



WE ARE BUILDING A BETTER HARVEY

Integrity . Unity . Pride

Christopher J. Clark, Mayor

The Official Publication of the City of Harvey

Winter 2021 Edition

Dear Residents of the City of Harvey,

“Building a Better Harvey” is about you - the resident and business owner. It is about our community - infrastructure, economy, and safety. It is about our future. As an elected official, my job is to ensure the highest quality of life for the City of Harvey residents. My job is to ensure we provide reliable essential services for our constituents and that our economy thrives.

Here is how we will arrive at a better City of Harvey. We have secured a partnership with Com Ed and Cook County to update lighting infrastructure throughout the city. Infrastructure improvement is a basic essential service that your municipal government should provide. We are delivering this service and meeting your expectation. Our police department is implementing the Benchmark Analytics program to improve police culture and management in our city. Again, this is an essential service and a reasonable expectation for delivering good government services. We plan to offer a senior transportation program. The program will help our older residents safely travel the area for such matters as medical and dental appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy visits. We are creating a new residential transit-oriented development to provide a financing vehicle for new and rehab housing initiatives. These are just a few of the services and initiatives spearheaded by my administration team.

As we recently wrapped up a rather tumultuous, turbulent 2020 and entered this new year, I want to encourage everyone to stay hopeful for a brighter 2021. I also want to remind everyone to continue to follow safety guidelines for protecting public health. As long as we continue to work together, we will get through the COVID-19 pandemic and experience a promising New Year.

Your Servant Leader,

Christopher J. Clark, Mayor



Mayor Christopher J. Clark

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CITY CLERK

A Message from City Clerk Rosa M. Arambula



It has been more than a year now that I have been the City Clerk, and I love being out in the City of Harvey with our residents, especially in times of need.

During hot days last summer, I distributed cold bottled water and masks to people at the bus station and walking down the streets. They were so happy to see someone was out there that cared. The residents were very appreciative. It was a very welcoming feeling.

In August, we had a bad storm that had our city in the dark for quite a few days. It was a pleasure to help residents by supplying them with cold bottled water and flashlights. I remember one young mother who said she could not go to her car the night before to get something for her baby because it was too dark. She was so happy and appreciative to receive a flashlight. The residents were so surprised that someone from our city was out there again that cared for them. I will never forget the smiles on that day.

My office provided dinner to residents at the YMCA and lunch for Bethlehem Village residents during the power outage. Many of them had lost all their food in the refrigerators. They, too, were very grateful.

It has been a pleasure to serve the great residents of Harvey, and our doors will always be open to serve you.

To learn more about the City Clerk’s Office, visit online at cityofharveyil.gov/cityclerk or call 708-210-5330.

Rosa M. Arambula, City Clerk

CITY TO FORM NEW RESIDENTIAL TIF DISTRICT



A priority of the City of Harvey is to improve the condition of community's housing stock. Many homes were vacated or given up due to economic stress dating back to the 2008 recession. The City realizes these vacant properties need immediate attention.

The City is setting up a program to provide over the next 20+ years a way for new housing and rehab housing to be financed and constructed. It is called the Transit-Oriented District (TOD) TIF (tax increment financing). This new program will help the residential area in central and downtown Harvey, as well as area businesses. The boundaries will run from the UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial campus connecting to downtown Harvey (see the map pictured right).

Also, the City has joined the South Suburban Land Bank Development Authority to help put vacant homes back on the market. The Land Bank often temporarily acquires the vacant homes and take care of maintenance, while finding future buyers.

Additionally, the City continues to pursue demolition of the most hazardous buildings. The City has used its resources and grant funds to take down dangerous, vacant buildings.



City Working on Wifi for All

Are you in need of WiFi? Wouldn't you like to be able to connect to the Internet from home, school, library, park, anywhere? Residents might actually enjoy the convenience of a citywide wireless network soon.

The City of Harvey is working with national experts, such as the Benton Institute, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) to create a plan that will close the digital divide by making WiFi available throughout the entire city.

What exactly does this mean for residents of the City of Harvey? It means that citywide WiFi will help students who are participating in school from home. It will help UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial patients seeking telemedicine (have a doctor's visit online). Ultimately, it will help residents who don't have access to fast-speed Internet.

The project is in its early stage of development. The City of Harvey hopes to offer community-wide wireless network some time in 2021.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

An Early Intervention Plan



The City of Harvey Police Department is using new software to improve their service. The program is provided by Benchmark Analytics, an evidence-based analytics firm. The department will use this new software to capture information that will be used to identify potential problems within the team of police officers.

The program collects such information as arrests, criminal investigations involving an officer, warrantless searches, injuries to subjects in custody, traffic crashes involving an officer, civil or administrative complaints. This is intended to help bring attention to officers who may be at risk for more severe conduct in the future.

According to Police Chief Robert M. Collins, Jr., “...the focus is on making sure that the Department can hold all officers accountable - ensuring that the citizens of Harvey can become more comfortable interacting with the police force and sends a message that the city will not tolerate improper behavior.”

TRAFFIC CALMING

A Project to Traffic Safety



The City of Harvey has started a project to address speeding and improve public safety. The *Traffic Calming Project* provides speed bumps throughout the city. Streets were selected based on crash data from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The City of Harvey also looked at interest points, including schools, medical facilities such as the UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial, and senior housing.

Several locations now (or soon will) have a speed bump:

- West 151st Street and Seeley Avenue
- West 151st Street and Vine Avenue
- East 150th Street and Broadway Avenue
- West 157th Street and Marshfield Avenue
- East 160th Street and Lathrop Avenue

Additional speed bumps will be added in 2021. Ultimately, the *Traffic Calming Project* will improve public safety, slow traffic speeds, and reduce vehicle crashes.



HARVEY CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Christopher J. Clark

City Clerk Rosa M. Arambula

City Treasurer Aisha Pickett

Aldermen

Shirley Drewenski, 1st Ward

Marshun Tolbert, 2nd Ward

Quinton Crudup, 3rd Ward

Tracy Key, 4th Ward

Dominique Randle El, 5th Ward

Tyrone Rogers, 6th Ward

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Mayor’s Office

Tim Williams, City Administrator

Robin Streets, Deputy City Administrator

Corean Davis, Chief of Staff

Water Department

Camille Soria

Building and Inspectional Services

Department

Virginia Thornton

Economic Development

Nicholas Greifer

Public Works

Rick Seput

Human Resources

Suzanne Swanigan

Police Department

Chief Robert Collins

Fire Department

Chief Jason Bell

CITY MAIN NUMBER

(708) 210-5300

Non-Emergency

(708) 331-3030

cityofharveyil.gov

@2021 City of Harvey

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Better Service and Response



City of Harvey joins Cook County Dispatch

Police Dispatch Relocates

The City of Harvey has centralized dispatch services with Cook County Sheriff’s Police 911 Center. This move means that residents can expect a more reliable response with calling for police assistance. The contract with Cook County also means an annual savings of \$500,000 for the City of Harvey. This is a tremendous savings when considering the cost of keeping the old City of Harvey Police Department 911 Dispatch Center in-house and operational.

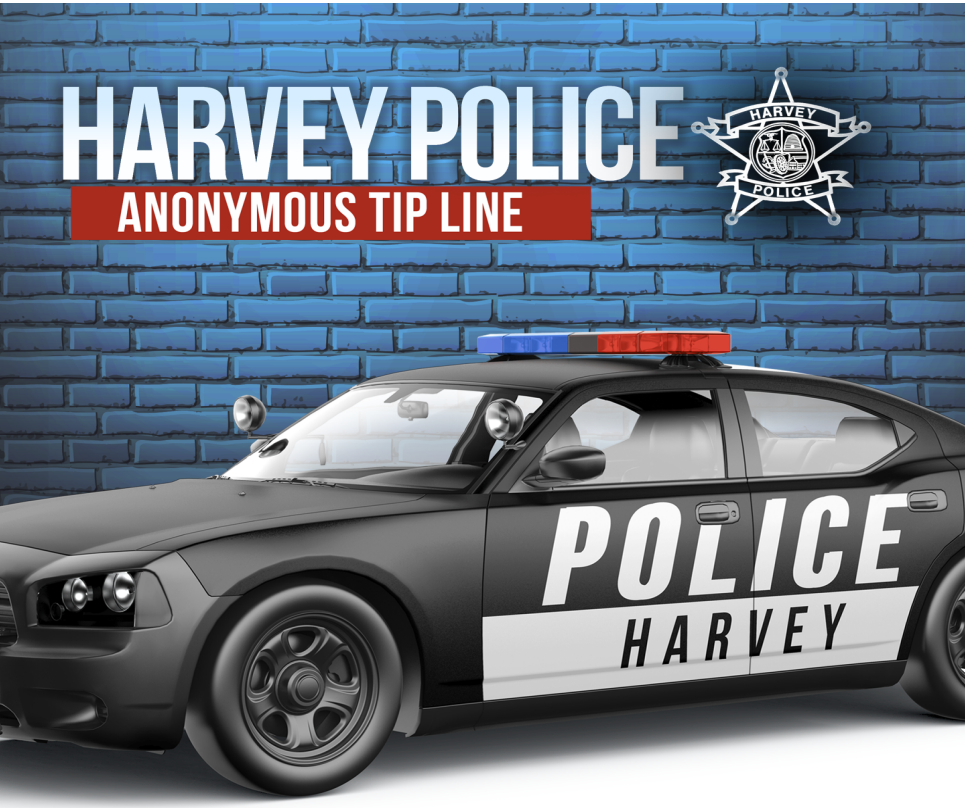
Harvey Police Apprehends Murder Suspect

Two Murder Counts Filed

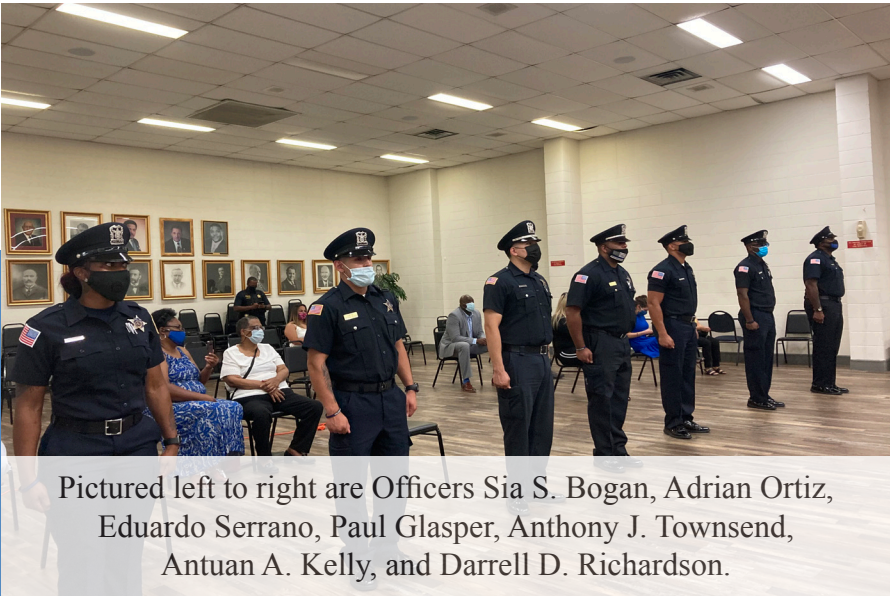
On September 2, 2020, the City of Harvey Police Department received approval from Assistant State’s Attorney for Cook County, Ed Murillo, to officially charge suspect Antonio D. Moore with two murder counts.

Moore, a 23-years-old Black male of 4927 S. St. Lawrence, Chicago, IL, allegedly fatally shot Shavontae Towers on August 26, 2020. A robbery led to the incident in which Towers, a 23-years-old Black male of 15211 Ashland Avenue, Harvey, IL, was shot and killed at his residence. The victim was known to the suspect, as both Moore and Towers were allegedly involved in illegal activities leading to the fatal incident.

“The investigative team of the City of Harvey Police Department worked diligently to close this murder investigation, resulting in a successful arrest and charges filed,” said Robert Collins, Jr., Chief of Police. “Our priority continues to be the public safety of the community we serve. We take this priority very seriously and, therefore, will continue to make progress through arrests, thorough investigations, and lawful charges.”



All tips are confidential and
can be anonymous
Please call (708) 713-4899 or email
crimetips@cityofharveyil.gov



Pictured left to right are Officers Sia S. Bogan, Adrian Ortiz, Eduardo Serrano, Paul Glasper, Anthony J. Townsend, Antuan A. Kelly, and Darrell D. Richardson.

Welcome to the Harvey Police Force

The City of Harvey is proud to announce the swearing in ceremony for our seven new Harvey police officers who graduated from the Chicago Police Academy today.

Congratulations and welcome to the team!

LET’S BUILD A BETTER HARVEY

REAL LIFE STORM

Caused Community-wide Destruction

City of Harvey residents are still asking what hit the town last August that destroyed the entire power grid. It was a strong, fast moving wind storm. It moved rapidly through the south suburbs, carrying winds of destruction like a tornado.

On August 10, 2020, the storm landed on the City of Harvey. Powerful winds snapped power lines like twigs and uprooted massive trees. By the time winds died down and the storm passed, 95 percent of the city was without electrical service for nearly a full week. During this time, community officials, including Mayor Christopher J. Clark, and area organizations worked together to help seniors and families. The Greater Food Depository and Cook County came to Harvey to provide meals, water, and juice for residents. All five senior housing buildings received lunches, dinners, and flashlights.

Com Ed and 1,500 technicians from across the country worked on rebuilding the city's power grid. Harvey officials worked with the Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) to provide disaster relief services for residents affected by the storm. Public Works and volunteers were at the forefront of major clean up efforts. There was an amazing display of cooperation, care, and unity during a time of community crisis.

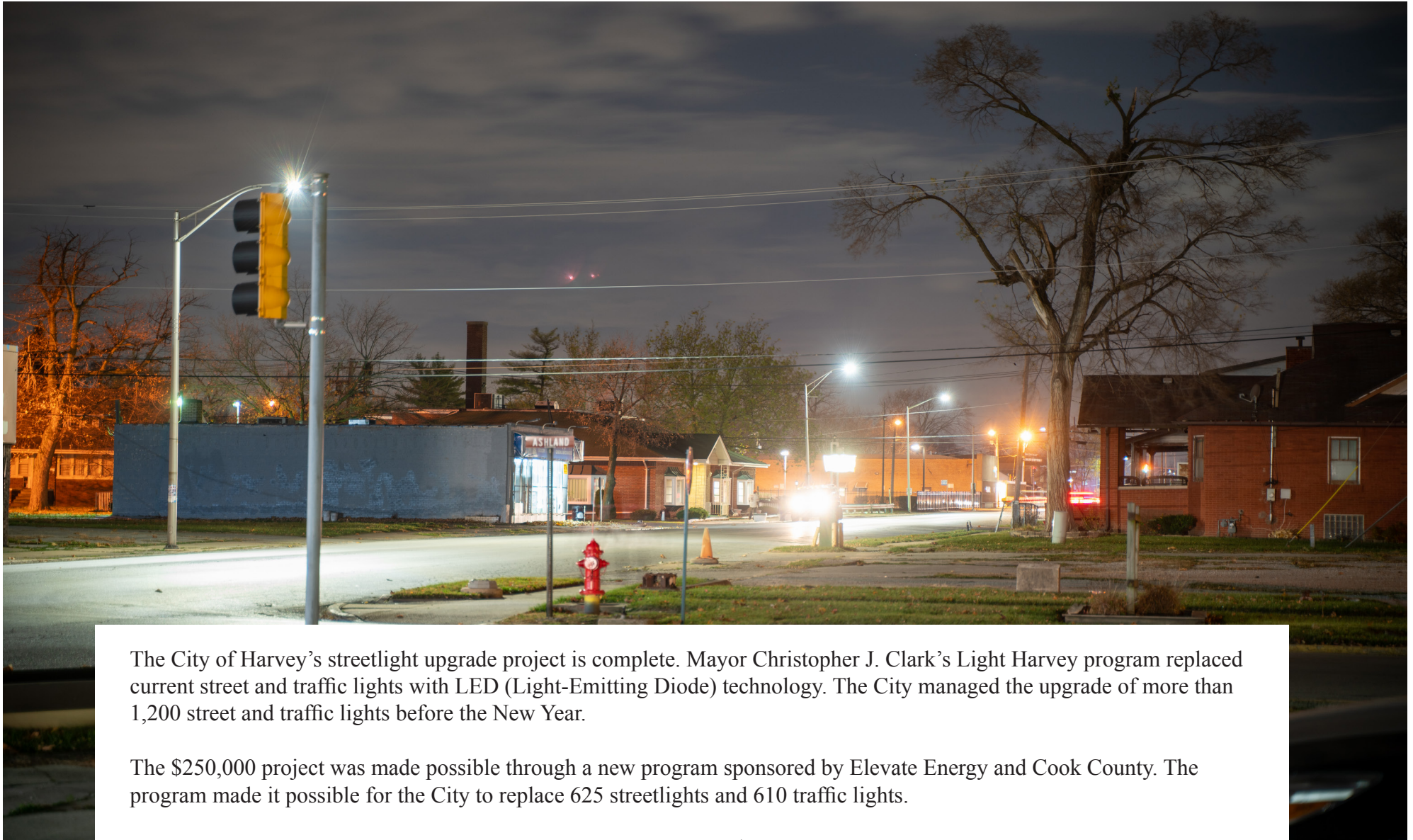
Mayor Clark, members of the city council, and the administration is grateful to supporters who pitched in to help the city recover from the storm. The clean up effort took many days and many hands to pick up branches and trash from the streets and sidewalks. Supporters checked in on the community's most vulnerable residents to ensure they had supplies and resources to weather the aftermath of the wind storm.

For many in the City of Harvey, they had never experienced a tornado like storm. This was a scary moment in time for the community. Through it all, the City of Harvey worked together to recover and ready to continue its quest to build a better community.



CITYWIDE UPGRADE

Pilot Program to Improve Lighting Infrastructure



The City of Harvey’s streetlight upgrade project is complete. Mayor Christopher J. Clark’s Light Harvey program replaced current street and traffic lights with LED (Light-Emitting Diode) technology. The City managed the upgrade of more than 1,200 street and traffic lights before the New Year.

The \$250,000 project was made possible through a new program sponsored by Elevate Energy and Cook County. The program made it possible for the City to replace 625 streetlights and 610 traffic lights.

Ultimately, the City of Harvey expects a savings of approximately \$175,000 annually in utility bills. In addition to Elevate Energy and Cook County, the City worked with Production Distribution and Live Wire to complete the upgrade.

PUBLIC WORKS

Hiring in the Community



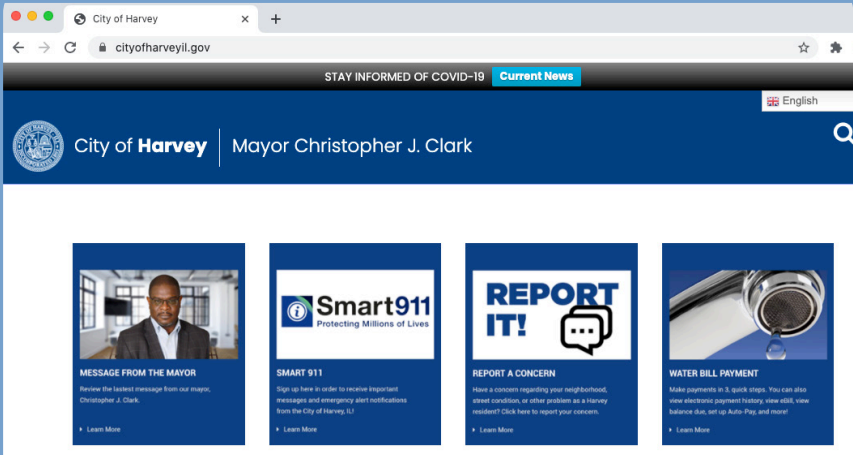
The Public Works Department hired 12 new employees who are all residents of Harvey. The department also acquired three utility trackers, three rhino mowers, two brush cutters, chain saws, and hand blowers to combat the grass problem.

Have a concern regarding your neighborhood, street condition, lighting, or other program for Harvey residents?

Report it online at **cityofharveyil.gov**

WATER PAYMENTS

Accepted Online cityofharveyil.gov



You don’t have to leave your home to pay for the water bill. In just three easy steps, water bill payments can be made quickly.

Go online to **cityofharveyil.gov** to get started.

- Other things you can do online include:
- view online payment history
 - view balance due
 - set up Auto-Pay, and more.

A Message from Mayor Christopher J. Clark

On behalf of the City of Harvey, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for a job well done.

Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission of this City. With your help, the City of Harvey supplied food and materials to over 19,000 individuals in Harvey. You have exhibited servitude and leadership during our disaster relief efforts.

For all of your time, effort, hard work, and prayers, please accept this sincere thank you and appreciation from the City of Harvey, our leadership, staff, and myself. You have truly been a blessing to this City. Thank you for helping us Build a Better Harvey.

DONORS

Avidity Technology	CEDA	Pastor Albert Jones
IEMA	COMED	Firoz Vohora
Cook County Emergency Management	Glenwood Fire Department Refuge	Walgreens
Toni Preckwinkle	Church (Pastor Lonnie Harrison)	Alderman Quinton Crudup
Deborah Sims	Pastor Phil Tarver	Rosa Arambula
William Davis	Pastor Falender Lewis	WW Towing
Buds Ambulance		

EARLY VOTING RECORD

Your Vote is Your Voice



The City of Harvey joined the nation in breaking voting records this year. More than 3,000 people voted during early voting between October 19 - November 2, 2020, at Harvey City Hall.

Mayor Christopher J. Clark brought early voting to the City of Harvey, providing residents direct access to cast their vote and become part of this history-making election year. Our country voted for the first woman vice president, Kamala Harris. She is also the first African American and South Asian American to be elected vice president. For more information on election results, visit online: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/election-results>.



STAY INFORMED

Storms and floods happen, power outages occur, and there can be a public safety emergency. Wouldn't you like to receive a message about these things?

Smart911 makes it possible for City of Harvey residents to stay informed. Sign up is easy online at cityofharveyil.gov. Register today in order to start receiving important messages and emergency alert notifications from the City.

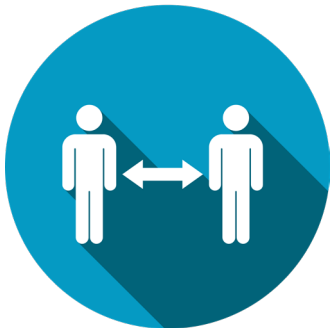
COVID-19

Stay Safe and Well

As winter season starts, the increase of coronavirus cases means that we must all continue to follow the three W's.



Wash your hands



Watch your distance



Wear a mask

Also, as the nation continues to battle the spread of the virus, the City of Harvey asks residents to follow these local guidelines:

- Avoid coming to City Hall for non-essential reasons.
- Pay bills online at www.cityofharveyil.gov, or you can drop your payments into the drop box located on the north side of the building.
- Limit to lesser of 25 guests or 25 percent of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors

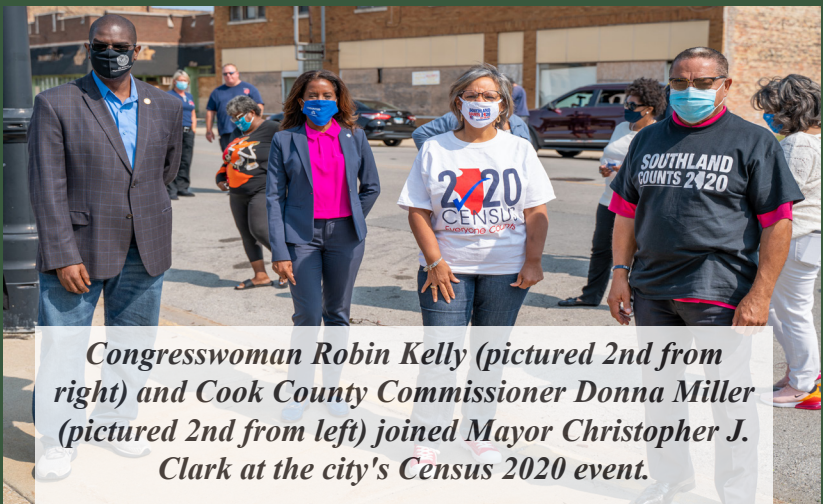
To keep up-to-date with statewide safety guidelines protocols, go online to coronavirus.illinois.gov.

HARVEY HAPPENINGS

SEE WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY



City of Harvey Officials attended Amazon's groundbreaking in neighboring Markham.



Congresswoman Robin Kelly (pictured 2nd from right) and Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller (pictured 2nd from left) joined Mayor Christopher J. Clark at the city's Census 2020 event.



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined Mayor Christopher J. Clark and members of Com Ed in a tour of the wind storm damage last August 2020.



City of Harvey Clerk, Rosa Arambula, hosted the annual Veterans Day tribute.



Clerk Rosa Arambula distributed gift bags during the 2020 Veterans Day event.



City of Harvey Mayor, Christopher J. Clark, held various food giveaway events in 2020.



Community mural painted in the small park near Harvey City Hall beautifies the neighborhood.



City of Harvey officials and staff participated in the annual Thanksgiving Day turkey giveaway.

