

ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 3

November, 1980

Number 4

GRUBER GRASPS CLERK'S OFFICE



Robert A. Gruber, Alsip Village Clerk

Did you know that the office of Municipal Clerk can be traced back as far as biblical times? As a matter of fact, one of the first offices established at Plymouth by the early colonists was that of a recorder—a Clerk.

In Alsip, Robert A. Gruber, a 21 year resident of the village has been capably filling this vital spot for nearly the past 12 years. Traditionally, the Clerk was the "historian" of the community, but over the years the role has become so diversified as to defy description.

"The Clerk's Office is the nucleus where the loose ends common to local government come together," explains Gruber.

The Alsip Clerk's Office is located in the Public Safety Building where a well trained staff is on hand to answer questions, furnish applications and collect fees or penalties. This is in addition to conducting the routine daily business of village operation.

"Sometimes people don't realize that the Clerk's Office does not *make* the laws, but only carries them out. We are obliged to follow to the letter both state and local laws," points out the congenial Clerk.

Should the Village receive a summons to appear in court, it is the Clerk who must either appear in person or furnish certified documents for presentation by the village attorney. Also, the Clerk must be available to the Mayor, the Village Board and all Administrative Departments. But while the post demands an aptitude for detail, this youthful public servant thrives on it.

However, Gruber is quick to point out two things which have contributed to the increased efficiency of the Clerk's Office these past 12 years, permitting him to implement his ideas.

The first is the extraordinary support and cooperation from Mayor Andrews and the current Village Board of Trustees; the second is the capabilities and efforts of both his immediate staff (for which he openly expresses appreciation) as well as those of all other village departments.

"This kind of teamwork makes for swifter and more efficient service to the taxpayer and that's what it's all about," says Gruber seriously.

After his election in 1969, one of the first tasks Gruber took on was the collection of all delinquent special assessments despite the threat of it being politically unpopular to do so.

"I felt it was equally unpopular for those who were paying their taxes to share services with those who were not. So I went ahead despite the clamor from the delinquents."

Another area to which he soon directed attention was that of village ordinances. Working with the village attorney, Gruber thoroughly reviewed each ordinance in order to simplify language and eliminate duplication. Upon approval by the Village Board, the revision was then turned over to a professional recodification firm for further review against state statutes before being returned in orderly book form for convenient reference.

So strong were Gruber's convictions about the necessity of maintaining orderly, up-to-date ordinances, that he uniquely provided that failure to maintain the procedure on a regular basis amounted to an illegal act.

Currently the Clerk's Office is working on transferring all village records to microfilm for storage with the State. He sees this as necessary for conserving space and money.

"Over a 20 year period, there is an accumulation of a lot of paper and it gets expensive to provide file cabinets and storage space for it," he says.

Also, Gruber explains how his personal habit of making a daily list of things he wants to get done probably prompted his introduction of the "1 to 30" file system used by his staff which establishes an automatic follow-up on pending matters.

MOVES TO ALSIP IN 1959

Originally from Chicago, Bob completed his education at the University of Indiana before going on to a successful 18 year career in administrative services and then into business for himself. Because of his sharp appetite for reading material on economics and history, he has a keen insight regarding financial matters.

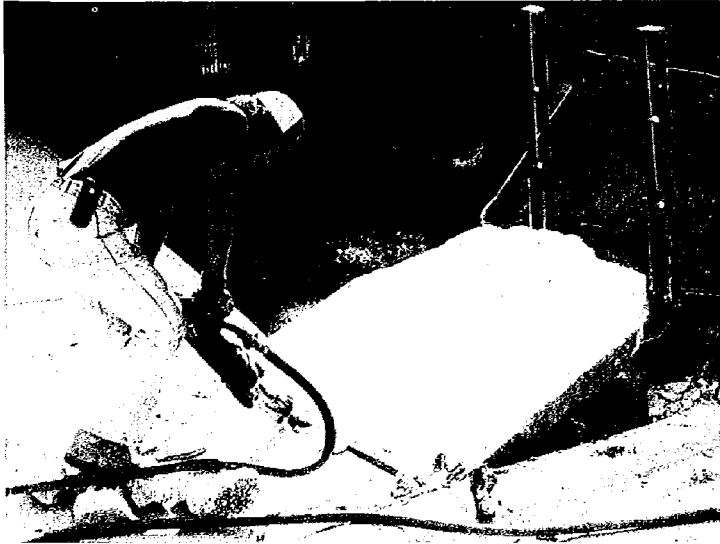
Bob recalls that shortly after he and his wife, Shirley, moved to Alsip in 1959 they had an opportunity to meet many village officials. This occasion was what fired his interest in participating in his new community.

"Under various administrations, part of my apprenticeship was working long and irregular hours as treasurer as well as tramping through the mud seeking solutions to sewer and water problems prevalent back then," he relates.

Today at regular Village Board meetings, Bob Gruber sits to the right of Mayor Arnold Andrews, calling the roll and overseeing the recording of minutes. He likes Alsip and the people of Alsip, commenting favorably on his good neighbors. He hopes for the opportunity to continue serving them long after the 1981 Spring election.

"Mayor Andrews and this Board of Trustees has demonstrated the ability to innovate progress cautiously as evidenced by the balanced budget these past 12 years. I'm proud to be a part of this team," expounds Gruber with a big smile.

SIDEWALK RENEWAL ROLLS ALONG



Trustee Jerry Marzec reports that the regular Village Sidewalk Renewal Program is going along according to schedule. The program now in its 12th year, calls for replacement of those sidewalks deemed a health and safety hazard by Alsip Building Department inspectors.

Residents may report a broken or sagging sidewalk and the village will dispatch an inspector to check it. If it is determined to be a hazard, the location will be placed on the schedule with completion probably taking place the following year.

"However, in the event there is a serious sag in the sidewalk, like 2" or more, replacement will take place sooner," says Marzec. Work is contracted out on a bid basis for the lowest unit price, with the village absorbing the full cost as opposed to splitting the cost with the property owner.

LATE FEE GUIDELINE

All vehicle licenses purchased AFTER FEBRUARY 15, 1981 will be charged a late fee as follows:

February 16—March 31	\$ 2.00
April 1—April 30	3.00
May 1—May 31	4.00
June 1—June 30	5.00
July 1—July 31	6.00
August 1—August 31	7.00
September 1—September 30	8.00
October 1—October 31	9.00
November 1—November 30	10.00
December 1—December 31	11.00

IT PAYS TO BE PROMPT! AVOID PENALTY. GET YOUR STICKER ON TIME! PENALTY FEE IS ADDED TO INITIAL ESTABLISHED FEE.

HANDICAPPED I.D. CARDS AVAILABLE

Handicapped Parking Identification Cards are available to eligible persons residing in the village of Alsip, through the Worth Township Office located at 5831 West 115th Street, Worth; Tel.: 371-2900.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Persons who are disabled, including those in wheelchairs or those with impairments that cause difficulties in movement as well as those suffering from reduced mobility or perception as a result of the aging process.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE? It permits the holder to park in restricted "Handicapped Parking Only" spaces in participating municipalities located in Cook County. It will NOT be issued to individuals with a temporary disability, i.e., broken leg, etc.

HOW DO I GET ONE? Pick up an application at the township office. Then return the completed application WITH A PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT describing the disability, upon which a blue plastic card will be issued immediately for display on auto sun visor.

VEHICLE STICKERS ON SALE DECEMBER 1ST

Vehicle stickers go on sale December 1st in the Clerk's Office located in the Alsip Public Safety Building, 4500 West 123rd Street. By January 1st, stickers should be validly displayed. Those who do not do so are in violation and subject to ticketing, even though the grace period extends to February 15th, after which penalties will be added.

FEES AS FOLLOWS: Auto: \$12.00; Truck: \$15.00-\$60.00; Motorcycle: \$10.00. Stickers are free to senior citizens 62 years of age and over as well as disabled persons presenting proper identification. **REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR CURRENT STATE REGISTRATION CARD. STICKERS WILL NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT IT.**

Upon proper verification, new Alsip residents, will be granted a 30 day grace period. After that, the regular penalty fee of \$2.00 for the first month and \$1.00 for each month after that will be charged.

Regarding the transfer of vehicle license, if plates are transferred, the original sticker also must be transferred at a \$1.00 charge. However, if new plates have been purchased, a new sticker is required at the established fee.

AMENDED VEHICLE ORDINANCE REQUIRES PROOF AND PENALTY PAYMENT

Trustee Penney Black announces recent amendment to Village Vehicle License Ordinance #80-2-1. According to the new Ordinance (80-10-1), disabled persons or senior citizens aged 62 or older, will continue to be eligible for one free sticker per family for vehicle classifications A-B or RV.

However, disabled persons are now required to present a Social Security Disability card as proof of disability. Please note that this is the ONLY proof-of-disability that will be accepted by the village. Eligibility for Social Security Permanent Disability requires five months to become effective.

Further, the new ordinance stipulates that seniors or those disabled will be liable for the late penalty fee effective to those seeking a vehicle sticker AFTER FEBRUARY 15th.

TRANSPORT WAGON FOR ALSIP POLICE

According to Trustee Jack Yock, Alsip recently purchased a Police Transport Wagon to be used for more efficient transportation of property, and safer movement of prisoners and police officers. The former privately owned recreational vehicle was picked up at an auto auction for conversion to police purposes.

It is equipped with two long benches providing seating for about eight passengers plus two persons in the cab; or space enough to carry equipment such as evidence or property that must be moved from the scene of a crime or arrest, to police headquarters. In addition, Police Chief Warner Huston points out that in situations calling for crowd control, the very presence of the larger vehicle tends to discourage disorderly action.

Use of this vehicle is prevalent in other areas, including Chicago and several suburbs.



Officers (l-r) Tom Peterson and Dick Goldschmidt pictured with new Transport Wagon

FIREFIIGHTERS FOSTER LIFESAVING TECHNIQUE

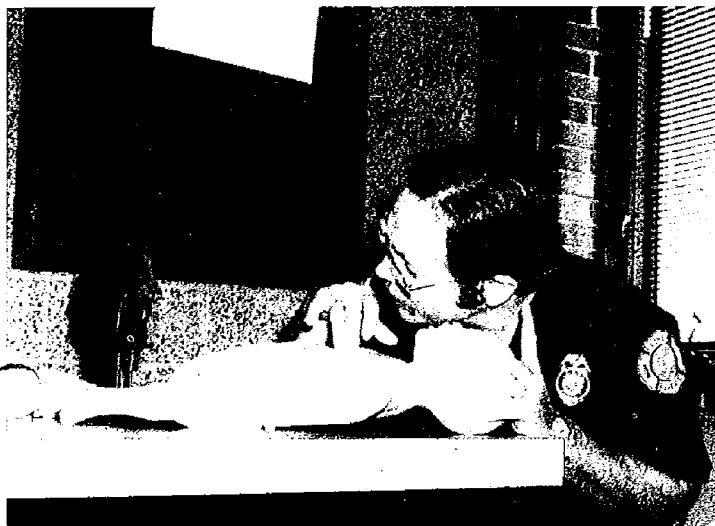
Two men are working side by side in a manufacturing plant. Suddenly one falls to the floor into a state of unconsciousness. Imagine the frustration of the other who is at complete loss as to what to do. This is why Alsip firefighters teach a CPR class. Out of the 650,000 annual heart attack victims, 350,000 die outside a hospital within two hours after the onset of symptoms.



Matt Maciaga with "Annie".



George Johnson explains process.



Infant technique differs.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency procedure to restore life after sudden, unexpected death has occurred. All that is required is your mouth, your hands and a sincere desire to save a life.

However, recognizing the reasons for the unconsciousness will determine the type of emergency aid that should be administered. Taking a CPR course will prepare you to diagnose (1) obstructed airway (2) arrested breathing (3) cardiac arrest. The Alsip Fire Department offers the CPR course to any organization, group or local business wise enough to take advantage of it. Currently the course is taught by Paramedic firefighters Matt Maciaga and George Johnson.

"Because most people have a tendency to freeze in an emergency, we stress the importance of stepping forward if caught in such a situation. To summon additional help, yell "fire". People will respond more readily to that than to "help", explains Maciaga during a recent class held at the Firehouse.

Also, after determining the victim is unconscious, the firefighters suggest that you point directly to one particular person and order him to call an ambulance immediately. Time is crucial because it is after the first 4 to 6 minutes that the heart stops when permanent brain damage will usually result.

Details on how to perform emergency aid are offered in the CPR class based upon a paperback book published by the American Heart Association. Also, a life-size mannequin, affectionately known as "Annie" as well as an infant doll are used to demonstrate the CPR technique. "Annie" was originally designed as a CPR teaching tool by a distraught Norwegian father whose daughter drowned in a boating accident many years ago.

Alsip firefighters are delighted with the number of lives they were instrumental in saving, including one where the victim staggered into the fire station himself when a trip to the hospital was delayed at a freight crossing.

However, they stress that the secret to saving more lives is educating as many people as possible in the CPR method in order to assure immediate assistance by those at the scene. Instruction in CPR is growing in popularity with many insurance companies recommending the course to employees of companies they insure.

FOR INFORMATION ON CPR CALL: 385-6902, Ext. 56

BLOOD IS LIFE . . . SHARE LIFE!

BLOOD DRIVE SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 1980
 APOLLO PARK FIELD HOUSE—9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
 FOR APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
 385-6902. OTHERWISE, JUST WALK IN SATURDAY,
 DECEMBER 6th. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! HELP
 ALSIP HEALTH. SHARE BLOOD.

LETTERS . . .

As a resident of Alsip for ten years I've really enjoyed living here and find much of the news in the ALSIP DIGEST very interesting. I have a suggestion about the many new businesses and large corporations that have moved into the village. I would like to see some news about them, especially about Griffith Laboratories which is a world-wide corporation located nicely along the tollway. My husband is employed by Griffith and I am proud of this. Thanks for writing such a good village "Alsip Digest".

—Mrs. Frank Frangesh

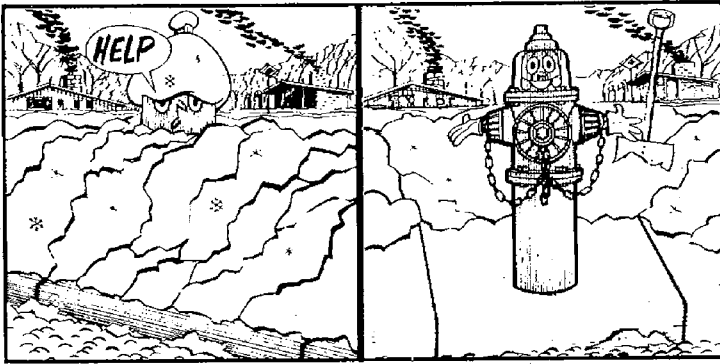
The Alsip Digest:

The family of Kenneth Topolski would like to take this time to say a very special thanks to the Police Department, the Alsip merchants and the Alsip residents for their tremendous response in our time of need.

Also, our heartfelt thanks to the paramedics as they desperately tried to save our son's life.

God Bless,
 Ken, Kathy, & Karen Topolski

a pile of snow can bring A PILE OF TROUBLE



when it SNOWS — and SNOWS — and SNOWS
protect your home or business!

KEEP YOUR NEAREST FIRE HYDRANT WELL CLEARED OF SNOW

SNOW SAFETY TIPS

Being caught unprepared should a big blizzard hit can become a nightmare for motorists and public safety vehicles as evidenced by past experience. Therefore the following guideline is offered for future reference during the oncoming winter months:

ALSIP POLICE CHIEF WARNER HUSTON SAYS:

It is unlawful to park any vehicle on public streets designated as primary or secondary snow routes under the following circumstances:

Primary Snow Routes

Parking is restricted anytime within twelve hours after a snowfall of one inch or more. Appropriate signs have been posted on primary snow routes.

Secondary Snow Routes

Parking is restricted anytime within twelve hours after a snowfall of three inches or more. **ALL OTHER VILLAGE STREETS** other than primary snow routes are designated as secondary snow routes. Signs are **NOT POSTED** on secondary snow routes. **IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, VIOLATORS WILL BE TOWED!!**

ALSIP FIRE CHIEF JOHN BULTEMA SAYS:

1. Any business or resident having a fire hydrant on their property should keep the hydrant clearly visible from the street by clearing an area four feet on each side of it. This will assure swift access to the hydrant by fire hoses in the event of an emergency when time is crucial.
2. Clear snow from outside vents of clothes dryers, especially snow that drifts thus hindering ventilation.

3. Clear area around your gas meter and shut-off valve in case of the need to turn it off in an emergency.
4. Be sure your house number is clearly visible, and free from snow so emergency vehicles can identify it.

TONY ESPOSITO, SUPERINTENDENT STREET DEPT. SAYS:

1. Do not shovel snow from private driveway to public thoroughfare. This makes for hazardous driving conditions. Violators will be subject to fine. We suggest that you carefully pile the snow along either side of the drive.
2. The street department follows a regular schedule in its snow plowing plan, working round the clock until all streets are clear in the event of heavy snow. Please do not call in requesting the plow on your street, but be assured it will be taken care of as soon as possible. In late Fall, the Street Department began converting and tuning up equipment for plowing and salting services. Alsip maintains adequate supplies of salt for freezing conditions and a salt-cinder mixture for sub-zero temperatures.
3. Be sure your car gets a winter tune up to avoid stalling and traffic jams. Also, carry a supply of salt or sand to use for better traction should you become stuck. It is also advisable to carry a set of jumper cables.
4. By all means, **GET CARS OFF OF STREET** to permit passage of plows and avoid corrosive damage to your car from salt spreading.

SCIENCE STUDENTS AT WEATHER STATION

According to Frank Hiter, Alsip's Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness, two Shepard High School students Jeff Homeier and Mark Enns will be regularly visiting the Alsip Weather Station to observe and record readings. They will be under the direct supervision of Ms. L. Brown, Science Chairperson for School District 218, and participating as part of an independent science credit course.

During the Weather Station's Open House when the boys visited the station atop the new garage facility with their parents, their interest was sparked and since then has been supported by Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees well as Hiter who was instrumental in getting the program off the ground.

Both youngsters plan to pursue meteorology as a career and will attend the University of Illinois after high school graduation.

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

Alsip Digest
Alsip Village Hall
4500 W. 123rd Street
Alsip, IL 60658

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alsip, Ill.
Permit No. 4038

Village of Alsip Digest
Vol. 3, No. 4
November, 1980