

Village of Riverdale

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

(January - February 2006)

A few thoughts from our Mayor,

The Village Board and I hope you and yours had a healthy and enjoyable holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, all of them or none of them, the changing of the seasons reminds us that a new year is beginning and we each have time to begin our self improvement goals again.

In November, I had my yearly opportunity to address the business owners of Riverdale. What I discovered in preparing my address was so many things that have come about over the past few years.

We are renting the spaces on 144th Street and Atlantic and we are working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for a lease of their property at 138th and Halsted. GRIP, the Greater Riverdale Industrial Partnership has completed the plans for industrial development of 138th Street from Ashland to Halsted and we are marketing that plan to developers.

We are working with a developer for the redevelopment of Pacesetter and have begun Phase I of that redevelopment. The units on Lowe Avenue are to be gutted and totally rehabbed. Lowe Avenue has received historical credit for its European design. Our developer, Holsten Corporation has been working with the residents for relocation.

Have you noticed the new business on 138th Street just west of Halsted? Yes, it is *that* Payton.

Mayor Zenovia G. Evans

Congratulations to the Winners of the best Christmas Holiday Houses:

Zone 1.	14517 Parnell	Zone 2.	14501 Wentworth
Zone 3.	14226 Emerald	Zone 4.	14305 Atlantic
Zone 5.	14113 Michigan	Zone 6.	13650 Parnell
Zone 7.	13742 Michigan	Zone 8.	13623 Atlantic

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Peter Satriano, Chief of Police

The Riverdale Police Departments bicycle patrol team was an extremely effective means of policing our streets this summer. Bicycles gave the officers the ability to reach areas sometimes unreachable by car. The citizens in Riverdale have been very receptive to the bicycle officers, and frequently talked with them while they were

on patrol. More often than not, I was stopped numerous times by citizens who informed me that they considered the officers on bicycles more approachable than those in squad cars, due to the fact that they were out among the people and in and out of our local business establishments.

The bicycle team was extremely effective in eradicating persons drinking in our parks, and made numerous narcotics arrest while on patrol, but more importantly, the bicycle team did an outstanding job in fulfilling our goal of a more community oriented police department.

The bicycle officers often went to our local schools to speak to children on a number of topics. They also had groups of children tour our police department facilities, and meet some of our police officers. They also conducted a bicycle rodeo teaching kids bicycle safety, and registered numerous bicycles on that day.

The members of the Riverdale Police Departments bicycle team, Officers Michalek, Mooney and Roudez appreciate the support that was shown them throughout the community. At this time, I would like to commend these officers for a job well done. I promise that you will see your bicycle officers again in the spring.

Project ChildSafe

- Project ChildSafe is a nationwide firearm safety education program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation that receives major funding through a U.S. Department of Justice grant. A key goal of the program is to prevent a loaded firearm from being left lying around the house where a child could pick it up and play with it. If even one accident or death is prevented through Project ChildSafe, the program will have been worth the effort.
- The Riverdale Police Department has received 200 safety kits through Project ChildSafe, which we will be distributing free of charge to Riverdale residents on a "first come, first served" basis.
- Firearm owners who request a free safety kit will receive one "no questions asked". (Verification of residency is required.)
- We encourage everyone who owns a firearm to store it in a location inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons. Ammunition should be stored in a separate location.
- The firearm safety pamphlet that is included with the gun lock is just as important as the lock itself. It explains the importance of safe handling and secure firearm storage in the home.
- If you have questions or need further information about Project ChildSafe, call 708-841-2203 or visit the program's Web site, www.projectchildsafesafe.org

FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT - Greg Knoll, Fire Chief

Another heating season has begun. Change the air filter and have your furnace or boiler checked and maintained by a licensed heating contractor.

The use of portable heaters, woodstoves and fireplaces increases with colder temperatures. Take extra precautions to reduce the risk of a fire. Follow manufacturer's directions for the maintenance and use of these devices. Keep all combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters. Never leave space heaters on when you leave your home or go to bed.

If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, don't burn trash or garbage in them. Make sure ashes are cool before you empty them. Empty ashes on a regular basis. Keep a fire extinguisher handy in case of a fire that burns out of control.

A country wide-increase in cooking and kitchen fires continues. Almost 70% of all reported fires are kitchen fires. Cooking safety tips include not leaving cooking unattended. Don't cook when tired and sleepy. Keep towels and potholders away from stovetops. Make sure that pot handles are turned inward to avoid someone

knocking them over. Don't wear loose fitting clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking. When grease fires occur, cover it to smother the flames, and turn the burners off.

Every winter the fire department asks residents of Riverdale to help keep the fire hydrants accessible during snow season. If the hydrants in your block are covered by snow, sweep or shovel the hydrant and a 2-foot area around them. Keeping this area clear makes it easier for the fire department to connect to the hydrant.

DID YOU REMEMBER TO CHANGE THE BATTERY IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR?

BUILDING & ZONING – James C. Stock, Director

HEATING TIPS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable
Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month.
Keep draperies and shades open on south-facing windows to allow
 sunlight to enter your home.
Close off all rooms not being used.
Make sure all storm windows are closed.
Your area hardware store has other products to keep
Your home warmer this winter.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Jerry Townsend, Director

During snow season, please be sure to observe the “Snow Route” designation. If your car is parked on a snow route it will be towed and ticketed.

Snow plows move large amounts of snow and always plow the snow toward the curbs. For this reason, as the plow passes your recently shoveled driveway, the snow falls into the opening.

During the past few months, there have been an unusually large number of water main breaks. The drought during the summer put undue pressure on the mains. During the winter, the freezing/thawing cycle causes movement in the ground resulting in additional water main breaks. To date, there have been over 40 major water leaks repaired by the Public Works crew. Since these are emergency situations, there is no notice given to the residents so that the repairs can be made as quickly as possible with the least disruption to the residents of the area. Please be patient during these times.

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE – Joyce E. Forbes, Clerk

Voter Registration continues until **March 6** in the Clerk's office during regular business hours. More information regarding the hours for in-house absentee voting and early voting will be in the next newsletter.

Sale or Rental of Property requires an inspection. Arrangements for inspections can be done at Village Hall. Inspections are conducted Monday – Friday from 1-4 pm.

Moving? Be sure to arrange for your inspection AND the final water bill. Final water readings are done on Tuesdays. Final water bills are then available for payment by 4 PM on Wednesdays.

Permits are required for all work on your property. Applications are obtained and filed (with the appropriate filing fee) at Village Hall.

Traveling this year? Due to the need for increased security, a passport will soon be required for any travel outside the US even to Mexico and Canada. The Village is an official Passport Acceptance Agency. A U.S.

Passport is a universally accepted identification. It takes 6-8 weeks to get your passport processed, so be sure to plan enough time before your trip to avoid additional expedite fees. The current fee for passports is \$97.

Pet Tags - Pet tags are valid for the calendar year. This year we are allowing purchase with no penalty during the month of January. Proof of current Rabies vaccination is required to purchase tags. Tags are \$8.00 per animal and there is a limit of 3 animals per household. Recently we implemented a program in cooperation with Cook County Animal Control, to follow-up on pets and owners who were not in compliance with the local ordinances. **NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW.** We will be issuing tickets for non-compliance in early 2006. Get your tag today!

Also, should your animal be picked up as a stray, the Village will impound the animal, and the owner must pay a \$75.00 service charge plus boarding fees in order to retrieve your pet. Other tickets may be issued for non-compliance with the leash law.

Sewer Rate Increase – Sewer Rates have increased and you are seeing the increase on this billing. There is a \$1.00 per month Capital Improvement Fund charge. This fee is to be set aside for capital repairs to our aging sewer system. In addition, the rate for sewer is increasing from \$.76 to \$.84 per 1000 gallons of water used.

Village Meetings All meetings of Village official are open to the public and governed by the Open Meetings Act. All Village Meetings are conducted at Village Hall, 157 W. 144th Street.

Regular Board Meetings	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	8:00 PM
Comments from public taken at 7:30 PM.		
Bd. Of Local Improvements	1 st Tuesday	7:30 PM
Committee of the Whole	3 rd Tuesday	7:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	2 nd Thursday	7:30 PM
Housing Authority	2 nd Thursday	9:30 AM

Village Holidays have been set for 2006 as follows:

January 2	New Year's Day
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 20	President's Day
April 14	Good Friday
May 29	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 4	Labor Day
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 25	Christmas

Zenovia G. Evans, Village President

Joyce E. Forbes, Village Clerk

Village Trustees

**Cheryl A. Foy
Louis Peyton
E. Brandi Horton**

**Deyon L. Dean
Jerome Russell
Dennis Sanders**