

# BRIDGEVIEWS

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

January 2025 - Volume 34, No. 1

## Bridgeview Seniors Enjoy Happy Holidays!



VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW  
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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.  
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



Clerk John Altar delivers a gift basket to a winner!



Park District Treasurer Mariam Ahmad (right) serves chicken to a happy resident.



The Argo High School Choir sings Christmas classics!



Seniors filled the Community Center with holiday cheer!

With it being 'the most wonderful time of the year,' on December 11th the Bridgeview Community Center was home to the cozy and festive Happy Holidays Senior Luncheon hosted by the Village of Bridgeview. Residents 55+ were immediately greeted by hundreds of holiday balloons, beautifully wrapped presents, and Christmas-themed lights that set the tone for wonderful festivities.

The spirit of giving was in full force. Three rounds of random prize giveaways delighted everyone throughout the afternoon, with Trustee Gary Lewis and Clerk John Altar delivering the holiday gifts to the lucky winners. Unwrapping the presents revealed chocolates, mugs, baking mixes, cookie kits, and other holiday treats that lit up the room in joy. When they weren't enjoying the surprise giveaways, seniors

dined on delicious food from Nikos, including mashed potatoes, beef, chicken, green beans, and mostaccioli. The holiday haul was surely enough to leave even Santa's belly full! Water, lemonade, and coffee were served at every table along with delicious cupcakes for dessert.

With lunch served, the musical entertainment began! the Argo High School Choir performed lovely renditions of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty

the Snowman," and many more classic songs that blew the crowd away, and the pianist kept all entertained during breaks.

The luncheon's outstanding singing, delicious food, and wonderful prizes brought the spirit of the holidays to life. The Village of Bridgeview thanks those who attended, the Argo High School choir, and all who made the Happy Holidays Luncheon the memorable time it was. Happy Holidays from the Village of Bridgeview!

FREE 55+ SENIOR

# Lucky Luncheon

MARCH 6TH  
11:30AM

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
7902 SOUTH OKETO AVE.  
BRIDGEVIEW IL

LIMITED SEATING - 255 seats available! RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW!

To RSVP • call: 708.594.2525 Ext 3 • Email: info@villageofbridgeview.com  
• or scan the QR code to register online

Presort Std  
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PAID  
Bridgeview IL  
Permit 318

Village of Bridgeview  
7500 South Oketo Avenue  
Bridgeview, IL 60455  
Email: info@villageofbridgeview.com  
Facebook.com/VillageofBridgeviewIL







IDFPR employees assist residents with their licensing issues.

## Professional Licensing Assistance Comes to Bridgeview!

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), in partnership with State Senator Mike Porfirio, State Representative Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar, and State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, brought the department's services to the Bridgeview Community Center on Tuesday, December 17th from 3-6pm to provide in-person professional licensing application support to local residents. The IDFPR "serves as the regulatory backbone in the Land of Lincoln, licensing and regulating more than 1.2 million professionals across more than 100 various professions," according to their website. Some of the many professionals required to register with the state include, architects, barbers, clinical and prescribing psychologists, marriage and family therapists, nail technicians, salon shop workers, pharmacists, physicians, social workers, registered nurses, and professional engineers.

Providing coffee and donuts, Sen.

Porfirio joined the IDFPR On The Road event to speak with residents and see the impact of the services firsthand. "It's a good crowd here tonight," said Senator Porfirio. "There are so many different people who need to get their professional licenses renewed, and this local event saves people the trouble of driving into Chicago or to Springfield to get in-person help. Online support is available, but the in-person support can really make things easier."

Our Lyons Township Assessor, Patrick Hynes, even came to the event for assistance with his real estate appraisal licensing application. "I'm glad to see so many people like me making use of this convenient opportunity for licensing assistance."

Whether people had questions about renewing their licenses or applying for the first time, the IDFPR assisted dozens of local professionals that run small businesses and provide services that make our everyday lives possible.



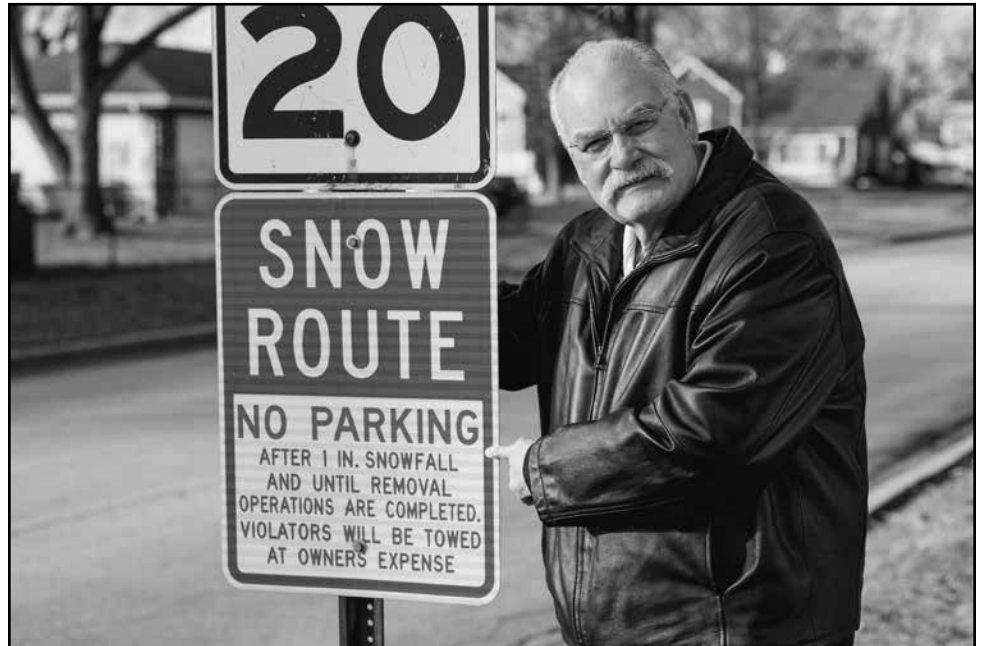
Sen. Mike Porfirio talks with residents about professional licensing.

# Snow is Here, and So Are the Plows!

In order for the Village of Bridgeview to efficiently clean the roads, please don't park on the Village streets when the forecast for snow exceeds 1 inch. That simple rule means NO Parking any cars or trucks on the street when snow is on the way. Please don't fall asleep until you place all of your cars in your driveway. Cars on the street prevent the big plows from plowing snow and dropping salt as planned. Garbage/waste should also be kept out of the streets to

ensure that street sweepers and snowplows won't run into any objects as they do their vital work. There are many miles of streets to plow, and every delay means your neighbors on other streets are forced 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.



Trustee Gary Lewis reminds you not to park on the streets when 1 or more inches of snowfall are expected.

## Bridgeview Water Tower Gets New Trees

As part of the grant that paid for new trees around SeatGeek Stadium, 25 new trees have been planted by Openlands around the Bridgeview Water Department property bordering Thomas Avenue, 71st Street, and Beloit Avenue. Adding the greenery progresses the Village of Bridgeview's goals of beau-

tifying our community and supporting the environment. The new trees may not look like much in the winter, but along with the native pollinator gardens planted around Village Hall's sign and the entrance to SeatGeek Stadium, the spring will show just how green the Village of Bridgeview is.



Openlands plants a line of trees along 71st St.

# Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce Delivers Holiday Donations!



Volunteers pack toys and nonperishable foods for distribution.

On Wednesday, December 5th the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce collected and distributed items donated for their Food and Toy Drive. Along with Bridgeview's Village Hall, dozens of local businesses and organizations served as drop off locations for canned goods, dolls, toy cars, and more to make life a little better for those in need in our area.

More than 30 volunteers from various 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 provided meals and gifts to families during the holiday season.

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.

# Heating Your Home Safely

Residents should keep the following tips in mind through the cold winter months:

- Never use your oven for heat.
- Never bring charcoal or gas grills indoors (they are a carbon monoxide hazard).
- Make sure all portable heaters are unplugged when not in use.
- Use electric space heaters with extreme caution – avoid placing them near curtains or other flammable materials and turn them off before going to bed.
- Keep heat at adequate levels or leave faucets open with a slight drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep moving. Your body generates its



Unplug space heaters when not in use and avoid plugging in multiple devices to one outlet to avoid electrical fires.

own heat when you engage in physical activities.

When temperatures in Cook County are expected to dip to unsafe levels, the County's Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security provides an updated list of warming centers for residents to protect themselves and their families. Residents who

need to seek shelter at a warming center should contact the center first to verify availability and hours of operation. The warming center nearest to Bridgeview is the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 Leamington Avenue, Burbank. Its phone number is (708) 636-8850.



Park District Commissioners Ken Pannaralla, Mariam Ahmad, and Justin Willis pull the string to drop the balloons with Village Clerk John Altar!



Residents celebrated the Noon Year in style!

# Seniors Celebrate the Noon Year at the Park District!

One hundred Bridgeview seniors 55+ joyfully rung in the New Year at the Bridgeview Park District's annual Noon Year's Eve Party on Monday, December 30th. The celebration kicked off with free noisemakers, festive hats, and tiaras to help get everyone in a celebratory Noon Year's mood. With attendees dressed and ready for the occasion, they gathered in the center of the gym for the countdown and mini balloon drop. The announcer counted down from ten as excitement filled the room, and at 12 p.m. exactly, Bridgeview Park District Vice President Ken Pannaralla, Treasurer Mariam Ah-

mad, Secretary Justin Willis, and Village Clerk John Altar pulled the string to release the gold and red balloons that cascaded down on the crowd. Noisemakers and cheers echoed through the room as everyone celebrated the change of one year into another.

"It's great to foster a sense of community with an accessible New Year's party," explained Vice President Pannaralla. "The seniors in the area really look forward to the programming the Bridgeview Park District provides," added Treasurer Ahmad.

After the balloon drop, the fun game

of attention and chance—Bingo—began in full. Attendees stamped their bingo cards as numbers were read aloud, with everyone hoping to be the first prize winner. It wasn't long before a shout of "Bingo!" echoed through the gym, and a woman happily picked out her prize cup with a gift card inside.

Delicious food from the Bridgeview Culver's arrived, and residents cheerfully dined on chicken tenders, broccoli, mashed potatoes, and chocolate or vanilla custard. After a tasty lunch, a representative from Oak St. Health gave out a foot massager as a raffle prize to a

lucky resident to kick off the new year. The "left/right game" then captured everyone's attention as residents listened closely to the story and passed gift bags to the person sitting to their left or right. When the game finished, residents opened their bags to reveal 2025 calendars, planners, mugs, calendars, or puzzles!

Residents at the Noon Year's Eve Party celebrated another rotation around the earth and the potential of 2025 in a festive atmosphere filled with fun activities, great food, and good cheer to start the new year off right.



# Families Flock to Winter Rugby Fest!

The epic game of rugby has new followers after the Chicago Hounds' Family Winter Rugby Fest. Over 130 people came out to experience rugby firsthand in a safe, friendly environment at Seat-Geek Stadium on Sunday, December 15th. The heated Bridgeview Sports Dome and its turf field provided all the comfort and space new rugby players of all ages could ask for as they learned the rules of the growing sport from Chicago Hounds players and coaches and played a beginner-friendly no-tackle version. Men, women, and children all got the chance to throw the rugby ball, play defense, and score in the dome like professional athletes.

"At its core, the Winter Rugby Fest is about strengthening our connection to the local community and introducing more people to rugby in a fun and festive way," explained Chicago Hounds Community Outreach Coordinator Ron

Estrada. "We are thrilled to see so many families and players of all ages and experience levels join us for a day of fun and community. Rugby is for everybody."

Those who weren't trying out the game enjoyed crafting Christmas tree ornaments, having their faces painted, requesting unique creations from the balloon artist, tossing bean bags, and spending time at the holiday photo area with Rugby Claus and Houndy, the team's lovable mascot. After a full afternoon of activity, everyone chowed down on carb-filled pizza and treats while listening to the DJ's holiday tracks. The engaging rugby fest provided fun for the whole family and showcased the exciting game played by our very own Chicago Hounds who are planning youth clinics, school partnerships, and more community gatherings in the future to make rugby accessible and inviting to everyone!



Children learn the game of rugby!



Fans take a photo with Holiday Houndy!



A new rugby fan gets a gingerbread face-painting.



Adults play a safe walking rugby match.

 A promotional poster for single game tickets. The text "SINGLE GAME TICKETS" is written in large, bold, green letters, with "on sale now" in smaller, italicized green letters below it. The background features a collage of rugby players in green and white uniforms, with the mascot Houndy integrated into the scene. At the bottom, there is a schedule of games with logos and dates:
 

FEBRUARY 23	MARCH 2	MARCH 15	APRIL 13	MAY 4	MAY 19	MAY 31	JUNE 4

 Below the schedule, it says "buy your tickets today [chicagohounds.com/tickets](http://chicagohounds.com/tickets)".





# SeatGeek STADIUM

## UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS



# RUGBY RETURNS

SUN | FEB 23 | 2PM



# CHICAGO STARS

2025 NWSL REGULAR SEASON BEGINS MARCH



# SUMMER SMASH

COMING SUMMER 2025

# NORTH COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 29-31  
15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



# New and Returning Events

FOR TICKETS VISIT [SEATGEEK STADIUM.COM](https://seatgeekstadium.com)  
Follow us at [facebook.com/seatgeekstadium](https://facebook.com/seatgeekstadium)







# BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
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.

**Monday, January 27th at 4pm—Snow Paint:** Join us as we create our own snow to paint a textured winter themed picture. Grades 3rd to 6th MAX 15

**Wednesday, January 29th at 4pm—Arctic Animals Storytime:** Bundle up for this chilly storytime! We will learn about animals who live in the cold, do a craft and have a cold treat. AGES 4 to 7 years MAX 15

**Fridays Beginning January 31st at 11am—Book, Boogie & Play!:** The best of both worlds for our toddlers! We will read a story, boogie to music with instruments, and finish the remaining time playing together. AGES 18 months to 3 years MAX 20

**Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 19th & March 5th at 4pm—Choose Your Own Book Club:** This book club will allow kids to choose their own book, after discussing with their peers about what the genre or theme will be. Come back for the next club date to discuss your book with the group. Each week will have a new mystery activity that will tie into the chosen genre. February 5th club will be discussing books chosen from the Historical Fiction genre. Choose your own book and join us! Grades 3rd—6th MAX 15

**Thursday, February 6th at 4pm—Bubble Art:** We'll begin our time with the story of two friends, Rueben and Felix, and their bubble challenge. Then we will be creative with bubble painting! Grades K-2nd MAX 15

**Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm—Valentine's Day Craft :** Create a Valentine's Day craft to give to someone special. Grades K to 6th MAX 20



Get YETI to read!

### 2025 Winter Program Session

January 27th to March 8th.  
Please visit our website [www.bridgeviewlibrary.org](http://www.bridgeviewlibrary.org) for more upcoming program information.

## LITTLE LUNAS



**Saturday, February 1st at 2pm—Little Lunas Interactive Bilingual Concert:** As educators and teaching artists of over 20 years, the Cervantes sisters merge their love of music and education to bring you LITTLE LUNAS, an interactive and bilingual concert for young audiences. Best for ages 3 to 6 years. Lower Level—No registration required



Calling all Parents, Grandparents and anyone that interacts with youth

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TEACHES ADULTS HOW TO IDENTIFY, UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO SIGNS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AGES 12-18.

JOIN US FOR THIS FREE BLENDED CLASS THAT REQUIRES 2 HOURS OF ONLINE PREWORK  
**JAN 31 | 11:00AM - 4:00PM**

BRIDGEVIEW LIBRARY  
7840 W. 79TH STREET, BRIDGEVIEW, IL  
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



**REGISTER TODAY**



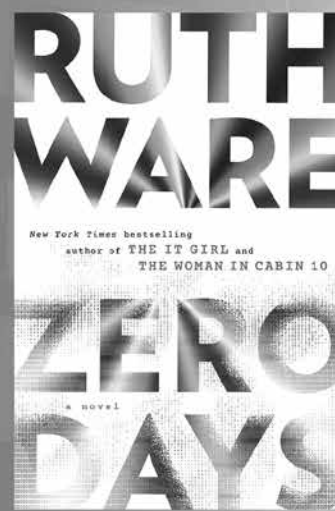
**FREE**

\*CEUs and CPDUs for professional development available

Brought to you by:



Welcome back book club goers!  
January 2025's book is.....  
Zero Days by Ruth Ware



Books can be picked up on/after January 1, 2025  
Meeting is on Thursday January 30th, 2025 6pm





8100 S. Beloit Ave. Bridgeview, IL 60455 | 708-594-1818 | Bridgeviewparkdistrict.com

BRIDGEVIEW PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Alan Kruse  
President

Ken Pannaralla  
Vice-President

Mariam Ahmad  
Treasurer

Justin Willis  
Secretary

James Cecott  
Commissioner

BRIDGEVIEW PARK DISTRICT PRESENTS:

# CUPIDS CUPCAKES VALENTINE'S PARTY



**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12TH  
6:00-8:00P.M.**

JOIN US FOR A SWEET NIGHT OF FUN!  
COME AND PARTAKE IN NUMEROUS VALENTINES CRAFTS AND GAMES!  
CUPCAKE DECORATING, MUSIC, DANCING AND EVEN A VISIT FROM CUPID'S FRIEND HARRIET THE HEART!

REGISTER NOW ONLINE OR IN PERSON  
\$12 PER CHILD  
\$5 PER ADULT LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!  
CHILD MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**AGES: 3-13**

WWW.BRIDGEVIEWPARKDISTRICT.COM

**SCAN FOR TICKETS**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED




8100 S. BELOIT AVE      708-594-1818

BRIDGEVIEW PARK DISTRICT PRESENTS:

# LEPRECHAUN HUNT

THE SEARCH IS ON!




Join us on the Luckiest day of the year and try your luck on our Leprechaun Treasure Hunt!  
Find as many leprechauns as you can to win the Pot of gold! 1ST, 2ND and 3RD place to be awarded

**RAIN OR SHINE EVENT  
BRING YOUR OWN FLASH LIGHT  
\$5 PER PERSON  
REGISTER ONLINE OR IN PERSON**

**MONDAY  
MARCH 17TH  
7:00-8:00P.M.  
COMMISSIONERS  
PARK  
BRIDGEVIEW IL**

Come dressed in your best leprechaun attire to participate in our Leprechaun look alike contest! Prizes to be awarded!

www.bridgeviewparkdistrict.com  
708-594-1818




TREASURE MAP



# 2025 IMPORTANT DATES

- January 20th ————— Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(Normal Garbage Pickup)
- March 6th ————— Senior Lucky Luncheon
- March 9th ————— Lions Club Super Sunday
- March 15 ————— Repair Cafe
- March 20 ————— Veteran's Fair
- April 7th ————— Yard Waste Collection Starts
- Saturday, April 26th ————— Spring Cleanup Day
- Monday, May 26th ————— Memorial Day  
(Garbage Pickup on Tuesday)
- Thursday, July 3rd ————— Bridgeview Park District  
Fireworks
- Friday, July 4th ————— Independence Day
- Tuesday, August 5th ————— National Night Out  
/Community Day
- Monday, September 1st ————— Labor Day  
(Garbage Pickup on Tuesday)
- Saturday, October 4th ————— Fall Cleanup Day
- Friday, October 31st ————— Halloween
- Thursday, November 27th ——— Thanksgiving Holiday  
(Village Hall Closed)
- Wednesday, December 24th ————— Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25th ——— Christmas Holiday  
(Village Hall Closed)

### 2025 Treasure Days

- Sept. 6th and 7th ——— homes south of 87th street
- Sept. 13th and 14th ————— homes north of  
87th street and west of tracks
- Sept. 20th and 21st ————— homes north of  
87th street and east of tracks



## SPRING VETERANS' RESOURCE FAIR

at the Bridgeview Community Center  
7902 S. Oketo, Bridgeview

### Thursday, March 20, 2025 10a.m.-2p.m.



Office of the Clerk:  
Elyse Hoffenberg

Coordinated by:



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS



**Stop by and visit with the following resources:**

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs  Township of Lyons Clerk Elyse Hoffenberg & Assessor Pat Hynes  DAV - Disabled American Veterans Organization  Illinois Joint Forces Support Group	Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission  Dupage County Veterans Assistance Commission  VA's Abraham Lincoln Cemetery  Honor Flight for Veterans	Township of Lyons Mental Health Commission  BEDS Plus  ...and other organizations dedicated to assisting veterans and their families
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Questions? Call Chuck Bosko at 312-980-4512







## Save the Date

THE LIONS CLUBS OF BRIDGEVIEW, ARGO-SUMMIT, & JUSTICE  
INVITE YOU TO JOIN & CELEBRATE

# SUNDAY

*Teacher* OF THE YEAR

*Business* OF THE YEAR

*Veteran* OF THE YEAR

SUN | MARCH 9 | 12PM

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
7902 SOUTH OKETO AVENUE

## REPAIR CAFE & ICASH VISIT! IN BRIDGEVIEW

Coordinated through the  
Township of Lyons  
Office of the Clerk:  
Elyse Hoffenberg



ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER  
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS  
**ICASH**  
DISCOVER WHAT'S YOURS

REPAIR  
CAFE  
On the  
Move



## SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 10AM-1PM

- Repair Cafe is a monthly event that offers donuts, coffee and repair help provided by handy volunteers.
- Knife sharpening is offered this session with up to 5 blades sharpened per person.
- ICash is a program to find any unclaimed funds you are owed.

Repair Examples:  
 • Small Appliances  
 • Torn Clothing  
 • Lamps  
 • Loose Button

**PLACE:**  
**BRIDGEVIEW VILLAGE HALL**  
**7500 S OKETO AVE**  
**BRIDGEVIEW**

