

Village of Riverdale

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

(March– April 2008)

A few thoughts from our Mayor



Dear Residents,

Winter is supposed to be coming to an end and summer will be here soon, just not soon enough. So when I tell everyone to turn the air conditioner up, remind me of February 2008.

I owe a big THANK YOU to everyone that came to our “What Can We Do Meetings.” We need your help to make Riverdale the best place to live and grow. We still need volunteers to work with us to provide additional services. We are revitalizing Riverdale’s Youth Commission. This commission is charged with working with our park districts and school district to create activities for our youth.

The police department is still planning to organize the citizen police academy. Our Crime Free Housing has required much more work than any of us anticipated, but it is getting done. The police program should be started this spring.

Recently someone said to me, “Well I hope you do not wait until election time to be seen when you come out to ask for our vote!” Did you know that we are available every Tuesday? I am at the Village Hall every Tuesday by 6:00pm. We would really like for you to join us on Tuesday evenings. I am also available nearly every morning for 9:30am meetings.

On March 29th, we are asking all Riverdale residents and businesses to participate with the City of Chicago in a Chicago Metropolitan wide Earth Hour. Started last year in Sydney Australia, they turned their lights off for one hour and reduced their energy consumption by 10%. Lets all do our part to cut down on the use of energy, and reduce our light bills.

Until next time,

Mayor Zee

CLERK’S CORNER – Joyce E. Forbes Village Clerk

Recently the Village Board adopted new ordinances:

Ordinance Number 2008-05 - This ordinance requires that landlords mark doorbells with the unit numbers and also to place the apartment numbers on the front and rear doors of each apartment. These numbers/letters for apartments must be at least 3 inches tall so they are visible to emergency personnel when they may be called to the scene.

Ordinance Number 2008-07 - This ordinance repeals the violations for railroads that block the grade crossings. The courts have ruled that local municipalities cannot impose fines on rail traffic as railroads are federal entities, and therefore, may not ticket for blocking crossings. This issue is of concern to our residents, but the Village is bound to follow the court ruling.

For other ordinances of the Village, just access our web site, www.villageofriverdale.org and click on the button labeled, “Village Code Book” to find the most recently updated ordinances. This document contains any changes made through the end of December 2007. Other new ordinances are available at Village Hall.

PAYMENT OPTIONS ENHANCED AGAIN

Look for enhancements of payments procedures made for water service on line at www.illinoisepay.com. When paying your water bill, you will now be able to see your balance and last payment amount and date. Also, the Village is working to provide internet payment for other services such as Vehicle tag renewals. These enhancements are made possible with the cooperation of the Illinois State Treasurer's office and the Village of Riverdale as well as our software provider, LOCIS. The Village accepts all forms of payment – all credit cards, debit cards and e-checks. Phone payments for water bills and fines are also accepted by calling 1-877-ILL-EPAY (455-3729).

FRONT OFFICE – Frances Richard-Bey Deputy Clerk/Office Manager

Hello from your front office staff. Our goal is to provide courteous service to the residents, business owners, contractors, and everyone that transacts business with the Village of Riverdale while working within the ordinances and policies of the Village. Water billing, property licenses, business licenses, contractors' licenses, building permits, inspections, transfer stamps, pet tags, vehicle stickers, monthly parking permits, voter registration, passport applications, and adjudication hearings are among the many services we provide.

Visit www.travel.state.gov for any updated passport information including current processing timeframes, current fees, and new passport cards. You can also fill in your application online print it and bring the completed form to our office to save time.

All rental units, single family homes, condos, two flats or larger apartment buildings, must be inspected-Call 708-841-2200 for additional information. All rental unit owners are required to attend a Crime Free Housing Seminar-Call 708-841-2203 for additional information.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Jerry Townsend Chair Trustee Deborah Smiley

FIREWOOD

Firewood is available to Riverdale residents. Firewood can be pick-up at the Public Works Garage located at 14101 S. Halsted between the hours of 8:00am to 2:00pm Monday thru Friday. You are required to check in and show proof of residency (driver's license and water bill). After checking in you will be directed to the wood pile and you are responsible for loading. For more information call (708) 841-2202.

SPRING CLEAN UP

The Village's annual Spring Clean Up will be Saturday March 29, 2008 and pick up hours are 6:00am to 1:00pm. Items must be placed in the same area as your weekly garbage pick up. Items should not be placed outside no sooner than 6:00pm Friday March 28, 2008. Items that will be accepted for pick up are furniture, clothing, bicycles, appliances and any other unwanted house hold items. Items that will not be pickup are tires, batteries, construction materials and hazardous waste materials. The trucks will only make one trip and will not be able to wait for items to be brought out. Please have all unwanted items out by 6:00am. Fliers are available at all Public buildings and questions may be directed to the Public Works Department (708) 841-2202.

REPORTING POTHOLES & MISSING STREET SIGNS

If you wish to report a pothole, pavement defect, missing or damaged sign please call (708)841-2202 and provide a brief description of the pavement defect and the approximate location by address or intersection.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Gregory Baker Chair Trustee Cheryl Foy

COMMUNITY ALERT! Traffic Safety

Several of Riverdale's finest were recently awarded top honors for excellence in police work and several veteran Police Officers were recently promoted.

Some of the highest awards for bravery given to Police Officers in the State of Illinois were issued to Riverdale Police Officers. In separate ceremonies, in Oct 2007, Sergeant Anthony Fionda, Officers John Golden, Bernie Mooney and Mark Kozeluh each received a Medal of Valor Award from the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police and the Cook County Sheriff Award of Valor. In January 2008 the above noted police officers received the Award of Valor from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. All the awards are for saving the lives of six children and 1 adult during a murder-hostage situation that occurred in March 2007 in Riverdale.

On January 06, 2008 three (3) Riverdale police officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, all well deserving of their new rank; Chris Lundy, Dave Demik and Richard "Rocky" Graziano.

Chris Lundy was hired by the Village as a police officer in 1996. Prior to his hiring, Chris worked as a Firefighter for oil well fires during the first gulf war and then worked as a Paramedic in Canada for several years. Chris has served the police department as a Juvenile Officer and most recently a Detective.

Dave Demik started his career in Riverdale as a reserve Police Officer and also worked for Riverdale Public Works. In 1998 Dave became a Riverdale Police Officer and eventually a K-9 Officer. Dave is also a Field Training Officer, an Accident Reconstruction Specialist and serves on the Police Pension board and is a representative of the bargaining unit for the F.O.P.

Richard "Rocky" Graziano started with the Riverdale Police Dept in 1999. Rocky has served as a Patrol and Tactical Officer, and in 2004 became a Detective. Rocky's police experience and knowledge has resulted in his being selected as a Hostage Negotiator for the South Suburban Emergency Response Unit and he is a Lead Investigator for the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force.

RIVERDALE NETWORK CENTER - Heloise Smith Chair Trustee Dennis Sanders

The Riverdale Network Center housed in the Riverdale Resource Center @ 13725 Wabash, is looking for you at the Center for all of your technology needs. The hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pharmacy Technician training is coming to the Network Center. For registration information call Ph.T Institute Inc. @ 312-513-3622. Tuition assistance may be available for qualifying Riverdale residents. Please call for further information to Heloise Smith @ 708-841-4153.

RESOURCE CENTER- Myrna Watkins Chair Trustee Cheryl Foy

GED CLASSES

The next session of GED classes will begin on MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008 at 10 a.m. Interested residents can register and begin classes at this time. Students should bring state identification and prepare to start classes on March 3rd. Classes are held Monday- Thursday from 10am-2pm at the Riverdale Community Resource Center, 13725 S Wabash.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDRENSUPPORT GROUP

Grandparents and other relatives raising children meet each Monday from 10am-noon at the Riverdale Community Resource Center, 13725 S. Wabash. Information, referrals and conversations with those who understand.

GO GIRL GO

Riverdale girls can participate in a special organization especially designed for girls and young ladies. GoGirlGo meets weekly at Riverdale Park District Rec Center from 3:30 -5:00p.m. on Fridays. Girls participate in girl's activities, field trips and community service projects.

For information regarding these programs please call Myrna Thompson at (708) 841-7054.

BUILDING & ZONING – Roy McKinney Chair Trustee Louis Peyton

ANNUAL SEMINAR & HOME IMPROVEMENT EXPO

June 7, 2008

Park Elementary School 14200 S. Wentworth, Riverdale, IL 60827

9-am 3pm

For additional information please call Derrick Charles or George Stinson at (708) 849-1798

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT –Chair Trustee Dennis Sanders

The OAI Pathways to Apprenticeships in the Construction Trades (PACT) Program is underway in Riverdale. The goal of the program is to successfully place women and minority residents of the partnering communities in construction trades apprenticeship programs. The targeted communities are: Riverdale, Blue Island, Dixmoor, Dolton, Harvey, Calumet Park, Robbins, and the 9th and 34th Wards in Chicago. Housed in the Riverdale Resource Center at 13725 Wabash, OAI will provide an intensive 6-week training and guidance program that will prepare participants to be highly competitive when applying for apprenticeship and work positions. All trainees receive a \$450 stipend for attending the 6-week course and OAI will pay for all Union dues upon acceptance into a building trade

apprenticeship program. Daytime and evening courses will be offered throughout the year. Please call 708-201-7156 right away for more information and to sign up for an orientation session. We look forward to hearing from you!

**QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE – Chair Trustee Deyon Dean
Congratulations to our Best Christmas Decorations**

Anthony Snell Jr.
Doris Jones
Frances Gillespie
Ruth Smith

Donald McKenzie
Harold & Diane King
Darryl Thomas

The Village Community Event coordinator is in need of Volunteers **and Venders** to participate in our **1st Annual Family Fest** which has partnered with the **Gus Macker Tournament** on the weekend of **June 28- 29, 2008**. Call Demetria Waddell for more details and information.

**3rd ANNUAL GUS MACKER 3-ON- 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
JUNE 28 -29
FOR ALL AGES!
TO PRE-REGISTER CALL 708-841-6716
Or
www.riverdalegusmacker.com**

Coming events call our Hotline at 708-841-6000

Congratulation to the students of Roosevelt Junior High and Patton School for having a wonderful Black History Program!

HELP MAKE A STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH 29

On March 31, 2007, 2.2 million people and 2,100 Sydney businesses turned off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour. This massive collective effort reduced Sydney's energy consumption by 10.2% for one hour, which is the equivalent effect of taking 48,000 cars off the road for one hour.

With Sydney icons like the Harbor Bridge and Opera House turning their lights off, the world took notice. Inspired by the collective effort of millions in Sydney, many major global cities and regions have joined together to create Earth Hour 2008.

On March 29, 2008 residents in major metro areas around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to show that it's possible to take action on global warming. Chicago has been selected as the flagship region to lead the Earth Hour effort here in the United States. On behalf of Earth Hour Chicago, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Village of Riverdale are inviting you to turn off your lights at home and in your businesses from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. that day and make Earth Hour 2008 a truly regional and global event.

**Village Holiday Closures
Good Friday – March 21, 2008**