

The Village View

A Village of Chicago Ridge Publication

Inside this issue:

Tax Rebate Program— Get Tax Money Back!

Did you know that as a taxpayer of the Village of Chicago Ridge you are a resident of one of few villages with a remarkably low tax rate; a tax rate that has not been raised in 3 years? Did you also know that the Village of Chicago Ridge refunded over 3/4 of a million dollars to its taxpayers last year? **Were you one of these taxpayers?**

much that rebate participants are currently seeing a rebate of what equates to over 60% of what the taxpayer has paid to the Village through property tax. The remainder of the sales tax, is earmarked for paying off our street improvement bonds, water bonds, etc.

The Tax Rebate is not automatically refunded!

An application with additional documentation must be submitted in order to participate. Exact amount of refund is dependant on the amount of sales revenue generated and the amount of eligible partici-



pants. Applications will be available in the month of October and must be returned back to the Village Administrative Offices by Friday, December 28, 2001.

Additionally, rebates are available only to a taxpayer of a condominium or a single family property with Homeowner Exception status - taxpayers of investment property, whether rental, commercial, or industrial

For over the past four years the Village of Chicago Ridge has rebated tax funds back to its taxpayers through the **Tax Rebate Program**. A municipal sales tax instituted in 1997 has reduced the Village's reliance on property tax so

RidgeFest 2001 July 26 -29	2,3,4
P.A.T.H. & Fire Safety News	4
Clean-Up Weekend May 25-27 Hazardous Waste Day June 16	5
Student Gov. Night Scooter Law Passports Census	5
Health & Safety Fair June 23	6
50/50 Replacement Programs	6
Building Permits Required	6

CHANCE TO WIN FREE RIDGEFEST 2001 PASSES

Again this year, the Village will be having a daily drawing for FREE RIDGEFEST 2001 PASSES. 26 lucky families will be able to get into the Fest FREE - all four days! Any resident who purchases a vehicle sticker in the month of June will be eligible. (1 chance per address).

(continued on Page 4)

Vehicle Sticker Deadline – June 30

This is a reminder that any person housing or registering a vehicle in Chicago Ridge is legally required to purchase a Village Sticker. The deadline for purchasing your 2001-2002 Village Sticker is June 30, 2001. On June 1, preprinted applications will be mailed to car owners who currently

possess a 2000-2001 sticker. Vehicles not displaying a current vehicle sticker after the June 30 deadline may be cited by the police department. In addition, a penalty fee will be added to the normal vehicle sticker cost on purchases made after June 30 deadline.

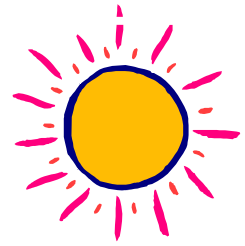
Please note: Penalty fees vary from \$10-\$100 depending on how late your vehicle sticker purchase is made.

Vehicle owners have 30 days from vehicle purchase or new residency to buy a sticker without a penalty (supporting documentation is required).





ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUN-
 IN THE HOT SUMMER SUN?
 JUST DRIVE, WALK OR RUN-
 TO RIDGEFEST TWENTY-01!
 JULY 26TH through JULY 29TH



Colossal Carnival Values-the *MEGA PASS*!

**ALL-YOU-CAN
 RIDE "MEGA
 PASSES" on sale
 starting
 JUNE 1st.**

We received many compliments last year on our new carnival – Spectacular Midways – so we are very pleased to welcome them back this year. And if your kids just love to ride and ride the rides, have we got a *great new deal* for you! It's called the **MEGA PASS** and it entitles you to ride any and all carnival rides for the entire 30 hours of operation over the 4 days! The price is **\$30, less than \$1.00 an hour**. It's a great way to keep the kids happy, and with the **MEGA PASS**, you won't be pestered every half-hour for more ride tickets! Only 500 will be available, so don't miss out! On sale at the Village Hall starting **JUNE 1st**.

Of course we'll still have the other ride specials we've had in the past. **Thursday will again be \$1.00 per ride**, all night! And we will again be selling money-saving "**Pay One Price**" Ride Specials on Saturday and Sunday (1 pm to 5 pm). At the Fest, the "one price" will be \$15.00, but our residents will be able to purchase ride tokens at a discounted price of \$12.00 beginning on **Monday, JULY 2nd** & ending when all 500 are sold, or on Thursday, July 26th at the latest. The tokens will be on sale at the Village Hall, Library, and Park District.

Also, starting July 2nd, we will again be distributing 2 "Wooden Nickels" - good for **2 FREE ADULT ADMISSIONS!** - to any resident paying property taxes to Chicago Ridge. **(Please note that a maximum of 2000 will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, two per household; you must show proof of paying taxes in Chicago Ridge.)**

Admission for adults has been set at \$4.00 on Thursday, \$7.00 on Friday and \$6.00 on Saturday and Sunday. However, from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday, residents with a valid ID get in **FREE**, but after 4 pm admission will be \$6.00. So it pays to get there early! Children 13 and under are always **FREE**, and Senior Citizens over 62 are half-price. No re-entry hand stamps!

An Entertainment Packed Weekend

Saturday and Sunday will again be our traditional **KIDS' DAYS** but with some special new additions! We'll have the **Kid's Creatures Tent**, with all kinds of animals, featuring **John Basile's Big Run Wolf Ranch!** **Jim Nesci's Cold Blooded Creatures**— starring "**Bubba!**" - will be back, as will **Kim Shilling's Animals For Awareness**, and the **Midwest Greyhound Adoption**. Naturally we'll still have animal rides for the kids – namely **CAMEL, LLAMA, & PONY RIDES**, along with the **EXOTIC ANIMAL PETTING ZOO!** The **Cook County Sheriff's CANINE CORPS** will be there on Saturday with an exciting demonstration, and the **JESSE WHITE TUMBLERS** will return on both Saturday and Sunday at 4 pm with their fantastic gymnastics exhibitions. And **LESTER THE PROFESSIONAL FOOL** will be back with his **LEARN 'n PLAY** teaching balloon art, stiltwalking, juggling and general clowning around! Also returning this year will be **Pamela Preciado**, doing free children's portraits, **Art Lieb**, who uses your child's name in his unique artwork, also free, and the **NIAROME Face-Painting Clowns!**



Finally Saturday night will feature one of the best Firework's Display anywhere in the Midwest. This year we're going with a unique **DISNEY** theme with hit songs from all the movies, which we know everyone will love! And also Saturday night, we'll be bringing you the 21st Edition of the popular Queen of the Ridge Contest!

The **MILLER BEER & BACARDI LIMONADE GARDEN** will again be hosted by 3 of our Village's non-profit organizations: the **OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE MEN'S CLUB**, the **CHICAGO RIDGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**, and the **AMERICAN LEGION**. And we expect to have over 15 food vendors serving all sorts of delicious foods in **RESTAURANT ROW!** And our **MERCHANTS** will have great sales on a large variety of merchandise.

A Village of Chicago Ridge
Publication

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Village Clerk/Collector

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Maureen P. Socha

CR RT SORT
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
CHICAGO RIDGE, IL 60415



Calendar Of Events

JUNE

- 1- MEGA PASS Sale Starts
- 4-22- Local Government Night Broadcast (Ch. 43)
- 23- Health & Safety Fair
- 30- VEHICLE STICKER DEADLINE

JULY

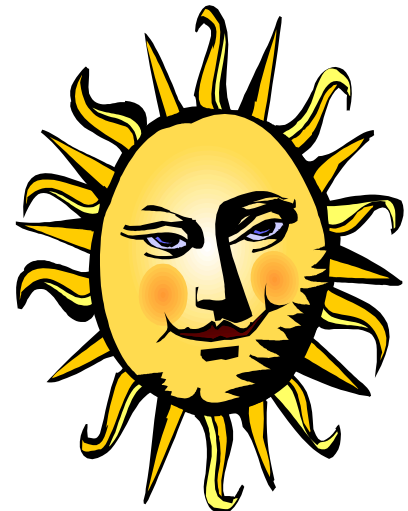
- 2- "Pay One Price" and Admission Tokens Available
- 26-29- RIDGEFEST 2001
- 28- RIDGEFEST FIREWORKS

OCTOBER

- 1- Tax Rebate Applications Available

DECEMBER

- 28- Tax Rebate Applications Due



*Have a safe summer -
See You At
RIDGEFEST 2001!*

RI DGEFEST CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY

In spite of getting hit with some wet weather, last year's **RidgeFest 2001** turned out to be a winner, with a small profit of about \$15,000. This enabled the Fest committee to recommend to the Village Board a distribution of profits (plus a little from the Fest "cookie jar") of \$27,250. This profit-sharing would not be possible without the strong support of our residents, and we thank you for that support. **Seventeen groups and programs** benefited this year: the Park District, the Library, School District 127.5, Our Lady of the Ridge School, the Senior's Friendship Club, the Ridge village Seniors, the youth Service Bureau, Field Hockey,

Queen of the Ridge Our Lady of the Ridge Men's Club, the Chicago Ridge Athletic Association, American Legion Post 1160, Boy Scouts, two Cub Scout Troops, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and the Children's Christmas Party. Of course without the dozens of wonderful **RidgeFest** volunteers, none of this would be possible.



We again would
*Revenues raised
from RidgeFest
benefit
many programs
in the community!*

like to extend our appreciation to this year's Fest Committee, who have worked **hard for over 6 months to ensure a successful and enjoyable event for residents of all ages.** **Thanks go out to Fest Chairman Charles Tokar, Co-Chairman Maureen Socha, and Members Marlene Burgan, Jack Lind, Jean Duignan, Lori Hill, Randy Grossi, Tim Baldermann, Rita McQuaid, Juanita Babcock, Mike Wollner, and Ed Belter.**

By the way, we can always use more RidgeFest help, so if you might be interested in volunteering, please contact Lori at the Village Hall, (708) 425-7700.



P.A.T.H. To Provide Therapeutic Help To Those In Need

The Chicago Ridge Police Department announces a joint venture with Riveredge Hospital to help families in need of counseling services. Police Chief Michael Rio stated that Riveredge Hospital would assign a Social Worker to be at the Chicago Ridge Police Department on Monday evenings to provide free services to families of the village. Services known as the Riveredge Hospital's **P.A.T.H.** program (Providing Alternatives and Therapeutic Help) include short-term family and individual counseling, grief-loss, alcohol use/drug abuse,

adolescent behavior problems, 24-hour crisis intervention and more. These services are geared for the short term, with follow up sessions. If more services are recommended, they will refer residents to other nearby agencies. Residents can take advantage of the free services provided by calling the police department's non-emergency number, (708) 425-7831, to schedule an appointment. For information on this new program, contact the police department or Riveredge Hospital, Associate Director, Jeff Ingrassia at (708) 771-7000.

FREE RidgeFest PASSES

(continued From Front)

Each day all those who bought a sticker will have his/her name placed in a box, with winners drawn daily by **Mayor Siegel**. A list of winners will be posted in the Village Hall and on the Village's Government Access Channel (45). All winners will be contacted by phone to claim their **RidgeFest 2001 SPECIAL GUEST PASS**, which admits 4 adults! Good Luck!

Practice Spring Fire Safety

Now is the time for some Spring Cleaning; remember a clean house is a safe house. Clean out storage areas such as the garage, attics, basements, and outdoor sheds on a regular basis. An accumulation of trash, boxes, piles of old clothing, and other combustibles in the home are fuel for a fire. Clutter gives a fire a place to start and could create an obstacle that might

prevent you from escaping safely. Along with Spring cleaning, this is the time to get the lawnmower, roto-tiller and other gas operated equipment ready to go. Whenever you use or store gasoline, use extreme caution. Gasoline is a flammable liquid that readily gives off vapors which are easily ignited with a spark or small flame. It should never be used as a degreaser or cleaning



solvent. Never store it in your base-

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS
If interested call (708) 857-4456 for more information.

IT'S SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME IN CHICAGO RIDGE

It's Spring and what better time to clean out those attics, garages, and closets! To assist with your spring clean up effort, the Village has supplied dumpsters in various locations for the last two consecutive weekends in May. Dumpsters have been placed at 105th & Oxford, 107th & Oak and 107th & Menard.



**KEEP
CHICAGO RIDGE
CLEAN!**

For your hazardous waste, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day, Saturday, June 16th from 8 am to 3 pm at the Homewood

Flossmoor High School. Take advantage of this opportunity to ride your home of hazardous waste products. For more information call (312) 751-

ATTENTION OWNERS OF MOTORIZED

6633.State Statute forbids the use of motorized scooters on streets, sidewalks, other public thoroughfares, as well as unauthorized private property. The Village of Chicago Ridge Police Department thoroughly intends to enforce this statute. Offenders of this statute stand to be issued a ticket as well as possible confiscation of the scooter. If confiscated, a parent or guardian will be responsible for claiming the scooter from the Police Dept.

YARD WASTE, OIL, PROPANE TANKS, PAINT, GAS, CHEMICALS, BATTERIES, EXPLOSIVES, CONCRETE, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND RECYCLABLES ARE NOT ALLOWED.

PASSPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE

ARE TRAVEL PLANS IN YOUR FUTURE?



If so, you may be pleased to learn that the Village of Chicago Ridge's Administrative Office accepts Passport Applications. Very specific identification and documentation is needed so you are encouraged to contact

(708) 425-7700 prior to your visit to the Village Hall. Three important points to note regarding passports are: 1) All persons are required to obtain a passport in their own name before traveling 2) Apply several months in advance of your planned departure 3) Photos will not be taken at our office.

Census Note: Census tabulation is a continuous effort. In fact, census workers do random census polls in our Village on the 19th of each month. If visited by a census worker with proper identification, please participate! Your participation helps to provide vital information needed to evaluate the need for civic services within our community.

LOCAL STUDENTS "TAKE OVER" VILLAGE HALL

On Tuesday, May 15th, sixteen 8th Grade students learned first hand how a Village Meeting is conducted during the Village of Chicago Ridge's Local Government Education Night. Selected by their teachers, Mrs. Jane Nolan of Finley Jr. High, and Mrs. Kathleen Stein of Our Lady of the Ridge, students experienced what it is like to make motions, cast votes and give reports on Village issues as they sat in for various Village Officials. Missed the evenings events? You still have the opportunity to view it's broadcast on the Home-town Edition Program on Channel 43, between the dates of June 4 and June 22 (Mondays at 6 pm, Wednesdays at 9 pm and Fridays at 8 pm.) Congratulations for a job well done to the following Student Village Officials:



Nivene Judeh Mayor Siegel

Danielle Pratl Clerk Tokar

Amanda Lukes Trustee Babcock

Noelle Landers Trustee Badon

Jamie Bisiules Trustee Ryniak

Karolyn Dilger Trustee Pratl

Agnes Stoch Trustee Saunoris

Robert Habersat Trustee Socha

Nikki Nario Treasurer Duignan

Attorney Witous-Michael Hanenburg

Jessica Machen-Engineer Burke

Katie Roe- Police Chief Rio

Jenny Dillon- Fire Chief Grossi

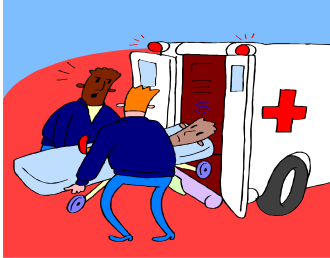
Colleen Fogerty- Public Works Dir. Lind

Sarah McDermott- Youth Service Bureau Dir. Zwirkoski

Tom Dolan-Bldg. Commissioner Socha

HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

A **Health & Safety Fair** sponsored by Village of Chicago Ridge's Mayor Siegel and hosted by the Girl Scouts, Ridgeland Troop 005 and Chicago Troop 598 will take place Saturday, June 23rd, from 1 pm to 5 pm. The Fair will take place at the Chicago Ridge Village Hall, 10455 S. Ridgeland, in the Senior Citizen Center (lower level).



FAIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- √ THE CHICAGO RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT SMOKEHOUSE
- √ FREE CHILD FINGERPRINTING
- √ LITERATURE AND OTHER VARIOUS INFORMATION REGARDING ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE, GANGS, AIDS, and much more.

For more information contact Fair Chairperson, Dale Young, (773) 445-0255.

50/50 REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS



TREE REPLACEMENT:

If you have a dead, diseased or otherwise dangerous tree in the parkway, contact the Village Hall for removal evaluation. After removal of any parkway tree, it must be replaced the following year. The Village offers a 50/50 Replacement Program with a list of trees to choose from, with planting to take place in the Fall.

SIDEWALKS:

The Village also offers a 50/50 Replacement Program on existing sidewalks. Residents that have cracked walks are urged to take advantage of this program.



BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

Many residents are not aware of when they need to secure a building permit. Most people realize that a permit is necessary for any new construction, demolition, structural work, interior and exterior remodeling, or an addition to their home. However, they are often unaware that a permit is also required for a new deck or patio, garage, dormer, fence, driveway, roof or swimming pool, in addition to any electrical, plumbing, or heating & air conditioning work. The cost of a permit is \$6.00 per thousand dollars of construction cost, with a \$10 minimum. A pool installation permit costs \$20. In order to make an application for a permit, the Building Depart-



Don't have your home improvement projects be delayed! Apply early for proper permits.

ment generally requires a copy of the plat of survey with the proposed work drawn in. Approval time for the permit varies depending on the nature of the improvement, but 48 to 72 hours is the minimum. Please note that dumpsters cannot be placed on the street, parkway, or sidewalk. **You should also note that a contractor hired by you must be licensed with the Village with a Certificate of Insurance, Public Liability Bond and has paid their annual license fee. All contractor's licenses expire on April 30th of each year.**



RI DGEFEST 2001 MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT



RI DGEFEST 2001 starts off with a blast on **Thursday** from two groups doing some of the most popular hit music today! Opening will be **BRITNEY – ONE MORE TIME!** THE BEST Britney Spears tribute act appearing anywhere! **NOISE POLLUTION** will be next, a unique percussion group that use wash machines, 5 gallon jugs, rubber garbage bins, car parts – whatever! - and produce an exciting display of rhythmic precision and powerful percussive energy! It's an awesome show that you're gonna love! And closing the night will be an unbelievable tribute to the Backstreet Boys called **BACKSTREET'S BACK!** Between these two bands, you'll be hearing hit after hit, with fantastic dance choreography. Then we'll top off the night with the return of the very popular Hawaiian Tropic Model Search.

Friday night we've lined up two bands that will knock your socks off! First up is the **TRIPPIN' BILLIES**, the absolute best Dave Matthews band anywhere in the Midwest. These 7 guys will have you thinking you're at a Matthews concert at the World! The **BILLIES** will be followed by **NOISE POLLUTION**. And closing Friday, we have a genuine Hollywood Movie Star –**KEVIN BACON** – who with his brother Michael hit the road as **THE BACON BROTHER'S BAND!** We all know Kevin Bacon from great movies like **Footloose, A Few Good Men, Apollo 13**, and recently **The Hollow Man**, but believe it, Kevin also plays a mean guitar, and he can sing! These brothers can really rock, with influences like Crosby, Stills and Nash and James Taylor. Check out www.baconbros.com for more info. And do yourself a favor and come early, especially you ladies, if you want to be upfront and close to a real Hollywood *heartthrob!*

Saturday night opens with a unique show, **VIVA LA GENTE (UP WITH PEOPLE)** which features Hispanic singers and dancers that are remarkable. They are all between 14 and 18, and will amaze you! Then it's **BLIND MAN'S BLUFF**, an acapella group that performs original vocal rock! You won't believe the sounds these 5 guys can put together! **NOISE POLLUTION** will be next, and then we'll close out the night with the hottest Shania Twain tribute going– **TWAIN'S TWIN!** This beautiful lady from Canada not only has an identical voice, you'd swear Shania had a twin sister! She'll be performing after the best **FIREWORKS SHOW** outside of Navy Pier, which this year will have a new **DISNEY** theme! Also on Saturday, you don't want to miss the 21st Annual Edition of the **Queen of the Ridge Contest!**

We wrap up the Fest on **Sunday** with a day of music for young and old alike. First off, **DAVE RUDOLPH** will be presenting a great early afternoon show in the children's tent geared for kids and families, featuring the many funny songs he's written, some of which have been used in Disney movies. Later **NOISE POLLUTION** will be back, and then it's **TNT**, a great 10-man local band with a 5-piece brass section that can wail, with a funky Motown-soul sound that ranges from James Brown to Blood, Sweat & Tears! And closing out **RI DGEFEST 2001** is a hard-rockin' band with an energized stage presence: **38 SPECIAL!** With tons of hit songs, including **Hold On Loosely, Fantasy Girl, So Caught Up In You, Fade To Blue**, and many more, you'll be humming their songs for days. And finally, there's the Hawaiian Tropic Model Search Finals!



Come All Weekend and See Big Time Talent
Without The Big Time Hassle And Prices–
It's All Right In Your Own Back Yard!

RI DGEFEST 2001
Also don't miss the
NEW DISNEY Theme Fireworks!