

January 20, 2012

“To wish you were someone else is to waste the person you are.”

— *Unknown*

Centennial Fundraiser Party on January 28

The Centennial 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 line dancing, ballroom dancing, stepping, and hip hop. All age groups are welcome! The cost is \$5 per person. Refreshments are free. All proceeds will go toward events, projects, and activities planned throughout 2012. So come out and celebrate the Centennial!

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.”

Snow Removal Assistance

For those residents that need assistance with removing snow from their sidewalks and driveways, you can contact Bryan Protho at 708-566-7492 or Walton Burt at 708-220-6785.

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.

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.

Snow removal reminder for driveways

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 to keep streets clear of snow during winter, please be reminded that 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.**

January 31 is deadline to purchase and display 2012 Vehicle Stickers

The deadline to purchase and display 2012 stickers is January 31. A basic vehicle sticker is \$30. For more information, call the Municipal Center at 335-9600.

Hazel Crest Savvy Seniors

The Savvy Seniors will meet on Friday, February 3, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Center. Presentation on "How care givers balance their lives." Refreshments will be served.

Village Board Meetings

Administrative Village Board: Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Regular Village Board: Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Topics of discussion include:

- Youth, Veterans and Senior Citizen Commissions.
- Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code for the Community Relations and Communications Department.
- River of Life Kingdom Ministries settlement and special use permit.

Free cell phones for senior citizens

Tangela Jones of MTI will come to the Rich Township Senior Center, located at 297 Liberty Drive, Park Forest, to give away free government-supported cell phones to qualifying seniors on Tuesday, January 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. Recipients need to have Medicare, Medicaid or SSI. You must bring proof of being enrolled by providing your red-white-and-blue Medicare card or letter of benefits. After filling out a brief form, you will receive your free cell phone. You will never receive a bill for the phone and it will not interfere with the current landline in your home, or any assistance you may be receiving. Please call the Senior Center at 748-5454 to make your reservation.

Lunch at the Senior Café

Senior citizens are invited to lunch weekdays at the Rich Township Senior Café, located inside Rich Township's Shirley J. Green Senior Center, 297 Liberty Drive, Park Forest.

All seniors, regardless of their income level, are eligible to dine at the Senior Café. The Café is open to all south suburban seniors, including those living outside of Rich Township. Participant must be 60 years of age or older. The cost for lunch is \$2.50.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday at noon. Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Enjoy many other fun activities after lunch. For more information or to make a reservation for lunch, call 747-2700.

Food for residents in need

The Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Center, 4101 Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, in conjunction with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, will distribute food to residents-in-need on Tuesday, January 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the church. Call 922-9890 for more information.

Fresh Produce Day on February 1

The Greater Chicago Food Depository will offer fresh fruits and vegetables for residents-in-need on Wednesday, February 1, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the transportation garage of Rich Township, located at 22013 Governors Hwy., Richton Park. Please note that doors do not open until 9:30 a.m. Fresh Produce Day is for all south suburban residents in need—including those living outside of Rich Township. Fresh Produce Day is offered on the first Wednesday of every month. Call Pantry Director Vicki Sline at 748-6722 for more information.

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.

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 is celebrating 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 294 calls for service this week. Officers responded to 27 alarm calls and 27 of them were false alarms.

Officers have written 164 parking tickets, 51 moving violations, 4 local ordinance violation, 2 misdemeanor arrests, 1 felony arrest, and 2 warrants for this period of time.

Police Training

Sergeant Mitchell attended Staff and Command training at Plainfield PD.

Investigation Activities

Detectives, as part of Major Crimes Task Force, assisted Country Club Hills PD in investigating a double homicide.

Police Blotter for the week ending January 20, 2012

Possession of Cannabis

01/14 – 2000 block of 170th Street

A 43 year old Hazel Crest man was charged with Unlawful Possession of Cannabis following an investigative stop where suspect cannabis was recovered from his person.

Criminal Damage

01/15 – 2100 block of 175th Street

A 45 year old Richton Park man was charged with Criminal Damage to State Supported Property after he kicked out the rear door window to a marked police vehicle.

Burglary

01/17 – 16900 block of Shea

An unknown offender(s) forced open the rear door to the vacant property and stole the copper piping.

Residential Burglary

01/17 – 17300 block of Bryant

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

Stolen Auto

01/19 – 16900 block of Jodave

The victim states that an unknown offender(s) stole his vehicle from in front of his residence some time during the night.

Hazel Crest Fire and Rescue Department

The Fire Department activity per subdivision for the week of 1/13/12 to 1/20/12:

LOCATION

Appletree: 1 call

Chateaux: 2 calls

Dynasty Lakes: 1 call

Hazel Crest Proper: 8 calls

Hazel Crest General: 1 call

Highlands: 1 call

Imperial: 1 call

Pottawatomie Hills: 3 calls

Pacesetters: 2 calls

South Harvey: 2 calls

Stonebridge: 3 calls

Twin Creeks: 2 calls

Village West: 7 calls

Waterford Estates: 3 calls

Total Incident Count: 37

MUTUAL AID GIVEN (OUT OF TOWN)

Homewood: 1 call

Country Club Hills: 1 call

Total Incident Count: 2

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

Homewood: 3 calls

Country Club Hills: 3 calls

Markham: 1 call

Total Incident Count: 7

INCIDENT TYPE

Fire

Fire Other: 1

Passenger Vehicle fire: 1

RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT

Motor vehicle accidents with no injuries: 1

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injuries: 27

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (No Fire)

Arching, shorted electrical equipment: 1

SERVICE CALL

Service call, other: 1

Smoke or odor removal: 1

Assist police or other governmental agency: 1

Defective elevator, no occupants: 1

Cover assignment, standby, move up: 1

GOOD INTENT CALL

Dispatched & cancelled en route: 1

FALSE ALARMS & FALSE CALL

Sprinkler activation due to malfunction: 1

Alarm system activation, no fire: 3

The following inspections were completed from 1/13/12 to 1/20/12:

Regular Fire Inspections: 0

Re-Inspections – Fire: 0

Total Inspections: 0

The Fire Department completed 18 hours of training from 1/13/12- 1/20/12.

On January 15, 2012, Deputy Chief Hunter and Firefighter/Paramedic James Shields attended and successfully completed an Ice/Water Rescue Course. They are now Ice/Water Rescue Technicians.

Activities of the Director of Neighborhood Affairs for the week ending 1/20/12

--Attended 5 meetings this past week. Village Centennial business was the main focus of these meetings.

--Made 18 home visits this week regarding complaints.

--Made 4 business visits regarding the Centennial.

--Made 335 phone calls, of which 331 were to businesses in the Village regarding the Centennial.

--Attended the birthday celebration for 5 centenarians at Waterford Estates.

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 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 February 14th.

Electronics Disposal

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.

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.