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60 YEARS



MOKENA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OUR BUSINESS TO BUSINESS SPRING NEWSLETTER



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Minor Cuts

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Contact Jayson Geanopoulos
SBA PPP Loan Associate
j.geanopoulos@towncenterbank.net
(815) 806-7011

TownCenterBank.com



WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our Mokena business to business newsletter. I'm excited to roll out this first of its kind publication. There are nearly 400 chamber member businesses that are already familiar with our organization. But for the rest of you I hope this serves as a positive introduction!

I took writing this letter very seriously since this is my first opportunity to introduce myself and the chamber to some of you. Over the past few weeks I've written, revised and rewritten this so many times. Trying to perfectly explain on just one page all the chamber does and how much we care about our business community. Attempting to relay how proud I am of all the networking events, ribbon cutting ceremonies, advocacy, and connections we have helped businesses make. How to humbly brag on the large-scale community events that our chamber couldn't pull off without dedicated volunteers, the logistical support from the governing bodies in our community, and the sponsorship dollars from our businesses. Searching for how to best describe the appreciation and gratitude I feel because all these moving parts come together to make Mokena the best community to live, work, and play in. However, as I sit at my desk today, it's deadline day for submitting this letter to our publisher. And now I realize why none of the other versions of this letter ever felt right. What I ultimately decided to write about didn't occur until last night.

After a long day at the office of "chambering" as I call it (how can you call it "work" when you enjoy it so much?) I was enjoying dinner in Mokena at a chamber member restaurant. I noticed a customer enter the dining room and eagerly walk up to the business owner. He handed him a small, yellowed, ripped piece of paper. This started to pique the interest of some of us in the dining room as we saw how closely they were looking at it. We finally came to learn that the piece of paper was a clipping of a 1968 newspaper announcement of the grand opening of this very restaurant we were sitting in. It bore a different name at the time, and we delicately passed it around and looked at photos of the interior and exterior of the building. A camaraderie was formed



In 1968 Klint's of Mokena stood where Aurelio's Pizza now operates at 19836 Wolf Road.

amongst strangers in a room as we all eagerly pointed out the various things that changed and commented on the things that stayed the same.

The customer that brought the clipping in to the restaurant even shared that this building is where his parents first met! That especially caught my attention because it so happens this is where my son's father and I met too. As I often do, this got me thinking about just how important every single business is in Mokena. Our businesses are more than just a place to buy our "stuff." When you consider there are people here today because their parents dined at, shopped at, or worked at a Mokena establishment, you realize businesses are about more than just commerce. They are also about connections. Which is why our chamber motto "creating community connections" is so fitting.

Like that tattered yellow newspaper clipping from five decades ago brought a group of strangers together over dinner one evening, I hope our chamber along with this newsletter can do the same. With more than 900 businesses in Mokena, we can't claim to all know each other. But I hope this publication can help give us all a voice so we can share our messages. Through the letter from our mayor on page 6. Through the piece about a 150-year-old building in our cherished downtown written by Matt Galik on page 18. Through the list of community events for us to enjoy together on page 15. Through the list of our beautiful parks and their many amenities on page 20.

And through the advertisements from our cherished businesses peppered throughout this newsletter, I hope we can all collectively share our love of this great town that is Mokena. And if you're not a chamber member yet, we'd love for you to come along on this journey with us. You can find a membership application on page 10!

After making it through one year of living in a COVID-19 world, it's especially important for everyone to rally around the business community. We need the support of residents and fellow businesses alike to keep our commerce healthy and robust. I hope long after you have read through this newsletter that you continue to be inspired to shop Mokena, support Mokena, and love Mokena.

And just maybe, someday decades from now this very newsletter will be passed around a dining room one evening bringing together a new group of strangers in the community for a moment of shared nostalgia and love for their community.

MELISSA FEDORA
Executive Director
Mokena Chamber of Commerce





MOKENA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 Creating Community Connections

This custom community newsletter was created and produced by Shaw Media for the:

MOKENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 11104 Front Street, Suite 1B
 Mokena, IL 60448
www.mokena.com

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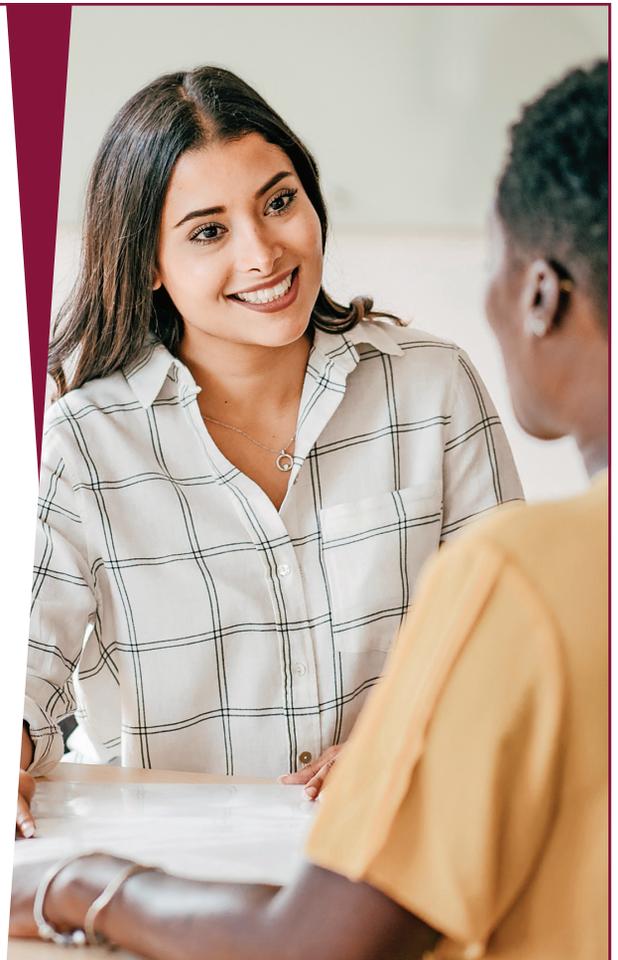
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SM-CL1861166



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

MOKENA: YOUR BUSINESS “SWEET SPOT”



Location and partnerships equate to a good business climate, and Mokena has an abundance of both. Ideally situated just south of the Cook County line between Interstate 80, LaGrange Road, and U.S. Route 30 in Will County, our residents and businesses enjoy a multitude of convenient transportation options including interstate highways, commuter rail service, and two major airports within an hour's drive. Interstate 80, which forms the northern border of Mokena, provides easy access to I-355, I-55, I-57, and I-294, and Mokena is also home to two commuter rail stations on the Rock Island District line offering quick access to the Chicago loop via Metra's LaSalle Street station.

Partnerships with local businesses and the Mokena Chamber of Commerce have been integral to growing our economy, which supports almost 900 businesses, including family-owned notables such as Ozinga and Schilling Lumber. Altorfer CAT, another family-owned business and an exclusive retailer of Caterpillar heavy equipment products and services, also recently sited its facilities within our I-80/191st Street corridor. National and regional retailers such as Meijer and JCPenney have also put down roots here over the past several years. Recent developments drawing visitors in from outside our community include Accelerate Indoor Speedway, Women's Health of Illinois, Heart Care Centers of Illinois, and a Holiday Inn Express, all easily accessible off I-80. Interest in downtown Mokena continues to grow, with Tribes Beer Company opening a production brewery on Front Street and ZAP! Taco on track to open later this year. Moreover, the craft beer scene is alive and well throughout our community, with the addition of Crafted Bottle Shop & Tap Room, and another brewery (Brotherhood Brewing) having established itself in the Corporate Corridors North business park. All in all, our future is bright, and the Village Board and I stand ready, willing, and

able to help businesses that locate in Mokena succeed and prosper.

Whether it's public or private, Mokena students receive an excellent education from top-notch K-8 schools. Mokena School District 159, Frankfort School District 157C, New Lenox School District 122, and Summit Hill School District 161, along with St. Mary School and Noonan Academy, are all options within Mokena's boundaries. These schools consistently meet or exceed State education standards and feed into Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210. Ranked academically in the upper 10% of their Illinois peers, Lincoln-Way Community High School District schools have consistently been recognized for having one of the lowest per-pupil expenditure rates among high schools located within the six-county metro Chicagoland area.

There is no shortage of recreational and leisure facilities, programs, and opportunities in Mokena either. No matter what your age, the Mokena Community Park District offers a wide variety of programs. Our community also offers a diverse breadth of family-oriented festivals and numerous activities sponsored by local civic and charitable organizations. Situated in the heart of town is a beltway encompassing over 1,500 acres of public forest preserves lush with creeks, open space, hiking and biking paths, and plenty of natural amenities for you and your family to enjoy.

Ease of transportation, quality schools, shopping, entertainment, recreational opportunities—you'll find all these and more in Mokena. I invite you to visit and discover all Mokena has to offer.

Best Regards,

FRANK FLEISCHER
Mayor, Village of Mokena

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Highlights of Advertising your Business

- This is our #1 marketing tool to promote our programs, events, leagues and services that are offered to our residents and non-residents.
- Our brochure is posted on our website, social media sites, and sent to over 10,000 households.
- This low cost advertising option is a great value for any business, large or small.



Three Brochures are Printed Yearly:

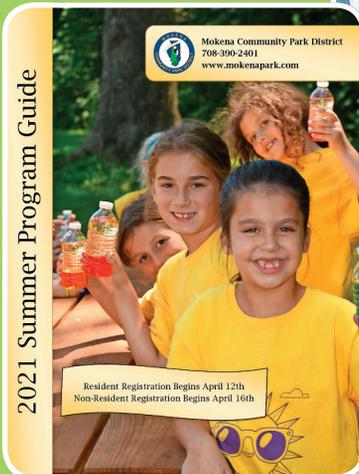
- Winter/Spring (Jan-May) • Summer (May-Sept) • Fall (Sept-Jan)

Sponsor an Event!

Mokena Community Park District relies heavily on sponsorships that make it possible for us to offer events and programs at lower rates or free of cost. We provide over 20 events throughout the year and hundreds of programs. Your business would be recognized in so many different ways!

Sponsorship Benefits:

- Your logo on event flyers, posters and online promos
- Table at the event to promote your business
- Sponsor supplied banner displayed at events
- Name listed on website and Facebook Page
- Logo/Name on all email blasts to patrons
- Special recognition at events
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Business Name _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

(Please include e-mail address to receive weekly Chamber updates)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**ONLY IF DIFFERENT THAN PHYSICAL ADDRESS*

Referred By _____

Description of Business (will be posted on Chamber website): _____

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION SHARED ON YOUR MEMBER PROFILE ON OUR WEBSITE, PLEASE CHECK ANY BOXES THAT PERTAIN TO YOUR BUSINESS.

- Veteran Owned
- Woman Owned
- Minority Owned

Signature _____ Date _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Regular Membership	\$195.00	\$ _____
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 708-479-2468 (p) • 708-479-7144 (f) • chamber@mokena.com • www.mokena.com

Membership Fee Payment: Please submit FULL payment with application. Payment is non-refundable.

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MOKENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 9, 2021



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 New Lenox, IL 60451
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Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Website: _____ Item for Sale (if any): _____

Describe Exhibit (List items over 100 lbs.): _____

Signature _____

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BOOTH SPACE: A single booth space is 12' X 12'. You will need to provide your own table and chairs. Sorry, electricity is not available. Event is rain or shine.

EXHIBITOR FEES	
Chamber Member Booth (Must be a member of one or both Chambers to qualify for the member rate)	\$125
Non-Chamber Member (Includes 1 year membership to both chambers)	\$350
Non-Profit & Taxing Bodies Booth	\$75
Home Based Business	\$75
TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

Please Remit Payment:

Mokena Chamber of Commerce

11104 Front Street
 Mokena, IL 60448
 Phone: 708-479-2468
 Chamber@mokena.com
 www.mokena.com/payments

OR

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 emily@newlenoxchamber.com

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MOKENA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 Creating Community Connections

ANNUAL EVENTS

APRIL 3, 2021
 Easter Scavenger Hunt

MAY 15, 2021
 Lincoln-Way Joint-Chamber
 Community Expo
 New Lenox Village Commons

JUNE 9, 2021
 Golf Outing
 The Sanctuary Golf Course

JULY 4, 2021
 4th of July Parade
 Wolf Road

JULY 17, 2021
 2nd Annual Garden Walk

OCTOBER 30, 2021
 Halloween Scavenger Hunt

NOVEMBER 20, 2021
 Parade of Lights
 Front Street

DECEMBER 11, 2021
 Holiday Hoopla Palooza
 Front Street

Events and dates are subject to change.
 Please check Mokena.com
 for updated information.



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SM-CL1864008

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

FROM OCTOBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Thank you to these businesses for reinvesting in the Mokena Chamber for another year.

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American Combustion Service, Inc.
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Apex3 C.P.A.
Area Landscape Supply, Inc
Assure Home Inspections, Inc.
B & K Auto Rebuilders
Beggars Pizza
Berkots Super Foods
Berman Capital Management
& Research
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Brookhaven Marketplace
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Capitol Nutrition
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Holiday Inn Express & Suites Mokena
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Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
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K Brothers Fence, Inc.
KGM - Home Inspection Inc.
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Latko Wealth Management
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LincolnWay Community Bank
Lincoln-Way Realty, Inc.
LincolnWay Special Recreation
Association
Lionheart Financial Ltd.
Lisa Thomas Salon
Little Al's Bar & Grill
Little Blossom Early Education
Maertín Heating & Cooling
Martin Whalen Office Solutions
Mary Kay - Michelle DePaolis
MBLO Funding, Inc
McCutcheon Insurance Agency
Medulla, LLC
Mental Edge Counseling, LLC
Minuteman Press of Frankfort
Mokena Community Park District
Mokena Dist. 159
Educational Foundation
Mokena Foot & Ankle Clinic
Mokena Lions Club
Mokena School District #159
Mokena Woman's Club

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Nancy's Pizza of Mokena
Need-A-Hand Handyman Services
Noonan Elementary Academy
Old Plank Trail Community Bank
On Site Mobile Drug Testing, Inc.
O'Neill & Gaspardo, LLC
Ozinga
Patterson Dental Center
Peace Lutheran Church
Peggy S. Mathews, Inc.
Phillips Chevrolet
Point Blank Range & Gunshop
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Quinlan Security Systems, Inc.
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Creating Community Connections

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TO YOUR BUSINESS

With 2020 behind us, many of us that own small businesses are still looking for that pot of gold and bright light through the clouds. 2021 is the year to think outside the box. 2021 is the year to do something new. So many of us get set in our ways, our routine, and want to maintain our comfort. 2021 is the year to get uncomfortable. It is the year to start something new. The year to have new ideas and new experiences. The year to think outside the box. When we have been doing the same thing for two or even twenty years, it is hard for us to see fresh and new ideas. It is hard for us to envision something else working for us. It is an essential time to evaluate your marketing strategy and try something new.

First, check out your social media platforms. Which ones are you using? Which ones should you be using? Every social media platform is not for every business. You must determine who your audience is and which social media platforms you want to invest in. Do you need to actively use and update Google and Yelp? Look at everything to determine what you need to do to generate new business and leads.

Are you wondering which social media channels are most used? Let us dig in for a minute. Facebook is and remains the most used social media platform. In Q3 of 2020*, the network reported 2.7 billion active users. This year, Facebook has added new features to personal and business pages. It is important to know the changes and how they will affect your business.

Now, onto Instagram! Instagram has 1 billion active users and 500 million* of these users are using the Instagram stories feature, daily. Are you? Should you? The largest demographic of Instagram is women aged 18-24 years old. I see far too many people sharing images and flyers that are cut off and blurry on Instagram. Find out what you need to do and what you should be posting on Instagram. You should not be sharing the same posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Do you use LinkedIn? More than 722 million users* are on it! 96% of B2B marketers use LinkedIn on a regular basis. Do you sell B2B? Are you using LinkedIn effectively? Long content posts actively do well on LinkedIn. I could talk all day about the different social media platforms, but your marketing should not end with social media.

Depending on your industry and who your audience is, you need to stay fresh and new. That means you should incorporate some type of print in your marketing strategy. Some examples include: updating your business cards (make sure you have an electronic version too), direct mailing campaigns, or magazine ads. Has print marketing changed over the years? Absolutely, but depending on your audience, you may still want to incorporate print into your marketing strategy. Are you involved in community events, expos or sponsoring an upcoming gala?

Do not let your designs be cookie cutter and get lost in the shuffle? It is important to design something that will grab attention! You are not like the other businesses in your field, so do not be cookie cutter. That is where Magical Marketing comes in for you! Let us help with fresh and new ideas for you. Let us evaluate your current marketing strategy. You do the business and let Magical Marketing bring the magic.

*www.statista.com



"Thinking outside the box is what we do everyday, every single time."

-Robin Curtner Owner/Founder

Magical Marketing
BY ROBIN

You Do The Business We Do The Magic



Magical Marketing by Robin is a digital marketing boutique that specializes in social media management. We also offer a variety of services from email campaign management, graphic design and branding services. Let us design your logo and take your social media to levels you could not even imagine.

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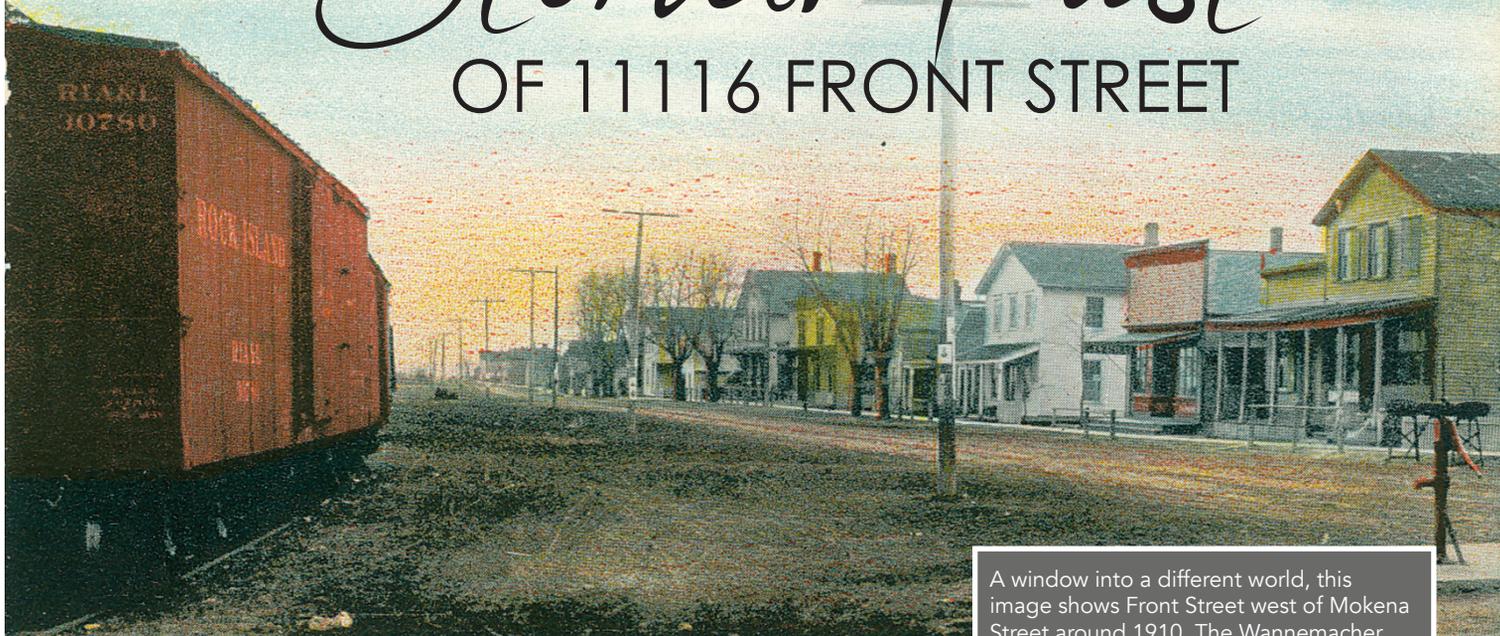
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By MATT GALIK

THE *Storied Past* OF 11116 FRONT STREET



A window into a different world, this image shows Front Street west of Mokena Street around 1910. The Wannemacher building can be seen at center.

On a walk down Front Street, one is greeted by many familiar sights.

Here the Curtain Call Theater, there Tribes Beer Company, not to mention other local mainstays. As part of our village streetscape, so many of these buildings are easy to take for granted.

NOTWITHSTANDING, our most historic structures demand our appreciation, one of which is at 11116 Front Street, which most recently was known as Paul E's restaurant. In the last two decades of the twentieth century, this place was A Pizza, a Front Street fixture. A well-known gathering place for Mokena's youth, this writer whiled away countless hours here with his friends, counting many days of joy and mirth in this spot, which on more than a few weekends, could become quite crowded. It's easy to find a Mokenian who can remember both of these eateries, but the history of this landmark reaches back well over 150 years, and includes more than a few interesting personalities.



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Built around 1870 and boasting decorative wooden brackets and framed windows, this rambling structure is a stunning example of the vernacular Italianate architecture that was popular in the American Midwest during the aftermath of the Civil War. The building's northern half, tucked behind the main structure like a shy child, is of an even older vintage, displaying features of houses seen in this area during the 1850s, the earliest period of Mokena's history. Whether this older section has always stood at this site or if it was moved from elsewhere and tacked onto the rest of the edifice, is long since lost to time.

Ferdinand Schiek kept a saloon here beginning in the 1870s, and appears to have maintained it until at least the end of 1891, after which he perished in an 1897 fire in Joliet. Schiek was a member of a time-honored German family who settled near where the village would later stand as early as 1848, when they fled their homeland during a tumultuous period of revolution. Ferdinand and his wife Louisa sold the property to Civil War hero Charles Moriarty and his brothers George and Frank a few days before Christmas 1891 for \$2,400, who also maintained a watering hole here. They weren't long for the place, for the Moriartys flipped it just a little over a year later in January 1893 to John Wannemacher, a member of a local farming family.

Wannemacher himself would serve beer here for decades, until his son George took over for him, who ultimately was put out of business by Prohibition. George later opened a grocery store in the spot in 1925, and after 39 years in business, his nephew Wilbur Teske took over the store in 1964. Around town it was affectionately known simply as Wilbur's, and was known amongst Mokena children as a locale where penny candy could be had.

The chronology aside, this place has had a colorful history. Saloonist and former owner Ferdinand Schiek found himself indicted by the Will County grand jury in 1879 for "selling drink to a habitual drunkard," which was a prelude to an even more piquant chapter in the 20th century. In 1920, Prohibition became the law of the land, and once Mokena went dry, the village's tavern keepers officially found other professions. In order to prove there was no shady business going on, they removed the coverings over their storefront windows. Oddly, George Wannemacher's stayed in place, and when the village board, of which he was a member, asked him what was going



Seen here around 1950, the store of George Wannemacher was a Front Street mainstay for decades. Today this building bears the address 11116 Front Street. (Image Courtesy of Richard Quinn)

on, he became oddly defensive. Rumors swirled around town, which eventually made their way to the county seat at Joliet. So it was that on the evening of January 19th, 1925, Will County Sheriff's deputies raided the property, and discovered gambling equipment such as punch boards, as well as illegal moonshine, whiskey and wine. These items and Wannemacher himself were hauled to Joliet by the deputies. The village trustee made bail, but wound up paying a \$700 fine for keeping these materials on his property.

Nowadays, the old place is for sale, and its future is in question. It's been vacant for more than several years, and word on the street is that it's not in optimal shape. When knowledgeable villagers are asked about this landmark, the asker is told with a downturned voice and furrowed brow that it "needs work." As one of the lasts of its era in our village, it is imperative that this building be saved, if not for us, then for future Mokenians, so that they may understand where we came from as a community. Renown American author Robert Heinlein said "A generation which ignores history has no past – and no future." Mokena, will this be our fate?

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to Whitmore Ace Hardware Mokena and all their customers who rounded up their change in January! By rounding up your change at check-out you all donated \$1,241.51 to the Mokena Chamber! Our funding was greatly affected in 2020 with the cancellation of our large community events and fundraisers. As a non-profit organization the Mokena Chamber greatly appreciates all of your change, and the generosity of Whitmore Ace Hardware for hosting the round-up campaign in their stores.

Pictured left to right: Store manager Lisa Matjasich presents Executive Director Melissa Fedora a ceremonial check for the donation round-up amount for the month of January.



MOKENA
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Creating Community Connections



Park Name & Location	Park Acres	Admin. Center	Bagger Court	Bandshell	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Courts	Booce Court	Climbing Wall	Community Gardens	Dog Park	Fitness Center	Football	Meeting/Rental Rooms	Picnic Area/Gazebo	Pickleball Court	Playground w/ benches	Rest Rooms	Roller Hockey Crts.	Skate Park	Soccer	Splash Pad	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Crts.	Walking Path/Track (mile)
Acorn Park- 19925 Red Oak Dr.	1.64																							
Boulder Ridge North- 19237 Beaver Creek Ln.	0.5																							
Brookside Meadows- 19715 Longmeadow, TP	2.67																							
Buske Park- 11435 W. Hillside Ln.	7.52																							1/8
Fox Ridge Park - 19740 Telluride Ln.	10.26																							1/4
Grasmere Park- 10335 W. Lindsay Ln.	14																							1/2
Green Meadows- 10520 W. Williams Way	10																							1/2
Hecht Park- 9310 W. Birch Ave.	16.25																							1/2
Heritage Park- 11945 W. 197th St.	6.4																							
London Bridge Park- 11880 London Bridge Dr.	4.74																							1/4
Main Park- 10925 LaPorte Rd.	33.5																							1/2
Manchester Cove- 19205 Crescent Dr.	2.2																							
Marley Creek- 10555 W. Jacob Dr.	5.5																							1/4
McGovney Park- 19345 Schoolhouse Rd.	8.1																							
Oaks Recreation & Fitness Ctr, 10847 La Porte Rd.																								1/12
Oaks Disc Golf Course (27 holes)	32																							
Prairie Ridge Park - 21431 Coneflower Dr.	5.5																							
Riivendell Park- 605 Bryan, New Lenox	1.5																							
Timbers Point- 18418 White Oak Ln., TP	0.58																							
Tinley Gardens Park- Lenore/Ethyl Lns., TP	0.5																							
Whisper Creek Park ¹ - Whsper Creek Way & Palmira	6.3																							
Willowview Park- 11420 W. 197th St.	8.36																							
Yunker Park- 10824 La Porte Rd.																								
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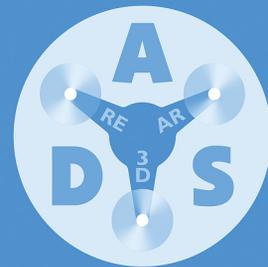
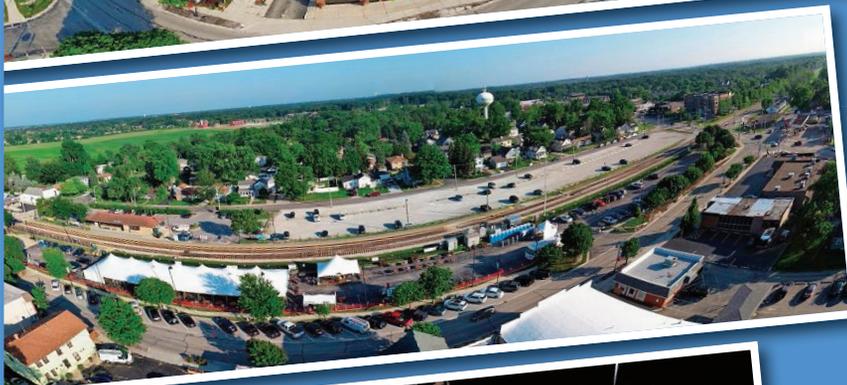
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The Mokena Lion's Club **DRIVE-THRU** Egg "Hunt"

Saturday, March 27 at Noon

At Mokena Elementary School | 11244 Willowcrest Lane, Mokena

We will have the Easter Bunny
as well as Rory The Mokena Lion!

Please be on time as we have a limited number
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Mokena Lions Club
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