

“Now You Know”!

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

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"Now You Know"! - President's Corner

Time Out - Let's Give Thanks

November is the month we celebrate two very important holidays. Both days represent a time in America when we give thanks. On Veterans Day Tuesday November 11, we give thanks and celebrate all of the men and women who served in our armed forces, those who have taken time out of their lives to support and protect the freedoms we enjoy today as American citizens..



Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27, we give thanks for all of the blessings bestowed upon us by God to our county and our families. Both Holidays of thanks allows us to reflect on how blessed we are as a Village, State, County, Nation and Family.

I want to personally thank all of the Veterans in our Village of Hazel Crest, both young and old, for your service to our Country. I would also like to thank

the families of our veterans, because I know as a 10-year veteran of the United States Air Force myself, that as the military person serves, the family serves with them.

I would also like to wish all of the residents of the Village of Hazel Crest a Happy Thanksgiving Day. Just as I did last year I will be giving out 100 Turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner to needy families in our community.

So as we move into the month of November the month of giving thanks and praise to our veterans and to our God; please remember it is not always what you do for yourself that makes a difference in the community you live in, but what you do for others. Let's continue to put "Service Before Self." I know I will.

Happy Holidays
Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.
President Village Of Hazel Crest

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Thanks to Those Dedicated to the Economic Revitalization of Hazel Crest



On Saturday, November 1st an important, dedicated group of people representing a cross-section of residents, businesses, community organizations and small business entrepreneurs gathered in the basement conference room at Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest.

Their mission? To discuss ways to enhance economic prosperity in the Village of Hazel Crest. I would like to thank all of the local stakeholders who made this summit, hosted by our Economic Development Commission, chaired by E. Lamar Rogers, a huge success.

I would like to extend special thanks to Lakeshia Wright of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, for her excellent job in chairing the session; and to Jim Munz of South Suburban Hospital for hosting this important gathering.

You will find a feature in this issue of the newsletter giving more highlights of the meeting. This shows what can happen when stakeholders come together on behalf of their community.

Economic development can and will happen. Thanks to all who participated.

The Political Season

The Mid-Term elections are over, but the political

season continues. Some winners, some losers...and some races at this writing remain undetermined.

I would like to thank **Gov. Pat Quinn**, for his longtime service and advocacy on behalf of the citizens of this great state. He has conceded and is preparing to name a team to ease the transition to his successor as governor, **Bruce Rauner**

I would like to offer congratulations to **US Senator Dick Durbin**, for his strong win over perennial candidate, Jim Oberweis. **Sen. Durbin** has been a long-time friend to the **Village of Hazel Crest**. We need his **seniority** and **continued leadership** in the **state of Illinois**.

Congratulations also to **Congresswoman Robin Kelly**, for her strong showing in the **2nd Congressional District**. She has proven her leadership, and I expect her to be serving the citizens of this state and the **Village of Hazel Crest**, for a long time. I look forward to continue working closely with her in the future.

Illinois Atty. General Lisa Madigan's win was no surprise. She has been very effective, particularly in the area of **consumer protection**, by regaining millions of dollars from banks who took advantage of **home owners** during the recent **mortgage foreclosure scandal**.

Congratulations as well to **State Representative Will Davis (30th Dist.)**, who well represents the **East Side of Hazel Crest**.

And I would also like to congratulate **State Representative Al Riley (38th Dist.)**, for his strong showing. He is also a friend of **Hazel Crest**. I look forward to continuing our close association.

And finally, **Tim Bradford**, is to be recognized for his election as a **commissioner** of the **Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board**. Tim was one of three elected to that important commission

And now we prepare for the **Municipal Elections** this coming **April**.

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Introducing - Hazel Crest First Party Candidates for Hazel Crest Trustee Seat *"Service Before Self"*

Benjamin A. Ramsey - Why I'm Running

"As a longtime Hazel Crest resident I have seen our community suffer through an economic downturn, and the number of vacant homes skyrocket due to the foreclosure crisis."

"As a former Village Trustee and as a volunteer, I have worked tirelessly to address these issues. I will continue to do so as a Trustee. I will bring my experience and high level of commitment to the table in working with our Village President and fellow Trustees, to bring the resources to Hazel Crest that our Village deserves."

"I believe in working with others irrespective of our philosophical differences to bring about results."

A 17-year resident of Hazel Crest, Benjamin is a past village Trustee, having served from 2008 - 2011. Benjamin has given much of his time to the village including service as: Hazel Crest Planning and Zoning and Community Relations Commissioner; Hazel Crest Community Council; Board Member and Past President of The Stonecreek Homeowners Association

He has also served on the President's Team for Home Rule Education; and as a member of Citizens for Al Riley (38th Dist.)

The Trustee candidate has also served as a significant role model for youth, providing recreational activities for over 150 boys and girls as Coach, Manager and President of the Southeast Little League. And, he still found time to volunteer as a fund raiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for more than 20 years.

The married father of 4 adult children and grandfather to 8 grandchildren, is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is also an Elder at St. John's Lutheran Church in Country Club Hills.

Mary Emily Grant - Why I'm Running

"The Board needs members who will listen to the issues, compromise and act in a way that reflects the pulse of the residents. We must move forward and grow through economic development and be unified as a community dedicated to the welfare of ALL of the residents, young and old alike and all of those in between. This starts with the board."

"Abraham Lincoln speaking in Springfield, IL on June 16, 1858 said, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.'"

"I believe the future of Hazel Crest begins with the professionalism and integrity of the board. Our goal is to move forward and beyond in the 21st century for the good of the community."

A 46-year resident of Hazel Crest and current Village Clerk. A retired Portfolio Manager in the Private Bank, for J.P. Morgan Chase, Mary has long participated in local village affairs including membership in the following entities: School Finance Authority and the Strategic Planning Committee for (Hazel Crest District 152 and a half).

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Educational credentials include a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Finance, and an MBA also in Finance, both from DePaul University. While at DePaul Mary was honored as a Member of the Golden Key Society and received a Certificate of Commendation for Excellence in Student Leadership.

As **Hazel Crest Village Clerk** she has distinguished herself with membership in the: **International Institute of Municipal Clerks** and the **Municipal Clerks of Illinois**. She is also the **current treasurer** of the **Municipal Clerks Association of the South and West Suburbs of Cook County**.

Other **civic involvement includes membership in: League of Women Voters Illinois; League of Women Voters - Homewood-Flossmoor (current board member); National Association of Parliamentarians and Illinois Association of Parliamentarians (currently studying for Registered Parliamentarian exam).**

Volunteer activities include: Village of Hazel Crest Clean-Up and Planting Days, as well the Hazel Crest Arbor Day Celebration and work with the Hazel Crest Proper Neighborhood Association Youth Summer Program and as a 4-H Leader.

The **Trustee Candidate** is also a **proud member of St. Anne's Catholic Church**. Married for over **17 years to Eldrige D. Grant**, now deceased

Sandra G. Slayton - Why I'm Running

*"As **Trustee** I will actively seek to **restore housing and economic development to the Village of Hazel Crest**. I have been **active in the community** since moving to the Village in **1978**. Becoming a **Trustee** will be an extension of that work."*

*"I also bring **20 years of leadership and managerial experience** in federal governmental programs, that I believe will be beneficial to the Village. **Professionalism, teamwork, negotiation, integrity and responsibility** are **important** to all organizations. These are traits that I practice and will bring to Village government."*

Formerly the **Deputy Regional Administrator** for the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Midwest Region**, Sandra has dedicated both her career and volunteer activities, to serving the needs of others. As **Deputy Regional Administrator**, she helped manage a **\$3 billion budget** while **supervising 120 employees** in **10 offices** and **6 states**.

She is a **36-year resident** of **Hazel Crest** and current **Commissioner** of the **Community Relations Commission**. Sandra is also active in the **Stonebridge Civic Association; League of Women Voters - Homewood Flossmoor**; and as **Legislative Committee Chairperson, Catholic Charities South Suburban Unit**.

Education includes a **Bachelor's of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies**; and participation in many **managerial training** and seminars. Over the years **Sandra** has been **honored** by many organizations for her work with **nutrition programs** and her **fight to alleviate poverty and hunger**.

Recognitions include: **Chicago Catholic Charities' Anthony DeSantis Award for Outstanding Service to Fight Hunger in the Community; Illinois Department of Human Services Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service in Nutrition Programs; Focus:Hope (Detroit organization) Certificate of Appreciation for Leadership and Commitment to the Fight Against Poverty and Hunger; Ohio Bureau of Nutrition Services Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service in Nutrition Programs; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Certificate of Appreciation for Leadership in Intergovernmental Agencies' Civil Rights Efforts.**

The **Trustee candidate** attends **St. Anne Catholic Church**. She is **married** with **2 adult children** and **4 grandchildren**.

That's my Team. And, "Now You Know"! Why.

Hazel Crest Economic Development Commission - Making Big \$ Plans

“The money people, investors and citizens are all at the table. This economic development plan can happen.”

Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.
President Village of Hazel Crest



Saturday, November 1st was a dreary day, when **Hazel Crest** stakeholders could have been doing almost anything else. Instead, a group of difference-makers gathered in a basement conference room at **Advocate South Suburban Hospital** to discuss the **economic future** of **Hazel Crest**.

Convened by **Village President Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.** and **E. Lamar Rogers, chair** of the village **Economic Development Commission**; the meeting was led by **Lakeshia Wright** of the **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA)**. Those participating included **Priscilla Cordero, director** of the **Governors State University Small Business Development Center**; and **Russell Rydin, executive director**, of the **South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority**.

Also represented were several local banks, elected officials, small business entrepreneurs, the local VFW, as well as representatives of **Mi-Jack** and **Advocate South Suburban Hospital**, the **two largest businesses and employers** in **Hazel Crest**.

The goal? To revisit the village’s last two comprehensive economic development plans, neither of which have been implemented to any great degree. The spirit around the room seemed to be **now or never**.

The specific charge is to revitalize the area surrounding **Hazel Crest Proper**, the oldest section of the village, also the site of the Metra stop. It is also where the greatest number of residents and non-residents intersect.

During his remarks, **President Alsberry said**, *“We have HUD dollars and TIF money over there. If we can’t pull this comprehensive plan together, we’re all to blame.”*

The process? During the first half of the economic summit the group divided into six groups, each of which was charged with developing an honest assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of **Hazel Crest Proper**. Each group then delivered their findings.

The consensus of the group was that access to transportation, and revitalizing the area around the **Metra station** was the top economic priority. Modernizing the Metra facility, coupled with business development in the area, was on everyone’s list of priorities.

The goal is to improve economic opportunity for residents, as well as capture some of the dollars from non-residents who are just passing through. It is also hoped that the right mix of **restaurants, banks, gift shops, coffee shops, grocery outlets, dry cleaners, office supply stores, residences**, and other amenities will make **Hazel Crest Proper**, a go-to destination for residents and non-residents alike.

Other strengths included: **the people of Hazel Crest, TIFS, schools, village’s rich history, diversity, Veterans Park, and land availability**.

Weaknesses noted were similar to those found in most urban and many suburban communities. Perceptions about crime/safety, drugs, economic blight, curb appeal, and lack of services.

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It is noted that improving the economic vitality of **Hazel Crest Proper** will serve to alleviate many of the weaknesses, that were expressed during the meeting. It was also suggested that there must be an investment in upgrading the skills of local youth to make them more viable in the current job market.

However, one weakness, the fact that **I/80** separates **Hazel Crest Proper** from the rest of **Hazel Crest**, is just a reality that economic revitalization will not be able to correct.



The second half of the meeting focused on other suggestions for improvement. Those included: using billboards along I/80 to attract businesses; update lighting in Hazel Crest Proper; improve aesthetics around Metra station; give grants to local artists to create positive images of the village; develop a business district/downtown area; 24-hour diner; chain stores and others.

There was also a recommendation to develop a **Fire/Police** satellite at the site of the old fire station. Development of a **community/youth center** was important to give youth other outlets.

All good suggestions. The question now is how to prioritize?

In closing **Lakeshia Wright** noted, “*SSMMA represents 43 communities. The more people realize that they have similar problems, the more we can do grants to address those issues.*”

Hazel Crest President Alsberry said, “*Many of*

the visions are similar, which means we can make this happen. From here we will move forward.”

Chair E. Lamar Rogers reminds readers that, The **Economic Development Commission** meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at the **Fire Station located at 2903 W 175th ST.** at 7PM

Other members of the commission include: **Vice Chair Marlon Rias, Rosalyn Owens, Emir Hardy** and **Art Fykes**.

November is National Diabetes Month



As we enter the holiday season, now is a good time to take stock of you

and your family’s health. While there are some aspects of **Diabetes** that are beyond your control; you can watch what you eat. But first let’s talk about what we’re dealing with.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes results when blood glucose, or sugar, levels are above normal. When your body either doesn’t make enough **insulin**, or for some reason can’t use its own insulin, sugar builds up in your blood.

About **90 to 95 percent** of adult-onset diabetes, also called non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, results in what is commonly known as **Type 2 Diabetes**. This type of Diabetes can often be prevented or delayed by implementing simple commonsense lifestyle changes.

The **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** reports that Diabetes affects 26 million Americans, 19 million diagnosed and about 7 million undiagnosed. An estimated 79 million American adults 20 years and older have prediabetes, putting them in the high-risk category for developing the disease.

Risk Factors for Type 2 Diabetes

The **CDC** further reports the following risk factors:

- * 45 years or older
- * Overweight
- * Family History
- * Physically active less than 3 times weekly
- * Ever gave birth to a baby weighing more than 9 lbs.
- * Ever had Diabetes while pregnant (gestational diabetes)

Type 2 Diabetes is especially associated with obesity.

Eat Less

- * Limit fat meat & fried foods
- * Cut whole milk & dairy products made from whole milk
- * Limit cakes, candy, cookies, crackers and pies
- * Avoid salad dressings, lard, shortening, stick margarine & non-dairy creamers
- * Limit fruit-flavored drinks, sodas, tea and coffee with sugar
- * Lower salt intake and when cooking, including canned & packaged soups

Eat Better

- * Breakfast cereals with 100 percent whole grains
- * Oatmeal
- * Whole grain rice
- * Whole wheat bread, bagels, pita bread and tortillas

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--- News Brief - Continued

It goes without saying that you should eat a **variety of fruits and vegetables daily.**

For more on how you can take control of your health go to:

Learn more about Diabetes Prevention
(<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/consumer/index.htm>)

Take the Quiz to Learn your Diabetes Risk
(<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/index.htm>)

Live longer, healthier lives, while also enjoying the holidays.

Back to Work With the South Southwest Suburban United Way



Hazel Crest Village President Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr. was recently welcomed back to the **Executive Board of the South Southwest Suburban United Way.** He looks forward to continuing to help them in assisting those in need in the **Southland.** *“I welcome the challenge of working with this important organization. There are thousands*

of people in our area who are still recovering from the recent economic implosion, including the home foreclosure. It is organizations like this that give people a reason to stay strong, and to continue trying to move into the economic mainstream,” Alsberry said.

South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority Offers Funds



Executive Director Russell Rydin has announced that any resident who refers a prospective buyer to one of the **Land Bank’s** properties, will receive \$500 upon closing on that property.

Mission Statement

“The South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) will facilitate the redevelopment of acquired properties through strategic partnerships with developers, community organizations, lenders and local governments to improve quality of life, stabilize the tax base, and enhance economic activities that promote sustainable, healthy and stable communities in a manner consistent with local government plans and priorities.”

President Alsberry is a **Board Member** of the **SSLBDA**

To learn more about the work of this organization go to www.SSLBDA.org.

Hazel Crest Events for November & December 2014

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - COMMUNITY PRAYER VIGIL 10:00 AM

Look up & Live International Ministries **2750 W. 175th St.**

An hour of prayer for the needs of Hazel Crest and our surrounding communities. All are invited. **Sponsored by the Hazel Crest Clergy Commission**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - HAZEL CREST SENIOR COMMISSION'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

11:00 - 2:00 PM Senior Center **3000 W. 170th PL**

An afternoon of food and enjoyment. Last year Santa stopped by and gave gifts to all the nice seniors. **Sponsored by the Hazel Crest Senior Commission**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - LIGHTING OF THE HOLIDAY TREE CEREMONY 6:00 - 8:00

Hazel Crest Fire Station **2903 W. 175th St.**, singing holiday carols and celebration Light Refreshments served. **Sponsored by the Hazel Crest Community Relations Commission**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 - PRESIDENT VERNARD ALSBERRY JR. CHAMPAGNE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WITH A GRAND VENDOR BAZAAR & MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Glenwoodie Golf Course, **19301 S. State St. Glenwood, IL.** Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy an afternoon of champagne, good food, entertainment and holiday shopping.

Sponsorship Levels: \$1,000 to \$2,500. Individual Lunch Ticket: \$50.00.

email: mayoralsberry@alsberry.org or visit the website www.alsberry.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 - VILLAGE COMMISSIONER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

12:00 - 4:00 PM Flossmoor Country Club **1441 Western Ave., Flossmoor, IL.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 - PRESIDENT VERNARD & FIRST LADY DIANE ALSBERRY'S HOLIDAY MUSICAL 2014 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Full Gospel Christian Assemblies International, **3451 W. 175th Street**

A wonderful afternoon of spiritual enjoyment and a great occasion for community fellowship. The Holiday Musical is free of charge and President and First Lady Alsberry are giving gifts to all the senior citizens in attendance.

“Now You Know” Call To Action

“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 **January 2015** issue, send no

later than **Friday, December 12, 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: wp@informationpluspro.com. 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 limit. 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 either 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 the who, when, where, what, why and why story is important.

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

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