Of Seasonal Fare and Traditions

It’s been perhaps the strangest year ever in the lives of many of us.

Many long-lived, reliable traditions—even institutions—have been upended.

That said, in this edition of Mokena e-News, we’re happy to bring to you a few tidbits of information on things we typically associate with the first half of autumn.

Elections and trick-or-treating are on many people’s minds at this time of year. Which is more prevalent in your thoughts probably depends heavily on your age and stage in life. We update you on relevant facts surrounding both of these seasonal activities.

We also bring you information on this year’s Beautification Awards winners. Initiated approximately 25 years ago, this Mokena tradition is much more than a “feel good” exercise. A simple way of recognizing those that go above and beyond to improve their real estate and make Mokena an
aesthetically attractive community, the awards are made possible every year by a dedicated team of judges that actively volunteer of their time to promote our town’s betterment. We encourage you to check out the article below to find out how you can become a part of this dynamic team.

Here’s to normalcy. May we all enjoy more of it in the days to come.

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**Beautification Sweeps Mokena**

Although another summer has come and gone in Mokena, beauty remains, for autumn has ushered in a fresh class of Beautification Awards winners.

Winners of the 2020 awards—63 residential and 8 non-residential—will be receiving certificates and plaques from the Village’s Community Affairs Commission this month recognizing their hard work to improve their property and the Mokena community.

Unfortunately, this year’s Beautification Awards ceremony had to be called off in light of COVID-19 and associated public health considerations.

To view a list of winners and photos, visit www.mokena.org and click on “Beautification Award Winners for 2020” (found under Featured Links).

Of this year’s 71 winners, sixteen received Lifetime Beautification Awards.

All residences and businesses within Mokena’s corporate limits are considered annually for Beautification Awards—there is no need to fill out an application form or nominate a neighbor. The only requirement is that a residential property or business be in good standing with respect to its Village of Mokena utility bills. Only front yards are judged, as out of a respect for privacy, homes and businesses are only viewed from the street.

Interested in serving as a judge for the 2021 Beautification Awards program? Call the Village Hall at (708) 479-3900.

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**Early Voting Available Now at Will County Clerk’s Office**

Early voting for the November 3 General Election is available now for all Will County residents at the Will County Clerk’s Office, 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet. For a listing of hours, click here.

Early voting for voters residing within the corporate limits of the Village of Mokena will be available beginning Monday, October 19, at the Mokena
Village Hall, 11004 Carpenter Street. Hours have been set for Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will run through October 30.

Have additional questions regarding early voting and other locations in Will County where you may vote if you do not reside within the corporate limits of Mokena? Interested in voting by mail? Visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcountyclerk.com for all the details.

For more information on early voting at the Mokena Village Hall, including precautions being taken to protect your safety, we encourage you to check out the October edition of the Village’s NEWS You Can Use by clicking on the link below.

October NEWS You Can Use

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**Final Plat for Opus**

Putting the finishing touches on a planned unit development (PUD) that received its initial approvals just over a year ago, your Mokena Village Board Monday evening ratified a final plat of subdivision for two lots in the Corporate Corridors North Business Park held by Opus Development Group, LLC.

The lots, located just south of 187th Street between 90th Avenue and 88th Avenue, each now contain newly constructed multi-tenant speculative buildings—113,000 sq. ft. and 154,000 sq. ft. in size, respectively.

Opus’ addition of a cross-access and public utility/drainage easements brought the new development into substantial conformance with its preliminary plat of subdivision. The final plat complies with the terms of Opus’ special use ordinance and meets all other pertinent Village requirements.

As we reported in August, 2019, the special use/PUD originally approved for Opus reconfigured its two lots from a north-south orientation to an east-west alignment. The new alignment, which was the result of several months of discussions between Village officials and Opus, made it possible for loading docks on buildings planned for each of the lots to be shielded from public view. The number of loading docks on the buildings was reduced and the buildings’ architectural features were also upgraded.

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**Trick or Treat: The Option is Yours**

Given these unusual times, whether or not you choose to welcome trick-or-treaters at your door on October 31 is completely up to you.
At its September 28 meeting, the Mokena Village Board approved Trick or Treat hours from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, for those wishing to take part in this annual Halloween tradition.

However, for those not comfortable hosting trick-or-treaters at their door in the current environment, there’s no obligation to participate.

Should you fall into this category, simply print the graphic linked here and affix it to your front door on October 31. It will let the neighborhood kids and their parents know not to knock on your door or ring your doorbell in search of sweet treats.

Don’t Stoke Smoke!

If you’re new to the community, you may not know that the open burning of leaves is banned in Mokena, and doing so could result in a fine. If you have a fire pit, we suggest you reserve it for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, and not for burning leaves. By doing so you will help your friends and neighbors with respiratory problems to breathe easier, and allow them to fully enjoy the familiar outdoor activities we all associate with autumn.

As a reminder, your Village is offering two free leaf and branch pick-ups this autumn as an environmentally-friendly alternative to open burning. Dates are October 28 and November 18. Stay tuned to future editions of Mokena e-News and NEWS You Can Use for more information, or check out our website at www.mokena.org.

See upcoming events...

Village of Mokena
11004 Carpenter Street | Mokena, IL 60448
www.mokena.org