

Guest Comment

Fun in the summer sun

By Michael Collins,
Plainfield Village President

Downtown Plainfield is host to a variety of special events during the summer months. As June begins, I thought it would be timely to highlight some of these wonderful events.

Beginning June 1, MainStreet Plainfield will be hosting Cruise Nights downtown, which will continue every Tuesday evening through the end of September. There will be a wonderful assortment of classic cars on display. While you are downtown, be sure to do some shopping and stop for a bite to eat at one of our great local restaurants.

Concerts and movies in Settlers' Park also begin in June. Although the economy has made providing free concerts and movies difficult, the village is able to continue offering these programs through the generosity of local businesses. We appreciate all of the sponsors who have stepped up to support these events in the park.

Once again, we will be partnering with the Plainfield Park District to bring you movies in Settlers' Park on Friday evenings. During this popular series, presented by The George Sollitt Construction Company, we will be showing the following movies this year:

June 11, "Kung Fu Panda," sponsored by Illinois Landscape Supply LLC; June 25, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," sponsored by Crawford, Murphy & Tilly Inc.; July 9, "Dennis The Menace," sponsored by First Midwest Bank; July 23, "The Polar Express," sponsored by Waste Management; and Aug. 6, "Monsters vs. Aliens," sponsored by Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.

All of the movies begin at approximately 8 p.m. So, bring your popcorn and check out movies under the stars!

Music lovers will be happy to hear that the village concert series will also continue in Settlers' Park. This year's lineup of bands spans the decades, providing a musical variety that offers something for everyone.

On June 17, The Renditions, sponsored by Baxter & Woodman Inc., will play music from the '50s, '60s and '70s; on July 15, Bopology, a swing, jazz and Frank Sinatra group, will play; and the series will conclude Aug. 12 with a concert by Soda, sponsored by The Plainfield Riverfront Foundation. Concessions will be available for sale during all of the concerts and movies.

For more information, visit the village website at www.plainfield-il.org. Aside from the concerts and movies, Settlers' Park is a wonderful place to visit for the day. Pack a picnic and head to the park. While you are there, try your hand at fishing and be sure to check out the playground, the history walk and the restored war monument. We hope to see you in Settlers' Park this summer!

Then in July, be sure to check out the Plainfield Park District's Patriotic Picnic and Fireworks Display Saturday, July 3, at Plainfield Central High School. This event is becoming very popular!

MainStreet Plainfield will be sponsoring Plainfield Fest July 16 through 18 in downtown Plainfield along Lockport Street. This annual summer festival includes food, rides, inflatables, games, a beer tent, bands, crafts and lots of family fun!

In August, Cruise Nights continue on Tuesday evenings and during the Cruise Night Aug. 3, the Plainfield Police Department will recognize National Night Out. Stay tuned for more details on this new event!

I encourage you to check out downtown Plainfield and all that it has to offer this summer!



Michael
Collins



Letters to the Editor

Follow these tips for safe summer grilling

With summer grilling season here, the Plainfield Fire Protection District has some safety tips to help keep your cookout an enjoyable experience for all.

Both propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.

Locate your grill away from your home and eaves, away from the deck and railings and not under tree branches. The leading cause of charcoal grill-related fires is having something that can burn too close to the grill.

Remember to remove grease and fat buildup from your grill, including the trays below the grill. Always keep children and pets away from the grill and never leave the grill unattended.

Here are some additional grill safety tips that are specific for charcoal grills:

- Various methods for starting a charcoal grill include charcoal chimney starters, electric charcoal starters and charcoal starter fluid.

- Only use starter fluid made for charcoal and never add starter fluid once the fire starts.

- When storing charcoal fluid, keep it away from heat sources and out of the reach of children.

- Dispose of used coals by letting them cool completely and then putting them into a metal container with a lid, then keep the metal container stored away from your home and any other combustibles.

- Before using your gas grill for the first time each season, check it for a gas leak. The leading cause of gas grill-related fires is because of a leak or break in the grill's hose.

To check for leaks, apply a soap and water solution to the hose. If there is a leak, bubbles will form.

If you find that your grill has a leak (and if there are no flames), turn off the gas tank and grill and have your grill repaired before using it again.

If the grill leak does not stop or if there are flames, stay away from it and call 9-1-1.

For more information on grill safety, including videos, visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org, click on the link for "safety information" and then follow the link "safety tips and fact sheets for consumers."

On this page you will find numerous safety topics including grilling safety under the "outdoors" heading.

For more information on fire and life safety, you may also visit the Plainfield Fire Protection District's website at www.plainfieldfpd.org or call us at (815) 436-5335.

Mary Ludeman,
fire inspector, Plainfield
Fire Protection District

Rotary Club thanks community

Over the past 27 years, the Plainfield Rotary Club has honored more than 1,600 students for their academic achievements, at the club's annual Top Ten Percent Awards Banquet.

The event honors those graduating seniors who live within Plainfield School District 202's boundaries and are in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes.

At the Rotary's recent banquet held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, 191 students from the 2010 graduating class were honored for their

diligence and self-discipline, achieving excellence in their academic endeavors in high school.

The Rotary is assisted in the endeavor from a variety of area commercial, industrial, professional, educational and governmental leaders who regard educational achievement as a primary asset to succeed in their vocations.

Our special thanks go Dr. and Mrs. Frank Bender, Boughton Materials Inc., George Capps, Caton Commercial Real Estate/Bill Caton, Donna M. Edwards, Ken Kocher, Midwest Music Academy/Tom Serb, Plainfield Chiropractic/Joe and Sally Conklin and Plainfield South High School.

The club would like to thank the following for their support: 59 Auto Repair, Aurelio's Pizza in Plainfield, Tim and Kristi Boe, Margie and Roger Bonuchi, Bristol Grove Music, Derek Christensen, Bob and Mariann Cozzi, State Rep. Tom Cross, Eileen and Dwight Diercks, Harris Bank/Lisa Hintzsche, Ron and Kathy Kazmar, Mike and Marsha Keniley, Edward Jones Investments/Samantha Owens, Rauch Clay Sales Corp., John Renzi of June, Prodehl, Renzi and Lynch, Vaughan Dance Academy, Rod and Cindy Westfall and Dr. John Harper.

In addition, the Plainfield Rotary Club recognizes the following supporters: Andrea-travel, Gloria Austin, Bearden and Sons Printing, Donald and Patricia Bennett, Josh Bloodgood, Ken Bublitz, Anne Campbell, Clarence Rowley Insurance, Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell, Deb Durso and Pat Raguso, Dawn Erickson, Rose Fleming,