



Village
Of Alsip

FALL/WINTER 2025

Messenger



ELECTION DAY
March 17, 2026

**Early Voting will be held at the
Village Hall located at
4500 W. 123rd St.**

Monday, March 2nd thru
Saturday, March 7th
9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 8th
10:00am - 4:00pm

Monday, March 9th thru
Saturday, March 14th
9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 15th
10:00am - 4:00pm

Monday, March 16th
9:00am - 5:00pm

**Look inside
for your
Halloween
Window
Placard!**



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



John D. Ryan
Mayor

Hello Village of Alsip Residents & Businesses,

I hope you enjoyed a great summer, as it was perfect for hosting friends and family and for traveling near and far. Unfortunately, that warm reminder will diminish soon because: The Farmers' Almanac is forecasting that Illinois can expect a "very cold, snowy" 2025-2026 winter with "Chill, Snow, Repeat" weather patterns, significant cold snaps in mid-January and mid-February, and a "pretty big snowstorm" in the Great Lakes region around February 8-11, as Illinois is predicted to have a "classic winter wonderland" season.

I was nominated and elected as a Vice-President on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Municipal League (IML) when the league held its 112th annual conference at the Chicago Hyatt Regency on September 18-20, 2025.

The League was founded in 1913 and has worked continuously for the benefit of municipalities, promoting competence and integrity in administration of municipal government.

"It's an honor to join municipal leaders across the state to advocate for policies that empower local government and I look forward to serving on behalf of Illinois' 1,294 cities, villages and towns as we unite around the shared goals of strengthening our communities and our state"

Over the next five (5) years and more, many of us need to consider a lifestyle change regarding local travel, as Rebuild Illinois just released \$400 million dollars of a proposed \$8.3 billion dollars to start Major Highway Projects. Everyone needs to consider the necessity to travel, including the need to use Public Transportation (Metra, Pace, CTA and Amtrak) because while the expressways and bridges are being repaired, the streets will absorb all of the traffic from motorists avoiding the construction.



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Village of Alsip

4500 West 123rd Street
Alsip, Illinois 60803

(708) 385-6902

www.villageofalsip.org



John D. Ryan
Mayor



Renee N. Harding
Clerk

TRUSTEES



Richard S. Dalzell
Chairperson
Police & Traffic Safety Committee



Christine L. McLawhorn
Chairperson
Finance & IT
Village Properties



Christopher W. Murphy
Chairperson
Human Resources and Insurance
Planning & Zoning and Licenses



David A. Perretta
Chairperson
Building & Health
Ordinance & Legislation



Jennifer M. Cahill
Chairperson
Fire Committee
Public Works & Boat Launch



William C. Love
Chairperson
Economic Development
Sewer & Water



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE - *continued from front cover*

Plan ahead and double, or triple your travel time so you/your family aren't upset or discouraged over something you can't do anything about (traffic congestion) as:

- \$454M on I-55 will have (49) bridges rebuilt from Chinatown to Wolf Road
- \$1.3B on I-290 will have bridge replacement/rehab from Mannheim to Racine Ave.
- \$128M on Harlem Ave. in Bedford Park for railroad grade separation
- \$59M for eastbound bridge replacement on I-80 at I-294 in Hazel Crest
- \$761M to rehab bridges on the Kennedy Expressway from Chicago into Rosemont
- \$93M to replace bridges near 95th & Stony Island
- \$39M to replace the Kedzie bridge over the railroad tracks (127th-131st St)
- \$611M will be spent on I-80 from Ridge Rd. to US30 on bridge replacements over the Des Plaines River and interchange reconstruction at Center St. and Chicago St.

Managing the Village requires listening to everyone and considering their ideas, or requests, but we also need to consider the "residual effects" of the proposed request, please consider:

Request #1: Residents are requesting the Village access private residential property to bait and exterminate Rats.

Per Ordinance: Homeowners and Businesses are responsible for exterminating Rats. If the property-owner doesn't take action to exterminate Rats Illinois law allows municipalities to access private property to bait and exterminate rats, but the cost of the municipality's efforts will be charged to the property-owner.

When rat bait is used on residential property, the residual effects include risks to children, pets, and wildlife through both direct and secondary poisoning.

Accidental ingestion: Small children and pets are highly susceptible to poisoning from loose bait pellets or blocks that a Rat could drop in your yard. Plus, domestic cats and dogs can suffer from secondary poisoning if they mistakenly ate a rodent that had consumed the bait.

Mayor's response: Please hire a professional exterminator if your property is experiencing a rat issue, as the Village has a budget to exterminate rats on public property. The Village does not work on private property and we are considering alternatives.

Request #2: The Village of Alsip often receives requests for installing speed bumps, mainly in residential areas, as a way to slow traffic.



The Village had been using speed bumps to slow vehicles, but speed bumps are not recognized by the State of

Illinois as an official traffic device, as they delay emergency response times, they can have detrimental effects to patients during emergency medical transport, they divert traffic to streets without Speed Bumps, they are the cause of acceleration & deceleration noise from the vehicles and they create liability for taxpayers.

Mayor's response: The Village will evaluate, budget and consider possible alternatives to slow traffic, but not everyone wants a Speed Table in front of their home, or Roundabouts that many drivers don't follow the rule of "always" staying to the right-side of. Meanwhile, Stop at the "Stop Signs" and we encourage residents to please "Slow Down" in residential areas and avoid using local streets as shortcuts.

Updates from the Village Clerk



Renee Harding
Village Clerk

Early Voting Hours 2026

The Village Hall will be hosting early voting for the upcoming March 17th Gubernatorial Primary Election in Conference Room #1. The primary will decide which candidates from each party will appear on the ballot for the general election on November 3, 2026. 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 2nd – Saturday, March 7th	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, March 8th	10:00am – 4:00pm
Monday, March 9th – Saturday, March 14th	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, March 15th	10:00am – 4:00pm
Monday, March 16th	9:00am – 5:00pm



The Village Hall will not have voting on March 17th.

If you are voting on the actual election day you will have to go to your assigned polling place. If you are unsure where that is you can look it up on the Cook County Clerk's website www.cookcountyclerk.org under the elections tab and then you will select the "Your Voter Information".

Key Dates for the March 17, 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election

Date	Event
2/17/2026	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
3/1/2026	Last day to register to vote by online application
3/2/2026	First day of early voting
3/12/2026	Last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters
3/16/2026	Last day of early voting
3/17/2026	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
3/17/2026	Election Day

Welcome New Trustees



My name is **Jen Cahill**, and I am truly humbled and honored to serve as a newly elected Trustee for our wonderful Village of Alsip. I was born and raised here, and today I live in Alsip with my husband and our four children, all of whom have attended or are currently attending District 126 schools—just as I once did.

Public service is also deeply rooted in my family. My husband and son are both firefighter/paramedics, and I too served as a paramedic for many years. Today, I work in the insurance field but remain committed to serving our community in meaningful ways.

I chose to run for Trustee to take my community involvement to the next level—to not only participate in the day-to-day activities of our village but also to be part of the bigger picture. I step into this role with humility, dedication, and a strong desire to learn, listen, and connect with all of you. Already, I have begun forming wonderful relationships with village residents, businesses, and departments, and I look forward to building even more.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village," and together we are that village. My goal is to help Alsip remain a great place to live, work, and raise a family, while strengthening the bonds that unite us, and bridging any gaps that may exist. If you see me at an event, ribbon-cutting ceremony, or simply out and about, please don't hesitate to stop and say hello—I am here for you, and because of you!



Trustee William "Bill" Love, a lifelong resident of the area, is a proud graduate of Shepard High School and has called Alsip home for over 20 years.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, and together they have two children, Megan and Glen, who attend schools within Districts 125 and 218. Bill has been deeply involved in the community, volunteering at school events and coaching various youth sports teams. Before being elected as Trustee, he served on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

In his professional career, Bill recently celebrated 30 years with his employer, an industrial distribution company with 30 locations across the Midwest, where he is responsible for leading the company's Information Technology strategy and operations.

As Trustee, Bill is committed to modernizing the village's services and processes while ensuring that Alsip remains a safe, affordable place for residents to live and for businesses to thrive.

A word from the Chief of Police



Jay Miller
Police Chief

The fall season is in full swing, and there's been plenty happening at the Alsip Police Department! Our team had a great time connecting with the community during the Fall Fest on September 27th. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello.

Looking ahead, our officers are preparing a safety plan for Halloween, which includes extra patrols throughout the area to help ensure everyone has a safe and spooktacular night of fun. Don't forget to join us for our annual Trunk or Treat, where families can enjoy candy, costumes, and community spirit in a safe environment.

On September 2, we proudly welcomed two new officers: **Officer Raul Robles** who is completing field training and **Officer Breenay Wallace** who is currently attending the Chicago Police Academy. We wish them both success and thank them for their commitment to serving our community.

It's an exciting time for our department, and we're grateful for the continued support from our community!



Left to right: Mayor John Ryan, Officer Breenay Wallace, Officer Raul Robles, Police Chief Jay Miller

**Halloween is Friday, October 31, 2025,
Village of Alsip Trick or Treat Hours
are 3pm-7pm.**

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

WHEN WALKING

CROSS THE STREET AT CORNERS

USE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND CROSSWALKS

**LOOK LEFT, RIGHT, AND THEN LEFT
AGAIN BEFORE YOU CROSS**

**PUT YOUR PHONE DOWN AND HEAD UP
WHEN CROSSING**

**HAVE CHILDREN LEARN TO MAKE EYE
CONTACT WITH DRIVERS BEFORE CROSSING
IN FRONT OF THEM**

WALK ON SIDEWALKS, NOT THE STREET

**KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR CARS THAT ARE
TURNING OR BACKING UP**

WHEN DRIVING

DRIVE SLOWLY AND STAY ALERT

**TAKE TIME TO LOOK FOR CHILDREN AT
INTERSECTIONS, MEDIANS AND CURBS**

**BACK YOUR VEHICLE UP SLOWLY AND
TRIPLE CHECK TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS
AROUND**

ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

**AROUND THE HOURS OF 5:30 TO 9:30
THERE WILL BE A LOT OF CHILDREN OUT.
DRIVE EXTRA CAREFUL AT THESE HOURS**

**STOP FOR ALL CHILDREN AND ALLOW
THEM TO CROSS IN FRONT OF YOU TO
ELIMINATE THE RISK OF THEM DARTING OUT**



From mid-September through November, some Alsip Officers will be wearing pink shoulder patches in support of **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month** (October).



This visible sign of support honors those affected and raises awareness for early detection and research.

School Bus Safety Know When to STOP

Two-lane road:
All vehicles must stop
in both directions.

**Multi-lane (4+ lanes)
or divided highway:**
Only traffic behind the
bus must stop.
Oncoming traffic should
proceed with caution.



Let's keep our students safe!

Updates from the Fire Department



Thomas Styczynski
Fire Chief

Welcome to the fall newsletter. I am sure some of you are glad we are past the summer heatwave we had, and of course, some of you wish it was still here. Regardless, we need to move onto our next seasons which may include snow and cold.

Just as the seasons change, we have seasonal changes within our fire department as well. Springtime we ready our new budget season, we focus more on outdoor training and the upcoming season, we wrap up the year with indoor training, finish up our annual fire inspection program for commercial and industrial buildings and begin to plan for next year, a continuous cycle.

So, what's new with your fire department since the spring newsletter? Well, quite a lot. First, we finally took delivery of our new tower ladder. We picked it up on September 25th and will spend about 2 months training all our firefighters on it. It is very different than our last ladder truck in every aspect. It will be exciting when it is placed in service and begins serving our community. As of this writing many of you may have seen it out driving around or you are passing our station and seeing the firefighters training with it. You are always welcome to stop by and take a gander at it.



We also have a new ambulance coming. It should arrive sometime in November and hopefully begin serving our community by the end of December or beginning of January. This will replace our 2014 ambulance.

We are also happy to announce that the owner of Mini Mill has graciously donated a new utility pick-up truck to replace our 2002 utility pick-up truck. It is currently being built (after 5 months waiting on Ford) and will be outfitted like the one it is replacing.



In September, the village board members voted to donate our 2001 fire engine to the Garden Homes Fire Protection



District, which is the only volunteer fire department left in Cook County that responds to emergency calls. This will replace their 1981 fire engine. We are very happy to make this donation. They are also paying it forward by donating their 1981 fire engine to a volunteer fire department in southern Illinois that will be replacing their 1965 front line fire engine.

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On October 4th, we held our annual open house at Fire Station 2. The weather was great and had a great crowd. This year we had Joey's Red Hots food truck to supply some refreshments.

As we are moving into fall, remember, **IT IS ILLEGAL FOR OPEN BURNING IN THE VILLAGE OF ALSIP AS WELL AS ALL OF COOK COUNTY!!** The village does have an ordinance for fire pits if you have one. Open burning could result in a ticket and a bill if we respond and need to put out the fire.

Two programs we started last year that have been slow in gaining traction is our home inspection program. 1 or 2 firefighters will come out and complete an inspection of your home to identify hazards that should be taken care of to make your home safer for your family. Our firefighters make recommendations and will follow up if asked to do so. This is completely voluntary.

Our next program is our 10-year smoke detector installation program. This program is through the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Office of the State Marshal. Our firefighters will come out and install a new 10-year smoke detector, 1 for each level of your home. Unfortunately, we can only install them for single family residences. For the hearing impaired, we can also install the bed shaker alarms. If interested in either of these programs, please call and leave a voice message at 708-385-6902 extension 2504. One of our public education coordinators will call you back. These are usually scheduled a month in advance.

As we are near the winter months, be sure you have your furnace cleaned and serviced so it is ready to go and doesn't cause any issues that may create overheating, starting a fire or carbon monoxide leaks. Make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector that is less than 10 years old. If it is time for a new one, the recommendation is to purchase a 10-year carbon monoxide detector



with a display. At 10 years, just like the current smoke detectors, they will tell you when to replace them. They are slightly more expensive than other models but if you break it down per year, it equates to roughly \$6 a year, less than 1 cup of coffee from either Starbucks or Dunkin'. These will save your families lives in the event of a carbon monoxide leak.

Lastly, we always have a possibility of accumulating snow, sometimes anyway. With that being said, we ask if you have a fire hydrant in front of your home or business, please keep it clear and free from snow. If it is covered, we may not see it or may have a delay in using it if we have to clear it off and around it. If the hydrant is on your neighbor's parkway and they don't have the ability to clear it, be neighborly and clear it for them. It only takes a few minutes.

I hope all of you and your families enjoy the holidays as they are fast approaching. As always, the Alsip Fire Department is committed to providing the best possible service through all our highly trained firefighters/paramedics and equipment.

Seasonal Reminders from Public Works Department



Mike Fraider
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 x2364 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.

2025 Street Resurfacing

The Village of Alsip was awarded \$200,000.00 from Cook County through their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The use of these funds in addition to Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) provided the following streets to be resurfaced:

Karlov Ave. between 115th St. – 120th St.
 Komensky Ave. between 115th St. – 120th St.
 Kildare Ave. between 117th St. – 118th Pl.
 118th Pl. between Tripp – Karlov
 Keeler Ave. between 119th Pl. – 119th St.
 Old Cicero between 119th St. – cul-de-sac
 Harding Ave. between 119th St. – 120th St.
 118th St. between Komensky – Pulaski
 Linecrest Dr. between Kolin – Tripp

Welcome!

Alsip Public Works welcomed **Matt Radz** and **Matt Seifried** to our crew this summer.

Both come eager to work and each brings their own experience to benefit us.



Matt Radz



Matt Seifried

Please welcome them to the Public Works crew.

Frequently Asked Snow Command Questions

As an ongoing effort to provide the best possible snow removal service to its residents, the Alsip Public Works offers answers to these most commonly asked questions.

Q: What are the basic goals of the snow removal program?

A: Our first priority is to provide safe and efficient travel on as many of our roads as possible in the shortest amount of time. These goals are accomplished by focusing our efforts on having the snow cleared for the morning and evening rush hours.

Q: Why does it take so long to remove the snow from our streets?

A: We are proud that the response time to clear village streets from an average snowfall of four (4) to six (6) inches only takes between twelve (12) to sixteen (16) hours. We utilize all the equipment and manpower available, but must also maintain the many other village services that are provided. Heavy wet snows, harsh blowing winds, sub-zero temperatures, and excessive vehicle traffic may also complicate snow removal efforts and can cause added delays.

Q: Why do I always see snow plows on other streets before mine is done?

A: Primary and collector streets in the Village of Alsip carry higher volumes of traffic. Therefore, the chances of accidents are greater and demand our first attention. It is also important that we maintain a consistent pattern so that our snow program can be evaluated and updated. Our manpower and equipment resources dictate that we follow a specific plan to cover all areas of the village as efficiently as possible.

Q: Why does it seem that the snow plows arrive just after I finish shoveling my driveway?

A: This question is probably the most commonly asked question from our residents. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to resolve this situation unless the homeowner waits until the snow plows have made their final passes along the curb line—usually their fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) passes down a street. Standard operating procedure requires the snow plow route driver to open the center of the road first. If you cannot wait until the snow plow returns to plow the curb line, you may have to remove some snow from the end of your driveway. On average, it takes about five (5) hours after the storm ends before a driver can return to plow the curb line.

Q: Why was my car plowed in?

A: Village ordinance prohibits parking on village streets during snow cleanup operations. Illegally parked vehicles are the number one handicap cited by our snow plow drivers. Illegally parked vehicles create a hazard and reduce the effectiveness of our program. This is especially true in cul-de-sacs and on dead-end streets.

Q: After a snowfall, when is it legal to park on village streets?

A: Vehicles are subject to ticketing and towing once there is an accumulation of one (1) inch of snow on primary routes and three (3) inches of snow on secondary routes. Vehicles should not be parked back on primary routes for twelve (12) hours after the snow storm has ended, or on secondary routes for twenty-four (24) hours after the snow storm has ended. During this period, storm cleanup operations along the curb line are being completed.

Q: Why is there a difference in the snow removal efforts on certain streets?

A: Some streets, such as 111th St, 115th St E of Cicero, 127th St., Pulaski and Cicero Ave., are maintained by the State of Illinois, while other streets 115th St W of Cicero, 119th St E of Pulaski and Pulaski S of 127th St are maintained by the Cook County Highway Department or Worth Township. Any questions pertaining to roadway jurisdiction should be directed to the Superintendent's office.

Q: Why won't the Village of Alsip help medically handicapped or senior citizens remove snow from driveways and private property?

A: Standard operating procedure prohibits any village employee from removing snow in back of the curb line. We suggest that those residents who for various reasons cannot perform snow removal activities on private property make arrangements with family, neighbors, or private contractors to assist them.

Q: How can I help, and what are my responsibilities as an Alsip homeowner?

A: Your patience and cooperation are the most important factors in helping us do our job for you. Other things you can do for our mutual benefit include not pushing the snow from driveways and sidewalks back into the street, promptly removing vehicles from village streets, keeping the area leading to your mailbox clear of snow, and placing garbage cans behind the curb on garbage collection day. If you have a fire hydrant in front of your home, please help to keep it exposed, or report it if it gets covered with snow.

News from the Water Department



Andy Karpinski
Water Department
Commissioner

As we transition into the fall and winter seasons, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the community for your continued cooperation and support in maintaining the integrity of our water system.

Your prompt reporting of water main breaks, leaks, and issues with fire hydrants is invaluable, particularly during colder months when the risk of frozen or damaged pipes increases. Such vigilance enables our teams to respond swiftly and effectively.

Additionally, I kindly request that residents assist by keeping fire hydrants clear of snow and accessible to emergency personnel.

Protecting your home's plumbing by insulating exposed pipes, draining and disconnecting outdoor hoses, and knowing the location of your water main shutoff valve inside your home is also strongly encouraged.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to conserve water through responsible usage and leak repairs. These actions play a vital role in preserving this essential resource for our entire community.

Together, we can ensure the continued reliability and safety of our water supply throughout the colder months.

Welcome!

**The Water Department
is excited to welcome
Mike Sanders to our team!**

Mike has been a dedicated Village of Alsip employee for 19 years, previously serving in the Public Works Department.



In March of this year, he made the transition to the Water Department as part of our clerical staff. His extensive knowledge of the Village has already made a positive impact, and we're thrilled to have him on board.

Welcome, Mike!

How to Winterize Outdoor Spigot

Easy DIY to Prevent Burst Pipes

Winter Is Coming: Don't Forget to Winterize Your Outdoor Faucet!

As the temperatures start to drop, it's time to protect your home from a costly cold-weather surprise: a burst outdoor faucet. Also known as a silcock or hose bib, this simple fixture can cause major plumbing issues if not properly winterized. Taking 10-15 minutes before the temperatures drop could save you the expense of cracked pipes, water damage, and expensive repairs in the spring! If you have a frost-free silcock it is still important to perform the below steps. These devices can still fail if not installed with the proper downward pitch to properly drain.

What You'll Need:

- Hose bib cover (optional, but helpful)
- Bucket or towel
- Adjustable wrench (maybe)
- Screwdriver (if needed for shutoff)

Winterizing Your Outdoor Faucet (Silcock)

- 1. Disconnect Hoses & Accessories**
 - Remove all garden hoses, splitters, and timers.
 - Leaving anything attached traps water, which can freeze and cause backflow into your pipes.
- 2. Shut Off the Interior Valve**
 - Locate the shutoff valve inside your house (often in the basement or utility room).
 - Turn it off to stop water from flowing to the silcock.
- 3. Open the Outdoor Faucet**
 - Go outside and turn the silcock handle to the fully on position.
 - Let any remaining water drain completely.
- 4. Drain the Pipe from Inside (if possible)**
 - Some indoor shutoff valves have a bleeder cap.
 - Place a towel or bucket underneath, open the cap, and drain the line.
 - Close the bleeder once it's empty.
- 5. Leave the Faucet Open**
 - This helps relieve any pressure if water is left inside and freezes.
- 6. Add a Faucet Cover (Optional, but Smart!)**
 - Install an insulated cover for extra protection.
 - These are inexpensive and available at any hardware store.

******It is always best to have a professional winterize your system, above are just guidelines to follow******

LAWN SPRINKLER WINTERIZATION



Winter Is Coming: Don't Forget to Winterize Your Underground Sprinkler System!

Winterizing an underground sprinkler system is important to prevent pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads from freezing and cracking during cold weather. Always wear eye protection when blowing out sprinklers. If unsure, many irrigation companies offer professional winterizing—often worth it if you don't own a large compressor. Don't use small home compressors (like for car tires)—they usually don't provide enough airflow for proper blow-out.

Here's a step-by-step guide:

What You'll Need

- Many Air compressor (5–10 CFM at 50–80 PSI is typical)
- Quick-connect adapter (to attach compressor to sprinkler line)
- Safety glasses & hearing protection
- Hose or bucket (if draining manually)

Steps to Winterize:

1. Turn Off the Water Supply

- Shut off the main valve that feeds the sprinkler system.
- If there's a backflow preventer, make sure it's shut off as well.

2. Relieve Pressure

- Open a manual drain valve (if present) or run a quick sprinkler cycle to relieve pressure.

3. Drain the System

There are three possible methods, depending on your system design:

- 1. Manual Drain** – Open drain valves at low points until water stops flowing.
- 2. Automatic Drain** – Some systems have built-in drain valves that open when pressure drops.
- 3. Blow-Out Method (most common)**
 - o Connect the compressor to the system's blow-out port (usually near the backflow preventer).
 - o Set compressor pressure no higher than 50–80 PSI (check system rating). Too much pressure can damage components.
 - o Starting with the zone farthest from the compressor, run the zone until only mist comes out, then switch to the next zone.
 - o Continue until all zones are dry.
 - o Don't run air continuously more than 2 minutes per zone to avoid overheating solenoids. Cycle zones if needed.

4. Backflow Preventer Care

- Leave test cocks and shut-off valves at a 45-degree angle (not fully open or closed) so water can expand if it freezes. It is recommended that you remove your backflow device.

5. Shut Down Controller

- Turn off the timer/controller or set it to "rain mode" or "off" so it doesn't try to run cycles.

*****It is always best to have a professional winterize your system, above are just guidelines to follow*****

THE SCARIEST PART
OF HALLOWEEN IS

**WASTING
WATER.**

Protect the planet by checking
faucets for drips and taking
efficient showers.

American Water Works Association
Illinois Section

**WATER
AMBASSADOR**

Cold Weather & Your Water System

Why Pipe Freezing Is a Problem

Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of these water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations:

- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold-water pipes in these areas should be insulated.
- Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold-water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe – even at a trickle – helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

To Thaw Frozen Pipes

- Before attempting to thaw a frozen pipe, inspect the pipe for damage. Water expands as it freezes, which can rupture the frozen section of pipe.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, or a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials). Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, if you find damage to the frozen area, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

Water mains tend to break more often in the winter because of temperature-related stress on the pipes and the surrounding soil.

Here are the main reasons:

- 1. Cold temperatures make pipes brittle**
 - Many water mains are made of older materials like cast iron, which becomes more fragile in freezing conditions. This makes them more likely to crack or shatter under pressure.
- 2. Ground movement from freezing and thawing**
 - When the ground freezes, it expands. As it thaws, it contracts. This freeze-thaw cycle puts stress on buried pipes, causing them to shift, bend, or crack.
- 3. Increased pressure differences**
 - Colder water is denser and can slightly increase pressure inside the pipes. Combined with weaker pipe walls, this raises the chance of a break.

What to Look For

Spotting a water main break early can help avoid bigger issues. **Here are the main signs to look for:**

Outdoors / Street signs:

- Water pooling or flowing in the street where it normally wouldn't.
- Unexplained puddles or wet spots on pavement, grass, or yards (especially in dry weather).
- Sinkholes or soft, muddy ground forming suddenly.
- Low water pressure in nearby hydrants (if you see firefighters or city workers testing).

At your home or business:

- Sudden drop in water pressure (weak flow from faucets).
- Discolored or cloudy water coming out of taps (rusty, brown, or muddy looking).
- Little or no water coming out at all.
- Strange noises in your plumbing (banging or gurgling).

Community Indicators:

- Utility or city workers digging with heavy equipment in the area.
- Alerts or notices from your water utility.

If there is a water main break in your area you may lose water without notice. The faster the break is reported to the water department, the faster repairs can begin so we can get water restored as soon as possible.

How to Report a Water Main Break

Your Village Hall is open Monday 8am-8pm and Tuesday-Friday 8am-4pm. If you need to report a suspected water main break during business hours you can call 708-385-6902. If you need to report a break after normal business hours you can call the non-emergency at 708-385-6131.

Coyotes in Our Neighborhoods

Village of Alsip have received several calls concerning the activity of coyotes in the area and after contacting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, they informed us of the following information. Education is the number one factor in dealing with the coyotes and they stressed that in the event of coyotes being aggressive and are causing a threat to the community to call them as soon as possible.

Coyotes are native to Illinois and are protected wildlife under state law. It's illegal to trap or harm them without proper permits. Sightings are common, especially during fall and winter.

Here are some steps to prevent human-coyote conflicts

Do not run if a coyote approaches you. Yell, stand up straight, and wave your arms (the goal is to make yourself appear larger), or throw something at the coyote to make it move away (the goal is to scare it away, not to injure it).

Teach your kids what to do if they see a coyote. Have them throw their arms up in the air and yell "like a monster" to scare the coyote away.

Do not leave small pets unattended when they are outside, especially at night. Consider the use of fencing or kennel runs to protect small pets.

Do not feed coyotes. Property owners should limit the availability of unintentional food sources, such as bird food, pet food, ripe fruit, or trash.

Comply with local ordinances that require oversight/restraint of pets. Coyotes that are protecting their den or young will vigorously defend the area. Simply walking your dog in another area keeps everyone safe.

Alert residents of the neighborhood and the local municipality (e.g., police, public safety officer) if, and as soon as, a problem develops with a coyote.

Rodent Prevention

Rodents (rats/mice) can be a serious problem for residents. The below information can help you identify, control, and eliminate them. Rodents have a tremendous ability to adapt to their environment and quickly reproduce. Rodents have been associated with carrying many diseases that can affect humans and animals.

SIGNS YOU MAY HAVE A RODENT PROBLEM...

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.

TIPS TO PREVENT RODENT PROBLEMS

REMOVE WATER:

- Make sure outside faucets are turned off and are not leaking.
- Control areas with standing water.
- Do not leave water bowls outside for pets.
- Check for leaking water pipes or faucets.
- Remove any water standing in the basement.

REMOVE FOOD:

- Remove food scraps spilled around trash containers.
- Do not dispose of garbage in boxes, paper bags, or in garbage cans without lids.
- Dispose of food on the stove or on tables between meals.
- Do not leave pet food out overnight/outdoors.
- Make sure to remove all pet feces.

REMOVE SHELTER:

- Do not allow trash to accumulate in yards and alleys.
- Cut all high weed, tall grass, and unkempt bushes.
- Do not store firewood against buildings.
- Keep doors closed when not in use.
- Close all holes in walls, foundations, floors, and around pipes with cement and sheet metal.
- Get rid of unneeded items stored in basements, cellars, or attics.



Retirement



The Building Department would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to **Melanie Rehling** for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Village of Alsip.

Since starting in 2005, Melanie has been a vital part of our team. Her primary focus was in licensing new businesses joining our community and ensuring that contractors working in Alsip met all necessary requirements. She played a key role in building strong working relationships

with the Fire Prevention Bureau, working diligently to streamline processes between the Fire Department and the Building Department.

Melanie also took the lead on annual apartment inspections, bringing dedication, professionalism, and a touch of her unique spirit to every aspect of her work. Her presence brought a special energy to the office that will be truly missed.

Melanie retired on July 31, 2025, we celebrated not just her accomplishments, but the impact she had made on all of us.



Congratulations, and thank you for 20 years of outstanding service to the Village of Alsip, we wish you nothing but the best for you in this next chapter of your life and know you will be dearly missed by all!

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT



Welcome Baby Alejandro!

We're excited to share that Megan and her husband Alex welcomed a sweet baby boy this summer!

Alejandro was born on July 25th at 7:53 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches long. He's a very happy baby with the cutest cheeks you've ever seen!

Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing wonderfully, and we're thrilled to have Megan back in the office.

Congratulations to the whole family!

Welcome!



Madaline joined the Building Department Team in mid-July, and we're excited to have her on board! Known as Maddy to friends and family, she stays busy cheering on her two daughters in their softball, basketball, and soccer seasons.

A true animal lover—especially of her dog, Bleu—Maddy brings warmth and energy wherever she goes.

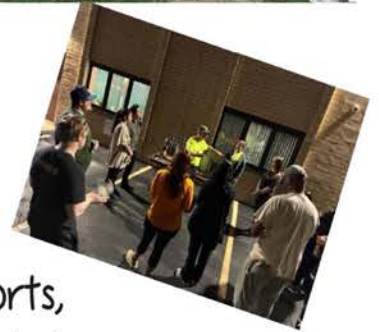
She has quickly caught on to her new role and is already making a positive impact in the office. We feel lucky to have her on our team and look forward to watching her continue to grow her knowledge and expertise!

Welcome to the Team Madaline!

Update from our local CERT Team



From Spring through Summer, our Alsip CERT members have been showing up and stepping in all across the community. Whether it's training, events, or local support efforts, this team never slows down. Just take a look at what we've been up to:



Community Events & Support

Alsip Fun Fest
Alsip Clean-Up Day
LaGrange Pet Parade
Cop National Night Out

Training & Preparedness

Medical Emergency Training
Stop the Bleed Training
CPR/AED Certification Class
Outside Ground Search & Rescue
and more...



Welcome CERT Class #8
(Started 9/4/2025)



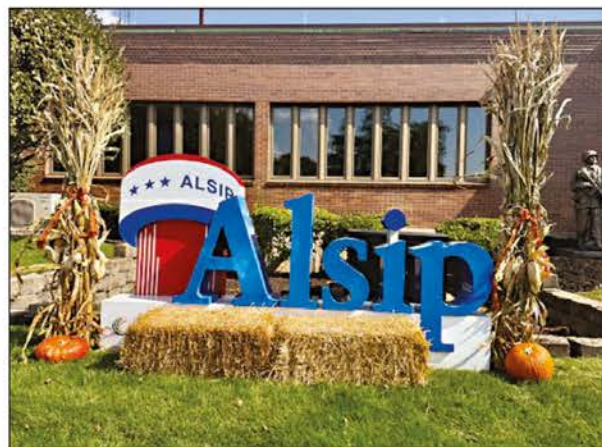
Exciting Updates at Village Hall

We're thrilled to share the latest improvements happening at the Village Hall!

New signage has been installed on both the east and west sides of the building, giving the exterior a fresh, updated look. We've also removed the overgrown arborvitaes that were blocking the large windows near the Police Department, allowing more natural light into the building.



In place of the old bricks, we've installed a new concrete pad-thanks to a generous grant from Ozinga, right here in town! A brand-new gazebo with benches has been added, surrounded by fresh sod, an updated sprinkler system, and soon-to-be-installed black mulch, walkway, and landscaping edging to complete the beautiful new space.



We want to extend a huge thank you to our Public Works Department. Their hard work and assistance throughout this renovation played a major role in keeping costs down and making these upgrades possible.

Stay tuned for more improvements - and be sure to stop by and check out the new look!





Village of Alsip

4500 West 123rd Street
Alsip, Illinois 60803

708-385-6902

www.villageofalsip.org

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

You can reach each department by dialing the main number **708-385-6902** and following the prompts listed below:

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

Department Extensions

Office of the Mayor 2317
Office of the Village Clerk . . . 2319
Office of the Treasurer 2331
Building Department 2335
Building Commissioner 2328
Civil Defense 2244
Environmental Health 2336
Fire Chief 2235
Police Chief 2243
Public Works 2364
Water Department 2327
Water Commissioner 2325

Village of Alsip Tree Lighting

Date: December 1st, 2025

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). And after, stay to have some cookies donated by our DoubleTree Hotel friends and hot chocolate donated by our very own Eggman's Restaurant.



**Alsip Village Hall will be closed
the following holidays:**

THANKSGIVING	Thursday, November 27 Friday, November 28
CHRISTMAS	Wednesday, December 24 Thursday, December 25
NEW YEAR'S DAY	Thursday, January 1

**LAST DAY FOR
YARD WASTE
PICK-UP IS
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29TH**



4500 West 123rd Street
Alsip, Illinois 60803-2599

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