



ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 1

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Number 6

ALSIP "OFFICER FRIENDLY" TEACHES TOTS AND TEENS



Officer Ken Wood displays Disney Teaching Aids

To the children, "Officer Friendly" is a personable policeman who comes into the classroom telling exciting stories about crossing streets carefully, being aware of strangers or handling a medical or fire emergency.

To the police department from which he emanates, Officer Friendly is a concept conveying safety principals, that will protect children from falling victim to accidents or criminal acts. Alsip schoolchildren identify Officers Ken Wood and Ron Comparin as their Officer Friendly. Both men are 4 year residents of Alsip and in about their 5th year of police service, and each have two young children.

As members of the Alsip-Merrionette Park Crime Prevention Bureau, they develop and teach safety-orientated sessions to area schoolchildren. The program was realized through a federal grant, with supplies and printed materials—including a generous supply of visual aids—furnished by a Sears Foundation Grant, sponsors of the national "Officer Friendly" program for Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

However, unique to the Alsip "Officer Friendly" program is more frequent scheduling of classes and the inclusion of sessions for grades 4-8 as well.

"The response to these sessions by both students and administrators has been gratifying," points out Wood who is the "veteran" of the program.

The Sears Foundation has also made possible participation by Alsip officers, in seminars comprised of police personnel from several states. Participating policemen must be imaginative, creative and responsive to youngsters.

One talented officer has even worked up a special magician's act to capture the youngster's interest. With the aid of audio-visual equipment and workbooks, cartoon characters such as "Mike the Talking Bike" and "Stranger Danger" are incorporated into special stories that get the safety message across. A series of Walt Disney cassettes, including characters such as Jiminy Cricket and Winnie the Pooh, have proved

especially helpful because they are sound, logical and easily understood concepts.

One phase of the program dealing with poison prevention, teaches youngsters to respect medicine and cautions against swallowing pills or other medication without the permission of a parent, doctor or nurse. Another aspect, teaches children how to contact a telephone operator and recite a specific home address in case of emergency, rather than a vague description like "the big green house on the corner of my block."

All Officer Friendly sessions run as long as those of any other regular school subject, with completion certificates awarded to those in the K-3rd grade level. Bicycle safety is reinforced in 4th and 5th grades, while grades 6-8 study a "Law Awareness Program", sometimes referred to as a "Modern World Course".

... JR. HIGH GETS JR. CIVICS SESSION ...

Wood points out that the Jr. High level emphasizes the impact present behavior will have later on in adult life.

For example, he says that the teaching officer doesn't say something like, "if you shoplift, you'll be arrested", but instead tries to confront them with the consequences of that action say five years from now when they have to contend with a police record.

A similar approach is used toward drugs and alcohol, by asking how much of their freedom they are willing to relinquish to these habits. "After all, once under the influence of either, more and more time is given to securing and ingesting the stuff with less and less time to be free to do other things."

Other troubling teen topics such as shoplifting, drugs, hitchhiking, vandalism and family conflicts are also explored. The rights as well as the responsibilities of a young driver stopped by a law enforcement officer is also discussed.

Highlighting last year's program was a field trip to the 4th District Court in Maywood. Jr. High students visited courtrooms and asked questions ranging from "what's a jury?" to "why does a judge wear a black robe?"

The Alsip officers prepare much of the material themselves, including taking pictures locally.

"A stop sign is just a stop sign until a child recognizes a building in the background that he is familiar with. Then you've got his attention. And that's what it's all about, starting to get their attention at 6, so that at 16 they don't feel they have to bust a window or hurt themselves to get attention," says Wood seriously.

SEWER DEPARTMENT SENDS S.O.S.

The Village of Alsip is issuing an S.O.S. (seek out sewers) in order to assist in the prevention of spring flooding problems. All citizens are asked to help locate and clear all manholes in their area. If there is a problem in clearing the snow or ice after locating the manhole, please contact the Sewer Department at 385-6902 immediately.

"Half the battle is locating the sewers once thawing begins so if a person at least finds it for us, we'll be glad to give a hand on clearing it," says Sewer Commissioner Joe Jolivette.

He says time is vital because the sooner these sewers can be located and cleared, the better chances will be to prevent flooding and dangerous ice slicks.

MEET TRUSTEE BLACK— LADY WITH FOUR HATS



Like the early American families who decided to "go west", the "Jenks Clan" made a family move, but decided to "go southwest". Born and raised in the melting pot of Chicago's West Side, Penney Jenks Black married her Canadian born childhood sweetheart, John Black, and migrated to Alsip in 1956 settling in a home at 4918 West 123rd Place. Shortly after, two of Penney's sisters, Nancy Stiers and Ruth Schneider, followed and later Mother Jenks joined them—all buying homes on the same block.

Four children were born to Penney and John, three of whom are now grown with children of their own. The oldest John, is 28, married with 2 children; 26 year old Julie is expecting a first child, while 24 year old Jenny is married with one child and another expected. The youngest member of the Black family is 11 year old Timothy, a very active 6th grader at Hazelgreen School who plays basketball, volleyball and participates in Student Council.

What's the secret of this youthful and vivacious "grandmother" who wears 4 different hats? (mother, grandmother, business executive and municipal leader)

"Well getting married young and having my children early helped. Other than that, I guess I've always been one to thrive on challenges," laughs Trustee Black.

These challenges were to come later in the form of community needs that Penney would be unable to ignore. But before that, she donned her second hat and entered the working world after her three oldest children started school in 1959.

Her business career began as a "floater" secretary at "IIT" (Illinois Institute of Technology), where she worked her way up to assisting Department Heads working with tracking stations in connection with the NASA space program. It was the Marketing Manager at IIT that urged Penney to join him when he left there to go into management consulting. She accepted and eventually became the first woman in Chicago to become a Management Consultant specializing in Executive Search.

After that, she was invited to join a firm in suburban Chicago where she currently is Vice President of Administration.

"That means simply that I am responsible for everything—even that which goes wrong," points out Penney with a chuckle.

Actually, Mrs. Black is the kind of person who would rather do something and risk a mistake than do nothing at all. This was the contention with which she had to come to terms when she unwittingly stepped into the local political scene.

It was in 1967 that Penney rallied the support of a few close friends followed by a petition bearing something like 4,500 names to contest an issue that she felt demanded attention.

"Before this, I really had no aspirations about public office. It was just that the situation at that time was something about which I had some very serious convictions," points out Penney.

She says that the results of action by this growing group of Alsip citizens was gratifying and worth the hard work that went along with it.

"In reflection, one of the most difficult aspects of the thing were the sudden deaths of my sister, Ruth, and another good friend right in the midst of everything else," says Penne softly.

However, being adept at turning adversity into acclaim, the survivor emerged more determined than ever.

... DONS 3RD HAT—PUBLIC SERVICE ...

Penney entered Alsip public service in 1969 when she was appointed Recording Secretary of the Village Board, a position she held until 1974, after revamping procedure and setting up a basic guideline for the job. Then in December 1974, she was appointed Trustee to fill an unexpired vacancy. She retained the seat until 1975 when she was elected to the 4 year term, making her the first woman in the Village of Alsip ever to be elected to such a post.

Currently, Mrs. Black Chairs two committees—"Fire" and "Village Hall". She points with pride to the new Paramedic Program and updating of the Fire Department in general. By increasing personnel and purchasing new equipment, Alsip's rating is improved which in turn means dollar savings to property owners who then enjoy lower fire insurance premiums.

"Keeper of the keys", best describes her Chairmanship of the "Village Hall Committee" in that she is responsible for the overall operation and maintenance of the entire Public Safety Building which houses the Village Hall and the Police Department.

Penney also serves on a number of other Committees, such as "Streets", "Finance", "Sewer", "Building", "Local Improvements", "Ordinance and Legislation" and "Transportation".

As far as combining motherhood with other careers, Mrs. Black says she's been too busy to think about being liberated. She is grateful that her children have not presented any serious problems with the exception of one school attendance problem years ago.

"I just handed the principal a dozen postcards addressed to me and asked that he drop one in the mail every time my child did not drop into school—and that ended it."

Penney feels that the community's strength lies in its ability to unite toward common goals. She feels that one way to accomplish this is through good communication. In order to crystalize her ideas on this, Trustee Black recently introduced a bi-monthly Village newsletter, the "Alsip Digest".

"I am really pleased with this publication because it is doing all the things I had envisioned, but had difficulty in sharing with others. It's the best thing I've seen for bridging areas of misunderstanding. It promotes pride and an atmosphere of familiarity within our village and among the people who are Alsip."

TORNADO TIPS

Alsip Fire Chief John Bultema advises that tornado weather is typically hot, sticky with southerly winds and a sky of topsy turvy greenish-black thunderstorm clouds. Tornadoes are most likely to strike from March through September between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Keep calm and keep posted to radio and t.v. weather reports. **TELEPHONE POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENTS ONLY IF YOU ACTUALLY SIGHT A FUNNEL CLOUD.** Calls of inquiry flood switchboards and prevent reports of actual sightings from coming through.

According to Frank Hiter, Co-ordinator of Department of Emergency Preparedness, Alsip participated in a State-wide Tornado drill at 10:30 a.m., March 6. At that time, Fire House No. 1 activated the Alsip siren system, which in turn prompted drill maneuvers by local schools. The sound of the wailing siren might seem an annoyance to some, but the secret of surviving any disaster is either not to be in the place where it hits or to be prepared if you are.

Since no one can predict when or where such an emergency will hit, it is only good sense to work out a pre-plan of survival. And that is what these preliminary drills are intended to do... Alert the public to the life saving benefits of being prepared.

ORDINANCE REGULATES TREE SELECTION

Alsip Village Ordinance limits selection of one of the following types of trees for planting: Red Oak, Pin Oak, Hard Maple, American or English Elm, Sycamore or American or European Linden.

The slower growth pattern of these kinds of trees prevents clogging of sewer lines caused by tree roots, which makes them more acceptable.

The Alsip Village Board urges cooperation in this matter of tree selection in order to avoid the expense and hassle of sewer rodding services due to broken sewer tiles or water backing up into your home.

Call Sandy Eich at 385-6902 for information on this year's "Project Green Up," Village tree planting program.

YOUTH BEAT . . . MEET THAD ANDERSON— A "SWIMMING" MUSICIAN!



Ten year old Thad Anderson loves swimming, spaghetti, math and music! Quite a tall order for a young man in only 5th grade at Hazelgreen School.

Thad is an enthusiastic member of the "Shepherd Sharks" swim team which is coached by Mr. Holben at the Shepherd High School facility. The team is comprised of both boys and girls from Alsip and several surrounding communities.

Both Thad and his older sister, Donna, learned how to swim from their father who introduced Thad to the family's backyard pool as early as age one.

"I guess I started to learn to swim when I was about two," says Thad softly. Then he laughs in remembering himself as a near infant in that big pool.

Donna is a past participant in the Shepherd High School swim team and between her support and that of his father, Thad has learned to love the water. He says that he is still working on perfecting his swimming ability, with his favorite stroke being the free style and his most difficult, the butterfly and breaststroke.

Several ribbons he has won in South Suburban and Des Plaines Valley meets, attest to his hard work at practice which takes up four evenings a week during the winter and much more than that in the summer.

The modest athlete swiftly dismisses praise about his five year perfect attendance record at Hazelgreen School, but agrees that swimming probably contributes to the good health that has made this record possible.

"After a good swim practice, I feel good—and I feel hungry", says Thad quietly.

Besides swimming, this poised young gentleman finds time for piano lessons and singing in the Hazelgreen Baptist Church choir. He also enjoys soccer, volley ball, bike riding and roller skating. Last year he served on the Hazelgreen Student Council and this year is a Patrol Boy and a Monitor.

The high energy Thad directs into so many worthwhile interests leaves little time for boredom or mischief and lots of time for fulfillment and fun! It is also the basic recipe for building a mature adult.

DO YOU KNOW AN ALSIP YOUNGSTER OF ANY AGE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT? DROP A NOTE TO THE DIGEST TODAY.

ALSIP LIONS SAY: SAVE YOUR SIGHT

One young woman loses her eyesight in a near drowning incident and receives financial assistance to restore her sight; a couple of blind youngsters receive a tape recorder and educational tapes; another gets a braille watch; and still another is guided to an eye doctor for an examination and special glasses.

This is what "Alsip Lions" is all about and I am delighted to be part of it," says this year's secretary, Bill Krauchunas.

Mayor Arnold Andrews and the Board of Trustees gratefully recognize the contribution organizations such as the Alsip Lions make toward the quality of community life.

A recent proclamation issued by Mayor Andrews declares the week of March 26, 1979 as "Glaucoma Week in Alsip". A free Glaucoma and Visual Acuity Test will be offered to the public between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. in the Public Safety Building, 4500 West 123rd Street, the evening of March 26th. No appointments are necessary for this annual free check-up that painlessly measures the fluid pressure in the eyeball to determine the possibility of glaucoma. Out of 330,066 scannings performed in Illinois from 1969 to 1978, the number of definite glaucoma cases detected was 1,580.



R-L Bill Krauchunas, Mayor Andrews, Floyd Gilbert

Krauchunas is a fairly new member of the Lions and during the past year has been diligently seeking Alsip citizens in need of help or interested in club membership.

"The fact that we don't have a building or special meeting hall sometimes makes it difficult for prospective members or people needing help to find us," says Krauchunas.

The enthusiastic secretary points out that membership has doubled in the past year indicating a resurgence of interest since the group received its Charter in 1966. He also urges anyone with a personal or family problem relating to a visual handicap to contact him at: 388-1239.



**STREETLIGHTING UPDATE...
TIP FROM TRUSTEE JACK YOCK...**

DID YOU KNOW?

That Phase I of the Linecrest Subdivision (comprised of the area from Kolin Avenue to Tripp Street and from Linecrest to 117th) was completed last Spring. Phase II of the Linecrest Subdivision (Alternate A Section from 117th to 119th and from Kolin to Tripp) will be completed by May 1979. (Alternate B Section, consists of Kostner Avenue, Keeler Ave. and Kedvale from 117th to 119th) will also be completed by May 1979.

This project is being funded by Real Estate Taxes and Revenue Sharing Funds, which means no special assessment and no extra costs to the homeowner. It was prompted by safety and traffic considerations and is the most modern system of lighting available at the present time.

PEOPLE TO KNOW...

Mayor Arnold Andrews Robert A. Gruber, Clerk

TRUSTEES:

James M. Howe Bob D. Sterba Penney Black
Raymond J. Morrison John J. Yock Jerome M. Marzec

ATTORNEY:

Peter A. Loutos

TREASURER:

John Streeter

RESIDENTS REMINDED TO VOTE

APRIL 17, 1979 is ELECTION DAY IN ALSIP. Positions on the Board of Trustees for the Village, the Park and the Library will be voted upon. March 20th is the last day for registration at the Village Hall; April 12th is the last day to apply by mail for absent voter's ballot, and April 16th is the last day to apply in person for absent voter's ballot. Registered voters expecting to be absent from the COUNTY on election day may vote absentee ballot. Registered voters appointed as judges in a precinct other than where they reside may vote by absentee ballot.

SPRINGTIME—CLEAN TIME

In mid April, the Village will once again offer help in carting away all the clutter you've had hidden away all winter in the basement, attic and backyard. At this time, all types of debris—despite size—may be deposited at curbside in front of your property, for Village pick-up. Also, special containers for depositing debris will be available to groups planning special clean-up projects. (Scouts, schools or churches). To arrange for a container or more information, call: SANDY EICH 385-6902, ext. 32.

VILLAGE OF ALSIP
4500 W. 123th Street
Alsip, Illinois 60658

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NURSE CONWAY GETS GRANT

Mary Jayne Conway, a 26 year old Alsip resident, was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to further her education into the phsycological effects of cancer. The Registered Nurse is Supervisor of the Hematology-Oncology Unit at Mercy Hospital and was recently promoted to Chairman of the Nurse's Committee on Professional Education for the Chicago Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Jayne graduated from St. Xavier College with a 4.0 average while working full time. For Alsip American Cancer Society Information, call: Bob Hyland: 385-6932

"PASTOR ANDY" COMES TO HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4041 West 120th Street, recently welcomed its new Pastor, Rev. Andrew Dzuovcik who is originally from Whiting, Indiana. He is married to the former Susan Garan of Cumberland, Ohio and they have one daughter, 9 year old Faith Elizabeth. Pastor Andy invites the public to Sunday morning Adult Bible Classes at 9:15, followed by 10:30 worship service.

PARAMEDICS ON THE RUN

Alsip Fire Department Paramedics have had a busy, yet gratifying 1978, with a reported number of 11 saves. A "save" describes a situation where the victim shows no sign of breathing when the Paramedics arrive on the scene, but who resumes normal breathing after receiving emergency treatment.

STUDENTS STEER ALSIP

According to Trustee Jack Yock, about 27 Jr. High students will participate in "Alsip Student Government Day," March 17, sponsored by the Village, the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial League.

SUMMERFEST IS COMING!! JUNE 30 and JULY 1st.
LOOK FOR DETAILS IN MAY DIGEST

GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION — Feb. 1 - March 31st.
Appollo Park, 125th and Kostner. Coaches needed.

Alsip Digest written and edited by Jean Rodgers.
Your letters of news or comment are welcome: Direct them to:
Alsip Digest
Alsip Village Hall
4500 W. 123th Street
Alsip, IL 60658

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