



Mayor's Address

Happy New Year! I am glad we are starting out 2023 better than 2022. Looking back over the last couple of years, I must admit that I never imagined that we would have experienced anything like the Covid-19 pandemic. It still seems surreal, that a virus could shut down our country and our community as it did.

As your Mayor, I have been faced with unprecedented situations, but I am deeply grateful for all of the support I have received from all of you as we went through the pandemic. We seem to have the worst behind us and are now establishing our "new normal". I am very grateful that as we begin 2023 we are meeting in person and able to have social events again and all of the projects that we had slated

that were stopped due to the pandemic, can now be started and completed.

For instance, our road projects were stalled because the Illinois Department of Transportation was shut down during the early stages of the pandemic and then became backlogged. Then the union that supplies stone for construction projects went on strike. This has since been resolved, so we are back on track to have roads repaired.

We are also preparing for the events that will take place this year in Steger. Please see Save the Dates. We will provide further information as we get closer to each event.

Speaking of information, please visit our Village website, our YouTube channel and Facebook page for the most recent information about current events happening in our town. You should also sign up for Code Red, our emergency notification system. We use that system to provide important information on an expedited basis to our residents.



Mayor Ken Peterson

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the new newsletter.

Trustee Mark Kozy Retires

On September 19, 2022, Mark Kozy retired as a Village Trustee. Mark became a Steger resident in 1979 and was first elected as a Village Trustee in April 2003. He began as the liaison for the Recreation Department and then became the liaison for ESDA/EMA. He served as Trustee until April 2015. Mark was then appointed back as a Village Trustee by Mayor Peterson in 2018. He

again served as liaison for the Recreation Department.

Mark also served on the Steger Area Chamber of Commerce and Steger Police Pension Board. He was a member of Steger Kiwanis and is a current member of the Steger Sons of American Legion Squadron 521. He is also a Life Member and certified Young American Bowling Alliance coach.



Trustee Mark Kozy

We are going to miss Mark on the Village Board, but are very happy for him as he enjoys this next chapter in life.

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January, 2023

Save the Dates

- Easter Egg Hunt (4/2/23)
- Clean-up Day (4/22/22)
- Memorial Day (5/29/23)
- Steger Day of Prayer (6/3/23)
- National Night Out (8/1/23)
- Steger Day of Music (8/19/23)
- 911 Remembrance Ceremony (9/11/23)
- Oktoberfest (10/1/23)
- Santa Parade/Food Drive/Miracle on 34th Street/Tree Lighting (11/24/23)

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Kmart Building

Many of you have asked about the status of the Kmart building. This building is privately owned by Seritage Growth Properties (www.seritage.com). The Village therefore is not able to control the sale of that building, just like we cannot control the sale of a resident's home.

There was a developer who came to a Village Board meeting to seek approval for four businesses they wanted to put in that building. After much time, the developer informed us that they were unable to agree on a reasonable sale price for the building.

Seritage hired a real estate brokerage company, CBRE. CBRE did market the

building to other businesses, but Seritage informed us last November that they were unable to find a suitable business that was interested in buying their building for the price they were asking for it.

Seritage therefore put the building up for auction. There was one bidder (who we believe was the original developer). We were informed that Seritage rejected that bid because they felt the purchase price was too low. This was very disappointing news. We can't believe it makes business sense for Seritage to require a purchase price no one is willing to pay and keep that building empty, so we will continue to do what we can to convince Seritage to

sell the building to an appropriate business at a reasonable price.



Empty Kmart Building

Louis Sherman Community Center Had Water Damage

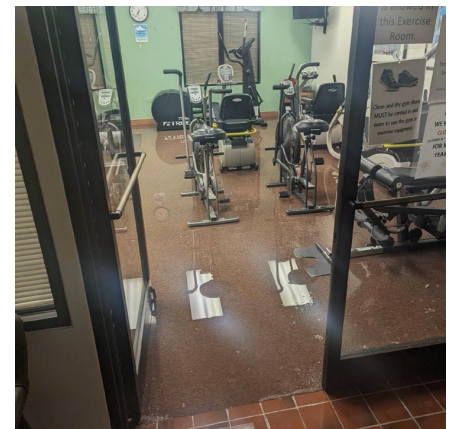
During the recent cold spell, water pipes in our Community Center froze and burst. They were located in the ceiling. As the weather warmed, water from the broken pipe flooded the Community Center during a time when it was closed. We did not become aware until a fire alarm was set off by the water.

We are currently working with our insurance company to repair the damage. We will have to replace walls, mostly in our workout room, and some of our workout equipment.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, we reopened parts of the Community Center. The

workout room will remain closed until the repairs are complete. The foyer and the meeting room will be available during this time for normal activities.

As the repairs are made, we may need to temporarily close other parts of the Community Center, like the gym. We will keep everyone posted online for any temporary closures that may be needed. We appreciate everyone's patience as we get the workout room in shape to reopen.



Water in the Workout Room

Newly Appointed Village Trustee Gerald Stewart



Trustee Gerald Stewart

Mayor Ken Peterson appointed Gerald Stewart as Village Trustee on September 19, 2022, to fill the vacancy resulting from Trustee Mark Kozy's retirement. For Mayor Peterson, it was a natural choice.

Trustee Stewart served as our Recreation Board President prior to being appointed as Village Trustee. As Recreation Board President, Mayor Peterson saw the positive changes and impact Trustee Stewart had on our sports programs and community.

Prior to the pandemic, our programs were growing and doing well. He then was critical to guiding all of our programs through the pandemic. Once the mandated lock downs were lifted, Trustee's Stewart's leadership was crucial in getting all of our programs restarted and running again. This was no easy task.

Because of his efforts, the programs are doing well. Trustee Stewart will now take his energy and leadership to support Mayor Peterson's vision to keep moving Steger forward.

Automatic Hydrant Flushing

You may have seen a box attached to a fire hydrant this past year. This is an automatic flushing station. We are able to program this device, so that it automatically flushes the hydrant it is attached to on a schedule we set.

We installed these devices on areas of our town where the water main is not "looped". This means that there is a dead-end that can cause issues for our system. By regularly flushing the hydrants near these dead-ends, we are able to be proactive and reduce these issues.

We started installing them in 2021 and used them throughout the Spring and Summer of 2022. We have surveyed some of the residents located near these flushing stations and the feedback was

positive. As a result, we will continue to purchase more of these stations and install them in the Spring this year.

We know this is a temporary fix. We continue to work on our goal of "looping" these affected areas so that we no longer have any dead-ends.



Steger Recreation President

Since Gerald Stewart, our former Steger Recreation President, was appointed as Village Trustee to replace retiring Village Trustee Mark Kozy, we needed to appoint a new Recreation Board President.

It is with great pleasure to inform you that we appointed Dave Mendez Jr. as Steger's next Recreation Board President. Dave has already been involved in our programs and was able to hit the ground running.

Dave has great vision for all of our existing programs and has already begun working on new ones. It is an exciting time to be in sports in Steger.

Please contact our Community Center for more information on our programs. And if your family is already involved in Steger sports, please take time to thank Dave for everything he is doing to positively impact our community.



Dave Mendez and Ken Peterson

Monthly Steger Business Highlight

If you have not been to Boyos Market & Taqueria at 12 E. 33rd Place (the former Harry's New Town Restaurant), we highly suggest you stop by to see what it has to offer.

Boyos is a grocery store and a restaurant. You can shop their wide selection of food and also order meals from their Taqueria to dine-in or take it to go.

They also have a butcher on-site who can assist you with your cuts of meat. We are excited to have this business in Steger.

For more information, please see www.boyomarketytaqueria.com or better yet, stop by in person in the store.



Boyos Market and Taqueria

Village of Steger, Cook & Will Counties, Illinois

Fire/Police Non-Emergency Dispatch: (708) 754-8121

Community Center: (708) 709-0288

Fire Department Headquarters: (708) 754-2625

Police Administration: (708) 755-0223

Public Works: (708) 755-3888

Village Hall: (708) 754-3395

Careers & HR: (708) 754-8129

Follow Us On:

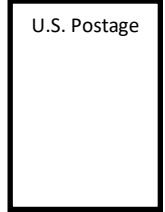
Facebook: @ Village of Steger (Official)

Website: www.villageofsteger.org

YouTube channel: @mayorkenpeterson

Twitter: @villageofsteger

Sign up for Code Red @ www.villageofsteger.org/residents/code-red-notification-system



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VILLAGE OF STEGER
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Village President Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr.

Village Clerk Joseph M. Zagone, Jr.

Village Trustees
Ernesto Lopez, Jr.
Timothy Perchinski
William Joyce
Steve Thurmond
Cindy Trotier
Gerald Stewart



Steger Food Baskets

We extend our thanks to Alice Peterson, Michelle and Lenny Skrezyna, Trustee Tim Perchinski, the American Legion Post 521, Steger Kiwanis, Alicia's House, the Chamber of Commerce, Bambino's, TAT Logistics Inc. staff and all other residents and businesses who donated their time, gifts, money and food to the annual Steger Food Baskets this holiday season, including our very own Santa and Mrs. Claus and all of our First Responders who make the annual



Santa parade so successful.

Because of everyone's help and donations, we were able to provide 180 baskets because of everyone's efforts.

Please consider supporting Alicia's House (www.aliciashouse.org). They have been a great partner and provide food to those in need throughout the year.



First Lady Alice Peterson in
Conjunction with our 2022
Christmas Basket Sponsors:
Village of Steger
American Legion Post 521
Alicia's House
Steger Area Chamber of Commerce
Steger Kiwanis
Lenny and Michelle Skrezyna

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2022 Baskets Donations made by:

Mayor Ken & Alice Peterson & Family	Thomas & Mary Jo Seehausen	Janet Streck
Baseballracks.com	Trustee Gerald and Jackie Stewart Trustee	School District 194
Trustee Tim Perchinski,	Jack's Bar and Grill	Steger Police Department
Jennifer Voigts & Family	David A. Bravo	Association
Marilyn Peterson	Old Plank Trail Community Bank	Steger Fire Department
Michael & Mary Beth Stout	Village Staff	Association
Bambinos Restaurant	China Garden	Steger VFW
Donna and Sean Couch	Steger Memorial Chapel	
Andrea Sherman	James Herr & Sons	
Steger Public Works	JDM Coatings	
Steger EMA	Margie Geraci	
Mayor Terry & Carla Matthews	Sonja Trejo	
Patrick and Diane Rossi		