

# The Village Voice

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Machesney Park

## ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly affected all of us in one way or another. The health and safety of residents during these unprecedented times has been on the minds of Mayor Johnson and Village Trustees since our world changed earlier this year. Preventing the spread of the virus is a community initiative that requires us all to do our part to stay safe. As many people in our region have endured and recovered from the coronavirus, many others have not been as fortunate. We feel that it is our responsibility to encourage everyone to wear masks when you go out in public, refrain from attending large events, wash your hands frequently and stay home if you don't feel well.



The Village is committed to providing residents with essential government services at all times. The pandemic has required us to change how we do things, and will no doubt have an impact on revenues received by the Village, but staff has been working hard to adjust to a new way of doing business. Village hall remains open from 8:00a to 4:30p, and anyone who comes into the building is required to wear a mask. We are receiving many more permit applications by email than normal and we are limiting direct interaction between staff and residents. All employees are required to wear masks and maintain safe distancing from each other and the public. During the State mandated shutdown in March, staff members worked remotely and rotated shifts in the office to provide continuous service.

Good things are happening in Machesney Park, despite the pandemic. New buildings are under construction and other projects were finished and opened for business over the summer. Road resurfacing is underway and will finish before the snow flies. Over 600 building permits were issued as residents used vacation funds and stimulus checks to invest in their homes and properties. Public Works crews and ComEd worked to clean-up and restore electric services to residents following the storm that impacted northern Illinois in early August. Further, the Village has reduced spending while maintaining essential services to adjust to anticipated reductions in revenues and we continue to make good decisions with public funds.



Optimism and neighborly goodwill can help us to endure and recover from this pandemic. The Village encourages you to stay safe and to look out for one another (*and don't forget to wear your masks!*)

## Halloween & Trick-or-Treating

Machesney Park is planning for trick-or-treating festivities to carry-on this year with a number of slight changes that are intended to ensure your safety and minimize the risks of spreading the Coronavirus.



**Date: Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Hours: 4:00p to 7:00p**



This year's adjustment of trick-or-treating hours to include 2 hours of daylight (4-6p) will make it easier to see other people and avoid larger groups that may naturally cluster together due to the rate of travel that can vary. Extending the event over a 3-hour period may help to prevent groups of kids from congregating.

*cont. on pg. 2*



## What's Inside...

Finance &  
Human Resources .....Page 2

Community  
Development .....Page 3/6

Planning  
& Zoning .....Page 4

Code Enforcement .....Page 5

2020 Road  
Construction .....Page 6

Public Works .....Page 7

Public Safety .....Page 8

# FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

## Department Update

Just as the COVID-19 pandemic may be impacting your bank account, so too is it impacting the Village's finances. None of your property tax bill goes to the Village and therefore we are heavily reliant on sales tax and income taxes, both of which are seeing reductions for a variety of reasons. The federal government has allocated funding to the Village through the IL Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to cover purchases of PPE and other costs necessary as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it cannot cover revenue shortfalls. The good news is that the Village has been diligent, conservative and practical for many years and we have reserved funding in cases of sharp declines in revenues that could not be anticipated, such as this pandemic. By making sound decisions and running your local government conservatively, the Village ended our fiscal year on April 30<sup>th</sup> with a surplus that will further cushion the possible revenue reductions in the coming months. With the three-month lag in sales tax information that is provided by the state, we are just now receiving the data to be able to make informed decisions on how to proceed with the current year budget. The Village Board will be reviewing new revenue information over the coming months and will make adjustments to spending as necessary so that we continue to be good stewards with Village finances. With all this in mind, please know that the Village is well-positioned to continue providing essential services to our residents, including public safety, clean and safe roads, and a vibrant business community that provides jobs to residents.

As promised, the 1% sales tax for roads and the utility tax will **ONLY** be used on roads. Planned projects are continuing to move forward at this time and we are monitoring revenues monthly. In December, we will have additional revenue data that will help us to determine how we will adjust our plans for the 2021 construction season to continue providing improvements while staying within budget. The Village understands how important it is to residents that we continue to improve roads with the funding that has been designated for this purpose.

The Mayor, Trustees, and Village staff are working hard to properly protect and use your tax dollars. If you have any questions about Village finances, please don't hesitate to call the Village Administrator or the Finance & HR Manager at (815) 877-5432.

## Flood Buyout Program Grant

The Village's application for another round of a flood buyout grant has been selected for further review, so while funding is not yet guaranteed, there is a chance we will be able to purchase additional homes along the Rock River impacted by flooding. By continuing to remove structures from the floodway, the Village reduces the long term risk to people and property from flooding and reduces Village costs for each flood event that occurs. Additional information regarding the Village's voluntary flood buyout program may be found on the Village's website <https://machesneypark.org> or by calling Michelle Johannsen at 815-877-5432.

## Halloween & Trick-or-Treating

*cont. from pg. 1*

### Trick-or-treating rules:

- Anyone participating in trick-or-treating, including those passing out candy, should maintain 6-feet of social distance and wear proper face coverings.
- Anyone who has tested positive or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or someone who isn't feeling well should not be a part of in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.
- Please trick-or-treat in groups with household members only.
- Consider leaving individually wrapped candy (*spaced apart*) on a table at the end of the driveway or along the sidewalks, or at any outdoor space where 6-feet of distance can be maintained.
- Candy collected during trick-or-treating should not be eaten until after handwashing and/or sanitizing.

*Even though children may be walking through your neighborhoods, residents are not obligated to give-out candy. Anyone who is not comfortable with participating, can simply leave their front porch light off and keep their front door closed.*

### Ideas for alternatives to trick-or-treating:

#### Here's a list of safe, low-risk ways you can celebrate Halloween:

- Carve, paint, or decorate pumpkins with members of your household and display them in your front windows or on your porch/steps.
- Decorate your house, apartment, or living space.
- Have a virtual Halloween costume contest using Facetime or Zoom.
- Watch scary movies with people in your household/family.
- Buy some candy and put together a scavenger hunt game of trick-or-treating with your household members in your home rather than going house-to-house.
- Host an outdoor, open-air costume parade for 10 or fewer people where everyone is masked and distanced more than 6 feet apart.
- Host or attend a costume party outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart.
- Visit a pumpkin patch or an orchard where everyone dresses in costumes and masks, making sure to maintain proper distancing and use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples.

*We know that Covid-19 has put a damper on many things this year, but you can still have a good time this Halloween and minimize the potential for exposure by following these rules and guidelines. **Happy Halloween!***







# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

## Development surges in Machesney Park amidst pandemic

Retail, industrial and hospitality segments all seeing growth in 2020



Shopko Optical Center will be located in the west end of 1550 West Lane Rd. This 2,600 sq. ft. occupancy addresses the last retail vacancy within the building.



1531 West Lane, new location for Anytime Fitness Machesney Park.



Contractors broke ground on Jiffy Lube's new 4,504 sq. ft. auto care center at 1766 West Lane Rd on 8/17/2020.

Construction is underway on a new **Shopko Optical Center** at the Gateway Shopping Center on Route 173, as well as immediately across the street on an **Anytime Fitness** at 1531 West Lane Rd. The Shopko Optical replaces a Radio Shack which brings the building at 1550 West Lane Rd. to full occupancy. Retail occupancy rates for buildings within the Route 173 corridor are approximately 99%. **Jiffy Lube** is building a new freestanding auto care facility in front of Meijer, along Route 173.



Spider Company's new front entrance of their 130,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in the former Menards.



Northwest corner of the 125,000 sq. ft. addition to Hennig Inc., Enclosure Systems building at 10601 N. 2nd St.



Front entrance at Hennig Inc., Enclosure Systems.

The Village is also enjoying development success beyond the retail sector. **Hennig Inc. and Spider Company** put the finishing touches on 255,000 sq. ft. of industrial space this summer and both projects were made possible as a result of Village support through tax increment financing and enterprise zone incentives. Hennig, Inc.'s \$20 million, 125,000 sq. ft. addition will support the company's back-up generation enclosure division and create 60 jobs when complete.



CQ+ Manufacturing Group at 8155 Burden Rd.

**CQ+ Manufacturing Group**, headquartered in Ohio, acquired a 48,000 square foot industrial building at 8155 Burden Road in July, 2020. The manufacturer of precision-machined components will hire 35 employees and plans to move into the building in the coming weeks.

# ZONING APPROVAL & REGULATING DEVELOPMENT

## Is Your Home Occupation Still In Operation?

The Village Board approved an Ordinance which requires an annual renewal of new Home Occupation Permits issued after August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Any resident running a business from their home is required to apply for a Home Occupation Permit. Some common home-based businesses include home daycares, beauty salons, accountants, and contractors. The Village has issued many Home Occupation Permits since the Village incorporated in 1981, but we are interested to know how many are still operational.

For this reason, the Village is asking all residents who have ever been issued a home occupation permit to please notify the Community Development Department to let us know whether you are still conducting your business. Home occupation permits issued before August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 will not be required to apply for a new permit. Using the Village's Destination Machesney marketing program, the Village will promote our home-based businesses at no charge to the business community. Please email Carrie Houston at [carrieh@machesneypark.org](mailto:carrieh@machesneypark.org) with your name, address and the type of business you have been operating.



## TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Answer the following 8 questions to test how well you know Machesney Park, and to be entered into a drawing for your chance to win a gift card to a Village merchant. Please submit answers by mail to:

**Village of Machesney Park, Attn: Village Quiz, 300 Roosevelt Rd., Machesney Park, IL 61115**

Residents who submit correct answers will be entered into the drawing. Submissions must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to be eligible. Be sure to include your name, address, and daytime phone number with your submission. Correct answers will be published in a future issue of the Village Voice.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Which year was the Village of Machesney Park incorporated?**

- ☐ 1881 ☐ 1901 ☐ 1921 ☐ 1941 ☐ 1961 ☐ 1981

**2. The Village was named after whom?**

- ☐ Mary Machesney, heroic volunteer nurse to Union soldiers during the Civil War  
☐ Machesney Machinery, farm implement retailer and first business to locate in the area that became the Village  
☐ Franklin Machesney, architect who designed the first school to locate in the area that became the Village  
☐ Thomas Machesney, explorer and first settler to establish a homestead in the area that became the Village  
☐ Fred Machesney, aviator and founder of the Machesney Airport  
☐ Charles Machesney, Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1913 to 1918

**3. Which animal name is not found in any roadway names in the Village?**

- ☐ Deer ☐ Eagle ☐ Firefly ☐ Heron ☐ Coyote ☐ Marlin

**4. Which U.S. city name is not found in any roadway names in the Village?**

- ☐ Cincinnati ☐ Phoenix ☐ Portland ☐ Raleigh ☐ Tampa ☐ Ventura

**5. The word "hawk" or "hawkeye" is found in how many roadway names in the Village?**

- ☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 8 ☐ 11 ☐ 14 ☐ 16

**6. How many roadway names in the Village are a presidential surname?**

- ☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

**7. How many Winnebago County Forest Preserves are located in the Village?**

- ☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

**8. Why is Machesney Park a Village rather than a City?**

- ☐ When founded, the population was not large enough to be considered a "City".  
☐ Cities must have independent municipal sewer and water providers, which Machesney Park does not have.  
☐ Villages are governed by exactly 6 trustees and 1 Village President, as Machesney Park is.  
☐ When founded, the land area of Machesney Park was not large enough to be considered a "City".  
☐ Cities must lie entirely in one unified school district, and Machesney Park does not.  
☐ The founders of Machesney Park felt that "Village" sounded more idyllic and quaint.



# CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

## New Parking Regulations

June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, the Village Board adopted an ordinance establishing new parking regulations for properties in residential districts. One of the more notable changes is the new seasonal allowance for parking recreational vehicles on a front driveway between April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please note that RV's cannot block or extend over a sidewalk. The other significant change is to require all vehicles, boats, and trailers to be stored on a hard surface.



The chart below explains the new rules for parking in residential districts. If you have any questions regarding the new regulations, please feel free to contact the Code Enforcement Inspector at 815-877-5432. The Village's parking regulations will be enforced by the Machesney Park Division of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and violations to the rules are enforced through written parking tickets.

	<i>Motor Vehicle Parking</i>	<i>Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking</i>	<i>Trailer &amp; Recreational Transportation Equipment Parking</i>	<i>Boat Parking</i>
<i>SURFACE</i>	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.	(1) Must be parked on a hard surface.
<i>LOCATION</i>	(2) Must be parked in front, side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.	(2) Must be parked in a side or rear yard.
<i>SEASONAL ALLOWANCES</i>		*Between April 15 <sup>th</sup> and October 15 <sup>th</sup> each year, RV's may be stored in the front yard area on a driveway, so long as it doesn't block a sidewalk.		*Between April 15 <sup>th</sup> and October 15 <sup>th</sup> each year, properly trailered boats under 25 ft. in length may be stored in the front yard area in the driveway.  **For lots with frontage along the Rock River, boats may be stored between the structure and the street.
<i>OTHER RULES</i>	(3) Vehicles with license plates above an "A", "B" or "C" are prohibited.  (4) Must be operable and currently licensed.	(3) Must be maintained in good condition and watertight.  (4) Must be Operable and have current registration.  (5) May not be occupied for human habitation.	(3) Semi-tractor trailers are not allowed.	(3) Must be stored on trailers designed and intended for hauling the boat or watercraft.  * Canoes and kayaks are exempt from this.

### Definitions

**Hard Surface** - A ground-level surface paved with asphalt or concrete, for the purpose of parking or storing motor vehicles, Trailers, Boats, or Recreational Vehicles. Driveways and parking areas paved exiting with gravel, crushed rock, crushed asphalt and similar materials in place as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 are considered non-conforming surfaces and will not be required to be paved unless new parking areas are needed.

**Trailer** - A non-motorized vehicle with wheels that is towed behind a motor vehicle, including, but not limited to hauling trailers, enclosed trailers, specialty trailers, race car trailers, contractor equipment trailers, conestoga trailers, step deck trailers, and flat-bed trailers.

**Boat** - A motorized or non-motorized vessel or watercraft designed for transportation by water, including but not limited to: runabouts, fishing boats, jet skis, canoes, sail boats, bass boats, kayaks, houseboats, jetboats, duck skiffs, and pontoon boats.

**Recreational Transportation Equipment** - Small, non-street legal, motorized vehicles designed for recreational enjoyment, including, but not limited to: all terrain vehicles, gators, three-wheelers, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, golf carts, and dirt bikes.

**Recreational Vehicle** - A motorized or non-motorized vehicle or trailer that includes living quarters designed for short-term or long-term accommodation, including, but not limited to: motorhomes, campervans, caravans, trailer campers, pop-up campers, fifth-wheel trailers, and truck campers.

# ROAD CONSTRUCTION

## 2020 Machesney Park Street Resurfacing Projects

In 2008, 2012, and again in 2020, the citizens of Machesney Park supported rebuilding and maintaining the Village's roads by approving a 1% sales tax. The revenue collected is dedicated solely to roads and public infrastructure and is enabling the Village to fix streets at a pace that would have never been achieved without the funding.

### These are the Village streets scheduled for resurfacing this year:

Harbor Oaks Drive, Ventura Blvd. from Old Ralston to Miller, Carl's Place, Brianna Way, Logan's Run, Gray Hawk Drive (*cul-de-sac*), Eagle Point, Osprey Ridge from Irving to the cul-de-sac, Speckled Hawk from Golden Eagle to Osprey Ridge, Debbie Lane, Katie Court, Patti Lane, Tanya Court, Chicory Street, Gateway Drive, Corina's Curve, Crown Ridge between Corina's Curve and Sandy Point Drive, Sandy Point Drive, Key West Drive, Key West Court, Needle Point Drive, Broken Branch Drive, Segunda Lane, IL 251 West Service Drive between Copper and Langley, Shore Drive between 9927 and Wakefield Drive, Wakefield Drive between Shore and North Park Road, Northway Park Road, Weathervane, Windmill, Windmill Court, Elm Avenue between Maple and Harlem. The final surface will also be placed on Brentwood between Forest Hills and IL 251 East Service Drive, and Heron between Mildred and Cameo.

## Development surges in Machesney Park amidst pandemic

Community Development cont. from pg. 3

**The Twisted Tulip** Events and Banquets center at 7901 Burden Rd. obtained their certificate of occupancy in July and has recently opened their doors for business. The 4,500 sq.ft. boutique banquet facility provides a contemporary and intimate setting for weddings, corporate events and other social gatherings.



Twisted Tulip Events & Banquets Center at 7901 Burden Road.



Inside of the Twisted Tulip Events & Banquet Facility.



North elevation of the Twisted Tulip Events & Banquet Facility.

**KC's Burger Bar** will be opening soon and will take over the Happy Wok at 6901 N. 2nd St. KC's will offer a burger commensurate with the kind you would find in a fine dining establishment but in a fast food atmosphere. The burger bar will have 8 specialty burgers, in half-pound or quarter-pound options – all of which will be ground fresh every day. Customers can choose from any of the specialty burgers or they can 'build their own' with a variety of toppings. KC's will also offer some top-quality breakfast sandwiches as well.



KC's Burger Bar will occupy the former Happy Wok at 6901 N. 2nd St.



Ritchie's Smokin' BBQ at 7828 N. 2nd St.

The owner of **Ritchie's Smokin' BBQ** started two years ago selling BBQ sandwiches and cornbread from under a tent on Route 173 and N. 2nd. The newest location at 7828 N. 2nd Street in Machesney Park's downtown area has been busy with hungry customers since opening late spring.

**First Midwest Group** broke ground on their newest self-storage facility on 5.6 acres at the northeast corner of Route 173 and Mitchell Rd., 7171 Mitchell Rd. in August.



Excavators working on First Midwest Group's self-storage facility.





# PUBLIC WORKS

## Curbside Garbage Pickup

Trash removal is an essential service that keeps the Village clean, safe and looking nice. In order to obtain the best price for garbage service, the Village publically bid trash removal services and entered into a contract with Rock River Disposal. All residents are required to pay for residential garbage service. Rock River Disposal continues to offer five services for its residential customers: curbside waste removal, curbside recycling services, large/bulk item removal, curbside yard waste removal, and leaf vacuuming.

*Below are some general guidelines to follow to insure proper and timely pick up of these materials:*

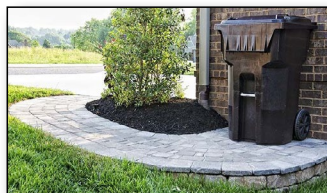
- ✓ **All garbage must be contained** in the tote provided by Rock River Disposal, a garbage can, or a sealed bag. Loose materials will not be collected. All cans should be placed within 4 feet of your curb, and should not be placed near any stationary objects such as mailboxes, trees, etc.
- ✓ **Recyclables** should be contained in recycle totes and placed along the curb for proper pick up.
- ✓ **Large/bulk items** will be picked up and removed by the garbage carrier as long as the size and shape of the item can be loaded into a collection vehicle by one person. Examples of acceptable large/bulk items include: metals with no concrete attached, furniture, metal poles, carpeting and padding, debris from minor remodeling or home improvements.
- ✓ **Yard waste** will be picked up only in containers marked with an X, in paper yard waste bags or bundles secured with twine. Yard waste pickup will end December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ During designated **leaf vacuuming** dates, starting October 19<sup>th</sup> through the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December leaves shall be raked to the area immediately adjacent to the road where it is easily accessible by the collection vehicle. Placement of the leaves should be in the grass area along the road and not in the roadway.
- ✓ The following items **SHOULD NOT** be disposed of in weekly garbage pickup and should be taken to a proper facility for disposal: **televisions, paint, solvents, tires, automobile batteries, dirt, sod, rocks, broken cement, tree branches, stumps, pressurized containers such as propane, pesticides, used motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, herbicides, explosives, fireworks, or medical wastes.**
- ✓ All residents are required to pay for **garbage service**. To set-up an account with Rock River Disposal, please call 815-965-2489.

## Garbage Collection

Garbage day is Friday in the Village. DO NOT place your cans out for collection any earlier than 6AM Thursday, and please retrieve the cans from the curb by no later than Saturday.

## Garbage Can Storage

Garbage cans must be stored in an area other than the front of your house and at all times garbage must be in an approved container with a tight-fitting lid. DO NOT store garbage outside in bags.



## Permits Required Before Moving Dirt

Village Ordinance requires an erosion and sediment control permit for any project where more than 100 square feet of topsoil is disturbed (*10-foot by 10-foot areas*). When project such as new driveways are installed or foundations are poured, soil disturbances can create erosion that moves dirt and silt onto neighboring properties. Soil erosion and sedimentation are major contributors to waterway pollution that can also clog pipes and pollute ponds, lakes and wetlands.



Residents who are planning to complete projects such as those mentioned above, are required to contact the Public Works Department before they start construction and provide an erosion control plan. Erosion control typically includes the installation of silt fencing surrounding the limits of the area of soil disturbance to prevent erosion and runoff.



300 Roosevelt Road  
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Avoid Being A Victim Of A Car Break-In

### A few tips to consider to prevent car break-ins:

- ✓ Remove all valuables and money from your car .
- ✓ If you have to park outside your home, do not leave your garage door opener in your vehicle.
- ✓ Roll up the windows and LOCK your doors every time.
- ✓ Activate your vehicle security system if you have one.
- ✓ Park in well-lighted areas.
- ✓ Keep your driveway and yard lit up all night. It's harder for criminals to hide in the light.
- ✓ If you are out shopping, move your valuables to the trunk before parking. Park near other people where there is plenty of pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- ✓ Don't keep spare keys inside or on the exterior of the car.
- ✓ Use heavy duty locks for truck tool boxes and secure the tool box to the bed of the truck.



## Be Prepared for Winter Weather

### Build an emergency supply for your car that has:

- ❄ First aid kit
- ❄ Jumper cables
- ❄ Blankets
- ❄ Snow shovel and brush
- ❄ Water and snacks
- ❄ Sand or kitty litter
- ❄ Flashlight
- ❄ Mittens, hat, boots, & warm clothes
- ❄ Cell phone charger



## Village and Sheriff's Department Unveil New Branding for Squad Cars and Deputy Vests



## 2020 Village of Machesney Park President and Board of Trustees



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Village President/Mayor



**Joe Seipts**  
Trustee - District 1



**Jake Schmidt**  
Trustee - District 2



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