

Now available  
en español  
online

Village of Summit, IL.

Winter, 2023

Founded in 1890

A Village on the Rise

# THE SUMMIT



## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ

As we bid farewell to 2023, we look back on the many accomplishments from this past year. There have been new **businesses** making Summit their home and we welcomed back old favorites. The Village Board has been diligently working on **infrastructure** upgrades.

While we've been fortunate to experience mild weather this Fall, don't forget to prepare for the arrival of snow and colder temperatures. Clearing our sidewalks becomes especially crucial for the safety and accessibility of children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Although the holiday season is a time to spend with loved ones, it can also bring its own set of pressures and demands. Let's remember to extend a caring hand to those around us. It's the simple joys in life that truly matter, so let's take a moment to appreciate and cherish them.

Lastly, from the bottom of my heart, I extend my warmest thoughts and best wishes to you and your families during this holiday season. **Thank you for being an integral part of our community's journey as we welcome in 2024!**



St. Joseph's Church has been in Summit since its founding in 1902. Sadly, it will be closing. Read more about its history on page 7.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Clerk's Corner .....	2
Police Department.....	3
Fire Department .....	4
Public Works .....	4
Santa Parade Route....	5
Sample Santa Letter ..	6
Historical Spotlight .....	7

## VILLAGE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN 2023

The Village of Summit made significant progress towards improving your infrastructure in 2023. We would like to highlight **nine particular projects** that will make a positive, lasting impact towards the vibrancy and safety of our community. Embarking on these types of projects are no easy task – taking up a significant amount labor, time and money – and we would like to thank management and staff for their efforts, most notably **Tim Kass of Novotny Engineering** for advising the Village throughout the duration of these projects. See **INFRASTRUCTURE**, page 2.



## VILLAGE WELCOMED MANY NEW SMALL BUSINESSES IN 2023

Small businesses are the economic engine of Summit and 2023 marked yet another year in which the Village was open for business. We would like to highlight **six economic development initiatives** the Village successfully completed this year. Like business itself, the Village must constantly sell itself to maintain a competitive edge as a viable place where a business can set up shop and succeed. We would like to thank **Jack Hynes of JPH Inc.** for his guidance and expertise on economic development and growth strategies. We hope residents will take advantage of the many eclectic businesses we have in town and shop local, especially with the holidays around the corner. See **BUSINESSES**, page 3.



**SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR EDITION**  
Newsletters timelines:  
January - Winter Edition  
March - Spring Edition  
May - Summer Edition  
August - Fall Edition



The Official Publication of  
the Village of Summit



Office phone: 563-4807

Email: [clambert@summit-il.org](mailto:clambert@summit-il.org)

## Letters to Santa

### Wish List Letters to Santa!!

Santa loves getting letters from boys and girls of all ages. Our newsletter includes a special letter you can fill out [PAGE 6] or you can write your own personalized letter. **Send your letters prior to December 14<sup>th</sup>** and make sure you include your return address so Santa can send you a personalized letter back.

You can drop the letters off at the Village Municipal Center or mail them to:

**Santa Claus**  
The Village of Summit  
7321 West 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Summit, IL 60501

## Santa Parade

### Bundle up kids of all ages...Santa Claus is coming to town!

Santa will be making a brief stop in the Village of Summit on Saturday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Santa will be joined by the Village Board, Fire and Police Department and will ride through town departing from the Summit Fire Department at 10:00 a.m.

Included in our newsletter is the route Santa will be taking and stops he will be making to take pictures with children [PAGE 5]. Since Santa is on a tight schedule — as he has many stops to make no matter the weather— the parade will go on. Let's all come out and show Santa and his elves the true Village of Summit Holiday Cheer!



## NOTABLE COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN 2023

### 2023 C.D.B.G. Alley Improvements

- Located between 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and between 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and 61<sup>st</sup> Place.
- Concrete alley construction length of 770 feet.
- H.U.D. Community Development Block Grant awarded amount of \$300,000.00.

### 2023 Green Alley Program

- Three alleys located between 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and between 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 55<sup>th</sup> Place.
- Permeable Paver Brick construction combined length of 2,347 feet.
- MWRD Stormwater/Green Infrastructure Partnership awarded amount \$375,000.00.

### 2023 HMA Patching Program

- Asphalt patching of streets throughout the Village.
- Follow up repair of roads after emergency utility repair conducted by the Village.

### 2023 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement

- Public sidewalk removal and replacement with a resident cost share.
- This project was a partnership with residents who wanted public sidewalk repaired in front of their home.
- Final project cost \$146,848.00.

### 2023 Valve and Hydrant Repair Program

- Replacement of nine fire hydrants and eleven main water line valves.
- Replacement of 130 feet of main water line on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street approximately 250 feet West of 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

### 2023 Water Systems Controls Replacement

- Known as "SCADA" (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition).
- Replaced the control system that operates the potable water projection plant.

### 2023 Outgoing Water System Meter Replacement

- Replaced the meter that keeps totals of the volume of water pumped from the water plant.
- Outgoing meter is connected to the SCADA system for mandatory IEPA record keeping.

### 2023 Combined Sewer Manhole Emergency Replacements

- Installed a new combined sewer manhole on 55<sup>th</sup> Place East of Archer Road.
- Replaced a combined sewer manhole on 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

### Parkway Replacement 74th Ave North of 60th Pl

- Replace badly sunken public sidewalk path to Graves Elementary School.
- East parkway North of 60<sup>th</sup> Place.
- Regraded and replaced parkway and asphalt replacement



## Mel Ortiz, Police Chief

As we near the end of the year, we reflect back on 2023 and take account of the department's advancements. Through innovation and training, we have been able to increase the operational capabilities of the department and its officers. These additions have provided us with better and more efficient ways to accomplish our tasks that serve the community.

Some of these advancements include:

- License Plate Readers installed in the Village
- Electronic ticketing and crash reporting
- Updating and going digital with department policies
- Addition of Patrol K9 unit
- Implementation of a drone program
- Adding an officer to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
- Mobile Surveillance Camera
- Increased police profile at the elementary schools
- Updated department infrastructure regarding training

We are pleased with the progress that we have been able to accomplish and look forward to continue the momentum in 2024. Training is a focus and we are meeting the requirements of the SAFE-T Act. However, we look to go beyond the listed requirements to provide our officers the tools they need to best serve the community.

Our community, like others, have had instances of catalytic converter thefts. Some of these incidents have involved offenders with weapons who have demonstrated their willingness to use

them. Please exercise caution if you observe this type of activity. We ask that you take note of details and call the police and avoid any confrontation with these people when possible.

The holiday seasons also brings different types of crime, in your travels if you "see something, say something". Increased awareness adds to public and individual safety so please be conscious of the activities around you when you are out and about.

As we move into the holiday season, please remember to be mindful of our seniors and most vulnerable. It does not take much to say hello to our neighbors and see how they are doing. If you are aware of someone who is in need of further attention due to a lack of heat, electricity or mental health services please call 911 for a well-being check.

The men and women of the Summit Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. We hope that this time provides everyone an opportunity to come together with their families and share in the spirit of the season.



**Office phone:** 563-4830  
**Anonymous Tip Hotline:** 563-8100  
**Email:** [mortiz124@summitpd.net](mailto:mortiz124@summitpd.net)

## NOTABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN 2023

### El Famous Grand Re-Opening — 6159 S Archer Rd.

- Complete renovation and re-open after a fire in 2017.
- Over \$500,000 invested.

### CK Cabinets — 6210 S Archer Rd.

- From a garage in Chicago to a store front in Summit.
- Sells to contractors and the general public.

### Grecias Bakery — 6125 S Archer Rd.

- This former bakery was renovated and Latino owned previously in Chicago since 2013.
- Over \$250,000 invested in the property.

### Chester's Tavern — 6255 S Archer Rd.

- Complete renovation of interior and facade of property.
- Over \$650,000 re-invested in Summit.



### Shell Gas Station Renovation — 7200 W 63<sup>rd</sup> St.

- Complete renovation of the station.
- Over \$450,000 invested in the property.

### Grant Readiness Award

- CMAP awarded the Village of Summit a "Grant Readiness award."
- This will help the Village in all aspects of grants, such as the ability to search for grants, maintain paperwork, and grant management.



# Tony Anderson, Fire Chief



The Summit Fire Department would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year! As we get ready for the holiday season, we need to be aware of the greater risk for home fires. Here are a few tips that can help you prevent home fires.

## Having a fresh cut Christmas Tree

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

## Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand and be sure to add water daily.

## Lighting the Tree

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

## Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.

- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Office phone: 594-3894

Email: [tanderson@summitfire.net](mailto:tanderson@summitfire.net)

## Holiday Entertaining

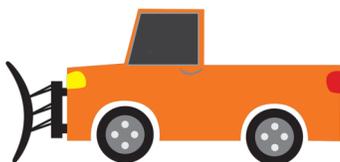
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas get rid of the tree or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed it outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

# Jerry Rosales, Superintendent of Public Works

The cold is slowly creeping up upon us so I would like to give a few reminders for the coming season. Please do not blow leaves into the street —that will cause problems for our sewer system — and be mindful of the signs posted through the community regarding parking.

Please also be sure to follow the street sweeping signs because it helps Public Works perform efficient and safe plowing. Parking should be as close to the curb as possible. Be aware of any fire hydrants that may get buried in due to snow or plowing and help keep them clean and visible for our fire department.



Last yard waste pickup will be **Friday, December 1st**. Once residents are done with Christmas trees the garbage company will take them from the alleys. Please put them next to your garbage tote.



Office phone: 563-4800

Email: [jrosales@summit-il.org](mailto:jrosales@summit-il.org)

# Santa is Coming to Town Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>!



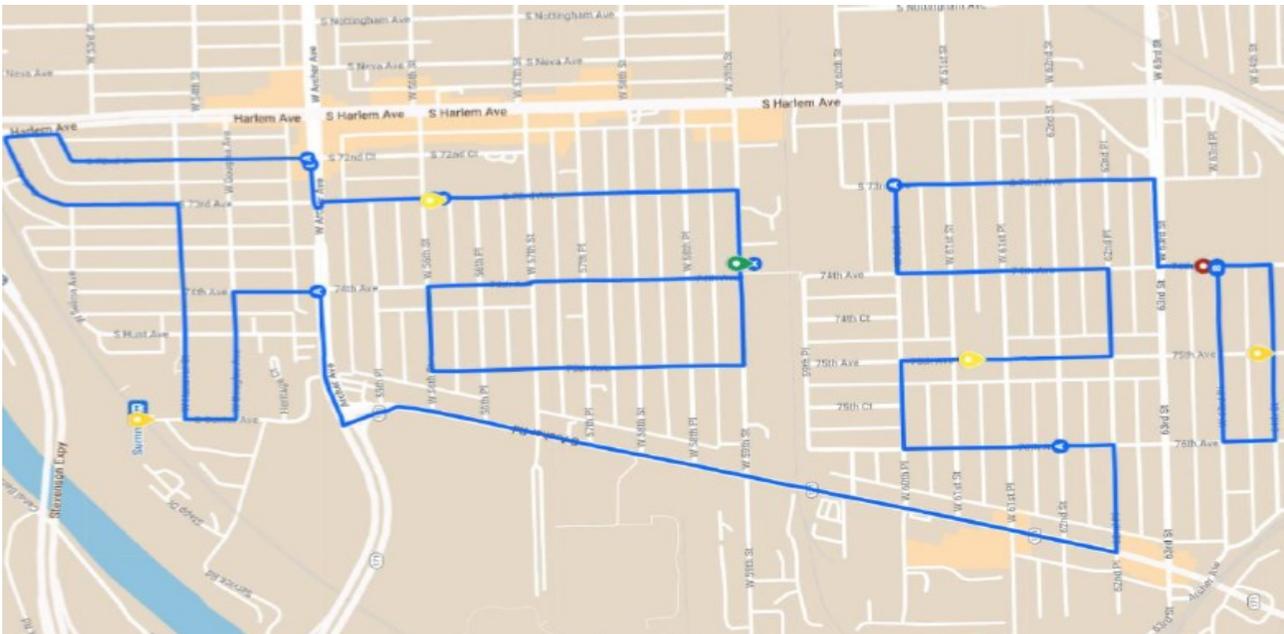
The fun begins at 10 a.m. at the Fire Department  
Santa will also be making four stops to take pictures:

St. Joseph's parking lot

Hanover Park

St. Blase parking lot

Antioch Church parking lot





**Dear Santa,**

Hello! This Christmas, I will be  years old, and my teacher is  at  School!

I know this year has been different, but I have been...



- Good all of the time
- Good some of the time
- Naughty (but I can explain)

I am proud of myself, because this year, I did some nice things - including:

What I would like most for Christmas this year is  and , and I promise to leave out  for you!

**Merry Christmas Santa!**



Love,  
First Name  Last Name   
Address (or email)

**P.S. Please tell  I said hello!**

\*Sample letter also available on Village website

# HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

In June 1918, a fire destroyed a then small Catholic church called **St. Joseph's Parish** located at 60th and Archer Road near where Legion Park currently sits today. Only a few items survived the fire, including a life-sized crucifix, and church members were displaced to continue services in the basement of what was then St. Blase School. Although the church ultimately survived the fire and was rebuilt, it looks as though the Parish's time may have come to an end. Roughly one-hundred and twenty-years-later and two years after St. Joseph's school ceased operations, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced that the church will be closing.

The church was originally founded in 1902 by Father Lamb. After the fire, the modern St. Joseph's Church was erected in 1920 at **5600 and South 72nd Court**. The first pastor at the new location was a **Father Joseph Sehne** and the church officially dedicated in 1925. One of the most influential leaders in its history was **Father John Fuerst** who served as pastor from 1932 to 1966. During his tenure, the parish experienced growth and development, including an eight-classroom school. A new rectory and ten classroom addition were added under the leadership of his successor, **Father Eugene Siedlecki**.



## COAT DRIVE CONTINUES INTO THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

As the cold weather approaches, **Argo-Summit Lodge #1133** and the Village of Summit will be partnering to sponsor a hat, coat, and glove drive for children, adults, and families in need. The drive will occur through **December 15th**. We earnestly seek your generous support and contribution to this worthy cause. Your charitable donations, whether big or small, are deeply appreciated. We kindly request that all contributions be new or gently used, in a condition ready to be worn, without stains, holes, broken zippers, or missing buttons.

There are several locations around the community where you can drop off your donations during their regular business hours. **Collection bins will be available at the following locations:**

**Summit Municipal Center; Argo High School; Summit Library; Heritage; Charles Tavern; Steak and Egger; Popeyes; La Villita; Fergie and Foz; Fleetwood Roller Rink; Talerico Bakery; El Famous Burrito; Vito and Nicks (Hickory Hills); Village of Bridgeview; Venetian Gardens; Argo Summit Lodge #1133.**

Your participation will undoubtedly have a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of those in need within our community. Let's come together to provide warmth and comfort to those who need it most. **Thank you for your unwavering support and generosity.**

With warm regards, Argo-Summit Lodge #1133 and the Village of Summit.




# WINTER

## Coat Drive

Argo-Summit Lodge #1133 and the Village of Summit are partnering to sponsor a hat, coat, and gloves drive for those in need. Your contributions of new or gently used items are deeply appreciated and will make a meaningful impact in our community.



**PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS**

Village of Summit Municipal Center, Argo High School, Summit Library, Heritage Middle School, Chester's Tavern, Steak and Egger, Popeyes, La Villita, Fergie and Foz, Fleetwood Roller Rink, Talerico Bakery, El Famous Burrito, Vito and Nicks (9644 S Roberts Rd, Hickory Hills), Village of Bridgeview City Hall (7500 S Oketo Ave, Bridgeview), Venetian Gardens (6955 Roberts Rd, Bridgeview), Argo Summit Lodge #1133



**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

11/6/23 - 12/15/23

**VILLAGE OF SUMMIT**  
**Strzelczyk Municipal Center**  
**7321 W. 59<sup>TH</sup> Street**  
**Summit, IL 60501**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of month: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Summit Village Hall (708) 563-4800  
Village Clerk (708) 563-4807

**FOR SERVICES CALL:**

Emergency 911  
Police Department non-emergency (708) 563-4830  
Fire Department non emergency (708) 594-3894  
Public Works Department (708) 563-4809  
Water / Sewer Billing (708) 563-4817

**OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR** **SERGIO RODRIGUEZ**  
**CLERK** **COLLEEN LAMBERT**

**TRUSTEES**

Setki "Sam" Dardovski Marvel Parker  
Sonia Ponce Lorena Manriquez  
Mayra Ortiz Aurora Rodriguez

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



**WEBSITES TO KNOW**

Summit Park District  
[www.summitparks.org](http://www.summitparks.org)

Summit Public Library District  
[www.summitlibrary.info](http://www.summitlibrary.info)

Cook School District 104  
[www.sd104.us](http://www.sd104.us)

Argo Community High School District 217  
[www.argohs.net](http://www.argohs.net)

Township of Lyons  
[www.lyonstownshipil.gov](http://www.lyonstownshipil.gov)

Illinois Department of Public Health  
[www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**December 2<sup>ND</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor

**December 4<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting

**December 9<sup>TH</sup>:** Santa Parade

**December 15<sup>TH</sup>:** Last day to donate coats

**December 18<sup>TH</sup>:** FY24 Budget Hearings

**December 18<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting [Last of 2023]

**December 25<sup>TH</sup>:** Christmas, Village Closed

**January 1<sup>ST</sup>:** New Years, Village Closed

**January 6<sup>TH</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor

**January 15<sup>TH</sup>:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Village Closed

**January 18<sup>TH</sup>:** Neighborhood Watch Meeting