

Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

January 29, 2010

In this issue...

- VILLAGE BOARD PREPARING FOR FURTHER REVENUE REDUCTIONS
- SELLING OUT OFFICE TOWER ACHIEVES ENERGY STAR STATUS
- 2010 CENSUS STRAIGHT AHEAD
- "MOKENA HELPS HAITI"

Primary, Referendum Vote February 2

The time has come.

Election Day is almost here, and if you've not already done so, now's your time to exercise one of your most sacred rights as an American.

Vote.

If you're a registered voter, Tuesday, February 2, is your final chance to cast a ballot in state and local political primaries. For those residing within the boundaries of Mokena Public School District 159, a referendum proposal will also be on the ballot.

Area polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Check the back of your voter registration card to confirm your place to vote.

Need more information? Call the Will County Clerk's Office at (815) 740-4615 or visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.willclrk.com.

See you at the polls!

VILLAGE BOARD PREPARING FOR FURTHER REVENUE REDUCTIONS

In an ongoing effort to proactively confront continuing and accelerating declines in sales tax and other economy-driven revenues, the Village of Mokena Board of Trustees has directed Mokena's Village Administrator to plan on shaving more personnel costs moving forward.

At its January 25 meeting, the Board took formal action directing Village Administrator John Downs to prepare for further reductions in part-time and full-time personnel costs and/or forces and other expenditures necessary to address General Fund revenue shortfalls for the balance of the current fiscal year, and for Mokena's 2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The Village has already cut \$1.157 million from its General Fund through--among other things--the following actions:

- * Refinancing two bond issues saving Mokena taxpayers \$450,000
- * Reducing full-time employees from 86 to 80
- * Implementing employee cost-sharing for health care
- * Offering employee incentives to encourage voluntary attrition and to reduce health care costs
- * Delaying the replacement of capital equipment
- * Shifting road and infrastructure maintenance costs out of the General Fund
- * Reducing aggregate budgetary outlays for 2010 by over 20%
- * Reducing General Fund budgetary outlays in the current fiscal year by over 10% or \$830,000 initially
- * Cutting an additional \$327,000 through various reductions during the current fiscal year

Even with these actions already having been taken, more reductions will be needed moving forward. Reductions in personnel costs will be the primary focus, since these account for two-thirds of General Fund budget costs.

The Board will be assessing the impact of any recommendations to reduce personnel on service levels as they deliberate the budget over the next few months.

For a full update on the Village's budget situation, click on the link below to go to the Village's Online Videos web page. Once there, find and click on the "Videos" link for the January 25 Board meeting. Then, go to the agenda to the right of the screen, click on agenda item #5a (FY 10/11 Budget Update), and view the presentation. Tune in and stay informed!

[2010/2011 Budget Update](#)



SELLING OUT

It gets a bad rap, but "selling out" can be a good thing.

That's especially so if selling out helps pave the way for future improvements to a seriously outdated stretch of major highway that just happens to connect your town with its two closest neighbors.

The Village of Mokena Board of Trustees applied that logic Monday evening when it unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the sale of an approximately 0.045 acre piece of Village-owned land at the northwest corner of Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30)

and Ridgemore Road to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

IDOT needs the land for its planned future widening of Route 30.

The land IDOT is purchasing is a small piece of a larger parcel on which a Village water well and pump house are currently located. Operations of the well and pump house will not be affected by sale and transfer of the small piece to IDOT.

IDOT will be paying the Village \$29,000 for the property, consistent with the land's value as determined by a written certified appraisal of a State-licensed real estate appraiser hired by IDOT and confirmed by an independent Illinois Certified General Appraiser retained by the Village.

OFFICE TOWER ACHIEVES ENERGY STAR STATUS



A prominent Mokena office tower is garnering new attention in today's cost-conscious business environment.

The three-story High Point One, located at 9500 Bormet Drive, was recently awarded the Energy Star Label for Buildings, recognizing it as being one of the top office buildings in the country for least amount of energy used per square foot. The tower, situated southeast of the intersection of 191st Street and LaGrange Road (near I-80) is the only office building in the immediate region known to have been honored with the Energy Star Label.

On average, High Point One uses 45% less energy than a typical office building.

Designed and built by Lincoln-Way area architect and builder Olivieri Brothers, Inc., in 2001, High Point One was recognized with the Energy Star Label following a rigorous evaluation process that confirmed the office tower's energy efficiency.

Village Administrator John Downs and Economic and Community Development Director Alan Zordan are shown above commemorating placement of the Energy Star Label on High Point One with John Olivieri and Chris Algmin of Olivieri Brothers.

For more information on High Point One, and to obtain a copy of its Energy Star report, contact Chris Algmin at (815) 469-6400.

2010 CENSUS STRAIGHT AHEAD



The 2010 Census is coming soon.

Stand up and be counted. It's the only way to ensure Mokena gets

appropriate legislative representation (based on population) and our fair share of many of the federal resources our community is entitled to by law.

Look for the 2010 Census questionnaire in your mailbox in mid-March. It's a simple questionnaire that should take you no more than ten minutes to complete. Fill it out and put it back in the mail right away.

Are you looking for a temporary, part-time job with good pay and flexible hours? If so, the U.S. Census Bureau wants to hear from you! For more information, just click on the link below.

[2010 Census jobs](#)



"MOKENA HELPS HAITI"

You've seen the pictures.

The devastation is unbelievable.

Responding to help out as they have so many times before, Jim and Mary Ellen Naumczik of Nancy's Pizza--with encouragement and support from Steve Hoblin, Kim Gignac, and several local community organizations--are hosting a fundraiser for Haitian disaster relief Sunday, February 28, from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. at their restaurant on LaGrange Road.

Nancy's will donate a portion of all receipts from restaurant sales during the buffet-style fundraiser, which will also feature raffles and a silent auction. The proceeds will go to support Haitian relief efforts through the American Red Cross.

Want to help out with the event? Call Jim at (708) 906-7040 and ask how you might contribute of your time and talents.

Save the date on your calendar now. Better yet, invite your friends and neighbors to join you at Nancy's on February 28 as "Mokena Helps Haiti".

["Mokena Helps Haiti"](#)

Quick Links...

- [February 2 Primary Election](#)
- [2010 Recycling Calendar](#)
- [Mokena Community Calendar](#)
- [2010 U.S. Census](#)
- [Mokena Update](#)
- [Sign up for Mokena e-News!](#)

email: newsletter@mokena.org

phone: (708) 479-3900

web: <http://www.mokena.org>