



CALUMET CITY

# REVIEW

Winter 2012

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MICHELLE



Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush

## Lower Monthly Electric Bills Through Local Government Innovation

On Election Day, November 6, 2012, Calumet City voters approved a referendum to allow our city government to negotiate lower electricity for all homeowners and small business owners.

A new state law allows Calumet City to search for the lowest electricity rate on the market and lock that price in for all residents for a year or more. To date, over 250 municipalities in Illinois have explored this bulk purchase discount system (electric aggregation) and those that completed the process have seen the electric bills of their residents drop an average of \$150 to \$300 per year.

Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) will still own the transmission towers, the substations, the power lines, the repair

trucks and will employ all the repair crews. ComEd will still send you the monthly bill and collect your payments. The only difference would be in who supplies the electricity that buzzes along ComEd's lines into your homes – and which electricity supplier will offer all Calumet City residents the best price.

As stated in the referendum question, any customer can choose not to participate and ask to "opt out". That customer would continue to receive ComEd's rates. For more information, please check out the answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on our website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org).

Sincerely,

Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush  
Mayor of Calumet City

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# PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

## PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION SEMINAR

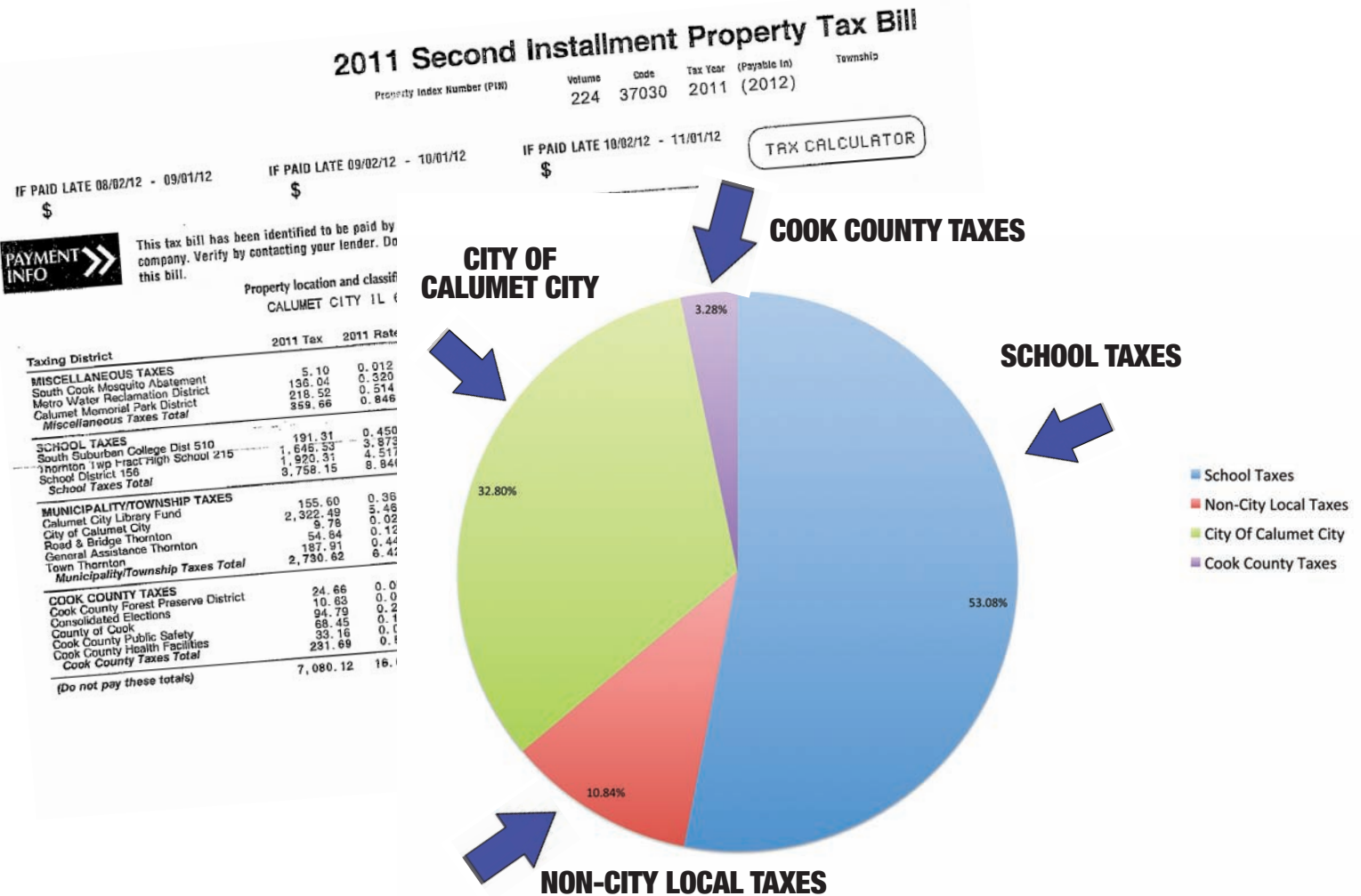
On Saturday, December 1, 2012, Calumet City will be hosting a property tax appeal seminar with Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Larry Rogers Jr. at T.F. North High School from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM.



Larry Rogers Jr.

Property owners throughout Calumet City may have seen an increase in property tax bills due the recent reassessment of property values by the Cook County Assessor. If you feel your property values have been overestimated by the county, this is your opportunity to make a case for a reduction and work directly with the county staff to lower your property tax bill.

Every property owner will need to bring a copy of your property tax bill, a pen, and a picture of the property. Even if you get the paperwork started and submit additional information later, it is important that you attend this seminar and begin the process if you hope to have the county reduce your property tax bill.



This graph represents where your property taxes are sent. The overwhelming majority of your property taxes go to our local schools.



# FORECLOSURE WORKSHOP

## FORECLOSURE WORKSHOP

The after effects of the 2007 economic meltdown and the downturn in the real estate market continue to be felt across the nation. Although foreclosure rates are beginning to slow as the economy begins its slow recovery, families in financial distress who are behind on their mortgages need to face crucial decisions regarding their long term housing needs.

Calumet City officials want to assist our residents in learning as much as possible about the mortgage loan modifications and resolutions to avoid foreclosure. In addition, for those people who want the best exit strategy for a home they can no longer afford, there are tactics that can cause the least amount of damage to your credit and allow you to more easily find a suitable home.

On Wednesday, November 28, 2012, from 6pm until 8pm, Calumet City will be hosting a Foreclosure Assistance Workshop in conjunction with the South Suburban Housing Center and the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing. The workshop will be held in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of the Calumet City Hall at 204 Pulaski Road.

The free workshop for home owners and renters will provide information about:

### For Homeowners:

- Foreclosure Prevention Techniques
- Mortgage Loan Modification
- Fraud / Scam Awareness
- Foreclosure Procedures / Options

### For Renters:

- Renter Rights During Foreclosure
- Renter Rights After Foreclosure
- Landlord Rights During Foreclosure
- Bank Ownership / Management Changes

The largest and most important asset most American families will ever have is their home. Learn the best way to protect your family and your finances by attending our workshop.



# SIBLEY BOULEVARD

## SIBLEY BOULEVARD ROAD WORK COMPLETED

Sibley Boulevard is partially owned by the State of Illinois and partially owned by Calumet City. Our city government is responsible for maintaining Sibley Boulevard from State Line Road to Torrence Avenue, and to fulfill our responsibility, we recently finished the resurfacing and repair of our portion of Sibley.

Our administration worked hard to secure \$1.4 million from various grant sources to complete the project in October 2012, which consisted of removing the existing road surface, repair of the road base and replacing the pavement. The city also replaced sidewalks, curbs and driveways where necessary and improved sewer drainage issues as needed.

Despite the temporary inconvenience of traffic delays during the late Summer and Fall, we now have a brand new roadway which will not need upgrading for at least 10 years.

In order to prod the State of Illinois to continue the resurfacing and repair of Sibley all the way to the Bishop Ford Highway, Mayor Michelle and the City Council will continue lobbying the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Governor's office to include financing for the remainder of Sibley Boulevard in the updated IDOT 5 year plan.





# HOLIDAY CELEBRATION IN CALUMET CITY

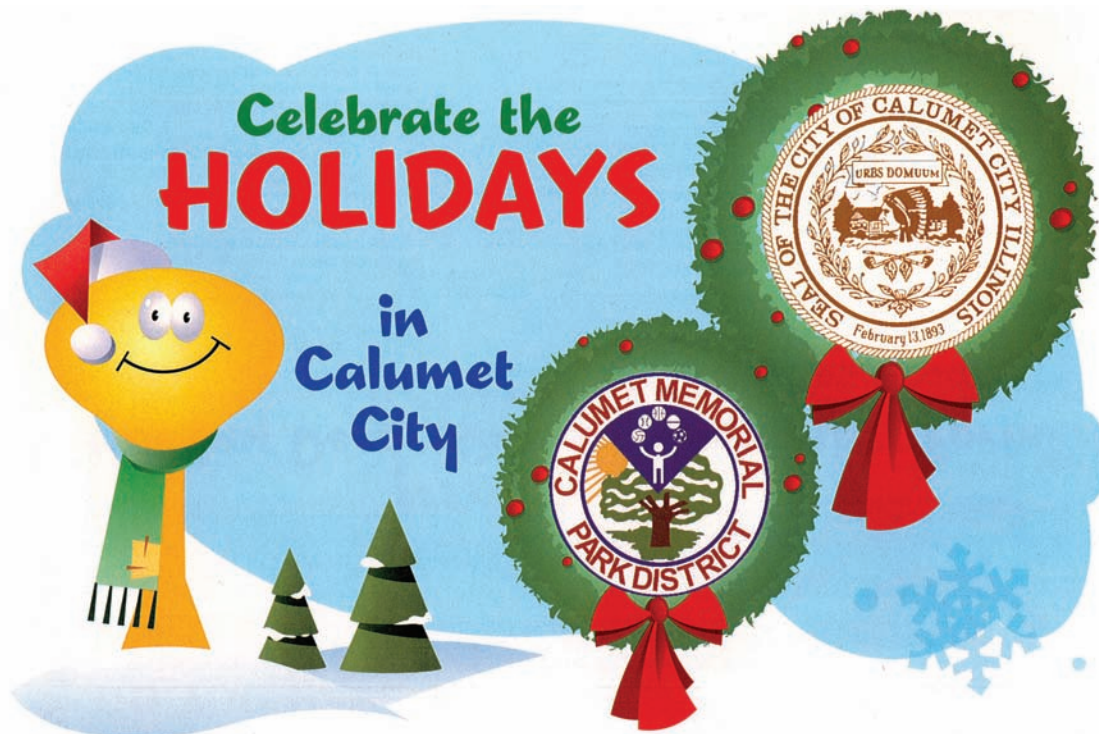
Friday, December 7, 2012 at 6:30 PM  
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Festival  
Calumet City Hall at 204 Pulaski then to Memorial Park



Mayor Michelle with the live reindeer at the Holiday Celebration.

Sleigh Rides Pulled By The  
World Famous Clydesdale Horses  
Live Reindeer  
Free Apple Cider  
Popcorn  
Hot Chocolate

City Hall Light Show & Fireworks Display  
Photo With Santa  
(Bring a camera for a picture to take home)



# CALUMET CITY SCHOOLS

## Did you know that an independently elected school board governs our local schools?

As a resident of Calumet City you are free to attend school board meetings to learn more about the inner workings of our local schools. Many board members who serve on these school boards are citizens like you – interested in helping provide the best possible education for our youth.

On this page you will see a list of all area schools, contact information for the schools, and a list of the School Board members who were elected by Calumet City residents to serve in these vital roles.

### **DOLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 149**

**Carol M. Braun School, Caroline Sibley School, New Beginnings, School of Fine Arts (SOFA), Science, Technology Engineering & Math (STEM), Creative, Communication Academy (CCA)**

292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409  
(708) 868-8300

School Board meets the 4th Thursday of every month

Darlene Gray-Everett, President  
Sheryl E. Tillman, Vice President  
Bertha A. Jolly, Secretary

Lolita Crisler-Liggons – Pamela Eldridge – Rayya Ghanni – Zacarias Castillo

Shelly A. Davis – Jones, Superintendent  
[www.schooldistrict149.org](http://www.schooldistrict149.org)

### **CALUMET CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 155**

**Wilson Elementary School, Wentworth Intermediate School, Wentworth Jr., High School**

540 Superior Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409  
(708) 862-7665

School Board meets the 3rd Thursday of every month

Stanley Long, President  
Guy Eveland, Vice President  
Nick Valle, Secretary  
Barbara Crull – Robert Oswald – Guadalupe Brantley – Diane Krueger  
Dr. Troy Paraday, Superintendent  
[www.calumetcity155.org](http://www.calumetcity155.org)

### **LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT 156**

**Lincoln Elementary School**

410 – 157th Street, Calumet City, IL 60409  
(708) 862-6625

School Board meets the last Monday of every month

Andrea Kidd, President  
Rosemary Flowers, Vice President  
Valencia E. Ross, Secretary  
Rosalyn Hathorn – Donald Duncan – Vanessa Hatcher,  
Billy J. Rawls  
Dr. Darryl Taylor, Superintendent  
[www.L156.org](http://www.L156.org)

### **HOOVER-SCHRUM MEMORIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 157**

**Hoover Elementary School, Schrum Memorial Middle School**

1255 Superior Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409  
(708) 868-7500

School Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month

Natalie Barnes, President  
Kelsy Cowley, Vice President  
Tonya Reed, Secretary  
Eric Gibson – Charles Garcia – John Kresich – Annie Wade  
Dr. Michele Morris, Superintendent  
[www.hsdist157.org](http://www.hsdist157.org)

### **THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**

**Thornwood High School, Thornridge High School**

465 E. 170th Street, South Holland, IL 60473  
(708) 225-4000

School Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month

Kenneth Williams, President  
Edward Crayton, Vice President  
Toni Williams, Secretary  
Ray Banks – Arthur Burton – Judith Gibbs – Darren Robinson  
John F. Thomas, Superintendent  
[www.district205.net](http://www.district205.net)

### **THORNTON FRACTIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 215**

**T.F. North High School**

1601 Wentworth Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409  
(708) 585-2321

School Board meets the 4th Tuesday of every month

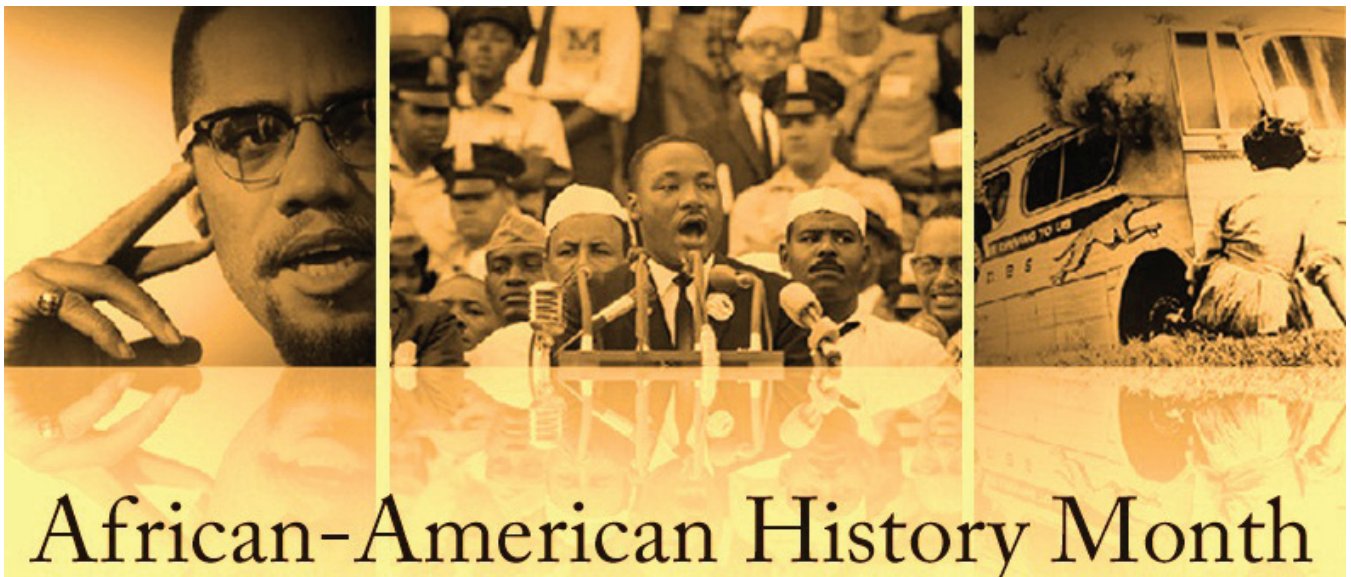
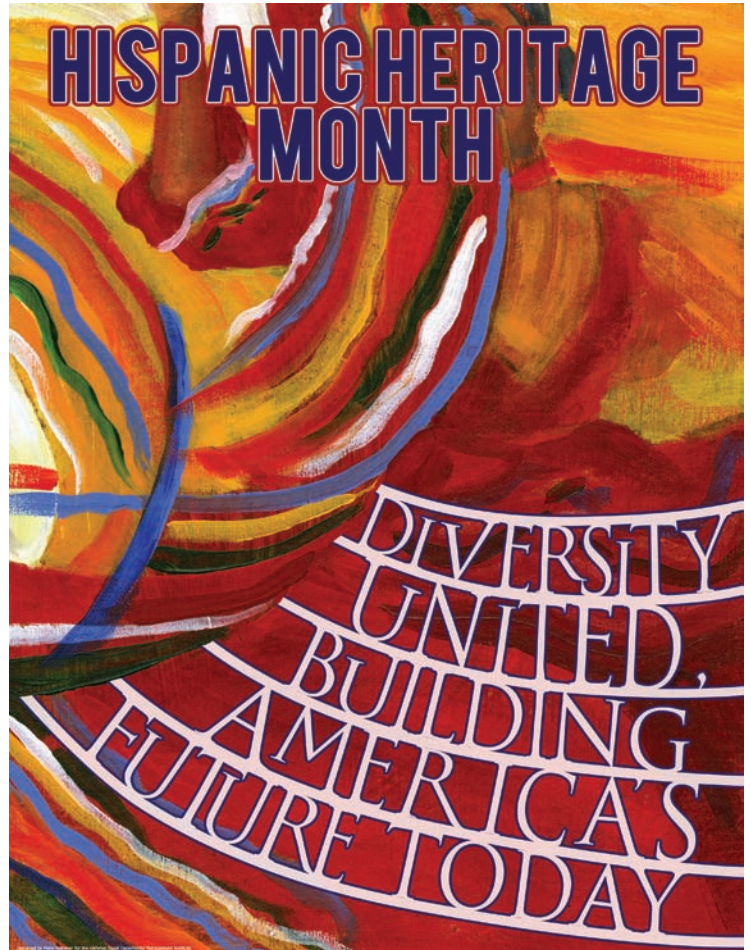
Richard Dust, President  
Lee Ann Revis, Vice President  
Sheryl Black, Secretary  
Michael Bolz – Rita Oberman – Donald Swibes – Roger Yochem  
Dr. Creg Williams, Superintendent  
[www.tfd215.org](http://www.tfd215.org)



# CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATED IN CALUMET CITY

Calumet City continues to celebrate the diversity of its population by helping organize and participate in cultural events recognizing the contributions of our citizens to our community and our country. The month of September was Hispanic Heritage Month and the month of October was Polish-American Heritage Month. Coming in February of 2013 Calumet City will celebrate African American History month.





# HONORING OUR VETERANS



## **CALUMET CITY THE HOME OF THE FIRST MEMORIAL HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS**

In 1967, seven years before the Vietnam conflict ended, a local community organization called the Gold Coast Manor Improvement Association built a Memorial dedicated to the Veterans of Korea and Vietnam. The Memorial located at River Oaks Drive and Wentworth Avenue has been updated several times since then. This Monument is a daily reminder of the debt we owe to all those veterans who served and died for our Country.

Mayor Michelle encourages all to take a moment and stop by this 45 year old Memorial to honor all of our veterans.





# SENIOR TAX EXEMPTION

## SENIOR TAX EXEMPTIONS MUST BE RENEWED EVERY YEAR

To insure that our senior citizens have the lowest possible property tax bill, we are reminding any senior citizen who is a full or partial owner of their home to apply for the Senior Citizen Taxpayer Exemption included on the form below. This exemption must be filed every year with the Cook County Assessor's office in order for the Senior Citizen to receive the Equalized Assessed Value reduction which translates into a tax reduction benefit.

If you noticed that your property tax bill for 2011 was higher than usual for the second installment, it may be that you forgot to apply for your senior exemption last year. If you did forget, and you were born after January 1, 1946, you should fill out the form below and send it in. If you already paid your property tax you will receive a refund of your overpayment. Any senior applying for the Senior Taxpayer Exemption will automatically be granted the standard Homeowner's Exemption.

**COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR**  
**JOSEPH BERRIOS**



COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE  
118 NORTH CLARK STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60602  
PHONE: 312.443.7550  
WWW.COOKCOUNTYASSESSOR.COM

## 2011 TAXPAYER EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Property Index Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Index Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner / Taxpayer \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION

As owner of the above property, I hereby apply for the Homeowner Exemption. I affirm by signature that this property was occupied by its current or previous owner as a principal residence as of January 1, 2011. I understand that it is against the law to provide false information on this Homeowner Exemption application.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THIS EXEMPTION FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THIS ADDRESS, you must include a copy of a recent property tax bill and a copy of one of the following valid forms of proof of age and residency with this application: an Illinois Driver's License (both sides) OR an Illinois Identification (ID) Card.

**NOTE:** Individuals using forms indicating a different name must demonstrate a connection to the current name by including a copy of a marriage certificate or other supporting documents. Owners of Cooperative Apartments must also submit a copy of their Stock Certificate, Occupancy or Trust Agreement.

I affirm that I was born in **1946** or earlier, or my spouse was born in **1946** or earlier and myself or my spouse is liable for payment of the taxes and that this property was occupied by its current or previous owner as a principal residence.

Date of Occupancy \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# CITY CLERK

Nyota Figgs  
Calumet City Clerk



## CALUMET CITY FIRST ANNUAL VEHICLE STICKER ART CONTEST

I would like to thank all the participants for submitting an entry in the Vehicle Sticker Art Contest. I appreciate all the students for taking time to express themselves through art and showing how they feel about Calumet City. This year's theme "I Love This Town" was expressed in the most imaginative ways possible. It warmed my heart. So, again, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you!

Thank you!!!

Marcus Reed

Kristiana Raca

Joseph Johnson

Michael Ashford

De'Janira Singleton

Tori Harmon

Charmaine Hale

Nidia Trinidad

Adetoye Samuel

Jesse Paz

Cedric Savage

Omar Bey Muhammed

Raul Naranjo

## CALUMET CITY'S FIRST ANNUAL VEHICLE STICKER ART CONTEST

PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE OF  
CITY CLERK NYOTA T. FIGGS



Kaelin Thames

Antwan Mitchell

Michael Sloan

Jerron smith

Steven Johnson

Gage Schnaedter

RaVon Cherry

Ashanti Randolph

Camri Reed

Quincy Usher

Nate Woods

Camille Jones

Julis Walton

Aaron Sanders

Jontel Sewell

Marshaun Payne

Shayaqua Williams

Devin Gaters

Guadalupe Mata

Gage Schnaedler

Deven Waller

Amanda Lopez

Zach Krugman

The winners will be announced in January. Looking forward to meeting all of you!!



**A washing machine will use about 40 gallons of water a load, whether it is a week's worth of clothes or just a couple of washcloths. The same idea applies to both dishwashers and washing machines — save up for a load and make your water work efficiently.**



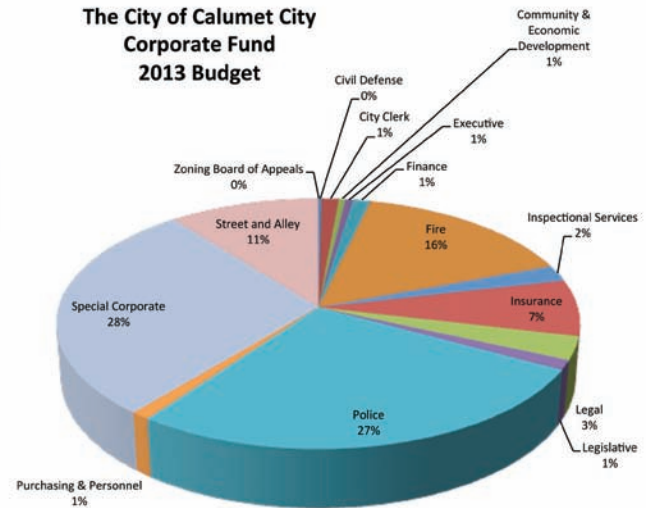


gtarka@calumetcity.org

**FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CITY TREASURER GERALD A. TARKA**

**REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR END BUDGET**

The 12 month fiscal year for the City ends on April 30th of the year. The table below will give our residents a better understanding as to how their tax dollars are being spent. Column A below details the approved budget amount for each city department for the period May 1, 2011 to April 20, 2012, totaling \$33,449,006.00. Column B reports the unaudited amount spent by each department for the same time period as described above in Column A, totaling \$32,597,161.00. As you can see the actual spending for the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year came in under budget by over \$900,000.00. In the last issue of this newsletter I outlined my projections for the anticipated Revenues of the City for fiscal Year 2013. Column C is the current budget or anticipated expenses that the City is operating under now and will end on April 30, 2013.



DEPARTMENT	A 2011 - 2012 Budget	B 2011 - 2012 Actual	C 2013 Budget
Civil Defense	\$ 85,722.00	\$ 65,725.00	\$ 83,722.00
City Clerk	\$ 479,872.00	\$ 463,290.00	\$ 409,027.00
Community & Economic Development	\$ 165,628.00	\$ 121,435.00	\$ 164,827.00
Executive	\$ 188,385.00	\$ 192,866.00	\$ 179,345.00
Finance	\$ 476,068.00	\$ 454,934.00	\$ 427,593.00
Fire	\$ 4,610,849.00	\$ 4,570,199.00	\$ 5,415,604.00
Inspectional Services	\$ 662,150.00	\$ 640,137.00	\$ 719,809.00
Insurance	\$ 2,575,000.00	\$ 2,259,324.00	\$ 2,515,000.00
Legal	\$ 1,033,655.00	\$ 1,294,400.00	\$ 1,031,425.00
Legislative	\$ 431,752.00	\$ 408,824.00	\$ 430,801.00
Police	\$ 9,765,728.00	\$ 9,077,339.00	\$ 9,256,357.00
Police & Fire Commission	\$ 89,670.00	\$ 47,103.00	\$ 97,770.00
Police Pension Board	\$ 500.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 500.00
Purshasing & Personel	\$ 305,308.00	\$ 321,809.00	\$ 360,576.00
Special Corporate	\$ 9,127,911.00	\$ 9,145,780.00	\$ 9,815,599.00
Street and Alley	\$ 3,442,808.00	\$ 3,533,011.00	\$ 3,647,349.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 845.00	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Corporate Fund</b>	<b>\$ 33,449,006.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,597,161.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,558,304.00</b>

[eschneider@calumetcity.org](mailto:eschneider@calumetcity.org)



## RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED

Calumet City is served by many social service agencies which can provide help to families in need. If you or one of your family members or neighbors is in need of help, please contact the appropriate agency to acquire assistance.

Calumet City Resources  
202 – 155th Place  
Calumet City, Illinois 60409  
708.891.9330

Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Greater Chicago Food Dispensary (Mobile Unit)  
First Baptist Church of Calumet City  
800 Pulaski Road  
Calumet City, Illinois  
708.891.1681  
(partnering with City and T. F. North Honor Society)

2nd Monday of the month  
Hours:  
8:00 AM Until Food Runs Out

Thornton Township Food Pantry  
15340 Page  
Harvey, Illinois  
708.596.6040 ext. 3180

Hours:  
Monday & Friday  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM / 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Wednesday  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM / 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Catholic Charities (South Region)  
16100 Seton Drive  
South Holland, Illinois 60473  
708.333.8379

The South Region of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago services 31 south suburban communities. This regional office provides food, clothing, counseling, emergency funds and access to all Catholic charities assistance programs.





[lwosczyński@calumetcity.org](mailto:lwosczyński@calumetcity.org)

## HELPING THE HUNGRY IN CALUMET CITY



The Calumet City Resource Center has been helping the hungry in Calumet City for 26 years. The director, Sister Alban Hermes, and 20 volunteers from various churches distributes food to approximately 300 families a month. Each family, based on the number of individuals in each family, will receive a once a month food supplement of \$30-\$40. In addition to the \$800 food budget, the Chicago Food Depository makes a once a month food drop which consists of fresh fruit, vegetables, canned goods, oats, rice, pasta and meat products.

On a recent visit to the Calumet City Resource Center located at 202 155th Place, Sister Alban explained to me that every week she will meet new families that are looking for assistance due to unemployment and low income. The Chicago Food Depository released a study in September 2011, providing a first ever community by community details in Cook County of the number of individuals who are food insecure (not sure where the next meal will come from). In Calumet City the Food Insecurity Rate is 22.5%; the average income is \$45,571; the poverty rate is 16.7% and the unemployment rate is 13.6%. The Calumet City Resource Center has felt the effects of high unemployment and low income with an increase of 5% over 2010 of families in need.

The empty shelves at the Resource Center and these new findings published by the Chicago Food Depository has driven me to make the 25th Annual 2nd Ward Thanksgiving Food Drive bigger than ever. The 2nd Ward Residents and their families and friends have been very generous in the past. Can I count on you to be just as generous and encourage a friend, neighbor or relative to participate in this year's 2nd Ward Thanksgiving Food Drive? If you or a local business would like to make a monetary donation, you can do so by making the **check payable to: Calumet City Resource Center and mailing it to: Alderman Leni Wosczyński, 204 Pulaski Rd. Calumet City, IL 60409.**

Giving, no matter how big or how small feels good. Please know that your food/monetary donation will go to help someone who is truly in need. God Bless you for your generosity.



Here are the dates and drop off locations:

### 25th Annual 2nd Ward Thanksgiving Food Drive November 5, 2012 to November 20, 2012

Please donate canned goods and non-perishable food items. Items that the Resource Center is in desperate need of are: cereals, paper products, soap, laundry detergent and peanut butter.

### 2nd Ward 18th Annual Christmas Toy Drive December 1, 2012 to December 18, 2012

Please donate new or gently used toys. Toys will be distributed by Calumet City Resources to the needy children in Calumet City.

### DROP OFF LOCATIONS FOR BOTH EVENTS:

Bank Financial 1901 Sibley Blvd. 9am to 5pm Mon-Thurs 9am to 6pm Fri 9am to 1pm Sat	BMO Harris 530 Torrence Ave. 9am to 5pm Mon-Thurs 9am to 6pm Fri 9am to 1pm Sat
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First Savings Of Hegewisch  
1100 Sibley Blvd.  
9am to 4:30pm Mon, Tues, Thurs  
9am to 12pm Wed  
9am to 6pm Fri  
9am to 1pm Sat

### **Does The State Have Money For You?**

I encourage all 2nd Ward residents to participate in the State of Illinois I CASH program, which contains all the unclaimed property from financial institutions and businesses required to report unclaimed assets to the Illinois State Treasurer. To scan the database to see if you have any money out there that belongs to you or your family, go online at [www.icash.illinois.gov](http://www.icash.illinois.gov) or by calling 217.785.6998.

# THANK YOU VETERANS!



I am especially proud this year to give thanks to those who serve our country. I was honored to address local veterans at the regional Veteran's Day ceremony held in Lansing. I was proud to stand with veterans from Calumet City VFW Post #8141 and American Legion Post #330 Veterans.

These men and women have sacrificed so much to allow us to enjoy the freedoms of our wonderful country. I ask that you join me in thanking those men and women who protect our freedoms and please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. As you do your holiday shopping, remember to keep our service men and women in mind, as they are away from their families this holiday season.

## CARE PACKAGES FOR ACTIVE MILITARY

**Our service men and women need your assistance and are looking for donations of:**

**Beef Jerky, Socks, Flea Collars, Shampoo, Sunscreen, Fruit Snacks, Cookies, and much more.**

**To donate to our men and women in uniform, please contact the 3rd Ward office at: 708.891.8193**





4th Ward Alderman Brian Wilson  
Permit and License Committee Chairman  
708.891.8194

[bwilson@calumetcity.org](mailto:bwilson@calumetcity.org)

# SHOP CALUMET CITY



With the holiday shopping season upon us, the City Council reminds residents of the importance of shopping in Calumet City. As you venture out and begin your holiday shopping, please shop locally, as this encourages economic growth, and will help improve our local job climate.

Supporting our local businesses means that more businesses will come to Calumet City, and those that are here will stay here.

In addition to helping our local businesses, sales tax revenue generated from local stores helps support our City budget. The more sales local businesses have, the more resources our City has to hire police officers and fire fighters, plow snow, repair streets and alleys and provide dozens of other municipal services to our residents.

As you begin your holiday shopping, remember to shop Calumet City, as each dollar you spend at a local store helps support the local business community, and helps the City provide necessary services.



rmunda@calumetcity.org



## WINTER AT PUBLIC WORKS

With winter fast approaching, we are anticipating heavy snows, as such our public works crews will be working extra hard to ensure our roads and alleys are clear of ice and snow. Sometimes the most challenging part of our snow removal is plowing around vehicles and other debris in the street. As we head into winter, I want to take an opportunity to remind residents of our snow removal plan, as well as some safe driving tips.

Our snow removal plan calls for removal of snow from main roads first, then side streets, then alleys. We need to keep the main roads as drivable as possible to allow emergency vehicles access to our community. If you generally park your car on the street, try and move your vehicle to a driveway or garage to allow our plow teams to fully clear your street. Please note if you park on a snow route, your vehicle cannot be parked on the street if snow fall exceeds 2 inches.

Here are some helpful tips provided by Weather.com on how to handle driving your vehicle in the snow:

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.

Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.



## DRIVING SAFELY ON ICY ROADS

Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

Keep your lights and windshield clean.

Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.

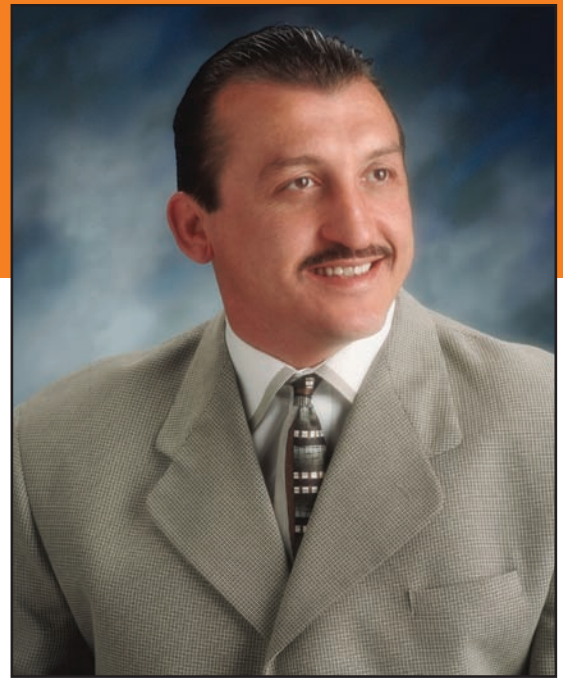
Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.

Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.





## READERS ARE LEADERS

Alderman Nick is a local volunteer and financial supporter of the Readers Are Leaders Foundation, which is trying to turn poor reading statistics around in Illinois by providing reading and educational materials to thousands of children, helping to teach them to read and better understand the world events around them. Getting children interested and excited about reading can be a difficult, but very rewarding task that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

It may be shocking to you, but 1 in 3 adults cannot read this sentence. Regardless of whether the dismal adult reading level in the United States is due to poverty, a poor public education system or lack of encouragement by their environment, we need to make sure our children learn to read at an advanced level and that our illiterate adults gain the reading skills they need to make a good living.

Readers Are Leaders began in Houston, Texas to help promote literacy after it was discovered that at least 31% of adults in Houston perform at the lowest level of literacy, that 68% of those arrested, 75% of welfare dependents, 85% of school dropouts and 72% of the unemployed were identified as functionally illiterate, and that 85% of teenagers appearing in juvenile court were functionally illiterate.



## PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

As the Chairman of the Calumet City Public Safety Committee, I will be encouraging south suburban police departments and the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police (SSACOP) to sponsor another round to the Gun Buy Back Program. Designed to help get illegal firearms off the street to help reduce gun violence, the Gun Buyback Program was provided \$2,000 by me in 2011 and received another donation again in 2012.



Alderman Manousopoulos provides a check for \$2,000 to the Gun Buyback Program.



## COLLINS CARE INITIATIVES

### 3RD ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION

Alderman Collins would like to salute and congratulate all of the participants of his 3rd Annual Essay Competition. This year, there were over 400 participants. Each participant received a ribbon, a certificate of participation and Sonic Blast, courtesy of Sonic Drive-In of Calumet City. The 15 city-wide winners were rewarded with a trip to the Chicago Bulls vs. Dallas Mavericks game at the United Center in Chicago.



This year's essay competition was entitled "Inspiration to Rule the Nation". "This year's theme was selected to promote and encourage participating youth to find a positive source of inspiration to cling to. It is my hope that this

inspiration will propel our students to excel in every facet of their lives", stated Collins. "Unless we work to change the mindsets of our youth, our future and the future of this country is in jeopardy".

### 7TH WARD FLOWER PLANTING PROJECT REMEMBERING ALDERMAN PALLICK & CLERK DOOLEY

In an effort to draw the community together in one unified project, Alderman Collins initiated the Collins Cares 7th Ward Flower Planting Project. Each household (home, condo and apartment) in the 7th Ward has received a packet of flower seeds for planting.



Over the past year, the City of Calumet City has suffered the loss of two dynamic elected officials. Our former City Clerk, Gloria Dooley made her transition home in August of 2011. Clerk Dooley was appointed to City Clerk in 2003. She was elected to office in 2005 and re-elected to serve again in 2009. The Clerk enjoyed serving the residents of the city and was always willing to aid them when they were in need.

Our hearts were heavy again as we learned of the untimely death of former 7th Ward Alderman Cyndi Pallick. Alderman Pallick was appointed as 7th Ward Alderman in 2001. Alderman Pallick was elected in 2003 and again in 2005. Alderman Pallick was committed to the 7th Ward and to the community wholeheartedly. The untimely and unexpected deaths of Gloria Dooley and Cindy Pallick underscore the need for us to value the precious time that we have on earth. We never know when we'll be called home.

Alderman Collins dedicated this year's flower planting project to the memory of former City Clerk Gloria Dooley and former 7th Ward Alderman Cindy Pallick.

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES 2012 COMCAST DAYS

In partnership with 3rd Ward Alderman and State Representative Thaddeus Jones and Comcast, we hosted a day of service in Calumet City. In addition to hosting cleanups throughout the 7th Ward, we also packed boxes for American Troops and Care Packages for college students. I would like to thank Comcast, Representative Jones and the 300 plus residents and volunteers who came out to make the event a success.

Many of our residents have children who are already in college or who may be heading off to college in a couple of months. If you are one of these parents, I would like to hear from you, please contact my office. The boxes are comprised of different non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items.

If you would like to volunteer for this initiative or if you are interested in donating items (soap, toothpaste, snacks, etc.) for the College Care Package mailing, please contact my office at 708-891-8197 or at acollins@calumetcity.org.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## ELECTRONIC WASTE DISPOSAL

As of January 1, 2012, Illinois law bans the disposal of electronics in any Illinois landfill. Calumet City will be holding a “Free Electronic Recycling Day” on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM to help our residents comply with the new law and to help protect the environment. Residents should bring any electronic device listed below to the Public Works Garage located at 1701 Dolton Road.

**Televisions**  
**Monitors**  
**Printers**  
**Scanners**  
**Computers / Laptops**  
**Electronic Keyboards**  
**Fax Machines**  
**Videocassette Recorders**  
**Portable Digital Music Players**  
**Digital Video Disc Players**  
**Video Game Consoles**  
**Small Scale Servers Electronic Mice**  
**Digital Converter Boxes**  
**Cable Receivers**  
**Satellite Receivers**  
**Digital Video Disc Recorders**

Calumet City is providing the free E-Waste recycling and disposal event in partnership with Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 708.891.8160.



**Friday, December 7, 2012**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
**Ceremony & Festival**  
**Calumet City Hall & Memorial Park**

Meet Santa Claus  
See live Reindeer  
Enjoy free popcorn,  
snacks and hot chocolate.



**CITY OF CALUMET CITY**  
**204 PULASKI ROAD**  
**CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS 60409**  
**DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY**

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
City Clerk's Office	(708) 891-8116
City Treasurer's Office	(708) 891-8125
Community & Economic Development	(708) 891-8140
Emergency Service & Disaster Agency (ESDA)	(708) 891-8190
Fire (non-emergency)	(708) 891-8145
Garbage Removal (Waste Management)	(800) 796-9696
Inspectional Services	(708) 891-8120
Library	(708) 862-6220
Mayor's Office	(708) 891-8105
Personnel	(708) 891-8100
Police (non-emergency)	(708) 868-2500
Public Works	(708) 891-8160
Purchasing	(708) 891-8137
Sewer & Maintenance	(708) 891-8160
Water Billing	(708) 891-8121
Water Service	(708) 891-8160

**[www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org)**  
**[www.youtube.com/cityofcalumetcity](http://www.youtube.com/cityofcalumetcity)**  
**[www.twitter.com/calumetcity](http://www.twitter.com/calumetcity)**

*Mayor*

Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush

*City Clerk*

Nyota Figgs

*City Treasurer*

Gerry Tarka

*1st Ward Alderman*

Eric Schneider

*2nd Ward Alderman*

Magdalena "Leni" Wosczyński

*3rd Ward Alderman*

Thaddeus Jones

*4th Ward Alderman*

Brian Wilson

*5th Ward Alderman*

Roger Munda

*6th Ward Alderman*

Nick Manousopoulos

*7th Ward Alderman*

Antoine Collins

POSTAL PATRON

CALUMET CITY, IL 60409

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, November 28, 2012 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Foreclosure Assistance Workshop  
Calumet City Hall

Saturday, December 1, 2012 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Property Tax Appeal Workshop  
Board of Review Commissioner Larry Rogers Jr.  
T.F. North High School Auditorium

Saturday, December 1, 2012 – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
FREE Electronic Waste Recycling Drive  
Bring All Old Computers/TV's/Electronic For Disposal  
Calumet City Public Works Garage – 1701 Dolton Avenue

Friday, December 7, 2012 – 6:30 PM  
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Festival  
Calumet City Hall & Memorial Park

Monday, December 31, 2012  
Senior Property Tax Exemption Filing Deadline  
Mail To: Cook County Assessor (Form On Page 9)