



Mayor Joseph Tamburino's Year End 2021 Report

Dear Neighbors,

2021 was the first year since the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919 that America has spent a full 12 months under the cloud of a deadly virus that so far has claimed over 800,000 American lives. In our own hometown, we have experienced 1,791 confirmed cases of Covid 19.

The Covid pandemic forced many Hillside residents and businesses to drastically alter their lifestyle. In the first half of 2021, local schools had students learning remotely from home. Thankfully, at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, most schools brought students back to the classroom.

As the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and CDC guidelines were implemented, many residents were made to work remotely from home. Many businesses had to alter their hours of operation, which sadly forced many of them to close their doors. Restaurants, health clubs, theaters and many other public venues had to limit capacity and the hours they could remain open.



HILLSIDE COVID EFFORTS



One of the Hillside Covid
Vaccination Clinics

Then in early 2021, we received the great news that an effective Covid-19 vaccination was to be made available to the public. With this announcement, my administration sprang into action. Since senior citizens and those with immune diseases were the first to get the shots, we arranged vaccination dates in March with second doses to follow in April.

As the year wore on, we were able to host several additional vaccination clinics that were open to the general population, 18 years and older. Then on May 14, the FDA approved these shots for individuals 12 years and over. Three days later, the Village of Hillside and Hillside School sponsored a vaccination walk-in clinic where 904 students received their first Pfizer dose with the second shot administered on June 7th. Upon FDA approval, we then held our first Covid-19 vaccination event for children 5 to 11 this past December.

All these clinics resulted in nearly 5,000 people being vaccinated. As of this writing, 76% of Hillside residents have received at least one dose of the vaccination. I want to thank Hillside School and Sheet Metal Workers' Union Local 73 for their leadership and for their space for these clinics. I also want to thank Jewel-Osco for providing most of the vaccination dosages (up to 15,000 doses). Lastly, I want to thank the many Village employees and residents who donated their time in order to make these clinics a success.

20th Annual Breakfast Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**This Year's Theme Is
"Making A Better Future Together"**

**Monday
January 17, 2022
8:30 A.M.**

**Best Western Plus Hillside Hotel
4400 Frontage Road,
Hillside, Illinois**

\$12 per person.

Tickets are available for purchase
at the Village Hall, 425 Hillside Avenue
starting Monday, December 20, 2021
until **Tuesday, January 11, 2022.**

No tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets must be picked up and paid for in advance.
Reserved seating is for tables of 8 only. This year, due
to Covid, attendance will be limited to 275 people.

For more information call 708-202-4343
or visit our website www.hillside-il.org
and like us on Facebook!

(This is NOT a school sponsored event)

CDC and State of Illinois Covid-19 guidelines in
place at the time of this event will be followed.

*"People fail to get along because they fear each
other; they fear each other because they don't know
each other; they don't know each other because
they have not communicated with each other."*

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Guest Speaker
Emanuel "Chris" Welch**
7th District State Representative
Speaker of the House



GREAT NEWS FOR THE FUTURE

In May, I was informed that we were to receive the largest state funding grants ever given to Hillside for several important Hillside projects.

Approved Project 1 - Butterfield Road Reconstruction

This is a State of Illinois Department of Transportation project, which the Village of Hillside has pushed for many years. The funding to complete the reconstruction work will fall under the direction of the Department of Transportation, not the Village of Hillside. The Butterfield Road project includes the reconstruction of the roadway to include a middle turn lane, construction of a stormwater system, installation of curbs and gutters, street lighting, off-street parking for residents, creation of a multi-use path, utility relocation, and building demolition. Once completed, this project will improve drainage and vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian travel on a major state route.

Approved Project 2 – Major Renovations to the Village Hall

In 2012, the Mayor and the Village Board purchased a 46,000 square foot building connected to our existing Village Hall and Police Station. The purchase was made with the intent of placing under one roof several community functions that presently occupy separate buildings.

This project will consolidate the Hillside Public Library, the Hillside Community Center, and Emergency Management Services to one convenient location. It will also renovate space for a new training facility for our Police/Fire Departments, create a youth gymnasium, a banquet facility, and a multi-purpose meeting room.

Approved Project 3 - Oakridge Avenue Drainage Basin Expansion with Public Amenity

Once completed, this project will create a new drainage detention basin along Oakridge Avenue. This will provide overflow relief from the existing 33 million-gallon Fencil Lane detention pond and provide required stormwater capacity for potential redevelopment. It will also feature a new walking path, sitting areas, and a Tot Park.

The funding for these projects were approved by the state legislature due to the hard work of State Representative and Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch and State Senator Kimberly Lightford. I will give updates as these projects proceed.

Another bit of good news is that in January of 2021, Hillside’s very own State Representative Emanuel “Chris” Welch was elected to serve as the first African American Speaker of the Illinois House.

More good news is that the 2020 census numbers showed Hillside gained population over the past 10 years. Our numbers climbed from 8,157 residents to 8,320. This was welcome news since Illinois led the nation in population loss. Our population increase sends a signal that our community is a town that people want to move into and not from.

In the beginning of 2021, the Village of Hillside, Village of Berkeley, and the Berkeley Park District, in partnership with the

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, started to develop a vision for the Prairie Path to increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic, attract businesses to the area, and enhance parks and open space for residents and path users.

The project study area encompasses the Villages of Berkeley and Hillside bounded to the North by Burr Oak and Hawthorne

Avenues, to the East by Wolf Road, to the West by I-294, and to the South by Warren Avenue. Residents have been asked to provide their insights. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is presently readying a report based on both Villages’ input and that of their residents. Look for the report in the Hillside Herald when it is issued.



State Funding Will Change the Village Hall into a Community Center

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT HAPPENINGS

In Village personnel news, Russ Wajda retired as Village Administrator. Russ served side by side with me since my first day as Mayor. Taking over for him is Public Works Director Joseph Pisano. Village Treasurer John Flood retired and was replaced by Sandy Lozano, our first female administrator. Deputy Clerk Noreen Thermos, who ably assisted the Village Administrator, the Village Clerk and myself, retired. In the April Village election, Claudell Johnson was elected as Hillside’s first female African American Village Trustee.

Our *Public Works Department* continued to perform their usual excellent work. From mid-January to the end of February, Hillside received 38 inches of snow, which is two inches more than the annual average snowfall that falls from November through early April. Despite the heavy snowfall, our streets were constantly cleared of snow.

- Snow removal was not the only thing that kept Public Works busy. They also replaced or installed 108 new street name signs, 10 stop signs, 11 speed limit signs, and 42 miscellaneous signs.
- They installed 70 squares of sidewalk under the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program. They also planted 42 new trees. They repaired 29 water main breaks, installed two new water main valves, and repaired 16 water main valves. In addition, they installed 4 new fire hydrants, repaired 6 fire hydrants, and erected 400 feet of fencing around the retention pond.
- They resurfaced 2.3 miles of Village streets.

In addition to the above, they had to set up the necessary infrastructure that made our 2021 events a success like the Summer Nights in Hillside concert series.

Hillside’s Emergency Management Agency was very busy in 2021 since we restarted our Village sponsored events like the Summer Concert Series, Halloween Night, and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

They initiated new procedures and training to ensure a more cohesive team approach when they are on an assignment. They purchased new safety equipment such as safety pants for working with chainsaws and new LED lighting which helps brighten up areas of concern. They have 15 volunteers in the EMA unit with some of their volunteers going on to be police officers and firefighters for our Village and surrounding areas.

Due to the pandemic, EMA has been working with local food pantries to help pass out food and necessary supplies to our community. They continue to perform traffic control for different events such as parades, funerals, and accidents. They are currently seeking volunteers. If you are interested in joining, please read, "*Did You Know Hillside's Emergency Management Agency Has a Water Marine Unit?*" on page 11 of this issue to learn how you can sign up.

In 2021, the *Hillside Police Department* hired 6 new police officers with the Department's major focus on training and transitioning them into full time members of the Department. These 6 officers represent almost 30% of the uniformed patrol division.

New legislation (Illinois SAFE-T act) created a multitude of new standards and training mandates. Countless hours have been spent revamping training programs and getting all sworn officers to be compliant with the law before the required time frame (36 months, but all officers will be compliant within the next 12 months).

The Department received a private Grant for 2 speed monitors to be placed in problem traffic areas. And after a recess, due to Covid, the Department restarted *In-Person Community Watch Meetings*.

Most important, our Police Department was certified as having met the federal use of force standards issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. This is reassuring news for all residents that in one of Illinois' most diverse communities your police are conforming to the highest standards set forth for police behavior.



Three Additional Fire Department Members Were Hired from a \$1,430,820.00 Safer Grant

I am proud to report that since 2009, when we established a police code of conduct that includes policies like no chokeholds and limits on use of force in detaining a criminal, Hillside has not had one complaint of racial profiling or excessive use of force filed against the Police Department.

Our top-rated *Fire Department* continued to raise its already high standards in 2021. They swore in three additional fire officers with funds received through a \$1.4 million Safer Grant. This allowed the Department to now have 8 full-time Firefighter/ Paramedics on all shifts.

They continued to aggressively train firefighters in the latest Fire Prevention measures with over 9,000 hours of training logged.

This training came in handy as the Department responded to 802 fire situations and 1,660 ambulance/medical event calls.

In 2021, we received \$750 from Country Financial Insurance towards the purchase of SEEK Fire PRO X personal Thermal Imaging Cameras for each riding position on our first out vehicles. \$2000 was obtained from IRMA for the purchase of new class 3 traffic vests and two LED "STOP" paddles for traffic safety.

Continuing into 2021, the FD maintained their public education/life safety programs such as:

- Fire Extinguisher training/classes
- Open House
- School functions (IE: back-to-school bash, Shop with a Firefighter, Adopt a Firefighter, Fire Prevention Week, Polar Express (HLS school), Stop the Bleed training)
- Station fire safety tours
- Proviso West Health Fair
- Local church event appearances
- PWHS Back-to-school event
- Dept. EMS Preceptors for Triton EMT students & LUMC Paramedic students
- Public Safety participation at 6 Summer Concert series.

They also continued programs that help make our community safer:

- MyID medical bracelets
- Smoke Detector program partnership with American Red Cross
- Home Key Boxes
- Car seat installations
- Community Paramedicine Senior Program
- Fire/Life safety inspections

Continued on page 20.

DON'T GET STUCK... OBSERVE HILLSIDE'S WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

Parking is not permitted on any public street or alley within the Village when snow accumulation reaches three inches (3") or more, and until snow removal operations are completed.

PLEASE DO NOT SHOVEL OR BLOW SNOW INTO OR ACROSS ANY PUBLIC STREET OR SIDEWALK (CODE OF ORDINANCE'S SEC. 74-9).

Icy patches and frozen blocks of ice form and create hazardous conditions for pedestrians and vehicles. Please keep the snow on your own property and parkway.



When Seconds Count...

Hillside's **Smart911** Program Could Be a Lifesaver

Over 80% of calls made to 911 come from mobile phones. When you dial 911 from a mobile phone, the 911 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. This is a serious problem in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions or are unable to safely speak. The easy solution to this problem is registering for **Smart911**.

What is **Smart911**?

Smart911 is a free service used by public safety agencies across the country to enhance communication and response for their community. It can be used by 911 agencies to quickly send first responders to the location of an emergency with more information; by emergency management personnel to better plan for and respond to disasters; and by municipalities to send notification to their citizens.

The 911 service of **Smart911** allows you to create a Safety Profile for your household. This will proactively provide details on your family and home that 911 may need in order to send help in the event of an emergency no matter where you are in the United States.

How does **Smart911** work?

When you sign up for **Smart911**, you can create a secure Safety Profile that will display on the call taker's screen whenever you dial 911 in the event of an emergency. You can add as much or as little to your profile as you want, the choice is yours, but it is recommended you add important details responders need to know during an emergency situation. This may include medical conditions and medications, address details, and photos of yourself, children, or any elderly relative prone to wandering.



How does **Smart911** help?

Better informed first responders are better equipped to help you. With **Smart911** paramedics are aware of critical medical information like Alzheimer's or allergies. Police have children's photos in case of an Amber Alert and Firefighters know household details – ensuring that everyone is rescued during an evacuation – even pets.

How do I register?

The registration process is quick and easy. Start by visiting the Hillside Village Website www.hillside-il.org and then click on the tab Village Services. In the drop-down menu under Public Safety click on the **Smart911** tab and scroll to the bottom where it says **Signup for Smart911**. After completing the steps, you will have a chance to add optional information or edit the information you have provided. You must complete every step. The service will not work until you have added and confirmed a phone number. For additional information call the non-emergency fire department phone number at (708) 547-8684.

Using the *Ring Neighbors App* Helps Hillside Police Fight Crime

The Hillside Police Department employs the Neighbors app (iOS/Android) to communicate with Hillside residents who are already a part of the Neighbors community. Operated by Ring.com, the Neighbors network consists of millions of users and has proven itself to be an asset in apprehending porch pirates, stopping burglaries, and maintaining safe neighborhoods.

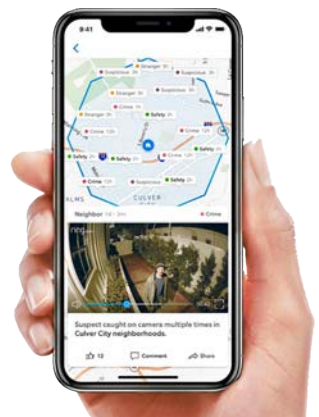
Download the free Neighbors app and start sharing crime and safety-related messages, videos, and photos in nearly real-time with other members of the community, all while remaining anonymous.

Joining the Neighbors community allows the Hillside Police Department to view and respond to messages uploaded by our community members and it allows us to post important crime and safety alerts as well. When crime does occur,

it gives police an opportunity to quickly view video from those residents who voluntarily elect to share their videos with us.

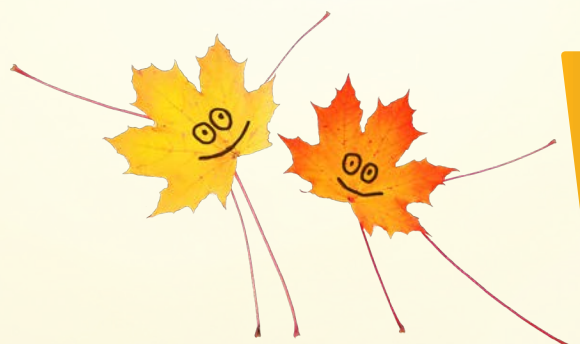
It is our hope that this program provides yet another avenue of communication for residents and the police department to assist in our shared goal of reducing crime.

To join, or for additional information, visit: www.ring.com/neighbors



Back to School Luncheon

On August 21st, the Hillside Community Relations Commission presented a Back-to-School Lunch for students titled "Ready – Set – Go" at the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73 Union Hall on Roosevelt Road. Music was provided by Proviso's very own DJ Brandon Barler, and a colorful selfie area was set up where kids took pictures for their social media pages. A lunch was served and a flat screen TV, footballs, \$50 Amazon Gift Cards, and many more prizes were raffled off to lucky winners. Every student received a \$10 Target gift card. It was a great way to start the school year.



Village of Hillside

Halloween Celebration on The Commons

After a one year hiatus, the Village of Hillside threw a party on October 31st. There were "Trick or Treat" giveaways, costume contest for all ages, wagon rides and a spectacular bonfire that lasted into the wee hours of the morning.



AutumnFest on the Prairie Path



The Village of Hillside and the Village of Berkeley hosted the first ever AutumnFest on the Prairie Path on October 16th and 17th. It was a huge success as residents jammed the Prairie Path enjoying rides, food, music, street performers, a petting zoo, wagon rides and marketplace vendors. We are intending this to be an annual event.

Sponsored Fall Events



Veterans Day Parade

By Evelyn Belmonte

**Executive Administrative Assistant to Mayor Tamburino
Special Events Coordinator**



On a beautiful November 6th, the Village of Hillside hosted its 19th annual Veterans Day Parade. Hundreds of marchers representing JROTC units from all over Chicagoland and neighboring suburbs, youth organizations, Shriner groups, schools, American Legion and VFW Posts, along with dozens of fire trucks and police vehicles from surrounding communities participated. It was wonderful to see so many people along the route witnessing this amazing tribute to our Veterans. A few days prior to the parade, the Village held their annual dinner at the Sheet Metal Union Hall for our Hillside Military Veterans. This was our way to thank them personally for their service.



Village of Hillside Fall Sponsored Events

JG's Reptile Road Show

(Continued)



On November 16th, the Village Hall Board Room was filled to capacity with breathless anticipation as everyone was looking forward to JG's Reptile Road Show sponsored by the Hillside Youth Commission. This event allowed brave residents, young and the young at heart, to handle exotic reptiles from alligators to tortoises to snakes to lizards and many more slithering creatures. It was a fun and educational evening for all.



Photos by Brody Farries of Studio 352 and Steve Augle of 333 Images.

Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa



On a warm December 2nd, the Village of Hillside held its annual tree lighting event in the Courtyard of the Village Hall. The beautiful tree was lit by Santa Claus himself who arrived in style on a Hillside Fire Truck. Santa then sat in the Village Hall Board room where he listened to children as they told him what they wanted to find under their tree on December 25th. The Hillside Youth Commission handed out special gifts to the children and free pictures were taken of each family. Hot cocoa was provided by the Shriners, and treats were provided by Hillside Baseball and the Westchester Food Pantry. A horse drawn sleigh took people on a ride around the Hillside Commons to watch the Winter bonfire. Seeing the smiles on everyone's faces made it a perfect end to a challenging year.



Snow Accumulation

Parking is not permitted on any public street within the Village when snow accumulation reaches three inches (3") or more until snow removal operations are completed.

Please do not shovel or blow snow into or across any public street or sidewalk. (Code of Ordinance Section 9.108.1). Icy patches and frozen blocks of ice can form which are a danger to pedestrians and vehicles. **The Village does not clear neighborhood sidewalks.** Please be a snow angel and shovel your sidewalk so school children and pedestrians can walk with greater ease and safety. Please keep the snow on your own property and parkway.

Snowplow Safety

Stay safe around snowplows by keeping your distance. A snowplow driver's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you. Watch for sudden stopping or turning. Plows are wide and can cross center lines. Do not tailgate and do not pass. Snowplows tend to go under the speed limit. Be patient and allow plenty of time to slow down. **Take it slow this Winter!**

Garbage and Recycling Carts

Garbage, recycle, and yard waste carts, by Ordinance (Article 1, Sec. 70-33), must be put out on the parkway and **NOT IN THE STREET.** The Public Works Department is unable to maintain our streets (snow plowing) with these obstacles on the street.

The Village highly recommends placing your garbage out on the parkway any time after 4:00 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick-up day to ensure pick-up the following morning. Holidays delaying the garbage pick-up by one day are: New Years, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

REMINDER: Yard waste pick-up has ended and will resume in April 2022.

Streetlights

Please call us at 708-202-3434 to report the outage of a streetlight so we can contact Commonwealth Edison to keep our Village lit up!



Call the Public Works and Building Services Department at 708-202-3434 if you have any questions.



January & February PUBLIC WORKS & BUILDING SERVICES REPORT



Sump Pump Discharge

All residents must comply with proper discharge of your storm water sump pump. Water must be directed so the grass areas existing in your front or back yard may readily absorb the runoff without creating a flooding/icing condition to adjacent properties or public ways. Improper discharge will create a public nuisance as stated in Section 21.305 (Nuisance) of the Municipal Code of Ordinances.

Water and Sewer Payments

Auto-Pay – Pay automatically with our payment service that makes it more convenient for you to pay your monthly water bill to the Village of Hillside. How does it work? Your monthly payment is automatically taken from the account you authorize the bank to use, and the money is directly credited to your water account at the Village of Hillside. You will continue to receive a paper statement for your records. If you are interested, call our Water Billing Clerk at (708) 202-3462, or stop in for a form to sign up.

Hillside Website – pay online @ www.hillside-il.org

Drop Box – A 24-hour drop box is located at the Hillside Village Hall at 425 N. Hillside Avenue in the parking lot to the south.

Late Payments - Payments must be received in our office by the due date to avoid a 5% penalty charge. Failure to receive bill or payment by the due date does not excuse the late charge. Payments must be received, not postmarked, by the Due Date to avoid the penalty charge.

Police To Wear Body Cameras



The Mayor and Village Board recently approved the purchase of the Watchguard Body Cameras for the Police Department. This Body Camera system is compatible with the Department's current squad car dash camera system. Watchguard Body Cameras have proven to be one of the most reliable systems available.

Illinois State Legislation was passed that required all the police departments to purchase body cameras. When the body cameras are to be functional depended upon on the town's population. Based on Hillside's population, the body cameras were required to be purchased and put in use by January 1, 2025. Mayor Tamburino, the Village Board and the

Police Department had intended to purchase the cameras as soon as the funding allowed, but instead decided the time was now. The Village is looking for creative ways to fund the Body Cameras and further updates will be provided in the near future.

Floods, Tornadoes, Road Closures and Gas Leaks... Are a Few Reasons to Register for Hillside's **CodeRED** Program



Along with emergency and critical messages like tornado sightings, gas leaks, etc., the **CodeRED** notification system can also enhance our community engagement via the release of important but non-emergency information ranging from road closures and trash collection schedule changes, to snowplow schedules and other services.

Hillside chose **CodeRED** for its innovative features, user-friendly platform, and information security. Their company-owned redundant data centers help ensure your data is safe, and that we will be able to send messages to thousands of individuals within minutes. We're excited to have the ability to communicate with our residents through text, phone, email and social media, from in the field or at our offices, providing the information they need-to-know to make better informed decisions.

Registration for this notification service is customized, allowing residents to choose which alerts they'd like to sign up for and how they would prefer to receive them. Residents can choose several different methods: landline, cell phone, email, text message, TTY, or even a combination. These alerts can be specific to streets, neighborhoods, or regions so that residents in affected areas are sure to receive this valuable information.

Residents and visitors alike can keep track of alerts in Hillside or while traveling with the **CodeRED** Mobile App, which notifies smartphone holders of real-time alerts in the area.

The mobile technology for **CodeRED** is extremely advanced, providing us enhanced flexibility to issue general and/or emergency messages. We can launch alerts from anywhere at any time, and residents potentially impacted by weather and other time sensitive events will receive them directly to their smartphones. This all happens within seconds, which can make a huge difference in saving lives.

If you have not already signed up, please visit the Village website at www.hillside-il.org to register. Once you are on the village website home page: 1) click the tab at the top called OUR COMMUNITY; 2) then on the popup menu under RESIDENT RESOURCES, click on **CodeRED** NOTIFICATION SYSTEM; (3) then follow the instructions to immediately start receiving these informative, life-saving alerts. For more information call our police department non-emergency phone at (708) 449-6133.

Did You Know Hillside's Emergency Management Agency Has a Water Marine Unit?



Even though Hillside does not lie on a large body of water, our Emergency Management Agency still trains its volunteers to assist in Water Search and Rescue efforts. Water rescue is any incident that involves the removal of victims from any body of water other than a swimming pool.

Floods are the most common of all natural disasters and generally cause greater mortality than any other natural hazard. Water Search and Rescue is the capability to coordinate and conduct response efforts for all hazards involving water, including searching affected area(s) for victim(s), rescuing flood victims, and to the extent no people remain endangered, then search for animals.

Hillside's Emergency Management Agency has a boat and water rescue equipment, such as paddles, throw bags, reaching devices, flotation devices and rope rescue gear. It's important to ensure water rescue support gear is readily available during an event and stored in such a way that is mobile and transferable. EMA keeps this equipment on Hillside Rescue Truck 413 in special bags for quick access.



If Water Rescue interests you, then join Hillside's Emergency Management Team today. The Village of Hillside's EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA) is composed of volunteers who provide emergency response to natural and man-made disasters in the Village. During statewide and federal disasters, EMA becomes part of the state or federal response.

Membership is open to individuals who can devote their free time and efforts to help respond to and deal with these emergencies. Equipment

and training will be provided along with uniforms and personal protective equipment to help perform your duties. Ongoing classes keep volunteers efficient and current in response techniques.



To be a member, you must be 18 years of age or older. Membership applications can be picked up at the Hillside Village Hall. Fill out the short application form and someone from EMA will call you. We meet the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Meetings are held at our Emergency Operations Center located at 4151 May St. here in Hillside.

Help Our Fire Department Protect Your Home

Snow can prove especially challenging when trying to fight fires because in many cases it makes the fire hydrants hard to access. Remember, every second counts!

If there's a fire hydrant near your home that is covered with snow, please do your part to keep it visible this winter by clearing at least a three-foot radius around

Ice around the fire hydrant??? Could be a leak; contact the Public Works Department immediately at 708-202-3434.



LED Hazard Reduction Program

FREE Hillside Home LED Inspection & Repairs

EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children. If your Hillside home was built prior to 1978 have your water pipes checked for excessive levels of lead that can cause various health issues.

Who can apply? Anyone who has a child under six years old living with them or visiting with them regularly or a pregnant woman in the household can apply.

Who qualifies for the program? Applicants of any age would qualify if they lived in a house built before 1978...and meet one of the following conditions:

- Live with children under six years old
- Babysit or have children under six years old who visit them often or
- Have income below the grant program limit

For more information contact the West Suburban Neighborhood Preservation Agency at 708-410-2300 or email wsnpa@hotmail.com.



Programa **Gratuito** De Reparación E Inspección Para La Reducción De Plomo En Las Casas De Hillside

La Agencia de Protección del Medio Ambiente, (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Centro de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades, (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) están de acuerdo que no hay un nivel seguro de plomo en la sangre de los niños. El plomo es dañino a la salud, especialmente para los niños. Si su casa en la Villa de Hillside fue construida antes del año de 1978 por favor haga que se cheque los niveles de plomo en las tuberías de agua, ya que esto pueden causar varios problemas de salud.

¿Quién puede aplicar? Cualquier persona que tiene un niño/a menor a seis años que viva o visite la casa regularmente o una mujer embarazada que viva en la casa pueden solicitar la ayuda. Z

¿Quién califica para este programa? El solicitante puede ser de cualquier edad si ellos viven en una casa construida antes de 1978... y cumplen con alguna de las siguientes condiciones:

- Viven con un niño/a menor de seis años
- Cuidan o tienen un niño/a menor de seis años o que los visita frecuentemente o
- Tienen un ingreso menor requerido en el programa

Para más información por favor llame a West Suburban Neighborhood Preservation Agency al 708-410-2300 o mande un correo electrónico a wsnpa@hotmail.com.

Take The Hillside Police Challenge



To prevent a crime before it happens, the Police Department needs you to start challenging people in person and on the phone when they are asking you for personal information such as bank information, credit card information, your social security number, or your address.

The following are a few tips to help protect yourself from the many scams out there today:

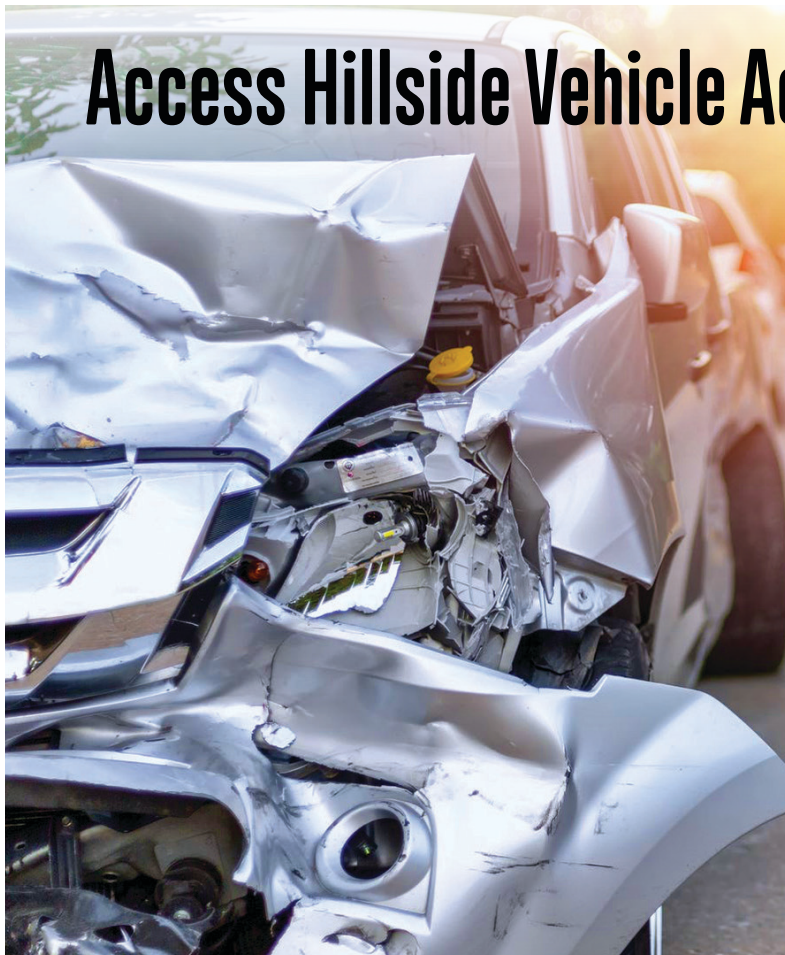
NEVER ALLOW ANYONE INTO YOUR HOME without first checking for an ID card. Even then, if you did not make the appointment or don't remember making the appointment, contact 911 and we will send an officer over to verify everything is ok. **CHALLENGE US TO HELP YOU! - CALL 911**

We all forget names and faces at times, and we should never feel embarrassed to have people be verified by police. All Hillside employees, from police and fire to the water department, have distinctive ID cards that we carry to show who we are. Village employees will always have a vehicle that is marked with a Village emblem as well. If you are still in doubt... **CHALLENGE US TO HELP YOU! - CALL 911**

Never believe anyone on the telephone no matter what they say if they are asking for personal information or money. No government agency or real business will ask for this information. They should already have it in their database. Ask for a phone number to call them back after you verify everything with the police. **CHALLENGE US TO HELP YOU! - CALL 911**

If ever in doubt, or feel uneasy about a situation, dial 911 and ask for assistance from the Police Department. Our Police Officers are friendly, and would rather talk to you before a theft or scam takes place. **CHALLENGE US TO HELP YOU! - CALL 911**

Access Hillside Vehicle Accident Reports 24 Hours a Day



The Hillside Police Department has an agreement with BuyCrash.com to place traffic accident reports on-line utilizing their Accident Report System. BuyCrash.com is an Internet based application that helps law enforcement agencies and car owners access traffic accident reports in a more efficient manner. Hillside residents are now able to rapidly find and view an accident report usually within 24 hours of scanning.

- Reports are available from work or home, 24 hours a day via the Internet
- Saves citizens the hassle of driving and standing in line
- Reports are converted to PDF format making them easy to view, save, print and email
- Finding a report takes only a few seconds
- Reports cannot be modified, maintaining report integrity
- Provides clear, high-resolution images of each report for optimal viewing and printing

Visit www.BuyCrash.com to learn more about its services or request a report. Citizens may still visit the police station to request a copy in person if they wish. The Hillside Police Department Records Division is in our lobby and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on weekends and holidays. You may contact the Records Division by calling 708-202-4322.



Stay Connected... Stay Informed...

Like Village of Hillside Page on Facebook

Following the Village of Hillside on Facebook is one of the best ways to stay connected with the Village. We post frequent announcements and can answer questions you may have.

To stay informed on Village of Hillside happenings, go to the following two Facebook links and then hit the **LIKED** button that appears on the site. You will then be notified of Hillside events and information when they are posted to the Facebook site.

Village of Hillside: www.facebook.com/hillsideil

Hillside Fire Department: www.facebook.com/hillsidefiredepartment

Social Security Scam Alert

In 2021, an average of 65 million Americans receive monthly Social Security checks, totaling over \$1 trillion paid during the year. ... Last year, there were more than 718,000 reports of Social Security-related scams, adding to nearly \$45 million in losses.

The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action. If you receive a call, text, or email that...

- Threatens to suspend your Social Security number, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of arrest or legal action
- Demands or requests immediate payment
- Requires payment by gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- Pressures you for personal information
- Requests secrecy
- Threatens to seize your bank account
- Promises to increase your Social Security benefit
- Tries to gain your trust by providing fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official.



If you receive a suspicious call or text from someone alleging to be from our agency, hang up or do not respond, and then report details of the call to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at <https://oig.ssa.gov/>.

Do not give scammers money or personal information...
Ignore Them!



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CRAB LEGS - LOBSTER TAIL - SHRIMP - FRESH FISH

Seafood Land Opens in Hillside Offering Made To Order Seafood Boils

Sam Rafael, the co-owner of the newly opened Seafood Land Market and Restaurant, 352 N. Wolf Rd. in Hillside, says that his establishment has an advantage over similar seafood restaurants.

Take the restaurant's seafood boils. Customers can order all of the ingredients for the boil inside of the store and either take them home to cook on their own or turn them over to Rafael, who will cook them however the customer desires.

Seafood Land recently opened and is celebrating its grand opening with discounts on some of its best dishes, such as the lobster bisque and clam chowder. Customers can also purchase delicious marinara sauces to go.

All of the dishes are homemade on site. Rafael also makes pastas — Alfredo, pesto and scampi among others. Customers can order seafood like lobster tails, crab, shrimp and mussels and have Rafael cook the food to their liking at Seafood Land.

Rafael, who is from Wisconsin, says there are three other Seafood Land locations, which are owned by a group of partners. He has a share in another

location in Chicago. He and his partners decided on the Hillside location, which used to be home to the Tornado Spot – Tobacco & Deli.

In addition to seafood and steak, the store also sells freshly squeezed lemonade and desserts such as creamy red velvet cake, caramel cake, banana pudding and taffy grapes.

Seafood Land Market is open every day, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call (708) 401-5904.



50/50 HILLSIDE SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The Village offers the Public Sidewalk Program to all residents who want to replace damaged public sidewalk squares under the 50/50 Program. If this is something you are interested in, please call Public Works at 708-202-3434 to schedule an appointment to assess your sidewalk's condition. You will then be given a contract for the recommended replacement of squares and the cost to you as the applicant.

Please sign the contract and return it to the Village Hall with payment, which will be required prior to scheduling with our contractor. This work takes place two (2) times per year, typically late spring to early summer and late summer to fall. Feel free to call 708-202-3434 with any questions you may have.

WHEN SECONDS COUNT, A HILLSIDE MEDICAL MAGNETIC POUCH CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

MY MEDICAL INFORMATION

These magnetic medical pouches enable Emergency Responders to quickly locate vital information regarding medical history, medications and a contact person. It is a program designed for people with special medical concerns. Pouches are available at the Village Hall. Once your medical information is filled out attach the pouch to the refrigerator. Don't leave your health to chance, get your Magnetic Medical Pouch today!

Supporting our Troops and Wearing the RED

On Fridays, you may notice that the Hillside Firefighters are wearing red t-shirts. These recently designed shirts are part of the RED Shirt Program which encourages people to wear red shirts or clothing on Fridays to show support for our American troops. RED has been used as an acronym for Remember Everyone Deployed. With a patriotic shirt proudly worn at the end of the week, we want to keep our service men and women close in our thoughts as both a point of pride and to honor their sacrifices.



Proudly Supporting Our Troops... Firefighter/Paramedic Katie Boeke, Firefighter/Paramedic Ed Kwiatkowski, Lieutenant Todd Kotarski, Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Emilio Martinez Jr., Firefighter Jeff Kubistal and Firefighter/Paramedic Paula O'Driscoll.



Hillside Fire Department Firefighters Local 4474 donated 60 frozen turkeys to Mrs. Booker at Freedom Baptist Church during one of their church services in November. Eight turkeys were donated by *RTS Packaging* in Hillside. Our Firefighter Local has been donating turkeys since 2009. These turkeys are a great addition in helping Freedom Baptist provide 200 Thanksgiving baskets to area families in need.

Hillside Fire Department Teaching Pre-School Children Fire Safety

The Hillside Fire Department and SERVPRO of Elmhurst collaborated to raise fire safety awareness to the children of Hillside. Fire Chief Ken Carling and Sabrina Kuchta of SERVPRO gifted the junior firefighters of Hillside's local daycares with safety coloring books and hats. The children had a blast practicing stop, drop, and roll in their new fire fighter hats! On behalf of the Hillside Fire Department and SERVPRO, we thank the daycares that allowed us to educate their students for Fire Prevention Week.



Hillside Offers Disposal of Televisions and All Electronics

The Village of Hillside and Waste Management will not pick up TV's at curbside. TV's have many toxic materials and as of 2012, are prohibited from landfills. It is the responsibility of us all to dispose of electronics properly. The Village has recycling bins for electronics only, where you can dispose of your TV's and electronics properly. There is a size restriction. **This service is for Hillside residents only.** Please call 708-202-3434 with any questions.



Electronic Recycling Bins found just inside the front door of Hillside Village Hall

Start the New Year Off on the Right Paw... Get Your Dog or Cat Their Tags Today!



Pet owners, please don't forget to register your pets. The Village of Hillside has free registration for your dogs and cats. We recommend that you register your pet at the beginning of the year to **receive your free pet tags**. We only ask that you bring in an up-to-date rabies vaccination report. In case your pet ever gets lost, the Village tag on your pet's collar will help our police department reunite them with you, the pet owner.

The Village of Hillside Youth Commission's Bowling Extravaganza

Hillside Bowl **March 12**
Noon until 2 PM
(Limited space available-first come first serve)
Registration opens at 11 AM
Cost \$5 (includes shoe rental)
Face Masks will be required.



This event is sponsored by the Village of Hillside ONLY and is NOT sponsored by any school district. For more information call 708-202-4343.



A Message from Village Trustee John Kramer... Air Force Veteran & Broadview-Hillside American Legion Member

Village of Hillside Offers New Flag Disposal Box

In the past, if you had an American Flag that was tattered or faded, we asked you not to throw it in the garbage but to bring it to the American Legion Post on Butterfield Road or to the Village Hall. You may still do that, but we prefer you now use the **NEW Flag Retirement/Disposal Box** located in the parking lot outside the Village Hall. The box decorated with flag-like images is on your left as you enter the parking lot.

We will hold these flags until June 14th. Traditionally retired American Flags are disposed of on the 14th of June which is Flag Day. The Village of Hillside holds a brief ceremony at noon on that day at which time the Village burns the retired and tattered flags in accordance with **United States Flag Code 1** which states, *"THE FLAG, WHEN IT IS IN SUCH CONDITION THAT IT IS NO LONGER A FITTING EMBLEM FOR DISPLAY, SHOULD BE DESTROYED, PREFERABLY BY BURNING."*



On the 14th of June in 1777, by a Resolution of the 2nd Continental Congress, the flag design we are so familiar with was made official. The Resolution reads, *"RESOLVED THAT THE FLAG OF THE 13 UNITED STATES BE 13 STRIPES, ALTERNATE RED AND WHITE; THAT THE UNION BE 13 STARS WHITE ON A BLUE FIELD, REPRESENTING A NEW CONSTELLATION."* Of course, while we kept the 13 stripes as more States entered the Union, a few stars have been added since 1777. Finally, in 1916, President Wilson issued a Proclamation that officially made June 14th Flag Day.

I read something recently that I thought was appropriate. If a flag were ready for retirement and could talk, it might say, *"I am old and faded, tattered and torn – do not let me fly in disrepair, rather retire me from my duties, but please replace me with a new flag so that it might continue to symbolize our country and all the good things it stands for".*

Lastly, the American Flag is such an important symbol of our great country. Please honor it and treat it with the respect it deserves. At our next parade, when the American Flag passes you, honor it by removing your hat and placing your hand over your heart, or, if you are a veteran, you may hand salute the flag.

Hines Hospital Opens State-of-the Art Pacemaker Facility for Veterans



Hines VA Hospital has a new 2,655 square-foot pacemaker clinic. The facility is nearly twice the size of Hines' former clinic and includes seven exam rooms and two EKG stations, which were previously located offsite.

According to staff, the increased space and new onsite medical services will improve patient care by decreasing wait times while allowing for more communication amongst caregivers. The hospital treats more than 44,000 veterans from World War II through the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As the medical world progresses, so too must our facility and services so we can continue to offer the best care possible for our nation's Veterans," said James Doelling, Hines VA hospital director.

To learn more about the Hines VA Hospital's cardiac rehabilitation services, visit www.hines.va.gov/services/Cardiac_Rehabilitation.asp

Hillside Library Information

Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Friday – Saturday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday Noon to 4:00 P.M.

Mask wearing required inside the library.

Please be aware that library hours, events, and procedures can change, so check our social media accounts or call the library for more up to the minute information.

All library programs and activities are free of charge.

Adult Book Group:

Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 P.M.

If you have a passion for reading, or just want to make new friends, check out the library's book discussion group. Visitors and new members are always welcome! Books are available at the Circulation Desk one month before each meeting.

January 5: A Wild Winter Swan by Gregory Maguire

February 2: Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah

March 2: TBA

Make and Take Craft Kits: Stop by the library every few weeks to pick up a simple craft to make at home. This craft will be suitable for all ages and abilities. One kit per family please, supplies are limited.

Crochet/Knit Group: January 13 and February 10 from 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. Please bring your project, and a mask. Come out and knit or crochet with this fun and friendly group. Presently this group meets once a month on the second Thursday. If there is interest in meeting more often, please let the library staff know.

Mid-Day Yoga: Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. Take a midday break and join us for some in-person gentle yoga. Bring your own mat or borrow one from the library. Registration is requested. Limit 12. Call the library for more information.

Teen and Youth Library Programs

Free Drop-In Tutoring: Tuesdays and Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. If you're in grades 1st-6th and need some extra help stop by the library to get an extra hand from our High School Student Volunteers here in the library!

100 Books Before Graduation: Beginning in January, local high school students can begin to track their reading to earn prizes. Every 25 books earn a prize! You can track online or with a paper log.

What's the Buzz Book Club: A book club geared toward Parents and Guardians who want to know more about popular Young Adult literature. Our first pick will be available in January with a first meeting in February. Stay tuned to the library's webpage, newsletter, and flyers at the library for more information.

Teens, if you are looking for volunteer hours, contact Ms. Niki for volunteer opportunities at:
ncovello@hillsidelibrary.org

Notary

Notary Service is available at no charge. As the notary does not work every day, reservations are encouraged.



Hillside Public Library | 405 Hillside Ave. | 708-449-7510
Email: contact@hillsidelibrary.org | www.hillsidelibrary.org

Municipal Calendar of Events



*** All Board and Community Awareness meetings are held in the Village Hall Board Room — 425 Hillside Avenue

January 10th Board of a Whole Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

January 27th Community Relations Commission Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

January 24th Village Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

February 14th Village Board of a Whole Meeting — 7:30 P.M.

February 24th Community Relations Commission Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

February 25th Village Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.



VILLAGE OF HILLSIDE
425 HILLSIDE AVENUE
HILLSIDE, ILLINOIS 60162

Presorted
Standard
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Melrose Park, IL 60160
Permit No. 300

ECRWSS
Local Postal Customer
Hillside, IL 60162

Mayor
Joseph T. Tamburino
Clerk

Linda L. Gould
Village Trustees
David V. Delgado
Claudell Johnson
John N. Kramer
Frank J. Lomeli, Sr.
Marvin A. Watson
Herman L. Walter, Jr.

Administrator
Joseph Pisano
Treasurer

Sandy Lozano
Police Department
425 Hillside Avenue
Chief Joseph M. Lukaszek
Fire Department
523 Wolf Road
Chief Kenneth Carling
Public Works
425 Hillside Avenue
Director David Peters

Village Hall Main Number
708-449-6450
www.hillside-il.org
Emergency
Police & Fire: 9-1-1
Non-Emergency
Police: 708-449-6133
Fire: 708-547-8684
Public Works
708-202-3434
Water Billing
708-202-3462
EMA 708-449-6410
Director: Anthony Faragia
Mayor's Office
of Special Events:
708-202-4343
Coordinator
Evelyn Belmonte
Village Hours
M-F 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sat. 9:00 A.M. to Noon
Closed on Sunday

Continued from page 4.

- Stand-by ambulance at PWHS football games
- Participated in eleven Hillside Covid -19 vaccine clinics in 2021

The new state of the art consolidated **Dispatch Center** of Hillside and Westchester completed their first full year. In addition to the consolidation, it also marked the first full year of the dispatchers practicing EMD, emergency medical dispatch.

All the dispatchers in the center must be state certified for medical dispatching and licensed individually through Loyola Hospital. A requirement of licensing is ongoing training and continuing education to ensure the dispatchers stay on top of the latest procedures and other pre-arrival instructions. These pre-arrival questions became of the utmost importance during the pandemic and helped to assist the public safety units in handling emergency calls in a safer manner. The dispatch center managed over 13,500 emergency calls and over 35,000 non-emergency calls between the two towns during 2021.

VILLAGE SPONSORED EVENTS

As the vaccinations gained a foothold, we decided to resume our many Village sponsored events. The first was our *Summer Nights in Hillside Concert* series. After months of being relegated to our homes, people flocked to the concerts in record numbers. The picture on this page of the two ladies hugging says it all... people needed to reconnect and feel part of a bigger community.

The Buckingham's and 7th heaven concerts drew more than 5,000 concert goers. In fact, 7th heaven used a crowd photo from their



Our Concert Series Reunited Neighbors and Friends Who Have Not Seen Each Other Due to Covid-19

Hillside concert on their Facebook page. We intend to have an even better concert goer experience this coming summer.

For a capsule look at the rest of the Village events, see pages 6, 7 and 8 in this edition of the Hillside Herald.

2021 will be a year people will remember for the rest of their lives. 60 years from now our grandchildren will be telling their grandchildren about the year they went to school at their kitchen table. But through these trying times one thing stood out for me... the resilience of the American public in the face of adversity and fear. Here is to happier times... have a healthy, prosperous, and wonderful 2022.

Mayor Joseph Tamburino.

Mayor Joseph Tamburino