

VILLAGE OF FOREST VIEW

# NEWSLETTER



*Winter 2020*



## *FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT*

After reading my message from last year, I was looking forward to the exciting things that 2020 was going to bring. Now I am looking forward to 2020 finally coming to an end. The coronavirus has made this year very challenging for everyone.

I hope and pray that you and your families have remained healthy during this pandemic. Hopefully in 2021, we will see this world start returning to normal.

I would like to thank our Village Staff for the efforts put in this year to help keep our Village safe. Your Village Department Heads: Mark, Gary, Tom and Jack have all done a fantastic job, worked long hours and have always shown their dedication and pride in their jobs.

Santa will be visiting us on December 24<sup>th</sup>. However, this year we will need to stop on the fire engine due to safety protocols.

On behalf of the Village Staff, we wish you a Very Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Thank you,  
Lawrence Powell



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>  
(CHRISTMAS EVE)**

**CAPTURE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
AS SANTA ARRIVES FROM THE  
NORTH POLE AND WILL TRAVEL THRU  
THE FOREST VIEW COMMUNITY  
BY FIRE TRUCK  
GREETING THE YOUNG AND OLD.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**DUE TO COVID-19, SANTA WILL  
REMAIN ON THE ENGINE AND THERE  
WILL BE NO CONTACT.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SANTA'S TOUR WILL BEGIN  
6:00P.M.  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The Fire Truck Will Start in the  
4600 Block of Maple and  
Continue Thru Town Ending in the  
4600 Block of Oak Park.**

**(Bundle Up and Watch for  
Santa at the Curb)**



### **GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Garbage and recycling collection will remain the same through the Holidays. Christmas trees will also be collected during regular refuse removal. Trees must be placed at the curb and free of any decorations.



During the winter season, it would be helpful to place garbage cans behind the curb line – not in the street, so the snow plows can effectively clear the streets. We thank you for your cooperation.

### **RE-APPLY SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION**

The due date for the Tax Year 2020 First Installment property taxes is Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The Cook County Assessor's Office will be mailing out tax bills the last week of January, 2021.

#### **Remember:**

- 1) Senior citizens must **re-apply annually** for the Senior Citizen Exemption. Therefore, it is important that seniors watch for the Senior Citizen Exemption application in their mail. The reduction/savings will be reflected on the Second Installment property tax bill.
- 2) If you turned **65 years of age** during the tax year for which you are applying, remember you must complete the Senior Citizen Exemption application in order to receive reduction/savings.

### **BUILDING PERMITS**

You will be fined \$100.00 plus double the cost of the Building Permit if you start work without obtaining a Building Permit. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**



**A building permit must be obtained prior to the construction, alteration/remodel or repair of any house/property whether doing the work yourself or by a contractor.** Permits are needed for, but not limited to, the following: alterations involving moving or adding walls, basement finish-out, electrical and plumbing work, HVAC work, shed, fence, deck, patio, roof, driveway, window replacement, siding, solar panels, swimming pool. **If you're not sure if a permit is required, please call the Village Office at 708-788-3429.** Some building permits require a fee, however for many projects, there is no fee at all for the permit.

Permits are required to ensure that the work adheres to Forest View Building Codes. Also permits can guarantee that a contractor is insured and bonded and the homeowner is protected from fraud.



**PLEASE NOTE: The Village Office will be closed on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 for the holiday. We will also be closed on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 in observance of the New Year & Presidents Day.**

## “HEADS” UP



On occasion, a resident will come to the Village Office and maintain their water bill is “never that high”. Their water history is checked and sure enough the bill reflects inordinately high water consumption. When water department personnel go inside the home to re-check the meter reading, it is confirmed to be the correct reading; however, they hear a very faint running water sound. Immediately, the first thing that is checked is the flushing mechanism inside the toilet water tank. Frequently it reveals the rubber flap or cone is hung-up or did not “seat” properly and allowed the water to flow continuously. As a result, considerable water usage occurred without the resident’s awareness, thus the high bill. Consequently, it pays to exercise a “heads” up for such faint water flow sounds.

## OUTSIDE DROP BOX



For your convenience, residents are now able to drop-off water bill payments, police ticket fines, and other Village business, in the locked drop box located by the back entrance (parking lot side) of the Village Hall. **Please do not put cash in the outside box. Payments dropped in the box must be by check.** Cash payments, or any payments for that matter, can still be made in the Village Office during normal business hours as we always enjoy seeing residents!

## WINTER DRIVING

Winter is upon us again and the Police Department would just like to remind residents to take due caution driving during the winter months. Remember stopping on snow and ice is very hazardous, so slow your speed on snow covered streets and watch for the infamous black ice. Keep a greater distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. If you’re driving an all-wheel or 4-wheel drive vehicle you may be able to pull away from that stop sign or red light faster but when it comes to emergency stopping, your vehicle will respond the same as everybody else’s! So, let’s be a safe and cautious driver this winter season.

The men and women of the Forest View Police Department would like to wish all of our residents a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!

## PET PEEVES



Dog owners are reminded to be considerate of their neighbors and community.

- Owners should clean-up after their dogs when walking them on public sidewalks or parkways.
- Pets shouldn’t be allowed to trespass on private property.
- Remove dog feces on your property on a timely basis; this is a source of food for unwanted critters.
- No more than three dogs are allowed per residence.

## **STICKNEY TOWNSHIP**

The Village is located in Stickney Township and as such Forest View residents are eligible for those activities and services provided by the Township. Some of their fine services/programs are listed below; however, others are available.

- Medical Exams and Immunization Services
- Dental Services
- Podiatry Services
- Vision and Hearing Services
- Phlebotomy (blood work) Services
- Aging & Disability Services
- Mini-Bus for residents over 60 years of age (or under 60 & disabled)
- Senior Citizen's Luncheons
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program
- Preschool and Recreation Programs

For further information, please call the Stickney Township Main Office at 708-424-9200 or visit their websites:

[www.townshipofstickney.org](http://www.townshipofstickney.org)

[www.stickneypublichealthdistrict.org](http://www.stickneypublichealthdistrict.org)

*Happy  
Holidays*

## **STICKNEY TOWNSHIP OFFICE ON AGING**

Stickney Township Office on Aging serves as the designated Aging and Disability Resource Center for those living within Stickney Township. Help is available to those wanting assistance with benefit eligibility and application assistance for various benefit programs. Stickney Township Office on Aging staff have the resources to assist and connect you to all of the services you may need to address your financial and emotional well-being. For assistance or further information please contact Stickney Township at 708-636-8850.

## **STICKNEY TOWNSHIP ANIMAL CONTROL**

Please call the Stickney Township Animal Control Department at 708-424-9200 Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if you notice persistent rodent activity or to report animal concerns.



## **IDPH Issues COVID-19 Holiday Season Safety Tips**

*Plan ahead for the holidays and consider alternatives*

**SPRINGFIELD** – As Illinoisans prepare to spend the holidays with family and friends, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is offering recommendations on how to celebrate safer during the COVID-19 pandemic. During a time when social distancing and limiting the number of people at gatherings is important, special considerations should be taken.

“COVID-19 has changed the way we work, live, and play, and will now change how we plan to celebrate the holidays,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “While the safest way to celebrate is with members of your household and connecting with others virtually, we know, for many, the holidays are all about family and friends, so we want to provide some tips on how to celebrate safer.”

Traveling increases the chance of spreading COVID-19. When planning travel, consider the mode of transportation. Traveling by plane, train, or bus can mean standing in lines and sitting less than 6 feet from people for long periods of time. Traveling by car may include stops along the way for gas, food, and bathroom break. Decrease your risk by consistently wearing face coverings during travel.

If you are hosting a holiday gathering, limit the number of guests and try to have as many activities outside as weather permits. If your gathering needs to be inside, try to increase air flow by partially opening a couple windows. Please prepare yourself and your guests to wear masks indoors when not eating and drinking.

Limit your activities in the two weeks before your gathering and ask your guests to do the same. This will decrease the risk of exposure to the virus and further spread.

Try to do gift shopping online by looking at local store websites and choosing pick-up options. Grocery shopping online with delivery and curbside pick-up is also available in many locations. If you need to shop in-person, try to go at a time when stores are not as busy.

Think about the seating arrangements if you are planning a meal. Keep members of the same household together and try to put space between one family and another.

When serving food, avoid a buffet-style or potluck setting and consider having one person serve all the food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils. Also try to limit the number of people going in and out of areas where food is being prepared – like the kitchen and dining room.

If you are sick, do not travel and do not attend gatherings and celebrations. Even if your symptoms are mild, you may still be able to infect others, and no one wants the gift of sickness this season.

To help stave off illness, get your flu vaccine now. It takes the body several weeks after receiving the vaccine to build up antibodies that will help protect you from flu, so get it now to help protect you and others during the holidays. Roll your #SleeveUp and get your flu shot.

For more holiday safety tips, go to the IDPH website under [guidance](#).

**For Immediate Release:**

Oct. 14, 2020

**Jesse White Announces New Email Service for those Seeking to Restore Driving Privileges**

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that a new email service is available to members of the public who need information on reinstating driving privileges, obtaining driving relief or scheduling an administrative hearing. Individuals who have a driver's license suspension or revocation or any other loss of driving privileges can send an email to [adminhearings@ilsos.gov](mailto:adminhearings@ilsos.gov).

"We are providing this service to accommodate the public and help them obtain administrative hearing services and avoid lines at Driver Services facilities," said Secretary White. "We are maintaining the same high standards for reinstating driving privileges. This is an example of using technology to allow people to access services from home. People will no longer need to go to a facility to see an informal hearing officer for this type of information, meaning fewer people in facilities and shorter lines for those who require a facility visit."

Once an email is received by the office, a response will be sent within three days. The response will include whether a hearing is necessary, the type of hearing needed and the documents that may be required at a future hearing. Administrative hearings are still required to be held in person.

For more information on the service, please visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



### LEAVING HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS???

Just a reminder, the Forest View Police Department offers free house security checks if you're leaving town over the holidays. Please contact the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 for more information.

### HOLIDAY GUESTS - PARKING

Parking on some streets in Forest View is "residential only". Therefore, should you have guests gathering at your home for the holidays please notify the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 when a non-resident visitor(s) will be parking on the street and then the vehicle(s) will not be ticketed. Also, residents are reminded that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. All vehicles must be off the street between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. This allows the Police Department to quickly notice suspicious vehicles in your area. On the occasion that you have overnight guests or work being done on your driveway, permission to park on the street can be received by calling the Police Department.

### HOLIDAY CRIME



Holidays are the easiest times for burglars to score. Once the house is empty, criminals know that you will be gone for hours, and that they don't have to rush to

take all your precious property. Many burglaries occur on holidays such as Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the best one, believe it or not, is the Super Bowl. If you're not home when the game begins, you're probably not coming back until the game ends! Sad but true. See following holiday safety tips.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



The holidays are a special and joyous time of year. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The following tips from the Forest View Police Department can help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime: Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, garage, or vehicle even for a few minutes. When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel snow, pick up the mail and newspapers. Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer. Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied. Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home. Don't post travel plans on Facebook. While on vacation, don't post vacation pictures on Facebook.

## PUBLIC WORKS



### SNOW REMOVAL/ PARKING BAN

Snow removal is vital to safe driving. **After a snowfall of two inches (2") or more, it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked on the street until the snow has been removed, and provided that the snowfall has stopped.**

Observe "NO PARKING AFTER 2" SNOWFALL/TOW-AWAY ZONE" signs. The NO PARKING ban WILL be enforced! Cars parked illegally WILL be subject to tow. The Public Works crew works long and hard to keep the Village streets clear and safe. We need and appreciate your cooperation.

Please avoid being subjected to a parking ticket fine and then the additional costs of towing this winter season. Obey the snow removal parking ban.

### SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

Public Works offers snow removal to senior citizens who are disabled, handicapped and/or have severe health problems and have no one else who is able to help them with snow removal. The public works crew will make one shovel width pass from the street to the front door thus providing exit route in an emergency situation. This work will be done *after* all the roads have been cleared first, followed by end of driveways, and then eligible senior sidewalks. Those in need of snow removal must complete an application available at the Village Office plus submit a doctor's verification explaining medical condition to be eligible.



### SHOVELING/SNOW BLOWING

Please do not throw snow back into the street after public works has completed their snow plowing. You innocently may be trying to cause the snow to melt faster, however the newly formed snow mound may create a hazard for unsuspecting drivers. Instead we ask that you use the deflector on your snow blower to direct the snow onto the parkway. Pile it up, do not push it out.

Also, during major, wet snowfalls (only), public works will push aside furrows at the end of driveways which were caused by previous snow plow runs.





## WINTERIZE YOUR WATER PIPES

Frozen water pipes are not life-threatening; however, frozen or broken water pipes do cause damage to homes each winter. If pipes in the walls aren't properly insulated, they can freeze and rupture. An eighth-of-an-inch crack in a pipe can release up to 250 gallons of water a day, soaking floors, rugs, and furniture. To prevent the mess and aggravation frozen pipes cause, protect your home by following these simple steps:

### BEFORE COLD WEATHER

Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing – typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in the attic. Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved). Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.

Disconnect garden hoses, shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

### WHEN IT'S COLD

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get at uninsulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.

Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.

If you plan to be away short term, have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is on to prevent freezing. For a prolonged period of time, drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkling systems).

### IF PIPES FREEZE

Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water if pipes freeze to minimize damage. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.

**Never** attempt to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.

Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.





On behalf of our Fire Fighters and me, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope your holidays are extra special.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone to have a safe and happy season.....

- While putting up the lights both inside and on the tree, check to make sure they are in good condition. Check for bare wires and missing bulbs. Be aware of how many sets you are connecting; you do not want to overload the circuit.
- Be careful where you run extension cords. You do not want to run an extension cord under a rug or through any doorways; they may crimp or become damaged with the closing of the door.
- If you have a live tree, remember to keep it watered.
- Watch the use of candles. Do not leave them burning unattended.
- Test your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

LET US LOOK TO A HAPPY AND GOOD NEW YEAR TO COME



# PINKY

## Participating in the Lions Club Cancer Walk



# **PINKY** **Donated to the Equality Fire Department**

## **Message from the Equality Fire Department.....**

We can't thank everyone enough for the support and donations. This will help our small community tremendously.

Thank you Forest View for the amazing donations and friendship!!!!





## BOARD BRIEFS

**\*\* The Board meets in the Municipal Building on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and the meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. and are open to the public \*\***

### **September 22, 2020**

Village Administrator Masciola and Superintendent of Public Works and Water O' Donohue requested the approval of a Security Camera System for the Water Tower Site at 6726 W. 51st Street.

BP Amoco has submitted preliminary engineering plans for expanding their facility to add eight new diesel pumps. They have acquired the property to the east of their property. They will demolish the existing building as part of this redevelopment project. The plan also includes a new canopy and an expansion of their Convenience Store.

On September 15, 2020, Village Administrator Masciola met with representatives from the Army Corp and MWRD for a walk-through inspection of the Lyons Levee that was completed north of 47th street. The section south of 47<sup>th</sup> street has not been completed due to ongoing easement issues.

Fire Chief Heller spoke regarding the Fire Department assisting the Village of Lyons with an overturned tanker truck after the driver tried making a quick turn. Harlem Avenue was closed down due to the accident and oil spill.

### **October 27, 2020**

The Village Board approved a quote to purchase road salt from Morton Salt for the

2020/2021 winter season. The quote of \$72.30 per ton is down \$15.00 per ton from last year.

Village Administrator Masciola spoke regarding the First Amendment to the Water Tower Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless to adjust insurance limits.

Police Chief Wiseman spoke requesting approval to hire Part-Time Police Officer, Mark L. Goddard. Mark is currently employed as a Supervisor for HLSA Security as an armed protection officer. Prior to that Mark Goddard was a Police Officer for the City of Chicago. Mark Goddard also is a veteran having served in the Air Force Security Forces with 2 deployments to Iraq.

The Village Board approved a Lease Agreement between the Village and the Forest View Park District commencing on January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2030.

Fire Chief Heller spoke regarding the disposition of Engine #811 (Pinky) which was taken out of service in June. It has been stripped of all the equipment that the Fire Department needed. There is also ten (10) sets of turn out gear up in storage that can no longer be used by our department. In the past, the Village has donated equipment to the financially stricken Village of Equality Fire Department, a small community in southern Illinois. Their fire engine is out of service and the cost to repair the engine exceeds their annual \$25,000 budget. The Village Board agreed to donate Engine #811 and ten sets of old turn out gear to Equality.

Fire Chief Heller requested the appointment of John Pechulis II as a Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic.

Village Administrator Masciola stated the sod was laid along 45<sup>th</sup> Street as part of the 45<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project.

The Fiber Optic Line needed for the 9-1-1 consolidation is almost complete. A portion was underground between the back of the Village Hall and the utility pole in the parking lot. The remainder is aerial.

Village Administrator Masciola stated he was working together with Village Accountant Conklin and the FY2019-2020 Annual Financial Report is nearing completion.

The required paperwork will be submitted to Cook County for the Care Act Funding program. Forest View has an allocation of \$115,171.33.

Superintendent Water & Public Works O'Donohue stated that on October 19, 2020, the Village of Forest View's Water Department was inspected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Fire Chief Tom Heller mentioned that Pinky participated in the Lions Club Cancer Walk at the end of September.

The Fire Department passed the annual fire pump test. Both engines are functioning properly.

### **November 10, 2020**

Village President Powell spoke regarding the 2021 Business and Liquor Licenses. He asked the Board for direction regarding the option to discount License fees. A fifty percent Business and Liquor License fee discount was approved in an effort to help our businesses during the pandemic.

Police Chief Wiseman spoke regarding the request to hire two Part-Time Police Officers.

Officer Lowisz resigned his Part-Time position here in 2018, due to being hired as a Full-Time Police Officer with the Village of Posen, who did not allow probationary officers to work for another Police Department. In Lowisz's short time with Posen he has already earned a Department Commendation.

Officer Conley is currently working as a Full-Time Police Officer for Hines VA. Conley is a veteran having served 4 years in the Marine Corp.

Village Administrator Masciola spoke regarding the Surplus Property Ordinance. Based on discussion at the last Board Meeting, the surplus includes the following: the 1994 Simon Duplex Pumper Engine (Pinky Fire Engine); 2003 Ford Escape; 2013 Ford Taurus; 10 sets of old turn out gear; and 49 Survivor Air SCBA Bottles and Packs.

October 27, 2020, all of the paperwork was submitted to Cook County for the reimbursement of \$115,171.33 from the Corona Virus Relief Funds. On November 2, 2020, the Village was notified by Cook County that Forest View will receive a second allocation of CRF Funds in the amount of \$12,000.00. Our total reimbursement of Corona Virus Relief Funds amount to \$127,171.33.

Brian David's Landscaping planted six Red Flame Maples and six Autumn Blaze Maples in locations where trees were removed.

Be on the lookout for new No Parking areas around town. With direction from Village President Powell and the Village Board, we have dedicated twenty feet off of the crosswalks and fifteen feet in front of a hydrant to the No Parking areas. Where applicable, No Parking zones are marked with yellow curbs.

## Forest View Park District December 2020

Hello,

### **First, a big thank you!**

Covid-19 has caused us to reimagine how to do some of the things we love most. Though our entire staff truly misses meeting in person for activities, classes and holiday events, we are so grateful for the continued interest in take-home crafts, holiday activity packs, and science kits.

Your kind words and appreciation keep our spirits high as we patiently wait to see our neighbors again. Thank you for your support, understanding, and patience.

From all of us, we hope you have a safe and happy holiday and look forward to a new year filled with all the events and activities we miss most!

