

the Stickney Times

Fall 2021



Message from **MAYOR WALIK**

Let me start by saying that I hope that we are nearing the end of this pandemic.

We have done our part in complying with all the necessary requirements to keep our employees and residents that use our Village Hall safe, and we know you are doing the same. Let's all continue to do our best to stay safe and healthy from this Nasty Virus.

On a more positive note, I want to thank the ladies in the front office (our employees) who work very hard for our residents. Our Building Department has processed over 530 permits since January 1st, 2021. We have handled almost 100 real estate closings since November 2020, and they are always here to take your phone call to answer any questions or help with issues or concerns. Keep in mind that the Village Hall was closed to the public during the shut-down last year due to the pandemic, yet we were still able to serve the residents.

Our Building inspector has gone above and beyond handling the inspections of all the permits that come through as well as dealing with the new construction, real estate inspections and new businesses that will be coming soon on the East side of town. He's also been very instrumental in handling the properties in town that have been demolished due to terrible and unsafe blight conditions. He is very involved with (fingers crossed) a new casino inside the Hawthorne Race Course.

Public Works has been working hard keeping our alleys and streets clean and fresh, painting the curbs, and our parks have never looked so great, plus the new LED lighting at Haley Park.

Thank you to all the residents that move their car for street cleaning and soon we will begin the leaf pick-up program so we will need you to continue to comply.

Our Police Department continues to work hard keeping us safe.

We leased four new police cars and our Fire Department will be purchasing a brand-new ambulance which will take up to a year to build. We will try the lease programs to see how they fit our departments.

Your Village Officials and Department Heads are working hard for you every day. We are all responsible for keeping our beautiful village clean and safe. Sometimes we may miss something so please don't hesitate to give us a call with your concern.

Finally, a casino update: As of this newsletter, the Illinois Gaming Board will hopefully be approving the final matters on October 13, 2021 regarding the casino at Hawthorn Race Course in Stickney, IL which will allow them to begin to move ahead with the plans.

HAVE A BREATH-TAKING FALL, AND A WARM AND SAFE WINTER

YOUR MAYOR,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Walik".

JEFF WALIK

Your Village Officials

Mayor

Jeff Walik

Clerk

Audrey McAdams

Trustees

Mary Hrejsa

Tim Kapolnek

Mitchell 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

Audrey McAdams

Mitch Milenkovic

Beth Lukas



From the Desk of Clerk
AUDREY MCADAMS

YEAH! HOORAY! GOOD JOB! BRAVO! CONGRATULATIONS!



All the hard work promoting the importance of responding to the Census questionnaires was successful. The Stickney Census population from April 1, 2020 is 7,110. Compare it to the April 1, 2010 Census which was 6,786. That is 324 more people.

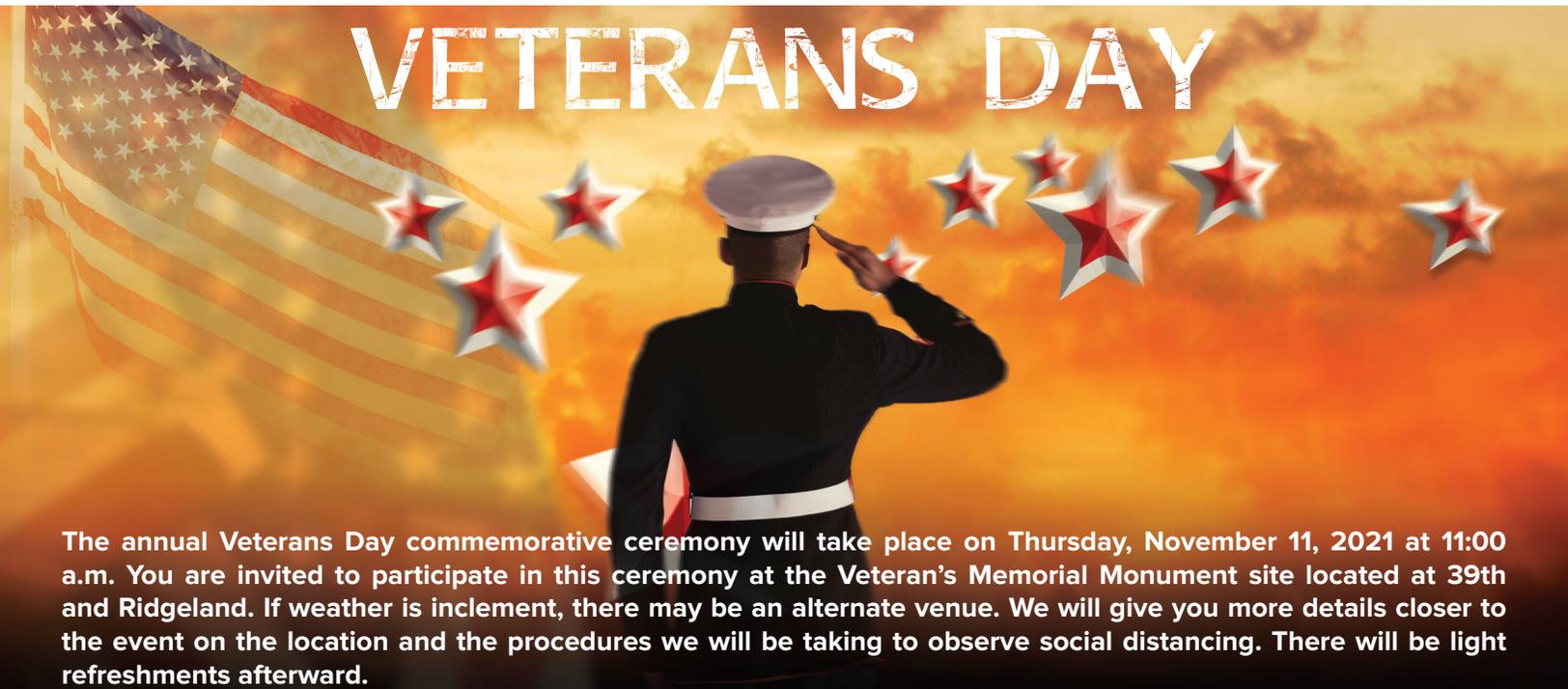
The increase in the population means more money distributed to Stickney from the state income tax, motor fuel tax and state use tax.

The 2020 Census data is instrumental in drawing the new legislative maps detailing political boundaries for the next ten years. Currently the decision is being held up by a lawsuit in the courts. The Illinois Republicans and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund sued in federal court. Various groups say the maps diminish the voice of minority populations. The maps determine boundaries for statehouse seats and whether incumbents will be pitted against each other.

It could be December or even January before the court decides on the case. This will put pressure on the filing period in January for the Democratic and Republican primary set for June 2022.

Thank you for believing in the importance of the Census Count and answering your Census questionnaire.

VETERANS DAY



The annual Veterans Day commemorative ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. You are invited to participate in this ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Monument site located at 39th and Ridgeland. If weather is inclement, there may be an alternate venue. We will give you more details closer to the event on the location and the procedures we will be taking to observe social distancing. There will be light refreshments afterward.



STICKNEY VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT located on 39th and Ridgeland is a tribute to the men and women who have answered our country's call to protect our freedom. Stickney businesses, veterans or families of veterans can add a veteran's name to the Stickney Veterans Memorial Monument. Those who would like their name or the name of their loved one to be inscribed will be asked to pay \$300, which covers the cost of the granite engraving and perpetual upkeep of the monument. The veteran does not have to be a current resident of Stickney for their name to be added to the memorial. If you wish to add a name to this new granite marker, please contact Clerk Audrey McAdams at 708-749-4400 or at villageclerk@villageofstickney.com.



From the Desk of
Trustee

JEFF WHITE

Budget and Finance

The Board of Trustees recently passed and approved our 2021/2022 Budget. Once again, we passed the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance without raising the tax levy. If your property taxes went up, please know that it was the county or state and not the Village. Our priority is to operate our Village with the revenues we currently receive. With the safety and benefit of our residents at the forefront. At a recent function I spoke with our Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi.

He informed me that Seniors will not have to apply every year for the senior exemption anymore. Once you have the exemption you will have it every year without re-applying.



Electric

You will notice two new signs in the Village. One at Oak Park and 39th and the other at Ridgeland and 39th as you come into Stickney. Because of our recent contract with Eligo Energy for the Village, we now exceed the guidelines for buying clean renewable energy. We are happy to be a Partner with the E.P.A. in this Green Power Partnership.

Grants

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, or (ARPA). We recently received our first payment of \$446,304.84 This money is allocated from the US Treasury's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. (CLFR). We will receive the second payment next year. These funds were allocated to help with the costs related to the Corona Virus. At the Village we have been proactive from the beginning of the Pandemic. We closed the offices to the public; we held our Board meetings via Zoom. We are now back in person. Village Offices are open to the public. We continue to use a professional company to sanitize our Police Dept, Fire Dept and General offices on a weekly basis for the health and safety of Employees and Residents. As per the Governor's mandate, you will be required to always wear a mask in the Village Hall.



Please be aware, kids are back in school.

Keep your phones out of reach and be mindful of the speed limit.



Have a Safe and Happy Halloween



From the Desk of
Trustee
SAM SAVOPOULOS

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN THE VILLAGE

You may have noticed the building of new homes around town. Since 2017, there have been ten new homes built with plans for approximately ten more new homes in the year 2022.

There has also been progress with five residential properties and one commercial property that were severely dilapidated and had major blight issues. Two of the residential properties have already been demolished and replaced with new construction, while another two are on schedule to be demolished and replaced with new construction. The fifth residence has had the blight issues resolved. We have one commercial property that we are very close to getting approval to demolish. This property is located at 6915 Pershing Rd., previously known as Hedgehogs and Southwind Saloon. This commercial property has been vacant for many years and has been an eye sore to the Village. I would like to thank Josh Brniak, our Village building inspector, and all the women in the front office. The demolition and new construction process are only possible because of all their hard work and dedication to our Village.

Growth in Businesses

Coming soon to the Village of Stickney are two new businesses on the east side of town. These businesses will be located near the intersection of Pershing Rd. and Cicero Ave. Truck Quest is one of these new businesses and will be located where the old Tuxedo Junction was at 3738 S. Cicero Ave. Truck Quest will offer a new convenience store and a fueling station for gas and diesel vehicles. Gas City is in the process of pulling permits to demolish the old Penske building located on the northwest corner of Pershing Rd. and Cicero Ave. They plan to erect a brand-new fueling facility that will include a convenience store, car wash, Dunkin' Donuts, and a Steak n' Egger. In addition to these two businesses, there will also be a new tobacco shop called Super Smoke opening soon. They will be located at 6719 W. Pershing Rd, where King Pharmacy and the Dollar Store previously resided.

We also have three additional businesses that opened over this past year, Toby's Tap-Video Gaming located at 6429 W. Pershing Rd., Three of a Kind-Consignment shop for children's clothing, 3903 S. Oak Park Avenue and Unibrow/Aesthetic, 3906 W. Gunderson Ave. offering laser and waxing treatment.

One of our administration's main focuses is improving the Village of Stickney. The addition of these new businesses and the construction of new homes will bring in new tax revenue and make our Village a more attractive place to live and do business. We are committed in our efforts to serve the interests of our residents and hope to continue to do so for the foreseeable future.





From the Desk of
Trustee
MARY HREJKA

I would like to welcome everyone back. It's been a long road, but hopefully we are getting back to normal. Music in the Park was back for the months of June and July. We had some great bands. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and talk to people.

The Village-wide garage sale was July 24th and 25th. I talked to neighbors that said they had huge success and they can't wait for another one next year.

Family Day was a huge success. It was a beautiful day, great food, wonderful bands, and a spectacular fireworks display

Pet Fest was Saturday, September 18th. It was great to see all the people out with their animals. Some rescue animals were adopted which is always a wonderful thing. A big thank you goes out to Joe Lopez for cooking the hot dogs we enjoyed.

Haunted Halloween Hayride, Saturday October 16th, 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a rain date Sunday October 17th. Christmas festivities will be December 11.



I hope everyone has a safe and spooky Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and a healthy and wonderful New Year.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



From the Desk of
Trustee
TIM KAPOLNEK

Well, fall is upon us again. Seems like summer just came and went in the blink of an eye. Hope everyone had a very nice summer and was able to get out a little bit and enjoy themselves after the horrible 2020 we all had with the pandemic. By no means are we out of the woods yet with the pandemic, so please keep yourselves safe and healthy, wear masks and be respectful of others by social distancing, sanitizing, and following all federal, state, and local health rules.

Some reminders for fall, Critters such as skunks, possum, raccoons, etc. will be or already have found places to live to keep warm in the upcoming winter. Please make sure you do not have places for them to make these future homes for themselves, by cleaning up overgrown weeds, lumber or woodpiles or any type of debris where they can settle. This is the time of year to check outside first before letting your pet into the yard when it is dark to avoid being sprayed by a skunk or get in a tussle with a raccoon who are the biggest carriers of rabies.

Another critter that will go to these areas will be rats/mice. The village has been doing our best to combat this rodent issue in our town. For the past 2-3 years Public Works, Parks and Recreations along with numerous volunteer residents have been cleaning our alleys and reporting matters that may be problem areas for garbage and rodents. Please do not leave any garbage outside of your garbage cans or dumpsters, and clean areas that may draw these rodents. Apartment buildings and businesses in the village are required to have bait boxes by their properties and professionally checked by a licensed pest control company. **(Ref: ordinance 2019-12)**, this can be found on our website at www.villageofstickney.com

Please help in any way you can to combat these issues to keep rodents away from your homes.

I hope everyone has a wonderful fall season and Happy Halloween!





From the Desk of Trustee

MITCH MILENKOVIC

Operation Support Our Troops (OSOT)

Operation Support our Troops was founded in 2003. This has become one of the largest volunteer based military support organizations in the country. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, they provide comfort and care at home and away to active duty military, families and veterans.

Their mission is to support the morale and well-being of American forces by providing comfort, resources and education to them and their families both while they are deployed in harm's way and after their return. This is accomplished by providing a link between the citizens and military personnel of items that are not readily available to the troops in their deployed locations along with personal letters, cards and notes of support from the community at large.

As has been done in the past, we will be collecting donations. The Village of Stickney is sponsoring a collection of donations for the troops. There will be a collection box at the Village Hall. Donations will be accepted thru November 30, 2021. Thank you for your generosity.

Please see the list below of the top 12 immediate need items. The top five items are out of stock on the shelves at OSOT and are urgently needed to fill the boxes.

GENERAL DONATION LIST OF ITEMS WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF:

- ★ canned fruit
- ★ crackers (12 oz box or less)
- ★ canned tuna/tuna packs
- ★ peanut butter (16 oz. or less, no glass)
- ★ mouthwash (no glass)
- ★ AA batteries
- ★ nasal spray
- ★ white or black socks (no logos please)
- ★ antacids (rolls of 100 count or less)
- ★ shaving cream
- ★ pain medication (100 count or less)
- ★ hand sanitizer

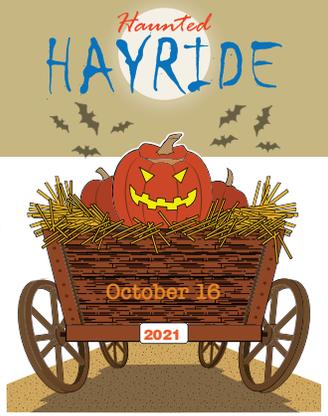




From the Desk of
Trustee
LEA TORRES

We have some upcoming events scheduled for the fall. Mark your calendar for the Haunted Hayride on Saturday, October 16th from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at 43rd and Ridgeland. The cost of the hayride will be \$5.00 a person. We will also be selling hot dog meals which will include hot dogs/chips/drink for \$5.00.

There will also be on Saturday, October 16th a pumpkin patch and goodie bag for residents only, proof of residency will be required. The rain date for these events will be Sunday, October 17th.



Our Police Department has made many improvements. Chief James Sassetti has been a pleasure to work with. He always has Stickney's best interest at heart. We are fortunate to have one of the best Police Departments around! Always working for the people.

I had surgery this year and was out of commission for a while, but I am getting back into full gear. A special thank you to all who sent cards and phone calls and concerns.

This is the time of year to check your property especially near the alley for garbage, and weeds. The Ordinance Officer and Blight Officer will be writing up people who aren't keeping that area clean before the cold weather sets in. All is handled through the Police Department.

We are in the planning stages of our Senior and Family Christmas parties. More information will be available soon.

Thank you and Happy Holidays



From the Desk of
Police Chief
JAMES SASSETTI



Happy Fall The Stickney Police Department hopes you had a great, enjoyable summer. As we enter into the fall and the subsequent holiday season we would like to pass along some important safety tips. We all know that things are fast paced this time of year, however, we want to remind residents that it is important to make sure that your vehicle and residence doors are locked at all times. Thieves thrive on this time of the year and ensuring that your car and house are locked will dramatically reduce your chances of becoming a victim!

Next, ensure that you are in the loop! The Stickney Police Department shares critical emergency information and important Village updates via Code Red. Code Red is a totally FREE service provided to all residents and businesses within the Village and is designed for public agencies to share information with subscribers. Individuals can register by visiting: www.villageofstickney.com and click on the Code Red icon at the bottom left of the page. There you can choose how messages are to be communicated - via phone calls, emails and/or text messages. In addition, subscribers can specify multiple locations, such as a home address and a business address. All messages that pertain to the areas given will be sent to the subscriber. The Code Red site is secure – subscribers will only receive messages from the Village of Stickney.

The updates provided on Code Red will also be shared via our Facebook page. It is our goal to inform and communicate with as many Stickney residents as possible in an effort to raise awareness and promote safety in our community.

For more information, visit our website at www.VillageofStickney.com or call 708-788-2131.

Finally, we encourage you to report all suspicious activities.....see something say something! No law enforcement agency can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. We are depending on you to call and tell us whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions. Always be aware of your surroundings!

We hope you have an enjoyable fall and remind you to follow the Stickney Police Department on Facebook. As always, please call 911 in all emergency situations or contact us at 708-788-2131 if we can assist in non-emergency situations.



From the Desk of
Director of Public Works
JOE LOPEZ

Leaf Pick Up

Leaf Pick up will run the last week of October through the first week of December on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Leaves should be placed loose along the curb in front of resident's home.



MONDAY: The North and West side (even address)

TUESDAY: The South and East side (odd address)

This pick up is for leaves only - do not add any other kind of yard waste materials such as grass clippings, branches, flowers or any other kind of vegetation.

Follow the street sweeping signs on your block. Snow plowing will take precedence if needed during leaf collection pick-up.

Please refrain from parking on the street on your designated pick-up day from 8:00 a.m. until leaf pick up has been completed on your block. All violators will be ticketed and possibly towed at owner's expense.

Please note, this is a separate program from the yard waste disposal. If you still choose to bag your leaves, they must be put out on your yard waste pick up day. Leaves cannot be burned in the Village.

SNOW REMOVAL - WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT SNOWS?

- 1) First, main streets and main intersections are plowed and salted. This would include Ridgeland, Oak Park, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th and 45th, streets
- 2) Next all North and South streets and 40th place will be cleared
- 3) Public facilities which will include the parking area for businesses along Pershing Rd.
- 4) Parks and Bus stops
- 5) We do not do any snow removal on Pershing Rd. because it's a state route.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect when snowfall measures 2" or more. Please follow the snow removal signs posted at the beginning and end of each block. Please refrain from parking on the street until all snow and ice control efforts have been completed.

Alleys will **NOT** be plowed unless there is 6 or more inches of snow.

Public Works cannot be called to clear private property or driveways, and we are not responsible for rollover snow on driveways or sidewalks from snowplowing.

Please be courteous to your neighbors and motorists; **DO NOT SHOVEL SNOW BACK INTO THE STREETS.**



Maintenance is Key in Avoiding a Sewer Line Backup

Homeowners are responsible for the main sewer line which goes from your home to the main in the middle of the street. Having your sewer line cleaned is one of the most overlooked home maintenance tasks.

If you are like many homeowners, then you likely remember to address the periodic duties of home maintenance, such as having your air conditioning system checked, getting the gutters cleaned and winterizing your heating system. But what about having your main sewer line cleaned?

This is one of the most overlooked maintenance tasks, yet it has the potential to cause nasty water damage with expensive cleanup costs. Don't wait to find out the hard way that the sewer needs to be cleaned.

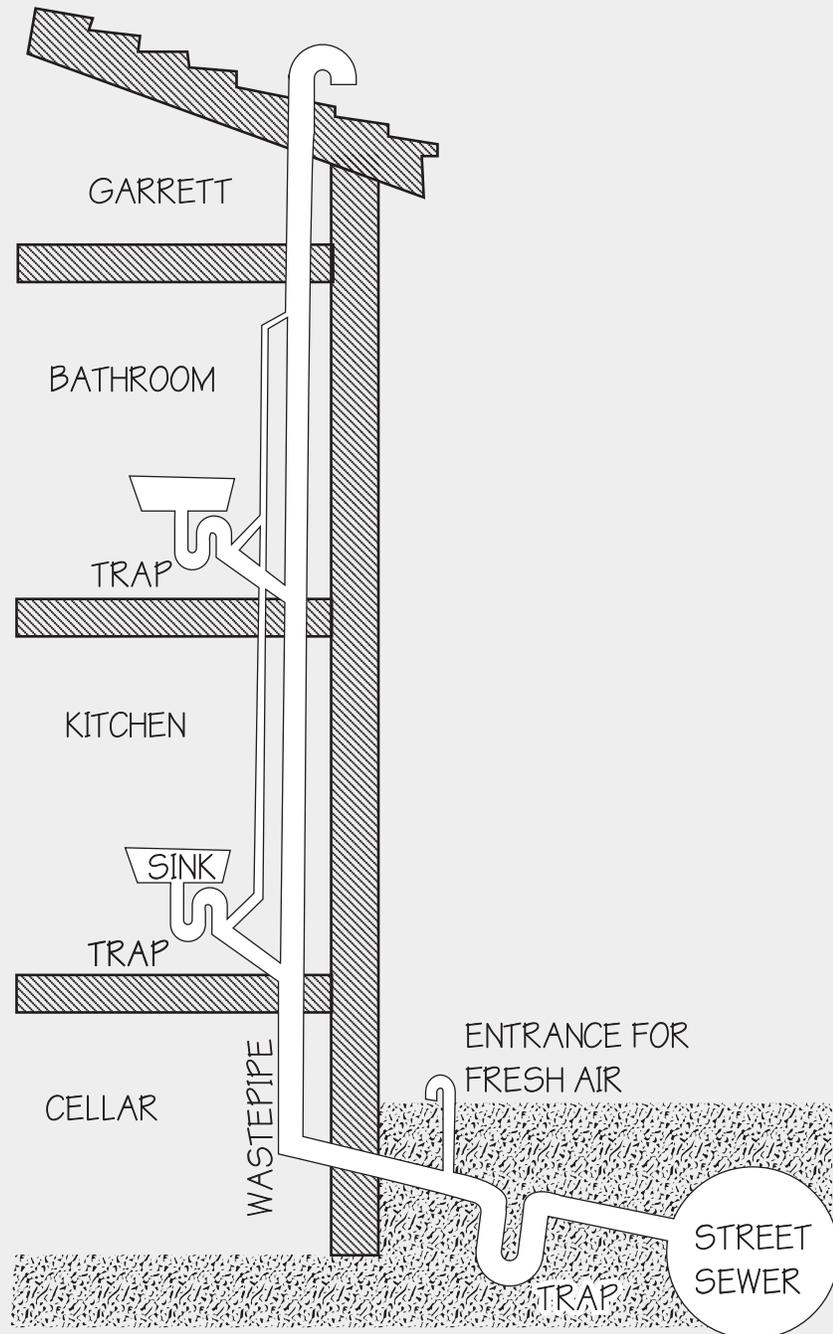
What causes a sewer line backup?

There are many reasons why residential main sewer lines backup. Common causes are attributed to tree root intrusion, grease accumulation or pipe scale buildup.

Please do not put any foreign objects into your drainage system at home. For example, paper towel, diapers, wipes, sanitary products, or rags. These products will cling together and eventually cause a blockage. *In addition, do not introduce paint, motor oil, antifreeze, or hazardous chemicals into your drainage. These materials can be dangerous and can cause backup in the sanitary sewer system.*

We recommend that these lines be professionally snaked using professional equipment at least one time per year.

Permits are **NOT** necessary to have your sewer rodded. You can contact the Village Hall Building Department for names of businesses that are licensed and bonded to work in the Village.



ILLEGAL DUMPING IN STORM SEWERS

It is illegal for any person to dump any gasoline, benzene, or other volatile liquids into any public sewer in the village or to permit any material which might injure any part of the sanitary sewer system to flow into it. *Additionally, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to discharge or permit to be discharged sanitary or industrial waste or pollutants of any type (as defines in 35 Ill. Admin. Code 301.101 et seq.) in any public or private storm sewer.*



WASTE MANAGEMENT WILL BE OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day New Year's Day

When your collection falls on or after one of these holidays, your garbage/recycling collection will be delayed one day during the holiday week.



From the Desk of
Fire Chief
JEFFREY BOYAJIAN

What is Carbon Monoxide and What to Do and Not Do

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep.

Winter can be a prime time for carbon monoxide poisoning as people turn on their heating systems and mistakenly warm their cars in garages. So as the weather turns colder, it is important to take extra precautions.

A reminder that Illinois requires carbon monoxide alarms **effective January 1, 2007**. Homeowners, landlords, and building owners are required to install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors within 15 feet of rooms used for sleeping.

Below is a list of What to DO and NOT DO when it comes to Carbon Monoxide

- ✓ **DO** have your heating system serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- ✓ **DO** install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the clocks in spring and fall.
- ✓ **DO** leave your home immediately and call 911 if a detector sounds.
- ✓ **DO** seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.
- ✓ **Don't** use a gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home.
- ✓ **Don't** run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- ✓ **Don't** burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- ✓ **Don't** heat your house with a gas oven.
- ✓ **Don't** use a generator, pressure washer, or any other gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.



NEW AMBULANCE

Earlier this year, Mayor Walik and the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new 2022 Ford 550 4x4 Ambulance which is replacing the current "reserve" ambulance that is 14 years old. The new ambulance should arrive sometime in mid-2022.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, at 2:00 a.m. remember to turn your clocks back one hour and change the batteries in your Smoke Detectors or Carbon Monoxide Detectors.



EXCESS/OVERFLOWING GARBAGE AND RECYCLING:

Besides causing all sorts of health and environmental issues, overflowing garbage is a public nuisance and eye sore. Everyone wants to live and visit places that are fresh, clean and healthy.

The Village of Stickney has “no side garbage, closed lid procedure”. Closed lid means your garbage bin must be shut completely. If your bin is over-flowing and you have extra garbage left at the side of your bin you are at risk of receiving a ticket. If you have too much garbage and your can is overflowing, then you could be required to purchase a second garbage bin. This applies to recycle cans as well. You can contact Waste Management.

RODENTS

There are many things that you can do to avoid having a problem with rodents. Rats are attracted to dog feces, so it is important to clean up after your dog. Do not leave any dog or cat food outdoors. Bird feeding is allowed but must be contained in approved bird feeders and not thrown on the ground. Do not put out corn feed or peanuts, pieces of bread for the squirrels or any other animals. Rats will travel long distances to feed on these types of food. If you suspect a rodent problem on your property, contact Stickney Township Environmental Service Dept. at 708-424-9200.

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 Waste Management or 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 pick up will result in a ticket and fine. Any properties under construction of any kind are responsible for always keeping the area completely clean of garbage and debris. Failure to do so will be issued a ticket and daily fines along with an adjudication court date.

FALL/WINTER CLEANING:

Inspections for upkeep and maintenance of your property will continue throughout the winter months weather permitting. Make sure you clean up any accumulation of junk, debris, or litter on private property. Do not store wood or lumber on the ground. It must be kept stored at least 12” off the ground. Be sure to keep the area clean around your garbage and recycling bins.

DO NOT PUT tires out for garbage pick-up. Waste Management and our Public Works will NOT pick up tires, they must be disposed of at your own expense. Do not store tires on the outside premise of your property. They must be stored in your garage or other indoor structure.



Village Holiday Dates

Thursday, November 11, 2021 ~ Veterans Day
Thursday, November 25, 2021 ~ Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 26, 2021 ~ Day After Thanksgiving
Friday, December 24, 2021 ~ Christmas Eve
Monday, December 27, 2021 ~ Christmas Day
Friday, December 31, 2021 ~ New Year's Day

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We're on the Web
www.villageofstickney.com



DECEMBER 11, 2021

Senior Christmas Luncheon

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Stickney Township Clinic

Children's Christmas Party

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Stickney Township Clinic • 6721 W. 40th Street

*These events are for Stickney residents only. Registration will be required.
(Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, if numbers of cases rise, we may have to cancel)*

