



Volume 23, No. 1

BRIDGEVIEWS

Highlighting Community News and Events

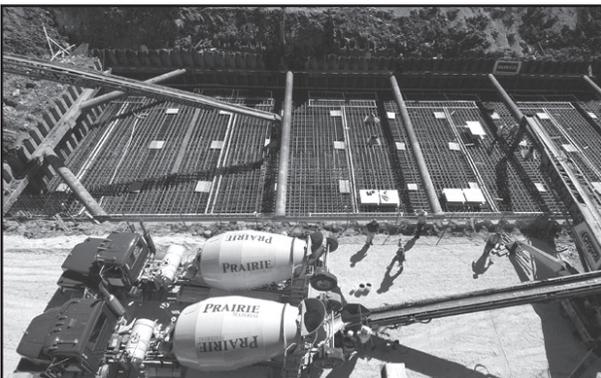
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

January 2013

Prairie Material returns home to Bridgeview



Prairie Material has worked on such projects as the Milwaukee Art Museum (top photo), Chicago's Millennium Park (middle photo), and Trump International Tower in Chicago (bottom photo).



Concrete provider once again establishing its corporate headquarters in the village

Prairie Material, a ready-mix concrete company that was started in Bridgeview by John Oremus in 1948, has re-established its national corporate headquarters in the village at 7601 W. 79th St.

For more than 50 years, Bridgeview was home to Prairie Material, and Oremus served as village mayor for 40 years before retiring in 1999. The company was his dream, and he turned it into the Midwest's largest supplier of performance concrete, ready-mix and aggregate construction materials.

In 2008, the Oremus family sold the company to Votorantim Cement North America, an international company with locations in Canada and the Southeastern United States.

As the world has changed, Bridgeview has faced many new challenges. In 2008, VCNA relocated the Prairie Material sales tax collection point from Bridgeview to a company location in Kankakee. This caused Bridgeview to lose a significant amount of sales tax revenue to Kankakee.

That move, combined with the economic downturn of 2008, presented a significant budgetary hurdle for Bridgeview.

Mayor Steven Landek, in his role as mayor and state senator, has been working with Prairie Material and the Illinois Department of Revenue to move the sales tax col-

lection point back to Bridgeview.

As a result of that hard work, sometime in early 2013 Prairie Material will once again be a great corporate citizen of Bridgeview, and we are glad to have them home!

This is welcome news for Bridgeview and is part of the plan to rebuild the village's tax base and get back lost tax revenues. For many decades, Bridgeview enjoyed low property taxes because of strong retail sales. The loss of tax revenue to Kankakee, the world economic downturn and weak retail sales combined to place great pressure on our community.

All of the "new" sales tax revenue brought in by Prairie Material will be set aside to create a healthier financial report for Bridgeview. Having a savings account for the future makes good sense.

Mayor Landek is proud to announce this return by Prairie Material and to move Bridgeview to a stronger financial base.

Prairie Material operates nearly 100 locations in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan and employs 1,800 workers at those facilities. Prairie Materials has supplied construction materials for a host of major structures, including our very own Toyota Park and currently the 71st Street underpass.

For the latest BridgeViews updates, log on to www.bridgeviews.net

Bridgeview Police issue phone scam alert

Trustee Norma Pinion reports the Bridgeview Police Department has issued a phone scam alert to all residents.

The scam begins with a phone call from someone pretending to be or know one of your loved ones. The caller says your loved one is in some kind of trouble and needs you to wire money to him or her. They give you fictitious information and will even have another person call you pretending to be an attorney or official.

Bridgeview Police remind residents to NOT wire money to anyone. Once money is wired, it cannot be recovered. Do NOT



Trustee Pinion

Department to make them aware of the call.

Another scam that's becoming popular with con artists is coming to your home and asking to inspect your property or show you something on your property or your neighbor's property. When you fol-

low them, accomplices enter your home, rummage through your personal items and take your valuables.

low them, accomplices enter your home, rummage through your personal items and take your valuables.

Bridgeview Police remind residents NOT to let strangers into your home. Call the Bridgeview Police Department if a stranger comes to your door asking to enter or for you to come out.

If the village needs to do an inspection or replace a water meter, a village representative will call to make an appointment. They will arrive with their village identification and in uniform.

When in doubt, call the Bridgeview Police Department.

Daylight seen in 71st Street underpass project

For Bridgeview residents and local motorists, the light is finally shining at the end of the tunnel that eventually will be the 71st Street underpass.

New drilling machines started rolling last month for the \$20 million project and daylight can finally be seen under the railroad tracks.

"The project has reached the halfway mark," said Bridgeview Mayor Steven Landek. "If the weather holds out, work will continue well into January."

Landek added that though the project is running behind schedule because of unexpected delays moving underground utility lines, the underpass should be completed in about eight months.

"We're tentatively planning the ribbon cutting for the beginning of August," he said.

The first part of the project, which began more than a year ago, was construction of a lift station, which is actually a big sump pump to keep the underpass from flooding during rain storms.

The project hit a snag in December 2011, when buried optic cables that run along thousands of miles of train tracks could not be found by the project engineers. There are three separate cable lines



The final utility hook-up can be seen in an underground tunnel as part of the 71st Street underpass project in Bridgeview.

along the tracks that were supposed to be buried seven feet deep, but none of them were where they were supposed to be, which meant all of the cables had to be located first before they could be moved.

What seemed like a simple process took four months to complete and the last cables were not moved until May.

Since May, workers have been busy digging up and moving utility lines including those fiber optic cables, underground electrical cables, an 84-inch storm sewer line, a 16-inch water line and natural gas lines.

That herculean task was finally completed just before Thanksgiving when a giant drill bored a hole 30 feet under the tracks and the last 7-foot storm sewer along

with a few remaining water and gas lines were moved.

Project engineers said these were the final utility lines that needed to be moved before work could begin on actually digging out the underpass.

Work that remains to be done includes support beams and rebuilding 71st Street, which will actually be among the final phases, Landek said.

Bridgeview Trustee Claudette Struzik said, "The underpass will be a big boost for our industrial companies along 71st and 78th avenues. The underpass will greatly improve life for local companies including PepsiCo and Signode, which are big supporters of the project that will help them eliminate delays for employees, deliveries and shipments."

Water bills rising, thanks to Chicago

Although it will be smaller than the 25 percent increase residents saw last year, Bridgeview water users will soon see a 15 percent increase on their monthly water bills as a result of a City of Chicago rate hike.

Bridgeview and nearly 50 other suburban communities that purchase water from the City of Chicago are seeing the rate increases from the City of Chicago, which last year imposed a three-year rate hike on suburban water customers to help Chicago overcome a projected budget shortfall.

Water costs will increase another 15 percent next year as part of the package. The total increase will be 55 percent as of 2014.

The Village of Bridgeview does not benefit from the increase nor were elected officials able to do anything to stop the increase from taking effect.

The increase will show up starting with February water bills.

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW

MAYOR

Steven M. Landek

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Norma Pinion
James Cecott
Patricia Higginson
Mary Sutton
Michael Pticek
Claudette Struzik

VILLAGE CLERK

John Altar

VILLAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Mon, Tues., Thurs., Fri.:
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wed.: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

7500 S. Oketo Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455
(708) 594-2525
Fax (708) 924-8095

One convenient number for:

PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING DEPT.
COMMUNITY SERVICES
(708) 594-2525

FIRE and POLICE

Emergencies only: 911
Fire non-emergency
(708) 924-8250
Police non-emergency
(708) 458-2131

TOYOTA PARK

Chicago Fire soccer,
concerts, special events
(708) 594-7200

SPORTS DOME

Availability, pricing
(708) 924-8290

Fire to open March 9 at Toyota Park



The Chicago Fire Soccer Club will host the New England Revolution on Opening Day at Toyota Park on March 9.

The club will open its 16th season on the road on March 3 when the Men Red visit two-time defending MLS Cup Champions LA Galaxy at the Home Depot Center.

The Fire also will play Eastern Conference foe Sporting Kansas City at Livestrong Sporting Park on March 16 as the club's 2013 campaign kicks into gear.

Opening Day will likely be chilly but should prove to be a good one, as the Fire are undefeated in home openers versus the Revolution and own a 2-0-3 home opener record against them.

For a complete 2013 season schedule, visit the club's website at www.chicago-fire.com.

Fire season tickets and Holiday Packs, which give fans the opportunity to witness the Men in Red in action on Opening Day while donning four Fire hats and four pairs of Fire gloves included in the pack, are available by calling 1-888-MLS-FIRE, via Ticketmaster or by heading to the website.

Bridgeview residents enjoy festive Christmas party



More than 400 Bridgeview residents 55 and older enjoyed a pleasant afternoon celebrating Christmas in Toyota Park's Stadium Club.

The guests were entertained by Christmas music courtesy of Eddie Korosa Jr. and the Boys from Illinois. They enjoyed food specially prepared for the occasion!

It was wonderful to see so many members of the community in the company of their neighbors and friends enjoying the good life in Bridgeview.

Happy New Year to one and all!

The next event will be the Sweetheart Dance in February. More details will be in next month's BridgeViews.



Free golf lessons at Bridgeview Sports Dome

The Bridgeview Sports Dome is offering free introductory golf lessons starting Jan. 9 at the Bridgeview Sports Dome at 8900 S. 77th Avenue.

A leading instructor will conduct the free lessons at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. Golf clubs will be furnished. There will be a small fee for buckets of golf balls.

For information and to reserve your spot, call the Sports Dome at 708-715-3867.



Q&A with Mayor Landek

Bridgeview finances, looking ahead

Bridgeview continues to position itself to build a better financial sheet as we head into 2013. The last few years have been tough for our country, our state and our community. Through it all, Bridgeview has avoided layoffs and delivered municipal services as promised.

Costs were reduced through personnel retirements and limited new hirings. As sales tax revenue dropped, unfortunately, property taxes had to be used to bridge the gap. After nearly eight years of a steady tax rate, even Bridgeview felt the pinch.

Ending 2012, some existing debt has been restructured to save 1 percent on the interest and extending

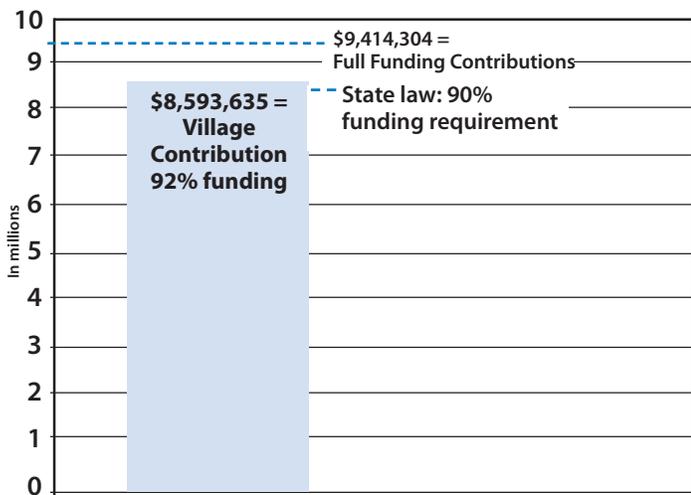
payments to increase affordability while limiting the pressure on taxes. Standard & Poor's, the international credit rating agency, reviewed our sale and kept our credit rating steady. Some of the proceeds were used to make mortgage payments, and the remaining amount has been set aside to build your community's cash reserve.

In 2013 there will be an influx in sales taxes from the return of Prairie Material and some large development projects. Announcement of those projects will soon be made, and a large portion of tax revenues derived from the projects will be added to our financial sheet to restore Bridgeview's long-term financial base.

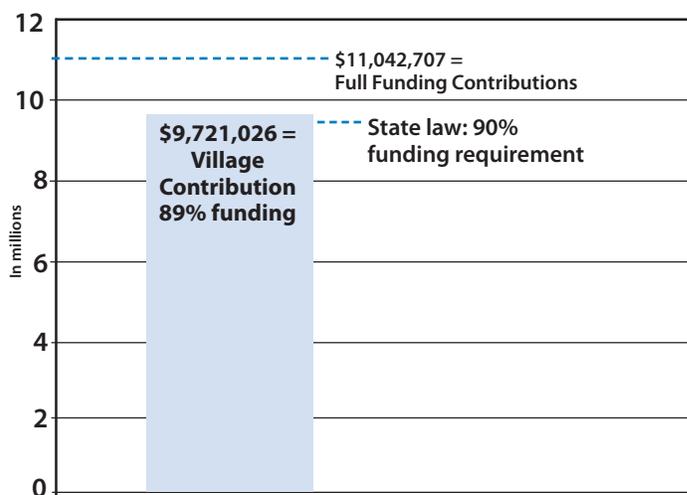
Q: There is a lot of talk about the State of Illinois not making contributions into employee pension accounts. What is Bridgeview's record on payments to the police and fire pension funds?

A: In 1999, when I became mayor, Bridgeview was underfunding the pension fund on a regular basis. It took some time to reverse that trend, but for the past 10 years we have established a great record. State law allows for 90 percent funding of pension funds. As you can see from the accompanying graphs, Bridgeview meets or beats the state requirement for pension funding for both police and fire pensions. Over the past 10 years, under state guidelines, Bridgeview taxpayers have contributed \$18,314,661 to fund both police and fire pension systems.

2002-2012 Police Pension Fund Contributions



2002-2012 Fire Pension Fund Contributions



Library News and Events

Library's regular child programs return this month

The Bridgeview Library will resume its regular child programs starting the week of Jan. 27.

Baby Story Time, fun for both babies and parents alike, resumes on Mondays at 11:10 a.m. Ms. Emily provides songs, stories, finger plays and more. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and grandparents with babies and to interact. Registration is highly recommended for this class.

Preschool Craft will be back on Mondays at 1 p.m. Mrs. Paula provides a song and a craft for children ages 3-6. Parents and younger siblings may attend if they like. Please call or stop in to register.

Preschool Story Time will return on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Mrs. Kim will read stories, sing songs, teach finger plays, and supply a craft each week. Kids ages 3 to 6 will get a chance to dance each week as well. You must register in advance for this class so there will be enough supplies available.

Toddler and Caregiver Story Time is the children's department most well attended class. On Wednesdays at 11:10 a.m., toddlers and their caregivers hear stories, learn songs and finger plays, dance, color, and use our felt board. Registration for this class is required as it often fills up. The class is limited to 24 children plus their caregivers.

K-2 Club offers exciting opportunities for kids in kindergarten through second grade. Mrs. Paula reads stories, teaches lessons, and supplies a craft each week for our young patrons. Registration for this class is required so that there will be enough supplies available.

Does your child love to dance, sing, and wiggle? Try out our **Music, Movement, and More** class on Friday mornings at 11:10 a.m. All children 2 to 6 are welcome to attend. Children under 3½ must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mrs. Kim provides time to dance, sing, play instruments, march, wiggle, giggle, and more! Registration is highly recommended for this class as it, too, fills up quite frequently. This class is limited to 24 children plus their caregivers.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings offer opportunities for grade school children. Each week Mrs. Adriana and Ms. Emily provide different classes for kids including crafts, Legos, games, Wii tournaments, Book Bingo and more.

For information or to register for a program, stop in or call the Children's Department at 708-458-2880 ext. 106.



Brad Hunt of the Chicago Wolves will sit in with the Bridgeview Library Children's Department's Winter Reading Program on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.

Wolves' Hunt will visit Winter Reading Program

The Bridgeview Library Children's Department is sponsoring a Winter Reading Program that includes the chance to meet Chicago Wolves player Brad Hunt on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.

Hunt will tell guests about his favorite books, answer questions from fans, take photos with fans and sign autographs. One lucky

young fan will even get to try on Hunt's hockey gear.

There will be raffles for Chicago Wolves gear bags, hats and tickets.

Be sure to bring your camera and Wolves memorabilia you want signed.

There is no registration, but guests are advised to arrive early to get a good seat.

BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 7840 W. 79th St.

Phone: (708) 458-2880

Website: www.bridgeviewlibrary.org

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday; noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Closed on Sunday.



Park District Activities

Let's Dine will visit Thipi Thai

Join your friends for an evening of incredible Thai food at Thipi Thai in LaGrange at 5:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 30.

This restaurant creates its authentic Thai cuisine from the finest and freshest ingredients and served in a wonderful atmosphere.

Guests will order off the menu and receive separate checks at the end of the meal.

Reservations are required.

For ages 21 and older. Fee is \$8 per person.

Pinochle Club is fun and free

Veteran Pinochle players or those just beginning to learn the game are invited to join the free Pinochle Club beginning Jan. 21.

The club will meet on the third Monday of the month with play starting at 12:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited.

Hunter Safety Workshop

The free Hunter Safety Workshop is conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on March 2-3 at the Park District's Muehe Center at 89th Street and Harlem Avenue.

This is a weekend program offered to those interested in learning safety issues in regards to hunting. Participants must attend both days to earn certification.

Topics include gun safety, game identification and first-aid. Certification is issued upon completion of the two-day class. The instructor will need your Social Security number. There will be a break for lunch.

Class runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult taking the course.



Get fit for the New Year!

Adult Fitness for 55 and older

Adult Fitness is a twice-a-week class on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that focuses on active adults and individuals who are new to fitness.

Guests will work out to music that will get your body moving. Instructors will work on cardio, weight lifting, stretching and balance. This is a good class if you have arthritis or other physical injuries.

Guests will go to the weight room for the weight-lifting portion of the class. Please bring a yoga mat, if you have one for the stretching portion.

This class starts on Jan. 29 and runs for eight weeks. Training is based on each person's ability and range of motion.

Fee is \$35 for one day or \$58 if you sign up for both days.

Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates Fusion

This three-discipline class is offered for adults 55 and older on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for eight weeks beginning Jan. 30.

Tai Chi involves standing and balancing movements with your breathing. It decreases blood pressure, stress, bodily pain and fat around the waistline. It improves mental and emotional stress. It increases vitality, aerobic capacity and improves heart rate.

Tai Chi also floods the body with endorphins and rejuvenates the immune system. It removes toxins from the body and awakens the body's own healing mechanism.

Tai Chi can even be done in a chair, if you have trouble standing.

Yoga and Pilates concentrates on toning and stretching the entire body. Learn how to take aches and pains out of your body, get a

flat stomach and a strong back while working on every muscle in your body.

The fee is \$35.

Zumba Gold for Adults

Zumba Gold takes the Zumba formula and modifies the moves and pacing to suit the needs of active older participants, as well as those just starting their fitness journey. What stays the same are all the elements the Zumba Fitness Party is known for: zesty Latin music, such as salsa, merengue, cumbia and reggaeton, the exhilarating, easy to follow moves, and the invigorating party-like atmosphere.

Zumba Gold is offered for adults 18 and older on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. and is a dance-fitness class that will be a calorie burner and body-tightening workout.

The class starts on Jan. 31. The fee is \$35 for eight weeks.

Yoga for Weight Loss

This class for anyone 12 and older is based on Kundalini Yoga, which is based on Pilates.

Participants move continuously throughout the class from one position to another for about one to five minutes. They work continuously on the core, stomach and waistline.

This class speeds up the metabolism so that you will burn calories more efficiently. Because it is not traditional Yoga, the positions are not complicated and there are many variations so everyone can do this class. At the end we meditate and relax the body for about 15 minutes.

Classes run from 6-7 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 31 and the fee is \$35.

Park District Activities

Soccer programs for kids of various ages

Two youth soccer programs available through the park district will be starting soon.

Indoor Recreational Soccer is for boys and girls 6 to 14 years old. Classes are held at the Bridgeview Sports Dome, 8900 S. 77th Ave., which features rubberized Astroturf and a climate controlled atmosphere.

It is a safe environment for beginners to learn the game of soccer or to continue developing their playing skills. This program allows your child to stay active during the winter months and keep in shape for spring soccer.

Class begins with stretching and skill building drills and ends with a scrimmage game. Shin guards and gym shoes or rubber cleats are required.

Classes for three divisions are held on Saturdays starting Feb. 2. The age groups:

Pee-Wee (ages 6-8) will meet from 12:40-1:40 p.m.

Juniors (ages 9-11) will meet from 1:45-2:40 a.m.

Varsity (ages 12-14) will meet from 2:45-3:40 p.m.

The fee is \$50 per child. There is no class on March 16.

The **Shin Kickers Soccer** program is for little ones ages 3-5 years old to learn the basics of soccer. It is designed to be a "first team sport" experience for your future soccer star.



Parents are encouraged to stay for the hour and be a part of the fun.

Class will start out with stretches and warm ups. Then players will move onto learning how to control the soccer balls. There will be mini-games and a weekly game of Shin Kickers vs. Parents.

This program takes place at the Bridgeview Sports Dome. Shin guards and gym shoes are required.

Classes are held on Saturdays from 12:45-1:45 p.m. There is no class on March 16.

The fee is \$35 per child.

Pebbles program fun for little ones as well as adults

Spend quality time with your little one in our Pebbles program designed for child and mom, dad or significant other adult.

Through stories, songs, simple crafts and gym activities your child's motor and socialization skills will be exercised. It is a great time for learning through play with mom or dad nearby. All supplies and a light snack are included.

Classes run from 11 a.m. to noon on Mondays starting Jan. 8. The fee is \$47 per child from 18 months old to 3 years old.

Check out these one-day programs for kids

Princess Tea Party

Girls will make their own tutus and tiaras at a Princess Tea Party from 4-6 p.m. on Jan. 16. Children 6 to 8 years old should bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal with them. Light refreshments will be served. The fee is \$6 per child.

Jewelry Making 101

Kids from 8 to 12 years old will learn how to make jewelry from kits and from items around the house in Jewelry Making 101 from 4-6 p.m. on Jan. 30. The children will learn how to use old T-shirts to make neat headbands. Everyone must bring an old T-shirt. The fee is \$8 per child.

Valentine's Day Fun

Join in the fun of making your special Valentine's Day cards at Bridgeview Park District from 4-5:30 p.m. on Feb. 13. Children 6 to 9 years old will play Valentine Pictionary and make a yummy heart-shaped treat. Fee is \$8 per child.

Gymnastics for ages 2 to 13 starts Jan. 21



Gymnastics classes for children from 2 to 13 years old will start Jan. 21.

This sport involves the performance of exercises using one's physical strength, flexibility, agility, coordination and balance.

The Park District offers Beginner, Intermediate and Team Gymnastics. Beginners work on all apparatus and learn the basics of gymnastics. Intermediate continue to work

on their skills on the apparatus and put stunts together and form routines. All sessions last eight weeks.

Classes for 2- to 5-year olds are held on Mondays from 6-7:15 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-10:30 a.m. starting Jan. 21. The fee is \$45 per child.

Classes for 6 to 13 year olds are held on Mondays from 4-6 p.m. and 6:15-8:15 p.m. and Fridays from 5-7 p.m. starting Jan. 21. The fee is \$55 per child.



VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW
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 Bridgeview, IL 60455

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Important facts about the new scavenger service

Allied Waste hauling company will begin collecting trash and recycling materials from Bridgeview residents in January. Here are some important facts to remember about your waste disposal:

• ATTENTION RESIDENTS LIVING WEST OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS: YOUR PICKUP DAY FOR TRASH IS MONDAY. YOUR RECYCLING MATERIALS WILL BE PICKED UP ON ALTERNATE WEEKS.

If you live north of 81st Street, your recycling pickup week is marked in gray on the calendar shown here and the recycling will be picked up with your Monday trash on the gray week.

If you live south of 81st Street, your recycling pickup week is marked in blue on the calendar, and the recycling will be picked up with your Monday trash on the blue week.

• ATTENTION RESIDENTS LIVING EAST OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS: YOUR PICKUP DAY FOR TRASH IS TUESDAY. YOUR RECYCLING WILL BE PICKED UP ON ALTERNATE WEEKS.

If you live north of 81st Street, your recycling pickup week is marked in gray on the calendar and the recycling will be picked up with your Tuesday trash, on the week marked in gray on the calendar.

JANUARY Recycle Service Schedule						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

If you live south of 81st Street, your recycling pickup week is marked in gray on the calendar and the recycling will be picked up with your Tuesday trash on the week marked in blue on the calendar.

• Yard waste will be collected from April 1 to Nov. 30 and must be in brown

paper bags or in your own containers clearly marked "Yard Waste Only."

• Place your new totes at the curb with the handle facing your house by 6 a.m. on your pickup day.

Call Allied Waste at 708-385-8252 with any questions, or call your village hall at 594-2525.