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Village of Summit, IL.

Fall, 2023

Founded in 1890

A Village on the Rise

# THE SUMMIT



## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ

Where has the summer gone? This summer seems to have just flew by. I hope everyone had time to enjoy it with friends and family. As families get back to their school routine, please remember to slow down and be patient.

We have several projects underway, including our **50/50 sideway program** and the **paving of four alleys**. These projects should be completed by the end of September.

I would like to express my gratitude to Chief **Wayne Hanson** and Deputy Chief **Frank Batura** for their years of keeping the residents of Summit safe. Their years of experience and knowledge will be missed, as well as their commitment to the job. I wish them a long and enjoyable

retirement spending time with their love ones. I'm sure we will see them from time to time at the firehouse checking in on the firefighters. It will forever be their second home. **I'm looking forward to working with our new Fire Chief, Tony Anderson, in continuing to provide the best service to our residents.**



The viaduct under the IHB tracks turns 43 years old this Labor Day. Read more about it on **page 6**. Picture from "Images of America: Summit"



## FIRE CHIEF HANSON AND DEPUTY BATURA SAY GOODBYE AFTER SUCCESSFUL TENURE



Both men have combined to served the Village of Summit for more than 65 years.

Read our in-debt profiles on **page 5**.

**FROM ALL OF US AT THE VILLAGE OF SUMMIT, THANK YOU!**

## VILLAGE TO COMPLETE FOUR MORE ALLEYS

The Village of Summit will undergo construction of **four more alleys — three of which green alleys —** beginning this month. The project was made possible by **Mayor Rodriguez and the Village Board securing a \$400,000 grant** late last year through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) Green Infrastructure Program. See **ALLEYS**, page 6.



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### Newsletter timelines:

- January - Winter Edition
- March - Spring Edition
- May - Summer Edition
- August - Fall Edition



The Official Publication of the Village of Summit



Office phone: 563-4807

Email: [clambert@summit-il.org](mailto:clambert@summit-il.org)

## SENIORS: LEAVE THE LEAVES FOR US!

The Village is gathering names and addresses for our Annual Senior Service Fall Project! The Village is proud to partner with community groups to offer at no cost a leaf raking program. If you are older than 65, and are interested, please complete the following information and mail or drop off by November 1<sup>ST</sup> to: Strzelczyk Municipal Center, 7321 W. 59<sup>TH</sup> Street, Summit, IL 60501

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

You Must provide proof that you are over 65 years old and the homeowner of the property):

ADDITIONAL NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



## CAPTAIN TONY ANDERSON APPOINTED NEW FIRE CHIEF

When **Tony Anderson** returned home to Summit upon serving nearly three years in the Navy at Mayport Naval Base in Florida, he reacquainted with an old classmate from Argo High School. As Anderson was trying to map out his next steps, his friend — who was then a firefighter with the department — told him that the **Summit Fire Department** was hiring and encouraged him to apply because of his experience as a member of the fire team while in the Navy. Anderson soon met with former Chief John Nemeth, a legend at the department in his own right, and was hired on the spot.

Now, after 28 years of service to the fire department, Captain Anthony Anderson has been appointed as its new fire chief, replacing retiring chief **Wayne Hanson**.

Anderson — who grew up on the 7500 block and 62nd Place and attended Graves Elementary — said that his goal was always to become fire chief of his hometown and he is very humbled at the honor to serve.

"While this job may not be for some people, it's in my blood," Anderson said. "I am very much goal oriented and if you tell me I can't do something, I'm going to go out and do it and do it well. I love helping people and this new role is a new way for me to continue that mission."

Anderson noted that one of his main priorities as chief is to continue building upon the strong connection the department has with the community. He plans for the department to attend even more community events and adopt more outreach initiatives.

"You will be seeing a lot more of us in the community," Anderson said. "I want the department to be known as a place where anyone can go to for services."

Anderson also stressed the importance of continuing strong intergovernmental relationships not only with the Village, but other surrounding departments as well. Being a town of only about 11,000 people, pulling together resources is paramount.

"We've always had a strong relationship with **Mayor Rodriguez** and the rest of the Village Board and I will continue that," Anderson said. "I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to them as well my loving wife Myriam and family."

Anderson said that his experience of more than two-decades and relationships he has built with other civil servants helps give him the confidence to succeed. He is extremely excited to take on the challenge and will always have the community's best interest at heart.

"My heart is in this department," Anderson said. "Even as captain, my priority has always been to protect this town and I'm going to do whatever it takes to make sure the people are taken care of. That will never change."



## Mel Ortiz, Interim Police Chief

As we near the end of summer, we must be aware that schools will start up again soon. **Please be aware of kids walking to school in the morning and home in the afternoon.** Also watch out for kids while driving through town and be aware of any suspicious persons in the area when kids are out and about. This all may sound repetitive but the safety of our kids is worth repeating.

**Catalytic converter thefts** remain an issue, not only for our community but also for every municipality in the region. While the thefts may be distressing to those affected, our bigger concern for our community is the safety of our residents. The people involved in these thefts are very brazen by committing these acts in broad daylight. If you see something suspicious, we ask that you do not approach these persons. They have been known to be armed and reckless in their actions. **Please call 911 and provide police as much information as possible without exposing yourself to harm.**

## Jerry Rosales, Superintendent of Public Works

Summer is on its way out and fall will soon arrive. Public Works will continue to patch potholes, clean out sewers, take care of parkways, and main breaks. Grass cutting, street light maintenance, street sweeping, and alley grading will all continue throughout the fall. **Please report any street light outages or missing signs to 708-563-4809.**

### FALL CLEANLINESS

In preparation for the colder months ahead, we will continue addressing the rodent problem. Maintenance is a good way to keep rodents from coming back. Cleaning up after dogs is very important and continues to be an issue. Please be a good neighbor and clean up after your pet.



Let's continue to use the good weather to clean up yards and garages, any overgrown grass and weeds, and continue maintaining and prepping our homes. **If you need an additional garbage tote please reach out to request one at 708-563-4809.** Please continue to maintain homes and keep properties free of debris including any abandoned vehicle or parts, industrial or work supplies wood, scrap metal, etc. Our code enforcement officer will be out and residents will be fined if properties are not maintained.

### YARD WASTE

Yard waste will continue to be picked up until **Friday, December 1st, 2023.** Please make sure to place your yard waste in containers no bigger than 30 gallons or 50lbs. **Do not rake or blow the leaves into the streets or sewers.** It becomes a problem with the rain. Residents caught raking or blowing them into the streets will be fined. Also be aware that if paper recycling bags are being used keep the weight and moisture at a limit so bags won't rip. Branches must be cut down to 3 feet and tied together in bushels for pickup. **Yard waste, as well as garbage pickup, should be out by 6AM on Friday — preferably on Thursday night.**

### WEATHER REMINDERS

We ask you to please be mindful of the signs posted through the community regarding parking. To have efficient and safe plowing, parking should be as close to the curb as possible. Please be aware of any fire hydrants that may get buried due to snow or plowing and help keep them clean and visible for our fire department. Our plow operators are instructed to work with our residents.

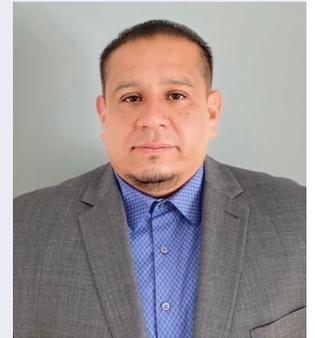
**During heavy snowfall our main objective is to clear streets for emergency vehicles and the motoring public.** Residents should also prepare their homes from the cold winter months. Weather proofing your home is highly recommended to prevent drafts as well as pipes freezing. A few ways to prevent freezing pipes is to insulate the pipes, keep the heat on, have the faucet drip slightly and keep cabinets open where pipes are. If they do happen to freeze, use a blow dryer and never use fire.

We would also like to remind everyone that there is a **drug depository box** inside the lobby of the police department. If you have any unused medications at home, you can dispose of them by dropping them in the secure box in the lobby. Do not throw them away in the garbage or flush them into the water systems.

As a reminder, you can see any updates and access information through our website at **summitcrimewatch.com.**



**Office phone: 563-4830**  
**Anonymous Tip Hotline: 563-8100**  
**Email: [mortiz124@summitpd.net](mailto:mortiz124@summitpd.net)**



**Office phone: 563-4800**  
**Email: [jrosales@summit-il.org](mailto:jrosales@summit-il.org)**

# Tony Anderson, Fire Chief

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle, or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school.

## WALKERS

- Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child;
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic;
- Before you cross the street, stop, and look left, right, and left again to see if cars are coming;
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections;
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking.

## BIKE RIDERS

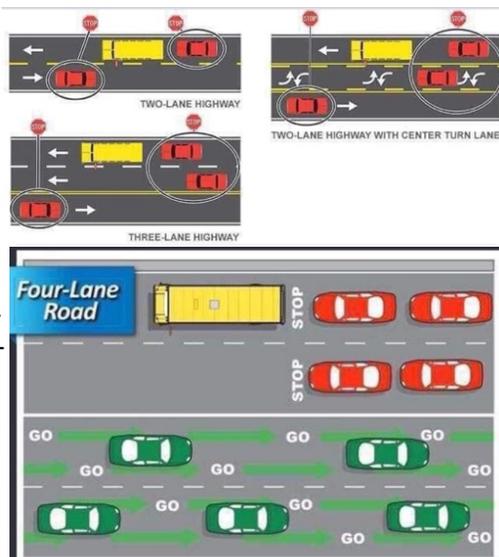
- Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child;
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in single file.
- Stop completely before crossing the street;
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding;
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing.

## BUS RIDERS

- Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them;
- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus;
- Teach your children to stand **6 feet** away from the curb;
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are **10 feet ahead** of the bus;
- Get the facts on bus safety from **Injury Facts**.

## DRIVING YOUR KID TO SCHOOL

- **Stay alert** and avoid distracted driving;
- Obey school zone **speed limits** and follow your school's drop-off procedure;
- Make **eye contact** with children who are crossing the street;
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children;
- The area **10 feet around** a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Stop



far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus.

## TEEN DRIVERS

- Car crashes are the **number one cause of death for teens**;
- Teens crash because they are inexperienced. Practice with new drivers every week, before and after they get their license;
- Set a good example by driving the way you want your teen to drive;
- Sign the **New Driver Deal**, an agreement that helps define expectations for parents and teens.



Office phone: 594-3894

Email: [tanderson@summitfire.net](mailto:tanderson@summitfire.net)

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS



### If you're dropping off

Schools often have very specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. The following apply to all school zones:

- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.

### Sharing the road with young pedestrians

According to research by the National Safety Council, **most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old while they're walking**. They are hit by the bus or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic. In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection. Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas. Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way.

## **DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF FRANK BATURA CAPS OFF A 57-YEAR CAREER**

If you grew up in the Village of Summit, it is likely that you have crossed paths with **Frank Batura** at some point in your life. Born and raised on the block of 7200 and 61st Place — where he still lives in the very same house he grew up in — Batura joined the Summit Police Department at the youthful age of sixteen. Now, after 57-years at the department, he has decided to (finally) call it a career.

“It has been an honor and privilege serving the residents and administrations of Summit since 1966,” Batura wrote in his resignation letter. “My intentions have always been to perform to the best of my abilities for the residents and members of the Summit Fire Department. Unfortunately, I have come to the realization that my best intentions may no longer be adequate.”

A proud graduate of Graves Elementary and Argo Community High School, Batura noted he always wanted to be a firefighter since he was a boy. In his early years, Batura said he used to push a little red wagon filled with water and a self-created hose down the alleys of Summit pretending to extinguish fake fires. Returning home serving the country in the Vietnam war, Batura joined the department in 1966.

“It’s something I’d always had a passion for,” Batura said. “There was never a moment where I didn’t think this line of work was for me.”

The Summit Fire Department was a very different place in the 1960s. Back then, most of the firefighters served on a voluntary basis and received small compensation only once a year, typically at the department’s annual Christmas party. Alerts for fires were only communicated via whistle and telephone and it was common for most residents to hear about a fire in the town due to the smalltown vibe.

“The biggest change or difference I’ve seen throughout my time here at the department is that people will never know how the fire service here us to be,” Batura said. “What I mean by that is that back then, whenever we received a call, the whole town knew about it. Everybody knew everybody and the department was extremely tight because we were a volunteer fire department and you needed to be a [Summit] resident in order to even serve.”

Batura contributes much of his success to his loving wife Lori of 47-years, who he considers the bedrock of his life, where the two met at Argo Bowl in the 1970s. With his retirement, Frank said the two plan to spend more time with their grandchildren.

“I would like to be known as someone who worked hard, did a good job and served the community to the best of my ability,” Batura said. “I will truly miss this job and coming to the fire house every day. It’s like losing a family member.”

## **FIRE CHIEF WAYNE HANSON TO RETIRE AFTER 8 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Upon capping off a successful career as the Assistant Fire Chief at the Village of Bedford Park in 2014, **Wayne Hanson** thought his days of public service had come to an end. Then, the Village of Summit came knocking.

The Department at the time were undergoing managerial and structural challenges and did not technically have a chief at the time. They needed a veteran to help lead the department. As a Summit native who grew up on the 7500 block of 62nd Street and someone who had developed a strong intergovernmental relationship with the Village from his time with neighboring Bedford Park, Wayne Hanson was the perfect fit.

Although Hanson joined the department as chief in 2014, his roots with it stretches well before then. As early as the age of 17, Hanson used to run ambulance calls for the Summit Fire Department while also assisting with the police radio desk.

Under Hanson’s leadership, the Department secured new equipment and fire house upgrades, including a new half-a-million dollar fire engine in 2018, a patio area where firefighters can congregate, fire house garage, and radios for all firefighters to better communicate. Hanson also helped broker an intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Summit and the Village of Bedford Park.

“We have a great repour with the Village, they are fantastic,” Hanson said. “Our partnerships are important because it better helps us protect and keep this town safe.”

As he prepares to embark on his next endeavor, Hanson noted that he would like to be remembered as someone who was collaborative and willing to work with everyone to achieve a common goal for the better of the community.

“I’m not the type of person where it’s my way or the highway when making a decision,” Hanson said. “I understand that I may not always be the smartest person in the room and because of that I always like to take everyone’s advice and filter it so I can make the best choice for the department. We made several improvements and I hope the department will continue moving forward.”



# HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

## Historical Spotlight

The construction of the viaduct on **South Archer Road under the IHB tracks** was completed on Labor Day in 1940. Prior to the project, the IHB crossing of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Archer Avenue was filled with traffic congestion due to the location of the IHB tracks. The viaduct helped ease north and southbound traffic without disrupting the east/west travel flow of the railroad. Additionally, the Village of Bedford Park was incorporated that same year — with the viaduct connecting, separating and establishing a strong relationship between the two municipalities for years to come.



# ALLEYS

FROM PAGE 1

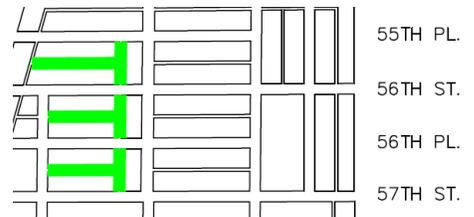
## Community Focus



This will be the third time the Village has been awarded such a grant and will have installed **a total of seven green alleys dating back to 2019**. This year marks the most green alleys the Village will construct in a single calendar year.

“We are extremely excited to begin three more of these projects because of the long-term benefit it will bring to the Village,” **Mayor Rodriguez** said. “Not only is infrastructure improvement always a plus, but these types of alleys have a dual benefit in potential flood mitigation. As we have seen last month with all the raining and flooding, it is apparent the Village must continue undergoing these types of projects. We have many alleys here but the more we construct, the better.”

Green alleys are considered environmentally friendly infrastructure because of their specific characteristics. While conventional alleys are made up of concrete where storm water ends up flowing to the sewer system, green alleys include permeable pavements that allow storm water to better filter into the ground, helping to mitigate potential sewer backup.



The green **three alleys** slated for construction this year are located at **55th Pl, 56th Pl, and 57th St**. The **fourth**, non-green alley will be located at **61st Pl and 62nd St**. The project is expected to be completed by the end of September.

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Communities across the country held their annual **National Night Out** event earlier this month to help promote, foster, and build upon police-community partnerships. Here in Summit, the event was hosted by the Village of Summit, Summit Police Department and Summit Park District.

“We look forward to National Night Out every year,” said Interim **Police Chief Mel Ortiz**. “It allows us to interact with our community on a more personal and relaxed manner.”

The family-focused event included food, giveaways and a K9 demonstration from the department’s newest member, K9 Bryan. There was also a bounce house and dunk tank where kids could play and have fun.



“The interaction with kids is most crucial to me,” Chief Ortiz said. “I want kids to look at our officers as someone they can go to if they are in need of assistance — to get away from the fear that some parents instill by telling them that if they don’t begave the police will take them away. The youth of our community need to know that we are always here for them.”

**You can view more pictures of the event on our website at [summit-il.org](http://summit-il.org).**

## PARKERS HONORED AT WHITE HOUSE BY PRESIDENT BIDEN

Summit's very own **Rev. Wheeler Parker Jr.** and **Trustee Dr. Marvel Parker** were honored at the White House by **President Joe Biden** late July for the signing of the proclamation to establish the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument in Illinois and Mississippi.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Marvel Parker and the Desplaines Valley News

## SUMMIT BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



### June 5, 2023

- Approved an ordinance to purchase three new police vehicles;
- Approved Resolution 23-R-04 to authorize an inter-governmental agreement between Summit and the MWRD for the Permeable Paver Intersection Reconstruction Project.

### June 20, 2023

- Approved an intergovernmental relationship between the Village of Summit and the Summit Park District for Independence Day festivities on July 2nd;
- Approved the 2023 HMA Patching program;
- Approved the 2023 Green Alley Program;
- Approved 2023 CDBG Alley Improvement;
- Approved an ordinance amending consequences for noise in the Village.

### July 17, 2023

- The Official 2023 Zoning Map of the Village as approved by the Village Board;
- A block party on the 7500 block of 61st Street was approved for Saturday, August 5th;
- Argo Community High School Homecoming Parade was approved for Saturday, September 9th;
- An Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and CMAP was approved for grant readiness.
- **Jose Rodriguez** and **Miguel Pacheco** were both sworn in and approved as new police candidates. "I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the police department," Pacheco said. "Being selected to serve this town is an honor," Rodriguez said. "I'm excited to see what happens next in the future." They are set to attend the Cook County Police & Sheriffs Academy for training.
- Officer **Kevin Janettas** was promoted to Sergeant.



## Trick or Treat

1:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st



## WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

### Federal Officials

<b>Senator Dick Durbin</b>	230 S. Dearborn Street Suite 3892 Chicago, IL 60604	(312) 353 4952
<b>Senator Tammy Duckworth</b>	230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3900 Chicago, IL 60604	(312) 886-3506
<b>Congressman Chuy Garcia</b>	4376 S Archer Ave Chicago, IL 60632	(773) 475-0833

### State Officials

<b>Senator Mike Porfirio</b>	6215 West 79th Street STE 1A Burbank, IL 60459	(708) 430-2510
<b>State Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid</b>	6901 W. Cermak Road Berwyn, IL 60402	(708) 956-7563

### County

<b>Commissioner Frank Aguilar</b>	7833 Ogden Lyons, IL 60534	(708) 447-5461
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## Township Clerk's Office Offers Vast Array of Public Services

The Clerk's office is committed to helping our community members gain access to public services and by providing resources through problem solving. We're proud to offer the following public services:

- Temporary handicap placards;
- Free notary services;
- Driving classes for seniors;
- Workshops on technology for seniors;
- A Repair Café to help you fix things and keep them out of the trash;
- Shred days twice a year.

New events pop up every month so please consider joining our mailing list at <https://lyontownshipil.gov/>

Elyse Hoffenberg  
Lyons Township Clerk  
ehoffenberg@lyonsts.com  
(708) 482-8300

6404 Joliet Rd, Countryside.



**VILLAGE OF SUMMIT**  
**Strzelczyk Municipal Center**  
**7321 W. 59<sup>TH</sup> Street**  
**Summit, IL 60501**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of month: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Summit Village Hall (708) 563-4800  
Village Clerk (708) 563-4807

**FOR SERVICES CALL:**

Emergency 911  
Police Department non-emergency (708) 563-4830  
Fire Department non emergency (708) 594-3894  
Public Works Department (708) 563-4809  
Water / Sewer Billing (708) 563-4817

**OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR** **SERGIO RODRIGUEZ**  
**CLERK** **COLLEEN LAMBERT**

**TRUSTEES**

Setki "Sam" Dardovski Marvel Parker  
Sonia Ponce Lorena Manriquez  
Mayra Ortiz Aurora Rodriguez

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



**WEBSITES TO KNOW**

Summit Park District  
[www.summitparks.org](http://www.summitparks.org)

Summit Public Library District  
[www.summitlibrary.info](http://www.summitlibrary.info)

Cook School District 104  
[www.sd104.us](http://www.sd104.us)

Argo Community High School District 217  
[www.argohs.net](http://www.argohs.net)

Township of Lyons  
[www.lyonstownshipil.gov](http://www.lyonstownshipil.gov)

Illinois Department of Public Health  
[www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**September 2<sup>ND</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor

**September 9<sup>TH</sup>:** Argo High School Homecoming Parade

**September 15<sup>TH</sup>:** Neighborhood Watch Meeting

**September 18<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting - Village Hall

**October 2<sup>ND</sup>:** Village Board Meeting - Village Hall

**October 7<sup>TH</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor

**October 16<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting - Village Hall

**October 20<sup>TH</sup>:** Neighborhood Watch Meeting

**October 31<sup>ST</sup>:** Trick-or-Treating 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**November 4<sup>TH</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor

**November 6<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting - Village Hall

**November 20<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting - Village Hall