2024 PALOS PARK STATE OF THE VILLAGE

- **Nicole Milovich-Walters** MAYOR
- **Rebecca Petan** COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION
- **Dan Polk** COMMISSIONER OF POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY
- **G. Darryl Reed** COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS & FINANCE
- **Mike Wade** COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING & PUBLIC PROPERTY
- **Marie Arrigoni** VILLAGE CLERK
- **Rick Boehm** VILLAGE MANAGER

VILLAGE OF
PALOS PARK

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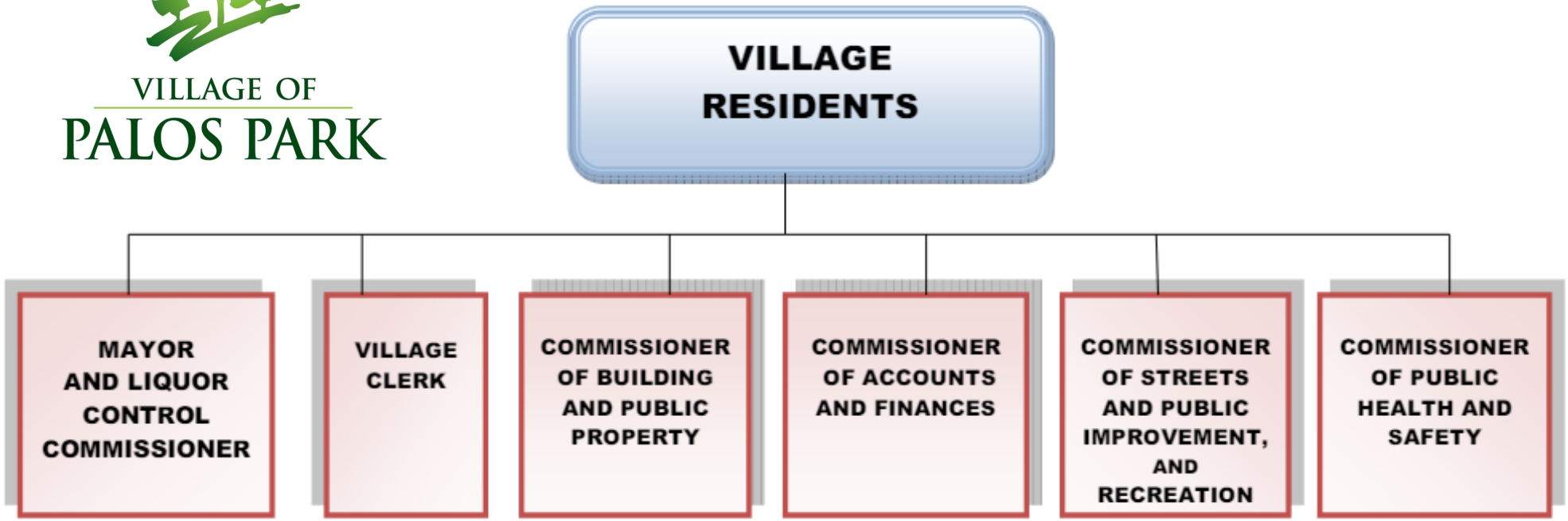


The Village Council establishes policies and procedures for the Village and is responsible for all legislative matters of the Village. The Mayor serves as the chairperson at the Council Meetings and appoints various Committee Members. The four member Board of Commissioners are elected at large for a four year concurrent terms. The Village Clerk is an elected position that is responsible for maintaining records for the Village.

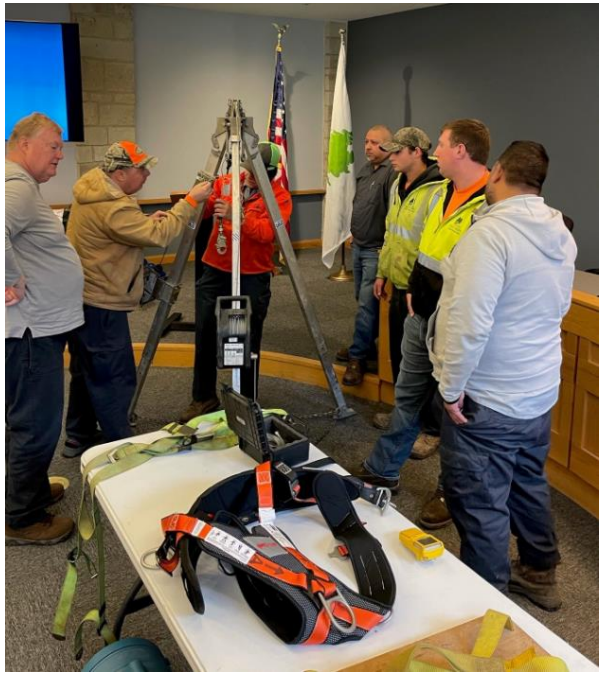
VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK ADMINISTRATION

VILLAGE OF
PALOS PARK

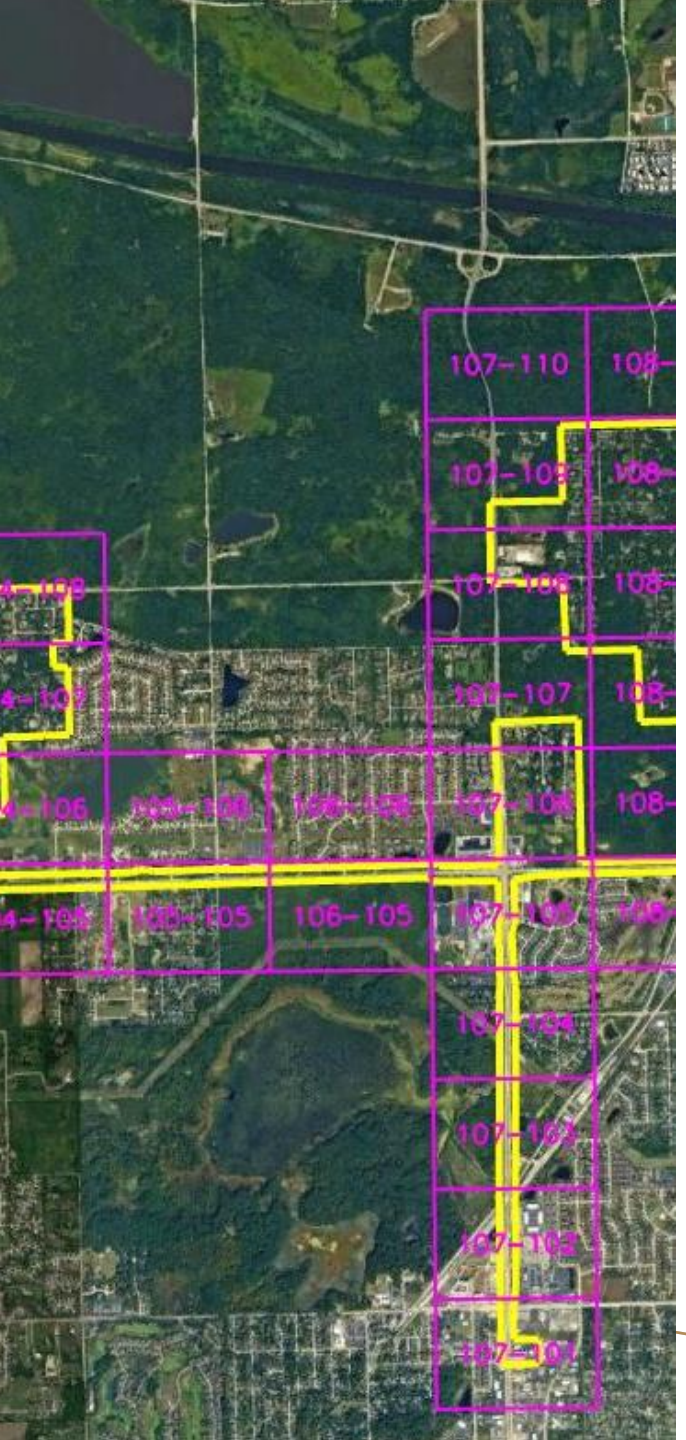
- Professional Village Manager with many years of experience
- Stable Village Council and leadership
- Average full-time employee has been with the Village for over 10 years
- Longest tenured employee has 34+ years

VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK ADMINISTRATION

- Brought Comcast into Village with Franchise Agreement in 2022, in addition to Astound (WOW) & AT&T
- Adopted a local gas tax in 2020; that tax will support the debt service on the $3M bonds issued in 2022 for Village road/road drainage repairs
- Made significant improvements to the historic Recreation building including the Centennial Fountain, portico patio extension, new gym lighting, new HVAC systems, new electrical panel
- Developed Centennial Park
- Re-constructed Administration and Police reception areas to better assist our residents/guests and to keep our employees safer
- New Council room sound/video system in 2022
- Redeveloped Village's website in 2024, 2020, 2016, 2012
- Zero accidents recognition from IRMA – no Workers Comp or Auto in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- New BS&A cloud-based software system implemented in 2024 that now allows for online payments



PUBLIC WORKS



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mike Sibrava, Director of Public Works

10 Full-Time Employees, 2 Part-Time Employees

28 miles of streets

29 miles of sanitary sewer with 11 sanitary lift stations

54 miles of water main with an underground reservoir and pump station, water tower, and booster station

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Water & Sewer

- Added 500,000 gallon underground water reservoir storage at the Palos Park pumping station: helped to comply with the 1 ½ days of average minimum storage required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

- Water reservoir bonds were restructured in 2021 reducing costs

- Installed all new, (up-to-date technology) Scada equipment at Main pumping station and booster station, including a system server that can handle all historic trends

- Upgraded all 11 lift stations
    - Ramsgate {Generator Installation, Met Cloud}
    - Kinvarra {VFD Drives, Met Cloud}
    - Partridge {VFD Install, Generator, Sensaphone Cloud}
    - Romiga {Sensaphone Cloud}
    - Old Creek {Sensaphone Cloud}
    - Holy Family Villa {Sensaphone Cloud}
    - Shadow Ridge {Sensaphone Cloud}
    - 93rd Avenue {New Controls, Generator Installation}
    - 91st Avenue {New Controls, Met Cloud, Generator}
    - 120th Street {Sensaphone Cloud}
    - Kimber Trails {New Controls, Generator, Met Cloud}

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Streets & Trees

- In 2022, $3,000,000 in bonds were issued for repairing, maintaining, and improving Village roads, roadway drainage systems, and other related capital projects
- Made improvements to LaGrange Road
- Constructed sidewalks along LaGrange Road connecting Black Walnut Trail and Wild Cherry Lane
- 31 consecutive years of Tree City USA awards
- Over 4800 Arbor Day seedlings distributed to residents in the past 17 years
- Over 400 2.5" diameter trees have been planted using Tree Bank funds through the Fall Planting Program
- Signalization of the intersection of LaGrange and Creek Roads

2024 Public Works Projects

VILLAGE OF
PALOS PARK

- **STREET PROJECTS**
  - Re-paving 4 miles of streets using bond money
  - Paving 90th Avenue/Spring Drive using a grant from Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- **WATER PROJECTS**
  - Extending water system over a mile to west of Bell Road to open up development of the Western Growth Area at NO ADDITIONAL COST to residents
  - Testing, working, and painting 200 fire hydrants
  - Continue to upgrade sanitary lift station controls and sanitary sewer televising to detect issues that affect the sewers' ability to function efficiently

VILLAGE OF
PALOS PARK

POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joseph Miller, Police Chief

- 11 Full-Time Law Enforcement
- 18 Part-Time Law Enforcement
- 3 Community Service Officers
- 1 Full-Time Civilian, 1 Part-Time Civilian

2023 POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

CALLS FOR SERVICE	50,913
ASSIST CITIZEN CALLS	526
CASE REPORTS	451
ACCIDENT REPORTS	191
ADULT ARRESTS	18
JUVENILE ARRESTS	0
POLICE IMPOUNDS	6
ADJUDICATION CITATIONS	1,221
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	192
WRITTEN WARNINGS	616
VERBAL WARNINGS	683

POLICE DEPARTMENT

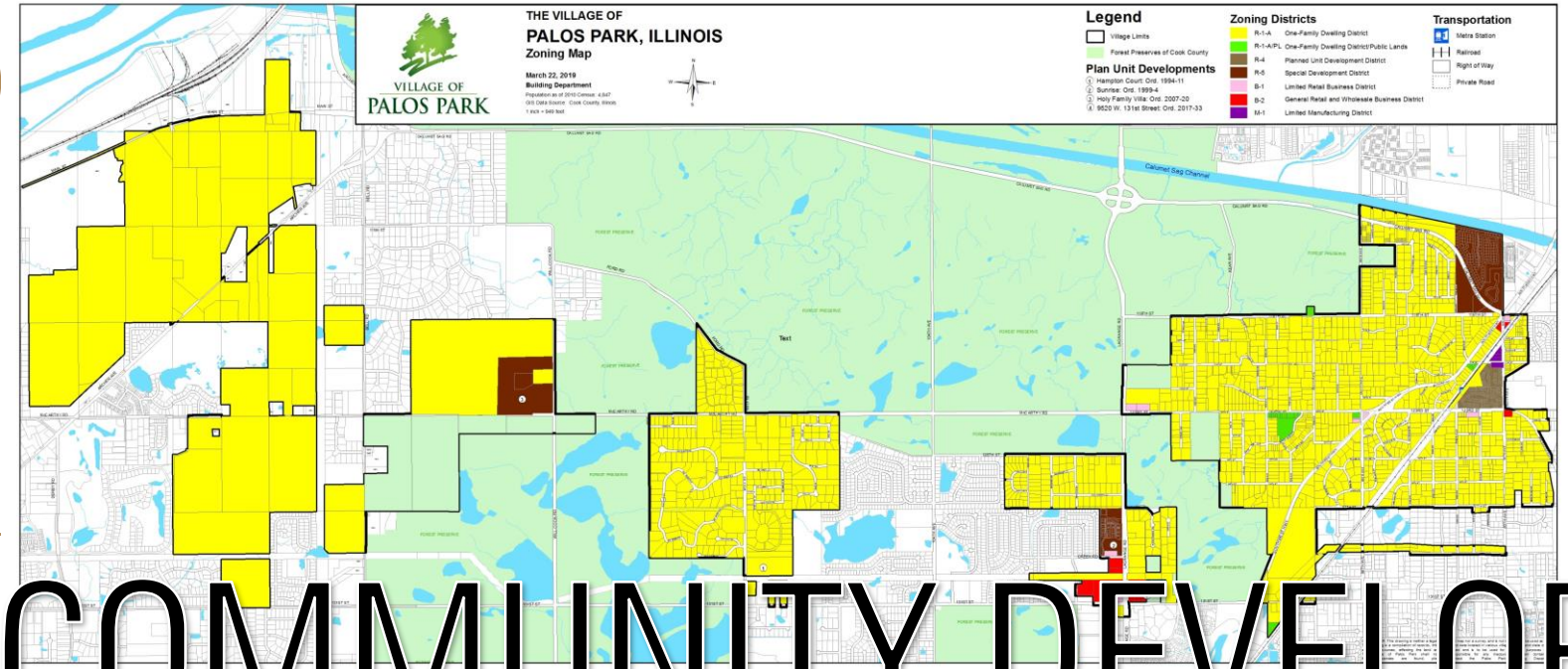
2021 – 2023 Activity

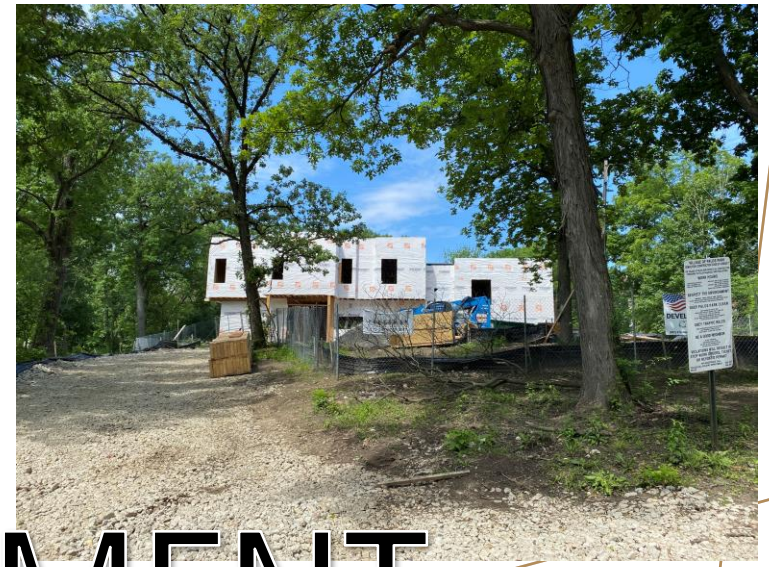
- Completed the update of the Palos Park/Cook County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to prepare for natural disasters and their impacts.
- Switched to Frontline Public Safety Solutions, a state-of-the-art cloud-based platform
- Adopted Palos Park Smart911 system to alert the public to emergencies.
- Established CERT in 2022, Palos Park's first neighborhood-based team that receives special training to assist the community in the absence of and while waiting for emergency responders.
- Police Commissioner Dan Polk announced project S.T.O.P.I.T. (Scams Target Older People and through awareness we can Intercept Thieves) to assist residents with scam crimes against the elderly and home improvement/utility worker scams.
- Palos Park Police Foundation supporting financial resources for special projects in the department. The projects are outside the normally budgeted programs of the Palos Park Police Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 Activity

- Coffee with a Cop brings police officers and the community members they serve together over coffee to discuss issues and learn more about each other.
- Text the Chief program is part of our ongoing commitment to communicate with residents via direct access to their leaders of the police department.
- Coffee with the Chief offers residents the chance to hear directly from the Chief on a monthly basis in an informal, friendly setting.
- Monthly Community Forum Lunches cultivate community conversation about policing.
- Palos Park Police Cadet program is specifically designed to introduce young individuals to the various aspects of the law enforcement professional and help prepare them for a future career as a police officer or other related position.
- COPS, for over 20 years the Palos COPS members patrol our community with a side band radio to communicate with patrol officers and a cell phone to communicate with our dispatch center. They are an additional set of eyes and ears for our police department.
- 2024-25 will see an additional full-time sworn officer added to the ranks of the police department.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Mark Herman, Community Development Director

3 Full-Time Employees, 1 Part-Time Employee

262 Building Permits issued in 2023; including 3 for construction of new homes

2 New businesses opened in 2023

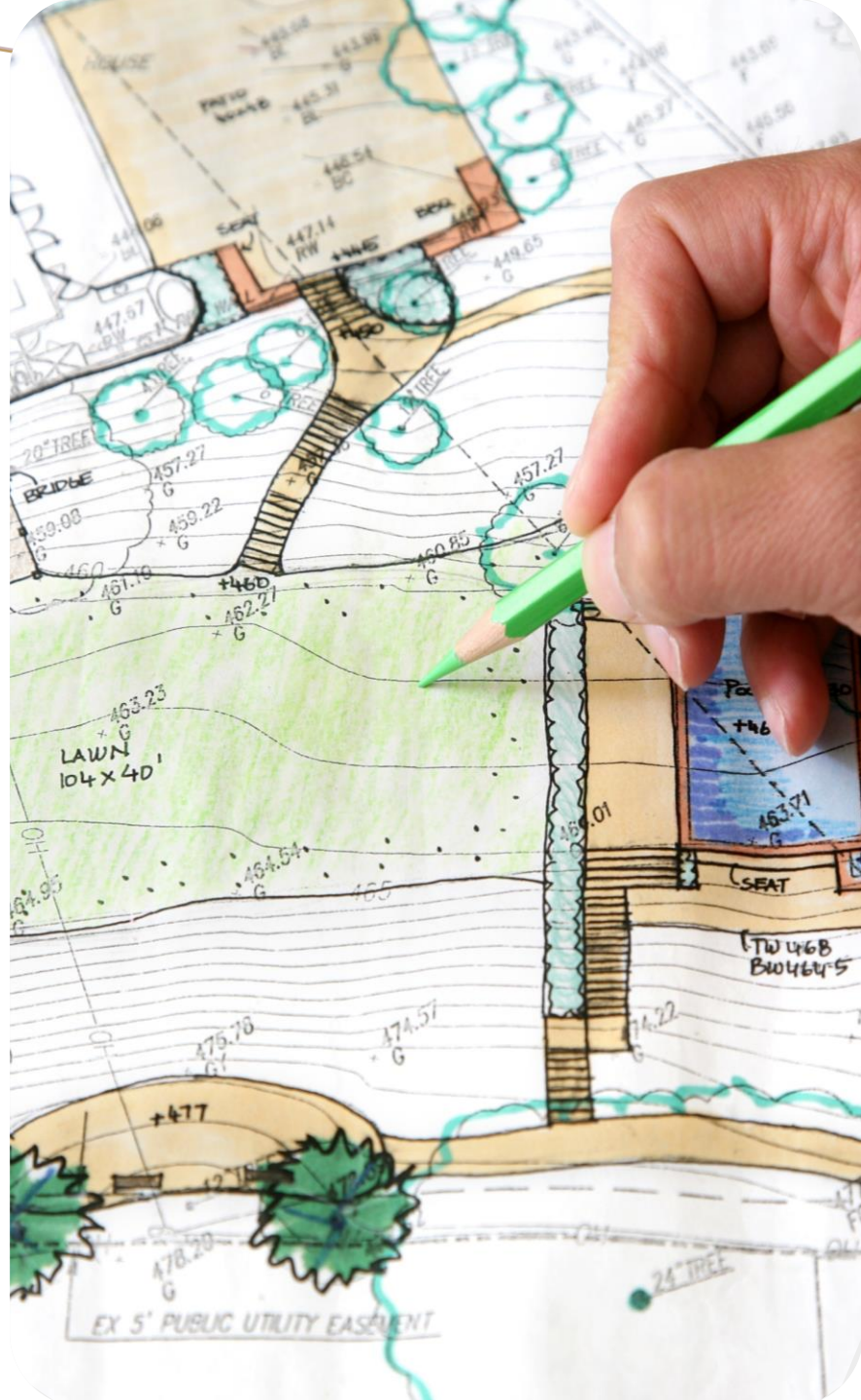
Shawarma Heaven

Great Lakes Beer & Bourbon

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development

- Annexation of Cog Hill, Mid Iron Club and Ludwig Farm at 1,246 acres
- Created the Western Growth Area (WGA) Master Plan, the WGA Design and Development Guidelines, and the WGA Planned Unit Development Ordinance
- Participated in the development of the Cal Sag Trail which opened in Palos Park in 2016
- Low commercial vacancy rates



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2023-24 Activity

- Applied for RTA Community Planning grant regarding studying the Southwest Highway/Timber Lane/121st Street area concerning bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety. IDOT is not supportive of our project at this time, they received more applications this round than ever.
- Development Code Update
  - Village Council approved an agreement with Camiros, LTD to work as a consultant in a process to comprehensively update the Village's development regulations. This is necessary to provide clear zoning and subdivision requirements and suitably regulate new development. Since then, a public review of a Technical Report was held in January 2024. The Code update project is expected to continue through 2024 and will include public documents and public meetings.
- Joint Planning and Training Workshop
  - A combined meeting of the Village Council, Plan Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals was held in June 2023 for a planning and training workshop led by representatives from the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Chaddick Institute from DePaul University.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Zoning Approvals

- **The Center**: In May 2024 the Village Council approved a Special Use amendment for The Center (**12700 Southwest Highway**) to allow for the construction of a new three-unit residential building for use by organizational staff.
- **7925 Palos Avenue** for addition to residence.
- **12512 Iroquois** for addition to residence.
- **12344 Post Road** for addition to existing home.
- Vacant lot at **NW corner of Wolf Road and S. Old Creek Road** for construction of a new home
- **9109 W. 126th Street** for construction of a new home.
- In March 2023 the Village Council approved a PUD Amendment to allow for the expansion of the parking lot at **Wu's House (12300 S. LaGrange Road).** No variance was necessary. Construction is expected to commence soon.

RECREATION & PARKS

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Stephen DeFalco, Recreation Director

- 2 Full-Time Employees
- 2 Part-Time Administrative Staff
- 5 Part-Time Building Attendants
- Hosts over 20 Special Events annually, not including the Autumn In The Park Festival

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Special Events

- Over 20 special events annually (not including Autumn in The Park Festival)
- Introduced races to our special events offerings (Doggie Dash and Spooky Shuffle)
- Added a fall Rid-Litter Day
- Brought back events such as the Halloween Party and the holiday market as part of the Tree Lighting and Holiday Party
- Connecting Palos Park with regional and national efforts such as Illinois Park & Recreation Association's (IPRA) Illinois Unplug Day and national OAKtober month, Move with the Mayor, and International Yoga Day

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Youth Programming

- We offer over 20 classes a session (excluding Summer camps), comprised of both athletic and non-athletic programming
- Serve over 150 youth on average per season
- Increased family program offerings such as family bingo night
- Reintroduced full Summer Kids Zone Summer Camp
- While offering the same amount of youth programming compared to 2019, our run rate has increased from an average of 50% to an average of 75%

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Adult/Senior Programming

- Serve over 125 adults on average per season
- Introduced more mid-day program options for seniors including cards and dice/tile game days
- Introduced Pickleball programming offering 101 and 201 classes
- Our run rate has increased from an average of 55% to an average of 90% compared to 2019

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Ages 55 & Better Club

- Took over the Palos Park Senior Club and rebranded the group in October of 2023
- Serve an average of 50 seniors per month
- Monthly club events include a hot meal and entertainment in the form of a musical act, speaker, or activity

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Rentals

- Rentals at the Recreation Center and Centennial Park have increased dramatically since 2019. Recreation Center rental revenue is on track to double in FY25 and Centennial Park is on track to triple.
- This is due in part to a rate increase that took place in 2024 to be on par with neighboring organizations' rates, building relationships with local sports organizations, and increased promotion of multipurpose room space for a variety of events and occasions.

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Capital Improvements

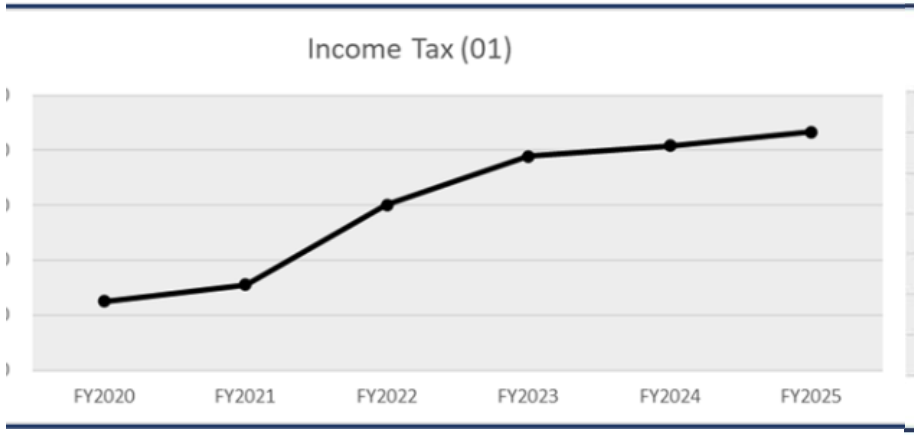
Past/Current

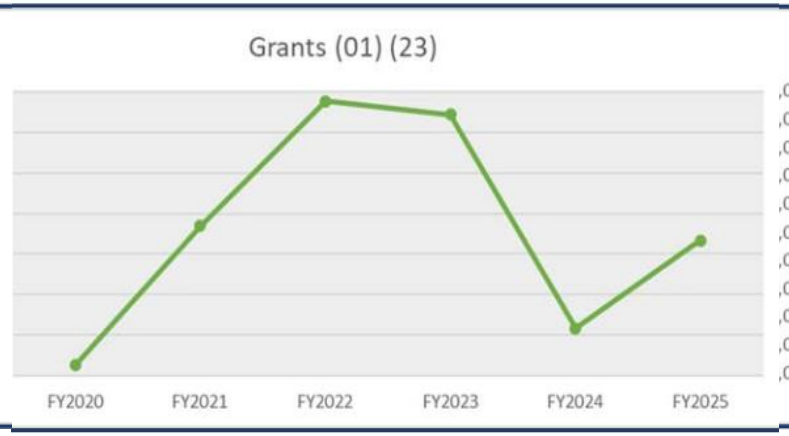
- Irrigation system installation at Village Green Park (2023)
- Complete renovation of Village Green Park playground (2023)
- Continued improvements to Palos Park Recreation Center, a designated historical building, including new HVAC systems (2023)

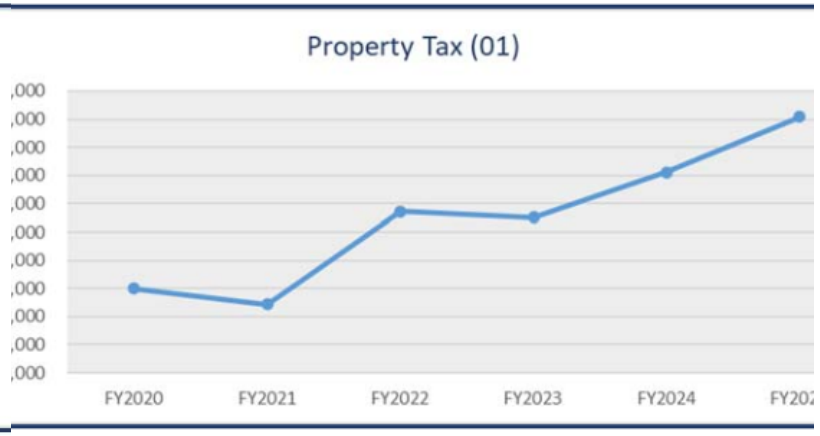
Future

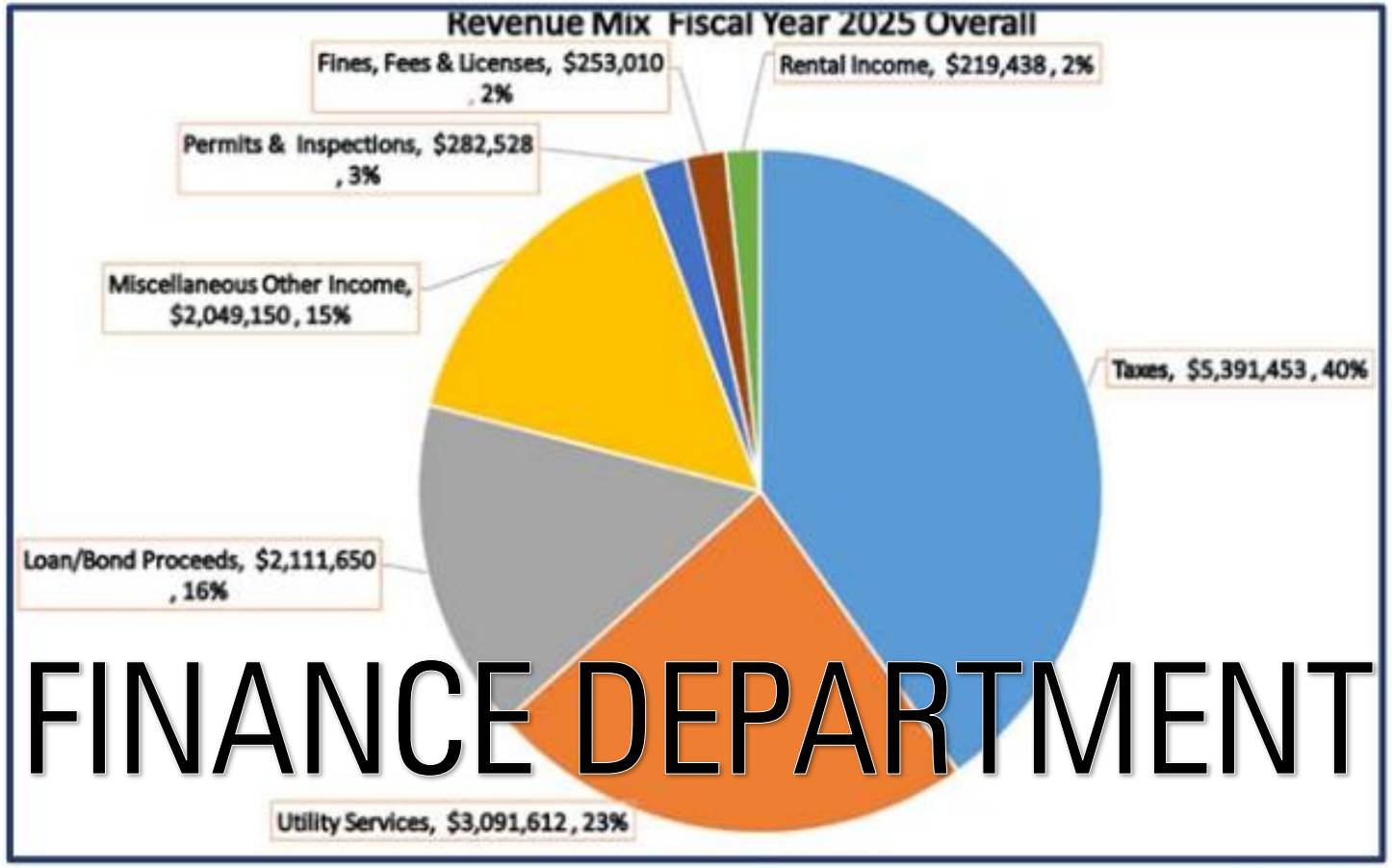
- Resurfacing the Village Green Park tennis courts and basketball area in the Summer of 2024
- Project will include the removal of one of the two tennis courts to be replaced with two pickleball courts building on the public interest in the emerging sport

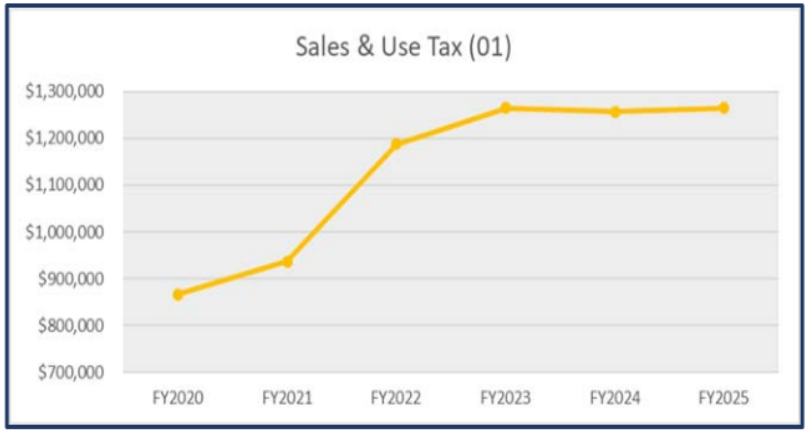
FINANCE DEPARTMENT











FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Alison Brothen, Finance Director/Treasurer

1 Full-Time Employee, 1 Part-Time Employee

FY25 $15,260,000 Total Village-Wide Spending Plan (Excluding Police Pension Fund)

FY25 Operating Costs of $8,800,000

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Balanced budget adopted each year
- IGFOA (Illinois Government Finance Officers Association) audit awards each year
- Village debt is at ¾ of 1% of our debt limit
- Financial improvements – have 50% General Fund reserve where policy is 25% reserve (100% increase)
- Bond rating upgrade through Moody's – 2022 Aa2 (Third highest rating)
- Police Pension Fund – Village makes more than statutory minimum contribution
- COVID finance response:
  - Freeze on non-essential hiring, delayed capital purchases, freeze on non-union wages
    - Saved Village $180,000

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Grants

- Centennial Park development
- Bikeways and Trails Planning
- Cal Sag Trail
- LaGrange Road reconstruction
- Village Green Playground and irrigation system
- Village Road improvements
- Quite Zone rail crossings
- Pollinator Garden at Centennial Park
- CARES - $180,866
- FEMA - $16,000
- ARPA - $644,498
- Portable electronic message board

Electric Aggregation Program

- Village had an Electric Aggregation Program which saved Village residents $800,000 in energy costs.
- Following the passage of a March 20, 2012 voter referendum, the Village of Palos Park contracted to procure electric supply in a municipal electric aggregation program for residents and small businesses. The average participating ratepayer has saved $503 in power costs to date, for a cumulative Village savings over $830,000.

MAYOR'S INITIATIVES

MAYOR'S LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

- Spoke at a Committee hearing during the 2023 Spring legislative session
- As Mayor, chairs bi-monthly Village Council Meetings
- Consistently engage with state legislators via correspondence and in-person meetings
- Attended 2024 IML (Illinois Municipal League) Lobby Day in Springfield, Illinois
  - Met and spoke with state legislators and others about restoring the LGDF (local government distributive fund) to the full amount of 10%

PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Municipal League (IML)
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC)
Southwest Conference of Mayors (SCM)

MAYOR'S INITIATIVES

- Filled all vacancies on Village Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Launched monthly Connect with your Council meetings to foster ongoing dialogue between residents and elected officials
- Established Newcomers Welcoming Ad Hoc Committee to welcome new residents to the community
- Hosted property tax workshop with Assessor Kaegi at Village Hall in August 2023
- Implemented Reta Wegele Beautification Award
- Improved communication through social media and weekly Mayor's videos

MAYOR'S INITIATIVES

- Established the Purple Coneflower as the official Village flower
- Introduced a Village App through Simplicity at no charge to Village or residents
- Restarted the Blue Star Memorial brick paver program
- Initiated "A Neighbor You Should Know," "Business Spotlight," and "Celebrate Residents" to raise awareness about noteworthy people and places in the Village of Palos Park
- Hosts monthly Move with the Mayor events to promote healthy lifestyles

THANK YOU!