



November 19, 2021

“Preserving the past to enhance the future”

Village Picnic/Grand Opening

We greatly appreciate everyone who attended the Village Picnic and the Grand Opening of the Wintrust Sports Complex. Our staff led by Village Clerk Yvette Solis did a tremendous job in managing the event. We will look at returning to a traditional picnic next year.

Wintrust Sports Complex Information

Several questions were raised at and after the Grand Opening:

1. The Village owns the facility. Wintrust purchased the naming and sponsor rights for \$275,000 a year for 10 years with possible opt out times for the Village and Wintrust. They do not manage or own the facility.
2. The goal of the building and operating the facility is to “put heads in beds”, in other words to expand our hotel revenues.
3. The facility fits into the guidelines of our 65th Street Redevelopment Plan to diversify the types of businesses on 65th Street and revitalize our longtime manufacturing and logistics businesses. This will help the Village with swings in the economy related to specific types of businesses.
4. We hired a national sports management company, Sports Facilities Management (SFM), to manage the facility. They are responsible for hiring and paying staff, scheduling, recruiting tournaments and running the day-to-day operations of the facility. Currently, all but 4 weekends are scheduled through July 2022. The national bean bag tournament is

scheduled in July 2022 with ESPN broadcasting the tournament. We were strongly advised to not manage the facility to avoid some of the early problems Bridgeview had at Toyota Park and McCook has had at The Max. We have a four-year agreement with SFM with opt out standards for both sides. Joe Ronovsky from the Village Office oversees SFM on the project. Joe negotiated the Wintrust and other sponsorships we have. Joe has a master's degree from the University of Illinois in Recreation, Sport and Tourism Marketing and Management. He worked for the Chicago White Sox for several years in corporate sales. Rhonda Hyde will oversee the finances of the facility.

5. We strongly believe we have a first-rate Park District that offers great programs for our residents. Again, the goal of the facility is to bring in more hotel business and related business to the Village. We are working with SFM on special residential rates to use the facility and should have a program out shortly.
6. The project has come in \$2 million less than the projected \$37 million cost. Alpa Architecture and Construction of Bedford Park managed the development.
7. We are negotiating with other developers for projects on the site. They would include a swimming facility, a hotel, a turf indoor field and the Illinois High School Basketball Hall of Fame. These facilities would be privately owned and operated. We would look at developing 2 tournament baseball fields. These projects are not firm but in negotiations. Preliminary work on a gas station and 2 restaurants has begun on the west side of Central.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Gated Community

The Village Board is again discussing the idea of a gated community. Some preliminary ideas are attached. We hope to

begin a cost analysis to see if it is feasible. Again, nothing is set in stone. If it looks like it is feasible, we will bring final plans to the residents directly for approval. The upsurge in crime in the Chicago area has made this issue more pertinent.

2020 Census

If you get a chance, please google information from the 2020 Census online. Some key points are:

1. Our population has grown to 614, about 5%.
2. The median age of Village residents is 37.5, which is slightly younger than average for the Chicago Metro Area.
Percentage wise ages 20 to 29 make up the largest group in the Village.
3. The per capita income of Village residents is \$34,302, which is slightly lower than the average in the Chicago Metro Area, but the median household income is \$86,944, which is 20% higher than the average in the Chicago Metro Area.
4. 31% of our residents lived in the Village before the year 2000 while 70% have moved in since 2000. We have a lower mobility rate than the average rate for the Chicago Metro Area.

It should be noted that the statistics were not compiled by the Village; rather the statistics were part of a study which included the Chicago Elgin Naperville Metro Area as well as parts of Wisconsin and Indiana.

Have a Great Thanksgiving!