

Village of Riverdale

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

(November - December 2004)

A few thoughts from our Mayor,

Dear Residents,

This summer, we held five (5) town hall meetings. We wanted to hear what you think about your village board and department heads. And yes, you told us just how well or how bad we are doing our jobs. Your Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, Village Clerk, Administrator and I appreciate those of you that took the time to come out or send a message to us by a neighbor. I and your Village Board **promise** to have the problems with street sweeping solved by fall of 2005.

One common concern was the quality of our housing stock. Many homes appeared to be under renovation. Were these homes being bought by investors that would not live in our community? If so, did they follow Riverdale's ordinances that require permits for major reconstruction and certificates of occupancy before renting any property? We believe that renters are tax payers and have the same rights as homeowners. If you are not sure that your home has been inspected, please call Riverdale's Inspectional Services Department at 708-841-1987.

Shortly CVS will open, followed soon by Family Dollar on the North Side of 144th & Atlantic. Hopefully in my next newsletter, I can say more about the other occupants of the Big B and Callen's buildings. Maybe they will be in operation before then.

Replacement parking is underway for the spots lost when CVS came to Riverdale. Thank you, Ivanhoe Park District Board Members for working with your Village Board for the good of Riverdale. We apologize to every household that has had their residential parking imposed upon by commuters. It will get better.

Riverdale's Quality of Life's "Best Kept Block" awards go to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 143 rd & Wallace | 145 th & Clark |
| 139 th & Stewart | 138 th & Wabash |
| 136 th & Eggleston | 136 th & Atlantic |
| 137 th & Wabash | 139 th & Stewart |
| 142 nd & Clark | |

There are absolutely too many best kept homes for us to give out individual awards. To those of you that care, we realize that it takes a lot of work, time and money to keep roofs up to standard, sidewalks fixed, grass and hedges trimmed or just picking up the trash. We appreciate the care so many of us take in keeping our community beautiful. Your Quality of Life Committee will again be looking for the best decorated homes in celebration of Halloween and Christmas.

Riverdale is a leader in a state wide initiative to be a youth centered community. Your children, our children deserve to be special and know that they are loved. If you can, volunteer to work with your school and park district to bring the activities our children deserve. Hillary Clinton said, "It takes a village to raise a child." I believe you raise crop. Children must be reared, with love and guidance.

On September 18th, thirteen of our young adults participated in a Youth Summit at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Our youth along with youth from Palatine, Belvedere and Swansea told elected official from across the State of Illinois what they felt. They feel that school safety, in, to and from school is impacting their ability to learn. The quality of education provided by their school districts and the recreational activities provided by their park districts need to be improved. But, most importantly, they all want to be heard. They want someone to listen and take them seriously. They

really do hear everything that we say and see what we do. They are our children and are aware of every emotion that we feel.

School districts across the State of Illinois are in a financial crisis. I urge you to support education funding reform. This is the first time that all the mayors of the Chicago Metropolitan Region are in agreement that there has to be a change in how education is funded. **House bill 850 is a good start. Contact our state official and ask them to make sure that this bill is only concerned with education reform, not balancing the budget.** If this bill generates money for education only, the mayors of the northwestern suburbs will support it as well as the mayors in the southern suburbs.

Mayor Zee

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Peter Satriano, Chief of Police

Bill and Bob were hiking in the woods when a bear suddenly appeared and began to chase them. Bob immediately started to run. Bill followed closely behind and shouted “Do you think we can outrun this bear?” Without breaking stride Bob replied, “I don’t have to outrun the bear, I just have to outrun you!” Obviously, Bob was still concerned about his security; after all, he did keep running. He simply realized that Bill was in the more vulnerable position. So it may be between you and your neighbor; like Bill, your neighbor may be more vulnerable. But this does not imply that you can stop running. If you were going to obtain only one thing from reading this I would wish that one thing to be - that you develop a sound security awareness in your neighborhood.

Be good neighbors and watch out for each other. Are there entrances to your home that are unlighted at night? Are there areas around your home that are unlighted and could provide concealment for a burglar? Are your vehicles parked in poorly lighted areas? It is important to not create an inviting environment for thieves and burglars. Let’s light up our community, and help discourage crime. Leaving your porch and garage lights on will heighten crime prevention awareness, and generate support and participation among neighbors in an effort to further anti-crime efforts within our community.

My goal as your Chief of Police is to strengthen community and police partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know our community is organized and fighting crime.

FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT - Greg Knoll, Fire Chief

As winters chill sets in, the use of portable heaters, woodstoves and fireplaces greatly increases. With this surge in the use of these devices, extra precautions are in order to reduce the risk of a fire. Please use and maintain these devices as the manufacturer recommends and follow the product’s directions for use carefully. Keep all combustible materials 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 a wood-burning stove. Empty ashes out on a regular basis and keep a fire extinguisher handy in case of fires that burn out of control.

During the holiday season, Christmas trees or other decorations can cause problems. Be sure to choose a fresh tree that is not shedding needles and keep it well watered. Make sure a testing laboratory labels all Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa lights. Un-plug Christmas tree lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Do not run light cords under rugs. If you use candles, keep them away from combustible materials. Also keep candles out of reach of small children.

The fire department has recently experienced an increase in cooking and kitchen fires during lunch and dinner times. If you are extremely tired, don’t begin cooking a meal. Remember to keep a constant watch on the food you are cooking. Turn off the stove if you have to leave your house or apartment.

BUILDING & ZONING - Joe Ellington, Assistant Fire Chief

Two new ordinances were recently passed to improve property values and better the appearance of our community. All vehicles must now be parked on improved, paved surfaces. It is no longer legal to park a vehicle on your front, side, or rear yard lawn. Parking areas must be paved with asphalt or concrete. Gravel surfaces are not acceptable.

The second ordinance concerns the boarding up of buildings. Temporary board-ups are allowed for up to 60 days in emergency situations (fire damage, vandalism, or windstorms). The damaged property should be repaired and the boards removed as soon as possible (usually within 30 days). Extended board-ups are no longer allowed.

Property maintenance or municipal ordinance tickets will be issued to those who do not comply with these new ordinances.

As a reminder, the Village has ordinances requiring a Certificate of Compliance prior to closing on the sale of any property in Riverdale. If you are an apartment owner, the Village requires an Occupancy Permit before a new tenant occupies an apartment.

Keep in mind that this inspection/re-inspection process can sometimes take up to 7 weeks. These inspections are scheduled through Inspectional Services at the public safety building, 725 West 138th Street, 708-849-1798.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Jerry Townsend, Director

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

Some of what goes into the storm drains winds up in our rivers, creeks, streams, and lakes!

What is a storm drain?

A storm drain is a pipe and culvert system that collects and carries rainwater from streets, yards, parking lots and rooftops and discharges it untreated into rivers, creeks, streams, and lakes. Some of what goes into storm drains, such as trash, pesticides, paint, chemicals, motor oil, grease, leaves, soil deposits and any other solids or liquids transportable by water ends in our rivers and lakes which then become polluted.

Help Keep Our Rivers, Creeks, Streams, And Lakes Pollution Free!

Widespread water pollution comes from all areas within the Village. Non-point source pollution comes from these and many other sources:

- *Automobile leaking oil and grease, vehicle exhaust and brake lining residue.
- *Trash and litter, leaves, lawn clippings and organic matter.
- *Household cleaners and solvents.
- *Lawn and garden care products.

Non-point source pollution is ranked as the highest ecological risk that impacts our region. People carelessly dump many pollutants like motor oil, pesticides, and paint into storm drains.

Who to Contact:

Call the Village of Riverdale Public Works Department (708) 841-2202 to report misuse of storm drains or report a spill or discharge into a storm drain. Call the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association at (708) 206-1155 for information on dates and locations of household hazardous waste collection sites for safe disposal of paint, pesticides, and other hazardous products.

CLERK'S CORNER – Joyce Forbes, Village Clerk

WATER PAYMENT OPTIONS

I would like to remind you of our payment options. When paying in person before the penalty day, we accept cash, check, money order, and all credit/debit cards. After the penalty date, we will only accept cash, money orders and credit/debit cards. We also strongly encourage you to consider the Direct Debit or Internet Payment options:

Mail: Please use the pre-addressed envelope enclosed with your bill to expedite payments. The payment is mailed directly to our bank and they process the payment for us. This saves you time as you do not have to wait in line at Village hall.

Direct Debit: This process authorizes the Village of Riverdale to debit your checking account on the due date. No more late charges!!! Once you are on the system, you will received your water bill as usual – every two months – make a notation in your checkbook and the amount will be automatically deducted on the due date.

Internet Payments: Log on to www.illinoisepay.com, use Riverdale code number 1006 and pay via credit/debit card. (There is a small convenience fee and you must enter your water account or ticket number.

HOLIDAY FOOD/CASH DONATIONS

Bring your canned goods or monetary donations to Village Hall for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

ANNUAL TREE DECORATING AND LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 5 from 2-4 PM, plan to attend the annual Holiday Tree Decorating and Lighting celebration at the Public Safety Building, 725 W. 138th Street. Santa will be on hand for your children and everyone will enjoy the cookies and hot chocolate. Bring an ornament to place on the Village tree.

Village Holiday Schedule for November and December:

The Village Clerk’s Office, Public Works and Inspection Services will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 25, Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 26, Day After Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve
- Friday, December 31, New Year’s Eve

Zenovia G. Evans, Village President

Joyce E. Forbes, Village Clerk

Village Trustees

**Cheryl A. Foy
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