

Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

January 12, 2018

Welcome!

Mayor Frank Fleischer, Clerk Jillian Hersted, the Board of Trustees, and all Village staff welcome you to a fresh new year, and to the first edition of Mokena e-News for 2018.

A good number of you joined our circle of subscribers over the recent holidays, and to you we extend a special greeting. We hope you enjoy Mokena e-News and tell your friends about it.

Thanks for joining us!



Sounds of Silence

If you've moved to Mokena within the past five years, you probably take it for granted.

And if you're a long-time resident, it may be hard to believe that it's been that long since train horns were silenced on the Rock Island rail line through Mokena.

No matter which category you fit into, Mokena's "quiet zone" has likely enhanced your quality of life.

As a reminder, train engineers retain the right and bear the responsibility to blow their horns if they see a perceived safety risk on the tracks ahead of them. This discretionary provision accounts for the occasional train horn you may hear from time to time across the community.

We urge you to not forget that with train horns largely silent across town, commuters and pedestrians bear a greater burden when it comes to safety along the rails. Always look both ways before crossing the tracks!

Village Hall Available as Warming Center

With bitterly cold temperatures once again in the foreseeable future, Mokena residents are reminded that the Mokena Village Hall is available as a temporary warming center.

To arrange accommodations, call the Mokena Police non-emergency number at (708) 479-3911. We additionally encourage you to check in regularly on family members and

neighbors that you feel may be at risk--particularly the elderly and others that may be in poor health.

Selecting a Contractor? Check Here First.

In past editions of Mokena e-News, we've reminded you that you need to obtain a building permit for many types of home improvement projects.

Let's assume you've identified your project. Now you've got to select a contractor. Mokena's Community Development Department suggests you first check to see if all contractors you are considering for the job are properly registered with the Village. Once you've done this, do the following:

- Get recommendations from friends and neighbors.
- Get three bids in writing before signing any contract.
- Make sure all work is properly described and any warranties are listed in writing--not just given verbally.
- Verify that the contractor you want to go with is insured against claims covering worker's compensation, property damage, and general liability.

BEWARE if a contractor...

- Requests a large down payment in cash or a check made out to cash prior to doing any work.
- Asks that you obtain a permit on his behalf or advises you that you do not need a permit.
- Does not provide you with a written contract or guarantee.
- Offers you a large discount if you sign up immediately.
- Drives an unmarked company vehicle.
- Offers free home inspections.
- Does not carry any general liability or worker's compensation insurance.
- Refuses to provide waivers of lien when the job has been completed. (Do not make final payment until the work has been inspected by the Community Development Department and you have received all waivers of lien for both materials and labor.)

Have additional questions regarding the selection of a contractor for your home improvement project? Simply call (708) 479-3930 or stop by the Community Development Department at the Mokena Village Hall between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Good luck!