Hoffman Estates Citizen

October 2020

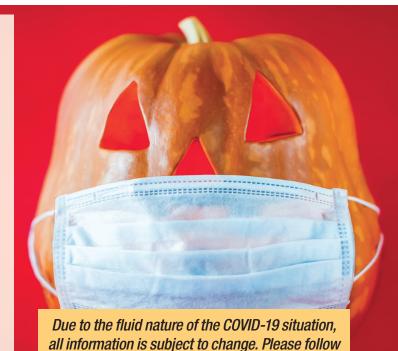
News from the Village of Hoffman Estates

Celebrate Halloween safely by following COVID-19 precautions

Halloween in Hoffman Estates may look a little different this year, but it's still possible to enjoy the holiday!

The Village will be hosting a Halloween drive-in event for the whole family!

On Saturday, Oct. 31, join us in the NOW Arena parking lot for a spooktacular experience. Make sure to come in costume! Enjoy a socially distanced visit with your favorite characters, followed by a family-friendly Halloween short film – all from the comfort of your vehicle! The parking lot opens at 5 p.m., and the short film will begin at sundown (approximately 6:30 p.m.). The event will wrap up by 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required (\$10 fee per vehicle). Visit the Village website for more information and to register.



While the Village does **not** encourage trick-or-treating this year, families who opt to participate may trick-or-treat on

the Village on social media and keep an eye on

our website for the most up-to-date information.

Saturday, Oct. 31, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Homes that are welcoming trick-or-treaters should turn on

Homes that are welcoming trick-or-treaters should turn on their outdoor lights. Not all families may feel comfortable with trick-or-treating this year; teach children not to ring the doorbell if a light is not on.

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Growing to Greenness!

Historian's notebook

By Pat Barch, Hoffman Estates Village Historian

Recycling event recap

The Village's annual recycling event, which was held on Aug. 22, was another big success!

Over 720 cars stopped by the Susan H. Kenley-Rupnow Public Works Center to drop off their various recyclables, which included over 22,000 pounds of documents (filling nearly three full trucks!), 321 containers of paint, four large pallets of fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs, two large bins of ink cartridges, and eight large bins of expired drugs/sharps. Additionally, the event collected over 17,000 pounds of electronic items!



Benefits of recycling include the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by allowing for the potential re-use of electronic parts, as well as the reduction of dangerous chemicals, such as lead, chromium and cadmium, which can leach into the soil and water supply.

Thanks to all who took the time to recycle and help protect our environment! For other ways you can recycle, visit www.hoffmanestates.org/green.

What many believe to be our first fire station is actually our second. Fire Station 21, named after Carl W. Selke and located at 225 Flagstaff Lane, sits in the shadow of that first fire station, which was a wooden barn on property owned by the Hoffman Estates Homeowners Association. It had once been part of the Arthur Hammerstein farm, which featured several other buildings as well.

As early as December 1956, the Hoffman Estates Homeowners Association Safety Committee began plans to establish a volunteer fire department. A brigade was formed and weekly training, supervised by the Roselle Fire Protection District, began. The Hoffman Estates Homeowners Association provided a long-term lease for a barn at 640 Illinois Blvd. (right behind Flagstaff Lane). The volunteers prepared the barn with a concrete floor, lighting, plumbing, heating and sewers. With all the necessary legal proceedings taken care of, the Hoffman Estates Fire Protection District was created on April 3, 1958. The little barn was all ready to house their first piece of equipment: a 1958 Ward LaFrance fire truck.

It wasn't long after the move into the barn that tragedy

struck with a tremendous four-alarm fire that began on the evening of Dec. 3, 1958. The large community barn and silos, next to the fire barn, burned for more than two hours, with fire departments from surrounding communities valiantly fighting the flames. Though the community barn burned to the ground, the firefighters were able to save their first little fire station.

In a document titled, "Hoffman Estates Fire Department Campaign Progress Report," dated September 1957, it was reported that, "Land had already been set aside by F&S Construction, centrally located on the seven-acre community center site. The planning committee planned for a three-stall fire house with attached office space and sleeping quarters. F&S agreed to secure building materials from their suppliers at the lowest possible cost, and trained building trades personnel in our community will donate their services to construct the fire house. Estimated construction cost is \$15,000." At that time, there were 30 men who were serving as volunteer firefighters.

It took a lot of effort to raise the needed funds. The firefighters went door-to-door asking for a donation of \$25 that could be paid in two

installments, if needed, and a bright red 15 x 15" sign would be placed in homeowners' windows to show their support for the fire department. But the biggest and most memorable fundraisers were the steak dinner dances that the firefighters put on, never to be forgotten by the old timers who still recall the great food and fun that was had. That huge grill that the men built with concrete, cider blocks, fabricated steel charcoal boxes and large grates was used for years, but it was discarded when station renovations took place in the mid-1980s.

The brick-and-mortar Fire Station 21 on Flagstaff Lane was completed as planned and dedicated in November 1960. Carl Hundriser was the architect. The station is the same now as it was when it was first built – it is now 60 years old. Congratulations to our firefighters on this special anniversary!

So what happened to that first little fire barn? It was turned over to the Boy's Club and, like other barns that were on the Hoffman Estates Homeowners Association property, it too was destroyed by a different fire in the late 1970s.

Email Pat Barch at eagle2064@comcast.net.

Branch pickup continues through October

The Village's free curbside branch pickup fall program continues through Friday, Oct. 16.

Visit www.hoffmanestates.org/gis to view a map of the pickup schedule. Only one collection pass will be made for each street. On the first date of pickup listed for your area, neatly stack branches at curbside by 7 a.m. Face the cut ends toward the street.

While supplies last, free woodchips will be available to residents at the Village's Fleet Maintenance Facility, 2405 Pembroke Ave., after 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during daylight hours on weekends. Bring your own containers.

Visit <u>www.hoffmanestates.org/branchpickup</u> for more information.



Safe **Halloween**

The following guidelines will help promote a safe Halloween experience for all:

- Do not participate in trick-or-treating if you are feeling unwell, if someone in your house is unwell, if you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, if you have recently returned from travel or if you know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Face coverings should be worn by all participants over the age of 2, including individuals passing out treats.



- Individuals should use hand sanitizer regularly throughout trick-or-treating
- Trick-or-treat only with members of your household.
- Maintain a safe distance from other trick-or-treating groups and do not approach a house until the previous group has left.
- Think of ways to avoid creating common touch points for trick-or-treaters. One example could be using a motion-activated Halloween decoration to alert you that trick-or-treaters are at the door. No doorbell required!
- Get creative! Avoid close contact by leaving individually bagged candy on your porch, lawn or even hanging it from a clothesline.
- If you choose to greet children at the door, pass out candy to each child instead of inviting them to take a treat from a communal bowl. Hand out candy from behind a storm door or through a window.
- Mark a safe distance from your door using chalk and ask children to stand behind the line before you open the door to pass out candy.
- Consider distributing non-candy items that parents can easily sanitize, such as wrapped stickers, pencils, mini pumpkins or erasers.
- · Do not distribute homemade treats or fresh fruits.

Guidelines may be updated based on future guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health, so keep an eye on our website. No matter how you choose to celebrate this year, make sure to do it safely!



A message from Mayor McLeod

What an interesting year we've had so far. The 2020-2021 school year certainly looks much different than it has in the past. The Board of Trustees and I are aware of your struggles, and we share your uncertainties. We are particularly proud of our essential workers who continue to "show up" day after day. Thank you! Hoffman Estates is a community known for coming together in tough times, and I am confident we will continue to support each other through these next several months.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, members of St. Alexius Medical Center Donation Committee and the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network will honor donors with a special ceremony. A beautiful bench will be permanently installed in the hospital's meditation garden to honor donors, as well as their loved ones. Organ and tissue donation is a life-giving gesture of hope! For more information on becoming an organ donor, visit www.giftofhope.org.



On Sept. 1, the Village hosted its second virtual town hall featuring local nonprofit organizations, including WINGS, the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County, GiGi's Playhouse, and Leyden Family Service and Mental Health Center (SHARE Program). A video of the webinar is currently airing on the HETV and on the Village's website. More virtual town halls are being planned. To receive updates, email Jenn at jennifer.djordjevic@hoffmanestates.org - she will add you to our email list.

Do you have questions or comments? Feel free to email me at bill.mcleod@hoffmanestates.org or give me a call at 847-815-3842. Also, join us at Coffee with the Board on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Village Hall – the discussion begins at 10 a.m.

Bul me Lead



Community briefs

Halloween trick-or-treating hours

While the Village does **not** encourage trickor-treating this year, families who opt to participate may trick-or-treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Homes that are welcoming trick-or-treaters should turn on their outdoor lights. Not all families may feel comfortable with trick-or-treating this year; teach children not to ring the doorbell if a light is not on.

Barrington Road/I-90 transit-oriented development study

The new full Tollway interchange and Pace's I-90 transit station at Barrington Road and I-90 are located in the heart of Hoffman Estates. Across the country, the land around transit stations takes the form of transitoriented development - walkable, mixeduse places and day-night activity hubs that support working, living, learning and play. The Village has hired Farr Associates to study this area, assess its potential and develop a framework for future redevelopment. Beginning in early October, Farr Associates will host a series of virtual and in-person sessions to obtain feedback from residents and area stakeholders. Based on this feedback, a master plan report will be developed and submitted for Village Board consideration later this year. Visit www.hoffmanestates.org/areaplan for more information on the project and to learn how to participate in the input process.



Coffee with the Board

The next Coffee with the Board is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall. Ask questions and provide comments to the Village of Hoffman Estates Board of Trustees. The event will be held consistent with the social-distancing and face-covering requirements of Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan.

Hispanic Heritage Day Fiesta video available

Although the Cultural Awareness Commission will not be having a live Hispanic Heritage Day Fiesta this year, a video compilation of past Hispanic Heritage Day Fiestas will be aired on HETV in October in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month! We hope that you tune in to channel 6 to experience the sights and sounds of our past years' celebrations!

Pet licenses on sale beginning Oct. 1

Pet tags for 2021 will be available for purchase beginning Oct. 1 and must be obtained prior to Nov. 1. The Village requires dogs and cats to be licensed. The license fee is \$5 per pet. A reduced \$2 fee is offered for senior citizens up to a maximum of two pets - additional pets will be charged at the \$5 rate. A maximum of five dogs, five cats or a combination thereof within the Village is permitted, with the exception that newborn pups or kittens may be kept for up to 6 months from birth. All pets older than 4 months old must be licensed. If you currently have licensed pets, you will be receiving a letter in the mail shortly with your renewal information. Complete the form on the back of the letter and return it by mail along with your payment and rabies documentation. Your tag will be sent to you by mail. Pet tags purchased after Nov. 30 are subject to a penalty. Tags are required for service dogs, but the fee is waived. Pet tags may also be purchased at the Village Hall during normal business hours. The pet license application can also be found online at www.hoffmanestates.org/petlicenses.



Help keep storm sewers clear this fall

Raking or blowing yard waste into the street is a violation of the Village's Municipal Code. When grass clippings and leaves are left at the curb, they may wash away and cover storm sewer grates, preventing water from flowing through them. Storm sewer inlets located in backyards should also be kept free of debris to prevent flooding. Place your grass clippings and leaves in brown paper yard waste bags with a sticker affixed to them. Stickers can be purchased at the Village Hall, online at www.groot.com or from various retailers in Hoffman Estates.



Welcome new businesses!

Brookdale at Home Hoffman Estates 1515 N. Barrington Road

Clover Imaging Group, LLC 2700 W. Higgins Road, #100

Crystal Journey 1764 Algonquin Road

Ex-Import USA, Inc. 2400 Hassell Road, #370

GE Healthcare IITS USA Corp. 2800 W. Higgins Road, #1100

McCarrel Photography 2200 Stonington Ave., #100

Starbucks (inside Mariano's) 2575 W. Golf Road

Tax Umbrella, Inc. 2500 W. Higgins Road, #1142

Harvey L. Teichman, Ltd. 2800 W. Higgins Road, #420

T-Mobile 5 E. Golf Road



Healthy body, healthy mind ... news from Health and Human Services

The safety of the Hoffman Estates community is important to the Health and Human Services Department. The Village is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic closely and will continue to update guidance based on current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). For additional updates, visit www.hoffmanestates.org/coronavirus. If you have questions about vaccines, services or resources, call 847-781-4850.

Adult services and immunizations

Health and Human Services offers health screenings and preventative tests.

- · Blood pressure and pulse check: free!
- Diabetes (blood sugar): \$2 *New lower price!
- Hemoglobin (anemia): \$3

To schedule health screenings, preventative tests, or affordable vaccines and tuberculosis testing, call 847-781-4850.

Cholestech: complete lipid profile

This <u>FASTING</u> test measures total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and glucose levels. It requires a small drop of blood. Results are immediate and include consultation with a nurse. To schedule an appointment, call 847-781-4850. The cost is \$22.

Hemoglobin A1C screening

The hemoglobin A1C test is a simple finger stick to find out if you have diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. The test takes six minutes and the cost is \$15. To schedule an appointment, call 847-781-4850.

Children's clinics

Health and Human Services currently hosts baby and children's vaccination clinics. These clinics have always used exceptional infection control policies, but they now institute additional guidelines, as suggested by the CDC, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). These added safety measures will help to ensure the health of patients, as well as protect Village employees.

Health and Human Services is offering **individual appointment times** for each child. The following precautions are also in place:

- Appointments will be staggered to promote social distancing
- A new COVID-19 questionnaire will be answered by each individual
- Temperature checks will be done prior to appointment time
- Face coverings/masks will be required for anyone over the age of 2
- Only one parent per child while inside the Village Hall is encouraged
- Additional hand sanitizing stations have been placed throughout the Village Hall
- All immunizations will be discussed with families by nurses via telephone before appointments
- Credit card payments (if necessary) will be done via telephone
- Staff will be required to wear additional personal protective equipment (PPE)

Health and Human Services is happy to provide this important service again to the community and asks that you please do not hesitate to call with any questions at 847-781-4850. Information about these clinics is also posted online at www.hoffmanestates.org/hhs.

To request an appointment, complete the two online forms and email them, along with your immunization records, to https://htm.ncstates.org.



Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Experiencing a death in the family is never easy. The death of a baby, either through miscarriage or during infancy, is no exception. There are no instructions on how to grieve the loss of a child, and a variety of feelings will be experienced. It's important to make sure you allow yourself as much time as is necessary to recover from the grieving process. Families who are grieving the loss of a child may find support groups to be helpful. A good support group will help you come to terms with the loss and with your feelings. It is helpful to open up about what you are experiencing. Talking about your emotions with your partner, a friend, a counselor or spiritual leader will help you make sense of your loss. You don't have to face this loss alone. For extended family members and friends, finding the right thing to say is probably the most difficult. Be supportive by helping the parent deal with life after the loss. Everyone grieves differently, so the loss should never be minimized. Health and Human Services offers supportive and affordable counseling services. To schedule an appointment or receive support referrals, call 847-781-4850.



By Bev Romanoff Hoffman Estates Village Clerk

Clerk's corner

The Village Hall will be an early voting site for the Nov. 3 presidential election. Early voting will start on Oct. 19 and run through Nov. 2. Mail-in ballots are available online at www.cookcountyclerk.com/votebymail. Cook County will also have a drop box at the Village Hall to deposit your mail-in ballots if you would like to take advantage of that.

Contact the Village Clerk's office at 847-781-2625 or email the Clerk at bev.romanoff@hoffmanestates.org.

Get your flu shot today!

Now that October is upon us, there is no better time to get your annual influenza vaccine!

The flu is a serious illness that, for some people, can lead to hospitalization or even death. Prevention is the best medicine, and getting your flu shot can help decrease your chances of hospitalization from the flu.

This year, it is more important than ever to be fully immunized. Anyone who gets the flu shot will not only protect themselves and their family, but will also help reduce the burden on healthcare systems that are already overwhelmed by COVID-19.



Quadrivalent flu shots, including the high-dose shot for senior citizens, are now offered to anyone over 6 months of age from Health and Human Services.

Make your appointment today by calling 847-781-4850. All communities are welcome. Adult vaccines are \$25 or free with Medicare Part B. Children's vaccines are \$20 or free with approved Medicaid insurance.

For more information, visit www.hoffmanestates.org/clinics.



Police remain vigilant for distracted drivers

On a typical day, more than 700 people are injured in distracted-driving crashes. Talking on a cell phone, texting or programming an in-vehicle infotainment system diverts your attention away from driving. Keep yourself and others around you safe – don't drive distracted!

By the numbers:

- 4,637 deaths were caused by distracted driving in the United States in 2018.
- A texting-and-driving violation can lead to a \$290 annual increase in insurance premiums.
- You are six times more likely to be involved in a crash while texting and driving.
- Drivers under the age of 20 have the highest proportion of distraction-related crashes.
- In 2017, 9% of all motor vehicle-related deaths involved distracted driving.
- 42% of high school students who drove in the past 30 days reported sending a text or email while driving.

The Hoffman Estates Police Department would like to remind motorists that the Village is not immune to these statistics. There



have been several serious injury crashes and one fatal crash since January 2020. While many factors contribute to traffic crashes, speed and distracted driving are two of the biggest reasons. This can be avoided by driving the speed limit, not texting and going hands-free with your cell phone.

To promote safety and help to reduce the number of serious and fatal crashes, the Hoffman Estates Police Department will be concentrating efforts aimed at illegal cell phone use and speeding, among other violations, to help make our roadways safer.

Happy motoring!

NOW Arena to host two comedian drive-in events

The rebranded NOW Arena is set to host comedians Nate Bargatze and Bert Kreischer.

Nate Bargatze

Nate Bargatze brings his "One Night Only Tour" to the NOW Arena on **Saturday, Oct. 3,** at 7:30 p.m.

Hailing from Old Hickory, Tennessee, Bargatze sells out shows across the world. His comedy is both clean and relatable. In March 2019, Nate's first solo one-hour Netflix special, "The Tennessee Kid," premiered globally to rave reviews.

Bert Kreischer

Bert Kreischer brings his "Hot Summer Nights Tour" to the NOW Arena on **Friday, Oct. 23,** at 7 p.m.

Kreischer's unique brand of comedy interweaves party-boy antics with humorous anecdotes about family and fatherhood. Most recently, he released his second original Netflix stand-up comedy special, "Bert Kreischer: Hey Big Boy," in March 2020.

To buy tickets and for more information on upcoming events, visit www.nowarena.com.





Month. Domescal, physical, erpetrated in the month of the

October calendar







Thursday, Oct. 1

- Pet Licenses On Sale
- Watering Ban Ends

*Sunday, Oct. 4

- Veteran's Flag 2: Elmer L. Wenz, Army, WWII
- Fire Prevention Week Begins

Monday, Oct. 5

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m. at VH

Tuesday, Oct. 6

- Fire and Police Commission, 6 p.m. at PD
- Cultural Awareness Commission, 7:15 p.m. at VH

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m. at VH

Thursday, Oct. 8

Fourth of July Commission, 4 p.m. at VH

*Sunday, Oct. 11

· Veteran's Flag 3: Donald W. Williams, USMC, Korea

Monday, Oct. 12

- Fire Pension Fund Board, 9:30 a.m. at Fire Station 24
- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m. at VH

Saturday, Oct. 17

Coffee with the Board, 10 a.m. at VH

*Sunday, Oct. 18

Veteran's Flag 4: Lawrence H. Orvis, USAF, 1955-1977

Monday, Oct. 19

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m. at VH

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Police Pension Fund Board, 1 p.m. at PD

Wednesday, Oct. 21

· Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m. at VH

*Sunday, Oct. 25

- Veteran's Flag 5: Anthony C. Alonzo, Army, WWII
- Veterans' Memorial Commission, 1 p.m. at PD

Monday, Oct. 26

Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m. at VH

Tuesday, Oct. 27

· Arts Commission, 7 p.m. at VH

Saturday, Oct. 31

- Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- NOW Arena Halloween Event, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at NOW Arena

Village Board meetings are held on the **first and third Monday** of each month at 7 p.m. in the VH Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

The **General Administration and Personnel**; **Planning, Building and Zoning**; and **Transportation and Road Improvement** committee meetings are held on the **second Monday** of each month at 7 p.m. in the VH Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

The **Finance**; **Public Health and Safety**; and **Public Works and Utilities** committee meetings are held on the **fourth Monday** of each month at 7 p.m. in the VH Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

VH: Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Road PD: Police Department, 411 W. Higgins Road PWC: Public Works Center, 2305 Pembroke Ave.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence includes emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and financial abuse, and it is often perpetrated in private. Domestic violence impacts women, men and those across the gender spectrum. One-in-three women experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

Many local agencies, counselors, psychologists, activists, law enforcement and individuals work to increase awareness about domestic violence in an attempt to decrease the occurrences and the negative effects on the survivors, their friends, family and the community.



Signs of domestic violence include:

- Hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, stepping on the partner, smothering with a body or a blanket, pushing the partner out of a car, closing the partner in a door or any other physical violence.
- Limiting the partner's access to money or to the phone.
- Attempting to make the partner feel worthless by insulting and name calling. The purpose of this is to exert control and to make the partner less independent and less likely to leave.
- Engaging in sex after physical violence and/or forcing the partner to engage in sexual acts.
- Intimidating by threatening to hurt themselves or the partner.
- Harassment through email, text, phone or in person.

The Village of Hoffman Estates is committed to assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence. The partner-ship between the Hoffman Estates Police Department and Health and Human Services provides resources and support for those impacted by domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is a victim or survivor of domestic violence and is in need of support, contact:

- Health and Human Services: 847-781-4850
- Hoffman Estates Police Department: 847-882-1818
- WINGS: 847-221-5680

^{*} The flag-rotation ceremony is held at the Veterans' Memorial every Sunday at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Those wishing to make a donation for the perpetual maintenance of the Memorial may do so at the Village Hall, or by mailing a check to the Veterans' Memorial clo the Village of Hoffman Estates, 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, II. 60169. The casket flags of deceased veterans listed on the calendar above will be flying at the Veterans' Memorial in the coming month. The Veterans' Memorial is located outside the Hoffman Estates Police Department at 411 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, II. 60169.

The Village of Hoffman Estates

1900 Hassell Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 www.hoffmanestates.org

Important phone numbers

Main	847-882-9100
Police and Fire	911
Police Administration 8	847-781-2800
Fire Administration	847-843-4825
Public Works	847-490-6800
Health and Human Services8	847-781-4850
Event Hotline	

Village officials

Mayor

William D. McLeod

Trustees

Karen V. Mills Anna Newell Gary J. Pilafas Gary G. Stanton Michael Gaeta Karen J. Arnet

Village Clerk

Bev Romanoff

Municipal facilities

Facility hours may be affected by COVID-19. Visit our website for online services.

Village Hall

1900 Hassell Road

Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Police Department

411 W. Higgins Road

Fire Administration

1900 Hassell Road

Fire Station 21 — Carl W. Selke 225 Flagstaff Lane

225 Flagstaff Lane

Fire Station 22 — Michael J. O'Malley 1700 Moon Lake Blvd.

Fire Station 23 — **Richard G. Cordova** 1300 Westbury Drive

Fire Station 24 — Jerome Danowski 5775 Beacon Pointe Drive

Susan H. Kenley-Rupnow Public Works Center 2305 Pembroke Ave.

Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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Fire Prevention Week: fire safety in the kitchen!

The Hoffman Estates Fire Department is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week, which takes place this year from Oct. 4 through Oct. 10.

This year's campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of kitchen fire safety. Kitchen fires are the #1 cause of home fires and fire injuries. Here are a few tips while cooking:

- Never leave items unattended while cooking.
- Unplug all kitchen appliances when not in use (e.g., toaster, coffee maker, blender, etc.).
- Keep children and pets away from the stove.
- · Wear short or close-fitting sleeves.

- Keep surfaces clear of clutter, food and grease build up.
- Keep items that will catch fire away from the stovetop (e.g., towels, food packaging, wood utensils, etc.).

House fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety. In a typical house fire, you may only have one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of your time, allowing for enough time to get out. If the smoke alarm sounds, take it seriously and exit the building.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, visit the NFPA's website at www.fpw.org.

