

Grayslake Record



February 2023

New Online Bill Pay Service to be Launched Soon!

The Village is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of our new online bill pay service through Invoice Cloud, which will offer customers greater flexibility to view and pay bills. The new payment portal will provide customers quick access to their account to view bills, check their balance, make payments and enroll in paperless billing. Customers can sign up for email or text notifications and reminders and make a payment online, by phone or by text. Additional forms of payment will be accepted, including Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express, Pay Pal, Google Pay, Apple Pay and Venmo. Customers will be able to make a one-time payment without having to register an account, or can register their account to schedule a payment, enroll in autopay, or schedule recurring payments. Please be on the lookout for more information coming in March!

Accepting Applications for Trustee Vacancy

On January 10, 2023, Trustee Laura Dias announced her resignation from the Grayslake Village Board upon her election to the Illinois House of Representatives. I thank her for her service to the community.

I am currently accepting applications for this vacancy. Applicants must be registered voters and live in the corporate boundaries of the Village. Previous experience with municipal government is preferred. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Natalie Esterl at nesterl@villageofgrayslake.com. In the cover letter, please provide the following:

- Why you are interested in serving on the Village Board.
- Record of community service, including with civic organizations, church/religious organizations, volunteer positions, etc.
- Previous municipal government experience professionally or in a volunteer capacity, if applicable.

Please note that applicants may be considered for other positions as well, such as commission appointments on the Economic Development Commission and the Plan Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals.

Letters of interest are due by February 10, 2023, close of business.

Thank you,

Rhett Taylor

Mayor, Village of Grayslake

What's Inside

Page 2.....From the Mayor	Page 4.....Heritage Center & Museum / Grayslake Area
Page 2.....Reminders	Public Library / James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts
Page 3.....Seasonal Employment Opportunities / Announcements	/ Lake County Fairgrounds Events
	Page 4.....Village Board

Reminders

Garbage & Recycle Can Placement Reminder

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

Village of Grayslake Snow Shoveling Referral Program

The new Village of Grayslake Snow Shoveling Referral Program is designed to help and provide assistance to Grayslake residents who are over the age of 65 or who have a disability to have snow cleared from the walkways and driveways of their homes.

This program will assist residents in connecting local persons who are willing to contribute to the Grayslake community. The Village will provide names and contact information of shovelers who have registered and are willing to shovel snow on an as-needed basis.

Please visit the Village website for more information & to view the program FAQs.

From the Mayor...

On several occasions, I have written about the Village's efforts to improve the area's transportation system. Our overall transportation system includes roads, commuter rail parking, municipal parking facilities, and pedestrian paths and sidewalks. All these transportation components create an integrated and functional transportation system. Some of the system components are under the Village's jurisdiction and are the responsibility of the municipal government. Other parts are under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois, through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Lake County, through the Lake County Department of Transportation or Metra.

Roads under the Village jurisdiction include our local neighborhood streets and other larger municipal streets like Center Street (west of Route 83), Lake Street, Atkinson Road, Shorewood Road and Brae Loch Road. Over the years the Village has designed and paid for improvements to these roads and has adopted a funding plan for the resurfacing of these roads on a regular basis. All the larger roads have been widened and improved in the last 15 years or so. In addition to roads, the Village takes care of local parking lots and much of the Grayslake path system that connects most areas of town. The Village has added new parking lots in the Grayslake Village Center and built new paths and sidewalks at key locations to improve the overall system.

For those parts of the road system that are under the control of the State of Illinois or Lake County, maintenance, including winter snow plowing, is the responsibility of each of those governments. Adding lanes or other improvements to these state and county roads, and paying for these projects, is also the responsibility of each of those governments. Specifically, the state controls Route 120, Route 83 and Route 45. Lake County has jurisdiction over Peterson Road, Center Street (east of Route 83), Rollins Road and Washington Street. Over the years the Village has advocated for expanding these roads and many expansions have been completed. More work is needed on Route 120

and Route 83 to handle existing and future traffic. The Village is continuously working to encourage the State of Illinois to plan for, and fund, needed improvements to these two highways. Currently the Village is working with IDOT on various projects. It is anticipated that in 2023 the state will build a realignment of Route 83 from the Metra crossing to Atkinson Road at Route 137. This will eliminate the current unsafe intersection of Route 83 and Route 137. This project is possible because the Village previously extended Atkinson Road from Route 120 to Route 137.

In addition to the 2023 project, the Village is actively working with IDOT to gain funding for further expansions of Routes 120 and 83. One is the expansion of Route 83 between Shorewood Road and Atkinson Road/Route 137. Initial engineering for this project is complete but IDOT has not committed construction funding. Another is the widening of Route 120 from Almond Road at the east to near Route 83. To add to this Route 120 project, the Village, along with a group of villages to the west and our state legislators, has urged IDOT funding for a grade separation (underpass) at the rail crossing on Route 120 just west of Route 83. As a result, this fall IDOT has confirmed that design engineering for an underpass and the widening to the east will be done. This engineering typically takes IDOT about three to five years to finish, but this represents a large step forward. It often takes years to gain IDOT funding for construction of improvements and we will continue to advocate for eventual IDOT funding as the engineering process is underway.

Getting improvements built can take years of effort. We all benefit from past road expansions by the Village, IDOT and Lake County. Our bike path system is one of the best in the region and we have more parking lots downtown. With our work with IDOT, the Route 120 widening, and underpass will now be under design, a critical step on the path to IDOT building these highway improvements.

Sincerely,



Rhett Taylor, Mayor

Seasonal Employment Opportunities with the Village of Grayslake

The Esper A. Petersen Foundation Family Aquatic Center is seeking applicants for the following positions for the 2023 swim season:

- Lifeguards & Swim Instructors (*must be 16 or older*)
- Admissions & Concessions Attendants

Management opportunities are also available. Please submit a resume and cover letter along with your application.

Interested applicants should submit a completed employment application to Village Hall or by email to swim@villageofgrayslake.com. Positions open until filled.

The Village is seeking qualified candidates for Public Works seasonal positions working from approximately May 15 - August 15. The positions are for 40 hours per week ranging from \$17.00 - \$18.00 per hour based on experience. Typical duties for these positions include landscaping, painting, litter removal, tree trimming and other general maintenance.

Applications are available on the Village website and can be submitted either at Village Hall or by email to Natalie Esterl @ nesterl@villageofgrayslake.com.

Village Announcements

Be on the Lookout for Buckthorn

Buckthorn is an invasive species of woody shrub that has been causing issues in the environment for many years in the upper Midwest. It is an aggressive group of species that spreads rapidly. The presence of buckthorn can create a variety of harmful effects, such as causing internal issues for bird, poisoning amphibians, reducing the diversity of native plant species, and increasing soil erosion. If you think you have buckthorn growing on your property, you may want to contact an environmental contractor to inspect the site and offer solutions. There are many native species of shrub that provide great alternatives for screening and are beneficial to the environment. You may also be eligible for project reimbursements through the Conservation@Home program.

Grayslake Park District Winter Fun Has Arrived!

You *snow* it to yourself to make the best of winter, and with over 200 programs the Grayslake Park District has you covered! Be sure to hop online and register for their unique programs and special events. In addition, the Park District will be releasing their 2023 Summer Camps Guide on Tuesday 2/7 at 8:30 a.m. Registration for residents & non-residents will open the same day. Whether your child is a returning camper or attending for the first time, the Grayslake Park District provides weeks of fun and years of memories.

Looking for employment or volunteer opportunities? The Grayslake Park District is hiring for positions like Summer Camp Counselors, Inclusion Aides, Concessions Staff, Park Rangers, Youth Sports Instructors, Golf Course Cashiers and more! To #FindYourFun, register for programs, or fill out an application, please visit www.glpd.com.

Grayslake Historical Society Upcoming Event

Learn more about Grayslake history on Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Grayslake Heritage Center, 164 Hawley Street. The Grayslake Historical Society will host a discussion session as residents on the southwest shore of Grays Lake, including Bluff and Getchel avenues share stories of the neighborhood and learn history of the area. This is a free public event and requires no reservation. Coffee and rolls are provided.

Winter Parking Regulations

Pursuant to Village ordinance, parking on Village streets is prohibited during periods where snow removal operations are underway. Vehicles may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.

Happy February! Be sure to check online for Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum hours and upcoming programs.

- **Search & Share Genealogy.** Share your genealogy triumphs and struggles with the Grayslake Historical Society on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m.
- **Tapping History Pub Crawl.** Saturday, February 4 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Come learn about your favorite Grayslake watering holes. Tickets are \$30 at tappinghistory.eventbrite.com.
- **Focus on Grayslake Exhibit Grand Opening!** The exhibit features a variety of photographs and stories captured by photographer Zee Lacson. Opening reception will be held on February 11 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. and the exhibit is open until 4:00 p.m.
- **Food Drive.** From February 11 - 25, the Heritage Center will be collecting food for Avon Township Food Pantry.
- **Small Potatoes Concert.** Sunday, February 19 @ 7:00 p.m. Lake County Folk Club hosts Small Potatoes at Grayslake Village Hall. Tickets are \$18/general public, \$15/seniors, \$13/Folk Club members.
- **Art class is back in session!** On February 23, Cheers to Creativity will instruct attendees on how to paint their own masterpiece. RSVP at galentinesgrayslake.eventbrite.com to secure your spot!
- **Grayslake's Little Free Diverse Library** will host a "Saturday at the Food Pantry" Storytime on February 25 @ 10:00 a.m. Avon Township Food Pantry will provide a hands-on food drive activity.
- **American Lit 101: Revisited Book Club Book Pick Up.** Have you ever looked at a book most people read in high school and thought "I should read that [again] now that I'm an adult"? If so, this is the book club for you! Stay on the lookout for more info in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com or call (847) 543-1745.

For more information about the Grayslake Historical Society, visit www.grayslakehistory.org or call (847) 223-7663.

Happenings at the Grayslake Area Public Library

Al Capone And The 1933 World's Fair | Monday, February 13 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Explore Chicago during the dark days of the Great Depression and hear how Chicago fought organized crime to put on The 1933 World's Fair with author William Hazelgrove.

Free Tax-Aide Service for low-income and senior taxpayers. In-person appointments are available for Wednesday mornings, from February 1 - April 12, 2023, and fill up quickly.

Call (847) 223-5313 or go to grayslake.info to register today!

CLC James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts

LADAMA | Sunday, February 5 @ 4:00 p.m.

A modern twist on Latin Alternative music.

Tab Benoit with Special Guest JDF Simo | Friday, February 24 @ 8:00 p.m.

Unique blues from the Bayou!

Visit our website for the entire JLC Spring 2023 Performing Arts Series.

Website: jlccenter.clcillinois.edu | **Phone:** (847) 543-2300

Email: clcboxoffice@clcillinois.edu

Box Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lake County Fairgrounds Events

- **Lake County Craft Beer Festival** | Saturday 2/25 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more information, including ticket details, call (847) 680-7200 or visit lcfairgrounds.com/craftbeerfest
- **Northern Illinois Boat Show** | Thursday 3/2 & Friday 3/3 from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 3/4 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 3/5 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information and ticket costs visit illinoisboatshow.com.

Elected Officials

Mayor

Rhett Taylor

mayortaylor@hotmail.com

Trustees

Ron Jarvis

trusteejarvis@hotmail.com

Kevin Waldenstrom

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Elizabeth Davies

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Lalena Zoe Magnosta

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Pradip (Pete) Sahu

trusteesahu@hotmail.com

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