Greetings Residents of Matteson! I trust that you had a happy and safe summer. Now we have the fall to look forward to as the leaves began to change colors. Welcome to the new version of our Matteson Avenue. From now on, your previously bi-monthly [soon to be monthly] Matteson Avenue will be available in an on-line format only. We chose this format for two main reasons: An effort to cut costs during this economic downturn and more importantly to be more in tuned with the many “Go Green” initiatives set forth by President Obama to protect the environment by cutting back on the use of paper. One major advantage to our new on-line format is that it allows us to bring you Matteson news more frequently by publishing it monthly instead of bi-monthly and we will be able to bring you updates during the month on things happening in and around Matteson that are of importance to you. Put another way, we will be able to bring more news to you faster in an effort to keep our residents up-dated on a variety of topics.

I want to thank all of you who attended our first “Town Hall Meeting” held at the Matteson Holiday Inn on August 13th. The attendance was tremendous with over 125 residents in attendance. This meeting was the first of many “Town Hall” meetings that you can look forward to. This is another means for us to bring information directly to our residents and an opportunity for you to raise questions, concerns or suggestions to us. As we have said many times over, nothing is more important to our administration than to hear from you and to also exchange important information with you on a consistent basis. Please plan to attend our next “Town Hall” meeting to be held November 12, 2009 at 7pm at the Village Hall. Of course we are always happy to see you at one of our regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meetings and workshops. Board meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm and Board workshops are held on the second Monday of each month also at 7:30pm at the Village Hall. All Board meetings and workshops are open to the public.

I want to thank all the Matteson business owners and/or staff and many residents who participated in the “Business after Hours” event held at South Oak Dodge last month. We had an overwhelmingly positive response to our call to organize businesses located in and around Matteson under this newly created organization. We believe that in these economic times particularly, it is very important for us to mobilize Matteson’s vibrant and successful business community to help current businesses grow and to attract new businesses that will add value to our Village. Please look for future events sponsored by the Matteson Business Association. We are moving forward with our mission to ensure the continued success of Matteson as a business Mecca of the South Suburbs. Welcome to the Matteson Business Association and thanks to the many individuals who have agreed to serve in this important organization.

If you are interested in getting involved with a commission or a task force, please send me an e-mail to the e-mail address below. In the next few months we will be organizing three major task forces to address many of the ongoing issues of our time. More specifically, we will be organizing an Education, Seniors’ and Veteran’s task force. Please feel free to contact me at aashmore@villageofmatteson.org at any time should you need to contact my office or call me at 708.283.4911. Until we meet again, on behalf of Toni, André, Jr. and Taylor, we wish you Godspeed.

Sincerely,

André B. Ashmore
Village President
Village of Matteson
The Village of Matteson has moved to focusing on providing better resources and support to businesses with the creation of the Matteson Business Association (MBA). The MBA began efforts of supporting local businesses with its first Business Showcase. Held at South Oak Dodge, the Business Showcase provided an opportunity for businesses in Matteson to network with Matteson owners/managers, develop profitable relationships, expand their business customer base, and celebrate the Matteson business community. The event was attended by nearly 45 businesses within Matteson.

The mission of the MBA is to support and strengthen the uniqueness and vitality of the Matteson business community by developing innovative ways to increase commerce and expand business opportunities. This effort will seek to foster and strengthen Matteson Businesses by providing new avenues of networking and support by increasing the availability of resources.

The Matteson Business Association’s next Business Showcase will be hosted by First American Bank in Matteson who will showcase services such as corporate loans, treasury services management, real estate lending, and international and small business banking in the Matteson area. The event will be held on Thursday, September 17th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at First American Bank 20704 S Cicero Ave. This will be a great opportunity for businesses to learn about doing business with First American Bank and networking with other Matteson business owners/managers to expand their reach of services and commerce.

For more information on either event or to RSVP, please email the MBA at MBA@villageofmatteson.org or call Barry White, Board Chairman at (708) 283-4926.

Annual Fall Leaf Pick Collection

The Annual Leaf Collection Program for this Fall season will start October 22, and will conclude on November 27, which will be the date of the last garbage pick-up for the year. For your convenience, the fees are waived as a courtesy to the residents which means residents are not required to place yard stickers on their paper bags of leaves placed at the curb. Have a safe Fall season!
Economic Development Update

* The Village of Matteson hired an Economic Development Consultant to assist the Economic Development Department with the future development, attraction and retention of retail businesses and projects in the community. Larry Kilduff of The Kilduff Company has decades of successful experience in developing commercial real estate. With his experience comes an extensive list of contacts with national retailers as well as the understanding of capital market, which is critical in structuring projects and negotiating with financial entities. The Village of Matteson is excited to be working with Mr. Larry Kilduff and is looking forward to the experience he will bring to enhance the development of the community.

*A Community and Economic Development Task Force has been implemented to create a redevelopment plan for the Village's retail corridors. The plan will illustrate enhanced landscaping features, façade improvements, and reconfiguration of shopping plazas for better access. The village retail corridors has been broken down into various sections and phases to achieve a complete plan. The first section will entail the gateway into the community which begins off the southbound exit of I-57 to the southwest corner of Rt. 30 & Cicero Ave. and just south to Southwick Drive.

* A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District has been adopted for the Auto Mall to assist with the revitalization and redevelopment of the area. The auto industry is among one of the hardest hit financially in the economy. Over the last couple of years, several car dealerships have closed or consolidated which left buildings vacant and not maintained; ultimately, creating blight within the area. The TIF will assist in attracting future development.

* Construction has begun on Phase 1 of the new Matteson Community Center which will consist of the construction of the outdoor amenities including two baseball fields, a soccer field, a football field and track as well as basketball and tennis courts. The new community center will be located south of the Colin Powell Middle School.

* Over two dozen businesses opened their doors in Matteson in the last year creating more than 50 jobs in the community.

Welcome to the following businesses: Hampton Inn and Suites @ 20920 Matteson Avenue, KIA Dealership @ the Matteson Auto Mall and Dance in the Mall at Lincoln Mall . . . .

Please join in welcoming these businesses to Matteson and most importantly . .

SHOP MATTESON: INVEST HERE, SHOP HERE AND WATCH US GROW!
Reminder from the IRS—Taxpayers take Advantage of Recovery Act Benefits

First Time Homebuyer Credit:
Taxpayers who didn’t own a principal residence during the past three years and purchased a home this year before December 1st, can receive a credit of up to $8,000 on either an original or amended 2008 tax return or a 2009 return.

New Vehicle Purchase Incentive:
Qualifying taxpayers can deduct the state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles.

Energy Efficient Home Improvements:
The credit for non-business energy property has increased for homeowners who make qualified energy-efficient improvements to existing homes.

Tax credit for First Four Years of College:
The American Opportunity Credit is designed to help students pay part of the cost of the first four years of college. Tuition, related fees, books and other required course materials generally qualify. Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of $2,500 per student.

Certain Computer Technology Purchases Allowed:
Computer technology is on the list of college expenses that can be paid for by a qualified tuition program (QTP) or the 529 plan.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Want to help others and enjoy a good meal? We’re offering Matteson residents a *10% discount on dinner and then donating 5% of that to Dollars for Scholars
Chapter II. 1462 Village of Matteson

Class of 2010

Hours: 5:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. Phone: 708-481-5800

OFFER EXPIRES 11-01-09

Mr. Benny’s
Steak &
Lobster House
20841 S Cicero Avenue
Matteson, IL

The Village is “Going Green” and more often!

Look for your MONTHLY Matteson Avenue on line at

www.villageofmatteson.org
Arguable, some of the hardest working residents in the State of Illinois were warmly greeted and presented with a beautiful plaque for their efforts in beautifying and maintaining their property at the 2009 Beautification Awards Program. The Village Board presented 36 residents, five of which received one plaque together for the court they resided on (Allemong) and five business sites with this year’s theme plaque, “Sir Frogs.”

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Samuel & Claude Daniels  5421 Providence  Jacques & Irene Martin  88 Begonia  
Evans & Yvonne Harvey  115 Red Barn Road  Adell Lemons  905 Dunnington DR.  
Shirley & Claude Allen  6237 Virginia Lane  Jeanette McClelland  3823 W. 216th ST.  
Sherry Peterson  5646 Cornell Way  Steven & Sheree Rodgers  912 W arwick  
Charles & Sherrod Thompson  938 Harvey  Keith & Eleanor Daly  6036 Kevin Way  
Dorothy & Ed Sparks  620 Academy  Seth Owusu  4986 Gibson  
Sean & Monica Mosby  620 Homeland  Charlotte A. Robinson  5111 Monroe  
Claude & Marsha Grace  605 Homeland  Gerry L. Gibson  6028 Spring LN.  
Laurice & Larry Geanes  202 Grafton  Geneva & Tom Healy  6223 Beechwood  
Darlene & James Herbert  655 Keeler  Barbara Sims  3443 Station DR.  
Williard & Brenda High  706 Rose Lane  Erika Millhouse/John Pettis  3227 Holden CR.  
Rosalyn & Albert Cook  21154 Vivenne  Lolita Kinds  5325 Stanford LN.  
Lonnie & Brenda Joy  5609 Feathercreek  Karen & Pierre Henderson  108 Treehouse  
Valerie H. Grace  148 Sundance  Jiles Madden  50 Deerpath  
Marvin & Sharon Searles  57 Deerpath  BUSINESS SITES:

Arlender Coe  6025 Allemong Ct.  OW Huth Elementary School  3718 W. 213th PL.  
Earl Jackson  6035 Allemong Ct.  Red Lobster  3915 W. 211th ST.  
Charlotte Thomas  6043 Allemong Ct.  McDonald’s  4010 W. 211th ST.  
Dathine Brown  6047 Allemong Ct.  Angie Ray Ministries  4135 W/ 216th ST.  
Susan Hill  6049 Allemong Ct.  Culver’s Restaurant  20716 Cicero AVE  

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU!

Beauty Resonates Throughout the Village

Calendar of Events

2009
October:  9th-Mom/Son Sock Hop; 16th-Teen Karaoke Night; 24th-Halloween Carnival; 31st-Trick or Treat, Hours, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; November: 1st-Change Your Clock/Battery; 12th-Town Hall Meeting; 20th-Holiday Festival at 6:30 p.m.;

2010
January:  (Sunday), 17th-Martin Luther King Jr. Program;
February:  5th-Daddy/Daughter Date Night, 11th-Town Hall Meeting;
March:  27th Easter Egg Hunt
April:  23rd-Diversity Dinners; 24th- Arbor Day Celebration,
May:  13th-Town Hall Meeting;
June:  12th-14th MATTESON FESTIVAL;
August:  3rd- National Night Out;

(Events, including dates are subject to change)
The Citizens Police Academy is open to area residents. Classes will be held on 6 consecutive Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00pm at the Matteson Police Department. The curriculum has been designed to give residents working knowledge of the police department. You must be at least 21 years old. This program is offered free of charge! **Applicants will be subject to a background check.**

Classes are scheduled to begin October 7, 2009
Class size will be limited so DO NOT WAIT! Call for your application today!!

Call for your registration packet today! Contact Mia Carter at 283-4713

10th Annual Halloween Carnival

The Matteson Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring it’s 10th annual Halloween Carnival Saturday, October 24th from noon to 2:30 p.m. for all ages at the Matteson Community Center, 4450 West Oakwood Lane.

Enjoy the afternoon celebrating the Halloween Holiday! Don’t forget to wear your costume! The Costume Contest is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in the gym for ages 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 year olds. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Freshly popped popcorn, hot dogs, chips and beverages will be available for purchase.

Admission into the carnival is free; carnival games, face painting and monster walk is (1) ticket or $.25 each. The magic show is $.50 (2 tickets). Tickets are sold separately.

23rd Annual Mom/Son Sock Hop

The Matteson Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring their 23rd Annual Mom/Son Sock Hop at the Matteson Community Center on Friday, October 9th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for moms and sons, four to 12 years of age.

Mom, don’t miss your chance to bring your son(s) out for a memorable evening full of dancing, refreshments and door prizes. The dress is casual.

The fee to attend the dance is $10.00 per couple/$15.00 (non resident) and $3.00/$4.50 (non resident) for each additional son.

A professional photographer will be available to take pictures of each couple starting at 6:45 p.m. The cost of the photos are $12 for a 5x7 color photo or $15 for a 5x7 and four wallet sized photos. The photographer will accept cash, check or charge the night of the event. Pictures will be digitally developed and given out prior to the dance ending.

Registration is going on Monday thru Fridays, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Matteson Community Center, 4450 Oakwood Avenue. Registration will continue until the deadline which is October 8, 2009.

Questions on this and any other recreation program can be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department at 708-748-1080 during business hours.

REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR!
Do you know the importance of Census Data? Every year the federal government allocates more than $400 billion to states and communities based in part, on census data.

This data is used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

As well, it determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

Easy, Important and Safe is what describes the 2010 Census Questionnaire:

Ten questions and approximately 10 minutes to complete, is the length of time households are asked to provide key demographic information, including whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

COMPLETE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE: WE CAN’T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL YOU SEND IT BACK!

WHAT: The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

WHO: All U. S. Census residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and not citizens.

WHEN: Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY.

WHY: The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HOW: Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.
LINCOLN HIGHWAY  
By: Aja Johnson

The concept of Lincoln Highway stemmed from Carl Fisher, the man responsible for building the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Miami Beach. Fisher, along with industrialists Frank Seiberling and Henry Joy, imagined a hard-surfaced road that would stretch 3,400 miles from Time Square in New York to San Francisco, California (over the shortest distance possible).

In 1912, Fisher actively promoted his dream of a transcontinental highway (mainly amongst his automobile industry friends). The project, which would cost about $10 million, would have to be completed by May 1, 1915 in sufficient time for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Within a month, Fisher’s automobile industry friends had guaranteed $1 million.

By July 1913, a name was chosen for the road. Fisher and Associates decided to name the road after Fisher’s hero, Abraham Lincoln. On July 1, 1913 the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA) was established by a group of automobile supporters and industry officials. The LHA was created to promote the using of private and corporate donations for the project.

By the mid-1920’s, the Nation was intertwined with approximately 250 named trails. In 1925, the Joint Board on Interstate Highways was established to create the U.S. numbered system of highways. E.W. James, Secretary of the Joint Board, realized the dominance of the Lincoln Highway and how the new system would be the end of the Lincoln Highway. The numbering system divided the Lincoln Highway into several parts: U.S. 30 between Philadelphia and Granger, Wyoming; U.S. 1 which is east of Philadelphia; U.S. 40 which is west of Salt Lake City.

In 1928, the LHA ended promoting the Lincoln Highway but not without one last announcement. The Lincoln Highway was officially marked and dedicated to the memory of Abraham Lincoln on September 1, 1928. On that day 3,000 concrete markers were placed among sites along the route. The signs bared the Lincoln Highway coat of arms, a bronze medallion (which says “This Highway Dedicated to Abraham Lincoln) and a directional arrow.

In its prime, the Lincoln Highway was the Nation’s premier highway. The route is historic: it was part of the U.S. Army’s first transcontinental motor convoy; it was the inspiration to the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways; and it was even honored by having a 1940’s radio show named after it. The success of the Lincoln Highway was and continues to be a catalyst for highway advancement around the country.

Aja was a 2009 summer intern with the Village of Matteson. She has since left to begin her freshman year at Howard University with the field of Journalism as her chosen major. We wish all of our 15 summer interns the very best as most of them begin college life.
FYI—Board Meetings:
The Village Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m., at the Village Hall, 4900 Village Commons. For the month of October meetings will be held on the 5th and 19th. November board meetings are the 2nd and 16th.
The Plan Commission meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.
The Economic Development Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Hall.
The Housing and Human Relations Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.
The Fire and Police Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.
The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.
The Public Works Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.
The Matteson Library Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Library, 801 School Avenue.
Matteson Matters is broadcast on Channel 4 on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Water/Scavenger Rates:
Listed below are the rates per service as of April 2009. If you have any questions regarding your bill, call the Village Hall at 708-283-4900 and ask for the water department.

- Water: $5.38/every 100 cubic foot
- Sewer: $0.20/every 100 cubic foot
- Sewer: $1.00/USER FIXED CHARGE FEE
- Scavenger: $13.50/FIXED CHARGE
- Scavenger: $1.00 Administration Charge

Trash Storage and Pick-Up

Improperly stored garbage is a nuisance and creates an eyesore as well as attracts unwanted vermin in residential areas.

All garbage shall be drained, wrapped and stored in durable, rust-resistant, non-absorbent, water-tight containers not to exceed 30 gallon capacity and which have close fitting covers. Plastic garbage bags are permitted for use outside as containers for garbage collection day only must be closed securely and are not to be used for outside storage of garbage at any time.

It shall be the duty of any person having household garbage, rubbish or yard waste to place sealed, durable containers not to exceed 30 gallons in capacity or tightly closed plastic garbage bags, and yard waste bags or containers, on the curb in front of the premises, or in the alley adjacent to the premises, if garbage collection is made in the alley, not before 8:00 p.m. of the day prior to garbage collection being made and also to remove the containers prior to 8:00 p.m. the day collection has been made.