

CRETE TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

WINTER 2020

FROM THE SUPERVISOR **MICHAEL J. LICCAR**

“Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.” - Jonas Salk (*American virologist who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines.*)

There's light at the end of the tunnel! Two major pharmaceutical firms have announced late stage trials that their vaccines have proved to be approximately 95% effective against COVID-19. If approval from the Food and Drug Administration comes as expected, vaccinations are anticipated to begin by the end of this year and to be widely available next year.

A FEW QUICK UPDATES:

• Crete Township continues to follow CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines, including requiring facemasks, social distancing, frequent hand washing, hand sanitizers and limiting the number of people in Town Hall. The Township's cleaning service applies enhanced sanitization procedures along with their regular duties on a daily basis. As a safety precaution in anticipation of early voting, the Town Hall building was specially treated and sanitized by ServPro (a property remediation firm) with their “defensive pathogen cleaning program” which is similar to that used in hospitals. Moreover, the Township Board adopted the Crete Township Employee Covid-19 Guidelines which provides standards on office safety and procedures for dealing with suspected or confirmed exposure to COVID-19 by Township staff.

• Under the leadership of Township Clerk, Jim Buitter, the Township served approximately 1,900 residents who came in for early voting. This was quite an accomplishment considering the limited space of the Town Hall, social-distancing requirements and that Will County provided only 2 registration computers and printers, 7 voting booths and 2 handicap accessible voting booths. Although the official Canvas statistics have not yet been released by the Will County Clerk, it appears that voter turnout was well over 70%.

• COVID-19 has unfortunately affected some of our normal Township Services for Seniors, specifically:

// Paratransit service ridership, provided to Township seniors and special needs residents, is down approximately 57% year-to-date through September 2020. Average cost per ride during that 9-month period were reduced approximately 11.5% to an average cost of \$10.21 per ride versus \$11.53/ride in the comparable 2019 period.

// The Annual Senior Picnic and Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon programs were cancelled due to safety restrictions related to COVID-19. However, under the direction of Trustee Frank Elton, the Township will provide a special Senior Christmas Drive Through event at

the Town Hall on December 21st from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

• The Crete Food Pantry has continued to serve residents. Social distancing and pick-up protocols were introduced to protect residents and volunteers alike. Please do continue to support this essential organization with your non-perishable food and monetary donations.

• Township Board meetings have been reinstated to in-person meetings (facemasks and social distancing required) at the Town Hall, the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. During the height of the pandemic, the meetings were conducted via Zoom video conferencing.

• Highway Commissioner Tony Recapito and the Highway Department staff continually managed all necessary road & bridge repairs and improvements (including the completion of the Danne Road bridge project) on schedule and on budget. Tony also obtained sizeable grants for Township road projects.

• Township Assessor Mary Tamez and her staff have also continued their work uninterrupted during the pandemic. They processed 70 appeals, 294 exemption forms and modified 1,066 local parcels.

• Mosquito abatement services, under the direction of Trustee Jim Piacentini, were provided

continually during the spring and summer months.

• Township office and administration services have also continued without interruption including resident service requests, General Assistance, marriage licenses, Town Hall upkeep, under the direction of Trustee Bob Hodge, and the financial management of Town Funds overseen by Trustee Walter Grady.

• During November 2020, the Township Board passed a resolution to decrease the 2021 Town Fund Levy by 1.16%. Although the Town Fund only represents approximately 1.7% of a typical property tax bill, the reduction in the tax levy provides some modest relief.

We are honored to serve you and wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas season.



Michael J. Liccar
Supervisor
michael.liccar@cretetownship.com
708.672.8279

News from the Clerk



**JIM BUITER,
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

It has been a unique fall with the jump of COVID-19 virus cases and the Governor's Shelter In edict, but the Clerk

has been very busy with the record keeping and recording minutes of the Town Board meetings. We held early voting the last week of October 2020 with 1904 voters participating. Everything went very well though the wait to vote was sometimes lengthy especially during the first couple of days due to some slowness in registering the voters via the equipment provided.

Update from the Mosquito Task Force



**JIM PIACENTINI,
TRUSTEE**

Mosquito season is over. The Task Force will still be watching for information over the internet in the off-season to help better protect you next season. There

I would like to this opportunity to thank all my people who made the early voting a resounding success, without them assisting myself it would have been longer lines. Thanks again for your help. We have compiled the tax levies for the Town Fund and Road and Bridge Funds and will have a public hearing for these on December 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Once approved the tax levies will be submitted to Will County Clerk's by the end of December 2020. The Christmas decorations are up and looking very spectacular this time year in the Town Hall. The Clerk's Office would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If and questions or concerns, the Clerk can always be reached at the Township offices.

were a couple of cases of trapped mosquitos with West Nile but no human cases that we were aware of. Thanks to Crete, South Chicago Heights and Beecher for spraying and protecting the people in their community. If you have any questions call Town Hall at 708-672-8279 and the Task Force will get in touch with you.



From the Building and Grounds Committee

Proper care of the Township Hall is critical to providing a safe environment for everyone, employees and residents alike.



**BOB HODGE,
TRUSTEE**

With Winter upon us, we once again have snow removal contracts in place to maintain the Township Hall parking

lot and sidewalks. In addition, we instituted a 2-year contract for

HVAC preventive maintenance including any repairs as needed. Our janitorial service is doing an outstanding job with routine thorough cleaning and sanitation of all areas of the Township Hall.

As COVID-19 continues, we are adhering to all guidelines from the CDC, state and local public health officials, as well as guidance from the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI). We are in constant contact with TOI to safely navigate all mandates and recommendations, ensuring compliance with COVID-19 safety practices.

Please remember, face masks and social distancing continue to be required for anyone entering the building. We hope you have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Christmas Party



**FRANK ELTON,
TRUSTEE**

We appreciate our seniors, who are the backbone of Crete Township. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, we

were not able to have the senior picnic or Christmas luncheon.

Your safety and good health are more important. This year we will be having a drive through event at the Town Hall Monday December 21st from 10am to 2pm., to get your Christmas goodie bag. Please call the Town Hall at 708-672-8279 and get your name on the list.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and prosperous New Year

Finance Update



**WALTER GRADY,
TRUSTEE**

Hello Everyone! With fall in full swing and a bit of winter we have enough to worry about in addition to the covid

crisis. I hope that the community is surviving this crisis and look forward to a vaccine to be available very soon.

The Township is doing well financially. We received our Annual Financial Report from Sikich (our Certified Public Accountants)

for the year ending March 31, 2020. They did not identify any deficiencies in the internal control that were considered to be material or significant weaknesses.

The fees for paratransit service are much lower for the current fiscal year and that is probably due to the covid crisis. However we are remaining vigilant and mindful of the township expenses.

We are currently within budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and hope to remain that way.

I would like to wish everyone happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.



CRETE TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

1367 WOOD STREET, CRETE, IL 60417

PHONE: 708-672-8279 FAX: 708-672-3327

EMAIL: INFO@CRETETOWNSHIP.COM

<p>Supervisor Michael J. Liccar</p>	<p>Clerk Jim Buiter</p>	<p>Assessor Mary Margaret Tamez</p>
<p>Highway Commissioner Anthony Recupito 708-672-7732 arecupito @cretetownship.com</p>	<p>Trustees Frank Elton Walter Grady Bob Hodge Jim Piacentini</p>	<p>Office Manager Patty Hanus</p> <p>Office Assistant Pam Vasquez</p> <p>Collector Laura Elton</p>

News from the Highway Commissioner



ANTHONY "TONY" RECUPILO, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

As of the writing of this article, we are in the midst of record-breaking warm November weather. There is nothing stranger

than fitting your trucks with plows and salt spreaders in 75-degree temperatures. However, we all know how fast these temperatures can and will change, likely by the time this goes to press.

Despite all the adversity we have had to fare this year, we were able to keep all things "rolling along" and business-as-usual at The Road District. Our 2020 Pavement Maintenance project was completed and I am pleased to announce that

the Danne Road Bridge replacement was completed with the planting of trees as well as winter seeding (see attached photo). This is the fifth bridge that we have replaced since I became Highway Commissioner.



We currently have two other large projects in the works. The first project includes improvements at the intersection of Stateline Road and Exchange Street/101st Avenue. We are in the final stages of formalizing the design and intergovernmental agreement between The Township Road District, Will County Division of Transportation (WCDOT), Lake County Indiana Highway Department, and the developer of the new gas station/car wash at that

location. Proposed improvements will include turn lanes and traffic signals. We are hopeful that construction will take place in 2021.

The second project – improvements at the intersection of Burrville Road and Exchange Street – is one that we've been working on for several years. The Illinois Department of Transportation has notified us that our project for that location has been selected for Local Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) funding. This joint venture project between The Township Road District and the WCDOT has an estimated cost of \$2.66 million. Our local government share of 10% (\$266,000 est.) will be split between the WCDOT, which is paying two-thirds (\$178,000 est.), and The Crete Township Road District, which is paying one-third (\$88,000 est.). This project will be a complete re-design of that intersection, with design characteristics to be determined. No local property tax funds will be used for this project.

Along with these large projects, our crew has been working

diligently to maintain our roads, ditches, signage, culvert pipes, and equipment to ensure that you can travel safely through our Township. I am very proud of the work they do to ensure our roads are some of the most well-maintained roads in the area.

With winter fast approaching, please remember to slow down and stay back from any plow trucks. Following too closely puts you and the drivers in significant danger. Also, there is a 2" no-parking snowfall ordinance in effect on all Township roads. All vehicles are required to be moved from the pavement until our plow trucks are finished.

If you have any questions or concerns about our Township roads in the unincorporated areas, I can be reached at 672-7732 or via email at arecupito@cretetownship.com.

That's all for now. Let's hope for a safe winter and a great 2021.

Anthony "Tony" Recupito
Crete Township Highway Commissioner

The Holidays Are Special...

So Are **WALT'S** Customers

**SOUTH HOLLAND
HOMEWOOD
TINLEY PARK
CRETE
DYER
BEECHER**

Thank You for Your Patronage!

From the Crete Township Assessor

“We are all on this planet together and only together can we make it a better place for all.”

- Cynthia Jo Lutje



MARY MARGARET TAMEZ
ASSESSOR

With having the privilege of speaking to many taxpayers over the last fourteen years, I hear many of the same feelings about the property tax cycle. It seems

to be something most just “deal with” and feel there is nothing that can be done. It is always my goal to share my knowledge of the tax cycle. I do this by providing information on how values are placed on properties, notification of exemptions that you may qualify for, and the reasons for change to all. Year in and year out, Property taxes are a significant expense for homeowners. But, if you know how its calculated, you can then take the time to budget accordingly, avoid surprises and be aware of any costly errors on your bill.

Your property tax bill is based on

the assessed value of your property, any exemptions for which you qualify, and the property tax rate.

For starters, your property tax assessment is valued as of January 1st of that given year. This value changes annually with the market. The current market is up 11.3% from this time last year. This means we need to expect an increase in home values.

Exemptions decrease the assessed value of your property based on you qualifying. These exemptions are listed. If there is an exemption you may qualify for that you are not currently receiving, please take the time to fill out the form.

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for many local governments or taxing bodies. They pay for public schools, community colleges, libraries, local government salaries, park districts, police and fire, streets and sanitation, as well as many other local needs. Your tax dollars are distributed to the taxing bodies

that are listed on the front of your tax bill. The portion they receive is the rate listed and the rate listed is the same for everyone per taxing body. This changes annually based on their budget. This rate is multiplied by your assessed value to determines the property tax bill. Many of these positions that form the budgets for the taxing body are elected. In the big picture, we as taxpayers help determine this rate.

I hope this information helped shed some light on the property tax cycle as well as knowing your property tax bill payment is crucial to keep our community running. Understanding the cycle sometimes helps with the burden of payment. Although we don't like the hefty payment, the support of our community is needed and funded by us!

May you find the light leading you to health, happiness, and peace during the holiday season and through the coming year.

Mary Margaret Tamez

There are many exemptions that you may qualify for!

General Homestead Exemption

Do you live on the property, a named owner on the deed, and it is your principal residence? You qualify! This exemption is added and removed by our office, there is no form. ALWAYS check your property tax bill to make sure you have it if you qualify.

Disabled Person Exemption

Are you collecting disability? You qualify! Please bring in the proof of disability or come to the office to get the form for the doctor to fill out for the proof and we will assist you with the exemption form.

Senior Homestead Exemption

Do you turn 65 this year and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in your drivers license or ID for proof of age and we will assist you in the application.

Senior Freeze Exemption

Are you 65 and have a total household income of less than **\$65,000**? You qualify! The income level was increased from \$55,000 to \$65,000 for the 2018 assessment year! Bring in your federal income tax form or any forms you would normally take to have your income taxes done if you no longer meet the filing requirements. We will have the forms in our office after April 1st and we can assist you in filling out the form.

Disabled Veteran

Are you a Veteran with at least 30% service-connected disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in a copy of your DD 214 as well as the proof of disability for the current year you are applying for that lists your percentage of disability and we will assist you in filling out the form.

Crete Township Hall Services Offered

Here are just a few of the services offered by the Crete Township Hall

- Vote Registration Services
- Temporary Handicap

Placards

- Notary Service
- Will County Assessor's

Office on Site

- Food Pantry -

Wednesday from 9AM-11AM

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION



Marriage Licenses for Will County may be obtained at the Crete Township Office, Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM.

Marriage License - \$28.00 for issuing a marriage license.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MUST BE MARRIED IN WILL COUNTY

CASH ONLY. No personal checks, debit or credit cards!

Identification Required to obtain a Marriage License:

- Current form of I.D (Driver's License or State I.D, Passport or Military ID)
- Divorce papers or death certificate if other than first marriage.

Crete Public Library Copes

- by Sarah Wegley

For all of us, 2020 has been The Year of Doing Things Differently. During these trying times, at Crete Public Library, we have adapted to safely serve you by providing access to our resources



and services. [As of this writing,] community members have been coming in daily for a quick visit to use our computers, photocopier, scanner, and fax; to browse our shelves and check out; and to pick up materials requested from other libraries. Many others are accessing our content online and participating in our virtual story times and programs.

If you haven't visited us recently and would like to come into the library, please be aware that for everyone's health and safety, we are limiting the number of visitors inside the building at the same time. To help us coordinate this smoothly, we are encouraging our library visitors to call ahead, so you can enter at your preferred time and avoid a wait. To schedule an appointment for browsing or using a computer, please call 708-672-8017. No appointment is needed to simply pick up materials from the holds shelf in our lobby.

In the upcoming months, we plan to offer more grab-and-go craft kits and virtual activities

for you and your family. We will continue to provide curbside pickup for those wishing to receive contactless service, as well as offering homebound delivery of materials, for those who qualify. Please visit our website at cretelibrary.org to access our library catalog and digital resources and learn more about our virtual programs.

To assist local children and families in need this winter, we are hosting a Mitten Tree. Everyone is invited to participate by hanging newly purchased or handmade mittens, scarves, or hats on the tree in our lobby. Crete Township will distribute the donations through their Food Pantry. This project is ongoing through January 9, 2021.

We want to thank our library users for their staunch support throughout the pandemic. We are glad to be making a positive impact in the community. Our best wishes to all for your health and safety in the New Year.

**WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT
CRETE TOWNSHIP**

Being a true community bank means more than just offering solid banking solutions. We're particularly proud to support Crete Township and its commitment to creating a safe, accessible, and enjoyable environment for all.

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Illinois Lutheran Schools
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Preschool - 6th Grade:
448 Cass Street in Crete

7th - 12th Grade:
1610 Main Street in Crete

Growing Together in God's Love

Illinois Lutheran Schools provide a loving, safe and dynamic environment focused on the Word of God. We encourage students, Preschool to 12th grade, to develop genuine connections with their faithful teachers and peers in a positive, secure Christian setting.

Illinois Lutheran focuses on college prep, building valuable character traits and developing the faith of each student.

- Three Preschool options
- Face to face 5 days a week
- Remote options

www.ilhs.org • 708.672.3262 • facebook.com/illinoislutheran

News from the Crete Township Fire Protection District

- by Chief Jeff Panega

The Crete Township Fire Protection District would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. While 2020 has not been normal in any fashion, we welcome the end to a year remembered by most for the COVID-19 pandemic. The following is information obtained from the Illinois Department of Public Health on keeping safe over the holiday season.

COVID-19 HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS

The holidays bring opportunities to celebrate special traditions and meaningful moments with the people in our lives. As you prepare for November and December



holidays, including but not limited to: Día de Los Muertos; Diwali; Kwanzaa; Thanksgiving;

Hanukkah; Christmas Eve/Christmas; and New Year's Eve. When planning, these Holiday Planning Safety Tips can help protect you, your family, friends, and your community from COVID-19.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

If traveling this holiday season, consider the mode of transportation (plane, car, bus, train), the dates you will be traveling, and your risk to COVID-19 exposure while traveling. Carry a small personal sanitizing kit that contains hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and extra masks. Always wear a mask in public, wash your hands frequently, and practice social distancing when around others not from your household. Be aware of the risk level of your destination. Illinois county-level risk metrics, as well as U.S. and international data, are available on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website.

Driving your own vehicle will reduce your exposure to COVID-19. If you need to use commercial or public transportation, be aware of and try to avoid the busiest travel

times. Consider traveling during non-peak times when there are likely to be fewer people. When possible, to accommodate travel and schedules, consider hosting celebrations on a different day, week, or month to allow for travel during less popular times. Also, reconsider travel during the holiday season and consider holding special remote gatherings or small gatherings at home.

Know when to delay or cancel your travel. Do not travel if you are sick with fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19. Do not travel if you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test, or have had close contact in the past 14 days with a person who has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19. If you have been asked to quarantine, delay your travel until after the full 14 days of quarantine, even if you don't have symptoms. If you test positive for COVID-19 while at your destination, isolate yourself from others for a minimum of 10 days or after two consecutive negative tests (see IDPH isolation and quarantine guidance), and delay your return.

OVERNIGHT GUESTS

If you plan to have or be an overnight guest, the host and guests should communicate about what is expected ahead of time. Consider the health of those in your home and those visiting, including older adults and individuals with medical conditions that put them at higher risk of severe illness. Identify a room where an individual can isolate should they develop symptoms or test positive while visiting. Make sure everyone understands the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing. Ensure that soap and sanitizer are available, and clean frequently touched surfaces.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Consider alternative ways to purchase gifts other than visiting stores in person, where possible. If you are planning a holiday shopping trip, look up the amount of COVID-19 activity in your community on the IDPH website. Stay home if you have tested positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, which can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms. Consider deferring your holiday shopping during times in which transmission is at high risk for

your area. Use social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others) when shopping. Wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Use hand sanitizer after leaving stores. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.

Lower Risk. Consider shopping online. Many retailers have options for online shopping and in-person, contactless curbside or drive-up pick-up. If using in-person contactless pick-up, you and the retail personnel should wear masks.

Medium Risk. If you choose to shop in-person, wear your mask and maintain 6 feet of distance between you and others. Try to shop at off-peak times when there are fewer shoppers. Many retailers disinfect their carts or offer sanitizing wipes to allow you to wipe down the cart. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands. Prepare a list to help avoid handling items you don't plan to purchase. Use touchless payment if possible or sanitize your hands after purchasing with cash or utilizing a credit or debit card keypad. Bring hand sanitizer and handwipes with you. Be sure to sanitize upon entrance and exit from stores and wash your hands for 20 seconds upon your return home. Store a well-stocked "sanitizing kit" in your vehicle that includes hand sanitizer, wipes, disinfectant spray, mask, and paper towels.

Higher Risk. High-risk activities include in-person sale promotions or holiday activities that encourage large crowds and lining up for limited supply deals, which make social distancing a challenge. When shopping with a non-household member, make sure to wear a mask, including when driving. Santa Claus visits should include mask and social distancing to the extent possible.

Individuals who have symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or are waiting for test results should not shop

HOLIDAY MEALS

For many, the holidays include having family and friends together to share a meal. The following are tips to help with safer meal preparation and serving.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Limit the number of people for which social distancing is possible before, during, and after the meal.
- To the extent reasonably possible, consider taking advantage of outdoor gatherings as weather permits.
- Small indoor social gatherings should maintain 6 feet of distance, before, during, and after the meal (see small social gathering safety tips).
- Consider single-use disposable utensils and dishware for serving and eating meals.
- Encourage guests to wear a mask except to eat and to drink. Have an extra supply of masks, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol, and tissues on hand.
- Wash and disinfect guest areas before and after holiday gatherings.

MEAL SERVING AND DINING

In general, it is important to follow basic steps to help prevent foodborne illness – Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill. Those steps include washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after preparing, serving, and eating food, which will also help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food is associated with directly spreading COVID-19. It is possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object, including food, food packaging, or utensils that have the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus is spread.

- Encourage guests to bring food and drinks for themselves and for members of their own household only.
- Wear a mask while preparing or serving food to others who don't live in your household.
- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, plates and utensils, and condiments.
- Avoid any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets or buffet-style potlucks, salad bars, and condiment or drink stations.

Maintain safe social distancing between households throughout the meal. Make sure everyone adheres to the 6 feet distancing,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

and that everyone is wearing a mask unless eating or drinking. For seating arrangements during meals, place households together, and maintain the 6 feet of distance between each household. Consider sharing your seating arrangements ahead of time so your guests know what to expect.

FOOD PREPARATION AND CLEAN-UP

If part of the meal gathering includes family members preparing the meal, now is a time to get creative. Plan ahead and assign each household a traditional or favorite dish to prepare in advance. Food may be prepared in individual servings so as to avoid buffets. Think of ways to emphasize cultural and family traditions by connecting virtually over the plans for favorite family recipes.

- Wash and disinfect items that are reused.
- Limit the number of people that go in and out of areas where food is prepared or handled.
- Limit gathering in the kitchen and clean-up areas to same household members.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A more virtual celebration will

allow close friends and relatives to celebrate with you.

- In-person events and activities should be held outdoors when possible, and participants should wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance. Smaller gatherings held outdoors where social distancing of 6 feet or more can be maintained will have less risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Avoid the throng of people shopping for holiday meals by purchasing groceries online.
- When greeting friends and family, remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and minimize gestures that promote close contact. The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.
- When extinguishing candles used to celebrate a holiday, do so after everyone has left the room to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Delivering holiday foods, dessert, or décor at the door of extended family, elders, friends, or neighbors is another warm and safer way to

celebrate a season of giving.

- Consider virtual caroling or reciting as an option. Provide a link to your virtual caroling to the people you want to sing to. In-person carolers should have a flu vaccination and bring hand sanitizer. Be sure everyone who comes to sing or recite is healthy. Do not go out if under quarantine or isolation. Do not go out while waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- The safest option for in-person caroling or reading is one which is limited to members of your own household. Keep more than 6 feet from the people you are reciting or singing for. Remain outdoors while caroling and face away from other singers. If caroling with people from other households, be sure to wear a mask. Caroling and reciting is safest in small groups. Avoid in-person caroling or reciting if you have underlying health conditions.

As a part of supporting good health during the holiday season also get your annual flu vaccine to protect you and your family against the flu. **To find a location for COVID-19 testing, go to <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/testing>**

Bambino's
FAMILY RESTAURANT

We would like to say thank you all for your support over the years. It is very much appreciated.

From the Family of Frank Elton
We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas
&
A Safe and Healthy New Year

Thank You!

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Crete Country Christmas 2020: The Spirit Lives On!

-by Michael J. Liccar



After much debate over the past several months, the Crete Country Christmas Committee decided to continue the tradition, which is now in its 28th year, although with limitations due to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the celebration activities were necessarily limited and could not include many of the traditional favorites such as

the Christmas Village and Lodge Entertainment, the 5k Run, Trolley Stops to local businesses, the Kris Kringle Market, Ice Sculptures and the Parade of Lights.

However, that did not dampen our Crete Christmas Spirit! The Memorial Lights Ceremony and the Live Nativity at Zion Lutheran Church continued. Some new events were added including Letters from Santa and the Holiday Film Trivia Quiz.

The Reindog Contest (all pets welcome!) was modified so that photos could be submitted of Christmas-costumed pets and owner to the Crete Country Christmas website. The Home Decorating Contest also continued. Rules and applications for both are located on the Crete Country Christmas website at <https://cretecountrychristmas.com/activities-2020>.

We anticipate that Crete Country Christmas 2021 (December 3, 4 and 5th) will be back in its all its glory, even bigger and better than ever!

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FRIDAY // 3PM - MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY // NOON - MIDNIGHT

Crete Pantry

-by Donna Allen

It is now the Holiday season even if things seem far from normal. Black Friday is in October, not November-usual holiday events become virtual holiday events! The Crete Pantry is also adjusting to its "new normal." There will be Christmas baskets for those signing up.

The distribution requires a different schedule because of the pandemic. Large numbers arriving at the Township building cannot be acceptable. The baskets will be given out alphabetically-last name of the recipient- at a designated time.

The Crete Pantry is hoping to serve those who may need extra help at this time.

If your family's holiday tradition includes helping others, financial contributions are accepted at The Crete Pantry, 1367 Wood Street, Crete, Illinois 60417. The Crete Pantry is a tax-deductible organization.

A happy, healthy, and safe holiday to all!



Crete Township Seniors

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE THROUGH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
10AM TO 2PM

WHERE?
1367 WOOD STREET
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Pat Polzin to Retire from Crete Park District

- by Michael J. Liccar

Pat Polzin, Crete Park District Executive Director, will retire at year-end after more than 22 years



of outstanding dedication and service to Crete Park District community.

Pat, always a strong advocate

of the entire Crete community, has proven her hands-on, “roll up your sleeves and help” style time and time again. Pat was instrumental in many community-based programs including Wild West Days, Memorial Day and Crete Country Christmas. She led the developments of the Crete Park Bike Trail, Lions Park, Peter Halligan Nature Trail, Martin Park, Richard Bowen skate park along with the lights, concession stand, bathrooms and pathway in Crete Park.

It was under her leadership that every park in the District received new equipment and renovations. In October 2020, the Crete Park

District purchased a much-needed Administration Center to expand its services, offices and storage. Although the new center has been in the plans for over 15 years, it was Pat who helped to make it a reality. She will tell you that she did not do this on her own but credits the fabulous Crete Park District staff and dedicated Board that all worked together.

In August 2018, Pat was featured in the “National Recreation and Parks Association” magazine as a spotlight member for her passion for parks and recreation and dedication. She is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and has presented as well as volunteered at both State and National Conferences. Pat cultivated strong relationships with the Village of Crete, Crete Township (including their collaboration on the “Concert in the Park” series), Crete Library, Schools, the Crete Chamber of Commerce, the Crete Lions Club and many other organizations within the community.

Pat plans to spend more time with her husband Mike and visiting their sons in Colorado. She is looking forward to years of fishing, relaxing, traveling and building their Northwoods cabin. She will be sorely missed. Congratulations to Pat and best wishes for your well-deserved retirement.

Crete F-Men News

- by Aaron DaCorte

The Crete F-Men would like to thank our community partners for your continued support of our organization. Thank you to all the local businesses and members of the community for your financial support and assistance to make our events possible! Although we had to make some changes to our event this year, we had great weather and a fantastic response for our annual Halloween Fun Fest! Thank you for attending, and we hope to see you all again at our next event!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR LATEST RAFFLE!

1st place (\$500): Louann Soucie of Throwback’s Bar and Grill
2nd place (\$300) Terry

Sparenburg

3rd place (\$100) Walk Trock
A BIG thank you to Terry for donating \$100 back to the Crete F-Men Nightmare in Crete Haunted House!

CRETE GUN CLUB

The Crete Gun Club meets at the Crete F-Men Hall (1962 West Exchange St. Crete) on the first Monday of every month at 7PM. The public is always welcome to attend as we discuss firearm safety, legislation, skill development, and shooting events. We’re always looking for new members! Club sponsored concealed carry classes and advanced firearm skill courses are also available. For more information, please contact Howard at (708) 279-7131.

We hope everyone has a very merry and most joyous Christmas this holiday season and a happy new year!

Crete Womens Club Thanks Our Generous Community

- by Leslee Williams

We’re still here! The Crete Woman’s Club continues to thrive and support the community despite the pandemic. While our presence isn’t as obvious as in previous years, our board and membership search to create avenues to help those in need. CWC typically donates over \$20,000 to 25 plus local groups and gives scholarships to 6 students attending post-secondary schools and 10 students attending summer camps.

We couldn’t help these wonderful groups and great students without the generosity the members of our community. Our fall fundraiser, a mum and pumpkin sale, raised enough money for several summer camp scholarships! We don’t know what the winter months may hold for us but we are already planning for the Garden Walk next June 26th and 27th.



The Crete Woman’s Club will offer college, technical trade, and summer scholarships in 2021.

Information will be on the website in February 2021. To view, visit www.cretewomanclub.net

Crete Woman’s Club members volunteer at the Crete Pantry and Crete Creative Gallery. Members partner with the Historical Society to fill the history cabinets at the entrance to the library. The butterfly garden at the library is planted and maintained by CWC members. We ring the bells for the Salvation Army and provide school supplies to Crete students. We not only fundraise, we put our hands to work wherever we can to help the community.

Thank you to our great community for helping us to help others.

Crete Creative Art Gallery

- by Phyllis Monks

Our Gallery is OPEN. The times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 2pm. Everyone is welcome but with masks and distancing.

The colorful collages of artist Jeff Stevenson are being exhibited till November 21st. Jeff is the Director of the Nathan Manilow outdoor

Sculpture Park at Governors State University and has shown his artwork in many galleries.

Crete Creative’s 4th Community Showcase opens on Friday November 27th with the work of artists in Crete and our surrounding communities. The artists, ages 16 to possibly 100, will display original artwork of diverse styles, imagery and colors. This exhibit will continue to January 16, 2021. More artists are already scheduled in 2021 for Crete Creative’s Gallery.



Township Paratransit Update

-by Michael J. Liccar



Crete Township has provided paratransit services for its seniors and special needs residents for over 15 years. The service is available to Senior Citizens (60 years of age and older) and residents with disabilities and is limited to medical, educational, shopping and work trips. The service is provided through our partnership with Will County through its "Will Ride" program and is limited to 10 miles outside of the Will Ride boundaries.

Although service has continued throughout the pandemic, concerns over public transportation programs such as ours, in light of the virus, has significantly curtailed ridership.

For the 9-months ending September 30, 2019, we provided 3,851 rides to our residents. For the same 9-month period in 2020, we provided only 1,652 rides for a decrease in ridership of over 57%.

In early 2019, due to the rising costs under the Will Ride program, Crete Township studied whether it should operate its own

independent paratransit program. We determined that the costs of operating and maintaining our own vehicles, hiring staff and purchasing communication equipment and software, among other things, would not have reduced costs. We also determined that operating our own system may have added financial risk to the Township in that many of such costs would be incurred regardless of the volume of ridership.

In retrospect, this appears to have worked out for the best, particularly in light of COVID-related reduced ridership. For the 9-month period ending September 30, 2020, our overall costs for paratransit services decreased by approximately \$29,000 or 63% from the comparable 2019 period. Average cost/ride for that 2020/2019 comparable period dropped by approximately 11.5% from \$11.53/ride in 2019 to \$10.21/ride in 2020.

Paratransit services are a major budget item for the Town Fund. For our fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, the program cost approximately \$80,000. In early 2019, in an effort to curb the growing costs of the program, we limited rides to medical, educational, shopping and work trips only. This helped reduce costs to approximately \$55,000 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020. The Crete Township Paratransit Service is relied upon by many of our seniors and special needs residents. We are committed to providing this essential service at a reasonable cost and continue to work with Will County and PACE to improve the quality of the service.

Correction – Summer 2020 Crete Township Newsletter

We reported in the Summer 2020 issue of the Crete Township Newsletter that Balmoral Park was sold to Crete Sports Ventures, LLC.

After we went to print and the Newsletter distributed, we were informed that the deal was eventually not completed.

(Please note that the Newsletter is published 3 times a year and the time lag between writing articles and eventually printing and distributing can last several weeks.)

We regret any inconvenience.

Crete Township Maintenance

-by Michael J. Liccar

Ever wonder who is responsible for designing and maintaining the planters outside of Town Hall? Why, its none other than Joel Podin, owner/operator of JTP Lawn Inc. located here in Crete.

Joel designs, installs and maintains the floral displays which grace our Town Hall and are changed to correspond with each season.

Thanks Joel for help keeping our Town Hall exterior looking bright!



- Joel Podin, Owner of JTP Lawn Inc.

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The Crete Township Newsletter is provided free of charge to our residents. It is substantially funded by our local businesses who advertise. **Please support these local businesses as often as you can.**

Thank You

Christmas fun

Match the words to the correct pictures to complete the crossword. Then find a secret message.

bells
candle
candy cane
card
chimney
Christmas tree
elf
gingerbread
holly
letter
lights
ornaments
presents
reindeer
Santa Claus
sleigh
snowman
stocking
wreath

The secret message is _____

©SLC lead home

Merry Christmas

Find the words and match the pictures

F	C	T	G	R	M	E	L	F	P	Q	H	G	H	U
C	A	N	G	E	L	R	T	E	D	K	O	J	L	Y
V	N	T	B	R	T	G	A	E	B	E	L	L	M	E
J	D	I	H	U	T	R	C	S	S	D	L	F	T	J
Y	Y	R	T	E	H	O	D	F	W	Q	Y	N	H	D
S	C	K	Y	S	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	H	B
E	A	Y	T	A	F	C	D	M	G	S	Y	U	S	G
A	N	D	T	H	D	J	H	H	E	S	A	N	T	A
T	E	I	D	B	G	H	D	R	J	F	G	K	T	N
T	O	Y	G	H	O	D	P	L	I	G	H	T	S	A
N	A	Y	K	F	H	W	T	S	O	S	I	D	M	M
A	T	F	S	L	E	I	G	H	F	A	T	F	N	W
H	T	A	H	C	J	T	S	U	T	R	S	M	F	O
D	F	G	A	V	J	Y	A	R	E	A	A	K	A	N
S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	E	Y	D	K	J	F	S

STOCKING
CANDYCANE
FATHER CHRISTMAS
SLEIGH
REINDEER
ANGEL
BELL
PRESENT
TREE
SNOWMAN
TOYS
DECORATION
ELF
HOLLY
LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

ANSWERS ON BACK

How many ghosts appeared to Scrooge in Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"?

In the film, "A Christmas Story", on what street is Ralphie Parker's house located?

Who narrated the original 1966 TV show "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?

Which of Santa's reindeer is named after another animal?

In what year was Christmas declared a federal holiday in the United States?

SUDOKU GAMES

ANSWERS ON BACK

1

			1		5			
6			3					1
9			4					7
			8		2			
		6				9		
		2	6	7				
		1	2		3			
7		3					9	
8								

2

	8							2
	1			6				
			9	5				3
6						9		
	7			8				
			2				5	4
9								
1	4						6	5
	6	8		3				

3

2			1			3		
	3		7				6	
		8		9				4
7	1		2	9				
	2							8
			5					
8		2						7
	6					9	5	
						6		

4

			4			6	7	
							8	4
					1	2		5
	5	1		2	9			
9	4			6	3			
	7						5	
		2	8	9				6
				4			1	
							4	

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Crete Township Newsletter is circulated to all residents and businesses in Crete Township, reaching all of Crete, as well as those in Steger that are in Crete Township.

Comments or questions can be directed to: **Crete Township Office (708) 672-8279**

We welcome you to also visit our website: www.cretetownship.com

To place an ad with Crete Township, please contact Pam at (708) 672-8279, administrator@cretetownship.com

Four (Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas' Past, Present & Future)

Cleveland Street

Boris Karloff

Vixen (a fox)

1870

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA
ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

SUDOKU ANSWERS

7	5	2	9	4	1	6	8	3	
4	1	6	7	8	3	3	2	9	5
9	8	3	2	5	6	5	4	1	7
8	9	4	5	6	7	1	3	2	
6	2	5	1	3	4	9	7	8	
3	7	1	8	2	9	5	4	6	
1	6	8	3	9	5	7	2	4	
5	3	9	4	7	2	8	6	1	
2	4	7	6	1	8	3	5	9	
3	8	9	5	7	6	2	1	4	
2	7	4	3	8	1	6	9	5	
5	6	1	9	2	4	3	7	8	
8	9	2	4	6	7	1	5	3	
7	4	6	1	5	3	9	8	2	
1	3	5	8	9	2	7	4	6	
9	1	3	2	4	5	1	8	3	6
6	5	8	7	3	9	4	2	1	
4	2	7	6	1	8	5	3	9	
5	8	6	3	4	7	1	9	2	
2	6	8	1	3	5	7	4	9	
1	4	3	7	9	8	6	2	5	
9	5	7	4	2	6	3	8	1	
8	9	1	2	7	3	5	6	4	
4	7	5	6	8	9	2	1	3	
6	3	2	1	4	9	7	8		
7	2	4	9	5	1	8	3	6	
3	1	9	8	6	2	4	5	7	
5	8	6	3	4	7	1	9	2	