



GATEWAY

MAY 2018

FROM WHERE WE'VE BEEN TO WHERE WE'RE GOING

Letter from Village President

As I write this welcome letter for our *Gateway* newsletter, it brings into focus not only how much we have accomplished together in the past year, but what a strong, amazing and generous community Bensenville is. Early on in my administration I set out to meet residents from all corners of Bensenville through a series of informal meetings over coffee. Along with Village Manager Evan Summers, I was able to first listen to your questions and concerns, and then share some thoughts on our vision for Bensenville's future. Along the way we met many terrific people who make up the heart of our community.



The spirit of generosity and commitment to one another was evident in recent months when tragic circumstances called for residents to join together to support one another. I witnessed firsthand the generosity of residents and businesses as they came together to purchase car seats for young families, find shelter and provide financial support to families displaced by a fire, honor our veterans with Honor Flight opportunities, and provide warmth and joy during the holidays with donations of toys and winter coats.

I am very confident that 2018 will be even more successful. With many years of hard work and vigorous advocacy, we were able to help shape the new Interim Fly Quiet Runway Rotation Plan for O'Hare which should benefit Bensenville greatly. We also welcomed more than a dozen new businesses to town and can now enjoy a more beautiful, efficient and accommodating community because of our successful streetscape, neighborhood lighting and bike path projects. We also made a long-term commitment to improving the infrastructure at the Edge Ice Arena and have already seen that investment pay dividends in new tenant acquisitions and lease extensions.

Many of these factors have combined to improve our property values. The average value of a home increased over 20%, making Bensenville the leader in increased value across all of DuPage County.

I'm especially pleased with the services we have provided to our most valued residents, our senior citizens. With our snowplowing program in the winter and our lawn-cutting offer in the summer, we hope to ease their financial burdens a bit, and make them feel welcomed and valued in our community.

With summertime just around the corner, I look forward to enjoying our community even more while seeing many of you at events and activities across town, as well as shopping, dining, exercising and enjoying all that Bensenville has to offer.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our community.

FRANK DESIMONE | VILLAGE PRESIDENT



BENSENVILLE
GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

PRESIDENT

Frank DeSimone

TRUSTEES

Rosa Carmona

Ann Franz

Agnieszka "Annie" Jaworska

McLane Mac Lomax

Nicholas Panicola Jr.

Armando Perez

VILLAGE CLERK

Nancy Quinn

VILLAGE MANAGER

Evan K. Summers



THE HEART OF OUR **Community** *Seniors*

While attracting young and growing families is essential to creating a healthy, diverse and vibrant community, no group better represents the heart of Bensenville than our senior citizens. Bensenville is home to many active seniors who contribute to our overall well-being in many ways. Under Village President Frank DeSimone, Bensenville is dedicated to serving this important group of residents and making sure their needs are met so we can enjoy their presence as residents for years to come.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

Many of the services we offer to seniors are also made available to residents with disabilities, recognizing them as important members of our community who need to be made to feel at home here as well. While this past winter was pleasantly mild, the Village was prepared to support our Senior Snow Plowing Program in which we offered discounted snow plowing services to seniors and disabled residents.

As the weather warms, we have introduced a similar program for lawn care. The Senior/Disabled Grass Cutting Program provides a discounted rate on lawn cutting services for these two groups of residents with the Village covering 50% of the cost. Each week our service provider will visit the home of registered participants, cut the lawn and blow away any clippings. Those who already registered were able to take advantage of a spring clean-up and in fall will enjoy having lawn debris bagged. The cost to residents is just \$7.50 per cut. Each may add edging and bagging services to their seasonal package, for just an additional \$2.50 each.

For information or to register for the program, please visit the www.Bensenville.il.us or call the Public Works Department at 630.350.3435.



LUNCHEONS

A great tradition in Bensenville are the monthly Senior's Luncheons at Monty's Banquet Hall. Held the first Tuesday of every month, the event is open to all Bensenville residents 55 and over. For just \$4, attendees enjoy lunch, raffle, bingo, and of course, friendship and conversation. Tickets are available from 10:00 to 11:00 am. In 2017 we added some extra gifts including Jewel-Osco or Walgreens gift cards and a holiday party with entertainment for all.

In October, the monthly Senior's Luncheon featured the Illinois Secretary of State Mobile Unit which allowed seniors to renew driver's licenses, license plate stickers and sign up to be an organ donor. State Senator Don Harmon was on hand to discuss topics of interest and staff from our local Jewel-Osco provided flu and pneumonia shots. In addition, members of the Citizens Utility Board reviewed utility bills for unnecessary charges and offered advice on how to manage your utility bills. Free health and wellness checks were provided by the Bensenville Fire Protection District.



VEHICLE STICKERS

Bensenville residents 65 and over can secure their vehicle stickers for just \$1. The stickers are now good for 2 full years under this special program. For an application form visit www.bensenville.il.us/325/Finance.



SENIOR HOTLINE | 630 350 3426

Rather than being a complaint line, this designated hotline for senior citizens in the Village of Bensenville is designed to inform about various services and programs throughout the Village. Seniors are encouraged to call the hotline during normal business hours to speak to employees specially trained in senior services.



Valuing our Com



Bensenville Residents Making a Difference

To anyone who lives in our community it comes as no surprise that there is no greater resource in Bensenville than the people who live here. In 2017 we saw many great examples of neighbors stepping up to make us all proud.



In response to a horrific car accident in April of 2017, Village President, Frank DeSimone approached the Chamber of Commerce asking for a way to provide families with a free car seat. In short order the business community rallied together to raise almost \$14,000 for the initiative. Before long, nearly 80 families registered for the **Car Seat Giveaway** program and received a free car seat and instruction on how it should be properly and safely installed in the vehicle. Instrumental to the success of the program were the Chamber of Commerce, the Bensenville Community Foundation, the Bensenville Fire Protection District and many Village employees. Special thanks goes to Bags, Inc. and Severn Hill Properties whose generous donations helped make the program possible.

The Bensenville community came together again in November of 2017 after an apartment fire on the 300 block of Marshall Road left 16 families without a place to live. Village President Frank



DeSimone and Village Trustees launched a **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** fund and quickly raised over \$13,000 to help the displaced families. We are pleased to report that most of the families have been able to relocate within Bensenville while the apartments are under repair. Many thanks go out to the Roesch family, Armando Perez of State Farm Insurance, and ABC Bank for their exceptional support.



In 2017, two **Habitat for Humanity** homes were completed in our community. The first beneficiary was Tony Bish, a single father of four and a U.S. military veteran. The Torres family was the second recipient of local efforts. Both homes were built on previously vacant lots. The modest mortgages that the families will pay will get rolled back into the program to support future Habitat projects in the area.



O'HARE NOISE REDUCTION STATUS

After several long years of study, debate and negotiation, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility

Commission (ONCC) last December voted on a runway rotation plan to utilize for at least the next two years. The decision brings some clarity to what had been a very contentious situation for many communities in recent years.

The ONCC had conducted a series of tests over the last year to evaluate the noise impact on surrounding communities from different take-off and landing patterns. The result of those studies, the Interim Fly Quiet Runway Rotation Plan, will alternate parallel with diagonal patterns on a weekly basis. The decision leads us into an FAA review and waiting period which may take up to a year. The objective, along with safety and efficiency for the airlines, is a reasonable distribution of noise impact across communities in all directions around the airport.

Bensenville Village President Frank DeSimone and Village Manager Evan Summers played a

leading role in the negotiations to get the plan approved. The plan calls for a rotation between east and west flow for take-offs which are the cause of the greatest amount of noise from the aircraft.

Based on the results of the various trials that were conducted over the last year, the approved plan is estimated to have 74% of operations on parallel runways and 26% on diagonal runways. Of course, more construction continues at O'Hare, and maintenance operations and weather conditions can change patterns on any given day.

We are pleased to have played a critical role in the creation of a plan that we feel best serves the needs and interests of our residents and businesses. Regardless of the improvements that have been made, we still find that certain flight patterns produce unacceptable levels of noise in our community. As such we will continue advocating to continually find ways to reduce noise impact on our homes, schools and businesses. We will continue to keep you apprised of further results and developments.

Bensenville Home

According to data from the Illinois Association of Realtors, home values in Bensenville have shown the greatest rise in value among all DuPage County communities since 2016. The median price of a home sold across a nine-county region, including the city of Chicago, showed an average increase of 5.6% in 2017. Our efforts to continue to improve the quality of life in Bensenville were positively reflected in a 21.4% increase in home values. Surrounding communities such as Elmhurst, Wood Dale, Elk Grove and Addison saw modest gains of no more than 6.2% overall. The rise in home values is good for current residents and strengthens our ability to attract new businesses.

2017 also saw an increase in construction of new homes in our community. Beautiful new residences of varying style and size were built across multiple neighborhoods.

To all of our new residents, welcome to Bensenville, and to those who chose to build a newer home here without having to leave Bensenville, we thank you for your commitment to our great and growing community.

Community & Reside

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

A major milestone for our Police Department was reached with the awarding of a **Tier 2 accreditation from the Illinois Law Enforcement Council**. The multi-year process began in 2013 with a Tier 1 designation being awarded in 2015. The Tier 2 award provides recognition that the department's policies and procedures were assessed on a more comprehensive level by an independent and authoritative body, that they were found to meet established professional standards, and that the Department's actual operations were in compliance with those standards. The process serves as confirmation to the community that our police force is committed to improvement and seeks to achieve the highest level of professionalism. As further evidence of their pursuit of excellence, the department is in the process of seeking more comprehensive evaluation through the international CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) Law Enforcement Accreditation program.

In conjunction with Nationwide Chaplain Services, the Police Department has established

a **Police Chaplain program** in Bensenville. **Reverend James Nylander** of Grace Lutheran Church in Bensenville has been very active in the program along with **Reverend Tim Perry**, the president of the Nationwide Chaplain Services. The role of the Chaplain is to provide emotional and spiritual care to those impacted by tragic and traumatic events such as fatal crashes, death notifications, and suicides. The leadership and officers of our department are pleased to have the support of the Chaplain in their work.

In order to provide the most effective response to an active shooter situation, the Police Department joined with the Bensenville Fire Protection District to implement Joint Rescue Task Force procedures and conduct joint rescue task force training. The objective is to provide more timely medical services to injured persons at critical time. Further joint training exercises will be held later this year.



GETTING TO KNOW VILLAGE PRESIDENT FRANK DESIMONE

As a means of being accessible to all residents, Village President Frank DeSimone began a series of casual neighborhood meetings with residents throughout the Village. The Coffee with the President meetings allowed our residents to ask questions and share concerns with President DeSimone and Village Manager Evan Summers. Watch for future dates for upcoming meetings throughout the community.



Home Values Surge!



New homes built in Bensenville in 2017 on Walnut, John, Legend, Jefferson, Barron, Crest and Route 83.

CREATING A MORE BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY

For a number of years we have sought to make downtown Bensenville a comfortable destination for our residents and visitors. The end of 2017 brought to a conclusion a critical development phase in our beautification efforts on the north side of downtown as we completed our Streetscape project. Expanded and beautified sidewalks and improved street surfaces made the area more inviting for pedestrian and bike traffic. New benches, large planter boxes and stamped crosswalks were all installed to create a far more inviting atmosphere throughout the area. As spring and summer arrive we invite you to stroll through the area and see what we've done. The south side of the Streetscape project is scheduled to take place in 2019.



Be sure to enjoy the Church Road bike path that was completed at the end of 2017. The path was installed as part of an overall reconstruction of Church Road that included resurfacing and a new water main and closed storm sewer system. As Bensenville continues to promote a healthier lifestyle, the Church Road bike path is an excellent new addition to our community.

Whether you are on a bike, on foot or in your car, your safety is of the greatest importance to us. With that in mind, we continue to improve our street lighting. Our residential street light program has added 39 new decorative streets lights throughout residential neighborhoods. Situated 150-200 feet apart, generally alternating from the north and south sides of the street, the LED lights provide improved vision, greater security and an energy efficient design.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE BRIGHTENS THE SEASON FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

In the true spirit of giving, over 400 gifts were collected and distributed to local children during the 47th Annual Holiday Toy Drive. The drive also collected coats to be distributed to assist families in need. More than 25 organizations came together to make the holiday spirit very real for many families. We thank the following for their contributions:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Agility Logistics | La Chiquita |
| American Legion | Mamma Maria's |
| Blackhawk MS | MB Financial Bank |
| Blues Hockey Club | Ree Ron Sales |
| Blumberg Dental | Roesch Ford |
| Bridgeway of B'ville | Rotary Club of B'ville |
| Castle Towers | Semplex |
| Century Metal Spinning | Teamster Horsemen |
| Chamber of Commerce | Tioga School |
| Fenton High School | Two Chefs |
| Fenton Student Council | W.A. Johnson School |
| Goffa International | Walgreens |
| Green Street Grille | York Brook Apartments |
| Hair Shapers | |



HONOR FLIGHT

The competition was intense as teams from the FBI and the Chicago Police Department squared off for the annual Honor Flight Fundraiser Hockey Game. Over \$85,000 was raised with all proceeds going to making Honor Flights available to local WWII and Korean War veterans. Veterans are taken to Washington D.C. for a day during which they are honored and thanked for their service to our country. On the ice, the FBI team captured a 5-4 shoot-out victory. There were plenty of special guests on hand including David Eigenberg, D.B. Sweeney, Daniel Carillo, Gina Glocksens, Rob Johnson and Brent Sopol.



WATER'S EDGE AQUATIC CENTER SCHEDULE

The Water's Edge Aquatic Center offers open swim periods that allow for swimming laps, aqua fitness and physical therapy activities. AquaFitness classes are also offered on a drop-in basis or for annual pass holders. Please visit www.bensenville.il.us for hours, rates and additional information.



New Look for Village Website!

The Village website (bensenville.il.us) has undergone a bit of a transformation recently. In addition to a new, contemporary look, additional features and services have been added. Residents can now pay utility bills, renew business licenses and purchase vehicle stickers on the site. Residents can also access our AquaHawk system. AquaHawk Alerting is a free service for Village of Bensenville customers that will assist them in efficiently managing their water usage and lowering their monthly bills.



OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

One of the key contributors to our ability to continually improve the quality of services we offer is a robust business community. It's important that those of you who live and work in Bensenville be able to shop and dine here as well. Developing a strong commercial base adds to our sales and property tax revenues. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the business development community sees great value and opportunity in Bensenville as we continue to attract retailers and professional service providers. We encourage everyone in Bensenville to shop local and help these great new businesses succeed. In 2017 we welcomed the following new enterprises to Bensenville.



A&E LUXURY APARTMENTS
213 N. Walnut St.
630.999.7577



ATKINSON COLLECTION GALLERY
115 E. Green St.
630.335.9565



BRUNNER & LAY
300 S. Evergreen St.
847.678.3232



CITGO
801 IL-83
630.422.1409



GREEN STREET GRILLE
120 W. Green St.
630.474.1201



JC LICHT
1047 S. York Road
630.834.1242



JIM'S LIQUORS
460 W. Irving Park Road
630.766.4177



LA MICHOCANA ESPECIAL
16 S. Addison St.
630.422.7357



LA MICHOCANA EXPRESS
219 W. Grand Ave.
773.858.4709



MB FINANCIAL
1230 Mark Street
888.422.6562

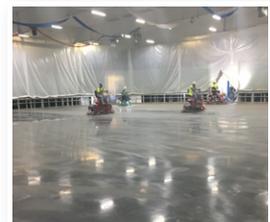


PILOT TRAVEL CENTER
1050 IL-83
630.521.0218

EDGE ICE ARENA IMPROVEMENTS BODE WELL FOR THE FUTURE

As one of the cornerstone institutions of Bensenville, the Edge Ice Arena impacts our community in many ways. Not only does it provide wellness and entertainment opportunities, it is also a gateway to our community, bringing thousands of visitors to town each year. However, an aging infrastructure, an uneven floor and ice inconsistencies had begun to plague the facility. Through a joint effort of many parties, a \$2.56 million improvement project was recently completed that significantly improves the ice surfaces.

The improved refrigeration system will help reduce energy costs while providing ice surfaces attractive to many tenants. With the improvements, we have already secured commitments for the Ice Skating Institute Synchronized Skating Championships in April and the Greg Carter Hockey School in July. In addition, several other long-term Edge tenants have agreed to extended leases knowing that they can enjoy a quality experience in the arena.





BENSENVILLE
GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

12 SOUTH CENTER STREET | BENSENVILLE | ILLINOIS 60106

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 72
BENSENVILLE, IL

POSTAL CUSTOMER
BENSENVILLE | ILLINOIS 60106



BENSENVILLE
GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

MARK YOU CALENDAR!

SENIOR CITIZEN MONTHLY LUNCHEON

First Tuesday of the month for residents
55 and over:
MONTY'S BANQUET HALL
703 South York Road | Bensenville
For more information call
630.766.8200.

**MUSIC IN THE PARK &
CRUISE NIGHTS**

Wednesday Nights, June 13 thru August 22
Downtown Bensenville

LIBERTYFEST & 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Redmond Recreational Complex

**B-WELL BENSENVILLE WALKATHON
& FAMILY FUN FEST**

September 2018
Redmond Recreational Complex

**HOLIDAY MAGIC &
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

November 2018
Downtown Bensenville

**BENSENVILLE TOY &
COAT DRIVE**

November/December

Don't forget the
BENSENVILLE THEATER
and **EDGE ICE ARENAS** and
**WATER'S EDGE AQUATIC
CENTER** are open year round
and offer specials and
discounts for residents. Call
630.766.8888 to find out
more.

www.bensenville.il.us

