

January 6, 2012

"If there is to be any peace it will come through being, not having."

– Henry Miller

Centennial Fundraiser Party

Throughout 2012, the Village of Hazel Crest will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. This is a significant milestone in the Village's history. According to Mayor Robert Donaldson, "The Village will strive to commemorate this Centennial Year by honoring our past and envisioning the future."

The festivities will kick off with a Centennial Fundraising Party on Saturday, January 28, from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Hazel Crest Senior Center. There will be stepping, line dancing, ballroom dancing and hip-hop. All age groups are welcome! The cost is \$5 per person. All proceeds will go toward future events, projects, and activities planned throughout 2012.

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.

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.

Village Board meeting

The Village Board will meet on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at 6 p.m. for the Administrative Meeting and at 7 p.m. for the Regular Meeting at the Village Hall. Topics of discussion include:

- Job Description Amendment – Director Communications and Public Relations
- Resolution approving the Official Centennial Logo for the Village of Hazel Crest

Patrol Activities

Officers responded to 289 calls for service this week. Officers responded to 12 alarm calls, all of which were false alarms.

Officers have written 36 parking tickets, 48 moving violations, four local ordinance violations, four misdemeanor arrests, and three felony arrests.

Police blotter for the week ending January 6, 2012

Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon

12/31 – 3700 block of Peach Grove

A 24 year old Country Club Hills man was charged with several weapon and drug offenses after officers responded to the above listed area to investigate a "shots fired" call for service.

Battery

01/03 – 2000 block of 171st Street

A 37 year old Hazel Crest man was charged with Battery after he allegedly turned violent during a card game and attacked a fellow player.

Twenty-year-old Tyler Randolph, of the 3500 block of Birchwood, and a juvenile were arrested for a robbery that occurred on December 29, 2011 in the 17500 block of Carriageway. Both were charged with robbery and will stand trial in the Markham Court District. His mug shot is below.



Tyler Randolph, age 20

Hazel Crest Fire, and Rescue Department

The Fire Department activity per subdivision for the week of 12/29 to 11-1/6/12.

LOCATION

Apple Tree: 1 call
Chateaux: 2 calls
Dynasty Lakes: 1 call
Expressway I-80, Hazel Crest: 1 call
Hazel Crest Proper: 17 calls
Hazel Crest General: 3 calls
Highlands: 6 calls
Imperial: 1 call
Pottawatomie Hills: 4 calls
Pacesetters: 4 calls
South Harvey: 2 calls
Stonebridge: 4 calls
South Suburban Hospital: 1 call
Twin Creeks: 2 calls
Versailles: 3 calls
Village West: 3 calls
Waterford Estates: 1 call
Total Incident Count: 56

MUTUAL AID GIVEN (OUT OF TOWN)

Country Club Hills: 2 calls
Total Incident Count: 2

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

Homewood: 1 call

Total Incident Count: 1

INCIDENT TYPE

Fire

Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire: 1

RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT

Rescue EMS incident, other: 1

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injuries: 46

Motor vehicle accident with injuries: 2

HAZARDOUS CONDITION (No Fire)

Gas leak (natural gas or LPG): 1

Accident, potential accident, Other: 1

SERVICE CALL

Cover assignment, standby, move up: 1

Defective elevator, no occupants: 2

GOOD INTENT CALL

Dispatched & cancelled en route: 1

No Incident found on arrival at dispatch: 1

Smoke scare, odor of smoke: 1

FALSE ALARMS & FALSE CALL

CO detector activation due to malfunction: 1

Alarm system activation, no fire: 4

The following inspections were completed from 12/29/11 to 1/6/12:

Regular Fire Inspections: 0

Re-Inspections – Fire: 0

Total Inspections: 0

The Fire Department completed 18 hours of training from 12/29/11 to 1/6/12.

Activities of the Director of Neighborhood Affairs for week ending January 6.

--Attended eight meetings, two of which were for the Centennial; one meeting was with a resident whose home was in violation of Village ordinances but is getting the home into compliance; another meeting concerned grants for ash tree removal.

--Received 14 phone calls regarding complaints and their solutions.

--Made 29 home visits regarding non-compliant homes, and these visits hopefully will result in these homes coming into compliance.

--Made three business visits. Also made/received 10 calls from businesses regarding helping a business stay in the Village and bringing a new business to town.

--Worked with Public Works to remove six illegal signs. These are bogus "For Sale" signs that did not have the required permits from the Village. It's suspected that these signs are also scams. Please call the Village Hall if you suspect that any "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs are illegal. I am also working on a public service announcement to further educate the community about these illegal signs. My phone number at the Village Hall is 335-9600, Ext. 111.

New Electronics Disposal Law

By State Law, as of January 1, 2012, residents cannot put electronic devices out for pickup on garbage day. Items such as televisions, computers, computer monitors and other computer accessories, VCRs, DVD players, etc cannot be put out for the garbage. To dispose of these items residents are asked to contact electronics stores (i.e. Best Buy) to see if they offer a program or visit <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling> for a list of electronics collectors, recyclers, and refurbishers.

Christmas Tree Disposal

During the first 2 weeks of January, live Christmas trees are exempt from landfill bans and can be placed at the curb for disposal. However, if you wish to have your Christmas tree recycled, Iron Oaks and the Western Avenue Green Team is offering free Christmas tree recycling to anyone in the South Suburbs. Trees can be dropped off on January 7th and 14th from 9 a.m. to noon at Iron Oaks at the corner of Western Avenue and Vollmer Road in Olympia Fields. Tree should be free of all ornaments, tinsel, and garland.

A Christmas Light recycling program is also available in which old or broken light strings and extension cords will be separated and repurposed.

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

Over the Holiday Weekend Public Works repaired a watermain break on Kedzie Ave at Ridgewood. Crews were out for over 12 hours working to repair the break.

Public Works crews made 2 salt runs this week.

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.