

Calumet City

...
Fall 2017

Calumet City Continues COMEBACK

City achieves "A" financial rating



Mayor Michelle reviews positive ratings report from Standard & Poors global rating firm at City Hall.

S&P Global Ratings last month assigned its 'A' long-term rating to Calumet City's most recent bond series. The bonds will finance street and sidewalk construction, repairs, and capital improvements throughout the City. At the same time, S&P affirmed its "A" ratings on the city's existing General Obligation bonds. The financial ratings firm called the City's overall economic outlook "stable." "We have weathered some tough

economic storms and have come out of it ready to move forward. Property values will continue to grow and come back as we meet problems head-on and attract new homeowners and businesses," said Mayor Michelle Markiewicz-Qualkinbush.

The favorable "A" rating bestowed on the City means that it pays less interest to finance public improvements, allowing it to aggressively tackle street and sidewalk projects. In turn, more areas can be addressed and the cost paid off much sooner.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RATINGS REPORT:

- The City has "strong budgetary flexibility"
- The City has "strong reserves" and "very strong liquidity"
- The City earned a "strong institutional framework" score

While facing "weak economy" challenges along with the rest of the region, Calumet City has maintained a balanced budget which in 2016 finished with an operating surplus.

Young Summer Workers Get Valuable Career Training

"Leave your cell phone in the car," "Don't bring a friend—or your mother—to the interview," "Read the employer's mission statement," "Tweak your resume to fit the job description," "Smile," "Project confidence." These are some of the many tips and advice provided by a professional job coach at a Job Search and Interview Seminar conducted for the City's summer youth crew on August 10.

"Careers start out just as we all do in life—with building blocks," says Mayor Michelle Markiewicz-Qualkinbush. She is proud that the Mayor's Summer Young Employment Program continues to provide a first step for many of the 16- to 22-year-olds who participate. With many of these local youths still in school, it's crucial, the Mayor explains, to instill life skills such as resume writing and job interviewing.

That is exactly why Calumet City teamed up with professional trainer, Alexandra Glumac, from South Suburban College to provide that guidance. Promptness for interviews, proper clothing to wear, and what body language and attitude says to a prospective employer, were also covered topics. "These are great kids. They've had a chance to get a start in the job world. It's important to me that we give them the skills to take advantage of that opportunity and move forward," adds Mayor Michelle.

(See Photo on Page 6)



Police Chief Christopher Fletcher welcomes families and volunteers to open the August 1 National Night Out as Mayor Michelle looks on. Learn more about the Police Department's annual event on Page 5.

Public Works and MWRD clear Little Calumet River to prevent **FLOODING**

Calumet City Public Works literally submersed itself last week in efforts to prevent flooding issues in town.

Teaming up with crews from neighboring Village of Lansing and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, CCPW workers spent a week clearing the waterways and cleaning up the banks of the Little Calumet River.

Public Works Commissioner Billy Manousopoulos explains that the work is done as a follow up to the regular clean up and assessment

that occurs after any heavy local storm incident. Trees sometimes fall naturally into the Little Calumet, and other times build up on shore banks as they make their way downstream from other areas.



“Both Lansing and Calumet City share the responsibility to keep the river flowing freely to protect our residents from potential flooding issues. The MWRD Small Streams does a great job with its program which assists communities in that battle,” the Commissioner said.



Crews waded into the river, tying up branches which were removed with the help of a Bobcat and a winch.

“Preventing the tree branches from damming up the shore banks is an important part of jobs as a

Public Works Department. A little prevention goes a long way to helping keep water in the river and out of people’s homes,” Manousopoulos added.



Farmer’s Market at Pulaski Park

(Wentworth and Pulaski Road across from City Hall
 (Through October 13) ~ Additional vendors on site - Every
 Friday from Noon – 3 p.m.

City Upgrades Lights For Safety and Savings

Just a year ago, Calumet City upgraded all its city-owned street lights and traffic signals to LED standards. The results have been very positive. Not only did the new LEDs light up our neighborhood for safety, savings were realized on electric bills as well as monthly maintenance costs.

The second phase of this program is underway with our engineers conducting a review of all street light locations to develop a comprehensive multi-year program to add additional street lights to our neighborhoods. In addition, the City is in discussions with ComEd to implement its program to update the ComEd wooden pole lights.



Take pride in your ride!

Fuller's Car Wash is now open for business at 1500 Torrence Ave, Calumet City. Close, convenient, and a great value.

Fuller's offers four exterior car wash options starting at **\$3 and up**.

Monthly unlimited wash packages start at **\$19.95**.

Remote Support SCAM

From the Office of the Calumet City IT Department

Be on the alert for telephone callers notifying you of a malfunction with your computer, or of a "bank error." These are classic signs of an unscrupulous scam.

The callers' tactics may vary. The goal is the same—to lure a victim into turning over remote control of their computer or giving up personal or financial information. The caller may request money for "repairs" or to "recover data" and may infect your computer with harmful viruses or spyware even if you agree to pay. There are several versions of this scam going around but the most prevalent scammers identify themselves as the IRS or Microsoft.

The best way to stay safe? If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to offer you help with your computer, hang up and report it to ftc.gov/complaint. Microsoft and other companies have no way of knowing if you're experiencing technical problems. If you do have problems with any computer device, first ask a trusted friend or family member. Or take the computer to a professional company to be checked out. A legitimate diagnostic will cost much less than a phony "repair." For the full story and to learn more, please visit www.calumetcity.org

City embarks on SEWER TELEVISIONING AND CLEANING PROJECT to address flooding

An ambitious effort to address local flooding concerns is underway.

Companies contracted by the City Council recently began the task of identifying problem sewers and cleaning and repairing them as necessary. The expected result is a better flowing sewer system to deal with the issue of flooding. The cleaning process is performed with jet trucks which use water under pressure to clean the sewers before televising. Cleaning and televising sewers is done by lowering a video camera into the sanitary or storm system. This camera is then able to transverse the sewer lines looking for defects, roots and problem areas that may have deteriorated over time.

This type of information is used by the City and its Engineers to plan future improvements and repairs to the sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure.

The work is part of a schedule that will be funded each year until the project is completed.

CITY TREASURER GERRY TARKA

“Treasurer’s Treasure Trek” Family Bike Ride and Bike Registration

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

10:00 a.m.
Castaway’s Bowl parking lot
1025 Sibley Blvd



Join us for a fun filled afternoon with free food, lots of giveaways, and the chance to win a new bicycle. The Police Department will be on hand to register your bike and provide bike safety and storage tips

• 22nd Annual Polish-American Heritage Month Celebration In The Calumet Region

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2017

10:30 a.m.
Wreath laying ceremony at Pulaski Park in Calumet City, IL.
(across from City Hall, 204 Pulaski Road, Calumet City, IL)

11:30 a.m.
Field Mass at Pulaski Park in Hammond, In.
(139th Street and Sheffield Avenue, Hammond, IN.)

12:30 p.m.
Wreath laying ceremony at Pulaski Park in Hammond
In cooperation with the Pulaski Citizens Club of Hammond, Indiana
(139th Street and Sheffield Avenue, Hammond, IN.)
1:30 p.m (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

Sit down Authentic Polish family style luncheon
Cavalier Inn Restaurant - 735 Gostlin Street, Hammond, IN.
Official Proclamation & Program following lunch.
Music from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Music by Gennie “O” and the Next Step
Donation \$20.00 in advance – NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.
NO CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE – DINE IN ONLY
Cash Bar Available.

For more information or to purchase tickets call Calumet City Treasurer Gerry Tarka at 708-935-1222 or stop by or call the Cavalier Inn at 219-933-9314.

• Learn a Safe Way to Save Money ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS, WITHOUT GETTING SCAMMED

If you joined the City of Calumet City’s electrical aggregation program back in 2014, you are currently paying the low rate of 6.513 cents per kWh for your electric supply, versus the ComEd rate which is 7.044 cents per kWh. If you are exploring other options, please understand that unlike other company plans the City’s program will never have an enrollment fee or an early termination fee.

Don’t be scammed: Please beware: No one from ComEd, the City of Calumet City, or Dynegy Energy will ever come to your door or call you to enroll you in our program. Also, understand that sharing your account number with anyone that comes to your door gives that person access to your electrical account and could potentially land you in a program that you really don’t want. When in doubt you can call the City Treasurer’s office for more information at 708-891-8125 during normal business hours.

Calumet City thanks Chief William Galgan for 27 years' service, welcomes new Fire Chief Glenn Bachert, Deputy Chief Peter Bendinelli



Fire Chief Glenn Bachert (at right) and Deputy Chief Peter Bendinelli bring more than 4 decades of experience in providing top-notch fire service to local residents.

The Calumet City Fire Department recently celebrated the retirement of their Fire Chief William B. Galgan who served the residents of Calumet City for 27 years. Of those 27 years, he served 14 years as Fire Chief. We would like to thank him for his dedication and wish him a farewell and good luck on his next journey.

Mayor Michelle recently appointed Glenn Bachert as Fire Chief. Chief Bachert selected Peter Bendinelli as Deputy Fire Chief. Fire Chief Bachert has been with the Department for more than 28 years and Deputy Chief Bendinelli joined the Department 18 years ago.

Due to the retirement and appointments, 5 Firefighters were promoted. We would like to congratulate the newly promoted Engineers: Ronald Tenzera, Steve Drew, Thomas Hansen, Michael Ball and Dave Neibert. We are proud of all the newly appointed Chiefs and Engineers and we know they will continue to provide the highest caliber of service to the residents of Calumet City.

City celebrates "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" at Police Department

A record turnout for the City's 10th Annual "National Night Out" visited the Calumet City Police Department on August 1 to enjoy an evening of food, music, entertainment and just plain fun. Attendees were given a close look at the equipment and technology both our Police and Fire Departments utilize to keep the City safe.

Thornton Fractional North Dance and Cheer Teams wowed the crowd with precise

choreography while police officers and their families manned the grills to provide several food options to residents. The Police Explorers gave tours, provided fingerprinting services for the children, and gave out personal safety tips to children and parents, alike.



2017 Property Tax Appeal Forum



HOSTED BY
City Clerk **Nyota T. Figs** & Assessor
C.I.A.O. **Cassandra W. Holbert**

Saturday, September 9,
2017 at 11:00 AM
T.F.North High School
755 Pulaski Road Calumet
City, IL 60409

Bring your Property Tax Bill!



HOSTED BY
City Clerk **Nyota T. Figs** & Commissioner
Larry Rodgers, Jr.

Wednesday, September
13, 2017 6:00pm- 7:30pm
Office of the City Clerk
204 Pulaski Road Calumet
City, IL 60409

Council action declares Calumet City “A FAIR AND EQUAL CITY FOR IMMIGRANTS”

The City Council voted unanimously on August 10 to strengthen and reaffirm the City’s commitment to providing all residents with fair and equal access to government services and programs, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship, or immigrant status.

Building on a proactive stance taken in 2009 via resolution, the City Council adopted similar legal wording in ordinance form, this time including a provision to allow undocumented immigrant victims of crime to come forward and gain legal protections by means of “U-visas.”

The City Council action followed a lengthy closed session held to discuss formal support of a related City of Chicago lawsuit filed August 7. In open session, the Council directed its legal counsel to file a brief in support of the Chicago lawsuit filed against U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

In a nutshell, the Chicago lawsuit challenges President Donald Trump-initiated changes to Federal grant policy that threaten to cut off funding for towns that refuse to identify and turn in undocumented immigrants. Those Federal funds now assist in crime fighting efforts by the Calumet City Police. Mayor Michelle Markiewicz-Qualkinbush and the City Council maintain that immigration enforcement issues are best left to Federal agencies funded and legally charged to deal with that task.

The Mayor and Council members hope the effect of their new ordinance will engender trust and cooperation between law enforcement officials and immigrant communities, which will aid in crime prevention. It may also provide some measure of comfort for immigrants to shop and be involved in the local community. The ordinance specifically prohibits “racial profiling and utilizing race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship, or immigration status as factors in selecting which individual to subject to investigatory activities.”



"Love this Place"

A Public Works employee puts the finishing touches on one of the new Calumet City Welcome Signs installed on August 10 at the entrances of the City.



Upcoming Events

Save The Dates

- Saturday, October 14
- **Pumpkin Giveaway**
At Pulaski Park
- Friday, December 1
- **Christmas Tree Lighting**
At City Hall



Get Ready To Decorate

- Beginning December 1
- **House Decorating Contest**



Continued from page 1



Preparing for the job interview: Guidelines for Success

Local youth workers from the Mayor's Summer Employment Program participate in a Resume and Interview session at City Hall on August 10. "It's great to see the progress our kids make from Day 1 until the end of the summer. This is a great place to learn a good work ethic," says Public Works Commissioner Billy Manousopoulos.



"Liberty Parade on Labor Day"

100th Anniversary of WWI

Monday, September 4, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Parade Route: Wentworth/Michigan City Road
To Memorial Park

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Emergency	911
Office of the Mayor	(708) 891-8105
Office of the City Clerk	(708) 891-8116
Office of the City Treasurer	(708) 891-8125
Community & Economic Development	(708) 891-8139
Emergency Service & Disaster Agency (ESDA)	(708) 891-8190
Fire Department (non-emergency)	(708) 891-8145
Garbage Removal	(708) 385-8252
Inspectional Services	(708) 891-8120
Library	(708) 862-6220
Purchasing and Personnel	(708) 891-8135
Police (non-emergency)	(708) 868-2500
Public Works	(708) 891-8160
Water Billing	(708) 891-8121
Water Service	(708) 891-8160

www.calumetcity.org

www.facebook.com/CityofCalumetCity

MAYOR

Michelle Markiewicz-Qualkinbush

CITY CLERK

Nyota T. Figgs

CITY TREASURER

Gerald Tarka

1ST WARD ALDERMAN

Michael Navarrete

2ND WARD ALDERMAN

Magdalena "Leni" Woszynski

3RD WARD ALDERMAN

DeAndre Tillman

4TH WARD ALDERMAN

Ramonde Williams

5TH WARD ALDERMAN

DeJuan Gardner

6TH WARD ALDERMAN

James "JR" Patton

7TH WARD ALDERMAN

Anthony Smith