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Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 14 | Number 7 | April 7, 2020

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Midlothian Mayor thanks residents

by Jan Glaz

On March 25th during a remote broadcast of the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting, Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux, announced "As Coronavirus testing increases so will the number of cases and at this time I want to thank everyone who is abiding by the Governor's stay at home order, and please continue, as this is the best and easiest way to prevent the disease from spreading."

A Resolution granting Village President, Gary L'Heureux, 'Emergency Powers and Suspending the Rules Pertaining to Remote Attendance of Village Board Meetings of the Village Code' met with full board approval, as well as: a proposal to retain Roy Erikson Outdoor Maintenance, Inc. for janitorial services at the Metra Station at a cost not to exceed \$1,600 per month; and authorization for Visu-Sewer of Illinois, LLC, to perform additional sewer lining work in the north east quadrant of the Village for a cost not to exceed \$145,000.00.

In other news: Mayor Gary L'Heureux reported, "There still seems to be a misunderstanding from residents on what the Village is attempting to do with the zoning and what they be-



Village of Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux

lieve the signs they are seeing around town mean. I know this has been explained before but I believe it needs repeating.

"Let me be clear, there is no intent or desire by the Village to take anyone's property for anything. This is simply an attempt by the Village to reset the zoning back to what it was prior to the large scale rezoning in 2009. At that time, the Village was attempting to capitalize on the use of our train station and potential future commuters that might use it and rezoned much of the single family residential properties around the train station to high density residential.

"Obviously, that never transpired and we have found that more and more people are telecommuting and working from home. Now, eleven years later, we believe it is in the best interest of all of the single family residential property owners and the Village to zone it all back to single family residential."

Crestwood prepares for Cannabis Craft Growing

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees Meeting held on March 18th

Officials granted a request from Ruben Baerga, Yadatah properties, LLC, to prepare an Ordinance for a Special Use Permit to open a business that will be a Cannabis Craft Growing, Production and Transport with a stipulation that they must follow all State and local laws and guidelines on the premise

Blue Island Mayor promises community safety

by Jan Glaz

During a recent meeting of the Blue Island City Council, Mayor Domingo Vargas, announced that the City has dedicated a section of its website (www.blueisland.org/coronavirus) to provide the most current information related to the Coronavirus. "I receive daily updates on the coronavirus and have implemented procedures in all our city's departments. I promise you, as Mayor, we will do whatever is in my power to keep this community safe. We are here to serve you and make sure that everyone is safe on a daily basis. And if there is any infor-

mation that you receive, that we don't have on the City's website, please forward that to us."

In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Island Aldermen, Fred Bilotto, Kevin Donahue, and Jim Klinker called an emergency council meeting to grant emergency response authority to Blue Island Fire Department Chief, Dan Reda, who will work in conjunction with Police Chief, Bernadine Rzaab.

Throughout the coming weeks officials in the City of Blue Island will be meeting daily to discuss the status of



City of Blue Island Mayor, Domingo Vargas

the COVID-19 response and all information will be shared on the City's website and social media. In addition, residents can sign up for email alerts via the city's website: www.blueisland.org

The Blue Island Police Department stated that although the lobby of the Police Department remains closed to the public, residents can utilize the non-emergency number 708-385-1313 at

this time and for emergencies residents at all times should dial 9-1-1.

Mark your calendar: Aldermen approved a request from the Blue Island Park District to hold the 5th Annual Blue Island Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at the SEPA Station Waterfall along the Cal-Sag. Permission to use the property is granted from June 4th to June 7th.

of 4609-4621 W. 138th St., Crestwood, IL 60418.

It has been reported that the Illinois Department of Agriculture will award up to 40 craft grower licenses on or before July 1, 2020. By December 21, 2021, the Department will issue up to 60 additional craft grower licenses, and any person awarded a license during the second application period shall not hold more than two craft grower licenses.

After January 1, 2022, the Department of Agriculture may modify or raise the number of grower licenses and modify or change the licensing application process to reduce or eliminate barriers. At no time may the number of craft grower licenses exceed 150 and any person or entity awarded a license after January 1, 2022, shall not hold more than 3 craft grower licenses.

Meeting endnote: Trustees approved an addition to the Village of Crestwood Handbook - Infectious Disease Emergency (IDE) Policy.

The IDE policy states that infectious disease emergencies are circumstances caused by biological agents, including organisms such as bacteria, viruses or toxins with the potential for significant illness or death in the population. An Infectious Disease Emergencies Response (IDER) Plan may also be used in situations that include naturally occurring outbreaks such as measles, mumps, meningococcal disease, etc.

Alsip Fire Chief sets Covid-19 protocol

by Jan Glaz

Village of Alsip Fire Chief, Thomas Styczynski, reported that in keeping with the Center of Disease Control and Governor Pritzker's office in regard to the Coronavirus, the following guidelines are in immediate effect at the Alsip Fire Department:

No visitors are allowed in the Fire Stations. Anyone

needing to conduct business will need to call the fire station; the Fire Department may limit responses to non-essential or non-emergency calls; all public education programs and annual inspections are on hold until at least April 1st, including car seat installations.

If the Fire Department is called to assist anyone the paramedics will ask specific questions related to the Coronavirus and they may don additional protective clothing. Fire Department personnel will be practicing social distancing and will be keeping a safe distance from anyone but the patient; and the Fire Department is not allowing family members to ride to the hospital in the ambulance, until further notice.

Chief Styczynski stated that there is no reason to hoard food and residents should avoid panic shopping. The Alsip Fire Department is located at 12600 South Pulaski Avenue, Contact numbers are: Station 1 phone number, 708-385-6902 x233 and Sta-

tion 2 phone number, 708-385-6902 x234

In other official news: Alsip Mayor, John Ryan, requested and trustees agreed to approve and adopt a "Sidewalk Inspection, Maintenance and Repair Program" for the Village of Alsip. Ryan said the approval allows an agreement with Warren Oil for implanting 2 new 'Fuel Tracking Systems' for Village vehicles, where one will be installed on the gas pump and one will be installed on the diesel pump, at a total cost of \$5,000.00 for both. Warren Oil will charge .05 cents per gallon to all gas invoices and .10 cents per gallon to all diesel invoices.

The board voted to allow Fire Chief Styczynski to attend the Fire Department Instructor's Conference from April 22nd through April 25th for a cost not to exceed \$1,284.00; and approved a variation to allow a sign structure with a height not to exceed 75 feet on the property located at 12900 South Kostner Avenue, Alsip, IL.



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 7 | April 7, 2020

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Oak Forest Mayor cites Robocalls and Coronavirus

by Jan Glaz

On March 26th Oak Forest Mayor, Henry Kuspa, introduced and the City Council passed a Resolution expressing concern about deceitful robocalls and supporting efforts of the Federal and State Governments to eliminate them. Mayor Kuspa stressed, "Although these robocalls have been a problem for many years, these unwanted and quite deceitful calls are particularly troublesome and annoying to a community which is trying to cope with the burdens placed upon all of us by the outbreak of Coro-

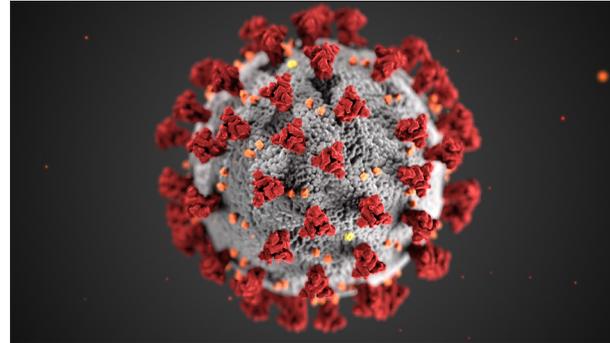
navirus."

In part, the Resolution states that 30 billion robocalls were made in 2017, a number still growing, and the Federal Trade Commission received 4.5 million complaints in 2018 from citizens frustrated with the incessant nuisance. Having a phone number registered on the National "Do Not Call Registry" has done little to discourage or stop criminal phone abuse.

The United States Congress passed bipartisan legislation entitled "Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement Act

(TRACED Act)" aimed at addressing the increasing number of illegal robocalls and to help find and prosecute robo-callers. The Resolution, signed by the Mayor and City Council of Oak Forest, supports the Federal Government and the State of Illinois to stop the abuse and urges the Federal Communications Commission and the Illinois Attorney General to investigate those responsible for carrying-out these anonymous and harmful robocall in the community.

City Council endnotes: Aldermen agreed to extend



This image from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the morphology of the novel coronavirus.

an 'Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement' with North Mark Construction, LLC, regarding four property parcels in the Oak Forest Gateway at 15820 S. Cicero Avenue and 4960 W. 159th Street, from a due date of April 1, 2020, by 75 days, given the

nearness of the deadline and the timing delays from the national health pandemic, Coronavirus; and a contract was awarded to 'Johnson Controls of Calumet City, IL, in the budgeted amount of \$69,450.00 relating to Police Station building improvements.

MVCC extends web instruction through end of semester

All spring semester instruction, set to resume in an online format on Monday, March 23, will continue online through the end of the spring semester, Moraine Valley Community College officials announced Wednesday.

Additionally, the college's Palos Hills campus and extension centers in Blue Island and Tinley Park will be closed until at least April 19. All faculty and staff members are working remotely, and all student support services will be offered remotely only. Employees will be accessible by phone and email to meet student needs.

This closure includes the Health, Fitness & Recreation Center, and all on-campus events, including the college's commencement ceremony, are canceled.

"These changes present many challenges for our employees and students, but everyone has been working cooperatively and corroboratively to help ensure the college's operations and student learning can be successful during these unprecedented times," said Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, college president.

Students are encouraged to routinely check their Moraine Valley email, communicate with their faculty members, and use the resources available on the college's student portal, MVConnect.morainevalley.edu.

Orland Park President granted State of Emergency Authority

by Jan Glaz

An Ordinance passed on March 16th Amending the Orland Park Village Code with Regard to Civil Emergencies and Disasters and the Village President's Authority to Declare a State Of Emergency. In light of the pending COVID-19 outbreak the Village's attorney reviewed the existing Village Code provisions as they relate to emergencies and disasters and recommended modifications to the rules and regulations that pertain to Village government and affairs as they related to the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

Village President, Keith Pekau, is granted the extraordinary power and authority to exercise, by executive order, during a

state of emergency, as may be reasonably necessary to respond to the emergency. The amendment expands the definition of "civil emergency" to include contagious disease or other public health emergencies.

A local civil emergency is hereby defined, in part, to be: A riot or unlawful assembly characterized by the use of actual force or violence or any threat to use force by three or more persons acting together without authority of law; or the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural disaster, catastrophe, pestilence, contagious disease or other health emergency. Additional information in regard to this item can be located on the Orland Park Village website at: <https://orlandpark.org/>

In other business: Orland Park trustees agreed to approve a development plan amendment for the Bluff Pointe Subdivision, located at 16900-17000 Wolf Road. The partially constructed

subdivision includes a portion of the site to be developed as townhomes by removing 18 single family lots from the subdivided 49 lot subdivision and developing said eighteen lots as nine townhome buildings containing a total of thirty-eight residential townhome units.

Tinley Park drives down electricity pricing

by Jan Glaz

Tinley Park held a Village Board meeting on March 17th and voted to adopt a Resolution affirming the Village Manager's authority to approve a contract between the Village and Constellation New Energy, Inc. The Village participates in a consortium with 140 other municipalities known as the 'Northern Illinois Municipal Electrical Collaborative' (NIMEC) to drive down pricing for residential

and municipal electricity.

The NIMEC routinely goes out to bid for electricity pricing relating to five Village pumping stations. The current fixed rate for these accounts is 5.324 cents per kilowatt hour. NIMEC reported they received bids from Constellation, Dynegy, and MC Squared. Constellation won with the lowest bid results. Once a bid is received, the Village only has until the end of the business day to lock in the rates and execute the contract. Given the historic lows of the market and pricing levels not seen in 20 years, the Village selected a three year term at the rate of 4.66 cents per kilowatt hour, beginning April 30, 2020 and ending April 30, 2023.

In other official news: Trustees awarded a contract to 'Gallagher Asphalt' in the amount of \$3,681,512.04 for the Village's 2020 Pavement Management Program. The project entails approximately 9.2 miles of pavement improvements which includes street resurfacing

by heater scarification, hot mix asphalt surface removal and replacement, pavement patching, miscellaneous concrete repairs, structure adjustments, pavement striping and other miscellaneous improvements encountered during the project. Funding in the amount of \$4,115,000 is part of the fiscal year 2021 budget for the 2020 pavement project. Based on the contract award, the overall Pavement Management Program is approximately \$55,000.00 below budget.

The board of trustees appointed and welcomed, John Urbanski, as Interim Publics Works Director, effective April 1, 2020. The appointment is due the retirement of Public Works Director, Kevin Workowski. John Urbanski is a long time village resident and employee of Tinley Park. John approached the board and thanked the Village of for the appointment, after which, he received a congratulatory round of applause from all present at the meeting.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 21 | Number 7 | April 7, 2020

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

It's not too late to turn in the 2020 Census

Shape your future and take the Census today!

If you haven't already, please take a few moments while you are at home during the COVID-19 crisis to complete the Census questionnaire for your family.

Participation in the census is the right and responsibility of every resident. It is important to complete the Census in order for the government

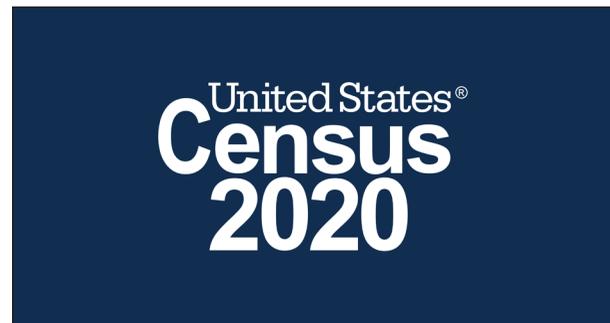
to have an accurate understanding of who lives where. This data is used to determine critical governmental funding formulas for the City and the State. Many organizations in our community have received funding to help ensure our entire community is counted. If you or your neighbors have questions about the Census or need guidance, please visit <https://my2020census.gov/>.

gov/.

You can easily complete the Census while still observing social distancing in the following ways:

Online: Go to my2020census.gov and fill out the Census on your computer or cell phone.

By phone: Call 844-330-2020 to fill out the Census over the phone. The U.S. Census Bureau offers assistance in 59 non-English languages,



including American Sign Language. Phone lines are open every day from 6:00 am to 1:00 am Central Time. Text your questions to 987-987 and get

answers.

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"These changes present many challenges for our employees and students, but everyone has been working cooperatively and corroboratively to help ensure the college's operations and student learning can be successful during these unprecedented times," said Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, college president.

Students are encouraged to routinely check their Moraine Valley email, communicate with their faculty members, and use the resources available on the college's student portal, MVConnect.morainevalley.edu.

Gene Siskel Film Center offers films via streaming

As organizations and businesses look to implement creative ways to maintain engagement with their patrons during the time of the coronavirus, the Gene Siskel Film Center is presenting the streaming series Film Center from Your Sofa: Stay Connected and Stream with Us which kicks off with such titles as "Fantastic Fungi" and "The Etruscan Smile" in an effort to showcase new and noteworthy independent, international, and classic cinema provided by longtime partnering distributors.

"Film Center from Your Sofa is a temporary action we've taken to offer a solution to the Gene Siskel Film Center's suspended public programming which has been on hiatus since March 16. In our efforts to stay connected to our loyal audience and provide some great films while we are all sequestered, we have created this streaming series. Even though our doors are closed, we continue to be a community of film lovers," said

Jean de St. Aubin, Executive Director.

As films are coming from multiple sources, streaming prices will vary from film to film. Descriptions and payment options will be provided and a link will be made available to stream the film for a limited period of time. Member discounts will not be available at this time for Film Center members and to compensate, Film Center membership expiration dates will be extended to exclude this period of suspended programming. All proceeds during this challenging time will help the Film Center and partnering distributors to continue operating.

Films ready to stream soon are "The Wild Goose Lake" (April 10-16) and "Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands" (April 17-23). New films in the series will be added to the venue's website each Wednesday. Visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

DMV services at Palos Park Village Hall on May 12

The Secretary of State

Mobile Driver Services Facility is coming to Palos Park's Village Hall, at 8999 123rd St, Palos Park, IL 60464. On Tuesday, May 12, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The following services will be provided: driver's license renewal, state ID cards, duplicate license, corrected license, vision screening with DL renewal and vehicle sticker sales (license plates). But there will be no Real ID at this location.

To renew a current Illinois driver's license or ID card, a valid driver's license or ID card must be presented. To apply for a duplicate or corrected driver's license or ID card, two forms of identification are required.

Any Illinois resident can attend.

The mobile facility can renew licenses and state ID cards up to one year in advance.

Anyone over the age of 65 and persons with disabilities can obtain a free State ID. Otherwise standard fees apply.

The only service the mobile facility cannot offer is a road test. Anyone over the age of 75 is required to take a road test when renewing a driver's license. For more information call the Clerk's Office at 708-671-3706.

Chicago Ridge asks for help with veterans Honor Wall

The Village of Chicago Ridge wants to recognize village residents serving in the military and is asking for help to gather an accurate representation. The village has constructed a glass case to be displayed in the atrium of the Eugene L. Siegel Municipal Complex, 10455 Ridgeland Ave., to recognize and honor soldiers from Chicago Ridge on active duty. The case will include photos and information about each soldier.

"They are out there defending and serving our country and they should be recognized," Mayor Charles E. Tokar said. "We would like to recognize these people with a nice space in the atrium to honor them."

You can drop off 5-by-7-inch photos of soldiers at Village Hall. Please include the soldier's name, serving branch of the military, and information about who they are, where they are stationed and when they are returning home

Village hall's address is 10455 S. Ridgeland Ave., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415.

Call 708-425-7700 for more information.

Palow Twp. property assessment appeal period ends April 17

Assessor Robert E. Maloney wishes to inform the residents of Palos Township that the time period to file a property assessment appeal application at the Palos Township location will be from now through April 17.

Palos Township is located at 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL. The hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If you want to file an appeal after the Palos Township location deadline (between April 18-April 23), you can do so at Bridgeview Courthouse (10220 S 76th Ave, Bridgeview, IL 60455) or file it yourself online at cookcountyassessor.com. If you need comparable properties, please call Heather at 708-598-4449 and they will be made available to you.



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 46 | Number 19 | April 7, 2020

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park mayor cuts ribbon for cancer 5K

Christmas Without Cancer founder Gerri Neylon joins Evergreen Park Mayor Jim Sexton to cut ribbon to the "season of giving" to benefit families faced with cancer challenges. This year's Christmas Without Cancer 5K Run/Walk is Saturday, September 19.

"People are hurting because of this vicious mon-

ster cancer," said Sexton. "Christmas Without Cancer raises money locally to help families locally and anything we can do to facilitate and support that effort in Evergreen Park, we'll do. People feel good knowing donations are helping right here at home."

Evergreen Park resident Gerri Neylon, an RN in the

radiation oncology department at Advocate Christ Medical Center, called Sexton the group's "guarding angel" while thanking him and the village for hosting the event at Klein Park in Evergreen Park.

For more information on the (501)(c)(3) Christmas Without Cancer, visit christmaswithoutcancer.org/



Photo provided by CWC volunteer Greg Gromek.

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"These changes present many challenges for our employees and students, but everyone has been working cooperatively and corroboratively to help ensure the college's operations and student learning can be successful during these unprecedented times," said Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, college president.

Students are encouraged to routinely check their Moraine Valley email, communicate with their faculty members, and use the resources available on the college's student portal, MVConnect.morainevalley.edu.

A message from Mayor Sexton

Good afternoon, friends:

We continue to follow the news and are always sombered by the rising numbers of people affected by this virus. This will continue for a while, friends, and of course, every day we say a prayer for those families.

But there is more that we can do. First and foremost, keep following the guidelines that all medical professionals have shared: Keep up with the social distancing ... wash your hands constantly! Naturally, if you must go out for groceries, allow for the six-foot separation and have antiseptic wipes on you constantly.

I just want to remind you that our Village Pantry is open every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It is located at 2700 W. 98th Place. They are offering drive-up service. This is available to every Evergreen Park resident who needs help! To our seniors, if you don't want to take a chance on going into a grocery store, please use the Pantry. This is a time and situation that is completely out of the ordinary. There is no shame in using the Pantry. This is why it is there!

And, let me tell you how proud I am of our Evergreen

Park residents; we have had many calls from people wanting to know how to make donations to the pantry. That is so heartwarming. If you wish to do so, a check made out to the Evergreen Park Village Pantry can be dropped off at the Pantry, through that drive-up, on the Fridays that it is open. You can also call (708) 422-8776. You have no idea how much this is appreciated.

On top of that, we have been inundated with calls from people who want to volunteer to help, anywhere, to do anything. This is what you call "Evergreen Park Strong".

Again, a reminder to use our local restaurants who are offering pickup, carryout and delivery services. This is the only way they have to survive in this tough time; please, let's help carry them through the next month or two. Many grocery stores are turning to home delivery as well.

To our small businesses, please check out www.illinois.gov; this is the Illinois Department of Commerce, and they are now providing a multitude of information on aid from the Federal Government as part of the recent stimulus package. The help will be there!

Thank you again, First Responders, Doctors, Nurses, Maintenance Staffs, Grocery Staffs, Truck Drivers. You are

keeping us rolling!

Now, more than ever, as we approach this Easter season, it is so important to be kind. Let's be the best we can be.



Colin Brennan

EPCHS senior named National Merit finalist

Evergreen Park Community High School senior Colin Brennan has advanced to Finalist in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program, a recognition awarded to only the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide. Approximately 16,000 students qualified as semifinalists and Colin was one of those students. He continued on in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships.

To qualify Colin had to place well on the preliminary PSAT standardized test and submit a scholarship application that detailed school performance,

leadership skills, community activities, and honors and awards received. He also had to write an essay and receive a recommendation from a school official.

"I am so very proud of Colin," said Eileen Durkin, Colin's guidance counselor. "The sky is the limit! It has been an honor and privilege to be his counselor. His humble and kind nature are some of his greatest assets, along with his intelligence and determination. I can't wait to see what the future holds for him."

Colin will receive \$2,500 from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and plans to major in mathematics at Northwestern University. He is the son of Dan and Kathleen Brennan, and he has three older siblings, Kevin, Maggie and Kelly.

It's not too late to turn in the 2020 Census

Shape your future and take the Census today!

If you haven't already, please take a few moments while you are at home during the COVID-19 crisis to complete the Census questionnaire for your family.

Participation in the cen-

sus is the right and responsibility of every resident. It is important to complete the Census in order for the government to have an accurate understanding of who lives where. This data is used to determine critical governmental funding formulas for the City and the State. Many organizations in our community have received funding to help ensure our entire community is counted. If you or your neighbors have questions about the Census or need guidance, please visit <https://my2020census.gov/>.

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Cannabis Business Association of Illinois regarding dispensaries and their safety for customers

This article is written to inform customers that the dispensaries are to protect customers and staff from coronavirus and the spread. The CBAI Executive Director, Pamela Althoff said the ongoing collaboration between the cannabis industry and Gov. Pritzker's Administration

is to ensure patients and customers have a successful, safe and valuable experience, first priority is their health and safety.

The concern is safety first regarding the coronavirus spread, so the dispensaries are reminding people to follow the guidance from the Center of

Disease Control and Prevention. By using the material outline standards for proper handwashing, and what item in the dispensary should be cleaned and disinfected regularly and encouraging anyone who is sick to stay home. Some dispensaries are limiting hours of recreational sales

to ensure medical patients have access to the medicine they need.

Since the legalization of recreational sales in the State of Illinois, there should be no problem with finding cures for various viruses. A full maturity Illinois is expected to generate between 2-4 billion dollars

in annual revenues from recreational sales. Since 2014, the Illinois Medical Cannabis Program has also enrolled nearly 100,000 qualifying patients in the state's medical cannabis and opioid alternative programs. Retail sales from medical programs alone have topped \$510 million

to date. Total sales for recreational adult usage for January, 2020 approached \$40 million despite shortages. There will to be an announcement in May, 2020, that there will be 700 more applications that were submitted for second round of newly awarded dispensary licenses

New coronavirus stable for hours on surfaces

The virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces, according to a new study from National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists in The New England Journal of Medicine. The scientists found that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. The results provide key information about the stability of SARS-CoV-2, which causes CO-

VID-19, and suggests that people may acquire the virus through the air and after touching contaminated objects. The study information was widely shared during the past two weeks after the researchers placed the contents on a preprint server to quickly share their data with colleagues.

The NIH scientists, from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Montana facility at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, compared how the environment affects SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV-1, which causes SARS. SARS-CoV-1, like its successor now circulating across the globe, emerged from China and infected more

than 8,000 people in 2002 and 2003. SARS-CoV-1 was eradicated by intensive contact tracing and case isolation measures and no cases have been detected since 2004. SARS-CoV-1 is the human coronavirus most closely related to SARS-CoV-2. In the stability study the two viruses behaved similarly, which unfortunately fails to explain why COVID-19 has become a much larger outbreak.

The NIH study attempted to mimic virus being deposited from an infected person onto everyday surfaces in a household or hospital setting, such as through coughing or touching objects. The scientists then investigated how long the virus remained infectious on these surfaces.

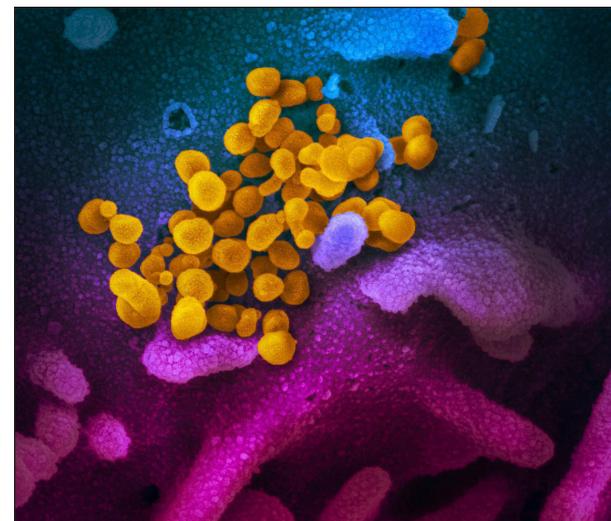
The scientists highlighted additional observations from their study:

If the viability of the two coronaviruses is similar, why is SARS-CoV-2 resulting in more cases? Emerg-

ing evidence suggests that people infected with SARS-CoV-2 might be spreading virus without recognizing, or prior to recognizing, symptoms. This would make disease control measures that were effective against SARS-CoV-1 less effective against its successor.

In contrast to SARS-CoV-1, most secondary cases of virus transmission of SARS-CoV-2 appear to be occurring in community settings rather than healthcare settings. However, healthcare settings are also vulnerable to the introduction and spread of SARS-CoV-2, and the stability of SARS-CoV-2 in aerosols and on surfaces likely contributes to transmission of the virus in healthcare settings.

The findings affirm the guidance from public health professionals to use precautions similar to those for influenza and other respiratory viruses to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2: Avoid close contact with



This scanning electron microscope image shows SARS-CoV-2 (yellow), the virus that causes COVID-19, isolated from a patient in the United States, emerging from the surface of cells (blue/pink) cultured in the lab.

people who are sick; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; stay home when you are sick; cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The article by N van Doremalen et al is "Aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 (SARS-CoV-2) compared to SARS-CoV-1"

and was published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

NIAID conducts and supports research at NIH, throughout the United States and worldwide to study the causes of infectious and immune-mediated diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing and treating these illnesses. Fact sheets and other NIAID-related materials are available on the NIAID website, <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Pappas: Auction of delinquent property taxes postponed indefinitely

A Cook County Circuit Court Judge has postponed the Annual Tax Sale of delinquent properties scheduled to begin May 8 because of the spread of the new coronavirus, Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

In an emergency motion, Pappas asked for the delay to protect the health and safety of Cook Coun-



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas

ty residents in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The judge granted the motion, postponing the Tax Sale until the court orders the sale to proceed.

"Holding the Tax Sale under these circumstances would be unfair to tens of thousands of homeowners who are living paycheck-to-paycheck and face this pandemic" Pappas said.

There are more than 52,000 properties whose delinquent taxes would be sold to investors if the Tax Sale were held, Pappas said. Of those properties, more than 30,000 are homes, more than 23,000 owe less than \$1,000, and about 2,000 are owned by senior citizens

Postponing the Tax Sale would delay payment of

an estimated \$48 million in property taxes that would have been collected during the sale. That's a fraction of the \$14 billion the Cook County Treasurer's Office collects each year.

The Treasurer's Office is required to put delinquent taxes up for auction, the first step in a legal process that can end with the loss of property if the taxes are not repaid. When it takes place, the Tax Sale will be for homes, businesses and land with unpaid bills for Tax Year 2018 (originally due in 2019).



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Third of zoo staff furloughed

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on many businesses, including nonprofit cultural institutions such as the Chicago Zoological Society (CZS), which manages Brookfield Zoo. The zoo has been closed since March 19 and has practically no earned revenue stream available at this time. CZS was forced to make the difficult decision to place nearly one-third of its staff on temporary lay-off/unpaid furlough as of April 4.

The lay-offs included staff who are not considered critically essential to support the minimum operations of the organization, while keeping staff employed who ensure the health and welfare of the zoo's animal population, maintenance and protection of the buildings and grounds, and other critical support system and functions. These temporary workforce reductions affected staff in every department.

During the lay-off period, staff is on no-pay, no-duty status, and eligible to apply for unemployment benefits. In addition, furloughed/laid-off staff will continue to receive medical and other benefits for a period of time. The duration of the furlough/temporary lay-offs is unknown at this time due to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

This is a very challenging and difficult situation, and the Society hopes it will be resolved soon. However, CZS had to respond quickly to the tre-

mendous, unanticipated financial pressures it is facing in order to ensure the zoo's future sustainability.

In an attempt to assist with the Society's financial situation, it has applied for loans through the new stimulus bill. In addition, the Society's Board of Trustees and Women's Board has transitioned to a virtual format for its largest fund-raising event of the year, The Whirl. Brookfield Zoo welcomes donations from the public, zoo members, and donors through its website to assist with the situation. Information on how to donate may be found at CZS.org/donate.

Brookfield Zoo is also asking current zoo members to renew now and those considering a membership to also do so in order to help alleviate some of the financial pressures. As a thank you, the zoo is extending the duration of current memberships to offset the temporary closure.

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Moraine Valley Foundation moves gala online

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation is shifting its annual fundraising gala from an on-site event previously scheduled for Saturday, April 24, to a virtual 20-day gala and auction. The virtual event will run from Saturday, April 4 through Friday, April 24.

The gala, themed "Roaring Twenties," will feature a variety of items to bid on and raffles. Register at morainevalley.edu/gala for a free virtual ticket to ensure receipt of all event updates.

"The gala is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we count on this event to provide support for students and programs for the college," said Kristy McGreal, Foundation executive director. "Joining us online to participate in the auction, buy raffle tickets or make a donation helps us continue to provide financial support for the college."

The Foundation is hosting a social media event at facebook.com/mvccalumni, where participants can join in on fun competitions, view virtual elements of the event, and, on April 24, view live drawings of the raffle winners. The grand prize winner will receive two round-trip domestic airline tickets. Among the runner-up prizes will be an Echo Show digital assistant and a Ring Video Door Bell Pro system. Raffle tickets, which are \$15 each or four for \$50, are available now at <https://aesbid.com/ELP/>

MVF20.

Items to bid on during the 20-day auction include restaurant gift certificates, tickets for local attractions, family-friendly events and concerts, brewery tours, museum passes, trips to Mexico, dinners hosted by the Moraine Valley Culinary Arts Program, private chef dinners and more.

Helping to make the gala and all Foundation events possible are sponsors UPS, platinum; PepsiCo, DKA and Legat Architects, gold; Heide Wealth Management and KI, bronze; First Midwest Bank, supporting sponsor; and Live Right Senior Care and Tori Construction, gala sponsors.

"We look forward to connecting our community for this fun, online celebration to support students and the college," McGreal said. "As a community, we are working together to make higher education accessible to all. I know together we will build a better decade for the students to come."

For more information, contact McGreal at mcgrealc2@morainevalley.edu or (708) 974-5335.

Stickney Township Senior Centers temporarily closed

Illinois older adults are among the highest risk

population group for becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. Locations where seniors gather such as congregate meal sites and senior centers may increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19 and community spreading of the virus. Stickney Township Office on Aging is taking a proactive stance to close our buildings to the public.

All Stickney Township Senior Center locations will be closed, including the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington in Burbank, the Stickney Senior Center located at 6721 W. 40th St in Stickney and the Central Stickney Senior Center located at 4949 S. Long Ave in Central Stickney. Please note all social services, adult protective services and information and assistance will continue to function normally at this time.

This is entirely a precautionary measure. Our number one priority is to do everything we can to help protect the health and safety of all older adults, their families and our community by limiting contact with other as our locations. Therefore, all programs, classes, activities, meetings, support groups, events, and meal programs are canceled until further notice.

For more information, contact the Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

VFW Post 2791 events delayed or canceled

VFW Post 2791 wishes that everyone and their families remain safe and in good health in these trying times. We, like many of you are waiting for this crisis to pass so that we may again be able to serve our members, our veterans and our community. We ask everyone to maintain all the required health and safety guidelines provided by our local & national leaders.

Our Doo-Wop Sock Hop has been moved to May 30th but will be still be subject to change.

Our Evening with James Libera has been cancelled and anyone that had purchased tickets will have their money refunded.

We had to Cancel our annual Cinco De Mayo Dinner Dance.

Our Fish Fry which was interrupted will take place once we see how this Pandemic plays out.

Our Queen of Hearts Raffle and our \$6 Dinners will return as soon as our Post has the ability to reopen.

VFW Bremen Post #2791 is at 17147 Oak Park Ave, Tinley Park. Call 708-532-2333 or visit www.vfw2791.org for more information.

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Canteen Hrs. Monday-Friday Noon-Close, Saturday & Sunday 11am-Close
Public Welcome

Our All You Can Eat Fish Fry will return when we reopen. Stay tuned for further updates!

Doo-Wop Sock Hop Dinner Dance has been moved to Saturday May 30th This date is subject to change

"An Evening With James Libera" was cancelled refunds available

Our Annual Cinco De Mayo has been cancelled for this year

Our Queen of Hearts Raffle & Food will return when we reopen

We hope you and your families stay safe and well

Check out our newly remodeled Banquet Hall! For more information on any of these & other events or to Book our Award Winning Banquet Hall, please contact the Post during business hours Monday thru Sunday

CROSSWORD

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Statepoint Crossword
Mysteries and Thrillers

ACROSS

- 1. Wire danger
- 6. Part of a circumference
- 9. Nashville's Keith
- 13. In a cold manner
- 14. Prefix for something revived
- 15. Paralyzing disease
- 16. Mulled wine
- 17. Egg cells
- 18. A do-nothing
- 19. "Alphabet Series" detective novels author
- 21. "It's close to midnight, and something evil's lurking in _____"
- 23. Second mo.
- 24. Fabricca Italiana Automobili Torino
- 25. Not don'ts
- 28. Popular Japanese soup
- 30. *Agatha Christie's famous sleuth
- 35. Wood sorrels
- 37. "Through" in text

- 39. Give sheep a haircut
- 40. Raise the roof
- 41. Wall or pedestal support
- 43. Cogito, _____ sum
- 44. Drink like a cat, two words
- 46. Be inclined
- 47. Commotions
- 48. Bewitch or beguile
- 50. Jack and Jill's water jug
- 52. Put to work
- 53. *James Patterson's "_____ the Girls"
- 55. "Jack and the Beanstalk" Giant's disapproval
- 57. *Hitchcock classic
- 61. *Poe's "Tales of _____ and Imagination"
- 65. In the know
- 66. *Subject of Roswell's mystery
- 68. Cocoon dwellers
- 69. King Julien XIII of "Madagascar," e.g.
- 70. Bubble source
- 71. Possible allergic reaction
- 72. Gaelic tongue

- 73. Store posting, for short
 - 74. Oceanic trenches
- DOWN**
- 1. Google alternative
 - 2. Maple genus
 - 3. Capital on the Baltic Sea
 - 4. Blindman's _____
 - 5. International _____ of Units
 - 6. In a little while, old-fashioned
 - 7. Once around
 - 8. Raccoon's South American cousin
 - 9. *The Demon Barber
 - 10. Spanish earthen pot
 - 11. Coffin stand
 - 12. *New _____, setting of "The Alienist"
 - 15. Michelangelo's famous Vatican statue and others like it, e.g.
 - 20. Death reports, for short
 - 22. Deli offering
 - 24. Baby extractor
 - 25. *Sherlock Holmes creator

- 26. Continental divide
- 27. Planktonic tunicate
- 29. "Who _____ J.R.?"
- 31. Actress Perlman
- 32. "Lost" in Paris
- 33. Mar-a-____, pl.
- 34. Having a toothed margin
- 36. Undesirable location
- 38. Forearm bone
- 42. Enlighten
- 45. Slower
- 49. Oil drilling apparatus
- 51. Spoke with a speech defect
- 54. Make a murmuring sound
- 56. Chopin's composition
- 57. Wide river valley
- 58. Water carrier
- 59. L.A. footballers
- 60. *HBO's "_____ Detective"
- 61. *Pamela Voorhees and Norma Bates, e.g.
- 62. D'Artagnan's sword
- 63. Stairway alternative
- 64. Those not opposed
- 67. *Remus Lupin's occasional body cover

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Theatre at The Center postpones "Talley's Folly" run until 2021

After Indiana Governor Holcomb's directive to "shelter-in-place" through April, and in anticipation of an extension of that date, Theatre at the Center (TATC) is postponing its April/May run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Talley's Folly." The production will be re-scheduled as part of TATC's 2021 Mainstage Season. In addition, both TATC and the Center for Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) are suspending all public events and performances through May 31.

The new performance dates for "Talley's Folly" will be April 29, 2021, through May 30, 2021, with all previously purchased tickets updated to patrons' Theatre at the Center account as a credit to redeem for tickets to "Talley's Folly" once 2021 tickets go on sale. Box office staff will be contacting all patrons to discuss and make arrangements.

The May 5, 2020, "Tuesday Matinee Series" concert featuring the return of The Nevery Brothers has been postponed and rescheduled to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020, with all previously purchased tickets automatically honored, and patrons accounts updated to the new date. In addition, the following special event performances have been canceled:



Actors Sean Fortunato and Linda Fortunato in "Talley's Folly."

Theatre for Young Audience run of "Aladdin" scheduled for April 13-19, and The Prince and Princess Party in the CVPA Dining Room on April 18 are all canceled. The TATC 30th Anniversary Big Band Concerts and Dinner on April 18 have also been canceled. The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show presented by Henry Farag has been postponed and will be re-scheduled at a later date to be announced.

The safety and health of the patrons, performers and staff remains the highest priority. As a nonprofit organization, TATC is also asking all ticketholders if they would like to convert the value of previously purchased tickets to any of the canceled concerts and performances to a tax-deductible donation to help offset the Theatre at the Center's significant loss of revenue during this difficult pe-

riod. Box office staff is also prepared to issue a gift certificate in the amount of the ticket purchase valid for any of our future performances. At this time, all events and performances after May 31 remain as scheduled.

Currently, The Center for Visual and Performing Arts building, including the lobby and box office remain closed to the public through April 7 or a later date as necessary to comply with Gov. Holcomb's "shelter-in-place" directive for Indiana residents. The box office team is grateful for customers' patience during this time as they begin the process of contacting all patrons and subscribers with paid tickets to the postponed play run of "Talley's Folly," by telephone and email this week, to discuss and make alternative arrangements regarding the show's new run dates. For immediate questions and

concerns about Theatre at the Center performance cancellations, please contact TATC Front of House Operations Manager Jamie Marsh atjmarsh@comhs.org. Upon the pending recommendation of Gov. Holcomb, the CVPA lobby and TATC box office will then once again resume business hours.

Food service operations as provided by Chef Joe Trama and Trama Catering at the CVPA, including the weekly Sunday Champagne Brunch and the Easter Brunch seatings on April 12, have also been canceled through May 31. Patrons and guests should continue to visit www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com and www.CVPA.org for further developments. Dining events and food service questions can be directed to Trama Catering at (219) 836-1930, Ext. 2 or email CVPA Event Planner Christine DalleCarbonare at Christine.DalleCarbonare@comhs.org.

The South Shore Arts Gift Shop, lobby atrium gallery and main art gallery will also remain closed pending The Center for Visual and Performing Arts' reopening date. For questions about The Northwest Indiana Symphony performances or South Shore Arts classes and events, contact South Shore Arts at (219) 836-1839.

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We also would like to send a complimentary list of emergency numbers that can fulfill service for you. At the present time the Worth Township Building is Closed, The Village Halls are Closed, The Library's is Closed. So, my list would be updated on our Website at www.vvnew.com

Each Community should check their listing for numbers or go on our website.

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1	2	4	6	8	9	5	7	3
3	8	7	5	4	1	9	2	6
5	1	2	8	7	4	3	6	9
8	4	6	9	3	5	7	1	2
7	3	9	1	6	2	8	4	5

Protect yourself from Social Security scams

(NAPS) Calls and e-mails from scammers pretending to be government employees are widespread. Social Security phone scams are the #1 scam reported to the Federal Trade Commission. Chances are you, a friend, or a family member have received a call like this.

You don't have to be receiving benefits to become a victim. You may get a call saying there is a problem with your Social Security number or account. Everyone, regardless of age, income, and geography, is at risk. Scammers will try to scare and trick you



If you get a threatening call from someone saying they are from Social Security, it is from a scammer.

into giving them your personal information or money.

Is It A Scam?

The best way to protect yourself and your money is to recognize a scam. Scammers use intimidating language and often offer a "solution" to fix what they say is a seri-

ous problem with your Social Security number or account. How can you tell when it's a scam? Social Security will not: say your Social Security number has been suspended; promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information; call to demand an immedi-

ate payment; insist you pay a debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe; require payment by retail gift card, pre-paid debit card, Internet currency, wire transfer, or by mailing cash; or ask for your personal information.

Scammers prey on your fears. The stories they tell you would scare anyone. No matter how horrible the story, if they do anything above, it's a scam.

What Should You Do?

If you receive a suspicious call, the safest thing for you to do is hang up! Don't share personal information or make a payment. And report the scam to the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General at

<https://oig.ssa.gov>.

And, if you receive such threats via e-mail, delete the e-mail and do not click on any links or download any attachments. Even if the e-mail or an attachment contains Social Security's seal or names of real people, ignore it. Then, report the scam.

Other Tips

How about if Social Security needs to contact you? Generally, they will mail you a letter and only contact you by phone if you have requested a call or have ongoing business with them.

Usually, Social Security will mail you a letter that contains telephone numbers

for contacting them. You can also contact Social Security by calling 1-800-772-1213 or visiting SSA.gov.

Scammers are always looking for the next way to trick someone. No matter how someone might try to scam you, learning the warning signs shared here can go a long way to protecting yourself and someone you care about from identify theft and financial loss.

If you think you have been scammed, don't be embarrassed. Report the scam to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General at <https://oig.ssa.gov> and share this important information with your family and friends.

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Tips from Nicor Gas on how to avoid utility scams

Your personal safety and financial security are important!

While it is often easy to identify Nicor Gas workers at a construction or work site, you may also see meter readers, leak surveyors and other field service representatives in your neighborhood as they go about our normal course of business. Learn more about the uniforms our field employees wear.

Whenever a field service representative or one of our contractors visits your home or business, they will provide Nicor Gas identification. If you have further concerns, please contact customer care at 888.642.6748 to confirm that a representative has been scheduled

to perform work at your premises.

When a customer service representative contacts you by phone regarding the status of your account or to discuss payment, they will identify that they are a Nicor Gas employee.

If you want to verify that the call is legitimate, request to have the representative confirm information about your account that only you and the company would know, for example: the date of your last payment, the amount of your last payment and your account number

Nicor Gas will never demand payment by one method such as pre-paid debit/ATM card or

checking account.

Nicor Gas will never knock on your door and ask to see your bill or ask for your account number. Any customer who has doubts about the legitimacy of any visit from Nicor Gas, or call (especially one in which payment is requested), should call us directly. If you feel uncomfortable and know you have an outstanding balance that needs to be resolved, hang up and call us directly.

Finally, we will never ask for account or credit card information in an email. You can safely access and make changes to your account information and payment methods using our My



When life gives you lemons, use them to boost your immune system and clean and disinfect your home

Ignite immunity, clean naturally

(NAPSI) If you're among the increasing number of Americans keen on natural solutions to boost immunity these days, you may be glad to know the answer may be right in your refrigerator, or should be. Loaded with vitamin C and zinc, and with key antioxidant qualities, Limoneira Lemons can play a vital role in helping the immune system adapt to new threats and conditions.

Experts have cited lemons as a way to "reduce the risk of complications from a cold or flu, and reduce inflammation in the body." Experiments have also found that lemon juice can destroy the bacteria of malaria, cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and other deadly diseases.

Lemons are also a boon to any kitchen or DIY beauty routine; plus, they're a handy sustainability tool. Use them

to make life simpler without investing in potentially toxic chemicals or overpriced solutions. In fact, beyond their immunity-boosting benefits, lemons provide natural antibacterial and antiseptic properties that let you clean and disinfect your home, naturally.

Here's how to create a useful all-purpose cleaner for your kitchen and bathroom that can help your house smell spring fresh all year: Combine equal parts lemon juice and water in a spray bottle. You can use it nearly anywhere. For wood surfaces, create a polish by mixing one cup of olive oil and one-half cup of lemon juice. Test it first on a small spot.

For other "green cleaning" with lemon tips, visit www.Limoneira.com/cleaning.

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