



## **Village of Bedford Park Board Briefs**

**November 4, 2019**

***“Preserving the past to enhance the future”***

### **Residential Properties**

Our Building Department is on task inspecting residential properties. We are very thankful that we have residents that work hard to maintain their property. If you receive a notice from the Village concerning suggested improvements, please act on them. If you have any questions about your property or issues with critters, please contact the Village Hall at (708) 458-2067.

### **Park District Consolidation/Event Center**

We continue to work with the Park District on consolidation efforts. The Village and the Park District staff continue to work on planning for the event center. The consolidation has been presented to the General Assembly for passage and is pending final reports to the State. Hopefully, the environmental issues and final cost estimates we have with the event center will be finalized by the end of the year.

### **Seniors**

We are looking to expand our senior program to include bi-monthly senior luncheons. We are exploring the idea of organizing a senior travel trip such as an Alaskan cruise. Resident seniors will pay for the cost of the trip on a group rate and could bring a non-resident guest. The non-resident guest would pay a higher fee to cover a tour guide fee, which will be staffed by a Village Hall staff member. If the program works, we would like to expand it to all residents. If you have any senior related questions, please contact the Village Hall.

### **Labor**

We will begin negotiations with our Communications staff. Pending a signed agreement, we will have agreements in place with our contractual employees through 2021. We greatly appreciate their professionalism during the process and commend them for their efforts.

### **First Responders Recognition**

We were asked about recognizing our first responders with a bow displayed on the residential homes. The students at Walker School under the efforts of Mrs. Eva Manzke have been working on the bows. The bows are red (Fire), blue (Police and Communications) and white (Public Works, Water, and support staff). We strongly

support the concept that all of our staff are first responders in some manner. Their work is outstanding and is greatly appreciated. When first responders deliver the bows to your home, please display them.

### **Clean Energy**

The Village is looking at a clean energy program that would supply the Village with up to 50% of our energy supplies by clean energy sources. There would be a slight cost savings to the Village but not to the residents or businesses. As we did in the past with wind energy, we are looking at solar energy incentives. The benefits to each resident vary with your electric use and the size of your home. The age and condition of your roof will also determine if solar panels can be installed in an economical way. Any incentive would probably have to follow the guidelines of the federal tax incentive program, which requires ownership of the panels not leasing them. We would hold a Public Meeting on the program with ComEd representatives to discuss the merits for the use of the panels. We will continue our Electric Aggregation Program, which has saved electrical costs in the residential area.

### **Flood Incentive Program**

The Village passed a Flood Incentive Program approximately 3 years ago. Some residents have taken advantage of the program. The overhead sewer is especially beneficial to the older homes, while the generators can be beneficial to all residents. For more information, please contact the Village Hall.

### **Snow**

We again greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to help our Public Works to keep our streets clear of debris and snow. Kindly recall that vehicles must be removed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on days that snowfall is 2 inches or higher. Any vehicles on the residential street during this time will be subject to a citation.

### **Cannabis**

As you probably know, Illinois has legalized the sale and consumption of cannabis beginning on January 1, 2020. We have been approached by both retail and consumption facilities in the cannabis business to operate their business in the Village. We have to decide by January 1, 2020 to opt out of the state law or to allow the businesses to operate in the Village. If they are allowed to operate, it would be along Cicero Ave. No such facility would operate near our residential area. Chicago and many of the surrounding neighborhoods will allow this type of business. The tax revenue from the facilities is substantial. The Village has had a cannabis growing facility for medical cannabis for about 3 years, which is located in the industrial area.

We are seeking residential input on the subject. If you would like to submit a signed statement on the subject, please do so to the Village Hall by November 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to voice your opinion, please attend our November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at 7pm in the courtroom at the Village Hall. Because of the nature of the subject, we would appreciate input before a decision is made. The Bedford Park Clearing Industrial Association has set up a meeting on the subject for our business community.

### **Budget**

The Village was informed by the State of Illinois about 3 months ago that we will lose about \$1.2 million annually in aviation fuel tax beginning next year. This is a result of a Federal Aviation Administration ruling that all such tax revenue has to go directly to the airport where the tax is generated. Fuel for Midway comes from Bedford Park. As a result, Chicago will receive the revenue. We are working with about 20 other municipalities throughout the country to receive some revenue from the tax to support infrastructure needs. We have made adjustments in our 2020 budget to adjust this loss. We have ended the last number of years with a surplus so with the additional adjustments, we should be able to compensate for the change.

***Have a nice Fall!!!***