

Village of Summit, IL.

Fall, 2024

Founded in 1890

A Village on the Rise

THE SUMMIT



FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ

As summer draws to a close, the excitement of a new school year fills the air. Students are eager to reconnect with friends, meet new classmates, and embark on fresh adventures. Whether it's exploring a new classroom, learning from a new teacher, or joining a sports team or club, there's plenty to look forward to. Especially here in the Village.

Our community is making strides in **infrastructure improvements**. The Village has secured funding to help partially replace the **pedestrian bridge** on 59th St. & 74th Ave, thanks to a \$175,000 Invest in Cook grant. To help with the extra funding, the Village will be submitting another grant application this fall. Community input will be an important component of this grant application, so I would like to thank everyone who submitted letters of support commending our initiative this summer.

I am also proud to announce that we have also secured a \$350,000 grant from **Build Up Cook** to support sewer televising and jetting on the westside of the Village. These projects will enhance our community's quality of life and infrastructure.

Trick-or-treating this year will begin at the normal time of 1 p.m. We will have **red** or **green** solicitation door hangers for residents to pickup at the Village beginning in October.

COOK COUNTY GRANT MONEY COMING TO SUMMIT

Mayor Rodriguez and the Village Board of Trustees are excited to announce that the Village has won grant funding to help partially fund **preliminary engineering** for the 74th Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Project. As part of the County's Invest in Cook grant initiative program, the Village is expected to receive about \$175,000.

The Village is looking to replace the bridge to help make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and accessible for all residents. To help fund the rest of the project, the Village has applied for a grant through the Illinois Department of Transportation Enhancement Program.



AGING CARE CONNECTIONS OFFERS PLETHORA OF SENIOR SERVICES

The La Grange-based non-profit **Aging Care Connections** has served Summit and the greater community for more than 50-years and shows no indication of slowing down. [See **AGING**, Page 2]



aging care connections

Because Aging Well Matters



Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th and Chicago hosted the DNC in August. Read more about it on **page 6**.



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Newsletter timelines:

- March - Spring Edition
- June - Summer Edition
- September - Fall Edition
- November- Year End Edition



The Official Publication of the Village of Summit



Office phone: 563-4807

Email: 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 1ST to: Strzelczyk Municipal Center, 7321 W. 59TH 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: _____

AGING

FROM PAGE 1

Aging Care Connections provides aging services and resources to individuals above 60-years-old, as well as those who are disabled over the age of 18-years. These services include adult protective services, benefits assistance, caregiver support and much more.

While Aging Care Connections offers an extensive list of services, Summit is one of the few towns in the area where every service option is offered.

"There is no question too small or too big," said Desiree Scully, who has served as the Executive Director since 2018. "We try to look at a holistic approach for each individual through all of the programs we have and want people to know that there's help."

Scully said that trust is a vital component to their operation because it could be the defining factor on whether or not a senior may decide to seek services or resources. She noted that Summit has played an important role in allowing the organization to build rapport with the community because of it's close-knit family feel and local leadership.

"I have personally met with the Mayor several times and he has made a personal commitment to seniors in the community," Scully said. "There is this unique sense of community [in Summit] that is so special and the people truly care. It is really nice to see that."

For residents interested in Aging Care services, please call **708-354-1323** to be connected with a specialist.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Aging Care Connections' mission is "to enrich the quality of life in our community by providing older adults and their families with guidance and support that enhances the ability to age well."

Adult Protective Services: We receive and investigate reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of older adults (60+) and disabled adults (18+).

Aging Well Neighborhood: Uniting older adults, businesses, and services for lifelong wellness, home aging support, chronic condition management, health education, and an age-friendly community.

Benefits Assistance: Trained staff and volunteers help older adults access entitled benefits and services.

Caregiver Support: Offering counseling, support groups, and respite care for those caring for older adults.

Comprehensive Care Coordination: Aging specialists offer in-home assessment, service linkages, care planning, and ongoing monitoring for older adults and families.

Congregate Meals: Socialization and nutritious meals for older adults (60+) in a restaurant setting, for a suggested donation.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Support groups, counseling, education, and resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Housing Assistance: Person-centered services to preserve housing and prevent homelessness for older adults.

Home Repair: Minor modifications for older individuals to stay at home comfortably.

Information and Assistance: We provide comprehensive info about local, state & federal resources essential to older adults & their family.

Options Counseling: Long-term care education, decision support, and assistance with enrolling in public programs.

Special Diet Home Delivered Meals: We assess and provide meals to homebound older adults who are unable to prepare meals or require a special diet.

Transitional Care: Linkages and expedited supports for clients returning home from healthcare facilities, helping prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

Transportation Assistance: We connect older adults to transportation services that meet their needs and are appropriate for their limitations.

Would you like more information? Visit our website at www.agingcareconnections.org or call us at 708-354-1323

Anti-Discrimination Statement

Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate state and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call 708-354-1323.

Diversity Statement

Aging Care Connections is committed to building a diverse, equitable, inclusive, accessible, and supportive work environment that fosters a sense of belonging. We believe that individuals with a variety of lived experiences, backgrounds, and strengths who share a passion for helping older adults and those that support them, are essential to successfully serving our diverse communities.

Aging Care Connections

111 W. Harris Ave., La Grange, Illinois 60525 | P: 708-354-1323
W: AgingCareConnections.org | E: info@agingcareconnections.org

Mel Ortiz, Police Chief

Now that fall is upon us and kids are back in school please remember to be responsible drivers. This is a yearlong request and does not solely pertain to when school is in or out of session. **Please be mindful of your speed and be aware of pedestrians, especially the youth of our community.**

There have been some **phone scams** that have affected some of our residents and we ask that you use caution when giving out your personal information or sending money. It is important that you know that the Summit Police Department or any other government entity will never call you and ask for your personal information over the phone. **Additionally, payments or monies will not be asked of you over the phone.** If you ever receive a call asking you to secure your accounts or send money, please call us. An officer will verify if a call is legitimate or not.

Summit has been the subject of at least two **street takeovers** at the intersection of Archer Ave. and Harlem Ave. If you see any such activity please contact us and try to avoid the area. Officers

have made arrests of subjects taking part in these events and the vehicles are subject to impoundment and fines.

Neighborhood Watch meetings took a hiatus during the summer but will resume on September 19, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Our website, **summitcrime-watch.com**, continues to provide information and access to our community. The ability to submit a tip online has been a great tool to work together with the residents. Your assistance and partnership in community safety is appreciated and priceless.



Office phone: 563-4830
Anonymous Tip Hotline: 563-8100
Email: mortiz124@summitpd.net

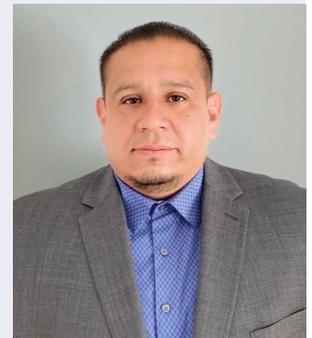
Jerry Rosales, Superintendent of Public Works

The hot summer days will soon be behind us and the cool nights of fall will soon arrive. Public Works will continue to patch potholes, clean out sewers, and maintain our parkways. Grass cutting, street light maintenance, street sweeping, and alley grading will also 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, 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. The Village has a pest control company that sets baits in the public alleys.



Office phone: 563-4800
Email: jrosales@summit-il.org

YARD WASTE

Yard waste will continue to be picked up until **Friday, November 29, 2024**. Please make sure to place your yard waste in appropriate containers no larger than a 30 gallon container and 50lbs.

Do not rake or blow the leaves into the streets or sewers. This has been an issue this summer and becomes a problem when it rains. **Residents caught raking or blowing them into the streets will be fined.**

Also please be aware that if paper **recycling bags** are being used keep the weight and moisture at a limit so the 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 6:00 a.m. on Fridays, preferably on Thursday night.

WEATHER REMINDERS

The cold months will be approaching soon. 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.

Residents should also prepare their homes for the upcoming winter months. Weather proofing your home is highly recommended to prevent drafts, as well as pipes from freezing. A few ways to prevent freezing pipes is to insulate the pipes, keep the heat on, have the faucet drip slightly, keep cabinets open where pipes are and — if they do happen to freeze — use a blow dryer to unfreeze. **Never use fire to unfreeze a pipe.**



Tony Anderson, Fire Chief

HOME FURNACE SAFETY CHECKS

As temperatures drop, many of us will be firing up our home heating systems. Before you turn on your furnace for the first time this season, take these precautionary steps:

- **Professional Inspection:** Schedule a professional inspection of your furnace. This will ensure that your heating system is in good working order and free from potential hazards, like gas leaks or carbon monoxide buildup.
- **Change Filters:** Replace the furnace filters to keep the air clean and help your furnace run efficiently.
- **Clear the Area:** Ensure that the area around your furnace is clear of any flammable materials. This includes paper, rags, and cleaning supplies.
- **Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries if needed. These devices are critical for early detection of fires and carbon monoxide leaks.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

With children back in school, it's important to reinforce safety both at home and on the road:

- **Road Safety:** Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street and to always use crosswalks. Drivers, please slow down and be extra cautious in school zones and residential areas.
- **Bus Safety:** Teach children to stand back from the curb while waiting for the bus and to stay seated while the bus is moving.



Make sure they understand the importance of following the bus driver's instructions.

- **Home Safety:** If your children are staying home alone after school, review fire safety protocols with them. Make sure they know how to use the stove safely, what to do in case of an emergency, and whom to call if needed.

OPEN HOUSE OCT. 19TH FROM 12 PM TO 4 PM

We are excited to announce that our annual Fire Department Open House will be held on Saturday, **October 19th**. This event is a great opportunity to meet your local firefighters, learn more about fire safety, and see our fire trucks and equipment up close. There will be fun activities for kids and safety demonstrations. We also will be providing hotdogs, snacks, and refreshments for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stay safe this fall, and don't hesitate to reach out to the Fire Department with any questions or concerns.



Office phone: 594-3894
Email: tanderson@summitfire.net



VILLAGE TO UNDERGO MORE BEAUTIFICATION SEPTEMBER 28TH

The Village is excited to announce that we will be having another tree planting event this fall, **September 28th**, in an effort to better beautify our great community. This will be our second tree planting event this year.

For those who live **north of 59th Street**, you will have the opportunity to request a tree by scanning the QR code to the right or visit our website.

The initiative has been made possible by the Village successfully securing a grant to help with beautification purposes.

Openlands and the Village have together planted over 170 trees to date, including 33 trees this spring.



TREE PLANTING EVENT

WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE TREE PLANTED ON YOUR PARKWAY?

The Village of Summit is hosting its fifth community tree planting project in partnership with Openlands this Spring.



Use the following QR code to request a tree (or trees) for your parkway. You will be asked to care for the tree for 3 years—primarily watering once a week during the growing season.



QUESTIONS?

Our experts are on hand to help!

Tom Ebeling
Sergio Rodriguez

TreeCare@openlands.org
Info@summit-il.org



PLANTACIÓN DE ÁRBOLES

¿DESEA PLANTAR GRATUITAMENTE UN ÁRBOL EN SU ARCÉN?

La Villa de Summit organiza esta primavera su quinto proyecto comunitario de plantación de árboles en colaboración con Openlands.



Utilice el siguiente código QR para solicitar un árbol (o árboles) para su acera. Se le pedirá que cuide del árbol durante 3 años, principalmente regándolo una vez a la semana durante la temporada de crecimiento.



¿Preguntas?

Nuestros expertos están a su disposición.

Tonatiu Rodriguez
Sergio Rodriguez

TreeCare@openlands.org
Info@summit-il.org



FUNERAL HOME FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1986

Ever since **Andy** and **Sharon Jeninga** and **Rich** and **Dawn Madej** purchased the funeral home from the Foran Family in 1986, they have made great efforts to achieve and maintain a stellar reputation in the community. The Jeninga family even made Summit their permanent residence.

“We wanted to be involved with the community,” said co-owner **Sharon Jeninga**. “The location was very accessible to both the city and suburbs and we saw it as a good opportunity to live where we work.”

The Jeninga’s and Madej’s continue to honor their commitment to the community and take a deep interest in their neighbors through volunteerism and civic groups.



Their altruistic attitude toward the community is a reflection of how they run their business and caring for family is their hallmark. The funeral home is known for their exquisite décor and landscaping while the interior of the home offers a family-feel.

“We care for the families that come to us as if they are members of our own families,” said **Andy Jeninga**. “The importance of holding high standards and the attention to detail is paramount in providing families with exceptional care and understanding.”

The business also offers bi-lingual services, including Polish and Spanish.

Foran Funeral Home can be contacted at **708-458-0208** or via email at contactus@foranfuneralhome.com.

GETTING TO KNOW . . . VILLAGE TRUSTEE AURORA RODRIGUEZ

Aurora Rodriguez moved to Summit at the age of two from the Northwest Side of Chicago so her family can be closer her father’s job working on the railroad. As the years went on, she attended Graves Elementary, met her husband at Argo High School, and became a mother of two boys – both of whom attended Summit schools. **Aurora Rodriguez** is Summit’s very own.

The recently retired admin assistant began her journey working at the Cook County Public Defender’s office, where she spent 33-years working in the Homicide Task Force. She spent 20-years commuting to 26th and S. California Ave. and eventually transferred closer to home at Bridgeview’s Fifth Municipal District.

“I was honored to have worked at the Cook County Public Defender’s office,” Rodriguez said. “It serves such an important role in our society and I worked with wonderful people.”



Her professional life aside, Rodriguez is no stranger to community involvement. While at the Public Defender’s Office, she was active at registering workers to join the AFSCME Union, the collective bargaining unit that represents employees of the Public Defender’s Office.

“Rallying people to join their union was something my dad taught me from his time in working on the railroad,” Rodriguez said. “His union was very important to him and I am glad to have played my part during my career.”

She remains an active member of St. Blasé Catholic Church, where she serves as a certified catechist through the Archdiocese of Chicago and volunteers as a religious education teacher. Rodriguez is also a member of a working group that helps plan and raise money for Guadalupano, the annual feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Rodriguez was also a member of Walsh Elementary’s PTA group.

Being involved in her community turned out to pay dividends when Rodriguez decided to run for Village Trustee in early 2023.

“I didn’t realize how many people actually knew who I was,” Rodriguez said.

As an incumbent Village Trustee, Rodriguez said she is focused on fostering collaboration among the Village, residents, and local businesses.

“People in Summit care about their community and are willing to get involved,” Rodriguez said. It’s important that we continue to maintain transparency and give people opportunities to better our community.”

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

Historical Spotlight

The city of Chicago has hosted more Presidential Conventions than any other city. Here is how the numbers stacked out this year:

- The city expected nearly 50,000 visitors from across the nation.
- Nearly 4,700 Democratic delegates gathered in Chicago.
- While the economic impact is still being measured, it is expected to boost the local economy by at least \$20 million, possibly as high as \$200 million.
- The convention averaged 21.8 million viewers over four nights. The final day averaged 26.2 million viewers.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Community Focus

WHY TAXES?

Nobody likes paying taxes. However, they serve an important function as being the primary source to fund our public entities, such as our parks, village and schools.

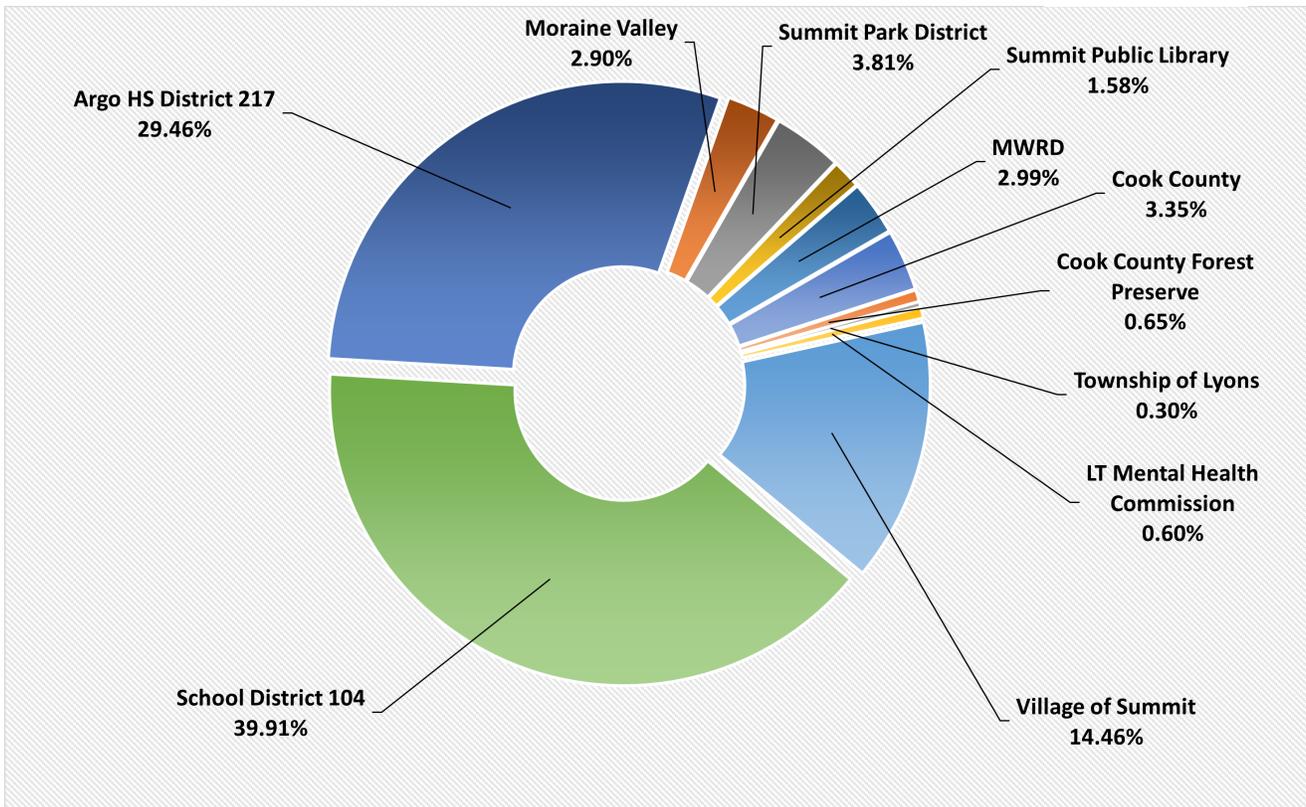
HOW IS MY PROPERTY ASSESSED

Your property is assessed by the **Cook County Assessor**. The current Assessor is **Fritz Kegi**. To learn how exactly your property is assessed, please follow the **QR code ->**



WHERE DO MY PROPERTY TAXES GO?

Most of your taxes go to our schools. The Village collects only a small portion. To view where exactly your property taxes go to, please follow the **QR code ->**



Data source: Cook County Clerk, Office of Tax Extension (2023 Data)

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS TO RESUME SEPT. 19TH AFTER SUMMER-LONG RECESS



SUMMIT BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



June 17, 2024

- A cost-sharing, intergovernmental agreement between the Village and Summit Park District for the July 3rd Independence Day Celebration was approved.
- A block party for the 7300 block of 58th Street was approved for June 29th from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m..
- A Resolution for policies and procedures for Qualification Based Selection was approved

July 16, 2024

- We celebrated the retirement of **Bedri Asani** for his 36 years of service to the Public Works department and our community. **Congrats Bedri! We will miss you!**
- Special use was granted for the property located at 7437-7439 West Archer Avenue. This property is owned by Catholic Charities and will be used as a community center.
- Ordinance 24-O-18 was approved restricting parking time.
- **Armando Ruvalcaba** to Assistant Foreman of Public Works. **Congratulations Armando!**

August 19, 2024

- **Avzi Dardovski** was sworn in as the Summit Police Department's newest full-time officer. **Congratulations Avzi!**
- **Officer Armando Dominguez** was honored as the National Association of School Resource Officer of the Year. Outstanding accomplishment Officer Dominguez and Congratulations!
- The parade route for Argo Community High School's 2024 homecoming parade was approved for Sept 14.
- A parade route for Grito Fest 2024 was approved for Sunday, Sept. 8 starting at 10:00 a.m.
- The board approved an ordinance updating street parking restrictions during school hours.
- A resolution was adopted authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cook County for the Invest in Cook Program to help fund preliminary engineering for restoring the 74th Avenue Bridge.



WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

Federal Officials		
Senator Dick Durbin	230 S. Dearborn Street Suite 3892 Chicago, IL 60604	(312) 353 4952
Senator Tammy Duckworth	230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3900 Chicago, IL 60604	(312) 886-3506
Congressman Chuy Garcia	4376 S Archer Ave Chicago, IL 60632	(773) 475-0833
State Officials		
Senator Mike Porfirio	6215 West 79th Street STE 1A Burbank, IL 60459	(708) 430-2510
State Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid	6901 W. Cermak Road Berwyn, IL 60402	(708) 956-7563
County		
Commissioner Frank Aguilar	7833 Ogden Lyons, IL 60534	(708) 447-5461

ELECTION DAY INFO

Early Voting — Oct. 21st to Nov. 4th	
Bridgeview Courthouse	10220 S. 76th Ave. Bridgeview, IL. 60455
Prairie Trails Library	8449 S. Moody Ave. Burbank, IL. 60459
Election Day — Tuesday, Nov. 5th	
Summit Park District	5700 S. Archer Rd. Summit, IL. 60501
Summit Municipal Center	7321 W. 59th St. Sum- mit, IL. 60501
Argo H.S.	7329 W. 63rd. St. Sum- mit, IL. 60501

VILLAGE OF SUMMIT
Strzelczyk Municipal Center
7321 W. 59TH Street
Summit, IL 60501

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1ST 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

Summit Public Library District
www.summitlibrary.info

Cook School District 104
www.sd104.us

Argo Community High School District 217
www.argohs.net

Township of Lyons
www.lyonstownshipil.gov

Illinois Department of Public Health
www.dph.illinois.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 7TH: Coffee with the Mayor

September 14TH: Argo High School Homecoming Parade

September 16TH: Village Board Meeting — Village Hall

September 19TH: Neighborhood Watch Meeting

October 5TH: Coffee with the Mayor

October 7TH: Village Board Meeting — Village Hall

October 17TH: Neighborhood Watch Meeting

October 21ST: Village Board Meeting — Village Hall

October 31ST: Trick-or-Treating 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

November 2ND: Coffee with the Mayor

November 4TH: Village Board Meeting — Village Hall

November 5TH: Election Day [VOTE!]

November 18TH: Neighborhood Watch Meeting