VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT (8/22/2025)

Greetings,

My children experienced some cool milestones in their lives this week and as their father I am so proud of both. Their happiness and excitement fuels me to smile and be that much more appreciative of those who have helped them along the way. The African proverb: "it takes a Village to raise a child" resonates with me more than ever. You may wonder what this has to do with the Village of Villa Park.

I also believe the proverb can be applied in the following manner: it "takes a Village" to keep it beautiful and moving forward as it relates to cleanliness and property maintenance. Sure, there are Village Services that do a multitude of things to help keep the Garden Village looking better like street sweeping, mowing public areas, removing graffiti in a timely manner, and fixing potholes as quickly as we can.

No matter how efficient, or fast, these services are; there will always be a never-ending list of tasks for our Village Staff to do every day to maintain the Village. We need your help by making sure your business or residence is looking the best it possibly can. I drive on St. Charles every workday and notice there are weeds growing through sidewalks and curbs. You may not know there is a Village Ordinance that mentions the responsibility of maintaining sidewalks and curbs falls upon the owner of that property. See Village Ordinance (Sec. 21-101) titled: "Obstructions from abutting properties" which states:

"The owners or occupants of all premises in the village shall keep the sidewalks abutting such premises free from obstructions and shall prune and cut back all vegetation upon such premises or in the parkway so as to prevent obstructions."

What I am asking is every business owner, homeowner, and property owner on St. Charles, as well as every responsible person in the Village to please cut these weeds down to show some civic pride. Just prior to the start of this years July 4th Parade, I noticed a prominent attorney "weed whacking" the curb on Ardmore. So, thank you for doing your part! Mowing and weed whacking is not how I like to spend my weekends, but it is necessary to be a good neighbor to those around us. The last thing you want is to have Village Staff issue you a property maintenance citation for weeds/ tall grass. Speaking of Property Maintenance Violations, here is a list of things you can do to help be a good neighbor and avoid a Violation Notice:

Make sure there is no garbage in your yard, no inoperable vehicles in your driveway, make sure your vehicles have license plates, make sure your windows and screens are in good working order, have house numbers on the house (this really helps the evening pizza delivery person as well as public safety go to the right house), removing landscaping and dog waste (trust me when I tell you my front yard is literally a "dumping ground" for neighbor dogs and owners who do not pick up after their dogs), please bring in your emptied garbage cans in a timely manner, and lastly any issue with the house/ building where siding, bricks and/or signage is in need of upkeep and repair.
The easiest way to go about improving your property is pretend it is not yours and you are looking at a stranger's property and say to yourself: "…this place would look nicer if we just…" and then address those issues you just mentioned.

Having said all this, I need to go home and mow my front lawn due to the excessive rain.

Sincerely,

Mike Rivas

Village Manager

UPCOMING ITEMS

Village Board of Trustees
August 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm

- Presentation to VFW Post 2801
- Proclamation to Mickey's Hot Dogs
- A Resolution of the Village of Villa Park, DuPage County, to amend the funding agreement for Tri-Trail Connector Project
- A Resolution of the Village of Villa Park, DuPage County, to approve the Phase III Engineering Agreement - Supplement with Civiltech Engineering, Inc., of Itasca, Illinois, in the amount of $74,359.00.
- An Ordinance Amending Article III of Chapter 19 of the Villa Park Municipal Code Regarding Motor Vehicle Tows by the Police Department
- Reports:
  - Finance
  - FOIAs
  - Parks Projects as of Aug. 4th, 2025
  - Public Works 2025 CIP update

Questions on Electric Aggregation, click on link:

https://www.invillapark.com/1256/Municipal-Electric-Aggregation-Program

August Concerts at Cortesi
Aug. 28: Mackenzie O'Brien Band. Chicagoland's #1 young country band.

Department Reports

Administration:

Village Manager

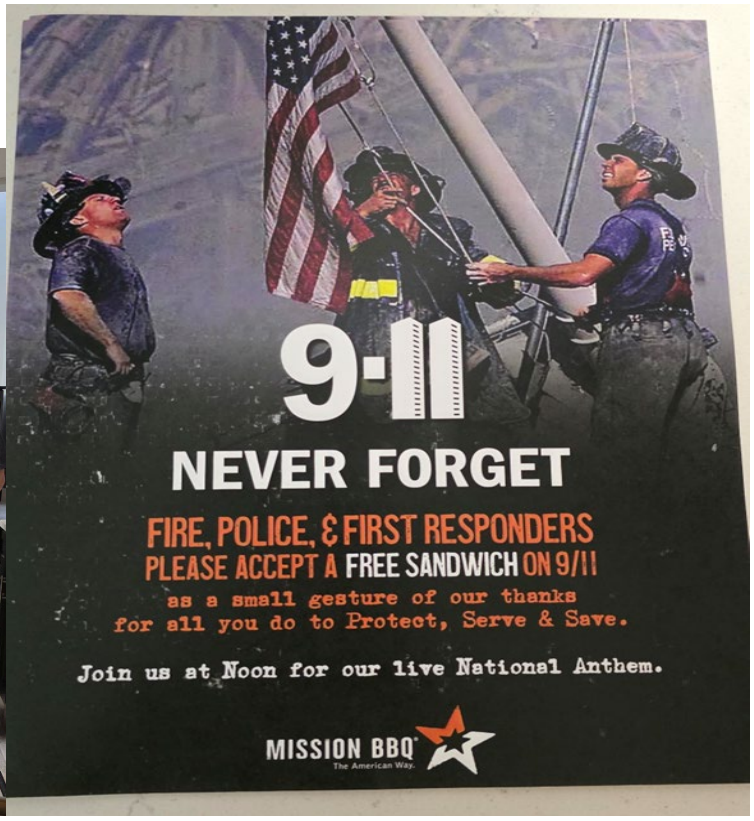
- Village Manager, Village Staff, and elected officials met with U.S. Senator Sean Casten at Station 81.
- Village Manager met with Police Chief Kubish to discuss staffing union related subjects.
- Village Manager met with Interim Community and Economic Development Director Michelle House to discuss development projects and variance requests.
- Village Manager met with State Senator Suzy Glowiak-Hilton at the DMMC in Oak Brook.
- Village Manager met with State Representative Dalia Ramirez at the Addison Township Building.
- Village Manager met with Interim Community and Economic Development Director Michelle House and an Economic Development Company to look at updates and options.

Manager's Note: We will not include notes from the weekly Department Head meetings in the Weekly Report. Issues and items discussed are often of a sensitive nature and not for public consumption. If a Department Head should mention something beneficial for public consumption, we will add the item to the Weekly Report.

Police Department

August 13th – August 19th, 2025

- On Friday, August 15, 2025, Deputy Chief Svara conducted active shooter training at the Villa Park Library
- As 911 approaches, we'd like to take a moment to thank Mission BBQ for generously providing lunch to our Police Department
- On Tuesday, August 19, 2025, Alexander Strockis was sworn in as a full-time police officer. Alexander has an extensive background in both service and law enforcement. We are excited to have him on our team



Alexander Strockis was sworn in August 19, 2025 as a full-time police officer

Fire Department

August 13th – August 19th, 2025

- Fire Department crews responded to 82 EMS and fire calls, continued EMS training, participated in the NFPA 1010 Driving Course and attended an Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) course.
- Fire Department personnel completed a fire drill at Easter Seals DuPage, attended the Metra Railway Safety Blitz and participated in the Big Rigs & Kids event on Saturday, August 16.
- Fire Department Administration actively participated in key engagements, including the MABAS Division XII Deputy Chiefs meeting, Local Emergency Management Committee, Kiwanis, Control Cric Demonstration, ETSB Radio Update meeting.
- Fire Department Administration met with the Public Works Administration and Fleet to discuss Fire Department fleet inventory and future replacement schedules.
- On Monday, August 18, Congressman Sean Casten visited Villa Park Fire Station 81 to have a meaningful discussion regarding the current challenges facing fire departments when operating with limited resources.

Fire Dept continued…

Representative Sean Casten visited VPFD #81

Big Rigs and Kids

Library

In the Works

- Department Heads meeting
- Village Department Heads meeting
- Rotary meeting
- Kiwanis meeting
- Friends of the Villa Park Library Board meeting
- Finance Committee meeting
- Little Free Libraries restocked
- Fiction and nonfiction collection weeded
- Book discussions led by staff
- Storytime conducted at Kiddie Academy
- Games and giveaways @ Villa Park's August Summer Concert
- Games and giveaways @ Big Rigs & Kids!
- VPPL Staff In-Service Day
- Book Reviews by staff posted to website and social media

Programs and Services

- Adult Book Bag Subscription Registration
- Back to School Playdate @ Oakbrook Terrace
- A Living History Portrayal with Leslie Goddard: Lucille Ball
- Homeschool Hangout
- VPPL @ Village of Villa Park's August Summer Concert

Finance Department

Finance Director:

- Researched the Wildfire Harley Davidson agreement with the Village
- Worked on the development of the FY 2026 Budget
- Attended a budget meeting with the Interim Community Development Director
- Completed and approved payroll ACH's for payroll the week of 8/18
- Held the weekly status meeting with the auditors for 2024 year-end
- Updated the Fire Pension personnel information for the Actuarial Report
- Attended the gathering at Fire Station #82 with State Representative Sean Casten
- Provided July Revenue and Expense reports to department heads
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable invoices
- Reviewed and approved journal entries
- Attended the weekly Department Head meeting
- Reviewed and approved the 8/18 bill list and emailed Village Manager & Board
- Responded to various budget informational requests from departments
- Welcomed our Accounting Manager, Julie Settles, back!

The Finance staff accomplished the following:

- Balanced daily Cash drawer, prepared bank deposits and posted to General Ledger
- Processed and approved A/P invoices
- Processed A/R payments
- Created the bill listing for 8/25
- Processed the check run and mailed out all checks
- Updated the tracking of payments for the places of eating tax
- Processed utility bills
- Helped Reception Process manual Checks
- Processed utility bills
- Processed final read for utility bills
- Responded to all residents requests

Information Technology

Hardware-

- Deployed three new computers at FD.
- Pulled new ethernet wire at FD for new emergency call box.
- Installed a new camera at VH.
- Configuring new laptop for the garage.

Miscellaneous-

- Configured accounts and setup new finance supervisor.
- Held security training for staff that needed to complete this.
- Comcast replaced modem at wet weather facility to increase bandwidth.
- Replaced network switch at wet weather.
- Replaced failed hard drive in old PD evidence server.

Communications

Social Media:

- Misc. VPRC Programming
- Thursday Summer Concert
- Big Rigs & Kids
- Mission BBQ Provides Free Lunch for PD
- VPPD Lemonade Stand Visit
- Congressman Sean Casten Visits Fire Station
- Officer Strockis Hiring
- Sgt. Cihak & Deputy Chief McCann honored for 30 years of service
- MC2 Aggregation Renewal Information

Website:

- Added new commission webpages.
- Important Notice: Municipal Aggregation Program
- Added Municipal Aggregation webpage

Other:

- Attended Brewfest Meeting
- Attended hiring of Officer Strockis
- Distributed employee birthday bundlets.
- Proofed VPRC Constant Contacts.
- Created posters for VPRC programming
- Working on setting up Villa Park information in Recycle Coach app with LRS.

Community and Economic Development

- Continued interviews for open receptionist position within Community & Economic & Public Works departments
- Discussed CED fleet vehicles necessary for job functions of the department for 2026 budget planning with Public Works department
- Held a meeting with Village consultant for space needs assessment within all Village buildings
- Noticed for 4 public hearings for the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on September 10th

Parks and Recreation

Administration

- Staff met with Public Works to discuss vehicle and equipment current and future needs.
- Staff met with SSL Architects at Village Hall to review the remaining areas of the facility to be measured and designed.
- Staff met to review Village facilities, for cyber security training, to discuss upcoming events, and to work on budgeting for 2026.
- Staff completed interviews for the Full Time Rec Center Custodial position currently open.
- Staff worked with WB Olsen to address door issues at the VPRC.
- The printed version of the Fall/Winter Programs & Events Catalog was delivered. Copies were taken to Village Hall & the library.
- Kiosks on the Prairie Path were updated with new information.

Parks, Buildings & Grounds Division

- Staff work/repairs continue with Lufkin Park improvements, landscape bed cleanup, sports field prep, routine maintenance, maintenance and repairs of Park facilities, HVAC repairs, pluming repairs, electrical repairs, inspections, and daily/weekly disinfecting cleanings and organizing of equipment, vehicles, and facilities.

Recreation Division

- Adult/Senior Programs-(96 participants)
    - Bus trip-Harrah's Casino, Joliet 8/11
    - Dining Destinations-Oscar Swan, Geneva 8/12 (new trip)
    - Birthday Bingo 8/13
    - Coach bus trip-Air & Water Show Rehearsal 8/15
- The final day at Jefferson Pool for the 2025 swim season is Sunday, August 31.
- 169 kids signed up for fall soccer league. (164 in 2024)
- 10 teams signed up for Women's Volleyball so far.
- Three new group fitness classes starting in September.
- Big Rigs & Kids 8/16-approximately 200 attended, heat and humidity kept numbers lower than previous years.

Public Works

- Fleet and Public Works staff participated in Big Rigs and Kids event over the past weekend. Several village vehicles were cleaned and brought to the site. Employees were on hand to answer questions about equipment and handout Public Works promotional items.
- Jackson Area Improvement Project continues. The contractor finished the replacement of the lead water services in the project limits this week , continued with the remainder of the removal of the Wisconsin from Madison to Washington. The contractor will continue installing concrete curbs, aprons and continue with roadway removal and grading on Wisconsin.
- The North Harvard Water Main Project is now substantially complete, and sod will be placed in September once weather allows.
- The 2025 Sidewalk Program construction has completed the initial locations throughout town and the additional work through the approved change order is being scheduled.
- Engineering staff reviewed plans for the resurfacing of Highland and received IDOT for approval. Bids will be received on August 28th
- Staff held a bid opening for the 2025 Parkway Tree Planting Program. We received five (5) bids and will be going to the Village Board to approve a contract to plant 130 trees.
- Public Works and Community Development staff continued with interviews for the open receptionist position.
- The Public Works Operational staff repaired a water main break.
- Public Works Operational staff have continued to swap out meters for new Ipearls in town.
- Public Works Street Division worked on restoring pavement patches from previous utility repairs and tree removals.
- Fleet are working on upfitting all new police squads and making repairs to the rear a/c system on fire ambulance M81.
- Surplus auction of 13 items has ended and most of the vehicles have been picked up.
- Fleet staff is preparing five additional vehicles to list on an auction. These items should be listing starting next week.
- Fleet staff and PW Director meet with the different departments to review the fleet inventory and updating a master replacement schedule.
- Public Works and Fleet staff attended the national APWA show in Chicago.