



# *The Bedford Quarterly*



*Summer 2023*

## **A Message from President Brady**

Dear Residents,

We hope your summer is starting off well! The new Village Board has been very busy working on several pending issues. Juanita Rodriguez and Sandra Maloy have joined our existing Board: Tony Kensik, Terry Stocks, Nancy Wesolowski and Tom Pallardy. We are very appreciative of the work of former trustees Gail Rubel and Katrina Errant.

Our major issues are solar energy, employee negotiations, the Historic Water Pump (Rubel-Rackow) Building, the gated community, Phase 2 development at the Wintrust Sports Complex including the hotel and Moretti's project, and the Southern Belle property. Also, upgrades at the hotel campus and possible future business development on 65th St and on the Belt property. The Village's finances remain strong and none of these projects will be pursued if they threaten our finance stability. We are again in dialogue with the Park District about a possible merger. All these projects are very fluid, and we will have updates in an upcoming Board Brief.

Crime issues in the Chicago area remain a concern. We have had attempted car thefts in the industrial area. A suspect was apprehended in conjunction with the Summit Police Department. Our police have stopped two potential road rallies in the industrial area. They assisted the Cicero Police Department with an issue they had with a road rally.

We hope your summer is going great for you and your family.

Thanks!

*David R. Brady*

David R. Brady  
Village President

# Village Finances

**Marilyn Curnutte**

*Chief Administrative Officer - Finance*

Each fiscal year, the Village undergoes a financial and procedural audit from an independent auditing firm. The findings and recommendations from these audits are then provided as an Annual Financial Report. The Village recently completed this process for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. We are happy to report that the auditors have certified that the Village financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village of Bedford Park, as of December 31, 2022.

This information reflects the Village's ability to support current operations, maintain the Village's infrastructure and capital plans, as well as provide emergency reserves. As always, the Village will continue to take a proactive approach to reduce its operational costs as needed. It is important to note that, at this point in time, the Village has stable cash flows and adequate capital project and reserve funds.

The Annual Financial Reports for 2022 and prior fiscal years can be found on the Village website, [www.villageofbedfordpark.com](http://www.villageofbedfordpark.com), under the Government>Financial Reports section.

## VILLAGE PICNIC



“Hi Neighbor” Day!

It will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 12pm-5pm at the Bedford Park District pavilion. Please submit the registration form via mail, fax, email, or in person at the Village Hall.

As part of the annual Village picnic, the prize this year is a \$150 Visa gift card that can be used anywhere Visa is accepted. One resident (over 21 years of age) per household is required to sign for the gift card. Additionally, there will be a Grand Prize Raffle. *Winners must be present to win.*

### Timeline for the Village Picnic

- **Registration starts at 12pm**
- **Food: 12pm - 4pm catered by Uncle Bub's and Los Razo's Grill**
- **Rides: 12pm - 4pm**
- **Bingo: 2pm**
- **Grand Prize Raffle - 4pm**



# Public Works

Kevin Ormins

*Superintendent*

Hello from the Public Works Department. The planting of the native plants and pollinators went great. We are proud to be adding this ecological landscaping and all the benefits that come along with the native plants to our community. Also, we would like to remind homeowners of stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The goal of BMPs is to mimic the natural way water moved through our area before development. Using techniques such as planting gardens and native plants and collecting rainwater for watering. This along with preventing debris and litter from entering our storm drains will reduce pollutant loading to receiving waters and, in some cases, reduce clogging of storm sewers.



All residents are kindly asked to remove their vehicles from the streets according to sign postings for efficient cleaning.

## DESPLAINES VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

Recent heavy rains combined with warm temperatures will result in a major hatch of the *Aedes vexans* floodwater mosquito. This mosquito is not involved in disease transmission, however is an extremely aggressive biter. This mosquito is migratory by nature, with a flight range of well over 10 miles! Although District operations addressed mosquito production in our area, residents can expect a noticeable increase in adult mosquito annoyance within the next week due to adult mosquito migration.

While nuisance mosquitoes will be the predominant species present, residents are cautioned that the mosquito species involved in West Nile Virus (WNV) transmission is also present in our area. This species is not an aggressive biter with limited flight range, however must not be forgotten. Positive adult mosquito samples for WNV have been found within the District this season. While this is not unusual for this time of year, it does indicate that WNV amplification is increasing and residents need to use precautionary measures.

Residents are encouraged to use a common-sense approach in avoiding exposure to adult mosquitoes and any potential mosquito-borne diseases. Window screens should be inspected and repaired if damaged to prevent mosquitoes from entering the home. In addition, any openings around window air conditioners, clothes dryer vents, etc. should be eliminated for the same reason. If possible, avoid outdoor activities around dusk. If not possible, wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light-colored clothing is best. Appropriate use of insect repellents per manufacturer's instructions is recommended.

Residents should look for potential mosquito breeding sources around the home and take the following simple steps:

- 1) Throw away all trash that can hold water as cans, jars, bottles, etc.
- 2) Clean rain gutters/downspouts to prevent water from standing in gutters or on flat roofs.
- 3) Change water in bird baths, wading pools, etc. at least once a week.
- 4) Maintain swimming pools properly.
- 5) Remove or turn over containers, buckets, wheel barrows, etc. which may accumulate water.
- 6) Screen rain barrels to prevent adult mosquitoes from depositing eggs on the water's surface.
- 7) Aerate ornamental ponds and stock with goldfish or other surface-feeding fish to control mosquito production.
- 8) Dispose of any used tires without rims to prevent water accumulation.

For additional information, please visit the District's website at [www.dvmad.org](http://www.dvmad.org).



# Police Department

Tom Hansen  
Police Chief



## NEWS

- We would like to welcome three new officers to the Bedford Park Police Department. Officer Sara Svetich, Officer David Kasher, and Officer Anthony Lefko have all joined our department earlier this year. Officer D. Kasher and Officer Lefko come to us with experience as police officers with other police departments and have completed their field training program with our department. Ofc. Svetich graduated from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy in May and she is currently in our field training program.
- The Village of Bedford Park and the Police Department will continue the use of CodeRED communications to notify residents and businesses by telephone, text message, and email of time-sensitive information, emergencies, or urgent notifications. CodeRED is free to all residents and businesses. If you have not been receiving CodeRED notifications from the Village, and would like to, please register online by using the following web link: : <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7CD80E51AA> or visiting [www.bedfordparkpd.com](http://www.bedfordparkpd.com) and clicking on the CodeRED link at the bottom of the page. You may also register by texting BEDFORD to 99411 to register via your cellular phone.
- The police department has contracted with Fusus, LLC for access to their video and data collaboration platform for viewing public and private video sources to increase responding officers' incident awareness and aid with criminal investigations. Businesses will have the opportunity to give the police department access to video feeds from security cameras to allow officers to respond to emergencies with real-time knowledge of a situation. We believe that this will enable officers to function more efficiently, aid in arresting criminal offenders, and help maintain a safer community.

### TIPS

- Summer is here! While we all enjoy the warmer temperatures and longer days, Summer also often leads to an increase in some crimes. It is important to report suspicious activity when it occurs. If you observe any suspicious activity, whether it's a stranger looking in vehicle windows or a loud noise in the middle of the night, it's important to contact law enforcement immediately. Do not delay! **To report suspicious activity, call 9-1-1.**
- Remember to lock your vehicles, homes, and garages, and keep valuables out of sight to help prevent thefts.
- Please make sure to register your cats and dogs with the Village Hall. Registration only requires up-to-date vaccination papers.

### GUEST PARKING / OVERNIGHT PARKING REMINDER:

Overnight parking between 1:00am to 6:00am on the Village 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 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 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

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

# Water Department

Chris Lesniak

*Superintendent*

Summer flows are in full swing. This time of year, everyone is filling up the pools and watering the lawns, bringing the average pumpage to about 30 million gallons a day. We will continue with these flows into August and mid-September before they start to drop off. With higher flows I feel the downstream customers have a larger impact on our system as well. As some of you may have seen, we had a water main break in early June on 66th street. This was the result of a downstream customer having an issue which caused a huge spike in pressure on our system, causing the main to break. Unfortunately, we had to reduce the pressure partially along this block to make the repair, which is why we had a contractor get this done as fast as possible. Thankfully, we had residents in the area who seen and called in the leak which helped with a quick response.

## NEW PROJECTS

Sometime in August, we will be starting construction on two new projects. The first project will be a leak logging system. We will be purchasing a product from a company called Gutermann which makes leak detection devices. There will be approximately 120 devices spread over the entire residential/industrial system that send out a cellular signal over which will display trouble areas over a map. This will help eliminate any leaks we may have throughout the system.

Another project we plan to break ground on soon is the replacement of the 3,500 ft of water main replacement on 70th place. We have been planning this for some time now, so we look forward to getting some of the older infrastructure replaced.

## WATER FACTS

- We also need a lot of water to produce other drinks, like beer and coffee for example. It takes about 150 liters of water to produce **one pint of beer** and 200 liters to produce the beans for **one cup of coffee**.
- You could only survive about 3 days without water.

As usual feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns at [chris@villageofbedfordpark.com](mailto:chris@villageofbedfordpark.com) or (708) 458-6026.





# Fire Department

**Daniel Johnson**  
*Fire Chief*



## **THE BEDFORD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING FREE SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION.**

The Bedford Park Fire Department is working cooperatively with the nonprofit Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide no-cost smoke alarms to residents of Bedford Park. The program provides smoke alarms and fire prevention materials to Illinois fire departments to both educate residents on fire safety as well as to provide them with life-saving devices in their home. By utilizing 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device. "Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device there is," says Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Mark Murray. "Having a working smoke alarm in your home reduces your chance of dying in a fire by 50%." Our goal is to make sure our residents have the protection of working smoke alarms in every single home in Bedford Park. All smoke alarms are required to be installed by our firefighters. Residents can schedule their free home safety visit and smoke alarm installation by calling 708-563-4510 ext. 103.

## **THE BEDFORD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCHING NEW PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM**

The spring semester of 2023, the Bedford Park Fire Department partnered with St. Laurence High School introducing junior and senior high school students to the Emergency Medicine and Fire Science side of public safety. Public safety agencies are looking to expand their recruitment pool, and this program provides the basic knowledge needed for those who may wish to pursue public safety as a career. This pilot program has been a great success, receiving high praise from the students and educators alike.

The first portion of the program focused on pre-hospital emergency medicine. The students gained knowledge on what it takes to earn an EMT-Paramedic license and the various career opportunities available. They also learned about resiliency and mental health needed to work in the public safety environment. The practical hands-on time allowed students to:

- Learn basic first aid medical skills.
- Complete CPR training through the American Heart Association.
- Hands-on use of the jaws of life and other extrication equipment to extricate victims involved in motor vehicle crashes.
- Students wore full fire gear including breathing apparatus and simulated structural firefighting in the burn tower, used ladders, and completed search training.
- Deploy and manage fire hose streams.
- Forcible entry techniques.

The Bedford Park Fire Department was honored to partner with St Laurence this year and we hope to continue to build and expand the program to its fullest potential.

"The Village of Bedford Park is very appreciative to St. Laurence, their staff and students for being the first to implement this class," said Bedford Park Village President David R. Brady. "We strongly believe that the class will introduce young people to options for great careers in law enforcement, fire services and emergency



# Fire Department

**Daniel Johnson**  
*Fire Chief*



medical services. There is certainly a need for qualified young people to enter these professions. Argo and Reavis High Schools will join St. Laurence next year to implement the program, and Bedford Park is very thankful to have 3 great high schools that serve our students and business community.”



*St Laurence students at the Bedford Park burn tower*



*St. Laurence students at Fire Station 1*

## BEDFORD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The Bedford Park Fire Department sponsored a successful community blood drive on June 12, 2023. Versiti Blood Center of Illinois collected enough donations to save 45 lives! Every day, patients in our communities need red blood cells, platelets, and plasma to keep them feeling healthy and strong. The blood donated today ensures there is enough for tomorrow. The Fire Department plans to continue to sponsor successful drives to help with this great need. The next blood drive is scheduled for August 14, 2023. Please check our Facebook page or call for further details.



## SUMMER POOL SAFETY TIPS

Unfortunately, drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4-years-old. As temperatures soar, remember to follow these 5 important steps while spending time in and around the water.

1. Teach children how to swim. When children learn how to swim, they become more comfortable around water and understand important safety rules. Sign up for local lessons and practice with your child in the pool so they strengthen their skills.
2. Never leave a child unattended, if you need to leave, even just for a moment, ask another adult to watch your child while you're gone. Always designate a Water Watcher any time your child is in or near the water.
3. Teach children to stay away from drains. Children's hair, limbs, jewelry or bathing suits can get stuck in drain or suction openings, so it is important to teach children not to play or swim near drains.
4. Install proper barriers If you have a pool or spa, it's important to install proper fences, alarms and covers to keep unsupervised children from accessing the water.
5. Learn CPR. Bystanders are often the first to aid a drowning victim, so learning how to perform CPR on children and adults can help prepare you to save a life.

These five tips will help you keep your family safer, so you can enjoy the best of summer by the pool.

The  
Bedford  
Quarterly

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