

News & Views

Winter 2018

Stickney Township Office Locations

SOUTH

5635 State Road
Burbank, IL 60459
708/424-9200

NORTH

6721 W. 40th Street
Stickney, IL 60402
708/788-9100

CENTRAL

4949 S. Long Avenue
708/458-4126

LOUIS S. VIVERITO SENIOR CENTER OFFICE ON AGING

7745 S. Leamington
Burbank, IL 60459
708/636-8850

WEBSITES

www.townshipofstickney.org
www.stickneypublichealthdistrict.org

FYI:

All inquiries regarding the cell tower located on the Old Barn property should be directed to the City of Burbank. The Township is not responsible for its location or maintenance.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

A Nostalgic Look Back, With An Eye Toward the Future

When we moved to Stickney in the mid 1950's, we often had a difficult time describing to non-Stickney residents just exactly where I lived—near Oak Lawn, but not in Oak Lawn. People had a hard time imagining exactly where Stickney was. I discovered that if I said I lived near the Old Barn Restaurant, then they got it.

In those days, outside of the churches, there wasn't a lot out here in the way of landmarks. But lots of people knew of The Old Barn restaurant.

I remember first going to the Old Barn in the early 1960's while working two jobs as a barber to support my young family. Money was tight and it was an honor when we could hold a family birthday, communion party or graduation at The Old Barn to celebrate the occasion. Nothing else was as special! I didn't wear a coat and tie very often but there was a dress code there and we followed it proudly. Dr. Smith ran a professional establishment and it offered a training ground for neighborhood kids over the years who would otherwise not be exposed to such an elegant place and its patrons.

This past summer, The Old Barn was completely torn down, having stood vacant and in disrepair for some time. The land, now level where the restaurant once stood,—is fresh and ready for something new.

My fond memories of this landmark lead me to hope for the potential of the site and what it could become next. Perhaps some sort of development that

(Continued on page 2)



New Animal Control Truck



Stickney Township and Public Health District officials gathered to inspect a new Animal Control truck acquired this summer.

The vehicle is fully outfitted to better transport wild and domestic animals collected by Animal Control Officer Pam Barnett. Equipped with 10 climate-controlled cabins, the new truck will be transporting animals of all kinds for years to come. On hand were (l to r) Dan Paluch, Highway Commissioner, Dr. Christopher Grunow, Health Director, Hector Cesario, Township Secretary; Michael Katcher, Director of Environmental Health; Pam Barnett, Animal Warden and Louis S. Viverito, Township Supervisor.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

(Continued from page 1)

contributes to the community in a positive way, just as The Old Barn did.

In my mind, an ideal neighbor might be a senior housing development. Such a development could take advantage of the infrastructure of healthcare services we've developed right next door and would have much to offer the Stickney Township community.

And just as The Old Barn played a vital role in the foundation of our community, so would the establishment of a residential facility go far to continue

the legacy of a community that cares for its own.

And, when I speak of caring for our own, it's not just seniors that come to mind. What is more important than keeping our children safe, cared for and educated, as we look toward a successful future.

This issue of *News and Views* features a look back at our Youth Commission in celebration of a staff anniversary—Linda Hinker, Director of the Youth Commission, who has officially been with the Township for 40 years this past June. *Congratulations, Linda!*



Save the date!

STICKNEY TOWNSHIP IS PROUD TO
salute our vets
WITH A SPECIAL DAY IN THEIR HONOR.

DECEMBER 7

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

entertainment by

RON & SANDIE (LSV CENTER) • **KYM FRANKOVELGIA** (NORTH BLD)

Children's Performance • Special Guests • All-American Lunch

LOUIS S. VIVERITO SENIOR CENTER

7745 S. LEAMINGTON | BURBANK, IL 60459
PLEASE RSVP TO: 708.636.8850

NORTH BUILDING

6721 W. 40TH ST. | STICKNEY, IL 60402
PLEASE RSVP TO: 708.788.9100

VETERANS OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
AND EACH WILL RECEIVE A COMMEMORATIVE GIFT.

BRING YOUR MEMORABILLA TO DISPLAY AND HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN.

STICKNEY TOWNSHIP YOUTH COMMISSION:

The Stickney Township Youth Commission's Kiddie Play Tyme Preschool Program is off to a great start. The preschool, located at 6721 W. 40th Street in the Village of Stickney, has been busy with academics and fun activities since the start of the school year in September.

Throughout the year, preschoolers and seniors come together to participate in intergenerational activities including, Kiddie Bingo, ice cream socials, art projects, and singing songs at various senior clubs and meal sites.

"Our seniors and preschoolers really enjoy these get-togethers," says Linda Hinker, Director of the Stickney Township Youth Commission. "It really is a joy to have both groups housed under one roof."



Seniors and preschoolers play Kiddie Bingo during the first intergenerational program of the school year



Preschool Program Is Off and Running...

What parents have to say about our Kiddie Play Tyme preschool program...



Amya Morales and Natalie Barragan enjoying books together.

We love the program. Dylan seems to enjoy the interaction with the other kids and teachers. We can tell that it has been great for him. I have always believed you all were doing an amazing job. I love the overall atmosphere everytime we come for pick-ups and drop offs. This program is wonderful and we were so excited River was able to enjoy 2 years before Kindergarten. He is doing so well and we know its in part because of his learning there. Dylan has come out of his shell and we are already looking forward to Autumn starting! ☺

We thank you all for your services and all the love and care you have given to our children. It truly shows.

♡ The
Eberts

The staff here is very friendly and welcoming. I trust them with my child and she enjoys spending time/learning with them. The learning environment is very clean and organized. I also love how they have a outdoor play area.



Oscar Acosta working on his letter "A" paper.

YOUTH COMMISSION CONNECTIONS

Director Linda Hinker Reflects on 40+ Years of Service

Over the years, the Stickney Township Youth Commission has evolved and its current director, Linda Hinker, has witnessed much of its history.

In the 1970s, the Youth Commission offered recreation programming during the summer. During the rest of the year, it offered occasional open gym and movie nights for area youth. Linda, a Burbank native and Reavis High School alum, was a recreation assistant at the time.

In looking back, she describes what the early days were like.

"It was just a very different time. We were poor. We had so much fun with little to nothing in terms of resources. We hand-delivered our flyers, which were mimeographed with carbon paper and all the lettering was blue. We posted our hand made signs in grocery stores. I used a Dictaphone to type up notes from meetings and clients. I appreciate what we have now."

By 1977, Linda had begun working part-time in the Youth Commission office located in a storefront at 79th St. and Narragansett Ave., next door to a barbershop. The barber's name was Lou Viverito.

She couldn't have imagined then just how much she and the Youth Commission would each change and grow from those modest beginnings.

In the early 1980s a preschool program was proposed and approved to run in the South Clinic's Senior Community Room. "There was no kid furniture," remembers Linda. "We had these little kids sitting on regular chairs at big tables."

The next big change came in 1990. "Ken Spajer and I wrote a



grant for a subsidized daycare center in the North Clinic Building. Ken was initially hired as a crisis

intervention counselor and, later, became the Youth Commission director. We worked together up until his retirement in 2007."

Linda, who already had received her Bachelor Degree in communications, returned to college for additional coursework to become qualified by the state to run the daycare center. She became its director that year.

The center opened in April of 1990 in the North Building and ran for 20 years, closing in May of 2010 due to lack of state funding. This opened the door to the expanded preschool program that many Stickney Township children continue to enjoy today.

By this time, Linda had accepted the position of Youth Commission director after the

retirement of Ken Spajer. "In 2010, we moved the preschool program from South to the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center and expanded it to the North facility," recalls Linda.

Today, the preschool and Summer Fun recreation programs continue at both the LSV and North facilities.

"In my 40 plus years at the Township, I've worked under three different administrators, numerous division changes and a multitude of employee changes. The only constant was Lou

Viverito," insists Linda.

"He's always supported the programs for the kids and he's been great to work for."

Lou Viverito, Township supervisor, remembers that office next to the barbershop. "The physical resources were limited, but people have always been the Township's greatest asset. The continuity

of service that we offer is directly related to how we are connected with staff like Linda, folks who have continued to grow and change with us. I remember going to her wedding!" That was 42 years ago.

Linda has marked many life events while connected to the Township. She got married to her husband Jack, had two kids, watched her own kids grow up, get married, and become parents themselves: all while working with the Youth Commission. Professionally, she received her Masters of Social Work degree from Loyola University and became a licensed clinical social worker.

"I'm always motivated to learn and to grow," asserts Linda.

"One of my goals for daycare and preschool has been to be a good





Louis S. Viverito, Township Supervisor, meets with the preschool staff from both LSV and North programs during a recent planning session.

educator, a good leader and a good positive influence on the staff, while providing a safe and healthy learning environment for children. If you don't have good and caring staff, you're not going to have good educators for the children."

In addition to Linda, there are now eight staff members, including Dalia Ruiz de Drose, who worked for both the daycare center and now works for the preschool for a combined 24 years total. In addition, two other staffers, Dawn Jackson-Yanez and Sherri Hayes, have put in 15 years each.

A testament to the quality

of the Youth Commission programming is how parents will often choose to enroll the younger siblings of children who have graduated. This provides strong connections between the staff and the families. Additionally, several of the staff were drawn to working for the program after their own children had participated.

"Throughout the years, the Stickney Township Youth Commission has offered a safe, educational environment for children," insists Viverito. "It's our tradition and reflects what the community values."

Some Parents Can't Get Enough of Our Preschool Program!



The Olszewski family: Mom, Debbie; Justin (left); Jeremy (right) and Jayden (center). The older boys attended our Child Development Center beginning at age 2 1/2. Justin is now 16 and Jeremy is 14. Little brother Jayden is 3 years old and just beginning our Pre K-3 program at LSV in September. Thirteen years after the first child joined our day care the family is still actively involved in Stickney Township Youth Commission programs.



Lizeth Rangel enrolled her boys when they were each 3 years old. Pictured here with their mom, Juan (left) is 14 now and Brian (right) will be 16 in January.

And some parents really can't get enough...



Our newest staff member at LSV is Amy Cantele, whose children both attended and graduated from our LSV preschool program. Dominic, now 7, and Sophia, now 5, entered the program when they were 3. Amy is one of four Youth Commission staff members who came to work at our preschools after their own children completed our programs.

If you, or someone you know, attended the Stickney daycare center prior to 2000, we'd love to hear from you. Tell us your memories, your favorite teacher or what you're doing today. Contact Linda Hinker at 708-788-8122 or email her at lhinker@townshipofstickney.org.



Over the past 6 years Missy Janicek (right) has had 3 children come through our program. Her three oldest: Jacob (now 9), Juliette (now 6) and Stella (now 5, pictured above), all entered our program when they were 3.

News from Stickney Public Health District

HIV and SDI Screening

Free community HIV and STI testing is being offered from 4–7 P.M. at the Stickney Public Health District South Clinic, 5635 State Road in Burbank on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month. HIV prevention counseling, Rapid HIV testing (finger prick) and confidential syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia screenings are offered. Please call 708.424.9200 during regular business hours with any questions. The switchboard will be closed during the time that screenings are offered.

Testing Together!

Testing Together is a new HIV testing and counseling service that allows partners to receive their rapid results, together. This service provides a basis for an ongoing healthy conversation between you and your partner about HIV in your relationship and will allow you to talk openly about building a protection plan together.

This program is being offered in conjunction with Howard Brown Health. For information on more testing sites and information see howardbrown.org/outreach.

News From Your Township Assessor's Office

The Board of Review opened Stickney Township for Tax Year 2017 appeals in November. Property owners who file an appeal with the Board should receive a Decision Letter by February 2018. Taxpayers who receive the Senior Freeze Exemption do not need to file an appeal. Homeowners need never to hire an attorney or consultant to file a tax appeal.

Tax-saving exemption amounts for the Homeowner, Senior Citizen, and Senior Freeze Exemptions have increased for Tax Year 2017. Savings for the Homeowner Exemption will increase from \$7000 Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) to \$10,000. Savings for the Senior Citizen Exemption will increase from \$5000 to \$8000 EAV. NOTE: The exemption amount is not the dollar amount by which the tax bill lowered.

In addition, the Senior Freeze Exemption expanded eligibility by increasing the limit of household income to \$65,000. There is also a new, minimum \$2000 EAV exemption deduction for the Senior Freeze.

Taxpayers who have a prior history of receiving the Senior Citizen or Senior Freeze Exemption will automatically receive a renewal application in January 2018.

Tax Year 2017 First Installment property tax bills will be mailed out on February 1, 2018. First Installment tax bills are 55% of the previous year's total tax bill. Exemptions and changes in assessed value will be calculated into the Second Installment tax bill.

The 2016 Annual Tax Sale will take place May 4, 2018. Delinquent property taxes for Tax Year 2016 will be offered for sale.

Happy 100th Birthday, Fran!



LSV Senior Center wishes one of our own participants a very happy 100th Birthday. Fran Wendt, seated on the left, turned 100 years old this past August. Fran and some of her dear friends come and enjoy our center once a week. Pictured: seated from left; Fran, Kathleen Moore, and Mary Jane Doherty (98 years old). Standing from left: Nancy Krauss, Gerry Krauss, Sandra Mitchell and Bridie O'Reilly.

LSV Center host for this year's Oro Latino Festival



We Thank You for Your Generous Contributions...

Enclosed is a check for \$1,000 from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS made out to the Stickney Township Senior Citizens Program.

It is sent in memory of Larry Baker, Sr in honor of his son Larry Baker, Jr.

Larry has been a great friend and champion of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS for many years. www.broadwaycares.org His generosity of spirit, good humor and great dedication to our work has allowed BC/EFA to respond to many who face terrific physical and personal challenges. I'm sure the great kindness and commitment that Larry has shown BC/EFA is something he learned by example from Larry, Sr.

I'm happy to send this gift to you and all at the Senior Citizens Program as I know Larry, Sr. was as dedicated to his friends there as Larry, Jr. has been to all here at BC/EFA.

Sincerely,

Tom Viola
Executive Director



The LSV Senior Center thanks Carol, Ron and Gayle Martinkus and their friends for sponsoring the 5th annual Bingo Bash in honor of their mother, Pat.



Larry Baker, Sr., former Stickney Township Trustee.

Stay Fit this Winter

**Exercise at the
LSV Senior
Center**

Mondays/Fridays

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

FOREVER FIT

Looking for a fun, energizing way to get moving and keep moving? This class is for you! Motivating music, a variety of steps and stretches designed to get your heart pumping and your muscles strengthened, this program combines cardio, flexibility and balance training—all designed to support and enhance performance of daily activities. All fitness levels welcome!

Mondays • 10 - 11 a.m.

TOTAL WORKOUT

Program includes weight training, core strengthening interspersed with cardio formats such as low impact dance moves, kickboxing, step, and cardio barre. Get your heart pumping to burn calories and release stress. Work at your own pace and fitness level using a variety of equipment.

Fridays • 10 - 11 a.m.

GENTLE FLOW YOGA

Experience the benefits of yoga — improved balance, strength and flexibility, healthy blood pressure—by focusing on deep breathing techniques with the support of a chair. Some standing poses and light flexing exercises will be incorporated. Harmonize your body with peaceful movements and range of motion exercises.

Tuesday/Thursday Classes:

Exercise 9-9:45

Line Dancing 10-11:30

Arthritis Exercise 12:30

Use Caution When Shoveling Snow This Winter Season

With really big snow storms – and even everyday, run-of-the-mill snowfalls – comes a risk of death by shoveling. According to CBS News in Chicago, by early February 2015, around 18 people in the Chicago area had died in snow shoveling-related incidents. They ranged in age from their 40s to 75. Nationwide, snow shoveling is responsible for thousands of injuries and as many as 100 deaths each year.

So, why so many deaths? Shoveling snow is just another household chore, right?

Not at all, says Harvard Health Executive Editor Patrick J. Skerrett.

"Picking up a shovel and moving hundreds of pounds of snow, particularly after doing nothing physical for several months, can put a big strain on the heart,"

Pushing a heavy snow blower also can cause injury. And, there's the cold factor. Cold weather can increase heart rate and blood pressure. It can make blood clot more easily and constrict arteries, which decreases blood supply. This is true even in healthy people. Individuals over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should be particularly careful.

National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely.

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter
- Push the snow rather than lifting it
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Lift with your legs, not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion

Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

Snow Blower Safety

Be safe with these tips from the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons:

- If the blower jams, turn it off
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts
- Do not drink alcohol and use the snow blower
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space
- Refuel your snow blower when it is off, never when it is running



Township Supervisor Louis S. Viverito joins preschool children and staff in welcoming members of the Village of Stickney Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week in October.

Working Like A Dog: Preschoolers Meet a Service Dog

Lee Krizka introduced her service dog, Java Bean, to the Preschoolers at both the North Building and LSV Senior Center this November as part of her "Accentuating the PAWS-ative" program. The educational presentation aims to provide children with a greater understanding of the relationship between individuals with physical disabilities and their service animals.

Lee demonstrated various tasks that Java Bean can perform to assist with her day-to-day activities. The service dog is able to fetch items from around the house and pick up items that Lee may not be able to reach.

Java Bean is Lee's second service dog. Merlot, the oldest, is now semi-retired.



During the program children were invited to discuss the similarities and differences in everyone and why we should never make assumptions about what someone can or cannot do based on appearance or perception. At the end, anyone who wanted to pet Java Bean could!

Lee has used a wheel chair for 31 years due to a spinal chord disease. She is a counselor for the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Illinois and has been a

public speaker and educator for the SCIA for nearly 13 years.

Other preschool programs in November included Story Time with a Burbank Policeman, a visit from Stickney Public Health District's dentist and a presentation by a nurse from the Stickney Township Public Health District.

STICKNEY TOWNSHIP NEWS & VIEWS

5635 State Road
Burbank, IL 60459
708/424-9200



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Information for residents of the City of Burbank, Villages of Forest View and Stickney, Central Stickney and Nottingham areas.

Stickney Township Officials *'Working For You'*



Louis S. Viverito
Supervisor



Ettore "Hector" Cesario
Clerk



Jay Grider
Assessor



Daniel Paluch
Highway Commissioner



Donna R. Galeher
Trustee



Tony Guleiva
Trustee



Louise Zelinski
Trustee



Frank Pajak
Trustee



TOWNSHIP OFFICE CLOSINGS

Monday • 12/25/17

Christmas

Monday • 1/1/18

New Year's Day

Monday • 2/19/18

President's Day

Monday • 5/28/18

Memorial Day



Trustee, Tony Guleiva carried the Stickney Township flag at the "Parade of Flags" ceremony during the Township Officials of Illinois meeting.