



# *The Bedford Quarterly*



*Spring 2023*

## **A Message from President Brady**

Dear Residents:

Hope 2023 has started well for you and your family. The year has been very busy for the Village Board and staff. Planning for the gated community continues. We had discussions with ComEd, Summit School District 104, the Bedford Park Park District (“Park District”) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) on the project. We are waiting on formal talks with ComEd and IDOT. ComEd will need to approve the road connecting Bridgeview Gardens and the Park District. IDOT needs to approve traffic flow to Archer Road. We hope to have those plans approved by May.

The Wintrust Sports Complex continues to do well. We have two volleyball tournaments that have had 8,000 people attend daily. As a result, the hotels have been very busy. We have signed a contract with Park Development to build a 110 room Wyndham Suites hotel and small restaurants next to the Wintrust Sports Complex. Construction should start this summer and be completed in 12 to 14 months. The Village Board has conducted two studies that stated the Village can handle 300 additional hotel rooms. Construction on Moretti’s Restaurant is finally progressing and opening should take place by June. The groundwork for the gas station at the site has continued. The Village Board continues to work with a developer to put a dome on the site. Our finances remain strong. We have added several new staff members including eight firefighters who were sworn in at our February 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting. Fortunately, the winter has been mild which reduces costs. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our great staff in all areas of the Village.

We hope the remainder of the winter season goes well and spring fever hits soon.

Respectfully,  
*David R. Brady*  
David R. Brady  
Village President

# Village Clerk's Office

Yvette Zavala, RMC

## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE FOR THE APRIL 4, 2023 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION?

**Register to Vote:** Registering to vote has never been easier or more convenient. You can register online, in person or you can download registration forms and register through the mail. *Visit Cook County Clerk's office or online [www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections/voter-registration](http://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections/voter-registration).*

For the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election, below are the deadlines to register to vote:

1. Online: Sunday, March 19, 2023
2. Paper/PDF: Postmarked by Tuesday, March 7, 2023
3. In person: by Tuesday, March 7, 2023

If you miss both voter registration deadlines, you may still register to vote during the Grace Period or on Election Day.

**Early Voting begins on Monday, March 20, 2023. Contact the Village Hall if you have any questions.**

### Community Shred Day



**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Carrying around boxes of paper in your home? The Village of Bedford Park will be hosting a Community Shred Day on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 10-11am in the Village Hall parking lot. In partnership with Shark Shredding, bring your paper to be shredded on the spot. Maximum of three boxes (do not use paper bags) but you are welcome to come back as many times as you need within the hour. We will also be accepting any non-perishable items that will be donated to a local charity.

### Save the Day

***Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>***

### **"Hi Neighbor" Day**

Once again we are gearing up for the Annual Village Picnic which will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023. More information will be sent out to each household as the date draws near.

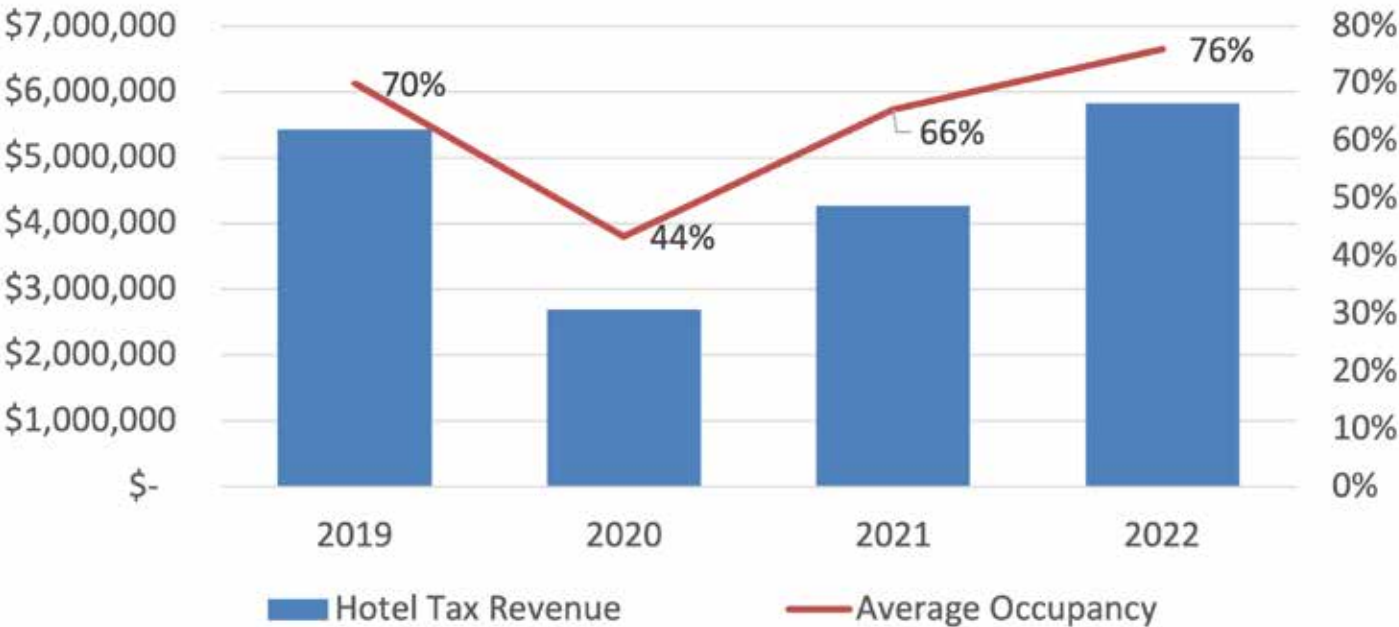
## Hotel Tax

The Village of Bedford Park collects a 10.5% tax per room for each night stay at the 11 hotels located in our town. This revenue is used to cover debt service on hotel bonds and the excess is used towards village operations such as public safety, public works, residential services, and administration. In 2022, the Village collected \$5.8 million in hotel taxes. This is 37% more than 2021 collections, 116% more than 2020 and 7% more than 2019’s pre-pandemic tax collections.

Occupancy rates (percentage of rooms sold to the number of rooms available) are another indicator we track to determine performance of the hotel business in Bedford Park. Hotel occupancy rates across the country were negatively impacted in 2020 and started to slowly recover by mid-2021. This holds true for the hotels located in the Village. As you will see from the graph below, the annual average occupancy dropped to 44% in 2020.

We are happy to report that the 2022 hotel tax revenue and occupancy rates have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Even though business travel has picked up, the pandemic has disrupted traditional business travel behaviors, and with the ease of teleconferencing and virtual meetings many businesses are choosing to travel less. The opening of the Wintrust Sports Complex in late 2021 has contributed to the rapid recovery and the exceeding of prior year expectations. Numerous out of town tournaments have been hosted at the sports complex which has resulted in thousands of room nights being booked in the Bedford Park hotels. In fact, there have been multiple weekends in which the hotels have reached maximum occupancy.

Hotel Tax Comparison



# Fire Department

Daniel Johnson

Fire Chief



## Grilling Safety Reminders



As the warmer weather moves in, there's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

### Safety Tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.



## Free Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program

The Bedford Park Fire Department is offering free home safety visits to all village residents by appointment. The home safety visit includes a short home safety survey to prevent home fires as well as to ensure there are working smoke alarms properly installed in all homes. Firefighters will then install 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms in each bedroom, near sleeping areas, and on each level of the home. Firefighters will also install a free carbon monoxide alarm near sleeping areas. All smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are required to be installed by our firefighters. Residents are encouraged to schedule their home safety visit and smoke alarm installation by calling (708) 563-4510 ext. 103.

## A Day in The Life: Bedford Park's Firefighters

Bedford Park's three firehouse kitchens start filling up at 6:15 AM each morning as members begin arriving for their 24-hour shifts and preparing for the official shift change at 7:00 AM. As the clock ticks closer to 7:00 AM, the off-going crew of Firefighters give a verbal report to the on-coming crew of the calls they ran and equipment that was used during their shift, and anything needed for the ambulances or fire apparatus. The on-coming shift places their firefighting gear onto their apparatus for the day. Then they check all the equipment and tools on all the vehicles to ensure that everything is accounted for and functioning properly. This ensures that we are ready to protect and serve our community no matter what the emergency needs may be. After checking and cleaning all the emergency equipment, the crew starts their daily firehouse chores, they pitch in their money for meals, and go grocery shopping for the meals during the shift.

At 9:00 AM the crew begins the daily training and evolutions that are scheduled for the day. Training can cover a variety of topics. Doctors and nurses provide regular training on the emergency treatment of heart attacks, strokes, trauma, and other medical emergencies. Fire and rescue-based training classes may include firefighting tactics and strategy, live fire training, hose deployment drills, hazardous materials training, and regular reviews of policies and procedures.



# A Day in The Life: Bedford Park’s Firefighters *cont.*

The crews then get their lunch break. After lunch, the crews workout for one hour each day. All these tasks are performed while the fire apparatus and ambulances are “in service” and available for calls. If an emergency response interrupts training, the crews will resume the training when they get back from the calls. On-duty personnel also complete business fire inspections during their shift to ensure all businesses are safe and compliant with fire codes.

Dinner time comes around 6:00 PM. After dinner, and when all the daily equipment checks, chores, and training are finished, the crews can get some down time if emergency calls allow. Typically, that consists of spending time together like you would spend with your family. Rest is important as they still have more than 12 hours to go on their shift and need to be ready to respond at all hours of the night. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready and willing to do whatever it takes no matter how big or small the emergency.



## News

The Bedford Park Police Department hired a new Patrol Officer in January. Officer Joanna Vieyra, who is an experienced Police Officer from another Illinois department, is currently assigned to the Field Training Program.

As we approached 2023, there was a great deal of discussion regarding the elimination of cash bail in Illinois as was set to take place on January 1<sup>st</sup> per the Safe-T-Act. The Illinois Supreme court issued an order suspending the implementation of this until further notice "in order to maintain consistent pretrial procedures throughout Illinois" as the state appeals a judge’s ruling on the matter. The Bedford Park Police Department is working with other local police departments and Cook County to ensure we are prepared regardless of how the IL Supreme Court rules on this matter in order to continue to keep our residents and guests safe which is our foremost priority.

The Wintrust Sports Complex at Bedford Park is now the “Official Indoor Training and Competition Site” for Special Olympics Illinois. Due to this partnership between the Village and Special Olympics Illinois, the Bedford Park Police Department was able to take part in some Special Olympic events that took place at the Wintrust Event Center in January and some Bedford Park Police Officers were allowed to present medals to the athletes (pictured below). A great time was had by all!





## Driving Tips

With Spring just around the corner, pedestrians will be back out enjoying the weather. Please keep in mind the following driving tips to ensure that drivers and pedestrians alike are safe:

- Keep distractions to a minimum. Distractions cause drivers to lose focus contribute to many accidents each year. Cell phone use, adjusting the radio, eating, drinking, using map technology, reaching for an object, and talking with passengers are all examples of activities that divert the driver's attention. Please stay focused on the road and your surroundings when driving.
- Be a defensive driver and follow the rules of the road. Follow the posted speed limit; signal turns and lane changes; obey stop signs; be aware of nearby vehicles. Be certain all passengers are wearing seatbelts.
- Please stay alert.

## Crime Prevention

**Please remember to lock and secure your vehicles and homes to protect yourself and your property from criminals.**

## Guest Parking / Overnight Parking Reminder

Overnight parking between 1:00am to 6:00am on the residential streets will be limited to vehicles that have a current village vehicle sticker, vehicles that have a temporary parking pass displayed, or vehicles that have been authorized and logged through the Bedford Park Police Department's Frontline PSS web portal. Each residential address will be limited to 21 single-night occurrences of overnight guest parking between July 1st and June 30th. If you have reached your 21-night limit, you will receive a hand-delivered letter from the Bedford Park Police Department advising of such. Any violations of the overnight parking after 21 occurrences will result in a citation being issued. Overnight parking in the "North-40" parking lot behind the I&M Canal Visitor facility will be limited to vehicles displaying a village vehicle sticker, a temporary parking pass, or properly logged in the Frontline PSS web portal. There is no nightly limit of overnight guest parking in this parking lot.



# Water Department

Chris Lesniak  
Superintendent

## Spring is Back

With spring around the corner that means the thaw is on the way. As everything freezes during the winter months, we tend to see that cold can damage a lot of things. We usually don't see the results of the damage until everything starts to thaw. The ground will shift and we may see the water main, sprinkler systems, hose bibs, sump pump drains, fire hydrants or anything else water related start to flow. These things can cause major damage and sometimes be a safety concern so please be aware of this during your travels. If you happen to come across any of this, please contact the Bedford Park Water Department at (708) 458-6026 and we will address the issue.

### Water Loss

The Village is regulated by the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") on how much water is allowed to take from Lake Michigan. There is an allowable loss that we are required to stay under. This loss comes in the form of leaks, meter inaccuracies, theft, construction, fire pump testing, hydrant flushing etc. In 2022, we were over this allowable amount. We appreciated everyone's cooperation in reporting any leaks to the Water Department. While most of our water mains are in good shape, we do have a few trouble spots that we are working on replacing. This year we plan on replacing approximately 6,500 feet of water main in the industrial area. This should help with our loss reporting as well making sure we can provide as much water as needed to the businesses.

### Hydrant Flushing

The only acceptable water loss comes from fire hydrant flushing. This is done yearly for two (2) main reasons. The first reason is to make sure all the hydrants are operating properly and ready for use in case of an emergency. Secondly, we flush for water quality. This helps remove any sediment that may be inside the pipes, and also draws fresh water throughout the system. Typically, we are flushing between April and September. So, when you see us flushing hydrants that's usually the reason why.



## 2023 Water Projects

- Water Department Archer Station Rehab
- Water main replacement on Sayre Ave (3500ft)
- Water main replacement on 70<sup>th</sup> Pl (3000ft)
- Harlem Ave Generator (750kW)
- Harlem Ave VFD Replacement
- System wide meter change out
- Water main loop addition behind Walmart (100ft)

### Water Facts

- There is the same amount of water on earth as there was when the earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- About 75% of the human brain is made up of water.
- A person can live about a month without food, but only a week without water.

# Public Works

Kevin Ormins  
*Superintendent*



Hello from the Public Works Department. As this winter winds down, we are looking forward to spring. This year Public Works is excited to be working with some volunteers from Sag Moraine to promote the use of native plants and ecological landscaping throughout our community providing plants to support our declining pollinators and birds.

Pollinators are declining at an alarming rate, not only in Illinois, but worldwide. Bees, butterflies, moths, birds and other pollinators are necessary for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants. They are responsible for the quality of air we breathe, the water we drink, and much of the food we eat.

Native plants, which provide pollinators with food and shelter, have been largely removed from our landscapes. Non-native, ornamental plants do not provide our pollinators with what they need to thrive. We want to be a part of the solution. If you have any questions for the Public Works Department, please call us at (708) 458-4038.



# Automobile Repair Services

Rory Doss  
*Director*



Hi, I'm Rory Doss the Director of vehicle services for the Village of Bedford Park. In order to have your vehicle serviced, contact the Village Hall at (708) 458-2067 or [info@villageofbedfordpark.com](mailto:info@villageofbedfordpark.com). I'm glad to be given the opportunity to serve the residents of Bedford Park. The program has been a great success for our town. Most of the services have been oil changes, tire rotations, and brakes. This program saves the residents a lot of money. The Bedford Park Police Department's vehicles are being

well maintained as well.

## Driving Tips

A good tip if you are going on a road trip is:

- Make sure the oil is full, tires are at the correct pressure, washer fluid is full and wipers are working.

Looking forward to meeting you all. Please stop by anytime if you need anything.



# Marketing & Economic Development

Joe Ronovsky

*Chief Business Officer, Marketing & Economic Development*

The Village of Bedford Park Board recently approved the development of a 110 room Wyndham Garden Hotel on the campus site of the Wintrust Sports Complex. The need for additional hotel rooms is growing by the day due to the increased number of out of town tournaments being hosted in Bedford Park. Village officials in consultation with the Chicago Southland Visitors & Convention Bureau identified the need for additional hotel rooms and a retail storefront that can cater to the needs of our guests. Discussions are ongoing for the brands of food that will be featured in the retail storefront development. Construction will begin soon.



## Save the Date – Family Fun Day Fundraiser

Friday, March 17 – The Village of Bedford Park in partnership with the Special Olympics of Illinois will be hosting a St. Patrick’s Day Police vs. Fire Basketball Game and Family Fun Day Fundraiser at the Wintrust Sports Complex. Village residents are encouraged to join village staff and their families for the basketball game that starts at 5pm. The Village will also be collecting funds for Special Olympics Illinois through a suggested door donation that will provide food and drink specials for the day. More information to follow.

## Special Olympics of Illinois at Wintrust Sports Complex



Village President David R. Brady and I recently met with Special Olympics Illinois CEO Dave Breen and their executive team to discuss expanding the Wintrust Sports Complex and Special Olympics Illinois partnership. The Wintrust Sports Complex currently hosts 50 Special Olympic Illinois events in basketball, floor hockey and individual competitions. The Village of Bedford Park will also be hosting numerous future fundraising activities in support of the Special Olympics and their athletes.



*The  
Bedford  
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