



*Village of Bedford Park*  
**Board Briefs**  
**July 28, 2015**

*“Preserving the past to enhance the future”*

**Property Taxes**

By now many of you have paid your property tax. Although some residents saw a decrease of their property tax bill, most received an increase. We talked to the township assessor about the property tax bills and were informed that the bill this summer reflected the triennial reassessment. The District 104 portion of our tax bill accounts for 40% of the total bill which is a high percentage for an elementary school district. District 109 accounts for 30% of a Bridgeview’s resident tax bill. Attached is a letter from Supt. Whalen of District 104 discussing their tax bill. The Village Board is committed to helping District 104 continue to provide quality education in whatever way we can. The Village portion of the tax bill is 21%. Our Village tax rate is also higher than Bridgeview. ***However, the Village rebates the residential portion back to you. The Village Board plans to continue to do so as long as we can maintain the excess funds legally required.*** A resident of Bridgeview with the same property value will pay approximately 26% less in property taxes. However, with the residential property tax rebate we are virtually equal with Bridgeview. With the services that we provide our residents such as free water, free garbage pick-up, free internet service and our senior services we feel we provide a strong financial advantage over our neighbors.

**Web Site**

We are looking at ways to update our website that will make it more user friendly. You should see improvements by the end of the year.

## **Summit Fire Service**

The Village has been approached by Summit to contract fire services to them. The discussion has been going on for a number of years. Currently, the Village automatically responds to fire calls in Summit. Summit responds on a mutual aid basis to Bedford Park. Both communities serve as back up ambulance service for each other. There are some major advantages to both Villages if we provide the service:

- 1) We would hire 6 new staff members but Bedford Park would realize an approximate net profit of \$ 200,000.00.
- 2) Summit would not need to update their equipment which would be very cost prohibitive on their part. Because of the size of our industrial area we need to continue to update our equipment and a contract with Summit would have no effect on this.
- 3) We would pick up a third ambulance and should not see a change in that service because it would mirror our current service.
- 4) We would have complete control of a fire scene in Summit which we currently do not have.
- 5) All hiring processes would be done under state law, our current Fire contract and under the standards of our current eligibility list. We have 2 residents that are Summit personnel. Both of the residents are on our eligibility list and will have a decent opportunity to get a job with Bedford Park. The Summit staff is currently predominately part time employees.
- 6) There would be no change in insurance rates.

We do not know if this contract will go through. Summit is looking at all options. We are very proud and appreciative to Chief Maloy and our Fire Department. If the contract goes through we do not feel that the residents will see a change in service.

## **Inter-government Agreement with Summit on the Viaduct**

The Village is working with Summit to present our lobbying efforts in a unified manner to the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve drainage in the viaduct. This effort is probably a long shot but worth the effort.

### **Governor Rauner's Proposed Property Tax Freeze**

As you might have seen in the news, Governor Rauner has proposed a 2 year freeze on local government property tax for everyone but Chicago. The proposal has been defeated in the General Assembly but will come up again. If it does pass the Village would need to cut approximately \$ 800,000 from our budget. We would do so by cutting our advertising and using personnel savings through retirement. We would look at some other minor cuts along with other sources of revenue. With these budget changes we should be able to keep all our residential services in place including the tax rebate. Many local taxing bodies will feel a major impact if this legislation passes.

### **New Businesses**

The new hotel in the Village, the Hyatt Place has opened and has had good occupancy so far. We are still waiting on the potential hotel developer at 65<sup>th</sup> and Central to receive franchise agreements. The new gas station on 65<sup>th</sup> St. will open in August. A gas station chain has a proposed contract on the Landmark property at Archer and Roberts. We think this station will be a major benefit to our residents because they will also provide food sales. The Costco at 71<sup>st</sup> and Cicero has become the first business orientated Costco outside of California. The facility still provides many of the supplies they provided under their past set up.

### **Picnic**

We are all greatly looking forward to our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic on August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have not registered, please do so. We will not hold the parade that we had talked about having prior to the picnic. We were concerned with parking issues. Further information on the picnic will be distributed later.

***Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

***Bedford Park!!!!***