

# The Villager

The Village Of Hazel Crest Community Newsletter

January & February, 2016

## Community Oriented Policing Monthly Meetings

All residents are encouraged to attend the Community Oriented Policing (COP) monthly meetings designed to inform residents of incidents and service calls in their subdivision or neighborhood. Village officials are also interested in any information regarding trends of suspicious activity at specific locations within Hazel Crest and residents' thoughts on the general public safety strategies. The COP meetings will be hosted by Community Policing Administrator Sammie Young, a 30 year veteran of law enforcement and corrections.

**Zone 1** — Proper Subdivision (Eastside of Hazel Crest) meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Fire Station I at 16990 S. Dixie Highway.

**Zone 2 & 3** — (All other sub-divisions) meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall at 3000 W. 170th Place.

## Senior Commission Holiday Celebration A Success



The Senior Commission hosted the annual Senior Holiday Celebration on December 5th. The seniors showed off their culinary skills with a wide variety of dishes which were enjoyed by over 110 guests. There was a special visitor from the north pole with gifts for all the "nice" seniors. The **Hillcrest High School Choir** sang Christmas songs for the crowd, and with the support of local businesses, over 40 gifts were provided for the raffle.

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

**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

Phone:  
**(708) 335-9600**

Fax:  
**(708) 335-9622**

**3000 W. 170th Place**  
Hazel Crest, Illinois  
60429

# President's Note

## A Note from President Vernard Alsberry, Jr

Voting has now been made easier than ever because all Illinois residents may now register to vote on Election Day at their local polling place. Streamlined voter registration comes just in time because we have two referendum questions on the ballot for the March 15, 2016 election that directly affect Hazel Crest residents and our property tax bills.

In the coming months, I will try to provide as much information as possible regarding these alternative forms of local government so that residents may decide for themselves which is best for our community and vote accordingly. I will be hosting a **TOWN HALL MEETING on Saturday, February 6, 2016**

at 11:00 AM in the Senior Room of the Village Hall, 3000 W. 170th Place. The Village government will not and cannot take any official position of support or opposition to a referendum question. Please turn to page 9 to view a brief description of the two referendums.

You are invited to join President Vernard Alsberry Jr. every second Saturday of the month for *Coffee With The President* in the Village West Meeting Room from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The informal setting is designed for residents to meet with the Village President and talk about various issues and concerns, while enjoying coffee and donuts.

Sincerely,

*Vernard Alsberry, Jr.*

Vernard Alsberry Jr.  
Village President of Hazel Crest



**President  
Vernard Alsberry, Jr.**

## Happy 112th Birthday Edna !

Hazel Crest resident Edna Lawler celebrated her 112th birthday on January 13, 2016. President Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr. presented flowers to Edna, who is currently the longest living resident in the State of Illinois. Edna's family reported that Edna attributes her longevity to hard work and a philosophy of "moderation in all things".



# Local News & Events

## Mayor Alsberry Honored By **CHICAGO DEFENDER**

The Chicago Defender has included Mayor Vernard Alsberry Jr. as a recipient of its annual Men Of Excellence Award for 2016. Each year the Chicago Defender honors men who have made outstanding contributions to Illinois in the fields of business, government, science, social justice and the arts. Mayor Alsberry was chosen for his contributions to the reform of suburban government as well as his previous military

service. Mayor Alsberry and others will be recognized for their achievements at the annual Chicago Defender Men Of Excellence awards banquet to be held at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom on February 5, 2016 at 151 E. Wacker in Chicago. For those who would like to attend or for more information, please contact Derrick Colton at 312.835.0546 or email him at [dcolton@chicagodefender.com](mailto:dcolton@chicagodefender.com).

## Hazel Crest Appoints New Director Of Human Resources



Gwen Gray has been appointed as the new Director of Human Resources for the Village of Hazel Crest. The Human Resources Department performs the administrative functions of hiring, evaluation, discipline and dismissal of employees in addition to managing and tracking employee attendance and benefit usage.

A DePaul University alumnus, Gwen is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and is certified as a Equal Employment Opportunity Investigator by the Federal government. Gwen has also earned the designation of Senior Certified Professional (SCP) from the Society for Human Resources Management

(SHRM). Gwen has spent over 25 years as a respected Human Resources professional who has effectively supervised employee performance management, coaching, development and succession planning while implementing programs, policies, and procedures.

Gwen and her family (husband Zamon and daughter Zhavia) have been proud residents of Hazel Crest for more than 23 years. In addition to her government employee management expertise, Gwen is also a professionally trained voice over artist who has served as a news reporter, announcer and interviewer for both television and radio broadcasts.

## IDOT Red Light Camera Statistics For 183rd & Pulaski

The Illinois Department of Transportation approved a red light camera for the intersection at 183rd & Pulaski in 2009 and recently released a 36 month data chart detailing the decrease in accidents at that location. Since 2009, the average reduction in rear end crashes was 48%, the average reduction in angle crashes was 55%, and the average reduction in turning crashes was 47%. Injury related crashes were reduced by 64%.

Despite the general public dislike for red light cameras and their perception as strictly a revenue enhancement for government, the statistics compiled by IDOT have proven that red light cameras do serve as a speed reduction and red light prevention tool that reduces property damage and reduces injuries to motorists and their passengers.

# Local News & Events

## Hazel Crest Proud!

The Stonebridge Condominium Homeowners Association (HOA) installed a beautiful new 6 foot high treated pine wood fence on the east side of their property's parking lot to replace a 40 year old fence that was in disrepair. With encouragement and expedient permit service to make this much needed improvement to their property, the HOA hired licensed and bonded contractor Mr. Fence to accomplish the task. This enhancement to property at Stonebridge Condominiums and Stonebridge Drive is an enhancement for entire community.



## In Memoriam



Former Hazel Crest Police Officer Tonya Smith Doumas passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Officer Doumas started her career as a Hazel Crest Police Officer in 2004. A 20 year veteran of law enforcement, Tonya also worked with the Chicago Housing Authority and the Ford Heights Police Department. Officer Doumas was highly admired and respected by her peers and residents of Hazel Crest. Our condolences to her family and friends — she will be missed.

## Bubble Buddy Laundromat

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# Local News & Events

## Sheriff Tom Dart's Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy

The Village of Hazel Crest is partnering with Sheriff Dart to offer a complimentary Senior Law Enforcement Academy to all senior citizens residing in Hazel Crest. The Cook County Citizen Law Enforcement Academy is a free informational program designed to give Cook County seniors an overview of the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies and officials in Cook County. The first session will begin on Friday, March 4 at 11:00 AM. Classes will meet on Thursdays on March 17th, 24th and 31st and April 7th, 14th and 21st from 10:00 A.M. until Noon. All sessions will be held at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.

Participants get an in depth look at law enforcement agency operations as well as specific crime prevention methods. The Academy curriculum showcases the operations of the Cook County Sheriff's Office and its interaction with agencies within the criminal justice system, from local police departments to the county jails and courts. Also included are an array of topics based on seniors' interests including personal safety, gang and drug awareness, home protection and avoiding scams and con games.

The goal of the Academy is to foster better communications between senior citizens and the Cook County Sheriff's Office and to promote awareness of the entire criminal justice system.



- Session 1 - Welcome / Introduction To The Academy
- Session 2 – Crimes Against Seniors & Prevention Strategies
- Session 3 – Law Enforcement Agency Operations
- Session 4 – K-9 Dog Unit Demonstration, Gangs & Illegal Drugs Awareness & Prevention
- Session 5 – Court Services, Corrections & Alternative Incarceration Programs
- Session 6 – Local Community Policing Programs and Graduation Ceremony

To register for the academy call the Village Hall at 708.335.9600 (Ext. 106).

# Local News & Events

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For enrollment information, call us at (708) 798-4200 or visit us online at [www.icandreamcenter.com](http://www.icandreamcenter.com).



**iCan Daydreamers will receive:**

- Customized programming designed to fit their needs within five service domains: cognitive, communication, social/emotional, motor and creative.
- Access to a mini lab, dance classes, art and express yourself centers, martial arts and fitness training.

# Holiday Lighting

## Congratulations To Hazel Crest Residents For Beautifying The Village With Their Holiday Lighting Decorations

Adebesin Family 17120 California  
Batchman Family 18503 River Road  
Bell Family 16920 Magnolia  
Besse Family 17025 Head  
Bowse Family 18202 Fountain Bleau  
Cardenas Famioly 17003 Magnolia  
Chapman Family 18407 Rivera Road  
Covington Family 3416 Hazel Lane  
Davis Family 17612 Balmoral  
Douglas Family 3007 Surrey Lane  
Fonesca Family 2600 Woodworth  
Gardner Family 17015 Central Park  
George Family 3803 Rivers  
Gillie Family 3612 Roberts Court  
Hall Family 2747 Woodworth  
Harper Family 3206 Birchwood  
Helm Family 2818 173rd Street  
Hemp Family 17127 California  
Hopkins Family 17308 Burr Oak  
Jackson Family 17013 Central Park  
Jefferson Family 3714 Briar Lane  
Jenkins Family 3104 Hawthorne  
Jones Family 17117 Magnolia  
Kemp Family 3208 Fountain Bleau  
Kurowski Family 3710 Briar Lane  
Kyles Family 17609 Arlington  
Langston Family 17603 Balmoral  
Maberry Family 17314 Burr Oak  
Mack Family 17012 Central Park  
McCall Family 18456 Carrinton Court  
McGee Family 3014 Hawthorne  
McGrath Family 16960 Crane  
McIntosh Family 3000 Hawthorne  
McMiller Family 3703 Edgewater  
Moore Family 17313 Burr Oak  
Morgan Family 3817 Streamwood  
Mosley Family 3610 Robert Court  
Nixon Family 17213 Central Park

Ridley Family 3010 Hawthorne  
Roberts Family 3911 Edgewater  
Scaver Family 17805 Tanglewood  
Smith Family 3205 Birchwood  
Smith Family 3506 Laurel Lane  
Smith Family 17613 Balmoral  
Stockwell Family 17034 Crane  
Thompson Family 17811 Oakwood  
Tillman Family 3519 Laurel Lane  
Travis Family 17806 Tanglewood  
Veyveris Family 17005 Magnolia  
White Family 17116 Magnolia  
Wiggins Family 17615 Balmoral  
Williams Family 3501 Laurel Lane  
Williams Family 3905 Streamwood  
Winston Family 18412 River Road  
Wren Family 17002 Magnolia  
Young Family 17607 Arlington

### *Homeowners Associations*

Carriage Hill Sign  
Palmer Lakes

### *Community Service Organization*

Firehouse II

### *Community Business*

Mi-Jack



**Lawrence Moore**  
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lmoore@g300security.com

## A Message From Interim Police Chief Anthony Gray

I was honored to be sworn in as Interim Police Chief in June, 2015 after 24 years of public safety service to the Village of Hazel Crest. I have traveled down every street and been inside almost every business during my years as a patrolman, as a detective, as a sergeant, and as the head of the Investigation Division since 2007. The benefit of serving in a mid-sized suburb is that you get to forge great relationships with the people, families and businesses you serve — an opportunity that is lost in the big cities. I enjoy working to keep our streets safe by providing professional, effective and courteous community oriented policing strategies and tactics.

We all know that the overall nationwide image of police officers has taken substantial downturn in the last few years due to the highly publicized acts of some rogue officers and departments who need better personnel, leadership, training, policies and procedures. Despite the acknowledgement of these mistakes, we have worked hard in Hazel Crest to maintain our relationship with the community by fulfilling our oath to protect and serve to the best of our ability. We must all remember that for every single bad cop or bad act, there are 100 good cops performing 100 selfless or heroic acts at risk of life and limb in order to keep us and our loved ones safe.

The police officers of Hazel Crest will continue to work together as partners to maintain a peaceful and safe environment in the

community we call home. We are also Peace Officers who depend upon the community to assist us in maintaining our peaceful community. If you own a home where certain behavior will not be tolerated by a guest or resident, that offending party has two options — either stop that behavior or find another home. A community almost works in that same way, but it takes a sustained effort by everyone vested in the community.

In closing I would like to congratulate our residents for taking an active role in preventing residential burglaries by calling in anonymous tips regarding suspicious behavior or incidents occurring in our neighborhoods. We are finally acting for our own self-protection which is “If you see something, say something.” When the criminal element knows illegal acts will be reported, they will not return to commit the same act in the same area. While it may be a neighbor today, if you say nothing, it may be your home tomorrow. We need to work together to make it impossible for criminals to continue their activity in our community.

Respectfully,

*Anthony T. Gray*

Anthony T. Gray  
Interim Police Chief

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# Election Information

## Referendums On Ballot For March 15, 2016

### Referendum 1 — Eliminate Managerial Form Of Government

The first referendum asks residents whether the Village of Hazel Crest should eliminate the “Managerial Form” of government. If the Managerial Form of government is eliminated, it removes the Village Manager as the full authority of administering the Village and places the government back into the hands of the Village President and Village Board.

### Referendum 2 — Adopt Strong Mayor Form Of Government

The second referendum ask residents to adopt the “Strong Mayor” form of government, the same system that is used in the City of Chicago. This referendum was placed on the ballot through a petition process by residents who may not be aware of the consequences. The Strong Mayor form of government enlarges government size and cost by requiring the creation of at least 8 to 20 Wards with an Alderman to be elected in each of the 8 to 20 new Hazel Crest Wards. A new office of City Treasurer must be created, elected and funded. Under the “Strong Mayor” scenario, the new full-time Hazel Crest Mayor would have complete control of the administration of the village with no required input by or required approval from the Village Trustees.



## Important March 15, 2016 Election Deadlines

February 7 to 13 –  
February 29 to March 14 –  
March 10 –  
March 15 –

Grace Period Voter Registration & In-Person Voting  
In-Person Early Voting & Mail-In Balloting Period  
Last Day To Request Mail In Ballot  
ELECTION DAY (Same Day Voter Registration Allowed)

## Hazel Crest Voting Locations (Election Day Only)

Chateau Elementary School  
Hazel Crest Fire Department  
Hazel Crest Public Library  
Hazel Crest Park District  
United Methodist Church  
Highland Avenue Elementary School

3600 Chambord Lane  
2903 W. 175th Street  
3479 W. 183rd Street  
2600 W. 171st Street  
17050 S. California Avenue  
3420 Laurel Lane



The Village of Hazel Crest

**The Senior Commission For The Village of  
Hazel Crest Invites ALL SENIORS To A  
**SENIOR VALENTINE'S OLD SCHOOL DANCE****

**REMEMBER WHEN WE DID THE  
"Watusi, The Twist, Shake and the Hitchhike ?"**



**DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016**

**TIME: 11:00 am—2:00 pm**

**LOCATION: Village Senior Room, 3000 W. 170th PL**

**ATTIRE: Anything Red**

**ADMISSION IS FREE — REFRESHMENTS**

**DANCING, MUSIC, FOOD, LAUGHING  
AND . . . REMEMBERING WHEN !**

# Village Calendar



## FEBRUARY

- 1 Beautification Commission Meeting
- 3 Veterans Commission Meeting
- 4 Hazel Crest Proper HOA
- 5 Senior Valentine's Old School Dance  
Village Senior Room
- 6 Apple Tree HOA Meeting
- 8 Courtyards of Stone Creek HOA Meeting  
Open Lands Commission Meeting  
Economic Development Meeting
- 9 Village Board of Trustees Meeting
- 10 Mommy, Daddy and Me Dance
- 18 Clergy Commission Meeting
- 19 Youth Commission Meeting  
Real Men Read
- 20 Pottawatomie HOA Meeting
- 23 Village Board of Trustees Meeting
- 27 Stonebridge Civic Association  
Black History Celebration  
Youth Commission Sponsor / Village Senior Room

- 6:30 PM - Fire Station II
- 7:00 PM - Fire Station II
- 7:00 PM - Fire Station I
- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 9:00 AM - Fire Station II
- 7:00 PM - Grande Prairie Library
- 6:30 PM - Fire Station II
- 7:30 PM - Village Senior Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM - Village Hall
- 5:00 PM - Jesse White Academy
- 6:30 PM - Fire Station II
- 10:00 AM - Fire Station II
- 1:00 PM - Jesse White Learning Academy
- 9:30 AM - Village Senior Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM - Village Hall
- 10:00 AM - Fire Station II
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission  
*Commission Meets As Needed*

Fire & Police Commission Meeting  
*Commission Meets As Needed*

Board meetings are held on the second  
and fourth Tuesday of each month  
at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall Board Room.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



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

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