

From Mayor Soliman

Dear Residents,



I hope that you are enjoying one of the mildest winters that we have had in many years. Hopefully, spring is right around the corner.

As a direct result of the successful passage of the 2012 sales tax referendum, we once again will be mailing a property tax rebate check to all property owners in the City of Crest Hill. This is the third year that we have issued the rebate check which you should receive around March 17th. This check will be a rebate of 25% of the municipal portion of your property tax bill.

Last summer/fall, we completed road projects in the City of Crest Hill that included a complete reconstruction of Theodore Street from Larkin Avenue to Holy Cross Cemetery and a complete reconstruction of Dearborn Street and Rose Avenue, which included new water main and storm sewers. This year, we are planning major improvements to the intersection of Weber Road and Caton Farm Road, which will include turning lanes and a total reconstruction of Caton Farm Road from Perinar Drive to the bridge on the west. Hopefully, these improvements will spur economic development along the Weber Road corridor.

We are also planning major improvements to the intersection of Gaylord Road and Division Street. Once again it will be a busy summer for road construction, but it will improve the quality of life for all our residents. These improvements, as with several other street projects completed over the past 5 years, are upgrades to an aging infrastructure and are part of the City's five-year road plan. I understand the inconvenience, but I thank you for your patience.

We have completed all of the upgrades and improvements to the new east sewage treatment plant. We are considering constructing a new west sewage treatment plant which would replace the current plant that was constructed in 1968. We are also considering the consolidation of both plants on one site. We will carefully consider all of our options, be fiscally responsible, and choose the most cost-effective option in regards to long-term benefits for all of our residents.

We welcome Jim Elmquist as our new City Administrator. Jim is highly qualified and experienced in his respective field. Jim will begin his position of City Administrator on March 28, 2016. We are looking forward to a long relationship with him.

I am looking forward to a year of growth and prosperity for the City of Crest Hill that will improve the quality of life for all of our residents and visitors. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and, as always, invite you to call me with any comments or suggestions at (815) 741-5123.

Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor

Vehicle Sticker Reminder

Residents in Crest Hill are required to purchase and display vehicle stickers on or before March 31, 2016. The stickers have been on sale since January 1, 2016.

The City of Crest Hill has the lowest priced municipal vehicle sticker in all of Will County. At just \$10.00 for passenger cars and trucks with B plates, the required stickers are very reasonably priced. Seniors, 65 and older, are allowed one discounted sticker per married couple. Any stickers purchased after March 31, 2016 will have a \$50 penalty added to the purchase price.

You can purchase a vehicle sticker at either City Hall, 1610 Plainfield Road (8a.m. to 5p.m.), or at the Hillcrest Currency Exchange, 1701 N. Larkin. For more information, please call City Clerk Vicki Hackney's office at (815) 741-5100.

For additional information please go to www.cityofcresthill.com.

Type of Sticker Or Tag And Price

Passenger Car or Truck with B Plates
Vehicle Stickers/\$10.00
Motorcycle Tags/\$8.00
Senior Citizen Sticker/\$2.00



CREST HILL CITY CLERK'S FREE PAPER SHRED DAY

Do you have multiple boxes of old tax records that you'd like to safely destroy? How about those old phone bills, credit card statements or medical bills that you still have in cabinets, boxes or drawers around your house?

Like most of us, you may have held on to sensitive documents that you'd like to see destroyed. However, going to the effort of using a small, in-home paper shredder can be very difficult. We invite you to bring up to three boxes of documents to the 2016 Crest Hill Free Shred day this June. Everyone who participates is limited to three (3) boxes of documents.

Saturday, June 4, 2016
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
City Hall Parking Lot
1610 Plainfield Road

Please mark this event on your calendar and share this information with your Crest Hill family and friends. For more information, please call City Clerk Vicki Hackney's office at (815) 741-5100. This wonderful event is sponsored by the Crest Hill Lions Club.



SPRING TRANSFORMATIONS

Are you planning on putting up a fence, installing a shed, adding onto your house or building a deck? If so, it is important to contact the City's building and code enforcement staff in order to secure your permit and ensure that your improvements follow Crest Hills' codes. You can reach the City's building and code enforcement staff at (815) 741-5106.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION RESUMES IN APRIL

Residents first garbage pick-up day in April will be your first opportunity to set residential yard waste out for collection. Yard waste can be placed in either Kraft landscape waste paper bags or a regular trash can, reserved only for that purpose. Questions? Please contact the City's refuse, recycling and landscape waste contractor Republic Services at (815) 723-3200.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR

Your smoke detector is one of the most important items in your home. It's a vital line of defense should a fire ever occur. However, it cannot do its job without proper care. Be sure to check your smoke detector at least twice per year.

ONLINE INFORMATION

The City continues to put updated information online at www.cityofcresthill.com. Additionally, information can be obtained by calling the City Hall at 815-741-5100.

BARKING DOGS

Residents that are bothered by a habitually barking dog in their neighborhood should obtain the name and address of the dog owner. A complaint should then be filed with the Police Department at (815) 741-5111. An officer will investigate the complaint and, if warranted, will issue an official citation to the dog owner.

LEND YOUR EXPERTISE

Your work experience, education or interest can be of service to your community. Crest Hill often has opportunities for residents of diverse backgrounds to serve on various advisory boards and committees. Application forms are available at City Hall.

DIG IT...BUT CALL FIRST

Anyone planning an outdoor project, that requires digging, regardless of the depth or size of the project, should call JULIE at 1-800-892-0123 or you can call 811. Call center operations are available to receive your inquiry 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Both the call and JULIE's services are free.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Economic Development continues to be a priority for the City of Crest Hill. The Mayor and City Council, along with City staff, are working every day on projects that will help to diversify Crest Hill's tax base, provide jobs and, where possible, create sales tax revenue to support City operations.

O'Reilly Auto Parts Store

An O'Reilly's Auto Parts store will be built at Plainfield Road and Kellogg Street. O'Reilly Auto Parts continues to move forward with their plans to build a store in Crest Hill. The approximate 7,442 square foot store will be located at the SE corner of Plainfield Road and Kellogg Street. Mayor Soliman and the City Council expect to assist O'Reilly's with a ground breaking soon.

Welcome Los Mangos

The City welcomes Los Mangos, a Chicago area ice cream and restaurant chain to Crest Hill. Located at 1701 N. Larkin Avenue, this new business specializes in ice cream with Mexican flavors, a popular drink called atole and tamales. Visit los-mangos.com for more information about this wonderful Crest Hill business.

Business Permits Increase In 2015

This past year, the City saw an increase in the number of permits issued to new businesses. The City of Crest Hill issued 35 permits to new businesses in 2015. The Mayor, City Council and City staff are all committed to Economic Development in Crest Hill. Every year, our goal is to increase the number of new business permits.

If you have an idea for a new business or are interested in exploring economic development opportunities in Crest Hill, please contact Economic Development Director Scott McMaster. Director McMaster can be reached at 815-741-5100.



SHOP AND DINE LOCALLY...

SUPPORT CREST HILL AND OUR BUSINESSES!

The sales taxes generated by Crest Hill businesses are an important source of general fund revenue that the City depends on to continue providing services to our residents and customers. There are many reasons to shop and to dine in the City of Crest Hill!

- **Shopping and dining in Crest Hill creates local jobs!** Businesses in Crest Hill create local employment. In turn, people employed in Crest Hill spend a good portion of their pay in our City, thus helping our local economy.
- **Crest Hill has a lower sales tax rate!** Check around as you shop and dine in neighboring communities. Crest Hill has a lower general merchandise sales tax rate than towns like Orland Park (9%), Joliet (8.75%) or Bolingbrook (8.5%). Save taxes by eating and shopping in Crest Hill!
- **Shopping and dining locally helps to create a community!** People don't like losing shops and restaurants in small towns but don't equate this to how they spend their money. Shopping and dining in Crest Hill helps stores and restaurants to remain and grow in our community.
- **Local businesses invest more in the Crest Hill community!** Local businesses are very generous in their support of Crest Hill charities, schools and community events. So supporting Crest Hill shops and restaurants means you're helping them make a positive financial impact in our community.
- **Shopping and dining locally saves you money!** Some out of town shops and restaurants have done a good job convincing us that smaller, local businesses are expensive. If you add travel costs and the cost of your time, the overall expense of shopping outside of Crest Hill is much higher.

The City of Crest Hill encourages residents to shop and dine locally. Crest Hill has a lot to offer. If you shop and dine locally, you'll be helping to raise needed tax revenue while, at the same time, creating jobs, improving tax base diversification, saving money and supporting the City's non-profits. Here's to shopping and dining in Crest Hill today!

SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADO SAFETY

Now that the worst of winter is behind us it usually means that the worst of spring is just ahead. The arrival of warmer weather also means the potential arrival of tornadoes. For those of us in Will County, tornado season typically occurs between March and October. While there is little that you can do to protect yourself from the damage a tornado causes, you can certainly save your life by knowing what to do in a severe weather.

WATCH vs. WARNING

Severe Thunderstorm Watch vs. Warning

A severe thunderstorm *watch* means that severe weather is possible. A severe thunderstorm *warning* means that severe weather is actually in the immediate area. In either case, the City encourages you to listen to the radio or television for updates.

Tornado Watch vs. Warning

A tornado *watch* means that present weather conditions could produce a tornado. A tornado *warning* means that a tornado has been sighted in the area and that you should take shelter .

The National Weather Service can alert residents to severe weather more effectively than ever. The City encourages residents to stay tuned to the radio or the Weather Channel for updates. If the City is ever threatened by a tornado, severe weather warning sirens will activate. These important severe weather sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.

KNOW WHERE TO GO!

If a tornado has been sighted, it is important that you take cover in the safest place possible. Here are some suggestions.

- **Building with a basement.** Go to the basement. Stay away from windows and chimneys. Hide under the stairs or heavy furniture. Cover your head.
- **Building without a basement.** Go to the lowest level in the central portion of the building. The first choice is in an interior closet or hallway, away from windows. Cover your head.

- **Shopping center or large building.** Look for a pre-designated shelter. If you don't see one, go to the middle hallway on the lowest level. Avoid glass and windows. Cover your head.

- **Mobile home or car.** Leave at once and find shelter in a building. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert with your hands over your head.

Following the steps in this article can minimize the possibility of injury during severe weather. Remember to keep a flashlight and a battery operated radio handy for emergency situations. Please share these tips with your family and friends and practice a tornado drill in your home this week.

SEVERAL WAYS TO HELP REDUCE CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The good news is that the City of Crest Hill enjoys a low crime rate. The bad news is that we are not crime free. We'd like to offer up a few items to consider as we all work together to reduce our low crime rate even further.

An unlocked vehicle, even in your own driveway, provides a very easy opportunity for a criminal. A criminal can quietly open the car door and search through the vehicle for popular items like cell phones, iPads, laptops and loose change. Even if you lock your vehicle, remember not to leave valuables in your car.

Open doors, open garages and open storage sheds also provide opportunities for would-be thieves. Besides keeping these spaces locked, other remedies such as installing motion detector lights and security systems are important, proactive steps that you can take to reduce crime.

Crest Hill residents are encouraged to call the Police Department with information about any suspicious activity that you may observe. Even if it ultimately turns out to be completely innocent activity, it is always better to be cautious.

Crimes in progress or suspected criminal activity in progress should be reported immediately to 9-1-1. With all of us working together, we can make Crest Hill a safer community for all of us to enjoy.

DID YOU KNOW?

COMMUNITY ALERT NETWORK IN THE WORKS!

The City of Crest Hill is in the process of improving our ability to communicate with residents about important news, including public safety alerts. Look for news soon at www.cityofcresthill.com, about how you can sign up for the new Crest Hill Community Alert Network.

PARK DISTRICT OFFICE AT CITY HALL

Lockport Township Park District has an office at City Hall. This office is provided for the convenience of Crest Hill residents. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is closed on Tuesday and Thursday. Contact the Park District at (815) 741-2964 or go to www.lockportpark.org.

MAJOR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY?

Mayor Soliman would like to invite residents of Crest Hill, who are celebrating their 100th birthday or a major anniversary, to contact him at (815) 741-5123. Mayor Soliman would be happy to offer his congratulations.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Jim Elmquist will begin his work as the City of Crest Hill's City Administrator on Monday, March 28, 2016. Administrator Elmquist is coming to our community after serving for over six years as Administrator of Dodge County, Minnesota. Prior to that position, Administrator Elmquist served the City of Carver, Minnesota. Mr. Elmquist is a graduate of both St. John's University and Western Michigan University.

We would like to congratulate Administrator Elmquist on his new position. We welcome Jim to the Crest Hill community.

YOUR TAXES AND CITY SERVICES

Did you know that the property taxes that you pay to the City of Crest Hill help to provide a wide variety of important services? Approximately 7% of your overall property tax bill goes to the City of Crest Hill. These tax funds help to pay for many important services that we all enjoy. Below are just a few of the programs and services provided by the City of Crest Hill.

- Police Patrol 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Plowing City Streets.
- City Code and Ordinance Enforcement.
- Street Maintenance.
- New Development Review.
- Right-Of-Way Tree Maintenance.
- Storm Sewer Maintenance.
- Street Sign Maintenance and Replacement.
- Building Permit Program.
- Business License and Registration Program.
- 911 Emergency Response.
- Community Policing Program.
- Street Sweeping.
- Emergency Storm Siren Program.
- Voter Registration.
- Street Lighting.
- And Much More!

CITY EARNS IMPORTANT AWARD

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized the City of Crest Hill with our first Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. This award is the highest acknowledgement that a governmental entity can receive in the area of government accounting and financial reporting.

The City is appreciative of this acknowledgement from GFOA. Crest Hill remains dedicated to sound, conservative fiscal accounting practices and transparent financial reporting.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: Police, Fire or Ambulance DIAL 911

Illinois Poison Center 800-222-1222

Police Department 815-741-5115
(Non-Emergency)

Fire Department 815-838-3287
Lockport 815-838-3287
Plainfield 815-936-5335

White Oak Library 815-725-0234

Lockport Park District 815-838-3621
Crest Hill Office 815-741-2964

JULIE (Underground Locator) 800-892-0123

ComEd 800-334-7661

Nicor 888-642-6748

AT&T 800-ATT-2020

Comcast 866-594-1234

Allied/Republic Services 815-723-3200

Joliet Animal Control 815-725-0333

WILL COUNTY OFFICES

Will County Land Use Dept. 815-727-8430

Will County Office Building 815-222-5515

Will County Clerk 815-740-4615

Will County Treasurer 815-740-4675

Will County Health Dept. 815-727-8480

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Services Center of Will County 800-892-1412

Illinois Dept. on Aging 800-252-8966

Illinois Dept. on Aging (after hours) 800-252-8966

Will County Sheriff's Police TRIAD 815-727-5678

AARP 312-458-3631

Medicare 800-633-4227

SHIP- Senior Health Insurance Program 800-548-9034

(free consulting for alternative Medicare plans)

VETERANS

Metro Veteran Center 708-383-3225

Veterans Assistance of Will County 815-740-8389

Hines Hospital 708-202-8387

US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs 800-827-1000



MAYOR

Raymond R. Soliman
815-726-5846

CITY CLERK

Vicki Hackney
815-741-5100

WARD 1

John Vershay
815-726-4049

Scott Dyke
815-726-7905

WARD 2

Claudia Gazal
630-915-7449

Barbara Sklare
815-725-0479

TREASURER

Glen Conklin
815-355-1579

WARD 3

Tina Oberlin
815-953-4257

Candi Thuringer
815-545-4603

WARD 4

Charles Convery
815-609-8058

Tom Inman
815-609-0636

The City Update is published for residents and businesses of the City of Crest Hill.

Please address comments to the Office of the City Administrator, City Hall, City of Crest Hill, 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, IL 60403. Comments can also be sent to webadmin@cityofcresthill.com or you can call 815-741-5100. City Hall hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.