

Crete

TOWNSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2017

From the Supervisor **Michael J. Liccar**

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” –Theodore Roosevelt

Welcome to the Spring edition of Crete Township News. Crete Township is a unique area due partly due its close proximity to the greater Chicagoland area as well as the Northwestern Indiana corridor. Our area has a rich history with the first recorded settlements occurring in 1833 and includes the first paved roadway in Illinois, “Dixie Highway” (Route 1). Today, Crete Township is a vibrant community comprised of approximately 23,000 residents and covers about 43 square miles. One of the attributes which makes Crete Township distinctive is its people. Population-wise, approximately 35% of our residents reside within the incorporated municipality of the Village of Crete and about 65% Crete Township’s residents live in the semi-rural unincorporated areas which is quite unusual for an area in close proximity to a major

metropolitan area.

As a governmental unit, Crete Township is primarily responsible for the care and maintenance of over 80 miles of roadway, the operation of the Assessor’s Office which provides valuation assessments and assistance to seniors and others for property tax purposes, marriage licenses, certified copies of vital records, handicap placards, voter registration services, mosquito abatement services, senior transportation services, senior special events and general assistance to those in dire need. In addition, the Township maintains the Town Hall building which is in addition to use for conducting official Township business is also utilized by various governmental, civic and non-profit organizations as well as being home to the Crete Food Pantry.

2017 is shaping up to be an important turning point for our Township including the possibility of significant economic catalysts and jobs creation. In addition to the impact that may come from changes in Washington from infrastructure, economic and tax incentives being proposed by the new administration, there are a number of local projects scheduled to come on line in the Township, including a 300+ acre rail intermodal site proposed by CSX Railroad, the reopening of historic Balmoral Park as the new home to championship hunter/jumper equestrians throughout the nation under its new owners, HITS, Inc., as well as the opening of a new Dutch American Foods facility on Main Street. All of these projects have the potential for significant economic impact to the Township and its residents, including jobs,



increased patronage to our existing businesses and sharing of our property tax burdens. However, such changes also come with very real challenges affecting our people including the potential impact on quality of life, safety concerns and increased traffic, just to name a few.

From its earliest pioneer roots, the people of Crete Township have proven to be resilient, adaptable, creative and capable of working things out together for the common good. Let’s continue to meet these current tasks together and we will come out even stronger than ever.

Richard Most retires from Crete Township

After 16 years of service to Crete Township, Richard Most retired on December 31st 2016. Richard served as Trustee on the Township Board from 2001-2012 and was appointed and subsequently elected as Crete Township Supervisor in 2013. Rich was honored with a special citation

during the annual Township Employee Holiday luncheon this past December. We wish the best to Richard and his wife, Susan, for an enjoyable retirement and appreciate his many years of devoted service to the people of Crete Township.



Crete Township welcomes Kathie Holubek as Clerk

Kathie Holubek was appointed Crete Township Clerk on January 11, 2017 due to the resignation of Pam H. Hoffman. Kathie is no stranger to the township, she retired in July 2014 after serving as Crete Township Clerk for sixteen years

and as Crete Township Office Manager for over eighteen years.

Kathie has also served on the Crete Township Planning Commission and currently as President of the Board for Steger Estates Fire Department.

News from Assessor Sandy Drolet

Hello everyone,
As I write this, it is the beginning of a new year and there are many changes taking place. On the national level we have a new President currently making changes that have the attention of the world. We have a new owner of Balmoral Racetrack and things will be different there. There is the possibility of another intermodal coming to Crete. We at Town Hall are seeing changes as well. Some of our elected officials have left and some are beginning new positions this year. While most of us tend to resist change because we fear its result, sometimes it can be a happy thing. We are extending our best wishes to Erica, in our office, who will be leaving us to begin a new career as a work-from-home mom. We will miss her, but look forward to Sarah expanding her duties from part-time field work to a full-time employee. She plans to be taking classes to earn her CIAO designation along with Paige.

When you are reading this, it will soon be time for the annual renewing of the Senior Assessment Freeze and Disabled Person

exemption forms. Those of you already in the system will be receiving renewal forms in the mail after April 1st. New applicants will need to bring in their 2016 income tax information or their 2017 award letter and we will be happy to assist you with your applications.

As always, weather permitting, we will have our field staff out due to permits and updating our files. We have more work to do in areas such as Willowbrook, Forest Glenn, Plum Grove, Forestview, etc. When-ever sales indicate that our values are too low or too high, we need to make adjustments in our assessments so that everyone pays only their fair share of taxes.

Please don't hesitate to stop in our office or call 708-672-8291, if you have questions or concerns regarding your property. Myself or my staff will be happy to assist you in any way possible.



From the Building and Grounds Committee



**BOB HODGE,
TRUSTEE**

By the time you receive this newsletter, hopefully the cold of winter is behind us. Town Hall made it through another season with no problems related to the cold air and snow.

We are looking forward to the Spring Season, just as our township residents are. Our gardens will be blooming soon, stop by and say hi. As always, our monthly board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are open for all to attend. What a

great way to see township government in action.

Hope to meet you soon.

Update from the Mosquito Task Force



**JIM PIACENTINI,
TRUSTEE**

Mosquito season is just around the corner. Crete Township will start spraying to protect from those nasty bugs in the upcoming months.

Just a few tips to protect yourself:

1. Wear insect repellent applied according to manufacturer.
2. Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeves.
3. Get rid of old tires, buckets, drums and any other water holding containers.
4. Empty plastic wading pools, bird baths and plant pots every four to five days.

These are just a few safety measures to protect yourself from mosquito's. If you have any questions you can call Town Hall at 708-672-8279.



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TOWNSHIP

1367 Wood Street, Crete, IL 60417
Phone: (708) 672-8279
Fax: (708) 672-3327 Email: twpcrete@aol.com

Township Directory

<p>Supervisor Michael J. Liccar</p> <p>Highway Commissioner Anthony Recupito (708) 672-7732 arecupito@cretetownship.com</p>	<p>Assessor Sandy Drolet (708) 672-8291</p> <p>Clerk Kathie Holubek</p> <p>Office Manager Tammy Onorati</p>	<p>Trustees: Frank Elton Walter Grady Bob Hodge Jim Piacentini</p> <p>Collector Laura Elton</p>
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BAMBINOS
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Crete Lions Recycling

The Crete Lions Recycling would like to encourage residents to recycle, either with the bins provided by Republic, or with us at 1215 Douglas next to Crete Public Works. We have heard comments that some residents have more recycling accumulate in the two week period before Republic's pick up than the tote will accommodate. We would suggest a trip to our drive thru center M-F from 7-9 a.m. and Sat. from 7- noon. If that is not convenient, we have drop off bins/containers outside the fence in front of our center available for your convenience at any hour. They are emptied every day, Sundays included, depending on volunteer availability .

We would like to remind everyone that all monies generated by the sale of our recycled items is put back into the community , in the form of scholarships and donations to

the police and fire departments, local school/team groups, and organizations like Meals on Wheels, Alicia's House, Angels on Assignment, and many others. Organizations, school groups/teams interested in earning funds for your group's use can volunteer with us and benefit your organization and the environment. Call us at the center at 672-4575 for information.

We welcome volunteers, and are actively recruiting new adult members of the Crete Lions Club and our recycling organization. No commitment is too small.

We stand with the village of Crete in trying to increase recycling by our residents. Keeping these items out of landfills is beneficial not only to all of us, but future generations as well.

Thank you.



CRETE TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY DRIVE

Employee's of Merieux NutriSciences, Food Science Center located in Crete, were just one of several business's and resident's that donated to Crete Township's Holiday Food Drive.

Crete F-Men Organization

The Crete F-Men's organization is currently seeking new members for their Gun Club and other local events.

The F-Men will be hosting their annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 15. Check in is at 10:00 a.m. The egg hunt kicks off at 12:00 p.m. sharp. The event is open to all and is free of charge.

For further information contact, Howard, Vice President and Chairman at 708-279-7131.

WALTS
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Crete Township Road District News

As of the writing of this newsletter, we are in the middle of the winter season which, up to now, has been somewhat average and at times



ANTHONY "TONY" RECUPITO, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

marked the 50 year anniversary of

downright mild. What's not to like about 50 and 60 degree days in January? Let's hope that this trend continues. We also

the great Blizzard of January 26th & 27th 1967, which still holds the record for the worst snowstorm in the Chicago area. For those of us that are old enough to remember (I'm showing my age here), being a young kid at the time, I thought it was great. Given my current job description, if that happened now, I can assure you that I would feel differently.

Although plans have not yet been finalized regarding our paving projects, I expect to have a lot going on this year. With spring fast approaching, we are in the process of lining up all our warm weather projects, which will include roadside cleanup, culvert

replacements and tree trimming. "Fresh oil" signs will be posted at all paving locations, and we advise everyone to avoid these areas when possible.

We are currently on schedule this year to replace the Klemme Road Bridge over Plum Creek which is located just south of Exchange Street. Actual construction and road closure dates are not yet available. I will be posting the dates on our website's news and announcement page when they become available. Signs will also be posted at the construction site.

One thing to remember when approaching any road crew is that

State Law requires hands free cell phone use and no texting while driving. Also, please be aware of any flagger that might be directing the traffic through a work site.

The distracted driving that our crew has witnessed firsthand puts them at significant risk, and we ask that you please slow down when approaching any road crew.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you with any questions or comments that you might have regarding The Township Road System. You can contact me at 708-672-7732 or via email at arecupito@cretetownship.com.

Have a great Spring!

From the Township Fire Protection District

JEFF PANEGA, FIRE CHIEF

In February of 2015, Kidde recalled about 4.6 million disposable fire extinguisher units in the U.S. and 175,000 in Canada after a number of them failed to discharge. There are still a large number of these fire extinguishers in homes in Crete, Illinois. There are 31 models of Kidde plastic valve disposable fire extinguishers being recalled after 11 reports of the extinguishers failing to work. They have Zytel black plastic valves and are red, white or silver and are either ABC or BC related, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. No injuries have been reported as a result of the

extinguishers failing to discharge.

The extinguishers were sold between August 2013 and November 2014 at Home Depot, Menards, Walmart, online and other department stores. There are about 4.6 million units in the United States, according to the CPSC. There is a nameplate with the model number affixed to the front of the extinguisher. A full list of the models being recalled is available here, <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Kidde-Recalls-Disposable-Plastic-Fire-Extinguishers/#remedy>. Anyone with one of these extinguishers should contact Kidde for a

replacement at (855) 283-7991.

Recall Details: This recall involves 31 models of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers with Zytel® black plastic valves. The recalled extinguishers are red, white or silver and are either ABC or BC rated. The ratings can be found to the right of the nameplate. Manufacture dates included in the recall are July 23, 2013 through October 15, 2014. A 10-digit date code is stamped on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled units

manufactured in 2013 are XXXX 20413 X through XXXX 36513 X and 2014 are XXXX 00114 X through XXXX 28814 X. A nameplate affixed to the front of the fire extinguisher has one of the following model numbers: 10BC, 1A10BC, 1A10BCW, 2A10BC, 5BC, FA10G, FA110, FA5B, FC10, FC110, FC5, FH/RESSP, FX10, FX10BC, FX10K, FX210, FX210R, FX210W, FX340GW, FX340SC, FX5II, KFH Twin, M110 Twin, M5 Twin, Mariner 10, Mariner 110, Mariner 5, Mariner 5G, RESSP and XL5MR.



COUNTRY
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HITS purchases Historic Balmoral Park



Balmoral Park, the iconic 200 acre property located on the southeast end of Crete Township, was originally built in 1926 by Col. Matt Winn of Churchill Downs. In 2016, Balmoral Park was acquired by HITS, Inc., a special events company that specializes in producing high-end hunter/jumper horse shows. Its competitions draw championship horses from all over the country in addition to their owners and families. Balmoral Park is being completely refurbished and updated, including hospitality

amenities such as a 4,467 seat mint-condition grand stand and a state-of-the-art VIP Clubhouse featuring climate-controlled seating overlooking all of the competition rings.

Balmoral Park plans to reopen in May 2017 and will be home to the HITS' inaugural Midwest show, and in partnership with Pat Boyle/Showplace Productions, will feature USEF Rated National & Premier Hunters and 4* & 5* Jumpers, as well as a USHJA International Hunter Derby, FEI rated events and qualifiers for the HITS Championship.

From the Clerk's Office

**KATHIE HOLUBEK,
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Effective February 17, 2017, Pam Helsel Hoffman resigned as the Clerk of Crete Township. Effective the same day, a special meeting was held by the Township Board of Trustees, former clerk, Kathie Holubek was appointed to fill the vacancy of Crete Township Clerk. Kathie will also be running in the upcoming election on April 4, 2017 for this position.

Early voting dates and times for the April 4, 2017 election;
March 20, 2017 – March 24, 2017
March 27, 2017 – March 31, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:00 – 1:00 polls closed for lunch
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Voting at Town Hall on the above dates are limited to Crete Township residents only. There are no weekend or evening hours.

ARNOLD TREES

GEORGE PERRY & ASSOCIATES

Crete Township Seniors Special Events

Another year, gone! Time sure flies by when you're busy with events. In our last issue, we told you about our annual picnic that was



**FRANK ELTON,
TRUSTEE**

held in August for our seniors that live in Crete Township. We shared many photos of our guests, entertainment and employees who were involved and enjoyed the day.

Since then, Crete Township held our Christmas Luncheon for our township seniors. It was on December 10, 2016 at the Steger Community Building.

This year's luncheon hosted more senior's than any of our events thus far. It is the township's hope that our guest list continues to grow as new senior residents move to Crete or into many of the senior living complexes.

Our next luncheon is scheduled on Saturday, March 11, 2017. We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a meal of corn beef and cabbage. It will be held at The Steger Community Building at 3501 Hopkins, Steger, IL, the luncheon starts at 12:00 p.m.

Due to the growing size of our guest list, seating is limited to Crete Township seniors only. Please contact Tammy at Town Hall 672-8279 to reserve your seat.



Crete Township continues Dial-A-Ride Senior & Disabled Residents Bus Services

Crete Township has been continuing its partnership with Will County's "Will-Ride" Service network to provide free transportation services for eligible Crete Township residents to and from grocery stores, local shopping centers, nursing homes, restaurants, hair appointments, medical appointments, friends or relatives homes. The service is

available to eligible Crete Township residents who are at least 60 years of age or older or who are disabled. All buses are equipped with lifts.

Crete Township provides approximately 3,300 rides to its residents per year. Though there is no actual cost for the service, there is a suggested donation of \$4 per round-trip ride within the

Township and \$8 round-trip for locations outside the Township, to help offset the actual expenses of the program.

A portion of the operating costs are offset by a grant provided by the federal agency Area on Aging and local RTA grants with the remainder being absorbed by the Crete Township. Under the grant agreement with Area

on Aging, a new identification system is being considered for each participating resident to properly identify the rider as a Dial-A-Ride service customer to the bus service provider, PACE.

To find out more about the Dial-A-Ride service, please contact Tammy Onorati at the Crete Township offices at 708-672-8279 or email at T.onorati@cretetownship.com

**EVIL HORSE
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**THE
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CSX Railroad proposes Intermodal Facility in the Village of Crete

CSX Railroad is proposing a new 300+ acre intermodal rail facility on the southwest portion of the Village of Crete. The location was annexed by the Village about 10



years ago and was then expected to be built by CenterPoint Properties which never proceeded with the project then subsequently sold the property. CSX also has an option on the adjacent 1,100 acre site along Route 1 between Goodenow and Crete-Monee roads which could be used for peripheral businesses such as warehousing. CSX has operated a railroad in Crete since the 1880s.

At the request of Crete Township, the President of the Village of Crete, Michael Einhorn, spoke to over 100 residents about the project during the regular January 2017 Crete Township Board meeting. Village President Einhorn spoke for well over an hour and answered numerous questions posed by the audience. Later that week, the Will County Board voted to approve seeking grant funds for a grade separation on Crete-Monee Road at the site of the facility.

The project is under the jurisdiction of the Village of Crete and the Township has no authority over it. Nevertheless, in January, Supervisor Michael Liccar and Road Commissioner Tony Recupito met with Tom Livingston, Regional VP Midwest Government and Community Affairs of CSX Railroad to discuss residents' concerns related to the proposal. Later that month, Supervisor Liccar, along with Village President Einhorn, Village Trustee Steve Johnson

and Will County Board Members Laurie Summers and Judy Ogalla, as well as certain invited residents, attended a road trip to the CSX Intermodal facility in North Baltimore, Ohio. The Crete group met with a number of CSX officials and was given a tour of the facility.

The North Baltimore facility became operational in 2011 and has 7 electric cranes which would be similar to what is proposed for Crete. CSX indicated that they plan to initially offer at least 200 full-time, full-benefit union jobs for the facility with preferences given to local residents. The North Baltimore facility initially began with 175 full-time jobs when it opened and now has over 350 full-time employees. Moreover, a study performed in that county indicated that over 3,000 peripheral jobs were created since the facility opened.

The concerns expressed by the residents during the January 2017 Township meeting were many and included concerns about quality of life, traffic, safety, noise, lighting, air quality and impacts on property values, amongst other things.

In an effort to work constructively with the various players who have an impact on the project, namely CSX, the Village of Crete and Will County, Crete Township has organized a committee which will represent the Township in future discussions and is comprised of Supervisor Liccar, Road Commissioner Recupito and several representative residents.

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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, please contact Wendy Barmore at (708) 891-0744, Wendy.Barmore@nwi.com | Lee Publications, Inc.

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