

### From Mayor Soliman



Dear Residents,

Congratulations to our Police Chief, Dwayne Wilkerson who retired on Oct. 17, 2016 with 30 years of service to our city. I want to thank Dwayne for his service and police protection to our city for the past 30 years and the last 8 years as our Police Chief. We certainly wish him a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement. With his retirement and the upcoming 2017 Municipal Elections, our Deputy Chief of Patrol, Ed Clark was unanimously approved by the City Council to serve as our Interim Police Chief. The City Council also unanimously approved our City Attorney Heather McGuire to serve as our Interim City Administrator. I am confident

that both of these appointments will serve our city in a professional manner and continue to move our city forward in a positive direction.

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 will be the fourth year that we will issue the rebate checks which you should receive around March 17, 2017. 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 the April 18, 2016 City Council meeting, the City of Crest Hill received a recognition for excellence in its governmental accounting and financial reporting practices. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the city a Certificate of Achievement for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2015. This is the first time that our city has received this award which is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting. Less than 12% of municipal governments in the State of Illinois received this honor in 2015. Please see related article on page 4 on the financial health of our city.

Many road projects were completed in 2016, including the addition of Churnovic Lane and Lidice Parkway in the Crest Hill Business Park. Traffic signals were relocated to the new roadways to improve traffic flow and safety to the Division Street corridor. These two new roadways intersect our two newest and recently completed warehouse buildings, totaling approximately 750,000 square feet in our business park. With the recent acquisition of all easements, major improvements will begin in the Spring of 2017 for the Gaylord Road/Division Street intersection. These improvements will include a realignment of the intersection and new traffic light signal. Please see related article on pages 4 and 5 regarding Division Street improvements.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our first annual **Winter Festival** on November 26th. This will be a fun, family evening with many activities including a visit with Santa Claus, hayrack rides, food and music for the holiday season. I want to wish all our residents a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year in 2017. 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.

*Ramond R. Soliman*  
Mayor

### VEHICLE STICKERS ELIMINATED

Effective January 1, 2017, the City of Crest Hill will no longer require residents to purchase Vehicle Stickers. Animal Tags will still be required and are due by March 31, 2017. The cost for Animal Tags are \$5.00 each. A combined total of four dogs and/or cats shall be allowed. Renewal notices will be mailed at the end of December. Tags can be purchased at the City Clerk's Office with cash or check only. Please bring your application and payment to the Clerk's Office during regular business hours. After hours, you may place your application, payment and self-addressed stamped envelope in the white drop box located in front of the City Hall. Tags can also be purchased through the mail if you mail your application along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your payment to City Hall. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Questions please contact the City Clerk's Office at (815) 741-5100.

## **PETITIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE APRIL 4, 2017 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**

Crest Hill petition packets for the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election are available until December 19, 2016. 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 5:00 p.m. Petition Packets must be filed between December 1 and December 19, 2016. Crest Hill residents will be voting for the following offices:

- Mayor
- City Clerk
- City Treasurer
- Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward One
- Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Two
- Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Three
- Alderman/Alderwoman-Ward Four

Candidates must live in Crest Hill for one year preceding the election and in the ward that he or she is seeking office.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Voter Registration is available through the Clerk's Office. To register, you must be 18 years of age and a resident of Illinois and in the election precinct for 30 days prior to the date of the next election. Two forms of ID are required, confirming your current address.

## **BUSINESS IS GROWING IN CREST HILL**

Interest in Crest Hill for future business continues to grow. Through the 3rd quarter of 2016, 23 new businesses have opened bringing 60+ jobs to the City. Among the businesses that have opened in 2016 are Fit Foundation, Tokyo Spa, Window World, and Domino's.

## **O'REILLY AUTO PARTS TO OPEN FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

The landscape is changing at the corner of Plainfield Road and Kellogg Street. O'Reilly Auto Parts, which broke ground earlier this summer, is expected to be open just in time for the holidays. Bringing this national brand to Crest Hill was a long and arduous process, mainly because of difficulties with the site,

but has culminated in what will be a very nice addition to the list of businesses in Crest Hill. Additionally, information can be obtained by calling the City Hall at 815-741-5100.

## **ANIMAL CLINICS FIND SUCCESS IN CREST HILL**

There is no shortage of care for animals in Crest Hill and two of the city's clinics will be providing bigger and better service. Both Rowland Veterinary Clinic and Crest Hill Cat and Dog Clinic have reached new levels of success. Rowland is now located at 2314 Plainfield Road (the old Grapevine restaurant). This is a larger space which the owners redeveloped to make the clinic more conducive to its services. The Crest Hill Cat and Dog Clinic is still located at Caton Farm Road and Copper Court but is building a brand new site to accommodate its bustling success.

## **BUSINESS PARK NEAR CAPACITY**

The Crest Hill Business Park on Division Street has seen plenty of activity over the last year. Ridgeline Property Group has completed a 438,000 square foot building at the corner of Division Street and Enterprise Boulevard. The company is currently vetting potential users for the building and hopes to finalize a tenant soon.

Just opposite this site is the new cold storage facility built by Cloverleaf Cold Storage. This building will work in conjunction with Rich Products and serve as a supplementary amenity for all of their freezer needs. A large conveyor system is elevated above Advantage Avenue for ease of use between both the Rich's building and the new cold storage building.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BRINGS NEW RESIDENTS**

Will County Habitat for Humanity completed a project on Nicholson Street in September to welcome the City's newest residents. Habitat for Humanity is a movement that provides decent and affordable home ownership for families who lack adequate shelter. Will County Habitat is looking at other opportunities in Crest Hill and hopes to complete another project soon.

## LUXURY TOWNHOMES TO BE BUILT AT RENAISSANCE CROSSING

Jarper Properties has purchased 3.5 acres at the northeast corner of Division Street and Zausa Drive. A commercial lot that has sat vacant for a long time has now been rezoned to residential for new development. Jarper Properties has employed Greystone Homes to build 14 new upscale duplex units on this property coming in summer 2017. Greystone has already built many single family homes in Renaissance Crossing and will bring added value to the subdivision with the new development.

## NEW CITY WEBSITE COMING SOON

As the City of Crest Hill pursues new development, marketing efforts must be scaled up for attraction. January 2017 will bring a new look to the city website that will provide better functionality for users and draw in those seeking to do business in Crest Hill. In the age of technology, a community's website is the first point of contact for potential new residents, businesses, and developers.

## CITY OF CREST HILL PART OF NEW "SMART MESSAGE" SYSTEM

Earlier this year, the City partnered with the City of Joliet and Will County as one of the pilot groups for the Everbridge "Smart Message" notification system. Smart Message allows residents to stay connected by receiving up to the minute emergency alerts in Crest Hill and the surrounding area. Examples include evacuation recommendations, boil orders, water main breaks, and crime alerts. Residents can customize their notifications to receive emergency alerts as well as general community information through both email and text message. Residents can also add specific addresses to ensure they receive customized alerts that affect their home or business.

Don't be the last to know - sign up now, it's free! Go to [www.cityofcresthill.com](http://www.cityofcresthill.com) and click on "Secure Message Alert" on the homepage for more information.

## CREST HILL'S FIRST EVER HOLIDAY KICKOFF

In an effort to bring the community together during the "most wonderful time of the year," the City of Crest Hill will be hosting

its inaugural winter event at City Hall on November 26th. Sponsored by local businesses, the event will kick off with a tree lighting ceremony by Mayor Ray Soliman while some of Crest Hill's best businesses will be on hand to advertise their services. The winter event is family friendly and will have a horse and hayrack ride, live reindeer, live music, and, of course, a visit from Santa. Be sure to come by from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The night will be one to remember.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

It's that time of year again! Get out your strings of lights, life size plastic reindeer, giant Santa's, jolly snowmen and inflatable elves to put the Griswold's home to shame. Once again, we will be having a holiday light's contest in Crest Hill. Entry forms are available at City Hall or [www.cityofcresthill.com](http://www.cityofcresthill.com). Complete and return the forms to Tina Oberlin by Friday, December 9 to be part of the contest. The secret elves will then comb the neighborhoods looking for their personal picks. Winners will be announced at the December 19th City Council meeting. You may contact Alderwoman Oberlin at 815-953-4257. HO HO HO to all and good luck!



*City of* CREST HILL  
*Illinois*

## FINANCIAL HEALTH OF CREST HILL

At the April 18, 2016 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 of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the City a Certificate of Achievement for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2015. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Less than 12% of municipal governments in the State of Illinois achieved this honor in 2015.

With the new fiscal year opening May 1, the City Council unanimously passed a balanced budget for 2016/2017. The City's general fund shows revenue of \$9,489,004.00 and expenses of \$9,422,004.00. The water/sewer fund shows revenue of \$7,864,368.00 and expenses of \$6,902,823.00. Both accounts confirm a surplus.

The overall budget has allowed for the hiring of three additional police officers for public safety and \$3.7M in construction improvements. The improvements to the intersection of Gaylord Road and Division Street as well as the reconfiguration of Enterprise Boulevard will progress the safety and traffic flow along the Division Street Corridor. Additionally, the intersection of Weber Road and Caton Farm Road will see major improvements that will help spur economic development along the Weber Road Corridor.

This is the second year continuing to fund for new vehicles, computers and other technology that ensures City employees have the most up to date equipment to provide better services to residents. A feasibility study is also in progress to assess space needs for a new public works facility.

Always committed to its police officers, the City has a long range vision and plan for a fully funded police pension by 2038. This will be done by adding \$150,000 to that fund each year for the next ten years, which is above the requested annual amount. State law requires police pension funds be 90% funded by 2040.

One item always at the forefront is the continuation of the City's property tax rebate check program to all of its residents and property owners.

The Crest Hill budget maintains a six month reserve and, more

importantly, comes without any tax increases to its residents. The overall fund balance is strong and the City has a high quality AA3 bond rating.

"The City of Crest Hill has come a long way over the last eight years and we are proud to continue our tradition of providing quality services to our residents, visitors, and businesses," states Mayor Soliman. "We are fiscally responsible and conservative in our budgeting practices and are proud to have received an award that reflects this."

## REMINDER ABOUT GARBAGE DAY COLLECTION

In a continuing effort to keep our streets clean, please continue to do your part and follow both Republic's and the City's guidelines and rules. Below are some reminders about your refuse:

- Please make sure your receptacle, cans, and bags are set out after 4 pm the day before your scheduled collection day and brought in earlier than 8 pm the day of your scheduled collection day.
- Please do not set out building materials, junk motor vehicles, or large mechanical parts to be collected with your garbage. These items will not be collected.
- Please do not set out bulk items that do not fit into a trash receptacle. These may include furniture, carpet, appliances, etc. These items will not be collected with your regular pickup.
- The last day for yard waste pickup is November 30th.
- If you need to schedule an additional collection of bulk items that are not taken as part of your regular pickup on your collection day, please contact Republic Services at 815-723-3200.

The City of Crest Hill thanks you for your help in keeping the City clean.

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) continues to be a driving factor behind the city's street improvements. There is a good chance you have seen the enhancements completed or continuing in Crest Hill. Pavement removal and replacement projects include the following: Susanna Way to Manico Drive, William Drive, Connie Drive, Ardaugh Avenue, Cara Drive,

Cora Street to Hickory Street, Stern Avenue, Hoffman Street to Center Street, Chaney Avenue, Borio Drive to Palm Drive and Spirea Lane.

### **Division Street Improvements**

Division Street, between Gaylord Road and Weber Road, is in the process of seeing some major improvements. Two new roads in the Crest Hill Business Park have recently been completed and dedicated to improve traffic flow and safety, not only to the business park but to the Division Street corridor.

Churnovic Lane is the new north-south road that connects with Division from the south, and is located about half way between Advantage Avenue and Enterprise Boulevard. Lidice Parkway is the new east-west road that connects Churnovic Lane with Enterprise Boulevard.

The traffic signal that once existed at Division Street and Enterprise Boulevard has been relocated to Division Street and Churnovic Lane. Enterprise Boulevard now operates as a northbound one-way road for traffic to exit the business park for eastbound traffic only and the old signal at Buckner Pond Way has been removed.

Construction on the project started in June and the cost for the new roads and signal was \$1.372 million. The project was funded by a 50% match grant from the Economic Development Program/Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program as well as motor fuel tax and non-home rule sales tax moneys.

Finally, with the recent acquisitions of all easements, the intersection of Gaylord Road and Division Street is scheduled to begin construction in the Spring of 2017. The major improvements to this intersection are long overdue. The full reconstruction of the intersection will include a realignment, turning lanes with wider radius, and traffic signalization. The City has received 80% funding for this project from the Federal Government, and will subsequently only have to pay for 20%. The entire cost of the intersection will be \$1.1 million dollars. All of the above improvements to the Division Street corridor will certainly improve traffic flow and hopefully spur economic development along the Weber Road corridor.

The morning of Monday, September 19 was an encouraging day for the City of Crest Hill. Two new members of the Crest Hill Police Department were sworn in by City Clerk Vicki Hackney. Both Brandon Urquidi and Patrick Shea stood proud as they recited the oath before family and friends. Mayor Ray Soliman along with Police Chief Dwayne Wilkerson and Deputy Chief Ed Clark welcomed and wished both men a long, successful career with the City of Crest Hill.

Urquidi, a Joliet native and Joliet Junior College graduate, served briefly with the West Chicago Police Department before filling the vacancy with Crest Hill. His father, Fernando Urquidi, is a highly decorated Joliet Policeman. Officer Fernando Urquidi received the Martin S. Murrin award in 2015. This award is the highest honor in the Joliet Police Department given for outstanding bravery, heroism, selflessness, personal courage and devotion to duty.

Shea, of Frankfort, graduated from Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. Patrick is also the son of a policeman. Detective Patrick Shea is a nearly 30 year veteran of the Burbank Police Department.

Urquidi and Shea should prove to be fine officers with the City of Crest Hill.

In addition to the new officers, Officer Doug Hicks was promoted to a Sergeant in the Patrol Division and Sergeant Anthony Rossetti was promoted to the Investigations Division.

### **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.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### Emergency: Police, Fire or Ambulance DIAL911

Illinois Poison Center	800-222-1222
<b>Police Department</b> (Non-Emergency)	<b>815-741-5115</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>815-838-3287</b>
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

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](mailto:webadmin@cityofcresthill.com) or you can call 815-741-5100. City Hall hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5p.m.