



# THE HARVEY PULSE

The latest news, views and announcements from the City of Harvey

MAYOR CHRISTOPHER J. CLARK



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Mayor's Message
- Building A Better Harvey
- Resident Information Bulletin
- City Updates
- Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities
- In the Community



JULY EDITION 2024



Greetings Harvey,

As your mayor, I believe that transparency in government is the foundation upon which trust, accountability, and community engagement are built. It is my conviction that an open government not only enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of our city operations but also empowers our residents to be active participants in the democratic process.

One of the primary ways we ensure transparency is through our publicly held city council meetings. These meetings provide a forum where all city business is discussed openly. Open dialogue is crucial for maintaining accountability and ensuring that our residents are fully informed about the decisions that affect their community.

Our city website is designed to be transparent. It is a one-stop resource for all city-related information. The website features resources spanning detailed

updates on current and upcoming projects aimed at boosting our local economy, listings of available positions within the city government and local businesses, council meeting minutes and municipal code, access to all council meeting documentation, along with the complete municipal code. In addition, our website offers information important to businesses such as guidance on how to conduct business with the city, necessary permits and regulations, upcoming events and meetings, and a calendar of all city events, council meetings, and other important dates.

Simultaneously, every Friday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., I hold open office hours where residents are invited to speak with me about community issues, ask questions, and share their concerns. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for face-to-face communication, fostering a direct line of engagement between the community and myself.

Monthly block captain meetings and ward meetings support community engagement efforts. These gatherings allow residents to meet with community leaders, discuss neighborhood-specific issues, and stay informed about local developments. These meetings are pivotal in reinforcing connection to the everyday experiences and concerns of our residents.

In addition, water department inserts and newsletters are mailed monthly to residents. The water department inserts explain every ordinance and resolution from the previous city council meeting. They detail if an ordinance or resolution passed or failed. This publication includes updates from all government departments, a personal message from me, information on upcoming events, and opportunities for community volunteers. The newsletter is an essential tool for ensuring that every resident is kept up to date on important news and initiatives.

Transparency is not just a buzzword; it's a fundamental principle that guides my administration. Our efforts are designed to build trust, foster accountability, and create a more inclusive and responsive government. Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

*Mayor Christopher J. Clark*

Mayor Christopher J. Clark

# Building a Better Harvey

## *Community Spirit Shines Through at Clean-Up Day*

On Saturday, June 8, 2024, the city of Harvey partnered with Neighborhood Works and State Farm to host a successful community clean-up day. From 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., volunteers from all over the city gathered to clean and beautify the vacant lot at 15400 Robey Avenue.

The cleanup day brought together a diverse group of volunteers, including elected officials Mayor Clark, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, State Representative Will Davis, Cook County Commissioner Monica Gordon,

residents, community leaders, and representatives from Neighborhood Works and State Farm. Their collective effort transformed the neglected lot into a more welcoming and visually appealing space, demonstrating the power of community collaboration and civic pride.

The city of Harvey looks forward to future collaborations with Neighborhood Works, State Farm, and other partners to further enhance the quality of life for its residents.

## *Demolition Efforts Continue*

The following properties have been demolished in pursuance of eliminating the blighted property issue within the city:

- 15303 Broadway Avenue
- 178 West 154th Street
- 15472 Paulina
- 15709 Emerald
- 561 East 149th
- 14513 Jefferson
- 23 East 145th Street

## *Naloxone Vending Machines Available at Harvey Pace Bus Terminal*

Naloxone vending machines are available at the Harvey Pace Bus terminal with the purpose of combatting the opioid crisis. Elected officials and community leaders gathered on Friday, May 31, 2024, at the Harvey Pace bus terminal to announce the installation of Naloxone vending machines. This initiative aims to provide easy access to Naloxone, a life-saving medication used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdoses.

The announcement was made by a distinguished group of elected officials, including State Representative Will Davis, Cook County Commissioner Monica Gordon, and several members of the Pace Board: Terry Wells, Rick Kwasneski, and Melinda Metzger. Also present was Ron Vlasaty from Family Guidance Center, Inc., an organization dedicated to substance abuse treatment and prevention.

Naloxone vending machines at the Harvey Pace Bus terminal are expected to significantly benefit the city of Harvey by reducing the number of fatal opioid overdoses. With opioid addiction continuing to pose a serious public health challenge, the availability of Naloxone is a critical component of the city's comprehensive strategy to address this crisis.

This initiative not only provides immediate access to a life-saving drug but also raises awareness about the ongoing efforts to support those affected by opioid addiction.



# Resident Information Bulletin

## 154th St. Road Construction

This summer, the city is kicking off the 154th Street Improvement Project with \$4.2 million in funding from Cook County, Regional Transportation Authority, The Nature Conservancy, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Environmental Protection Agency through earmark funding from Senator Tammy Duckworth.

154th Street will be closed to all traffic (vehicles, bus, bicycles, and pedestrians) between Wood Street and Broadway Avenue from July 15th through late November. This is due to the reconstruction of the roadway along with installation of a new storm water system. Curb extensions will also be added.

The full closure of 154th Street will allow the project to be completed in a third of the time expected if only one lane

of travel was closed. We understand the full closure is an inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience as the area infrastructure is improved.



## The TASC Program

The Harvey Police Department has implemented several innovative programs aimed at making Harvey a safer and more supportive community for its residents. These initiatives, focusing on diversion and deflection tactics, aim to address issues before they escalate, offering residents assistance and resources that can make a significant difference in their lives.

The diversion program, facilitated by Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), plays a crucial role in assisting Harvey residents both before and after potential encounters with the police. The program's approach emphasizes treatment and support over punishment, postponing judgment throughout the completion of the individual's required treatment.

Residents can engage with the program through various avenues. Through self-referral, individuals can seek help on their own initiative. Police officers may also complete officer referrals when they encounter individuals who might benefit from the program. Residents may participate in active outreach where TASC specialists proactively engage with individuals who may need assistance from the program. Lastly, community outreach efforts are used in the broader community and provide information about available resources to residents.

The deflection outreach program is another critical initiative aimed at preventing overdoses and providing non-judgmental alternatives for treatment. Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., TASC deflection specialists, alongside Detective Baptist, travel

throughout Harvey conducting outreach activities.

During these outreach sessions, harm reduction bags are distributed. These bags contain NARCAN, an emergency treatment for opioid overdoses, and information on how to contact specialists for further assistance. This program is particularly focused on individuals at risk of overdosing on controlled substances and those with co-occurring mental health and addiction issues.

The deflection outreach program also includes a self-referral component. Residents can visit the police station, request to speak with Detective Baptist, or leave a message for a referral. The TASC deflection specialists follow up with these individuals throughout the week to ensure their needs are met and provide ongoing support.

Since its inception in 2019 and becoming fully operational in 2021, this program has made significant strides in the community. It has also facilitated NARCAN training for the Harvey Police Department and members of Roseland Ceasefire, equipping them with the skills to respond to overdose situations effectively.

Through these diversion and deflection initiatives, the Harvey Police Department demonstrates a strong commitment to the well-being of its residents. By focusing on support and treatment rather than punishment, these programs provide individuals with the opportunity to overcome their challenges and contribute positively to the community.

# City Updates

## ***From the Building and Inspectional Services Department***

If you are planning a home renovation, construction project, or need any professional contracting services, we have great news for you. The Building and Inspectional Services department, located on the lower level of City Hall offers a comprehensive list of city-contracted, licensed, and bonded contractors, readily available to all residents.

Utilizing city-contracted professionals not only ensures high-quality work

but also supports the local economy. These contractors are familiar with local regulations, ensuring compliance and contributing to the safety and well-being of our community.

For further details, visit City Hall, call us, or check our website and social media channels. We are here to help you with all your building and inspectional needs. Thank you for being an integral part of the Harvey community. Let's continue to build and improve our city together!

## ***From the Economic Development Department***

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of our new Director of Economic Development, Cesar Suarez. This is a significant and positive development for our community, marking a new chapter in Harvey's growth and prosperity.

Mr. Suarez brings a wealth of knowledge, earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology and a master's in business administration from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL.

Cesar was awarded two gold and one bronze medals from the International Economic Development Association in International Trade Mission (Indonesia), Electronic Newsletter, and Sustainable Development, respectively. We're excited to see him apply his experience and

education to help grow our city and "Build a Better Harvey."

With the upcoming positive changes and developments on the horizon. We look forward to the enhanced economic vitality that Cesar Suarez will bring to the city of Harvey.



## ***From the Communications Department***

Please join us in welcoming Alexia Hall to the Communications Department. Alexia joins us as the Director of Communications, where she will be instrumental in strengthening the department and consolidating our internal and external communication efforts for the betterment of the city.

Alexia holds dual Master of Arts degrees in Public Affairs Journalism from Columbia College and



English from Arizona State University. With over 25 years of experience in communications, Alexia brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role.

Mayor Clark and the city of Harvey's staff are excited to have Alexia on board and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our community.

## ***From the Public Works Department***

The Public Works department has begun its seasonal efforts to cut grass and maintain all public areas throughout the city. We understand that the timely upkeep of vacant lots and public spaces is essential to our community's well-being and aesthetics.

However, we kindly ask for your patience and understanding during this period. Our team is currently experiencing staffing shortages, which has impacted our ability to cover all areas as quickly as we would like. Despite these challenges, our dedicated staff is working diligently to ensure that Harvey remains a beautiful and pleasant place to live.

We are actively working to recruit and train additional staff to better serve the community.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Together, we will continue to make Harvey a beautiful and welcoming place for everyone.

# Upcoming Events

## *The City of Harvey is Looking for Block Captains*

Block Captains are neighborhood leaders working to make their communities safe and livable. By becoming a Block Captain, you can build and strengthen partnerships with neighbors, neighborhood associations, and the police department. The city needs block captains to help our neighborhoods thrive.

If you want to be an integral part of the positive changes that the city is making, now is your chance. For more information on becoming a block captain, email Remona Simpson at [rsimpson@cityofharveyil.gov](mailto:rsimpson@cityofharveyil.gov).

## **Coffee Bar**

Please visit the free coffee, tea and hot chocolate bar on the lower level of Harvey's City Hall every Tuesday and Thursday or when court is in session. If you would like to volunteer to be a server, please call Harvey City Hall at 708-210-5300.

## **City Beautification**

Public Works is looking for volunteers to plant flowers and to maintain the landscaping around the city. If you would like to participate, please contact Joseph Whittington at [jwhittington@cityofharveyil.gov](mailto:jwhittington@cityofharveyil.gov).

## **4th of July**



## **Senior Services**

### **Seniors with Attitudes of Gratitude ( S.W.A.G)**

- July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, 12 - 3 p.m.

### **Senior Line Dancing Classes**

- Every Tuesday and Thursday 10 - 11 a.m.

### **Senior Bingo**

- July 11, Aug. 15, 12 - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact the Director of Senior Services, Joseph Whittington, at 708-210-5328.

## **General Events**

### **National Night Out**

- 15320 Broadway Avenue
- Aug. 6, 3 - 8 p.m.

# In the Community

## Third Annual Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament

The Third Annual Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament, held on June 22nd and 23rd, proved to be an incredible event, marking the highest participation in the tournament's history.

First place winners are as follows:

- U19 Boys Division
  - Inter Fc; Girls Division - Indiana Hammond
- U17 Boys Division- Curtidores
- U16 Boys Division -The Lads FC; Girls Division - the Rainbow Glitter Sparkles
- U14 Boys Division -Rayadus
- U12 Boys Division - Las Changos



free snacks, first place prizes of \$1,000 medals, and hats making it a memorable day for all attendees. Mayor Christopher J. Clark expressed immense satisfaction with the tournament's success and highlighted the city's commitment to supporting youth sports. "We are thrilled with the

turnout and participation this year," stated Mayor Clark. "Our goal is to continue growing this tournament, providing even more opportunities for our young athletes to shine."

positive experiences for the community remains unwavering, and anticipation for next year's tournament is already building. The Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament continues to be a beacon of community spirit and athletic excellence, and the city is excited to see it flourish in the years to come.

The event provided an excellent platform for young athletes to demonstrate their soccer abilities, thrilling spectators with their performances. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by food, music, and

Looking ahead, the mayor announced that the prize pool for the next tournament will be increased, with higher cash prizes for first-place winners. The city's dedication to fostering youth sports and creating

## Juneteenth

The Harvey Senior Services department hosted a remarkable Juneteenth celebration this year; this joyous event brought together the community and highlighted the importance of the historic day. The special event for seniors showcased the spirit of unity and progress that Juneteenth embodies.

Held in the city council chambers, the event featured fun food, sing-alongs, and lively conversations. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and camaraderie as seniors relished the opportunity to celebrate together.

Mayor Clark made a special appearance, greeting the seniors warmly and engaging in conversation with them. Mayor Clark's visit added a personal touch to the event, ensuring that Harvey seniors know that they are valued and appreciated. "It's heartwarming to see our seniors

enjoying themselves and celebrating Juneteenth with such enthusiasm," the mayor remarked. "We are committed to honoring our history and ensuring that all members of our community feel included in these celebrations."





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## Meet The Mayor

Every Friday 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. No appointment necessary.

- 15-minute appointment limit
- No business proposals or inquiries
- No legal advice

*Available to city of Harvey residents only.*



If you have any questions or concerns regarding Harvey's code enforcement, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Department at [planning@cityofharveyil.gov](mailto:planning@cityofharveyil.gov). If you have a concern regarding your neighborhood, street condition, or other problem, report it online today. Go to [cityofharveyil.gov](http://cityofharveyil.gov) and click the Report It! icon.

**cityofharveyil.gov**



## Ways to Submit an Anonymous Tip

The anonymous tip line is always available to residents.

- The tip line number is 708-713-4899.
- Residents will never be required to disclose their personal contact information.
- Harvey PD's confidential email address: [crimetips@cityofharveyil.gov](mailto:crimetips@cityofharveyil.gov), receives emails 24/7

## City Council Meeting Information

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Council Chambers on every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 7 p.m.  
15320 Broadway Avenue  
Harvey, IL 60426  
(708-210-5300).