

The Stickney Times

FALL / WINTER 2023



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

GOOD MORNING FROM YOUR FAVORITE MAYOR:

As I scooter or drive around town, residents ask me how things are going, my response, our Village looks clean and fresh, our streets and alleys are well maintained. Our police Department is doing great, and our officers work hard every day to keep your families and mine safe, along with overseeing that our businesses are secure. Each one of our fine law enforcement officers are here for us and their leadership is the best in Illinois.

The fine men and women of our Fire Department has great leadership as well and all our members are here for you. They have some of the best and most up-to date equipment to do their job. Recently the Village Board approved a new ladder truck that will be in service approximately mid-2024.

Our Public Works Department works hard every day. They know my Motto "Clean and Fresh" whatever it takes – village streets and alleys swept, unnecessary debris picked up, curbs and crosswalks painted! The new LED lights are such an improvement to lighting in the Village.

Joe and his men are getting ready for snow plowing and are there for you when needed.

Our Building department is busy with permits for home repairs and updates, new homes, and businesses. Our building inspector Josh is busy but always has time for a question.

The ladies in the front office are busy with everyday duties, including building permits, business licenses, real estate transactions, and water billing. They recently trained on a new software program used for the sale of vehicle stickers and pet tags. We had a very smooth transition going from the old program to the new software. There will be additional enhancements for next year's sales.

40th and 41st street projects have been resurfaced and next year, Oak Park Avenue will be resurfaced. These projects are all being done with grant monies. **NO** tax dollars went toward these projects.

On a fun note, I attended the Police and Fire charity softball game where a few of our very own Fire Fighters participated. Our department went 3 and 0 - but came in fourth (strange).

As always, if you have a question or concern regarding any matters within the Village, please call the front office and you will be directed to a Department Head or a Trustee (by committee) in charge of the question you have.

Your Village Officials

Mayor
Jeff Walik

Clerk
Audrey McAdams

Trustees
Jim Hrejsa
Tim Kapolnek
Mitch Milenkovic
Sam Savopoulos
Lea Torres
Jeff White

Fire Chief
Jeff Boyajian

Chief of Police
James Sassetti

**Director of
Public Works**
Joe Lopez

**Village
Finance Director**
David Gonzalez

Editorial Board
Audrey McAdams
Mitch Milenkovic
Beth Lukas

I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday!





From the Desk of Clerk,
AUDREY MCADAMS

Key Dates for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election

March 3, 2024, Last day to register to vote by online application or, people can register to vote at the Stickney Village Hall

March 4, 2024, First day of early voting
Last day to request a mail ballot

March 14, 2024, Last day of early vote

March 18, 2024, Last day to mail ballots

March 19, 2024, Last day to mail ballots can be postmarked

March 19, 2024, Election Day

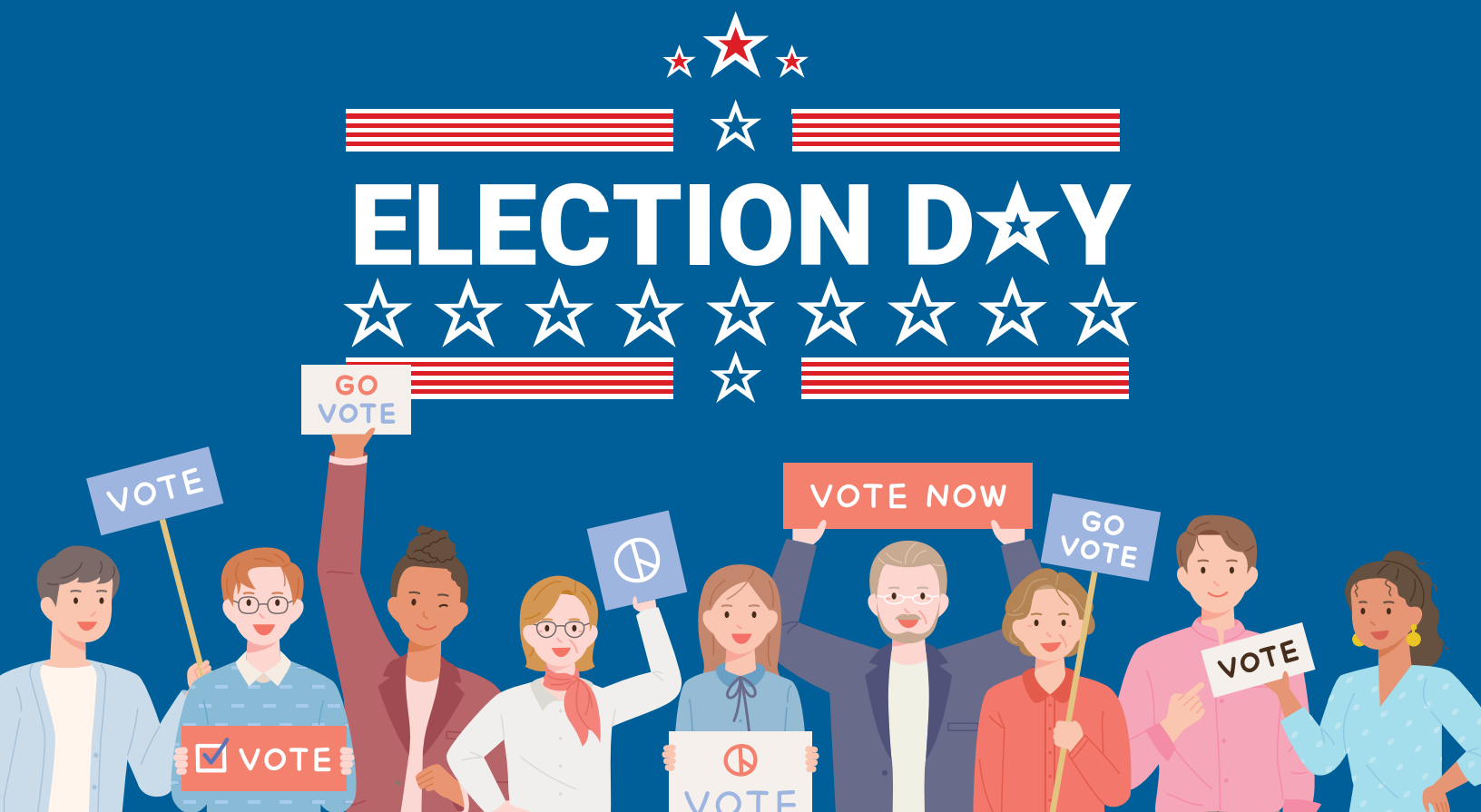
Contact information: Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk's Office
website: cookcountyclerk.il.gov/election
1-312-603-0946

Stickney Community Data Snapshot

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) annually updates Community Data Snapshots for each of the region's 284 municipalities, and just released their user-friendly 2023 snapshots. Updates include demographic, socioeconomic and employment data from the latest American Community Survey and other Census programs, as well as tax data from the Illinois Department of Revenue and more current water supply data. The snapshot also benchmarks and compares community conditions to "On to 2025" indicators.

All underlying data can always be found on the CMAP website:

cmap.illinois.gov/data/community-snapshots





From the Desk of Trustee,
JEFF WHITE

With our children back in school, please be cautious as they go to and from school. You might have noticed new signs around Edison and Home School that warn of any fines being doubled near the school. Keep your phones out of your hands, and please do complete stops at all stop signs. Together we can keep our community safe.

The second installment property tax bills will be mailed out on or around November 1st this year with a due date of December 1st, per Cook County Officials. If you see an increase in your property taxes, we want you to know that the Village did not raise property taxes. We will continue to look for ways to generate revenue and strive to stay within our annual budget to keep any burden off the taxpayers of Stickney.

I would just like remind you once again about the Village's Facebook page, "Village of Stickney". Although several Facebook pages mention the Village, there is one official page. Our page is for information only, not for conversations. We will post water main breaks, road closures, upcoming events, and anything that we feel is beneficial information for our residents. The page is monitored and if you have a question or concern, most can be answered in a timely manner. You can "like" the page and follow it and you will get an alert on your page when something is posted. We also make use of Code Red to keep our residents informed. If you haven't signed up already you can do so by calling the Police Department's non-emergency number 708-788-2131.

The Village has a strict solicitation policy. If a company wants to ring doorbells and solicit any kind of business from our residents, they must have a permit. We do a background check on solicitors for all our protection. Seniors, please don't open your door to anyone that you may be suspicious of. Political and Religious organizations are exempt from this policy.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me anytime at 708-749-4400 X518.

IMPORTANT 

DISCLAIMER

**Tip 411 and the Stickney Police Facebook page
are not monitored 24/7
so when you have a situation that requires
immediate assistance
call 708-788-2131 or 911 for emergencies.**



From the Desk of Trustee,
TIM KAPOLNEK

Another summer has come and gone, seems like in just a blink of an eye. Again, this year we had crazy weather in Stickney, from flooding with heavy rainfall in a short period of time, to a confirmed tornado which caused damage and power outages in a small part of the village.

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Mayor Jeff Walik and Police Chief Jim Sasseti for looking into getting State and Federal assistance to residents who had flooding and lost personal items in their homes. The Mayor and Public Works went out and checked all the sewers in town due to the concern that they were not functioning properly which caused some homes and businesses to flood. It was confirmed that the sewers were all working properly. You can find out more about how the sewer system works by visiting the Village website. www.villageofstickney.com and look under news.

The tornado which came through Stickney took down trees, damaged roofs, etc. Again, a BIG THANK YOU goes out to the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Mayor Walik, and our Public Works Dept. As soon as the storm passed, every department was mobilized. The police and fire patrolled the streets checking to make sure that no one was injured and for dangerous hazards. Public Works was amazing! These guys were out picking up branches and debris in the affected areas within minutes of the storm being over. There were a lot of trees down on Home Ave by the school and even one behind my car in the driveway. PW Supervisor Joe Lopez was out looking for problems like this and had Bluders tree service out to cut up the downed trees and get the streets open. Now remember this was at around 6 pm in the evening and all these guys were out working hard to get the village streets open. The tree behind my car was cut up, and ground within an hour and a half after the storm. Bluders just went north on Home Ave grinding tree branches until 10 pm. We are lucky to have such amazing departments in the Village of Stickney, and I hope everyone appreciates everything they do for the village. Thank you to all departments for your dedication and service to this community.

Be prepared for upcoming winter weather. Please help your neighbors keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow to prevent falls. Have a wonderful upcoming Holiday Season and stay safe and healthy.





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

Think Twice Before Tossing Your Leaves!

FALLING LEAVES are a surefire sign that autumn has begun. They can also create headaches for homeowners, between time spent raking, bagging and leaf blowing. But this natural cycle doesn't have to be a nuisance.

When shredded and spread across a landscape, dead leaves infuse the soil with more than a dozen vital nutrients, making them much more effective than synthetic fertilizers. They also insulate the soil, retain moisture, suppress weeds, and prevent soil compaction.

Tips for Mulching with Leaves

Avoid spreading whole leaves in a thick layer. This will have a negative effect on your soil, blocking out sunlight and trapping water underneath. Small animals like mice or voles might also be attracted to this dense environment. Instead, shred leaves into small dime-sized pieces before spreading them on your soil. You can do so by simply running them over with your lawn mower. You can also use the reverse vacuum function on your leaf blower, shredding them in the process.



An increasingly popular and easy method is buying an electric leaf mulcher. This can generate large amounts of dust and noise, so ear and face protection are recommended.

Flower beds and vegetable gardens will thrive with a 2-inch layer of shredded leaves. Trees and shrubs require a deeper layer, around 4 inches.

If you don't have a garden or trees to mulch, you can leave your shredded mixture directly on your lawn. Blend the leaves well into the base of the grass for best results.

TREE CITY USA



We recently earned our ten-year status of Tree City USA. To qualify as a Tree City USA community, we must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management program and that no community would be excluded because of size.

Tree City USA 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.



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

Welcome to Fall! This is a perfect time to make sure your furnace and everything is working and ready for winter.

I would like to start with a special thank you to everyone who helped with our special events these past several months. We could not do all the things the Mayor and Village Board plan for the year without our volunteers. I always say, "it takes a village" and it sure does.

We are still working on the plans for a Community Center for the Village residents. We will keep you informed of any updates as we begin to make progress.

I would like to recognize a new helper who lives in the village. His name is Anastacio. He has gotten us so many donations for Cinco De Mayo and Stickney Family Day and is such an enthusiastic volunteer.

Just a reminder to be careful of scams on the phone or in the mail. Since I became a widow, I can't believe all the garbage mail and emails I am still receiving. If it sounds too good to be true, it is. If you don't recognize a phone number DON'T ANSWER IT! If it is a legitimate call, the caller will leave a message. Scams on social media are the worst, they thrive on your gullibility. If you are a senior citizen, you should have someone advise you or be with you before you sign any contracts. The village has a list of licensed and bonded contractors. Try to get at least three estimates.

In a previous newsletter I spoke about getting a will and all your things in order. There are no guarantees for tomorrow. Express your wishes while you are alive, so family/friends know what they are. My life was made a lot easier because of life preparation.

Just a reminder that on November 11, 2023, at 11:00am, we will have our Veterans Day Celebration at Veterans Memorial Park on 3900 Ridgeland Ave.

December 9th will be our Senior Christmas party at 11:00am and Children's party 2:00-4:00pm. These parties are for residents only and registration will be required.



On a final note, I would like to take time to thank our wonderful crossing guard, Sandy. She is out there on the corner of 41st and Oak Park during the school year, every weekday morning and after school, rain, or shine, always smiling and waving to everyone. Thank you, Sandy, for all your hard work and dedication.





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

It seems like just weeks ago we sent out the Spring newsletter. Summer goes by fast when you're having fun.

A full season of Music in the Park was extended two additional weeks and food was provided as a fundraiser by local groups for the first time since restrictions were lifted. When no one else was available, Mayor Walik called on Public Works Director and trained gourmet chef Joe Lopez and his volunteers. Another BBQ chicken sandwich please!

Cinco De Mayo and the first Stickney Police Department open house were successful and well attended, despite some challenging weather.

Family Day was a great event on a much nicer day and the greatest fireworks show in the Chicagoland area continues to get bigger and better every year!

Pet fest also seems to get bigger and better. There's a sign at the pavilion that says "no dogs allowed" but I won't tell if you don't.

As always, only the combined dedication of Mayor Walik, Village Officials, Police and Fire Departments, Public Works, office staff, sponsors, adult and teen volunteers makes all of this come together.

They say, "it takes a village." We've got a great one! Thank you all!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy fall and winter and the happiest of holidays.



**From the Desk of Trustee,
SAM SAVOPOULOS**

I'd like to take this time to highlight and welcome some businesses that have opened in the Village of Stickney over the past 2 years. We are committed to the success of all businesses. They are an investment in our community and it's important to support them.



Studio Gallery Tattoo – 3905 Oak Park Avenue, 708-637-4427

Great Homes Real Estate – 3903 Oak Park Avenue, 708-208-5767

Infolatino Income Tax Services – 3903 Oak Park Avenue, 708-208-5767

J & S Amigos Market – 6809 Pershing Rd. – 708-294-2124

Wunderkind Academy, Daycare center – 6807 Pershing Rd. – 312-208-2354

Corned Beef Factory – 6817 Pershing Rd. – 312-666-2536

Super Smokes, Tobacco and Groceries – 6719 Pershing Rd. 708-685-5565

XELHUA, Spa – 3908 Gunderson – 708-297-7972

Hard Headed Barbers – 6503 Pershing Rd. – 708-317-4129

Oceano Azul, Restaurant – 4109 Harlem Ave. – 708-654-5378

Casa Mateo, Restaurant – 3740 S. Cicero Ave. – 773-741-5000

You can find a list of all businesses in the Village on our website at www.villageofstickney.com. We continue to look for new businesses that would be a good fit in our village.



From the Desk of Police Chief, **JAMES SASSETTI**

We here at the Stickney Police Department hope you had a great summer and would like to bring you up to speed on the good things happening since our last newsletter. As you have probably noticed, we have new squads patrolling the Village. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we, as well as other police departments, had a difficult time acquiring police squads from auto makers. Now that we have emerged from the pandemic, squad cars have again become readily available and with the support and approval of the Village Board, we were finally able to purchase and put into service a new

fleet of squad cars and subsequently decided to transition to white squads with new decals in hopes that these new squad cars will offer more visibility while on patrol thus thwarting the potential for criminal acts.



Additionally, On November 1st we transitioned to a totally on-line visitor parking and vacation home watch portal. Instead of affixing a visitor parking placard to their rearview mirror, visitors can now go on the www.VillageofStickney.com website homepage and register their vehicle in the portal for permission to park on Village streets between 2:00 am – 6:00 am. The old green or yellow placards previously utilized for visitor parking are no longer valid. Also, residents that are going on vacation and request that the police department watch their house while gone can also go on the www.VillageofStickney.com website to complete the vacation watch form digitally and the police department will watch your residence in your absence. Any resident who does not have access to the internet and/or the ability to complete the visitor parking or vacation watch portal can call the police department at 708-788-2131 option 9 and our desk officer will take your information and enter it into the respective portal on your behalf.

Furthermore, we would like to remind residents that they can submit NOT IN PROGRESS community concerns via Tip411. Tip411 is a totally anonymous tip reporting platform that residents can utilize to provide information about crime or any other Village concern. Tip411 can be accessed on the Village's website at: www.VillageofStickney.com or via the Tip411 application. Please do not submit in progress incidents via Tip411. We would also like remind you to follow the Stickney Police Department on Facebook to receive all updates.

In conclusion, please report all suspicious activities in your neighborhood.....**see something say something!** No law enforcement agency can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. We are depending on you to call and tell us whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions and always be aware of your surroundings! 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**

The Stickney Fire Department has been busy in 2023 upgrading equipment and the facility. We were able to accomplish this through a \$150,000 grant received from the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity. Here are some key items the grant has allowed us to purchase:

1. Pneumatic Lifting Bags
2. Vehicle Stabilization Struts
3. HVAC System for a portion of the fire house
4. 16 sets of Turnout Gear (PPE)
5. Many other small equipment items

We have purchased a new Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) for use at special events and can respond to emergencies in rough terrain. This unit is equipped with the capability to transport a patient to an awaiting ambulance. This unit also has a plow attachment to assist with snow clearing around the firehouse.



Working alongside Mayor Walik and the Board of Trustees we have placed the order for a new 107' Pierce Aerial Ladder which should be delivered in late 2024 or early 2025, which is a significant step forward. It will replace the 1997 Ladder truck, which was retired last year, ensuring the department has the latest and most advanced firefighting equipment.

Its worth noting that the Stickney Fire Department is on track to handle approximately 1200-1300 calls in 2023 which is a substantial workload, encompassing ambulance, fire, service, and rescue calls.

The efforts to keep our equipment and training up-to-date and effectively respond to emergencies demonstrate a commitment to public safety and service to the residents of the Village of Stickney.

The month of October is Fire Prevention Month, and we were out visiting schools again teaching the students about fire safety while cooking. This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week is **"Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention"**.

The members and I would like to wish every one of you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.





**From the Desk of Director of Public Works,
JOE LOPEZ**

Leaf Pickup

Leaf Pick up will run the last week of October through the first week of December on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Leaves should be placed along the curb on the parkway. **DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** This program is only for leaves.

Do not put plants, branches, grass, dog feces in with the leaves. Follow the street sweeping signs on your block.

Monday: The North and West side (even side)

Tuesday: The South and East side (odd side)

Vehicles may not be parked from 8:00am until your street is cleared of leaves - in front of your residence on the day of the designated pick up. All violators will be ticketed and towed.

Yard waste pick up ended on November 30th.

Leaves cannot be burned in the Village.

Snow Removal

Parking restrictions will be in place if there are 2 or more inches of snow. Follow the parking signs that are posted on every block that reflects the restrictions. Parking tickets will be issued for any violations.

Snow Removal Hours: 8:00am - 11:00pm

Alleys are plowed if there is more than 6" of snow. We are not responsible if snow rolls over on your apron. Also, the Village is **NOT** responsible for rollover snow on driveways or sidewalks from snowplowing. Do not put snow back on the street.

Ways to Prevent Frozen Pipes

Disconnect garden hoses. After you finish tending to your garden for the season, disconnect, drain, and store your hoses. Close any shut-off valves that supply outdoor hose bibs and open the faucet outside to drain the line. Keep it open throughout the winter to allow space for any water that remains in the pipe to expand. Consider using faucet covers.

Insulate your pipes: Pipe insulation is fairly inexpensive and widely available at home improvement stores. Consider insulating any pipes located in unheated areas, such as in the attic, basement, crawl spaces, or garage. In extreme cold, pipes underneath kitchen and bathroom sinks are also vulnerable to freezing. Apply foam insulation liberally to provide a buffer against frigid temperatures.

Seal any air leaks: Inspect your home for any cracks or openings that could let in cold air. Seal any holes around the piping in interior or exterior walls and the sill plates,

❄️ Winter 2023-2024 ❄️

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

Thursday, November 23, 2023 THANKSGIVING DAY

Friday, November 24, 2023 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

Friday, December 15, 2023 CLOSING AT NOON

Friday, December 22, 2023 CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 25, 2023 CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 29, 2023 NEW YEAR'S EVE - closing at noon

Monday, January 1, 2024 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 23, 2023 THANKSGIVING DAY

Monday, December 25, 2023 CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, January 1 2024 NEW YEAR'S DAY



Village of Stickney

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We're on the Web
www.villageofstickney.com

Save the Date Saturday, December 9th, 2023

Senior Christmas Luncheon, 11:00am – 1:00pm - Stickney Township Clinic

Children's Christmas party, 2:00pm - 4:00pm - Stickney Township Clinic

6721 W. 40th St.

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

Pet Photos with Santa Saturday, December 16th

1:00pm - 3:00pm

