

# Village of Forest View NEWSLETTER



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**2023**



Holiday Greetings!

We sure had a busy year; street repairs, upgraded controls & alarms at the pump house along with replacing one of the original pumps from the 1950 era. Two new pick-up trucks in Public Works replacing two 15-year-old vehicles, just to name a few things. We have an amazing group of people working for our village. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and knowledgeable employees together in one place. This is how we get things done!

Kids, if you haven't written your letters to Santa, there is still time...but hurry! You can drop off at Village Hall and put in our special mailbox that goes straight to Santa. Joshua, Karla, Sophia, Violet & Julian, Santa hasn't received letters from you yet. He's waiting.

Our "Toys for Teens" was a success. The box at Bad Attitude was overflowing with gifts and the raffle brought in enough to buy additional gifts we may need. Thank you to all who helped, donated or supported this worthy event.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Candy Cane Hunt sponsored by the Park District was better than ever. We had double the attendance from last year. It was a pleasure to see young and old come out and make ornaments for the new Christmas Tree in the park. The kids (and adults) really enjoyed roasting marshmallows on the fire pits and making smores. And there were many lovely Christmas cards made to give to the people at Sequin School. I'm sure they will be happy to receive our cards. It was a magical moment to have so many residents together to be there for the lighting of the tree. Special thanks to The Lions Club and the 4 H Club for all their help in making this event a success. We look forward to watching the tree grow as this continues to be an annual event.

Don't forget about our website. <https://www.forestview-il.org>

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas filled with laughter and love.

*Nancy L. Miller*  
*Village President*

I believe as we grow older, our Christmas list gets smaller and the things we really want cannot be bought.





*HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
ANTHONY FAIKUS*







**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**(CHRISTMAS EVE)**

**CAPTURE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
AS SANTA ARRIVES FROM THE  
NORTH POLE AND WILL TRAVEL THRU  
THE FOREST VIEW COMMUNITY  
BY FIRE TRUCK  
GREETING THE YOUNG AND OLD.**

**SANTA'S TOUR WILL BEGIN  
5:00P.M.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The Fire Truck Will Start in the  
4600 Block of Maple and  
Continue Thru Town Ending in the  
4600 Block of Oak Park.**

**(Bundle Up and Watch for  
Santa at the Curb)**



November, 2023

## Happy Holidays - An Important Update for All Children on Santa Claus

Dear Children and Parents of the Village of Forest View:

As President of the Village of Forest View, I am proud to announce that **after years of negotiations with the North Pole**, our Village has created a direct line of communication between the **Village of Forest View and Santa Claus himself!**

For many years, my office has been working on building a connection with the North Pole, and I am happy to report that **the magic and the believers in this village have made it possible!** Thank you for your help in making it happen!

Because of this connection, I invite all of you to write your letters to Santa Claus. Then, **stop by Village Hall, 7000 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Street by Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

We will get your letters up to Santa himself, and he will even provide you with a response!

Please see the sample letter that Santa sent to us to get to you to fill out. **Don't forget to put your address on your letter so that Santa can respond to you!**

Thank you all for believing - I offer you and your family my warmest thoughts and best wishes during this holiday season. All the best to you in 2024!

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Miller  
President, Village of Forest View

# Dear Santa,

Hello! This Christmas, I will be \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and my teacher is \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ School!

This year I have been...



- Good all of the time
- Good some of the time
- Naughty (but I can explain)

I am proud of myself, because this year, I did some nice things - including: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What I would like most for Christmas this year is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and I promise to leave out \_\_\_\_\_ for you!

## Merry Christmas Santa!



Love,

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**P.S. Please tell \_\_\_\_\_ I said hello!**

# VILLAGE OF FOREST VIEW

## CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Show off your holiday spirit and enter the Village of Forest View's Christmas Outdoor Home Decorating Competition.

**REGISTRATION BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> ENDS DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

We will be awarding the top three houses for Christmas.

Winners will receive a gift card.

**YOU MUST REGISTER - NO REGISTRATION FEE.**

**TO REGISTER, CALL (708) 788-3429**

**OR EMAIL [info@forestview-il.org](mailto:info@forestview-il.org)**

**THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE MUST**

**BE DECORATED BY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**





# FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE...

## GARBAGE COLLECTION

Reminder!

Garbage and recycling collection will remain the same through the Holidays. Christmas trees will also be collected during regular refuse removal. Trees must be placed at the curb and free of any decorations.



November 29, 2023 was the last compost pickup.

During the winter season, it would be helpful to place garbage cans behind the curb line – not in the street, so the snow plows can effectively clear the streets. We thank you for your cooperation.

## SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

If you turned 65 years of age during the tax year for which you are applying, remember you must complete the Senior Citizen Exemption application in order to receive reduction/savings.

If you have applied for a Senior Citizen Exemption in the past, that will roll over. Senior Citizen Freeze will need to be re-applied for annually.

## "HEADS" UP



On occasion, a resident will come to the Village Office and maintain their water bill is "never that high". Immediately, the first thing that is checked is the flushing mechanism inside the toilet water tank. Frequently it reveals the rubber flap or cone is hung-up or did not "seat" properly and allowed the water to flow continuously. As a result, considerable water usage occurred without the resident's awareness, thus the high bill. Consequently, it pays to exercise a "heads" up for faint water flow sounds.

## PLEASE NOTE:



In observance of the upcoming holidays, the Village Office will be closed: Monday & Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Monday & Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

## EXCITING NEWS

We now have a website! Please visit us at <https://www.forestview-il.org> for exciting information and to make any payments.

For your convenience, the Village Office is now accepting credit and debit cards for all payments.

## OUTSIDE DROP BOX

For your convenience, residents are able to drop-off water bill payments, police ticket fines, and other Village business, in the locked drop box located by the back entrance (parking lot side) of the Village Hall.

## Thank You to Our Local Artists!



*Happy Holidays*

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## LEAVING HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS???

Just a reminder, the Forest View Police Department offers free house security checks if you're leaving town over the holidays. Please contact the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 for more information.

## HOLIDAY GUESTS - PARKING

Parking on some streets in Forest View is "residential only". Therefore, should you have guests gathering at your home for the holidays please notify the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 when a non-resident visitor(s) will be parking on the street and then the vehicle(s) will not be ticketed. Also, residents are reminded that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. All vehicles must be off the street between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.



## HOLIDAY CRIME

Holidays are the easiest times for burglars to score. Once the house is empty, criminals know that you will be gone for hours, and that they don't have to rush to take all your precious property. Many burglaries occur on holidays such as Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the best one, believe it or not, is the Super Bowl. If you're not home when the game begins, you're probably not coming back until the game ends! Sad but true. See following holiday safety tips.

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are a special and joyous time of year. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The following tips from the Forest View Police

Department can help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, garage, or vehicle even for a few minutes.

When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel snow, pick up the mail and newspapers. Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.

Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.

Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

Don't post travel plans on Facebook.

While on vacation, don't post vacation pictures on Facebook.

## tip 411

If you notice any suspicious activity, send anonymous tips directly to our Police Department.

Text keyword FVPD to 847411, add a space, type your message, hit send.



Please visit our website @ <https://www.forestview-il.org> for latest updates in our area.

The men and women of the Forest View Police Department would like to wish all of our residents a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!



On behalf of our Fire Fighters and me, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope your holidays are extra special.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone to have a safe and happy season.....

- While putting up the lights both inside and on the tree, check to make sure they are in good condition. Check for bare wires and missing bulbs. Be aware of how many sets you are connecting; you do not want to overload the circuit.
- Be careful where you run extension cords. You do not want to run an extension cord under a rug or through any doorways; they may crimp or become damaged with the closing of the door.
- If you have a live tree, remember to keep it watered.
- Watch the use of candles. Do not leave them burning unattended.
- Test your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

LET US LOOK TO A HAPPY AND GOOD NEW YEAR TO COME



# PUBLIC WORKS



## SNOW REMOVAL/ PARKING BAN

Snow removal is vital to safe driving. **After a snowfall of two inches (2") or more, it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked on the street until the snow has been removed, and provided that the snowfall has stopped.**

Observe "NO PARKING AFTER 2" SNOWFALL/TOW-AWAY ZONE" signs. The NO PARKING ban WILL be enforced! Cars parked illegally WILL be subject to tow. The Public Works crew works long and hard to keep the Village streets clear and safe. We need and appreciate your cooperation.

Please avoid being subjected to a parking ticket fine and then the additional costs of towing this winter season. Obey the snow removal parking ban.

## SHOVELING/SNOW BLOWING



Please do not throw snow back into the street after public works has completed their snow plowing. You innocently may be trying to cause the snow to melt faster, however the newly formed snow mound may create a hazard for unsuspecting drivers. Instead we ask that you use the deflector on your snow blower to direct the snow onto the parkway. Pile it up, do not push it out.

Also, during major, wet snowfalls (only), public works will push aside furrows at the end of driveways which were caused by previous snow plow runs.



## SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

Public Works offers snow removal to senior citizens who are disabled, handicapped and/or have severe health problems and have no one else who is able to help them with snow removal. The public works crew will make one shovel width pass from the street to the front door thus providing exit route in an emergency situation. This work will be done *after* all the roads have been cleared first, followed by end of driveways, and then eligible senior sidewalks. Those in need of snow removal must complete an application available at the Village Office.

### Sidewalk Snow Removal

Thanks to Village President Nancy L. Miller and the Village Board, Public Works will be cleaning Village sidewalks with our newly purchased bobcat for all of our residents. Please note that this will take place after the duration of a measurable snowfall. Please be aware of vehicles blocking the sidewalk as clearing a path may not be feasible.



# PUBLIC WORKS



## WINTERIZE YOUR WATER PIPES

Frozen water pipes are not life-threatening; however, frozen or broken water pipes do cause damage to homes each winter. If pipes in the walls aren't properly insulated, they can freeze and rupture. An eighth-of-an-inch crack in a pipe can release up to 250 gallons of water a day, soaking floors, rugs, and furniture. To prevent the mess and aggravation frozen pipes cause, protect your home by following these simple steps:

## BEFORE COLD WEATHER

Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing – typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in the attic. Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved). Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located. Disconnect garden hoses, shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

## GARBAGE CANS

In the event of snow, please do not place garbage/recycling cans in the street.

## WHEN IT'S COLD

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get at uninsulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.

Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.

If you plan to be away short term, have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is on to prevent freezing. For a prolonged period of time, drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkling systems).



## IF PIPES FREEZE

Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water if pipes freeze to minimize damage. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.

**Never** attempt to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.

Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.





## BOARD BRIEFS

**\*\* The Board meets in the Municipal Building on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and the meetings begin at 7:00 P.M and are open to the public.\*\***

### October 10, 2023

Village Administrator Dropka requested the board to approve Resolution No. 23-15 to be submitted with our application to the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program. This application will supplement the Grant that the Village will be applying for.

Village Administrator Dropka reported that our website was launched on Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The red-light camera project continues to be ongoing.

Village Administrator Dropka reported that Oktoberfest went well. We had approximately 494 people in attendance. There were 46 bingo players, 12 vendors, 25 sponsorships and approximately 23 people picked up in the golf cart.

A hydrant was replaced on Harlem Avenue that was previously struck by a hit and run driver.

Fire Chief Jones reported that Meto has interviewed 7 applicants and that the start date is targeted for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Fire Department's Open House is scheduled for Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. They will be putting on a fire sprinkler demonstration and will light both rooms on fire. The Police Department will be in attendance to provide handouts.

### October 24, 2023

Village Administrator Dropka discussed creating a Centennial Planning Committee. The Village was incorporated on December 8, 1924 and we will be entering into our 100<sup>th</sup> year as an incorporated municipality. We would like to plan on a total of 4 events commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary by instituting one centennial event per quarter. We plan to put a link on the Village website so residents can submit their ideas to the committee.

Chief Zarate requested the Boards approval to purchase an annual subscription to Flock Safety license plate reader cameras.

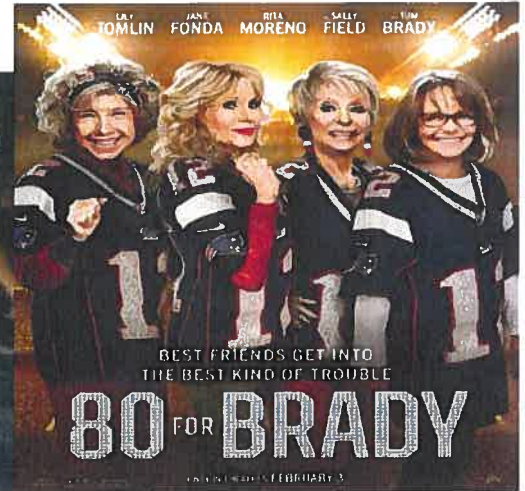
The Board approved Chief Zarate's request to purchase 20 Getac body cams. Chief Zarate is currently applying for a state grant for reimbursement that would offset the cost to the Village.

Village Administrator Dropka reported that he is working with the Village Attorney on putting together the Special Service Area tax on the businesses along 47<sup>th</sup> Street. This tax would go toward the water and sewer fund to help pay for any issues that occur with the sewer lines newly acquired by the village.

Village Administrator Dropka and the Village Engineer met with Congressman Garcia to discuss funding for some of our upcoming projects and the types of grants that he may be able to assist us with.

## Actor Rita Moreno Says Positive Mental Health Is Her Secret to Longevity

Rita Moreno credits her hard-won positive perspective for her mental, emotional, and cognitive health.



Every chance she gets, Rita Moreno compliments people. “I’m a person who’s constantly saying to total strangers, ‘Oh my gosh, what beautiful eyes you have!’ That does something to someone,” says the actor, singer, and dancer. “I’ve made it a habit now. Whenever the impulse comes over me, I just say it out loud. It puts a smile on people’s faces, and it makes me feel so good. I’ve become a very jolly person. I wasn’t like this before.”

**At 91, Moreno**—one of only 17 people to have won an Oscar, an Emmy, a Grammy, and a Tony award—may be the happiest she’s ever been. She’s certainly more vigorous, energetic, and effervescent than many people half her age, and she attributes much of that to her mental health and joyous outlook on life. But it’s been a hard journey to get there.

Early in her career, the Puerto Rico-born performer dealt with so much racism and sexism that her successes often felt like failures. It wasn’t until she started therapy that she began to understand herself. “I really wanted to stop loathing myself,” Moreno says. “The only time I wasn’t in therapy was if I was working out of town. I even joined group therapy. I was terrified because then there were other people who were going to know all those dreadful secrets about me, but I did it because I was determined to improve my mental health.”

Recognizing her negative patterns was one of the most important things she learned. “I always wanted to find a man I could make love me,” Moreno says. “I learned to say to myself, ‘Oh, I see, I’m with a fellow who’s not good for me.’ It was about men who would never really accept me for who I was.”

She encountered similar attitudes in her professional life. Throughout the 1950s, she was constantly cast in “dusky-skinned, flashing-eyed” roles of varying ethnicities, like Tuptim in *The King and I* (Thai), Jara in *El Alamén* (Bedouin), Ula in *Seven Cities of Gold* (Native American), and Honey Bear in *The Yellow Tomahawk* (Native American). “At first I accepted that, but it got to the point where I was doing nothing but that,” Moreno says in *Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It*, the 2021 PBS documentary about her life. “That’s all I ever got, and it began to really hurt.”

What surprised her is that she thought so little of herself, Moreno says. “I would say to myself, ‘You know that given the chance, you would probably do better than you’re doing now. What’s wrong with you?’”

In 1954, when she was 22, Moreno met Marlon Brando on a film set. Their ensuing relationship added to her emotional instability. “This famous, gorgeous, sexy man loved me, as much as he was able to love anyone, and that meant everything to me, but it was for all the wrong reasons,” she says. When she discovered he had begun an affair with his co-star in *Mutiny on the Bounty*, Moreno took sleeping pills she found in his bathroom. Fortunately, Brando's assistant got her to the hospital to have her stomach pumped. A few months later, she became the first Latina to win an Academy Award, as Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Anita in 1961's *West Side Story*.

Ironically, it was Brando who encouraged Moreno to seek the therapy she credits with sustaining her mental and cognitive health. “He had seen me on a local TV show where I was ostensibly being myself, and he said, ‘With me, you are as honest as you can possibly be, but I saw a completely different you on that television show, and I think you need to see a therapist.’ He was dead right. He was a reader of people, which is what made him such a terrific actor.”

Moreno spent the next eight years in therapy. By the early 1970s—around the time she joined a then-unknown Morgan Freeman and guest stars like Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder on the classic children's series *The Electric Company* (Moreno bellowed the famous “Hey, you guys!” phrase that opened the show, and won a Grammy for a cast album)—she felt ready to graduate from therapy.

“I began to believe that I actually was a nice person,” she says. “One of my biggest breakthroughs was when I said to my therapist, ‘You know what? I think I like myself.’ Several months after that, I told him I was ready to quit, and he agreed. I told him that if I ever needed help, I would come back. Sometimes I think I probably should have!”

In 1965, Moreno married cardiologist Leonard Gordon. Two years later, they had a daughter, Fernanda Luisa Gordon. Moreno's multifaceted career has gone through peaks and valleys, but she was almost always working, with guest appearances on numerous hit television shows, from *The Love Boat* to *Grey's Anatomy*; parts in movies such as 1981's *The Four Seasons*; and a stint as the voice of Carmen Sandiego on the animated series *Where on Earth Is Carmen Sandiego?* She won Emmys in the 1970s for guest roles on *The Rockford Files* and *The Muppet Show*, and decades later earned critical acclaim for her portrayal of Sister Pete, a prison psychologist, on the HBO drama *Oz*. She also has been in more than half a dozen Broadway shows, winning a Tony in 1975 for the comedy *The Ritz*.

When Gordon died in 2010 at the age of 90, Moreno went through another period of depression. “Even though we didn't have the most fabulous relationship in the world, I loved and respected him. I felt helpless without him, something I now understand he encouraged in me without my realizing it,” she says. (After retiring from his cardiology practice, Gordon had become Moreno's manager.) “I was just weeping all the time, until my daughter finally took me to a psychiatrist. He asked if he could put me on some medication, and I said, ‘Great, I'd love to not be crying all the time.’”

But while she has found her way to happiness, Moreno says she often feels fragile. She calls the negative inner voice that never completely goes away Rosita, her childhood nickname. (Her real first name is Rosa.) “She comes up and says, ‘Ha ha, I told you you couldn't do it.’ The only way I have learned to handle that voice is to say, ‘Go to your room, you little snit.’ Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't. When you are traumatized, I don't think you ever completely heal. I still get hurt if I'm judged for my skin color and background, but I've learned to forgive myself.”



In recent years, Moreno has been as busy as ever. She starred on the 2017–2020 reboot of the sitcom *One Day at a Time* and appeared as the narrator on ABC's live *Beauty and the Beast* TV special in December 2022. Steven Spielberg created a role just for her as drugstore owner Valentina in his 2021 remake of *West Side Story*, in which she sang a haunting rendition of "Somewhere." In her latest movie, *80 for Brady*, out in February 2023, she co-stars with Sally Field, Jane Fonda, and Lily Tomlin; it's a comedy about superfans on a road trip to the Super Bowl to meet Tom Brady. "That was so fabulous. It really boosted my ego," she says. "I think the four of us are just swell together." Memorizing scripts takes more work these days, admits Moreno. "Once I could memorize something overnight if the situation called for it. I can't do that now," she says. "And I can't remember names of people. I see the faces, including those of movie stars, but the names just don't come, and it drives me nuts. I get annoyed and grit my teeth and swear several times. Those words I remember!"

Despite lapses like these, Moreno says she has benefited from a lifelong pursuit of mental wellness and from following common recommendations that neurologists and other doctors make about long-term cognitive health, like getting plenty of sleep, eating well, and exercising. She doesn't dance or do high-impact exercises anymore. Instead, she focuses on core and balance work, using a balance ball. "I stand on it near a wall so I can catch myself, trying to balance."

Another favorite exercise was inspired by an article her husband wrote for *Vogue* about how orchestra conductors stay healthy into old age. "He theorized that it's because they use the upper parts of their bodies so vigorously," Moreno says. "I thought, 'I could do that,' so I took a pencil and started to conduct, and I was out of breath in no time. It's fabulous, and you can do it with any kind of music. Beat your arms up and down or side to side in time to the music and you'll get a great workout."

She particularly likes to conduct marches, but what really gets her moving is Bruno Mars. "His music makes me want to dance, but I can't dance because of my knees, so I conduct and wave my behind around, and it is so much fun."

Moreno also does specific activities for cognitive stimulation. "One day it occurred to me that I should practice writing with my nondominant hand. I've done it for years, and it no longer looks like the scrawl it once was." Another regular practice takes place in an empty dance studio she rents ("Do not do this at home where there's furniture," she warns): "I walk backward, putting my hand on the wall so I don't fall. I made it up, but it seems logical to me. I thought that anything you're not accustomed to sounds like it would work the brain."

"To challenge your brain," she adds, "you just have to use your imagination. There are all kinds of things you can do."

Pictured with Martin Short, 2022.

Birthday: Dec. 11,1931





# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F  
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q  
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V  
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U  
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z  
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G  
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 S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q  
 P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S  
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BELLS  
 CANDLES  
 CANDY CANE  
 CARDS  
 CELEBRATE  
 CHIMNEY  
 CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH  
 SANTA  
 SEASON  
 SLEIGH  
 STOCKING  
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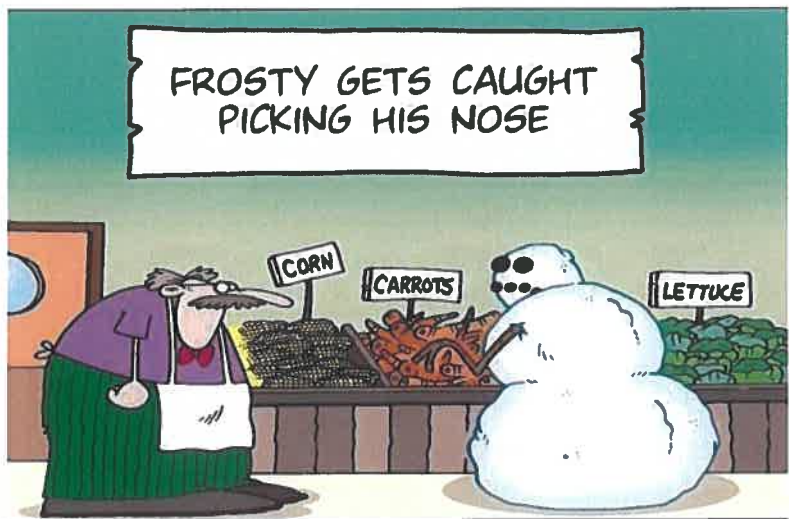
ELVES  
 FROSTY  
 GIFT  
 GIVING  
 GREETINGS  
 HOLIDAY  
 JOLLY

JOY  
 MERRY  
 MISTLETOE  
 NOEL  
 NORTH POLE  
 REINDEER





"I'm running behind. Can you take half the list and deliver the toys?"



## Christmas Trivia

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Poinsettias, which bloom in winter, are indigenous to central America, specifically to southern Mexico around Taco del Alarcon and the state of Oaxaca. A Mexican legend tells of a girl who had nothing but a bunch of weeds to offer the baby Jesus at a Christmas Eve service. When she knelt to place the weeds by the nativity, the bouquet burst into bright red flowers. Ever since then the flowers, whose leaves are said to be shaped like the star of Bethlehem, have been known as the Flores de Noche Buena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, and become synonymous with Christmas.

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Guatemalans practice a Christmas season ritual that's unique in the world. At sunset on December 7, the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, people gather in towns and villages across Guatemala for La Quema del Diablo (Burning of the Devil). Since the 17th century, people here have believed that burning an effigy of the devil will cleanse their homes of the evils and misfortunes suffered in the previous year. Today communities gather in plazas to light bonfires and burn the devil, often a piñata, at 6pm. Vendors sell devil horns and firecrackers and many revelers wear devil disguises. Afterwards, families come together to eat *buñuelos* (traditional donuts) and drink warm fruit punch.

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Where is the North Pole?

The geographic North Pole is at the northernmost point on earth where all longitudinal lines meet. It is surrounded by water with drifting ice, and the annual mean temperature is 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

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Are Santa's reindeer male or female?

Both male and female reindeer have antlers, but they shed them annual and grow a new, larger set every year. Only females still have antlers at Christmastime since males shed them before winter begins once mating season has ended, so Santa's reindeer must all be female. Which explains a lot!

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How long does it take for a tree to reach the average height for a Christmas tree?

It can take as few as 4 years or as many as 15, but the average amount of growing time is 7 years, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

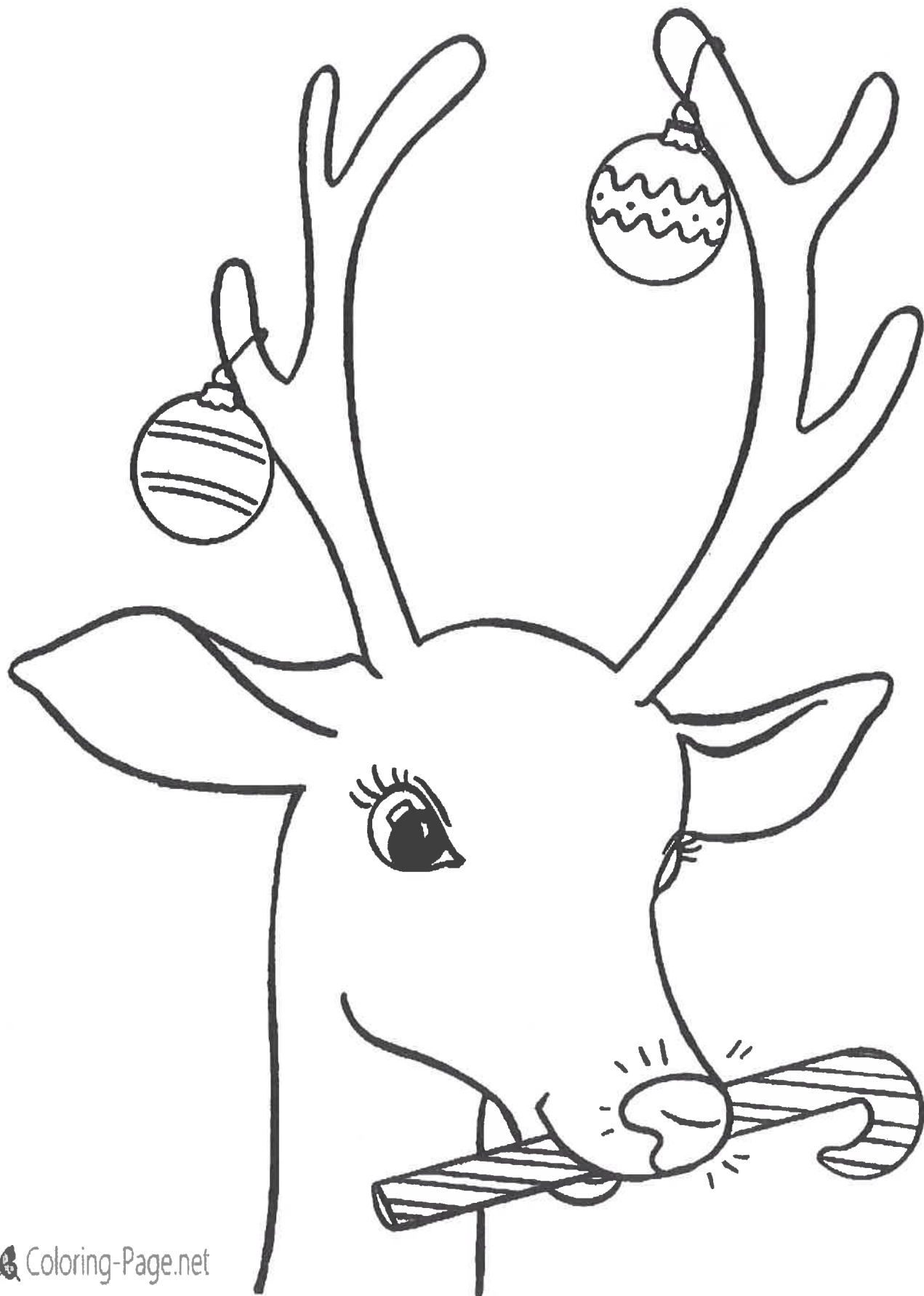
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When did it become tradition to leave milk and cookies out for Santa on Christmas Eve?

According to NPR, one of the first references to cookies for Santa appeared in the 1870s in the short story *Polly: A Before-Christmas Story*.

CALLING ALL LOCAL ARTISTS.....COLOR & DECORATE, THEN DROP YOUR MASTERPIECE OFF AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

YOUR ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED IN OUR LOCAL ARTISTS CORNER. DON'T FORGET TO INITIAL YOUR ART.



# THE TALE OF TWO WOLVES



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, “My son, the battle is between two ‘wolves’ inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, forgiveness, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf wins?”

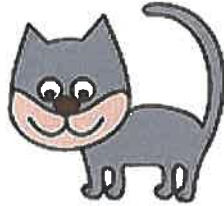
The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

# ANIMAL JOKES FOR KIDS

Print, cut out cards and staple into a mini joke book or add one each day to your child's lunch bag.

Which animal makes the best pet?

*A cat... because it is purr-fect.*



What is black and white and red all over?

*A sunburnt zebra.*



What is black and white, black and white, black and white?

*A penguin rolling down a hill.*



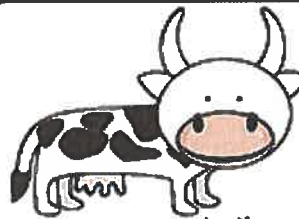
What goes tick tock, bow wow, tick tock, bow wow?

*A watch dog.*



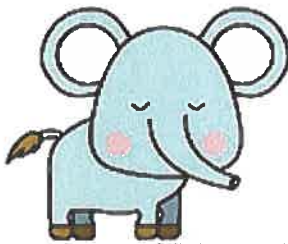
What time is it when a lion walks into a room?

*Time to leave.*



Where do cows go on the weekend?  
*To the moo-vies.*

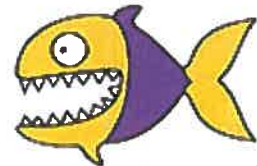
What time is it when an elephant sits on your bed?



*Time to get a new bed.*

Why are fish so smart?

*Because they live in schools.*





# FOREST VIEW PARK DISTRICT NEWS

**The Board of the Forest View Park District will appoint one new park commissioner to serve the District in 2024. It is anticipated that the appointment will be made by Feb. 12.**

*All persons interested in being considered need to:*

- have resided in Forest view for a minimum of 1 year
- be a registered voter in the district & a minimum age of 18
- complete and submit a general interest questionnaire, resume, and/or cover letter no later than Jan. 15, 2024

*Options to complete Questionnaire:*

- Scan QR Code to complete questionnaire & submit documents online.
- Contact the District: [clerk@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:clerk@forestviewparkdistrict.org) to receive a questionnaire via email.
- Contact the District via phone, 708-484-3002, to request a hard copy of the questionnaire.



Questionnaire

Complete questionnaire and submit with a resume and/or cover letter via the QR Code above, or:

- by regular mail to Forest View Park District, % Board of Commissioners, 4621 Wenonah Ave. Forest View IL 60402
- electronically to [clerk@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:clerk@forestviewparkdistrict.org)

**All candidates** should have a genuine interest in both park/playground improvements and passive recreation. Consideration will be given commensurate with experience, knowledge and diversity of each candidate. Information regarding the statutory obligations and responsibilities of park districts and park commissioners can be found here (visit site or scan QR Code):

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ilparks.org/resource/resmgr/brochures/Serving\\_on\\_a\\_Park\\_District\\_B.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ilparks.org/resource/resmgr/brochures/Serving_on_a_Park_District_B.pdf)



Serving on a Board

All resumes and/or cover letters from candidates are considered public records and are available for inspection by the public.