

I hope you enjoy our 2012 calendar and the introductory issue of "The Mayor's Message" included in your calendar. Future Mayor's Messages will appear regularly on the village website ([www.harwoodheights.org](http://www.harwoodheights.org)) and print copies will be available at the Village Hall upon request.



# The Mayor's MESSAGE

VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER      JANUARY, 2012

### What's New?

As my third year as your Mayor nears its end, it is important to give you an overview of those years. What's Been Happening? What Has Been Accomplished? and, Where Are We Headed In the Near Future?

### Happy Anniversary!

The year 2012 is another milestone for Harwood Heights. We will be celebrating our Village's Incorporation of 65 years! Events will be planned throughout the year and we WILL have a Village Picnic for all to attend and enjoy!

### Once again... No Increase of Tax Levy!

While other communities have raised their taxes, the Harwood Heights tax levy remains unchanged. **No New Taxes!** During a tough economy, we are doing what we can to control our expenses, and avoid raising taxes for residents and businesses in our community.



### Economic Development: *Make way for Mariano's!*

The vacant Tornado building has been demolished to make way for the new Mariano's grocery store. Mariano's will generate additional sales tax revenue and over 400 jobs are anticipated! The Planned Unit Development is under review by our Plan Commission and Village Inspectors. Once the plans are officially approved by the Village Board, the groundbreaking is planned for Spring of 2012 with a grand opening expected in March 2013 or sooner. We welcome Mariano's to our community!

### *The Future starts now!*

### Welcome New Businesses on Harlem Avenue!

**Papa John's** will open soon at the old Blockbuster site. After the first of the year, **Once Upon A Child**, retail outlet for children, will join **Plato's Closet** located at the 4600 Plaza on Harlem. We welcome our new commercial stores!

### More on Economic Development...

Many Developers have expressed interest in the following properties: the old Village Hall site on Lawrence, Custom Tapes on Gunnison and Carson's on Harlem. We believe that the arrival of Mariano's signals an increase in the economic opportunities and our vacant and under-utilized properties will continue to attract interest in development.

### New Comprehensive Plan

For the past three years residents, businesses and elected officials participated in the creation of a Comprehensive Development Plan. The approved plan includes a revision of outdated Zoning Codes as well as the rezoning of vacant manufacturing districts to commercial districts to promote retail development. The Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code can be viewed on-line. Both are important tools for the growth of our community by mapping out a clear planning process for residents, businesses and potential developers.

## Electronics:

Beginning January 1, 2012 state law bans the landfill disposal of many electronic items. These items include: TV's Monitors, Printers, Computers, Electronic Keyboards, Fax Machines, Videocassette Recorders, Digital Music Players, Video Game Consoles Small Scale Servers, Scanners Electronic Mice, Digital Converter Boxes, Cable Receivers, Satellite Receivers, Digital Video Disc Recorders. *Do Not Place these items in your garbage. Bring these items to the Village Hall and we will arrange for special pick-up.*

## **New Parking Passes for Residential Only Streets**

Beginning 1/1/12 all old parking passes will be invalid and all nonresident visitors/guests must display the new passes when they park on "resident only" streets. Passes can be purchased for \$5 from the Village Hall.

## **Recycle - Recycle - Recycle!**

Each year that we exceed the average household, ARC/ Republic scavenger service and the Village will award a \$500 High School Scholarship for up to two Harwood Heights students.

## **New Water Rates from City of Chicago**

Unfortunately, the City of Chicago raised their water rates to all suburbs for the next four years. The 2012 increase is 25% and the following 3 years is 15% each year. As a result you will see an increase in your water bill in February or March.

## **Public Works**

Report any potholes or street light outages by calling the Village Hall – 867-7200

# Over \$4.5 million of Grant Funds Awarded!

Since I was elected as your Mayor, the Village was awarded over \$4.5 million in funding for specific projects. This funding assists our community in keeping up with economic planning, police equipment and infrastructure such as street repaving, sewers and sidewalks.

## **Here's a recap of projects and funding obtained:**

Montrose paved (Sayre to Forest Preserve) - \$345,000 from ARRA

New Comprehensive Plan, updated Zoning Codes and Re-Zoning - \$320,000 from FAA

Argyle and Ainslie streets paved - \$185,000 from CDBG

Sayre resurfaced (from Wilson to Montrose) - \$635,000 from ERP

2012 for Repaving planned - funded from ERP above

Streets and alleys are being evaluated and engineered for 2012 -

\$1.417 million from Capital Bill

Paving of Oak Park, scheduled upon completion of new water main -

\$435,000 from STP funding.

Bullet-proof vests for police - \$5,000 form ICGA

Updated computers, firearm training, street cameras and records management - \$300,000 from COPS Technology grant

New squad car - \$20,000 grant

Flood Detention on Leland from Oak Park to New England.

Scheduled for Spring of 2012 - \$810,000 from IKE grant

Sidewalk Replacement – This year we used MFT funding to replace the worst sidewalks throughout the Village. Next year we will be obtaining a \$100,000 DCEO grant for additional sidewalks. Please report any additional sidewalks that need replacement. They will be reviewed by our Publics Works department.

**Why paving and not storm sewers?** Each grant can only be used for specific projects. Grants for paving can only be used for paving, sidewalks for sidewalks and so forth. We will continue to pursue grants dedicated to storm water detention and similar projects as they become available through the county, state and federal grant agencies. We are committed to maintain and enhance the Village infrastructure. More improvements are targeted for 2012 following engineering and bid processes.

*On behalf of the Village Board and Staff,  
we wish you and your family a very  
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays  
and a Healthy New Year!*