

# City of Palos Hills

## HAPPENINGS & RECREATION BROCHURE

City of Palos Hills • Community Resource & Recreation Department • SUMMER 2016



Dear Residents,

As the City of Palos Hills ends its Fiscal Year and we begin the Spring/Summer season, I am pleased to report to you our City's strong financial come back from the recession. The City again ended the year in the black along with increasing our reserve fund and decreasing short and long term debt certificates. This Administration has never issued any GO Bond indebtedness of which is why our municipal tax rate has been the lowest in Cook County. The short term debt certificates issued for short term capital projects will be completely paid off in 5 years—leaving the City debt free. We are, however, obligated in paying the Village of Oak Lawn their capital water improvement project that includes a new water main and pumping system to the City of Palos Hills. This capital cost is being paid by our Water Department. The City also is committed to its annual Police Pension obligations.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new full time Building Commissioner, Paul Hardison. Paul is an architect by trade with years of prior experience in city engineering and building and zoning codes.

Also, I am pleased to inform our residents that we are having a major increase in building permits and we expect this summer to bring about the most activity in new housing, renovations and improvements to our neighborhoods. With a nearly completed nursing home, a 20 million dollar investment by Bria Development along with Webb Chevy now in operation on Southwest Highway, we are happy to announce that the Baha Auto Group has taken over the old Hames Olds dealership also on Southwest Highway. The City continues to strive in attracting business development on our vacant sites in town. Please continue your support of our local businesses.

The City was again recognized by another organization as having one of the lowest crime rates in the State of Illinois. This is the second recognition in less than 6 months, in as much as the City of Palos Hills has proudly been recognized for its low crime status over the last 30 years. We again thank our Palos Hills Police Department and our Detective Division for the outstanding job done in helping keep Palos Hills a safe place to live.

The City of Palos Hills Public Works Department continues with the modernization and upgrading of our sewer and water infrastructure, street resurfacing, utilities restoration and park restoration which will be a high priority over the next couple of months. Cook County Highway Department after a 2 year delay, has informed us that the resurfacing projects on 107th Street and 103rd Street both from 88th Avenue to Kean will be completed this summer.

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that the City Golf Course in an effort to increase patrons, will be offering \$10 golf-any time-any day. Carts will be extra. The Golf Course which was paid off last year, still remains one of the top ten 9 hole championship courses in the metropolitan area.

**MAYOR**  
Jerry Bennett

**CITY CLERK**  
Rudy Mulderink

**TREASURER**  
Kenneth J. Nolan

**ALDERMEN**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> WARD**  
Marty Kleefisch  
Joan Knox  
**2<sup>ND</sup> WARD**  
Pauline A. Stratton  
Mark Brachman  
**3<sup>RD</sup> WARD**  
A.J. Pasek  
Michael Lebarre  
**4<sup>TH</sup> WARD**  
Ricky Moore  
Joseph Marrotta  
**5<sup>TH</sup> WARD**  
Mary Ann Schultz  
Dawn Nowak

With July shortly around the corner, we remind residents of our annual Friendship Festival July 7-10 at Moraine Valley Community College with free admission, free parking, great entertainment and a fun weekend for the entire family. On behalf of the City Council, we thank you for your cooperation and help in making the City of Palos Hills a great place to live, work and relax. Have a safe summer.

— **Mayor Jerry Bennett**

## News From Your Aldermen

### First Ward News

We have yet another reason to be proud that we live in Palos Hills. Recently we were ranked number seventeen in a list of the fifty safest cities in Illinois. It is great to have an extremely low crime rate which is, first and foremost, a direct reflection of the moral character and high values of our residents, but it is also the result of the fine efforts put forth daily by the personnel of our Palos Hills Police Department. Please continue to practice safety in and around your home and on the roadways. Remember it won't be long before the school children are on summer break, and we, as adults, need to provide good role models for them.

Another reason we can be proud of living in Palos Hills is that the vast majority of our residents practice being good neighbors. One of the ways they do this is by taking good care of their property. Any real estate agent will tell you that "curb appeal" is the most important aspect when it comes to selling a home. For example, garbage and recycling containers left out do nothing to enhance appearance or property value, so please follow our ordinance and put your containers out of public view as soon as possible after pick up. Broken outdoor lighting should be repaired and replaced. It adds an element of both safety and appearance. If you know your property needs some clean up, this spring would be a good time to take care of it. When each one of us takes care of our property, we are supporting home values for our entire community. When our homes are kept attractive, we project a positive impression for anyone who drives through our city, and that bodes well for all of us and the reputation of Palos Hills. This issue of the City Newsletter and Recreation Brochure also contains information about our annual Beautification Awards program. Consider applying and possibly receiving some recognition for all of your beautification efforts.

Once again we encourage all residents to call City Hall if you think home projects you are planning might require a city permit. Some things that definitely fall into that category are driveways, whether

### First Ward News—cont.

replacements or expansions, which must stay at least five feet off your side property line. In addition, fences, swimming pools, and new roofs are some of the other home projects that require permits as well.

Finally, we hope you can take advantage of our municipal golf course at 105th & Harlem, our walking path around Pleasure Lake at 108th and Roberts Road and the many programs offered by our Community Resource and Recreation Department. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. Have a wonderful spring and summer.

**Alderman Marty Kleefisch – 598-3055 or [Mkleefisch@paloshillsweb.org](mailto:Mkleefisch@paloshillsweb.org)**

**Alderman Joan Knox – 288-7963 or [jknox@paloshillsweb.org](mailto:jknox@paloshillsweb.org)**

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### Second Ward News

**Emissions checks and license plate sticker renewal:** Since the state has stopped sending reminders, check your expiration dates.

**Scams:** Phone calls are being made that are very frightening to our residents by people who threaten that homes will be taken by the government if money is not paid. Numerous gas and electric companies are also soliciting by phone. If you choose to join one of these companies, read all the information so you will be aware of possible extra charges and penalties if you cancel.

**Sump pump inspection:** These inspections are required by ordinance to make sure hook ups are legal. Our employees will have city identification. When you receive a notice from the City, call the number on the letter to make an appointment so your connection can be inspected. Basement flooding could occur if not correctly hooked up.

**Security:** If you park your car in the driveway, do not leave valuables in plain view and check to see if it is locked. Keep the garage door closed even if you are in the back yard.

**Ward News continued on the following pages...**

## News From Your Aldermen - Cont.

### Second Ward news-cont.

**Emergency Assistance:** Call the Community Center at 430-4500 if you need assistance. Plows is available for seniors, 361-0219, and CEDA is helpful for any age, 458-2736.

**PATSE:** This special bus is for seniors (60 & up) and the disabled who live in Palos Township and who have doctor appointments, shopping, hair cutting appointments, etc. See pg. 35 for more information.

**Vehicle Stickers:** No fee stickers are available at City Hall.

**Special Watch:** All residential streets have a 20 m.p.h. limit. The school zone limit is strictly enforced when children are present. Contact us if you feel the limit and stop signs are being ignored and we will request a special police watch. If the problems continue to occur after the watch, do not hesitate to alert us.

**Missing Adults:** Illinois will have a new Silver Alert System to help find missing adults who may wander due to dementia or Alzheimer's. It is similar to the Amber Alert system for children.

**Identity Theft:** It is all too common to hear about identify theft problems. It can be troublesome for a long period of time. Call the police if you think there is a problem.

**Outside Lights:** No matter what time of year, consider having proper working lights. Lock windows and doors and be aware of suspicious activity. Call 9-1-1 when you have concerns. Take the time to be alert for family, neighbors, and yourselves.

**Park Watch:** Some of our parks are surrounded by homes which makes it difficult for our police to patrol. If you see anything suspicious call 9-1-1. Damage or vandalism can be reported to the park department, 430-4500.

**Curfew:** Curfew will be enforced for any teen less than 17 years of age. Hours are:

1. Between 11:30 pm Friday and 6:00 am Saturday
2. Between 11:30 pm Saturday and 6:00 am Sunday
3. Between 10:30 pm Sunday to Thursday, inclusive, and 6:00 am the following day.

**Spruce Up:** When people travel through our ward, many things are noticed. Examine your property and think of things that can improve the appearance and resale value. Take pride in your property and the city in which you live.

### Second Ward News-cont.

**Miscellaneous:** Every homeowner is entitled to a homestead exemption. Seniors 65 years and over are entitled to a Senior Exemption. The township office on Roberts Road can assist. Seniors over 70 years old are no longer required to serve on jury duty.

**Shop Palos Hills:** Continue to support local businesses who strive to succeed during difficult economic times. We will be trying to get Palos Hills to give discounts to our Veterans.

**Neighbors:** Please be aware of someone who might need assistance because of age or illness. It is heartwarming when we hear of neighbors assisting each other.

**Mailboxes:** Please make sure your mailbox as well as post is in good condition.

**Yard Waste:** Yard waste pick up will resume on your first April garbage day.

**Thank you for keeping us informed and being the best residents!**

**Pauline Stratton—430-2240 or**  
**aldpstratton@aol.com**

**Mark Brachman—233-0511 or**  
**m.brachman@sbcglobal.net**

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### Third Ward News

First, I would like to wish everyone a safe and fun summer! Remember to check the sticker on your license plates and purchase a new one when needed. Tickets start at \$80.00. Summer also means time to cut the grass. Cut it timely, please.

The Friendship Fest's Hot Dog Eating Contest was a fun time last year. I plan on having the second at this year's fest. Information will be at the Community Center in mid June. This year a Pie Eating Contest will also be considered for children 10 years and older, and adults. More information will be at the Community Center.

In mid-July, residents get free golf at the Palos Hills Golf Course. For dates call the golf course at 599-0202.

See you at Friendship Fest!

**Alderman AJ Pasek**

## News From Your Aldermen - Cont.

### Third Ward News-cont.

Greetings from the Third Ward!

Spring is finally here, I hope that everyone weathered the winter months well. Spring is traditionally known as the new beginning. The winter season can be rough on our homes and property. I would recommend that you take some time and inspect your property for damage that may have been caused by harsh weather. Items you may want to inspect include:

**Siding:** Vinyl siding can conceal moisture, so checking to make sure there are no loose areas can help you spot small issues before they become large problems.

**Brick structures:** The exterior of your home can take a real beating at the hands of Mother Nature. Seasonal storms, temperature changes and routine wear and tear can virtually make havoc on your exterior masonry. The most damage comes not from bricks themselves, but from the mortar used to hold the bricks together. Check for crumbling mortar as well as moss, mold and mildew.

Please keep safety in mind when working around your property. If you find any power lines that may have come loose around you stay clear and contact Public Works 598-3400 or Police 598-2992.

Now that the weather is getting better we will see more children playing outside. Please watch for children running and riding their bikes in the streets.

Spring is a great time to work off some extra pounds that we may have put on over the winter. Moraine Valley College has a great walking track, so get out and take advantage of one of Palos Hills' greatest assets.

Some of the Palos Hills Alderman will be holding ward meetings. If this is something you would like to have in the 3rd Ward or to receive the 3rd Ward newsletter, please contact me.

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party" from Robin Williams.

**Alderman Mike Lebarre**  
lebarremike@gmail.com

### Fourth Ward News

Greetings 4th Ward Residents and happy spring! While we had a very mild winter it is always exciting to see spring/summer coming. We wanted to share some tidbits with you as summer approaches.

**City of Palos Hills Website:** Visit our web site often; there is an abundance of information available. Our site is <http://www.paloshillsweb.org>.

**Chipper Service:** Only place branches curbside **the day before pick up.** Otherwise debris ends up all over. This service is for single family homes only. The chipper service **will not** pick up branch materials cut or placed at the edge of the road by any contractor or professional/commercial tree trimming companies. Branches must be bundled according to the "**Chipper Truck Service Guidelines and Schedule**" which can be found at <http://www.paloshillsweb.org/departments/publicworks/chipperschedule.html>.

**City of Palos Hills Municipal Golf Course:** We have significantly modified green fees at our municipal golf course this season. The cost for 9 holes? **\$10 anytime, all the time.** Our veterans will receive a 10% discount which would be 9 holes for 9 bucks. Veterans will need proof of service in the way of a **veteran's designation** on their Illinois driver's license or the **Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Program card.** For more information see the **Veterans Corner** on the inside cover of this publication. Our golf course is located at 7301 W. 105th Street, Palos Hills or call 599-0202.

**Veterans Corner:** In this issue and all future issues of our City Newsletter, we will dedicate at least one page to information for veterans. On this page we will share links and information that might be useful to our veterans and their families. **As always, thank you to our veterans for your service!!**

**Council Meetings:** The committee and council meetings are held at City Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month. The meeting times are 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

And finally as always..thank you for allowing us to serve as your Aldermen.

**Alderman Joe Marrotta -**  
aldermanmarrotta@yahoo.com

**Alderman Ricky Moore-**  
rmoore@paloshillsweb.org

## News From Your Aldermen - Cont.

### Fifth Ward News

Well, spring and summer are finally upon us. So let's remember that children will be out playing on the streets. Please watch for the children riding their bikes and playing in the streets. Just a reminder we have a lovely walking path at Pleasure Lake. Now that the days are getting nicer, it's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise. Let's remember to support our local businesses. They need our support, so let's shop locally!

I would like to know what the people of the 5th ward think about having ward meetings at least every 2 or 3 months with your Aldermen. If you are interested please give me a call at 421-0819.

### Sweet Corn Spoonbread

- 1- 8.5 ounce Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- 1- 14.75 ounce can cream style corn
- 1- 15 ounce can of whole kernel corn drained
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 2 quart casserole dish with non stick cooking spray. In a large bowl combine all the ingredients and mix well. Pour mixture into a casserole dish and bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes. It is delicious and one of my favorites. Enjoy!

Hope to see you at the Palos Friendship Festival July 7 to 10. Have a great spring and summer!

**Alderman Mary Ann Schultz** or  
[schultzma19@gmail.com](mailto:schultzma19@gmail.com) or 421-0819

### Fifth Ward News

Happy Spring! It is a great time of year. After being in our homes all winter long, it is time for everyone to get out and enjoy the nice weather. Please be careful when you are driving, our children do not always pay attention to cars going down the streets.

Palos Hills Golf Course is offering \$10 golf all spring and summer! There is also a great family event taking place at Town Square Park on Friday, May 13. You can come and camp overnight in the park. Families can bring their own tent and sleeping bags. Dinner and breakfast will be included. In case of inclement weather, the camp out will take place inside. Be sure to register at the Community Center. The cost is only \$25.00 for a family of 5. What a great way to spend some quality family time!

Also, Palos School District 118 is holding their first Kid's Garage Sale at Palos East Elementary School, 7700 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights on Saturday, April 30th from 9 am to 2 pm. I am sure that there will be a lot of great items for sale!

Finally, please remember that overnight parking is allowed by calling our dispatch center's non-emergency number, 598-2151, and giving them your name, address, vehicle information and telephone number. Exceptions can only be granted three times per year for 3 consecutive nights.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me,

**Alderman Dawn M. Nowak** or  
[dnowak@paloshillsweb.org](mailto:dnowak@paloshillsweb.org) or 259-3367

### **City of Palos Hills Important Numbers**

Administration	598-3400
Animal & Ordinance Office	598-3400
Building Department	598-3400
Community Resource & Recreation	430-4500
Municipal Golf Course	599-0202
Police (Non-emergency)	598-2992
Public Works/Sewer & Water	598-3400

### **Palos Hills City Hall will be Closed**

Memorial Day, May 30, Independence Day,  
July 4 & Labor Day, September 5

### **The Community Center will be Closed**

Saturday, May 28, Memorial Day, May 30 &  
Independence Day, July 4 & Labor Day,  
September 5

**The PATSE bus service will not run on**  
Memorial Day, May 30 & Independence Day, July 4  
& Labor Day, September 5



**PALOS HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**From the Desk of Paul J Madigan, Chief of Police**

Chief Paul Madigan wishes to announce the tragic death of a former volunteer Palos Hills Emergency Management Worker. Jonathan Grabinski, 17, of Chicago Ridge was killed in an early morning traffic accident on Archer Road near Willow Springs. Grabinski and his father had both volunteered with the Palos Hills E.S.D.A. (EMA) up until approximately six months ago when they resigned. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Jonathan and to the members of the Palos Hills EMA who had worked with Jonathan until six months ago.

**DRIVING:** Chief Madigan wishes to remind our residents that with the upcoming spring and summer months to please be careful when driving around the city. Children will soon be out of school and will be out and about on our city streets.

**Keep our children safe!**

**SAFETY:** With good weather just around the corner please adhere to traffic control devices and speed limit signs. They are there for your protection.

**HOUSE WATCHES:** Always make sure you call for a House Watch when you leave for vacations for an extended period of time.

**REMINDER:** Remember also to always lock your vehicles and never leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle.

Chief Madigan wishes to commend all the members of the Palos Hills Police Department for making Palos Hills one of the top safest cities to live in, in Illinois. This is no accident, it is because of hard working and dedicated police officers working with our residents to keep our city safe.

### **Free Rain Barrel for Palos Hills Residents**

The City of Palos Hills has joined forces with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago to provide a free rain barrel for each of our residents. Rain barrels are a form of green infrastructure that capture and store rain water. The largest benefit of rain barrel use is achieved by separating roof runoff from the sewer systems. Installing a rain barrel conserves water and stores rain water for reuse.

The goal of the rain barrel program is to reduce rainwater runoff entering the sewer system, reduce basement backups, sewer overflow, overland flooding, and infiltration and inflow of water into the sanitary sewer system. The District believes the value of keeping water out of the sewer system will benefit the community.

In order to receive your barrel, a form must be completed and returned to City Hall. Forms are available at City Hall, on the City website ([www.paloshillsweb.org](http://www.paloshillsweb.org)), or at the Community Center. Once the order form has been processed, your barrel will be ordered and delivered to your home by the MWRD's vendor. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery. Your color choices are white or black. If you have any questions, you can contact the City of Palos Hills at 598-3400 or the MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312-751-6633.

### **Illinois License Renewal Warning**

As a result of the budget standoff in Illinois, the Secretary of State no longer has the funding to send out notices to motorists whose license plates are about to expire. Please check the date on your license plate and if necessary, visit [www.ilsos.net/departments/vehicles/onlinerenewals/home.html](http://www.ilsos.net/departments/vehicles/onlinerenewals/home.html) to renew your sticker. If you need assistance call the Community Resource Department at 430-4500.

**Economic Development**  
**Alderman Dawn Nowak, 5th Ward, Committee Chair**  
**dnowak@paloshillsweb.org**

We are currently looking for businesses who will offer a discount to all of our military veterans. The discount can be anything you desire and can be changed at any time. The Cook County Recorder of Deeds currently puts out a list of all businesses, restaurants and companies that offer discounts to our military veterans. The veteran will have a photo ID card that proves they are a veteran. Please contact Alderman Dawn Nowak at 259-3367 or dnowak@paloshillsweb.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to have your business promoted in all of Cook County, as well as give something to our vets. It is FREE!

Alderman Dawn Nowak will deliver a “Welcome Package” to our new residents in the 5th ward. If you would like to put a coupon or a brochure advertising your business, please drop off any material to City Hall with Alderman Nowak’s name on it and it will be put into the package. The packages are delivered personally, they do not go through the mail. This is a great way to advertise your business and it is FREE! We are promoting a “Shop Local” campaign for our businesses, and currently have posters telling patrons to “Shop Local”. If you are interested in having one of these posters, please email Alderman Nowak at dnowak@paloshillsweb.org and she will drop off this free poster to your business.

The Palos Resource & Recreation Department is looking for businesses that want to advertise in the Parks and Recreation booklet. They are also looking for sponsors for Friendship Fest. Please contact them at 430-4500 for pricing and/or sponsorship information.

Finally the Hills Chamber is a great way to connect with other businesses in town. If you are interested in joining the Chamber, please contact the Chamber at 233-6860 or thehillschamber@gmail.com.

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**2016 Beautification Contest**

With the beautiful days of spring upon us, Alderman Kleefisch, the Beautification Committee and the Community Resource Department want to inform residents that we are preparing to conduct our annual beautification contest for residences, businesses, multiple family residences, churches and schools. Over the past 12 years, we have had many positive comments about this friendly competition, which encourages everyone to put their gardening and decorating talents to good use.

In addition to nominating yourself, you can choose to nominate your neighbor or local business also. You can email your nomination to recreation@paloshillsweb.org or either mail or drop off your nomination to the Community Resource Department at 8455 W. 103rd Street, Palos Hills. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please provide your name and phone number as well as that of the person or business you are nominating.

All judging will be conducted by local volunteers. Due to time constraints, the judges will focus solely on front and side yards. Our judges will be rating properties in these categories: **general appearance of buildings, fencing and edging, and overall landscaping including lawns, shrubs, evergreens, trees and color accents.**

All winners will receive a certificate of recognition at a City Council meeting and a lawn sign. Each ward will also have a grand prize winner (multiple in each ward depending on scoring) whose name will be part of a raffle. The prize for this raffle will be donated by a local business.

Start sprucing up your property, and planting your spring annuals as you add to the overall beauty of our attractive city and enhance the quality of life for everyone in Palos Hills. Good Luck to All! **The contest entry form is on the next page.**



# City of Palos Hills 2016 Beautification Contest Entry Form



Homeowner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box:

- Home     Townhome     Condo     Multi-family  
 Retail Business     Religious Building     Banking Institution  
 Service Station     Commercial Building     Restaurant

Our judges will be rating properties in these categories:

1. General appearance of buildings, fencing and edging
2. Overall landscaping
  - Lawns
  - Shrubs, evergreens and trees
  - Color accents
3. Only those properties who have completed an entry form will be judged.
4. Judging will focus solely on front and side yards.
5. Winners from the 2016 Beautification Contest are not eligible to enter until 2018.
6. Judging will take place from July 18th to 29th, 2016.
7. **All entries must be received by July 15th, 2016 at 5:00 pm.**

Please read carefully. I understand that by entering the 2016 Beautification contest I allow, should I be a winner, the City of Palos Hills to publish a photograph, my family name and the address of my home in published material, including City website in connection with the contest. I release and agree to hold the City of Palos Hills, its agents, and its contractors harmless from any and all claims, damages, or liabilities resulting from entry into the Beautification Contest and I agree not to bring any such claims against the released parties at any time in the future. If I am not the owner on record I am over 18 years of age and have the full right and authority to execute this Release and Waiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date