



South Chicago Heights Newsletter

Incorporated in 1907

March 2008

Volume 17, Number 1

New police chief has 'wealth of experience'

William E. Joyce was appointed the Village's police chief in December, after serving for more than two years as public safety director. Joyce was a part-time South Chicago Heights police officer from 1994 to 2005.

"Chief Joyce brings an extensive knowledge of law enforcement and a wealth of experience to the job," said Mayor David L. Owen.

Joyce began his police career as a cadet with the Chicago Police Department. He joined the Chicago force in 1973 after his graduation at the top of his Chicago Police Academy class.

His experience with the Chicago department included assignments with tactical, criminal investigation and special investigations units and the detective division, as well as mayoral security detail.

As a Chicago officer, Joyce earned numerous awards for outstanding police work. He successfully completed Hostage Barricade and Terrorists Negotiation training, which was provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Northwestern Traffic Institute course.

While holding the public safety

director post, Joyce prepared the Village's Emergency Response Plan, coordinated the red light enforcement project (article on page 2), organized the Village Neighborhood Watch program, and increased the number of



Mayor David L. Owen congratulates William E. Joyce on his appointment as police chief.

certified Police Department officers. He also completed the Northwestern University Executive Management Program.

Joyce and his wife Diane have been married for 34 years. They have a son and two daughters, a grandson and are awaiting the birth of another grandchild.

Fire Department very busy in 2007

The Fire Department was busy in 2007, according to the Department's annual report.

Chief Al Ross reported that the Department responded to a total of 975 emergency calls during the 12-month period, an increase of 43 responses over the previous year.

Chief Ross said fire fighters answered 299 fire-related calls. "Fortunately, we had no fatalities and no major property loss due to fire," the chief said.

In addition to fire emergencies, the Department responded to 576 calls for ambulance service during 2007. Chief Ross said the Fire Department has trained, certified paramedics on duty round-the-clock, seven days a week.

Village fire fighters also were dispatched to help with 100 mutual aid fire or ambulance requests from neighboring communities last year.

More news inside

- Red traffic light enforcement by camera — on page 2
- Mandated sanitary sewer project update — on page 3

Intersection safety a priority

Cameras to record red traffic signal violations

Motorists Alert The Village is using red light enforcement cameras to record traffic signal violations at the intersection of 26th Street and Chicago Road.

The Village Board has authorized the installation, and the Illinois Department of Transportation has issued a permit for use of the cameras at that intersection. A Lombard firm, RedSpeed Illinois, will install the recording equipment at no cost to the Village.

The RedSpeed system operates like this: Sensors placed in the pavement activate cameras when a vehicle enters a traffic signal intersection during the red light cycle. Photographs and digital

video are taken of the vehicle and its license plate. Police officers review the images and then issue citations to violators.

“The 26th Street-Chicago Road intersection is a very busy intersection and a school crossing. The red light technology will help to protect our children, other pedestrians and motorists,” said William E. Joyce, Village police chief.

Joyce said there are two types of red light violations: entering an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red, and not coming to a complete stop while making a right turn at a traffic signal red light.

Installation of the equipment should be completed this month.



Mayor Owen honored

Mayor David L. Owen (on right) is presented the Police Athletic League of Illinois' Bishop Sheil Award in recognition of his many contributions to youth and 34 years of public service. Bestowing the award is Patrick Elwood, a news anchor with WFLD-TV Fox News Chicago, who served as master of ceremonies for the award program.

EVENTS & SERVICES CHECKLIST

✓ During this winter season there have been several heavy snowfalls. The Public Works Department is reminding residents that Village ordinance prohibits the parking of a vehicle on the street after a two-inch snowfall to allow plows to remove the snow. Vehicles must be moved until streets are plowed. Public Works can dispatch five trucks with plows to clean streets of snow. Residents are asked to cooperate with the no parking restriction.

✓ The Village operates a free Courtesy Car program with a six-passenger van equipped with a wheelchair lift. This program is available to residents who are unable to drive or have no means of transportation. Rides are provided for doctor's visits and other medical needs, to the grocery store or for other essential trips. Residents in need of a ride should phone the Village Hall at 755-1880 to arrange for the service. During 2007, the Village recorded 1,551 Courtesy Car rides. Since the program was established in 1999, residents have been provided more than 17,500 rides.

✓ A free senior citizens luncheon and bingo is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Senior Citizens Center. The event is open only to South Chicago Heights residents. Reservations are required; phone the Village Hall at 755-1880 to make a reservation.

✓ The Village is encouraging residents to become involved in the Neighborhood Watch program, in which citizens serve as eyes and ears for the safety of their neighborhoods. Dates for upcoming Neighborhood Watch meetings will be posted on the Senior Center signboard. As part of the Neighborhood Watch program, the Village will participate August 5 in the National Night Out Program. Details about this event will be forthcoming.

IN MEMORIAM

Anthony M. Capua, who served as a Village trustee for more than 16 years, died November 23.

Mr. Capua was first elected to the Board of Trustees in 1991. He won re-election to four more terms of office, most recently in the 2007 spring election. As trustee he served with distinction as the Village Board liaison to the Fire Department and the Village Beautification Committee. Mr. Capua, a Village resident for 50 years, enjoyed interacting with citizens and working for the betterment of the community.

Mayor David L. Owen issued a proclamation paying tribute to Mr. Capua for his devoted service to the Village. The mayor presented the proclamation to Mr. Capua's wife Theresa at a Village Board meeting.

Fire Association buying truck for Fire Department

The South Chicago Heights Fire Department Association is purchasing a 2008 Ford pickup truck for the Fire Department.

The pickup truck replaces a vehicle that has logged more than 130,000 miles. Fire Chief Al Ross said the new truck will be used to haul equipment to fire emergencies and will serve as the assistant fire chief's vehicle. The old vehicle being replaced will remain in service for use by fire fighters to attend specialty training schools, to respond to reports of hazardous materials and to investigate fire alarms.

Ross said the Fire Department Association is buying the Ford truck with proceeds from its fund-raising activities.



Santa comes to town

Youngsters had an opportunity to tell Santa Claus their gift wishes at the annual, Village-sponsored Breakfast With Santa. Smiling with Santa are Carley (left) and Ashley Haemker.

Support our troops



While our soldiers serve their country in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we ask that citizens back home show our full support for their bravery and patriotism. Please display the yellow ribbons that signify acknowledgment of what these troops are enduring.

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the Village Board, I extend our thanks to all who volunteered their time to help make the 2007 centennial celebration a success. In addition to wonderful 100th anniversary memories, we have the centennial clock standing outside the Senior Citizen Center to remind us why 2007 was a special year for our town.



David L. Owen

Below is an article about the sanitary sewer project that we have been required to undertake to comply with a Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District ordinance. The Village is aware that Sanitary District requirements create an inconvenience, and possibly a hardship, for residents. But the Village has no alternative to compliance. Residents who have questions or concerns about Thorn Creek Basin's ordinance may present them to the District's Board of Trustees, which holds a public meeting at 2 p.m. on the third Friday of the month at 700 West End Avenue in Chicago Heights.

Mandated sanitary sewer work moves forward

The Village has made progress in completing the initial phase of a major sanitary sewer project mandated by the Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District, which provides wastewater treatment services to South Chicago Heights and five other towns.

Starting last summer, the Village began cleaning sanitary sewer lines and conducting television inspection of the sanitary sewer system. South Chicago Heights has approximately 82,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer lines. So far, about 13,000 feet of the system have been cleaned and inspected, and 85% of manholes have been checked. The Village will need to make system repairs where necessary.

Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District is requiring that the Village undertake this project to comply with a Sanitary District ordinance that limits the amount of flow that infiltrates sanitary sewers during rainy weather.

In addition to sewer line work, the Village has been mandated to conduct inspections of all residential and commercial buildings to check if sump pump

systems are discharging illegally into sanitary sewer lines. Village employees have completed 1,100 inspections. The majority of homes and businesses that were inspected were found to either have no sump pumps or pumps that do not eject into sanitary sewer lines. The inspections are to be completed in March.

The initial phase of the sewer project already is costing the Village \$150,000. Ongoing sewer project work will continue for approximately 10 years.

The Sanitary District ordinance and mandate also impact on the other five municipalities that are served by the District.

Holiday decoration winners

The South Chicago Heights Beautification Committee has announced the winners of the 2007 holiday home decorating contest. They are: first place, William Pillman, 2805 Miller Avenue; second place, Jose Garcia, 3301 Lawrence Avenue; third place, Robert Christo, 3112 Helfred Avenue. The Village Beautification Committee sponsors the annual contest.



Officials wearing turn-of-the-century period costumes conduct a Village Board of Trustees meeting on Founders Day, one of the 2007 centennial events.

Year-long celebration of Village's 100th birthday

The Village celebrated the 100th anniversary of its incorporation with centennial events in 2007. "During our centennial year, the Village sponsored special events to both commemorate our town's history and for residents to enjoy our community's quality of life today," said Mayor David L. Owen.

Centennial activities included a Founders Day program, erection of a turn-of-the-century-style Village clock, a Homecoming festival and a Kiddie parade. The Village also made available a variety of centennial memorabilia. Residents interested in keepsakes such as heritage afghans, medallions, T-shirts, hats, coffee mugs and cookbooks may purchase these items at the Village Hall.



South Chicago Heights Village Hall

3317 Chicago Road
 P.O. Box 770
 South Chicago Heights, IL 60412
 708-755-1880 Fax: 708-755-1881

Mayor
 David L. Owen

Trustees
 Patrick J. DeFiore
 Araceli Marrufo
 Terry L. Matthews
 John M. Ross
 Michael J. Tilton

Village Clerk
 Melinda Villarreal

The Village newsletter is an informational publication provided as a community service to the citizens of South Chicago Heights.



Displayed are centennial items to be placed in a Village time capsule to be opened in 2057, fifty years after the 100th anniversary. From left, Mayor David L. Owen holds a framed mayor's letter to citizens of the future; James Leech, Centennial Committee cochairman, exhibits a keepsake mug, and Trustee Terry L. Matthews, Committee chairman, holds a cookbook. More memorabilia are in photo foreground.

U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Standard Rate
 Permit 547
 Chicago Heights, IL

Postal Customer South Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Village Directory	
<i>Police & Fire Emergency</i> 9-1-1	<i>Public Works</i> 755-7888
<i>Village Hall</i> 755-1880	<i>Code Enforcement</i> 755-1880
<i>Police Nonemergency</i> 754-7131	<i>Senior Citizen Center</i> 755-1880
<i>Fire Nonemergency</i> 755-9589	<i>Recreation Department</i> 755-1880