BRIDGEVIEWS

March 2025 - Volume 34, No. 3

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW MAYOR

Steven M. Landek

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

VILLAGE CLERK John Altar

VILLAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Mon: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue:

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 Village Services: 708-594-2525 Emergency: 911

\$803,000 Fire Engine in Service!

The Village of Bridgeview's Fire Department has a new fire engine in service after nearly three years of preparation. The process for getting this brand-new vehicle involved Department staff writing the vehicle specifications, meeting with the manufacturer multiple times, and waiting for the order to be placed in the production line for assembly. Once built, the new engine was taken to the dealership where it was outfitted with reflective striping and lettering along with communication equipment. After delivery, our Bridgeview Firefighters mounted tools, adjusted shelves for equipment, and bedded fire hose.

The \$803,000 fire engine, designated as Engine 411, is equipped with a 2024 E-One Cyclone pumper capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute. The engine carries 780 gallons of water and approximately 2,800 ft. of various sized fire hose. It safely seats up to four firefighters and carries a vast array of equipment for vehicle and machinery extrication, hazardous materials incidents, EMS gear for medical emergencies, and other specialty equipment. Engine 411 recently went on its first call, showcasing its effectiveness.



Firefighters Zack Aloisio, Alex Kukla, Lt. Matt Duzak, Matt Lasak, Dylan Siroky proudly stand next to Engine 411.

"The new fire engine replaced a wellworn spare engine, and it's expected to serve our residents for the next twenty years," explained Fire Chief Grzadziel.

The Fire Department is constantly mon-

itoring the state of its equipment and works with the Village of Bridgeview Board of Trustees to maintain a modern and effective suite of technology to extinguish fires, manage various emergencies, and save lives.

Thank You, Trustee Struzik, for Your Years of Service!

Village of Bridgeview Trustee Claudette Struzik announced her retirement at Bridgeview's Lucky Luncheon after more than 20 years of service at the Village. As a slideshow played on screen showing the various events and works Trustee Struzik has been involved in over the years, Mayor Landek explained to the crowd that Trustee Struzik has always been a straight shooter who will tell you like it is. Trustee Struzik first served as Deputy Clerk for the Village of ing the Clerk and later rundette Struzik and all the work or Steven Landek wish her a Meeting in May of 2025.

ning for Trustee, putting her passion for public service to good use. Whenever there was an issue brought to her attention, she was sure to bring it to the Board's attention as well.

"I want to thank all of you for supporting me for years as I served the Village of Bridgeview. It has been an honor, and it wouldn't have been possible without you," announced Trustee Struzik to the crowd as she began tearing up with a smile.

The Village of Bridgeview



Trustee Struzik speaks to the Lucky Luncheon crowd.

she has done. The Board, pleasant and relaxing retire-Bridgeview before becom- appreciates Trustee Clau- Clerk John Altar, and May- ment after her final Board

Permit 318 Bridgeview IL **GIA9 US Postage** PreSort Std

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

SPRING CLEANUP DAY Saturday, April 26th!

> **Neatly place your bulk** items on the curb by 6AM

Throw away old furniture, tires, scrap wood, e-waste, etc.



Seniors Strike Gold at Lucky Luncheon!

Residents aged 55+ gathered at the Bridgeview Community Center on Thursday, March 6th at 11:30am for delicious food, St. Patrick's Day fun, and the chance to hear a skilled bagpipe player mark the occasion.

Leprechauns, rainbows, and green and gold decorations got the luncheon crowd in the lucky spirit, and they dined on delicious eats from Niko's, including chicken, beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, buns, and more along with water, lemonade, and coffee refreshed constantly as needed throughout the event. Chocolate and vanilla cupcakes served as the tasty afternoon dessert.

Charles & Company rocked the crowd with classics, and Charles even pulled out a cowbell to mix things up. After the crowd was warmed up, the

bagpipe player walked around the room in full traditional dress as he played his woodwind instrument. The crowd cheered at the end of his performance, and Mayor Landek took the microphone to honor Trustee Struzik who announced her upcoming retirement. Mayor Landek also gave the audience a sneak preview of the 2025 Vehicle Sticker and reminded everyone about the Lions Clubs' Super Sunday event.

Charles & Company returned to the stage to keep people dancing, singing, and laughing throughout the afternoon, breaking only for the exciting raffle prize giveaways where anyone could be a winner with a little luck. The Village of Bridgeview appreciates all who attended for helping the Lucky Luncheon strike gold.



Lucky residents enjoyed raffle prizes!



The skilled bagpiper wowed the crowd.

Pet Tags on Sale April 1st!

2025 Pet Tags will be on sale at Village Hall starting April 1st. 2024 Pet Tags expire May 31st along with 2024 Vehicle Stickers. Please purchase the \$2 Pet Tags to ensure that your pets are properly registered, vaccinated, and able to be returned to you if they are lost.

Scan the QR code to fill out the application and bring it to Village Hall along with your payment.





From left to right, Superintendents Dr. Toulios & Dr. David Negron, Educators of the Year Taylor Loux, Eduardo Estrada, & Aisha Maali, and Superintendent Crystal Skoczylas.

Lions Clubs' Super Sunday Honors Local Community Members

geview, Argo-Summit, and Justice joined together to host a Super Sunday celebration to honor members of the local community on March 10th at the Bridgeview Community Center. The master of ceremonies, Justice Lion Brian Bernardoni, detailed the goals of the Lions Club, an international organization dedicated to serving people in need with programs such as collecting donated eyeglasses and hearing aids and distributing them to those who apply for assistance. Our local Lions Clubs are some of the oldest and longest-serving civic organizations in the area, and they uplifted the community on Saturday with their awards for educator of the year at three school districts, veteran of the year, business of the year, and community impact.

The Lions Clubs of Brid-

Boy Scout Troop 13 posted the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance, and MC Bernardoni thanked the crowd for coming out for the event before Lions Club members served food from Niko's to all in attendance. With lunch served, the Argo Community High School Orchestra took their seats to play triumphant music for the award winners.

Starting off the awards ceremony, Indian Springs School District 109 Superintendent Crystal Skoczylas took the stage to provide the Educator of the Year award to an amazing educator from the district. Superintendent Skoczylas detailed the impactful



Community members dine as a slideshow of Lions Club activities plays on screen.

work of Wilkins Junior High School ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher Aisha Maali who accepted the award as the audience applauded and music played. Next came the Educator of the Year award for School District 217, with Argo-Summit Lion and Argo-Summit Community High School Superintendent Dr. William Toulios praising the dedication of social science teacher Taylor Loux. The final Educator of the Year award was presented by Summit School District 104 Superintendent Dr. David Negron who spoke about the ever active and engaged teacher Eduardo Estrada, complimenting his ability to connect with all students.

Argo-Summit Lions Club President Tula Been then presented the Business of the Year award to a local Summit business actively involved in the community. President Been recalled a personal story about the honored business, Kustom Towing Inc., explaining that the business owner himself re-

cently assisted her after car trouble.

Next came the Veteran of the Year award presented by State Senator Mike Porfirio, a veteran himself. For her service in the army, work organizing honor flights for female veterans, and work as teacher, veteran and Bridgeview resident Emily Croucher was honored as the Veteran of the Year.

Finally, MC and Justice Lion Brian Bernardoni presented the first ever Community Impact Award to Corporal Anthony Debella for his involvement in the community, service in the Justice Police Department, and service as a school resource officer at Wilkins Jr. High.

The Lions Clubs of Bridgeview, Argo-Summit, and Justice provided checks to Boy Scout Troop 13 and the Argo Community High School Orchestra in appreciation for their services before thanking attendees and the Village of Bridgeview for making the event the success it was as the Clubs work to continue serving their community.

ALL VEHICLES REGISTERED TO BRIDGEVIEW OR PARKED IN BRIDGEVIEW FOR A 20-DAY PERIOD MUST DISPLAY A CURRENT VILLAGE VEHICLE STICKER

Overnight Street Parking is not Allowed



Village of Bridgeview

7500 SOUTH OKETO AVENUE • BRIDGEVIEW, ILLINOIS 60455 • (708) 594-2525

2025 VEHICLE STICKER APPLICATION					
Applicant Name:		Company Name (if applica	Company Name (if applicable):		
Address:					
Telephone: Fax:			Email Address:	Email Address:	
Vehicle Stickers Requested for the address above:					
STICKER TYPE		PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	
* Passenger Car, SUV or Van		\$10.00 each			
* Motorcycle		\$10.00 each			
* Recreational Vehicle		\$15.00 each			
* Van & Truck - B Plate less than 8,001 lbs.		\$15.00 each			
* If you were born in or before 1960, your vehicle stickers are FREE! Limit of three free vehicle stickers per senior. Proof of vehicle registration may be required.					
Truck - C Plate, 8,001 to 10,000 lbs.		\$20.00 each			
Truck - D-F Plate, 8,001 to 16,000 lbs.		\$35.00 each			
Truck - H, I, J Plate 16,001 and over		\$50.00 each			
Truck - K-Z Plate up to 80,000 lbs.		\$65.00 each			
Vehicles 80,001 to 100,000 lbs.		\$85.00 each			
Vehicles 100,001 lbs. & over		\$100.00 each			
Total Stickers	Requested		Total Amount Due		
Payment Method: Check all that apply.					
□ Cash □ Check #					
□ Debit Card □ Credit Card □ Visa □ MasterCard □ AMEX □ Discover					
Card # Exp. Date					
CVV Code #					

DEADLINE FOR DISPLAYING NEW VEHICLE STICKERS IS MAY 31ST \$25.00 Penalty added to each sticker after May 31st - \$50.00 Penalty after June 30th

65+? YOUR VEHICLE STICKER IS FREE

Getting your 2025 Vehicle Sticker is fast and simple! Here are 3 ways for SENIORS to get their FREE VEHICLE STICKER!

*Limit of three stickers per senior. Proof of vehicle registration may be required.

#1 - SEND US AN EMAIL
Email: info@villageofbridgeview.com
In the email send over your:
Name
Date of Birth
Phone Number
of stickers you need
Receive your stickers in the mail.

#2 - FILL OUT ONLINE FORM
Scan the QR code
Complete the form
Submit
Receive your sticker in the mail.

#3 - VISIT VILLAGE HALL Visit Village Hall located at 7500 S. Oketo Bring your ID to verify age. Fill out application Get your stickers INSTANTLY!



SOCCER LEGENDS POLAND AND MEXICO CLASHING AT SEATGEEK STADIUM!

The Soccer Legends Cup is bringing together legendary former professional soccer players from Poland and Mexico for a battle for glory at SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview, Illinois. The historic international match will take place on Saturday, May 3rd at 3:00PM CT, with gates opening at 2:00PM CT.

Both Poland and Mexico have records of highly competitive soccer teams coming out of their countries, each making attempts to win the World Cup. Mexico has competed in the FIFA World Cup all but four times since the competition's inception in 1930, with the country's best results being 6th place in both 1970 and 1986 after making it to the quarterfinals. Poland meanwhile boasts impressive 3rd place finishes in 1974 and 1982 that put Polish soccer on the map.

It's no secret that Polish and Mexican soccer fans are known for their passion, and this intense competition is sure to bring out an animated crowd for an action-packed evening everyone will enjoy. Witness brilliant tactics, impressive passes, and masterful strategies at the Soccer Legends Cup at SeatGeek Stadium on May 3rd! Tickets are on sale now at https://bit.ly/PolandVsMexico



Hounds Defensively Stagger New England

With a swift and nearly impenetrable defense, the Chicago Hounds dominated the New England Free Jacks on Sunday, March 2nd with a score of 36-7. The Free Jacks were back-to-back Major League Rugby champions in 2023 and 2024 and defeated the Hounds in the Eastern Conference Final in 2024, and it's clear that the Hounds were looking for a revenge win.

The weather was around 34°F with a slight breeze and clear skies. You might've thought the Hounds would be cold, but they wasted no time in bringing the heat with their action-packed gameplay. Not even three minutes after the match started, the Hounds took a 3-0 lead through a penalty given to the Free Jacks. The Hounds continued to push through the Free Jacks' defense throughout the rest of the first half, breaking at 15-0.

The Hounds kept up the pressure in the final 40 minutes as they asserted

complete dominance. They successfully crossed the try line not once, but twice, pushing their score to 36 and securing a buy-one-get-one deal for a BBQ brisket sandwich for all attendees from the Patio by surpassing 30 points! The Free Jacks finally managed to break through the Hounds' rock-solid defense near the end of the match to gain seven points, but the Hounds' lead was insurmountable.

This is only the beginning of the 2025 Major League Rugby season, and the Hounds have already established themselves as a powerful force with both offensive and defensive pressure. While they did lose to the Utah Warrior at their Home Opener, the Hounds' wins over the Houston SaberCats, the New England Free Jacks, and the Miami Sharks place them firmly in 3rd place in the league with their strong 3-1 record.



The Chicago Hounds celebrate after another successful try!



A Hound and a Free Jack leap into the air to grab the ball.



The Hounds kick the ball back, relieving pressure from the Free Jacks.

NORTH COAST PHASE 1 LINEUP ANNOUNCED





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

Visit our website: www.bridgeviewlibrary.org for more detailed program information and Spring TEEN programs

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

No registration for Drop-In programs.

<u>Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30pm—Spring Craft:</u> Join us as we create a cute spring craft using clay. Grades K-6th MAX 20

Wednesdays, March 26th, April 9th & April 23rd at 4pm—Choose Your Own Book Club: March 26th club we will be discussing books chosen from the Mystery genre. Choose your own book and join us! Grades 3rd-6th MAX 15

<u>Fridays beginning March 28th at 11am—Book, Boogie & Play!</u> 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

<u>Saturday, March 29th from 2pm to 3:30pm—Read to Rover:</u> Our furry canine friend will be here to listen to your child read a short story. Grades K - 4th only. Starting March 17th—Stop in or call (708) 458-2880 to reserve a time slot.

<u>Monday, March 31st at 4pm—Puzzle Day:</u> Join us for a short story about problem solving before we move on to a variety of puzzles while learning to work together. Grades K-2nd MAX 15

Wednesday, April 2nd at 4pm—Chick it Out Embryology: We will be studying real chicken eggs and watching their transformation into chicks over the next few weeks. Grades 3rd-6th MAX 15

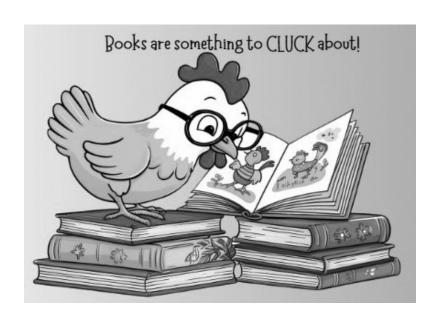
<u>Tuesday, April 8th at 4pm—Defying Gravity!</u>: Our experiments will test the force of gravity, and we'll defy it by using magnets. Grades K-2nd MAX 15

<u>Saturday, April 12th from 2 to 4pm—Creation Station:</u> Drop in anytime during the program's time to do a STEAM based activity. **While Supplies Last** Grades K-6th

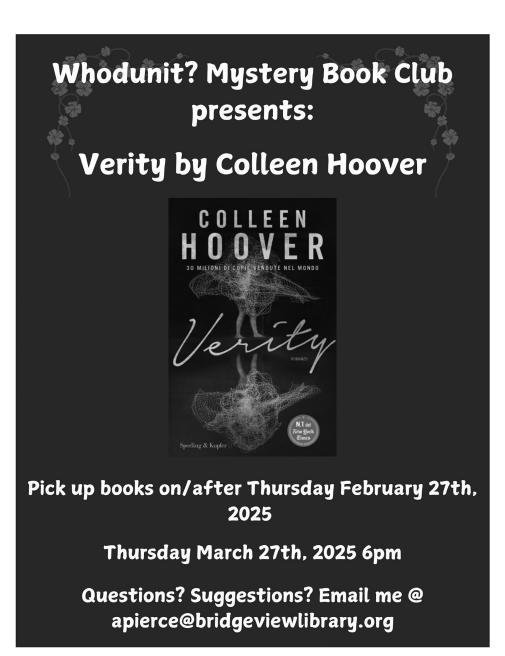
<u>Monday, April 14th at 4pm—Chicken Storytime:</u> We will read books about chickens, do a fun craft and then get a sneak peak at our hatching chicks . Ages 4-7 years MAX 15

Wednesday, April 16th at 4pm—Game Day: Let's have some fun! We will put out a variety of games to take turns on and they will have a chance to play our Nintendo Switch. Grades 3rd-6th MAX 15

<u>Saturday, April 19th from 2-4pm—Drop-In Easter Craft:</u> Join us anytime during the program hours and create a cute craft for the holiday. Grades K-6th









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

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Ken Pannaralla Mariam Ahmad Vice-President

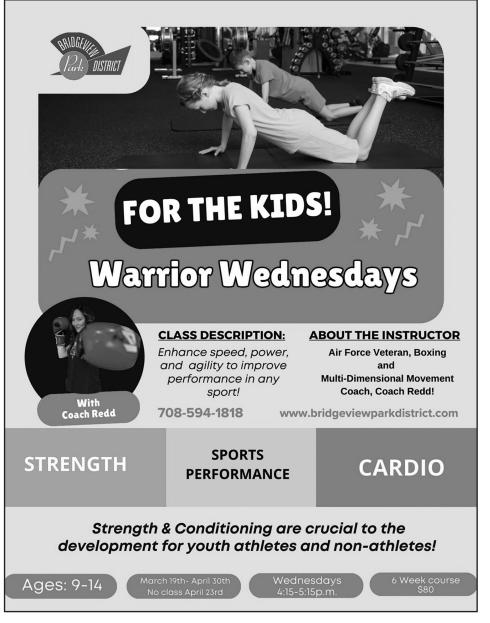
Treasurer

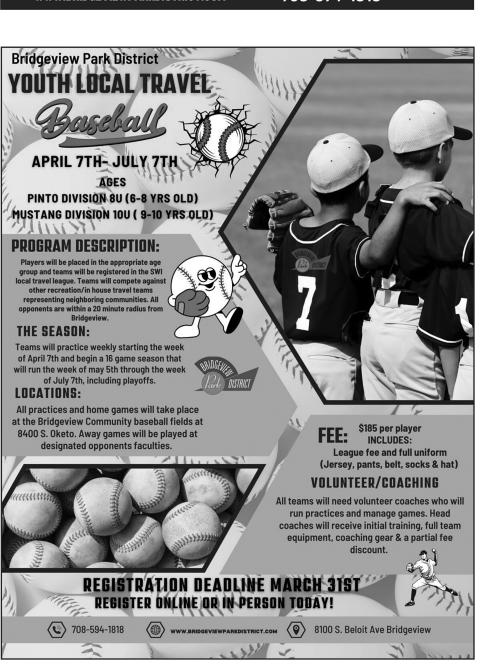
Justin Willis Secretary

James Cecott Commissioner











One of the Ramadan displays lights up the night.

Ramadan Lights Brighten Harlem

At the end of February, the Village of Bridgeview installed holiday lights along Harlem Avenue for the month of Ramadan. In 2023 and 2024, Bridgeview hung banners on Harlem for the month of Ramadan, and for 2025 Bridgeview has upgraded the decorations from banners to lit displays. The beautiful holiday lights brighten the street at night, beautifying our community. Bridgeview hangs holiday displays for both Christian holidays and Muslim holidays, joyfully representing all residents. Village Trustee Kal Baste extends his family's heartfelt wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling Ramadan.



From right to left, Mariam Ahmad, Bernie of Holiday Lights, and Mayor Landek oversee this year's display installation on Harlem.

Controlled Burn Preps Shooting Star Prairie

On Sunday March 2nd Pizzo and Associates Ltd. were contracted by the Village of Bridgeview to perform a controlled burn within the Bridgeview Court Natural Area, a.k.a. the Shooting Star Prairie, at 76th & Harlem Avenue to prepare it for the spring season. Harlem Ave. or Sayre Ave. traffic may have noticed smoke from the burn from around 1pm to 6pm.

Prescribed burning is an important management tool used by natural area managers throughout the Chicago area for a variety of reasons. Non-native,

less desirable plant species cannot tolerate fire while the native, more desirable prairie wetland plant species benefit from the burn. Burning taller plants and groups of non-native plants reduces competition and frees up space for new native plants to grow. The ash from the burn also adds fertility to the soil for the spring seeds to bolster their growth. The controlled burn replicates naturally occurring burns, safely stewarding the prairie and ensuring it remains an oasis for native flora and fauna.



Pizzo employees work together to ignite plants and control the burn around the retention pond adjoining the prairie.



A Pizzo employee stamps out flames at the Shooting Star Prairie.

2025 IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, March 20th

Veterans' Resource Fair (Community Center)

Tuesday, April 1st

Election Day

Vehicle Stickers & Pet Tags on Sale

Friday, April 7th

Yard Waste Collection Starts

Saturday, April 26th

Spring Cleanup Day

Monday, May 26th

Memorial Day (Garbage Pickup on Tuesday) (Village Hall Closed)

Thursday, July 3rd

Bridgeview Park District Fireworks

Friday, July 4th

Independence Day (Village Hall Closed)

Tuesday, August 5th

National Night Out/Community Day

Monday, September 1st

Labor Day (Garbage Pickup on Tuesday) (Village Hall Closed)

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

