

Update

News from the City of Crest Hill, Illinois

From Mayor Soliman



I hope that you and your families are safe, healthy, and well. The past eight months have been stressful, frustrating, and challenging. The coronavirus pandemic has created many disruptions, cancellations, uncertainty, fear, loss, and so many other obstacles for us to overcome. There are new guidelines daily, sometimes hourly, which we all need to adjust to. We are certainly writing the playbook for this pandemic as we move forward. In any case, I am asking for your cooperation to wear your masks, wash your hands, and practice safe social distancing, hope for a vaccine soon and a return to our normal lives.

Unfortunately, planned economic development throughout our City has been slowed or stopped because of Covid-19. Several projects were scheduled to begin construction in the Spring of 2020, however, developers have taken a “wait and see” attitude and postponed their construction because of the uncertainty of this pandemic. The good news is that many of the developments are moving forward with their plans for new development.

We, however, were happy to continue with our scheduled projects for 2020. We were able to continue addressing our long-term aging infrastructure needs by installing new water main on 4 blocks of Kelly Avenue, which also included a complete rehabilitation of the roadway. We also completed a road resurfacing project on Pioneer Road and we are currently involved in the repainting of the Gaylord Road water tower. We also completed our new Public Works facility and have successfully transferred all of our equipment and personnel to our new 40,000 sq. ft. facility located at 2090 Oakland Avenue. This modern facility will be a tremendous benefit to our residents and our employees and will grow with us. Due to careful financial planning, this facility has been built without any tax increases to our residents. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions placed on us by Covid-19, we have postponed our grand opening until hopefully the Spring of 2021.

We will also once again be mailing a property tax rebate check to those residents and business owners who complete the property tax rebate form that was recently mailed to each homeowner and business owner. Forms are also available on the City’s website and at City Hall. Forms must be completed and returned to City Hall by December 1, 2020 to be eligible for a property tax rebate. This will be the eighth year that we will issue the rebate checks which you should receive around March 17, 2021. This check will be a rebate of 25% of the municipal portion of your property tax bill. I am also proud to report that at our August 17, 2020 City Council meeting, the City of Crest Hill received recognition for excellence in its governmental accounting and financial reporting practices. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded our City a certificate of achievement for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2019. This is the fifth consecutive year that our City has received this most prestigious award, which is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting. I offer my congratulations to our Treasurer’s Office on this achievement and thank them for their hard work. Earlier in the year, we have received a bond rating of AA which is the highest bond rating in our City’s 60 year history, and is also the third highest rating out of 21 investment grades; which will provide tremendous savings on bond issues for future projects.

We are also excited and looking forward to the completion of our new City Hall and Police Station complex on the property behind the Crest Hill Library. This project was long overdue but will be a tremendous improvement to our City for years to come. This site will centrally locate municipal services within the City for all of our residents as was recommended by our updated comprehensive plan in 2014. We have been fiscally responsible and selected the most cost effective option in regards to long term viability for all of our employees and residents. We will be able to build these facilities without any increase in property taxes. Our hope is that these buildings will be completed in the Spring of 2022 and at that time we will market our current property for future development prospects.

My wish is that you enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends, a joyous and Blessed Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

As always, I hope that this newsletter is informative to you. I am looking forward to 2021 as 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. Please feel free to contact me at (815)741-5123 with any comments or suggestions that you may have. Please be Safe and Stay Healthy!

Raymond R. Soliman

Mayor

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Vicki Hackney
City Clerk
815-741-5100

City Clerk's Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2021 ANIMAL TAGS

The 2021 Animal Tags will go on sale on Monday, January 4, 2021. Renewal letters will be mailed to residents during the last week of December 2020. The cost of the animal tags is \$5.00 each. Per City Ordinance all residents owning or who has custody of a dog or cat must register the pet with the City Clerk's Office. There is a restriction on the numbers of dogs and cats allowed per residence. There should not be more than a combined total of four dogs and/or cats at a single property at any time

PETITION PACKETS AVAILABLE FOR THE APRIL 6, 2021 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

Crest Hill petition packets for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election are available until December 21, 2020. Packets can be picked up at the Clerk's Office, 1610 Plainfield Road. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Petition packets must be filed between December 14th and December 21st, 2020. Crest Hill residents will be voting for the following offices:

Mayor – (1 office-4 year term)

City Clerk-(1 office-4 year term)

City Treasurer-(1 office-4 year term)

Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward One (1 office-4 year term)

Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Two (1 office-4 year term)

Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Three (1 office-4 year term)

Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Four (1 office-4 year term)

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

Pursuant to the May 18, 2020 Crest Hill City Council meeting, an ordinance was approved changing the due date for the annual licenses from June 30th to January 31st of every year. All annual license renewals will be mailed out in the month of December 2020 and will be due by January 31, 2021. Every

license holder will be required to complete the license application and return it along with your payment for the Clerk's Office to process your license. For further information or questions regarding annual licenses, please contact the Clerk's Office at (815) 741-5100.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT IN MOTION

Scott R. McMaster
Community Development Director
815-741-5107

NEW BUSINESSES

2020 has been an interesting year. The pandemic has set back a lot of development over the course of the year but it has not stopped businesses from opening in Crest Hill. Below are a list of new businesses that have come to the City in 2020:

- The Door Christian Center at 2361 Plainfield Road
- PKS Truck & Trailer Repair at 2131 Oakland Avenue
- Chicago Style Grill at 20645 Renwick Road
- Expert Truck & Trailer Service at 1263 Caton Farm Road
- Midtown Furniture at 1693 Plainfield Road
- Lea Diesel Services at 921 Brian Drive
- Cutz by Tone at 406 Theodore Street
- Revamp Nutrition at 1701 N Larkin Avenue, Ste. 217
- MasterCore Technologies at 1920 Donmaur
- A Strange Place at 21129 Division Street
- The Nail Pro-filers at 2400 Caton Farm Road, Ste. B
- Shay's African Market at 16135 Weber Road
- Crescent Chiropractic at 16119 Weber Road
- Reavis Elevator Services at 840 Brian Drive
- Weber Tobacco and Vape at 16133 Weber Road
- Alvine Hair Studio at 406 Theodore Street
- Forza Table & Tap at 1827 Knapp Drive
- Alert Plumbing at 1101 Caton Farm Road
- Kafe de Kasa at 2446 Plainfield Road

ON THE HORIZON

While business has slowed for some, others are growing and expanding right here in Crest Hill. Some notable businesses have not only grown but have built new buildings to accommodate their expansion. **Low Voltage Systems and Creative Powder Coating**, both Crest Hill businesses, are in the process

of constructing brand new facilities to meet their needs.

A development group will soon begin construction on a new and much needed fuel station at the southwest corner of Broadway Street and Caton Farm Road. The new gas station is expected to house a couple of diesel pumps as well as three quick service restaurants.

Local car dealer, **Rides Unlimited**, is planning a move! With two locations currently located at 660 Theodore Street and on Route 30 in Plainfield, Rides Unlimited will be consolidating both locations to 1911 Plainfield Road. This is exciting growth and one that will put a business well known to the area in a more high profile site.

More exciting news and businesses will be coming in 2021, so stay tuned!

CONSIDERING A BUILDING PROJECT?

If you are considering remodeling or repairs at your home, make sure you're aware of your rights as a consumer. Investigate prospective contractors, get everything in writing, and follow these tips to help protect yourself from being defrauded:

- Look up contractor reviews across various websites. Consider searching the Better Business Bureau (www.chicago.bbb.org), Yelp, and Google for past complaints. Be wary of contractors with many negative reviews.
- Ensure that the contract has a total cost noted, a complete description of the work to be performed, and estimated start and completion dates. The contract should state that any charges outside of those in the contract must be authorized by you in advance.
- Confirm that the contractor is fully insured and ask for a certificate of insurance indicating you as the additional insured.

For more information on consumer rights or if you think you were defrauded by a contractor, bring your concerns to the Illinois Attorney General by calling 1-800-386-5438 or by visiting www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/consumers.

FROM THE BLUE LINE

Ed Clark
Chief of Police
815-741-5115



WELCOME SIMO!

The Crest Hill Police Department is excited to announce we have a new addition to the Police family! Please welcome K9 Simo. Will County State's Attorney Jim Glasgow's Office purchased Simo for the Department. The Will County State's Attorney's Office also kindly paid for the vehicle equipment and the initial training! Thank you, Will County States Attorney's office.

We also would like to thank the Crest Hill Lion's Club for their generous donation of \$2,500 to help with the initial costs.

Simo is a four-year-old German Shorthair Pointer who came to us from another Chicago area Department. Simo has a great track record, having worked with many local and federal agencies.

Simo is a single purpose dog, meaning he specializes in drug detection, tracking and article searches. Simo's partner is Officer John McHale. Officer McHale was chosen after a selection process and began training with Simo in February 2020. They are currently on the street in the Patrol division. Simo has been proven to be well worth the cost and effort. He has already had success in located narcotics during traffic stops and tracked and located a subject who ran from a stolen vehicle. He many times is used to assist in narcotics investigations.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

With winter rapidly approaching, please make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving. Check your wipers, tires,

lights, and fluid levels. Lubricate door and trunk locks with lock lubricant to prevent freezing. Start with a full tank of gas. Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit in your vehicle. Some items for a kit include: Cellphone & charger, blankets, extra clothes, windshield scraper & brush, booter cables, etc. For a full survival kit list and additional information, please go to:

https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/Preparedness/Documents/winter_storm_preparedness_guidebook.pdf

Once on the road, be sure to Buckle your seat belts! Do not start driving until your windshield is defrosted. Drive slower and increase your following distance. Your speed should be adjusted for the conditions and match the flow of traffic. Only use a cell phone if you are safely over to the side of the road or in a parking lot. Never talk on a cell phone while driving. This is especially dangerous in winter weather conditions. Refuel often, keeping your gas tank near full to prevent ice in the tank and fuel lines, which could leave you stranded. When roads are snow covered, consider delaying your trip if possible, waiting for roads to be cleared.

If your vehicle becomes stuck in the snow, contact a towing company, but be prepared to wait in the cold weather for up to several hours. If you can be safely pulled out by another vehicle, make sure you use tow ropes with loops on the ends.

Stay safe this winter!!!

YOUR PETS AND YOU

Pets can bring joy to a person's life. They provide companionship, exercise, and in some cases therapy to an individual. There is also a lot of responsibility in owning a pet. To provide safety for the pet as well as citizens of the City, there are several City ordinances concerning them.

Firstly, before bringing a dog or cat into your home it should be evaluated by a veterinarian to make sure it is in good health. Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies at least once every 12 months.

Dogs and cats must be licensed with the City. There is a five-dollar charge for licensing. If your dog or cat leaves

the residence, and police are notified of the missing pet, this will greatly help to get the lost pet home.

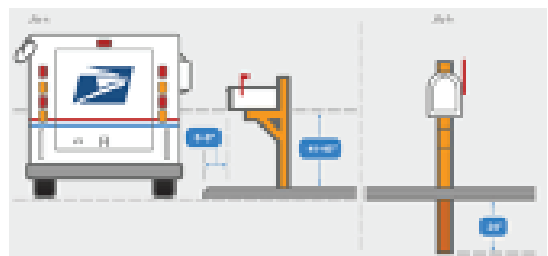
You are limited to a total of four cats and dogs per residence.

If you have a dog, the chances are good that it barks at some point. In some instances, this is a good thing. A dog's bark can alert and even scare off an intruder. But when a dog barks non-stop it can be disturbing to your neighbors. If this is occurring, it is a violation of the ordinance. You must take steps to stop this. This could be as simple as bringing the dog in the house.

Dogs and cats are not allowed to roam free (even on the owner's own property), If they are out of the house they must be on a leash, or behind a gate. Even if your pet is completely docile, other citizens do not know this and your pet can scare them.

Lastly, taking your dog for a walk is a good thing. However, if your dog defecates while on the walk you must clean up after the dog. The last thing anybody wants to do is walk out of their house and step into a mess.

If you violate any of the above ordinances you can be fined up to \$750.00 dollars. For a detailed description of all ordinances concerning animals go to the City website at www.cityofcresthill.com. Click on ordinances and then Title 6 Animals.



IS YOUR MAILBOX TOO CLOSE TO THE ROAD?

If a mailbox is inadvertently damaged during snowplowing efforts, the City will set a temporary mailbox in its place until permanent repairs are made. The City will determine what condition the mailbox was in prior to it being struck and act accordingly with regard to repair. Mailboxes that are too close to the road or sitting on rotted

posts may be the responsibility of the homeowner to repair. The diagram included from USPS.com shows the proper placement of a mailbox at the road. Please report broken mailboxes and / or posts to the Department of Public Works at 815-741-5108.

CLEAR THE ROADS

SO PUBLIC WORKS CAN CLEAR THE ROADS

With winter season rapidly approaching the Public Works department would like to give residents a friendly reminder that when any type of winter storm is approaching to kindly not park on the road whenever possible. City Ordinance requires all cars be removed from roadways after 2" of snow but if possible kindly remove cars for any event. From the final snowflake falling it will normally take Public Works 6-8 hours to fully clear every road from snow curb to curb. When the roads are clear City snowplows will be able to clean the curb and gutter quicker preventing large ice dams from forming. Ice dams are formed when snowplows are not able to clear the curb but have to go around a car leaving snow that can freeze during the overnight lows.

While plow drivers take care of public roads, residents can keep their neighborhoods safe by appropriately clearing sidewalks, driveways, and fire hydrants this winter. Shovel and use the right amount of salt (a 12-ounce cup of salt for every 10 sidewalk squares) to keep the sidewalk in front of your home clear for you and your neighbors. When shoveling, remember that it's illegal and unsafe to put snow back on the road, even when snow plows push snow into driveways. Also, be ready for emergencies by clearing snow in front of fire hydrants near your property. Thank you for doing your part to be Salt Smart and keep our neighborhoods safe this winter! To learn more winter clean-up tips, visit <http://www.lowerdesplaineswatershed.org/winter-clean-up-tips>

REBATE INFORMATION

As a reminder, all forms and supporting documents for the Property Tax Rebate are due by December 1st, 2020. In order to be eligible for the rebate program all balances due to the City including past due water bills and outstanding liens must be paid in full by December 1st, 2020. Please note, the City is not responsible for applications completed

incorrectly, lost in the mail or received after the deadline.

DON'T FORGET!

December 11th is the last day for yard waste pickup for the season. Residents with garbage service can put unlimited yard waste out on their regular collection day. Republic Services will collect Christmas trees during the 2 weeks after Christmas.



CREST HILL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2020

Attention all Clark Griswold fans the Crest Hill annual Christmas Lights contest is once again taking place in Crest Hill. You can download the entry form from the city website: www.cityofcresthill.com or pick them up in the City Clerks office, or contact me and I will e-mail you an entry: tina.oberlin@comcast.net

ENTRIES MUST BE RETURNED TO ME BY 12-11-2020. I really hope to see a record amount of entries, I think we could all use a sleigh load of Holiday cheer this year!!

If you have any questions just give me a call at: 815/953-4257. HO HO HO!!

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS!

The City Clerk's Office continues to collect Christmas cards for the troops. Please drop off Christmas cards anytime throughout the year at the Clerk's Office, 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, IL. Cards can be signed or unsigned. Every Christmas, the Clerk's Office sends the cards to Operation Care Package so that they can be mailed to the troops during the holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at (815) 741-5100. Thank you.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: Police, Fire or Ambulance DIAL911

Illinois Poison Center	800-222-1222
Police Department (Non-Emergency)	815-741-5115
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
<i>(free consulting for alternative Medicare plans)</i>	

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
Marco Coladipietro
815-940-4156

WARD 4

Nate Albert
815-791-7495
Joe Kubol
630-441-8052

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 4:30 p.m.