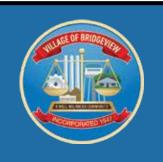
Highlighting Community News & Events

January 2024 - Volume 33, No. 1



#### **VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW MAYOR**

Steven M. Landek

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Patricia A. Higginson Kalid Baste Norma J. Pinion Michael J. Pticek Claudette Struzik Gary D. Lewis

> **VILLAGE CLERK** John Altar

#### **VILLAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS**

Mon: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wed: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Thu: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fri: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sun: CLOSED

Open 56 hours a week to serve you better!

7500 South Oketo Ave. Bridgeview, IL 60455 Village Services: (708) 594-2525 Emergency: 911

### ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE **GIANNOULIAS VISITS BRIDGEVIEW!**

Mayor Landek welcomed the Illinois Secretary of State to the Bridgeview Community Center to cut the ribbon on the "Senior Only" DMV. The Community Center, located at 7902 S. Oketo, is the new home for the full-service walk-in center. "The success of the Senior Only DMV at SeatGeek Stadium has identified the need for ongoing services in Bridgeview. As a village dedicated to serving the needs of its community, we are happy to work with the Secretary of State to continue offering this convenient senior walk-in center for our Bridgeview residents and those of surrounding municipalities," said Mayor Landek.

The "Senior Only" walk-in center moved from Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium as the Chicago Red Stars, Chicago Fire, and Chicago Hounds resume full operations at the Stadium for their respective 2024 seasons. According to Mayor Landek, "the facility at the Stadium performed great for the 90-day run. The Stadium has a lot

of team and event activity planned for the year, and keeping the DMV opened would have been challenging."

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias praised the walk-in center operations in front of a crowd of Bridgeview seniors and guests and proceeded to cut the ceremonial ribbon, signaling the grand opening at the Bridgeview Community Center at 10:30am on Tuesday, January 9th.

"We're excited to continue to provide a top-notch service experience specifically tailored to serve seniors at a new location in Bridgeview," Secretary Giannoulias said. "Our Skip-the-Line program delivered great results in 2023, ensuring that all Illinoisans, but especially our seniors, can quickly and easily access the services provided at our DMVs and experience little to no wait times. We have much more planned for 2024."

Seniors utilizing this "Senior Only" walk-in center do not need appointments, and the facility provides standard Driver and Vehicle Services, such as driver's licenses, state identification cards. and REAL IDs. For additional information about the Bridgeview Community Center DMV, call (800) 252-8980 or visit www.ilsos.gov.



Alexi Giannoulias (left) and Park District Commissioner James Cecott (right) take a photo together within the new DMV.



The ribbon is cut! Front row left to right: Senator Mike Porfirio, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, Representative Mary Flowers, Bridgeview Mayor Steven Landek, Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, and Lyons Mayor Christopher Getty.



Alexi Giannoulias announces full senior only DMV services at the **Bridgeview Community Center.** 

### BRIDGEVIEW ENDS 2023 BUDGET WITH A \$URPLUS

Mayor Steven Landek recently announced that Bridgeview ended the 2023 budget year with a surplus. "It is always great news to share with the residents and taxpayers that our expenses were less than revenues. 2023 marks the 6th year in a row that we have concluded our fiscal year with either a break-even balance or a having a cash surplus," said Mayor Landek.

Preliminary reports show that monthly bills, pension payments, and bond payments are all paid up-to-date and on time, with nothing late or due. All projects for municipal upgrades, from water line replacement, water tank upgrades, fencing, vehicle purchases, and our street program are budgeted for and can be paid for without borrowing any money.

The recession of 2008 was tough on our state and our community. We have made significant changes to prepare for the next economic downturn without having to do any borrowing. The most important feature has been to set a goal to create a "rainy day fund."

Over the past 7 years we have tightened expenses and made the hard choices to cut the budget. That means we live within our means and use cash to pay

This tough stance has produced great results, and the "rainy day fund" of several million dollars is now

generating investment income for our community.

Mayor Landek added that, "Bridgeview is on the path to maintaining a strong financial position in 2024. Looking forward to 2030, in the next 6 years a large portion of debt will be paid while holding the line on property taxes and delivering the great service Bridgeview is known for!"

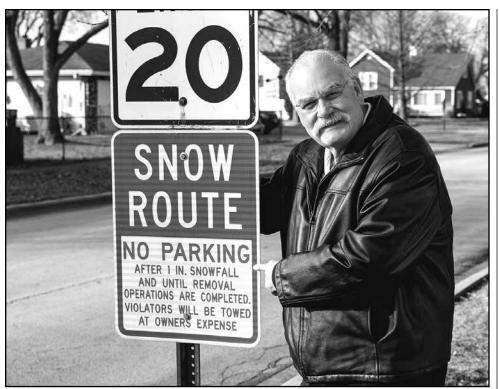


Mayor Steven Landek

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Trustee Gary Lewis reminds you not to park on the streets after heavy snowfall.

### **FOLLOW THE SIGNS!**

In order for the Village to efficiently clean the roads, please don't park on the village streets when the forecast for snow exceeds 1 inch of snow. That simple rule means NO Parking a car or truck on the street when snow is on the way. Don't fall asleep until you place all of your cars in your driveway. Cars on the street means the big plows can't plow snow and drop salt

as planned. There are many miles of streets to plow, and every delay means your neighbors on other streets have to wait a little longer.

Help Public Works keep our roads snow free and move your cars off the road for the big plows. A snow free road is a safer road for you and for our Village police, fire, and emergency crews.

## Street Cleaning and Branch Chipping Services Continue

In many communities, street cleaning and branch chipping services stop in November. But NOT in Bridgeview. Because streets still get dirty in the Winter and because residents may always do yard work, the Village of Bridgeview Public Works Department continues to sweep our streets and pick up curbside branches throughout the year as

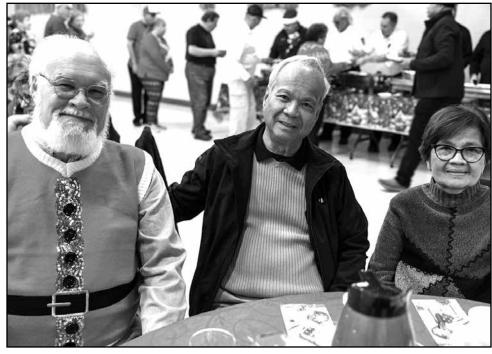


Street Sweeper rehydrates for a full day of service.

weather permits. Bridgeview recognizes the need for these services

and maintains them for the benefit of our wonderful community.





Seniors enjoying great food and good company at the Holiday Brunch.



Trustee Gary Lewis (2nd from left) and Trustee Kalid Baste (2nd from right) serve delicious food and a smile at the Holiday Brunch.

### **Bridgeview Seniors Celebrate the Holiday Season!**

Hundreds of Bridgeview residents 55+ attended the Holiday "Brunch or Lunch" hosted by the Village at the Bridgeview Community Center on December 14th. Attendees were in for toe-tapping tunes, flavorful foods, and holiday cheer whether they attended the breath-taking Brunch or the lovely Lunch.

Both seating times featured delicious spreads that came from Niko's in the morning and Mama Luigi's in the afternoon. There were scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, hash browns, French toast, ham, bread rolls, and various miniature muffins for Brunch. Just as delicious was the stuffing, cranberry sauce, ham, barbecue ham, pasta, and bread

rolls for Lunch. Water, lemonade, and coffee were available at every table, and each attendee received a tasty cupcake for dessert.

Mayor Landek spoke to the crowd as they dug into their appetizing meals beneath thousands of holiday lights. "Thank you all for coming out to celebrate the holiday season with us. We expect to have served about 450 residents today and believe that every resident we can serve is a testament to the Village of Bridgeview's commitment to our wonderful community."

The renowned Rat Pack performers then came on stage and dazzled the crowd with their singing, dancing, and

joking. Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Frank Sinatra's enthusiastic and comedic engagement with attendees filled the room with smiles and laughter.

After the entertainment, Village of Bridgeview elected officials randomly picked raffle tickets from a container to determine which lucky attendees would receive prizes! At each event seating, ten residents won holiday baskets filled with festive cookie cutters, baking mixes, and other treats and four won beautiful holiday wreaths.

Smiling faces, remarkable music, and delicious eats defined the Holiday Brunch or Lunch, and some attendees may have noticed Clerk John Altar, Trustee Gary Lewis, and Trustee Kalid Baste serving food alongside Bridgeview Park District President Al Kruse! Also in attendance were Trustees Patt Higginson, Norma Pinion, and Claudette Struzik. We hope residents enjoyed the chance to share a meal with many of their elected officials.

The Village of Bridgeview appreciates those who attended, the incredible Rat Pack performers, and our hard-working employees who together made the Holiday Brunch or Lunch a smashing success! Happy Holidays from the Village of Bridgeview!

SEE MORE PHOTOS on page 8



Chamber of Commerce Vice President Vic Portillo takes donated items out of a moving van.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sabrije Sabanoski (left) and a volunteer organize toys and foods.

# **Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce Distributes Food and Toys!**

On Thursday, December 7th the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce collected and distributed items donated for their Food and Toy Drive. Dozens of local businesses and organizations, in addition to Bridgeview's Village Hall, served as drop off locations for canned goods, dolls, toy cars, and more all to make life a little better for those in need in our area.

More than 30 volunteers from var-

ious organizations worked out of the Bridgeview Community Center to organize donations, pack boxes, and transport the items to their destinations within Bridgeview and nearby communities. St. Fabian, Catholic Charities - St. Blase, Mosque Foundation, AAFS, Summit Senior Group, and School District 109 each received donations to be shared with community members. This

important work will provide meals and gifts to families who could benefit from our support this holiday season.

Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sabrije Sabanoski offered this about the success of the event and its future potential, "I express my sincere appreciation to our esteemed membership for their unwavering support of the Chamber. With each passing year, this event continues to grow in magnitude, and I am truly thankful to have your backing, as it enables us to provide assistance to our community."

The Village of Bridgeview appreciates the efforts of the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce and all who made the Food and Toy Drive possible, and the Village looks forward to supporting this event again in the future.



 $\label{lem:continuous} \mbox{Volunteers pack nonperishable foods for distribution.}$ 



Tables of collected items fill the Bridgeview Community Center.

### **Snow-Shoveling Safety Tips for This Winter Season**

With Winter weather in full effect, it's important to know how to stay safe when shoveling snow. Here are ten tips to remember this season.

- Bridgeview snowplows will clear the streets when it snows, so take your car off the street.
- Dress for the weather when you go out to shovel your driveway or sidewalk.
- Beware of ice that you may not notice, especially outside your front door.
- Stay hydrated when shoveling, as it is a physically intense exercise.
- Don't overwork your body. Take breaks and pay attention to how you feel.
- Bend at the knees, not your back, and lift with your legs bent. Stand with your feet hip-width apart for balance and keep the shovel close to your body.
- Don't pick up too much snow at once. Use a smaller shovel or fill a large shovel no more than halfway.
- Be safe when operating machinery such as snow blowers. Stay away from sharp edges and ensure the equipment is off before clearing snow jams.
- Have your phone with you in case you need to call 911 for medical assistance.
- Help out your neighbors as best you can. Bridgeview's community depends on residents helping residents in times of need.





A beautiful sunset view of the sprawling North Coast Music Festival from an upper level of the Stadium.

### North Coast Music Festival Returning in 2024!

Chicagoland's biggest Labor Day Weekend music festival is returning to Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium for the 3rd year in a row on Friday August 30th, 2024. The anticipation for the North Coast Coast Music Fest's next iteration is high as the festival recently enjoyed their fastest selling pre-sale to date. With North Coast regularly securing some of the biggest international names in EDM and house music genres, including Marshmello, Alesso, and Flume, as well as hosting over 100 talented musical artists, dozens of high-quality vendors, and captivating art installations, it's no wonder why the presale was so successful. If you missed North Coast 2023 don't worry-we've got you covered. Here's why North Coast Music Fest is such an incredible cultural phenomenon!

Spread throughout the festival grounds were six top-tier stages filled with dozens of musical artists that provided Coasties, the friendly festival goers, the chance to seek out the best vibes for themselves. Coasties that wanted to feed the flames of their excitement braved the Fire Pit, the fire-breathing dome that brought heat to the beat–literally. Flames flickered in front of the DJ table, glowed from the dome's ceiling, and exploded out of the dome's mounted flamethrowers.

When people needed to cool off, they entered The -196 Chill Dome—an expansive air-conditioned dome with a laser lightshow, sounds like lo-fi, and calming yoga. Whether you wanted to find your zen on one of the resting structures or have an interactive relaxation experi-

ence with fellow Coasties and the yoga instructor, the Chill Dome was the farout space for those who needed space.

Coasties that weren't checking out the various stages were investigating the multiple stunning art installations spread across the festival grounds. A giant robot with spinning gears was a popular photo spot, a larger-than-life tree creature sat comfortably in the Silent Disco area, building-sized light-up tetrominoes dazzled passersby in the night, and a colorful North Coast Yacht powered by BeatBox provided the style of a fancy watercraft in front of the Shipyard stage.

Other North Coast attractions, along with activations put on by corporate sponsors, provided additional spaces with unique vibes to enjoy during breaks between sets. Coasties could be seen popping fog-bubbles spouting out of a machine along their path or lounging at a sponsored rest area. There was also a Ferris Wheel available for North Coast VIPs to ride for a full view of everything the fantastic and sprawling festival had to offer.

Speaking of exclusive areas, some festival goers learned of a secret phrase referenced on North Coast's tiktok allowing them to enter a hidden mini-club featuring its own DJ and an aerial view of the grand Stadium Stage where all Coasties flocked for the wildest performances filled with lasers, flames, and more. Little details like a secret club, amazing food vendors, and plenty of rest areas made the amazing festival experience all the more enjoyable.



 ${\bf Coasties\ vibe\ at\ the\ sponsored\ Jose\ Cuervo\ stage\ that\ lets\ them\ dance\ with\ the\ performing\ DJ.}$ 



The massive Vega stage electrifies the night with flames, fireworks, and lights in front of an equally massive crowd.

The beauty of the cultural phenomenon that is the North Coast Music Festival is the diversity of attendees and the freedom to make the festival experience your own while sharing it with other people there for a good time. Everyone and anyone, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, age, class, style, or musical choice, is welcome, and it's no wonder why Coasties come from all over

the country and even the world for the experience they can't get anywhere else. We hope you appreciated this brief rundown of the phenomenal North Coast Music Festival and join us in the summer of 2024 for another amazing time!

For the latest updates on the next North Coast Fest, follow @northcoast-fest on TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.



The -196 Chill Dome's laser lightshow dazzles relaxing Coasties.



Flames shoot out the top of the blazing Fire Pit stage.





### RUGBY RETURNS MAR 24 SUN 1PM



# CHICAGO RED STARS

2024 NWSL REGULAR SEASON BEGINS MARCH



# CHICAGO FIRE SCHEDULE TBA



# INTERNATIONAL SOCCER NOT YET ANNOUNCED





RETURNS TO SERTGEEKSTROUM 2025

FOR TICKETS VISIT SEATGEEK STADIUM.COM Follow us at facebook.com/seatgeekstadium



### BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ALICE VILIMEK - BETTY MARTINEZ - MARWAN ALSAFADI
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ANNA ZIAJA-CASTILLO

**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

## Winter Bingo Reading Challenge

Winter is here and it's a perfect time to Read to Succeed with the Chicago Wolves! Our Winter Reading Bingo Challenge will run through January 1st to January 27th.

#### AGES Kindergarten to 8th grade only

- Everyone receives a free book for registering.
  - Each completed Genre badge earns 1 raffle ticket.
- Complete a row (up/down, diagonal, across) BINGO! and receive 4 Raffle tickets and a prize!
  - Complete the entire Bingo card and earn 8 Raffle tickets!

Pre-Registration on BEANSTACK begins Tuesday, December 26th

Bridgeview Library's Beanstack website: www.bridgeviewlibrary.beanstack.org Or click on the link on our website home page



Chill out and READ!

## Winter Programs begin January 29, 2024 Visit our website for program information www.bridgeviewlibrary.org

### Seniors Ring in the Noon Year at the Park District!

Bridgeview seniors 55+ rung in the New Year with a Noon Year's Game Day Party in the Bridgeview Park District gym on Friday, December 29th. The celebration started with everyone receiving noisemakers and festive hats or tiaras to get into the New Year mood. With attendees dressed and ready for the occasion, they gathered in the center of the gym for the countdown and balloon drop. The announcer counted down from ten as excitement filled the room, and at 12 p.m. exactly Bridgeview Park District Vice President Pannaralla and Treasurer Ahmad pulled the string to release the gold and red balloons that cascaded down on the crowd. Cheers and the sounds of noisemakers created a small roar as everyone celebrated.

Residents were provided with New Year word searches to enjoy while they ate their meals and drank coffee, soda, water, or delicious punch. When attendees started to finish eating, the fun game of attention and chance—Bingo—began in full. Residents at the New Year's Game Day Party at Noon enjoyed a festive atmosphere filled with fun activities, great food, and good cheer to start the New Year off right.



Park District Commissioners Mariam Ahmad (center left) & Ken Pannaralla (center right) pull the rope to release the balloons from the ceiling at Noon Years Eve!



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

**James Cecott** Commissioner

### **Christmas Dinner, Holiday Fun with Park District!**

The halls were decked and the gym was absolutely overflowing with holiday decorations for the Annual Bridgeview Park District's Annual Christmas Dinner, December 10th. Thousands of lights and hundreds of candy canes and gingerbread people covered the ceiling, and at the center was a pathway lined with giant candy leading to a gingerbread house.

The festivities kicked off with a delicious holiday dining experience featuring every Christmas staple you could hope for. There was salad, potato wedges, cranberry sauce, turkey, gravy, corn, bread rolls, and stuffing served by volunteers, Bridgeview Park District employees, and the Bridgeview Park District Board of Commissioners, Al Kruse, Ken Pannaralla, Mariam Ahmad, Justin Willis, and James Cecott.

Filled with energy from the hearty and joyous meal, children danced to their Christmas favorites played by DJ Mike and enjoyed live performances by James Libera throughout the night. When their signature holiday song started playing, gingerbread men suddenly burst into the room and began dancing and playing with the excited crowd.

With music playing in the background, 15 lucky attendees who found



Santa Claus listens to Christmas wishes.

tickets taped beneath their seats were invited to participate in a fun-filled game! Participants blindly used their hands to feel an unknown object that might be soft, furry, tough, or something in-between and were asked to guess what that object was! Whether people guessed correctly or not they received a small stuffed elf to take home for their efforts.

Soon after, Mrs. Claus made her appearance and caused a gleeful commotion that filled the room with sugar-sweet smiles as she began handing out gingerbread cookies along with the icing to decorate them.

With tasty treats in families' hands, the excitement continued with the an-



Bridgeview residents fill the Park District gym to enjoy their Christmas dinner and other activities.

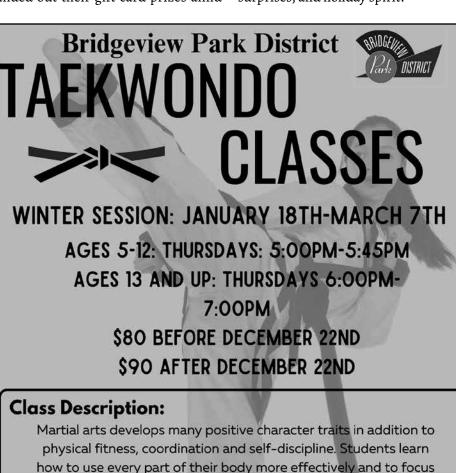
nouncement of the Gingerbread Decorating Contest winners. Throughout the day guests were encouraged to view the collection of gingerbread houses and vote for their favorite. Confectionary creations ranged from simple and elegant to elaborate and chaotic with colorful candy galore. Park District Vice-President Ken Pannaralla announced the contest winners and handed out their gift card prizes amid

Instructor Bio:

enthusiastic applause.

Just when families thought the night couldn't get any better, none other than jolly old Saint Nick himself emerged to spread holiday cheer! Santa Claus sauntered merrily around the room in his fluffy white beard and red suit to speak with the thrilled children and take pictures with them. This marked the end of a long and joyful night filled with smiles, surprises, and holiday spirit.





their mind efficiently. The class focuses on self-defense and skill

and does not require competition for advancement.

Grandmaster Cameron was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of

Fame in 2018 as Grandmaster of the Year and has 50 years experience.

He is one of the highest ranked martial artists in the Western World

with an 9th degree black belt.

8100 S. Beloit Ave. Bridgeview, IL 60455 708-594-1818 www.bridgeviewparkdistrict.com

## **IMPORTANT 2024 DATES**

April 1st — Village Vehicle Stickers & Pet Tags go on Sale
April 1st — Yard Waste Collection Begins
May 11th — Spring Cleanup Day
Monday, May 27th — Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 28th — Garbage will be picked up
May 31st — Vehicle Sticker Deadline
September 28th — Fall Cleanup Day

······ Treasure Day Dates ·····

September 7th & 8th — North of 87th Street / East of the Tracks September 14th & 15th — North of 87th Street / West of the Tracks September 21st & 22nd — South of 87th Street

Cut Here & Save these Dates!

## Senior Christmas "Brunch or Lunch Fun"



A festive and memorable event for all who attended.





Park Comissioners Al Kruse (left) and Ken Pannaralla (right) present raffle prizes.



The Rat Pack sing their hearts out for the crowd!