

SSMMAATTERINGS

Winter 2007

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On behalf of the Executive Committee, Executive Director Ed Paesel and the entire Association staff, I would like to extend our warmest holiday greetings and wishes for a safe, happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to working with each of you in the coming year as we collectively pursue the great opportunities for growth and success for all our communities. Also, please extend our best wishes to your families as you share the holidays with them.

Mayor Dan Podgorski



MAYORS & MANAGERS RETREAT

Plans are being prepared, materials being assembled and provisions are in the works for the Mayors and Managers Retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2008. More information will be forthcoming within the next few weeks. Please remember to keep this date open.

Tinley Park Receives Accolades

Tinley Park village officials received a plaque and certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects naming the Oak Park Avenue train station one of 150 great places in Illinois. In addition to being one of Illinois' great places, the Village received an honorable mention from the Illinois Arts Alliance for being an "arts friendly community" and an award for municipal excellence from the National League of Cities and is a national award winner in the National Association of Town Watch's "National Night Out" Program. Congratulations!

Calumet City Donates Fire Truck To Ford Heights

In a good-neighbor gesture, the City of Calumet City in September donated a 1986 fire engine to the Village of Ford Heights.

In response to a letter from Congressman Jackson's office who had been contacted by Chief Leon Smith from Ford Heights, SSMMA sent out a request to members asking for help. In response to that request, Calumet City Fire Chief William Galgan contacted Chief Smith regarding the donation. The engine will become the third for Ford Heights and will assist in the Village's insurance rating. This is yet another example of south suburban communities working together to help one another.

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Three SSMMA Communities Among Midwest's "Most Livable" Suburbs

The Villages of Park Forest, Homewood and South Holland were named to Forbes.com's top fifty most livable metro-area suburbs in the United States.

South Holland was rated the number one most livable metro-area suburb in the Midwest, with Park Forest placing second and Homewood coming in third. Every suburb within short range of the 15 largest metropolitan areas was evaluated based on factors from the quality of schools and the size and price of houses to the safety of the neighborhood and the education level of neighbors. Kudos to all of you.

Orland Park—Developer-Friendly Village

The Village of Orland Park received a design review award from the Chaddick Institute, citing the Village's relationship with property developers. The award focused specifically on Community Development Director Bob Sullivan's relationship building with developers. The Chaddick Institute also praised the Village's development aesthetic, stating it leans toward the "new urbanist" design, with an emphasis on mixed-use buildings that combine retail and residential and layouts that bring storefronts closer to the street. Congratulations to the Village and Bob Sullivan.



VOLUME CAP POOL ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

During 2007, ten of our home rule communities agreed to cede their excess Private Activity Volume Cap to the SSMMA/Illinois Finance Authority Volume Cap Pool. The total amount ceded to the pool was \$9,082,220.00. The primary objective of the pool is leveraging volume cap through the issuance of tax-exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds to facilitate job creation and economic development in the south suburban region. As the result of a joint effort by the SSMMA and the Illinois Finance Authority, two projects totaling \$20 million were successfully funded by the 2007 Volume Cap Pool.

The first project, located in South Holland, closed on October 26th. Rupari Food Services, Inc. will expand its existing operation by building a 60,000-sq.-ft. production/cold storage facility that will nearly double its employment and foster economic development in the region. Rupari Food Services' South Holland operation is a major wholesale supplier of processed ribs to the foodservice industry. Currently employing 150 at this facility, the expansion is expected to add over 110 new permanent jobs, as well as 60 construction jobs. The project is supported by the issuance of \$10 million in tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds which were partially funded with \$4,541,110 from the SSMMA/IFA Volume Cap Pool.

The second project, located in Homewood, will

close in mid-December 2007. INX International Ink Co. intends to expand operations by acquiring and renovating an existing building in the Prairie Lakes Business Park. INX International Ink Co. is the third largest printing ink company in the United States and provides ink and coating technology for almost every type of packaging and commercial printing application. In order to maintain competitiveness, especially in the international market, INX International Ink Co. will develop an automated state of the art facility that will immediately bring 56 new jobs to the region and 20 additional jobs within a 4 year period. Again this project will be supported by the issuance of \$10 million in tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds which were partially funded with \$4,541,110 from the SSMMA/IFA Volume Cap Pool.

Looking forward to 2008, it is important for all of our home rule members to consider ceding their unused Private Activity Volume Cap to the SSMMA/IFA pool. As you can see, through working together we can be more effective in fostering the retention and creation of local jobs as well as fuel growth through economic development. Traditionally, municipalities that cede their volume cap to the pool receive a fee equal to 1% of the amount ceded once development projects are closed. Therefore, if your municipality does not have plans to use the volume cap

available in 2008 it is in your best interest to volume cap to the pool will be mailed in late February 2008. In the meantime, please contact Eileen Santschi with any questions at 708-922-4676. Information regarding the procedure for ceding or eileen.santschi@ssmma.org.



Transportation News



At the last Transportation Committee meeting on November 6th, approval was granted for a call for LAPP (Local Agency Pavement Preservation) projects, moving up of some projects scheduled for program years 2009 and beyond plus the inclusion of projects from the "B" list be moved forward. This is possible and brought about by a balance of funding available to address additional projects that are or can be ready for processing in a relatively short period of time.



TRAINING

Two training programs were recently hosted by the Association. The first one, conducted by the Cook County Department of Public Health, covered the topic of "Lead Based Paint." It was a program focused toward personnel coming into contact with or working directly with lead based paint. The training session was attended by approximately 25 building commissioners and inspectors.

The second program was "Train The Trainer – Responding To Utility Emergencies" conducted through ComEd. Attendance at this three hour training program was approximately 35 people at each of the sessions held on November 6 and November 7. The participants represented both public works and fire department personnel from 29 communities. The reaction from attendees at both sessions was very positive.

A schedule of upcoming training topics will be developed within the next month. Included in this training will be consideration for NIMS training. This is training that is mandatory for municipal employees (police, fire, public works etc.) and for public officials – mayors, presidents, managers, trustees, etc.

AUCTION

On Saturday, October 27th, the Association held its annual auction at Dyer Auto Auction. Although it was put together in approximately five weeks, there were nine municipalities that participated.



The result was very satisfying, with a large crowd (approximately 270 people) including dealers, due to an extensive advertising system which included internet, email and mailings. Funds generated were for the most part above expectations of the sellers, which obviously meant more revenue for them.

Because of the success and the reception of the bidders, we have been asked to participate again in April of 2008. We will keep you updated regarding that possibility..

Land Development Conference A Success!

After conversations with several people from our region who attended the September 27th Land Development Conference in Tinley Park, the consensus was that the Conference exceeded everyone's expectations.

Over 200 people registered and attended the conference. A mix of personalities and professions (developers, brokers, property owners, builders, public officials and development agencies) attended. These are the people that CSEDC needs to meet and who need to hear the message about the Chicago Southland, the significant development opportunities and the area's deal makers who bring those opportunities to reality.

This conference is one of the initial steps in an ongoing program creating brand recognition of the Chicago Southland (Calumet River, I-80, Southwest Interstate, Harlem Avenue, Calumet Expressway/Southeast Rail, Lincoln Highway, and I-57 South) Corridors with the Chicagoland region's development community.



DIVERSITY, INC. NEWS



Annual Dinner Recognizes Southland Heroes

On September 27th, Diversity, Inc. celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner and awards ceremony at Olympia Fields Country Club. Over 300 guests were in attendance for this event that recognized our commitment to diversity and fair housing in the Southland region. Keynote speaker, Janis Kearney, author of "Conversations with William Jefferson Clinton," gave an insightful speech that reminded us "how" all people of different backgrounds benefit from recognizing and understanding our differences.

The Diversity, Inc. 2007 awards were presented to the following proud recipients: Joint Community Relations Foundation of Homewood-Flossmoor for their efforts to promote their communities and the benefits of their diverse character, Robert Waite, Olympia Fields resident and member of the Olympia Fields Country Club who assisted in bringing greater diversity to its exclusive membership. Recognized also were The Calvary Community Church, First Reformed Church, Shepherds Community Church, for their efforts to assure a multi-cultural faith based environment overcoming traditional segregation in church, Peter and Jackie Holsten of Holsten Development Corporation for their commitment to assuring quality diverse residential environments. These honored community members have demonstrated their commitment to working toward our mission and goal of creating "Sustainable Diverse Communities."



Flossmoor's Mayor Roger Molski and Homewood's Mayor Rich Holfeld joined members of their "Joint Commission on Community Relations" to accept Diversity, Inc.'s Diversity 2007 Award, Presented by Sam Balark of AT&T and Marc D. Blakeman, Vice President of External Affairs

Homeownership Preservation and Local Government

Diversity, Inc. continues to inform the public and keep a pulse on the community, staying active on housing issues that have an impact in our region. The alarming rate of home foreclosures is not just a local issue but a national one. Diversity, Inc. is in the pre-planning stages of securing funding to expand our services and address the high foreclosure rate in the southland region. Joe Martin of Diversity, Inc. points out that there is a great municipal interest in preventing foreclosure as each empty or abandoned property can cost local government thousands of dollars from their municipal budget. According to the analysis by the Woodstock Institute, South Suburban Cook County, the City of Chicago and Will County had the highest levels of foreclosures. Martin noted that the south Suburbs have long had higher than average foreclosure rates and that Diversity, Inc. has encouraged greater regulation of the sub-prime and predatory lending market for years adding that now these practices that enriched a few are hurting the many homeowners in distress in the Chicago Southland. Our goal is to increase visibility around active ways to address the problem, giving municipal leaders and residents viable solutions on pre-foreclosure and the facts regarding each step of the formal legal foreclosure process. We will keep you posted on how this new program is progressing. If you would like more information or would like to be on our Diversity, Inc. Home Preservation Initiative contact list, please call 708.922.4603.

SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2008

SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - USUALLY HELD THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

DINNER MEETINGS – 6:30 P.M. AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

BUSINESS MEETINGS – 7:00 P.M. AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICES

January 17	-	Dinner Meeting
February 21	-	Business Meeting
March 13	-	Dinner Meeting *Note change to 2nd week due to conflict
April 17	-	Business Meeting
May 15	-	Dinner Meeting
June 19	-	Business Meeting
July 18 (Friday)	-	No Meeting (golf outing)
August	-	No Meeting
September 18	-	Dinner Meeting
October 16	-	Business Meeting
December 4	-	Dinner Meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – USUALLY HELD THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICES.

January 3	-	July 10
February 7	-	August – No Meeting
March 6	-	September 4
April 3	-	October 2
May 1	-	November 6
June 5	-	December—No Meeting

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – USUALLY HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT NOON AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICES.

January 7	-	July 7
February 4	-	August – No Meeting
March 3	-	September 8
April 7	-	October 6
May 5	-	November 3
June 2	-	December 1

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS - USUALLY HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 2:00 P.M. AT MATTESON VILLAGE HALL.

January 8	-	July & August (on call)
February 12	-	September 9
March 4	-	October 7
April 1	-	November 11
May 6	-	December NO MEETING
June 3 (Golf Outing)		

PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS – USUALLY HELD ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE HAZEL CREST VILLAGE HALL.

January 24	-	July (recess)
February 28	-	August (recess)
March 27	-	September 25
April 24	-	October 23
May 22	-	November (to be determined)
June 26	-	December (to be determined)

DIVERSITY, INC. MEETINGS – USUALLY HELD ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY OTHER MONTH AT 1:30 P.M. AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICES.

January 15	-	July 15
February—No Meeting	-	August—No Meeting
March 18	-	September 16
April—No Meeting	-	October No Meeting
May 20	-	November 18
June—No Meeting	-	December 16—Time & Location TBD

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED AS NEEDED.

LEGISLATIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED AS NEEDED.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED AS NEEDED.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED QUARTERLY.

NOTE: BE SURE TO CROSS CHECK DATES WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS.



Look! On the map...It's the I-80 EAST!!!



The September 27th IREJ Land Development Conference was more than a series of high-powered panels shedding light on four-county development trends and forecasts - It was the "coming out party" for an established development area with a new name – the I-80 East Logistics Corridor.

The I-80 East Logistics Corridor includes communities north and south of I-80 from the Indiana state line to Orland Park. Among the towns included within the footprint:

Where All Roads Lead...

"I-80 East" is unique in terms of

its comprehensive highway network.

Five interstate highways cross the area:

- the I-80 corridor represents the Chicago region's sole east-west expressway, linking east coast and west coast markets.

- I-80 intersects with critical north-south corridors to include:

- I-94, to Chicago and beyond;

- I-394, the future connection to the Illiana Expressway (and I-65, and southeast markets);

- I-57, the road to New Orleans and the Gulf

- I-294, to O'Hare, Wisconsin,

and Minnesota; and

- I-55, to Texas and NAFTA neighborhoods.

The recently reconstructed interchange at the Kingery (I-294/I-80, Illinois 394, and Bishop Ford (I-94) has dramatically improved movement along the corridor. The \$250 million + project included additional lanes, from the state line (matching Indiana's Borman Expressway) to I-294 (Tri-State Tollway). The Tri-State is currently undergoing widening to 95th Street.

Coupled with the recent IDOT and ISTHA commitments for a new

interchange at I-57 and I-294, the extension of I-355, from I-55 in Bolingbrook to I-80 in New Lenox, provides "I-80 East" increased importance in logistics while supporting the ongoing emergence of development opportunities in warehousing and assembly, from Calumet City to Crete, Lansing to New Lenox.

The I-57/I-294 interchange will connect South Chicago, Riverdale, Harvey, Markham, Midlothian, Oak Forest, Posen, and Robbins with O'Hare and Northwest suburban markets, while the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's "Veterans Expressway" (I-355) will link Southland communities and properties by eliminating arterial bottlenecks and site-related ingress/egress concerns.

Rail Access...

The Southland includes unmatched access to the Chicago region's rail infrastructure. Five of the seven Class I railroads (Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), Canadian National (CN), CSX Corporation, Norfolk Southern (NS) and Union Pacific (UP)) enter the Chicago region through the Southland. Forty percent (40 %) of the region's intermodal terminals and 43 percent of all intermodal lifts in the metropolitan area occur within the Corridor. In addition to the Class I railroad owners; there are 17 regional and local rail line operators, plus passenger transportation providers Metra, Amtrak, and

the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD).

Included among the major regional rail lines in the region:

- Indiana Harbor Beltway (IHB), operating a line encircling the Chicago-Gary urban area and connecting Chicago and the northern suburbs to Hammond, Indiana;

- The Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS), operating a short-haul line passing traversing southwest communities of the Chicago Southland; and

- The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJE), operating a beltline across the southern portion of the SSMMA communities (note: with the recent announcement of the CN proposed acquisition of the EJ&E, the potential of a circumferential Class 1 rail connector promises to dramatically reduce thru-rail shipments, while "opening up" undiscovered/ underinvested development sites along EJ&E right-of-way.

There are also four rail/truck intermodal facilities located in Southland Chicago, linking rail heads and local suppliers and manufacturers.

...And Boats and Planes

With the passage in Congress of the Water Development Resources Act (WRDA), major improvements to Illinois waterways and positive impact on bulk freight movements has refocused interest on port development along the Calumet Sag Channel and Calumet River. Barge traffic has come of age and is de-

veloping into another player in the containerized shipping business.

And while the wheels of government grind as much as move, the South Suburban Airport (Abraham Lincoln National Airport) project remains on the state radar screen with the acquisition of nearly 2,000 acres.

"I-80 East," however, offers more than just potential.

On the Ground and Operational.

An example of an ongoing development taking advantage of on-the-ground assets is the LogistiCenter in Sauk Village (owned by ProLogis and represented by CB Richard Ellis). Currently, DP Partners is breaking ground on another 500,000 square foot building adjacent to the LogistiCenter.

To the south of the LogistiCenter, property for a 1,300 acre Centerpoint intermodal site in Crete is being assembled. To the south of Crete in Beecher, another group is exploring intermodal potential.

In Tinley Park, there is the 130-acre TCB Development at the Tinley Crossings Corporate Center.

For more information on development opportunities and a tour of potential development sites please email Reggie Greenwood, Director of Economic Development for the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, at reggie.greenwood@ssmma.org to discuss opportunities for development.

Recycling of Computers/Electronics

Looking to recycle or donate old computers, monitors or printers? Here are a couple of locations where these items can be donated or recycled. Residents should call in advance to set up a drop off date and time.

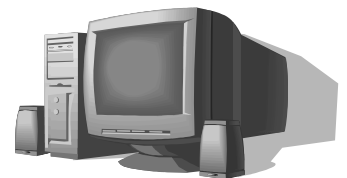
Tinley Park

Assistive Technology Exchange
United Cerebral Palsy – Free to residents
708-444-8460 x231



Intercon Solutions

888-452-5642
There is a small charge according to the item.



Giveacomputer.org

708-748-7091
Refurbishes old computers and gives to those who cannot afford one

Important Dates

Dec. 6	SSMMA Holiday Dinner Meeting (Odyssey Country Club)
Dec. 10	SE Commuter Rail Line Informational Meeting (South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th St., South Holland)
Dec. 18	Diversity, Inc. Holiday Meeting (Location TBD)
Dec. 24-25	SSMMA Offices Closed (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Holidays)
Dec. 31-Jan 1	SSMMA Offices Closed (New Years Eve & New Years Day Holidays)
Jan. 8	Transportation Committee Meeting (Matteson Village Hall)
Jan. 15	Diversity, Inc. Monthly Meeting (SSMMA Offices)
Jan. 17	SSMMA Dinner Meeting (Location TBD)
Jan. 21	SSMMA Offices Closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)
Jan. 24	Public Works Advisory Committee (Hazel Crest Village Hall)
Feb. 12	Transportation Committee Meeting (Matteson Village Hall)
Feb. 18	SSMMA Offices Closed (President's Day Holiday)
Feb. 21	SSMMA Business Meeting (SSMMA Offices)
Feb. 28	Public Works Advisory Committee (Hazel Crest Village Hall)

For more information on these events please contact
SSMMA at 708-206-1155 or info@ssmma.org

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