

# CALUMET CITY NEWSLETTER

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## FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Neighbor,

February is Black History Month, a time when we celebrate the achievements of Black Americans and honor their lasting contributions to improving our country for everyone. Please mark your calendars! Our Black History Month celebration is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at the Calumet City Public Library, 660 Manistee Avenue.

As we all eagerly await the arrival of spring, a friendly reminder that business license renewal season is upon us, with Pet registrations and City vehicle sticker renewals coming soon.

It is paramount to my administration to encourage positive connections among you, your neighbors, City government and staff. We continue working diligently with your health and wellness, and our community in mind and remain dedicated to serving you.

Please share any concerns, service needs, or hopes for our city with my office. You can reach me at (708) 891-8106 or email at [mayoroffice@calumetcity.org](mailto:mayoroffice@calumetcity.org).

Warm Wishes,

Thaddeus M. Jones  
Mayor, City of Calumet City





## DE SU ALCALDE

Dear Vecino,

Febrero es el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana, un periodo en el que celebramos los logros de los afroamericanos y honramos sus valiosas contribuciones para el progreso de nuestro país. ¡Anoten la fecha en sus calendarios! Nuestra celebración del Mes de la Historia Afroamericana esta programada para el viernes 27 de febrero de 2026, a las 5:30 p.m., en la Biblioteca Pública de Calumet City, ubicada en 660 Manistee Avenue.

Mientras todos esperamos ansiosamente la llegada de la primavera, les recordamos que se acerca la temporada de renovación de licencias comerciales, y próximamente también la renovación de registros de mascotas y calcomanías de la ciudad para vehículos.

Para mi administración es fundamental fomentar conexiones positivas entre usted, sus vecinos, el gobierno municipal y el personal de la ciudad. Continuamos trabajando diligentemente, teniendo en cuenta su salud y bienestar, así como el de nuestra comunidad, y seguimos comprometidos a servirles.

Por favor, comparten cualquier inquietud, necesidad de servicio o sugerencia para nuestra ciudad con mi oficina. Pueden comunicarse conmigo al (708) 891-8106 o por correo electrónico a [mayorsoffice@calumetcity.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@calumetcity.org).

Deseos Calidos,

Thaddeus M. Jones  
Alcalde, Ciudad de Calumet City





## 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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL

#### MEETINGS - THURSDAY

February 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

February 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

### CITY HALL CLOSED - HOLIDAYS

Monday, February 16, 2026

Presidents Day

Monday, March 2, 2026

Casimir Pulaski Day

### BRINGING THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR TO LIFE

Calumet City Public Library

660 Manistee Avenue

Friday, February 27, 2026

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## CALUMET CITY ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones  
[mayoroffice@calumetcity.org](mailto:mayoroffice@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8106

Treasurer Gerald Tarka  
[gtarka@calumetcity.org](mailto:gtarka@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8130

Clerk Nyota Figgs  
[nfiggs@calumetcity.org](mailto:nfiggs@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8116

WARD 1 - Alderwoman Shalisa Harvey  
[sharvey@calumetcity.org](mailto:sharvey@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8198

WARD 2 - Alderwoman Monet Wilson  
[mwilson@calumetcity.org](mailto:mwilson@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8192

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

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

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

WARD 6 - Alderwoman Miacole Nelson  
[mnelson@calumetcity.org](mailto:mnelson@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8196

WARD 7 - Alderwoman Melissa Phillips  
[mphillips@calumetcity.org](mailto:mphillips@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8197

# UPDATES FROM CALUMET CITY ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL MEMBERS



## DR. NYOTA T. FIGGS CALUMET CITY CLERK

Happy New Year, Calumet City!

Wishing you and your families a joyful, healthy and prosperous new year. I am truly grateful and honored to continue serving you as your City Clerk. It is a privilege to begin another year working alongside the residents of Calumet City, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,

**Dr. Nyota T. Figgs, City Clerk**



## ALDERWOMAN SHALISA HARVEY 1ST WARD CHAIRMAN, PERMITS & LICENSES

Dear 1st Ward Residents,

Happy New Year! 2026 will be a great year for us.

Thank you for continuing to attend our Town Hall meetings and sharing your concerns. The next Town Hall meetings will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, and Tuesday, April 14, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at All Nations Church, 520 Sibley Blvd.**

In addition, please look for information about our spring Ward clean-up in May. More information to come later.

As your Alderwoman, my goals are simple but vital: to listen, to lead with integrity, and to work hard for the progress and well-being of our Ward and our entire city. I encourage everyone to come out to the town hall meetings as I am here to be your voice and your advocate—committed to transparency, collaboration, and results that reflect the values we share.

Together, we will focus on improving City services, supporting local businesses, strengthening public safety, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Please stay involved with your Ward and your City—let's take pride in where we live!

We honor the past, but we build the future.  
We're not waiting for change. **We are the change.**  
The New Cal City!

With gratitude and hope,  
**Shalisa Harvey,**  
**Alderwoman, 1st Ward**  
[sharvey@calumetcity.org](mailto:sharvey@calumetcity.org)  
(708) 891-8198 | [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org)



# ALDERMAN RAMONDE D. WILLIAMS 4<sup>TH</sup> WARD CHAIRMAN, FINANCE

Greetings 4th Ward Neighbors, Family, and Friends,  
I pray this message finds you in the midst of one of the greatest seasons of blessing you have ever experienced. As we welcome the refresh of the New Year, I want to take a moment to share important updates and thoughtful reflections on the work taking place in our 4th Ward and across Calumet City particularly as many families throughout the Southland navigate increasing financial pressures.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As the appointed Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the City of Calumet City, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our community in this important role. I want to acknowledge an important reality: many residents across the Southland are experiencing financial strain, particularly as several local school districts have recently approved tax increases. While these increases are not actions taken by the City of Calumet City, we fully understand their impact on household budgets and the concern they create for families.

Because of these challenges, fiscal responsibility at the municipal level is more critical than ever. Our City's financial health remains a top priority. We are committed to responsible, transparent, and ethical budgeting practices. Fiscal responsibility is not simply a goal it is an obligation. Calumet City has ongoing financial commitments, and we are working diligently to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, intentionally, and in the best interest of our residents.

We also recognize that traditional revenue sources such as sales and property taxes have limits. To avoid overburdening homeowners, the City is exploring and carefully evaluating potential revenue enhancements that focus on fairness, sustainability, and long-term stability. These include:

- Water and sewer rate evaluations
- Commercial vehicle storage regulations
- Vacant home registration programs
- Other responsible revenue mechanisms

These options will be openly discussed and voted on, with transparency and public input at the forefront. No decisions



are taken lightly, and our goal is to protect residents while ensuring the City remains financially strong and capable of providing essential services.

At the same time, we continue to prioritize economic development, new housing opportunities, and business growth key strategies that help expand the tax base and reduce pressure on individual taxpayers over time.

Progress does not happen overnight. We ask for your continued patience, engagement, and support as this administration moves forward progressively, thoughtfully, and collaboratively on behalf of all who call Calumet City home. We are laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient future and we are doing it together.

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the volunteers who participated in our recent 4th Ward initiatives. Your time, energy, and dedication have made a visible and meaningful difference in our neighborhoods.

Let's continue this spirit of collaboration, commitment, and community pride as we work together to keep Calumet City thriving, strong, and united.

With gratitude and service,

**Ramonde D. Williams**

**Deputy Mayor / 4th Ward Alderman**

City of Calumet City



## ALDERMAN DEJUAN GARDNER 5<sup>TH</sup> WARD CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC SAFETY

Greetings 5th Ward Neighbors and Friends,  
Happy New Year to you all! I want to wish you all a safe and prosperous new year. As chairman of Public Safety Committee, I am excited to share with you some of my responsibilities as Public Safety Chairman:

### CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Policy Oversight:** Reviewing and updating ordinances related to crime prevention, traffic safety, and disaster relief.

- Budget Review:** Analyzing the annual proposed budgets for police, fire, and ESDA, Crime-Free Housing departments.
- Community Engagement:** Hosting public forums, promoting crime watch meetings and listening to resident concerns regarding crime trends and safety hazards.
- Emergency Preparedness:** Collaborating with management agencies to develop and review Emergency Operations Plans (EOP)

I believe Public Safety is the backbone of our community. I'm always excited to put strong support behind new state of the art public safety equipment or the hiring of new police officers and firefighters. Our council supported the hiring of 6 new firefighters in 2025 and a total 35 police officers since 2021.



We've not only hired more police officers and firefighters, but another aspect of public safety includes identifying and remediating blighted and vacant houses. Vacant, abandoned, and dilapidated properties are frequently associated with increased rates of violent crime, such as gun-related incidents and assaults. They also attract illegal activities, including vandalism, drug use, fly dumping and unauthorized occupancy (squatting).

In the year 2020, I championed the partnership with between the City of Calumet City and the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) as a pilot program to tackle blighted properties in the 5th Ward. What is the Land Bank? The South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) benefits communities by stabilizing the

tax base, increasing property values, and fostering economic growth through the strategic redevelopment of vacant and abandoned properties.

## KEY BENEFITS

- Reduces blight and vacancy:** The SSLBDA acquires distressed properties through court abandonment process on behalf of the City, eliminates liabilities like back taxes and liens, and then sells property to qualified developer who renovates or demolishes them if property is beyond redevelopment to support local priorities and economic potential.
- Boosts economic vitality:** For every dollar spent by the Land Bank to reactivate vacant property, an estimated additional \$16.70 in economic activity is generated in the communities served. This includes creating jobs for local contractors, electricians, and builders.
- Stabilizes and increases the tax base:** By returning properties to productive use, the Land Bank helps generate new property tax revenue. In FY24, it generated \$349K in annual property tax revenue for its communities.
- Enhances neighborhood pride and safety:** Revitalized properties attract new investment, increase homeowner equity, and can lead to better safety and a renewed sense of community pride.

The South Suburban Land Bank has been a central partner in fighting blight and redeveloping vacant homes in our Ward.

Since 2020, the Land Bank has fostered the redevelopment of 15 homes which are now occupied after sitting vacant for several years. The Land Bank has stabilized 13 more homes which are actively listed or soon will be, they've stabilized two homes in advance of demolition – which are located at 225 154th Place and 412 155th Place. Three more sites are currently under contract with developers.



43 155th St. 2 - Before



43 155th St. 2 - After

In total, the Land Bank has affected redevelopment of 33 long vacant homes and is in the process of acquiring at least 16 more through court ordered abandonment, so they can continue their work stabilizing the 5th Ward. Once all of the vacant homes in the 5th Ward are on track to restored back to the tax rolls, we are going to expand the program across the entire City.

IS YOUR FAMILY  
SAFE FROM  
LEAD POISONING?

Apply for a free home inspection  
& free home repairs

LEAD-SAFE  
COOK COUNTY  
leadsafecookcounty.com

Cook County  
Public Health



43 155th St. 1 - Before



43 155th St. 1 - After

## SAY NO TO LEAD!

Cook County is offering free lead removal and home repairs to suburban residents as part of their new Lead-Safe Cook County campaign.

Qualified homeowners and renters can apply for the program, which may include a lead inspection, painting, window replacement, flooring, drywall and soil remediation. To qualify, your home or rental must have been built before 1978, when lead paint was banned. Families also need to meet an income requirement of less than 120% of the Area Median Income and have a child under the age of six who either live in or frequently visits the home. To learn more about the program and apply, visit [LeadSafeCookCounty.com](http://LeadSafeCookCounty.com).



Want To Save Lives? 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 for information at (708) 891-8195.



**DeJuan Gardner**  
**5th Ward Alderman, Chairman, Public Safety**



## **ALDERWOMAN MELISSA PHILLIPS** **7TH WARD** **CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES**

### **A NEW YEAR, A RENEWED COMMITMENT**

Greetings 7th Ward Residents,

As we welcome 2026, and I reflect on the last eight months being your Alderwoman, I am filled with gratitude, inspiration, motivation and excitement. Each year brings its own challenges and triumphs, and through it all, our community continues to show up for one another with determination and heart. Before you voted me as your Alderwoman, I witnessed the strength, resilience, and pride that the 7th Ward carries, and I am grateful to represent you all.

The start of the new year is a reminder that progress is built one step at a time. It's an opportunity to set fresh goals, renew our sense of purpose and recommit ourselves to building a safer, stronger and more vibrant Calumet City especially the 7th Ward.

I am committed to listening to your voices, advocating for responsible development, improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods, and ensuring that the 7th Ward receives the attention and resources it deserves.

As I work to uphold your trust, I'm looking forward to your engagement and your partnership. I sincerely appreciate the support and continued encouragement of my family, friends, fellow Alderpersons and most importantly the 7th Ward.

Please follow my Facebook page, Alderwoman Melissa Phillips for information on upcoming meetings and events.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Melissa Phillips,**  
**7th Ward Alderwoman**  
**Chairman, Public Utilities**



## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND ZONING

Hello Winter! Winter is here, and we ask that everyone please be safe! We continue looking forward to assisting our community and working together to beautify your properties and our City of Calumet City.

### **SNOW REMOVAL**

Please remember to keep all the snow away from the streets and sidewalks.

### **SEWERS**

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

### **GARBAGE**

In accordance with Section 74-33 of the Calumet City Municipal Code, it shall be unlawful to dispose of any garbage, refuse or ashes except in a disposal device, properly constructed and operated, or in a lawfully established garbage or refuse dump. Such material not so properly disposed of shall be placed in containers for collection by the city as prescribed in this article.

### **CITY UPDATES**

Please feel free to visit our office located at 670 Wentworth Avenue, or the city website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org) for more information and available updates.

### **OUR 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](http://www.calumetcity.org) (Building and Zoning Department) or visit our office.

### **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, please visit our website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org) or visit our office and our staff will be happy to assist you.

### **RENTALS**

If you are a landlord, you are required to participate in the rental program. To apply for an annual rental inspection, please visit our website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org) or visit our office and our staff will be happy to assist you.

### **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 website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org) or visit our office.

### **SCEDULING AN INSPECTION - PERMIT(S), POINT OF SALE, RENTAL AND COMMERCIAL**

Please contact us by phone at (708) 891-8120 or visit our office located at 670 Wentworth Avenue, Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). For more information or any questions about our services, please visit [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org), contact us at (708) 891-8120 or [dis@calumetcity.org](mailto:dis@calumetcity.org).



## CLERK'S OFFICE

Valued Calumet City Residents and Business Owners, HAPPY NEW YEAR from the hard-working Clerks of the City of Calumet City! Please keep in mind the following dates and services that are fast approaching in 2026. Our Clerks are ready to serve you and answer your questions.

- The **Business License Renewal Season** is here
- Please complete and submit your application online at <https://calumetcity.org/business-license-application/>
- **Vehicle Sticker Season** is coming soon
- Vehicle Stickers will go on sale in mid-March. Please be on the lookout for your renewal notices.
- **Pet Owners:** Purchase your pet tags in early March. Please provide your pet inoculation documents when purchasing your pet tags.
- **Senior** (65 and older) single family unit homeowners can receive half off refuse. For details, please inquire with a water billing clerk.

Please contact Clerk's Office Manager, Cleo Jones, at (708) 891-8100, ext. 8501 or [cjones@calumetcity.org](mailto:cjones@calumetcity.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Cleo Jones**  
**Clerk's Office Manager**  
204 Pulaski Road, Calumet City, IL 60409

## WINTER FLOODING

### CALUMET CITY'S FLOOD HAZARD

Properties in Calumet City are subject to flooding caused by the river overtopping its bank, local flooding when the storm sewer can't keep up and sewer backup.

### OVERBANK FLOODING

Calumet City is subject to overbank flooding from the Little Calumet River. Although the Grand Calumet River flows along the northern boundary of the city it stays within the banks of the river.

The most recent flooding along the Little Cal occurred on September 13, 2008. The flood reminds us of the flood risk the river poses. The floods of September 2008 nearly matched the flooding in June 1981. The City's worst flood on record occurred in November 1990. That year, heavy local storms caused the Little Cal to rise higher than ever before on record, the water was a half foot higher than the September 2008 flood. Similar flood levels were reached in December 1982 and July 1996.

Construction of a levee on the Little Cal during the 1980's kept the 1990 and 1996 floods out of most of the town. Additional work upstream, diverting flood flows from Thorn Creek into the Thornton Transitional Reservoir, has helped reduce our flood risk. However, flooding remains a threat along the river.

**Local drainage:** Calumet City's local drainage problems are primarily due to backed up combined sewers and storm sewers. The sewers are designed to drain streets and pond areas along with transporting sanitary sewage to treatment facilities. When they are blocked or overloaded by heavy rains, the drainage system is plugged. Stormwater sits for hours or days, waiting for the sewers to clear.

Local drainage problems occur during storms in any part of the city. In some cases, yard ponding will cause or aggravate basement flooding. Flooded streets and yards can cause or aggravate the health and safety problems and disrupt traffic.



Emergency personnel and public works employees laid 65,000 sandbags to hold back the



## CALUMET CITY WATER DEPARTMENT

### PREVENT PIPES FROM FREEZING THIS WINTER

When temperatures plummet, the chances of your pipes freezing are eminent. In wintertime, burst pipes are one of the most common causes of property damage potentially causing thousands of dollars in water damage. Pipes in unheated spaces, like attics, garages, and basements are almost waiting to freeze during frigid weather. The good news is there are some ways to prevent pipe freezing without spending too much money.

Frozen water pipes burst because as water freezes into ice, it expands, resulting in solid ice filling more of the pipe than the liquid water that normally runs through pipes. As there is less space available between the ice and the closed tap that is upstream, the pressure spikes which causes the bursting to happen.

#### TIPS TO PREVENT PIPES FROM FREEZING:

- Insulate pipes with polyethylene, foam, fiberglass, or wrap pipes in heat tape, all of which you can buy at a local home or hardware store. You also want to consider insulating piping that exists in outside walls. The use of heat tape would require it being plugged into an outlet for electric current and would be used in basements, crawl spaces or garages that are not properly heated.
- Seal leaks that let cold air inside such as gaps in windows, doors, or around pipes to prevent cold air entering. If you find openings, seal them up with insulation or caulk to maintain a stable room temperature.

- Let the cold or warm water run from a faucet (a small stream or drip). This may add a small cost to your bill instead of the potential higher bill and damage should the pipes burst.
- It is recommended the thermostat is set to at least 55 degrees especially when not home so you have heat in the house. If you leave your home for an extended period, shut the water off at the meter and drain your pipes. If a water meter has been enclosed between the outside foundation and a wall, it will not get heat and will likely freeze and burst.
- Drain outdoor faucets. If there is a shut off inside, turn it off and drain the outside pipe.

You can also insulate the outside faucet with covers from home or hardware stores.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PIPES ARE FROZEN?

Shut off the water supply at your meter and for a good reason. When the frozen water thaws, the sudden release of pressure can force unfrozen water to gush out of any potential cracks in the pipes and cause an even bigger mess.

Once you have closed off the water supply, start thawing out the frozen area of the pipe by using an electric heating pad, hair dryer, heat tape, or even warm towels. But before you do, open the faucets from the end. Once started, it's only a matter of time before the ice thaws and the pipe becomes unfrozen with the water flowing again through the pipe.

Of course, once done, you may have to call a plumber to fix the cracked pipe where it froze unless you are able to do the repair yourself.

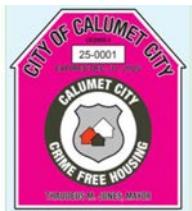
Protecting pipes from freezing might seem like a daunting task, but with only a minor investment and some forward thinking, you can take sufficient safeguards to provide freeze protection and worry less during the winter.

We hope you have a happy holiday season and if you every have any questions regarding this, your meter, or water related issues, please call us at (708) 891-8155.



# CALUMET CITY CRIME FREE HOUSING

Happy New Year! The Crime Free Housing Department has been preparing for the new year, which brings with it new laws, new forms, and a new Crime Free Housing License.



Residential rental properties must have the 2025 Crime Free Housing License displayed in a clear window on the front of your rental property so the license number can be viewed. Rental inspections will not pass without the current license displayed and citations can be issued for non-compliance to this requirement.

Calumet City's "Crime Free Housing" ordinance requires rental property owners, property managers, and/or designated agents to attend an in-person training seminar taught by the Crime Free Housing Department. Reservations are required and are on the following dates: March 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. April 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## NEW LAW FOR 2026

Public Act 103-1031 (Senate Bill #SB3652) became effective January 1, 2026. It requires landlords to use the Summary of rights for Safer Homes document, which was created by the Department of Human Rights ([www.dhr.illinois.gov/safer-homes](http://www.dhr.illinois.gov/safer-homes)), as the very first four pages of every new lease agreement or lease renewal. Each page requires the tenant's signatures and date, and if a landlord is not compliant with this, fines can be \$100 up to \$2000 plus court costs and attorney fees.

## Calumet City Crime Free Housing Department

1200 Pulaski Road (Lobby of PD)  
(708) 868-2500 | [crimefreehousing@calumetcity.org](mailto:crimefreehousing@calumetcity.org)

conditions that landlords must always provide to their tenants. If you are experiencing unacceptable living conditions, or some other discriminatory action, please contact me so I can investigate that matter. In most cases, your complaint will need to be submitted in writing. Complaint forms are available from the Crime Free Housing Office, the Building Department Office, and on the City's website: [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org). I will work to address your complaint to the best of my ability!

## Calumet City Fair Housing Administrator

Sharon Buford-Davis

(708) 891-8100 ext. 8434

[sbuford-davis@calumetcity.org](mailto:sbuford-davis@calumetcity.org)



Calumet City requires owners of vacant properties to register them and provide detailed information on what the plans are for the future of that property, with a timeline for achieving those plans. The registration process is completed through our approved vendor, MuniReg, and is overseen by the Crime Free Housing Department. Registrations should be made online at [www.munireg.com](http://www.munireg.com) or by calling them at (866) 686-4734.

Owners of some abandoned properties have been difficult to locate, and the legal process for Calumet City to obtain rights to them can be time consuming red tape. However, as you may have seen in previous Calumet City newsletters, we have begun to demolish some of these properties that are beyond a "fixer-upper". If you have vacant property on your street, please notify the Crime Free Housing Department with the specific address and any other helpful information you may have.

## ANTI-SQUATTER LEGISLATION ALERT

At the end of May 2025, the 104th General Assembly passed Senate Bill #SB1563, which is a bill that was supposed to end squatter's rights throughout the State. Governor Pritzker signed the bill into law on July 21, 2025; however, it did not take effect until January 1, 2026. As we celebrated the new year, some property owners that have



# CALUMET CITY FAIR HOUSING

Fair Housing laws and ordinances exist to make sure everyone has the same ability to buy or rent a dwelling space. These laws & ordinances also establish living

squatters living in their property sought to get the relief this new law was promised to bring. For whatever reason no one in the State used the last 6 months of 2025 to prepare for this new law. Municipalities are legally not able to carry out the removal of squatter occupants because the new law doesn't provide the necessary verbiage to complete that.

ABC7 News Chicago did a news story in early January when a property owner requested the Chicago Police Department to remove the squatters from her condo. It was a story that included Representative LaShawn Ford (8th District) being on scene with the property owner and news crew. Rep. Ford indicated that he's been made aware of the problem with SB1563 and stated that work will continue in Springfield once the General Assembly returns at the beginning of February.

Until that time, squatters may still be allowed to remain inside your vacant property. To try and prevent the chance for squatter entry:

- Keep your property's exterior well-kept with adequate lighting around entry doors and parking areas
- Use of a lockbox should only be done when absolutely necessary
- Keep all windows and doors secured
- Use of cameras and/or alarm systems will alert you to the immediate entry of a trespasser, which allows you and the Police to act swiftly
- Ask neighbors to report suspicious people or activity to you and the Police



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Community and Economic Development (CED) plays a very crucial part in the City of Calumet City's successes for economic growth through job creation and investment which ultimately improves quality of life. This means more property taxes, sales taxes, and a continued revitalization of the City. Additional City income allows for added and enhanced City services for residents and local business owners. CED has proven successes as the Department fosters the City's long-term prosperity goals by attracting new businesses, helping existing businesses with expansion plans, supporting entrepreneurs, and implementing plans for sustainable development. This means CED works closely with other City Departments to ensure public safety including Building and Zoning, Police and Fire, Public Works, and Crime Free Housing as well as the Department of Business Licensing.

### A LOOK BACK AT 2025 - GRAND OPENINGS AND GROUND BREAKINGS

#### Pace Bus Shelter, ADA Bus Transfer Facility – Ring Road (Groundbreaking)

The project is a partnership between the City of Calumet City and the Pace Paratransit Services. The facility is paid for by Pace's donation of grant money received by Illinois State Government with the help of State Representative Thaddeus Jones and State Representative Will Smith who both spoke at the groundbreaking held on October 2025. The approximate cost of this facility is \$2 million which includes all design, architecture, engineering, construction inspection, testing, supervision, permit fees, extension of utilities, actual construction costs, and all other costs for the project. The 2000 square foot transfer facility encompasses three Pace bus lines and will include bathrooms, vending, heating and air conditioning, and sidewalk entryways. Public safety and maintenance of the facility will be ensured by the City of Calumet City.

#### Calumet City Grocery and Spirits – 893 Burnham Ave. (Grand Opening)

The grand opening was held in September 2025, and the location of this grocery store occupies the Former Dollar store previously located on Burnham Avenue. The company is a proud property owner in Calumet City. The project has put an abandoned property back in use. The

City's goal of putting abandoned commercial businesses back into use is called adaptive reuse and serves to revitalize the City's neighborhoods, boost the economy, and of course benefit the environment. This practice has provided cost-effective development, created new jobs, and increased the property value of that location. A grocery store on Burnham Avenue meets a specific need for local residents. It is essential to the community because it's more than just a place to buy food, it is a vital anchor for economic stability and food security. The store's impact is particularly pronounced because it offers access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods.

### **Bill's Grill – 1050 Sibley Blvd. (Grand Opening)**

Bill's Grill is leasing property in Calumet City at 1050 Sibley Boulevard and represents one of approximately 20 new businesses that acquired business licenses in 2025. Experience authentic BBQ at its best. From slow-smoked ribs to creamy mac and cheese, every dish is made with fresh ingredients and served in a cozy, welcoming setting. Join Bill's Grill for bold flavors and homestyle comfort at your go-to BBQ destination, where tradition meets quality and every meal feels like home.

### **Five Below – 450 River Oaks West - River Oaks West Plaza (Grand Opening)**

Five Below is a national retail chain leasing property in the River Oaks West shopping plaza where there was a vacancy for at least one year. The city is proud to have secured such a giant in the retail industry. National retail chains provide important benefits to our community, such as generating tax revenue, creating jobs, and offering a wider variety of goods and services. The City's local Five Below, at 450 River Oaks West, is a place with unlimited possibilities where tweens, teens, and beyond are free to Let Go & Have Fun in a color-popping, music-pumping, super-fun shopping experience. You'll find extreme \$1-\$5 values; plus, some incredible finds that go beyond \$5, making it easy to say YES and smile big with tech, tees, sports balls, beauty, candy, remote control toys, and so much more! So let loose and explore the hundreds of Five Below products that jump, fly, zoom, boom, bounce, float, taste, connect, and pop in eight different worlds: Tech, Style, Room, Play, Create, Party, Candy, and New & Now.

### **Global Water Technology Inc. – 602 State St. (Grand Opening)**

Calumet City is proud to announce Global Water Technology (GWT) recently celebrated the grand opening

of its new national headquarters in Calumet City, on September 20, 2025. The event included a community picnic and was attended by local leaders. This new 100,000+ square-foot facility will house office, production, and warehouse space for the company's growing operations. Global Water Technology, Inc, is a full-service water treatment company that specializes in custom water treatment services, cooling tower treatments, steam boiler treatments, closed loop treatments & wastewater services and much more! The company was founded in 1990 to meet a growing demand in the industry for personalized, affordable, and reliable water treatment services. GWT's reputation for superior service and creating cost effective, resource saving, and equipment preserving strategies has allowed for continued growth and expansion throughout the United States and across a wide variety of industries. Today, GTW is one of the industry's leaders in water and waste treatment and will offer our community quality job opportunities for residents; and put the city on the map with housing technology corporations of this caliber. In addition to quality jobs/job creation, tax revenue, skill development, innovation and technology, and community support; GTW is an industrial business that is vital to the community because it stimulates the City's economy through local spending and taxes and contributes to infrastructure development.

### **Burlington Department Store – 470 River Oaks West - River Oaks West Shopping Plaza (Grand Opening)**

Burlington has relocated from Lansing, Illinois, to Calumet City with its new location at 470 River Oaks West; and held its grand opening on August 15, 2025. Burlington, formerly known as Burlington Coat Factory, is an American national department store retailer, and a division of Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corporation with more than 1,100 stores in 47 states and Puerto Rico, with its corporate headquarters located in Burlington Township, New Jersey. For over half a century, the retailer has been delivering value to customers, associates and communities. With its everyday low prices on top brand name merchandise for the entire family and home, combined with its dedication to thousands of associates nationwide and an ability to make an impact in the communities where we live and work; Calumet City congratulates Burlington as an award-winning retailer.

For more information or questions relating to Community and Economic Development, please contact the department at (708) 891-8139.

# CALUMET CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Teen REACH program showcases an immersive curriculum with features such as "Invest Like a Pro", promoting financial literacy, learning how solar power operates, crafting DIY catapults, and studying how bacteria grows! The youth are currently engaging in yoga, mindful meditation, affirmations, and developing core values. Concluding the first half of the academic year, youth participants are rewarded with a trip to Navy Piers Winter Wonderland for consistently surpassing milestones as the program continues to excel.





# CALUMET CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Heating is a leading cause of US home fires and home fire injuries and third leading cause of home fire deaths. December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires. Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, accounting for nearly one-third of the fires, as well as the vast majority of deaths and injuries in home fires caused by heating equipment.

## HEATING SAFETY

### (SPACE HEATERS, FIREPLACES, FURNACES)

- 3-Foot Rule: Keep anything that can burn (curtains, bedding, furniture) at least three feet from space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves.
- Space Heater Use: Turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed, plug them directly into a wall outlet (no extension cords), and place them on flat, non-flammable surfaces.
- Never Use Oven for Heat: Do not use your kitchen oven or gas range to heat your home, as it produces dangerous carbon monoxide.
- Keep children away from space heaters.

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

### ALARMS & SMOKE DETECTORS

- Install & Test: Install CO alarms on every level and test smoke alarms monthly.
- Winter Danger: CO is an odorless gas from fuel-burning appliances; ensure furnace vents aren't blocked by snow.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME STRUCTURE

- Prevent Frozen Pipes: Let faucets drip slightly during extreme cold, open cabinet doors to allow warm air to reach pipes, and maintain a minimum temperature of 55°F.
- Seal Leaks: Use caulk and weather-stripping on doors and windows to keep cold air out.
- Clear Gutters: Clean leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

- Prevent Overexertion: Shoveling heavy snow can cause heart attacks; take frequent breaks and avoid overexertion.
- Check on Others: Check on elderly neighbors and family members.
- Pet Safety: Bring pets indoors during extreme cold.



# CALUMET CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CALUMET CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS

The Calumet City Police Department proudly recognized seven new officers in November 2025. Officers Ward, Nunez, Stacker, Guerra, Moss, Armistead, and Sears were formally acknowledged as they begin their service to the community.



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

In addition, Sergeant La Fave, a 14-year veteran of the Calumet City Police Department, was recognized for her promotion to the rank of Sergeant. The department congratulates Sergeant La Fave and looks forward to her continued leadership and service.



## CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON

Applications for the 2026 Citizen's Police Academy will be available beginning March 1, 2026, with classes scheduled to begin in May 2026.



The Citizen's Police Academy provides residents with an opportunity to learn more about police operations, community policing efforts, and the role of law enforcement in public safety. Residents are encouraged to apply and participate in this popular community engagement program.

## CITY OF CALUMET CITY RECORDS ZERO HOMICIDES IN 2025

The City of Calumet City achieved a historic public safety milestone in 2025, recording zero homicides for the year — the first time since 1986 this has occurred.

Police officials credit this achievement to proactive policing strategies, increased officer visibility, and strong partnerships between the department and the community.

In addition to the historic homicide figure, overall crime trends in 2025 showed substantial improvements across several categories. Compared to 2024, the city experienced notable decreases in both violent and property crimes, while continuing to address challenges such as domestic violence and motor vehicle theft through targeted enforcement and prevention efforts. The year 2025 also marked the first year since 2019 that the Calumet City Police Department operated at full staffing levels, allowing for increased proactive patrols, directed enforcement initiatives, and enhanced community engagement.

While celebrating this significant milestone, department leadership emphasized that the work continues. The Calumet City Police Department remains committed to continuous improvement and to ensuring the safety of everyone who lives, works, and visits the City of Calumet City.

# NEW POLICE OFFICERS





## DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



# YOUR CALUMET CITY

# HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR



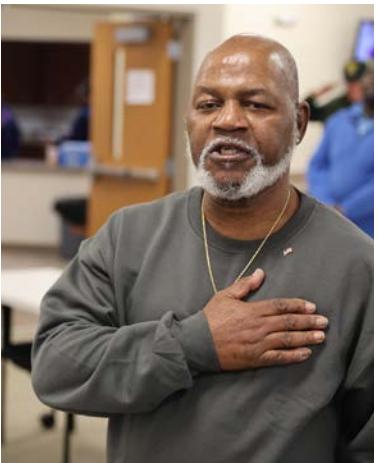
# GLOBAL WATER & THE COMMUNITY



# GLOBAL WATER SOLUTIONS GRAND OPENING



# VETERANS DAY



# CALUMET CITY GROCERY & SPIRITS GRAND OPENING



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



# FIVE BELOW GRAND OPENING



# Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones and City Council

PRESENTS A CONTINUED

# CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ALL CONTEST SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026, BY 9:00AM

CONTEST ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS, AGE, AND CATEGORY NUMBER



## CATEGORY 1: Ages 7 to 9

## CATEGORY 2: Ages 10 to 12

## DRAW FORMER PRESIDENT OBAMA PICTURE CONTEST

**First Prize Categories 1&2:** \$100 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

**Second Prize Categories 1&2:** \$75 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

**Third Prize Categories 1&2:** \$50 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

- Draw the picture of Barack Obama as presented above.
- Children in this category should obtain parent's permission.
- Parents should submit drawings on behalf of their children.
- Parents are required to email drawings to Chyna at [cherring@calumetcity.org](mailto:cherring@calumetcity.org).
- Drawings must fill 8.5 x 11 in. paper; drawings that appear to be traced will be disqualified.

## CATEGORY 3: Ages 13 to 16

## ESSAY CONTEST

**First Prize:** \$100 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

**Second Prize:** \$75 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

**Third Prize:** \$50 Shop Calumet City Gift Certificate

- Parents should be informed of contest participation; however, students can submit essays directly to [cherring@calumetcity.org](mailto:cherring@calumetcity.org).
- Prepare a two-page essay on a "Little Known Fact in Black History."
- Write something that few people may know about regarding Black History.
- You may choose a member of your family, someone else, or someone famous.
- Essays should be word processed 12-point type and double-spaced.

### CONTACT INFORMATION/SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES

Email your contest entries to Chyna at [cherring@calumetcity.org](mailto:cherring@calumetcity.org)

For more information, email [cherring@calumetcity.org](mailto:cherring@calumetcity.org) or call 708-891-8139

Winners in each category are chosen by a panel appointed by the Mayor

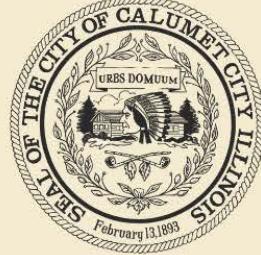
Calumet City residents need only to participate.



**Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones and City Council**

PRESENTS

# **BRINGING THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR TO LIFE**



**Black History Month is a celebration to commemorate the achievements of African Americans and their impact on our country's history. Join us as we bring the Calumet City Black History Month Calendar to life through skits, poems, monologues, performances, etc. You will not want to miss this unique opportunity to look through history. Food, music and entertainment will be provided.**

**Calumet City Public Library**

**660 Manistee Avenue**

**Friday, February 27, 2026**

**5:30P.M. - 8:00P.M.**

**For more information  
[www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org) 708-891-8139**



Contact: ComEd Media Relations  
312-394-3500

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

## **Over \$803 Million Coming to ComEd Customers**

*Payment Created by Climate and Equitable Jobs Act to Protect Customers*

**CHICAGO (Dec. 3, 2025)** – ComEd today announced that over \$803 million will be returned to customers under the framework established in Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) enacted in 2021, which requires nuclear plants to pay customers when prices are high. ComEd residential and commercial customers can expect to benefit from these funds in the form of bill credits, with the average residential customer expected to receive approximately \$13 a month, depending on usage, over the first five months of the year.

The funds are being returned as part of the CEJA's Carbon Mitigation Credit (CMC) program that provided price support to select Illinois nuclear units that were scheduled to be closed. Importantly, that statute protected ComEd customers from over-paying in the event that federal policymakers also stepped up to support nuclear generation.

The 2021 CEJA law created the CMC program to support carbon-free nuclear generation facilities and in return, provide an adjustment to ComEd customers if energy prices exceed the agreed-upon price determined in CEJA. The CMC program is in effect for five years, through 2027, and can result in a credit or a charge depending on energy prices.

"ComEd will always advocate on behalf of our customers, and we are encouraged to see significant savings being passed through to them as a result of Illinois' leadership in clean energy policy," [\*\*said Gil Quiniones, president and CEO of ComEd.\*\*](#)  
"Thanks to the foresight and leadership of Governor Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly, CEJA puts our customers on a path to a cleaner future while upholding our commitment to ensuring sustainability and affordability."

The savings from the \$803 million in credits reported on the nuclear generators' tax returns will automatically reduce what customers pay, and no action is required by customers to receive the credit.

While future prices cannot be forecast with certainty, the CMC program is expected to continue providing credits, based on market prices, for at least another year, helping to offset supply cost increases and support families during periods of economic uncertainty.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

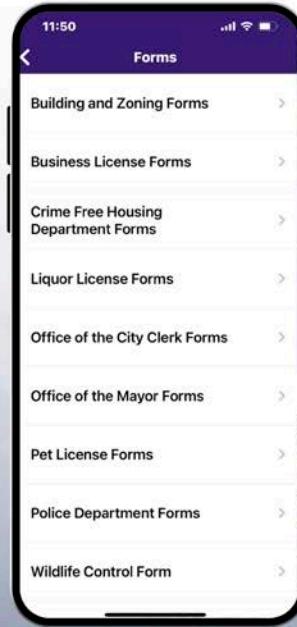
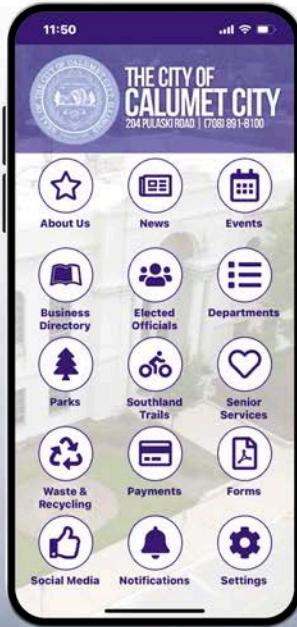
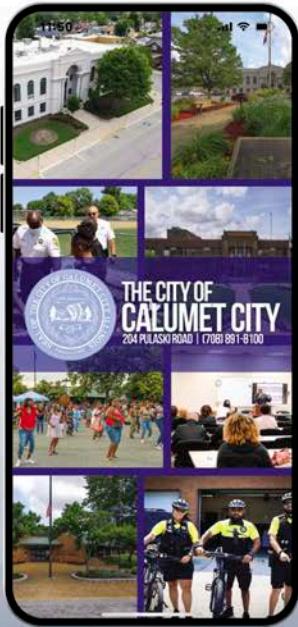
Local  
Postal Customer



# INTRODUCING: THE CALUMET CITY APP

## YOUR GATEWAY TO COMMUNITY CONNECTION!

Stay seamlessly connected with all things Calumet City through our user-friendly mobile application. Whether you're a resident, visitor, or local business owner, this app is designed to enhance your experience and keep you informed. Scan the QR code for FREE download at the Apple or Google Play Store.



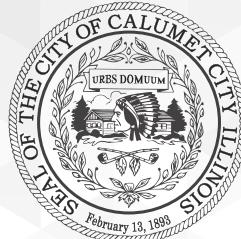
App Store

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Google Play

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calumetcity.org