



Village of Bedford Park Board Briefs

February 16, 2018

“Preserving the past to enhance the future”

Residential Properties

We are very happy with the new residential construction in the Village. Currently, all the new homes have been sold or are under contract. To the best of our knowledge, there are no homes for sale in the Village. We will continue to try to increase the amount of new homes. Kindly recall, the Village offers various incentives for construction contingent on the lot size. Our most recent incentive, which was passed last year, is for 35 foot lots. The incentive differs from the past in that the Village does not own the property and will be limited to a total reimbursement of \$400,000 per year for all construction. Although, the total for this year will be \$940,000 due to a carryover of funds from last year. The funds will be distributed and chosen on a first-come first-serve basis depending on the date of occupancy of the new home. The Village will rebate the appraised fair market value determined by a Village approved appraiser of up to \$200,000 for construction of a new home on a 35 foot lot that meets the Village construction standards. Construction standards will be proportional in size and consistent with our previous standards. We will also rebate up to \$ 20,000 for demolition costs. The Village Board strongly feels that revitalizing and maintaining the quality of the residential area is the most important factor for our future. The programs reflect similar incentives the Village has done in the industrial area for a long time and reflect housing incentives in other municipalities. Specific details can be picked up in the Village Hall. When the new homes currently under construction are completed in the spring, we will have 10 new homes completed under the incentive programs. There are currently seven more properties approved to participate in the programs.

Business District

We have had a very active year in the business district. We have approximately 480 businesses operating in Bedford Park. This is about a 20% increase in the last six years. According to Paine Wetzel (a commercial real estate company), we have an occupancy rate of 95% to 98% which is one of the highest in the Chicago area, if not the highest. We have three vacant

buildings. Everest College on Cicero Avenue which went bankrupt but is being marketed. A small building owned by Jett Cutting Service which is also being marketed and the Disp-Pack Company building on Lavergne Avenue, which is under contract. The former Acorn property on 65th Street has been purchased by a developer who wants to put in an off-site Midway and Orange line parking lot. We have been negotiating with the developer on wheel taxes. We have received three proposals to develop the Village owned property located at 5401 W. 65th Street and hope to award a bid for that site shortly. The site would be for hotel development and a possible event center. Construction of a new hotel on the former IKO site should start this summer. Speedway is doing very well.

Revenue

We operated 2017 with a surplus of \$1.7 million. This is in addition to the \$1.6 million surplus that is transferred into capital projects. Kindly recall the Village must retain a surplus of funds to guarantee the residential rebate. In 2017, we had increases in sales tax, an additional TIF surplus, additional red light camera fees, and additional revenue on investments. We appreciate the efforts of Marilyn Curnutte, Rhonda Hyde, our accounting firm RSM and our department supervisors in managing the Village finances.

Retirements/Promotions

A number of longtime employees will retire this year. Water Superintendent Jim Gifford, Police Chief Dan Godfrey, Deputy Police Chief Wayne Wahl, Building Coordinator Rick Young, and Police Officer Mike Anagnos will end their distinguished careers with the Village. Police Officer Dave Narsutis and Police Lt. Phil Tenerelli have already begun their retirement. We will honor these individuals with a retirement party in June. Once the details are finalized, we will inform the residents. The following changes will take place to reflect the retirements: Police Chief Thomas Hansen, Deputy Police Chief Peter Lettiere, Fire Marshall Mark Murray, Building Coordinator Jerry Ponio, Water Superintendent Chris Lesniak, and Water Foreman Paul Miraldi, Jr. We strongly believe the new promotions will reflect the quality of service provided by the retirees.

Advertising

We have revised aspects of our advertising. We will still have the White Sox and Cubs tickets for the upcoming season. We will distribute the tickets as soon as we receive them.

Parking/Residential Upkeep

Please respect your neighbors and the Village ordinances on parking and residential upkeep. Our police officers do a very good job of monitoring residential parking. Hopefully, the snow season will end shortly and street cleaning season will begin. We will shortly begin the annual inspections for the residential area.

Village Scholarship

Kindly recall the Village grants a total of \$3,000 to be divided among all students who participate in the Village scholarship. To qualify, the student within the age of 16 to 22 must reside in the Village, must be a high school senior with a 2.5 cumulative GPA or an undergraduate college/university student with a 2.0 cumulative GPA, must attend undergraduate college/university as a full-time student in the Fall and must complete 30 hours of non-paid community service work for any Bedford Park non-related senior citizen. Applications must be submitted to the Village Hall no later than Friday, June 1st. For more information or to receive an application, please contact the Village Hall at (708) 458-2067.

White Sox Bedford Park Day

We will again sponsor a White Sox Fireworks Night which will be held on Friday, July 13th. We will notify residents of the details when the time comes closer to the date.

Snow/Lawn Removal Service

We are extending our senior lawn and snow removal services to residents who have a permanent disability and are unable to provide the services by themselves. Documentation stating the resident is permanently disabled will have to be provided on an annual basis. Please contact the Village Hall to see if you qualify for the snow and lawn removal services.

2018 Village Picnic

Save the Date: Saturday, August 11th

Think Spring!!!!