

Revitalizing Our Industrial Areas Results in New Developments

Over the past few years, the Village has been working to revitalize our business corridors, including encouraging redevelopment of our aging industrial buildings. The effort included facilitating the process to remove an obsolete factory on River Road to make way for the new Allegra Banquet Hall. Village officials partnered with Cook County Board Commissioner Peter Silvestri to work with the Forest Preserve District to obtain property essential to this development. For nearly ten years, Allegra Banquets has been one of the most sought-after, special event locations in the Schiller Park area and it now has a beautiful new facility in our town.



The Village's effort to revitalize or encourage redevelopment of our aging industrial buildings is evidenced in the before and after photos above. In 2019, the Village initiated the process to remove the obsolete factory on River Road. Today, the new Allegra banquet hall makes its home at 5035 N. River Road.

For over 60 years, E.J. Basler operated in Schiller Park's northernmost industrial corridor. When the company needed to expand, they chose to stay and invest in Schiller Park. The Village was pleased to assist them in their efforts to build a modern facility in our community. One year ago, their new manufacturing facility on Ainslie Street was merely a steel skeleton. Today, the exterior is clad in EcoSteel Building panels that support a sustainable state-of-the-art production floor which is used to machine precision parts. EJ Basler is hiring and offers an exceptional training regimen. For more information, go to <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ej-basler/jobs/>.



The Mayor, Village staff and representatives from Leyden High School District 212 recently visited EJ Basler in their modern new space located at 9451 Ainslie Street and learned about community workforce education and growth through student internship programs.

9526 Irving Park Road
Schiller Park, Illinois 60176
847-678-2550



MARCH 2021

Mayor's Corner



When 2020 was over we all felt a sense of relief. We were sure 2021 would feel a little boring by comparison. Then Mother Nature proved we were wrong. In February we were treated to near record-breaking snowfall and bitter cold weather. While the snow looked beautiful at first, it quickly became treacherous to navigate on the streets and time consuming to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. It also proved to be extremely dangerous as it melted.

I am so grateful to our dedicated Public Works staff who worked tirelessly to clear Schiller Park streets during multiple snowfalls. No one is 'off the clock' when these situations occur. These hard workers leave the warmth and comfort of their homes so that we can safely travel to and from ours.

Before the snow starts to fall, Public Works crews spray the street with a liquid that acts like butter added to a pan; it creates a barrier between the street and the snow and ice. When crews plow and salt the streets, the barrier helps to prevent the snow and ice from sticking to the pavement. In addition to pre-treating the streets, the Village uses a pre-wetting system that includes salt that is sprayed with liquid as it leaves the truck. This method allows the salt to be active as soon as it contacts the roadway and to be effective at lower temperatures. It also stops the salt from bouncing as it hits the street.

During last month's frigid weather, the Village had to make repairs to some water mains. Had we not done so; your water service may have been interrupted. These harsh conditions also caused a sewer in Village Hall to fail. The Village received estimates from two plumbing contractors who said Irving Park Road would need to be dug up to repair the sewer. Our Public Works Director Tony Anczer, who is a civil engineer and the only department head with an engineering background, suggested another approach. Tony thought that the sewer could be cleared in reverse. His idea worked and saved the Village tens of thousands of dollars.

Following a period of snow melting, we saw the dramatic rescue of a woman who was trapped under her snow-laden

awning for over ten hours. Police officers and firefighters worked together to clear the snow and ice allowing our paramedics to begin treating the injured woman. Then our firefighters came up with a unique way to move the awning by using airbags to free her. Our police and fire personnel put themselves in harm's way for our safety every day. They demonstrate their dedication in countless acts of service to our residents and businesses. This rescue is just one example of their heroic efforts.

Throughout the year, Village staff focuses their attention on our senior residents. Working closely with Leyden Family Services, the Township, and other agencies, Village staff connects seniors to services that improve their health, safety, and quality of life.

I hope you will join me in thanking our committed Village staff whenever you see them. Their hard work and dedication are what makes Schiller Park a great community.

Mayor Nick Caiafa



Public Works crews pre-treated roadways prior to snow events to prevent snow and ice from sticking to the street. They also incorporated a pre-wetting system that includes salt that is sprayed with liquid as it leaves the truck. This method allows the salt to be active as soon as it hits the roadway and to work at lower temperatures.



When the sewer inside Village Hall failed, two plumbing contractors said Irving Park Road would need to be dug up to repair it. The Village's Public Works Director Tony Anczer, who is a civil engineer, came up with a way to clear the sewer without tearing up the road and saved the Village tens of thousands of dollars!

Early Voting Starts March 22

Early voting for the April 6 Consolidated Election will be available March 22 through April 5. Early voting sites closest to Schiller Park are the Franklin Park Village Hall located at 9500 West Belmont Avenue and the Norridge Village Hall located at 4000 North Olcott Avenue. Hours for early voting are:

Monday through Saturday, **March 22 – April 5**
9 am – 5 pm

Sundays, **March 28, and April 4**
10 am – 4 pm

Free Tax Counseling for Senior Citizens

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties, sponsored by Triton College, is offering the Internal Revenue Service's Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), a free program for individuals aged 60 and older from low-to-moderate income households. The Triton College RSVP Volunteer Program is currently offering this FREE service by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3895 on Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm or on Friday from 9 am to noon.

Gift of the Heart – A Community Treasure

Gift from the Heart is a Schiller Park-based foundation that brings seriously ill and disabled children from Poland and other European countries to the U.S. and helps them receive high-quality medical care and treatments that are unattainable in their home countries. In February, Polskie Radio 1030 hosted Radiothon to raise funds to support the Gift from the Heart Foundation's efforts. Mayor Caiafa participated in the Radiothon event and encouraged listeners to contribute to the local charity that has helped over a thousand children to date. The event raised over \$300,000 to help children from Poland receive the medical care they desperately need. If you would like to donate, call the Foundation at (847) 671-2711 or donate online at www.darserca.org.



Mayor Nick Caiafa congratulated our Village's new Fire Chief Mike Cesaretti on his appointment at a recent Board meeting. Chief Cesaretti has proudly served the Village for over 25 years, including most recently as Fire Department Battalion Chief.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

In February, our country marked a tragic milestone with 500,000 Americans dying from Covid-19. Thankfully, the number of deaths and hospitalizations has declined, and a vaccine roll-out has begun in earnest. It will take time to get everyone vaccinated and to achieve a level of immunity that allows us to stop recommended public health practices. Everyone is encouraged to continue to wear a mask, social distance and wash their hands. Also, please get vaccinated when you qualify.

Illinois is currently in Phase 1b which includes people aged 65 years and older and frontline essential workers including first responders, teachers and support staff and grocery store employees. If you are eligible, you may be able to receive a vaccine at hospitals, retail pharmacies, state-run sites, urgent care clinics and through large employers. Many healthcare plans have invited patients to register to be vaccinated through their online patient portal and they will contact you via email or phone when you can make an appointment.

Watch for Vaccine Scams

Consumer fraud and deception practices existed long before the pandemic. Unfortunately, the virus has provided new opportunities for scam artists to take advantage of the vulnerable. The Illinois Attorney General's Office is urging residents to be on alert for scams related to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Be wary of anyone who offers the vaccine or promises priority access to the vaccine or a COVID-19 cure in exchange for money.

- **Do not buy any kind of COVID-19 vaccine or treatment on the internet** or from an online pharmacy. You should not have to pay any amount of money out of pocket to receive the vaccine. Everyone eventually will be able to receive the vaccine, even if they do not have health insurance.
- **Ignore online, phone, and text offers** for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Hang up on any calls**, including robocalls, which direct you to take immediate action or provide personally identifiable information, such as your Social Security number or bank account number. Health workers conducting contact tracing will ask you to confirm your name and address but will not request your Social Security number or financial information.
- **Report solicitations** from telemarketers, text messages and social media platforms, as well as door-to-door visits. You can file a consumer complaint at <https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/>.
- **Delete emails and texts** that promise or offer access to COVID-19 treatments, and do not click on any links contained in such emails as they may place malware on your devices.

For more information, go to the Illinois Attorney General's website at illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/covidvaccine. If you have questions or need to report a scam call the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at (800) 386-5438.



Mayor Caiafa volunteered alongside Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, State Representative Brad Stephens, and River Grove Mayor Dave Guerin at the Gift from the Heart Foundation's Radiothon fundraiser. Each of the elected officials contributed and they encouraged the public to donate to the organization that has helped over a thousand children receive modern medical treatments from the highest quality clinics in the United States.

Triton College is serving as a Cook County Community Health site and the County has also opened a new vaccine distribution center at 1155 E. Oakton St. in Des Plaines, near the K-Mart. Vaccines at Cook County Community Health sites are **available by appointment only at vaccine.cookcountyil.gov or by calling (833) 308-1988**. Please be patient, it may take several attempts to get through. **Leyden Family Services is available to help those who do not have access to the internet and have not yet registered with the County**. Please call (847) 455-3929 on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and someone will assist you.

The federal government is ramping up its distribution capabilities and hopes to have mass COVID-19 vaccination sites open soon. The Village will continue to post vaccine information on our Village website at villageofschillerpark.com and on our Facebook page at Village of Schiller Park.



VILLAGE OF SCHILLER PARK

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NICK CAIAFA

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ROSA JOS

TRUSTEES
MOSES DIAZ
RUSSELL KLUG
ROBERT LIMA
THOMAS DEEGAN
JOAN GOLEMBIEWSKI
TERRI SHERIDAN

9526 West Irving Park Road
Schiller Park, IL 60176
(847) 678-2550

www.villageofschillerpark.com



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