

# The Villager

The Village Of Hazel Crest Community Newsletter

September & October, 2015

## A Message From The Village President

We have a strong community because we have a dedicated and educated group of community activists who take pride in the success of Hazel Crest. In order to keep our community strong, Hazel Crest is promoting an effort for all families and young people to take pride in the strength of a south suburban community that flourishes while others struggle. Success is rarely achieved without hard work — whether in business, in government, or in personal relationships.

We want the success of Hazel Crest to continue from generation to generation. To generate awareness and enthusiasm for our continuous effort to make our village great, we are creating the “Hazel Crest Proud” campaign. We would like all our residents to participate, but this is not a one-time event, or publicity stunt or photo opportunity for the newspapers. We would like a permanent commitment from residents to take the pledge.

Hazel Crest Proud members will be asked to sign the **Hazel Crest Proud Pledge** which states:

I pledge to live in peaceful co-existence with my neighbors.

I pledge to diligently maintain and beautify my home and property.

I pledge to help keep our community common areas free from debris.

I pledge to encourage the continuing education of all young people.

I pledge to volunteer in one activity this year to help the less fortunate.

I pledge to hire and help find employment for other Hazel Crest residents.



**President  
Vernard Alsberry, Jr.**

I pledge to patronize local businesses to grow the Hazel Crest economy.

I pledge to vote in every election to make sure we elect qualified citizens.

I pledge to forgo angry confrontations and encourage others to do the same.

If we all truly want to keep our community safe, strong and prosperous, we will join together to make sure we continue to improve the successful community we have built. If you are interested in helping and would like to have a Hazel Crest Proud block meeting or incorporate our effort into one of your community events please contact the Mayor’s office and we will provide you with material to distribute as well as our official pledge forms.

Sincerely,

*Vernard Alsberry, Jr.*

Vernard Alsberry Jr.  
Village President of Hazel Crest

**Vernard Alsberry, Jr.**  
President

**Marlon D. Rias**  
Village Clerk

### Village Trustees

**Ben Ramsey**

**Mary Grant**

**Pat Jackson**

**Sandra Slayton**

**Kevin Moore**

**Susan Pate**

### Village of Hazel Crest

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Hazel Crest, Illinois  
60429**

# Local News & Events

## Double Dutch Team From Hazel Crest Travels The State

The Chicago Reporter newspaper recently commended the efforts of Hazel Crest resident Joyce Dickerson for her work as coach, mentor, and leader of the Pink Panthers Double-Dutch rope jumping team. Coach Joyce Dickerson formed the Pink Panthers with two other parents almost 15 years ago and can attest to the positive benefits this sport can have on its participants. Team members show improved self-confidence and determination while getting in top physical condition and making lifelong friendships.

The Pink Panthers have exhibited their skill and talent locally on the Steve Harvey Show and Windy City Live, exhilarating viewers with their cartwheels and hand stands as they navigated the double-dutch ropes. Far and beyond the local area, they've traveled over half the United States and competed with teams from Switzerland, Africa, Italy and Paris. The village applauds Hazel Crest resident Joyce Dickerson, and all of the dedicated coaches and the parents of this outstanding team. We are "Hazel Crest Proud" of you.

Coach Joyce Dickerson



## Summer Open Lands Experience (S.O.L.E.) Youth Program

The Village of Hazel Crest Summer Open Lands Experience (S.O.L.E.) Youth Program is a six week program that ran from June 15th through July 24th for ten Hazel Crest youths ages 14 to 17 years old. Every teen expressed a special interest in the great outdoors whether in urban forestry, biology, ecology, trees, flowers or insects and were supervised by program initiators Carl Pearson, Gregory Washington and Marilyn Allen.

Our young people typically were taught to perform a variety of tasks including tree trimming, mulch spreading, planting and maintaining flower boxes, weeding and other similar tasks.

President Vernard Alsberry visited a worksite while the youths and their supervisors were working and expressed his appreciation for their participation in

the program. He asked the youths to use what they learned in the S.O.L.E. program to beautify their own homes or begin using the skills to earn money through seasonal work.



# Local News & Events

## President's 2nd Year Bridge Program Concludes With Great Results

The Village President's Bridge Program, a joint initiative co-sponsored by Mi-Jack Products, Inc., the Village of Hazel Crest and the Academic Community Development Corporation, has celebrated the conclusion of its second year with the presentation of awards, a game day and cook-out for the lucky participants! Fifteen Hazel Crest students completed the program this year.

The Village President's Bridge Program was conceived to address the needs of students at a critical educational development stage. The six week program, open to Hazel Crest residents entering the 7th-9th grades, fosters the development of students through the application of the core values of attitude, discipline, character, and excellence. The program places a heavy emphasis on education and the importance of making a positive contribution to one's community. Throughout the program, students participated in a range of engaging activities in the core subjects of English, Math and Science and newly incorporated subjects such as Spanish, Music and Broadcasting. These activities were designed to address deficits in basic skills while also preparing the students for a better transition to the upcoming school year.

In addition to academic and cultural enrichment activities, students were exposed to a wide array of guest speakers, including motivational speakers, career professionals, and even entertainers from within the community. Each week students were treated to an educational and enriching field trip, including but not limited to Lincoln Park Zoo, the Village of Hazel



Crest's very own Cable Station and Google's Chicago Headquarters, where they learned about Google's products and services, intern opportunities and the perks of being a Google employee.

The support that the program received from the community was evidenced by the amount of time the various stakeholders devoted to participating and being a visible presence, demonstrating to the students that they were indeed devoted to their success. Ms. Irma Holloway, CEO of Academic Community Development Corporation and her staff were ever present figures that students could rely on for guidance, support, and encouragement.

Ms. Holloway expressed that "We are excited about our students' achievements and believe that they can and will succeed in every area of their lives!"

# Veteran Special Identification

## United States Military Veterans Eligible For Special Identification Designations



Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are often called upon to establish their military history for various benefit eligibility programs and private service incentives. To assist veterans to more easily identify their previous military service, the Illinois Secretary of State offers Veterans the option to add a Veteran designation to their Illinois Driver's License or State ID. To obtain such a designation, an Illinois resident must:

- Be an honorably discharged U.S. Veteran.
- Take your DD-214 or Certification of Military Service (NA Form 13038) to your local Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs' Office to have a certification stamp placed on your DD-214 or Form 13038.
- Bring the certified DD-214 or Form 13038 to any Secretary of State Facility to obtain the "Veteran" designation on your Driver's License or State ID card. If the "Veteran" designation is added during the renewal of your Driver's License or State ID card, there is no additional cost. If a veteran chooses to add the designation before their scheduled renewal date, they may obtain an updated Driver's License for \$5 and an updated State ID card for \$10. Veterans over the age of 65 can obtain an updated State ID card at no cost.

To find your nearest Illinois Dept. of Veterans' Affairs office or to request a replacement DD-214 or Form 13038, please call 1-800-437-9824 or visit: <http://www.illinois.gov/veterans/>.

# Hazelnut Festival

## Hazelnut Festival Attracts Southland Crowd

Residents from neighboring villages joined Hazel Crest citizens on August 8th to enjoy our ever growing annual Hazelnut festival and parade. The reputation of our community celebration has grown through the years and people greatly enjoy our small town feel and our big-time fun. Friends and neighbors were on hand to participate in a day full of good company, good food, games, arts, crafts and entertainment appropriate for all family members. Despite the excellence of the professional entertainers that grace our stage, the highlight of every year is the homegrown talent of our residents showcased through the Hazelnut Star Search Talent Contest.



# Halloween Safety Tips



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- Children under 12 should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk—don't run, across the street.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Children under the age of 12 should not be out at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out on their own, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them.
- Remind children to eat only treats in their original, unopened wrappers.

# Local News & Events

## Electronic Disposal Day - Saturday, September 12th

Illinois law now prohibits all electronic devices and material from being disposed of along with household waste. A few years back there was a growing concern about the increasing amount of computers, televisions, cell phones that were being discarded in landfills when they could be easily recycled. The Village of Hazel Crest is no longer allowed to take electronic devices when making weekly garbage collections.

In order to help our residents stay in compliance with the law without travelling to special electronic recycling facilities, the Village of Hazel Crest has partnered with the Keeling Family Foundation to sponsor an Electronic Disposal Day. A truck collecting electronic devices and material will be stationed at the Village Hall Municipal Center

parking lot from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM (noon). Televisions will be accepted but will require the payment of a \$15.00 disposal fee.

The items collected will be used by VetTech, a not-for-profit organization utilizing U.S. military veterans to dismantle, recycle and rebuild discarded electronic material. VetTech provides IT training for our veterans to help them secure their Comp TLA - A+ Certification. Over 130 veterans have received their certification and are now back in the work force. The computers collected are used as training tools to teach computer and network repair. Over 2,700 computers rebuilt in the training classes have been donated to those in need. Any materials collected that cannot be reused are recycled in accordance with Illinois Law.

## Johnny Appleseed's Birthday Celebration

The Open Lands Commission will be hosting Johnny Appleseed's Birthday Celebration on Saturday September 26th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Village's Senior Center/Gym, 3000 W. 170th Place (in the West end of the building). Please join the celebration and enjoy Hayrides, Skits, Apple Cider, Tree Care Info, Coloring Books for the Little Ones, Apple Tree Planting and activities for the entire family.





Village of Hazel Crest  
3000 W. 170th Place  
Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429

POSTAL CUSTOMER

HAZEL CREST, ILLINOIS 60429

## Local Homeowners Can Apply For Federal Grant Assistance

The Village of Hazel Crest will be hosting an Affordable Housing Seminar on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Community Policing Office/Fire Station II located at 170th & Dixie Highway. The Village will be distributing applications for grants which can be issued to private individual homeowners through the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) for the purpose of rehabilitating or renovating existing Hazel Crest homes. **The FHLB grand program is designated for Hazel Crest Proper sub-division residents only.**

WHAT: Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Housing Grant Seminar  
WHEN: September 24, 2015 — 6:00 PM  
WHERE: Community Policing Office / 170th & Dixie Hwy.

If Hazel Crest is approved by the FHLB to receive the grant, homeowners will be notified if they have been selected by February, 2016.

