



# VILLAGE OF MOKENA

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

APRIL 2025

### MAYOR

Frank A. Fleischer

### CLERK

Melissa Martini

### TRUSTEES

Rob Dauphinais

Debbie Engler

Melissa Fedora

Terry G. Germany

George J. Metanias

James D. Roberts



**Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Meet at the Village Hall (11004 Carpenter Street) with family, friends, neighbors and community organizations. Public Works crews will deliver volunteers to various areas to spruce up our community. The Village will also be planting trees in honor of Arbor Day and Tree City USA.

At noon, volunteers will return to Village Hall for hot dogs, chips, and a beverage. Wear work clothes and don't forget to bring gloves. Come one, come all! We invite all members of the community interested in keeping Mokena clean!

Questions? Call us at (708) 479-3900 or visit [mokena.org](http://mokena.org) for more information. *Students can receive Community Service Hours (bring your applicable Community Service Form).*

Sponsored by the Mokena Community Affairs Commission  **TREE CITY USA®**



*In observance of Good Friday, Village Hall will be closed on Friday, April 18. Normal business hours will resume Monday, April 21.*



## Comprehensive Plan Community Workshop

Join us for the first Community Workshop to share your ideas for Mokena's Comprehensive Plan, a vision for the Village's next 10-20 years! All are encouraged to participate in this family-friendly event. Please spread the word and invite your neighbors to join!



**Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

**Mokena Police Station**

10300 191st Street

**5:30 – 7:30pm**

*Open house style; drop in when you can!*

[www.PlanMokena.org](http://www.PlanMokena.org)

On Thursday, May 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., a representative from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office will be on hand to assist residents with the ICash Program.



If you are not familiar with the program, Illinois holds more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property. The State Treasurer is legally required to get the property to the rightful owners no matter how long it takes for them to come forward. The State holds these lost funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property is returned at no cost with the proper identification.

What is unclaimed property? Common types of unclaimed property include checking and savings accounts, uncashed wage and payroll checks, uncashed stock dividends and stock certificates, insurance payments, utility deposits, customer deposits, accounts payable, credit balances, refund checks, money orders, traveler's checks, mineral proceeds, court deposits, uncashed death benefit checks and life insurance proceeds. Unclaimed property does not include real estate or vehicles.

Interested in learning if you have unclaimed property? Stop by the Village Hall and a representative from the State Treasurer's office will conduct a quick search of their database to determine if you have unclaimed property. An electronic claim can be filed at that time for delivery within a week. If you are unable to stop by the Village Hall, visit [illinoistreasurer.gov](http://illinoistreasurer.gov) and click on the ICash link to see if you are the "1 in 4" with unclaimed property.

## FREE Spring Leaf & Branch Pickup • Monday, April 14

Bag leaves in paper (preferred) or plastic. Bundle branches in 3-4 foot lengths.

Call (708) 479-3900 or visit [mokena.org](http://mokena.org) to schedule a pick-up.

Homewood Disposal/NuWay begins weekly yard waste pick-up for Mokena residents on April 1.



### Happy Retirement

Elected Officials and Village staff wish Rob Skolds all the best in his retirement! Mr. Skolds began his employment with the Village in 1998 and served as Streets & Buildings/Grounds Superintendent. He made a lasting impact throughout his time at the Village. Thank you, Rob, for all you have done for

the Mokena community!

### Jamie Smith Appointed to Assistant Public Works Director

The Village Board approved the appointment and promotion of Jamie Smith to the position of Assistant Public Works Director at its February 24 meeting. Mr. Smith, who has been a dedicated member of the Streets/Buildings & Grounds Division since December 1998, will now take on an elevated leadership role, bringing with him over 26 years of valuable experience and institutional knowledge.

Mr. Smith's journey with the Village began as a seasonal worker, and through hard work and dedication,

he has gained hands-on experience in nearly every aspect of Mokena Public Works operations. His expertise spans from infrastructure maintenance to facility upkeep, making him a vital asset to the department and the community. Since March 2021, he has served as Mokena's Streets Supervisor, effectively overseeing essential maintenance and operational responsibilities that keep our Village running smoothly.

Mr. Smith's deep understanding of Mokena's streets, buildings, and infrastructure, coupled with his leadership skills, will undoubtedly contribute to the continued efficiency and success of the Public Works Department in his new role. Please join the Village in congratulating Jamie Smith on this well-earned promotion!

### Steven Chianelli Promoted to Wastewater Plant & Water Operator I

The Village is pleased to announce the promotion of Steven Chianelli from Maintenance Worker I to Wastewater Plant and Water Operator I, officially approved at the February 24 Board of Trustees meeting.

Since joining the Village in 2019, Steven has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in general maintenance, water hydrant upkeep, utility locates, and water meter repair and replacement. His strong work ethic and commitment to service have made a significant impact on our community. Mr. Chianelli holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Services from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Please join us in congratulating Steven on this well-earned achievement! We look forward to his continued contributions in his new role.

*PHOTO: The Village Board of Trustees with family, friends and colleagues who attended the February 24 Board meeting to support the promotions of Jamie Smith and Steven Chianelli.*



### Metra Seeks Rider Input on Potential Line Name Changes

Metra is inviting riders to share their thoughts on a potential renaming of its train lines, aiming to make the system more intuitive for new and occasional users. A survey is now live at [metra.com/LineNames](http://metra.com/LineNames).

The initiative comes as Metra prepares to take over direct operation of the Union Pacific (UP) North, Northwest, and West lines. Historically run by Union Pacific Railroad, these lines will transition to Metra control this spring as UP exits passenger train operations. As part of this shift, "Union Pacific" will be removed from the line names, prompting a broader discussion about renaming all Metra lines for better clarity.

Currently, Metra's line names lack a consistent structure—some are named after former freight railroads, while others reflect directions or historic corridors. By adopting a clearer and more logical naming system, Metra hopes to make navigation easier, particularly for infrequent riders. Research shows that 70% of Metra customers ride only once a month or less, and 40% ride just once a year.

Riders are encouraged to participate in the survey and share their insights on how Metra can enhance system accessibility. Visit [metra.com/LineNames](http://metra.com/LineNames) to weigh in!

