

The latest News, Views and Announcements from the **CITY OF HARVEY!**



**MAYOR
CHRISTOPHER J. CLARK**

THE *Harvey* P U L S E



**WE ARE BUILDING
A BETTER HARVEY**

Integrity . Unity . Pride

Christopher J. Clark, Mayor
CITY OF HARVEY

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WHEN BUSINESSES DON'T PAY, RESIDENTS FEEL THE BURDEN

Most people don't think much about where City money comes from—but it matters more than you might realize. One of the biggest sources of funding for City services comes from **taxes**—and that includes both **residential** and **commercial taxes paid by businesses**.

But here's the problem:

Many businesses in Harvey aren't paying their fair share. When that happens, the city still has to provide services—like keeping the streets clean, fixing potholes, running emergency services, and maintaining public buildings. That money has to come from somewhere.

When businesses don't pay their property taxes, it creates a gap in city revenue, which means fewer resources for essential services like police, fire protection, road repairs and maintenance. And this burden just doesn't disappear, the financial strain often falls on homeowners and everyday taxpayers who are already doing their part.

And let's be honest: **Harvey is not a wealthy city.** We don't have deep pockets or big reserves. That makes it even harder to give our community the things it deserves—**well-kept parks, working streetlights, safe sidewalks, and smooth roads.**

We often have to delay much needed repairs because the city simply doesn't have the funds. It's unfair and unsustainable. When businesses fail to contribute their fair share, it doesn't just hurt the budget — it affects real people, real neighborhoods, and the quality of life we're all working to improve.

Meanwhile, more than **\$12 million in unpaid commercial taxes** sat on the books—money that could have gone directly into improving our infrastructure and neighborhoods.

When commercial taxes go unpaid, it's not just a number on a spreadsheet. It's programs and repairs that are delayed. Again, this isn't fair.

We're working hard to hold businesses accountable so that everyone pays their share. That way, we can keep taxes fair for residents while still delivering the services our city depends on.

Want to help? Speak up. Stay informed. And support efforts to collect the taxes owed to our city. When everyone contributes, we all benefit.

Mayor Christopher J. Clark
Mayor Christopher J. Clark

WHAT DO THE RAIN GARDENS ALONG 154TH STREET DO???

The installation of ten new rain gardens along 154th Street is near completion! These new features have been designed to collect, filter and absorb rain runoff from flows off adjacent roads, sidewalks and rooftops. These rain gardens were installed to improve how Harvey's stormwater is managed: helping to reduce flooding in nearby neighborhoods and also helping to filter stormwater and remove pollutants (like oils, chemicals and metals) before it flows into local rivers and streams. The gardens along 154th Street were planted with a mix of ornamental and native plants and grasses that were selected to add beauty and also provide habitat and food for pollinator species like birds, butterflies and bees.

Some of the plants you can expect to find in these gardens include:



AROMATIC ASTER
SYMPHYOTRICHUM
OBLONGIFOLIUM



WHITE TINGED
SEDE CAREX
ALBICANS



BUTTERFLY WEED
ASCLEPIAS
TUBEROSA



COOL AS ICE
FESCUE FESTUCA
GLAUCA



VERIGATED LILITURF
LIRIOPE MUSCARI
'VARIEGATA'

The 154th Street rain gardens were funded by The Nature Conservancy using a grant provided through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chi-Cal Funds and other private foundations donated to support green infrastructure projects for Calumet area communities.



A NEW BUSINESS BLOOMS IN HARVEY

nuEra Cannabis Breaks Ground on Halsted

There's new energy coming to Harvey! Last month the City proudly celebrated the groundbreaking of nuEra Cannabis, a new dispensary set to open at 16950 S. Halsted Street. This project marks the transformation of a former tire shop into a modern retail space and is a clear sign that Harvey's commercial corridors are on the rise.



The new dispensary will be nuEra's first location in Chicago's south suburbs and will offer a wide range of premium cannabis products in a clean, welcoming environment. Its prime location—near the Tri-State Tollway makes it accessible for local residents, commuters, and out-of-town visitors alike.

City officials, community leaders, and nuEra representatives came together to celebrate the groundbreaking and what it represents: jobs, revitalization, and new opportunities for Harvey residents.

"Harvey is moving forward. This project is more than just a new business opening," said Mayor Christopher J. Clark. "It represents real economic growth, new local jobs, and continued progress in building a better Harvey. We're excited to welcome nuEra to our city."

nuEra, one of Illinois' original family-owned cannabis operators, has been rapidly expanding across the state and is known for its commitment to responsible business practices and community investment.

"We're proud to be part of Harvey's resurgence," said nuEra's Chief Operating Officer, Laura Jaramillo Bernal. "We believe in investing in communities and being strong local partners."

The dispensary is expected to open later this year. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to welcome new businesses and opportunities to our city!

How Do Property Taxes Work?

Property taxes can feel complicated — but they're an important part of how our community operates. If you've ever wondered where your tax dollars go or how your bill is calculated, here's a simple guide to help explain it.

What Are Property Taxes?

Property taxes are payments made by property owners (both homeowners and businesses) based on the value of their property — land, buildings, and improvements. These taxes help fund vital services in our city and across Cook County.

Whether you own a house, a commercial building, or a vacant lot — you pay property taxes.

Who Sets Property Tax Rates?

Multiple taxing bodies work together to fund essential services and each sets a portion of the overall tax rate:

- ✓ The City of Harvey
- ✓ Cook County
- ✓ Cook County Forest Preserve District
- ✓ Thornton Township
- ✓ School Districts (Elementary, High School, Community College)
- ✓ Harvey Park District
- ✓ Harvey Public Library District
- ✓ Other special service districts (such as water reclamation)

Each taxing body identifies how much revenue it needs to provide services this is called a levy. The total tax rate is based on the combined levies of all these taxing bodies.

How Is My Property Tax Bill Calculated?

Here's a simplified version of how your tax bill is calculated:

Your property is assessed for value by the Cook County Assessor's Office. The value is based on your property's market value.

You are taxed on a portion of that value called the equalized assessed value (EAV).

Each taxing body applies its tax rate to the EAV.

The sum of all those rates determines your final tax bill.

HOW DO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TAXES WORK TOGETHER?

Both residential (homes) and commercial (businesses) properties contribute to the same local services — schools, police and fire protection, parks, libraries, and roads.

Residential property taxes tend to make up a large portion of the tax base in communities like Harvey.

Commercial and industrial properties typically pay at a higher rate because they are taxed at a higher assessment level than homes.

When new businesses open or when commercial properties are improved, this can help broaden the tax base. A healthier mix of residential, commercial, and industrial properties helps spread out the tax burden and can help reduce the reliance on homeowners alone.

WHERE DO MY PROPERTY TAXES GO?

Your property tax dollars help fund:

- Public schools
- Police protection
- Fire and emergency services
- Public works and street maintenance
- Parks and recreation
- Libraries
- General city operations

In short:
property taxes help keep
Harvey running and support the
quality of life in our community.

Summary

Property taxes are based on property value and set by multiple taxing bodies. Both residential and commercial properties contribute. A balanced tax base helps share the cost of vital services. Your taxes fund schools, safety, parks, and city services that benefit everyone.

NEW ILLINOIS SQUATTER'S LAW AIMS TO PROTECT PROPERTY OWNERS

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A new bill in Illinois has made its way to the Governor's desk—and it could bring relief to property owners across the state. This legislation is aimed at cracking down on squatters—people who unlawfully occupy a home or building without permission.

WHAT CHANGED?

Previously, removing squatters could be a long, expensive legal battle for property owners. In some cases, squatters exploited loopholes that treated them almost like tenants, even without paying rent or having any lease agreement. But the new law would streamline the process, giving property owners more power to quickly reclaim their homes.

Here's what the law does:

FASTER REMOVAL

Law enforcement will be able to remove squatters within days instead of weeks or months—if the owner proves they have legal ownership and the occupant has no legal right to be there.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Squatting will no longer be just a civil issue. It will be a criminal offense, meaning charges can be filed against individuals who knowingly occupy someone else's property without consent.

NO TENANT PROTECTIONS FOR TRESPASSERS

The law will make clear: if someone breaks into your home and tries to claim tenant rights, they're not protected under landlord-tenant laws.

WHY IT MATTERS TO HARVEY RESIDENTS

Like many communities across Illinois, Harvey has seen its share of vacant properties and homes in transition. This law is especially important for homeowners, landlords, and even families dealing with inheritance matters. It will provide new peace of mind and help prevent the costly burden of evicting individuals who don't belong there in the first place.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A SQUATTER If you believe someone is unlawfully occupying a property:

- 1 Do not confront them directly
- 2 Call the Harvey Police Department to report the situation
- 3 Gather any documentation proving your ownership or interest in the property.
- 4 Take photos or video as evidence, if safe to do so.

This new law is about restoring property rights and helping communities like Harvey maintain safety, dignity, and stability.
We will update you on this issue once the Governor signs it into law.

RESIDENTS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

We said we were going to do it—so here it is.

We are surveying because it's important to hear from our residents and businesses about the newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with information that is important and useful to you.

We will use your feedback to improve our upcoming editions. The survey is short and should only take a few minutes. We appreciate your insights.



**SCAN QR CODE
TO TAKE THE
SURVEY**

LINK: <https://bit.ly/4jc2nvz>

PUBLIC WORKS IN ACTION: KEEPING HARVEY CLEAN, SAFE & MOVING FORWARD

The Harvey Public Works team has been hard at work this season, making visible improvements across our city and keeping our neighborhoods safe, functional, and clean. Here's a snapshot of what they've accomplished recently:



**157TH & EMERALD
STOP SIGN**



**147TH & WASHINGTON
STOP SIGN**



**STOP SIGN
147TH & PEORIA**



**STOP SIGN
148TH & WOOD**



**BUS STOP SIGN
124 E 154TH ST**



**CLASS 3 TRUCK ROUTE
167TH & HALSTED**



**CLASS 3 TRUCK ROUTE
167TH & LATHROP**

MOWED OVER 200 VACANT LOTS

Helping beautify our neighborhoods and reduce safety hazards by maintaining city-owned and vacant properties.

STREET REPAIRS COMPLETED

From 145th to 147th and along Lexington, potholes have been patched and roads improved for smoother, safer travel.

REPLACED 70 STREET & TRAFFIC SIGNS

Worn, faded, or defaced signs throughout the city have been updated or replaced to improve visibility and keep drivers and pedestrians safe.

91 IN-HOME LEAD PIPE INSPECTIONS

In partnership with GLO (Get the Lead Out), Public Works conducted inspections to identify and address the presence of lead-based water pipes, ensuring better water quality for Harvey families.

This is just a portion of the work being done to move Harvey forward. The Public Works Department continues to be a driving force in making our city cleaner, safer, and more livable—one project at a time.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HARVEY SENIORS LEARN FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

Last month, Harvey seniors gathered for a hands-on Fire Extinguisher Safety Class, aimed at helping them feel more prepared and confident in case of an emergency.

Led by members of the Harvey Fire Department, the class covered important safety tips, including when and how to use a fire extinguisher, the different types of extinguishers available, and key steps to take before attempting to fight a fire.

"Our goal is to empower residents — especially seniors with the knowledge to protect themselves and their homes," said the instructor

Participants got a chance to practice using real fire extinguishers in a safe, controlled environment. They also learned the PASS technique:

Pull the pin | Aim low at the base of the fire | Squeeze the handle | Sweep from side to side

The class wrapped up with Q&A time and a chance for neighbors to socialize and enjoy light refreshments. "Knowing how to properly use a fire extinguisher can make all the difference in a small emergency," one participant shared. "It's good to be prepared".

COP ON A ROOFTOP »» WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support not only Special Olympics Illinois but the HPD as well! From Kai meeting new fans to seeing some familiar faces, it was an unforgettable morning filled with fun, smiles, and community spirit.

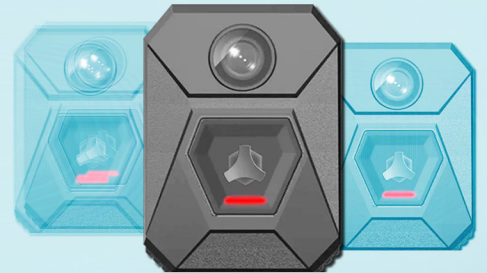
Every donation made a difference, and we're thrilled to share that we raised a fantastic amount for an amazing cause!

Big shoutout to our top supporters: Fair Towing and R.B.S. Automotive & Towing!

Thank you all for supporting Special Olympics Illinois!
We couldn't have done it without you.



HARVEY POLICE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES TO SMART BODY CAMERAS WITH REAL-TIME AI SUPPORT



Starting in July, Harvey Police officers will be equipped with cutting-edge technology designed to improve safety, communication, and response times in the field. The Police Department is upgrading its current Axon body cameras to include **Axon Assistant**, a powerful new tool powered by artificial intelligence.

So what does this mean for our community?

The new smart body cameras come with a built-in assistant that helps officers do their jobs more efficiently and communicate more clearly with residents—no matter what language is spoken. **Axon Assistant can detect and translate up to 50 languages in real time**, breaking down language barriers during traffic stops, emergency calls, and everyday community interactions.

In addition, this upgrade gives officers access to **license plate lookup right from their cameras**—acting like a mini-dispatcher worn on their chest. With this tool, officers can quickly gather critical information without waiting for radio communication, helping them make faster, more informed decisions.

"This upgrade is about smarter policing and stronger community connection," said Chief of Police Cameron Biddings. "We're using technology to better serve and protect the people of Harvey."

It's another step forward as we continue working to **build a safer, more connected Harvey**.

ADVERTISE IN THE HARVEY PULSE
*We're now accepting ads
for our monthly newsletter*

Let's put your business directly in front of Harvey residents. It's a simple, affordable way to boost your visibility, attract new customers, and build strong connections with the people who matter most—those right here in Harvey.

INTERESTED?

Contact ahall@cityofharveyil.gov
today for a rate sheet and get started!



FROM THE **SENIOR SERVICES** DEPARTMENT

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Senior Services Spotlight: *Every Week!* **FUN, FITNESS & FELLOWSHIP**



SENIOR BINGO

A classic favorite! Enjoy some friendly competition and win fun prizes.



SENIOR LINE DANCING

Stay active and energized while learning some new moves.



S.W.A.G. **SENIORS WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

A feel-good gathering that focuses on positivity, connection, and giving thanks for the good in our lives.

THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDE MORE THAN JUST ENTERTAINMENT. THEY'RE A GREAT WAY TO STAY SOCIAL, ACTIVE, AND CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY.

For schedules and additional information please contact

JOSEPH WHITTINGTON JR.,

Director of Senior Services
at 708-210-5328.

FROM THE **PUBLIC WORKS** DEPARTMENT

The state of Illinois requires that individuals who apply pesticides on property not owned or rented by them or when pesticide application is a requirement of their job be licensed.

The Public Works department is excited to share that they currently have six employees participating in a training course that, once completed, will certify and license them with a Commercial Pesticide License.

Additionally, three of these employees will go on to become Certified Applicators. This advanced training teaches the proper and safe methods for mixing and combining chemicals for use in the field.



All licenses and certifications are being obtained through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

FIRE TRAINING

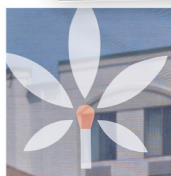
HARVEY SENIORS LEARN FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY



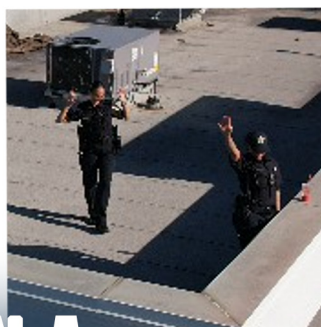
MAYOR'S CUP 2025



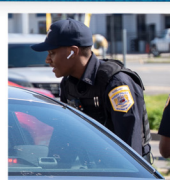
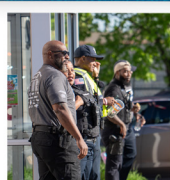
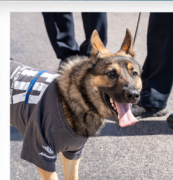
FLOWER
PLANTING
154TH>>>



NEW BUSINESS
<<<



COP ON A
ROOFTOP
>>>





Harvey Comes Together for
INDEPENDENCE DAY 2025 CELEBRATION

The City of Harvey proudly celebrated Independence Day 2025 with a vibrant parade, a lively carnival, and a spectacular fireworks show. The entire event was filled with joy, excitement, and true community spirit.

We thank all residents and visitors for coming together to make this celebration safe, fun, and memorable for everyone. Your support and positivity truly made this holiday special.

We look forward to creating more moments of unity and joy in the years ahead!





CITY OF HARVEY
15320 BROADWAY AVENUE
HARVEY, IL 60426

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Permit No. 130

Meet the Mayor

- No appointment necessary
- Each meeting is 15 minutes long
- No business proposals/inquiries
- No legal advice

Every Friday from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. City of Harvey residents only
For more information, please call 708-210-5300.



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)**.

Ways to Submit a 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 has also set up a confidential email address:

crimetips@cityofharveyil.gov that receives emails 24/7.

Report it

For an emergency – **Dial 911.**
For high grass please contact The Public Works Department at **708-210-5404**.
To file a noise complaint, call The Harvey Police Department at **708-331-3030**.
Concerns about dilapidated buildings and homes should be directed to The Planning and Building Inspectional Department at **708-210-5346**.

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**.

Residents may also access the Report a Concern form on the city of Harvey website: **www.cityofharveyil.gov**.

Sign up for all things Harvey!

Get all the news, events, and happenings straight to your inbox.

www.cityofharveyil.gov >>>

