



# ALSIP DIGEST

VILLAGE OF ALSIP, ILLINOIS

...PROGRESS THROUGH LEADERSHIP...

Volume 4

November, 1981

Number 4

## "YOU BETTER BE GOOD, YOU BETTER NOT CRY" ... SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO ALSIP ...



Can't afford the gas for a trip to the North Pole? Don't fret! Santa is coming to you. He'll arrive in Alsip via helicopter on Saturday, December 5th, landing in the Lane School Parking lot, 4600 W. 123rd St. at 1:00 p.m.

So, the charming Mrs. Claus will be on hand inside the Public Safety Building, 4500 W. 123rd St., helping Santa greet youngsters and distribute treats to tots after whispering their secret wishes in Santa's ear.

In addition, "Sparky", the Alsip Fire Department puppet will be performing as well as a clown and a band comprised of Alsip schoolchildren.

The festivities are jointly sponsored by The Alsip Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Chamber and the employees of the Village of Alsip. A lot of work and planning has gone into this special day. Plan to start a Happy Holiday Season for you and your children with a personal visit to Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus on **DECEMBER 5, ALSIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING.**

## A CHRISTMAS TREE TALE

The Christmas tree is used in almost every country, but it is not always an evergreen tree like the one used in America. Some say the first Christmas tree was a Palm tree brought from Egypt, with the twelve parts of the Palm signifying the twelve Apostles.

Pine and Cedar trees are generally believed to be of German origin for legend tells us that during a walk through the forest one night, Martin Luther was inspired by the sight of thousands of stars twinkling through the branches of the pine trees. This prompted him to cut down a fir tree and cover it with small candles so that his children might know what the heavens were like.

In England, when Victoria married the German Prince Albert, she commanded a green tree be brought to the palace each year to be decorated as it might have been in Albert's home land.

In the United States, the tradition of a decorated Christmas tree may date back to the Revolutionary war when homesick Hessian troops cut and decorated Fir trees in the German custom.

Today selecting a "just right" Christmas Tree for the family usually highlights the Holiday Season. Here are some suggestions for making a wise selection:

1. Avoid cutting off large portions to make it fit into the space you have chosen for it. Select a tree to fit the space.
2. Run your fingers along a branch. The needles should adhere to each twig. Shake or bounce the tree a bit to see that the needles are firmly attached.
3. Be sure limbs are strong enough to hold both ornaments and lights.
4. When you take your tree home, saw off the butt evenly to facilitate absorption of water. Place tree in a container or stand that allows the butt end to rest in water. Refill water as needed.

## ONE DRINK, ONE DEATH ... OR MORE ...



Thousands of people are killed each year by the drinking driver, not necessarily the drunk. Alcohol is medically classified as a depressant which means it slows down a person's reaction time and seriously impairs judgment.

The Alsip Police Department utilizes a "Breathalyzer" which measures the amount of alcohol consumed, and is judicially recognized in a court of law, thus lending scientifically accurate support to the arresting officer's assessment of how the driver looked and acted at the time.

Any person who is privileged to drive a motor vehicle in the State of Illinois, automatically consents to take a BREATH TEST, if he is arrested for "Driving Under the Influence". This is in accord with the Illinois Implied Consent Law.

As a result, the violator faces possible suspension of a driver's license from between three to six months, but worse yet, is the embarrassment of being finger printed, photographed and locked in a jail cell . . . that is, provided you SURVIVE a serious accident caused by delayed reflexes due to alcohol consumption.

In August of this year, the Governor of Illinois signed Senate Bill 457 into law, making changes in the "Driving Under the Influence" and the "Implied Consent" laws which will simplify processing and prosecution of subjects arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

Alsip Police Chief Warner Huston and the Village Board urges all to keep the Holiday Season a happy one by exercising caution and common sense in operating a motor vehicle.

## TRUSTEE MORRISON REPORTS ON LEAGUE CONFERENCE



"The overall financial picture for local government seems far from promising," remarks Trustee Ray Morrison as a result of his participation in the 68th Annual Illinois Municipal League Conference held in Chicago recently.

Morrison, Alsip's Finance Chairman, describes the current unemployment picture as the highest in recent Illinois history. He says this fact together with a growing public attitude of saving money rather than spending it are contributing factors to local government's financial crunch. When spending is down, that means local government is losing tax dollars. This stifles growth and prosperity.

Also, new construction in Alsip has slowed down so much as to be now virtually non-existent. This situation is in stark contrast to Alsip's phenomenal growth pattern over recent years which contributed a great deal to a stronger tax base. Without new construction, the village's tax base is dangerously weakened.

In addition, money received from MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) is dwindling due to the public's growing awareness of energy conservation which prompts purchase of smaller cars. This results in declining gas sales which in turn reduces the amount of MFT funds collected by the State and distributed to local governments.

"As I see it, local government, through its Municipal Officers, is charged with the awesome responsibility of maintaining a balance between costs and services, but it is growing more difficult to do so every day," explains Morrison.

He adds that with existing revenues declining, he perceives the management of that balance as a top priority, and suggests evaluating areas as: (1) finding new sources of revenue (2) stimulating existing revenue sources (3) seeking to improve efficiency of village services and reducing operating costs. Or, as an alternative, increasing the tax burden to our citizens and/or reducing services.

Morrison said the underlying theme of the Conference was to instill within the public, a feeling of being a vital part of government; of stimulating within the individual as much urgency about balancing government budgets as personal family budgets. Such an attitude is already growing across the country where some communities have initiated citizen voluntary participation programs, including (among others) such projects as clean-up and maintenance of village property.

Conference speakers stressed the concept of this country being built by people helping each other—building barns, bridges, or cabins; people volunteering to work together toward common goals is a significant approach to lessening local financial woes.

However, Morrison concludes that it appears things are apt to get much worse before they get better and we must strive to initiate creative approaches to budgeting and stimulating revenue.

## PINTO IS NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR



Red Pinto, an eighteen year resident of Alsip with a twenty-five year background in construction, is Alsip's newly named Building Inspector. In this capacity, Pinto's responsibility is to ascertain that all new construction and remodeling work is structurally sound and in full compliance with all village ordinances.

In the event the Inspector discloses a violation, and it is not corrected within the time specified by the village, the offender faces fines and possible court procedure.

In addition, the Building Inspector checks Business Licenses to determine that owners are conducting the type business for which they applied as well as proper zoning which reveals whether or not the business in operation matches the zoning classification for which application originally was made, i.e., Industrial, Commercial or Residential.

It is not the intention of the Village of Alsip to secure revenue from fines recovered by such violations, but rather to create a public awareness of the responsibility to adhere to Village Building Codes in order to assure Alsip remains safe and a prosperous place to live and work.

Pinto points out that all the women working in the Building Department have been a tremendous help to him in getting orientated. He is very grateful for this cooperation because it helps him do a better job in supporting the Village Board's continuing effort to maintain Alsip as a good place in which to live and work.

"I really enjoy the kind of work I'm in. I always have liked it and through the years I've learned a lot. Now I'm happy to have a chance to use that experience in serving the village," says Red.

He and his wife, Charlet, have four children—Steven 21, Susan 19, Gary 18, and Julie 15. Red served as Vice President of Little League for ten years.

## REPEAT CALL FOR RECYCLING CANS

The July 1981 issue of the Alsip Digest carried a story about two young Alsip boys who earned a considerable amount of cash by collecting aluminum cans and selling them for recycling purposes. For those interested in getting in on this money-making pastime, there is now another recycling station in our area in addition to the one located in the Jewel Store parking lot on 95th Street in Hickory Hills. The other station is Reliable Recyclers Inc. at 12350 South Kedvale, Alsip. HOUR Monday—3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday—3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call Michael Krischel at Reliable for more details: 425-0919. Twenty-four cans comprise one pound and Reliable Recyclers pay 30¢ per lb.

## POTHOLE PATCHING



Trustee Jim Howe urges Alsip citizens to report any potholes or bad cracks to the Alsip Public Works Department. Jack Redmore is Superintendent and the telephone number is: 385-6902.

"Despite some serious delays due to the strike affecting access to asphalt, we are moving right along repairing as many potholes and cracks as possible before winter," says Howe.

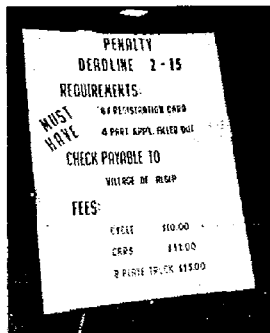
Winter is especially bad on this type of break in the streets because if they are not repaired before the cold weather and snow set in, they tend to fill with ice which causes "popping" and more damage.

Trustee Howe also points out that repaving of the Public Safety Building parking lot also has been delayed due to the strike, and the project now may have to be postponed until spring, depending on weather conditions. Rain, of course, delays work, but so does temperature because if it is too cold, the asphalt will not pour freely. Shortly after the strike ended, several unexpected early cold fall days made it impossible to work with the asphalt.

## VEHICLE STICKERS ON SALE DECEMBER 1st

—CLERK'S OFFICE,

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING—



By January 1st, vehicle stickers should be validly displayed. Those not doing so, are in violation and subject to ticketing, even though the grace period extends to February 15th. Penalties will be added after the 15th. New Alsip residents will be granted a 30-day grace period upon proper verification. After that, the regular penalty fee of \$2.00 for the first month and \$1.00 for each month after that will be charged.

**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.

**FEES:** Auto—\$12.00; Truck—\$15.00-\$60.00; Motorcycle—\$10.00. Senior citizens (62 years of age and over) and disabled persons with proper identification will be issued a sticker at no charge.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** STICKERS WILL NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT YOUR CURRENT STATE REGISTRATION CARD. REMEMBER TO BRING IT ALONG.

## SNOW ROUTES

### PRIMARY SNOW ROUTES

Parking is restricted anytime within twelve hours after a snowfall of 1" 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 3" 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!!**

**... BY ALL MEANS, GET CARS OFF OF STREET TO PERMIT PASSAGE OF PLOWS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES. ALSO, TO PREVENT CORROSIVE DAMAGE TO YOUR AUTO BY SALT SPREADERS...**

## YOUR VILLAGE IS READY FOR SNOW—ARE YOU?

Alsip's Public Works Department reports that all of its snow removal equipment has been cleaned, oiled and overhauled in preparation for snow removal operations. The first delivery of salt came in early November, supplementing the regular supply kept on hand all year long to avoid being caught short in the event of an early snowfall.

**ON THE OTHER HAND, CITIZEN COOPERATION IS CRUCIAL TO EFFICIENT SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS WHICH WILL ASSURE ACCESS TO JOBS, SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL CARE AS WELL AS SWIFT TRAVEL OF POLICE AND FIRE EMERGENCY VEHICLES.**

Trustee Jim Howe says village snow ordinances will be strictly enforced to assure ease of traffic flow—not to collect revenue from violators fines.

### —GUIDELINE TO SNOW ORDINANCES—

1. **DO NOT** shovel snow from private driveway or parking lot into public thoroughfare. Instead, pile snow along either side of the drive or in suitably remote sections of parking lot.
2. **DO NOT** call in requesting the snowplow on your particular street. The Public Works Department follows a regularly scheduled removal plan and will serve your street as soon as possible.
3. Alsip ordinance makes it 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 IN THE PARKING ORDINANCE.** (Two car spaces for each dwelling unit). Even though accumulated snow may block all or some of regular off-street parking spaces, property owners are **LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE SAME NUMBER OF CLEARED OFF-STREETS SPACES.**
4. The Alsip Police Department or its designated representative is authorized by Village Ordinance to **REMOVE ANY VEHICLE FROM THE PUBLIC WAY WHICH IS OBSTRUCTING THE CLEARING OF SAID PUBLIC WAY OF SNOW RESULTING FROM A 1" OR GREATER SNOWFALL.** Violators will be towed away at the expense of registered owner, which includes both towing and storage charges and constitute a lien upon such vehicle.

**DISTRICT 126—HAZEL GREEN SCHOOL HAS A NEW  
PHONE NO.: 371-5351-5352-5353**

## DID YOU KNOW?

That in 1969, the first seven months of that year reflected a number of auto fatalities in the United States that MORE THAN EQUALLED 9 YEARS OF WAR IN VIETNAM? . . . And that was just the first seven months!

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That 50% of all auto accidents are alcohol related? That approximately 50,000 lives a year are lost by auto accidents? And that means that about 25,000 people a year die because of auto accidents caused by alcohol consumption.

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That under new legislation, not only is the "Breathalyzer" equipment used to determine alcohol consumption by drivers involved in auto accidents, but to those whose injuries call for admittance to the hospital, further medical tests may be made such as blood and urine tests to determine the amount of alcohol in the blood!

## AFTER THE FIRE IS OUT. . . HELPFUL HINTS FROM ALSIP FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

IF YOU ARE NOT INSURED: Your recovery from a fire loss will be based upon your own resources and help from your community. Private organizations that help with disaster relief include the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Your church or synagogue can put you in touch with a helpful agency. Other sources of aid might be civic organizations such as the Lions Club or the Rotary.

LOSSES DUE TO FIRE ARE DEDUCTIBLE FROM YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAX. Get receipts and keep records of the money you spend in repairing or replacing damaged property and in covering your living expenses during the loss recovery period. Check Publication 547, "Tax Information on Disasters, Casualty Losses and Thefts" which is available from the local Internal Revenue Service Office, for helpful information on filing a fire loss.

(This is the second in a series of helpful hints pertaining to fire prevention and loss from Lt. Ed Stefanski, Alsip Fire Prevention Bureau)

## ALSIP CLERGY UNITE EFFORTS

The Alsip Clergy Association recently published and distributed a small, green colored pamphlet listing Alsip churches, their location and time of worship.

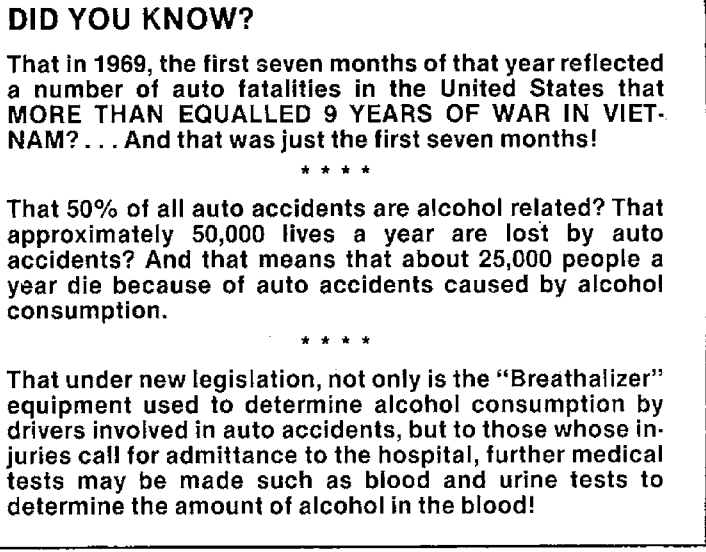
Also included are several Community Resource telephone numbers for contacting various hospital or counseling services. Churches comprising the Alsip Clergy Association publication are:

ALSIP REFORMED CHURCH (388-2936)  
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (385-8034)  
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (597-5209)  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (233-3533)  
HAZELGREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (389-5941)  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES (385-4211)  
ST. TERRENCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (597-0970)  
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH (388-0456)

Copies of the pamphlet are available at these churches or at the Village Hall.

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



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM MAYOR ARNOLD ANDREWS AND THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. WE WISH TO EXTEND TO EACH AND EVERY RESIDENT OF ALSIP AS WELL AS THOSE MEMBERS OF OUR INDUSTRIAL AND MERCANTILE SECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE, OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR A PLEASANT, FUN-FILLED AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON—RICH WITH ALL THE EXPERIENCES YOU HOLD MOST DEAR. FURTHER, IT IS OUR HIGH HOPE THAT PEACE WILL PERMEATE THE LIFE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND THE WORLD AT LARGE IN THESE SOMEWHAT CRITICAL TIMES.

MAYOR ARNOLD A. ANDREWS  
ROBERT A. GRUBER, CLERK

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