

Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

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Welcome!

Mayor Joe Werner, Clerk Patricia Patt, the Board of Trustees, and all Village staff welcome you to a fresh new year, and to the first bi-weekly edition of Mokena e-News for 2013.

A good number of you joined our circle of subscribers over the holidays, and to you we extend a special greeting. We hope you enjoy Mokena e-News and tell your friends about it.

Thanks for joining us!

SAVING CASH, PRESERVING THE GREEN

Thanks to more refined bidding specifications and robust competition, growing green space across Mokena will be able to be mowed at a lower cost per acre this year than at any time since 2005.

At its January 14 meeting, your Mokena Board of Trustees authorized the Village to enter into a contract with Beary Landscape of Lockport in the amount of \$66,800 annually for the next two years to provide mowing, trimming, and other landscape maintenance services for Village facilities, commuter parking lots, ponds, and other public grounds totaling almost 160 acres throughout the community.

Following are key points associated with the contract:

- * Cost per acre is lower than any year since 2005.
- * Specifications allow flexibility to eliminate weekly mowing if drought conditions do not warrant mowing (saving \$2,300 per week).
- * Frees up Village forces to respond more quickly to time-sensitive, customer-driven maintenance demands.

* Practically assists the Village Board in its continuing quest to provide quality core services to Mokena residents at the lowest possible cost.

BOARD PLANS AGGRESSIVELY TO PROTECT INVESTMENTS

Your Mokena Board of Trustees kicked off fiscal year 2014 budget discussions Monday evening, giving preliminary approval to a number of proposed improvements to roads and infrastructure.

The Board concurred with a staff recommendation to program over \$1.1 million in road repairs in the upcoming budget. The aggressive program, made possible by Mokena's financial rebound from the recent recession, means approximately 4 miles of Village roads will be resurfaced this year, improving the 5-year average number of miles resurfaced from 2.6 to 3.5 miles per year and protecting the community's long-term investment in its transportation infrastructure.

The following will be resurfaced late this coming summer:

- * Old Castle South subdivision
- * Tall Grass subdivision
- * Marilyn Estates subdivision
- * Front Street (from Schoolhouse to Wolf Road)

In addition, the Board agreed to address other infrastructure needs as follows:

- * \$290K will be directed to sidewalk and curb repair and replacement, street light replacement, and pond erosion control.
- * Continuing a program started two years ago to extend the life of pavement by 3-5 years, \$43K will be set aside for pavement sealing of specific primary roads.
- * To address the removal of large public trees infested by the emerald ash borer, \$75K will be allocated (actual removals will be determined by results of the comprehensive tree inventory currently underway).
- * High priority projects such as Mokena's share of improvements to U.S. Route 30 (\$13.8K), pedestrian improvements at the intersection of LaGrange and LaPorte (\$10K), and rehabilitation of an aging bridge on Townline Road (\$136.5K) will be funded.

The stepped-up road and infrastructure program supported by the Board will help ensure the investment you and other Mokena residents have made in our community over the years will stand the test of time and protect your quality of life moving forward.

TRAIN HORNS SILENCED ON ROCK ISLAND LINE



All final safety measures have been taken, and the long-awaited silencing of train horns on the Rock Island rail line through Mokena is now a reality.

Mokena's "quiet zone" is the culmination of several years of work by your Mokena Village Board and staff recently brought to fruition with the financial assistance of a Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant garnered last year through the assistance of Rep. Renee Kosel. Metra also partnered in the effort, implementing safety enhancements at the downtown train station.

With the train horns now silent, commuters and other pedestrians are urged--as in the past--to always look both ways before crossing the tracks.

HEIM HONORED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



One of Mokena's best has been recognized by his peers for his many years of outstanding contributions to the Village of Mokena and the public works profession.

Utilities Superintendent Craig Heim was honored earlier this month by the Chicago Southwest

Branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA) with the Samuel A. Greely Lifetime Achievement Award.

To qualify for the award, a candidate must have served continuously for 30 years with one agency, contributed to the advancement of professional public works, and improved the quality of life for those residing in the community he or she serves.

Mr. Heim, a native of Mokena, has honorably served our community for the past 37 years. He's also contributed to the public works profession as past president of the APWA (Chicago Southwest Branch).

Mr. Heim will be retiring later this year.

During Mr. Heim's tenure with the Village, Mokena has grown from a small rural town of a few thousand residents into a bustling suburban community with a population approaching 20,000. Instrumental in modernizing Mokena's public works operations to

accommodate this growth, Mr. Heim is perhaps best known for his oversight of expansions and improvements to Mokena's water and wastewater treatment systems, and for facilitating the community's transition to Lake Michigan water in 2002.

Quick Links...

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- [Mayor Joe's Thoughts](#)
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