

Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

September 1, 2017

Fall Kick-Off

Are you ready for some football?

Fan or not, the return of pigskins in the air means the transition from summer to fall is already well underway.

In this seasonal kick-off edition of Mokena e-News, we update you on recent actions taken by your Mokena Village Board to support new and existing businesses and fill you in on upcoming changes to Metra's Rock Island service. You'll also find details on how you can help enhance your community's website (www.mokena.org) by sharing your local photography with us.

Thanks for checking in!

Board Approves Transition of Parking Spaces

Downtown took center stage Monday evening as your Mokena Village Board formalized its intention to transition an additional fifteen parking spaces in the Front Street parking lot from commuter to business use.

The Board had authorized an initial transfer of fifteen spaces in the Front Street lot from commuter to business parking back in 2005.

The anticipated transition, which will increase the combined number of parking spaces available for businesses in the area along Front Street and in the Front Street lot from fifty-one to sixty-six, is linked to ongoing discussions related to potential redevelopment projects in the community's historic center.

The Board possesses--per terms of a 2004 agreement with Metra--the ability to ultimately transfer up to fifty commuter spaces in the Front Street lot to "commercial/employee" parking in support of downtown businesses.

Craft Beer Store Gets Go-Ahead

Aficionados of craft beers will soon have a local spot to sample and buy their brews.

At its August 28 meeting, your Mokena Village Board approved the issuance of a special use permit (SUP) allowing Crafted, Inc. to open a packaged beer store with a tasting area at 19200 S. LaGrange Road, Suite E, in the Meridian Centre commercial plaza.

The new store, to be operated by local entrepreneurs Dan Rusnak and Denver Worker, will focus on the expanding specialty and craft beer market, with a focus on local brews. Hard liquor, wine, and tobacco products are not permitted and will not be offered, per terms of the SUP.

In related action, the Board approved an amendment to Mokena's liquor code creating three new liquor license categories and making minor modifications to two existing license categories. Among other things, the amendment creates a Class H License specifically designed for businesses such as Crafted, Inc. that provides for the sale of craft product in packages while further allowing the licensee to offer sample pours on premises.

Metra Announces End of Midday Express Service on Rock

Beginning Monday, September 11, midday express service on Metra's Rock Island Line will revert to local service. Other minor adjustments to the weekday schedule will be in effect, but customers can expect no changes to the weekend schedule.

One midday express train will remain (Train 518), departing Joliet at 2:21 p.m. and providing express service from Blue Island Vermont Street to La Salle Street Station.

Along with discontinuation of the midday express service, additional minor adjustments to the Rock Island weekday schedule will take effect September 11. Adjustments include the following:

- Train 406 will depart Joliet and all stations en route two minutes earlier in order to facilitate transfers to the Metra Electric Blue Island train at 6:55 a.m.
- Train 600's scheduled arrival time at LaSalle Street Station will be adjusted to add three minutes. The train will now be scheduled to arrive at 6:07 a.m.
- Inbound Train 718 will be renumbered as Train 618, and will depart Blue Island/Vermont Street at 3:23 p.m., making all stops and arriving at LaSalle Street Station at 4:11 p.m.
- Minor run time adjustments will be made to Train 413, which departs LaSalle Street Station at 4:57 p.m.

Printed schedules will be available the week of September 4; however, new schedules can be accessed now at www.metrarail.com.

Keep Sending Those Photos!

Mokena's most picturesque season is heading our way, and as autumn approaches, we ask that you share your photos with us! We would love to see any photos you take of autumn scenes or events in Mokena, and perhaps feature them on our website.

We welcome all submissions, and hope the guidelines below are helpful. Photos should be submitted through our online form. (Please note that all fields on the form must be filled out.)



Photo credit: Mary Beth Windberg

All submitted photos will become part of the Village of Mokena's image library for possible use in later projects. Photographers will be credited with every use.

For your submission to be considered, please note the following:

1. Photos must be high-quality JPEG files, with a minimum of 1,000 pixels with realistic colors.

2. To avoid distortion of images, orientation of photos should be landscape.
3. Photos must be original, and only of locations or events within Mokena.

Have questions? E-mail our Photo Coordinator [here](#).

***Disclaimer:** While we appreciate all submissions, please note that all photos submitted cannot be used. The Village of Mokena reserves final discretion over those photos selected for inclusion on the website.*

Burn S'mores, Not Leaves

Mokena sits on the precipice of its annual blaze of glory. Autumn is a favorite time of the year for many people here in town. However, once the vivid beauty fades and the leaves hit the ground, the annual rite of raking and clearing the debris left behind begins.

If you are new to town and not aware, the open burning of leaves is banned in Mokena. Doing so could result in a fine. If you have a fire pit, we suggest you reserve it for roasting marshmallows, and not for burning leaves. By doing so you will help our friends and neighbors with respiratory problems to breathe easier, and allow them to fully enjoy the familiar outdoor activities we all associate with autumn.

As a reminder, your Village offers two free leaf and branch pick-ups in the spring and fall as an environmentally-friendly alternative to open burning. Although dates have not yet been set for this autumn, stay tuned to future editions of Mokena e-News and NEWS You Can Use, or check out our website at www.mokena.org. We'll provide details as they become available.

Refuse and Recycling Pick-up Wednesday, September 6

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Mokena residents are reminded that refuse and recyclable materials will be picked up this coming week on Wednesday, September 6, rather than on Tuesday.

Refuse will be picked up again the following week on Tuesday, September 12.

In addition, the Mokena Village Hall will be closed Monday, September 4, in honor of the Labor Day holiday.

Village Hall will be open for business again Tuesday, September 5, at 8:30 a.m.