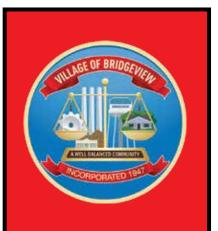
# BRIDGEVIEWS

Bridgeview-il.gov • VillageofBridgeviewIL Highlighting Community News & Events

December 2024 - Volume 33, No. 11



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

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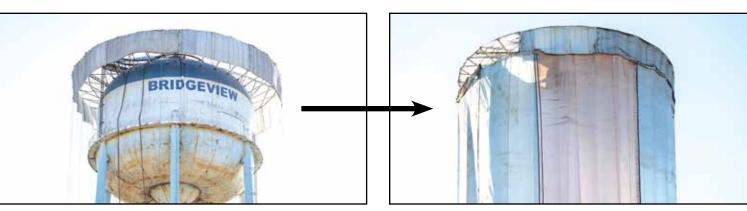
Mon: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wed: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Thu: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fri: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **CLOSED** Sun:

Open 56 hours a week to serve you better!

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

# Bridgeview Water Tower Shines a Brilliant Blue!

With the inside of the Bridgeview Water Tower cleaned, repaired, and resurfaced, work to do the same on the exterior of the tower began.



Workers attached lines to the top of the tower to hold a skirt/cover protecting the area around the tower from any potential debris falling during exterior maintenance.

With safety preparations completed, workers lowered the skirt and began exterior work on the entirety of the tower from the legs to the top.



The brilliant blue paint moved from the body down the legs, and the remaining white section of the body had the word "BRIDGEVIEW" painted on it in bold blue letters next to the American flag. Finally, a blue cap was painted on the top, completing the look of the Bridgeview Water Tower.



Paint primer covered the tower to ensure the next layers of paint would properly coat the surface, and white paint coats the tower in preparation for the blue.



The tower has been largely sandblasted, removing any rust and preparing for the paint primer.

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Village of Bridgeview Trustee and Chairman of the Public Works Committee Gary Lewis explained that, "With \$1,000,000 invested in updating the exterior of the water tower, we can feel good about this portion of our water infrastructure for years to come. The interior and exterior work will not only help keep our drinking water clean and safe but also represent a pillar of community investment in something we all rely on."

The Water Tower is now back in service after months of work. Updating the water tower adds to the investment in Bridgeview's water infrastructure that included work on the ground-level reservoir and the underground reservoir, the replacing of 50+ end-oflife cycle fire hydrants, the replacement of Chicago water meters, the adding of numerous monitoring points to our water-monitoring software, and the removal of the last known lead service lines in our village. Modernizing and maintaining our Village of Bridgeview water infrastructure will continue into 2025 and beyond as we continue to invest in the health and safety of a community as vibrant as our Bridgeview Water Tower.

# Keep the Streets Clear for Snowplowing and Street Sweeping

With snow already upon us, it is important that Village of Bridgeview residents remember key information regarding snowplowing and street cleaning as we work to keep our streets clear and clean.

- Cars may not be parked on the street when I or more inches of snowfall are expected. Parking on the street prevents snowplows from clearing the roads properly.
- All garbage must be placed on the curb—never the street.

  Snowplows and street sweepers will not be able to do their jobs if there are objects in their paths.
- When placing waste on the curb, please ensure the waste is neatly arranged and manageable for the dedicated workers helping keep our neighborhood clean.
- Tree limbs, branches, and similar yard waste must be in bundles in 4-foot lengths by 2 feet in height, bound with rope or twine, and not exceeding 50 lbs. Disassembled swing-sets and playground equipment, metal, and wood must also be in pieces weighing less than 50 lbs. each and in segments no more than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter. The same is true for carpet rolls and do-it-yourself home improvement materials (wood; drywall; paneling), which must be bundled and tied for easy collection. Loose material will not be collected and can disrupt gar-



Follow the signs! Keep the streets clear of vehicles and waste bins to ensure the snow-plows can do their job when it snows!

bage collection, street sweeping, and snowplowing if it ends up in the street.

It is important to keep our streets clear and clean for our residents and our police and fire departments. Snowplows will run after every snowfall of 1 inch or greater, and, based on need and the weather, the street sweeper may run up to 5 days a week. Together we can keep our community safe and clean throughout the winter season and beyond.



Resident Bob shovels his sidewalk with a smile.

## **Shovel Safely this Season!**

With winter weather here, it's important to know how to stay safe when shoveling snow. Keep these helpful tips in mind as we work through the chilly season.

- 1. Bridgeview snowplows will clear the streets when it snows 1 inch or more, so take your car off the street.
- 2. Avoid shoveling snow onto the street, as this can create a hazard.
- 3. Dress for the weather when you go out to shovel your driveway or sidewalk.
- 4. Beware of ice that you may not notice, especially outside your front door.
- 5. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Don't pick up too much snow at once. Use a smaller shovel or fill a large shovel no more than halfway.
- 9. Be safe when operating machinery such as snow blowers. Stay away from sharp edges and ensure the equipment is off before clearing snow jams.
- 10. Have your phone with you in case you need to call 911 for medical assistance.
- 11. Help out your neighbors as best you can. Bridgeview's community depends on residents helping residents in times of need.

Please shovel responsibly and know your limits.

# **Annual Training for Firefighters/Paramedics!**



A Bridgeview firefighter trains to respond to airway trauma.

On Friday, November 15th Advocate Christ Hospital set up hands-on skill stations and prepared case studies in Bridgeview's Village Hall to train firefighters/paramedics and EMT's of surrounding municipalities under the Christ Hospital EMS system. The yearly training includes teams from Bridgeview, Bedford Park, Burbank,

Chicago Ridge, Oak Lawn, Summit, and others. The numerous training stations and hypothetical emergency scenarios covered topics including trauma airway management, CPR, stroke treatment, administration verification, and delivering babies. Remembering to note a patient's last known normal (LKN) is an example of a critical piece

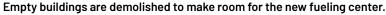


Bridgeview Fire Chief Keith Grzadziel goes over a case study.

of health information that often goes undocumented, and shoring up documentation gaps such as this can save lives. Lessons and experiences from the training enable Bridgeview's first responders to sharpen their skills and stay on top of advancements in medical care and emergency services. Per Illinois State Law, every paramedic is required to complete 100 hours of continuing education every 4 years. EMT's are required to complete 60-80 hours of continuing education, depending on their certification level, every 4 years. The Village of Bridgeview is proud to host these training courses for local emergency services and looks forward to continually supporting public safety.

## Demolition Makes Way for New Business at 75th & Harlem!







Demolition is underway between 75th St. and 74th St. along Harlem.

"Seeing businesses interested in opening up new locations in Bridgeview is always a sign that we're supportive of growth here," said Trustee Michael Pticek. "I'm glad to see progress is happening so we can make use of the otherwise tenant-free property."

It won't be long until a new business takes up residence in Bridgeview along Harlem between 75th street and 74th street. Demolition has been in progress to remove unused buildings from the block-long property to make way for a QuikTrip fueling center with the potential to provide property, sales, and motor fuel taxes to the Village of Bridgeview in the future while providing a convenient gas station for southbound Harlem traffic. The prime location should prove valuable to both the business and the Village once the construction of the fueling center is completed.



The stretch of property will be cleared for the construction of the fueling center.

## A Magical Park District Christmas Enchants All!

The Bridgeview Park District went all out for their Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 8th. Residents entered under a giant red bow, children enjoyed a dancing holiday animatronic, thousands of colored lights hung over elegant tables filling the gym, flashing snowflakes and snowy pine trees lined the walls, and the cozy fireplace made for a perfect photo op.

The formal-attire-recommended "White Christmas" holiday fun began with a delicious dining experience featuring gold utensils, a giftbox of chocolates, and every Christmas staple you could hope for. There was salad, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey, gravy, corn, bread rolls, and tasty brownies served by volunteers, Bridgeview Park District employees, and the Bridgeview Park District Board of Commissioners, including Al Kruse, Mariam Ahmad, Justin Willis, and James Cecott. A sparkling apple juice toast was made as attendees raised their glasses in celebration.

The spirit of Christmas grew stronger as the amazing Magical Keys began their performance of Christmas classics as well as an original song composed by Bridgeview resident Helmut Stefan. The exquisite performance featured the talents of multiple vocalists, a drummer, saxophonists, guitarists, a violinist, a pianist, and more, and a small elf read, "The Night Before Christmas," during the musical breaks.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus suddenly appeared, grabbing the room's attention. Children and adults alike took photos with the jolly couple at the fireplace as they spread holiday cheer. Residents ready to feel the wind in their faces went outside to enjoy the horse-drawn carriage rides! The Park District Commissioners joined attendees on a carriage as horses galloped and took group after group through the neighborhood. Fancy family fun delighted all at the holiday celebration!



A child meets Santa and Mrs. Claus!

See more photos on page 8!

# Over 300,000 Visitors to Stadium in 2024!



Brilliant lasers lit up the Stadium Stage as tens of thousands of Coasties roared!

#### **Unforgettable North Coast Music Festival**

The North Coast Music Festival, a.k.a. the biggest Labor Day Weekend music festival in Chicagoland, held its 14th iteration of the annual cultural phenomenon at the Village of Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium from Friday, August 30th through Sunday, September 1st. Drawing crowds averaging almost 30,000 each day, North Coast 2024 brought new and returning "Coasties" alike together to experience sets from some of the biggest names in electronic dance music (EDM), including Subtronics, Illenium, ISOKNOCK, and Two Friends. Top-tier music, combined with a myriad of big-name vendors, spellbinding stages, eye-catching art installations, and free giveaways, left no one wanting after three full days of pure festival joy. Stepping into the festival grounds, attendees were immediately swimming in a sea of attractions to explore in a choose-your-own adventure style aided by the detailed North Coast Map.

North Coast will be returning to the Village of Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium in 2025 from Friday, August 29th through Sunday, August 31st!



The Hounds push through a tackle from Anthem Rugby Carolina!

#### The Herculean Chicago Hounds

The strong, rugged, and beloved rugby team's 2024 regular season showing drastically improved this year, demonstrating that the Hounds have put in the time and dedication to bolster their abilities and build a successful team.

The ferocious Hounds bared their fangs even against difficult teams, and even small fixes could lead to even more wins next season. Fans always offer enthusiasm about the team's current direction, as the Hounds finished 6th out of 12 teams with a record of 8 wins, 7 losses, and 1 draw, putting them in the very respectable upper half of the pack. They went on to beat NOLA Gold 45-21 in the Eastern Conference Semifinals in the Hounds franchise's first ever appearance in the MLR playoffs before falling to the New England Free Jacks 17-23 in the Eastern Conference Finals.



Travis Scott and the entire Cactus Jack crew lit up Friday night!

#### **Spectacular Summer Smash**

On Friday, June 14th the annual three-day Lyrical Lemonade Summer Smash hip hop music festival began with concertgoers immediately greeted with monster trucks, gigantic, inflated Minions from "Despicable Me," and music video set replicas in giant lemonade cartons created by Lyrical Lemonade.

The huge end of the night performances by the Summer Smash headliners, some of the biggest names in the rap/hip hop industry, made history with truly spectacular performances amid pillars of fire and smoke shooting out around the artists on stage. After Travis Scott on Friday and Playboi Carti on Saturday, Sunday night ended the festival with a stunning bang as the legendary rapper Chief Keef walked on stage amid 40,000 festivalgoers screaming in excitement.

Historic and extremely well-received performances were the main takeaways for the thrilling festival. Summer Smash and SeatGeek Stadium provided everything fans needed for a fantastic experience and more, bringing record success to Summer Smash 2024. The Lyrical Lemonade Summer Smash will return in 2025!



Mallory Swanson calls to her teammates as she prepares for a pass with Louisville closing in!

#### **The Shining Chicago Stars**

The Chicago Red Stars are no longer underdogs after a transformative year. During the 2023 NWSL season they ranked last place, but since then they've brought in new players, new coaches, and new management to build a winning women's soccer team. Returning to the field this 2024 season was Mallory Swanson, a starter and top scorer for the Red Stars who was unable to play due to a knee injury. The Stars also boast a truly star-studded group of Olympic athletes, including U.S. gold medalists Alyssa Naeher and Mallory Swanson, Brazilian silver medalist Ludmila, and Canadian midfielder Julia Grosso who each competed in Paris in 2024.

The Chicago Red Stars ranked #6 in the NWSL after a season of success at SeatGeek Stadium and rebranded themselves as the "Chicago Stars FC" with a new logo. Despite losing in the playoffs to the top seeded Orlando Pride, the Stars put up a brave fight and showed they have what it takes to compete with the best.



An Eagle takes down an Oak who refuses to let go of the ball.

#### Incredible International Soccer and Rugby

The Chicago Fire FC battled Liga MX's Deportivo Toluca as part of the Leagues Cup tournament at SeatGeek Stadium. The competition brought top-tier international soccer talent from Mexico to face off against Major League Soccer teams, and the Fire vs. Toluca match had fans on both sides cheering passionately during the intense game. Toluca took an early 0-1 lead, but the Fire responded soon after with a goal of their own. Not content with an even score, Toluca made another shot that ended the 1st half with the score 1-2. Unfortunately for Chicago Fire fans, Toluca didn't let up their offensive and scored a third goal, burying the Fire and defeating their passion in a competitive game.

USA Rugby's Eagles fought Romania's Oaks for the 100-year anniversary of the Pershing Cup in the first international rugby competition at SeatGeek! The fierce push-and-pull over the chance to maintain or take the trophy ultimately led to a win for Romania that reignited the rivalry between the two teams.

SeatGeek Stadium continues to host incredible international soccer matches while expanding into rugby, and the Village of Bridgeview looks forward to continually serving as the heart of Midwestern soccer and a premier international sports destination.

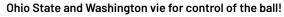


Test drivers lined up in BMWs in the SeatGeek Stadium West Lot before hitting the course.

#### **Ultimate BMW Driving Experience**

Curious drivers and die-hard BMW fans from all around the Midwest stayed at the Hampton Inn to visit SeatGeek Stadium in May for an exclusive BMW driving experience. Attendees who were lucky enough to reserve their spot online were able to get a 1-on-1 with the new BMW i5 eDrive40 and the BMW 540i xDrive sports sedans. In addition, BMW displayed its latest cars and set up a variety of interactive displays for eager test drivers. There's no good substitute for the feeling of driving a car, and those who test drove the cars on the Stadium's West Lot exited the vehicles with smiles on their faces.







Michigan State's goalie dives for a Washington penalty shot before it sails past him.

# Big Ten Soccer Shakes Up SeatGeek!

The Big Ten Conference brought their cleats and passion to SeatGeek Stadium's field on November 7th and 10th for their Men's Soccer Tournament Ouarterfinals and Semifinals respectively. The top conference teams played five exhilarating and fiercely competitive games over the course of the two days, with multiple games going into overtime. A standout performance in the Quarterfinals came in the second game of the day, with UCLA's Bruins putting on both an offensive and defensive masterclass against Maryland's terrapins. A truly dominant performance by UCLA ended the game with a staggering 6-0 score, showing that they

didn't just come to win the match—they came to win the tournament.

A full day of soccer resulted in only the best of the best moving on to the Semifinals. The University of Michigan defeated Indiana in game 1, UCLA trounced Maryland in game 2, and Washington eked out a win in penalty kicks against Michigan state.

The Semifinals proved to be even more intense than the Quarterfinals. UCLA, coming hot off their win, met their match in the ironclad defense of the University of Michigan. With neither team gaining the edge in the standard match nor the two ten-minute overtime periods, the players lined

up for the tie-breaking penalty kicks. Michigan's Wolverines bared their fangs, finally scoring against UCLA who couldn't return the favor.

Ohio State had meanwhile been comfortably waiting in the wings for a worthy opponent after receiving their Semifinals spot as a reward for their status as number one in the league during the regular season. When Washington rolled up after winning their first game via penalty kicks, Ohio State went to work. Despite a solid first-half defense, Washington eventually slipped up, and a second-half penalty kick by Ohio State resulted in a goal that pierced through both the

net and the morale of Washington. Withing minutes Ohio State scored again, and the two-goal deficit proved too difficult for Washington's one goal to overcome. The number one seed demonstrated that winning a Quarter-finals game in overtime penalty kicks doesn't mean you can challenge the best, ending the Semifinals in professional fashion.

After another successful soccer tournament hosting teams from around the country, SeatGeek Stadium continues to serve as the heart of Midwestern soccer, a national soccer destination, and an international sports venue.





## BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

ADDRESS: 7840 WEST 79TH STREET BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455 PHONE: (708) 458-2880 WEBSITE: BRIDGEVIEWLIBRARY.ORG

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

### **In-House Programs**

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

<u>Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm—Snow</u> <u>Science:</u> Discover the science behind melting snowmen as kids explore how temperature affects snow and ice through a fun hands-on activity. Grades K-2nd MAX 15

Wednesday, December 11th at 4pm—Fizz Pop Science: This science program is sure to awaken your senses using various food ingredients for science experiments. Grades 3rd—6th MAX 15

Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm—A Cozy Storytime: When the weather is cold, it's the perfect opportunity to snuggle up with a book! Wear your comfy clothes or pajamas, bring your favorite bedtime buddy, and get cozy during this calm, relaxing storytime. Ages 4 to 6 years MAX 12

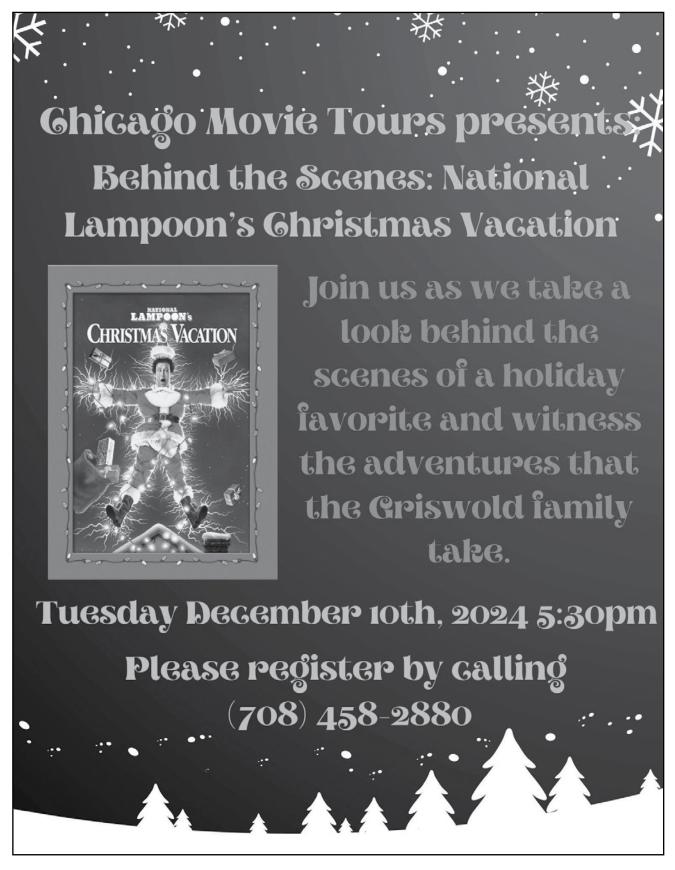
## **Holiday Programs**

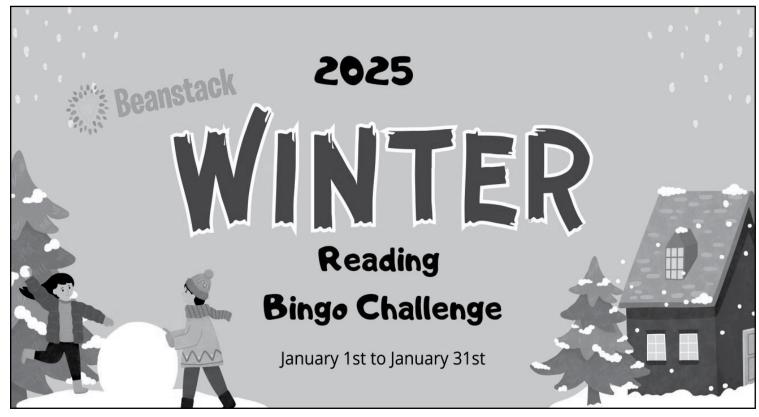
Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm—Christmas Craft: Make a cute craft that you can use to decorate your own home or give as a gift! Grades K-12th MAX 20

Friday, December 20th at 11am— Jingle Bell Rock: We're ringing in the holidays with this fun program! We'll read the Classic book
The Night Before Christmas, sing and dance to some familiar holiday songs and make a simple holiday craft. Ages
18 months to 4 years MAX 15

Saturday, December 21st

at 2pm—Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas: Find out who's been naughty and who's been nice in this spectacular Christmas celebration. Santa Claus joins Mickey, Minnie and all their pals in an original movie about discovering the true joys of Christmas. Grades K-6th MAX 20





AGES Kindergarten to 8th Grade Sign up on BEANSTACK and start playing on Monday, January 1st! Get a BINGO—WIN a prize!

#### **BEANSTACK RAFFLE**

When playing Beanstack
Bingo, you can earn virtual
raffle tickets to enter into
the raffle of your choice.
ALL raffle tickets must
be placed into a raffle by
Friday, January 31st.
Raffle winners will
be drawn on Monday,
February 3rd.



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

## **3PEAT FOR BRIDGEVIEW** PARK DISTRICT SENIOR **SOCCER TEAM!**



#### A Message from the Bridgeview **Park District**

For the third consecutive year, the senior division soccer team for the Bridgeview Park District won the championship of the South Suburban Soccer Association, played at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills on November 9th.

The League runs from September through November and has teams from numerous neighboring park districts. The seniors, made up of 6th-8th grade boys and girls from the Bridgeview community and surrounding area defeated Mt. Greenwood Park 2-0 in the semifinal and Evergreen Park 1-0 in the final to secure the trophy and the threepeat. Charlie freeman had the game winning goal in the final and also scored in the semifinal. Teddy freeman added one goal in the semifinal, and goalie Frankie Koloffon had two shutouts, one in the semis and one in the final.

The team was coached by Ignacio Duran II and Alex Arias. With only a handful of 8th graders on the team this year, the group should be ready to go for the 4peat next fall! Great job, everyone!





Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays

\*Additional nights could be added depending on registration\*

League Play: Round Robin Format (4 Players Minimum Per Division) Plus Finals!

Instruction: There will be a Racquetball scoring and procedure session open to all participants offered by the Athletics Department the week before the league starts!

Equipment: Official Racquetballs and courts will be provided by the Park District. All Participants MUST have their OWN racquets!

Scoring & Standings: Each match will be scored by the competing contestants and standings to be recorded and kept by the Park District Athletics Dept.

Location: Court 1 and Court 2 in the main Park District building.

8100 S. Beloit Ave Bridgeview, IL 60455





# **Holiday Fun with the Park District!**



Families and friends gathered for photos under the giant red bow!



From left to right, Park District Commissioners Justin Willis, Al Kruse, and Mariam Ahmad serve stuffing and turkey with gravy.



Residents listen as the Magical Keys put on a wonderful holiday performance.



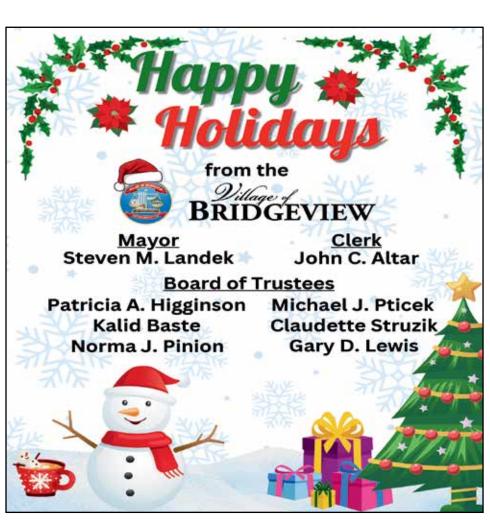
An elf reads "The Night Before Christmas."



Residents raise their glasses!



From left to right, Park District Commissioners James Cecott, Justin Willis, Mariam Ahmad, and Al Kruse enjoy the carriage.



IMPORTANT 2024 DATES

**December 25th** 

Christmas Holiday (Village Hall Closed)

## IMPORTANT 2025 DATES

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

New Year's Day (Village Hall Closed)

#### **January 20th**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Regular garbage pickup will not be interrupted)

