Highlighting Community News & Events

November 2023 - Volume 31, No. 5

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW MAYOR

Steven M. Landek

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Road Work to be Completed for the Season by Thanksgiving



View of Olympic Drive facing North from Hartford Street ready to be repaved.

Three years are already completed, and the Bridgeview Street Resurfacing Project to improve our infrastructure and beautify our community continues. This year nearly half a mile of streets will be repaved, and in total, about 4.5 miles of streets, curbs, and sidewalks will have been completed since the project began in 2021. Storm sewers are also reviewed and repaired as necessary to maintain and improve the flood preparedness of the Village.

Bridgeview Chairman of the Public Works Committee Gary Lewis had this to say. "The years of work put into the project will pay off for current and future Bridgeview residents who can walk, bike, and drive around Bridgeview on modern roads and sidewalks. We are not just repaving roads, we are modernizing our entire sewer system as we go. This work is crucial for ensuring the efficient management of stormwater and improving the quality of life for residents in Bridgeview."

Roads to be completed this year include Olympic from 87th Street to Hartford, improving the street for residents, 76th Street in front of Lyle School from 78th Avenue to Sholer Avenue, improving the street for families and school children, and 90th Street from Harlem Avenue to Oketo Avenue, improving the street for commercial and industrial properties. Bridgeview was founded as a well-balanced community and stays true to that principle by ensuring that residents can safely walk and drive to their homes, that students can safely travel to school, and that workers can safely drive to the businesses supporting our local economy.

The Bridgeview Street Resurfacing Project has been vital to enhancing the infrastructure of the Village, and Bridgeview is committed to ensuring that roads and sidewalks are safe and beautiful for many years to come.



A newly replaced storm drain and freshly paved road.



Old storm drain (right) to be discarded alongside its replacement (left).



A newly redone driveway after it was removed during work for storm

Seniors Get Down at Mo-Town!



Smiling table of Mo-Town attendees.

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Winners of the wreath raffle stand with their new decorations.

Bridgeview employees serving food to seniors.

Mo-Town Continued from Page 1

Over 300 Bridgeview residents aged 55 and over made their ways to the Bridgeview Community Center on Thursday, Octo-

ber 12th for an afternoon luncheon filled with delicious food, engaging music, and social fun.

Every attendee enjoyed cupcakes, coffee, and lemonade as the Charles & Company Band got the much-anticipated event

started with oldies but

goodies. After the crowd

was warmed up, a tasty lunch was served! Salad, green beans, mashed potatoes, beef, and chicken left everyone satisfied as they built up their energy for the dance floor.

In-between the toe-tapping tunes, Mayor Landek addressed the residents with a smile. "It's wonderful to see such youthful energy in this lovely crowd! I hope you enjoy the event as much as the Village enjoys hosting it."

The lively performance of Motown, Classic Rock, Swing, and more by Charles & Company



Charles of Charles & Company band sings at tables and encourages attendees to join him.

then ramped up, bringing seniors of all ages to the front of the stage. People laughed, danced, and twirled partners as they moved to the groove. A band member even walked around singing to tables of people and had them sing along too!



Two attendees dancing the afternoon away.

The interactive musical experience and flavorful food created a joyful atmosphere that attendees happily contributed to with their singing, dancing, and

clapping. The Village of Bridgeview thanks its employees, Charles & Company, and all who attended for making the luncheon a smashing success!



 ${\bf Bridgeview\ residents\ take\ their\ broom\ and\ shovel\ in\ hand\ to\ clean\ up\ Bridgeview!}$



SBC Waste Solution employees remove large amounts of trash from the $\mbox{\it curb}.$

74 Tons of Trash Removed on Fall Cleanup Day!

Fall Cleanup Day, the day when Village of Bridgeview residents get rid of unused items from their homes, garages, and yards, brought out thousands of pounds of garbage. In total, about 74 tons of trash were removed on Saturday, September 30th. 74 tons is equal to the weight of a sizable herd of 37 American bison! Those who participated were left with more space and less waste in their homes.

Residents could be seen sweeping, carrying garbage bags, and moving heavy objects as they lined up their unneeded items on the

street curb. Everything from broken electronics and worn out furniture to useless tires and old paint cans could be seen arranged along the curbside and properly prepared for disposal.

The Cleanup Day efforts of SBC Waste Solutions, families throughout the Village, and the Bridgeview Public Works Department has resulted in a cleaner, brighter Bridgeview. Cleanup day will return in the Spring of 2024 on Saturday, May 11th. Be sure to plan about



Public Works employee Floyd Coomer adds items to the pickup trailer during Cleanup Day.



From left to right, Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce Vice President Vic Portillo, Mayor Steven Landek, Trustees Patricia Higginson & Norma Pinion, Bell Fuels Operations Manager Steve Radke, Bell Fuels President Stella Gaytan, Bell Fuels Office Manager Jess Zackavec, and Chamber of Commerce Director Paul Domico cut the ribbon at the grand opening!

Bell Fuels Ribbon Cutting

On October 19th Bell Fuels officially opened up a new dispatch facility in Bridgeview at 757 W. 79th Street. The company is one of the most-well known and recognized independent petroleum marketers in the Midwest, employing union drivers and providing fueling services for equip-

ment, trucks, and generators.

Bell Fuels held the ribbon cutting to signify the grand opening of the terminal and to give people a chance to meet the new leadership team. Bridgeview Trustees Patricia Higginson, Norma Pinion, and Gary Lewis attended the event along with Mayor Landek who cut the ceremonial ribbon and commented on the location's opening. "I'm happy to have a company here in Bridgeview that plays a vital role in supporting construction, transportation, and generator operation. It's clear that Bell Fuels saw and seized the great opportunity our community offers just as so many other businesses have." The Mayor then toured the facility with a Bell Fuels representative to learn about the facility operations and renovations done to the building.

The Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce's Vice President Vic Portillo and Paul Domico also attended the grand opening to meet the Bell Fuels leadership team and discuss business in Bridgeview. The event provided a friendly opportunity for elected officials and local business leaders to meet the new Bridgeview residents. The Village has once again proven its positive business climate is attracting new businesses and supporting economic growth.

Local State Farm Agent Donates Fire Prevention Week Materials

Bridgeview State Farm Agent Vic Portillo donated National Fire Prevention Week educational materials to the Bridgeview Fire Department on Monday, October 23rd. The donation includes 100 Children's Activity Booklets, Adult Brochures, 10 Tips for Fire Safety Brochures, Magnets, Stickers, and Plastic Bags to teach Bridgeview residents about fire safety and cooking safety specifically in accordance with the theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU."

President Woodrow Wilson established the first National Fire Prevention Day in 1920 on October 9th, the same day that the devastating Great Chicago Fire occurred back in 1871. His proclamation on national fire prevention is the longest Public Health and Safety Observance on



From left to right, Bridgeview Fire Chief Keith Grzadziel, Vic Portillo, and Lieutenant Jason Yerkovich hold the Fire Prevention Week banner.

record in the United States, as every year the President renews National Fire Prevention Week.

The Bridgeview Fire Department continues the legacy of fire prevention education by using the donated educational materials to teach children in schools about keeping their families safe from fires. Saving lives, homes, and

the environment from fires takes all of us, and we are reminded to stay vigilant every October.

Vic Portillo has been a local business owner active in the Bridgeview community for decades. He is an agent with State Farm and currently serves as Vice President of the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce.

Bridgeview Fire **Department Visits Our Schools!**

On October 16th and 17th the Bridgeview Fire Department visited Lieb Elementary School, Elementa-Bridgeview ry School, and Universal School to talk to children about the importance of fire safety and to show them what firefighters look like when they show up to a home.

Speaking to crowds of young students, Bridgeview fire fighting squads explained the importance of an emergency fire plan at home, why smoke detectors need their batteries replaced, and what actions people can take when a fire occurs in their home. Many students curiously asked questions about the work of firefighters and what to do in various scenarios. Firefighters happily answered questions and showed the children the tools and fire protection gear firefighters use when



Firefighters show students their gear and high-five them as they exit.

putting out fires. Although students don't often want more homework, the fire squads encouraged students to talk with their parents about their family's fire safety plan.

After the presentation some students were able to walk through a fire truck and learn more about the gear it holds. The children were able to see the firefighters up close and learn life-saving information by the end of the session.

Chief Keith Grzadziel explained why Bridgeview firefighters make sure to visit schools every year. "We believe it's important to value public education and give kids information they otherwise wouldn't have about firefighters and fire prevention." The Bridgeview Fire Department appreciates the opportunity to visit schools in our community and help keep Bridgeview families safe from fires.

Moraine Court Seniors Win Big at Bingo!

Mayor Landek made a visit to residents of Moraine Court Supportive Living for their Bingo Afternoon on Tuesday, October 24th. Smiles and excitement fill the hall when Mayor Landek steps in because as the residents of Moraine Court know he always makes the game a little more interesting. Whether there's a double pot, gift cards, or a high stakes game, seniors never know what's going to happen when they win but are always pleasantly surprised.

The Mayor remarked that everyone seemed to be in good spirits throughout the afternoon. "Bingo at Moraine Court is a great atmosphere, and folks seem to have a lot of fun with the extra incentives to win. I enjoyed myself too. The Moraine Court residents really get into the game and after a minute the tension and excitement in the room rub off on vou."



Mayor Landek shares a laugh with a Moraine Court resident.

The last game of the day was a cover-all Bingo match for a \$15 gift card that really came down to the wire. When the 68th ball of a total of 75 was called, 4 winners scrambled to be the first to yell "BINGO!" After the room settled, the final call was made, and there were indeed 4 verified winners. Mayor Landek had to run out to get a few more gift cards to cover the winners but he didn't mind, as it

was a successful bingo session.

Moraine Court Supportive Living supports and encourages residents to enjoy an active-lifestyle in a safe community. They combine apartment style living with personal care provided by their professional, licensed staff available 24 hours a day. They also provide meals, housekeeping and laundry services, and a wide range of activities to keep residents engaged and active.



Rugby Fans fill the stands for the inaugural Chicago Hounds Major League Rugby match in March of 2023.

CHICAGO HOUNDS LEAP BACK INTO SEATGEEK

The Chicago Hounds have announced that they'll be practicing and playing in SeatGeek Stadium for the 2024 Major League Rugby season! This is the professional rugby franchise's second year competing in the MLR, and it will be the second year operating out of Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium.

Last year SeatGeek Stadium hosted eight Chicago Hounds regular season home games and the 2023 Major League Rugby Championship Series final in July, fortifying the Stadium's position as a competitive rugby arena supporting play at the highest level. The Stadium, nicknamed, "Dawg Town," by the Chi-

cago Hounds, will again host the team's eight home games throughout the 2024 season. Tickets for the Chicago Hounds' upcoming season will be on sale in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for the chance to join the "Dawgs" at an energy-filled rugby game!

The Chicago Hounds are a professional rugby team competing in Major League Rugby (MLR), North America's professional rugby competition. The Hounds were named as an expansion franchise in 2022 and played their Inaugural Season in 2023 at SeatGeek Stadium.







Chicago Hounds first match ever as an MLR Team was played against the Utah Warriors.



Red Stars forward Cheyna Matthews powerfully strikes the ball.



From left to right, Lauren Barnes and goal-scorers Jess Fishlock & Megan Rapinoe hug after Fishlock's goal.



 ${\it Chicago Red Stars 2023 Season Finale at SeatGeek Stadium.}$

BRIDGEVIEW ENJOYS RED STARS SEASON FINALE & MORE!

On Sunday, October 15th, Bridgeview residents joined the Chicago Red Stars for their final match of the 2023 NWSL Season Finale Match themed "She inspires me night" against OL Reign.

The pressure was high for the OL Reign to perform well for the match as they were neck and neck with six other teams competing to secure 1 of 4 spots in the NWSL playoffs. When the Red Stars Bridgeview Night kickoff took place at 4pm, the action was instant. Players from both teams vigorously vied for the ball, coming at each other with confidence from the start. The Red Stars and their goalie Alyssa Naeher made incredible saves and maintained an impenetrable defense minute after minute, preventing OL Reign from scoring any goals in the first half despite multiple shots.

Feeling the weight of the future on their shoulders, OL Reign were forced to increase their aggression to play for a win. Two minutes into the second half, OL Reign's Megan Rapinoe finally broke the symmetry of the score by launching a well-placed shot that slipped past the Red Stars' defenses. But the veteran Rapinoe wasn't satisfied with just one goal. Just three minutes later she took a nearly identical shot that bounced off the inside of the right goal post and into the Red

Stars' net despite another headlong dive from Naeher. OL Reign maintained the momentum with Jess Fishlock running ahead of her defenders, getting a great pass, and striking the ball into the lower right pocket all in an instant.

The Red Stars were down but not out. They stayed on top of their opponents for the rest of the second half as they kept their composure and refused to allow any more goals. The night ended with a 0-3 score in favor of OL Reign that made for an exciting fight for them to enter into the playoffs.

The last game of the Chicago Red Stars' 2023 season was also the last game of retiring Red Stars forward Cheyna Mathews. Matthews started out as a star collegiate soccer player, with her sophomore year performance naming her First-Team All-SEC, an honor for top talent. She went on to play for multiple collegiate, professional, and international teams, including the U.S. under-23 team and the Jamaica women's national team. Matthews joined the Red Stars in March 2023 and finished her decorated career with this final "She inspires me night" game.

OL Reign's winger Megan Rapinoe also announced her retirement, making this night her final regular season game. Rapinoe's illustrious soccer career includ-



View of the field from the perspective of Bridgeview residents.

ed being named The Best FIFA Women's Player in 2019, winning gold with the U.S. national team at the 2012 London Summer Olympics, 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, and 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup, and co-captaining the national team from 2018 to 2020. Rapinoe started in the NWSL as a Chicago Red Star and scored two almost back-to-back goals, making her last regular season game a fitting one. She'll finish out her career in the playoffs with OL Reign.

Both Cheyna Matthews and Megan Rapinoe exemplify the "She inspires me" theme of what was a hard-fought game. Bridgeview residents who attended bore witness to the ends of two full careers of fantastic soccer players inspiring women and young girls throughout the U.S. and the world. Regardless of the game's outcome, everyone enjoyed spectacular soccer to end the Red Stars 2023 Season.

The Chicago Red Stars will return to SeatGeek Stadium in 2024 ready to rise to the top of the league once again. 2024 Season tickets are on sale now. Individual ticket sales will open at a later date. To keep up on the latest Red Stars news and developments be sure to follow them on Facebook @chicagoredstars



BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ALICE VILIMEK - BETTY MARTINEZ - MARWAN ALSAFADI NICK LAMNATOS - RANDY CARBEN - ALICE PORFIRIO

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. • Tues. 12 p.m.—8 p.m. Wed. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. • Thurs. 12 p.m.—8 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. • Sat. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. • Closed Sunday

IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS

Registration at the Youth Services desk begins 30 minutes before each program.

Wednesday, November 8th at 4pm—How to catch a Turkey: We're using our STEM skills to build a cage that a turkey won't be able to escape, and then we'll have turkey races! AGES 5 to 7 years (K-2nd grade) MAX 15

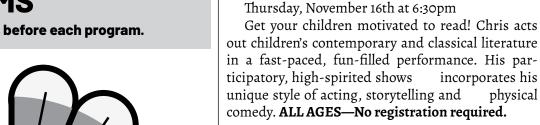
Fridays at 11am—Book, Boogie and Play!: The best of both worlds for our toddlers! Bring your toddler to this program where we will read a story, boogie to music with instruments, and finish the remaining time playing together! AGES 18 months to 3 years MAX 15

Monday, November 13th at 4pm—We are Family Pre-k Story time: It's the perfect time of year to learn more about what makes your family special! AGES 3 to 5 years (before Kindergarten) MAX 15

Saturday, November 18th at 4pm—Adopt a stuffed pet day: We are celebrating National adopt a pet day at the library! Will you adopt a cat or a dog? Participants are encouraged to bring a food donation to be given to South Suburban animal shelter. AGES 5 to 7 years (K-2nd grade) Max 12

Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30pm—Thanksgiving craft: Come to the library to make a special craft for the holiday. Ages 5 to 12 years (K-6th grade) MAX 20

Wednesday, November 29th at 4pm—Edible MARS Rover build: Here's a yummy way to learn more about Mars Exploration Rovers! PEANUT ALLERGY WARNING—Food used in program will contain peanuts. AGES 8 to 12 years (3rd to 6th grade) MAX 15



Chris Fascione



Teen Programs

Special Family Event: Family Reading Night

Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30pm—Teen Taste Challenge: As we approach a holiday filled with a feast, come join us as we test your taste buds. A blindfold challenge against your friends.....do you think you can beat them when it comes to taste? AGES 13 to 17 years old MAX 20



Newly Appointed Bridgeview Library Board Trustee

The Bridgeview Public Library Board of Trustees met on October 9th at 7pm and added a newly appointed trustee to its ranks, Trustee Anna Ziaja-Castillo. Mayor Landek attended the event to greet the new Trustee, and Clerk John Altar officially swore in Trustee Ziaja-Castillo.

Trustee Ziaja-Castillo is a trilingual school psychologist at Argo Community High School and a mom of four young boys who has been living in Bridgeview for 9 years. By using her passion for and background in education she hopes to better connect local schools with the library and increase access to youth resources. She also plans to expand resources for minorities and people who speak different languages to ensure the library can meet the needs of everyone in the community.

Mayor Landek commended the new Trustee for her goals and positive attitude. "It's great to see a fresh face with such energy joining the Library Board. Bridgeview is always welcoming of more young people passionate about serving their community."

The Bridgeview Library Board most recently lost a member when the Library Trustee Gary Lewis was appointed to Village of Bridgeview Trustee. Serving in a position like Library Trustee provides useful experience working with Bridgeview residents and addressing community desires.

Upon being sworn in as the newest Board member, Trustee Ziaja-Castillo enthusiastically started working as the Board went over budget details, upcoming projects, and more. One such project in development is a plan to make the library parking lot safer for residents entering and exiting the building. The Village of Bridgeview welcomes Trustee Ziaja-Castillo and looks forward to her service at the Bridgeview Public Library!



From left to right, Clerk John Altar shakes the hand of official Library Trustee Ziaja-Castillo.



8100 S. Beloit Ave. Bridgeview, IL 60455 | 708-594-1818 | Bridgeviewparkdistrict.com BRIDGEVIEW PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Alan Kruse President

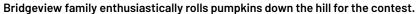
Ken Pannaralla Mariam Ahmad Vice-President

Treasurer

Justin Willis Secretary

Tames Cecott Commissioner







Bridgeview family shows off their decorated treat bags.

Halloween Town Celebrates the Spooky Season!

The Bridgeview Park District's "Halloween Town" event was a spooky success! Families of Bridgeview and neighboring communities gathered at Commissioner's Park for Halloween Town, a Bridgeview Park District Movie Night with fun Halloween activities.

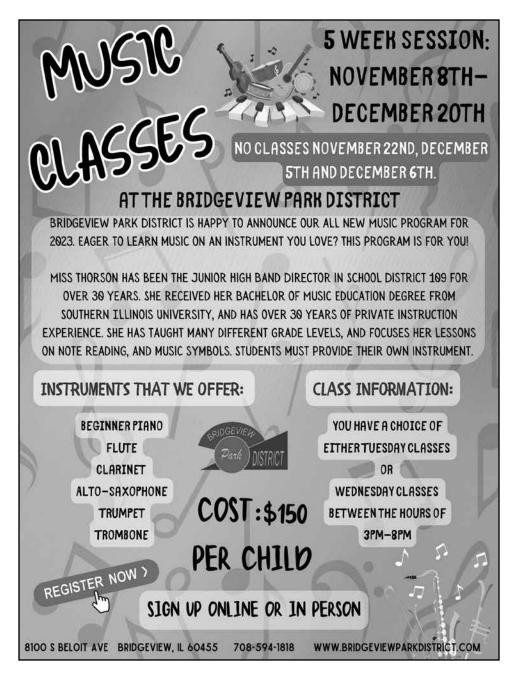
First, kids expressed their creativity by decorating trick-or-treat bags with stickers, markers, and more. Everyone then took those freshly designed treat bags into the "Killdare Haunted City" woods for a haunted trick-or-treating experience. Children dressed as fairies, skeletons, and other creatures walked the eerie wooded trail where they collected treats along the way.

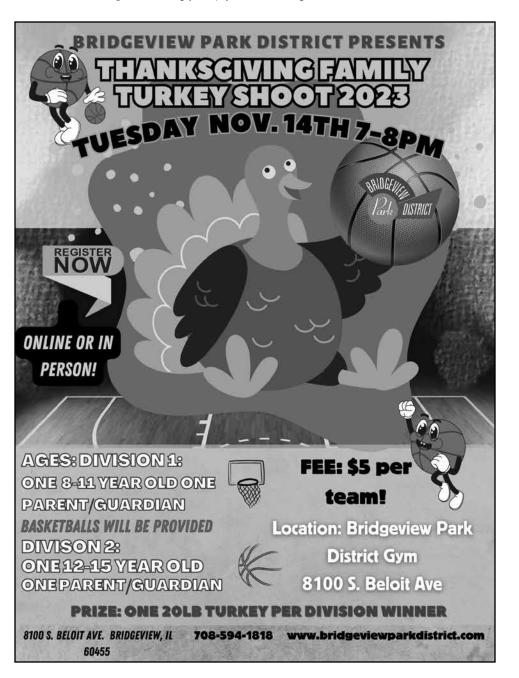
After gathering candy, families that brought a pumpkin made their way over to the pumpkin roll. A friendly competition filled the park with cheers and praise as kids attempted to roll their pumpkin the farthest down a large grassy hill. When the rolling pumpkin stopped, its location would be marked with the same number given to the child who pushed the pumpkin. At the end of the night three children received Halloween baskets filled with candy and other prizes for their exceptional pumpkin rolling skills. Everyone was a winner after laughing and playing throughout the challenge.

Finally, families cozied up with chairs and blankets inside the Park District Building gym to watch the "Halloweentown" movie. People relaxingly enjoyed

popcorn, cheese pizza, nachos, waters, and sodas as they watched witches and creatures battle to save Halloweentown. The night finished with the end of the movie, and families went home filled with Halloween spirit.

If you're looking for more halloween fun at the Bridgeview Park District be sure to check out the Killdare Haunted City and be sure to follow the Bridgeview Park District on Facebook for more upcoming events!











Muehe Park 84th & Harlem

Weirzba Park 78th & Oketo

EMA Building at Garden Lane



In observance of Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11th, the Village of Bridgeview will honor Bridgeview residents who have served our country in the Armed Services by placing wreaths at three sites named after fallen soldiers from Bridgeview:

At Wierzba Park, the Bridgeview Police Department placed a wreath to honor Corporal Edwin Wierzba, who lost his life while serving in Vietnam.

At Muehe Park, The Bridgeview Fire Department placed a wreath to honor Corporal Mark Muehe, who lost his life in Vietnam.

And at the Emergency Management Building, a wreath was placed to honor Carl Vorbeck, who lost his life while serving in the Korean War.



