

Quarter 1 2022

# The Robbins Bulletin



"Achievement Through Community Spirit"



# The Robbins Bulletin

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## State of The Village of Robbins Address

Happy New Year from the Village of Robbins. I am mayor Bryant bringing an important message to address the residents of Robbins on the state of our village. The village remains strong, with pride and unity, as we navigate this village to one of the greatest municipal turnarounds in Illinois government history. I remain humble to serve you as your leader and mayor. Please remain united with me. I have not forgotten about the issues that I ran on. The seeds must be planted before the blossom. This is still a God-led journey in which certain things I am not in control of nor will, I understand. But I can ensure the village that we are on the brink of economic boom. In this address, I will refer to some of the major outline issues to enlighten the people. At the start of this new year, I am hoping to provide some clarity on our journey.

**What is going on with the Robbins Police Dept.? Is the Village of Robbins protected?** The RPD has been operating on an expired contract for close to two years prior to me. So I do understand the concern, but since then my administration is close to ending negotiations, in which police officers will receive over a 40% increase in their pay. That is historical. We have received new vehicles to add to our fleet, and the RPD also received new bulletproof vests. We have invested in Flock safety cameras. We purchased new tasers and body cam systems. We're implementing more speed bumps throughout the village. And we received a new police chief in David Shepherd, and deputy chief in Byron Redmond, that is leading the ship effectively.

**How can we respond to the ongoing gun violence throughout the southland, which includes our community?** As we know, this is a steady ongoing problem across the Chicago land area. It is unpredictable when it will occur but we must lean on our legislators to take a deeper look in Springfield at our gun laws. We are determined to make Robbins a safe community by strengthening the RPD, implementing safety resources, and services across the village. Also, when it comes to gun violence, it is important that our residents collaborate with us when identifying the perpetrator

**What is the status of the Robbins Fire Dept.?** The Robbins Fire Department is due for their service as well. Deputy Chief Malley and I, are currently and successfully increasing the manpower within the department. We are still seeking to have our own self ran ambulance service. Once that is established, I believe that the RFD can be a self-sufficient department.

**How have you been trying to lead the community from a united front?** This administration has employed the most Robbins citizens that we've seen in a while with still more to come. With the 41% poverty rate, it could be tough at times to hire because there's a balance between need and opportunity. Then necessity for certain personnel and experience take precedent at times because they are the ones to create the opportunity for the masses. We have to establish a well-oiled government first to effectively serve the people. We still have been hosting giveaways. During Thanksgiving, we supplied over 300 residents with a holiday turkey. During Christmas, we hosted over a hundred seniors for a senior luncheon. We had a youth Christmas Toy Drive planned, but COVID disrupted that event. We had our biggest Juneteenth festival to date. Led by my trustees, the annual Robbins festival and parade resumed in 2021. We have been honoring and supporting our community youth programs as they accomplished state and national titles. We are proud of our youth. Most importantly, I have the most united board that Robbins has ever seen in at 20 years.

**How are you addressing the large infrastructure needs?** Rebuilding the foundation is a longer visual to see. Currently, we are depending on federal, state, and county dollars to achieve infrastructure improvements. But since being in office, my administration has secured four million dollars to make water improvements to the pumping stations, water meters, and fire hydrants. We have secured another four million dollars to improve landline services in homes. My administration has secured a million dollars to renovate the village hall. Finally, my administration passed the MWRD project which is a 12 million dollar investment into the community. The project deals with mitigating flooding and beautifying the community. It will also create outside recreation space for our youth and park district. We have an abundance of approved streets that will get resurfaced this upcoming spring. We are currently marking and tagging over 150 abandoned homes within the village to receive demolition this year.

**What is the financial status of the Village currently?** The village operates month to month between 200,000 to 300,000 dollars. We have received \$360,000 in our pro funds. We do have an abundance of debt and utilities and other vendors that equates to roughly around half a million dollars. This is why the transfer to the Flood Brothers for garbage was important. That deal is going to help clear \$120,000 of garbage debt off the books. Speaking on that issue. I know we are having some transitional issues, but please continue to be patient with this progress as we strive to our destination. Our Chicago water bill debt is around 14 million dollars. Currently, I do not know that resolution. However, we are in talks with Chicago as we speak.

**What is the strategy in generating revenue in Robbins?** 1.) We must strengthen our code enforcement department. That is a money-generating department. We are currently revamping that. 2.) I have a plan and the financing to construct a mixed commercial facility here in the village of Robbins on the corner of Claire Boulevard and 137th. Those plans will be released shortly. That will help stimulate the economy with commercial development. 3.) We have the finance to renovate the old CEDA building and transform it into the Robbins resource center. That will generate revenue through leasing space, and it will create workforce training development for our citizens. 4.) Also, the MWRD will be a long-term process to generate money as we look to develop our TOD area.

**How will you address the ongoing rodent problem?** We currently have a Robbins business, Prey on Pests, is responding to our rodent concerns, but this will be an ongoing issue that we must approach. We must continue demolition. As those sites become safe havens for rodents. We have to enforce codes as some sites attract and are breeding grounds for rodents. So, it's going to be an ongoing combination attack that we must continue to pursue.

**What is the status of obtaining Village-owned parcels?** The village is currently updating its annual exemption parcels list. The latest update occurred in 2018. We are currently working with our legal team on that process. I foresee summer 2022 as an early opportunity for development purchase.

**What is the status of the forensic audit? Did you find unusual activity?** The board is currently looking into a forensic examination on our books. My finance team has either found alarming checks or has failed to find invoices authorization documents, and receipts of large purchases. There is an in-house cleaning and system input that we must undergo. I am confident that the village is on the right track upward.

This journey is an ongoing marathon to our destination. And this year, you will see the blossom. This year will be in a historic year for the Village of Robbins. Once again, stay united through this process. To the residents, peace, and prosperity to you this year. May God bless you and your family and keep you safe. I am mayor Bryant and I approve of this message.



# UPDATES FROM THE TRUSTEES Standing Committees & More

**Finance Committee** - 1.) Online utility payment is currently unavailable but will return to the Village website soon. Please mail or pay utility bills in person at the village hall. A village purchasing manual has been approved to manage village funds properly.

- **Trustee George Brewton (Chairman)**

**Public Works & Water Committee** - 1.) Please continue to pay your water bill on time or come in to set up a payment plan. Shut-off notices have been sent. If you have any problems with your water, please visit the village hall and speak with the water department supervisor. 2.) Be sure to keep your homes warm during this season to avoid freezing pipes. - **Trustee Michael Collier (Chairman)**

**Public Safety Committee** - 1.) New Flock cameras have been purchased to monitor vehicles driving and or stationed in the village. 2.) Please continue to wear your mask during this pandemic.

- **Trustee Tiffany Robinson (Chairwoman)**

**Building and Codes Committee** - 1.) All business owners make sure you have all necessary documents filed and on hand before starting new projects or opening. If you are looking to start or bring a business to Robbins please file your paperwork with the Clerks Office and the Building Department. 2.) Updated and new ordinances will be coming soon. - **Trustee David Dyson (Chairman)**

**Public Property Committee** - 1.) Construction is underway at BELOVED to ensure that the Robbins Resource Center is back operational. 2.) Rates to be a vendor at The Robbins Open Air Market are available on robbins-il.com. 3.) The repair of village streets will begin soon. - **Trustee George Brewton (Chairman)**



Trustee  
D. Dyson

Trustee  
G. Jackson

Trustee  
M. Collier

Trustee  
G. Brewton

Trustee  
E. Maxey

Trustee  
T. Robinson

## Fire Dept. Updates with Deputy Fire Chief Nicless Malley

1.) The Department is currently in the process of adding additional members to our team to ensure staffing is adequate to provide continued quality service to our Residents and Community.

2.) The Department currently runs a Basic Life Support Ambulance alongside BUDS Ambulance Service, which provides an Advanced Life Support Ambulance. One of the overall goals for the future of the Robbins Fire Department is to be able to staff an Ambulance with Paramedics to provide our own Advanced Life Support Ambulance.

3.) The Department recently took delivery of a Tower Ladder Truck that is 95 feet and will be able to reach the top of each of our High Rise Buildings in town.

4.) The Department is currently working with the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office on bringing a smoke detector installation program to the Village. This will allow us to install detectors in our resident's homes that are needed free of charge.

5.) The Department currently runs a dual response with the Merrionette Park Fire Department on significant Emergency Medical Calls to ensure an adequate amount of personnel on scene to effectively give the best possible outcome in scenarios such as but not limited to Cardiac Arrests, Critical Motor Vehicle Accidents, and all other Traumatic incidents.

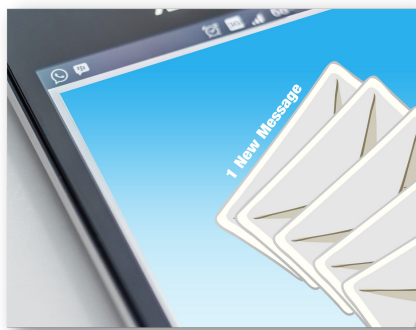


**Robbins Fire Department**



## Text Alerts

The Village of Robbins is continuously improving our communication between the administration and our residents of the village.



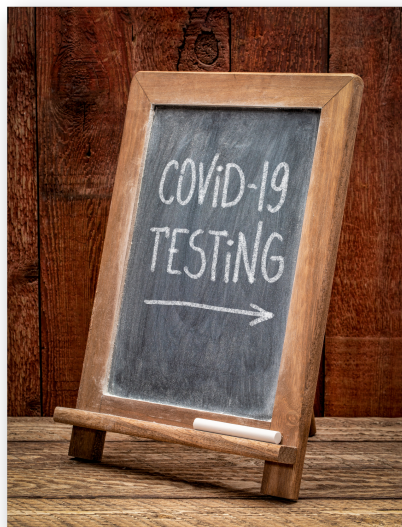
We are currently creating a database with resident contact numbers to generate and send mass text messages with Village updates and more to those who sign up.

To sign up for Village Text Updates, visit [www.robbins-il.com/residentsinformation](http://www.robbins-il.com/residentsinformation).

## Free COVID-19 Testing

The Village of Robbins takes the health of our citizens seriously. With the steady rise of COVID-19, The Robbins Park District, O2 Diagnostics Corp., and LabElite will provide free COVID-19 tests.

Every Tuesday and Friday get a free COVID test at The Robbins Community Center.



Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Walk-Ins)  
Tuesday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (Drive-Thru)  
Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Drive-Thru ONLY)

Patients will have the option to take the rapid or PCR COVID-19 test.

## Free Chromebook

The Communications Department of The Village of Robbins is giving out one free slightly used Chromebook for a student in need! The Chromebook will be given out on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are interested, please email [rbryant@robbins-il.com](mailto:rbryant@robbins-il.com).



## Robbins Trivia!

Who was the first Mayor of Robbins?

- a. R.H. Bryant
- b. Dr. Irene H. Brodie
- c. Thomas J. Kellar
- d. Ernest Maxey Sr.

(Question provided by the Robbins History Museum.)

### Missed a board meeting?

Did you miss the last village council meeting? No worries! All Village of Robbins Council meetings are posted on the village website at [www.robbins-il.com](http://www.robbins-il.com) and on the official facebook page at The Village of Robbins Illinois. Stay up to date!



The new and improved Robbins Cable Channel is back! Check with your cable provider on how to access the local government access channel.

# VILLAGE SPOTLIGHT

You ask any Robbinite, and they'll agree that Robbins is home to some of the most talented individuals in the county, the state, probably in the entire country, I agree.

I was fortunate enough to sit down and interview one of those talented individuals. Robbins, meet Camara Brewer, a young 7th-grade Robbinite from Kellar Middle school.

**Q.)Camara, you designed the Village of Robbins Vehicle sticker. Tell me please! What was the inspiration behind your design?**

A.) My inspiration behind that design was Robbins! But, really I just did what I felt like I wanted to do.

**Q.)Camara, how long have you been doing graphic design?**

A.) Ummm, three and a half years.

**Q.)Do you see yourself doing graphic design as a career someday?**

A.) Ummm, maybe!

**Q.)Camara, I must be honest. I love the vehicle sticker! Do you have any more graphic design projects in the future?**

A.) Yes! So recently, I had a job where I was asked to create a graphic for a vaccination campaign. They contacted me, and they were like, "Could you do a graphic design for us for the little ones who are scared to get their vaccines so they'll be happier about getting vaccinated?"

**Q.)And how did that turn out!?**

A.) It turned out good! I made three designs. They told me all the t-shirts and posters they make. I'm going to get one! I also got paid for it!

**Q.)Do you do anything else outside of graphic design?**

A.) I play sports. Basketball, volleyball, and I play softball a little bit.

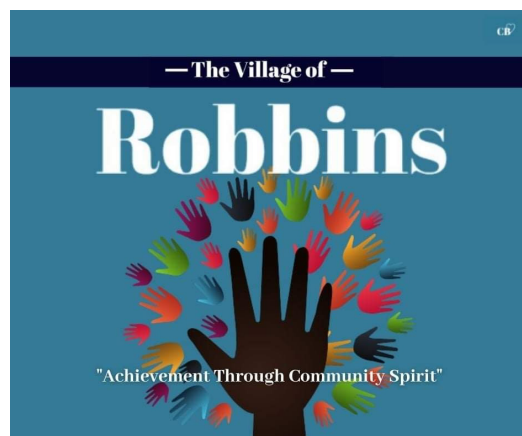


(7th grader Camara Brewer)

**Q.)Finally Camara, how are your grades? You seem busy are you staying on top of school?**

A.) Yes! I have all A's and B's!

**Checkout Camara's design for the Village of Robbins Vehicle sticker! The deadline to purchase your vehicle sticker is Febuary 14, 2022.**



## Robbins Trivia!

**The Village of Robbins was incorporated on what date?**

- a. January 1st, 1919
- b. July 4th, 1912
- c. December 14th, 1917
- d. February 24th, 1913

(Question provided by the Robbins History Museum.)

**Missed a board meeting?**

Did you miss the last village council meeting? No worries! All Village of Robbins Council meetings are posted on the village website at [www.robbsin-ill.com](http://www.robbsin-ill.com) and on the official facebook page at The Village of Robbins Illinois. Stay up to date!



The Robbins Community Garden is a place where residents can indulge in the farm-to-table concept by purchasing fresh organic produce. There are many new developments in store for the upcoming season. To volunteer or donate please contact Kyiesha Hill at 708-466-2971.

# FIRST QUARTER 2022 CALENDAR



## Village Meetings

### Village of Robbins Council Meeting

- Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting

- 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

## January 2022

### Red Light Ticket Court

- January 7th, 9 AM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Financial Empowerment Seminar

- January 15th, 1 PM - 3 PM Via zoom. Visit [www.robbsins-il.com](http://www.robbsins-il.com) for the link to join.

### Robbins Municipal Court

- January 20th, 6 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Committee of the Whole

- January 25th, 4:45 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.



## February 2022

### Red Light Ticket Court

- February 3rd, 9 AM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Robbins Municipal Court

- February 17th, 6 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Black Entrepreneur Expo.

- February 19th, 12 Noon - 6 PM at the Robbins Community Center 13800 S. Trumbull Ave.

### Committee of the Whole

- February 22nd, 4:45 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.



## March 2022

### Red Light Ticket Court

- March 3rd, 9 AM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Robbins Municipal Court

- March 17th, 6 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.

### Youth Expo.

- March 20th, 12 Noon - 4 PM at Kellar Middle School 14123 Lydia Ave.

### Committee of the Whole

- March 22nd, 4:45 PM at the Dr. Irene H. Brodie Courtroom 3323 W. 137th St. second floor.



## CONTACT US

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**Trustee Robinson**

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**Trustee Maxey**

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**Treasurer Newell**

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**Deputy Clerk Hill**

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**Administrator Washington**

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**Executive Asst. Stroger**

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**Legislative Asst. Buckley**

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**Communication Coord. Bryant**

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THE VILLAGE OF ROBBSINS ILLINOIS



[WWW.ROBBSINS-IL.COM](http://WWW.ROBBSINS-IL.COM)



[RobbinsBulletin@gmail.com](mailto:RobbinsBulletin@gmail.com)



# Boards Of The Village

## ROBBINS ADMINISTRATION

### Mayor

Darren E. Bryant

### Village Clerk

Sharon S. Dyson

### Board of Trustees

George Brewton

David Dyson

Michael Collier

Tiffany Robinson

Ernest Maxey

Gregory Jackson

### Village Administrator

Jasmine Washington

### Executive Asst.

Todd Stroger

### Legislative Asst.

Ryan Buckley

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

### President

Rev. James Richardson

### Vice President

Edward Leonard

### Treasurer

Jo Ann Rhodes

### Board Members

Janice Burns

Tonia Madkins

Loretta Moore

David Bryant Sr.

## PARK DISTRICT

### Park District President

Andrea R. Roberson

### Park District Vice President

Justin Harris

### Park District Secretary

Sheila Inman

### Treasurer

Anthony D. Richardson Sr.

### Commissioner

Keith Marshall

## COMMUNITY BLOCK CLUBS

### West Crawford Neighborhood Block Club

President James Collier

### Northwest Crawford Block Club

President Warren Madkins

### Lincoln Manor East Block Club

President Helen Echols

### Lincoln Manor West Block Club

President Kandy Carrington Hicks

### Midtown Organization Block Club

President Yolandia Hudson

### East Claire Community Block Club

President Thelma Ellis

### Finley/Glen Block Club

President Mary Jackson

### Maxey Court Block Club

President Zachary Fulson

### Block Club Coordinator

Leota Murphy

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Phone: (708) 385-8940  
Fax: (708) 385-8949  
www.robbins-il.com



The Village of Robbins Illinois

**#RobbinsUnited**

Local  
Postal Customer

PSRST STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL