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I would like to welcome you to the inaugural City of Crest Hill newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates on City projects and current, helpful information from each City department. I would like to personally thank City staff for their cooperation and input in the production of this newsletter.

As we move into the hot summer months I wish to remind everyone to stay safe while you're out in the community at the many events that are planned throughout the season. Remember to check on your elderly neighbors and friends and offer them assistance when you can. Also, congratulations to all of our recent graduates. The City and all of our residents are proud of you and wish you the best of luck as you move on with your education and or your careers.

I would like to thank you for successfully passing the April 5, 2011 referendum to lower the electricity rates for all of our residents and small business owners. We are currently negotiating these prices, but at the time

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

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

of the printing for this newsletter, an agreement has not been finalized. For more information as it becomes available please watch our City Council meetings on Crest Hill Cable channel 6, and check our website for updates.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter. Please feel free to offer your suggestions and comments to help improve our future articles.



Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor

City Begins to Address DRAINAGE ISSUES

News from City Administrator and Robinson Engineering

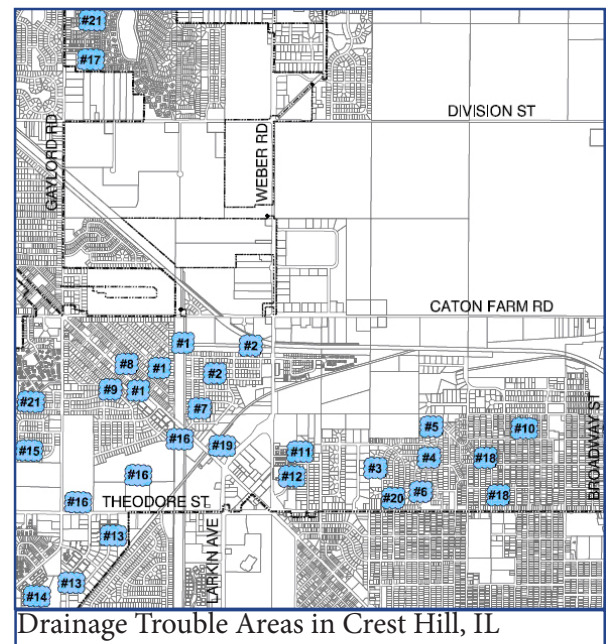
Various areas within the City experience chronic drainage and localized flooding problems. Many residents and business owners suffer flooding of basements, garages, back yards, and streets. After yet another round of damaging storms in July 2009, the Mayor and City Council authorized Robinson Engineering, Ltd. to complete a Citywide Drainage Study.

Information from affected property owners was collected and summarized into 21 Problem Areas. Each reported Problem Area was analyzed and recommendations were provided.

Causes of flooding in the 21 Problem Areas include:

- Lack of storm sewers in rear yards and streets
- Inadequately sized storm sewers
- Insufficient or nonexistent detention
- Insufficient overland flow routes
- Blocked culverts and inlets
- Excessive infiltration and inflow to sanitary sewers causing basement backups, and
- Power outages causing sump pump failures.

Five (5) identified problems affect individual properties



only and are recommended to be resolved privately; the remaining 16 encompass multiple properties or entire subdivisions that require public investment to resolve.

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DRAINAGE ISSUES - continued...

Recommendations for the 16 public problem areas mostly include installation of storm sewer or larger storm sewer to collect and convey stormwater. Ditches are also need to be established or improved in some locations.

The report identifies critical project components for each of the problem areas including:

- Dedication of Easements/Licenses from Property Owners and/or Utility Companies
- Coordination with other governmental agencies, and
- Permits from Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

The total estimated cost to implement solutions for drainage problems recommended for public investment is approximately \$9,000,000. Three of these areas, which are interrelated, constitute the majority of this cost totaling \$5,500,000.

These significant investments are beyond the City's current annual budget capabilities. As such, the City has researched alternate revenue source(s) through federal, state and local grant funding. To date, the City has submitted four grant applications totaling \$2.6 million.

The City received one grant application in the amount of \$150,000 has been approved from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The project area to be addressed by this grant is the area adjacent to St. Ambrose Church, primarily

benefiting residents on Burry Court. The City has been in regular communication with the DCEO since original notification of the funding in late 2010, and expects to begin the project as soon as the grant agreement is secured later this year.

While grant awards are usually the most desirable funding sources, they involve a highly competitive process and typically have award amounts insufficient to address some of the largest problem areas facing the City. Therefore, other sources of revenue are also being investigated, to facilitate the necessary drainage improvements.

Once a funding plan is established, a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan will be developed within the financial means of the City. Projects will be prioritized using several criteria including flooding frequency, related impacts, number of residents to benefit from a particular project, property acquisition (easement) requirements. Each project will likely take 12-24 months for implementation, and therefore, a multi-year approach is expected to address identified public problem areas.

Since two of the largest Problem Areas drain to Theodore Marsh at Theodore Street and Gaylord Road, stormwater conveyance improvements along Rock Run Creek have been identified as an important component of the City's overall drainage plan. The Will County Forest Preserve District, which owns Theodore Marsh, and the City of Joliet, which is adjacent and downstream of the Marsh, have also participated as active stakeholders in a series of planning meetings led by Crest Hill City staff over the past six months. The three agencies are working cooperatively to

identify funding for these improvements.

In addition to the specific Problem Area improvement recommendations, City Staff is incorporating additional recommendations to assist with stormwater management and reduce flooding in the city:

- Target stormwater operation and maintenance to promote continual clearing of debris
- Continue to monitor flooding conditions and update City inventories
- Update and strictly enforce City Codes, especially for stormwater and floodplain areas
- Obtain low interest loan funding to reduce excessive stormwater in the sanitary sewer
- Continue the 50/50 program to remove private stormwater connections from sanitary sewers
- Increase Public Outreach relating to stormwater management and quality, and
- React to changing state and federal stormwater regulations.

The City has discussed the Citywide Drainage Study at the March 8, 2010, August 30, 2010 and January 10, 2011 work sessions. Please stay tuned for additional work sessions regarding this matter as the City continues to address these issues.

***If you would like to report flooding in your area, questionnaires are available at the Clerk's Office at City Hall.**

***A full copy of the Drainage Study is also available for viewing at the Clerk's Office. The full study includes numerous exhibits, photos, and many other details.**

NEWS FROM THE STREET DEPARTMENT

The Mayor and City Council approved this year's Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) program at the June 6th Council meeting for Barthelone Avenue, Theodore Street to the dead end, Pleasant Drive East & West of Barthelone Avenue, Sycamore Street and Parkrose Street to Greengold Street to be milled and resurfaced. Also through MFT Funds, various streets will be crack filled throughout the City. In addition, we have attained grant funding (80% grant/20% local match) for the complete reconstruction of Cedarwood Drive.

The City has worked with State Representative Emily McCasey on attaining Emergency Repair Program (ERP) money to repave Lynwood Avenue (from Eldorado Drive to Imperial

Drive), Imperial Drive (from Root Street to Lynwood Drive), Lincoln Avenue (from Eldorado Drive to Imperial Drive), and parts of Crestwood Drive and Eldorado Drive. Currently, all of these projects are being bid out and construction is anticipated to begin in late Summer or early Fall.

With the great weather that we have had this spring, we have had a chance to get a head start on various street patching, curb and sidewalk replacement, and storm sewer repairs.

Did you know that you can now report that a street light is out or that a pothole needs to be repaired on the City's website on the Streets and Public Works Department webpage?

KEEPING IT GREEN AND CLEAN

Keeping it Green and Clean Program will cover the month of June through September and will recognize residents and businesses that project a high standard of neatness and are an asset to the community. There will be one home per ward and one business for the City that will be recognized each month. Those recognized will receive a certificate of appreciation and a yard sign to display for the month. Those recognized are eligible only once per calendar year. Nominations must be received before the 15th of each month.

To nominate one of your neighbors or a business please call 815-741-5123.

NEWS FROM THE WATER / WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

We would also like to note that the City's 2010 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Water Report went out with your water bill in May. If you did not receive one you're welcome to stop by City Hall and pick one up. You can also download a copy of the CCR Water Report on the City's website at www.cityofcresthill.com under departments and Waste/Wastewater. The report is located near the bottom of the page.

NEWS FROM THE Utility Billing DEPARTMENT

The Utility Billing Department would like to remind residents of the many options available to make their payments; residents can pay in person at City Hall, send in their payment via mail or drop their envelop in the drop-box outside of City Hall. The City also offers an auto debit program that allows the City to withdraw the balance due from your checking account every other month. Residents can sign up for the auto debit program by filling out a simple form and returning it to the Utility Billing Department along with a voided check. Customers can also make a one-time payment with a credit card via our website as long as it is a MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Visa is not accepted.

Economic Development News

Summer has begun and we're looking forward to another busy building season in Crest Hill.

In January 2011, Goglanian Bakeries of Santa Ana, California signed a long-term lease to occupy over 260,000 square feet in the Crest Hill Business Park located on the Southeast corner of Division Street and Gaylord Avenue. Goglanian Bakeries is bakery manufacturer that specializes in flat breads which they distribute to national food retailers such as Walmart, CostCo, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. Goglanian plans to open the first of two lines later this summer creating 180 new jobs in Crest Hill; a second line is anticipated to come online by Spring of 2014 with an additional 200 new jobs. Residents interested in employment at Goglanian's Crest Hill facility should check the City's website for information regarding job fairs throughout the summer.

At the March 2, 2010 work session, the Crest Hill City Council gave their concept approval to HRM Properties and Weber Caton LLC to move forward with their plans to build a state-of-the-art indoor sports facility in the Weber Crossings development located on the Northeast corner of Weber Road and Caton Farm Road.

The sports complex is designed to primarily host indoor soccer competitions but its multi-purpose synthetic field will allow almost any sport to utilize the facility. Preliminary designs show the facility will have seating for up to 4,000 which opens the opportunity for concerts, band competitions and other events. Plans also show 10,000 square feet of retail and/or office space.

Along with the sports complex there are plans to develop a variety of stand alone casual dine-in and fastfood restaurants and other retail centers on the other 19 parcels in the development. To date, Menards, Angelo's Firestone and a retail strip center have opened in the development.

This Summer two important projects in the Weber Crossings development will begin. These projects (The Crest Hill Library and dismantling of the Nicor Tower) will hopefully jumpstart the rest of the development and residents will see the Sports Complex before too long.

The Des Plaines Valley Library District expects to purchase 3 acres in the development to build the new Crest Hill Library in July. This is a very important project for the development that will create traffic in the development and one that will spur further development. The library

district expects to break ground in October and opening in 2012.

The second is the dismantling of the Nicor communications tower located on the North East corner of Weber Road and Caton Farm road. The tower coming down will open up prime retail lots at this busy intersection.

On the other side of town, construction will begin in July on a new 7-11 and gas station on the corner of Plainfield Road (Rt. 30) and Larkin Avenue. This gas station and convenience store will be located on the former Mobil gas station site revitalizing that corner and cleaning up the Plainfield Road corridor.

Across the street from the new 7-11 in the Hill Crest Shopping Center work has already begun on the new Jembro retail store. Jembro is a discount retailer similar to TJ Maxx and Marshalls; they offer an extensive line of home furnishings, electronics, apparel, and housewares among other things. The Crest Hill location will be the company's first store in Illinois. Jembro is expecting to open their doors for business at the beginning of August.

CREST Hill Picnic - AUGUST 7 - NOON - 9p.m.

The City will host a FREE Picnic for all residents and their families on Sunday, August 7, 2011, Noon to 9:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Park, 700 Theodore Street, Joliet.

Admission to the Picnic is FREE. There will be FREE games for kids starting at Noon and going until 4:00 p.m. The kids will also be happy to know that there will be a face painting artist on-hand for FREE in the kids area from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Crest Hill Police Department, in conjunction with the Joliet Masons, will be conducting free child DNA IDs and infant/child safety seat installation inspections.

Picnic goers will also enjoy performances from Bob Doszak, Street Worthy, The Threesome and ARRA. Also going on at the picnic will be The Crest Hill Business Expo, Crest Hill Woman's Civic League Bake Sale, Crest Hill Lion's Club Bingo, Chaney-Monge and Richland school reunions and food provided by Angels of the Braveheart.

For further information call 815-741-5123.

FIRE SPRINKLERS PROMOTE A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

In December of 2009 the City passed a fire sprinkler ordinance for the single family/residential district. This ordinance applies to new construction of residential homes. The City at the time of its adoption became the 64th municipality/fire district in northern Illinois to have committed to property protecting and life saving fire sprinklers into residential development. Since 2009, ten more communities have adopted similar ordinances. Home fire sprinklers are proven to help protect the environment. Researchers have constructed two living rooms identical in size and content. One of the two rooms was fire protected, the other was unprotected. At the conclusion of the fire event, researchers discovered the automatic fire suppression system:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 98%
- Reduced fire damage by up to 97%
- Reduced water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%
- Reduced water pollution

With all the efforts today for the environment and “green” construction, a single fire in an unsprinklered building can detract from the benefits of “green” construction.

The NFSA, National Fire Sprinkler Association, has put together the “green” facts:

Save water! Fire Sprinklers save water otherwise used by fire departments to extinguish fires in unsprinklered structures.

Conserve! Fire Sprinklers use, on average, 341 gallons of water to extinguish a house fire. Firefighters need, on average, 2,935 gallons to put out these fires.

Keep the Earth clean! Fire Sprinklers reduce the amount of toxins introduced into the environment by extinguishing fires before they are able to spread to an unmanageable stage.

Save a tree! Fire Sprinklers minimize the amount of damage caused by fire, which significantly reduces the use of our natural resources to rebuild the burned out structures.

Reduce waste to landfills! Fire Sprinklers dramatically reduce the amount of waste piled into our landfills from burned out structures and personal property.

Reduce your carbon footprint! Fire Sprinklers reduce the amount of CO2 emissions in the air as well as the reduction of toxic gas.

Reduces pollution! Fire Sprinklers reduce the amount of toxic runoff that pollutes ground water and streams by extinguishing fires before they result in total destruction of buildings.

Protect your home! Over 90% of fires are controlled by the operation of just one fire sprinkler.

Save lives! There has never been a multiple fatality in any building with a property operating fire sprinkler system. NEVER!

A Structure Fire isn't Green!

A structure fire produces tons of poisonous gases and toxic particles that are spewed into the air, and wastes thousands of gallons of water in fighting the flames. In the USA fires kill more people each year than all other natural disasters combined. 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Over 3,000 people are killed by fires in the U.S. each year, along with 160,000 reported fire injuries, and \$14.6 Billion in direct property loss, along with untold damage to the environment each and every year.

As a fire grows in a home, toxic gases build up very quickly. It reaches a point called “flashover” in as little as three minutes. This is the point where the fire has heated the room and all contents that the flammable gases reach auto-ignition temperatures and “flash” at well over 1,300 degrees F. During flashover, the smoke appears to catch fire until everything bursts into flames. Fire sprinkler systems were designed to stop flashover by cooling the fire long before it can reach the kind of heat needed for flashover to occur. By extinguishing fires before they reach flashover, fire sprinkler systems eliminate the chance of toxic impact on the environment.

To find out more about fire sprinkler systems got to the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT - SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

While summer and fun go hand in hand, it can also present some safety risk for your child. We have put together some safety tips to help make your children's summer a safe one.

Home Safety

- Always know where your children are.
- Help children learn important phone numbers.
- Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood.
- Know your children's friends.
- Set limits on computer use when a parent/guardian is not home.
- Make sure children don't wear clothing with their names on it.
- If your children are home alone, make sure they keep the doors locked at all times and that they do not answer the door for anyone but designated people.

- Set up a telephone policy for whom they can answer the phone for.

What to do in an Emergency

- Make sure children know their full name parents' full names, address, and phone number.
- Explain to children that an emergency is where they need the help of a police officer, firefighter, or doctor.
- Teach children to dial 911 in an emergency and have children practice giving the following information: nature of emergency, full name, full address and telephone number.
- Talk with children about what to do when they need but it is not an emergency
- Make sure the children can reach you at all times
- Post emergency phone numbers by the phone, including your work and cell phone numbers.
- Discuss with your children safe place for them to go to if they need help.

Bike Safety

- Make sure your child always wears a helmet and that it fits properly.
- Check the bike to make sure the brakes, reflectors and tires are working properly.
- Adjust the seat to your child's height.
- Teach your child to check for traffic before entering a street or intersection by looking left and right.
- Explain the rules of the road to your child.
- Bicycles are considered vehicles and must obey the same rules as motorists.
- Teach your child proper hand signals for left and right turn.
- Never allow your child to wear head phone while riding.

The Crest Hill Police Department hopes you and your family have a wonderful and safe summer.

WHEN Will THE TRAIN HORNS STOP Blowing?

News from the City Administrator and
Baxter-Woodman Consulting Engineers

This has been a common question ever since the City made an agreement with Canadian National (CN) prior to their purchase of the E.J.&E. Railroad. The City has been working on establishing quiet zones since CN finalized their purchase of the E.J.&E. Railroad. This article will describe the necessary process to achieve a quiet zone and when the City anticipates it to be complete.

A quiet zone is a section of a rail line that contains one or more consecutive railroad crossings at which Locomotive horns are not routinely sounded.

The goal of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in developing the train horn rule is to ensure safety for motorists at highway-rail grade crossings while allowing communities the opportunity to preserve or enhance quality of life for their residents by establishing areas/times in which train horns are silenced.

The City is concerned with the potential impacts of increased rail traffic through the City with the recent CN purchase of the E.J.&E. Railroad. The goal is to establish a Quiet zone railroad corridor along the CN rail line within an area bounded by Gaylord Road to the west and Oakland Avenue to the east in accordance with the Federal Railroad Administration Rule to mitigate the effects of increased train horn noise.

The FRA rule describes the requirements that communities must meet in order to implement a quiet zone. The public entities that are

responsible for the traffic control and law enforcement at public highway-rail grade crossings are the only ones that can designate a quiet zone. The City has completed the planning stages of establishing the quiet zone. The City worked with CN and the appropriate state transportation authority and formed a diagnostic team which assessed the risk of collision at each grade crossing. An objective determination was made about where and what type of additional safety engineering improvements are necessary to effectively reduce the risk associated with silencing the horns based on localized conditions such as highway traffic volumes, train traffic volumes, the accident history and physical characteristics of the crossing, including existing safety measures.

A new quiet zone must be at least ½ mile in length and have at least one public highway-rail grade crossing. Every public grade crossing in a new quiet zone must be equipped at minimum with the standard or conventional flashing light and gate automatic warning system. The City intends to create a quiet zone to cover a full 24-hour period.

In order to establish a quiet zone the City is required to make crossing safety improvements at the Gaylord Road and Oakland Avenue at at-grade crossings with the CN railroad. A 100 foot non-traversable concrete median will be installed on Gaylord Road south of the crossing. A concrete median will be installed on Emlong Street to create a right-in/right-out access. Hot-mix asphalt pavement widening will be performed on Gaylord Road south of the crossing including drainage structure adjustment, pavement marking, and parkway restoration on Gaylord Road. One hundred feet of flush median with reflective channelization

with the Clerk's Office for more information.

If the City Council approves the fall tree program in September, applications will be available at the City Clerk's office or online starting September 7, 2011, due date for applications will be September 30, 2011. If you received a tree last year you will not be eligible for a tree this year.

Resident should apply with the City Clerk's Office before making any arrangements. For

panels will be installed on the north side of the crossing within the existing pavement width. At Oakland, 100 feet of flush median with reflective channelization panels will be installed on each side of the crossing within the existing pavement width.

Pursuant to the City's agreement with CN, the cost of these improvements are being funded by CN except for the 100 foot non-traversable concrete median on Gaylord Road south of the crossing. The FRA requires a minimum safety measure of reflective channelization panels; the City and Plainfield Township Highway Department have agreed to jointly fund the difference in cost for a concrete median in this location as opposed to reflective channelization panels as an additional safety precaution.

The median improvements are scheduled to be completed by the fall of this year. Once all necessary safety engineering improvements are made, the City must certify to FRA that the required level of risk reduction has been achieved. The new 24 hour quiet zone on the CN Railroad within the City limits is anticipated to be established by the end of this year.

Per federal regulations, there are exceptions to the no-horn rule. Within an established quiet zone, it does not mean that a train engineer will never sound its horn. The engineers are permitted to sound the horn in a quiet zone if they believe that a situation exists that warrants operation of the horn, such as the presence of pedestrians or animals crossing over the tracks. Under federal regulations, engineers must sound the horn to warn railroad maintenance employees or contractors working on the tracks.

more information on restrictions and services provided, please contact the City Clerk's Office. Applications are also available online.

Driving Safety Tip

In case you are in a car accident or some other emergency situation, please have programmed in your cell phone an emergency number where the police department or fire department may contact someone. This number should be listed as ICE (In Case of Emergency).

NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

The City has two citywide garage sales every year. The first one is held the third weekend in May and the second one is held the third weekend in August. The fee is \$5.00 each for the city-wide sales and the city will do the advertising in the Herald News and the local Crest Hill Cable TV Channel 6. Residents are allowed to have two garage sales on their own along with the two citywide sales totaling four per year. Check

New City Website

We are proud to announce The City of Crest Hill's new website will launch in July.

The new website will have many of the new bells and whistles you find on many new websites. To start, visitors to the site will enjoy enhanced navigation that will make the users experience much easier. Important news and updates, as well as applications will be much easier to find on the new site. One very useful feature added to the site will be a "all-page" search engine.

Residents will be able to sign-up for e-news blasts from the website. Residents can sign-up for one or all of the update categories that will include: agendas and minutes, news and police alerts.

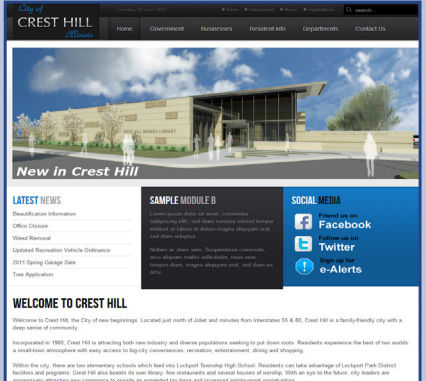
As part of the July website launch residents can now follow the City of Crest Hill on Facebook(City of Crest Hill) and Twitter (@CityofCrestHill). Once up and running

updates on the City's website will be seen on its Facebook Places page and Twitter feed.

Residents will continue to be able to search through a list of businesses in town. The online business directory is available on our current website but it has been expanded where we can eventually display more information on the businesses that choose to take part in the program. The online business directory currently lists over 250 businesses in town.

Residents will also find updated applications for the Clerk's Office and Building and Zoning Department as well as updated information for the Police Department, Streets and Public Works Department and our Water Department.

Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out what's going on in the City and be sure to check back in July to see the City's new website for yourself.



City of CREST Hill



@CityofCRESTHill

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City of CREST HILL

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