

The Village Voice

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Machesney Park

HARLEM ROAD PROJECT

The Village is excited to announce that Harlem Road between Schnuck's and IL-251 is scheduled for resurfacing later this year. Construction will begin in mid-May and is expected to wrap-up in mid-October.

For this project, the Village will be hiring contractors to:

- (1) Patch the bad areas of pavement and curb, and make repairs to the inlets;
- (2) Remove and replace the sidewalks;
- (3) Replace the electronics of the Harlem and Elm signals, and add a new green arrow light for the eastbound to northbound left turn at Harlem and Elm; and
- (4) Place a new surface on Harlem Road that will help extend the life of the pavement by slowing the reflective cracking process.

Construction of the improvements will occur over a number of "stages", and each stage will have its own set of lane closures. That said, we will maintain at least one thru lane of traffic in each direction on Harlem Road at all times during construction.

Inconveniences and delays are inevitable with construction on major roadways. In an effort to avoid delays, you may want to avoid Harlem Road during construction and find alternative travel routes. The Village will be in communication with the residents and businesses along Harlem Road throughout the entire project, and this includes the residents in the neighborhoods surrounding Harlem Road, as there will be periodic side street closures that will affect the neighborhood traffic patterns. Letters will be sent to all residents and businesses before major traffic control changes and weekly updates will be posted to the Village website: <https://machesneypark.org/>. Additionally, the project will have its own Twitter feed for updates on-the-go.



Existing pavement conditions on Harlem Road

Finally, and most importantly, if you must travel through the construction zone **PLEASE** do so with extreme caution and obey the traffic control speed limits. It is important to note that traffic on other area streets is going to increase as we all try to find different routes to avoid the construction zones, so please exercise patience when using those alternate routes. Please do your part to promote safety by exercising caution in and around the construction zone.



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BUDGET & PROGRAM UPDATES

Finance

The Village's annual budget is the primary tool that guides our decision-making over the coming year. The budget is drafted each year with careful consideration, using a conservative approach to estimating revenue. Expenses are contemplated with as much, if not more, consideration to efficiency so that the Village can continue to maintain a zero general fund property tax rate and minimize tax burdens on our residents.

Our annual budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 continues to ensure that residents enjoy the benefit of quality government services at one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the region. As a guiding document, the budget will reflect the Village's goals for the upcoming year:

Organizational Goals

- ✓ Ensure that Machesney Park is a safe, clean, and enjoyable community.
- ✓ Demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and honesty in public activities to inspire public confidence and trust in the Village.
- ✓ Maintain fiscal integrity and efficiency through ethical and responsible management of public funds.
- ✓ Aggressively pursue economic development opportunities to grow our community.
- ✓ Provide a safe and supportive work environment for employees.

In April, the Village Board will be approving a balanced budget for the fiscal year May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023. A copy of the proposed budget will be available on the Village's website on March 25.

Flood Buyout Update

The Village is currently in the process of acquiring up to twenty-two residential properties that are at risk of repetitive flooding thanks to federal and state grants that the Village has received. Two additional grants are currently under review with FEMA and we hope to hear by late summer whether we can proceed. However, if we hear anything sooner, we will be in contact with eligible homeowners to advise of a timeline.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the buyout program, please visit the Village website <https://machesneypark.org/voluntary-flood-buyout-program/> or contact Michelle Johannsen, (815) 877-5432, michellej@machesneypark.org. If you would like to have your home added to the waiting list to be considered for a future buyout grant, please visit the above webpage and fill out the Notice of Voluntary Interest (NOVI) Form and return it to Village Hall.

Machesney Park's Single Family Rehab Program Progress

The Village is days away from completing repairs on the last home from the 2019 Single Family Rehab Program. The 2019 program gave the Village two years to spend the proceeds, which was extended due to the pandemic. Thanks to funding from the Illinois Housing Development's Single Family Rehab Program grant, we have been able to repair nine homes in the Village of Machesney Park. Of those nine homes, we have remodeled bathrooms, replaced and repaired windows, upgraded electrical, replaced flooring, removed trees, replaced furnaces, removed and repaved a driveway, and many other repairs to bring the homes up to code and make them a safer place for residents to reside for many years to come.

Although we are unsure of the opportunity to provide the grant funds to residents in the future, we hope that grant funding will be available to the Village again soon. Our rehab program is generally open to property owners who fall below certain income thresholds and who can demonstrate the need for assistance. If additional funds become available, the Village will send out a press release and notify the public by posting information on social media and the Village website. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Penny Miller at (815) 877-5432.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

(Continued on page 5)

Machesney Park Town Center Updates

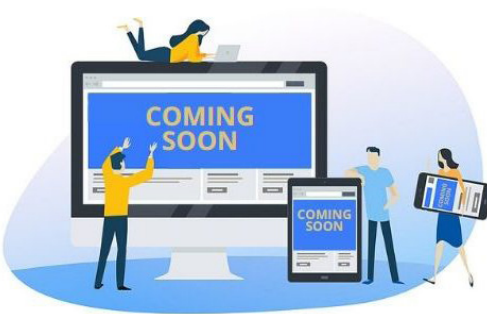
Nestory Park Self-Storage

Construction will begin soon on a new indoor and outdoor self-storage facility featuring a coffee shop and co-working space in the former Bergner's building at the Town Center.

Former 7th Avenue Building Renovated & Occupied

We are very happy to report that the former 7th Avenue building on the northwest side of the Town Center has been leased after undergoing a substantial renovation. The building will be occupied by PCI Pharma Services.

New Village Website & Resident Request Portal Coming Soon



The Village website is being redesigned to better serve our residents. Please visit the website <https://machesneypark.org> and social media for a launch day. As part of the Village's roll out of its new website later this year, residents will be able to submit various types of requests for service and complaints online 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Submissions will be sent directly to the responsible party at the Village for review and/or action. On the portal, residents will be able to create an account and begin submitting Code Enforcement complaints, Public Works requests for service, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. By creating an account users will have the ability to view/track their submissions and receive a reference number for each submission. Residents will still be able to submit Code Enforcement complaints and Public Works requests for service anonymously but will not have the ability to track them online after they are submitted. Some examples of submissions that will be accepted online are listed below:

Code Enforcement Complaints

- ◆ Exterior sanitation issues ◆ Tall grass/weeds ◆ Items in yard/Outdoor storage ◆ Property maintenance issues
- ◆ Vehicle parking issues ◆ Fence issues ◆ Zoning issues ◆ Sign issues

Public Works Requests

- ◆ Potholes ◆ Mailbox damage ◆ Debris on roadway ◆ Traffic signal outage ◆ Street sign issue ◆ Street flooding

Online Building Permits

Coinciding with the launch of the new Village of Machesney Park website later this spring, residents will soon be able to apply for a variety of building permits online!

The permits that will be offered online include:

Residential, Fence, Sign, Accessory Structure, Miscellaneous and Small Structure.

Contact our Building Department at (815) 877-6072 with any questions.



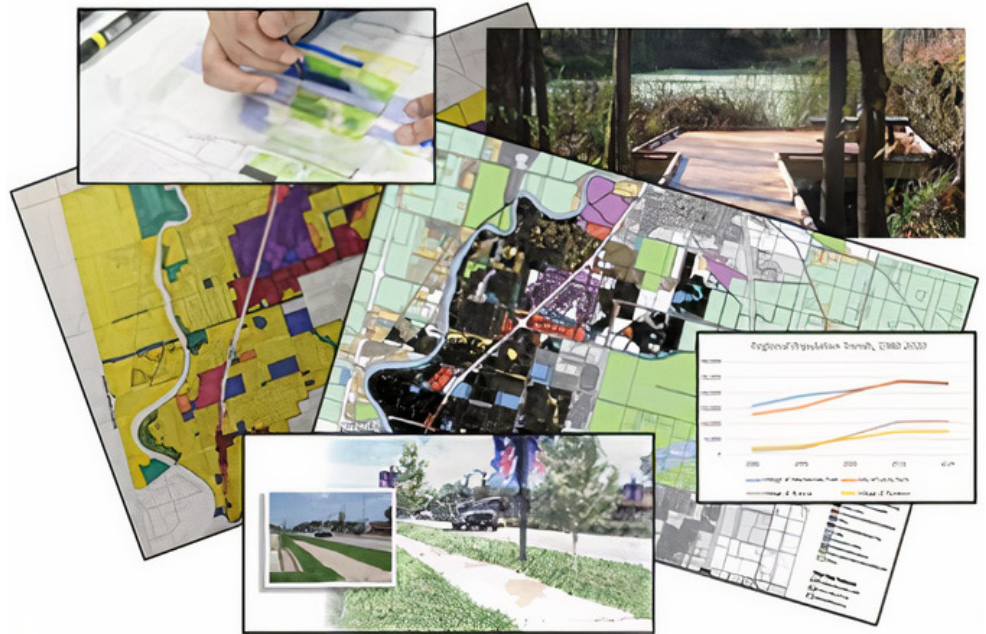
New Tobacco & Alternative Nicotine Products Retailers License Taking Effect

Beginning May 1, 2022, all retailers who sell tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, vapor products or electronic cigarettes must obtain a local tobacco retailer license from Village Hall. The new licensing requirements are intended to ensure that our Winnebago County Sheriff Deputies are able to enforce regulations and issue citations without facing jurisdictional barriers. The health and safety of our residents is a top priority of the Village, and this license requirement will help public safety personnel monitor the sale of tobacco and alternative nicotine products and ensure that these products are not sold to individuals under the age of 21. Licenses are \$150 per year and are valid May 1 through April 31.

ZONING APPROVAL & REGULATING DEVELOPMENT

Update of the Village's Comprehensive Plan

Village Staff is now in the process of updating the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Every community has a Comprehensive Plan, sometimes referred to as a Master Plan, to steer development decisions and avoid haphazard growth. The goals and objectives identified in this plan update will guide staff and elected officials when making decisions regarding development in the Village for the next 20 years. The plan will examine future needs for residential, commercial and industrial land uses, as well as transportation, community facilities, parks and open space, while recognizing how the Village can build upon our positive community identity. The Village's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2010.



Seeking Citizen Input for the Village's Comprehensive Plan Update

We are asking all residents to consider completing our online Community Survey. This survey is only 10 questions and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

A link to the survey can be found on our Village website, machesneypark.org, by typing Comprehensive Plan Community Survey in the search bar on the homepage. If you are unable to complete the survey online, paper copies are available at the Machesney Park Village Hall. We greatly appreciate everyone's input as we plan Machesney Park's future.



Shipping containers may not be used as buildings in the Village

In an effort to maintain property values and the residential essence of neighborhoods through the Village, shipping containers and pods are prohibited from being used as permanent storage structures. Shipping containers are routinely used in manufacturing areas and can be visually unappealing in a way that is not suitable for our neighborhoods. Shipping containers and pods are only permitted to be used in residential areas for the temporary storage of items awaiting transport, for a period not to exceed 30 days.



CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Grass/Weed Height - It is the responsibility of every property owner and/or tenant to maintain the growth of grasses and weeds throughout their property. At no time should the grass/weed height be greater than 7 inches. Once a property is cited, it must be corrected in 7 days. If after 7 days, the violation is not corrected, the Village will hire a contractor to have the property mowed and lien the property. The process from initial complaint until a property is mowed by the Village could take as long as 14 days. Please contact the Village as soon as you notice a property in violation so that property can be inspected in a timely manner.

Grass Clippings - Residents are encouraged to refrain from discharging or disposing of grass clippings or any foreign materials into the roadway or storm drains. These materials can clog storm drains and cause pollutants to the Village's waterways. Discharging or dumping of any material into a roadway is a violation of Village ordinance and may be subject to penalties and fines.

Controlled yard waste burning is allowed ONLY between April 1st-30th and November 1st-30th. Curbside pick-up of yard waste in designated yard waste bags or in containers clearly marked with an "X", will resume this spring. Once we are notified by Rock River Disposal of the exact yard waste pick-up start date it will be posted on all of the Village's social media outlets.

Garbage Collection - Garbage Day is Friday in the Village. DO NOT place your cans/totes out for collection any earlier than Thursday and return the cans/totes by no later than Saturday. DO NOT leave your cans/totes at the curb all week.

Garbage Storage - At all times garbage must be stored in an approved container with a tight-fitting lid or in the Rock River Disposal issued Tote with the lid closed. Cans and Totes may not be stored in any area between the home and the street. DO NOT store garbage outside in bags.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Local Business Spotlight – Hennig, Inc.

Hennig, Inc., a global leader of machine protection manufacturing and enclosure systems, has been part of the Machesney Park business community for over 40 years. Throughout many decades, Hennig has experienced rapid growth becoming the Village's largest employer. The growth of the company's backup power generation operation has amplified the need for more space. The company has responded by investing \$20 million in an expansion in early 2021, and more recently they acquired the former Hydroline building on Marlin Drive. Hennig's backup generation division serves large customers globally, including the likes of Apple, Amazon, and Google. The Village of Machesney Park is proud of Hennig Inc. and appreciates the company's ongoing investments within this community. For more information about Hennig, visit them online at <https://hennigworldwide.com/>.

Machesney Park Businesses Are Hiring!

Looking for work? You have plenty of options right here in the Village.
Consider applying with one of the following companies:



UPDATES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Mosquito Control



The Village of Machesney Park will once again be contracting with Clarke Mosquito this year for mosquito control treatments and services. Clarke Mosquito will monitor the Village all season long and determine the optimal time to spray and treat catch basins in an effort to better control the mosquito population.

Contracted treatments can only control the mosquito population to a certain level. Residents are urged to take steps on their own to help control areas where mosquito populations may breed. Below is a list of common areas around the yard that should be checked to help eliminate potential breeding sites.

- ✓ Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles or any water holding containers
- ✓ Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in yard
- ✓ Clean gutters periodically
- ✓ Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly
- ✓ Cover trash containers to keep out rain water
- ✓ Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets
- ✓ Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store them indoors when not in use
- ✓ Make sure your backyard pool is properly cared for
- ✓ Fill in tree root holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete
- ✓ Change the water in bird baths and plant pots or drip trays at least once a week
- ✓ Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there

Should any questions arise about the treatment or control of mosquitoes, residents may contact Clarke Mosquito at 1-800-942-2555 or visit their website at WWW.CLARKE.COM.



Public Works Permits

As the Spring and Summer months are upon us, it is important that residents and contractors understand the importance of acquiring the proper permits for projects they plan to complete around their property. The Village's Public Works department is responsible for issuing and monitoring permits for any work done within the right of way, such as driveways and sidewalks, as well as Erosion and Sediment Control permits which are required for any project that disturbs more than 100 sq. ft. of soil. If you have any questions on whether or not a permit is required, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (815) 877-5432.

Concrete Washouts

As part of the Village's stormwater pollution prevention plan, concrete washouts are one of the most overlooked sources of ground water contamination. The residue and contaminants from washing concrete trucks, pumps, mixers, chutes, hand tools, and wheelbarrows is referred to as "concrete washout." This type of waste is highly alkaline, contains high levels of chromium, and is corrosive.

When not managed properly, concrete washout can pollute surface water and groundwater by changing its pH, increasing the toxicity of other substances, and reducing water clarity.



Erosion and Sediment Control



Any construction project that disturbs more than 100 sq. ft of soil must obtain an Erosion Control permit as required by the EPA. Sediment runoff from unprotected construction sites can clog pipes and pollute ponds, lakes and wetlands. The Village requires that an erosion control plan be in place and maintained throughout the duration of a construction project. A fine for non-compliance can range from a minimum of \$250 to \$750 a day for a property found in violation of the requirement.

Why Care About Clean Water?

One of the greatest threats to Machesney Park's waterways is storm water pollution. Clean water means safe drinking water, places for recreation and healthy wildlife habitats. Rain washes pollution from the streets, parking lots and lawns into the storm sewers which then drain to our waterways. By taking steps to ensure that construction sites are protected and reduce site runoff, we can do our part to protect these valuable assets.

Please contact the Public Works Department at (815) 877-5432 with any questions you may have regarding erosion control.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Summer 2022

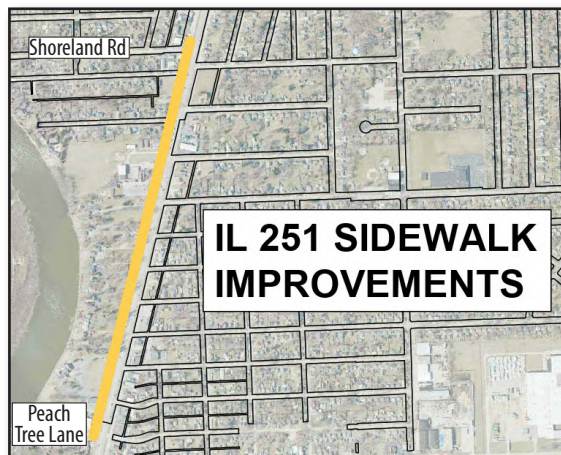
2022 will once again be a busy year as the Village plans to undertake a number of roadway construction and maintenance improvement projects. While the Harlem Road improvements will be the Village's most visible project, there are several other planned projects that will be constructed over the upcoming months as well.

Resurfacing

As the weather continues to get warmer, Village staff will be assessing the condition of our pavements and planning this year's maintenance program which consists of road resurfacing, spot repairs to curbing, inlet repair, pavement patching and minor drainage improvements. We are anticipating that between 4-5 miles of streets will undergo resurfacing later this summer. Residents who live on a street that will undergo resurfacing will receive a flyer from the Village before construction begins so they know what to expect during construction.

Indigo Lane

The residents of Indigo Lane will also see welcome improvements as this road is scheduled for complete reconstruction. The improvements include new pavement, curbing, storm sewer improvements, and new sidewalks along the west side of the roadway. The sidewalks will connect into the existing sidewalks on Copper Drive and Roosevelt Road. We anticipate that construction will begin in June and will wrap up by mid-September. Before the project begins, the Village will host an informational meeting with affected residents to review the construction process.



IL 251 Sidewalks

New sidewalks will be installed along the west side of IL 251 between Shoreland Road and Peach Tree Lane. This area is frequented by pedestrian traffic and the improvements are sorely needed. The Village is currently seeking permits from IDOT and expects to begin the improvements later this summer. As a reminder, IL 251 is maintained by the state. The Village has been urging IDOT to make repairs to this roadway and we hope to see progress in the near future.

Darwin Drive

The Village is planning improvements to Darwin Drive between Norman Avenue and Darby Close Subdivision. This section of Darwin Drive is one of the last remaining gravel roads in the Village of Machesney Park. The road is scheduled to be fully reconstructed to a "rural" section (i.e., open ditches) on the west end which will then transition to a curb/gutter section where it meets the existing Darwin Drive. Construction is expected to be underway in July and wrap up by the end of August.





300 Roosevelt Road
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

PUBLIC SAFETY



Machesney Park Division of the Sheriff's Department

Boater Safety Tips

LIFE JACKETS - Life jackets are required to be worn by any passenger under the age of 13. Make sure you have an adequate number of fitted life jackets aboard your boat.

EQUIP YOUR BOAT WITH SAFETY COMPONENTS - Make sure your boat is equipped with safety components, these include a drain plug, throw cushion, whistle/horn, covered battery terminals, anchor, and fire extinguisher.

BE CONSCIOUS OF SURROUNDINGS - Give plenty of room to other boaters and watch for floating debris.

PULLING TUBES OR SKIERS - Be sure to have an orange flag displayed if you are pulling tubes or skiers.

SWIMMING - If swimming while boating on the river, consider wearing a life jacket and be very careful of the current and undertow.

NO WAKE ZONES MEANS NO WAKE - When traveling through a no wake zone, it is very important to travel at a slow speed to minimize the wake.



National Night Out

National Night Out will be on August 2nd, 2022. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is planning to co-host this event with the Loves Park Police Department at Harlem High School. Please keep an eye on the Village's social media pages for more up-to-date information.



Car Insurance Requirements

Illinois law requires all motor vehicles registered and operated in Illinois to be covered by liability insurance, which covers property damage and/or injuries in an accident. *(Trailers are not required to have liability insurance.)*

You must carry your insurance card in your vehicle and show it upon request by any law enforcement officer. If you are stopped for a traffic violation or involved in an accident, a law enforcement officer may issue a traffic citation if you are unable to provide evidence of insurance. There is a minimum \$500 fine for operating an uninsured vehicle, as well as a minimum \$1,000 fine for driving a vehicle while the registration is suspended for no insurance.

Safe Driving Tips

AVOID DISTRACTED DRIVING: Illinois law prohibits the use of hand-held cellphones, texting or using other electronic communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Bluetooth technology are allowed for persons age 19 and over.

DO NOT DRIVE IMPAIRED: It is against the law to drive under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs that can impair safe driving.

AVOID AGGRESSIVE DRIVING: Avoid speeding, running red lights and stop signs, tailgating, passing on the shoulder of the road, and cutting off other vehicles.

SHARE THE ROAD WITH OTHERS: When approaching a stationary (non-moving) emergency/maintenance vehicle using visual signals or entering a construction zone, Illinois law requires motorists to slow down, yield, change to a lane away from the emergency/construction workers when possible and proceed with caution.

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