Trustee Mike Pticek reported during a village board meeting that an emphasis on worker safety, along with a quicker return to work policy, has helped contribute to a reduction in workman compensation costs.

“Over the last five years, these and other changes have decreased insurance costs nearly $1,600,000, thereby bringing real savings to Bridgeview,” Trustee Pticek said.

The overall savings also means a reduction in the village’s insurance premiums, which dropped 5 percent for 2017. That means a reduction in costs totaling over $35,000.

Fewer claims, safer employees, limited injuries and concern for the injured employees all work in tandem to create the large savings. Other costs may continue to rise — from electricity to pension costs — but limiting insurance losses is one part of the puzzle to help save additional dollars.

Two new police vehicles are on the way

Trustee Norma Pinion has proposed the immediate purchase of two new police SUVs. The new vehicles, which will cost nearly $25,000 each, will be outfitted as police cruisers for an additional $25,000. That brings each vehicle’s total cost to around $50,000.

According to Trustee Pinion, new electronics, safety equipment, cameras, computers and lights are all part of outfitting the SUVs as police cruisers.

The purchase will be funded from the drug fund, which contains assets from drug convictions undertaken by Bridgeview.

The new vehicles are expected to hit the streets in early spring.

REMINDER: When 2 inches of snow falls, cars should not be parked on the street. Please make sure all your cars are off the street to make it faster and safer for snow plows to clear and salt the streets!

Happy New Year to one and all!
At a recent village board meeting, Mayor Landek administered the oath of office to Ryan Slaughter, Bridgeview’s newest paramedic/firefighter. Ryan is a Bridgeview native who grew up in the area. He and his family are residents of Bridgeview, and his family members were all smiles when Ryan became an official member of the Bridgeview Fire Department.

Bridgeview welcomes new firefighter

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Bridgeview community groups dress Village Hall for the holidays

Community groups were invited to attend a special holiday attraction at the Village Hall on Sunday, Dec. 4. Mayor Landek brought back a tradition that had been greatly missed — the decorating of the “Community Trees.”

The trees were decorated by Cub Scout Pack 13, Girl Scout Troop #51528, and the Golden Agers seniors group.

The Girl Scouts were grateful that the trees were placed inside so they could use the patches they’ve earned as their ornaments. Members of the Golden Agers brought beautiful handmade bows for their tree. “I hope the tradition continues, because we would love to participate again next year!” said Cub Scout Pack 13 leader Eric Ziccardi.

The trees creatively decorated by these three organizations are positioned inside the Village Hall.

Happy Holidays!
If you’ve ever visited Toyota Park and marveled at the emerald green field of grass, you’re not alone in taking notice.

That grass that looks so impressive has now won major recognition.

The Sports Turf Managers Association, a professional organization for the 2,600 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide, has also taken notice.

The organization, based in Lawrence, Kan., recently announced its 2016 Field of the Year Award winners. And Toyota Park, home of the Chicago Fire and Chicago Red Stars, has been named the finest professional soccer field in the nation.

Bridgeview Mayor Steve Landek is thrilled about the award, noting the many compliments he’s heard from visitors about the quality of the playing field.

“That means our grass is the greenest, softer, stronger, more beautiful and more perfect than any soccer stadium in the country. Bridgeview should be proud of this recognition and how teams throughout the world recognize the wonderful place, Bridgeview and Toyota Park,” Landek said.

The mayor noted that “soccer teams from throughout the world have played in Bridgeview and brought millions of dollars in revenue and guests to Bridgeview.”

Debra Augle, Toyota Park’s general manager, said just being considered for Field of the Year “is a great honor and privilege.”

“I would like to thank Joel White, our turf manager, whose leadership and vision steered that project from Day One,” she said, adding that White’s “amazing staff” does a great job every year.

It’s no wonder White feels a tad overwhelmed.

“It’s kind of a shock. There are a lot of good fields out there. It’s important, especially when just two of us are doing the work,” said White, who is assisted by Brian Fickett. They both work for the village of Bridgeview, which owns Toyota Park, at 71st Street and Harlem Avenue.

A translucent plastic covering designed to allow needed sunlight and protection is used when concerts are held at Toyota Park.

The bluegrass field is designed to be mowed below an inch in length, White said.

White said he tries to be “pretty gentle” with the grass. But he said there are challenges, such as growing grass in shaded areas.

“There’s not full sun all the time out there, and grass likes to have sun,” he said of areas shaded by the stadium’s stands and roof.

The winning fields will be features in a 2017 issue of Sports Turf Magazine. The awards will be presented at the 28th annual STMA Conference & Exhibition planned for Jan. 24-27 in Orlando, Fla.

— Steve Metsch
Another successful Breakfast with Santa at Bridgeview School

As we opened Bridgeview School’s doors on Saturday, Dec. 10 for our annual Breakfast with Santa, we had no idea how busy we were going to be! Over 250 students, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and Mr. Grinch himself came to join us for three hours of holiday fun.

The event included a pancake breakfast, a visit with Santa, gift shopping at our Holiday Shop, and an Ugly Sweater contest.

The school’s gym was transformed into “Whoville” in honor of our special guest, who sat alongside Santa to take photos with those who dared! As the children were leaving, they shouted: “See you next year!” instead of “goodbye,” and our hearts grew, just as Grinch’s did!

It was the best “thank you” we could have gotten. But now we would like to thank our wonderful volunteers, without whom Bridgeview PTA wouldn’t be able to do what it does; our amazing principal, Mrs. Crystal Skoczylas, for being a part of it; our teachers, who tirelessly support us; and our students and their families, who join us at our events!

Happy Holidays and see you next time!

— Bridgeview PTA

SUPER SUNDAY

The Bridgeview Lions Club and the Village of Bridgeview will honor:

School District 109 Educator of the Year

Community Volunteers

Bridgeview Senior Citizens

Golden Agers

St. Fabian Senior Citizens

Sunday, January 22, 2017

For information on how to attend the event, call the Village Community Service office at 708-594-2525
**BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY HAPPENINGS**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FEED THE NEED TO READ BOOK DRIVE!**

Girl Scout Troop 50018 worked very hard, putting books inside over 50 boxes and 140 bags! Hard work really pays off, because the scout troop teamed up with Open Books, a non-profit organization, which will find many homes for the books that residents no longer had use for.

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**Things are changing at the library!**

They say change is good, and I couldn’t agree more. As Acting Director of the Bridgeview Public Library, I am pleased to announce some of the changes taking place inside your library, starting with the Children’s Department. The staff has been busy adding a new baby/toddler play area, with comfy glider rocking chairs for parents, and toys and books for your little ones. There are fun and exciting programs such as Wednesday Library Playdates for ages 18 months to 2 1/2 years old, and the ever-popular Book & Boogie (for ages 18 months to 3 years old) on Fridays.

Weekly programs include Polish and Arabic Storytime, and Friday Book Club, and there are special events such as Earth Day Celebration and Mother’s Day Tea. There’s Family Fun such as Kool Aid Playdough Creation, and so much more! Please call for more information on new reservation rules.

Also new to the department are the Playaway Launchpads. The Launchpads are available to be checked out for one week or checked out and used while relaxing in the library. They come pre-loaded with games for your children to enjoy. If you decide to check one out, you will have it for a week at a small charge of $1. Limit one per family. Please see staff for more details.

— Lori Kinzel

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Alzheimer’s Disease**
Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.
- Know the 10 signs; early detection matters!
- Hear from people who have the disease and find out how to recognize the signs in yourself and others.

**The Power of Mindful Eating**
Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.
- Break the diet-binge cycle and learn how to have a healthy and satisfying relationship with food.

**WINTER READING 2017**

Kids 3 years old through 6th grade are invited to sign up for the 6-week Winter Reading Program. Participants are asked to read 20 minutes a day 5 days a week. Each week when readers meet their goal they can check into their reading log and receive a prize. At the end of the 6 weeks, those who have reached their goal will be invited to a Haunted Trails party.

- **Registration** begins Tuesday, Jan. 3 in the Youth Services Department. Six weeks of programming for all ages runs from Monday, Jan. 23 to Saturday, March 4.
- **Family Kickoff Party:** Friday, Jan. 20 6 p.m.
- Stop by the Youth Services Department for more details.
Join the Bridgeview Park District Competition Cheer team! We will learn a cheer routine that will be performed at various cheer competitions. Fee includes rental of a cheer uniform and regular season competition fees. A refundable $120 deposit is required for the cheer uniform. Once the uniform is returned, the deposit will be returned. There will be additional fees for briefs, socks, shoes and a bow. The season will run from January through April.

Ages: 7-14 years old
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Season Begins on Tuesday January 24th
Time: 5:30-8:00pm
Fee: $175.00

Practices will be held at our main building: 8100 S. Beloit Ave. A check of $120 will be required at the time of registration as a deposit for the cheer uniform.
Bridgeview Park District

Winter Programs

For more information on our programs, please visit us at www.bridgeviewparkdistrict.com

Session 3 programs begin the week of January 30

**Dance**
- Kids Ballet   Mondays
- Kids Zumba    Tuesdays

**Gymnastics**
- Beginner #1  Mondays
- Beginner #2  Wednesdays
- Intermediate Mondays
- Tykes        Wednesdays

**Music**
- Youth Guitar, Teen/Adult Guitar,
- Ukelele, Banjo, Keyboard, Mandolin, and Harmonica

**Fitness Classes**
- Beginners Yoga        Saturdays
- Tai Chi               Wednesdays
- Sr. Fitness          Mondays
- Cardio Kickboxing     Mondays
- Zumba                 Saturdays
- Strength Training     Mondays
- Circuit Training      Saturdays

**Karate**
- Pre-Karate           Tuesdays
- Youth Karate         Tuesdays

Karate runs on a different schedule. The next session of karate begins Jan. 3.

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**How Well Do You Know Your Phone?**

Did you purchase a new cell phone or receive one as a gift? Would you like to know about all the bells and whistles on your phone? Have you taken a selfie yet? Bring your cell phone and your questions to our AT&T experts!

**Ages:** All

**Date:** Wednesday, February 22

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

**Fee:** FREE with registration
FREE for Bridgeview’s Young at Heart 55 Years and Older!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2017
ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE IN BRIDGEVIEW PRESENTS

Valentine’s Day Luncheon

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
STADIUM CLUB, TOYOTA PARK
CONTACT PAM TO RSVP AT 708.594.1818