

# Chicago Ridge

Summer 2016



## From The Mayor

Well, it does appear that spring is in full bloom and summer is just around the corner. Although with the kind of Chicago weather we experience, some days I don't know whether to wear shorts or grab a jacket. I do know that many front yards look absolutely beautiful, and it's great to see so many people sprucing things up with planting, cleaning and remodeling. I think it's time we reinstituted a beautification awards program, both for residential and commercial properties, and I will be bringing that up at an upcoming Board meeting. So many potential winners!

I want to bring everyone up to date on several great things happening in our Village. First, I'm really excited to have the new Miller's Ale House open at the Chicago Ridge Mall. It's doing tremendous business and brings in customers from far and wide. There are actually two sides to the place, one a family dining area, and the other a sports bar atmosphere. With the windows open on two sides of the building (when the weather cooperates!), about 50 big screen HDTVs, and an extensive menu, all I can say is, if you haven't been there yet, you need to check it out!

The Red Robin restaurant at the Mall has had remodeling plans approved and is projected to be open this Fall. And although it's not a definite as of yet, there are a couple of businesses - one a craft brewery, the other an Italian restaurant - that are eyeing our Village for a potential location.

On Ridgeland Avenue, next to Jack and Pat's, a new business was approved by the Board of Trustees and will be opening its doors at the former Hollywood Video site. "Wine Time" will be bringing an upscale atmosphere with wine selections from many Midwest area wineries. After extensive remodeling, it should be open in the Fall also. The Board also recently approved two video gaming cafes. Open now is "Vanna's," located at 102nd and Harlem, and the other is called "Jak's," which is scheduled to open at 7000 Southwest Highway.

If you've driven down Harlem Avenue in the past few weeks, you will see that the former Nikobee's restaurant at 103rd and Harlem has finally been demolished. The restaurant closed its doors many years ago, and now that it's gone, I expect to see renewed developer interest in the now vacant property.

You will be seeing more residential street resurfacing this summer. The Board has approved the expenditure of approximately \$650,000 to resurface a number of our badly deteriorated streets. Included will be Menard Avenue from 110th Street to 111th; Oxford Avenue from 108th Street to 110th; and 110th Street from Oxford to Oak.

Three or four new single-family homes will be under construction soon on vacant land west of the Chicago

Ridge Mall, near Oak Park Avenue. It's always a good thing to see new homes coming into a community as it means there is a demand from new residents who want to make Chicago Ridge their home.

I'd like to thank the various Village organizations that stepped forward and volunteered to plant the pots along Ridgeland Avenue. Sponsored by the Chicago Ridge Lions Club and our Home Depot store, it was a full day of gardening with the assistance of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Library Volunteers, Ridge Central School, Ridge Lawn School, Finley Junior High Band, Finley Junior High Art Club, Lorenz Family, Letty Garcia Family, and Park Lawn Service as well as Trustee Cardin and Denise Ridley. The pots look great!

Chicago Ridge was recently honored by a visit from the Mayor of Sligo, Ireland, during which Mayor Healy presented our Village with an official Sligo flag. One of our residents, Fidelma O'Rourke hosted Mayor Healy during Chicago's big St. Patrick's Day celebration, and she recently carried our Chicago Ridge flag to Sligo for presentation to Mayor Healy. With a large percentage of our residents having an Irish heritage, this was a wonderful opportunity to renew our friendship and ties with the people of Ireland.

Finally, with the Fourth of July approaching quickly, I would ask our residents to please remember our many veterans, as well as families with pets, who are severely stressed by loud explosions. Please be courteous and mindful of your neighbors this year, and maybe consider visiting one of the great community fireworks shows in the area, including our Disney themed show at RidgeFest.

Have a great summer and see you at the Fest!

*Mayor Chuck Tokar*



Mayor Tokar welcomed OLOR 1st grade students on May 16th as they went on a tour of the Village Hall and Police Department.

**708-425-7700**  
**Village Hall Main Line**

**708-857-4454**  
**Fire Department**  
**Non-Emergency**

**708-425-7831**  
**Police Department**  
**Non-Emergency**

**708-857-4457**  
**Public Works**

**708-425-7831**  
**After Hours Public Works**  
**Emergency Line**

### REMINDER....

**Chicago Ridge Village Stickers**  
**due by June 30th**  
**Purchase online at**  
**[www.chicagoridge.org](http://www.chicagoridge.org)**

**Village Wide Community Garage**  
**Sale August 12th & 13th**

**Garbage is not to be placed at your**  
**curb until after 6:00 pm the night**  
**before your pick-up day**

**Watering Restrictions Now in Effect**  
**Water on odd or even days based**  
**on your address**  
**Between the hours of**  
**7 - 11 am and 7 - 11 pm**

**For additional information**  
**please visit [www.chicagoridge.org](http://www.chicagoridge.org)**





## CLERK'S CORNER

Hello all,

I hope this warm weather finds you outside in the garden or on the ball fields or just enjoying your family.

Things have been relatively quiet here in the Clerk's office. Just the day to day operations of running the Village. Thanks to my great staff – thanks girls!

I am glad to report the Veteran's supply drive went well and much needed supplies were delivered to Hines Hospital. I look forward to doing it again next year. My children's pledge program is going very well, getting our own children involved in government. Thank you to all the scout leaders, teachers and parents who are working with me on this project. This has sparked conversation between myself and Dr. Russell of School District 127 ½ to develop other projects to bring government to our young people.

Our Lion's Club is doing outstanding and providing much needed services to our seniors. If you are not a member please consider joining. Again my thanks to the Lion's Club members and officers for all their hard work.

Last but not least our Chamber of Commerce is thriving. As always I encourage you to do your business local, whether dining, car repair or shopping. Strong businesses make a strong community.

Finally my office still receives questions about scams both by phone and mail. As I said before a Google search will often reveal a scam. If you don't have internet access please call the Village Hall and a staff member would be glad to look into your question.

My sincerest wishes for a happy, healthy summer of fun to you and your family.



Welcome to Miller's Ale House  
Miller's Ale House held their ribbon cutting / grand opening on March 9th.

Please visit the following link: <http://www.chicagoridge.org/DocumentCenter/View/535> to view your annual water quality report. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2015. Paper copies are available to pick-up at the Village Hall or please call (708) 425-7700.



**Sally Durkin**  
Police and  
EMA  
Board Liaison

On May 21, 2016 the Chicago Ridge Police Department partnered with Chick-fil-A to host a fundraiser for Officer Tim Jones of the Park Forest Police Department. Officer Jones was shot in the line of duty on March 19, 2016 and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Officer Jones has a very long road ahead of him and at this time they are not sure he will make a full recovery. The band of blue brothers and sisters across the southwest suburbs are coming together to help alleviate some of the financial worries of his family. On May 26th the Chicago Ridge Police Department presented the Jones Family with checks totaling over \$3,200.00. We ask that everyone continue to keep the Jones Family in your thoughts and prayers. We stand #TIMSTRONG.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that under the Illinois State Law fireworks are illegal. The Chicago Ridge Police Department will be strictly enforcing the law. All illegal fireworks will be subject to confiscation and tickets will be issued to those violators. The minimum ticket fine is \$150.00 per offense. We thank you in advance for your cooperation wishing you all a safe and Happy Fourth of July.



Trustee Durkin, Trustee Coglianesse and Mayor Tokar attended the ribbon cutting of DaVita Dialysis located at 10511 Harlem Avenue.



Mayor Tokar thanks resident Joseph Bilder for helping keep Chicago Ridge clean.



**Frances Coglianesse**  
Administration and  
Special Events  
Board Liaison



**Jack Lind**  
Public Works,  
Building and  
Inspections  
Board Liaison



**William McFarland**  
Finance & Health  
Board Liaison



**Bruce Quintos**  
Business Licensing  
& Economic  
Development  
Board Liaison



Mayor Tokar had the pleasure of meeting Cll Mayor Thomas Healy of Sligo, Ireland. Pictured left to right: Tom Gillen, Mayor Healy, Mayor Tokar and Fidelma O'Rourke



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHICAGO RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Amanda Cardin  
Fire  
Department  
Liaison

An evaluation of fire suppression capabilities within the Chicago Ridge Fire & Rescue Department has shown significant improvement according to a report released by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) following a recent inspection. The ISO's Public Protection Classification report is used nationally to help establish fair premiums for residential and commercial fire insurance.

In announcing the results, Chief of Fire & EMS Services George Sheets says the ISO rating has been adjusted to show several areas of improvement following the last evaluation several years ago. Those improvements have included opening the shuttered Lombard station, addition of part-time firefighter/paramedics to supplement the career staffing, improved internal process, water distribution and communications. As a result, the Village of Chicago Ridge's new rating has improved from a 4 to 3 placing the department in the top 6% of fire departments in Illinois. "This new rating is a direct effort of the entire staff of the fire & rescue department" said Chief Sheets. "Through planning and analysis our personnel worked hard to ensure success during this recent evaluation that will ultimately benefit our taxpayers."

The improved rating could mean a reduction in insurance rates according to Chief Sheets. Residents may see a reduction, and most commercial properties will likely see a reduction in insurance rates. Sheets advises property owners to contact their insurance agents to determine if their rates will be reduced due to the improved classification that will take effect immediately.

ISO routinely evaluates fire departments and assigned a public protection classification rating from 1 to 10. Class 1 is exemplary, while a 10 indicates the fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. A public protection classification score is assessed based on three elements: 1) the fire alarm and communications system, 2) the Chicago Ridge Fire & Rescue Department, and 3) water distribution system of the Village.

Aside from the ratings, one of the most significant benefits of an ISO evaluation is that it allows the Fire & Rescue Department and community to take a close look at all aspects of fire suppression and make improvements as needed. The result is a significant positive impact on public safety.



Back row (l to r): Fire Chief George Sheets, Full-Time FF/PM John Mills, Full-Time Probationary FF/PM Bobby Zaja, Full-Time FF/PM (Acting Lieutenant) Victor Kiman, Full-Time Lieutenant/Paramedic Bob Eggert, Full-Time FF/PM/EMS Coordinator (Acting Lieutenant) Chris Schmelzer, Full-Time FF/PM Pub Ed Officer Jeff Babcock, Full-Time Lieutenant/Paramedic/Fire Marshall Bob Smart, Full-Time FF/PM/ Training Officer (Acting Lieutenant) Steve Trnka, Full-Time Senior Lieutenant/Paramedic/ Training Officer Chris Bennett, Front row (l to r): Part-Time FF/PM Andre Martinez, Full-Time FF/PM Brain Weinstein, Part-Time FF/PM Brian Kamer, Full-Time FF/PM Joe Bandy, Full-Time Probationary FF/PM Bryan Kryszewski



Back row (l to r): Fire Chief George Sheets, Part-time FF/PM David Spengel, Paid on call FF William Aldrich, Paid on call FF Kurt Steinz, Paid on call FF Jason Albright, Full time FF/PM/Training Officer Steve Trnka, Full time FF/PM/Pub Ed Officer Jeff Babcock, Paid on call FF Greg Swann. Paid on call FF Kevin Schoenhofen, Village Trustee Fire Liaison Amanda Cardin Front row (l to r): Full Time FF/PM Bryan Kryszewski, Full Time FF/PM Joe Bandy, Paid on call FF Brian Fraider, Paid on call FF Dan Bravo, Part-time FF/PM Andre Martinez





# Pledge Of Allegiance Program

Thank you to our local students for a great job on reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Girl Scout Junior Savannah Salgado,  
Brownie Grace Herrera & Daisy Layla Dudley  
March 1, 2016



Boy Scout  
Tyler Casper-Stroh  
March 15, 2016



Webelos Scout  
Michael Wickman  
April 5, 2016



Ridge Central Students  
4th Grade Violet McIntyre  
& 5th Grade Hannah Bartlett  
April 19, 2016



6th Grade Finley Jr. High Students  
Miranda Smith & David Walker  
May 10, 2016



4th Grade Ridge Lawn Students  
Lina Shuibat & Omar Abdelfattah  
May 24, 2016

\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

CHICAGO RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60415

## NEW “AT YOUR DOOR” RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Village of Chicago Ridge is considering a supplemental refuse collection program that would pick up electronics and household hazardous waste directly from your door step. Pick-up will be just a phone call away. This program will provide a reliable way to conveniently dispose of items that are banned from regular refuse collection. Electronic items include televisions, computers, printers, telephones, stereos, microwaves, etc. The hazardous waste items include oil based paints, automotive fluids, cleaning products, pool chemicals, batteries, needles (in a sealed rigid container), etc. You can now recycle these items without leaving your home.

The cost to each homeowner would be an additional \$1.25 per month. Homeowners presently get billed \$11.00 per month for refuse pick-up on their water bill while the cost to the Village from Waste Mgmt. is \$19.25. The Village has always subsidized the difference. With this much needed service being made available, the charge to you the resident is still below what the Village pays. Each homeowner will be enrolled in this program and the additional cost will be assessed on the water bill.

Please take a moment to share your opinions regarding the proposed program below and return to the Village Hall. The survey is also available by visiting [www.chicagoridge.org](http://www.chicagoridge.org).

1. If the Village offered a service that would pick up electronics and household hazardous waste from your home, how likely would you be to utilize this service?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neutral
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely



2. If you are unlikely to use the electronics and household hazardous waste pickup program, why not?

- Would not utilize
- Cost
- I dispose of these items at special Cook County recycling events
- I drop off these items at a recycling location
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating!