

Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

March 13, 2020

Primary Colors

With only a few days left to go, political primary contests have come front and center.

The General Primary Election will be held Tuesday, March 17.

Exercise your right and privilege as an American citizen Tuesday. Get out and vote!

Coronavirus Update

Village officials and staff are participating in weekly conference calls regarding the coronavirus with the Governor's Office, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and other State personnel.

As you may have heard previously, Governor Pritzker has ordered the cancellation of all public events in Illinois with more than 1,000 people for 30 days and urged organizers to call off private and public gatherings of more than 250 people in an effort to slow potential coronavirus spread.

To date, 46 cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus have been documented in Illinois, primarily in Chicago and/or Cook County.

Locally, all Village facilities remain open for business to serve you and your family. The Mokena Village Hall polling location will be open for voting Tuesday, March 17, as scheduled.

As before, we encourage utilizing the following resources to inform and protect yourself against the possibility of this disease:

- Illinois Coronavirus Hotline: 1-800-889-3931
- Will County Health Department: <https://www.willcountyllinois.com/County-Offices/Public-Health-and-Safety>
- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Illinois Department of Public Health: <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

We further continue to recommend you follow the "common sense" actions listed below:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Front Street Improvements to Continue

Improvements initiated on Front Street last year will continue this spring.

At its March 9 meeting, your Mokena Village Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$50,556.80 to Groundskeeper Landscape Care of Mokena for improvements to hardscaped areas along Front from Mokena Street to Division Street, as well as to the public gathering area located on the south side of Front at Division.

Similar improvements were made to the stretch of Front between Wolf Road and Mokena Street in 2019.

The contract with Groundskeeper calls for the local contractor to remove existing cobblestones in these areas and replace them with decorative pavers, as well as to complete associated restoration activities in the immediate vicinity. Work is expected to begin later this spring and be completed by early this summer.

Improvements are aimed at enhancing access and safety for downtown business customers, while at the same time advancing the attractiveness of the downtown area and addressing ongoing maintenance costs.

2020 Census: It's Here!

If it hasn't arrived in your home mailbox already, it should be arriving within the next few days.

"It" is the 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire, and your completion and submittal of it is exceptionally important. As we noted in last week's edition of Mokena e-News, the questionnaire is simple, and should take you no more than ten minutes to complete. You can respond by mail, phone, or online.

Have further questions regarding the 2020 Census and your participation in it? Check out the link below.

[2020 U.S. Census](#)

Kathleen (Katie) Pyznarski Named Administrative Assistant

The appointment of Kathleen (Katie) Pyznarski as Administrative Assistant was formally ratified by the Mokena Village Board at its March 9 meeting.

Ms. Pyznarski, who was selected for the position following an extensive recruiting, interviewing and testing process, began her new responsibilities with the Village on March 10. She replaces Judi Frieling, who recently announced her retirement after almost 27 years of outstanding service to a lengthy list of elected officials, staff, and countless residents and customers of the Village.

A resident of Mokena since 2015, Ms. Pyznarski's employment record includes over 14 years of experience with several Chicago area law firms as a legal assistant, paralegal and office coordinator. She was chosen for the Administrative Assistant position from an initial pool of 158 candidates.

Bobcats on I-80

Bobcat spotting along I-80 will soon become commonplace, thanks to action taken recently by your Mokena Village Board.

At its March 9 meeting, the Board approved a special use permit allowing Atlas Bobcat to locate and expand on property located at 8100 W. 188th Street in the 80th Avenue Industrial Park, just south of I-80, west of 80th Avenue.

Among other things, the approval granted by the Board requires Atlas to install a black vinyl-coated chain-link fence around the property with "winged" privacy slats that will provide 90% coverage around its planned outdoor storage yard. The exception to the fencing requirement: Atlas will be permitted to have an 80' wide display area along I-80 to showcase its compact Bobcat contractor equipment.

Does Your Project Need a Permit?

With warmer weather in the offing, you may have begun thinking about starting projects around the house. As you contemplate which project to start, remember that Mokena requires you to obtain a building permit for many types of home improvement projects.

There are essentially two types of building permits--those that do not require a fee and those that do.

Building permits that do not require a fee include those issued for roof replacement, replacement of a hot water heater or water softener, replacement of a window with a similar sized window, and replacement of home siding.

Building permits that do require a fee include those issued for home additions, garages, sheds, fences, flat work, pools, plumbing, and electrical repairs/upgrades. Projects falling

into these categories require inspection by Village staff, and a nominal fee is assessed for the inspection(s) to ensure that your work complies with current building codes.

Did you know that when you apply for a building permit from the Village, you can see if your contractor is properly registered in Mokena? While registration in and of itself is no guarantee of the quality of a particular contractor's work, it does help protect you against those that may be operating in our area fraudulently or in an otherwise unscrupulous manner.

Need to apply for a building permit now? Simply click on the link below to download an application form, call (708) 479-3930, or stop by the Community Development Department at the Mokena Village Hall between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

[Applications, forms, and permits](#)

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