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CITY OFFICE CLOSURES THANKSGIVING DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE (OBSERVED) FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS DAY (OBSERVED) MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

NEW YEAR'S DAY (OBSERVED) MONDAY, JANUARY 2



City of **CREST HILL**



@CityofCrestHill

Dear Residents,

As we approach this holiday season, I would like to wish all of our residents a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. Please enjoy the season with your family and friends and be thankful for all that you have.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that you use it to familiarize yourself with the many projects that the City of Crest Hill is currently working on to improve the quality of life for you and your family. While beginning work on the Eastside Water Treatment Plant, the City has also completed several road projects including an aggressive crack filling program to preserve the longevity of our roads.

In addition, due to the successful passage of the April 5 referendum regarding municipal aggregation, our residents will benefit with lower electricity rates. The City has signed a two year agreement with Direct Energy and unless you opted out, you will benefit with a 25% savings on the energy supply portion of your electric bill

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

News from Baxter & Woodman, Inc. and Water / Wastewater Supt.

Concerned with aging wastewater treatment facilities, the City of Crest Hill authorized Baxter & Woodman, Inc. to prepare a long term plan and design improvements to allow the City's facilities to continue to meet the needs of our residents and meet requirements of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Wastewater treatment is one of the key services that the City of Crest Hill offers its residents as it provides a crucial public health benefit and also produces reusable resources. Wastewater, often referred to as "sewage", consists of liquid waste collected from residences and businesses from sources such as sinks, drains, toilets and laundry facilities. It is conveyed in the City's pipe network, referred to as the sanitary sewer collection system, to a wastewater treatment plant. At the plant, the wastewater is processed to recover water suitable for discharge to the Des Plaines River and biosolids which have agricultural use. The treated water is also used extensively throughout the treatment plant site in place of potable (drinking) water and is available for non-residential reuse.

The City owns and operates two wastewater treatment facilities. The East Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Residents to see substantial savings through referendum passed April 5th, 2011

for the next two years. Our senior citizens will save 26% over the same time period. Please visit our new and upgraded City website for information.

Please remember to keep our servicemen and women in your prayers for their safe return home as they secure and protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. Feel free to comment and share your opinion of this newsletter by contacting myself or City staff.

Again, from my family to yours, Happy Holidays!

Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor



City of Crest Hill Eastside Sewage Treatment Plant

located south of Caton Farm Road and east of Illinois Route 53 along the Des Plaines River. The West STP is located north of Theodore Street and west of Gaylord Road. The East STP was last updated in 1988 and the West STP was last updated in 1995. The expected life of a treatment plant improvement is typically 20 years; both plants are in need of major work to continue service.

Continued on Page 2...

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE - continued...

A planning report was prepared in February 2010 to identify the improvements necessary at the City's STPs. The Mayor and City Council discussed the report and the treatment plants with the consultant engineers and City staff at the February 22, 2010, May 23, 2011 and September 12, 2011 work sessions. The plan is to focus on the plants one at a time starting with the East STP. In November 2010, the City obtained approximately \$24 million in Build America Bonds from American Recovery Reinvestment Act to construct the needed improvements at the East STP. Please see Build America Bonds article for more information.

The project at the East STP includes construction of a new on-site Administration Building, a water main extension, and major improvements to the East STP treatment process.

The administration building will be constructed first to allow the staff to move their operations before the renovations start at the existing control building. The administration building is an energy efficient, ADA accessible building with offices, conference room, lunchroom, washrooms, copy room, utility room, network room and garage. A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will allow the staff in the administration building to monitor and control the operation of the East STP. The City Council approved award of the construction contract for the administration building to R.

Berti and Son Contractor, Inc., Crest Hill, IL at the September 19th City Council Meeting.

Approximately 2,600 lineal feet of new 12-inch and 8-inch water main will connect the East STP site to the City's potable water system. The construction of the water main is planned to begin in late Fall or early Winter 2011.

Improvements to the East STP include providing new equipment, new structures as required, and reuse of the structures that can be salvaged. The construction is challenging because the new treatment process must be complete and operational before any of the existing structures can be demolished. The existing treatment process must remain operational and meet IEPA permit requirements during construction.

Sustainability is an important design consideration for the East STP improvements. Some of the key elements are:

- Energy conservation - This includes the use of high efficiency motors, variable frequency drives (VFD), and computer-based monitoring and control of the treatment process. These controls not only save power and reduce electrical costs to the City but also provide a better and more stable treatment process. In addition, grant funding may be available to assist with paying for energy efficient improvements.
- Light pollution reduction - The exterior lights are dark sky compliant lights which only emit light where needed and reduce light pollution from unnecessary light scatter.

• Waste Reduction - The improvements to the East STP include many new tanks and structures however several of the existing structures will be re-used. Re-use of existing structures reduces construction waste and saves money on capital costs.

• Resource Recovery and Reuse - The treated (reclaimed) water has typically been discharged to the Des Plaines River, but as part of the improvements, reclaimed water will also be made available for the non-potable water needs of the treatment plant such as equipment wash down, process carrier water, and site irrigation. A reclaimed water truck fill station will allow sale of reclaimed water to contractors for construction and irrigation. The East STP will utilize heat pumps which use the consistent temperature of the reclaimed water to provide heating and cooling for buildings thus reducing electrical and natural gas usage and saving the City money on power costs. Biosolids will continue to be reused on agricultural land for the fertilizer value.

• Bioswales - The East STP site design will include storm water drainage swales with native plants to reduce the amount of storm water runoff, reduce erosion and assist with the treatment of the pollutants in the storm water runoff.

The construction of the East STP Improvements are planned to start in Spring 2012.

STREETS DEPARTMENT - SNOWFALL REMINDERS

We would like to remind all residents before the snow begins to fall that per Ordinances 132, 570, 575 and 738 it is unlawful to park any motor vehicle upon streets within the City limits any time after snowfall begins and 8 hours thereafter. If snowfall exceeds two inches in depth then parking is restricted until the City can plow the streets.

The Street Department does its best job to clear all City streets of snow within a reasonable amount of time and that streets designated as "snow routes" receive first priority as these streets facilitate the heavier traffic flows throughout the City.

KEEP IT GREEN & CLEAN

Congratulations to this year's winners. The Beautification Committee had a great time going out into the community to see all of the beautifully manicured homes and businesses.

The committee is looking forward to an even better 2012 competition.

Here is a list of this year's winners:

June

Ward 1 - 1700 Cora Street
Ward 2 - 20520 Erie Court
Ward 3 - 2431 FoxTail Court
Ward 4 - 2001 Caton Farm Road
Business - 1815 Plainfield Road

July

Ward 1 - 1711 Dearborn Street
Ward 2 - 1609 Barthelone Street
Ward 3 - 2200 Susanna Way
Ward 4 - 1732 Amelia Court
Business - 2380 Caton Farm Road

August

Ward 1 - 419 Pasadena Avenue
Ward 2 - 1609 Hosmer Lane
Ward 3 - 2102 Manico Drive
Ward 4 - 2212 Root Street
Business - 905 Theodore Street

September

Ward 1 - 1602 Marlboro Lane
Ward 2 - 16130 Huron Street
Ward 3 - 1912 William Drive
Ward 4 - 21343 Prestwick Drive
Business - 1659 Plainfield Road

Build AMERICA BONDS

News from PMA Securities and City Administrator

The City, with its engineers, had been planning to upgrade and rehabilitate its East and West Sewage Treatment Plants. In order to better serve the residents of the City and to continue to meet Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulations, it was determined after a six month study, which concluded in February of 2010, that it would be cost effective to essentially build a new East Sewage Treatment Plant while utilizing any properly functioning equipment from the existing structures. Concurrently, in November 2009, the City began to work with its financial advisors PMA Securities, Inc. and TMF Solutions to study the feasibility of financing these vital and necessary improvements through the operations of the water and sewer system. A final report presenting the capabilities and procedures for financing capital improvements was presented to the Mayor and City Council in April 2010.

After much review and contemplation by the City's elected officials at work sessions that took place on April 26, 2010, August 23, 2010, October 25, 2010, November 8, 2010 and January 24, 2011 with the financial advisors, consultant engineers and City staff, the City decided to finance the improvements at the East Sewage Treatment plant by issuing municipal bonds. Municipal bonds are purchased by individuals, trust accounts, casualty insurance companies and other institutional investors and are repaid over time similar to a home mortgage. Since

the 1980s, the City has issued municipal bonds to finance water and sewer system improvements and to refinance outstanding bonds on several occasions. The then current water and sewer system bond issues consisted of bonds issued in 2002 and 2004 to refinance prior bond issues as well as four Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loans. In 2010, as a result of the aforementioned feasibility study, the City paid off the 1995 and 1996 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loans for an estimated savings of \$31,656.

After review of various financing scenarios, in November 2010, the City sold approximately \$24 million of water and sewer alternate revenue bonds to finance improvements to the East Sewage Treatment Plant. The City designated the water and sewer alternate revenue bonds as Build America Bonds which were created as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Build America Bonds were sold as taxable municipal bonds in the lieu of tax-exempt municipal bonds. Municipal bond issuers, such as the City, typically sell municipal bonds as tax-exempt and a tax-exempt municipal bond investor may not have to pay taxes on the interest received; so the municipal bond issuer can borrow at lower relative interest rates. Therefore, taxable municipal bonds will have higher interest rates; however, since the City designated its taxable water and sewer alternate revenue bonds as Build America Bonds or BABs, the federal government will send the City a payment equal to 35% of the interest payments on the water and sewer alternate revenue bonds every six months. These Build

America Bond payments, totaling \$7.3 million over the life of the bond issue, will save City residents \$2.1 million over the life of the 25 year bond when compared to interest rates available on traditional tax-exempt municipal bonds in November 2010. The average interest rate, when reduced by the Build America Bond payment, was approximately 3.85%.

Subsequent to the City selling its Build America Bonds, the Build America Bond program expired and is no longer an option for financing infrastructure projects in 2011. If the City were to sell the water and sewer alternate revenue bonds today, the average rate would be approximately 4.75% to 5.00% and the interest cost would be almost \$4 million higher. As a result of the time and effort by the City's elected and administrative officials who agreed to sell the bonds utilizing the Build America Bond program, the residents were able to reap the significant interest savings provided by the program.

Lastly, when the City sold the Build America Bonds, it received a municipal bond rating of "Aa3" by Moody's Investors Service which is their fourth highest credit rating. Obtaining a municipal bond credit rating in Moody's Investors Service "Aa" rating category significantly lowered the interest cost for the water and sewer alternate revenue bonds and eliminated the need to purchase municipal bond insurance. This high credit rating is a testament to the strong financial condition of the City and its water and sewer system.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - IS YOUR FAMILY READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Take this opportunity to encourage your friends and family to implement basic preparedness and safety measures. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign provides the tools and resources needed to take these three important steps: get a kit, make a plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses. Start 2012 off by reviewing www.Ready.gov and take the appropriate steps to ensure that this year, you and your family are prepared for emergencies of all types. Resolve to be ready, and have a safe and healthy 2012!

- **Create a family emergency plan**

Your family may not be together when an emergency happens, so it is important to plan in advance: How you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in different situations.

- **Put together an emergency supply kit**

Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. To find a complete checklist of the supplies your household may need in the event of an emergency, go to www.ready.com.

- **Be informed about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area.**

Learn about the hazards that may strike your community, the risks you face from these hazards, and your community's plans for warning and evacuation.

"MEDICATION TAKE BACK" DROP-BOX

The City has partnered with the Will County Land Use Department to offer a "Medication Take Back" drop box located at City Hall 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, IL 60403.

Residents are invited to drop off their unwanted medications between the hours of 7am-5pm Monday-Friday. The Green drop box is located in the Main Entrance vestibule. Please black-out any personal information on the containers before dropping them in the bin. Also, we ask that you bring only residentially generated medication items.

For more information visit the City's website or call 815-741-5123.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

It will soon be time to dust off the lawn figurines, pull down the boxes from the garage rafters and get working on your 2011 Christmas decorating.

The Events Committee is once again conducting a Christmas Lights Contest and from the sound of it, they're expecting a great turnout. We saw some amazing displays in the City last year and the committee is looking forward to going around the neighborhoods to see all of the beautifully decorated homes.

Entry forms are now available on the City's website at www.cityofcresthill.com under the News section or outside the Clerk's office. Entries must be submitted by Friday, December 9th. Winners will be notified before and announced at the December 19, 2011 City Council Meeting.

For more information call 815-741-5123.

RECENT ORDINANCES

In an effort to keep residents and business owners updated on new ordinances in the City that may effect their property or businesses we post all new Ordinances on the City's website.

To view a copy of the new ordinances on the City's website go to www.cityofcresthill.com, look under government and ordinances. All new ordinances are posted at the top of the page.

New Ordinances:

- 1562 - Recreational Vehicles.
- 1574 - Hawkers and Peddlers
- 1575 - Solicitation Within The City Limits
- 1576 - Business Licensing
- 1578 - Placement and Use of Donation Boxes
- 1581 - Storage/Handling of Deicing Materials

For a copy of any of these ordinances go to the City's website or call 815-741-5123.

CITY WEBSITE

We would like to remind all residents to visit the new City website www.cityofcresthill.com. While you're there you can sign-up for our E-News Alerts and view our Calendar of events that we update weekly with new events from in and around the community.

Visitors can also Find, Like and Follow Us on Facebook(City of Crest Hill) and Twitter (@CityofCrestHill). All updates from the City's website, special events, pictures and links to news articles and websites can now be found on the City's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Also, now that the website is up and running we are in need of photos from the community to display on the City's website. Both digital and hard copies are welcome.

For more information call 815-741-5123

City Staff

Mayor's Office

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Building Commissioner / Zoning Official

Police Department

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Chief of Police

Water/Wastewater Department

John Roberts 815-723-8671
Water / Wastewater Superintendent

Utility Billing Department

Irma Rangel 815-741-5104
Utility Billing Supervisor

Crest Hill TV - Channel 6

815-741-5107

Public Works Department

Eric Newberry 815-741-5108
Street Department Supervisor - Working Foreman

Economic Development Director

Bryan Gay 815-741-5110

Clerk's Office

Christine Vershay Hall 815-741-5100

Treasurer's Office

Joseph Bobikiewicz 815-741-5125

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

Raymond R. Soliman 815-726-5846

Ward I

Scott Dyke 815-726-7905
John Vershay 815-726-4049

Ward II

Claudia Gazal 815-588-1359
Brenda Lelis 630-404-4286

Clerk

Christine Vershay-Hall 815-726-1793

Ward III

Tina Oberlin 815-953-4257
Neal Sternisha 815-514-6434

Ward IV

Charles Convery 815-609-8058
Tom Inman 815-609-0636

Treasurer

Joseph Bobikiewicz 815-609-0855

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City Hall Hours: M-F 8:00am-5:00pm

The City welcomes comments and questions on The City Update, e-mail: webadmin@cityofcresthill.com