



Mokena e-News

September 17, 2020



Approaching Equinox

As nice as the weather's been this week, it's hard to complain.

Within a few days (September 22, to be exact), we'll mark the arrival of the autumnal equinox. Some of us will celebrate the official coming of fall; others of us will lament the passing of summer. Either way you go, we can probably all agree mid-late September is generally a very pleasant time to reside here in our neck of the woods.

Slow down, take a pause, and enjoy.

Candidate Petitions Available Tuesday, September 22

Mokena Village Clerk Melissa Martini announced earlier this week that her office will have nominating petitions available beginning Tuesday, September 22, for any individuals wishing to run in the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election.

Nominating petitions will be available at the Village Hall (between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) for the Mayor, Clerk, and three Trustee positions.

Completed petitions may be dropped off at the Village Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning Monday, December 14. Final deadline to file petitions is Monday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m.

Questions regarding nominating petitions or the nominating petition process may be directed to Melissa Martini or Katie Pyznarski at (708) 479-3900.

Advancing the Light

Staying the course, your Mokena Village Board Monday evening approved a contract in the total amount of \$223,013.89 with Electric Conduit Construction of Elburn for the replacement of approximately 1,048 non-LED street lights and parking lot lights with LED cobra heads.

The new LEDs represent the second of three phases planned as the Village and ComEd transition the community's lights to the newer technology over the next couple of years or so.

Along with annual energy savings associated with the new lighting, the Village anticipates netting a substantial rebate from ComEd upon completion of the project.

Electric Conduit outbid seven competitors for the work. Their contract award came in 47.8% under the \$446,215 project budget.

Plumbing the Depths

While it's not something we think about often, having a well-maintained, reliable sewer system is a pretty big deal.

Your Mokena Village Board continued to acknowledge that when it awarded a contract September 14 to Duke's Root Control, Inc. of Crystal Lake to carry out the Village's annual sanitary sewer manhole rehabilitation program.

The program includes resetting frames, chemical grouting, curtain grouting, internal and external chimney sealing, and other miscellaneous repair tasks for approximately 61 sanitary sewer manholes. Taken in sum, this regular maintenance work prevents inflow and infiltration of groundwater into the Village's sanitary collection system.

Duke's outbid one other competitor for the work. Their bid in the total amount of \$93,786 came in 21.8% under the program's \$120,000 budget.

Will County Offering Small Business Assistance Grants

Utilizing funding provided through the CARES Act passed earlier this year by Congress and signed by the President, Will County has earmarked more than \$24 million for small business assistance grants.

The Small Business Assistance Grant Program was developed to provide financial assistance to small businesses in Will County impacted by COVID-19 so they can maintain operations. Selected businesses may receive up to \$15,000 in grant monies.

For eligibility criteria, click *here*.

Preference will be given to businesses that have not previously received state and/or federal assistance.

Deadline is Monday, September 28. To apply for a grant, click *here*.

DCEO Opens 2nd Round of Business Interruption Grants (BIG)

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently announced it is offering a second round of grants to businesses experiencing losses or business interruption as a result of COVID-19 related closures.

Among other things, this round includes support for the following:

- **Heavily impacted industries.** \$60 million in funding has been allocated for heavily impacted industries such as movie theatres, performing arts venues, concert venues, indoor recreation, amusement parks, and more.
- **Priority Businesses.** Apart from the \$60 million set aside for heavily impacted industries, applications from the following types of businesses will be prioritized for grant funds: 1) Businesses directly affected by State-imposed regional mitigations, and/or 2) Independently-owned retail, tourism, and hospitality-related industries.

Other grant funds are targeted at economically distressed communities, downstate communities, and agricultural livestock production.

For more information on this most recent round of grants, visit DCEO's BIG program page by clicking on the link below.

DCEO Business Interruption Grants Program (BIG)

Reminder: No Parking Over Sidewalks

Kindly consider the needs of pedestrians—particularly those with disabilities—when parking vehicles in your driveway.

The courts have ruled that municipal sidewalks, curbs, and parking lots constitute a “service program or activity” within the meaning of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and that sidewalks, curbs, and parking lots should not be obstructed.

Your assistance in helping look out for the needs of those navigating our community on foot or by other non-vehicular means is greatly appreciated.

Nicor Gas Offering Financial Assistance to Customers

Understanding that many households continue to experience financial hardship in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, Nicor Gas recently announced a variety of programs designed to assist residential customers during this difficult time, including \$4.5 million in bill payment assistance for those with past-due balances.

Among other things, Nicor is now offering the following:

- **LIHEAP Energy Assistance Funding (via CARES Act)**
- **Extended Payment Arrangements**
- **Energy Aide Program**
- **COVID-19 Special Assistance**

For details on the various financial assistance options being made available by Nicor, click *here*.

See upcoming events...

Village of Mokena
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