

The Peace Pipe

A Quarterly Newsletter Published By
THE VILLAGE OF CALUMET PARK For the Residents of Calumet Park

State of the Village Address

by Mayor Ronald Denson



The Village had a very productive year! As your Mayor, I would like to share with our residents "A Year in Review"...a look back at 2015.

Winter, 2015 brought recreational opportunities at our Parks & Recreation Center with the opening of the brand new fitness center furnished with the latest exercise equipment. Residents do not have to travel far to enjoy work-outs! Calumet Park's Com-Ed smart meter program was initiated. This program will reduce operating costs that become a big savings on residents' bills as well as eliminating estimated bills. The opportunity to acquire the former Century Mobile Home Court for its prime location near Metra was finalized and will add to our tax base for future commercial or residential development. Upgrades were made to overhaul the outdated equipment at the water pumping station with state-of-the-art computerized equipment to insure quality assurance and control.

Spring, 2015 began with the grand opening of the new CALCOMM 9-1-1 Center, a sophisticated and high-tech public safety communications operation. After years of outsourcing dispatch services for fire and police, we now have the capability to assist other municipalities throughout the region and across

state lines. The Center was the first to equip "Text or Video to 9-1-1" capability in Cook County. The first-ever recycling program was implemented by the Village saving the amount of waste sent to landfills and conserving natural resources thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. The Village also partnered with VeTTech, U.S.A. to collect unwanted or old electronics to safely discard these items. This program also helped employ military veterans.

Summer, 2015 started with several street and alley resurfacing projects along 124th Street from Ashland Avenue to Halsted Street, as well as various streets, alleys, sidewalks and curb improvements. The Village obtained funding for these road projects from state and county grants. The Third Annual Community Festival and Parade brought the community together for a fun-filled time with friends, families and neighbors. This special event will continue each and every year with more entertainment and a wider-variety of youth and adult activities.

Fall, 2015 saw an increase in commerce over last year with over 27 new and prospective businesses opening in-town. The 119th & Marshfield site in Calumet Park is currently under consideration for a major retail . . .

State of the Village Address continued...

... business development. More information will be forthcoming in 2016. Calumet Park, Cook County and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District partnered to address major concerns about flooding and explore possible solutions with our residents at a town meeting. One particular solution initiated by the Village has been the Rain Barrel Program to help with the collection of storm water. Please call Village Hall on how to join this program. In addition, the Village is waiting to hear whether its grant application for funding through HUD's Disaster Recovery/National Resiliency Competition will be awarded for improvements to our storm and sanitary sewer systems to alleviate flooding. The first-ever Veterans Day breakfast was held at Calumet Township to commemorate our military service men and women. This event drew many veterans and will continue every year to show our appreciation for their service. The first-ever Senior Luncheon at the Recreation Center drew hundreds of our seniors. Again, this tradition

will continue each and every year to show our appreciation.

To conclude, I am extremely pleased to report that the Village received a very good credit rating from Moody's Investors. As a result, the Village took advantage of re-financing its municipal bonds when interest rates were at the lowest in decades. Not only did the Village save an additional \$700,000, but shortened the terms of payments.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we look forward to an even more productive year in 2016!

Best wishes,



Mayor Ronald Denson

Calumet Park Chamber of Commerce wishes you a prosperous new year!

Calumet Park Chamber of Commerce had a great year in 2015 and we look forward to an even better year in 2016. Membership is up over last year as well as more and more members willing to volunteer their time with year-round activities and events. It was necessary to raise our membership fee by \$25.00 more, in order to maintain donation commitments to the community throughout the year. The Chamber continues to donate to many worthy organizations in the Village; S.D. 132 & Calumet Park Recreation and Parks-Books to Baseball Program, Wounded Warriors, Blue Cap, Denise Watson Scholarship Fund, Community Festival Back to School Supplies Giveaway, and the Community Festival and Parade, to name a few. This year, we ask that our members donate an additional \$100.00 along with their membership fee to purchase raffle tickets in advance for our Octoberfest fundraiser. Tickets will be printed early this year and members will have ample time to sell tickets. Due to inclement



weather and a reduction in ticket sales, the Octoberfest fundraiser will be held at the Community Festival on August 13, 2016. Raffle tickets will be on sale at that time. Hopefully, this will help to increase sales with bigger and better prizes, and of course, better weather!

The Chamber sincerely appreciates the community's support of its businesses by making their purchases here in Calumet Park. The Chamber would also like to thank its Board members for their dedication in achieving all of the accomplishments made during the year. The Chamber invites new and prospective businesses to join our membership by calling Lorraine at 708-926-7410.

On behalf of the Calumet Park Chamber, please have a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!

Michael A. Valente Sr.
President

Eldest Resident, Anna Waszak, Honored at Seniors' Day Luncheon



Mayor Denson with Anna Waszak,
98-years young



EXTRA! EXTRA! RENAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST » Win a Gift Certificate!!



The Village has decided to rename its newsletter and we need your great ideas. If you have a suggestion, please email traney@calumetparkvillage.org or mail your ideas by **March 30, 2016** to 12409 S. Throop, Calumet Park, IL 60827, Attn: T. Raney.

The winning contestant's name will be featured in the next newsletter and receive a gift certificate! So put on your thinking caps and submit your entry soon.

(The Village of Calumet Park reserves the right to disqualify inappropriate entries without notice)

A Message from **Calumet Park Fire Department**



Toys and Home Safety Brings Awareness to Youth

A very successful toy drive was held on December 19th at the Recreation Center. Santa Claus and its helpers from the Fire Department handed-out hundreds of toys to boys and girls. Over 202 children represented by 69 families attended. The Department recently submitted its grant application to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for self-contained breathing equipment. This grant will provide our firefighters the apparatus to breathe compressed oxygen when fighting toxic hazard atmosphere conditions. In July, 2016, the Department should learn whether its grant application has been awarded.

The Department's Fire Prevention Division headed by Lt. Wesley Marvel will start its "Risk Watch Program", an injury prevention program for school age children from preschool through eighth grades. The program has been designed to help children and families



sustain a safer home environment in the community by teaching them the skills and knowledge they need to make positive choices about their personal safety and well-being. Risk Watch will also seek to prevent major, unintentional injuries. Each of the following topics will be presented at subsequent assemblies:

Motor Vehicle Safety
Fire and Burn Prevention
CPR, Choking, Suffocation, & Strangulation Prevention
Poisoning Prevention
Fall Prevention
Firearms Injury Prevention
Bike and Pedestrian Safety
Water Safety

Educating our children as well as our caregivers, parents and community members is the key to a safer future by showing them how to recognize and avoid risks. Please contact Lt. Wesley Marvel or me, Chief Howard Fisher with any questions or presentation ideas.

A Message from **Calumet Park Police Department**

Serving and Protecting is Our Mission

Our officers are honored to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Calumet Park. We strive for excellence in meeting the needs of our residents and visitors alike by creating a safe and friendly community. A call for service is a request, generally made by the public that requires the presence of a police department employee to help resolve, correct or assist in a particular situation. Calls for service include, but are not limited to, violent crimes, property crimes, domestic disputes and traffic accidents. We are proud of the way in which we interact with the community in our continuing collaborative problem solving efforts.

Every call is important to us but as a reminder...please use the following number for all non-emergency calls: (708) 926-7345.

We are at that time of the year when our driving skills are put to the test. Please slow down when road conditions worsen due to rain or snow. Motorists should

slow down and yield to pedestrians at all times. Use your headlights or running light so others can see. Motorists are warned never to text and drive and always use their safety belts.

By working together, we can ensure not only a safe community, but also a responsive and proficient police department both today and in the future.

Kenneth E. Mann
Police Chief



Village Officials and local Veterans come together for Veterans Day Luncheon.

To sign up for future meetings and events, please call Ms. Raney at 708-389-0850.

CEDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CSBG Programs

Auto Repair Assistance
Dental Care Assistance
Family Nutrition
Financial Literacy
Scholarship Programs
Vision Assistance

Education

Educational Talent Search (ETS)

Energy Efficiency Programs

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)

Multi-Family Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program

CSBG INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES		
Family Size	3-Month Income Limit	1-Year Income Limit
1	\$ 3,678.13	\$ 14,712.50
2	\$ 4,978.13	\$ 19,912.50
3	\$ 6,278.13	\$ 25,112.50
4	\$ 7,578.13	\$ 30,312.50
5	\$ 8,878.13	\$ 35,512.50
6	\$ 10,178.13	\$ 40,712.50
7	\$ 11,478.13	\$ 45,912.50
8	\$ 12,778.13	\$ 51,112.50

WEATHERIZATION INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES Effective Date: January 2014		
Family Size	150% Annual Income	200% Annual Income
1	\$ 17,505	\$ 23,340
2	\$ 23,595	\$ 31,460
3	\$ 29,685	\$ 39,580
4	\$ 35,775	\$ 47,700
5	\$ 41,865	\$ 55,820
6	\$ 47,955	\$ 63,940
7	\$ 54,045	\$ 72,060
8	\$ 60,135	\$ 80,180

For more information contact
CEDA Toll-free: (800) 571-CEDA (2332)
www.cedaorg.net



COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) PROGRAMS

CEDA **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Programs** work to help stabilize and support families and individuals on a path back to self-sufficiency. Services are available in communities across suburban Cook County.

CSBG's Intake and Assessment process is used to gather applicant information to determine eligibility and to make informed decisions about needed programs and services. This process is also used to screen applicants to determine if they meet the requirements for case management services and to assess the applicant's readiness to engage in case management. Information from the assessment provides the basis for admission to the case management program and for helping the applicant to develop a Family Action Plan. Approved applicants must sign a Service Agreement and must actively participate in case management sessions. Case Management enrollment is mandatory prior to requesting any direct client assistance services (i.e. Dental, Auto, Vision, Water Bill Assistance).

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CSBG Scholarships are awarded to assist income-eligible students with post-secondary education as a means to increase self-sufficiency. Scholarship amounts vary and are available for accredited Illinois vocational schools, colleges and universities. Applications are available (on-line) April - June.

EDUCATION

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is an academic outreach program designed to identify qualified youth with potential for education at the postsecondary level and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake a program of postsecondary education. The program is also responsible for publicizing the availability of financial aid for persons who pursue postsecondary education; and encourage persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary level to enter or reenter and complete these programs.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

ILLINOIS HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (IHWAP)

CEDA Weatherization is a year-round program using state-of-the-art technology to make homes more energy-efficient for qualifying low-income residents of Chicago and suburban Cook County. Weatherization provides safety and health equipment, repairs or replaces heating systems, seals air bypasses and other drafty areas, increases attic, wall, basement, and crawl space insulation. These measures will save energy for homeowners and keep homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

The **Multi-Family Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program** is for building owners who provide housing to income-eligible residents in Chicago and suburban Cook County. The program will require a 50% mechanical contribution from the owner, if 66% or more of the tenants are income eligible. IHWAP is a federally and state funded program that helps to make low-income housing more energy efficient, safe and comfortable. Weatherization measures are identified during an energy audit conducted by CEDA's state-certified assessors.

Weatherization measures include:

- Insulation
- Heating System Improvements
- Air Sealing
- Health and Safety Measures

***Please note: If you are LIHEAP approved, or someone else in your household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Aid to the Aged Blind & Disabled (AABD) or Transitional Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) your income automatically qualifies your household for weatherization with approved supporting documentation.**

CEDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Home Energy Assistance Programs

ComEd Residential Hardship Program
Peoples Gas Share the Warmth

Health and Nutrition

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Housing

Illinois Foreclosure Prevention and Cook County Mediation Programs
Transitional Housing for Families and Honorably Discharged Veterans

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES		
Family Size	ComEd	Peoples Gas
1	\$ 2,395	\$ 2,395
2	\$ 3,233	\$ 3,233
3	\$ 4,070	\$ 4,070
4	\$ 4,908	\$ 4,908
5	\$ 5,745	\$ 5,745
6	\$ 6,583	\$ 6,583
7	\$ 7,420	\$ 7,420
8	\$ 8,258	\$ 8,258

WIC INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES Effective Date: July 2014 to June 30, 2015			
Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$ 21,590	\$ 1,800	\$ 416
2	\$ 29,101	\$ 2,426	\$ 560
3	\$ 36,612	\$ 3,051	\$ 705
4	\$ 44,123	\$ 3,677	\$ 849
5	\$ 51,634	\$ 4,303	\$ 993
6	\$ 59,145	\$ 4,929	\$ 1,138
For each additional family member, add \$7,511 to the yearly income, \$626 to the monthly income, and \$145 to the weekly income.			

For more information contact
CEDA Toll-free: (800) 571-CEDA (2332)
www.cedaorg.net



HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

ComEd RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL HARDSHIP FUND

The **ComEd Residential Special Hardship Fund** provides a variable one-time credit equal to the past due balance up to \$1500 on the ComEd bills of households with a demonstrated hardship case. The program is not available for accounts with past due less than \$25 or accounts with evidence of tampering or fraud. Customers may only receive a grant once every two years. Please provide documentation for all circumstances. Proof of all hardships must be within 6 months.

COMED ENROLLMENT DATES:

Vary. Please call to confirm program availability. Grants are available on a first-come first-serve basis until funding is exhausted.

PEOPLES GAS SHARE THE WARMTH PROGRAM

The **Share the Warmth (STW) Program** is a matching grant program funded by Peoples Gas, its employees and customers, and the City of Chicago to assist low-income families and individuals who are having problems paying their heating gas bills.

Low-income customers whose total household income is below 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for apply for Share the Warmth grants of up to \$200. Customers must make a pledge payment to their Peoples Gas heating account, which will be matched by the grant. The grant can be no larger than \$200 per customer per year and cannot result in a credit balance on the account. Grants cannot be applied to charges from alternate suppliers (Rider CFY).

The customer must confirm that their application has been processed before making their pledge payment. The pledge must then be made to their Peoples Gas account in a single payment within 14 calendar days of the date the application is processed by Peoples Gas.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is a supplemental nutrition program focused on healthy eating for moms, babies and kids. WIC provides: nutrition education, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, vouchers for nutritious foods, and referrals to other social and health services.

CEDA operates 19 WIC clinics in the Chicago and suburban Cook County area and serves over 50,000 participants every month, making it the largest WIC program in Illinois. Clients are eligible for all WIC benefits, including personalized counseling with a Nutritionist, and individual and group education. Breastfeeding Peer Counselors are also available to help and support breastfeeding mothers.

HOUSING

CEDA's Housing Program—funded by local, state, and federal organizations and partners—is a comprehensive housing counseling program focused on helping families remain in or obtain affordable housing.

CEDA works collectively with lenders to work out payment plans for those seeking mortgage delinquency assistance. The Housing Program also works with over 100 landlords throughout suburban Cook County to place extremely low income families in temporary and affordable housing. Each year CEDA provides counseling services to over 1,500 families and individuals.

All families and individuals are eligible for personalized counseling services. A housing counselor will be assigned to each household to help assess client situation and determine housing services need.



Calumet Park Parks + Recreation Department

2016 Activities are well underway

Calumet Park Jaguars AAU Basketball



Now from 5th grade to High School, we at CPPRD have expanded this program due to popular demand. We are built around developing our youth the right way, assigning qualified and certified coaches, and entering in high-level AAU tournaments. Our kids have been recruited, scouted, ranked, and promoted at the HS level, so too, have our coaches. Keep in mind 5th grade is already filled up! So call us and see if you're ready to walk the Jaguar Path.

Grade Level (Young Men):
5th + 6th (Filled) – 7th – 8th –
HS Freshman

Grade Level (Young Ladies):
8th and Under

Fees: \$50 (5th + 6th), \$100 (7th),
\$125 (8th), \$150 (HS)

Season Runs: (Varies by Grade/
Age Level), Minimum of 25+
games per squad & High Level
Tournaments

All coaches are USA Basketball Youth Development Certified and the Calumet Park Jaguars are a proud youth development certified program of USA Basketball and participant of Jr. NBA.



Health + Nutrition

Partnering with the University of Illinois Extension Program comes a much needed addition of learning a healthier lifestyle for our youth. It is a free program geared towards grammar school children. This mostly runs on Mondays from 3pm to 4pm. Please call for the dates and times.

Thanks for Supporting Santa

Thanks to your support, our CPPRD event for the kids @ Christmas time was more than a success. For the first time we had activities and challenges for the kiddies to enjoy. Thanks to our CPPRD Supervisor and CP



Fire Dept. Representative, Lynn Brown, our two Departments were able to collaborate and share holiday joy with those who were selected for a toy donation. Overall, it was a safe and fun day, with memories we won't soon forget!

Be Active @ The Rita Jackson Memorial Fitness Center

Why spend upwards of \$35/month on a membership you mostly use \$10? Right here in Calumet Park, we have a fitness center that compliments your cardio and muscular activities. The cost is just \$5 a month; you can't beat that! Call ahead or visit us for registration information.

Open Monday – Friday:
9am – 8pm

Open Saturday: 8am – 2pm

Open Sunday: 3pm – 7pm

Cost: \$5/month (residents) -
\$7/month (non-residents)

A Message from Building Department

Hammered by the Cold? These inexpensive home improvement ideas will nail the door shut on winter



If you are stuck looking at the walls, why not give them a new look! Create a “wow” factor. Add bold colors to the rooms or add modern trim work. This would add life to dull rooms without doing a complete renovation.

Spice up the kitchen! Change hardware in the cabinets. If your cabinets need a facelift, sand and paint them. Change out your old kitchen faucet. Add elegance or life to your kitchen by adding a backsplash. A backsplash will help accessorize and emphasize your countertops, cabinets and appliances. There are a range of style and colors to choose.



Light up your rooms! By changing traditional light bulbs to LED bulbs, you are not just adding light but saving money. Spending a little money on energy saving lights and fans can be a well worth investment.



Turn dull doors into classy décor! Add new, clean modern hardware to old doors. Change hinges and door knobs. Sand and paint damaged doors. Darker colors will give you a more expensive look while light colors will give that new, modern look. Moldings will give dimension and elegance to an ordinary door.

Closet makeover! Start by cleaning your closet. Get rid of unnecessary items. There are so many things you can do to customize a closet for your needs. Examples are installing necessary shelving or added shoe racks. The best thing is to create a lay-out. Search for ideas on line and then visit your friendly hardware store for the necessary supplies. Many stores provide you with ideas and can guide you on your venture.



Winter is in full effect:

The following ordinances are designed to keep you safe this winter season

“Old Man Winter” is here. With that being said, please remember that “no parking” restrictions are in place. Please observe posted signs prohibiting parking during 2” or more of snowfall. Please notice weather conditions when snow is predicted at 2” or above in order to move your vehicle to a permitted area of the street. Wait until the plows are completely done before you clear a path by your driveway or garage. Our goal is to clear every street from curb to curb.

WARNING... DO NOT SHOVEL OR BLOW SNOW ONTO THE ROADWAY

Shoveling or blowing snow onto the public roadway IS NOT PERMITTED and is a public safety risk. Residents are subject to tickets/fines (includes private snow plowing contractors). Remember...residents are required to shovel their sidewalks/paths within a reasonable amount of time once the snow has stopped.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Make sure to keep your house heated to prevent frozen and busted pipes. If anyone experiences damage, turn off the valve inside that is near your water meter and call a plumber. Vacant property owners are asked to turn off water and drain water lines; especially if there is no heat. If you are renovating or just purchased a new property during the winter months, a water meter cannot be installed or turned on until the house has adequate heat.

If residents expect to do plumbing work, always advise the plumber to obtain a copy of the Village ordinances concerning proper turn on/off from the outside.

Have a safe winter season!



YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please mark these important dates on your calendar

APRIL 30, 2016

**VILLAGE OF CALUMET PARK
BUSINESS LICENSES WILL BE DUE**

MAY 1, 2016

**2016-2017 VILLAGE VEHICLE STICKERS
WILL BE AVAILABLE***

**Residents will need to bring in vehicle registration at time of purchase*

\$30.00 PASSENGER VEHICLES | \$47.00 B TRUCK | \$20.00 MOTORCYCLES

MAY 1, 2016

2016-2017 PET TAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE*

**Residents will need to bring in updated rabies shot form at time of purchase*

\$5.00 PET TAGS

Village Hall Offices will be Closed

MAY 30, 2016 – Memorial Day

JULY 4, 2016 – Independence Day

AUGUST 13, 2016

SAVE THE DATE!!! Community Fest 2016



www.calumetparkvillage.org

The Peace Pipe

Important Numbers

Police and Fire.....	9-1-1
Fire Non-Emergency.....	385-0550
Police Non-Emergency.....	926-7345
Community Relations Commission.....	389-0850
Traffic Compliance Administrator.....	926-7346
Clerk's Office.....	389-0850
<i>(Se Habla Español)</i>	
Library.....	385-5768
Public Works.....	389-3895
Recreation Center.....	597-3535
Water Department.....	388-1415
Building Department.....	389-0850
School Board Dist #132.....	388-8920
Senior Citizens' Center.....	388-6606

We are Happy to Serve You!

CITIZENS CONCERNS MEETINGS held in Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.,
every fourth Thursday each month

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS held in Village Hall at 8:00 p.m.,
every second and fourth Thursdays each month

CAPS MEETING every fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.,
Recreation Center – 12426 S. Loomis Street



THE VILLAGE OF
CALUMET PARK

12409 SOUTH THROOP STREET | CALUMET PARK, IL 60827

Presort Standard
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT #328
Blue Island, Illinois

The Place to Be

Ronald Denson
Mayor

Omara Fonseca
Village Clerk

Ella Bedford
Treasurer

Mary R. Ryan
Village Administrator

CALUMET PARK TRUSTEES

Felix A. Laskey
Robert L. Turner
Dorothy P. Wiggins

Carl Hampton, Sr.
Cynthia M. Potts
Daniel O. White

POSTAL PATRON
CALUMET PARK, IL 60827

For more frequent news and information about board meetings,
public hearings, the fire department, the police department,
public works, the chamber of commerce and the
building department, consult the website at
www.calumetparkvillage.org