

Grayslake Record



Follow the Village



October 2020

Residential Leaf Vacuuming Program

Leaf vacuuming consists of multiple rotations of the entire Village. The 2020 leaf vacuuming program will run weather permitting beginning October 19, 2020. The program runs until November 27, 2020.

Leaves should be placed, un-bagged, in a line within three (3) feet of the curb or within five (5) feet of the edge of the street where there is no sidewalk before 6:00 a.m. on Monday of the week in which pickup is desired. The length of each rotation is based on the volume of leaves and rotations may take less than a week or more than one week to complete. It is possible that leaves may not be vacuumed during a given week if the volume of leaves in the community is too large to be collected in a week. In this case, Waste Management will work to complete the remainder of a rotation at the beginning of the following week before starting the next rotation. Please do not put leaves in the street. Waste Management will not collect your leaves if they are not placed in the appropriate location.

Grayslake Village Center From Home!

Did you know you can take a virtual tour of the Grayslake Heritage Center & Museum? Or that seniors can order box lunches from the Grayslake Senior Center? Or that you can tune in to virtual events hosted by the Grayslake Public Library? There may not have been a Memorial Day parade or Summer Days Festival this year, but there are still opportunities to dine, shop, and play with Village Center businesses and organizations.

As you enter our downtown from Lake Street or Center Street, you will see brick pillars that say "Welcome to the Village Center". The Village Center is at the heart of Grayslake. From the comfort of your home, you can explore www.grayslakevillagecenter.com to see all this area has to offer. Click on the panorama (pictured below) to take virtual tours of Grayslake businesses or facilities such as Fire Station # 1 or the Heritage Center. On the "Village Center Event Calendar" tab, you will find out about the limited-audience, socially-distant events currently happening in the Village Center as well as the virtual events and activities hosted by local organizations. For example, you can learn more about the virtual program "The South Side of Center Street" hosted by the Grayslake Historical Society or "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" hosted by the Grayslake Heritage Center Foundation, both taking place in this month.



Click the Panorama to take an Interactive Tour of the Village Center's Offerings

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Reminders

Water & Sewer Bill Payment Options

Residents have six options to pay their water and sewer bills:

1. Electronically
2. Automatic debit
3. By phone (1-844-463-8922)
4. By mail
5. In person at Grayslake Village Hall
6. Drop box at Village Hall

For additional information regarding water bill payment options including auto-debit enrollment, please visit www.villageofgrayslake.com, "Water & Sewer Services", under the Residents tab or contact the Request for Service System at 847-223-8515.

Senior Center

The Grayslake Senior Center normal activity schedule is located in the October newsletter; however, at this time we are not hosting group-involved events until further notice. Congregate meals have been replaced by containerized "to go" meals. Menus are located in the Senior Center newsletter at www.villageofgrayslake.com. In addition, you can find more Lake County meal pick up locations and senior resource information. If you have any questions, please call the Senior Center at 847-543-1041.

From the Mayor...

This is the second of five articles on your municipal organization and how it has remained resilient and strong during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month I provided information on the organization's finances which are the foundation of our ability to deliver various types of important public services. Also discussed was how long-term financial planning, cost containment from innovative operating techniques and debt avoidance have helped the municipality deliver services in the lower revenue environment brought on by the COVID-19 related economic restrictions. This month's installment will review how the Public Works Department embodies the organization's use of operating methods that are not typical for governments which lowers cost baselines. In the following three months I will focus on our police services, infrastructure and the local economy.

As communities grow it is typical the local government payrolls increase to meet increasing demand for services from a growing population. Since Grayslake has tripled in size since 1990 it would normally be expected that Grayslake would have many more employees that it now has. In fact the Village non-police operation (covering public works/community and economic development/finance/administration/ recreation services) employs just 17 full-time staff members. Municipalities of similar size to Grayslake in our area typically have much larger employee counts than your municipality. This holds down personnel costs like health insurance and state mandated pensions which have been rising rapidly in the last 25 years. This is possible due to our atypical operating methods like use of private contractors, ongoing process re-engineering, government-to-government arrangements and relationships with local civic groups for some services.

Our Public Works Department utilizes many of these alternative methods and as a result just four full-time public works crew members, along with various contractors and part-time summer seasonal employees, deliver a wide range of ser-

vices that are relied upon by each of us every day. These services include water/sewer services, street/parking maintenance (including snow removal), buildings and grounds maintenance and responding to 1,509 various customer service requests (FY 19/20). In the last year 80 operating contracts were executed providing many of these services including major contracts for snow removal (partial), building maintenance, landscaping, road resurfacing, concrete repairs, street light maintenance and engineering services.

Maximizing the productivity of our in-house teams is also a key to containing costs because it helps control employee levels. To support this the Village, on an ongoing basis, measures the time it takes to deliver its services. In public works we know how much time it takes to finish over 300 individual work tasks. Weekly and daily work task lists are developed matching tasks to time available. Team members are expected to get work done in the allotted time. There is a financial incentive if the department produces more work than time would allow. The Village was the first Public Works Department in the area to develop and deploy this type of system and the Village has made numerous presentations to other governments on the concept with a handful of other towns now doing something similar.

When we can find ways to hold costs lower the Village can charge its customers less. During COVID-19 paying less to your municipality can help. This works in other years as well.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact me at mayortaylor@hotmail.com

Sincerely,



Rhett Taylor, Mayor

Grayslake Exchange Club

The Exchange Club of Grayslake will be selling pancake mix & syrup so you can create your own breakfast this year. With all our events canceled this year, fundraising for our community will be at an all time low. We hope you can continue to help in our fight to prevent child abuse, support our youth scholarships and other community activities. Please visit exchangeofgrayslake.org/pancake-breakfast or email glexchangeclub@gmail.com. Sales will start in mid-October and run through the first week of November. Pancake Breakfast kits will be ready 12/5.

50/50 Sidewalk Replacement

The sign-up period for the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program begins on September 1 and will run through January 10, 2021. The 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program is a cost-sharing program between the Village and the property owners of Grayslake who wish to make aesthetic improvements to the sidewalk adjacent to their property. There is a set amount of dollars budgeted each year for the Village's portion of the cost, and inclusion in the annual program is on a first come first served basis. For more information on the program, please contact Zack Smith at 847-223-8515 or at zsmith@villageofgrayslake.com

Village Announcements

Waste Management Reminder

Residents are reminded to place their garbage/recycle cans and yard waste out for pick-up no later than 6:00 a.m. on the morning of their regular pick-up day. After refuse is picked up, garbage and recycle cans must be placed either on the side of the house or inside the garage per Village ordinance.

Leak Detection Helpful Hints

Little leaks inside your home can waste large amounts of water and cost you money on your water utility bill. Here are some tips for identifying possible leaks inside your home. **Toilets:** If a toilet turns the water on without you touching the handle, if you have to jiggle the handle to make it stop running or if you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty. One way to determine if you have a leak is to add dark food coloring to the tank and wait 40 minutes. Do not flush. If the water in the bowl changes colors, you have a leak. **Bathroom, Kitchen, Outdoor Faucets:** You may have a leak if there are visible drips at the piping or if there are wet, damp areas underneath the sink.

Stories of Grayslake

The Grayslake Historical Society has published "Stories of Grayslake". This book contains 126 pages of memories about people, places and events written by present and former Grayslake residents. It highlights the history of the Grayslake Outdoor Theater, the Oasis, the Grayslake Gelatin Factory and more. Learn about Heartland, a huge development which would have changed the face of the community. Recall the candlelight vigil for 9/11. Read about the spirit of Grayslake as it recovered from disasters. Feel the community pride while enjoying history as written by those who remember former businesses and organizations. This indexed book is available at the Grayslake Heritage Center & Museum for \$20.00.

Grayslake Farmers Market

The Grayslake Farmers Market will begin its fall season on September 26th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Centennial Plaza at the corner of Whitney and Center Streets. For more information please visit www.grayslakefarmersmarket.com or email juliegrayslakemarket@gmail.com. Also follow Farmer Gray on Facebook!

Part-Time Snow Plow Operators

Public Works is seeking part-time snow plow operators for this winter season. This position is on-call and has an hourly wage of \$30. CDL and snow plow experience is preferred. Applications can be found at www.villageofgrayslake.com and submit to Jennifer Hess; jhess@villageofgrayslake.com

Police Commission Opening

The Village is seeking interested applicants to serve on the Grayslake Police Commission. Applicants must be a Grayslake resident and cannot be an active police officer. Human Resources experience desired. The duties of the Police Commission are to hire new police officers, administer testing for the establishment of an eligibility list for hiring and promotion of police officers to the sergeant position in accordance with state law and conduct disciplinary case hearings as needed.

If you are interested in applying to serve please complete the Resident Talent Bank form at www.villageofgrayslake.com and email to Jennifer Hess; jhess@villageofgrayslake.com.

This October with the Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum

- Search and Share Genealogy will take place on Wednesday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m. and the first Wednesday of every month. Share your genealogy triumphs and get advice for overcoming your stumbling blocks. Each participant will sit at their own 6' table and is required to wear a mask.
 - Tune in for "A Stroll Down the South Side of Center Street" on Facebook live on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. when the Grayslake Historical Society shares a brief history of each building with known stories to add to color.
 - See Grayslake with fresh eyes! The Grayslake Heritage Center Foundation invites you to "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" October 23 - 25, 2020. Passports are \$25 and include raffles, coupons, virtual events and special promotions as well as outdoor, in-person and take-home activities. For more information, visit grayslaketourist.eventbrite.com.
 - We are Open! Avoid big crowds and visit your local museum to learn about Grayslake during the Prohibition era, how our town got its name, and more! A new Exhibit Explorer Guide that will temporarily take the place of our hands-on play area. Exhibits and public areas are sanitized each morning and throughout the day for the safety of our visitors, volunteers and staff. Per state guidelines, capacity is limited and face coverings are required. Not ready to come inside yet? Explore our outdoor exhibits. Look for a new pop-up exhibit in the courtyard and images of Grayslake "Now and Then" in Village Center Commons near clock tower.
- For more information about the Heritage Center, please visit www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com, 847-543-1745, or mpoe@villageofgrayslake.com. To learn more about Grayslake artifacts, images and other records, contact the Grayslake Historical Society at www.grayslakehistory.org, 847-223-7663 or charenehan@aol.com.

Happenings at the Grayslake Area Public Library

A better library experience has begun! Grayslake Library cardholders now have access to over 5 million materials to checkout and a new online catalog. The dynamic catalog is mobile-friendly so you can browse from any device, and it will also automatically renew your items unless they are on hold for another person.

Need a library card? You can now apply online at www.grayslake.info or call 847/223-5313 for details.

CLC James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts

The JLC brings fun-filled comedy to your couch in an interactive, online experience with The Second City Improv House Party, a live stream performance on Friday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. Virtual tickets are \$10, available by phone at 847-543-2300. Additional virtual events will be announced soon.

Thank you for your continued support of the James Lumber Center!

Lake County Fairgrounds Events

*To confirm event
schedule please visit
www.lcfair.com*

Elected Officials

Mayor

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To see our major meeting schedule, please visit www.villageofgrayslake.com.