

# THE SUMMIT



## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ

As we bid farewell to 2024, 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. Remember, our community offers many mental health resources, such as Nami Metro Suburban's Living Room Program and opportunities through the Township of Lyons.

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 2025!**



"Long John" Wentworth was the Summit area's first major landowner. Read more about his history on **page 7**.

## ANOTHER ALLEY DONE!

**Mayor Rodriguez and the Village Board** are proud that the Village has made significant progress towards improving your infrastructure in 2024. This year, the Village enhanced safety by repairing and replacing a concrete alley in the 7400 block between 61st Street and 60th Place. The Village has also embarked on several other key infrastructure projects that will make a positive, lasting impact towards the vibrancy and safety of our community.



These 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 Klass of Novotny Engineering** for advising the Village throughout the duration of these projects. See **INFRASTRUCTURE**, page 2.

## FAÇADE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HELP BUSINESSES IN 2024!

**Mayor Rodriguez and the Village Board** are proud that the **Façade Program** has continued its success in 2024. The program provides incentives for building owners to restore or rehabilitate building exterior. It offers financial assistance for refurbishing the primary elevation of a building, repairing or replacing exterior elements, and enhancing the appearance of storefronts, signs, and outdoor spaces.



We would like to thank **Jack Hynes of JPH Inc.** for his guidance and expertise on economic development and growth strategies. This year, a plethora of small businesses took advantage of the program, including La Famosita Grocery, Don Rafa's and more. See **BUSINESSES**, page 3.



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**SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR EDITION**

Newsletters timelines:  
January - Winter Edition  
March - Spring Edition  
May - Summer Edition  
August - Fall Edition





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 13<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 14<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!



## IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IN 2024 AND BEYOND!

### Alley Improvements and Public Works Paving

- Replaced and restored concrete alley on the 7400 block between 61st Street and 60th Place.
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity awarded the Village \$200,000.00 toward the alley work.
- Driveway replacement in front of the Public Works garage and the water pumping station garage.

### 74th Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Replacement

- Project to repair and replace the 74th Ave. Pedestrian Bridge and make it ADA compliant and modernized with lighting and walking paths.
- Over 80 letters of support received from the community.
- Awarded a \$175,000 grant from the Invest in Cook Program to help support Phase 1 Engineering (Planning).
- Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) grant award for \$1,020,000.00 to help support construction.



### Low End Sewer Clean and Televis

- The collection point of most of the sewer water from the Village cleaned and televised to reduce flooding.
- Visual inspection of the piping to determine condition and future repair.

### Lead Water Service Replacement by Cook County and Elevate

- Cook County has replaced old lead water services with copper at licensed day care facilities.
- The work was performed by licensed plumbers and paid for by Cook County.

### Cook County EV Charging Station Program

- Awarded an Electric Vehicle Charging Station located at 7641 W 61st Pl.

### Water Pumping Station Interior Remodel

- Rebuild walls and lighting.
- Bathroom repair.
- Painting and floors replaced.



Winter approaches and we have started with our days with less sunlight. **Please be cautious while driving** during late afternoon and evening times. There is still a lot of activity that includes pedestrians of all ages. As the roads get colder and with ice it is easy to lose control, watch your speed and remember to buckle up your seat belts.

During the cold weather, some criminal activity increases while others decrease. **Please be aware of your surroundings**, do not look down at your phone or have your ear pods in. Doing this exposes yourself to having an accident or someone taking advantage of your distraction. If you see something suspicious, avoid the area or call police.

We remind people to please **lock your automobiles** when you park them for the night. Most car burglaries are a result of people leaving the doors unlocked or leaving valuables in plain view. Be a good neighbor and lookout for one another, particularly our senior residents. If you know of someone in need, do not hesitate to offer a helping hand or call someone who can assist.

The holiday seasons are not always the happiest for everyone. If you or someone you know are going through difficult times remember that we have a great resource in the Village at the **"Living Room"**. The Living Room is located at **7604 W. 63rd Street** and is open 24/7 all year round. If you are not sure, you

can call 911 and a first responder will be happy to assist you with resources.

If you find yourself without heat, remember that the Village does provide some **warming locations**. The Summit Police Department is one such location that can act as a temporary warming center if needed.

The men and women of the Summit Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Remember, we also are open 24/7 all year round to serve our residents.



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

## NOTABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN 2024

### La Famosita Grocery — 6143 S. Archer Rd.

- New grocery store providing fresh fruits, produce and more.

### Carnitas Don Rafa — 6240 S Archer Rd.

- Banquet hall extension of the Chicago restaurant serving authentic Mexican cuisine.

### Lo Natural — 6201 S Archer Rd.

- Health and beauty retail store.



### Grant Readiness Award

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

### Summit Community Network Launches

- United Way of Chicago and Cook County Partnership to help invest in youth and families in our community.



### Grecias Bakery — 6125 S Archer Rd.

- Opened in Summit June 2024.
- This former bakery was renovated and Latino owned previously in Chicago since 2013.
- Over \$250,000 invested in the property.



### Argo High School Pass Gate Annex Building — 7200 W 63<sup>rd</sup> St.

- Argo High School's grand opening of a new building in August.



# 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.

## 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.



Office phone: 594-3894

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

# 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, November 29th**. Please make sure to place your yard waste in appropriate containers no bigger than 30 gallons and 50lbs. **Do not rake or blow the leaves into the streets or sewers. It has been an issue this summer and becomes a problem with the rain. Residents caught raking or blowing them into the streets will be fined.** 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 14<sup>th</sup>!



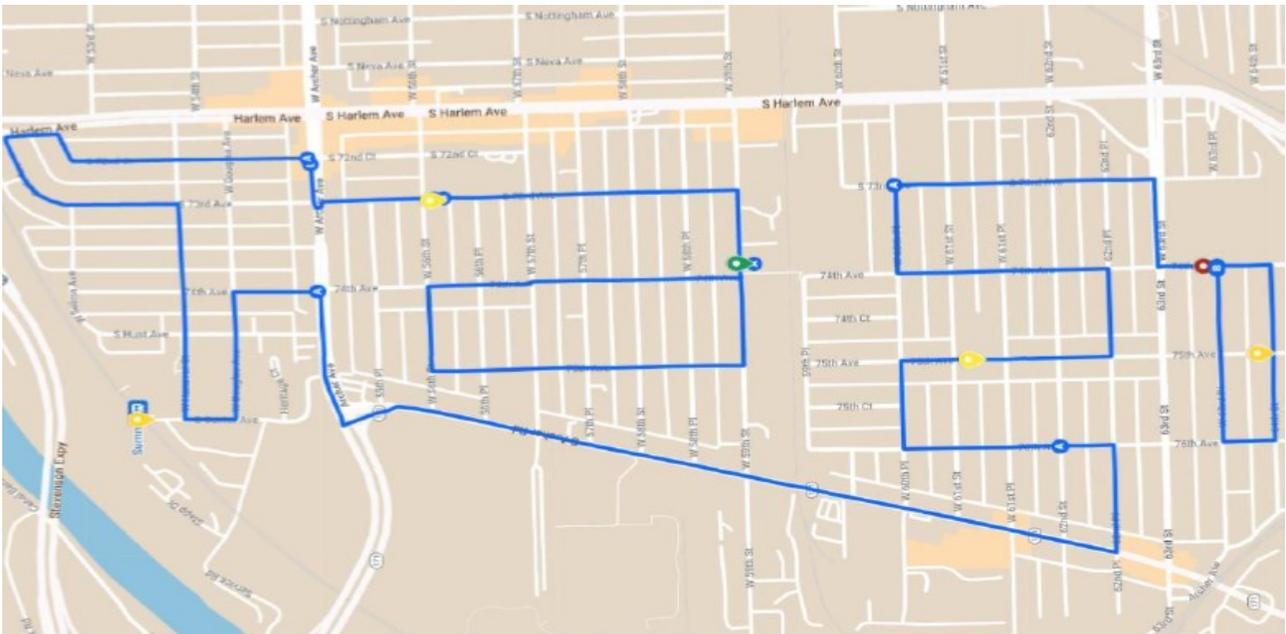
The fun begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Fire Department  
Santa will also be making four stops to take pictures:

St. Joseph's parking lot

Hanover Park

St. Blase parking lot

Argo High School west 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)

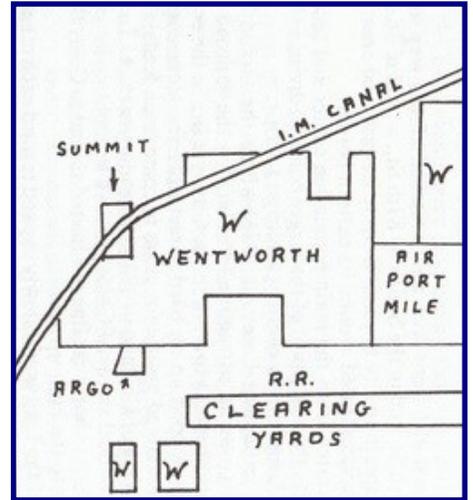
**P.S. Please tell  I said hello!**

\*Sample letter also available on Village website

## HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

As the leaves fell around the neighborhood this fall, October 16th marked the 136th anniversary of the death of one of the Summit area's most prominent landowners – **John Wentworth**. Connoisseurs of Chicago history may remember him as a boisterous 6 feet 6 inch Chicago politician who was a Southwest Side U.S. Congressman and eventually elected as Chicago's first Republican Mayor in 1857.

However, this towering figure was also the proprietor of **Wentworth Land Holdings**, which owned a total of 4,700 acres in and around Summit — mostly now in modern-day Garfield Ridge. Back then, most of the land from the I&M Canal to Central Avenue down to 63rd Street was considered Summit. In 1868, he built his Mar-a-Lago at 5441 S. Harlem Avenue, which he named "The Summit Farmhouse." Although the estate was eventually demolished in 1968, Wentworth is noted as a figure who helped develop the Greater Garfield Ridge area as we know it today.



## CLERK HOFFENBERG'S OFFICE LAUNCHES HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The Lyons Township Clerk's office has partnered with the Chicagoland Motorcycle Parade Toys for Tots Organization to help donate toys for needy children this holiday season.

Residents of the Village can drop off new and unwrapped toys to the Lyons Township Clerk's Office, located at **6404 Joliet Road in Countryside**. Donations will be accepted until **Thursday, December 19th**. Help make a difference for a child this Holiday Season!



# Toy Drive Location



**6404 Joliet Rd in Countryside**



**Township of Lyons  
Clerk's Office**



## THANK YOU BOB!

The Village of Summit would like to extend our sincere gratitude to **Robert Yonker** and his 15 years serving as secretary of our monthly Neighborhood Watch program. The success of the program would not be possible without your tenure and we appreciate your dedication to our community. Thank you Bob!

[Picture courtesy of Carol McGowan and the Desplaines Valley News]



Presorted Std.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Bridgeview, IL  
Permit No. 145

**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



**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.lyonstowshipil.gov](http://www.lyonstowshipil.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>:** Village Board Meeting
- December 13<sup>TH</sup>:** Santa Letters due
- December 14<sup>TH</sup>:** Santa Parade
- December 16<sup>TH</sup>:** FY24 Budget Hearings
- December 16<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting [Last of 2024]
- December 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>:** Closed, Xmas Eve & Xmas
- December 31<sup>ST</sup> & January 1<sup>ST</sup>:** Closed, New Years
- January 4<sup>TH</sup>:** Coffee with the Mayor
- January 6<sup>TH</sup>:** Village Board Meeting
- January 20<sup>TH</sup>:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Village Closed
- January 21<sup>ST</sup>:** Village Board Meeting
- January 23<sup>RD</sup>:** Neighborhood Watch Meeting