



# The Village Voice

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Machesney Park

## Residents Being Asked to Continue Road Repair Sales Tax

Roads in the Village have made an amazing comeback over the past 12 years as the results of the prior road referendum. Before 2008, Machesney Park residents frequently approached the Village Board asking when their streets would be repaired or resurfaced. At that time, the Village could only respond by telling residents that *"we are doing all that we can with the resources that are available to us."*

The Village heard residents' concerns and commenced a campaign to fix the roads in Machesney Park. Voters approved a 1% sales tax by referendum vote in 2008, and again in 2012. Since 2012, over 36 miles of roads have been repaired, reconstructed and resurfaced – which would not have been possible without the sales tax for roads. This tax has always been specifically used for roadway improvements throughout the Village. The Village annually updates an on-going priority list of road infrastructure projects called a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for its 130 miles of roadways. The CIP is a planning document to help guide the Village through its upcoming road projects. *(Continued on page 7)*



## The Importance of the 2020 U.S. Census

As 2020 approaches, communities nationwide are preparing for the Decennial U.S. Census. Machesney Park staff has provided a list of all household locations in the Village to the U.S. Census Bureau, and residents may have already noticed Census workers canvassing their neighborhoods to verify these addresses. If a resident is suspicious of anyone who claims to be a Census worker, they should note whether the individual has a Census-issued ID Badge and other items (*tablet, laptop, tote bag, etc.*) with United States Census Bureau identification visible.



In March of 2020, households will receive an invitation in the mail with instructions to complete their Census questionnaire online. The Census Bureau is hopeful all households will complete their questionnaire promptly. The Village would like to remind residents who may not have internet access at home that the public library has available computers with internet access, and the community is welcome to use these computers to complete their Census questionnaire during the hours the library is open. *(Continued on page 4)*



## Coronavirus Awareness



For information about the Coronavirus.

Visit the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

website at

<https://tiny.cc/coronavi>

or contact the IDPH hotline at

**1-800-889-3931.**

As of February 26th, 2020, there have been no cases of the Coronavirus confirmed in Winnebago County and only two cases reported in Illinois. Both Illinois patients have since been cleared of the virus.

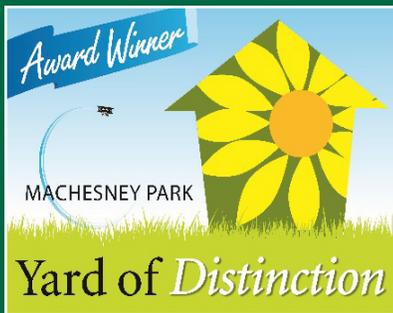
If you suspect that you have been exposed to the Coronavirus, please contact your doctor prior to going into urgent, immediate, or prompt care.



## Yard of Distinction Program Beautification for 2020

### Back again in 2020!

Machesney Park is sponsoring the Yard of Distinction Program. This program is an encouragement for all residents to spend extra time and energy to maintain and enhance a beautiful yard. Each month during the summer, a residential home in each district and one business will receive this distinction. Lawn signs will be awarded with each recognition. The sign can be permanently retained by the homeowner and displayed in successive years as the resident continues to participate in this beautification program.



Neighbors, relatives and passersby are encouraged to nominate a favorite yard. Please call Village Hall at 815-877-5432 or email Clerk Lori Mitchell at [lorim@machesneypark.org](mailto:lorim@machesneypark.org) to submit a nomination. Village Trustees will judge the submissions and winners will be announced at the second Board Meeting in June, July and August.

## Solicitors Must Have Permits

All persons, businesses and organizations wishing to solicit in the Village of Machesney Park for any money, funds or contributions are required to obtain a permit. Upon permit approval, commercial solicitors will be issued permanent ID cards and will need to keep them displayed at all times. Residents, if someone comes to your door to solicit and is not wearing one of these badges, please call the Non-Emergency Police at 815-282-2600 to report them. It is important that you call as soon as possible so that they can be located and directed to obtain the proper permit. Non-commercial and charitable organizations are not required to obtain a permit, but are required to abide by the Do Not Knock Registry addresses. All solicitors are prohibited from soliciting at any location listed on the "Do Not Knock Registry," or from any location with a sign posted prohibiting solicitation. If you would like your address to appear on the Do Not Knock Registry, please contact the Village Hall for a registry application.



## March 17, 2020 Primary Election Day

Winnebago County residents are encouraged to vote in the Spring Primary. Early voting in Winnebago County began on February 6 and will continue through March 16 at the Winnebago County Clerk's Office. Please visit their website at [www.winnebago-county-clerk.com](http://www.winnebago-county-clerk.com) to see the times you will be permitted to register on specific dates.

Several county offices are being contested during the 2020 Spring Primary Election including, State's Attorney, Board Chairman, County Board Seats, and Precinct Committee-persons. In addition, State and U.S. Senate and House seats and local initiatives are on the ballot.

On the Primary Election Day (**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**), please go to your regular polling place to vote. The polls are open from 6 am until 7 pm on that day.

## Village to Host Movie Nights This Summer

The Village Board has approved hosting free Movie Nights again this summer. Dates and movie selections are still being determined so please watch the Village's Facebook page for more information as summer approaches. We hope that residents take the opportunity to watch a free movie, enjoy popcorn, visit with our police and fire personnel, and enjoy a night under the stars.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

## TLC Opening Soon

The highly-anticipated opening of the 60-unit TLC assisted living facility is planned for mid-March. This residential complex has been designed for those who want to maintain their independence, but need help with some tasks. Each resident will have their own private apartment and on-call specialty health services will be available to those residents when they need it. A large dining area with a full commercial kitchen will be available where residents will be served meals. Each floor will have activity areas and common space – there's even a movie room and a salon in the building.

If you or your loved one is interested in leasing or would like to take a tour of the facility, stop by the leasing office immediately behind the assisted living facility at 8702 N. 2nd Street, or call (815) 242-2852 to arrange an appointment.



## Village to Implement New Software in 2020

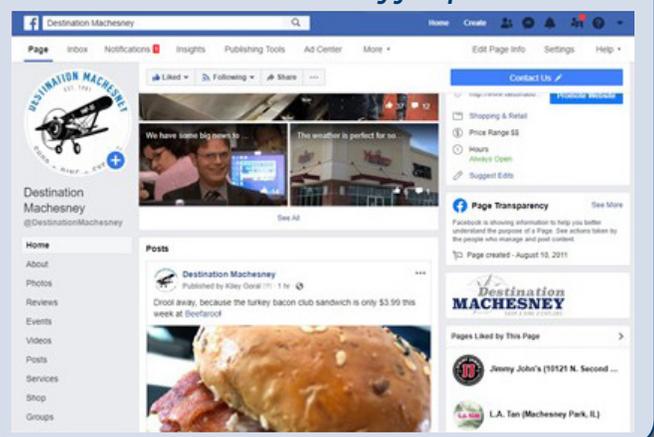
To increase efficiency and modernize the Building, Planning and Code Enforcement services of the Community Development Department, the Village has acquired new software. For nearly a year, staff researched available software providers and contacted Illinois municipalities for advice in order to determine the most reasonable and effective software program.

Following our research, the Village signed a service agreement with CitizenServe, who has been serving more than 300 municipalities across the United States for the past 16 years. CitizenServe provides a comprehensive community development e-government application that processes and tracks building permits, code enforcement cases, planning and zoning applications, and resident's service requests. CitizenServe will help to reduce staff time by nearly eliminating paperwork and outdated programs, and it will advance the quality and level of customer service to the public.

Beginning later this year, citizens, contractors, and developers will be able to apply for building permits, planning and zoning activities, public works permits, as well as file code enforcement complaints online.

Follow Destination Machesney on Facebook for information about new businesses, coupons and specials from local businesses.

Watch for contests offering great prizes!



# ZONING APPROVAL & REGULATING DEVELOPMENT

## “Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan” Nears Completion

The Village owns over 160 floodplain properties, which account for over 60 acres of land. These properties were acquired through our ongoing flood hazard mitigation efforts that began in 2011 and are possible thanks to grants from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Since the properties we acquired are in the floodplain, the areas are required to remain as open space. It has always been the Village’s intent to develop this land into a space for residents and visitors to enjoy nature and recreation.

The Village hired the engineering and environmental design firm Fehr Graham to help us draft a Park and Open Space Plan for this area, and for future floodplain areas the Village may acquire. This plan incorporates trails and paths, new parking areas, recreation areas, scenic overlooks and fishing spots along the Rock River.

An Open House to view and discuss the draft “Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan” will be held on Wednesday, April 1st, from 4:00p to 6:00p at Village Hall. This Open House will be advertised on the Village’s website and Facebook page and postcard invitations will be sent out to residents nearby the proposed park areas. Everyone is welcome to attend and provide input, and there is no charge to attend. Please call the Community Development Department with any questions you may have in advance of the Open House and make sure to check the Village website and social media for further Open House details.

**1** **Rock River Activity Area** - The Rock River is the main focus of the new park area. Activities that encourage interaction with the river are recommended along the entire length of the park shoreline. River viewing platforms, fishing access points, a shoreline walking path and seating areas are all items that are recommended to be located along the riverfront. It is recommended that this spot, located at the west point of the park, be home to a dual purpose fishing pier and observation platform that will serve as the initial river front feature of the park. Any feature along the river will need to be durable and constructed to withstand the flooding which will periodically inundate the area.

**2** **On Street Parking** - To provide for convenient parking for the proposed features of the park it is recommended that small (5-10) parking areas be added along Shore Drive in close proximity to these activities. The parking areas will be placed on the west side of the street to avoid conflict with the proposed recreation path. The parking areas will consist of nose in or parallel parking adjacent to the existing roadway dependent of the conditions of the available sites.

**3** **Park Drive/Recreation and Bicycle Path** - Shore Drive currently serves as the main circulation route through the new park area and is recommended to continue in that function. It will serve as the main park drive as it will connect the proposed features of the park. In addition to moving cars through the area, it is recommended that Shore Drive also be utilized to provide a recreation path corridor through the park. This recreation path would provide a direct connection to the Rock River Recreation Trail and points south and would align to connect to Williams Park and points north. To provide a safe path of travel for both pedestrian and bicycle users with limited conflicts with car traffic, an 8' min. width designated recreation path with path trail markings is recommended to be added to the east side of the street.

Excerpt from the draft Parks and Open Space Plan

## The Importance of the 2020 U.S. Census

(Continued from page 1)

If any households have not completed their Census questionnaire online by April, they can expect to receive a reminder letter in the mail, along with a paper questionnaire that can be completed and mailed in. Those who have not completed their census questionnaires on-line or through the mail by the end of April, 2020, will receive an in-person visit at their home by a Census Enumerator.

Accurate population counts gathered during the U.S. Census are important for a number of reasons. These population numbers help determine where federal funding is allocated towards communities, schools, hospitals and roads. Businesses use these numbers to help decide where to locate new restaurants and shopping centers. In addition, the population counts determine representation at all government levels, from the location of Village Trustee districts, to allocating seats in Springfield, and determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Village is counting on its residents to respond to the 2020 Census so that we can obtain a complete count of our Village population. Census information also helps us to attract new businesses and restaurants to the Village.

**We ask that all households complete the questionnaire soon after receiving the instructions in the mail, in March.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**



# CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

***The Village provides many essential government services that residents rely upon every day, but did you know that there are many services provided by other area government agencies?***

For your reference, below is a list of the local government service providers and partner agencies in our area. Please note that this is not a comprehensive listing of all government agencies, nor does this include all of their responsibilities. If there is a service you have questions about that is not listed below, please feel free to contact Village Hall and we will do our best to address it or connect you with the right person who can help you. The Village strives to provide residents with the highest quality service in the most efficient manner. The municipal government agencies listed below are dedicated to serving you:

### ***Machesney Park Code Enforcement (815) 877-5432***

The Code Enforcement Division handles Zoning code violations (*such as signs, fences, land uses, and nuisances*); tall grass and weeds; abandoned and vacant property; garbage can placement and removal; construction without permits; exterior property maintenance issues; exterior garbage storage and clutter.

### ***Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept. for Machesney Park (815) 282-2600***

The Machesney Park Division of the Sheriff's Department provides public safety services to Village residents. In addition to enforcing traffic laws and investigating crimes, the Department also is in charge of enforcing snow emergency parking rules, public and private property motor vehicle parking regulations (*inoperable vehicles, street parking violations, parked on front lawn*), and nuisance noise complaints. If you have an emergency, contact 911, but in all other cases, you can contact the Sheriff's Department at their non-emergency phone number.

### ***Winnebago County Health Dept. – Neighborhood Environmental (815) 720-4100***

The County Health Department is in charge of unsanitary living conditions, over occupancy, substandard and/or unsafe housing, insect and/or rodent infestation, lead based paint, and wells and septic issues.

### ***Winnebago County Animal Services (815) 319-4100***

The County's Animal Services oversees domestic animal registration and responds to calls regarding animals running at large, animal welfare checks, and dangerous and vicious dog concerns.

### ***Machesney Park Public Works Dept. (815) 877-5432***

The Village's Public Works Department is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all physical assets owned by the Village. This includes maintaining all Village streets, parks, stormwater systems, and traffic signals.

### ***North Park Public Water (815) 633-5461***

North Park Public Water provides over 12,000 households and businesses with over 20 million gallons of clean water per day. North Park Public Water District is a unit of government separate from the Village. Please contact North Park Public Water with any issues or concerns about the public water supply.

### ***Rock River Reclamation District (815) 387-7400***

The Rock River Reclamation District is responsible for managing public wastewater for those not currently using a septic system. The Reclamation District maintains over 1,100 miles of sewers that carry wastewater from residents and businesses to treatment plants where the water is cleaned and treated.

### ***Rock River Disposal (815) 965-2489***

Rock River Disposal ensures that all forms of solid waste are removed and processed in an efficient and safe manner that is respectful of the environment. Contact Rock River Disposal to sign-up for garbage service or to inquire upon service issues (*missed pick-ups, etc.*).



## **Property Maintenance Reminders**

### **LONG GRASS / WEEDS**

All grasses and weeds must be consistently maintained to a height of not more than 7 inches throughout the growing season. This includes mowing and trimming overgrown flower beds and all other areas.

### **BURNING**

Spring controlled yard waste burning is approved only between April 1st and April 30th (*Fall burning is November 1st - 30th*). Curbside leaf vacuuming is scheduled to begin in April, as well as curbside pick-up of yard waste in designated yard waste bags or in containers clearly marked with an "X".

### **GARBAGE**

Garbage must be stored in an area outside of the front yard and in an approved container with a tight-fitting lid. Please do not store garbage outside in bags.



# FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES



## **Budget**

The Village Board is currently compiling the Budget for the fiscal year May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021. A public hearing will be held on April 6 at 5:55 pm and a copy of the proposed budget will be available for viewing in the Village clerk's office or on the Village's website <https://machesneypark.org> starting March 27th.

## **Village Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fourth Consecutive Year**

The Village was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fourth consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Last year only 1,100 municipalities in the United States were awarded this designation and only 89 in Illinois. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communication device. The Village remains open and transparent regarding your finances. Please feel free to view the budget document on the Village's website <https://machesneypark.org/departments/finance-human-resources/>

## **Flood Buyout Update**

The Village submitted two flood-buyout grants to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) in October 2019 and we have received confirmation that both applications have been forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. If we receive either of the grants, this would help us to continue the buy-out program. The Village should know by July of this year whether or not we have been awarded funding. Please keep in mind that the Village is competing with agencies across the nation, so there are no guarantees. However, if we are successful in being approved, a grant agreement will need to be signed by IEMA and the Village Board, which could take until December 2020. Thereafter, the Village will contact eligible homeowners to advise of a timeline.

Also, with the March 2019 flood being declared a disaster, IEMA has started accepting pre-applications for consideration of additional flood buyout grant funding, which the Village has completed. By April we should know whether we can submit a full grant application, which would then be due by June 1, 2020. IEMA would then submit to FEMA in September and we should hear by December 2020 whether funding is awarded for that program.

For those that have provided notices of voluntary interest, the Village understands how frustrating it can be to wait for responses. Village staff is meeting the deadlines and applying for as much funding as we are able to. If you have any questions or would like more information on the buyout program, please visit the Village website <https://machesneypark.org/voluntary-flood-buyout-program/> or contact Michelle Johannsen, 815-877-5432, [michellej@machesneypark.org](mailto:michellej@machesneypark.org).

# UPDATES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

## **Public Works Reminders**

- ✓ Yard waste is only allowed to be burned during the months of April and November.
- ✓ Yard waste may be disposed of by placing it at the curb in brown yard waste bags or a garbage cans on garbage day marked with an "X", from April 15th to December 15th.
- ✓ Residents are encouraged to refrain from discharging or disposing of grass clippings into the roadway. These materials can clog storm drains and introduce pollutants to the Village's waterways. Discharging or dumping of any material into a Village roadway is a violation of Village ordinance and could be subject to penalties and fines.
- ✓ Construction on any driveway also requires a permit.
- ✓ A permit is required for any work done within the right-of-way, which is the area between your property line and the public street. This includes digging, trenching, or the installation of trees.
- ✓ An erosion and sediment control permit is required for any project that disturbs more than 100 square feet of dirt. Soil erosion and sedimentation are major contributors to waterway pollution. Sediment runoff can clog pipes and pollute ponds, lakes and wetlands. The Village requires that an erosion control plan be approved and maintained throughout a construction project. A fine for non-compliance can be a minimum of \$250 to \$750 a day for a property found in violation of this ordinance.
- ✓ Please report potholes or any other issue they may see on the roadway to the Machesney Park Public Works Department by calling Village Hall at (815) 877-5432.
- ✓ The Village will be contracting with Clarke Mosquito this year for the treatment of mosquitoes. If you have any questions about the treatment or control of mosquitoes, please contact Clarke Mosquito at (800) 942-2555 or visit their website at [www.clarke.com](http://www.clarke.com).
- ✓ Please remain alert when driving and slow down when driving past public works crews doing work within or near our roadways.



# UPDATES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

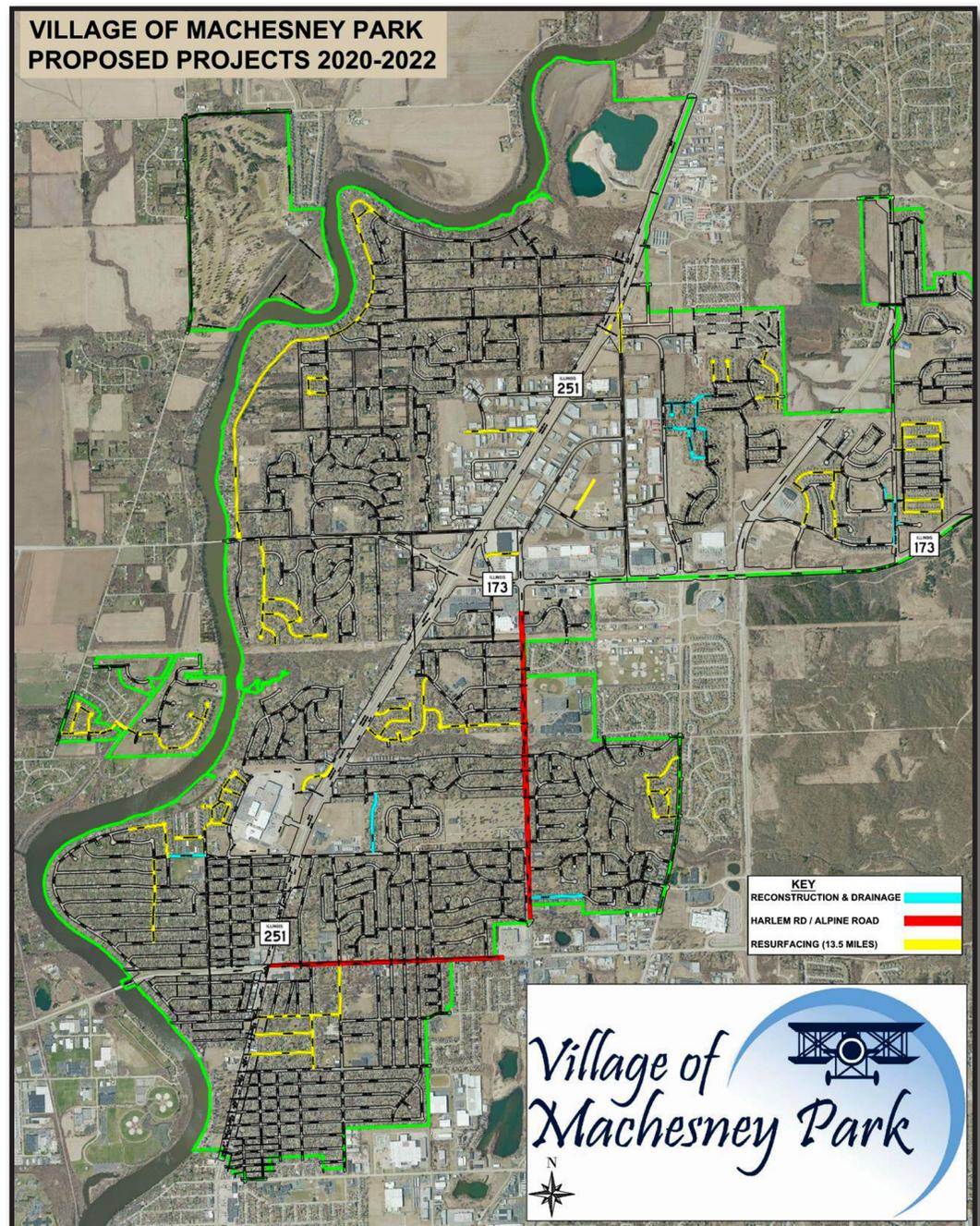
## Residents Being Asked to Continue Road Repair Sales Tax

(Continued from page 1)

The Village ensures that quality contractors are selected to build and resurface roads through the public bidding process. Village staff is confident that residents are getting good value for these roadway projects, but the process of maintaining a roadway system is cyclical. The Public Works Department has documented the average life-span for asphalt resurfacing typically ranges from 10 to 12 years, and this life-span can vary depending upon the amount of traffic and severity of the freeze thaw cycle a road endures over time.

On March 17th, voters will be asked to extend the 1% sales tax in Machesney Park for the purpose of funding on-going road improvements. This will not be a new tax to people who shop in the Village and will only be collected on retail and restaurant purchases, but not on groceries, medicine, and titled vehicles. The sales tax for roads is paid by everyone who shops in Machesney Park, whether or not they are a resident. The revenue is used as a “pay as you go” method of paying for roads with no interest or other expenses added to the tax. If the Village was going to borrow money upfront, then we would need to pay it back with interest, which raises the costs. The existing tax provides a consistent and stable revenue source to pay for road repairs, and best of all, its contributed to by non-residents who shop in the Village.

If you have any questions regarding the sales tax for roads referendum, please call the Village Hall at (815) 877-5432.



# PUBLIC SAFETY



## How to avoid being a victim of a property crime

Residential burglaries literally hit close to home. Fortunately, Machesney Park does not experience a significant number of property crimes each year, but it is always good to take whatever steps you can to prevent crime. There is almost nothing more personal than having one's home, and one's privacy, invaded by an unwelcome outsider.

### Here's what a burglar looks for when "shopping" for a home:

- ✓ **A home that looks unoccupied.** If you are going to be away from your home for awhile, set a few lights on timers and leave a TV or radio on. Also, have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers or stop mail and paper deliveries.
- ✓ **Secluded homes.** Make sure hedges do not block windows. Keep your blinds open when you are away. At night, use outside motion sensor lighting to see what's going on around the perimeter of the home.
- ✓ **Alarms** - Is there an alarm in the home? If a burglar eyes an alarm company sign or stickers, he'll usually think twice about striking that home.
- ✓ **Your schedule** - Most residential burglaries take place during work hours, because often homes are unoccupied during these hours.
- ✓ **Your trash** - Make sure the new box from the new 60" TV is not prominently displayed on the curb, awaiting trash pickup. Cut up the box and put it in your recycling bin.
- ✓ **Open garage doors** - Make sure your garage doors are locked. Not only are cars and expensive yard equipment kept in the garage, but also the tools a burglary may use to gain entry to your home.
- ✓ **Dogs** - Burglars don't like dogs. Even small dogs, with big barks, make a home a little less attractive to burglars. **Remember:** criminals don't like witnesses, and they don't like noise.
- ✓ **Unlocked doors and windows** - Always keep doors and windows locked even if you are at home. Opening a door or window makes a lot less noise than breaking glass. Drill and pin your windows: window locks can be jimmied; pins cannot.
- ✓ **Spare keys** - Where is the spare key? Burglars know all the secret hiding spots.
- ✓ **Unlocked cars** - Whether your car is in your garage, driveway, or on the street, always make sure to keep the doors locked and windows closed, especially at night. Try not to make a habit of leaving cash or other valuables in plain sight inside your car – these make for easy targets.

**Make sure to keep these safety tips in mind to prevent crime and make sure to call the Sheriff's Department at 815-282-2600 if you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood.**

## 2020 Village of Machesney Park President and Board of Trustees



**Steve Johnson**  
Village President/Mayor



**Joe Seipts**  
Trustee - District 1



**Jake Schmidt**  
Trustee - District 2



**James Kidd**  
Trustee - District 3



**Aaron Wilson**  
Trustee - District 4



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**Erick Beck**  
Trustee - District 6