



# The Voice

July 2022



## *From the Desk of the Mayor* **Charles R. Griffin**

One of the most important things towns are responsible for is the development of a shared vision. The way towns do that is by developing strategic plans for capital improvement projects, commercial, residential and industrial development. These plans serve as a road map in developing plans for zoning regulations and major private investments. These plans are challenging to create because they require a community to understand different opinions and balance different options. Because communities have limited resources, the plans needs to consider the trade-offs and priorities involved in issues like housing, recreation, and public safety.

As Mayor, I am so excited to announce that the Village of Ford Heights is on target for growth and development. Several development projects are being discussed and have began to formalize. We are partnering with private investors on these initiatives, and want to extend an invitation for you to get involved.

It is a pleasure working with the Village Clerk, Trustees, and Citizens of Ford Heights. Please be patient as we move toward a more productive and growing community.

Remember that Ford Heights is our community. It's up to all of us to make sure that it remains a safe and comfortable place to live, work, and play. We ask that residents play an active part in bringing our community to a higher level.



## *From The Desk of the Village Clerk* **Nyree D. Ford**

As Village Clerk I serves as the link between the Village Board of Trustees and citizens.

The office of Village Clerk for the Village of Ford Heights provides local services (building permits, licensing, village stickers etc.), The primary responsibility of the Village Clerk is to be the keeper of the records and to sign-off and certify all local resolutions and ordinances. Below are just a few additional responsibilities of the Village Clerk.

- Collect information and prepare agendas and vital information for the Board of Trustees meetings.
- Develop and manage the local website
- Collect, organize and maintain village records
- Prepare and submit Village Board meeting minutes
- Provide information to residents regarding Village Codes, Ordinances, and Permits
- Maintain Village of Ford Heights official-seal and stamp
- FOIA-Freedom of Information Act Request.

I ask that all citizens be a part of making Ford Heights a Proud Place to live. Keep your property up. Keep an eye out for those who feel they can illegally dump in our town. Watch your children at all times. Know where they are and what they are doing. They are our gift from God. Protect them.

# MEET MAYOR

*Charles R. Griffin*



Charles R. Griffin has been a resident of the Village of Ford Heights for over forty (40) years, Charles better known as (Griff) was first elected to the Village of Ford Heights Board of Trustees in 1997. He served as chairman of Public Works Committee and Community Development Committee until 2001. Charles was re-elected Village Trustee for two (2) additional terms serving from 2001 – 2009. During this period Charles served as the chairman of the Finance Committee. One of his major accomplishments was to secure funding for all Village ordinances to be updated and funding to help the village establish its first website in 2004.

In April of 2009 Charles was elected Mayor of the Village of Ford Heights where he served from 2009 – 2017, during this time Mayor Griffin helped the Village of Ford Heights secure millions of dollars for infrastructure improvements from federal, state, and county programs. In addition to that Mayor Griffin secured funding for Job Training programs, Vocational Training and Housing rehabilitation. Under Mayor Griffin the Village of Ford Heights begin to thrive by attracting industrial and commercial business. During this time the village got its first retail store (Family Dollar).

Mayor Griffin is a founding member of the South Suburban Mayors Black Caucus. He is also a member of the Bloom Township Democratic Organization and member of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.

Mayor Griffin is a retired Community Development Specialist. He also worked as Director of Resource Development for Commission on Economic Opportunity for twenty (20) years and served as the Director of Employment and Training for both CEDA and Community Renewal, Inc.

Mayor Griffin has a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology from Easter Illinois University, Bachelors Degree in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University and a Associate of Arts Degree from Prairie State College. Mr. Griffin is a graduate of Bloom Township High School and Cottage Grove Middle School. Mayor Griffin is a lifelong member of New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church where his Pastor is Rev. Dr. Constance A. Shorter.



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Expand and Develop the US Rt. 30 Cottage Grove TIF District.

Develop 394 Joe Orr Rd. and Stony Island TIF District

Continue to Eliminate Abandoned and Blighted Houses

Identify Federal and State Infrastructure Funding to Improve the Water System

Remodel and Improve All Municipal Facilities

Market and Promote Land Availability for Commercial, Industrial & Residential Investors.

**COMMUNITY**  
**Bulletin Board**



*"Serving 12 Communities Strong"*

**WATER BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE**

Bloom Township will pay up to \$200.00 on your Water Bill and also assist you with Rental and Mortgage Payment Assistance

**For more information call (708) 754.9400 - x7295**

**BLOOM TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY**

PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.

**BLOOM TOWNSHIP CLIENT CHOICE PANTRY WHICH OFFERS A VARIETY OF BREAKFAST ITEMS, CAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, PASTA, SNACKS, JUICES, BREAD AND FROZEN MEATS.**

**Distribution Hours**

Mondays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m

We ask for a government issued photo ID and a utility bill with matching name and address to register.

**Call 708-543-2555 with any questions.**

**THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH STEGER**

1311 E. Steger Rd. Steger, IL 60475

**WATER BILL ASSISTANCE**

**Electric and Gas Bill Assistance**

**LIHWAP WATER BILL ASSISTANCE HERE**

**Phone: (708)833-7031**

**DOCUMENTS NEEDED:**

- ◆ Current Water Bill (Must have a past due balance over \$50.00)
- ◆ Past 40 Days Income for All Household Members
- ◆ Social Security Cards



**EFFECTIVE JULY 15, 2022 TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING VILLAGE ORDINANCES.**

**WATER ORDINANCE:** Any resident who owes in access of **\$200** will be subject to having their water **SHUT-OFF**. No Exceptions. A **\$500.00** fee will be charged if a resident tampers with turning water back on.



**GARBAGE ORDINANCE:** Any resident who does not have waste (Garbage) removal service will be **FINED**. Every home in Ford Heights must have garbage service. **NO EXCEPTION**.



**VEHICLE ORDINANCE:** No resident is permitted to have more than **three (3) cars** parked in their driveway **or on their property**. A ticket will be issued and a fine will be imposed if this ordinance is violated.



**WEIGHT LIMIT ORDINANCE:** Our streets are not design to accommodate semi trucks. These vehicles cannot be parked on our village streets or in our driveways.



**UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING ORDINANCE:** Any resident caught dumping garbage on abandoned or blighted property will be fined. If you see a truck from out of town or in town, get the license number and report it to the police. They will be ticketed.



**HOME UPKEEP ORDINANCE:** Residents are to keep there homes in good exterior condition. Fines will be issued for filthy premises, homes in need of painting, roofs in need of repair, broken windows, damaged fencing, driveways, etc.



**BUILDING PERMIT:** Residents are to obtain a building permit when work (interior or exterior) is be done in your home that exceeds \$1,000.00.



**VILLAGE STICKER ORDINANCE:** Residents who own motor vehicles must obtain a Village Sticker for each vehicle. Passenger Cars: \$35.00, Senior Citizens \$20.00, SUV's \$40.00. Vehicle Stickers can be purchased at the Village Hall any day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



MAYOR CHARLES R. GRIFFIN  
ANTOINA "TINA" MCMICHALES, CHAIRWOMEN  
and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES & VILLAGE CLERK  
presents

FORD HEIGHTS  
**VILLAGE**  
*fest*  
2022



**JULY 29th & 30th**

**13th & Woodlawn Avenue**

*Food Fun Family*

SATURDAY, JULY 30TH—4PM

MUSICAL GUEST ARTIST  
Public Announcement

Terisa Griffin  
Crucial Conflict  
Da Brand

VENDORS WELCOME

Contact Trustee McMichales for more Info  
To Reserve Your Spot



# The Village Staff Celebrates Juneteenth

Celebrating Freedom

# JUNETEENTH

Honoring the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans in the U.S.



**OUR JULY 4TH**



Mayor Griffin and local officials honor Chief Gregory Dillard for 48 years of service. Congratulations on your retirement.

## MAYOR APPOINTS JASON JACKSON AS INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

Jason Jackson was appointed as Interim Fire Chief of the Ford Heights Fire Department effective June 1, 2022. Jason has proudly served the Village of Ford Heights and its citizens for over 22 years. He has not only served the fire department in every rank, but also served as Ford Heights Police Officer. Chief Jackson started his professional fire service career at Harvey Fire Department as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. Chief Jackson continued his fire service career working for the Dolton Fire Department, Phoenix Fire Department, Hometown Fire Department, Mittal Steel (Burns Harbor) Fire Department, and Steger Estates Fire Department.



Chief Jackson has specialized training in Fire Supervision, Fire Inspections, Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshall certified Fire Investigator, Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal certified Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Specialist, and State of Illinois IDPH certified EMT. Chief Jackson possesses many other skills and certifications related to the field of law enforcement some of which include Crime Scene Investigations, Aquatic Death & Homicidal Drowning Investigators, and Forensic Death Investigations.

Chief Jackson comes with many years of training, knowledge, and experience. He and the department both are dedicated to the Village of Ford Heights Fire Department. Chief Jackson quotes “ I am blessed to assist the citizens of Ford Heights and commit myself to providing a positive lasting image of this department, one that can be admired and modeled.”



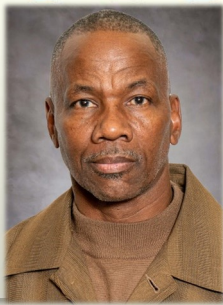
*THE VILLAGE OF FORD HEIGHTS GETS A NEW FIRE ENGINE.*

**FORD HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ACADEMY TAKE PLACE EVERY WEEKEND UNTIL AUGUST.**

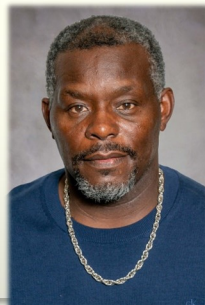
# Meet Your Elected Officials



Trustee  
TYREESE  
ANDREWS



Trustee  
JOHNNY  
GRIFFIN



Trustee  
LADELL L.  
JONES



Trustee  
ANTOINA T.  
MCMICHALES



Trustee  
JAMES  
MORGAN



Trustee  
FREDDIE L.  
WILSON

## Trustee Talk...

It's been an honor and a privilege for us to serve the residents of Ford Heights as Village Trustee's. Someone might ask, "So what does a Village Trustee do?" The answer is that we represent all the residents of Ford Heights on issues that affect us the most. These include items like determining how to keep the Village safe, how to provide quality services like snow plowing, street maintenance, Village landscaping, and police and fire protection. The Village Board also works to maintain the appropriate "look" and "character" of the Village by maintaining high standards for building quality, while still respecting the rights of property owners. Trustees guard the Village's assets to ensure there are controls over the cash and investments, and also, how the Village property is used for civic or charitable events. Serving as your Trustee's we have seen what makes Ford Heights the "jewel" that it is. Ford Heights has managed to begin the process of growing, while preserving the culture and heritage that marks its identity.

The Trustees serve "at large", which means each trustee represents all the residents, not just one neighborhood. Residents can contact the Mayor or any trustee they know or run into at a local event or by emailing . Many times all this involvement takes extra time. Which is why people complain that government moves slowly. But making the right decisions takes time. Partnerships between Village Government and local Civic organizations and other boards has strengthen during these past twelve (12) months

We the Trustee's of the Village of Ford Heights, take this opportunity to thank every resident of the village for your support and understanding as we **MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE.**



# Places To Worship In Ford Heights

## COLE TEMPLE C.O.G.I.C.

1004 EAST LINCOLN HIGHWAY  
REV. WALTER BLALARK

## REMANANT CHURCH OF GOD

1009 EAST 8TH PLACE  
REV. DOROTHY BENTLEY-MYLES

## TRUE LIGHT M. B. CHURCH

1602 DREXEL AVENUE  
REV. JAMES E. MORGAN

## TEMPLE OF PRAISE

1207 LINCOLN HIGHWAY  
REV. LADELL JONES, SR.

## TRINITY C.O.G.I.C.

1206 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
REV. EDGAR CHAVERS

## FIRST UNION MB CHURCH

1301 WOODLAWN AVENUE  
REV. ROBERT FOSTER

## PEACE BAPTIST CHURCH

1529 ELLIS AVENUE  
REV. EMMIT SMITH

## CHRIST TEMPLE CHURCH HOLINESS

1427 ELLIS AVENUE  
ELDER WALTER FUTRELL

## NEW BEGINNINGS FULL GOSPEL

1448 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
REV. DR. CONSTANCE A. SHORTER

## CHRISTIAN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

1101 ELLIS AVENUE  
REV. WYATT RUCH

# OUT OF.....

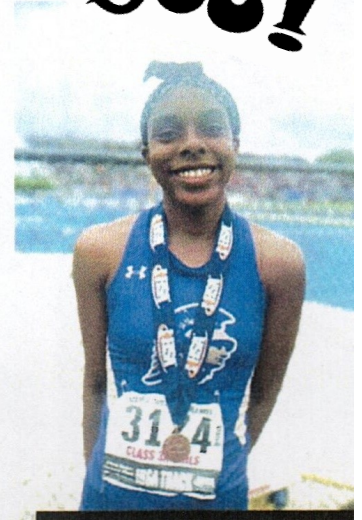
# FORD HEIGHTS

We're  
proud  
of  
you!

Ford Heights produced two (2) of the top five (5) long jumpers in the State of Illinois for class 3A at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Championships. Under the direction of the Blazing Trojans Head Coach Joseph Took (out of Ford Heights). **TAJANA SIMS** jumped her personal best of 18 ft 16in. **GELENA HOLDER-BROWN** jumped 18 ft 4 in. Making Gelela the best freshman long jumper in Bloom Township during the last 10 years. Congratulations to the young athletes and Coach Took.



TAJANNA SIMS



GELENA HOLDER-BROWN

**EAST CHICAGO  
HEIGHTS**

*Fellowship, food & fun*

**OLD SCHOOL**

*Picnic*



**Saturday, August 6th**  
**10TH Street & Woodlawn**

**BRING YOUR FOOD,  
SPIRITS and a CHAIR**

**LOCAL PRODUCE**

From: Harvest  
To: You



[www.dittofoods.com](http://www.dittofoods.com)



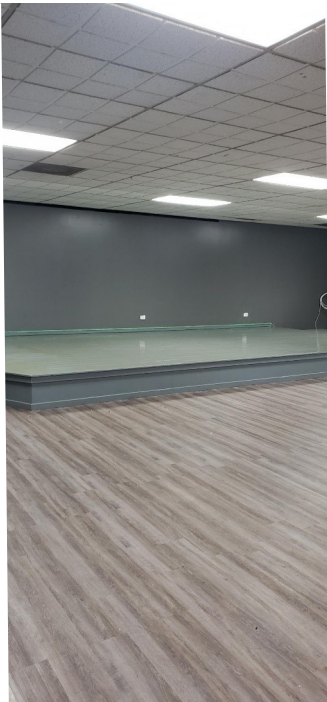
Shop now on  
our website!

**Exclusive** offers  
available to Ford  
Heights Residents

**Grown by your community, for your community**



DITTO FOODS LLC  
HYDROPONIC PRODUCE



**THE FORD  
HEIGHTS  
SENIOR BUILD-  
ING GETS A  
MAKE OVER.  
WILL BE OPEN  
FOR RENTAL IN  
SEPTEMBER**



## LIHWAP

Illinois Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

### Crisis Program for Water and Wastewater

Customers may receive a benefit of up to \$1,500 total for:

- Reconnection Assistance
- Disconnection Prevention
- Past Due Balance
- Disconnection Fees
- Late Fees

LIHEAP, Weatherization and CSBG customers may be income eligible for LIHWAP.

APPLY TODAY by calling us or visiting our website

 800-571-2332

 [CEDAorg.net/sites](https://CEDAorg.net/sites)



Scan to find a Partner Intake Site

Funded by



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



PY2022v1

# Our Local Heros





1343 Ellis Avenue  
 Ford Heights, IL 60411  
 (708) 758-3131

**CHARLES R. GRIFFIN**  
*Mayor*

**NYREE D. FORD**  
*Village Clerk*

**TRUSTEE**  
 Tyreese L. Andrews  
 Johnny Griffin  
 LaDell L. Jones  
 Antonia T. McMichales  
 James E. Morgan  
 Freddie L. Wilson



**STAFF**  
**Vernell Tobias,**  
*Mayoral Assistant*  
**Dr. Mary Matthews,**  
*Village Administrator*  
**Ellis Franklin, Jr.**  
*Community Development*  
**Marilyn Chavers,**  
*Water Dept. Coordinator*  
**Charles Woods,**  
*Code Enforcement*  
**Debra McDowel-Walker**  
*Customer Service Clerk*  
**Bylinda Holiday**  
*Code Enforcement*

**VILLAGE HALL HOURS**

Monday—Friday  
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesday  
 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET**

Every 1st & 3rd  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 5:00 P.M.

Village Hall  
 1343 Ellis Avenue  
 Ford Heights, IL 60411

First Class Mail  
 PRESORTED  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Chicago Hts., IL 60411  
 Permit #711



Local Postal Patron  
 Village of Ford Heights, IL 60411

**HERE TO SERVE**  
 villageoffordheights.com



*Mayor*  
**CHARLES R. GRIFFIN**



*Village Clerk*  
**NYREE D. FORD**



*Trustee*  
**JAMES MORGAN**



*Trustee*  
**LADELL L. JONES**



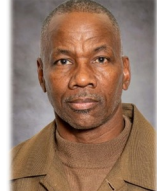
*Trustee*  
**ANTOINA T. MCMICHALES**



*Trustee*  
**TYREESE ANDREWS**



*Trustee*  
**FREDDIE L. WILSON**



*Trustee*  
**JOHNNY GRIFFIN**

*Open House* . . . . .

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 5 p.m.