



FALL /
WINTER
2025



From the Desk of, **MAYOR JEFF WALIK**

It has not been the best of times for me and the Village of Stickney, but as once said, "always stay positive, positive, positive."

For those that did not hear of the news, we lost a great friend, "super-smart" businessman and the best, hardest working Trustee that Stickney has ever had on the village board. We lost my buddy, Sam Savopoulos, to

an illness that he fought for the past six years, and what a fighter he was. Sam sat on many committees and was very instrumental in bringing in the TIF districts to Harlem Avenue, Pershing Road. and Cicero Avenue.



Hard work came easily for Trustee Sam, and he took care of ALL our residents, young and old. If you had a question, Sam would research and get you the correct answer and never let you down. If you ever stopped into the family restaurant, Alexanders Pancake House, you were always greeted at the door with a big smile by Trustee Sam or his wonderful sister Connie. Sam may have even sat down and had an Arnold Palmer with you.

The Village Board unanimously voted for Ron Smith to sit in the chair once occupied by Trustee Savopoulos, but we know on this board that we can NEVER replace the one and only Sam Savopoulos.

I would like to be the first to introduce our newest Clerk to the Village of Stickney, Mitch Milenkovic. Mitch started his political career years ago with the Stickney/Lyons school board district 103. He then sat on the Stickney Library Board, fast tracking to the Village of Stickney Board as a Trustee for ten years. He has proven himself to be an experienced public servant and will make an amazing Village Clerk. He's already settled into the position and has been busy updating ordinances and public notices that were never updated. Mitch is the hardest working Clerk the Village of Stickney has seen.



Mayor Jeff Walik

Your Village Officials

Mayor
Jeff Walik

Clerk
Mitch Milenkovic

Trustees
Jim Hrejsa
Tim Kapolnek
Brian Klouda
Ron Smith
Lea Torres
Jeff White

Fire Chief
Jeff Boyajian

Chief of Police
Jerry Chlada Jr.

**Director of
Public Works**
Sam Alonzo

**Village
Finance Director**
Michael Ochsner Jr.

Editorial Board
Mitch Milenkovic
Beth Lukas
Tim Kapolnek





From the Desk of Clerk, **MITCH MILENKOVIC**

My name is Mitch Milenkovic. I am the newly elected clerk of the Village of Stickney. Previously I was a village trustee for ten years. Prior to that I served on the district 103 School Board for four years, completing my term as Vice-President. I have lived in the village since 1988, raising three wonderful children here. I attended Morton West and attained two associate's degrees from Morton College.

Following please find some of the duties and responsibilities of the Village Clerk.

- Submit legal notices for publication
- Prepare documentation and attend the two monthly Village Board meetings
- Keep official records of village meetings, ordinances, resolutions and confidential documents
- Submit ordinances for updating the Stickney Municipal Code
- Accept bids
- Act as the local contact for the Cook County Clerk's Office, Cook County Board of Elections and Illinois Municipal League
- Serve as the local election official accepting petitions of candidates
- Submit the names of officials running in elections to Cook County Board of Elections and Illinois Municipal League
- Serve as the local election officials running in elections to Cook County replacement on the ballot
- Chairman of the census
- Monitor solicitations, block parties and building permit requests
- Administer the oaths of office
- Seal and attest all contracts of the village
- FOIA Officer

I am also a Bonded Notary Public State of Illinois.

I am available by appointment on weekday evenings and weekends. I look forward to serving the residents of Stickney.

Veterans Day

We will be observing Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Pavillion located in the 3900 block of Ridgeland Avenue.

HAPPY VETERANS DAY





**From the Desk of Trustee,
LEA TORRES**

Fall is descending upon us. We will be getting ready for our fall and winter schedules.

Our events would not be possible without all the volunteers we have. Our Village employees are always so helpful and makes everything run so smoothly. Our events require a lot of work and we thank everyone who volunteers.

A little history about our mail. I have been trying for years to get the Village of Stickney its own post office. Right now, the mail from Harlem Avenue to Ridgeland

Avenue goes through the Berwyn Post Office 60402 and the mail from Ridgeland to Cicero Ave goes through Cicero Post Office 60804. Please make sure your bills say Stickney and not Berwyn. Berwyn has some municipal taxes that we do not have, and they will show up on your bills with an extra fee. If you have questions regarding this, feel free to call me at 708-749-4400 X517.

I would like to make you aware of two good people that work for Stickney Township. Pam is our animal control warden. She handles animal complaints or issues such as stray animals, animal bites, dangerous or vicious animals. She has more authority than our police because she can write county tickets that are stricter and with more severe penalties. Pam can be reached at 708-424-5570. Trish works in the environmental health department. She handles restaurant inspections, food permits, nuisance complaints and pest control. Her office number is 708-424-9200. Both women are great resources and always there to help.



**From the Desk of Trustee,
JEFF WHITE**

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. As our summer winds down and the weather starts to change we must remember that our children are back in school. Please stop at stop signs, put your phones down, it only takes a split second for a tragedy to happen.

I would like to remind our residents that we have a strict solicitation policy. This policy is designed for the protection of all of us. If someone is soliciting at your door, they are required to have a permit issued by the Village. I would also like to let you know that Religious and Political individuals are exempt from the policy. They are protected by 1st amendment rights. This permit is required and includes a criminal background check to ensure that anyone at your door is not a threat and has been vetted. Please do not open your door to anyone you do not know. If someone is soliciting, you should ask to see the permit if it is not visible. You can always call the Stickney Police dept. and ask if the people are legitimate. Of course, if you feel threatened in any way dial 911. Otherwise, the non-emergency number for Stickney P.D. is 708-788-2131. We have "No Solicitation Allowed" stickers available at the Village Hall.

We are all sad at the passing of Trustee Sam Savopoulos. Everyone that ever knew Sam loved him. He made many contributions to our community and the board and will be truly missed.

I would like to welcome Ron Smith, our newest Trustee, to the board. Ron will be an asset as he has been involved in most of our Village functions in the past few years.



**From the Desk of Trustee,
TIM KAPOLNEK**

I would like to welcome Ron Smith as the newest Board Member. Ron was appointed by the mayor with the unanimous consent of the Board of Trustees to fill the position of Trustee Sam Savopoulos who passed away this past summer. Ron is a hard worker and will do the village good. Ron was always there to help the village when needed, cooking at functions, handing out pop-sicles, popcorn, being a scary character at the Haunted Hayride and many other things. If you see Ron, please congratulate him and welcome him to serve you as a trustee. It was very hard to replace Sam who was a generous, caring man that loved Stickney and its residents very much. He is truly

missed, and Ron is a good fit to take Sam's place.

Summer flew by very fast again. It seems every year it goes by faster. So as summer fades, we all know what comes next... fall and winter. Now is the time to prepare your homes for these two seasons. On the outside, critters such as rats, skunks, possum, racoons and all kinds of bugs will look for warmer places to winter. Clean up the outside of your homes, do not leave piles of trash, yard clippings, overgrown weeds, wood, bricks, logs, etc on the ground. Make sure they are at least twelve inches off the ground on a rack or shelf. Get your yard clippings, overgrown weeds & trash into your weekly garbage pickup. Yard waste will be picked up until November 30th. These types of items make perfect homes for these critters. Look to seal any holes in your foundations, around gutters, siding and windows. These are spots where bugs can get in and wait out the cold of winter. On the inside, make sure your furnace is working properly, change your filters, make sure your windows are closed and sealed properly and that you don't have any exposed pipes that can freeze in extremely cold weather. Also, in very cold weather, please check on your elderly neighbors to make sure that they are okay. Have a safe winter.

Thank you to the Mayor, Trustees, Parks and Recreation, and especially the volunteers who organized all the great events this past summer with the end of summer spectacular Old Tyme Family Day on Labor Day weekend, and a final fireworks show that was fantastic.

Have a wonderful fall and Holiday Season.



**From the Desk of Trustee,
JIM HREJKA**

Summer's over way too fast once again. Now is the time to open the windows and enjoy the fresh air. A/C is turned off. If the weather cooperates, we won't have to kick on the furnace for a couple weeks.

The weather wasn't always our friend this summer. Our Cinco de Mayo Fest was rained out. We had to cancel too many Music in the Park evenings also.

For everyone's safety, when the forecast is threatening, the call has to be made early in the day to inform the musicians and the music fans of a cancelation.

Thank you, Mayor Walik, for adding a few extra music events to the schedule.

We had a wonderful day for Family Day. Great fun! Great music! The best fireworks show in Chicagoland was better than ever!

We unfortunately still have a rodent problem in a few spots in the village. They thrive if they have hiding places and a food source. Please be a good neighbor and clean up clutter. Cover garbage cans. Watch your gardens carefully and avoid bird feeders. Pick up after your dogs. You can contact Stickney Township for more advice, and to request bait stations.

I hope you have a safe Fall and Winter season and Happy Holidays!



From the Desk of Trustee, **BRIAN KLOUDA**

My name is Brian Klouda, I am a new member of the Board of Trustees. I was appointed by the mayor with the unanimous consent of the Board of Trustees to fill the open position of Trustee, replacing Mitch Milenkovic who is now the Village Clerk. I have been a lifelong resident of Stickney for 59 years. I attended Haley Elementary School, Morton West High School and Morton College, where I earned my associate's degree in business.

I served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and was a Trustee for the Stickney-Forest View Public Library.

I am happy to be here and look forward to serving you as a Village Trustee.

The Tree City Program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees.

Tree Lottery

Throughout the summer, residents of the Village of Stickney had the opportunity to fill out an application to enter a lottery for a free tree to be planted by their homes in the parkway. The lottery ended in September, and we had 14 lottery winners. Congratulations to the winners and thank you for your participation in this lottery. Trees are very important to the Village of Stickney. We ordered 18 trees, 14 for the lottery winners and 4 for common areas of the Village. One tree was donated by Tom Kadolph as a memorial tree for Trustee Sam Savopoulos.

Operation Support Our Troops

It has been a pleasure and an honor to be involved with Operation Support Our Troops which was founded in 2003. In 2009, Mayor Walik, who was a Trustee at the time, started this in Stickney. This was passed to Trustee Mitch Milenkovic in 2015 and now to me in 2025. This has become one of the largest volunteer based military support organizations in the country. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, they provide comfort and care at home and away to active-duty military, families and veterans. Their mission is to support the morale and well-being of American forces by providing comfort, resources and education to them and their families both while they are deployed in harm's way and after their return. This is accomplished by providing a link between the citizens and military personnel of items that are not readily available to the troops in their deployed locations along with personal letters, cards and notes of support from the community at large. As has been done in the past, the Village of Stickney is sponsoring a collection of donations for the troops.

Collections bins are located at Toby's Tap, Stickney Forest View Library and the Lobby of the Village Hall. We will be collecting donations until the first week of November.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to those who donated to this great cause. God Bless America and our Troops.



Operation Support
Our Troops-America



**From the Desk of Trustee,
RON SMITH**

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ron Smith. I have lived in the Village since 2015 with my wife Valerie. We have been together for 28 years.

I have been at my current job for over 25 years. I also am a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. serving from 1983-1989. I was an Airframes Mechanic for C-130's and UH1 Helicopters.

For those of you that have not met me, you probably have seen me at most of the events in the Village as I am usually there volunteering. I also volunteer at St. Pius X with my wife.

I would like to thank Mayor Walik, The Village Clerk and Village Trustees and all the Village employees and residents that have welcomed me.

I have been assigned to the following committees:

Committee chairperson of:

Public Building and Grounds
Private Buildings and Construction
Zoning and Zoning Ordinances
Streets and sidewalks

Vice Chairperson of:

Finance, license, state and federal grants, air pollution

I look forward to serving the Village in this new role.

HAPPY
Thanks
giving





From the Desk of Police Chief, **JERRY CHLADA JR.**

It is an honor to introduce myself as the Chief of Police of the Stickney Police Department.

I proudly assumed this role after serving as the Deputy Chief of Police since September 1, 2022. Prior to joining the Stickney Police Department, I dedicated 27 years of service to the Cicero Police Department.

Throughout my career in Cicero, I served in numerous leadership roles while achieving the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander, Deputy Superintendent, and First Deputy Superintendent. In October 2014, I was honored to be sworn in as the Superintendent of Police, a position I held until my retirement in August 2022.

With decades of experience in law enforcement and leadership, I look forward to leading the fine men and women of the Stickney Police Department, and I remain committed to serving the residents of Stickney with integrity, professionalism, and dedication.

If you have guests staying at your residence and they intend to park their vehicle on village streets overnight, they are required to register their vehicle using the Frontline Public Safety Solutions overnight parking portal. This can be done by going to www.villageofstickney.com and clicking on the Frontline icon to register the vehicle for overnight parking permission. Overnight parking is restricted to residents only from 2am through 6am on all Village streets. Parking permission is limited to 3 consecutive days and 10 total days per month. If you need more night permissions than this, or you don't have access to the internet, please contact the Stickney Police Department at 708-788-2131 to see if additional overnight parking can be authorized.

Residents can anonymously submit community concerns to the police department via Tip 411. Tip 411 is a totally anonymous tip reporting platform that residents can utilize to provide information about crime or any other Village concern. Tip 411 can be accessed on the Village's website at: www.villageofstickney.com or via the Tip 411 application. Please do not submit in-progress incidents via Tip 411. Those incidents should continue to be reported to 911.

Residents can stay up to date on critical and informative police and Village alerts by signing up for Code Red. Code Red is a free notification software tool that the Village utilizes to inform residents of important information. You can sign up for Code Red by going to the Village of Stickney's website homepage at: www.villageofstickney.com and click on the Code Red icon.

In closing, I ask all residents to please report suspicious activities in your neighborhood. "See something, say something". Law enforcement cannot do it alone. We need the residents to be our eyes and ears and let us know what you're seeing in your neighborhoods. If you see something that you think is suspicious or out of place, please let us know so that we can check it out. There is no complaint that is too small. As always, please call 911 in all emergency situations or contact us at 708-788-2131 if we can assist in non-emergency situations.



From the Desk of Fire Chief, **JEFFREY BOYAJIAN**

As the leaves change and temperatures drop, I'd like to extend a warm greeting to our community. Fall and winter seasons are a time for gathering with family and friends, but they also bring a unique set of safety concerns. On behalf of the entire Stickney Fire Department, I want to assure you that our team is prepared to respond to any emergency, and we ask for your partnership in keeping our community safe. Our firefighters are continually training and ready to serve you, but the most effective protection comes from preventing emergencies before they happen.

This newsletter provides important information and safety reminders to help ensure you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday season.

Fall and winter safety tips

- **Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms:** As you start using your furnace and fireplace, it's critical to check that your alarms are in working order. Change the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Remember to test them monthly and replace any unit over 10 years old.
- **Heating and furnaces:** Have your furnace and fireplace professionally serviced before the cold weather sets in. Keep all flammable materials, such as curtains, furniture, and clothing, at least three feet away from any heat source.
- **Candle safety:** With shorter days, more candles are used to brighten our homes. A candle is an open flame and a cause of home fires. Always blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Keep them at least one foot away from anything that can burn and use sturdy, non-tipping candle holders.
- **Holiday decorations:** When decorating for the holidays, ensure all decorative lights are undamaged and approved by a recognized testing laboratory. Never overload electrical sockets. For outdoor decorations, be sure all lights and extension cords are rated for outdoor use.
- **Cooking safety:** Thanksgiving and other holiday gatherings often involve a lot of cooking. Never leave cooking food unattended. This is especially important for deep frying, which can be extremely dangerous if not done properly.
- **Clear access for firefighters:** Remember to help keep fire hydrants clear of snow. We encourage community members to "Adopt a Hydrant" near their home or business to ensure it is visible and accessible in an emergency.



From the Desk of Public Works Director, **SAM ALONZO**

SEASONAL COMMUNITY REMINDERS:

Street Sweeping, Leaf Pickup, Snow Removal, and Winter Preparation

Leaf Pickup Program

Leaf collection will take place from the last week of October through the first week of December, on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure efficient and safe service:

- Placement: Leaves should be raked to the curb along the parkway, NOT into the street.
- Accepted Materials: This program is for leaves only. Do not include plants, branches, grass clippings, or pet waste.
- Street Sweeping: Follow all posted street sweeping signs on your block.

Street Sweeping

Please follow all posted street sweeping signs at the beginning and end of your block

- Monday: North and West sides of the street (even-numbered addresses)
- Tuesday: South and East sides of the street (odd-numbered addresses)

Parking Restrictions: On your designated pickup day, vehicles must not be parked in front of your residence from 8:00 AM until leaf collection is complete. **Violators will be ticketed and towed. (14-148 Parking during street cleaning)**

Please note: Waste Management yard waste pickup ends on November 30. Leaf burning is strictly prohibited within the Village.

Snow Removal Guidelines

Snow removal procedures will be enacted when snowfall exceeds 2 inches. Please observe the following regulations:

- Parking: Obey all posted snow parking restriction signs on the beginning and end of your block.
- **No Parking Even Days means if your address is an even address you cannot park on that side on even days of the month**
- **No Parking Odd Days Means if your address is an odd address you cannot park on that side on odd days of the month.**
- **Vehicles that are in violation of parking restrictions for snow removal will be ticked and towed (14-147 Parking after snowfalls)**
- Snow Removal Hours: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Alley Plowing: Alleys will be plowed when snowfall exceeds 6 inches.

Important Reminders:

- The Village is not responsible for snow pushed onto driveways, sidewalks, or aprons during plowing.
- Do not shovel or blow snow back into the street.
- When snowfall measures 2 inches or more, the snow removal regulations supersede the street sweeping regulations

Winter Tips: Preventing Frozen Pipes

Protect your home from winter damage with these simple steps:

- Disconnect and Drain Garden Hoses: Shut off water to outdoor hose bibs, drain the lines, and keep faucets open to prevent freezing. Consider using insulated faucet covers.
- Insulate Exposed Pipes: Apply foam pipe insulation to pipes in unheated areas such as basements, crawl spaces, attics, or garages. Pipes under kitchen or bathroom sinks may also need protection during extreme cold.
- Seal Air Leaks: Inspect for drafts around pipes, walls, and foundation sill plates. Use caulk or spray foam to seal any gaps that may let cold air in.

Stay safe and help us keep the Village clean and winter-ready! Thank you for your cooperation.

❄️ Winter 2025-2026 ❄️

Village Hall and Public Works Will Be Closed for the Following Holidays

Thursday, November 27, 2025 **THANKSGIVING DAY**
Friday, November 28, 2025 **DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING**
Tuesday, December 23, 2025 **CLOSING AT NOON**
Wednesday, December 24, 2025 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Thursday, December 25, 2025 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Wednesday, December 31, 2025 closing at noon - **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
Thursday, January 1, 2026 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Waste Management Observed Holidays

**Your garbage and recycling collection will be delayed one day
during the week of the scheduled holiday.**

Thursday, November 27, 2025 **THANKSGIVING DAY**
Thursday, December 25, 2025 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Thursday, January 1 2026 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**



Pet Photos with Santa Saturday, December 6th

1:00pm - 3:00pm
Public Works
6419 43rd St.



Save the Date Saturday, December 13th, 2025

Senior Christmas Luncheon, 11:00am – 1:00pm - St Pius X Parish Church

Children's Christmas party, 2:00pm - 4:00pm - St Pius X Parish Church

4300 Oak Park Avenue

These events are for Stickney residents only. Registration will be required.



Village of Stickney

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Stickney, Illinois 60402-4048

Tel: 708-749-4400

Fax: 708-749-4451

contact_us@villageofstickney.com

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We're on the Web
www.villageofstickney.com

When seconds count, you can count on

**SIGN
UP!**



**SIGN
UP!**

CodeRED is a FREE emergency notification service provided to all residents and businesses within Stickney that will notify you of emergency information through **phone calls, text messages and emails**. The system will be used to keep you informed of local events that may immediately impact your safety. As a local resident or business the Village of Stickney encourages you to take action and register your phone(s) and email accounts for this service and verify your home or business location during the enrollment process so we may target notifications that directly impact your home or business.

- **Parking Restriction Reminders**
- **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Emergency Evacuation Notices**
- **Event Notices**
- **Public Health Crisis**
- **Criminal Activity**

ENROLL TODAY!

Visit www.villageofstickney.com and click the CodeRED icon at the bottom left of the page
facebook.com/stickneypolicedepartment