

CALUMET CITY NEWSLETTER

CITY UPDATES 9
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 19
CASIMIR PULASKI DAY 21
YOUR CALUMET CITY 23



Photo Credit: Calumet City Photographer
Edward Steave, Stay Focused Media





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS - THURSDAY

March 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

March 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

April 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

CITY HALL CLOSED - HOLIDAYS

Monday, March 4, 2024,

Casimir Pulaski Day

Friday, March 29, 2024,

Good Friday

EMERGENCY 911

(708) 891-8106 Mayor's Office
(708) 868-2500 Police (non-emergency)
(708) 891-8147 Fire (non-emergency)

CITY DEPARTMENTS & IMPORTANT NUMBERS

(708) 891-8199 Animal Control
(708) 862-6220 Calumet City Library
(708) 862-6440 Calumet Memorial Park District
(708) 891-8116 Clerk's Office
(708) 891-8139 Community & Economic Development
(708) 891-8190 ESDA
(708) 891-8120 Inspectional Services
(708) 891-8113 Personnel
(708) 891-8135 Purchasing
(708) 891-8161 Public Works
(708) 385-8252 Republic Services (Garbage)
(708) 891-8161 Sewer Maintenance
(708) 891-8130 Treasurer's Office
(708) 891-8121 Water Department/Billing
(708) 891-8155 Water Service Department

CALUMET CITY ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones
mayorsoffice@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8106

Treasurer Gerald Tarka
gtarka@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8130

Clerk Nyota Figs
nfigs@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8116

WARD 1 - Alderman Michael Navarrete
mnavarrete@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8198

WARD 2 - Alderman Monet Wilson
mwilson@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8192

WARD 3 - Alderman DeAndre Tillman
dtillman@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8193

WARD 4 - Alderman Ramonde Williams
rwilliams@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8194

WARD 5 - Alderman DeJuan Gardner
dgardner@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8195

WARD 6 - Alderman James Patton
jpatton@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8196

WARD 7 - Alderman Anthony Smith
asmith@calumetcity.org
(708) 891-8197



FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Calumet City Residents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As your Mayor, I am pleased to inform you of an important initiative currently underway in our municipality. The City of Calumet City is dedicated to ensuring the efficiency and functionality of our infrastructure. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce the start of routine spring sewer jetting, cleaning, and televising for five miles of sewer lines.

This vital initiative has already begun this week, with more personnel deployed throughout our streets to facilitate this process. You may observe increased activity in various neighborhoods as our teams work diligently to ensure the cleanliness and functionality of our sewer systems. Calumet City is focused on ensuring sewer jetting takes place, as it plays a pivotal role in maintaining our sewer system. By employing high-pressure water jets and television inspecting for essential cleaning, we can effectively remove debris and blockages and identify long-term or immediate repairs needed to ensure the proper functioning of our sewer lines. By proactively addressing maintenance needs, we can reduce the risk of costly repairs and disruptions to our community.

As residents of Calumet City, your support and cooperation are invaluable in ensuring the success of this initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns regarding this initiative or any other city-related matters.

For real-time updates on upcoming projects and information, please stay informed by visiting our official website at www.calumetcity.org.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus M. Jones
Mayor, Calumet City





DE SU ALCALDE

Estimados residentes de Calumet City,

Espero que esta carta lo encuentre bien. Como su alcalde, me complace informarles de una iniciativa importante que se está llevando a cabo actualmente en nuestro municipio. La ciudad de Calumet City se dedica a garantizar la eficiencia y funcionalidad de nuestra infraestructura. Con eso en mente, nos complace anunciar el inicio de la limpieza y televisación rutinaria de alcantarillado de primavera para cinco millas de líneas de alcantarillado.

Esta iniciativa vital ya ha comenzado esta semana, con más personal desplegado en nuestras calles para facilitar este proceso. Es posible que observe un aumento de actividad en varios barrios a medida que nuestros equipos trabajan diligentemente para garantizar la limpieza y la funcionalidad de nuestros sistemas de alcantarillado. Calumet City se enfoca en garantizar que se lleve a cabo el chorro de alcantarillado, ya que desempeña un papel fundamental en el mantenimiento de nuestro sistema de alcantarillado. Mediante el empleo de chorros de agua a alta presión y la inspección por televisión para la limpieza esencial, podemos eliminar eficazmente los escombros y las obstrucciones e identificar las reparaciones a largo plazo o inmediatas necesarias para garantizar el correcto funcionamiento de nuestras líneas de alcantarillado. Al abordar de manera proactiva las necesidades de mantenimiento, podemos reducir el riesgo de reparaciones costosas e interrupciones en nuestra comunidad.

Como residentes de Calumet City, su apoyo y cooperación son invaluable para garantizar el éxito de esta iniciativa. No dude en ponerse en contacto con nuestra oficina si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud con respecto a esta iniciativa o cualquier otro asunto relacionado con la ciudad.

Para obtener actualizaciones en tiempo real sobre los próximos proyectos e información, manténgase informado visitando nuestro sitio web oficial en www.calumetcity.org.

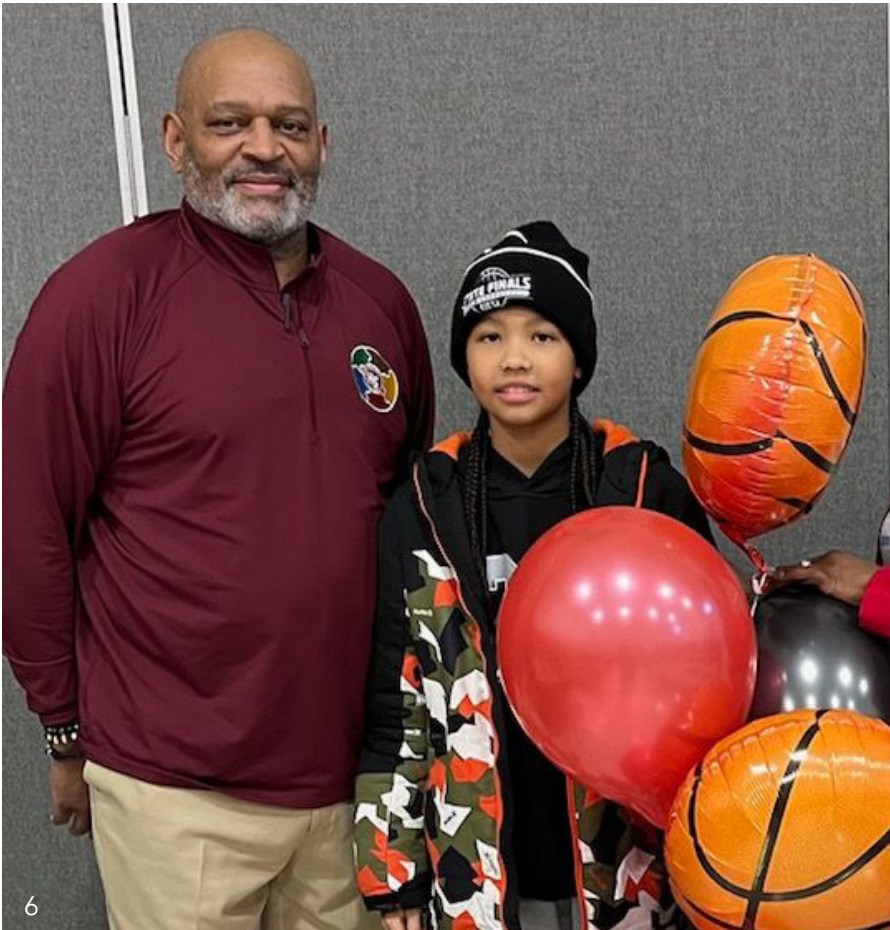
Sinceramente,

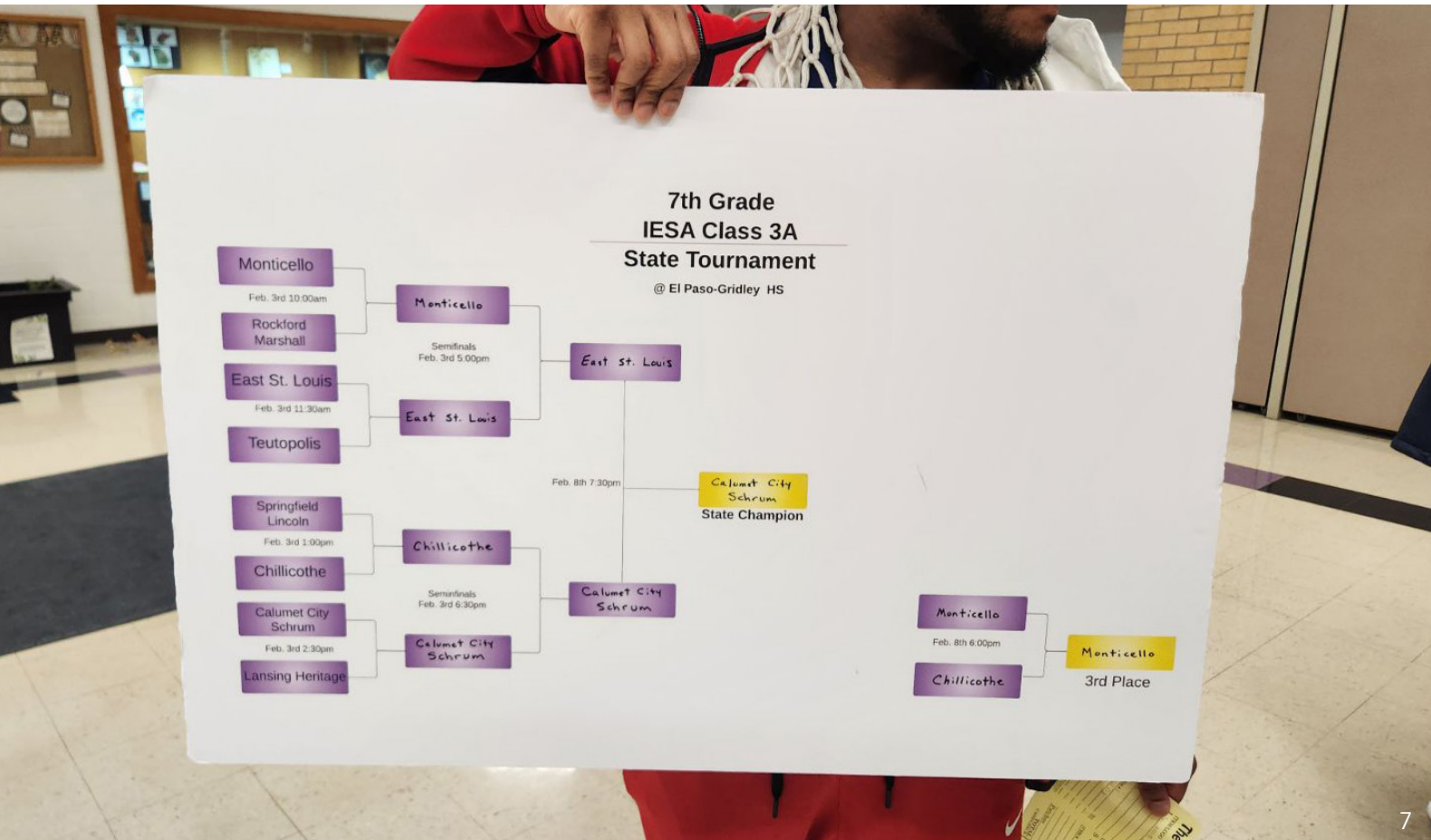
Thaddeus M. Jones
Alcalde de Calumet City



**CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHRUM SCHOOL'S
7TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
ON THEIR 2024 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN.
YOU MAKE CALUMET CITY PROUD!**









UPDATES FROM CALUMET CITY ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL MEMBERS



ALDERMAN MICHAEL NAVERRETE 1ST WARD

ABOUT CALUMET CITY & THE 1ST WARD

Formerly known as the “Village of West Hammond,” Calumet City has always made a name for itself in the region. Calumet City was shaped by memorable people such as the Schrum Family, who were among the first settlers; Faith Bailey, a nurse who was a crusader in public health; and, even by such figures as crime baron and beer overlord of the 1920’s, Al Capone.

Calumet City also progressed in the areas of real estate, construction, public safety and industry. In the early 1900s, the population more than doubled and construction businesses could not keep pace with the demand for homes. Water mains and hydrants to supply water for domestic and fire protection were laid on nearly every street and wooden sidewalks were constructed. A second fire department was established in order to protect the entire Calumet City territory, and one of the greatest improvements was the construction of an electric light plant that was expanded to provide street and incandescent lighting.

After the great fire of 1901 that destroyed the only major industry in West Hammond at the time, the G.H. Hammond Meat Packing Plant, other industries had to step up to fill the economic gap left behind. Some of the businesses that helped the community recover included the Hirsch Stein Starch Company, Bernard J Burczyk’s Printing Company and the West Hammond Brewing Company.

The 1st Ward is the eastern most part of the community, sharing a border with the State of Indiana. The Ward is home to the City Hall, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, Wentworth Junior High School, Memorial Park, the Burnham Greenway, VFW Post 8141, Fire Station No. 1, and the former St. Victor Catholic Church. The Burnham Avenue corridor has long been known as the premier commercial corridor in town, and State Street is home to many long-standing industrial businesses. As Alderman of the 1st Ward, I am determined to

bring back the vibrancy of Burnham Avenue and continue to bring more business to State Street.

THE 1ST WARD VISION

Based on feedback from the Walk the Ward event, a vision was created for Calumet City’s 1st Ward. The vision is written to be aspirational, narrating an ideal the community should strive towards over the long term based on the feedback of the community’s goals and desires.

Over the next 20 years, Calumet City’s 1st Ward will grow as a community that is welcoming and responsive to resident’s needs. The City will proactively work towards addressing the community’s priorities, including improving public safety, quality of and access to education, and public parks and open spaces. Sufficient funding will be allocated to priority services and departments to improve quality of life and the character of the Ward. This includes the Public Works and Infrastructure, Community and Economic Development, and Inspections and Code Enforcement departments.

Through a collaborative effort with local organizations, agencies, and residents, recent planning initiatives will come to fruition, including the Burnham and Memorial Drive intersection improvements, Burnham Avenue street reconfiguration, State Street Road diet, and Memorial Drive and Pulaski intersection improvement projects. St. Victor Church will be redeveloped or repurposed, possibly into a neighborhood resource center, such as a youth, senior rehab, job training, and/or community center. The 1st Ward will grow into a neighborhood where residents can live, work, shop, play, and relax, all within walking distance of their homes.



Burnham Avenue will thrive as the center of local businesses, offering a variety of shops, services, restaurants, and entertainment options. Existing neighborhood parks, like Memorial Park, will be modernized and programmed with new amenities for all ages. Opportunities for community gathering and socializing will also be promoted with new community events and enhanced public green spaces. Residents will be able to safely walk and bike to natural assets in the area, including the Burnham Greenway, Marsh Nature Preserve, and Sand Ridge Nature Preserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

1. Develop a Master Plan for the St. Victor Site

The City, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago and the neighborhood, will begin to develop a master plan or a more broad subarea area plan to address redevelopment opportunities at St. Victor and the nearby intersection of Burnham Avenue and Memorial Drive. The plan will include the following:

Zoning Code Review and District Amendment

The Comprehensive Plan shows the St. Victor site as an “Institutional” land use. This land use category “encompasses the lands which benefit the public including properties owned by the federal, state, or local governments. Uses such as public or private schools, churches, and cemeteries are also included in this category. This land use category aligns with the existing zoning district as a “P: Public Land Use.”

Nevertheless, the Walk the Ward event revealed a multitude of other land uses that the community wants for the site. The plan will analyze whether the existing zoning designation includes these desired uses, and if not, develop a strategy to amend the zoning code to enable the desired development.

Site Design

The plan will put forward the desired location and scale of future and preserved buildings, as well as parking, access drives, landscaping, general design. This subarea/master plan will include additional community input, so that appropriate zoning and infrastructure improvements can be implemented in a coordinated manner.

2. Prioritize improvements at the intersection of Burnham and Memorial. Walk the Ward participants noted this intersection as a priority project. It is a key destination with Cecina Mexican Restaurant located near the southeast corner.

Short term improvements include:

- Updating planters to beautify the intersection and provide separation from pedestrians and vehicles

- Restriping the crosswalks to ensure they are highly visible

Long-term improvements include:

- Construction bump-out at Memorial Drive to decrease crossing distances and increase safety
- New development at the intersection through active marketing of the site and use of available incentives currently offered by the City

3. Prioritize the Burnham Avenue street reconfiguration

Walk the Ward participants identified Burnham Avenue as the place they want to go to eat, shop, and feel safer. It is the spine of the community and should be prioritized for infrastructure improvements to increase safety and help spur economic growth.

Brand Burnham Avenue

Developing a brand for Burnham Avenue will help to activate the roadway and stimulate renewed interest and placemaking as noted in the *Burnham Avenue Corridor Revitalization Plan*. Branding components may include:

- Updating and adding additional planters to beautify the corridor provide separation from pedestrians and vehicles
- Eye-catching gateway and wayfinding signage along Burnham Avenue
- Improved crosswalk markings, at a minimum at Memorial and Pulaski
- Use of the brand in all city communications materials
- Use of the brand by the Calumet City Chamber of Commerce to promote events and development
- Add the Burnham Avenue Reconfiguration Project to the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The reconfiguration of Burnham Avenue as shown in Burnham Avenue Corridor Revitalization Plan should be included as part of the City’s capital improvement program (CIP). Including this project in the CIP will allow for planning to secure local funding and plan for grant funding and match requirements. Funding sources may include the TIF II District for the northern portion of the corridor, as well as use of CDBG and MFT funds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Jaemi Jackson and the American Planning Association of Illinois (APA-IL) team, the residents, community leaders, key stakeholders, and other community members for their participation in community engagement efforts. The input, experiences, and local knowledge were an integral part of this planning process. Your vision and love of the 1st Ward, helped shape the recommendations of this plan. This project could not have been completed without this support. It continues to be an honor to be your Alderman, to help shape a place I grew up and help bring these visions to life!



ALDERMAN RAMONDE D. WILLIAMS 4TH WARD

CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC SAFETY

Greetings 4th Ward Residents,

I want to personally thank the residents, volunteers, my colleagues, and sponsors that participated or played some part in the success of the 2023 4th Ward events. We will continue and consistently provide resources to our community. As we embark on the effectuation of the 4th Ward vision for 2024, we continue to ask for your patience while these many projects move forward.

The next phase of 4th Ward projects includes but is not limited to:

- Sidewalk / driveway apron replacement (identified)
- Green alley construction (identified)
- Street resurfacing (Wilson Ave., Paxton to Yates)
- Street resurfacing (Clyde Ave., Sibley Blvd. to Memorial Dr.)
- Cul-de-sac installation (locations identified)
- Groundbreaking of multi-million construction project (330 Torrence Ave.)
- Groundbreaking of multi-million existing business owner improvement investment (Sibley Gas Mart, Sibley and Oglesby)
- Sewer televising, standing water mitigation, 158th Paxton (in-process)
- Continue and increase annual 4th Ward event(s)

The aforementioned projects have either been discussed, initiated, or are scheduled to begin in the near future. There are no expected completion dates, yet we are confident that these projects will begin this year and be completed by March of 2025.

Please continue to report suspicious activity to the Police Department (708) 868-2500 or to speak directly to me, please contact the 4th Ward office at rwilliams@calumetcity.org or (708) 891-8194 or by cell/text at (708) 212-2240.

Join me at the Ward meetings every 1st Monday of the month at Downey Park (300 Jeffery Ave. at 6:30 p.m.) unless the 1st Monday is a holiday. City Council meetings are every 2nd and 4th Thursday at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Servantly Yours,
Ald. Ramonde D. Williams





ALDERMAN DEJUAN GARDNER
5TH WARD
CHAIRMAN, FINANCE

1ST & 5TH WARD JOINT TOWNHALL MEETING

March 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 Jesus Shepard of Souls Church
 768 Lincoln Ave. (Gymnasium at 155th & Freeland)

UPCOMING 5TH WARD PROJECTS

- Emergency Sewer Cleaning/Televising – various locations
- 157th St. Reconstruction Burnham to Wentworth
- Sidewalk Repair Program
- Forest Hill Sewer Replacement
- CMAP/MWRD Sub-Area Study 1st & 5th Ward including Forsythe Village

DOES SEWER WATER BACKUP IN YOUR BASEMENT?

Overhead Sewer Rebate Program

The City offers the Overhead Sewer Rebate Program to mitigate sewer back in your home. Here is how it works. The City of Calumet City will rebate a maximum of \$4,000.00 to the homeowner occupying the residence. Where all pre-approved completed installation of overhead sewer repairs or replacement of sewer traps, valves or waterproofing occurs.

The application process is as follows:

1. Homeowner must complete rebate application and submit it to the Department of Building and Zoning located at 670 Wentworth Ave.
2. Two written estimates from contractors are required with application.
3. An on-site inspection is required but the City's Plumbing Inspector to assure compatibility for overhead sewers prior to any work being done.
4. Permits must then be secured. All contractors must be licensed with the City of Calumet City.
5. Once work is completed, the property will be inspected to verify compliance with code complaints.
6. When all work and inspections are final, you must submit a paid in full receipt and all other corresponding paperwork to the Department of Building and Zoning to receive reimbursements. Please allow a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks for processing.



STOP THE BLEED

The STOP THE BLEED project is a public/private collaboration involving a wide range of non-profit organizations, government agencies, companies and individuals working to create more public awareness of the STOP THE BLEED campaign and the importance of learning how to stop traumatic bleeding.

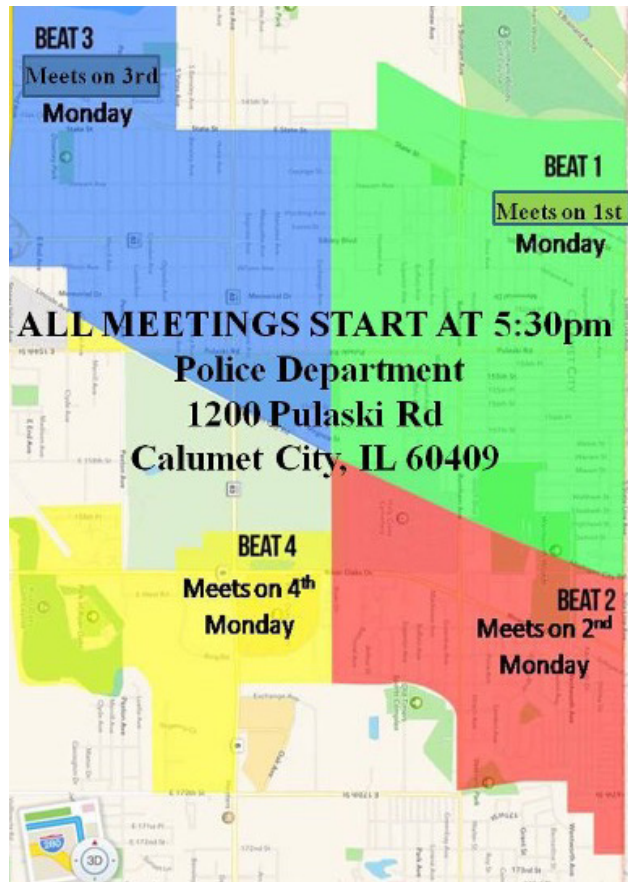
The STOP THE BLEED course, will teach you three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out:

1. How to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound
2. How to pack a wound to control bleeding
3. How to correctly apply a tourniquet

These three techniques will empower you to assist in an emergency and potentially save a life. To learn more about certification, contact my office at (708) 891-8195.

CRIMEWATCH MEETINGS

The 5th Ward is in Beat 1. Beat 1 Crimewatch meetings are held each month every 1st Monday 5:30 p.m. at the Police Department, 1200 Pulaski Rd.





ALDERMAN ANTHONY SMITH
7TH WARD
CHAIRMAN, PERMITS & LICENSES

Friends and Neighbors,

The movement for improvement continues. 7th Ward Meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the month at D.A.'s Banquet Hall. Our next 3 meetings are: February 17, March 16, and April 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The 7th Ward has KN95 masks in limited supply for distribution. If you are in need of one, please contact the office at (708) 891-8197 or email asmith@calumetcity.org.

The new Cafe in the Calumet City Library is offering free coffee for a limited time.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO PRESENT

- Enforcement of the Public Safety and Sign Ordinances with legislative enhancements to improve public cleanliness in business and residential areas
- Implementing new Economic Development Initiatives to revitalize River Oaks, Torrence Ave., Sibley Blvd., 159th St., and Burnham Ave. corridors
- Passing an increased balanced city budget for 2022-2024 with additional grant funding to offer more services for residents which include after school programs, senior services, and city services without tax increase
- Offering more city jobs to provide better city services with greater emphasis on more diversity
- Implementing ProChamps to address ownership accountabilities of foreclosures and vacant homes along with improvements to our Crime Free Housing Department and related ordinances
- Continuing to provide COVID relief and support to residents and businesses
- New businesses: D.A.'s Banquet & Events Hall, Dollar General, 79th Street BBQ, Buddy Bear Car Wash, Wilder Foods, Drucker Sports Academy, River Oaks Indoor Water Park

The NRG Renewable Energy Proposal previously submitted by our office to bring affordable, renewable energy to Calumet City with infrastructure, workforce development, jobs, manufacturing, and housing is still under review and consideration by the city. More information will be provided as details develop.



CURRENT 7TH WARD PROJECTS

- Blue Water Run Canoe and Kayaking project is currently under construction. Calumet City previously received a \$1.4 million grant to fund the project
- 79th Street BBQ (old Applebees location) – Now Open
- Wilder Foods Indoor Farm (old Target location) – TBA
- D.A.'s Banquet Hall (old Aronson location) – Now Open
- Indoor Waterpark with hospitality accommodations at River Oaks (at old Sears Location (estimated \$200 million project) – Under City Review and Consideration

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

(Food Assistance, Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)):
www.chicagosfoodbank.org/locations/thornton-township-pantry
 15340 Page St., Harvey, IL 60426, (708) 596-6040

PROPERTY TAX INFO

www.cookcountypropertyinfo.com/formsandtaxbillrequests.aspx
www.thorntontownship.com/departments/assessors-office

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 7th Ward Meetings - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Every 3rd Saturday. Next meeting will be 2/17, 3/16, and 4/20 at D.A.'s Banquet and Events Hall (757-777 River Oaks Drive)
- 7th Ward Meetings onsite at Garden Houses 1 & 2, Victory Centre, and Park of River Oaks: TBA
- Health, Wellness, Legal, Financial, Technology, and Business Workshops - TBA

As your Alderman, I work diligently across many areas to improve the quality of life for all residents. To get involved, please contact our office at (708) 891-8197 or email asmith@calumetcity.org with any questions, issues, concerns, and comments.

Anthony Smith
 7th Ward Alderman

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND ZONING

As we begin this highly anticipated season, we look forward to assisting our community and working together to beautify your properties and Calumet City.

GARBAGE: Please be proactive and remember to place all trash in a dedicated garbage can or container.

SEWERS: Please remember to keep our city sewers clear and free of any garbage or debris.

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS: Please remember to clear them of any debris and keep them clean.

Visit our office located at 670 Wentworth Ave. or online at www.calumetcity.org for updates and more information.

The Department of Building & Zoning services include:

- Rental Inspection
- Annual Rental Code Compliance
- Contractor Registration
- Permit Applications (all trades)
- Point of Sale Inspection
- Vacant Building Registration Form
- Business Inspection Guidelines
- Flood Prevention
- Comprehensive Land Use Zoning Map
- Overhead Sewer Rebate Program Form
- Property Maintenance
- Business Inspection
- Transfer Stamp Processing

PERMITS

To apply for a permit, please visit our city website at www.calumetcity.org (Building and Zoning Department) or our office at 670 Wentworth Ave.

CONTRACTORS

All contractors must be licensed with the City of Calumet City before starting work for a business or resident. To apply for a contractor registration, visit our office or www.calumetcity.org.

RENTALS

If you are a landlord, you are required to participate in the rental program. To apply for an annual rental inspection, visit our office or www.calumetcity.org.

POINT OF SALES

If you are planning to sell or purchase a home in Calumet City, you need to obtain a Point-of-Sale packet which will

outline the process for completion. Please visit our office or visit us online at www.calumetcity.org.

SCHEDULING AN INSPECTION

Permit(s), Point of Sale, Rental & Commercial

Please call (708) 891-8120 or visit our office located at 670 Wentworth Ave., Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). For more information, please visit us at www.calumetcity.org, call (708) 891-8120 or email dis@calumetcity.org.

WATER DEPARTMENT

ALERT: WATER UTILITY BUSINESS

Calumet City Residents, please be vigilant of water control business "workers" knocking on your door and requesting entry to your home to test water quality or making sales pitches. While these workers are not Calumet City employees, the Calumet City Water Department remains available to you should you have any questions or concerns.

We also remind our residents and business owners that Calumet City Water Department employees will always present a Calumet City Water Department photo ID and easily identifiable in their Calumet City uniform and city marked vehicle.

Sample of placard:

WATER CONTROL

SORRY WE MISSED YOU
PERDON NO LO ENCONTRAMOS

We were here:
Estuvimos aquí:

Please call us 8am to 6pm
Favor de llamarnos de 8am a 6pm
855 203 9476

Family: _____
Address:

We are a private company not related to the Water Department

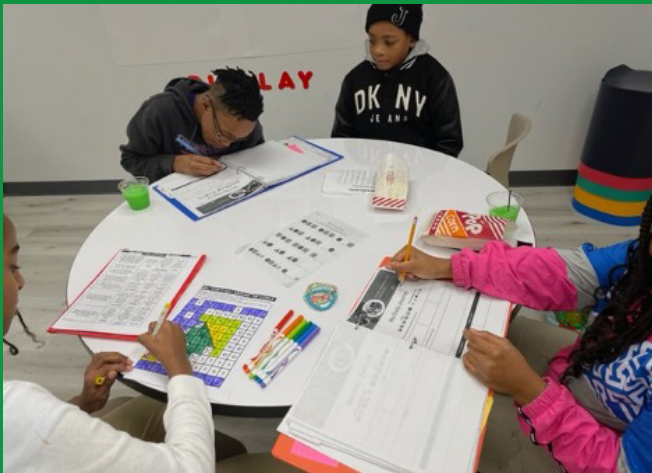
QUALITY WATER TESTING USA

Please don't hesitate to contact us at (708) 891-8155.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

JOURNAL TIME

Journaling allows participants to write down their thoughts and feelings so that they can gain control of their emotions, combat stress, depression, and anxiety. It helps to improve mental health. Journaling also allows participants to reflect on their and others positive actions.



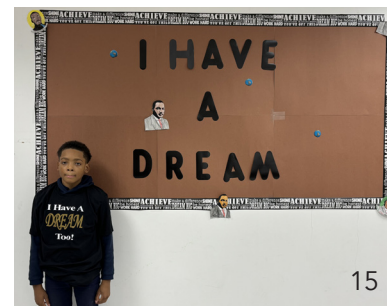
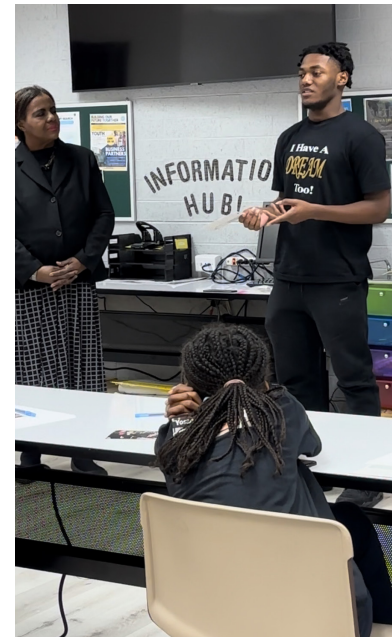
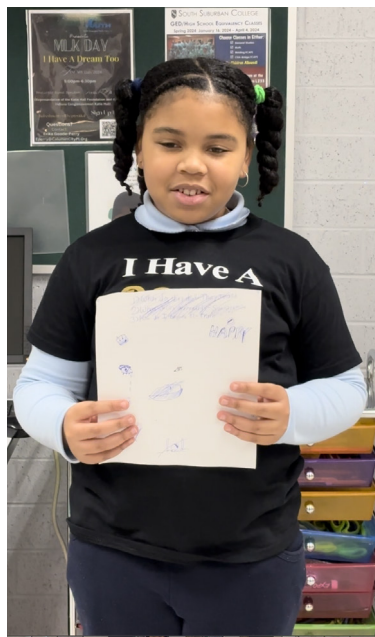
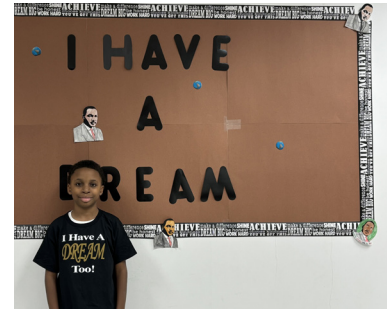
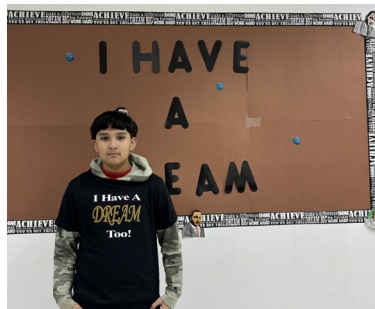
HOMEWORK TIME

The program provides tutoring and homework assistance to participants. Participants are encouraged to work individually as well as in groups. The pedagogy method is most beneficial to the academic success of our students.



JUNIFER HALL

A visit with Ms. Junifer Hall, daughter of U.S. Representative Katie Hall. Mrs. Katie Hall was the first African American woman to serve as a U. S. Representative for the State of Indiana and was part of the efforts to get Dr. Martin King Jr.'s birthday recognized as a national holiday.



CALUMET CITY PUBLIC WORKS

Dear Calumet City Residents,

We're here to keep you informed about important updates and initiatives that contribute to the well-being of our community.

REPUBLIC SERVICES BULK ITEM PICKUP

Just a friendly reminder that Republic Services kindly picks up only one bulk item per week. If you have a bulk item to dispose of, give them a call to schedule a convenient pickup.

STREET SWEEPING ALERT

It's that time again! Street sweeping is about to kick off. Help us keep Calumet City sparkling by moving your cars to the opposite side of the road as indicated by the signs.

CATCH BASIN MAINTENANCE

Let's work together to keep our streets dry! If you have a catch basin in front of your house, please ensure it remains free of debris. Need assistance? Contact us at Public Works, and we'll take care of it for you.

TELEVISION SEWER INSPECTIONS

Expect to see our crews in action as we embark on sewer televising in your neighborhood. Your cooperation and understanding are highly appreciated during this essential maintenance process.

POTHOLE REPORTING

Noticed a pesky pothole? Help us maintain smooth roads by reporting any potholes to Public Works. Your input is crucial in keeping our streets safe and well-maintained.

RECYCLING DROP-OFF

Don't forget, you can drop off your recyclables at Public Works! Look for the recycling bin conveniently located on the west side of the building.

Your participation in these initiatives plays a vital role in preserving the charm and functionality of Calumet City. Should you have any questions, concerns, or pothole reports, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Public Works. Thank you for being proactive members of our community!

Best Regards,

Calumet City Public Works Team





CALUMET CITY CRIME FREE HOUSING

The Crime Free Housing program is a crime prevention effort that is being run across the country, and in approximately 30 Chicagoland communities. It was created back in 1992 by Officer Tim Zehring of the Mesa, Arizona Police Department. This program has endured many legal challenges for a variety of reasons, which has required modifications over its 30+ years of existence, yet this program is still around because of its success! Calumet City's program was implemented in 2010 and was recently updated with the creation of the Crime Free Housing Department in 2022.

We help educate landlords mainly on managerial matters, such as background checks, Fair Housing compliance, and effective verbiage for lease agreements. Landlords are required to attend the latest in-person training (from 2022 to current) as their first matter of compliance to the City's Ordinance. Landlords needing to get the training completed should look over these upcoming dates & times, and reserve a spot(s) by submitting a registration form on the Crime Free Housing Department page at www.calumetcity.org.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(Each meeting is approximately 4 hours)

Mike Banske, Director

(708) 891-8100 Ext. 8423

crimefreehousing@calumetcity.org



CALUMET CITY FAIR HOUSING

Calumet City's Fair Housing Administration works closely with the Crime Free Housing Department and the Building & Zoning Department. We strive to provide assistance to citizens currently living in Calumet City, and those wanting to call Calumet City home, in resolving any possible, or actual, discriminatory actions.

With the 2024 calendar year underway, we remind everyone about new Fair Housing laws that are in place:

- The **Illinois Landlord and Tenant Act** has been amended to add a new section entitled, "Ban on Electronic funds Transfers as Exclusive Method of Payment" (765 ILCS

705/4). This prohibits landlords from requiring tenants to use electronic funds transfers (EFT), or similar electronic methods, as the only means of paying rent or other rent-related payments.

- The **Illinois Human Rights Act** has been amended to add "Immigration Status" to the current list of protected classes within the State. This protection still allows a landlord to request documentation for citizenship as a means of confirming a person's identification. However, the restriction is based upon any discrimination due to an individual's real or assumed citizenship or immigration status (i.e. refusing to rent to someone because they are not able to provide documentation of legal citizenship).
- The **Illinois Electric Vehicle Charging Act** (765 ILCS 1085) was created to address the emergence in popularity of vehicles that require battery charging stations at their home. The Act affects both residential and commercial properties and has information for new single-family homes and multi-unit residential buildings, but it also addresses properties that undergo renovation after January 1, 2024. The responsibility for getting code-compliant charging stations, and who pays for them, are outlined in this act.

Sharon Buford-Davis, Administrator

(708) 891 - 8100 Ext. 8434 • sbuford-davis@calumetcity.org



Calumet City Ordinance #21-25 requires property owners, or responsible parties from the banking world, to register their vacant or foreclosing property. The registration process is conducted with our approved vendor, MuniReg, LLC (www.munireg.com), and the program is monitored through the Crime Free Housing Department.

Vacant properties are a blight to any community and can lead to an increase of criminal opportunities and lower property values. It is the intention of Calumet City's Administration to revitalize our neighborhoods by getting these properties cleaned up, renovated to current building codes, and once again legally occupied.

These efforts will directly impact the quality of life for Calumet City residents, and we hope to see improvements come quickly. Please understand that some properties require lengthy legal action before our goals can be obtained. If you have a vacant property on your block, please notify the Mayor's Office, your Alderman, or any Calumet City Department to provide the exact address of the affected property.



CALUMET CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the Spring season approaches and temperatures begin to rise, we offer the following safety tips:

KEEP YOUR PROPERTY SECURE

- Check all windows and doors. Make sure all entry points have updated locks and keep everything locked when you're away - even just for a few minutes.
- Trim overgrown bushes and trees around your home.
- Keep lights on while you are away to keep your house from looking empty. If you are going to be away for a long time, ask a neighbor to accept your mail.
- Consider installing an alarm system / security cameras
- Keep your vehicle secure. Lock the doors, close the windows, and keep valuables out of sight.

MAKE SURE YOUR DIGITAL INFO IS PROTECTED

- Password protect all devices, including cell phones and tablets, with unique passwords.
- Be aware of what you post on social media - sometimes addresses, locations, or other personal information appear on photos by accident.
- If you are posting sensitive information such as photos of your children, vacation itineraries, etc., make sure that your privacy settings are all up to date.
- Talk to your kids often about what they are doing online, who they are communicating with, and what information they can share.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- Be extra vigilant of pedestrians and children playing outdoors. The warmer weather will bring more people outdoors walking, jogging, and biking.
- When biking, wear bright colored or reflective clothing and ensure your bike has reflective equipment.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

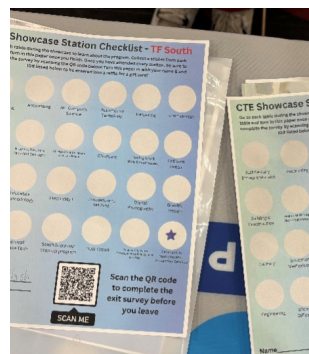
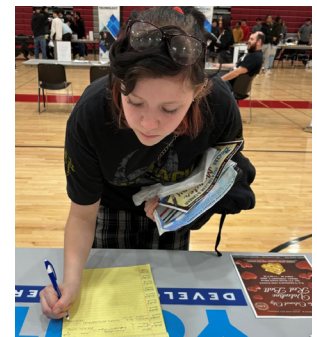
The Calumet City Police Department is seeking experienced police officers for accelerated/lateral hiring and candidates for entry level positions. The Calumet City Police Department is seeking candidates for clerical positions and 911 Dispatchers. Additional information can be located at www.calumetcity.org.



Come join us on Monday nights for our monthly Crime Watch Meetings. Check map for area you live in.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 215 CTE EXPO COLLABORATION

The mission of the Career Development Department is to provide opportunities for our Thornton Fractional High School District 215 students to be engaged in career preparation and development, to attain hands-on training in high skill, high demand areas of our labor market, and for students to achieve employability in their preferred career pathways. The Career Development Department is committed to laying the foundation for individual students to achieve work-based success.





MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The National Women's History Alliance, which spearheaded the movement for March being declared National Women's History Month, has announced the women's history theme for 2024, "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination from our society. It recognizes women who speak up and are leading change in their fields.



MISSION

The National Women's History Alliance formerly, the National Women's History Project, is a leader in promoting Women's History and is committed to the goals of education, empowerment, equality, and inclusion.

PURPOSE

Women's history remains largely absent from school history curricula and the media. Multicultural American women especially are overlooked in most mainstream approaches to U.S. history. Our history helps us learn who we are; without it, our power and dreams are diminished. Women must not be denied their own history.

The National Women's History Alliance, founded in 1980 as a non-profit educational organization, is committed to ensuring women's history becomes mainstream. The NWA is a catalyst, promoter of women's history in K-12, content provider, and creator of a myriad of activities promoting women as leaders and influencers. The NWA leads both local and national efforts, consults, publishes, distributes, inspires, advises, and networks with a wide variety of institutions and activists in the field. NWA has a nationwide presence as the number one resource for information and educational material about the unfolding roles of women in American history. Further, we commit ourselves unreservedly to the fight against racism and inequity. Visit info@nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org for more information.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In 1977, when the women who would establish the National Women's History Alliance began planning a women's history week, March 8th, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal date.

The selection was based on wanting to ensure that the celebration of women's history would include a multicultural perspective, an international connection between and among all women, and the recognition of women as significant in the paid workforce.

United States women's history became the primary focus of the curriculum and resources developed. At that time, there were no school districts in the country teaching women's history. The goal, although it most often seemed a dream, was to first impact the local schools, then the nation, and finally the world. It is a dream that is becoming a reality.

Women's History Week, always the week that included March 8th, became National Women's History Week in 1981 and in 1987 National Women's History Week became National Women's History Month. The expansion from local to national and from week to month was the result of a lobbying effort that included hundreds of individuals and dozens of women's, educational, and historical organizations. It was an effort mobilized and spearheaded by the National Women's History Alliance.

National Women's History Month is now recognized throughout the world. Women from Germany, China, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Japan, Russia, the Ukraine, and diverse African nations have visited the National Women's History Alliance's office or attended their events. One result from this contact has been the establishment of a women's history program and museum in the Ukraine. 1989 The National Women's History Alliance accepted an invitation from the government of Spain to address an international women's conference on the importance of women's history and the impact of National Women's History Month. In 2001 a sistership with the Working Women's Institute of Japan was established resulting in the National Women's History's posters and display sets being featured in the organizations first exhibit.

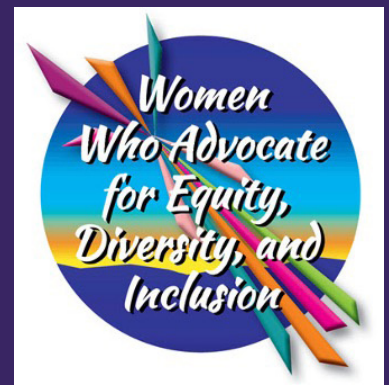
The National Women's History Alliance's website reaches the global community. They receive emails from individuals throughout the world. Each year hundreds of National Women's History Month posters are distributed to military bases and Department of Defense schools throughout the world for special programs and events that celebrate and recognize women's accomplishments. It is the hope of the National Women's History Alliance that the celebrations at these different venues will ignite a sense of celebration and recognition that honors women of all nations.

THE 2024 NATIONAL NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY THEME

"Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion"

The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions.

Women from every background have long realized that an uneven playing field will never bring equality or justice. Many feel the critical need to speak up and work harder for fairness in our institutions and social interactions.



During 2024, we recognize the example of women who are committed to embracing everyone and excluding no one in our common quest for freedom and opportunity. They know that people change with the help of families, teachers and friends, and that young people need to learn the value of hearing from different voices with different points of view as they grow up.

Today, equity, diversity and inclusion are powerful driving forces that are having a wide-ranging impact on our country. As members of families, civic and community groups, businesses and legislative bodies, women are in the forefront of reevaluating the status quo. They are looking anew at what harmful social policies and behaviors exist and, often subtly, determine our future. In response, women in communities across the nation are helping to develop innovative programs and projects within corporations, the military, federal agencies, and educational organizations to address these injustices.

It takes courage for women to advocate for practical goals like equity, diversity and inclusion when established forces aim to misinterpret, exploit, or discredit them. Throughout 2024, we honor local women from the past and present who have taken the lead to show the importance of change and to establish firmer safeguards, practices and legislation reflecting these values. Following decades of discrimination, we are proud to celebrate women who work for basic inclusion, equality, and fairness.

The City of Calumet City will do the same. Mayor Jones, the City Council, and the City Administration will continue to honor both past and present those women in our community who work for basic inclusion, equality, and fairness that ultimately enhances the quality of life for all.



CALUMET CITY OBSERVES CASIMIR PULASKI DAY MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

Presented by Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones

Casimir Pulaski Day is a local holiday officially observed in Illinois, on the first Monday of March in memory of Casimir Pulaski (March 6, 1745 – October 11, 1779), a Revolutionary War cavalry officer born in Poland as Kazimierz Pulaski.

*Information below is brought forth by:
Gerald Tarka, Treasurer, City of Calumet City*



Born in Poland around 1745 to 1747, Casimir Pulaski was the son of a Polish count who became a professional soldier early in life. Pulaski came of age when the partitions of Poland by its autocratic neighbors were in response to the desire for rights and protections for non-land holders to be codified into law by the Polish government. This resulted in the introduction of the Polish May 3rd Constitution (the second oldest democratic constitution in the world modeled after -and second only to - our American Constitution) that gave substantial rights and protections to commoners.

The Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Prussian empires feared such measures that basically eliminated serfdom (the condition of a tenant farmer bound to a hereditary plot of land and to the will of a landlord) would spread to their countries, so they began to take lands belonging to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth diminishing what was the largest and most populous European Kingdom of the 16th and 17th centuries. It's important to note that the rights that were granted by the Polish Constitution included significant religious freedoms which resulted in a major population shift in Europe. Jews at this time were persecuted in much of the European continent. That is why Poland had the largest Jewish population in Europe by the time of the outbreak of the second world war.

In 1768, Pulaski's father, Józef, joined in an insurrection known as the Confederation of Bar, and became the military leader of the confederation. Casimir Pulaski also participated in the uprising, commanding a military detachment that battled Russian forces for nearly four years. His father died in the struggle against the First Partition of Poland in 1773. The younger Pulaski only escaped death by fleeing first to Turkey and then to France.

In Paris, he met Benjamin Franklin, then attempting to negotiate an alliance between France and the United States, and won his friendship. Noting the young Polish soldier's experience as a military officer, Franklin urged Pulaski to join George Washington's Continental Army as a volunteer and provided him with a letter of introduction. Washington quickly assigned Pulaski to the cavalry following his arrival in July 1777. During the Battle of Brandywine, his first military action in the American Revolution, Pulaski served General George Washington as part of his personal bodyguard and gathered battlefield intelligence. Immediately after the engagement, he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of the small force of Continental cavalry. He was indeed a great soldier and leader.

Pulaski went on to play a significant role in the military during the American Revolution. His experience and valor earned him the command of his own cavalry unit. Pulaski's establishment of this Cavalry (much at his own personal expense) earned him the title "Father of the American Cavalry" and one of only eight persons ever to be granted honorary American citizenship along with other notables such as Sir Winston Churchill and Mother Theresa.

With his cavalry, in 1779, Pulaski journeyed to South Carolina to help defend the southern Continental Army, which was under fierce attack from the British. After participating in a successful defense of Charleston, South Carolina, Pulaski was mortally wounded in the siege of Savannah and died on October 11, 1779. In his first letter to General George Washington, after arriving in America, Pulaski had written, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."



Plaque and Memorial Designed by Gerry Tarka, City Treasurer, City of Calumet City

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT KASIMIR PULASKI - DID YOU KNOW?

- Pulaski's real name is Kazimierz Michal Wladyslaw Wiktor Pulaski
- When many of his comrades' owned slaves, he did not and refused to do so.
- Pulaski's countryman, Thaddeus Kosciusko, left all his American holdings to be sold off and used to buy freedom of slaves and educate former slaves.
- The executor of Kosciusko's estate was Thomas Jefferson who never got around to fulfilling Kosciusko's will.
- Everyone knows Benedict Arnold! The papers that Arnold gave the British that labeled him a traitor were Kosciusko's plans for the fortifications at West Point that would strengthen West Point against attack.

Calumet City commemorates General Pulaski's heroism and service, and honors generations of immigrants who followed in his path – as we also celebrate our Nation's rich Polish American heritage. Every day, the contributions of over 9 million Polish Americans help make this country a beacon of hope and opportunity. And, for those who may wonder, because it was a time of slavery, Casimir Pulaski **"did not own slaves"**! He was very much a believer in freedom of humanity... he thought all people should be free." This community is proud to observe Casimir Pulaski Day!

SPRING FLOODING PREVENTION

If you are experiencing flooding the City of Calumet City and the Calumet City Public Library are here to help.

- To find out if you are in the floodplain call the Department of Inspectional Services at (708) 891-8120 or go to the Adult Services desk at the library and look at the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- An Elevation Certificate records the lowest floor elevation of a structure and is prepared by a licensed professional Land Surveyor or Civil Engineer. If the elevation of a structure is shown to be above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in the Special Flood Hazard Area, the owner may apply for a Letter of Map Revision from FEMA in order to be removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area. Elevation certificates are available to the public for review at The Department of Inspectional Services at (708) 891-8120. Please note: if any alteration to the structure has taken place, such as a window or door at ground level, a new Certificate of Elevation will need to be obtained.
- For advice on how to protect your home call the Dept. of Inspectional Services at (708) 891-8120 or visit the library and look at information on floodproofing and property protection. The library has the Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding (FEMA publication 312). You can also download a copy from FEMA's website by searching for FEMA 312.
- For more info visit www.calumetcity.org and select Flood Info
- To learn more about staying safe before and during a flood, visit FloodSmart.gov.
- Contact your insurance agent and ask about getting a flood insurance policy. Flood insurance is available to everyone, and the rates are lower if you are outside of the mapped floodplain.
- Always check with the Department of Inspectional Services before you build on, fill, alter, or regrade your property. A permit is needed to ensure that such projects do not cause problems with other properties.
- If you are experiencing sewer backups or have connections of sump pumps or downspouts into the sanitary sewers you may be eligible for the City's Overhead Sewer and Sump Pump Flood Assistance Rebate Program. Applications are available at the Inspectional Services Department.
- If you have experienced flooding and would like assistance or tips to reduce future flooding the Department of Inspectional Services can provide help by visiting your property to perform a drainage assessment. For information call (708) 891-8120.
- Keep storm drain inlets clear of debris and leaves. If you see dumping or debris in ditches, filling or construction near property lines or filling or construction in the floodplain without a permit sign posted us. Dumping in our ditches and stormwater basins is a violation of the City Code.

YOUR CALUMET CITY

FEMA PRESS CONFERENCE



Photo Credit: Calumet City Photographer Edward Steave, Stay Focused Media



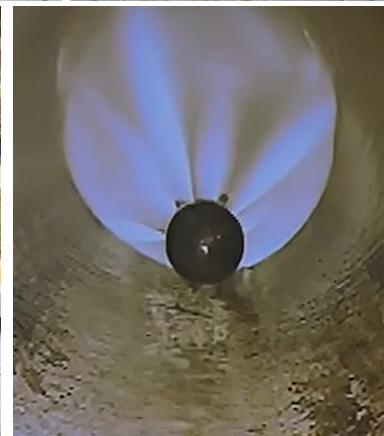
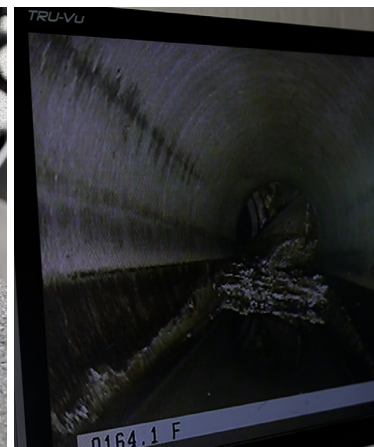
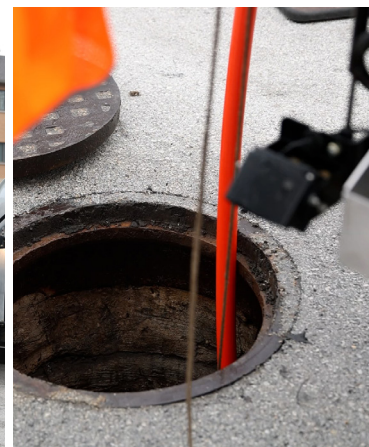
CITY RECOGNITION AWARDS



Photo Credit: Calumet City Photographer Edward Steave, Stay Focused Media



CITY SEWER CLEANING AND TELEVISION





You are invited!

Please join the 1st and 5th wards in cooperation with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for a **joint town hall on Monday, March 18th, at the Jesus Shepherd of Souls Parish at 768 Lincoln Ave, Calumet City, IL 60409 starting at 6 pm.** Attend this event to review and provide input on the community's subarea plan. **Food and drinks will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis!**

Over the past year and a half, Calumet City has been creating a community plan that includes the 1st and 5th wards. The goals of this plan are to:

- **Make transportation better** by improving sidewalks, bus routes, and bicycle lanes.
- Find ways to **attract new business and keep existing ones** on commercial streets like Pulaski Road, Burnham Avenue, and Wentworth Avenue.
- Find ways to **improve local flooding and manage stormwater.**

Do you live, work, attend school, or own a business near Memorial Park, City Hall, or Lincoln Elementary? If so, this plan is for you and your community's future! **The map shows the study area for the plan,** which is Memorial Drive (north), State Line Road (east), 156th Place (south), and Burnham Ave (west).

Attend the town hall to help plan for your community's future! All are welcome!

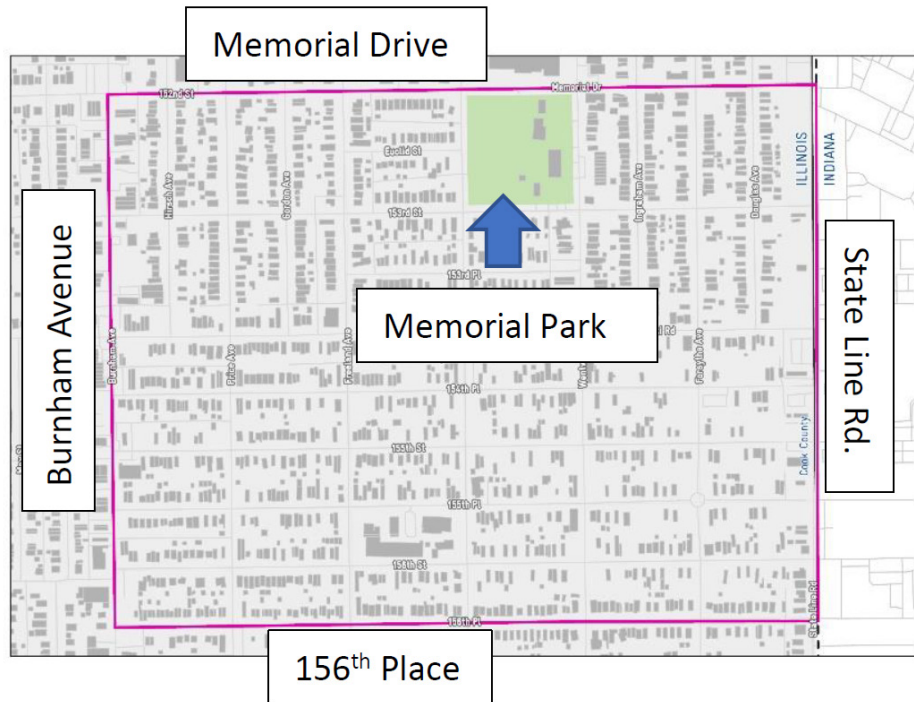
Scan the QR code with your phone to learn more about the project.



En Español



In English



SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 • 10:00AM-2:00PM



Open Closet Extravaganza

At the **Calumet City Public Library**
660 Manistee Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409

**Community resources, food, clothing, shoes,
hair product, dental/hygiene items, & more!**



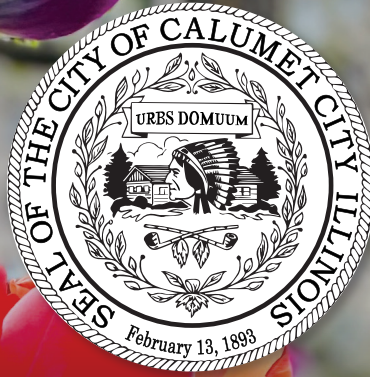
Join us for a special event dedicated to addressing the needs of residents in Calumet City

For more information, contact:

Le'Vetta Parker: 312-956-9068 • lparker@calumetcitypl.org
Erika Goode-Perry: eperry@calumetcitypl.org • 312-956-4465

To RSVP, Scan the code below or visit:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVYB38P





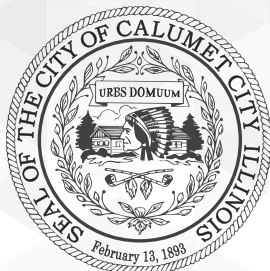
MAYOR THADDEUS M. JONES
AND CITY COUNCIL
INVITE YOU TO

SHOP
CALUMET
CITY

*****ECRWSS*****

Local
Postal Customer

CALUMET CITY'S NEW TEXT MESSAGING PROGRAM



calumetcity.org