

Outline History of Chicago Ridge

Date	Event
11,524 B.C.	Last glacier retreats, leaving area covered by Lake Chicago (Lake Michigan)
8,524 B.C.	Lake Michigan retreats to present borders
1831	Cook County divided from Peoria County to become separate county
1838	Last Potawatomi Indians leave area
1864	242 Worth Township men serve in Union Army
1882	Wabash R.R. makes first stop in area
1893	Amy Herbert (Mrs. Homan) born April 2 at 103rd Ridgeland
1897	Charles & Zina Polchow arrive from Germany. Their daughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. Arthur Eisler) born December 15th
1898	Paul E. Berger Mfg. Co. built on 5 acres at Birmingham & Oxford and manufactured slot machines & cash registers
1900	James H. Robison named first Postmaster Around this time "Dad" Meyer opened a tavern-hotel at Ridgeland & Birmingham
1907	Ernest & Elizabeth Klee open Piccadilly Gardens and general store
1910	Fred Herbert of Chicago Ridge rides Donan to victory in the Kentucky Derby Weiderman family comes to Chicago Ridge
1911	Racetrack demolished, now Holy Sepulcher Cemetery Duckwitz family arrives from Worth, via Chicago and Germany
1912	Arthur Cooper born in Chicago Ridge
1914	Village of Chicago Ridge incorporated in October Charles Polchow first President of Village William Walsh family arrives
1917	Samuel & Bessie Cridge move to Chicago Ridge Elizabeth M. Klee becomes Postmistress
1918	First Village Hall built Bizzotto family arrives by horse drawn sled

Myrtle Schaal (Mrs. Wm. Walsh) comes to visit her aunt, Mrs. Eiler

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- 1919** Eiler's tavern sold to Charles Polchow
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- 1921** Mary Maker becomes first woman trustee
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- 1922** Mather Car Co., later called the North American Car and now called the Industrial Park, locates here
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- 1923** Holy Sepulcher Cemetery consecrated on July 4th on former racetrack site
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- 1927** Post Office moves to the home of Marie Paulus, Postmistress, where the aroma of home baked pies permeated the mail
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- Chicago Ridge included in High School District 218
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- Chicago Ridge grade school built 105th Oxford, 4 rooms, 8 grades
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- Last Chicago Ridge class takes final exams for graduation in Worth, that class was Helen & Bernice Paulus, Winnifred Cridge, Anita Bizzotto and Louise Meyers
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- Bessie Cridge spearheads drive to establish Presbyterian Church
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- 1931** John Walsh purchases gas station at 5656 W. 111th St.
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- 1932** First Mass said in basement of school, as mission of St.Christina's Catholic Church
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- 1932** Chiappetti family moves into Berger mansion, 10654 Oxford
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- 1936** Friendly Eight Bunco Club formed, it lasted over 40 years
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- 1941** James Saunoris Sr. opens nursery at 111th Austin
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- Edward & Virginia Summer move here with 8 month old Edward, first born of their thirteen children
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- 1942** Village President Bruno Duckwitz enlists in Armed Forces
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- 1943** Community Club founded - youth groups
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- 1944** Mike & Martha Tuszl buy 5 1/2 acres & 8 room house for \$6,500 at 110th Lombard
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- 1945** P.T.A. established, Patricia (nee Ruccis) Ginn first president
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- Zoning Commission established
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- Glenn Maker, having served in Armed Forces since 1939, was wounded and died in Belgium
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- 1946** Foreman Manufacturing opens
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- 1947** Glenn Maker American Legion Post 1160 chartered, William Ginn first Commander
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- 1948** Our Lady of the Ridge Parish created, Father Wm. Gentleman, Pastor
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- First Girl Scout Troop No. 157, leader, Ellie Olsen
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- First American Legion yearly picnic in Ruceis' Grove, amidst pleasant gardens and fish ponds where huge goldfish wintered under the ice
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- 1949** First Brownie Troop formed, Frieda (nee Polchow) Rutz first leader
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- Ground Observers Corps Post established, John Walsh Supervisor
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- Fred Hansen, husband of Clara (nee Polchow) named Police Chief
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- 1950** Chicago Ridge Census 888
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- Altar and Rosary Society founded at Our Lady of the Ridge Church
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- Dick Bristow opened first barber shop. Only previous facility was part-time in Ruceis' tavern
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- 1952** John Stecker, Bill Walsh and Bill Schneider bring Little League to C.R.
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- Velten & Pulver manufacturing locates here
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- 1953** Glenn Maker #1160, American Legion Auxiliary formed, first President Virginia Bizzotto
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- Fire Protection District established
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- Volunteer Firemen's Association established
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- Ladies Auxiliary for C.R. Volunteer Association formed
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- Firehouse No. 1 started
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- Herbert Polchow, son of first Village President, elected President
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Martha Tuszl elected to Village Board, second women so honored

Harriet Oudsteyn begins 14 years answering fire calls in her home

1954 Our Lady of the Ridge Church and School built

Firemen begin Operation Santa Claus

Elmer Hanegan named Chief of Police

Sprinkle's bowling alley opens, 6312 W. 111th St.

Tokar's Supper Club opens, 5860 W. 111th St.

Louise (nee Klee) Florian new Postmistress at 10731 Ridgeland

American Legion sponsors first 4th of July fireworks display

C.R. Police Ass'n founded, Stanley Wank, President

Lions Club comes to C.R.

Bill Schaal opens Hardware Store at 107th & Ridgeland

1955 Chicago Ridge News begins publication, Herbert & Phyllis Polchow editors

1956 Henry Ford II School built, now called Ridge Central

American Legion building dedicated

Landis Plastics factory built

Ridge Bible Church is built at 11025 Ridgeland

Don Livesey started Cub Scout Pack 3665

1957 Home delivery of mail begins

Vern's Grocery store opens at 6116 W. 111th St

Sanitary Sewers installed

Planning Commission appointed

1958 Bacon Manufacturing moves into C.R.

Chamber of Commerce founded, Lawrence Haney first President

Guys and Dolls Teen Club formed, meetings held at Legion Hall

Ridge-Worth Bible Church created by a merger of C.R. and Worth Bible Churches

Khoury League formed, first president, Bob Scanlon

Clifford Dean becomes Postmaster

1959 Chicago Ridge Police Dept. established full-time

First paved streets, 107th, 109th, and Austin

1960 Police and Fire Commission established

Our Lady of the Ridge Fathers Club started

"Y" Guides formed

1961 Edward Cridge made life member of Glenn Maker American Legion Post

Phyllis Polchow named first woman President of Chamber of Commerce

1962 Chicago Ridge Fire Protection District dissolved , supplanted by C. R. Volunteer Fire Dept

1963 Father Gentleman leaves Our Lady of the Ridge Church, Monsignor Edward Roche becomes Pastor

Park and Recreation Board created by referendum

Terry's Discount Store and Starlite Theater open on site of present C.R. Mall

Southwest Community Concerts become available to residents

1964 Golden Jubilee celebrating Village's founding, co-chaired by Richard Melanson and Robert Scanlon. Congressman Derwinski presented a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, and Barbara Ping was crowned Queen of the Jubilee

United Presbyterian Church moves into its new church building at 107th and Lyman

Library Commission appointed by Mayor Art Cooper. Anne Pote, Chairperson, members, Yetta Lorenana and Dolores Gudyka, when Dolores moved, Elaine Zarnecki was appointed

Water system completed, Lake Michigan water via Oak Lawn

John Semborski wins design contest for official C.R. flag

Public Works Dept . established, with Joe Tarqueno as superintendent

Faith Baptist Church purchases church at 11025 Ridgeland

1965

Mary Macarol elected as Village Clerk and Collector

Friends of the Library chartered, Don Livesey, President

Ridgelawn School is completed

Community Center dedicated, 10655 S Oak

1966

Chicago Ridge Public Library opens on May 1, in north end of the Community Center

Library Board elected, members: Pres. Don Livesey, Audrey Clinton, Richard Furman, Jeanne Landuyt, Jessie Hall and Margaret Slager.

C.R. Branch of Cook County Circuit Court dedicated

Joan Sherbet organizes Camp Fire Girls, Virginia Sumner, co-leader

1967

Chicago Ridge census, 8338

Firehouse No. 2 built, 104th and Southwest Highway

Moraine Valley Community College District created

Village Hall moved to 10655 S Oak

Big snow in Jan. and terrible tornado in April

Sons of the American Legion chartered

1968

Rich Melanson heads committee to form Park District

Park District formed, Jack Pieroth first President

Dedication of Memorial to war dead, south of American Legion Hall

Gateway Transportation and Bemac trucking open

Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance adopted

Chicago Ridge Runners Camping Club formed by R. Melanson

Ski-Slide Park licensed

Andrea Schaal named Beauty Queen

1969

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Memorial Post No.2255 founded 1st Commander Harold Haupt

Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 2255, established- President, Marie Buster

Helen Biggers introduced Welcome Wagon

Little League Women's Auxiliary began, Pauline Ward President

1970

Special census - 9,861

Public Works building erected, 10449 S Oxford

Elks Club built

First Arbor Day celebrated in Chicago Ridge

Thomas Furniture & Appliances moves from Chicago to C.R.

Village adopts the motto "The Village of Patriotism"

1971

Elden D. Finley Jr. High School dedicated by David Oberg, school board president

Senior Citizens form C. R. Friendship Club

United Presbyterian Church welcomes new pastor, Rev. Grant Noland, from Canada

1972

Village Clerk Mary Macarol announces opening of immunization clinic

Lyle Schaal appointed Police Chief Jan.18

Junior Auxiliary, Glenn Maker American Legion formed

1973

Ridge Whirlers Square Dance Club organized by Marvin Labahn

Police car garage built

"Potpourri 73" was the first extravaganza at Our Lady of the Ridge

Chess Club meets for the first time, teacher Dominiak Mele got the kids interested

1974

Diamond Jubilee 60 years, special census 12,576

Park Recreation building completed

Robert Miller becomes first salaried Fire Chief

John Oudsteyn elected Assistant Fire Chief by firemen

Ortigara's Musicville comes to town

All members of Village Board indicted, except for Don Pratl, Sr., who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Village Board the week before. Trustee Don Pratl, Clerk Mary Macarol and Treasurer Richard Tranowski maintained the village until the April 1975 election

1975

Eugene Siegel elected President. His board: Thomas Cooper, Charles Tokar, William Herrington, Mary Susan Zelis, Paul LaChance, and George Rwyniak

Re-codification of village ordinances completed

Natural prairie mapped by biology teacher/naturalist, John Brodemus, who counted over 100 wildflowers

Ridge Village Senior Citizens Club formed

Pete Chiappetti named assistant superintendant of public works

Chicago Ridge Youth Commission appointed, Jim Leatherman chairman

YMCA Princesses started

Bicentennial Commission appointed, Chuck Tokar and Tom Hannigan co-chairmen

Robert Whitten, great grandson of Amy Herbert accepts position as part-time engineer for the village

1976 Walter Jakovich retires as custodian of village hall and library

Well Baby Clinic started

James O'Hara becomes police chief

Rich Melanson chairs C.R. Blood Commission

1980 Full time firefighter - paramedic service established

1981 Chicago Ridge Mall opens

1985 Commons Shopping Center TIF District established

1986 to 1994 Street improvement project means new street, curbs, gutters, street lights and storm sewers - no more ditches!

1988 "The Park" at Chicago Ridge, industrial park established

1990 Population 13,643

1994 Home Rule Referendum passed, March 15th by 3 to 1

Chicago Ridge got its name from the "Ridges" of dirt that were created when eight trainloads of fill were removed from the area and used to fill in part of Lake Michigan for the Columbian Exposition of 1892.