made. Thank you for your patience while we complete this important improvement project in our community.

Renovation of the Schiller Park Library is Complete

The newly renovated Schiller Park Public Library provides the community with a vibrant new space that reflects the evolving nature of 21st century libraries. The renovations have helped to transform the building into an exciting community center for collaboration, learning and fun. When the Library opened in 1974, residents came to check out books, read newspapers, and conduct research utilizing a microfilm machine. Today, visitors can still check out books, but they also come to the library to use the computers, access Wi-Fi, participate in classes and events and to meet friends and classmates. The goal of the renovation project was to help the library to evolve into a place that is better suited to serve the needs of the community today and into the future.

The completely renovated children's room features a welcoming and vividly painted interior with an expanded learning-through-play area, improved shelving, and additional seating, offering an interactive experience. The computer lab was redesigned, taking a portion of the underutilized space to create an adjacent meeting room. As a result, library patrons will be able to enjoy the same computer access they are accustomed to, but within a more modern space. In addition, patrons may reserve the new meeting room to facilitate group learning and collaboration.

The library looks forward to having patrons enjoy the new enhancements when health guidelines allow for the complete reopening of the library. Until then, the building is open but operating under a new service model that requires visitors to wear a face covering, to practice social distancing and limit visits to one hour per day with no extended stays. The library is offering express services including checking out and returning material, applying for and renewing library cards, self-service photocopying and document printing only. Staff can also provide curbside service for checking out and returning material. Programs are offered virtually via Zoom and through the library's social media programs on Facebook and Instagram.

Temporary hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 8 pm. Self-service computer use is by appointment only for 50-minute timeslots, limited to one timeslot per person per day. Schiller Park residents who are 16 years and older may make an appointment to use a computer at (847) 678-0433. The e-library is always open! Visit schillerparklibrary.org to select eBooks and to browse media on demand, RBdigital magazines, Axis 360 and BiblioBoard Library. Patrons can also access a range of online research databases through the library's website.



The Schiller Park Library's newly renovated children's room features an expanded learning-through-play area, improved shelving, and additional seating. The computer lab was redesigned and modernized.

Recreation Center Is Open with Limited Hours

The Schiller Park Recreation Center is open with guidelines in place to address State regulations regarding COVID-19. The Recreation Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and visitors are required to make a reservation, 24-hours in advance, to use the facility. Reservations will be taken for on-the-hour timeslots only, with one reservation allowed per caller. The maximum number of reservations per timeslot is six during a one-hour session.

Open Gym basketball is offered Monday through Friday. The time for high schoolers and adults is from 11 am to 1 pm, and the timeslot for kids in grades 1 through 8 is from 2 to 4 pm. Games or full-court play is not allowed and there is an eight person maximum allowed in the gym at one time.

Anyone visiting the Recreation Center will be required to wear a face covering while entering and exiting and will also need to maintain a



Safety precautions including social distancing and face coverings are required at the Recreation Center, which has reopened with limited hours.

social distance of at least six feet when not exercising. Showers are not available currently. To make a reservation or for more information, call the Recreation Center at (847) 671-8580.

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