FALL/WINTER 2021

SP/lessenger









NEW **Village of Alsip Mobile App**

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



Look Inside for your Halloween Window Placard!



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



Hello Village of Alsip Residents & Businesses,

The Village of Alsip departments are always working to improve the community through efficiency, technology and strong leadership. We hope the community and businesses are moving forward cautiously, following the first wave of COVID-19. My family doctor and probably yours as well, keeps encouraging the need for everyone to be vaccinated and create the herd immunity we've been told will then return us to a

somewhat normal lifestyle and allow us to socialize and participate in organized activities again.

Budget Update:

Mayor

Myself and the finance department were able to promote a balanced budget for FY22 which the Village Board approved in late July. Many of the capital purchases have been delayed for production of new squad cars, a fire department rescue squad and an ambulance.

Economic Development Update:

Alsip is fortunate to keep attracting new business development and recently approved an agreement for the next three years with NextSite, because over the past 5 years, NextSite has connected and supported over 23 million square feet of commercial development projects resulting in over \$6.1 billion of capital investment. NextSite connects with retailers, restaurants, developers, brokers and tenant reps. Myself and the Village Board hope to increase economic development on Cicero Ave and Nicor Gas utilities has publicly endorsed NextSite.

Tree Lighting at Village Hall

Date: December 6, 2021 Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm Place: Alsip Village Hall

Come join Mayor Ryan as he turns on the Christmas tree lights, to kick off the beginning of the Holiday Season. The Girl Scouts will be providing homemade ornaments and singing, and we will have a special visitor to come join them (Santa). Stay to have cookies donated by our friends at DoubleTree Hotel and hot chocolate donated by our very own Eggman's Restaurant.



Village of Alsip

4500 West 123rd Street Alsip, Illinois 60803

(708) 385-6902 www.villageofalsip.org



Mayor John D. Ryan



Renee Harding

TRUSTEES



Richard S. Dalzell Chairperson Police & Traffic Safety Committee



🕎 Monica M. Juarez

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



Christine L. McLawhorn

hairperson Village Properties Committee Finance & Information Technology Committee



Christopher W. Murphy Chairperson Fire Committee

Human Resources & Insurance Committee



Catalina Nava-Esparza Chairperson Sewer & Water Committee Economic Development Committee



David Perretta Chairperson Building & Health Committee Ordinance & Legislation Committee



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE - continued from front cover

REMEMBERING 9-11 - 20 YEARS!

This past September 11th marked the 20 year anniversary of 9-11. The Village had a memorial service at Veterans Plaza, in attendance was the Alsip Fire And Police Dept, Mayor John Ryan, residents, and Pastor Dan Willis of Light House Church.

"As September 11th will always remind us that because of the service of our first responders, we are safe, but will remain vigilant, because sometimes bad things happen to us as it does to everyone else, the choice that we have before us is to either obsess over the



negative incidents and watch as our life spirals out of control or try to be optimistic, remain full of hope and embrace life in all its entirety. In the end, it comes down to us and the choices we make that defines us."



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A very common problem all communities share is "Garbage" being discarded everywhere, as it attracts bugs and vermin, which is certainly unhealthy, but it also diminishes the appeal of the community. Please do your part to help keep Alsip clean and pick-up the garbage that's being thrown from



inconsiderate motorists driving though your neighborhood. The Village is reenforcing an ordinance that mandates all multi-family buildings construct a six-foot tall corral around the garbage dumpsters, as this will better contain what's being deposited in the dumpster, improve the look of the property and designate a location that keeps people safe.

I hope you and your family are well and that you enjoy the upcoming holidays with friends and neighbors who share our same interests of keeping the Village of Alsip a Great Place to Live & Work.

Please take care of yourself and each other.

Sincerely,

Mayor, John D. Ryan Village of Alsip



CLERK'S OFFICE

Message from the Village Clerk



Renee Harding Village Clerk

I would like to take a moment to recognize the extremely hard-working staff here in the Clerk's office. I am newly elected, just taking office in May of this year, and with the guidance, help, and encouragement from each and every one of them I feel as though I've been here for years and have learned so much from them all.

Our Clerk's Office Manager, Erica O'Donnell, well, she is the heart of this office, to say the least, making sure everything runs smoothly. She divides her time between the Clerk's office and the Water and Building Departments, and truly gives 110% everyday, helping anywhere she can. Our Deputy Clerks are Alisa Geiss, Brittany Darmon, and Shavon Ingram. These ladies have this office running like a well-oiled

machine! Day in and day out they are there; helping our residents and business owners with whatever they need. Their energy, hard work, and attention to detail is unlike most and I am honored to have them in the Clerk's office and know that I can trust that they are going above and beyond every day.

I know that they do not hear this nearly enough, so THANK YOU!!! Thank you to all of you for all that you do for our Village and for me!! You are the center of this Village and I couldn't be prouder to be working with you all! I appreciate you and everything you do! *Keep up the AMAZING job!!*



To these new Village Employees!

The IT Department would like to welcome **Leon Giacchetti** he was hired to be a technical assistant for the Village Alsip. He is an accomplished IT administrator, and he enjoys using his skills to contribute to the exciting technological advances that happen every day

especially at the Village of Alsip. He has worked in the information technology field for over twentyseven years. He specialized in many different aspects of technology and was responsible for educating other employees on using ERP systems, applications, including accounting software, automation, mass integration and organizational apps such as EDI. He is a welcome addition to the IT Department.



The Clerk's Office would like to welcome **Shavon Ingram**, our newest addition to our team! She started a few months ago and is catching on very quickly. Shavon has a 13-year-old son that keeps her pretty busy, but in her spare time

she enjoys arts and crafts. Next time you are at the Village Hall stop by to welcome her and say hello!



Adekunle Oyeniyi joined

the Finance Department in August as the Finance Assistant. He is a native of South Africa but resides in Chicago. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting and

an MBA in Strategic Change Management. He was a Staff Accountant in South Africa and has been a Math teacher in Chicago Public Schools since 2019. He is a welcome addition to the Finance Department.

A word from the Chief of Police



"Bike with a Cop"

The Alsip Police Department will be hosting a "Bike with a Cop" event spring/summer of 2022. We are currently asking our local business community for monetary donations for this community event. Our goal is to raise enough funding to purchase children's helmets, water bottles, and other bicycle safety materials making this event free for our Alsip residents.

Jay Miller Police Chief

This event is a way for the Alsip Police Department to connect with our community and keep building better relationships. If you are interested in supporting this event please contact Officer Rocco Merlo at: 708-385-6902 Ext. 249 or rmerlo@villageofalsip.org

Police Officers Recognized



Officer Wildner Receives Lifesaving Award

Village of Alsip would like to congratulate Officer Margaret Wildner, with a Life Savings Award for her actions on May 2, 2021 that helped to save a life of a child that stopped breathing.

The Mayor and Chief Miller presented this award to her on June 21, 2021. Margaret had no idea she was being honored, as all her fellow officers and family came out to surprise her.





Officer Kelly Promoted

Village of Alsip would like to congratulate Officer James Kelly as he was promoted to Sergeant on June 21, 2021. Sergeant Kelly was honored by the Mayor, Chief Miller, Trustees, fellow Officers and his family. Congratulations Sergeant Kelly!



NEW Village of Alsip Police Department Mobile App



Officers continue to monitor school zones and bus stops throughout the village to keep our kids safe. Please slow down, know when to stop and avoid a ticket.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Update from the Fire Department



Thomas Styczynski Fire Chief

It's hard to believe 2021 is almost over!! It's been a long and trying year with trying to get out of the covid world, trying to return to normality pre-2020 and just trying to survive through all of this. Kids are back in school, I'm sure most parents are happy about that. We have seen a dramatic increase in traffic again

among other things. There have been quite a few challenges that all of us have faced along the way and keep facing more. But we seem resilient for the most part and making it through those challenges.

The Alsip Fire Department continues to work to provide the best services to the people and businesses that we have sworn to protect. We have seen a dramatic increase in call volume since last year and made some changes along the way to keep us efficient in providing those services. All of our public education programs are up and running again. We are back to offering fire extinguisher classes for the businesses plus CPR for both businesses and residents. We are moving forward and establishing a "Home Inspection" program. It has been a goal for the past several years but was on hold due to covid. At the time of this writing, we are preparing for our in-person Open House which will be held on October 9th. We are hoping to return to our normal crowds from the past. Last year we held a reverse drive-by and was successful, but we miss all the interaction.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is nearing the completion of the annual inspections of the businesses, apartments, and churches. We thank all the businesses for their cooperation during these inspections. These inspections are designed to keep their employees, patrons, and our firefighters safe as well as protecting the building. Our 2 Fire Prevention Officers are extremely busy ensuring that all the requirements are met for testing of fire alarms and sprinkler systems plus keeping up with all of the new construction and remodeling of new and existing buildings.

As I reported in the springtime, we have a new ambulance and a mini squad on order. Our hopes were to have both by the end of the year. However, due to the micro-chip shortage that all the vehicle manufacturers are experiencing, both will be delayed. Hopefully, keeping our fingers crossed we will see them between spring and beginning of summer next year. We are also going out to bid to replace our 2001 fire engine. With the delays in the supply chain, it will take almost 14 months before delivery.

Lastly, the Alsip Fire Department will always strive to provide the best service to the people who we protect. We are always looking at new techniques and equipment to achieve that goal. Stay Safe, keep your family safe and enjoy the upcoming Holidays!!

SCBA Training Program

If any of you have passed by Fire Station 2 since springtime you may have noticed a 45' seaway container. That is being used to construct a training prop. The prop will be a confidence course for our SCBA (breathing apparatus) training program. It will consist of several obstacles to help build and retain confidence in our firefighters while using breathing apparatus. The original plan was to have it constructed in the late spring or early summer, but due to the cost of construction materials (it was cost prohibitive). Since the price of wood has come down somewhat, we are anticipating it being ready by the first week of October. Thanks to the generosity of NuStar Energy, Fox Lumber and the Garden Homes Firefighter's Association, there was a minimum cost to the village for its creation.







Seasonal Reminders from Public Works Department



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

Mike Fraider Public Works

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.

Welcome!

Eric Watson is our new Public Works Department employee for the Village of Alsip. He has been a resident of Alsip for 4 years. He enjoys family time with is wife and daughter and looking forward to going to the pumpkin patch. Welcome to the Alsip Public Works Department Eric!



Eric Watson

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.



Street Resurfacing 2021

The following streets were resurfaced over the summer:

- 116th Place-117th Street between Joalyce & Pulaski
- Kolin Ave. between 117th & 118th Street
- Central Park between 123rd & Benck Drive



ALSIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Alsip Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Build A Bed" event with the Oak Forest chapter of the nonprofit Sleep In Heavenly Peace. The event was held September 11th at First Midwest Bank with over three dozen volunteers. With everyone's help, twenty beds were built for children in need. Thank you to the business, and residential community for making the event a success

HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED SLEEP BETTER

We fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. We're a national organization answering the call to a national problem.

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Idaho and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed - or even a pillow - to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.



That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Our organization has grown steadily over time, and we're working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people.

No kid sleeps on the floor in our town[®].

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Rodent Control and Public Health

People are very concerned about rodent control – and with good reason. Rodents consume and contaminate food with their fur, urine and feces. Rat burrowing causes streets and structures to collapse. Their constant gnawing damages property. Rodents can carry as many as 35 diseases that affect humans and livestock and rat bites threaten thousands of people each year.



Local rodent control programs face many challenges, including a lack of funding and resources. Various aspects of the behavior and biology of rodents, such as the reproductive potential, trap avoidance, and feeding behavior complicate rodent control. In addition, property and business owners may lack understanding of rodent control. The information provided here can help you identify, control, and eliminate them.

You may never see a mouse or rat unless an infestation is severe. Look for signs of rat or mouse infestation:

- **GNAWING**: Chewed areas around doors, windows, utility lines and packaged goods, especially where food is kept.
- **BURROWS:** Holes and fresh diggings around foundations, under floors, sidewalks, platforms and ditches.

DROPPINGS: Fresh droppings are a sure sign that you have a rat problem. Look behind objects, near walls, and in places seldom cleaned or disturbed.

TRACKS: Tracks in dusty places. If not visible, dust flour along suspected runways and observe for a few days.

SMEARS: When rats travel, they rub against walls to find their way. Look for darkened areas along walls next to pipes, beams and openings where rats are suspected.

PREVENT RODENT INFESTATION

WATER:

Outside faucets turned off/no

Standing water outside & basement

leaking pipes or faucet

• Water dishes for pets

- **REMOVE FOOD FROM:**
 - trash containers
 - scraps and wrappers
 - stove or on tables between meals
 - pet food in or outside overnight; remove pet feces
 - Do not dispose of garbage in boxes or paper bags or in cans without lids

REMOVE SHELTER:

- Trash in yards and alleys
- High weeds, tall grass and unkempt bushes
- Firewood against buildings.
- Keep doors closed when not in use
- Fix holes in walls, foundations, floors, and pipes with cement and sheet metal
- Unneeded items stored in basements, cellars, or attics

LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE



The Village wishes to congratulate the following Alsip businesses that have expanded their businesses through securing new contracts, constructed new buildings and hired more employees. Thank you for reinvesting in our Village.

RAE Products 11638 S. Mayfield



Quality Snack Foods 3750 W. 131st St.



Coca-Cola 5321 W. 122nd St.



Menasha Packaging 11601 S. Central Ave.







Bob & Sue Waddell of Zeiler Management for managing the Heritage apartment complexes for the past 33 years. The Village of Alsip vetted new applications for managing the Heritages and chose HRE Property Management of Oak Lawn. We wish Ken Houbolt and his team well and we know the residents living there are in good hands.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

and Beggar's pizza slices.



Gas N Wash @ 127th & Kostner

has broken ground and is in the process of developing 195,000 sq. ft. of property that has never been developed before.

7,000 sq. ft. convenience store featuring **Dunkin'** and **TaCanijo Tacos**

Fuel – E85, Truck & Car Diesel, propane fill-ups outside.

Convenience Store – Dairy products, beverages & snacks, ice, ATM, Lottery, Beer Cave, fountain for pop and ICEE.

Carwash – Washes include SaniClean disinfectant sanitizer. Free vacuums, free mat cleaners, pet wash. Unlimited wash memberships & Rewards Club available.



Taco Burrito King @ 11730 S. Pulaski

is getting ready to break ground for a new 5,000 sq.ft. facility that will include (2) 1,200sqft retail stores.

Firewater BBQ & Brew @ 11650 S. Pulaski

has started construction of a new 6,000 sq. ft. facility that will include a 1,200 sq. ft. retail store and 1,200 sq. ft. Salerno's Italian take-out restaurant.

Alsip Terminals LLC @ 3600 W. 127th St.

is securing all financing to build a new 40,000 sq. ft. logistics facility on 8 acres of property that has been dormant for decades.



Alsip Boat Launch

Site renderings for the Boat Launch Green Infrastructure project.

With the outstanding efforts from Emily Okallau from the Morton Arboretum and Alsip Superintendent of Public Works Mike Fraider, the Village of Alsip has been awarded a \$260,000 grant, featuring Green Infrastructure construction that is designated to replace an MWRD parking lot at the Alsip Boat Launch on the Cal Sag Channel.

This project would entail removing half of the parking lot and some turf grass to ultimately install native vegetation and some other vegetative green infrastructure features to improve interception of rainwater and reduce runoff.

This project intends to reduce rainfall interception and non-point source pollution that enters the Little Calumet, to improve green space for those wishing to access the boat launch and river, and to provide an opportunity for education and outreach to the public.

We believe this project has potential to have a positive impact on the site, the greater ecosystem, the Village of Alsip, and can display best management practices in the watershed.

We hope to start removing the parking lot in October.













COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster

preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

How does CERT benefit the community?

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site. CERT members can also assist

Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.)

with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community. CERTs have been used to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the home of the elderly, distribute disaster education materials, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

Why take the CERT training?

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, there can be an emergency or disaster that can overwhelm the community's immediate response capability. While adjacent jurisdictions, State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

Who can take the training?

Naturals for the training are neighborhood watch, community organizations, communities of faith, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organizations and other groups that come together regularly for a common purpose. CERT skills are useful in disaster and everyday life events.

CERT Training will teach participants to:

- 1. Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities.
- 2. Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- 3. Take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster.
- 4. Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
- 5. Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
- 6. Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock.
- 7. Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
- 8. Perform head-to-toe assessments.
- 9. Select and set up a treatment area.
- 10. Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- 11. Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
- 12. Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.

For more information about education and training opportunities, contact:

Charles Geraci Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Village of Alsip 4500 W. 123rd Street Alsip, Illinois 60803

708-385-6902 Ext. 244 Email: cgeraci@villageofalsip.org







********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-Emergency708-385-6131

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:

Office of the Mayor
Office of the Village Clerk 319
Office of the Treasurer
Building Department
Building Commissioner 328
Civil Defense
Environmental Health 336
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Public Works
Water Department
Water Commissioner

Alsip Village Hall will be closed the following holidays:

Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 25
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 26
Christmas Observance	Thursday, December 23
Christmas Eve	Friday, December 24
New Years Eve	Friday, December 31

ALSIP PARK DISTRICT SPECIAL EVENTS 2021/2022 **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

EVENT

HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING FALL FESTIVAL FAMILY ORNAMENT NIGHT LIGHT UP THE PARK CHRISTMASPALOOZA CANDY CANE HUNT COOKIES WITH MRS. CLAUS 2ND ANNUAL CARDBOARD REGATTA MOTHER SON/FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE SAT. FEB 20TH MARCH MADNESS INDOOR CIRCUS EASTER EGG HUNT BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU FUN FEST 2022

DATE

MON. OCT 25TH SAT. OCT. 30TH MON, NOV. 15TH TUE. NOV. 23RD SAT. DEC. 4TH TUE. DEC. 14TH WED. DEC. 22ND SAT. JAN. 15TH SAT. MAR. 13TH SAT. MAR. 27TH SAT. MAR. 27TH THU. APRIL 22ND WED. MAY 4TH SAT. JUNE19TH

TIME 7-9PM 12-4PM 5:30-7:30PM 6:30PM 12PM-4PM 6:30PM 6-7:30PM 10-11:30AM 6-8:30PM 5-8PM 9AM 9:30-11:30AM 6-8PM 5-7:30PM 2-10PM

All dates and times are subject to change. Please check our FACEBOOK and website at www.Alsipparks.org for up to date information.

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