

# SCHILLER PARK VILLAGE NEWS AND UPDATE

FALL 2025



Village of Schiller Park  
Mayor  
**Chad Meyers**

Village Clerk  
**Rosa Jos**

Trustees  
**Russell Klug**  
**Robert Lima**  
**Thomas Deegan**  
**Joan Golembiewski**  
**Terri Sheridan**  
**Marie Lukowski**



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## New Energy - New Leadership

A few weeks ago, while attending Mass at Holy Virgin Martyrs, Bishop Maldonado mentioned that even after seven months, he still finds himself in learning mode. I could definitely relate. Taking on a new role often means balancing learning with leading, and it reminded me how essential it is to have a trusted, knowledgeable, and dedicated team beside you.

I am fortunate to have just that. In this issue, you'll meet some of the key members of our Village, individuals the Village Board and I are proud to work alongside. Each brings valuable experience and a shared commitment to making our community stronger, more vibrant, and better every day.

These leaders will guide their departments with pride and purpose. I believe that by empowering our team and supporting one another, we can continue to make great things happen in the village we all love and call home.

We're excited to bring new energy and focus to our administration, with a continued commitment to providing exceptional service and

accountability to our residents and businesses. Equally important is our dedication to collaboration. We're proud to work closely with both School District 81 and the Schiller Park Public Library — two core pillars that help shape the heart of our community. Through teamwork and shared purpose, we're building a stronger, more vibrant Schiller Park.

Summer in Schiller Park ended on a high note, and we're moving full steam ahead into the fall and holiday season! From community events to new partnerships, the past few months have been filled with momentum, connection, and hometown pride — the very spirit that makes Schiller Park such a special place to call home.

As we close out the year, our Village remains strong, safe, and thriving. I look forward to entering 2026 with the same energy, pride, and community spirit that continue to make Schiller Park shine.

Working together for a stronger Schiller Park,

**Mayor Chad Meyers**

## Enhancing Public Safety

### Public Safety Leadership Update

Keeping Schiller Park safe and secure remains one of our community's highest priorities. To further strengthen that commitment, we're proud to welcome newly appointed Police Chief Mark DiCosola and Fire Chief Anthony Hatcher as they step into their new leadership roles with our Village's dedicated public safety teams.

Chiefs DiCosola and Hatcher share a deep commitment to the well-being of our residents — focusing on the safety of our children, schools, parks, neighborhoods, and local businesses.

Please join us in welcoming them to their new positions. We're confident their experience, leadership, and passion for service will continue to make Schiller Park a safe and thriving place to call home.



**Mark DiCosola**  
Chief of Police

A Schiller Park Police Officer for 29 years, Chief DiCosola has served as a Lieutenant, Deputy Chief and Commander of Investigations. In these leadership positions, he directed the detective unit, collaborated with the Major Crimes Taskforce, and worked closely with the Major Crimes Assistance Team to secure essential support for critical incidents.



**Anthony Hatcher**  
Fire Chief

Fire Chief Hatcher has been a Schiller Park Firefighter / paramedic for 27 years. A leader in the Department, he has served as Battalion Chief, Shift Commander, and Lieutenant. Chief Hatcher has been the Director of the Fire Prevention Bureau since 2013 and has over 20 years of experience as a Fire Prevention Inspector.

## Brian Kaspar – Director of Parks and Recreation



**Brian Kaspar**  
Parks & Recreation  
Director

Our Parks and Recreation Department plays a vital role in keeping Schiller Park a healthy, active, and connected community. Leading these efforts is Brian Kaspar, who brings more than a decade of experience in public recreation and community engagement.

Brian began his career in Therapeutic Recreation, cultivating a passion for accessibility, inclusion, and community well-being. He has since advanced into senior leadership roles, overseeing major capital projects, facility improvements, and diverse recreational programs that serve residents of all ages and abilities.

Known for his collaborative approach, Brian has built strong partnerships with neighboring municipalities, park districts, special recreation agencies (SRAs), schools, and nonprofit organizations. He is committed to ensuring that Schiller Park's parks, facilities, and programs remain safe, innovative, and welcoming for everyone.

## Patrick Hastings – Director of Public Works

Strong leadership in Public Works is essential to maintaining the infrastructure that keeps Schiller Park running smoothly — from our streets and sidewalks to our water systems and major capital projects.

We're proud to introduce **Patrick Hastings**, our **Public Works Director**, who brings nearly two decades of municipal experience and a deep commitment to community service. His blend of technical expertise and leadership ensures that Schiller Park's infrastructure projects are handled with both precision and care.

Patrick holds a **Master of Public Administration** from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a **Class C Water Operator License** issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

His experience, dedication, and passion for public service will play a key role in keeping our Village strong, safe, and well-maintained for years to come.



**Patrick Hastings**  
Public Works Director

## Advancing Community and Business Development

Careful planning, respectful development, and transparent and timely dialogue with the business community are the keys to sustainable growth and vital commercial corridors.

**MAX MORGAN** has joined our management team as our new Zoning Administrator, overseeing the Community Development Department.

Max received his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado, Denver, and is a certified planner with hands-on experience in development review, as well as implementing projects related to economic development and sustainability.

Max has a resident-focused approach and will bring accountability and transparency to our planning and development efforts. Creating an environment where our businesses can thrive and expand is a top priority.

Helping Zoning Administrator Max Morgan in his outreach to local businesses is **Rick Desecki**. Rick, a Schiller Park resident since 1980 and a former Village Trustee for 16 years, continues his long-standing commitment to our community by leading the newly formed Property Improvement Partnership Program.

In this role, Rick will coordinate programs, projects, and initiatives aimed at enhancing the overall appearance and vitality of Schiller Park — with a particular focus on supporting our business corridors. His work will include strengthening relationships with business owners, promoting beautification efforts, and identifying opportunities to revitalize key areas throughout the Village. Mayor Chad Meyers created this program as part of his ongoing commitment to keeping Schiller Park safe, clean, and visually appealing.

Please join us in welcoming Max Morgan and Rick Desecki as they help usher in a new era of community development and pride in our Village.



**Max Morgan**  
Zoning Administrator



**Rick Desecki**  
Property Improvement  
Partnership Program Leader

## Strengthening Our Management Structure

Many Schiller Park residents already know **Kim Boryszewski**, who served our community for years as Superintendent of School District 81. Today, we're thrilled to welcome Kim back to public service in her new role as Assistant to the Mayor.

In this vital position, Kim will help coordinate communications, strengthen community engagement efforts, and support the daily operations of the Mayor's Office. Her deep understanding of Schiller Park, combined with her leadership experience and passion for service, make her an invaluable addition to Village Hall.

We are fortunate that Kim has chosen to continue her dedication to Schiller Park in this new capacity. Her professionalism, insight, and community spirit will help further the Village's commitment to collaboration and progress.

"I've always believed in the strength and spirit of Schiller Park," Kim shared. "This community shaped who I am, and I'm honored to have another opportunity to give back — this time supporting the Mayor's vision for the Village's continued growth and vitality."



**Breanna McMenamin**  
Management  
Associate Intern

**Breanna McMenamin** is joining us as a Management Associate Intern. Breanna received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Marquette University and is a first-year master's in public administration student at Northern Illinois University. She will work closely with the Village Manager on various projects such as budgeting and forecasting, grant writing, and updating building codes.

## Hometown Heroes



**Melayne Escoto**  
U.S. Marine Corp.



**Specialist Gonzales,  
Matthew O.**  
U.S. Army

Every November 11, our defense of our liberties nation. These heroes e

**Specialist Gonzales, M** at Fort Johnson, Louisi Oklahoma and Advanc from East Leyden in 20

**Melayne Escoto**, daug serving in the United S

**These are OUR Home** honor. These courageo your service.

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## Working Collaboratively with our Schools and Library



**Dr. Melissa Kartsimas**  
Superintendent Schiller Park  
School District 81

**Dr. Melissa Kartsimas** is honored to serve as the Superintendent of Schiller Park School District 81. For the past 20 years, Dr. Kartsimas has had the privilege of serving the Schiller Park community as a teacher, principal, and now superintendent.

As superintendent, Dr. Kartsimas is deeply committed to strengthening the partnership between the schools and the broader Schiller Park community. She believes that strong schools and strong communities go hand-in-hand and looks forward to working together to ensure every child receives the support and opportunities they deserve.

Dr. Kartsimas looks forward to meeting more members of the community in the months ahead — listening, learning, and continuing to build upon the strong foundation that makes Schiller Park such a special place to call home.

**Kendall Santucci** has served as Library Director at the Schiller Park Public Library since March of 2024. Before joining Schiller Park, Kendall directed the River Grove Public Library District and served as Assistant Director at Prairie Trails Public Library District in Burbank, IL. Earlier in her career, she worked with the Illinois Library Association and the University of Chicago Library, experiences that gave her a broad perspective on the library landscape across Illinois.

This exceptional team brings a wealth of diverse experience and expertise that will serve our Village with the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and dedication.



**Kendall Santucci**  
Library Director  
Schiller Park Public Library

On November 11, our country commemorates Veterans Day, honoring those who have ever worn the uniform in our country. In Schiller Park, we are proud to recognize our residents who are currently serving our country. Their lives exemplify courage, discipline and selflessness.

**Gonzales, Matthew O.**, son of Rick and Sofy Gonzales, is on active duty with the United States Army in Louisiana. Specialist Gonzales, enlisted in July, 2022 and completed basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and advanced training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He has 91B Military Occupational Specialty. He graduated from high school in 2021.

**Smith, Saida**, daughter of Saida Cisneros, graduated from East Leyden in 2025. She is currently in boot camp, serving with the United States Marines Corp.

**Hometown Heros.** We applaud their commitment to protecting our freedoms and serving with honor. Courageous young people prove that our village's hearts extend far beyond our borders. Thank you for your service.

Interested in becoming a Hometown Hero to feature in our next newsletter? Mayor Meyers would like to recognize all active/retired members of our community. Please email [kimb@schillerparkil.us](mailto:kimb@schillerparkil.us) with the name, branch of service, and address of your family member or loved one who is currently serving in the military.

# SCHILLER PARK CONNECTIONS

(Information for Residents 62+)

## Schiller Park Connections (Information for Residents 62+) Update

We are excited to share that programs and information for residents 62+ will now be included as a dedicated section within the Village's regular newsletter. This change allows us to keep all Village updates in one place — making it easier for residents to stay informed, engaged, and connected.

This update ensures important resources, programs, and event information are delivered right alongside other Village news, all in one convenient publication. Questions regarding programs and special services for older adults 62+ can be directed to Senior Services Coordinator, Mary Maltese at (847) 678-8765 or [seniorservices@schillerparkil.us](mailto:seniorservices@schillerparkil.us)



What is more fun than food, friendship and BINGO! Mayor Chad Mayers and the Village Board hosted a fun-filled afternoon at our End of Summer Pizza & Game Day. The Schiller Park Public Library partnered with us to offer this free event. We are grateful to Age Options that assisted in funding through the CARES Grant. A special thank you to our Senior Services Coordinator, Mary Maltese, for facilitating this wonderful event!

## Senior Advisory Committee Coming Soon!

Mayor Meyers is excited to share that we will be launching a Senior Advisory Committee in the new year. This committee will provide our senior residents with a strong voice in Village planning and help guide programs, services, and initiatives that support their needs and enhance quality of life.

Our seniors are the heart of our town's history, pride, and spirit, and we want to make sure your ideas and experiences continue to guide our work. This committee will help us stay closely connected to the needs of older residents, bring forward new ideas, and strengthen opportunities for social connection, wellness, and support.

If you would like to be part of this effort and help us build an even more supportive and engaging community for seniors, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to the Mayor's Office at [kimb@schillerparkil.us](mailto:kimb@schillerparkil.us) to express interest.



# SCHILLER PARK CONNECTIONS

(Information for Residents 62+)

## Senior Property Tax Rebate Update



**Good news!** Mayor Meyers is excited to announce that we're in the process of establishing a Senior Property Tax Rebate Program, set to launch in 2026.

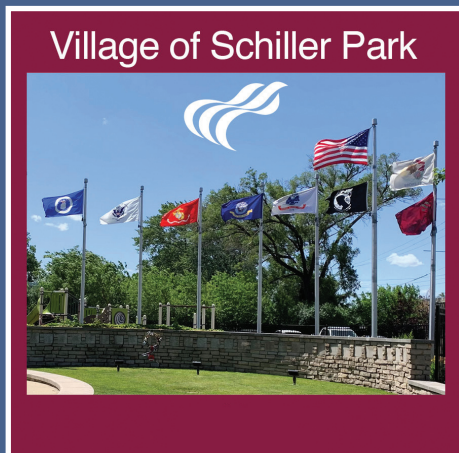
This new initiative is designed to give back to the residents who have long called Schiller Park home — a small way to say “thank you” for being such an important part of our community.

### To qualify, you must:

- Own your home and paid all property taxes due
- Already receive the Cook County Senior Exemption and Homeowner Exemption
- Be current on all balances owed to the Village of Schiller Park

We're currently waiting for the second installment of property tax bills to be released so we can identify eligible households. Stay tuned for more updates as we finalize the program details in the months ahead!

## Mayor Meyers Lowers Age for Free Vehicle Sticker



These days we are all counting our pennies. The Village Board passed an ordinance, requested by Mayor Meyers, to lower the age for free vehicle stickers from age 62 to 60. This reduction will be in effect when you next purchase a vehicle sticker.

# SCHILLER PARK CONNECTIONS

(Information for Residents 62+)



Join us at some of these fun events for older adults this November and December.

For more information, contact Mary Maltese at 847-678-8765.

**Wednesday, November 12, 2 PM**  
Chair Yoga at the Schiller Park Library

**Thursday, November 13, 10 AM - Noon**  
Crafting at the Recreation Center, \$5 fee

**Thursday, November 13, 1 PM**  
Wii Bowling at the Schiller Park Library

**Tuesday, November 18, 9 AM - Noon**  
Leyden Family Services at the Community Center

**Thursday, November 20, 10 AM - 11 AM**  
Senior Bingo and Coffee at Schiller Park Library

**Tuesday, November 25, 10 AM - Noon**  
Adult Coloring Club at the Recreation Center

**Tuesday, December 2, 10 AM - Noon**  
Koffee Klutch & Games at the Recreation Center

**Thursday, December 4, 1 PM - 3PM**  
S'mores Kit Assembly at the Recreation Center

**Monday, December 8, 9:30 AM**  
Senior Coffee Hour at the Schiller Park Library

**Wednesday, December 10, 2 PM**  
Chair Yoga at the Schiller Park Library

**Thursday, December 11, 10 AM - Noon**  
Crafting at the Recreation Center, \$5 fee

**Tuesday, December 16, 9 AM - Noon**  
Leyden Family Services at the Community Center

**Thursday, December 18, 1 PM**  
Wii Bowling at the Schiller Park Library

**Monday, December 29, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**  
Senior "Noon" Years Party at the Schiller Park Library

**Tuesday, December 30, 10 AM - Noon**  
Adult Coloring Club at the Recreation Center

Event Locations

Library, 4200 Old River Rd. | Recreation Center, 9638 W. Irving Park Rd. | Community Center, 4501 25th St.



Please join Mayor Meyers, the Village Board, and your friends and neighbors as we kick off the Christmas Season at our Annual

## **Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting**

on Saturday, December 6 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
at the Community Center, 4501 N. 25th Avenue!

Enjoy an afternoon filled with festive fun! Make delicious s'mores with our Fire Department, take a cozy horse-drawn carriage ride, visit the petting zoo, and snap a photo inside our giant holiday snow globe! Christmas music will fill the air as we celebrate the magic of the season together.

Meet and greet with Santa inside the Community Center takes place from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM. The official tree lighting will take place at 6:00 PM!

We're also thrilled to welcome back the **Highlander Riders and Santa's Motorcade**, adding extra sparkle to this year's festivities.

This is a free family event, but we encourage residents to share the spirit of giving by bringing non-perishable food items or new, unwrapped toys to **support the Leyden Food Pantry**.



## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DECORATING CONTEST**



Mayor Meyers and the Community Events Committee are excited to introduce our **Schiller Park Christmas Lights Decorating Contest!** Let's celebrate the season and showcase the festive spirit that makes our village shine.

Residents who wish to participate should email 1-3 photos of their outdoor holiday lights or displays along with their full name and address to [cec@schillerparkil.us](mailto:cec@schillerparkil.us). Submit your entry now through Friday, December 19 at 5:00 PM. The winner will be announced the week of Christmas on the Village Facebook page and website.

***Let's light up Schiller Park together and make this holiday season extra bright!***

# POLICE VS. FIRE CHARITY

# SOFTBALL GAME



Our inaugural Police vs. Fire Charity Softball Game was a huge success! We had a fantastic turnout and raised \$4,287 for Leyden Family Services! The friendly competition and laughter shared that day perfectly captured what Schiller Park is all about: neighbors coming together for a great cause. This exciting event was made possible by Mayor Meyers' newly created Community Events Committee (CEC). The turnout was outstanding, the energy was contagious, and a good time was had by all. We are thrilled with the success of the first game and are already looking forward to making it a Schiller Park tradition for years to come.



We have also continued strengthening our partnership with School District 81, planning events together to maximize resources and participation. We coordinated this year's Trunk or Treat and Fall Fest and participated in Family Literacy Night and High Five Fridays. These events were made even more special with the presence of our Police Department, Fire Department, and Village Board.



# 100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

We were proud to stand beside our Schiller Park Fire Department as they celebrated 100 years of service at their Open House on October 4. A heartfelt thank-you to Chief Hatcher and every member of the department for their century of dedication, protection, and commitment to the residents of our village.



9526 Irving Park Road  
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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



**We are thrilled to announce the return of Schiller Park's Taste of Suburbia!**

Beginning **Thursday, August 27 through Sunday, August 30, 2026** we will host a four-day extravaganza, with many delicious food vendors, a carnival, a lively beer garden and live music. This was a tradition our community always cherished, and we will be coming back bigger, brighter and better than ever.

We will continue to provide updates and details through our newsletters, Facebook, and our website.