

ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 3

January, 1981

Number 5



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ARNOLD A. ANDREWS

It is my sincere hope that each and every one of you enjoyed a happy holiday season with friends and loved ones; and that the New Year will abound with good things for you personally, for Alsip in general and for the world at large.

Many of you enjoyed participating in village holiday festivities as pictured inside this newsletter. Santa's spectacular helicopter landing on the grounds of Lane School delighted young and old. Also, the traditional tree trimming by Alsip school children at the Village Hall was especially heartwarming.

But while the holiday season is behind us, the bitter bite of winter is still ahead. May I remind you that effective snow removal operations for Alsip's approximate 90 miles of roadway depends upon your cooperation. We've been planning all year in order to keep these roadways accessible and safe during the critical winter months. We've winterized and tuned up all village equipment used for snow removal and prepared for adequate salt supplies. Plows and salt spreaders have been painted a bright yellow to increase visibility and prevent erosion.

However, the success of our efforts is dependent upon each of you. Remember, **ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS INTERFERE WITH SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS.** Poorly plowed streets prevent emergency vehicles from reaching their destination in case of a crisis and also slow down commuting time to schools, jobs and other vital errands.

On the whole, 1980 has been a good year for the Village of Alsip. In March we celebrated our first Blood Drive which is slowly but surely growing in popularity as more and more benefit from it in times of need. We also celebrated another successful Student Government Day, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial League and the Village. It was a great learning experience for Alsip school children and a real pleasure for myself and the Board of Trustees to share in it.

Summerfest '80 proved another spectacular success, thanks to the joint efforts of our Chamber of Commerce, our Industrial League and the many dedicated Alsip citizens who participated.

Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill held in March provided a unique learning experience promising some measure of security in the event of a real emergency created by a tornado or other disaster.

We saw completion of the Orchard Avenue project, which provides a fully improved street with concrete curbs, storm sewers and sidewalks as well as streetlights.

Sidewalks went in along Pulaski thanks to the joint efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, the area businesses and the village. Our regular village sidewalk replacement program now in its thirteenth year, will continue this Spring when weather is more cooperative.

Streetlights along both Cicero Avenue and Pulaski were installed with minimum burden to taxpayers, having been 70% federally funded.

In June we issued a proclamation declaring that month to be Burglary Prevention Month in order to heighten citizen awareness regarding crime prevention. And last year about this time, we issued a proclamation urging Alsip citizens to fly the American flag until each and every one of the American hostages is released. It is my hope that they will be home by the time this newsletter is in your hands, but if they are not I urge you to continue flying the flag.

In conclusion I am pleased to report that despite the current economic picture, the Village of Alsip is not contemplating a real estate tax increase. However, as many of you are no doubt aware, the city of Chicago has passed a water-rate increase designed to affect all communities who are consumers of Chicago water, including Alsip. May I assure you that I am keeping in close touch with the situation and exploring every avenue that might lessen the impact of such an increase on Alsip citizens.

Our tax base maintains its strength and business and industry continue to be attracted to Alsip for many good reasons, especially our prime location with proximity to tri-state highways and the city of Chicago, as well as our excellent Police, Fire and Street Department services. Let us look to 1981 with high hope and enthusiasm.

BEGIN BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Once again it's time for Alsip's annual Building Inspections, which will begin January 5, 1981. Inspections of Multiples (apartments) will be first on the schedule, followed by commercial and industrial buildings and premises.

Owners of multiple Units have received advance notice of the day on which to expect the inspector. This is done to assure the inspector's entry. In the event an owner does not live on the premises, they are still responsible for making arrangements to admit the inspector. A suggested way to do this is to authorize a tenant to do so and leave keys with that person.

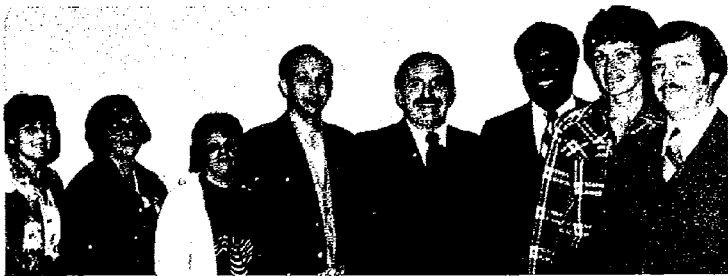
Advance notice is not necessary for business and commercial building inspections because there is usually an authorized person available during regular business hours.

There are three types of inspectors—Building, Plumbing and Electrical, each of whom will carry a special village identification card. Building inspections include structure only, which includes boiler room, laundry rooms, hallways, etc. A check of electrical work, sump pumps, electrical boxes, etc., is also included.

However, if a tenant has a problem or question involving their particular apartment, they may invite the inspector in to check it out or receive advice. Above all, feel free to ask to see proper village identification card of any person seeking entry.

Lawrence Zykwa, Building Inspector
Emma Kramer, Building Dept. Supervisor
Tel.: 385-6902

ALSIP FIRST WITH VILLAGE-WIDE UNITED BLOOD SERVICE PROGRAM



L-R: (Blood Council Members) Carol Velky, Pat Wilson, Donna Galvin, Trustee Ray Morrison, Jim Lofgren, Frank Bryant (United Blood Services), Sandy Eich, Steve Brown (United Blood Services).

At a recent regular Village Board meeting, Mr. Steven Brown and Mr. Frank D. Bryant of the United Blood Services paid special tribute to the Village of Alsip as a whole as well as to the members of the Alsip Blood Council for their efforts in supporting and participating in Alsip's Blood Program.

Mr. Brown cited the fact that Alsip is unique in seeking to serve the blood needs of its citizens through a community-wide United Blood Services program. "This kind of cooperation on a village wide basis lends stability to the program and promotes its success," says Mr. Brown. He commended Mayor Arnold Andrews, members of the village board, members of the Alsip Blood Council and each and every citizen who participates as a donor or volunteer in periodic village blood drives before presenting a special plaque of appreciation to each member of the council as well as one to the Village of Alsip which was proudly accepted by Mayor Andrews.

Since 1976, Alsip citizens have donated over 500 pints of blood and the program continues to grow in popularity as more and more people benefit from available blood during times of emergency. Plan now to participate in the next Alsip Blood Drive scheduled for mid-March at the Jewel parking lot. Help Alsip reach its annual goal so as to assure the blood will be there when you might need it. Some of your neighbors who are regular donors have already given over two gallons of blood. Can you spare a pint?



Mayor Andrews with Steve Brown and Frank Bryant.

WINTER SAFE DRIVING TIPS FROM POLICE CHIEF WARNER T. HUSTON

1. Bear in mind that drivers cannot maintain the same degree of control on snow and ice as on dry pavement. Slow down. Steer, accelerate and stop gently. Pump brakes. Most skids result from hasty changes in speed or direction.
2. Keep car tuned up. Be sure to carry emergency helpers such as a bucket of sand or rock salt, a shovel, traction mats, a tow chain or strap, tire chains, battery booster cables and emergency lighting equipment.
3. Tire chains are the ultimate self-help traction aid for pulling through deep snow or climbing snow-packed, icy grades.
4. Take time to completely clear car windows of snow and ice. Poor visibility causes many accidents.

STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR FUTURE HOME DELIVERED HOT MEALS PROGRAM. CAN YOU HELP? CALL SANDY EICH: 385-6902.

NEW ORDINANCE FOR BUSINESS VEHICLES

A recently passed village ordinance now makes it mandatory for any person, firm or corporation residing within the Village of Alsip and using any motor vehicle or motor bicycle on streets, avenues or alleys in the village to secure a Tax Sticker for such vehicles as required by Alsip.

Residing within the village includes the owning, leasing or otherwise controlling of property of business wherein motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers are stored, repaired, serviced, loaded or unloaded within the village in connection with such business.

"In accord with village ordinance, enforcement will begin on February 1st," advises Police Chief Warner Huston. He urges that these Tax Stickers be purchased on time to avoid the consequences of violation.

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR PARK DISTRICT WINTER CLASSES, SKI TRIPS, LADIES DAY TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. 12521 SO. KOSTNER—389-1003.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE



"It's A Bird—It's A Plane—It's Santa Claus!"

While his vehicle of transportation was a bit more sophisticated than the traditional sleigh and reindeer, the warmth and joy Santa brought to Alsip youngsters on a bright Saturday afternoon in early December was ageless as ever. Through a cooperative effort between the Village of Alsip, the Alsip Chamber of Commerce and several Alsip companies, Santa and Mrs. Claus together with lively elves were on hand in the Public Safety Building to listen to the whispered dreams of Alsip's younger set and to distribute some sweet surprises.

BUSINESS BRIEF

One sure way of determining a community's prosperity is by taking the temperature of its business and industrial sectors. In Alsip, the number of established businesses as well as the regular influx of new ones would indicate a temperature well above the norm.

For example, the "Budgeteer" motel recently opened at 5150 West 127th Street, between Cicero Avenue and Rt. 83, adjacent to the Alsip Holiday Inn. The newly constructed two story, 120 unit building is designed to offer comfortable, but more conservative prices.

Smoke alarms have been installed in each room and are hooked up to a central switchboard at the motel which in turn is directly hooked up to the village's Central Communication Center. While telephone service and color T.V. is provided, there is no restaurant or coffee shop in the facility.

Just neighboring the motel, at 5170 West 127th Street, is a newly built private mini-warehouse facility called "U-Lok'em" which provides both indoor and outdoor storage space on a rental basis.

Another new building in this same general area (at 5100 West 127th St.) is a modern one story office complex, currently housing a law firm.

WATER SAMPLES PROVE PURE

The Alsip public water supply department is pleased to advise that resamples taken for two consecutive days in August of water at the 5625 West 115th Street location were found to be satisfactory and investigation of this location showed no plumbing defects. This leads to the conclusion that one of the samples collected between July and August was erroneously determined to contain bacteria.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THIS PUBLICATION

Public water supplies are required by State and Federal regulations to collect water samples and analyze them for coliform bacteria, every thirty days. This work is done to monitor the distribution system for cross connections and other problems which could allow contamination to enter the water. The Alsip Public Water Supply wishes to advise its customers that coliform bacteria were present in one of the 18 water samples collected during the period of July 28 to August 24, 1980.

LOCATION	DATE SAMPLED	COLIFORM BACTERIA FOUND
5625 W. 115th St.	8/2/80	22 per 100 MGL

An investigation of the above one location showed no plumbing defects and resamples taken for two consecutive days were found to be satisfactory. We therefore concluded that the problem was an error in sampling or laboratory handling technique.

For your information, the analysis results of our routine bacteriological samples collected during the past 12 months are shown below:

NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED	SAMPLING PERIOD	RESULTS
216	7/79-7/80	Satisfactory

This notice is published to inform water users concerning the Alsip public water supply water quality as required by State and Federal regulations.

WINTER CALLS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO GARBAGE

Sandy Eich, Alsip Health Commissioner reminds residents that just as much caution should be directed in the handling of garbage during winter months as summer. "Colder weather tends to make us a little lax about garbage because we tend to dash outdoors with a bundle, dump it quickly and shoot back inside," says Eich.

However, despite the weather, rats are quick to take up residence wherever loose garbage offers them feeding. That's why it is important to store garbage in containers with tight fitting lids. "If the lids no longer fit properly, it's time to get new cans," warns Sandy. Improperly stored garbage that is in violation of village code is an invitation to ticketing. The Health Commissioner says inspections of garbage are currently underway and will continue all winter in order to enforce Village Codes, designed to promote health & sanitation in Alsip.

SNOW TIPS FROM STREET DEPARTMENT

"I want to remind all residents, including apartment dwellers that the Street Department follows a regularly scheduled plan regarding snow plowing and salting," says Tony Esposito, Superintendent of the Street Department. He adds that it would help if residents did not call the department requesting plowing because in case of heavy snowfall, the village works around the clock until every street is cleared according to schedule.

He does urge MOTORIST TO KEEP CARS OFF OF THE STREET IN ORDER TO PERMIT PLOW PASSAGE. Also the following reminder regarding village ordinances on snow:

1. IN THE EVENT OF A 1" SNOWFALL, ALL CARS ON THE PRIMARY SNOW ROUTES MUST BE OFF THE STREETS WITHIN 12 HOURS AFTER THE SNOWFALL. APPROPRIATE SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED.
2. AFTER A 3" SNOWFALL, EVERY STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF ALSIP BECOMES A PRIMARY ROUTE, EVEN IF THERE ARE NO SIGNS POSTED. ALL CARS ILLEGALLY PARKED ARE SUBJECT TO TOWING AND TICKETING DURING SUCH TIME.
3. DO NOT SHOVEL SNOW FROM PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS TO PUBLIC STREETS. THIS IS ILLEGAL AND VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINE.
4. EVERY OWNER OF A MULTIPLE UNIT OR A CONDOMINIUM UNIT DWELLING MUST PROVIDE CLEARED, OFF-STREET PARKING WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER A 1" SNOWFALL FOR THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES AS REQUIRED BY THE SIZE OF THE BUILDING. (TWO CAR SPACES FOR EACH UNIT).

FIRE DEPARTMENT URGES PURCHASE OF SMOKE ALARM

SMOKE DETECTORS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE ALSIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AT FIRE STATION NO. 1, 126th STREET AND PULASKI. THESE BATTERY OPERATED DETECTORS ARE OFFERED AT COST PRICE TO ANY VILLAGE RESIDENT OR PROPERTY OWNER. (ALSIP FIRE CHIEF JOHN BULTEMA)

Smoke Detectors have been growing in popularity during recent years as a means of sounding an alarm in case of fire, thus saving many lives. Five million smoke alarms were sold in 1976 and by 1977 that number was surpassed.

Building Codes in 29 states require smoke detectors in new homes and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has similar requirements for homes whose mortgages it guarantees.

But despite the use of photoelectric alarms (operated by batteries or household currents) and activated by smoke particles interrupting a beam of light), fires annually account for about 12,000 deaths and many more burn and inhalation injuries.

Smoke Alarms are designed to detect two kinds of fire—the smoldering fire as in a mattress or chair whose smoke, toxic gases and flames are the major cause of home fire fatalities; and the smokeless fire.



FREE TRIMMERS

Busy about the task of trimming the tree in anticipation of Santa's visit to Alsip, were the following school children: Lane School: Julie Sepanik and Ray LaPorta; Stony Creek: Mike Clarke and Mel Chancey; Hamlin: Janelle Donato and Jim Makuch; Hazelgreen: John Bickel and Albert Elizondo.

VILLAGE OF ALSIP
4500 W. 123rd ST.
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TEL.: 385-6902

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TRUSTEES

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JEROME M. MARZEC

VEHICLE STICKER DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1st

Alsip vehicle stickers must be properly displayed by February 1st to avoid ticketing. This includes autos, trucks and motorcycles. The grace period for purchase of sticker runs until February 15th, with no penalty charges assessed until after that date. However, those not displaying proper sticker by February 1st are still subject to ticketing in accord with village code. Please plan to avoid extra expense of fine or penalty by purchasing and displaying proper sticker on time. The Village Clerk's Office is the place to purchase this license. It is located in the Public Safety Building, 4500 West 123rd St., and is open every day (half day Sat.) as well as two evenings, Monday and Wednesday until 9:00 p.m. for your convenience.

LETTERS . . .

When a person is over 65 as I am and the snow is so deep, I cannot shovel snow from around the hydrants. It's a problem for us older people to even get our doorway free.

An Alsip Sr. Citizen

The village asks business and residential citizens of Alsip to help keep fire hydrants free of snow in the winter so that in case of a fire, our firemen will save precious time if they can spot the nearest hydrant as soon as possible. However, it is not the intention of the village to cause any hardship on its senior citizens, or others not suited to shoveling. We would hope that there is enough help around from neighbors who are more physically up to the task. Thank you for your letter.

I am delighted to report that this year's donations to the United Way by Alsip Village employees was up 272% over the last two years, with over 90% of the staff in some departments participating in this worthy cause. On behalf of those who will reap the rewards of your generosity through a variety of charitable channels, I thank you for your kind support.

FRANK D. HITER, PRESIDENT, ALSIP UNITED WAY

DEDICATE LEE BALKUS LEARNING CENTER

The Stony Creek School Learning Center was recently renamed the "Lee Balkus Learning Center" in honor of the school's former principal, Miss Lee Balkus, who founded the Center. More than four hundred people attended the special dedication ceremony to pay tribute to the popular principal who passed away May 9, 1980 after a brief illness. Also, the Stony Creek Student Chorus and the faculty chorus joined in a special musical rendition. Miss Balkus came to Lane School in District 126 in September of 1959, remaining there a short time until Stony Creek School was completed. A combination of unique dedication and creativity earned this talented professional the respect and love of countless parents, students and colleagues. It was under her leadership that Stony Creek celebrated "20 Years of Excellence" in March 1980, an event that Ms. Balkus managed to attend despite failing health. A portrait of Miss Balkus together with a memorial plaque is currently on prominent display in the Learning Center. The Village of Alsip mourns the loss of this exceptional educator.

SNOWTHROWER TIPS

There are basically three types of snowthrowers from which to choose for those planning such a purchase. (1) Compact (2) Heavy Duty (3) Portables

A compact usually weighs about 30 to 50 pounds. Most of them feature a two to three horsepower gas or electric motor and pick up and throw snow in a single maneuver. They clear paths from 14 to 20 inches wide and are capable of moving about 600 pounds of snow a minute, throwing it 15 feet or more.

The heavy duty model comes in a wider variety of styles and makes. Because they are designed to do the job in two stages, they are able to handle more snow at higher speed without stalling or jamming. The heavy duty clears a path 21 to 32 inches wide, moving 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of snow a minute and throwing it 25 to 30 feet.

On self-propelled snowthrowers, look for safety features such as deadman or squeeze-grip controls that will turn off the power should you lose control of the machine, should you slip or fall.

Portables are also referred to as power shovels. They average 2 hp., weigh under 45 lbs. and clear a 12 to 21 inch path. These featherweights hang on the garage wall, making for easy storage. Also, they can clear steps and stoops as well as twisty paths. However, they are not capable of coping with gravel or crushed stone driveways and because of their lightweight plastic parts can crack or break.

Alsip Digest written, edited and photography by Jean Rodgers.
Direct letters to Alsip Village Hall.

VILLAGE OF ALSIP
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Alsip, Illinois 60658

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