

Update

News from the City of Crest Hill, Illinois

From Mayor Soliman



Dear residents,

Now that the winter season is finally behind us, I would like to thank all of our employees for their tremendous effort and a job well done in dealing with one of the coldest and snowiest winters in the past several years. As the school year is nearing the end, I hope that you are looking forward to a summer filled with many activities and well-deserved vacations. Please be safe in all your travels.

We welcomed 32 new businesses to our city in 2017, which included O'Reilly Auto Parts, Friaco's, Cloverleaf Cold Storage, Bricks & Minifigs, and Mr. Waffle's along with many other businesses. We are also very excited to welcome Amazon as one of our newest businesses in the City of Crest Hill. This 436,000 square foot building, located in the Crest Hill Business Park along Division Street, invested several million dollars in improvements and opened in the fall of 2017. We are proud of the fact that this sorting facility is only one of two in the entire Midwest region and employs several hundred full time employees along with 1500-2500 part time employees. The building permits and property taxes along with the many employment opportunities will certainly be a tremendous benefit to our City for many years to come. The major improvements that have been completed at the intersection of Gaylord Road and Division Street have certainly improved the safety and flow of traffic for the Business Park as well as along the Division Street corridor.

I am also proud to report at our March 5, 2018 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 our City a Certificate of Achievement for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2017. This is the third year in a row that our city has received this most prestigious award, which is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations to our Treasurer's Office on this achievement!

The City Council unanimously approved two TIF districts along the Weber Road corridor last Fall. Because of this action, we have been receiving many inquiries for economic development in these areas. We are excited that we will be able to bring new development to the Weber Road Corridor that will improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

In June, we will be breaking ground on our new Public Works facility which will be located in the 2100 block of Oakland Avenue. A space-needs analysis was completed and we are currently in the design phase of this facility. We will carefully consider all of our options, be fiscally responsible, and choose the most cost effective option in regards to long-term viability for all of our employees and residents. This building is long overdue, but will be a major improvement and a tremendous asset to our City.

This Memorial Day, we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary of our Veterans Memorial Garden. Please join us on May 28th at 2:00 PM to honor our Veterans and slain Police Officers for their sacrifices.

As always, I hope that this newsletter is informative to you. I am looking forward to another 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 suggestion that you may have.

Raymond R. Soliman

Mayor

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Vicki Hackney
City Clerk
815-741-5100

SHRED DAY

The City Clerk will be hosting a FREE SHRED DAY for Crest Hill residents on Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM. The Shred Day will be at City Hall located at 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill. Please limit the items to be shredded to three (3) boxes. Shred Day is being sponsored by Reza's Auto Repair. For further information or questions please contact the Clerk's Office at (815) 741-5100.

NEW EMPLOYEE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Karyn Bazzarone retired in January from her position as Secretary in the City Clerk's Office after 18 years of service. The Clerk's Office is happy to announce that a new employee has been hired to fill the Secretary position. Karen Kozerka began her employment with the City of Crest Hill on March 19, 2018. Congratulations and welcome to Karen! We are all looking forward to working with her in the Clerk's Office.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

All annual license renewals will be mailed out the month of May. License renewals are due by June 30, 2018. As a reminder, any resident that operates a business from their home is required to obtain a Home Business License and pay an annual fee of \$25.00. Please contact the Building Department at (815) 741-5106 to make sure your home business meets the requirements to operate in a Residential District. Also, any resident or business that has a burglar alarm protection device must obtain a license from the Clerk's Office. A Burglar Alarm License is needed if it automatically transmits a signal, message or warning to the Police Department telephone line or a signal which once verified by a central receiving unit results in a call to the Police Department. The fee for the Burglar Alarm License is \$50.00 for the first year and a \$20.00 renewal fee every year after. For further information or questions regarding annual licenses please contact the Clerk's Office at (815) 741-5100.

WELCOME TO CREST HILL INFORMATION BOOKLETS

Welcome Booklets are available free of charge at the Clerk's Office and provide valuable information about Crest Hill.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT IN MOTION

Scott R. McMaster
Economic Development & Zoning Manager
815-741-5107

CELEBRATING GROWTH

Every city's dream is to have a mega business come knocking and decide to settle in the community. That is exactly what happened in Crest Hill in the fall of 2017 when Amazon occupied the nearly 440,000 square foot sort facility in the Crest Hill Business Park. What's more? The online retail giant added several hundred jobs to the community and is still hiring creating a huge economic boost for the City.

Additionally, Cloverleaf Cold Storage has collaborated with Rich Foods and built a large refrigeration center that opened in the summer of 2017. With this new addition the Crest Hill Business Park is nearing capacity with only a few more acres to develop. Altogether, the business park, with its new and existing businesses, provides almost 3,000 jobs.

WHAT IS A TIF DISTRICT?

In November of 2017, the City Council passed ordinances for two Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. In order to compete and entice new development, Crest Hill created the City's very first TIF districts. One is designated along Weber Road from Caton Farm Road to Division Street. The other is centered around the current City Hall as well as the HOB0 and Big Lots development. A TIF district is a joint investment in the development or redevelopment in an area for a set period of time. The intent is that short-term gains be reinvested and leveraged so that all the taxing bodies will receive larger financial gains in the future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The funds for this investment do not come from current revenues, but from future tax revenues, not otherwise expected to occur. These new revenues are generated by increased public and private investment in identified, underperforming areas such as Weber Road. For more information, please visit the City of Crest Hill's website, www.cityofcresthill.com.

Since the installation of Crest Hill's TIF districts, there has been more development interest and activity than ever before. City staff are currently working with four potential developments along Weber Road near the library and Menards. The existing HOBO and Big Lots properties are also being considered for new development. With these TIF districts providing new developer incentives, the City of Crest Hill looks to experience new growth that might not otherwise have been possible.

NEW TO CREST HILL

In addition to Amazon and Cloverleaf Cold Storage, Crest Hill continues to add new restaurants and amenities to join the ever-growing roster of successful businesses in town. In the past few months the City has welcomed these notable and prosperous businesses:

- Friaco's Taco & Tequila Bar, 20645 W Renwick Road
- Bricks and Minifigs, A LEGO Resale Store, 20649 W Renwick Road
- Motivational Fitness Joliet, 1815 Knapp Drive
- Charter Fitness of Crest Hill, 1701 N Larkin Ave.
- Mr. Waffles Family Restaurant, 1602 N Prairie Ave.
- O'Reilly Auto Parts, 2480 Plainfield Road
- BDC Equipment & Rental, 258 Theodore Street

FROM THE BLUE LINE

Ed Clark
Chief of Police
815-741-5115

POLICE NEWS

Investigations Sergeant Jason Opiola will be the new Division Commander for the Will Grundy Major Crimes Task Force. The Will County Police memorial is on Thursday May 10, 2018. This memorial service begins with a 10:30 AM mass at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Joliet (127 S. Briggs St. Joliet, IL 60433). The memorial service will be held at the Will County Court House North Lawn Memorial. The memorial will feature students from Chaney Monge School. Police Chief Ed Clark will speak at the event on behalf of the Will County Police Chief's Association.

On February 8, 2018 the State of Illinois Department of Revenue Liquor Commission in conjunction with the City of Crest Hill Police Department conducted an undercover sting operation utilizing an underage participant to purchase alcohol from are liquor establishments. A total of 19 retailers were visited and 18 passed. Those who passed inspection include 12 Handles Ale House, 7-Eleven, Betty's Bistro, C.D. Liquors, Crest Hill Lanes and Pub, Crest Hill Shell, DK's Wine and Spirit, El Guero Crest Hill, Elsie's Place Café, Food 4 Less, Jackie's Slots & Shots, JC Catchers Tap, Paddy's, Shell of Crest Hill, Speedway, Stella's Place, Thornton's, and Walgreens.

Bada Brew, located at 802 Theodore Street, was cited for illegal sale of alcohol to a minor. A Liquor Hearing ensued resulting in a \$750.00 fine. The City plans to continue random checks at all liquor establishments and work in conjunction with the State Liquor Commission in conducting undercover operations.

City of

CREST HILL

Illinois

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Please join us as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Veterans Memorial Garden. Our solemn ceremony will be held on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 2:00 PM as we honor our Veterans and our slain Police Officers for their commitment, dedication, and sacrifices to our Country and our City. Master Sergeant Andy Kinne, Veteran United States Air Force and current Lockport Township High School ROTC Instructor, will be our guest speaker. Our musical selections will be performed by the Frankfort Brass Band and Anna Mae Lukancic. The ceremony should last approximately 45 minutes and refreshments will be served following the program.

LIDICE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Please join us for our annual Lidice Memorial Ceremony, Sunday, June 10th at 11:00 AM at the Prairie Avenue/Hosmer Lane Memorial Garden. This solemn ceremony honors those who perished in 1942 during World War II when the Village of Lidice, Czechoslovakia was destroyed. The City of Crest Hill and Phillips, Wisconsin are the only two communities in the United States that commemorate this tragedy. The ceremony should last approximately 1 hour and refreshments will be served following the program.

PUBLIC WORKS

HEALTHY YARDS. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

To provide a beautiful place for our friends and family to gather and keep our neighborhoods looking good, we spend time and resources on yard maintenance – which helps make our town a great place to live! The actions we take to maintain our yards can have direct consequences for the health of our community and our rivers.

Rivers can be wonderful assets for communities and we can all do our part to protect them. The health of our rivers dictates to what extent we can enjoy them.

Much of the rain water that falls on your property runs off into our stormwater sewer system. The stormwater sewer system transports polluted stormwater that contains lawn chemicals, litter and other debris, then discharges it without treatment into nearby rivers, streams or ponds. The City of Crest Hill Public Works Department encourages homeowners to incorporate native plants in their landscapes because they help catch, keep and clean rainwater where it falls, reducing the amount of polluted stormwater that reaches our rivers.

Join the thousands of homeowners who have incorporated native plants into their landscapes to create beautiful outdoor spaces, invite birds and butterflies to their yards, reduce their use of water, fertilizers and pesticides and protect our rivers.

Creating a beautiful outdoor landscape with native plants can be easy with a little know-how. We've provided a guide to help you select the right species for your yard's conditions.

WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

More and more, savvy gardeners are incorporating plants that are native to Illinois into their plans. These plants improve soil and water quality and foster healthy ecosystems.

- Native plants evolved to thrive in our area! Unlike ornamental plants, once native plants are established, they require less water and do not require fertilizers or pesticides to thrive. This makes it easy to save money in the long-term and protect the environment immediately.
- Native plants are deep-rooted, and help increase the soil's capacity to store water. This makes them effective at catching, keeping and cleaning stormwater where it falls.
- Native plants are local, rooting your yard in natural history and providing food and shelter for animals and pollinators. When you incorporate native plants into your landscaping, you're making the healthy choice.
- Native plants are beautiful and can offer a variety of colorful blooms throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons.

HEALTHY GARDENS AT HOME PROTECT OUR RIVERS

This spring, incorporate native plants in your landscaping. A variety of native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses can easily be incorporated into any existing garden design, from formal to casual. If this is your first time using native plants in your yard's landscaping, here are four easy tips to remember when making the switch:

1. Go local. Visit your local plant nursery for the best selection of native plants.
2. Save water. Once established, native plants do not need to be watered every day like most ornamental plants. Check the soil before you decide to water. If your plants need water, do so during the cooler part of the day.

PUBLIC WORKS

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3. Get established. Like any other plant, perennial native plants need care. To ensure new native plants thrive, continue to weed and trim your garden.
4. Cut the fertilizer. Native plants thrive in our area and don't need fertilizers or pesticides.

PLEASE NOTE

During the rainy season, many sanitary sewers throughout the city become overloaded by rainwater because of the improper hook ups of storm sewers, sump pumps, and gutters/downspouts. Please remember that City Ordinance 15.21 makes it illegal to have any storm water/rain water hooked into the sanitary sewer system. This clear water is to be pumped either onto the ground or in the storm sewer collection system. If you have any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system and would like to have them removed, the City has a 50/50 program where residents may receive up to 50% of the cost (up to \$4,000) reimbursed. Residents should contact the Building Department at 815-741-5106 for more information on the program or the Utilities Department at 815-741-5104 for more information on whether they have improper connections and how to identify them.

PUBLIC WORKS STREET DIVISION

Public Works plow crews used approximately 1,000 tons of salt during the course of the winter. As winter winds down Public Works Street crews will be looking towards spring and summer construction and maintenance. Street crews will be busy cleaning storm sewer catch basins and replacing old and faded street signs this spring and early summer. The street sweeper will also start operating within the next couple of weeks.

The City has renewed its contract for mosquito abatement with Clarke Environmental. Clarke will be conducting mosquito spraying beginning late spring and throughout the summer. Clarke will also treat storm sewer catch basins, inlets and manholes using a sustained release insecticide for season long control.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING WATER METERS

The City of Crest Hill Public Works department is in the process of changing out water meters and their accessories with the help of United Meters Inc. (UMI) If you receive a letter in the mail from UMI, please reach out to them at (877)533-8964. Setting up an appointment with UMI is quick and easy. UMI technicians will come to your home to replace your water meter at no charge to you.

During the replacement, which is expected to take 30-60 minutes, the water may need to be shut off in order to make the change. UMI technicians will be driving white company trucks with the UMI logo and will always carry UMI ID badges. Please only contact UMI once you have received a letter in the mail regarding your water meter.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Glen Conklin
City Treasurer
815-741-5103

The City of Crest Hill is proud to receive the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the third consecutive year. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition bestowed upon a City for construction of its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Crest Hill Annual Report was judged to meet the high standards of the program including the demonstration of full disclosure in financial reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving nearly 19,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the only national awards program in governmental financial reporting.



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 <i>(free consulting for alternative Medicare plans)</i>	800-548-9034

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

Tom Inman
815-609-0636
Nate Albert
815-791-7495

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 AM to 4:30 PM

visit us @ www.cityofcresthill.com