

Tinley Park Exchange

Tinley Park
ILLINOIS

Fall/Winter 2009

**Inside this
issue...**

**Watch for
2010 Census
questionnaire
11**

**Don't miss
the Village's
holiday events
14**

**Enter our
holiday card
photo contest
19**



From the Mayor's Office



Mayor
Edward J. Zabrocki

2009—Year of challenges, accomplishments

We all know it—times are tough. And just like all of you, your Village of Tinley Park officials and staff have been scrutinizing the budget to see how we can best reduce costs while maintaining the services our community expects. With our main sources of revenue down and bleak financial predictions, this involves making difficult but necessary decisions. You will be kept informed of those decisions as they continue to develop.

However, because of careful financial planning in the past as well as previous grant funding commitments, we are able to proceed this year with several projects that are important to our Village. Some of them include:

2009 Budget Decisions

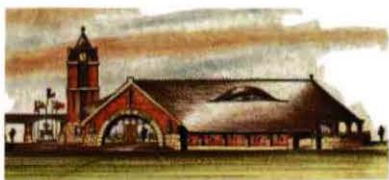
Much like many of our residents, we began the year taking a hard look at our budget. Faced with the challenge of declining revenue with no quick recovery in sight, our Village Board had to make difficult decisions. Cost-cutting measures were implemented in order to balance expenditures with expected revenue. Our goal was to do this without raising taxes or adversely affecting the services we provide to our residents. We accomplished that this year, and we continue to closely watch our projected revenue streams as we move into 2010.

Downtown Master Plan

We were excited to present to the community a Downtown Master Plan that will provide guidelines for development in our downtown area for the next 20 years. The plan will be further discussed at a public hearing and eventual Village Board vote tentatively scheduled in December. It would integrate our downtown and its surrounding environment into a community-oriented, walkable center for the future—a gathering place where people shop, dine, relax and enjoy life in Tinley Park. Important decisions we make now will identify our legacy and have a huge impact on our future quality of life.

New 80th Avenue Train Station

Although a lengthy analysis of financing arrangements for this new station caused a delay in the original construction schedule, we are now moving forward with design plans for this critically important facility. Also, we were pleased to learn that an additional \$500,000 in federal funding has been secured, amounting to more than \$1.1 million in federal grant money targeted for the project. Our earliest estimate for bidding procedures to begin is the first quarter of 2010.



183rd Street Widening and Extension

This Cook County project has been long awaited, delayed by the necessary implementation of intergovernmental agreements. Last month, construction finally got under way to widen and extend the road from 80th Avenue to La Grange Road. An at-grade railroad crossing will also be included. This improvement will alleviate the congestion that future traffic growth will pose as well as create a safer and more aesthetically pleasing street. Completion of the project is anticipated by November 2010.

Convention Center Expansion

Plans to expand our Convention Center are in motion, with the Village currently involved in the bidding process for the construction work. The center will have nearly 60,000 square feet of exhibit space, with plans for an expanded exhibit hall, meeting rooms and pre-function area along with other building upgrades. A larger Convention Center will be able to attract many more functions that it currently cannot accommodate, providing an even greater economic stimulus to the entire area. We are targeting spring 2011 for its completion. See more details elsewhere in this issue.



Crime Free Multi-Unit Housing Program

In an effort to further improve the quality of life and safety for all of our residents, we began the Crime Free Multi-Unit Housing Program this year. Across the country, this program has proven to be an effective tool in achieving and maintaining a safe environment for residents, owners and managers of rental properties. The safety of our community is one of our highest priorities, and this program helps us accomplish that.



These are only some of the projects that Village officials and staff work on daily to make our Village the best that it can be.

Speaking of our staff, best wishes to Fire Marshal Robert Bettenhausen, who has retired after 57 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the community. I can't say enough about how much innovation and knowledge he brought to the Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as to the entire fire service profession. We thank him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Please remember to join us at all the upcoming holiday events and, as always, SHOP TINLEY! On behalf of my wife, Emily; my son, Ed, his wife, Marie-Ann, our grandson, Christopher, and granddaughter, Kristin Marie; and my son, Jonathan, his wife, Jenny, our granddaughters, Emily Lynn and Faith, and our grandsons, Will and Mesfin, I wish you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!



Patrick E. Rea
Village Clerk

Clerk's update on licensing, bill payments

After four months as your Village Clerk, I can now express a few special observations..

First, the staff that late Village Clerk Bill German brought together is outstanding and they serve our citizens well. Second, our citizens are overwhelmingly courteous and thoughtful in their

exchanges with our staff. Third, our citizens are much more attentive reading our Web site, television announcements, community e-mails and newspaper reports, as well as reading the Exchange, than one might think.

I base my observations on two things: In my last Exchange article, I suggested that the Village would appreciate the registration of dogs in our town as required by ordinance. This registration is not nearly as much a revenue source as it is a real protection for the animals, if lost. Well, hundreds of people came to the Village and bought dog licenses. My suggestion on licensing remains, and I hope others follow the example we have seen this far.

"...our citizens are overwhelmingly courteous and thoughtful."

Secondly, we declared a moratorium for the month of September on vehicle sticker ticketing in order to encourage our residents that had not yet purchased their stickers to purchase them. To be sure, they would pay the late fee, but the ticketing was not part of the moratorium. Wow! We experienced a 130 percent increase in September 2009 over September 2008 with our great citizens licensing their vehicles. In fact, due to that wonderful surge, our actual number of vehicle stickers sold during this year is greater than last year. For those citizens who purchased their stickers after July 1 until September 1, we will provide a modest rebate fee for their 2010 vehicle stickers that will occur at the point of purchase next year.

As we continue to update our procedures in the Clerk's Office, it is my intent and that of the Mayor and Village Board to allow our citizens to pay their fees by credit or debit card no later than the first quarter of 2010. We will be issuing a formal "Request for Proposals" for credit card services in early November of this year.

On behalf of the Clerk's staff and my family, allow me to extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful, healthy 2010.



Frequently asked questions and answers on Village laws

Does my dog have to be licensed?

Yes. Annual dog licenses are required and are available from the Clerk's Office. They are valid January 1 through December 31 and the fee is \$3. Proof of rabies inoculation is required and must be presented when purchasing the license.

What is the curfew for my children?

Persons under the age of 17 must not be on the streets after 11:00 p.m. except on Fridays and Saturdays and the day before a national holiday, when curfew is 12:00 a.m.

Can I park my car on the street overnight?

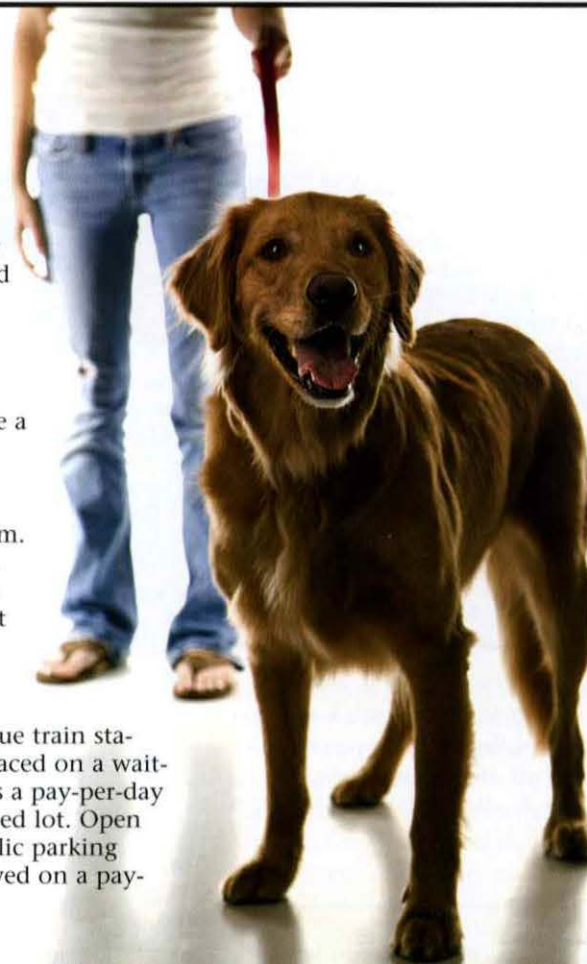
It is unlawful to park overnight on Village streets from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Parking on the street is not permitted after a one-inch snowfall and is never permitted on parkways. Permission may be received from the Police Department to park overnight in an extraordinary circumstance.

Can I park in the commuter train lots?

Permits are required to park in most lots at the Oak Park Avenue train station. You may submit your name to the Clerk's Office to be placed on a waiting list for permit spots. However, lot A along Hickory Street is a pay-per-day area. Permit holders may occupy any space within their assigned lot. Open spots at the Oak Park Avenue station are available for free public parking daily after 11:30 a.m. At the 80th Avenue lots, parking is allowed on a pay-per-day basis.

Is my home required to have a smoke detector?

Yes. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are required by Village ordinance to be installed in all residences.





Trustee
David G. Seaman
Budget and
Administration
Committee Chair

Intergovernmental efforts aid service

As we continue to reassess our expenditures in light of changes in revenue streams, level of service issues are revisited.

We, as citizens of Tinley Park, have high expectations, whether it is the condition of our streets, water distribution and quality, timeliness and effectiveness of police and fire response – each being a core service of Village government and each can impact our quality of life in very serious ways.

For a number of the above, the Village has primary responsibility (best examples, fire and police), and although we get back-up through mutual aid as needed, the first response is Village initiated. Other instances, streets for example, have multiple jurisdictions, with state, county and municipality each maintaining streets that service their respective constituencies. Harlem Avenue is a state route, with most of 167th Street (east of Harlem) and 171st Street (west of Oak Park Avenue) being Cook County routes, and with residential streets most likely Village routes. Each street is “owned” by one government and, as such, problems reported are the responsibility of that particular government.

Some governmental efforts are shared, with Metra stations in town being a good example. The responsibility of Metra is to provide safe, efficient, reliable transportation to its passengers. The Village and Metra work together to provide parking (they purchase the lots, we maintain and collect fees). We also work with Metra to enhance railway stations. Oak Park Avenue is one of the “jewels” of the line, in large part due to use of a small amount of Village dollars to fund a number of upgrades. Those upgrades have earned it recognition as a destination – not just another train station!



The point of this is that the Village is working hard to use your tax dollars as effectively as possible – all of your tax dollars—including federal, state and county in addition to your local Village taxes. We not only seek to leverage our

“...the Village is working hard to use your tax dollars as effectively as possible – all of your tax dollars—including federal, state and county in addition to your local Village taxes”

local spend with other than our own tax dollars, but we also seek to maintain good relationships with other governments and agencies that make this possible. Some examples of plans in the making that seek to leverage our efforts to your benefit

include: Zabrocki Plaza expansion (federal stimulus funds), 80th Avenue Metra station (state, federal and Metra funds) and the 183rd Street extension (county funds).



Trustee
Gregory J. Hannon
Planning and Zoning
Committee Chair

Plans ensure future direction of town

As the economy continues to slow down, the Village is moving to ensure we have all the tools needed to put us in a great position to have our long term plans finalized for both our downtown and the remainder of the commercial and retail area of the town, mostly south of I-80.



The final version of the Downtown Master Plan is scheduled to be in front of the board by the end of the year. Our downtown plan, on the 100th anniversary of the Chicago Burnham Plan, will be utilized for redevelopment for the next 25 years. It includes a master overlay of the Oak Park Avenue corridor, guidelines for commercial / retail, walkability for shoppers along the Oak Park Avenue

downtown area, public parking, and enhanced landscaping and green areas, to name a few. The Master Plan will also include the Midlothian Creek area to be a central green open area with the intention of linking various parks along walking paths to the downtown area.

As the plan is finalized, it will also contemplate bicycle paths, grand entrances from both the north and the south, and provide developers with various options within a form based code, hence eliminating red tape and time from beginning to end.

We are also moving forward with the expansion of Zabrocki Plaza, which will include underground parking, additional parking for commuters and shoppers in a new parking structure. The park itself will be tree-lined with extensive landscaping and green areas. An interactive water feature is planned along with a winter ice skating rink, for all to enjoy. Once completed, this will be a central destination point all year long, and utilized by residents and visitors alike.

“Once completed, this will be a central destination point all year long, and utilized by residents and visitors alike.”

As the holiday season begins and the year comes to an end, my wife, Cathy, and I would like to wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Trustee
Michael H. Bettenhausen
Finance and
Economic Development
Committee Chair

Economic bright spots in Tinley Park

We are all making adjustments due to the ongoing economic recession. The financial and economic development environment in Tinley Park continues to remain strong despite the global and national economic challenges. Yet, your board is committed to making adjustments where necessary.

Our fiscal year budget was based on extremely conservative revenue estimates, and prudent expenditures that will assure quality services to our citizens. The recession has definitely affected revenue, but we are optimistic about the upcoming months.

In the past four months alone, we have seen an increase in building permits and capital investments by commercial and industrial businesses in Tinley Park. Compared to the same time last year, we have a 20 percent increase in commercial and industrial permits and a 39 percent increase in project values. Seventy-two new businesses have opened in Tinley Park this year—which is a higher rate than last year—and two of those businesses are Fortune 500 companies. Very few communities in Illinois or the nation can boast these strong numbers for improved economic growth.

Unemployment rates are still high for the nation, the state and Tinley Park. Yet, the latest figures demonstrate that Tinley Park has seen a 19 percent decrease in unemployment and now has a rate significantly lower than the U.S. and Illinois averages.

Over the past year, major challenges have affected our local automobile dealers. Corporate and government decisions this summer have helped to stabilize this sector. The Tinley Park auto dealers are utilizing innovative marketing, management, and sales techniques to remain competitive. This group of businesses represents a significant part of local sales tax revenue—funds which are utilized to benefit the entire community.

Tinley Park still maintains one of the highest credit ratings in the country, which allows us to make investments that will benefit our economy and our citizens. The contractor will soon be chosen for the beautiful new 37,000 square foot expansion of the important Tinley Park Convention Center. This expansion will help ensure continued competitiveness for the Convention Center and provide a \$265 million economic impact to our Village.

Another sign of the improving economy is the increase in business prospects through our Economic Development Department. New business inquiries and site tours have tripled over the past three months, and many entrepreneurs are taking advantage of our Village-sponsored small business counseling services.

The strength and financial health of Tinley Park is helping to maintain a low tax environment and a climate that produces new jobs and new business investment. Just as we have done for the past 40 years, we are committed to maintaining economic development policies that will best benefit our local homeowners and business owners.



Trustee
Brian S. Maher
Public Safety
Committee Chair

Neighborhood Watch update

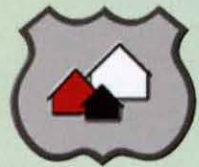
In the summer edition of The Exchange, I advised residents of the opportunity to volunteer for the Neighborhood Watch program. I am pleased to announce that since that time, we have had nearly 100 residents volunteer to take part in the program.

Thank all of you for caring about your neighborhood and community enough to step up and volunteer your time and energy. We are still in the process of contacting former volunteers, training members of the Crime Prevention Committee and seeking additional volunteers for the program. We will be in contact with all who volunteered to advise you of the kick-off of the program. We anticipate this will take place in the early spring of 2010.

Anyone wishing to volunteer in the Neighborhood Watch program can register on the Village Web site at www.tinleypark.org. The link is on the home page under "Latest Village News."

Crime Free Housing Update

Village ordinance requires that all rental properties with three or more rental units be licensed under the Crime Free Housing program. The program provides landlords and tenants with the knowledge to help keep properties safe, properly maintained and free of persistent criminal activity. In addition, the program encourages rental property owners to work more closely with police and their tenants to foster a safer environment. It also provides landlords with the tools to identify and effectively deal with tenants who commit or allow criminal behavior to take place in their units.



As of the time of the submission of this article, only eight landlords remained to complete the required Phase I training class. The program has three phases—the first is required and the second and third are voluntary. Phase I involves a general training class with special emphasis on the use of the Crime Free addendum on tenant leases. Phase II covers additional security enhancements to rental properties and Phase III involves a "safety social" for building tenants.

Phil Valois, program director, is pleased to announce the first fully certified landlord. Dave Fischer (7101 171st Street) is the first landlord to complete all three phases and obtain full certification. Mr. Fisher, when asked about his impressions of the program stated, "I think it's a very good program. It provides a format that makes my tenants feel they're cared about and that the Village cares about them, too. The program emphasizes the police and residents working together. In the long run, it benefits the entire Village and it directly benefits the landlords. The cost not to be involved far exceeds the minimal cost to complete the program."

On behalf of my wife, Patty, and children Matt, Briana and Cayla, I wish to extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season and a joyful and prosperous new year.



Trustee
Thomas Staunton Jr.
Public Works
Committee Chair

183rd Street improvement project under way

Construction on the long-awaited project to widen and extend 183rd Street from 80th Avenue to La Grange Road, with the addition of an at-grade railroad crossing, finally began in October. The Village is excited that a safer, more efficient and aesthetically

pleasing street is expected to be completed by November of 2010.

As some of you may know, particularly those residents who live in the area, the start of this Cook County project had been delayed due to the lengthy implementation of intergovernmental agreements between the Village, Cook County, the State of Illinois and the federal government. That intergovernmental cooperation resulted in more than \$10 million in grants, funding over 85 percent of the project to improve this Cook County road. Our residents' patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.



Here is some general information on the project:

Why does this need to be done?

Widening 183rd Street to four lanes and extending it will alleviate the congestion that future traffic growth will pose. The street connects local roads to major arterial roads, and the improvements will allow vehicles to travel safely to their destinations. Minimizing congestion will lower the amount of pollution emitted and also provide safer access to and from the residential areas bordering the road.

Will there be a detour?

Yes. Signage will be clearly posted detailing the detour, and electronic message boards are expected to be utilized to provide traffic updates. Traffic will be routed in both directions on 179th Street, 88th Avenue and 183rd depending on area closures.

What will the finished street look like?

Upon completion, 183rd Street's new design and landscaping will convey an aesthetically pleasing, boulevard-type atmosphere. Extensive safety features and landscaping will be provided, including:

- Pedestrian sidewalks between 84th and 94th Avenues and a Tinley Gardens-area, one-way frontage road;
- Decorative six-foot, sound- and sight-barrier fencing (where requested) of solid white PVC composition, featuring ornamental posts and brick columns;



Trustee
Patricia A. Leoni
Building and
Compliance
Committee Chair

Projects move forward despite economy

We are happy to report that, although we have experienced a downturn in the housing market, there are numerous commercial projects in Tinley Park that are either under way or in the early stages of construction. Despite the economy, local developers and builders continue to move forward

with planned commercial projects. Our hope is that the coming year will also see improvements in the housing industry.

Projects under way include:

- Panduit corporate headquarters, 189th Street and 80th Avenue: Approximately 80 % complete;
- Hope Chinese Buffet, 183rd Street and La Grange Road: Construction started; and
- Moraine Valley Community College, 179th Street and 94th Avenue: Construction has started on a 30,000 square foot education facility.

Projects in the early stages include:

- Walgreens/Republic Bank, 171st Street and 84th Avenue;
- AlphaMed medical facility, 173rd Street and La Grange Road; and
- Pronger Smith Medical Care expansion, 175th Street and La Grange Road.

Winterizing Your Home

As winter approaches, our Building Department would like to offer suggestions to reduce your heating bills and to protect your home:

- Add insulation to ceilings;
- Replace any broken or damaged windows or doors;
- Caulk windows and doors; and
- Have a licensed and bonded heating contractor check your furnace and replace furnace filters.



In order to protect water pipes from freezing, we suggest that:

- During cold winter months, maintain a consistent temperature inside the house.
- If you are planning to be away from your home for an extended period, maintain the temperature as if you were at home. It is better to maintain a consistent room temperature throughout the house, even while away.
- During extremely cold periods, leave a faucet running a slow trickle of water, and leave the cabinet doors open to allow heat to circulate inside the cabinets.



continued on page 7

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Intergovernmental efforts aid service levels

Trustee David G. Seaman

So, despite the recession, planning for a bright future continues. Your support of this government makes all of this possible and, as always, thank you for your continued trust and confidence in me and my colleagues on the Village Board.

I would like to close with a special holiday thank you to the entire Village citizenry, with particular thanks to those volunteers with whom I work most regularly – that is the Civil Service Commission, Veterans Commission and the

Police Pension Board. Each member of these volunteer groups commits time away from work and family to make Tinley Park a better place to live. I would also like to thank the Village staff for their efforts on a daily basis to service our citizens. They do a great job!

On behalf of my wife, Rosemary, and the entire Seaman Family, I extend best wishes for a safe and blessed Christmas and the very best of New Years!

continued from page 6

183rd Street improvement project under way

Trustee Thomas Staunton Jr.

- Decorative light poles equipped on top with safety lighting directed at the street in addition to ornamental, street-level lamps providing low beam, aesthetic lighting;
- Five medians with attractive retaining walls and perennial plantings; and
- Additional landscaping along the parkway with grass and trees.

We are committed to partnering with Cook County and the contractor in keeping residents informed on the progress of the project. In addition, our Public Works Department will stay in close contact with project coordinators to monitor its progress. Regular updates will be provided on the Village's Web site at www.tinleypark.org.

Have a wonderful holiday season and great 2010!



Residents view renderings for the 183rd Street project at an open house the Village held to provide detailed information on the project.

continued from page 6

Projects move forward despite economy

Trustee Patricia A. Leoni

- If a water pipe freezes, know the location of your water shut-off valve. It should be located in the vicinity of your water meter.

We hope your winter months are safe and warm, and the Building Department looks forward to assisting you during the spring construction season. Remember that permits are required for projects such as room additions, sheds, garages, decks, pools and driveways. Please contact the Building Department at 708-444-5100 if you have questions regarding permits.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

*A message from the
Economic and Commercial
Commission...*

**The best way to keep
your taxes low and to
help your neighbors
keep local jobs is to
shop in your hometown.**



**Shop Tinley Park....
it's great for all of us.**

Sister City program celebrates 20th anniversary

The Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission is marking the 20th anniversary of our Village's relationship with Büdingen, Germany, and a group of visitors and officials were here in October to help celebrate.

The visitors included Princess Elisabeth of Büdingen and Ysenburg, who with her late husband, Ferdinand, was an original supporter of the Sister City relationship.

The Tinley Park Sister City program officially started in 1989 when the first group of 150 travelers from Büdingen arrived here. Since then, more than 1,000 visits have taken place between Tinley Park and Büdingen. The October visit included a bus tour of Tinley Park, day trips to local attractions and visits with host families and local friends.

The Village also shares a Sister City relationship with Mallow, Ireland. For more information on the Sister Cities Commission's activities, leave a message at the Village Hall, 708-444-5000.



Princess Elisabeth meets with students from Central Middle School.



Erich Spamer, the mayor of Büdingen, reflects on the importance to both towns of the Sister City friendship.

Mayor Ed Zabrocki (left) welcomes visitors from Büdingen to the Village Hall and recalls experiences from the past 20 years of the Sister City relationship.

Village's reputation draws international interest

Tinley Park's international relationships don't stop with its successful Sister City friendships with Büdingen, Germany, and Mallow, Ireland.

The well-known success of the Village's economic development program led to the summer visit of four economic development and planning officials from the Guangzhou, China, municipal government.

Because of the national reputation for the economic development program in Tinley Park, the economic development and planning officials specifically chose Tinley Park for the week-long, on-site visitation. Programs and tours were provided to the visitors to demonstrate the coordination of municipal departments and economic development allies to achieve business development and planning success.

Also, Scottish Earl Malcolm Sinclair, a member of the British House of Lords, visited Tinley Park to meet with local officials and view the work of the Planning Department. He told officials that he was impressed with the high level of community involvement and volunteerism in Tinley Park government.



Economic Development Director Ivan Baker (above, from right), Assistant Village Manager Steve Tilton and Planning Director Amy Connolly sit down with Chinese officials to describe how municipal government operates in Tinley Park.



Scottish Earl Malcolm Sinclair (left) and others view a model of the Tinley Park downtown master plan.

80th Avenue train station plans moving forward

Recent analyses of financing arrangements for Tinley Park's new 80th Avenue train station have resulted in some delays in the original construction schedule, but the Village is moving forward with design plans.

The project has been undergoing a close financial analysis to determine the amount of funding necessary to build the type of facility that is desired at that location. The earliest estimate for bidding procedures to begin on the project is the first quarter of 2010. Start of construction is dependent on how soon acceptable funding sources are identified.

Funding for the new facility will come from a variety of sources, including Metra, the Village of Tinley Park, and federal grants obtained by U. S. Rep. Judy Biggert (R-Ill). Rep. Biggert has announced that an additional \$500,000

in federal funding has been secured, amounting to more than \$1.1 million in federal grant money targeted for project.

The conceptual plan for the station includes a 3,000-square foot facility with a clock tower, indoor amenities rivaling the Oak Park Avenue station, and outdoor warming shelters. A key feature will be raised platforms, bringing them into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards and making them safe and accessible for all commuters.

The Village will fund various construction upgrades. However, due to recent budgetary constraints brought on by the weak economy, the amount of those upgrades will be limited to available funds.



Attending the announcement of additional funding received for construction of the new 80th Avenue train station are (from left) Trustee Greg Hannon, Village Clerk Patrick Rea, U.S. Rep. Judy Biggert, Mayor Ed Zabrocki and Trustee Mike Bettenhausen.

Village Commissions

The following are the times and days of the month when the Village's volunteer commissions meet:

Civil Service	7:00 p.m., first and third Tuesday
Community Resources	7:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Economic and Commercial	6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Environmental Enhancement	7:00 p.m., third Monday
Historic Preservation	7:00 p.m., third Thursday
Long Range Plan	7:30 p.m., first and third Thursday
Main Street	6:30 p.m., third Wednesday
Senior Services	3:00 p.m., first Wednesday
Sister Cities	7:30 p.m., third Wednesday
Veterans	7:00 p.m., second Wednesday
Zoning Board of Appeals	second & fourth Thursday, as required

Sign up for electronic Village news, emergency notifications

Tinley Park residents can sign up for three separate electronic information services that provide them with the latest news about the Village as well as emergency notifications.

Community E-mail Program

Receive the latest news about your Village, updates on construction projects, special events, new businesses and Village Board meeting agendas and minutes with the Community E-mail Program. To subscribe to this free service, visit the Village's Web site at www.tinleypark.org and click on the sign-up box. You will choose how much information you want to receive.

All information will be kept completely confidential and will not be sold to or utilized by any outside organization.

Twitter

For those who like quick, easy-to-read notifications on Village news and emergency situations, follow the Village of Tinley Park on its Twitter page. To access Tinley Park's Twitter page, click on the Follow Us On Twitter link on our Web site's home page.

You can also find the Village's Twitter feed at https://twitter.com/TinleyPark_IL (underscore between Park and IL). For current Twitter users, log in and click the Follow button on the Tinley Park page. For those new to Twitter, create a free account to begin receiving Village of Tinley Park "tweets".

Users will receive continually updated Village information regarding recent news and events, emergency notifications and project updates.

Emergency Text Message/E-mail Notifications

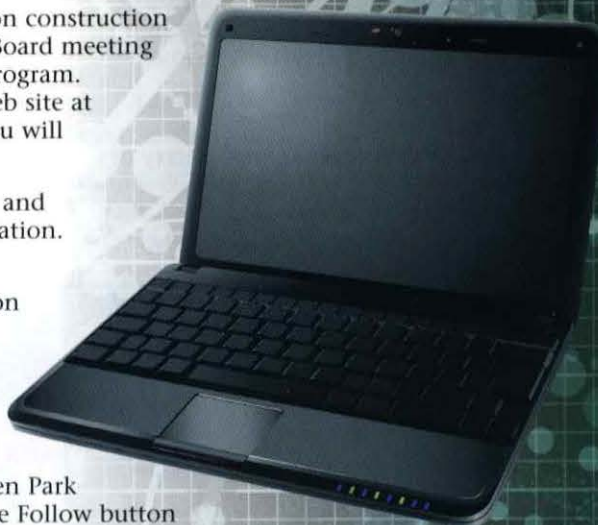
Residents can also register to receive emergency text message notifications on their cell phones and/or e-mail accounts. To take advantage of this important service, log on to the Web site and register your cell phone number (cell phone must have text message capabilities) and/or e-mail address. Standard text message charges will be applied by the resident's cell phone carrier.

Residents who register for emergency notifications will have the option to have text messages sent to their cell phone, e-mail or both. Examples of the type of situations when the Village would utilize the emergency message system would include, but are not limited to:

- Severe Weather Situations
- Tactical Situations
- Major Fire Incidents
- Hazardous Material Incidents
- Lost Individual Incidents
- Evacuations

This emergency notification system is voluntary and will not replace the Village's existing City Watch system that utilizes residents' hard line home telephone numbers to notify them of both non-emergency and emergency situations.

The text message/e-mail notification system is an example of the Village's continued investment in the health and safety of its residents. This system will allow the Village to inform those residents who participate in the program with emergency information 24 hours a day and seven days a week.



Residents with questions about these programs may contact the Village Hall at 708-444-5000.

Census questionnaires to arrive in early 2010



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

lion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. The information guides decision-makers in important community planning efforts, helping to determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child care and senior citizen centers, and more. Businesses use data to locate supermarkets, shopping centers, new housing and other facilities.

"It is extremely important for every Tinley Park household to take a few minutes to answer and return the short questionnaire," said Village Clerk Patrick Rea.

Responding to the questionnaire is safe. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

Be counted. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the quick and easy questionnaire. Your participation is required by law.

In 2010, the U.S. Census will define who we are as a nation. By responding to the short questionnaire that all households will receive in February or March, you can help our community receive the fiscal and social benefits to which we are entitled.

Census information helps shape the future of Tinley Park and defines our voice in Congress. Every year, more than \$300 bil-



2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

Fall 2009:

Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.

February-March 2010:

Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010:

Census Day

April-July 2010:

Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 2010-March 2011:

Population count apportionment and redistricting is determined.



Senior Community Center offers recreation, friendship

Senior residents 55 years old and older are invited to join the Senior Community Center located at 17355 68th Court, Tinley Park. It offers a variety of activities.

The facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Monthly activities include reasonably priced luncheons with educational seminars or entertainment, day trips, bingo, blood pressure screening, card games and an annual picnic. The center offers computer instruction on an as-requested basis. Refreshments are offered.

The center also offers the opportunity to meet new friends. There is no fee to join, but members are requested to renew their membership annually and complete an emergency information form. Further information is available by calling the center at 708-444-5150 during the open hours.

Emergency Management News

How to prevent the spread of influenza

By **Lt. Wayne Bulger**, Tinley Park Emergency Management Agency

It seems like in the past couple of years, there has always been some type of outbreak of virus or infection. Whether it's avian or swine flu, these highly contagious illnesses have infected tens of thousands of people, and some have died.

We first saw the H1N1 (swine) flu virus last April and the Center for Disease Control reports higher than normal levels of flu-like illness and actual H1N1 outbreaks in some parts of the country. This is rather unusual for this time of year. Going forward, we not only have to plan for a seasonal flu but we should also plan for the potentially more dangerous H1N1 virus.



What should you do to help prevent catching or spreading the flu or H1N1 virus? **Here are some tips:**

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often. It will help protect you from germs. It is recommended that you should wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 to 25 seconds. If there is a known potential hazard, wash your hands more frequently.
- Use alcohol based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers when soap and water is not available.
- Germs will stay and live in your hands for a long period of time, so covering your mouth with your hand when you cough or sneeze is not a good idea. If you feel a cough or sneeze coming on, cover your nose or mouth with a tissue or paper towel and then immediately throw it away. If a tissue or paper towel is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder or, at the very least, turn your head away from everyone and cough or sneeze into the air.
- If there is an outbreak of the flu or H1N1 in your area, consider avoiding large public gatherings until you feel it's safe to do so.
- You may also want to consider avoiding buses or planes if infections have been confirmed in your area. The amount of people in closed quarters highly increases the potential to spread the virus.
- Another way to avoid contracting the virus is to avoid touching commonly used items such as door knobs, light switches or other commonly used items. These items can be loaded with germs.
- Wearing a mask can reduce the chance of indirect contact with others germs and also reduce the spread of germs. Wearing a mask will prevent you from touching your mouth or nose with your hands and help in preventing you from spreading the virus.

If you start experiencing influenza like symptoms such as fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, you should stay at home and avoid coming in contact with other people. You shouldn't leave your home to go to work, school, a shopping mall or any type of public get together; you should only leave your home to seek medical attention.

In children the emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention are as follows:

- Fast breathing or troubled breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or interacting
- Being irritable – the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms appear to be getting better but return with fever and a bad cough

In adults, the emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention are as follows:

- Difficult breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the abdomen or chest
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu like symptoms appear to be getting better but return with fever and a bad cough

To summarize, wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 to 25 seconds, cough or sneeze in a Kleenex or your sleeve, and stay home if you're sick. Get a flu shot and vaccine when it's available. No one knows what the flu season will be like until we are in it, but there are things we can do to lower our risk.



Fire Marshal retires after 57 years of service

Tinley Park Fire Marshal Robert Bettenhausen, who has retired after serving the Village for 57 years, can look back on a distinguished career that brought leadership, innovation and vision to the fire service profession on a local, state and national level.

"His contributions to Tinley Park and to the fire service profession as a whole have been enormous," said Mayor Ed Zabrocki. "We are immensely grateful to him for the knowledge and dedication that he contributed to our town."

He joined the Tinley Park Fire Department in 1952 and served as its Fire Chief from 1966 to 1993, when he was named Fire Marshal. Local achievements under his direction have been extraordinary, including the establishment of a full-time Fire Prevention Bureau, construction of the Fire Department Training Center, establishment of the 911 emergency telephone service, implementation of enhanced fire prevention and fire safety regulations under home rule ordinances, and initiation of qualification for Insurance Service Organization ratings.

In addition to spearheading numerous fire protection standards on the local level, Fire Marshal Bettenhausen has been an active participant in the enhancement of statewide fire service efforts. He is a 27-year member of the Fire Advisory Board of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and has served as chair of the Fire Training Advisory Board of the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois.

His efforts have touched numerous aspects of fire protection and disaster preparedness, serving as one of the original members as well as treasurer/secretary emeritus of the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, a member of the Illinois Fire Service Task Force Summit, an advisory member of the Illinois and Cook County Terrorism Task Forces, and currently organizer of a committee to form the U.S. Fire Corps.

As a member of the Illinois Safety Committee, Fire Marshal Bettenhausen helped to rewrite rules regarding fire safety for all Illinois schools and participated in statewide lobbying efforts to establish state laws requiring sprinkler systems in schools. His participation on the Illinois State Task Force Committee also helped reform state fireworks statutes, and he was selected as one of six signers of the Illinois Department of Labor's "Two In, Two Out" regulation. He also served as the International Association of Fire Chiefs' representative for the National Fire Protection Association's 1720 Committee Deployment Standards and on the 2001-2002 Board of Directors.

His personal achievements have been equally outstanding. He received prestigious Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the National Volunteer Fire Council. In addition, Fire Chief Magazine named him its 1997 Fire Chief of the Year. He also received a Chief Fire Officer designation in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Local organizations have honored him with the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce's Special Recognition Award, Sertoma's Service to Mankind Award and the Tinley Park Veterans Commission's Service Award. He continues to serve the community as a life member of the Tinley Park Historical Society, a member of Tinley Park's United Methodist Church and president of the Tinley Park Memorial Cemetery Association.

Fire Marshal Bettenhausen is lovingly supported by his family, including his wife, Colleen; sons, Brad, Matthew, David and his wife, Jill; and grandchildren, James, Tyler, Gunnar and Sophia.



Mayor Ed Zabrocki was one of numerous local, state and national figures who attended the reception for Fire Marshal Robert Bettenhausen (right).



Bettenhausen poses with colleagues who wished him well in his future endeavors.



A line-up of fire vehicles from Tinley Park and neighboring towns greet Fire Marshal Bettenhausen to a retirement reception in his honor.

Holiday Happenin'

It will be a weekend full of non-stop fun from December 4th through 6th when the Village of Tinley Park and its Community Resources Commission present this year's lineup of FREE holiday events for the whole family. Spend each day enjoying the sights, sounds and treats of the season that celebrate this special time of year.

Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m.

Zabrocki Plaza

Village officials will light the magnificent 35-foot holiday tree. Arrive at 5:45 p.m. to enjoy holiday music performed by Track 5.

New! Tinley's Toyland Parade

Saturday, December 5, step-off at 11:30 a.m.

Viewing from 175th Street north to South Street

The first-ever Tinley's Toyland Parade celebrates the official arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Our special guests will arrive at the Oak Park Avenue train station immediately following the conclusion of the parade. Children are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to a local charity. A collection center will be located near the Holiday Market.

Photos Celebrating Santa's Arrival

Saturday, December 5, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Oak Park Avenue train station

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be inside the train station to visit with children and their families. Receive a complimentary photo along with a gift from the North Pole. Santa's visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to a local food pantry. Please note that no tickets to see Santa will be distributed after 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Market

Friday, December 4, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, noon to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Oak Park Avenue train station south parking lot

Stroll into the cozy warmth of our heated tent and shop for unique handmade crafts and creations. Enjoy tasty treats and live music by local groups and entertainers. Children will have fun making holiday crafts, writing letters to the soldiers and decorating cookies.

Visit www.tinleypark.org for the entertainment schedule.

Ice Carving Demonstration

Saturday, December 5, 2:00 p.m.

Zabrocki Plaza

Watch fantastic frozen sculptures being created right before your eyes.

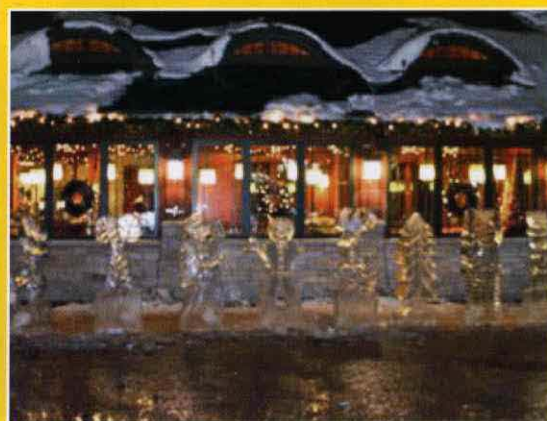
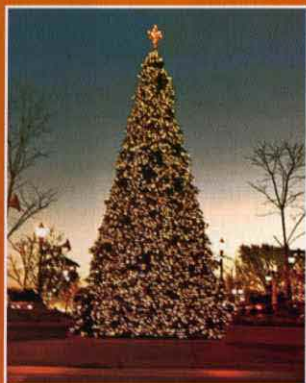
Old Fashioned Carriage Rides

Saturday, December 5, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, noon to 5:00 pm.

Oak Park Avenue train station

Horse-drawn carriage rides through historic downtown Tinley Park will take you back in time.



ings in Tinley Park

Holiday Movies

Saturday, December 5, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Old Zion Landmark Church, 6727 174th Street

Across the street from the Oak Park Ave. train station

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season and enjoy classic, family-friendly holiday movies in one of Tinley Park's historic buildings.

Carnival Rides

Saturday, December 5, noon to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Oak Park Avenue train station

Children can take a free ride on a mini-Ferris wheel or trackless toy train.

Parade of Lights

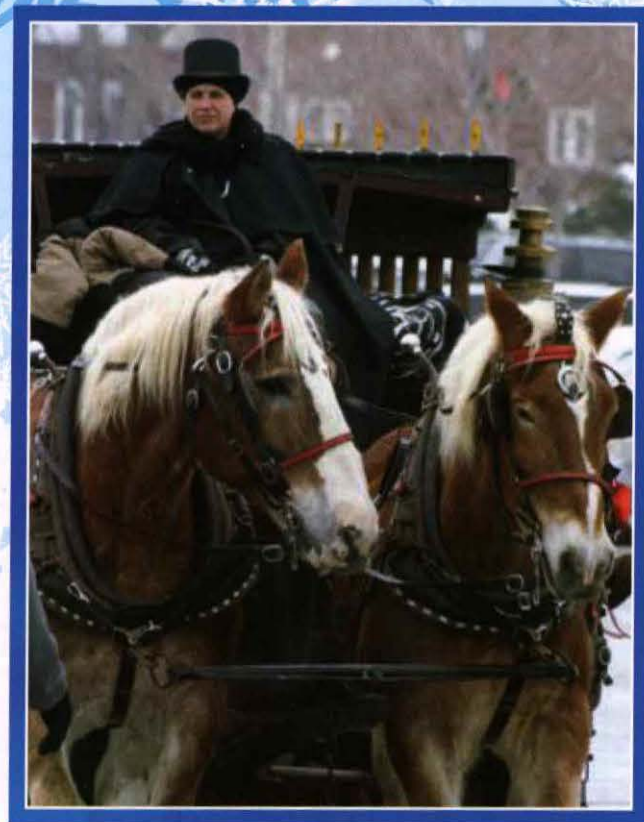
Sunday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. step-off

Viewing area from 179th Street to 172nd Street along Oak Park Avenue

The Parade of Lights includes festive floats, vehicles, local businesses, community groups and school bands displaying the spirit of the season. Our guests from the North Pole will be making a special appearance.

And More!

The Oak Park Avenue Mainstreet Association is offering an additional opportunity to visit with Santa and receive a complimentary photo with him on Sunday, December 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Oak Park Avenue train station.



Here's What's Happening

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 1

- Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit, Vogt Visual Arts Center, through December 31 (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Wednesday, December 2

- Downtown Chicago Holiday Trip, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Friday, December 4

- Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6 p.m., music at 5:45 p.m., Zabrocki Plaza
- Holiday Market, 6-9 p.m., Oak Park Avenue Train Station
- Geneva Christmas Walk, 2-10:30 p.m. (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Saturday, December 5

- Tinley's Toyland Parade, 11:30 a.m., Oak Park Avenue from 172nd to South St.
- Holiday Market, noon-8 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Photos with Santa, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Carriage Rides, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Holiday Movies, noon-5 p.m., Old Zion Landmark Church, 6727 174th St.
- Carnival Rides, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Ice Carving, 2 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Holidays Around the World, 2-2:45 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

Sunday, December 6

- Holiday Market, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Carriage Rides, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Photos with Santa, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Holiday Movies, noon-5 p.m., Old Zion Landmark Church, 6727 174th St.
- Carnival Rides, noon-5 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- Parade of Lights, 5 p.m. step-off, 179th to 172nd Streets on Oak Park Avenue
- Arts Alive! Holiday Concert, 3 p.m., Kirby School, 17300 Ozark (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Monday, December 7

- Secret Gift Workshop, 6:30-7 p.m., grades K-1, Tinley Park Public Library

Wednesday, December 9

- White Christmas & Historical Tours, 9:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Tinley Park-Park District event)
- Secret Gift Workshop, 6:30 - 7 p.m., grades 4-5, Tinley Park Public Library

Thursday, December 10

- Jingle Bell Storytime, 10-10:20 a.m., 3- to 35-months-old, Tinley Park Public Library
- Secret Gift Workshop, 6:30-7 p.m., ages 3-5, Tinley Park Public Library

Friday, December 11

- Rudolph Dash, 6-7 p.m., Bettenhausen Rec Center, 8125 W. 171st (Tinley Park-Park District event)
- Family Pajamarama, 7-7:45 p.m., 3 yrs.-Grade 1 and parents, Tinley Park Public Library

Sunday, December 13

- Oak Park Avenue Mainstreet Association's Photos with Santa, noon to 4 p.m., Oak Park Avenue train station
- The Chansonettes, 2 p.m. (register beginning Dec. 1), Tinley Park Public Library

Monday, December 14

- Secret Gift Workshop, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Grades 2-3, Tinley Park Public Library

Friday, December 18

- Arts Alive! Children's Theater, The Jungle Book, 6 p.m., Kirby School, 17300 Ozark (Tinley Park-Park District event)
- Family Movie Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m., all ages, Tinley Park Public Library
- Arts Alive! Children's Theater, Les Miserables, 8 p.m., Kirby School, 17300 Ozark (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Saturday, December 19

- Arts Alive! Children's Theater, The Jungle Book, 4 p.m., Kirby School, 17300 Ozark (Tinley Park-Park District event)
- Arts Alive! Children's Theater, Les Miserables, 6 p.m., Kirby School, 17300 Ozark (Tinley Park-Park District event)

Monday, December 21

- Parent Gift Wrap, 5-8 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

Monday, December 28

- Tinley Park-Park District Basketball Camp, through December 31

Tuesday, December 29

- Snow Creations, drop in between 2-4 p.m., ages 3 and up, Tinley Park Public Library

JANUARY

Thursday, January 7

- Home School Connections, 1:30-2:30 p.m., grades K-12, Tinley Park Public Library

Friday, January 8

- Family Movie Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m., all ages, Tinley Park Public Library

Friday, January 15

- Family Pajamarama, 7-7:45 p.m., 3 yrs.-Grade 1 and parents, Tinley Park Public Library

Sunday, January 17

- Eugene Kwok, 2 p.m. (register beginning Jan. 4), Tinley Park Public Library

Monday, January 25

- Long Term Care Planning, 11 a.m., Tinley Park Public Library

Wednesday, January 27

- Starting a Business in Illinois, 7 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 2

- Chicago Wolves Player Visit, 7 p.m., all ages, Tinley Park Public Library

Wednesday, February 10

- Sweet Home Chicago, 7 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

Sunday, February 14

- Phil & Amy, 2 p.m. (register beginning Feb. 1), Tinley Park Public Library

Wednesday, February 17

- It Takes Two to Tango, 7 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

Wednesday, February 24

- Wine 101, 7 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

MARCH

Sunday, March 14

- Irish Parade, 2 p.m., Oak Park Avenue (Oak Park Avenue Mainstreet Association event)

Events are subject to change. Registration may be necessary for some programs. For further information, call:

- Village of Tinley Park events, 708-444-5000
- Park District events, 708-342-4200
- Library events, 708-532-0160
- Oak Park Avenue Mainstreet Association events, 708-532-9989



The Fun Starts Here . . .

Park District delivering Santa mail

The Tinley Park-Park District has been asked to help with mail delivery to the North Pole. Children who would like to write to Santa and receive a personal letter from him should drop their letters at "Santa's Mailbox":

Bettenhausen Recreation Center
8125 W. 171st Street
through December 1.

Santa will be very busy in December, so be sure to get your letter in by December 1. Don't forget to give Santa your address.

Vogt Visual Arts Center

Dollhouse and Miniatures Exhibit -
December 1 to 31, 17420 S. 67th Court,
½ block east of Oak Park Ave. at 174th St.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m.;
Wednesdays 4:00-7:00 p.m.;
Thursdays 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 7:00 -9:00 p.m.;
Fridays 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Special hours: December 5, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Admission
is
always
free!**

Arts Alive! Community Band Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 6, 3:00 p.m.,
Kirby School, 17300 Ozark, Tinley Park

FREE!

Rudolph Dash

Just in time for the holidays, it's the Rudolph Dash. Come out for this fun 1K run/walk, which will take place along the path outside the Bettenhausen Rec Center, lighted by luminaries. All participants will receive a goodie bag and a lighted red nose to light their way to Santa. After the Dash, come inside to enjoy cookies, hot cocoa and a visit with Santa. Be sure to register early (limited space available).

Friday, December 11
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Bettenhausen Rec Center
8125 W. 171st Street

Age: 2-12 (with adult) Fee: \$15 per person

Holiday Basketball Camp

Sign up for this great camp during the holiday break from school. Andrew High School basketball coach Dave DeHaan will teach boys and girls in grades 3-8 how to improve their game. Advance registration required.

Bettenhausen Rec Center
December 28-31

\$40 residents/\$60 non-residents

Holiday Trips

Downtown Holiday - Wednesday, December 2.

Travel to downtown Chicago and enjoy the animated windows at Macy's, the tree in Daley Plaza, or shop on State Street. Bus leaves from the Bettenhausen Rec Center at 10:00 a.m. and returns at 4:00 p.m.

Register in advance: \$35 per person.

Geneva Christmas Walk - Friday, December 4.

The holiday spirit is irresistible in Geneva. Santa Lucia arrives by horse drawn carriage while attendants offer cookies to the visitors. Santa makes his arrival to the sound of carolers, followed by the lighting of the great tree. Enjoy the wonderful decorations and quaint shops. Bus leaves from the Bettenhausen Rec Center at 2:00 p.m. and returns at 10:30 p.m.

Register in advance: \$41 per person.

White Christmas & Historical Tours -

Wednesday, December 9. Celebrate the holiday season with a tour of the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet, followed by lunch and musical review of the film, *White Christmas*. The trip wraps up with a tour of the Old Central Church. Bus leaves from the Bettenhausen Rec Center at 9:45 a.m. and returns at 4:30 p.m.

Register in advance: \$65 per person.

Arts Alive! Children's Theater

Don't miss the wonderful productions of our Children's Theater Program. All performances will take place at **Kirby School, 17300 Ozark, Tinley Park**. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Bettenhausen Rec Center, and will also be available at the door.

The Jungle Book Friday, December 18, 6:00 p.m., &
Saturday, December 19, 4:00 p.m.

Les Miserables Friday, December 18, 8:00 p.m., &
Saturday, December 19, 6:00 p.m.

Mother-Daughter Volleyball Night

The Tinley Park-Park District is hosting a great event for moms and their daughters (age 10 and over). Come out and enjoy a fun evening of volleyball just for the girls. Participants will partake in an open gym environment. Volleyball coach Jane DeHaan will be on hand to organize the fun.

Register in advance: \$4 resident (per person)
\$8 non-resident (per person).



For more information, check out the Tinley Park-Park District Web site at www.tinleyparkdistrict.org or call the Park District at 708/342-4200.

Call to artists and sponsors

Are you an artist looking for an opportunity to show off your talents and challenge your creativity?

The Village of Tinley Park is seeking amateur and/or professional artists; teachers and students; groups and individuals interested in participating in our annual Benches on the Avenue public art project.

Artists will be selected based on their portrayal of the 2010 theme — **"When I Grow Up..."**

Participants are encouraged to use their creativity to focus on depicting various occupations, encouraging children to think about what they want to be when they grow up.

**For more information, please e-mail
nbyrne@tinleypark.org or call 708-444-5046 to request complete guidelines for submission.**

Benches on the Avenue "Classic TV" Winning Artists Named

Congratulations to the artist award winners of the 2009 Benches on the Avenue public art project in downtown Tinley Park. The winners were determined by online voting and were announced by Mayor Ed Zabrocki on August 15.

MOST CREATIVE



"Ruh Roh" by Suzanne Bushno

BEST USE OF MATERIALS



"Yabba Dabba Doo" by Nick Schulien

BEST YOUNG ARTIST



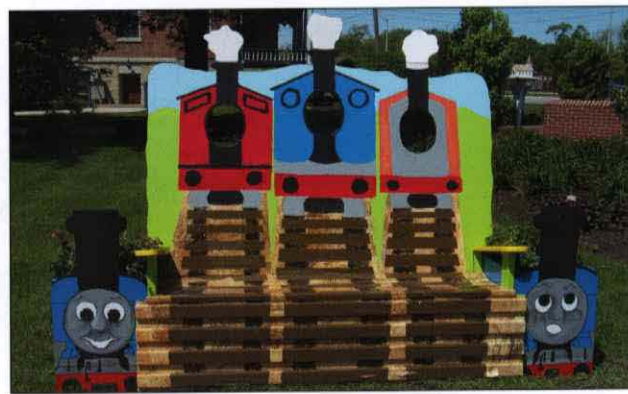
"I Yam What I Am" by Beau & Bladen Saunoris

BEST USE THEME



"The Royal Goose" by Marty Rose

BEST GROUP PROJECT



"Moving Ahead as Thomas the Tank Engine"
by Easter Seals Therapeutic Autism School &
Oaks Construction Services of Hazel Crest, IL

Calling all photographers!

2010 Community Holiday Card Contest

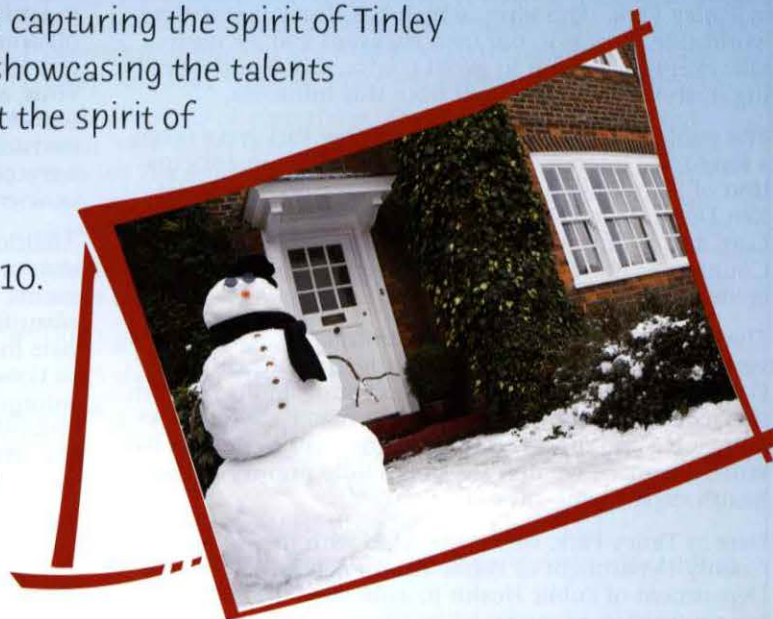
The Village of Tinley Park is encouraging creative people to submit a photograph to be featured on the Village's 2010 community holiday card.

This contest will choose a photograph capturing the spirit of Tinley Park's hometown holiday appeal and showcasing the talents of our residents. Photos should reflect the spirit of the holiday season in Tinley Park.

All entries must be taken between November 1, 2009, and January 31, 2010.

They must be submitted to Sue Pall at spall@tinleypark.org no later than Friday, February 26, 2010, at noon.

Each entry should include your name, address, telephone number, school and grade, if applicable, and the location featured in your photograph.



The winner will be notified no later than Friday, March 12, 2010. The winning submission will receive a \$250 cash prize and be featured on the Village's Web site at www.tinleypark.org and in the Tinley Park Exchange.

Please contact Sue Pall at spall@tinleypark.org or call (708) 444-5049 for more information.

Official Contest Rules

- All entries must be original photographs taken within the corporate limits of Tinley Park.
- Participation is open to all residents of Village of Tinley Park. Village employees, elected or appointed officials and their immediate family members are not eligible.
- The winning photograph will be judged by a selection committee for creativity, visual appearance, interest and quality.
- There is no limit to the number of photographs you may submit. However, each entry must be submitted separately. Submit only one photograph per e-mail.
- Photographs must be high resolution: 300 dpi and jpg. format. We reserve the right to modify the winning submissions, if necessary, for printing on the 2010 vehicle sticker or holiday card.
- Photographs containing individuals will be considered. Photos must be appropriate for printing. The Village of Tinley Park retains sole discretion as to what constitutes inappropriate content.
- All submitted photographs will become property of the Village of Tinley Park.

Police Department News



Local update on H1N1 prevention strategy

By **Police Chief Mike O'Connell**

Please Note: Vaccination plan information included in the following two articles may have changed since presstime.

Over the past two months, the swine flu pandemic has begun to reach our region and, particularly, the borders of Tinley Park. This virus, which has struck populations worldwide, now is in our own backyard and we must take every precaution to avoid contracting it and spreading it, should we become ill from this influenza.

The public safety departments of Tinley Park have taken a long-term interest in responding to H1N1 in anticipation of it striking this area. For that reason, Fire Chief Ken Dunn, Emergency Management Agency Director Pat Carr, and I continue to work with both Cook and Will Counties to provide vaccination response plans as this epidemic unfolds around us.

The one thing I ask of every reader is to take this flu very seriously, especially when protecting our children. Data has shown that children and young adults between the ages of six months and 24 years of age are the most vulnerable and most common victims to succumb to the virus. Pregnant women are an absolute priority to the health departments, as well.

Here in Tinley Park, we have worked with the Cook County Department of Public Health and Will County Department of Public Health to assist them in implementing vaccination programs when the vaccine becomes available. As that day nears, residents can look toward a voluntary vaccination program for kids within schools of Cook County, and availability to others through clinics and private providers throughout Cook County. A program of vaccination will be available in over 240 public and private locations established by Will County.

Please remember—these vaccinations are voluntary. I also ask that you be aware that, as this flu continues to strike and the Public Health Departments continue planning a response to it, the plans will continue to change and to adapt to the trends and locations of the virus, as well as availability of the vaccine when it does become available. In order to make an informed decision on whether or not to vaccinate, please go to www.cdc.gov, or to www.CookCountyPublicHealth.org, or www.willcountyhealth.org.

Additionally, you should know that all of our school districts are being kept informed by our health departments, too. Administrators have been provided with planning strategies and necessary information to participate in the vaccination program, if the district chooses to do so. Tinley Park has met with school officials in information and strategy meetings to ensure that we share the most current information available to assist the schools where needed and our partnership will provide adequate response to this community.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that this vaccination program will be a voluntary program but will need the assistance of volunteers to the schools, as well (see accompanying article); both licensed medical professionals to administer injections and civilian personnel to assist in support functions. I ask anyone who can volunteer time to our local program effort when it is implemented to notify Emergency Management Agency Director Pat Carr at 708-444-5600 to sign up for this important effort.

Cook County seeks volunteers for H1N1 vaccination campaign



Cook County Department of Public Health officials are preparing to implement a voluntary, school-based H1N1 (swine flu) vaccination campaign in our community and they need help from licensed healthcare providers.

CCDPH is the state certified public health agency for suburban Cook County with the exception of Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park and Stickney Township. Currently, CCDPH is recruiting volunteers for the Cook County Medical Reserve Corps, an organized group of medical, non-medical and public health professionals willing to assist CCDPH during public health emergencies.

"We are about to undertake the massive task of vaccinating a large number of suburban Cook County school-aged children with the H1N1 vaccine and we cannot do it alone," said Stephen A. Martin, Jr., CCDPH chief operating officer. "We need all licensed providers, as well as nurses and other healthcare workers, to register with our Cook County Medical Reserve Corp to volunteer to vaccinate school children in suburban Cook County in the coming months."

To lend your skills and expertise to this important community effort by volunteering with the Cook County Department of Public Health, or for more information:

Visit: www.cookcountypublichealth.org

Call: Jeannette Tandez, volunteer coordinator, at 708-492-2820

E-mail: volunteer@ccdph.net

The novel H1N1 influenza virus first appeared in suburban Cook County last spring and has caused mild to severe illness resulting in hospitalization in both children and adults. However, children do not possess immunity to the virus and are considered at high risk for infection.

As the U.S. enters its flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is concerned that the H1N1 virus may cause more illness and that it may be more severe. The CDC has recommended that children and young people six months through 24 years of age receive the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. Vaccination is the best way to protect children from this potentially serious virus.

Tinley Park public safety officials continue to stay in close contact with the CCDPH to keep informed on vaccination plans.

Keep your holiday shopping routine safe

By **Crime Prevention Officer Dina Navas**

The holiday shopping season is a busy time, but by taking a few simple and basic steps, we can all reduce our chances of being a victim of crime.

Here are some tips to be safer when shopping:

- Safeguard your personal data such as credit cards, personal ID information, and bank information;
- Check your credit card receipts and properly dispose of them;
- Secure personal belongings and valuables out of sight, or in the trunk of your vehicle, while you are away;
- Take your purchases to your car intermittently;
- Keep packages out of view when in the car;
- Park in a well lighted area;
- Have keys out and ready to enter your vehicle;
- Do not sit in the car with your attention not focused on your surroundings;
- Do not flash large sums of cash;
- Check the interior of the vehicle before entering; and
- Keep vehicles locked.

Online Christmas shopping safety tips:

- Only shop with online merchants you know and trust;
- Order from secure Web sites. When you reach the stage where you have to enter any personal information, look for a locked padlock or unbroken key icon next to the address bar (unsecured sites may show an unlocked padlock or a broken key).
- Keep printouts of everything. This includes copies of your order, Web pages describing what you ordered, Web pages that tell the seller's name, address, and telephone number, and any e-mail confirmation you get. If the date does not appear on any of these printouts, write this on them as well;
- Use one credit card for online purchases. This can make it easier to detect wrongful charges;
- Don't give out unnecessary information;
- Don't send your credit card information by e-mail;
- Don't give your password to anyone;
- Don't give out your bank information. No one needs it for an online order;
- Double check every Web site address;
- Don't click on links within e-mails. Type the Web site address yourself, very carefully;
- Always remember that if the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Police, crime prevention efforts net awards

The Tinley Park Police Department's crime prevention efforts, as well as the work of individual officers, have been recognized with several awards this year.

The Illinois Crime Prevention Association selected the Community Resource Unit for the *2009 Unit of the Year* award. In addition, Civilian Crime Prevention Officer Dina Navas was awarded the *Outstanding Elderly Service Officer* award from the Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois State TRIAD. Officer Keith Sullivan was honored for his service with the Tinley Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2791's *Police Officer of the Year* award.

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) members Marian Armbruster and Johanna Skonicki have also been recognized for their volunteerism. Armbruster received an award from the Illinois TRIAD for her volunteer services as former secretary

of the S.A.L.T. organization, and Skonicki received an award from PLOWS Council on Aging for her services as the Sunshine Committee chairperson for the S.A.L.T. organization.

In other activities, the Police Department, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Department, held a Senior Law Enforcement Academy for seven weeks. Each Monday, 54 senior citizens attended the two-hour training class. The graduates were congratulated at a November 2 ceremony.

The Tinley Park Police Department would like to thank all the residents who attended National Night Out in August, held in the parking lot of the Super Kmart shopping center. Visitors were able to visit with public safety personnel and enjoy special activities. The department was awarded a Target & Blue Grant from Target Corporation, which funded the event. Please plan to attend next year's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3.

Fire Department News



Outdoor burning regulations in Tinley Park

By Fire Chief Ken Dunn

The fall season is upon us and the nights are cooler. People are looking to extend their outdoor living by enjoying the warmth and ambiance of a cozy fire. Fire pits have become more popular and, following these guidelines, you should have a safe and enjoyable fire.

The Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau does not recommend open burning in any form. However, if you make the decision to do so, these guidelines will help you to be fire safe, understand Tinley Park's law concerning open burning, and explain the proper use of outdoor fire pits, chimineas, portable fireplaces and similar devices.

The Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau defines three types of acceptable outdoor burning:

Recreational Fires

This is an outdoor fire that burns material other than rubbish and is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace or fire pit. The total fuel area must be **three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height**. You cannot burn recreational fires within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material (including but not limited to landscaping, grass and similar growth). If conditions are present that could cause the fire

to spread within 25 feet of a structure, such as wind or vegetation, then a recreational fire is prohibited. A means of extinguishing the fire (garden hose) should be readily available.

Bonfires

A bonfire is an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes and it **requires a permit** from the Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau. Bonfires cannot be closer than 50 feet to a structure or combustible material. Bonfires are also prohibited if wind or nearby vegetation could cause it to spread within 50 feet of a structure.

Contained Outdoor Burning

Outdoor burning in an **approved** container is allowed as long as the fuel pile is **less than three feet in diameter and less than two feet in height**.

Approved container: A container and supports constructed of non-combustible materials and holding only the maximum allowable materials. All approved containers or fire pits must be placed at the required distance on a non-combustible surface. Fires in an approved container cannot be closer than 15 feet to a structure or combustible material.

A new brochure has been developed by the Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau listing these guidelines and additional regulations adopted from Village Ordinance NO. 2007-O-040. It is also available on the Village's Web site, www.tinleypark.org.



Call the Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-444-5200 for additional information.

Fire Department offers CPR, AED training



Will you be the one person in your household who will be prepared to save a life? The Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau has set a goal to have at least one person in every household in the village certified and trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED).

The American Heart Association's Heart Saver CPR/AED certification class is offered to any resident of Tinley Park over the age of 14. Classes are taught by members of the Fire Department and are held on the third Saturday of each month.

This four-hour class is designed to give the student practical knowledge on the techniques of CPR and training on using an AED correctly. The cost of this life saving certification is only \$35 for residents. The Fire Department also provides a separate CPR/AED class for health care professionals as well as programs for your organization at your facility.

For additional information on either of these classes or to register for this program, please contact the Fire Department at 708-444-5200. Learn to be a life saver!

Seniors, others may register for weather checks

Senior citizens and those with special needs may request well-being checks from the Police Department during severe cold or hot weather temperatures.

Forms are available at the Village Hall and through the Crime Prevention office. The registered residents receive an automated phone call during severe weather to check on their safety.

Contact the Crime Prevention office at 708-444-5326 for more information.

Open house events demonstrate fire prevention

By **Bill Proper**, Public Education Officer



The Tinley Park Fire Department held a very successful Fire Prevention Week Open House last month, providing many families with the opportunity to see and participate in several informative displays.

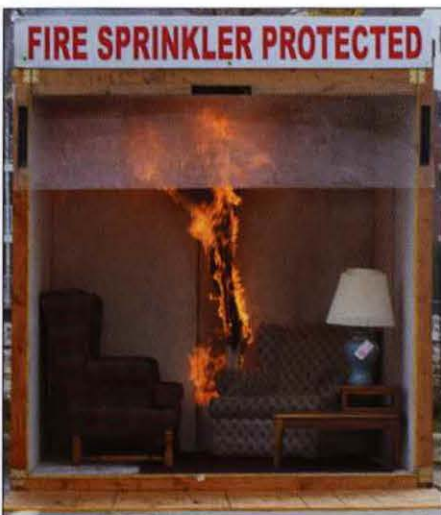
Northern Illinois Gas, Tinley Park Police, Batteries Plus, Together We Cope and Trace Ambulance participated. Officer Bob Diorio and his canine partner, Thor, provided their special entertainment.

The children had a chance to win a ride to school on a fire engine by completing demonstrations of stop, drop and roll, crawl low in the smoke, and an exit drill for the home using the Fire Safety Trailer. Every 15 minutes, adults had an opportunity to win a smoke detector.

The highlight of the day was a demonstration of a live fire event. The Tinley Park Fire Department along with the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board teamed up to provide a very dramatic presentation to show the value of quick release residential sprinklers.

Two rooms were set up with furniture (see photos) very much like what people have in their own home. The first room was set on fire. As the pictures show, this fire flashed over, consuming everything in a little more than two minutes. Once this room was extinguished by Tinley Park firefighters, the second room was set on fire. This room, set up similar to the first, had the advantage of the quick release residential sprinkler at the ceiling. Once the fire reached the sprinkler in the ceiling, the fire was quickly extinguished with very little damage to the contents.

The first fire showed how fast it grows and how easily a home fire can become deadly in only moments. People learned why smoke alarms and home fire drills are so important. The many people who witnessed this demonstration also learned the value of a home fire sprinkler system.



Public Works Department

Fall and winter reminders from Public Works

It's that time of the year when fallen leaves and snow need special attention from the Public Works Department and our residents. Here are some things to keep in mind this season:

Leaves

To help prevent flooding and home backups, residents are being asked to assist the Public Works Department by removing leaves from the sewer covers and inlets at their property. Please bag the fallen leaves and do not rake or blow them into the street.

Snow Removal

During a snowfall, all streets receive two passes down the center of the street by the plow to open the neighborhood. After the entire route has been run and the snow has finished falling, the plow returns to clean the street curb to curb. Snow removal on cul-de-sacs begins after the snow stops falling and these routes take eight to 16 hours to complete.

The snow removal plan goes into effect after an accumulation of one inch of snow. Cars are not allowed to be parked on the street at that time. In addition, Village ordinance prohibits parking on the street between 2 and 5 a.m. Village ordinance also prohibits pushing snow into the street from a driveway or parking lot. Anyone putting snow in the street runs the risk of potential liability if an accident occurs. Also, residents and plowing services should not stack snow around fire hydrants or on the sidewalks. Do not put your garbage cans or recycling bins in the street because they interfere with the snow plows and street sweeper.

Please be aware that Cook County is now responsible for plowing 183rd Street from 80th Avenue to the railroad tracks, and will be responsible for plowing from 80th to La Grange Road once the widening and extension project currently under way is completed. This is in addition to other streets throughout town that fall under county plowing jurisdiction.

Tree Removal

The Public Works Department will be cutting down dead trees this winter. Please call the office at 708-444-5500 if you have a dead parkway tree.

Mailboxes

Be sure to check your mailbox to ensure that it meets the United States Postal Service requirement that the front of the box should not extend past the curb. Also, the post must be firmly set in the ground and not be cracked, rotted or rusted. The box must be attached securely to the post. The Public Works Department is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by a snow plow if it does not meet these requirements.

Adopt a Sewer, Fire Hydrant or Street Light

The Public Works Department is requesting that residents with a storm sewer at their curb or fire hydrant in the parkway "adopt" them by removing leaves from the sewer covers and removing snow from around the hydrant. As described above, removing leaves helps prevent street flooding and backups. Keeping fire hydrants clear aids the Fire Department in case of emergency.

For additional neighborhood safety, please contact the Public Works Department if a neighborhood street light is out or if the lens is broken. Please call 708-444-5500 as soon as you notice it and have the nearest address available. Thank you!



Flood management rating reduces insurance costs

The Village of Tinley Park participates in the Community Rating System, which is a voluntary program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reward communities for exceeding the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Village has been recognized by FEMA for undertaking effective flood management activities, resulting in a Class 7 rating. The Village is one of only 203 communities in the United States with that rating and is the only CRS community in Will County.

More importantly, the Class 7 rating reduces flood insurance premiums by 15 percent for properties within the Special Flood Hazard Area. Properties outside the flood hazard area receive a five percent reduction in rates.

In addition, not only do residents of a CRS community receive a reduction in flood insurance premiums, but the Village also receives guidance on new programs, studies and procedures that can be implemented to improve the quality of services provided to residents.

If you want to know more about flood plain management, including the CRS program, check our Web site at www.tinleypark.org. You will find a wealth of information on flood insurance, flood safety, drainage system maintenance, special rules for building in the flood plain and ideas for protecting your property from flood damage. These brochures can also be obtained at the Village Hall.

Several of Tinley Park's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance.

Here is how you can help:

- Help keep sewer covers and inlets clear of debris during heavy rainstorms, which helps prevent street and parkway flooding.
- Do not dump or throw anything into ditches, streams or detention ponds.
- If you see dumping or debris in the ditches, streams or detention ponds, contact the Public Works Department at 708-444-5500.
- Always check with the Building Department at 708-444-5100 before you build on, alter, regrade or fill on your property. A permit and/or engineering analysis may be required in order to ensure that your project does not cause flooding problems on your property or surrounding properties.
- If you see building or filling without a Village permit sign posted, contact the Building Department at 708-444-5100.

For more information on the CRS program, or to learn if your property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, you can also call the Village's Planning Department at 708-444-5100.

Bus serves seniors and handicapped riders

Bus service for seniors and the handicapped is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., excluding holidays. Last pickup is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. Reservations should be made 24 hours in advance by calling 708-532-RIDE (708-532-7433). Fare is 65 cents with an RTA reduced fare card for ages 65 and older or \$1.30 per ride without the card. Fare for ages 55 to 65 is \$1.30 per ride.

Village bus service for medical appointments in Orland Park, Oak Forest and Mokena only is available 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reservations for all bus service must be made 48 hours in advance. Fare is 75 cents each way for 65 years old and older, and \$1.50 for 55 to 65 years old.

Cancellations must be made before 9 a.m. Reservations for trips to Brookside Marketplace are preferred on Mondays. For safety reasons, a maximum of two grocery bags is allowed and they must be securely placed between the seats, on passengers' laps or on the floor between feet.



Convention Center expansion plans under way



Plans are in progress to expand the Tinley Park Convention Center.

"We initially built a modest facility with room for expansion to be based on market needs," said Mayor Ed Zabrocki. "A larger Convention Center will be able to attract many more functions that it currently cannot accommodate, providing an even greater economic stimulus to the entire area."

The Village is currently conducting the bidding process for construction of the center, with the completion date targeted for spring 2011. The enhancements to the Convention Center and adjoining hotel will result in:

- Nearly 60,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space
- 30,000 square feet of banquet and divisible meeting space
- 1,500 free parking spaces on the hotel and Convention Center grounds
- 270 total hotel rooms, including 30 suites
- A new fully equipped business center
- State-of-the-art high speed Internet access and audio visual equipment
- A second kitchen, additional loading areas and increased on-site storage

Special needs emergency services registry available online

The Tinley Park Police Department and 911 Command Center have implemented a new voluntary program designed to assist residents or loved ones with special needs in the event of an emergency.

The free Illinois Premise Alert Program allows individuals with disabilities or special needs and their families or care-givers to register with police, fire and ambulance agencies. The information provided will supply these agencies with potentially life-saving information about their conditions if called upon to provide emergency service.

By completing a form available on the Village's Web site starting November 16 at www.tinleypark.org, or from the 911 Center, your address can be flagged with the particular special needs of you or your family member, enabling the dispatcher to quickly inform public safety personnel of the nature of the problem.

Anyone who has a special need, health challenge or disability such as, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease, autism, mental health challenges or a com-

plex or rare medical condition who would like first responders such as the police, ambulance and fire department to know of their special needs can register with the program.

Providing this information does not entitle anyone in a household to preferential treatment. It is simply an attempt to provide emergency response personnel with information that may be helpful when providing service to residents or occupants if it can be utilized by responders. Providing information in advance may allow first responders to react and treat in a way that can reduce the possibility of poor outcomes.

This information only will be shared with emergency personnel for purposes of providing them with information relating to the identified special needs. The 911 Center will update this information every two years. If anything should change prior to updating, or if you need additional forms or information, contact Jane Flowers at the 911 Center, 708-532-9111, or jflowers@tinleypark.org.

VILLAGE OF TINLEY PARK



Edward Zabrocki.....*Mayor*
Patrick Rea*Village Clerk*

TRUSTEES

David Seaman*Budget and Administration*
Gregory Hannon*Planning and Zoning*
Michael Bettenhausen*Finance and Economic Development*
Brian Maher*Public Safety*
Thomas Staunton Jr*Public Works*
Patricia Leoni*Building and Compliance*

Scott Niehaus*Village Manager*
Michael Mertens*Assistant Village Manager*
Steve Tilton*Assistant Village Manager*
Terrence Barnicle*Village Attorney*
(Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd.)
Christopher King*Village Engineer*
(R.W. Robinson & Assoc.)
Brad L. Bettenhausen*Village Treasurer*
Ken Dunn*Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Administrator*
Michael O'Connell*Police Chief*
Patrick Carr*EMA Director*
Ivan Baker*Economic Development Director*
Amy Connolly*Planning Director*
Donna Framke*Marketing Director*
Dale Schepers*Public Works Director*
Don McNeely*Building Commissioner*
Gerry Horan*Human Resources Director*

TINLEY PARK VILLAGE HALL

16250 S. Oak Park Avenue • 708-444-5000 • www.tinleypark.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

Held on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall.
The public is welcome. One requirement of effective, responsive government is the continuous flow of communication of every kind between the citizens and their elected representatives.

Our purpose is to facilitate the Exchange. Published in spring, summer and fall/winter.

Article may be submitted to the editor at the Village Hall. **Editor: Janet Boling**

The Exchange
c/o The Village Hall
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

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Holiday Happenings in Tinley Park

Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony
New! Tinley's Toyland Parade
Photos Celebrating Santa's Arrival
Holiday Market
Ice Carving Demonstration
Old Fashioned Carriage Rides
Holiday Movies
Carnival Rides
Parade of Lights

and more!

See inside for more details!

