

December 30, 2011

“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.

A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

— *Bill Vaughan*

Village Hall New Year’s closing dates

The Village Hall will be closed on Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2 for the New Year’s holiday. The Municipal Center will reopen Tuesday, January 3 at 8:00 a.m.

Celebratory gunfire on New Year’s Eve is against the law

Police Chief Tom Folliard reminds residents that shooting a gun on New Year’s Eve will result in arrest and a felony conviction carrying a prison sentence and fines over \$1,000. Residents are urged to report celebratory shooting to the Police Department. Please remember, what goes up can injure innocent people coming down.

CEDA at Village Hall 1st and 3rd Fridays for LIHEAP Applications

A CEDA representative will be at the Village Hall on the first and third Fridays of every month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to take applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For many Illinois households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on a family’s budget. In some instances, the household is forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without. LIHEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households pay for winter energy service. Stop by for more details.

2012 Vehicle Stickers now on sale

The sale of 2012 vehicle stickers is currently in progress. The deadline for purchasing and displaying 2012 stickers is January 31. A basic vehicle sticker is \$30. For more information, call the Municipal Center at 335-9600.

Illinois Premise Alert Program available to residents

Residents with special needs or disabilities can now register for the Illinois Premise Alert Program by picking up an application form in the Municipal Center lobby, at the Police Department, or Fire Station #2. A form can also be downloaded from the Village's website at www.villageofhazelcrest.com.

The program allows people with special needs or disabilities to provide information to police, fire, and EMS personnel that will be stored in a database maintained by the E-COM Dispatch Center for use in an emergency situation. This vital information can then be used by first responders dealing with situations or emergencies involving the special needs individuals.

All information provided will be kept confidential. The information will automatically expire two (2) years after the date submitted, and residents must renew the form if they want the information retained in the database.

Individuals must understand that the information provided to the Premise Alert Program will not result in any type of preferential treatment to the individual and that the Village, its police and fire departments, or any other responding agencies will not be held liable for duties relating to the reporting of special needs individuals.

For more information, call the Police Department at 335-9640, or the Fire Department at 335-9630.

Volunteer for PADS

Many South Suburban PADS shelters for the homeless are still in serious need of volunteers for the second shift, from 10:45 p.m. to 3 a.m., and third shift, from 2:45 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Please consider helping by volunteering to serve at a PADS shelter during one of these shifts. The commitment is only once a month now through April, and will allow PADS to keep shelters open and to serve hundreds of guests needing a safe, warm place to sleep. Contact Dawn Thrasher, Community Resource Coordinator at 754-4357, Ext. 107.

Temporary Mortgage Payment Assistance

Struggling homeowners can apply online for temporary mortgage payment assistance through the Illinois Hardest Hit Program at www.illinoishardesthit.org.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority has partnered with the U.S. Department of Treasury to offer mortgage assistance to households that are struggling with income loss due to unemployment or underemployment, but are working to regain sufficient income to keep their home. Borrowers may be currently experiencing an income loss, or experienced one in the past that caused them to get behind on their mortgage payments.

Once the application process begins, the applicant will be assigned to a review agency that will assist the homeowner through the application process and help review a homeowner's eligibility for the program. Applicants will not be asked to pay for any eligibility determination services related to the application.

The Illinois Hardest Hit Program offers two types of assistance:

- Reinstatement assistance to pay mortgage arrearages, fees, and penalties in full; and
- Monthly mortgage payment assistance to pay 100 percent of the mortgage payment owed to the servicer for up to 18 months while the household makes monthly contribution payments to the Illinois Housing Development Authority during their enrollment in the program. Maximum assistance is \$25,000, depending on location.

Activities of Director of Neighborhood Affairs for week ending December 30, 2011

Made 26 home visits relating to complaints and violations.

Attended 4 meetings this week pertaining to Village business.

Received 22 phone calls and made 10 calls regarding village business.

Removed 2 illegal signs from the area this week.

Tell your neighbors to sign up for the Weekly Status & Information Report

Spread the word about the Weekly Status & Information Report you are currently receiving. Tell your neighbors they can sign up by simply emailing Administrative Secretary Sandra Alexander at salexander@villageofhazelcrest.com with their name and email address, and the report will automatically be sent to them every Friday. It's a great way to stay informed about your community!

Join the Centennial Facebook site

The Village of Hazel Crest will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2012. Keep track of all the great events and activities being planned for the Centennial by logging on to the Village's Facebook site." Simply log on to Facebook, then type in the words: Hazel Crest Centennial. It's a great way to stay informed about all the exciting Centennial events we're planning throughout 2012.

Patrol Activities

Officers responded to 292 calls for service this week. Officers responded to 20 alarm calls, all of which were false alarms.

Officers have written 35 parking tickets, 40 moving violations, one local ordinance violation, four misdemeanor arrests, and two felony arrests.

Police blotter for week ending December 30, 2011

Robbery

12/24 – 18200 block of Kedzie Ave.

The victim was walking through the parking of the listed location, when he was accosted by two armed offenders.

Robbery

12/25 – 3200 block of Charlemagne

The victim was accosted by an armed masked offender, who stole her wallet and cell phone.

Criminal Damage

12/25 – 3000 West 170th Place

A Hazel Crest man was charged with Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property after he attempted n to force open a door at the Hazel Crest Police Department.

Unlawful Possession of Cannabis

12/26 – 3400 block of Laurel

A Country Club Hills man was charged with Unlawful Possession of Cannabis and several IVC violation including Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding following an investigative stop at the listed location.

Residential Burglary

12/27 – 18100 block of Charlemagne

An unknown offender(s) forced open the rear door to the victim's home and stole several electronics.

Battery

12/28 – 16800 block of Anthony

Two Chicago men were charged with Battery after they physically attacked a man who was walking in the above listed area.

Robbery

12/29 – 17500 block of Carriageway

Police have a person of interest in custody after there was a report of a purse snatching in the above listed area.

Illegal firearm

Two juveniles were seriously injured on Christmas Day in the 2600 Block of West 171st Street while handling a loaded, sawed off shotgun. The juveniles were transported to area hospitals. The gun was recovered by police. Charges are pending in this incident. Below is a photo of the shotgun recovered by Hazel Crest police.



Hazel Crest Fire and Rescue Department

The Fire Department activity per subdivision for the week of 12/23 to 12/29/11.

LOCATION

Apple Tree: 1 call

CC Hills: 1 call

Carriage Hills: 1 call

Chateaux: 4 calls

Hazel Crest- General- 4 calls

Hazel Crest Proper: 7 calls

Hazel Crest Center: 2 calls

Highlands: 2 calls

Markham: 1 call

Oak Forest: 1 call

Pottawatomie Hills: 4 calls

Pacesetters: 2 calls

Stonebridge: 1 call

South Harvey: 2 calls

Versailles: 3 calls

Village West: 1 call

Waterford Estates: 3 calls

Total Incident Count: 40

MUTUAL AID GIVEN (OUT OF TOWN)

Total Incident Count: 0

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

Homewood: 2 calls

Country Club Hills: 1 call

Total Incident Count: 3

INCIDENT TYPE

Fire

Cooking fire, confined to container: 1

Passenger vehicle fire: 1

Outside rubbish fire, Other: 1

RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT

Rescue EMS incident, other: 1

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injuries: 33

HAZARDOUS CONDITION (No Fire)

Arcing, shorted electrical equipment: 1

SERVICE CALL

Cover assignment, standby, moveup: 1

FALSE ALARMS & FALSE CALL

Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other: 1

The following inspections were completed from 12/23/11 to 12/29/11:

Regular Fire Inspections: 0

Re-Inspections – Fire: 0

Total Inspections: 0

The Fire Department completed 18 hours of training from 12/23/11 to 12/29/11.

Snow Removal Assistance

Any resident that is interested in assisting other residents with removal of snow from sidewalks and driveways and wants to be put on the list should contact the Hazel Crest Public Works Department at 335-9600 ext. 200 with their name and contact number.

Freezing Temperatures Bring Problems

Freezing temperatures bring lots of problems and one of the biggest is watermain breaks for the Village, and frozen pipes and water meters for residents. The easiest remedy for this is to locate where the pipe is frozen and then place an ordinary hair blow dryer blowing on the pipe. It may take a couple of hours but usually solves the problem. If your water meter or pipes are in an unheated closet or crawlspace they can freeze before you know it when the temperature drops below zero.

Residents with frozen meters can contact the Hazel Crest Water Department at 335-9600 ext. 120 and have the Meter Technician come out. After business hours residents can contact non-emergency police number at 335-9640.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Winter Parking restrictions are in effect for the Village. There is no parking on Village streets after two or more inches of snow has fallen until the roadways are clear. The only streets that allow parking are the streets in Hazel Crest Proper (areas of town east of I-294) which follow the odd/even regulations Monday thru Friday 8 am until 5 pm. Any street in Hazel Crest Proper that is marked as a snow route has no parking during snowfall and remains that way until the snow is cleared. Residents that do not follow these parking restrictions will be issued parking violations by the Hazel Crest Police Department.

Snow route restrictions exist to keep village streets clear so plowing can be done quickly and completely. The specific restrictions in each area of the Village are posted at entrances into each subdivision except Hazel Crest Proper which has signs posted on each block due to special odd/even parking restrictions in force on many Hazel Crest Proper streets.

Winter Tips

The Public Works Department takes great pride in the job we do to plow Village streets during snow season. It is our intention to serve you, the resident, to the best of our ability. In no instance do we want to bring you further frustration as you are clearing your

driveway or sidewalks. In an effort to work cooperatively together to keep streets clear of snow during winter, the following reminder items are offered to make snow plowing go that much smoother.

- **Please adhere to the snowplowing parking regulations to help the Public Works Department remove snow safely, effectively and efficiently. The main provision is that vehicles are removed from the street during a snowfall of 2” or more.**
- **It is essentially impossible to avoid pushing snow into private driveways when plowing. To avoid frustration, please wait until snow removal on the roadway is complete prior to putting finishing touches on your driveway.**
- **Snowplows attract children. Please teach young ones to keep a safe distance from the edge of roadway so that they won’t be injured.**
- **The purpose of snow plowing and salting is to remove snow and ice from the roadway to provide a safe surface to drive on. Please do not deposit snow into the street as this may freeze causing a danger to emergency response vehicles as well as the general motoring public and is in violation of Village ordinance.**
- **Please set your garbage cans away from the roadway on snow days as well as retrieving them as soon as they are emptied.**
- **Please inspect your curbside mailbox for proper construction and placement from the curb. Posts should be of 4”x 4” durability and strength. Mailboxes are the responsibility of the homeowner and must be regulated to meet the requirements of the United States Postal Services. Please be sure that the box is attached securely to the post. The Public Works Department will not be responsible for mailboxes damaged by the plowed snow.**

If you have any questions regarding our snow removal operations you can call the Public Works Department at (708) 335-9600 ext. 200.

Holiday Lighting Awards

Representatives from the Beautification Commission toured the Village on December 18th. The awards will be given out at a board meeting in January or February.

Odd & Ends

In the recent Villager newsletter there was an error. The “Standards for Residential Mailboxes” was incorrect in stating: “The Village is not responsible for mailboxes that come into direct physical contact with snow plows.”

It should have read “The Village is responsible for mailboxes only when there is direct physical contact with the Village snow plow, not when the mailbox is pushed over by snow.” We apologize for this error.

The compost facility is closed for the season.

Brush Pick Up has been finished for the entire Village for the year. Brush Pick Up will resume in April 2012.

Homewood Disposal’s Yard Waste pick up has been completed for the year and will resume in April 2012.

In the event of a sewer blockage or back-up, call the Village first. During office hours residents can contact the Public Works Department at 335-9600 ext 200, or after office hours residents can contact the Police Department at 335-9640. Residents are responsible

for the proper care and maintenance of their service lines from the point where it leaves the house to where it connects to the Village sewer main.

If you spot a water main break or a damaged fire hydrant, call the Village immediately at 335-9600 ext. 200 during normal working hours, or 335-9640 (non-emergency police) after business hours.

If a resident notices a traffic sign missing or wishes to report a pothole on any Village maintained street please contact the Public Works Department at 335-9600 ext 200 with the location.

Residents can assist the Public Works Department by reporting malfunctioning streetlights. Residents should call in with the streetlight's location and if possible the streetlight number to 335-9600 ext. 200 with the information. If it is after hours residents can leave the information on the voice mail.