#### FALL/WINTER 2023

# ALSIP Messenger



Welcome You!

The People of









Use the Village of Alsip Mobile App to Report Issues, Find Community Resources, and Much More!



Look Inside for your Halloween Window Placard!



Hello Village of Alsip Residents & Businesses,



John D. Ryan Mayor

There's an optimistic report that was just released, saying, "Last winter provided a surprising amount of rain and warmer-thannormal temperatures in the Chicago area, but could the region be in for a repeat?" According to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center, that very well could be the case, as forecasts for the coming winter in the Chicago area are suggesting that residents could experience warmer-than-normal temperatures, with belownormal precipitation. "Let's hope for the best outcome!"

# Yes, that's a Squad Car!

The Village implemented a new fleet of these Dodge Ram 4x4 Police Edition Trucks.

These offer the officers additional room for the abundance of required equipment they need to carry and give the officer more traction during inclement weather.



# Did you know Alsip (Worth Township) is scheduled for a Triennial Assessment?

Cook County follows a triennial reassessment cycle, meaning that a property is reassessed once every three years, but they haven't announced an appeals date yet, so when they do, We will advertise the dates on the Village website and Facebook, as well as billboards, etc!

# How can I lower my property taxes in Illinois?

You can get your property taxes lowered by proving that your house is worth less than the assessor says it is. In Cook County, you can appeal the value of your property with the Cook County Assessor, the Cook County Board of Review, or Worth Township Assessor Shaun Murphy, as he can assist with filing Assessed Valuation Appeals filed with the Cook County Assessor. Also, Homeowner Exemption Applications, Comparable property values and both Senior Exemption Applications and Senior Freeze Applications. *This is First come first Serve!* 



# **Village of Alsip**

4500 West 123rd Street Alsip, Illinois 60803

(708) 385-6902 www.villageofalsip.org



Mayor John D. Ryan



Clerk Renee Harding

# TRUSTEES



Richard S. Dalzell Chairperson Police & Traffic Safety Committee



Monica M. Juarez-Mendoza

Chairperson Public Works/Boat Launch Committee Planning, Zoning and License Committee



Christine L. McLawhorn

Village Properties Committee Finance & Information Technology Committee



# Christopher W. Murphy

Fire Committee Human Resources & Insurance Committee



Catalina Nava-Esparza

Sewer & Water Committee Economic Development Committee



#### David Perretta Chairperson Building & Health Committee Ordinance & Legislation Committee



# **FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE –** *continued from front cover*

# The National Council on Aging says the Top 5 Financial Scams Targeting Older Adults are:

1. **Government Impersonation scams:** where scammers call and pretend to be from IRS, Social Security, or Medicare and say the victims have unpaid taxes, threaten arrest, or deportation if they don't pay immediately.



- 2. **Sweepstakes & Lottery scams:** Here scammers say if you want to claim a prize they want you to send them cash or gift cards up-front. Publishers Clearing House does not call anyone when they win!
- 3. **Robocalls and Phone scams:** A common robocall is "Can you here me?" and when the older person says "Yes", the scammer records their voice and hangs up. The criminal then has the voice signature to authorize unwanted charges on items like stolen credit cards.
- 4. **Computer Tech scams:** Tech support scams prey on Pop-up messages telling victims their computer is damaged and to call support to pay for "fixing".
- 5. **Grandparent scam:** This devious scam calls unsuspecting grandparents saying "Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?", after-which they beg for money and to not tell anyone, because they'll have one of their friends stop by and pick up the money.

### Scams are designed to catch us off guard, and they can happen to anyone. There's nothing to be ashamed of if you think you're a victim. Keep handy the phone numbers of resources that can help, including Alsip Police, or your bank.

# Have you seen the beautiful new homes being built in Alsip?

The contractors are doing an amazing job of building quality new homes, and they're selling fast, as people want to live in a safe and well managed community!



Lastly, please call the Village Hall for accurate information and assistance, as we do not monitor social media, so when you have a question, ask a reliable source. (708) 385-6902.

Take care of yourself and each other!

Mayor, John D. Ryan

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Mayor John Ryan and the Village Board members are elated to announce the upcoming development of over 22 acres of property at 118th & Austin to the Tri-State Expressway slated for development of (2) Logistics facilities (approx. 190,000sqft and 170,000sqft).

> "These 22 acres have never been developed before and the layouts and usage are perfect for the industrial community!"



# **Updates from the Village Clerk**



Renee Harding Village Clerk

# Early Voting 2024

The Village Hall will be hosting early voting for the upcoming March 19th Presidential Primary Election in Conference Room #1. Upon entering the front doors of the Village Hall you will go straight down the hallway until you reach the stairs on the left side. Go up those stairs or take the elevator and make a right to access Conference Room #1.

#### The dates and times are as follows:

Monday, March 4th – Saturday, March 9th	9:00am – 5:00pm	
Sunday, March 10th	10:00am – 4:00pm	
Monday, March 11th – Saturday, March 16th	9:00am – 5:00pm	
Sunday, March 17th	10:00am – 4:00pm	
Monday, March 18th	9:00am – 5:00pm	



Yard Waste services are provided by **Republic Services** and will be collected on *Fridays from April 1st until November 30th*. Landscape waste (grass, leaves, branches, brush and other vegetative waste, excluding dirt, clay or other inorganic material) must not be mixed with garbage. Yard waste needs to be placed in a yard waste bag or an appropriately labeled container not to exceed 33-gallon capacity and must not exceed fifty (50) pounds. Tree and shrub trimmings shall be tied and in bundles not exceeding fifty (50) pounds and forty-one (41") in length. Yard waste may not be placed in plastic bags, drums, or fiber drums.

Yard Waste Only stickers are available at the Village Hall Clerk's Office.

# **Building/Clerk/Water Departments**



Erica O'Donnell Office Supervisor

As the Office Supervisor of the Building Department, the Clerk's Office, and the Water Department, I want to recognize all the hard work and dedication of my clerical staff. We have made many improvements in all three departments, and look forward to continuing to serve the Alsip community to the best of our ability. Everyday seems to have a new challenge, but my staff adapts and does so with a smile.

The Building Department has been very busy this season. There has been multiple big projects throughout the Village and hundreds of residential permits. Melanie and Megan are doing a fantastic job processing permits/inspections, business licenses, and contractor licenses as quickly as possible. Linda, our Health Inspector, has been working tirelessly to help enforce the Municipal Code to be sure the Village is looking good.

In the Clerk's Office, Brittany, Lauren, and Jasmine will greet you with positive energy and a smile. They process all the payments, the mail, help with a multitude of different questions/complaints daily. They are a wealth of random knowledge!

The Water Department has been doing an amazing job with all their daily tasks. Kathy and Jodi process all the billing, work orders, helping residents with payment plans, identifying possible silent leaks, and meter exchanges.

Every single member of my team is a vital part to the Village of Alsip running smoothly each and every day. We could not be successful without them, and I am extremely grateful for each of them!

# Thank you for all your hard work ladies, you are appreciated beyond measure!

# A word from the Chief of Police



Jay Miller Police Chief

# Alsip Police Department Receives Bureau of Justice Assistance Awards for Body-Worn Cameras to Small, Rural, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

Alsip, II– The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, through Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. announced that it will award the Alsip Police Department a micro-grant for body-worn cameras. This is part of a group of awards being made to 265 small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies for body-worn cameras.

Chief Jay Miller said "This award of \$98,000 will make it possible for our agency to provide a higher level of transparency, accountability

and safety to our officers and the citizens of Alsip". Alsip must be complaint with the state mandate by January 2025.

# Help Keep Alsip Safe . . . Register Your Camera at: https;//connectalsip.org



- We are building an interactive map of security cameras in Alsip that will:
  - Increase the efficiency of direct video evidence collection.
  - Provide immediate contact information to investigators for camera owners.
  - Enable communities to work together to create a safer Alsip.

Camera registration takes less than one minute via our secure online portal. Registering your camera does not allow the Alsip Police Department access to you live video stream-it only enables investigators to know a camera is present at your location and easily request video evidence should an incident occur.





Alsip P.D. Partners with the Cook County Sheriff's Treatment Response Team (TRT)

The CCSO developed and implemented the Sheriff's Treatment Response Team ("TRT") in order to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on Cook County and its residents.



# **Update from the Fire Department**



Thomas Styczynski Fire Chief

Before I began putting this article, I had to look back at last year's to remind me some of the topics I covered. The first sentence was only 3 more months of 2022 left and we are into a new year and how the year passed by quickly. Here we are again. This year seems like a blur, and we are only 90 days away from 2024. With that being said, we

at the Alsip Fire Department are challenged on a regular basis, whether it's from replacing older equipment with new, changing technology and of course the wonderful of computer programs and software that is supposed to make our lives easier (in which it doesn't), firefighters retiring and filling those spots, to the increase of our call volume year to year. It doesn't stop. However, we face the challenges head on work on solutions to manage them. Thus, maintaining the service needed to keep providing top notch service to our residents, businesses and travelers through our village.

On September 26th, Firefighter/Paramedics Josh Oberg and Kyle Moran completed their 1-year probation period successfully. They repeated the oath of office and were presented their firefighter helmet shields and badges on September 27th. We would like to congratulate both of



them and wish them a long and great career with the Alsip Fire department. On September 11th, Colin Young began his career with our fire department. He was placed on days for 3 weeks for recruit training, then began shift on September 30th. Colin came to us with almost 2 years' experience from another department. We look forward to Colin completing his probationary period as well. The village is working on hiring one more firefighter to bring the department's strength up to 36 full-time firefighters/ paramedics and lieutenants. This is the first time the department will be staffed with 36 since the economic downturn in 2008/ 2009. With our ever-increasing call volume, it is extremely important to match our staffing with demand.

On October 14th, we hosted our annual open house. Over the past 10 years our open houses have been very successful and very well attended. In 2022, an estimated 750 people attended our open house (best guess). Our Public Education Coordinators (Lt. Rick Kraus and FF/PM Charlie Harding) do an excellent job putting together the



program. As we move forward, both of them are continuing to look at enforcing and creating new programs for our Community Risk Reduction programs.

As always, the Alsip Fire Department is always here for you. We will continue to provide the best possible service, whether it be EMS, fire or any other type of incident. We continue to evaluate new equipment and techniques to serve you better. One of the newest challenges is lithium batteries. Even though these batteries have been out for a few years, production and use are multiplying quickly from simple things as scooters or bikes to vehicles. They pose very challenging problems for fire departments and are difficult at best to mitigate. We are now looking at new techniques and equipment to help take care of the problem.

Also, as the sun is going down earlier, we know winter is approaching, or at least should be. We have Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up. With these 2 holidays comes our busier season. Be very mindful of safety concerns whether you are cooking your turkey in a deep fryer (many you tube videos on what not to do) to overloading your outlets with holiday lights. LED lights are great because they use less energy, however, that doesn't mean you can keep plugging more into the same outlet. If you have a real Christmas tree, keep it watered. At the end of the season, *do not burn it in your fireplace*. We have responded to structure fires for that very reason.

If you use a space heater for our home, keep it away from other combustibles (clothes, bedding, etc). if possible, use water type heaters instead. They are safer, but a little more expensive. Make sure you have at least 1 smoke detector for each level of your home. Ideally, 1 in each bedroom. By now everyone should have replaced their old smoke detectors with the new, 10-year smoke detectors. If you have smoke detectors that are older than 10-year-old (the date code is on the back), more than likely, they will not detect, due to the element inside having a shelf life of 10 years. It still might chirp when pushing the test button but that just means the battery is good.

Be sure to have at least 1 carbon monoxide detector in your home. The type with the display is preferred so if it activates, the level will be displayed. Have it installed in the sleeping area of your home, so it can wake you up at night. Carbon monoxide is a light gas so it will rise. Your detector should be mounted high on a wall.

> All of us at the Alsip Fire Department wish all of you and your families a happy remainder of 2023 and upcoming 2024. We are here to serve you!!

Thomas Styczynski, Fire Chief, Alsip Fire Dept.

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

# The Village of Alsip Received the Blue Ribbon Award from Friends of the Chicago River

The Village of Alsip received the Blue Ribbon Award from Friends of the Chicago River for the Mary Schmidt Community Sanctuary at the Alsip Boat Launch. In collaboration with the Morton Arboretum, an underutilized paved parking lot along the Cal-Sag channel was transformed into a storm water-capturing space that also serves as habitat and recreation.

Only one Blue Ribbon Award is awarded annually. Past winners include the Chicago Riverwalk, the Eleanor Street Boathouse, Mayor Richard M. Daly, Rain Ready, The Forge: Lemont Quarries, and the Ford Calumet Environmental Center.



# Mary Schmidt Community Sanctuary



In recognition of the many years of exemplary service and dedication provided by Mary Schmidt, the Village of Alsip honored her on October 11th 2023, by designating and naming the new green infrastructure developed at the Village Boat Launch as the "Mary Schmidt Community Sanctuary."



Mary has promoted the commercial, industrial, and civic interests of the Village of Alsip since 1973, she served as the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce for over forty-four years, from 1973 to 2017, and is currently serving as the Zone Assistant for the Cal Sag Enterprise Zone since 2005.

Those who were fortunate enough to know and work with Mary will tell you that her faithfulness to her community, her boundless energy, graciousness, and kindness is unwavering.

Because of the outstanding efforts by the Morton Arboretum and Superintendent of Public Works Mike Fraider, the Village of Alsip was awarded a \$260,000 grant from the US Dept. of Agriculture to feature a Green Infrastructure project that was designated to replace an MWRD parking lot at the Alsip Boat Launch on the Cal Sag Channel. This project entailed removing 2.76 acres of asphalt from the east parking lot to install native vegetation and some other vegetative green infrastructure features to improve interception of rainwater, reduce runoff, to provide an opportunity for education and outreach to the public, and feature local art that is reflective of Alsip's history.



# Alsip Awarded Urban Forestry Funding



The Village of Alsip was awarded a \$13,000 grant to complete tree inventories and develop a management plan for its urban forest.

The funds were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Urban and Community Forestry Partner Grant Program, and administered by The Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI).

# "The Village of Alsip was one of only thirty communities in the State of Illinois to be awarded this grant," said Mike Fraider, Superintendent of Public Works.

The grants provide communities with a better understanding of the urban forest areas they're managing by revealing an estimated number of trees, their size, condition and species. The inventories will also identify opportunities to increase planting, and will inform the development of a comprehensive, long-term urban forest management plan.

"Urban trees are critical infrastructure for a community, and this funding helps to protect one of its most important resources," said Lydia Scott, director of CRTI. "Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding and heat, improve our mental and physical health, and provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife."

# **New Developments**



Rodger Early Building Commissioner

The Building Department is committed to helping to attract new businesses to come to our community. There are a lot of great projects in the beginning phases, some nearly ready to open, and hopefully lots more to come! We are looking forward to updating you as more details become available as their projects progress.

### **Taco Burrito King**

Taco Burrito King is excited to be relocating down Pulaski Road to a much bigger location. There will still be a drive thru for that quick lunch or dinner pickup, a larger dining area than they currently have, and a lovely outdoor seating area.

#### **Firewater BBQ**

The much anticipated Firewater BBQ is nearing the end of their long journey to open! We know it has been a long wait, but we are excited for them to finally share their delicious food and friendly atmosphere with the Alsip community.



#### **Belle Tire**

Belle Tire has taken the property that was formerly Baker's Square at 4839 W. 111th Street. They are moving along quite well, and we are looking forward to them opening on schedule. It will be great to have

a place in town for all your tire needs. You won't be able to miss them since they will be having a 60-foot flag pole with a 20-foot by 30-foot American flag!



#### La Michoacana Los Reyes

La Michoacana Los Reyes has taken the old Title Max spot at 11953 S. Pulaski Road. They have delicious, authentic Mexican treats. *Open now go check them out!* 



#### Jerk 48

Jerk 48 located at 12037 S. Pulaski Road. They serve authentic Caribbean recipes made with fresh ingredients. Their menu consists

of nachos, tacos, jerk-topped baked potatoes, sandwiches, egg rolls and much more.

#### **Quick Run**



The property located at 11458 S. Cicero Ave has been vacant for over a decade. We are happy to announce the arrival of Quick Run

at the location! They will be a gas station with a convenience store. Keep a look out for more updates as their project progresses.



# **New Ownership**

After over two decades in Alsip, **Chateau Busche** had to close its doors. Many Alsip residents had many memories there from school dances, weddings, and other various events.

We are happy to have the facility re-open as **Beau Chateau!** 

Keep them in mind for your future event needs!

## **VILLAGE NEWS**



# To these new Village Employees!

My name is **Maria Alexeychuk** and I am the new *Finance Director* for the Village of Alsip. I have spent my career auditing non-profits and government agencies and performing outsourced services as required of a finance director for several government organizations. I am excited for this opportunity at the Village of Alsip and look forward to all of the challenges it may bring.

During my off time, I enjoy biking, hiking, swimming, kayaking, boating, horseback riding and just about everything else outdoorsy with my husband, Mike, and my son, Cole.

Thank you for the opportunity! Maria Alexeychuk, CPA, MBA



My name is **Stanley J. Johnson** and I 'm the newest addition to the Village of Alsip family as the *Finance Staff Accountant*. I attended Phillps College and graduated with a degree in Finance/ Accounting. I have 30 years of experience in finance/accounting, working in several industries.

I have experience in government accounting while working for the City of Chicago for 17 years at the Departments of Aviation, Department of Housing, and the Department of Revenue/Finance. I came to the Village of Alsip with a task driven mentality to help manage the finances correctly and reliably for the people of the village. I have worked for a Certified Public Accountant firm during my career for 6 years.

I am married with 4 children and 7 grandchildren which I enjoy spending time with them during family gatherings and holidays. I like to golf, ski, coach youth basketball and baseball in my spare time.

Best Regards, Stanley J. Johnson



Zaid Sayes joined the Water Department team in August 2023. He is super involved with his nephews. They affectionately call him "Their Manny". He enjoys video games, cars, and martial arts.

Zaid is catching on quickly and working well with the rest of the Water Department team. If you see him out and about be sure to say hello and *welcome him to the Village!* 



Megan Sarabia joined the Building Department clerical team in June 2023. Megan is mother of four, three daughters and their cat (she is a huge animal lover). Her favorite season is

fall and her favorite holiday is Halloween. The way to her heart is with coffee, chocolate, and classic rock. Megan is catching on quickly and *we are super happy she has joined the Village of Alsip family.* 

# **Seasonal Reminders from Public Works Department**



Public Works

#### **Autumn Leaves**

Please do not rake your leaves into street, this can block up storm sewers and lead to flooding in streets and parkways. Please place leaves in a brown paper yard-waste bag or place them in a trash can marked as yard waste. These items will be picked-up on garbage collection day.

### Winter Snow Plow Parking Restrictions

Residents are asked to promptly remove vehicles from village streets at the start of a snow fall. Vehicles are subject to ticketing and towing after a 1" accumulation on marked primary routes and 3" on secondary routes (secondary routes are not marked).

Also, please do not push snow back onto the street as it is unlawful to do so after the street has been plowed. Some snow will overflow onto driveways and sidewalks as part of the plowing process; your understanding of this matter is appreciated.



## **Snow Removal Suggestions**

An unavoidable result of plowing roadways is that some snow will spill off from the plow blade into driveways. The Alsip Public Works understands how frustrating this can be, especially when residents have already cleared the ends of their drives. The



department suggests waiting until the plow trucks have made their final pass along the curb line before shoveling. Information pertaining to the plow driver's status in your area can be obtained by contacting the Alsip Public Works at 708-385-6902 x364 during normal business hours (8am - 4:30pm).

If you cannot wait for the plow truck to make its final pass, the following suggestions are offered as a way to reduce the amount of snow overflowing onto the end of your drive:

- Shovel snow at the end of your driveway onto the parkway to the right (when facing the street). This will help to reduce the amount of snow deposited as the plow truck passes by.
- Clear a portion of the roadway directly to the left of your drive (when facing the street). This will also help to reduce the amount of snow deposited as the plow truck passes by.
- Not depositing snow from your driveway into the roadway will also help to reduce the amount of snow that could be plowed onto your drive.



# BUSTER IS IN THE HALL!!!

# Please take a moment to meet the newest member here at the Village Hall, Buster!

Buster made his debut, as he was the prize for the first annual Christmas Door/Office decorating contest. The winner of the contest would be able to showcase him for the entire year. With all departments giving their best artistic efforts, the chosen winner was the Clerk's Office, with their theme of **"Ginger Bread House".** 

Little did the Village know, Buster was about to waddle out of his Santa suit into a fun world of endless outfits and themed cubical. Whether you were paying a water bill or picking up a permit, Buster was on display smack dab in the middle for all to see!

Ten months and 9 outfits later, Buster has definitely left a lasting impression! So much that residents will purposely drop in to see what fun activity Buster is up to.

Now, with the Christmas season fast approaching, the departments have already begun preparing and planning their designs.

# Can the Clerk's Office hold Buster for another year or lose guardianship to a new champion? Make sure to stop in to wish them luck!!!







\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\*

# Local Postal Customer

#### **Board /Committee Meetings**

The Alsip Village Board meets the first and third Monday each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Alsip Village Hall located at 4500 West 123rd Street. Committee Meetings are held the second and last Monday of each month.

#### Village Hall Hours

Monday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Tues-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday – closed

Police, Fire or Paramedic Emergency dial 9-1-1 Non-Emergency . . .708-385-6131

# Department Phone Directory

All departments of the Village can be reached by dialing **708-385-6902**, then add the extension of the department you wish to contact.

# The following is a list of department extensions:

We would like to inform everyone the Village has converted over to a **NEW PHONE SYSTEM**. The new system requires a **four-digit extension**. If you have the persons old extension, please **add a two (2) in front of the old extension**. If not, you can reach each department by dialing the main number and following the prompts listed below.

Village Hall Call 708-385-6902

- 1 Water Department
- 2 Building Department
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Police Department
- 5 Fire Department
- 6 Clerks Office
- 7 Accounting 8 - Mayor's Office
- C

# In Remembrance

The Catalpa tree was planted in front of the Village Hall last year to honor and remember all current and past employees that are no longer with us here on earth. This particular tree was chosen because of its heart shaped leaves, and signifies our love for those we have lost. Although many valued members of our staff have passed away our love for them will live on forever. We will continue to keep their memories alive through our memories and stories... until we meet again.



"Those we love don't go away; They walk beside us every single day. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear. Wishing us hope in the midst of sorrow, Offering comfort in the midst of pain, both today and tomorrow."

the following holidays:		
Thanksgiving Day	November 23	
Friday After Thanksgiving	November 24	
Christmas Day	December 25	
Christmas Observance	December 26	
New Year's Day	January 1	