

"Now You Know!"

A Monthly Online Newsmagazine
Serving the Citizens of
The Village of Hazel Crest

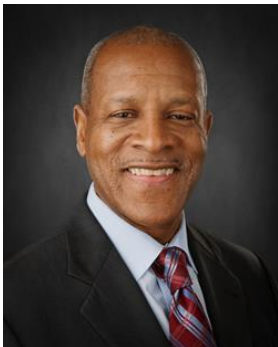
What's Inside

- "Now You Know!" - President's Point
- "Now You Know!" - Special Section
- "Now You Know!" - News Briefs
- Call To Action
- Writers & Editorial Guidelines

"Now You Know!" - President's Point

Keep Power in the Hands of the People – Vote NO to Two Referendums

Sometimes events that appear to be disconnected are, in fact, closely related. It is unfortunate that the untimely death of **Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia** has ignited a high stakes political debate about who should name his replacement...**President Barack Obama** or whomever is elected this coming November.



Fortunately the **U.S. Constitution** is very clear, requiring that the sitting president name someone with the advice and consent of the senate. That those, some of whom consider themselves to be **strict constructionists** of the Constitution, would try to take this Constitutional right away from our president is beyond reasonable logic. The fact that this conversation began even before Justice Scalia was put to rest, is right on the edge of being disrespectful to him, his family and supporters.

However, the Justice's passing should underscore the importance of voting to those who don't understand. Presidents and other politicians select judges. It could be argued that judges have more impact on our daily lives than any other public

official, especially in the African American community.

We have **power** in the **vote**. **Power that we often fail to use**. Which brings me to an **important local issue** facing the **citizens of Hazel Crest** in the **fast-approaching March 15th Primary**.

Voting has been made easier than ever because 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 referendums on the ballot for the March 15, 2016 Primary** which **directly affect Hazel Crest residents and our property taxes**.

The referendums offer two options for the form of government by which Hazel Crest will be governed. I am urging all residents to vote **"NO" on both options**. **Below I explain and offer an alternative option.**

Continued on Page 2

The **first** referendum asks residents whether the Village of Hazel Crest should maintain its current "Managerial Form" of government. **This system places full authority for administering the village government in the hands of a Village Manager**



rather than the Mayor and Board of Trustees who were elected by the residents to govern. Under the current system, the Village Manager (who is not required to be a

resident of the village) has full authority to set administrative policy, hire and fire staff and commit taxpayer money without input from the elected village officials. This system could leave the village very vulnerable with the wrong individual in charge. **You are encouraged to vote "NO" to maintaining this system.** More than 600 residents already signed a petition to eliminate this form of government which is why this referendum is on the ballot.

The **second** referendum asks residents to adopt the "Strong Mayor" form of government as used by the City of Chicago. Again you are encouraged to vote "NO." **The Strong Mayor form of government would enlarge government size and costs by requiring that the village be divided into 8 to 20 wards with an elected, taxpayer-paid Alderman for each ward. A new office of City Treasurer would also have to be created, elected and funded.** As in Chicago, the Mayor would have complete control of the administration of the village with no required input or approval from the Board of Trustees. If adopted, this referendum would create more bureaucracy, unnecessary spending, and place an undue burden on taxpayers.

An **alternative** to both of the above systems is the **Administrative Form of government, which offers the most benefit and protection for the village.** You do not have to vote on this form as

Hazel Crest would automatically default to this form of government if the above two referendums are defeated. In this collaborative system of government management, authority would not rest with just one individual. Instead, decision-making authority is shared by the Mayor *and* Board of Trustees, who in turn are answerable to the residents of this village. I believe that the Alternative Form of government offers the best option. Your **"NO-NO"** vote on the referendums will ensure that this fairer and more beneficial form of government will be enacted for Hazel Crest. **Vote "NO-NO."**

In coming months I will provide more information about these forms of government so that residents can decide for themselves which form is best for our community and vote accordingly. **The village government cannot and will not take any official position in support of or opposition to a referendum, but I will provide my opinion in my role as a private citizen and resident of Hazel Crest.**

**President
Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.**

Important 2016 Primary Election Dates

- February 16 – Last day to register to vote
- February 17 – First day of Grace Period – Registration & Voting
- February 29 – First day of Early Voting
- March 10 – Last day to request a mail in ballot, including military and overseas voters
- March 15 – Primary Election Day

Old School Valentine's Dance

On Friday, February 5th President Alsberry joined in the festivities with about **90 seniors** in the **Village Senior Room**. They all had a great time eating, recalling old times and dancing. The **"Watusi"** was reportedly one of the favored tunes that got everybody out of their chairs, and onto the floor.

“Now You Know!” – Special Section

February – Our Shortest Month

Celebration of Black History – Comes & Goes

“If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.”



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

There should be a national holiday celebrating the life of **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**, best known as both the founder of

Negro History Week, later (**Black History Month**) and the author of the highly acclaimed “*Mis-education of the Negro*.”

The son of slaves, Carter G. Woodson was born in 1875, later becoming the second African American, after W.E.B. DuBois, to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Over time he became greatly disturbed about the extreme lack of information about black history found in books that were published at the time. So upset that in **1926**, he founded what became the first annual celebration of black history in America. First called **Negro History Week**, it later became **Black History Month** in **1976**.

Woodson reportedly selected February because it is the birthday month of both **Frederick Douglass** and **Abraham Lincoln**, two men who had great impact on the lives and history of black Americans. But February includes other milestones as well including:

- Birthday of **W.E.B. DuBois**
- **15th Amendment passed** – Giving blacks the right to vote

- Month when first black senator, **Hiram R. Revels** was sworn in
- Founding month of the **NAACP**
- Month in which **Malcolm X** was assassinated
- Month when the first **lunch counter sit-ins** occurred in **Greensboro, NC**

Source – The Black History Timeline

Any article about the importance of **Black History Month** must end with a quote from the esteemed Dr. Woodson.

If you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his action. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one.”

Now You Know!

COFFEE WITH THE PRESIDENT



Remember all residents are invited to join President Alsberry every 2nd Saturday of the month for “Coffee With The President” in

the Village West meeting room from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. This informal setting allows citizens to meet with the Village President to discuss various issues and concerns, while relaxing with coffee and donuts. The next meeting is Saturday, March 12th.

The informal setting is designed for residents to meet with the **Village President** and talk about various **issues and concerns**.

Continued on Page 4

Congratulations – President Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.



2016 Chicago Defender Man of Excellence

Reading or watching our daily news is often a painful occurrence. Street violence, domestic disturbances, political corruption are only interrupted by ads or commercials, trying to sell something that you don't need or want.

So it is with pleasure that the “Now You Know” staff is able to bring some good news to our readers.

On February 5th our own **President Vernard Alsberry** was honored as one of the **2016 Chicago Defender Men of Excellence**, joining more than 400 past and current recipients. His family, friends and staff joined him in sharing this joyous occasion. The reception was held at the **Hyatt Regency Chicago**.

This recognition is reserved for only the best of the best.

From the Chicago Defender

The Chicago Defender Men of Excellence Awards celebrate local African American men who inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievement and participation in community service.

They are men who exemplify extraordinary strength to their profession and to the community.

These men do it all while filling the roles of leader, father, teacher and professional.

Congratulations President Alsberry for a job well done.

“Now You Know!” New Briefs

Happy 112th Birthday - Hazel Crest Resident – Oldest in Illinois



On **January 13, 1904** when **Edna Lawler** was born, there were only **48 states**. The **Interstate highway system** wasn't even a blueprint; and **McDonald's** hadn't been founded.

Today after living through the first **depression**, **two world wars**, the passage of **Civil Rights legislation**, and the first **African American president**, she's still here, one of **Hazel Crest's** most **revered citizens**, and the **oldest living person in Illinois**.

We wish you a very happy, happy birthday

President Alsberry's Mardi Gras Gumbo Fest

About **200** people had a **New Orleans Good Time** at the **Gumbo Fest** held at the **Flavor Restaurant** in **Hazel Crest** on **Thursday, February 11th**. Guests enjoyed three types of gumbo while sipping on Hurricanes. There was a great jazz band, and dancing to the music of DJ Red. Comedian Damon Williams and several local politicians and other supporters attended.



Join Us at the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy

You can either complain about crime, or do something about it. On **Friday, March 4**, the **Hazel Crest Police Department** presents the **“Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy”**

The **6-week** program will give participants an in-depth look at specific crime prevention methods. Presenters will also discuss **safety issues**, **gang** and **drug awareness**, how to **increase protection** of your **home**, and how to **avoid scams**.

Seniors will be awarded **certificates** at the end of the program. Participation is **free**.

For more information Contact the Village of Hazel Crest @ 708-335-9622



Village Schedule of Events

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall Board Room, 3000 W. 170th PL. The public is invited to all meetings and they may introduce appropriate items not listed on the agenda.

**The Veterans Moving Wall
will be located in the Village of Hazel Crest**

May 5 – May 9, 2016



“Now You Know!” Call To Action

We Want To Hear From You



“Now You Know!” needs you. The **Village of Hazel Crest** is home to a number of organizations and entities that contribute to our well-being and development. We want to

regularly report on your **meeting dates, activities, goals, objectives and outcomes.**

This **Call To Action** includes, but is not limited to **Homeowners’ Associations and Committees and Commissions.** We want to represent any recognized entities that are working on behalf of **Hazel Crest.**

We will make every effort to publish “Now You Know!” the first week of every month. **Deadline for submission** is the **2nd Friday of the month, by midnight.** So, if you would like to contribute copy for the **February 2016** issue, send no later than **Friday, January 8 2016, midnight.**

Meeting the deadline is especially important for time-sensitive information. Please keep articles between 250-1,000 words, as space will be limited. Depending on the size of the font, about 4 double-spaced pages equal 1,000 words.

We recognize that sometimes it will not be

possible to meet the deadline. In that case, both the importance and timeliness of the submitted information will be considered. In many instances late information can be rolled over to the next issue. Sometimes not. So we urge you to make every effort **to meet the copy deadline.**

See Editorial Guidelines in this issue.

Please submit only the highest quality pictures with captions, explaining the significance.

Editor’s Note - Obscenities, defamatory, unsigned and excessively self-serving articles will not be printed. “Now You Know!” is a publication dedicated to the progressive activities of the Village of Hazel Crest. Group copy writing instruction will be offered to those wishing to sharpen their informational messages.

Please submit articles, and inquiries to: **Walter M. Perkins at:** wperk@sbcglobal.net. We are working on a process which will enable pictures to be uploaded to a common drive, and will provide that information.

Writers & Editorial Guidelines

1. Keep to the 250 – 1,000 word limits. Get copy in on time.
2. Check copy for grammar and spelling before submitting.
3. Know what you want to say and say it.
4. Write as concisely as possible.
5. Substitute small words for large ones whenever possible.
6. Use words and phrases that your audience is likely to understand.
7. Don't be unnecessarily redundant. Don't use different words to convey the same thoughts.
8. Don't use jargon that only those who do similar work understand.
9. Write as if you were having a conversation with your audience.
10. Don't talk down to your audience.
11. Be accurate as to names, titles, degrees and addresses (where relevant).
12. Write with passion, not anger.
13. Make sure your information is accurate.
14. Don't curse, defame, disparage, or violate anyone's privacy.
15. Don't write anything that you will regret, if it is published.
16. Separate your personal opinions from what is factual.
17. Be specific about your information sources.
18. Humor doesn't always work. Satire doesn't always work.
19. If someone tells you something confidential, maintain their trust.
20. Remember that you are writing to inform, educate or inspire people to do or not do something.
21. Use pictures that help support the story.
22. Include captions with pictures to help tell who, when, where, what, why and why story is important.

That's it for now. We'll see how it goes

Paid for by
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Editorial Services by Information Plus Professional Services
Formatting and design by RRJ Web Solutions