

ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 2

January, 1980

Number 5

PUBLIC WORKS DEDICATION DAY



Diane Krueger peeks through railing of the steep spiral staircase which provides access to the Roof Top Weather Station in the new Public Works Building, while Frank Hiter, Co-Ordinator for Emergency Preparedness, (rt.) displays weather chart prepared inside the glass enclosed, sun-bathed station. Future plans for this weather facility include three main functions: A severe storm watch station, a local weather and environmental data station and an environmental science teaching station for use by local school districts. The Cook County Environmental Control Agency has furnished equipment and offers student instruction on a regular basis. (More details on dedication inside)



VILLAGE BOARD HONORS ROY HANSON



VILLAGE BOARD HONORS JAMES LEWIS

James Lewis, an Alsip resident, recently earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award which the National Council of Boy Scouts of America can bestow upon a Scout. Jim organized a program to provide many needed items to the Little Brothers of the Poor of our metropolitan community, true to the Scout slogan to "DO A GOOD TURN DAILY". In recognition of the accomplishment of this fine young man, Alsip President Arnold A. Andrews and the Board of Trustees recently issued a special Resolution commending Jim for his achievement.

It was a hot day in late July when 9 year old Roy Hanson and his 12 year old neighbor, Linda Orowick, were cooling off in the Hanson's backyard swimming pool on Rosemary Lane. Then tragedy unexpectedly struck. Linda dove into the pool as she had done so many times before, but this time her head hit the bottom. Roy was quick to go to her aid, lifting her head out of the water and guiding her to the pool's edge where he assisted her in getting a grip on the ladder. Then he ran for help. His quick thinking saved Linda's life and his good judgment in not attempting to remove her from the pool, prevented further aggravation of an already serious injury.

As a token of their high esteem, Alsip President Arnold A. Andrews and the Board of Trustees issued a special Resolution commending this young man, which was presented to him at a recent regular Village Board Meeting.



James' father (rt.) looks on proudly.

PUBLIC WORKS DEDICATION DAY

The new Alsip Public Works Building was officially dedicated on Saturday, November 10, 1979. Mayor Arnold Andrews addressed guests comprised of village officials and residents; and business leaders who toured the facility sharing food and conversation about its services. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to all of those in attendance and his pleasure at final realization of this final project under current major construction plans.



Youngsters check out tractors, trucks and tires which will now be stored indoors. Protection from weather, with easy access to mechanic services right on the premises, will preserve life of the equipment at less cost.



Trustee Jerry Marzec (kneeling) and Sewer Commissioner, Joseph Jolivet, point out the intricacies of a squad car's underside to a couple of young citizens. Part of the new facility provides for the repair and maintenance of all village vehicles, which will cut such costs considerably.



MAYOR ANDREWS ADMIRES THE ORCHID CORSAGE PRESENTED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD TO HONORED GUEST, MRS. MATTIE HENRY, OWNER OF THE "HENRY HOUSE" WHICH FORMERLY OCCUPIED THE SITE OF THE PRESENT PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY. The "Henry House" was an early Alsip structure believed to be nearly 100 years old that Mrs. Henry and her husband, Hezekiah, purchased from the Roulo family when they came to Alsip in 1920. At that time it was a small two room frame building surrounded by farmland, but during the next 50 years, Hezekiah was kept busy extending the place into a comfortable home that would accommodate the growing family of 7 children born to the Henrys. Six were girls—Claretta, Marietta, Argel, Wilma, Ida Mae and Mary Ellen. Her brother, Joseph died in infancy. Mr. Henry was employed with the nearby railroads, while Mrs. Henry remained at home raising the children—all of whom graduated from what is now Lane School. But in those years, it was unpretentious two-room schoolhouse. As was customary at that time, the Henrys had their own well drilled on the property. The pump serving this well has been preserved and still stands today on the plaza of the Public Works facility, where it was dedicated to the Henry family on November 10, 1979. The Henrys have 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.



Pictured above is Mrs. Mattie Henry, 83, and her family representing four generations. (front row l-r) Carol Enge, Mattie, Kenya Enge (2nd row) Marietta Sisnette, Trustee Penney Black, Mary Ellen Smitherman, Norman Davis; (back row) Wilbert Smitherman, Ida Mae Coleman, Trustees James Howe and Jerry Marzec. (present that day, but not pictured, Wilma Davis who still resides in Alsip with her husband Norman and family).

DON'T HIDE YOUR HYDRANT . . . IT COULD COST YOUR LIFE!

Alsip Fire Chief John Bultema reminds citizens it is ILLEGAL TO PILE SNOW UPON OR BESIDE A FIRE HYDRANT. Violators are subject to fine. Also, he urges all who have a hydrant near their home or business, TO KEEP IT FREE FROM SNOW, SO IT IS READILY VISIBLE FROM THE STREET AT ALL TIMES, WITH AT LEAST A FOUR FOOT CLEARANCE ON EACH SIDE OF IT. Otherwise, in a crisis, time lost by firemen searching for buried hydrants and then hurriedly trying to dig them out, could mean loss of life and greater property loss.

Other winter fire precautions are: KEEP CLOTHES' DRYERS' OUTSIDE VENT CLEAR OF SNOW; CLEAR AREA AROUND GAS METER & SHUT-OFF VALVE TO PERMIT EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF; CLEAR HOUSE NUMBER SO IT IS EASILY READ BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES SEEKING TO SERVE YOU.

SNOW ROUTE REMINDERS!!!

It is ILLEGAL TO PLACE ANY SUBSTANCE SUCH AS SNOW, ICE OR DIRT UPON THE PUBLIC WAY OR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. (Remember this when clearing your business or apartment building parking areas or drive-ways).

IT IS MANDATORY THAT EVERY OWNER OF A MULTIPLE UNIT OR A CONDOMINIUM UNIT DWELLING PROVIDE CLEARED, OFF-STREET PARKING WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER A 1" SNOWFALL FOR THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES AS REQUIRED. (Two car spaces for each unit).

ALSIP POLICE OR THEIR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE ARE AUTHORIZED TO REMOVE ANY VEHICLE FROM THE PUBLIC WAY, WHICH IS OBSTRUCTING CLEARANCE OF SAID PUBLIC WAY OF SNOW RESULTING FROM A ONE INCH OR GREATER SNOWFALL. (Violators will be towed & stored at expense of vehicles registered owner).

BANK BLOOD TODAY . . .

The next Alsip Blood Draw will be held in March at Firehouse at 120th and Pulaski. In order to maintain its eligibility in the Blood program, Alsip must meet its annual goal of 630 units. Blood donating is simple and painless. However, should a medical crisis come up in your family, things might not be so simple or so painless. Wouldn't it be a comfort to know that all the blood you or your family might need will be available? Plan to donate in March. Call the hall NOW for details: 385-6902.

STRAIGHTEN THOSE SIGNS!

The Alsip Building Department is currently in the process of inspecting all village signs, including ground, wall and electrical. Owners of such signs are urged to correct any damages, breaks, peeling of paint or faulty wiring in order to avoid the penalty of violation.

"If you would like more information regarding Alsip sign regulations, come into the Village Hall and request copy of Ordinance 75-12-4," advises Building Commissioner Larry Zykwa.

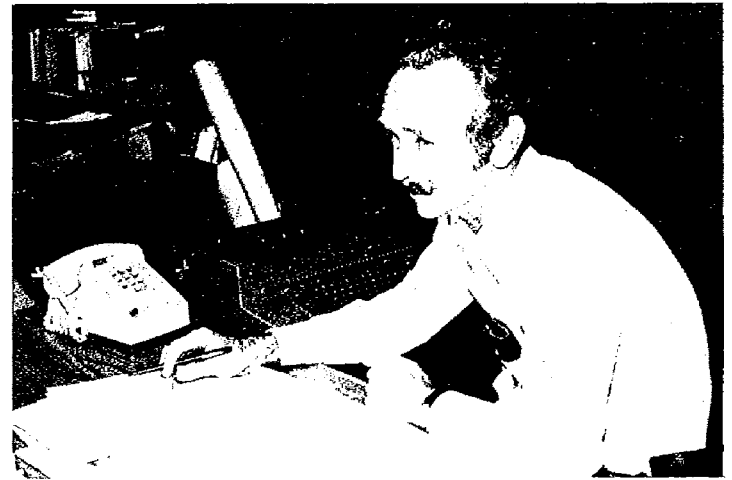
BUILDING INSPECTIONS BEGIN

Annual inspections of commercial and industrial buildings will begin January 2, 1980, with an expected completion date of April 30, 1980. According to Larry Zykwa, newly appointed Building Commissioner, each and every one of the over 600 places of business and over 300 apartment buildings in the Village will be subject to strict scrutiny by teams of three inspectors who specialize in building, plumbing and electricity.

The customary letter to apartment building landlords advising them of the upcoming inspections has been mailed advising of their responsibility to arrange for the inspectors to gain access to the building. Inspectors can enter individual apartments only upon tenant invitation, but citizens are cautioned against mistaking strangers for inspectors. Alsip Inspectors carry proper identification which they readily show. When in doubt, call the police.

Alsip Mayor Arnold Andrews and Board of Trustees support the endeavors of the Building Department inspections in order to maintain the quality of life in Alsip.

TIP FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR CHECK REDDING



Alsip Building Inspector, Chuck Redding, advises regular proper maintenance of gutters will prevent many winter problems.

"Ice build-up will be minimized if gutters are kept clean of leaves and other debris which help create ice dams that prevent the free flow of melted snow through gutters and downspouts," points out Redding. He adds that this should, of course, be done in early Fall before the heavy snows set in.

The Inspector also recommends periodic checks to be sure gutters are attached tightly to the building. He said that this might take a little time because it involves getting up on a ladder for a closer view, but it will be worth it because the weight of snow and ice has a tendency to pull the gutters away from the building.

Another device on the market for supposedly preventing ice dams in gutters, is a heating cable, but only those bearing the (U.L.) Underwriter's Laboratory seal of approval will meet Alsip's building codes. Before considering installation of any such device, property owners are advised to check with the Alsip Building Department regarding Permit requirements. Tel: 385-6902.

SOME SAY RISK OUTWEIGHS REMEDY WITH GUTTER HEAT CABLES

The electric gutter cables currently flooding the market may soon drown in the sea of controversy surrounding their safety as well as their effectiveness. The device was intended to prevent gutter and roof ice-dams which eventually can cause interior wall damage when thawing occurs.

But some feel that there is always a danger in mixing water and electricity. For example, there is the possibility of a segment of the cable breaking, leaving exposed wires laying in water or snow. This situation would electrify the gutter and downspout so that a person touching it could be electrocuted, and if they're carrying a sled or metal snow shovel or if they prop an aluminum ladder against the gutter, the danger is compounded.

A second danger is the possibility of ultra-violet rays from the sun disintegrating the plastic cable covering, exposing wire which could trigger a fire. Still another consideration, is if someone forgets to disconnect the cables over the hot summer months, the complications could be tragic.

Aside from the safety risk of these electric heaters, reports emanating from University of Wisconsin seminars indicate that many times the cable simply compounds the problem rather than solving it. For instance, sometimes it melts the ice along the farthest edge of the roof, but then the ice dam just builds up again further back beneath roof shingles. This results in thaw damage to ceilings instead of walls—or both.

The U.L. (Underwriter's Laboratory) has not as yet tested and approved any of the existing devices currently on the market.

Alsip Police Chief Warner Huston says you can secure road condition information in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and the tollways. Just DIAL: 283-6204.

THINK SUMMER!

Winter blahs got you down? Pick yourself up, with thoughts of "SUMMERFEST". Start planning now to participate, either as a volunteer to work during the event or as an organization to set up a booth and earn money for your group. ALSIP'S ANNUAL SUMMERFEST—a good way to beat the blahs and boost your treasury!

... PREPARATION IN AMPLE TIME WILL ASSURE YOUR PROJECT TO TURN OUT FINE ...

Call now: Mary Schmidt, Alsip Chamber of Commerce: 597-2668

TRUSTEE RAY MORRISON SAYS:

The Rubbermaid Toter, an 85 gallon garbage container with wheels, currently in use by some Alsip residents is available for rent or sale to any Alsip resident who desires one. For details, call: Groen Refuse Co.—385-7232. Nominal rental fee may be applied to purchase price at any time.

STREETLIGHTING DETERS ACCIDENTS & CRIME

National statistics indicate that when adequate streetlighting is installed, traffic accidents are reduced 17% to 52%. Nighttime driving is so hazardous that 60% of all traffic accidents occur after dark. Also ample streetlighting has proven a deterrent to burglaries and acts of vandalism with a decrease in major crimes in such places as Washington D.C., New York, Chicago and Wilmington, Delaware.

Alsip Digest written, edited and photography by Jean Rodgers. Your letters of news or comment are welcome: Direct them to:

Alsip Digest
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STUDENTS STEER ALSIP

"Student Government Day" will once again be celebrated in March by Alsip Jr. High School students and municipal leaders. On Saturday, March 1st, the students will assume the duties of various municipal leaders including Mayor, Clerk, Police and Fire Chief and Commissioners and Inspectors. Prior to that day, they will make preparations when they sit in on a Village Board Committee Meeting. Then on March 3rd, they will carry the activity to conclusion by sitting in on the regular Village Board Meeting that evening.

The event is directed by Prairie Jr. High School teacher, Ms. Julie Murphy, a teacher and Student Council Advisor. She says about 30 students will participate who have been selected from members of the school's student government body.

"Since these students hold elected office, they make the best representatives of the entire student body," she points out, explaining the choice of participants.

The concept was conceived about four years ago by Trustee Jack Yock in an effort to stimulate an interest in local government by our young people, who will be tomorrow's leaders.

CICERO STREET LIGHTS FINALLY REALIZED

Alsip Mayor Arnold A. Andrews is proud to announce completion of the street lighting project on Cicero Avenue between 111th and the Cal-Sag Canal. The project has been "in the offing" since 1970, at which time funding was proposed by special assessment.

However, when Mayor Andrews took office, he began investigating other alternatives that would prove to be less of a burden to Alsip property owners. As a member of "CATS" (Chicago Area Transportation Study), he spent many long hours researching and ferreting out information that eventually resulted in 70% federal funding of the project.

"I'm delighted that we have at last been able to make these street lights a reality. They'll be a bonus to business along this commercial strip as well as increasing the safety factor of the village as a whole," points out the Mayor.

A total of 152, 400 watt high pressure sodium luminars hanging from a 40' aluminum pole have been spaced approximately 100' apart in the designated area, with restoration scheduled for spring when the weather will be more conducive to seeding.

Also, another similar project is planned for Crawford Avenue between 115th and 127th and tentatively scheduled to begin this Spring in cooperation with the Department of Transportation.

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