

SPRING 2024



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

I would like to start by thanking and praying for all our amazing troops near and far.

I would like to thank the first responders of the Village of Stickney for ALL the hard work they do, day in and day out, for our residents.

Thank you to our Public Works men for their work every day, keeping the Village clean and fresh. With the weather being somewhat mild this winter, they are focusing on the parks and alleys. With spring around the corner, they will continue this work.

"Clean and Fresh" is my motto. I think our Village looks amazingly better than surrounding communities. We all want to live in a community that is safe and that we can be proud of. My commitment to you is to continue to work hard every day keeping up with the work that it takes to maintain and keep our Village Clean and Fresh. This should also help our property values stay high.

On another note, if you look around you will notice that all the alleys, streets, and parks have new LED lighting, a project that has been in the works for approximately two years. We have some finishing touches to finalize with Com-ed and the electrical contractor and then the project will be complete.

Coming Soon we should have a new ice cream shop along Pershing Road, and possibly a new restaurant along Harlem Ave.

This administration is always looking for Ideas and businesses to come to Stickney.

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at high noon, the Village will hold the annual baseball and soccer parade. Although it is a short one, it is a fun one. Come join us along 41<sup>st</sup> Street, from Oak Park Ave. to Ridgeland Ave. and cheer on your favorite team or player and pick up some awesome candy.

We will also have police and fire trucks from the surrounding communities (thank you from the Village of Stickney Administration) for joining us at this special event.

Attention Veterans, please come and join us at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11a.m. at Pershing and Ridgeland Ave. for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Family, friends, and neighbors are all welcome. We Love our Veterans!

In closing, I would like to thank the Trustees for their continued support, making this the seventh consecutive year without raising the Village of Stickney portion of your taxes. By their unwavering support for our police, fire, and public works all of whom go above and beyond to serve the Village residents all while maintaining financial oversight contributing to the zero property tax increases and making the safety and well-being of our residents their number one priority.

### 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 Tim Kapolnek Mitch Milenkovic Beth Lukas





From the Desk of the Village Clerk, AUDREY MCADAMS

CENSUS (it never stops)

In January 2024, Governor JB Pritzker announced that the U.S. Census Bureau has approved the state's request to have nearly 47,000 Illinoisans included in future population estimates. The review found that 733 Group Quarters were missed or undercounted, along with a corresponding population of 40,512 people. The state also identified 123 dormitory settings where the population was undercounted for an additional 5,888 people. Although the nearly 47,000 identified people will not be added to Illinois official 2020 census numbers, the adjustment is crucial for the state's annual population estimates.

Eleven small cities in Illinois and Iowa are the only municipalities so far to have signed agreements with the U.S. Census Bureau for a second count of their residents in 2024 and 2025. They feel that they are leaving state funding for roads and other items on the table by not adding the extra growth to their population totals. Warrenville has added almost 1,000 new residents from several new housing developments. Urbana feels that the 2020 census missed 7,000 University of Illinois students. The local municipalities have to foot the bill for their special censuses. The cost could range from \$370,000 to almost \$500,000.

Stickney requested a Special Census on March 8, 1992. The 1990 Census found that Stickney's population was 5,678. Stickney paid \$23,000 to conduct the recount. On March 18, 1993 George M. Ryan, Secretary of State, informed the Village of Stickney that their new Census Population was 5,849.

The clerk is responsible for coordinating the Census every ten years. This responsibility expands over the course of two years. This is the biggest marketing project the Village undertakes. The clerk oversees the address charts that the Census uses to chart where the people are. Maps have to be evaluated. Contacts must be made with the group facilities. Promotions are organized with the schools. Any new construction has to be reported monthly. Any demolition has to be reported. Promotions have to be made with the residents to actually answer their Census applications. This diligence finds that Stickney's 2020 population is currently 7,110.



The annual Memorial Day commemorative ceremony will take place on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. You are invited to participate in this ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Monument site located at 39<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeland. This is a rain or shine event. There will be light refreshments afterwards. We will recognize the newest name that has been added to the granite memorial stones. Consider adding someone else's name to this memorial. An application is available on the Stickney website. Or call Clerk McAdams at the Village hall.



### From the Desk of Trustee, JEFF WHITE

Spring is in the air; I am thankful for the mild winter we endured. Not too much snow and just a few days of really cold weather. 2024 is upon us and I believe will be a great year!

I want to give you a little information about your government here in Stickney. There are 2 main forms of Municipal government in our area. One being a Village manager form of government. The other is called a Strong Mayoral form of government. Both consisting of a Mayor or Village President and a board of Trustees. With a Village manager, that person oversees the

day-to-day operations. With the Mayoral form of government, the Mayor or President runs and oversees the day-to-day operations with the help of the board of Trustees. Here in Stickney, we have a strong Mayoral form of government. The Mayor's position is full-time, with a full-time clerk and 6 part time Trustees. The Mayor has the power to appoint the department heads. Police chief, Fire chief and Public Works director with the approval of the Board. The Village holds 2 board meetings per month. They are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7p.m. in the Village Hall. There is an agenda for each board meeting usually consisting of voting to pay bills, approving a community event, approving any new ordinances that may have been initiated by anyone on the board. The board meetings are for the Mayor and Trustees to discuss anything that is going on in our community. Reports are given by the Mayor, Clerk and Trustees to say if there is anything to make the board aware of. Reports are also given by department heads, the reports make the board aware of anything that may have happened since the last board meeting, or anything coming up in the future. There is also a segment of the meetings where a resident can make a statement or voice a concern to the Board. It is not a question-and-answer session, but a way to make the board aware of a concern. This is just a glimpse of how your government here in Stickney is structured. I hope it gives you a little insight. Meantime, join us for a board meeting sometime, you may find it interesting. Anytime you have a question or concern, please call the Village. The Mayor and the Board are here to serve you.

Enjoy your summer, be healthy and safe!



### From the Desk of Trustee, SAM SAVOPOULOS

### Annual 50/50 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Spring is upon us and it's time to think about replacing damaged sidewalk squares.

We encourage you to sign up for the 50-50 sidewalk program where the village splits the cost of the sidewalk replacement with the homeowner.

Applications for the 50/50 sidewalk program are available at the Village Hall, or you can download one from the comfort of your own home through our website at www.villageofstickney.com.

Applications for the 2024 replacement program will be taken through May 31<sup>st</sup>.





### From the Desk of Trustee, TIM KAPOLNEK

Spring will soon be upon us after another relatively mild winter. Although at the time of this printing we could still get cold spells and snow.

I would like to take this opportunity to hopefully prepare all of Stickney's residents for upcoming severe weather episodes. As we all know, the weather in the US has been getting more unpredictable and dangerous, with severe drought in the Western US, then getting so much rain and snow, to having too much water, to a lake forming in Death Valley, the driest place on earth, to flooding in the Midwest and East Coast. Severe weather seems to be normal now. Look at the severe weather we already had on February 27<sup>th</sup>,

2024, with heavy rain, and hail and will probably happen again as we get closer to spring and summer.

**Be Prepared**. If your basement tends to flood in heavy storms, try to make a plan to protect your expensive items such as electronics and furniture and pick it up off the floor. By doing this it could save a lot of heartache and expense if lost caused by flooding. Also, during heavy flooding storms, do not use any kind of water inside the house. **Do not** wash dishes or clothes, do not flush toilet unless necessary, shower or bathe until the flood chance is cancelled. Remember the sewer lines can only send water as much and as fast as they can hold. By not adding to the capacity, will help to get the storm water away faster. Visit "Understanding your sewer" on the Village website. <u>www.villageofstickney.com</u>. You can also help to prevent flooding by making sure any storm sewers by your home are clear of any debris that would cause water to back up. The Village checked all the storm sewers last year after the flooding and all were working as they were supposed to. There was such a large amount of water that the sewers had nowhere to go, but back up into people's homes. Again, this is not the Village's fault that this happens. Please try and make yourselves a plan for when the rain will come.

Remember Spring and Summer will bring events in the Village put on by the Parks & Recs Committee and the Village, such as Music in the Park, Family Day, Halloween Hayrides, Easter egg hunt, etc. Try to get out and enjoy these events with your kids and grandkids. Summer will also mean the kids will be out of school and outside playing. Please watch your speed in the Village (20mph) and **STOP** at all stop signs, and do not text and drive to keep everyone in the Village safe.

Have a wonderful safe Spring and Summer season!





### From the Desk of Trustee, MITCH MILENKOVIC

### Tree City USA

Tree City USA is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees.

The benefits of the Tree City USA program are providing direction, assistance and national recognition for our community. It's the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in our town.

- It reduces costs for energy, storm water management and erosion control
- It boosts property values across our community
- Builds stronger ties to neighborhood and community
- Improves community pride

The Village contributes to the urban forestry by offering a tree lottery every year to the residents of Stickney.

An allotment of new trees are purchased, donated and planted at no cost to the winners of this lottery.

- Only one tree per lottery recipient. Your tree will be the decision of the tree board committee to insure a diversified parkway tree population.
- Recipients of the lottery will be notified in early September and trees will be planted mid-October.

Tree options this year will be: Bur Oak, Crimson Sunset Maple, Armstrong Maple and Tri Color Beech.

Applications for the 2024 Tree Lottery are available at Village Hall or on the website at <u>www.villageofstickney.com</u>



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

I hope you've all made it through another Chicago winter. There were days when it felt like Tampa winter.

Springs have been just as unpredictable lately, so have a plan for your safety when the weather is threatening.

The Village has a calendar full of events for you to enjoy this spring and summer. More fun than attending is VOLUNTEERING. We have LOTS of opportunities to participate from Cinco De Mayo to Family Day and more.

There's another issue that Chicago has been dealing with. If you've watched the news, you've seen it. Rats.

We don't have the problem that some municipalities have, but we are not immune.

Public Works does a wonderful job of keeping our streets, alleys, and public spaces clean, but it's up to every resident to do their part.

Be a good neighbor. Keep garbage in the can and covered. Pick up after your pets. Bird seed = rat food. Remove clutter. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can attract them, so watch those closely.

Stickney Township will provide good advice and can provide bait stations if necessary.



# From the Desk of Trustee, LEA TORRES

This article is totally informational. The Village of Stickney does not have its own Post Office. The mail from Harlem to Ridgeland goes through Berwyn Post Office zip code 60402-4425. The mail from the other side Of Ridgeland to Cicero Avenue goes through Cicero Post Office 60804 this includes all businesses, Water Reclamation District, Koppers, Hawthorne Racetrack and our new Car Wash.

All businesses in the Village of Stickney have Stickney business licenses.

I have been working to see if the Village of Stickney could have its own Post Office but so far, I keep hitting dead ends, but I won't quit trying.

The other important thing I would like to tell you about is our Stickney Township North Clinic located at 6721 W 40<sup>th</sup> Street. They offer many services. I have been a resident of Stickney for over 54 years. I have gone to the Clinic for minor colds, school physicals for my children and help with property taxes. They now have people who can speak Spanish and help you with appointments. You do need to make an appointment for all medical services. You can pick up a Directory of Services in the lobby of the clinic.

The phone number for the North Clinic is 708-788-9100 the hours are: 8:30 till 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A special congratulations to our cleaning lady, Delfina. She became a United States citizen! So happy for her.

Our next big event will be the Cinco De Mayo Fest. This year it will be on Cinco De Mayo, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

It takes a Village to make Stickney such a nice place to live.



The Menu is To Be Determined!

### CONCERT SCHEDULE

Date: June 5<sup>th</sup> | Lupo Band Type of Music: Classic Rock and favorite current hits Date: June 12<sup>th</sup> | Vintage Vinyl Type of Music: Soul, R&B, blues, classic rock Date: June 19<sup>th</sup> | Sting Rays Type of Music: 50's, 60's Date: June 26<sup>th</sup> | Eddie Korosa Type of Music: Polka Date: July 3<sup>rd</sup> | Frienz Type of Music: R&B, Santana Date: July 10<sup>th</sup> | Elvis Type of Music: Elvis Tribute Date: July 17<sup>th</sup> | Parkside Type of Music: Motown **Date: July 24<sup>th</sup> | Cruzin the Loop** Type of Music: Hits from 60's, 70's, 80's Date: July 31<sup>st</sup> | Horizon Type of Music: Funk, Soul, Rock - 50's, 60's, 70's Date: August 7<sup>th</sup> | The Trade Mark Band Type of Music: Blues Brothers, Rolling Stones Date: August 14<sup>th</sup> | Hardwire Type of Music: Rock N Roll Date: August 21<sup>st</sup> | Vinyl Destination Type of Music: Classic Rock



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

If you are like us, we are happy to say goodbye to winter and hello to spring and summer. We are looking forward to seeing and interacting with residents as the weather becomes nicer. However, as the weather improves, more children play outside and take to the parks and community so use caution when driving and always be aware of your surroundings.

We want to remind you to report suspicious activity. Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that includes but is not limited to unusual items or situations. For example, a vehicle which is parked in an odd location, a

window/door is open that is usually closed, other out-of-the-ordinary situations or someone pays unusual attention to vehicles or buildings beyond casual interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation, unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a specific area or location. Some of these activities could be innocent, however, it's up to a police officer to determine whether the behavior warrants further investigation. Remember, it's important to be vigilant and aware of your surroundings in any environment but ensure that you report accurate information. Err on the side of caution and call the police if you observe any suspicious activity.

The Stickney Police Department recently launched the Frontline Public Safety Solutions overnight parking and vacation watch portal. Residents can now go to www.villageofstickney.com and click on the Frontline icon and register their vehicle for overnight parking permission. OVERNIGHT PARKING is restricted to residents only from 2am through 6am on all Village streets. Parking permission is limited to 3 consecutive days and 10 total days per month. If you need more nights than this, please call the police department at 708-788-2131 to see if additional overnight parking can be authorized. Pursuant to Section 14-151 of the Stickney Municipal Code it shall be unlawful to park commercial or recreational vehicles on any street or alley Monday-Friday between the hours of 11:59p.m. and 7:00a.m. and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. Also, residents can now sign up for a vacation watch on their residence when going out of town. Take advantage of this free service that offers peace of mind when out of town.

Remember to stay up to date on critical and informative police and Village alerts by signing up for Code Red. An icon to do so can be found on the Village of Stickney's website homepage at: <u>www.villageofstickney.com</u>.

In conclusion, SAVE THE DATE, we will be holding an open house at the police department on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. We hope you can come tour our facility and see for yourself the behind-the-scenes operations of your police department. Please keep your eye out for the open house flyer. We hope you have a great spring and remember, **if you see something, say something**. Always report suspicious activity by dialing 911 for emergencies or 708-788-2131 for non-emergencies.





### From the Desk of Fire Chief, JEFFREY BOYAJIAN

Greetings! Thank goodness it's spring! I am pleased to say that the Stickney Fire Department did not have any major fires throughout the Village this past winter. That is a testament to the residents and business owners within the Village who have taken the proper steps to reduce the threat of fire here in Stickney as well as a testament to the effort the Stickney Fire Department puts forth in its Fire Inspection and Fire Education programs.

Over the last year the fire department has received some new equipment as well as some firehouse upgrades which were made available through a grant

received by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). We replaced one of the HVAC systems, remodeled the kitchen, purchased new rescue equipment, 19 new sets of structural firefighting gear as well as some needed fire suppression upgrades.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has started doing annual inspections of all the commercial and industrial properties within the Village, which will continue throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons. They are also out doing pre-plans of these properties, which means the process of gathering and recording information of the property and certain hazards that may exist on the property that could be critical for firefighters making life-saving decisions at an incident. Property and lives can be saved when we have access to this critical information about the building, property, and the hazards we may encounter.

As we transition from winter to spring, we need to consider the threat of severe weather in our area. We can never over prepare ourselves for heavy rains, flash flooding, and tornadoes. Flashlights with extra batteries, fresh water, and a plan for everyone in your family is critical.

As we transition to the summer months the chances of heat related illness increase. See the chart below for signs to be aware of and the actions you should take if you start feeling any of these symptoms.





Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!



I want to bring to your attention the following issues that I see as I patrol around town.

#### Yard waste

The only time leaves should be put on the curb is during the leaf pick up program that takes place in the fall. If you are cleaning up dead leaves from the winter, do not put them on the curb, please put them in a yard waste container or bag to be picked up once yard waste pick up begins in April.

Make sure you clean up grass clippings. Do not blow them in the street or leave them all over the sidewalks.

When you're discarding branches or small trees, they must be cut into 3-foot lengths and bundled with string or twine. Each bundle should not exceed 2 feet in diameter or 10lbs in weight.

Accumulation of junk, debris, or litter on private or public property is not allowed. If you're storing wood, please keep it off the ground a minimum of 26" to prevent rodent problems.

### CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND REMOVAL OF CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS:

If you are planning on remodeling the interior or exterior of your home or business make sure you apply for proper permits. Construction material or waste should be disposed of properly and should NOT be put out for Public Works to take. It is the responsibility of the contractor or homeowner to have any construction materials removed. Any construction materials that are put out for Public Works or Waste Management to pick up will result in a ticket and fine. Any properties under construction of any kind are



responsible for maintaining area completely clean of garbage and debris at all times. Failure to do so will be issued a ticket and daily fines along with an adjudication court date.

#### Tires

I have seen tires put out for garbage pick-up. Waste Management and our Public Works will not pick up tires. Tires must be disposed of at your own expense. Do not store tires anywhere outside on your property.

#### White goods and bulk items special pick up

Special pickups will be done on Fridays. Items such as stove, refrigerator, dish washer, dryer, washing machine and electronics such as TV's, computers require a special pick up. If you have any of these items that you need to dispose of you can call the village hall at 708-749-4400 to be put on the list.

Waste Management will pick up only one piece of furniture on your regular garbage pick up day. If the furniture is too big, it should be broken down.

Please do not put anything out until the evening before it is scheduled to be picked up.

### No parking on soft surfaces is allowed, in your yard, on the grass or dirt on public or private property.

ALL ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO A CITATION AND FINE UP TO \$500.



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

#### **Street Cleaning**

Street Cleaning will resume the first Monday & Tuesday of April and will run thru December and will continue throughout the year weather permitting. Parking restrictions will be in effect during this time on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m. and are as follows:

No parking Monday: North and West side

No parking Tuesday: South and East side

The alleys will be swept twice a month May - December.

**Yard Waste Pick-up** will resume the first week of April. Please follow the guidelines that can be found on our website at www.villageofstickney.com.

**FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING and SMALL ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – RESIDENTS ONLY** Saturday, August 17, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. – Noon – 41<sup>st</sup> and Ridgeland - Rain or Shine

Waste Management will be observing the following holidays: Memorial Day and Fourth of July When your collection falls on or after one of these holidays your garbage/recycling/yard waste collection will be delayed one day during the holiday week.

#### Village Hall and Public Works will be closed for business on Memorial Day, Juneteenth and Fourth of July

### **Maintaining your Sewer Line**

You should make sure your sewer line is cleaned out **at least every two years** especially if you have a large home and family which will create a large amount of sewage waste.

#### How to Prevent Main Drain Clogs

- 1. Be on the Lookout for Warning Signs
- 2. Get Your Main Drain Checked Out
- 3. Make Use of a Mesh Lint Traps.
- 4. Let Bacteria Work for you
- 5. Avoid Flushing Solids down the Sinks
- 6. Flush Your Drains Occasionally
- 7. Don't Pour Grease down the Drain

### How to Tell If Your Sewer Line is Clogged

- 1. Gurgling sounds coming from the toilet
- 2. Multiple slow-running drains in your home (low water pressure)
- 3. Water coming out of your shower when using the washing machine
- 4. Foul odors coming from your drains
- 5. Sewage coming back up through drains



# *Spring/Summer 2024* Community Calendar



### May

May 5 – Cinco De Mayo Fest 2:00-7:00pm – 43<sup>rd</sup> and Ridgeland Pavilion May 11 – Little League and Soccer Parade at 12:00pm May 27 – Memorial Day Ceremony, 11:00am at Veteran's Memorial Park at 39<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeland

### June

June 5, 12, 19, 26 - Music in the Park, 7:00-9:00pm at 41st and Ridgeland

### July

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Music in the Park, 7:00-9:00pm at 41<sup>st</sup> and Ridgeland July 27 & 28 – Village Wide Garage Sale, 9:00am-2:00pm

### August

August 7, 14, 21 - Music in the Park, 7:00-9:00pm at 41<sup>st</sup> and Ridgeland August 17 – Paper Shredding *(residents only)* 9:00am–Noon at 41<sup>st</sup> & Ridgeland

### September

**September 1** –Stickney Family Day, 2:00-9:00pm at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Ridgeland, Fireworks to follow **September 14** – Pet Fest, 1:00-3:00pm at 41<sup>st</sup> and Ridgeland

### 2024-2025 Vehicle Stickers and Pet Tags on sale May $1^{st}$

Vehicle stickers will go on sale starting Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Vehicle stickers must be displayed by July 1**<sup>st</sup>**.** Late fees are an additional \$20.00 per vehicle.

You will need to provide a vehicle registration if you are adding a new car.

Your pet must have a **current rabies vaccine number and expiration date** to obtain a pet license. Late fees are an additional \$5.00 per pet.

The Village will have additional hours on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am – 3:00pm.



### Village of Stickney

6533 W. Pershing Road Stickney, Illinois 60402-4048 Tel: 708-749-4400 Fax: 708-749-4451 contact\_us@villageofstickney.com PRSRT STD US POSTAGE **PAID** So Suburban, IL PERMIT NO. 928

We're on the Web www.villageofstickney.com

# **SAVE THE DATE!** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**from 2p.m. - 7 p.m.** 43<sup>rd</sup> and Ridgeland Ave. Pavillion

Music • Food • Petting Zoo

Food and Drinks will be available for sale Admission is FREE!