

*Celebrating*  
60 YEARS



# MOKENA

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## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FALL NEWSLETTER 2021  
*A BUSINESS NEWSLETTER FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY*

Photo courtesy of resident Tom Hahn.

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PAGE 9**



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# WELCOME



## GET TO KNOW MATT ZISKA

Village of Mokena's new Community & Economic Development Director!

*Mokena Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melissa Fedora held a 'Question and Answer' session this month with Matt Ziska.*

**Title:** Community & Economic Development Director

**Age:** 35

**How many years have you worked for the Village of Mokena?** 13

**What other positions have you held before your current role?**

- Planning Technician
- Building & Planning Technician
- Building, Planning, & Economic Development Specialist
- Building & Planning Director



**MELISSA FEDORA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### ■ What do you think sets the business community apart in Mokena from other towns?

I've always been amazed by the amount of support our local business owners provide for one another, as well as their commitment to shopping locally. We are also fortunate to have so many first-generation businesses that are unique to Mokena and can't be found anywhere else. These businesses have become engrained in our community's identity and provide us with those pleasant reminders of being home.

### ■ What's an accomplishment you are most proud of during your time working here?

Looking back, making the transition from Planner to Building Official was probably one of the most challenging and rewarding accomplishments of my career. While building and zoning codes are intrinsically linked, they are drastically different in practice, and require different levels of visualization.

### ■ What's something you are most looking forward to accomplishing/working on now that you are in your new role?

At this point, I'm still focused on providing a smooth transition for our Staff, elected officials, residents, and the business community, but I'm looking forward to the new opportunities and

experiences that this role brings, and the people that I'll meet.

### ■ Where did you grow up?

Right next door in Homer Glen

### ■ What college(s) have you attended?

I received my Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign, and eventually went back to obtain my Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois – Chicago while working full time for the Village. Between degrees I also picked up certifications in commercial, industrial, and residential building codes.

### ■ What's your favorite food?

It really depends on my mood, but generally speaking, I'd say I am a "steak and potatoes" kind of guy. Not very exciting – I know.

### ■ What are some of your favorite shows?

I don't watch much TV these days, but my go-to's tend to be: Forensic Files, Family Guy, Simpsons, Seinfeld, and King of Queens.

### ■ Did you play any sports in high school and/or college?

I played baseball and ran track in high school, and have always been active in club sports like basketball, indoor

soccer, and slow-pitch or 16-inch softball leagues.

### ■ Can you play an instrument?

Yes - I actually took about 3 or 4 years of piano lessons back in grade school, and still tinker on the keys every now and then; but my true love is the guitar. I have a few guitars and a banjo, but sadly, they're all collecting dust in my closet right now.

### ■ What's the last concert/live show you've attended?

It would have to be either Disney on Ice with my daughter, or the Kenny Chesney, Thomas Rhett, and Old Dominion concert at Soldier Field. I am a HUGE fan of live music, and was always going to concerts before the pandemic hit.

### ■ What's your favorite holiday?

Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. There's always a rush of nostalgia once decorations go up, and people also seem to be a bit happier around that time of year.

### ■ When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

I always said that I wanted to be a "business man" without really knowing what that meant; but looking back now, I would say that my current role pretty much fits that mold.





# 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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# MOKENA

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Creating Community Connections

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Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE JOURNEY TO

# Enhanced Wellness

During the last grueling year, the fear of contracting the Covid-19 virus has increased stress and decreased wellness. People focused on day-to-day survival, waited out shut-downs, and suffered through quarantines.

Concern for personal wellness took a backseat, while weight gain, stress, and isolation secured a toll on everyone. Despite these setbacks, it is possible to enhance personal wellness and increase the quality of life by living in the present, putting a stop to the "Blame Game", moving, sleeping, laughing, focusing on emotional, social, and intellectual needs, and seeking additional help when needed.

### **LIVING IN THE PRESENT AND THE "BLAME GAME"**

When bad things occur, humans tend to place the blame on everything else except themselves. It is easy to blame the unfairness of life and fall into detrimental habits of poor nutrition, elevated stress, sleep deficit, and inadequate physical activity. Taking responsibility and changing these habits can be challenging, so take small steps and make important improvements.

Eliminate harmful behaviors such as smoking, excessive drinking or eating ultra-processed foods and choose healthy habits like increasing water intake, managing stress, and eating wholesome foods. Choices made in the present will affect the future.

---

### **MOVEMENT, SLEEP AND LAUGHTER**

Exercise alone will not thwart disease, but a sedentary lifestyle will encourage

it. Movement is a remedy. Sitting for long periods of time is harmful, so make positive changes. Set a daily step goal and wear a pedometer to monitor it. Get up from the chair every hour and walk around whether at work or home. Small changes in a daily routine can add steps which may help to offset disease. High stress levels can lead to poor quality of sleep which can wreak havoc on one's body and mind. To maintain a healthy weight, sleep is essential, and electronic devices can



interfere with it. Eliminate or minimize TV and other electronic distractions at least an hour before bedtime to help in obtaining a good night's rest. Additionally, laughter truly is one of the best medicines, and can bring one's body and mind into balance. There are many physical, mental, and social benefits to laughter. These include lessening anxiety and stress, boosting immunity, improving mood, preventing heart disease, and strengthening relationships.

#### EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS

Life's difficult challenges, a sense of isolation or a feeling of depression may cause mental and emotional breakdowns. Meditating, relaxation techniques

and practicing gratitude may improve emotional needs. Nature walks in the sunshine boosts necessary Vitamin D levels and creates a sense of well-being. Attempting to stay positive and maintain a sense of purpose in life is the key to a healthy intellect. Social interactions and family connections are also important for improved wellness. Connect with others by taking a group exercise class or join others in learning a new skill or hobby. Support and volunteer groups are available to find connections with people, to make friends, and to feel supported.

#### PROFESSIONAL HELP

Lastly, it is important to recognize when professional help is required. Depres-

sion and sadness can be different than having feelings of hopelessness. Too many people die by suicide. It takes a few moments to reach out to someone who is suffering and let them know you can listen. A primary physician is a good starting point if one is unsure about where to turn to for help. Additional resources include The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline who provide free and confidential 24/7 support.

Take small steps to manage stress; create healthy habits while eliminating unsound ones and find a wellness tribe of individuals to connect with are all steps to the worthwhile journey of enhanced wellness!

#### BY KRISTIN EHLER

Kristin Ehler has helped others feel better physically and mentally for the last 25 years as a personal trainer and health coach; to then managing wellness teams in various local communities. She is currently the Fitness and Wellness Supervisor at the Mokena Community Park District.

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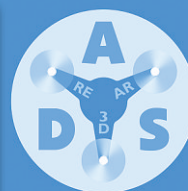
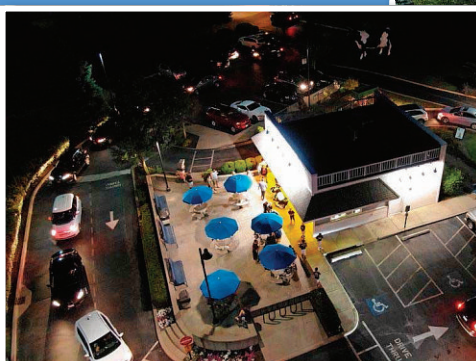
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The Mokena Chamber of Commerce wishes our fallen hero PFC Aaron Toppen a happy heavenly birthday on September 28.

On September 25, celebrate Aaron's legacy and the sacrifice he made for us. Participate in the annual Our Fallen Hero 5K Run/Walk benefitting the USO.

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# CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

FROM MARCH 1 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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

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*Schedule is subject to change. Some activities have a fee.  
Activities are available while supplies last.*

## Sponsorship Opportunities for Halloween Hollow!

The Mokena Community Park District would like to invite you to become a valued sponsor of the 39th Annual Halloween Hollow, one of Mokena's largest events and a community tradition. To make this event the best it can be, the Park District relies heavily on support from local businesses and organizations. Show your support for the community by sponsoring this popular event.

For more information or to sponsor an event, call Kara Jelderks at 708-390-2409 or email [kjelderks@mokenapark.com](mailto:kjelderks@mokenapark.com)

Sponsor benefits include (depending on your sponsor level):

- Booth space at the event.
- Your logo on our website event page and Facebook page.
- PA announcements at the event.
- Your banner displayed at the event.
- Your logo on event marketing materials and email blasts to patrons.



# Mokena Chamber of Commerce's Halloween **SCAVENGER** Hunt

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021 • 10:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.



## HOW TO PLAY:

Trick-or-Treat at any of our 20 participating chamber member locations while looking for a secret decoration! Once you find it, drop one of your raffle tickets into the bucket next to the decoration. The more places you visit and find the decoration, the more chances to win!

## HOW TO REGISTER:

Sign up your child(ren) for only \$5!  
On Saturday, October 30th, visit the Chamber Office to pick up a candy bag, raffle tickets, and scavenger hunt map. The chamber will open at 10:15 a.m. Located at 11104 Front Street, Suite 1B across from the Metra station.

## WHAT TO WIN:

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to one child from each age group (2-4 years, 5-7 years, 8-10 years, and 11+).

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE! REGISTER AT [WWW.MOKENA.COM](http://WWW.MOKENA.COM)**

*THERE IS A PARTICIPANT LIMIT OF 200 CHILDREN. SORRY, NO REFUNDS. RAIN OR SHINE.*

Businesses: Would you like to participate or sponsor? Contact the chamber office to find out how you can participate in this popular community event!

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**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 20  
AT 5 P.M.**

**ON FRONT STREET  
HEADING EAST FROM  
WOLF ROAD TO DIVISION STREET.**

**FREE  
COMMUNITY EVENT**

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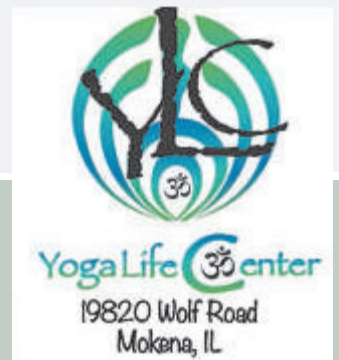


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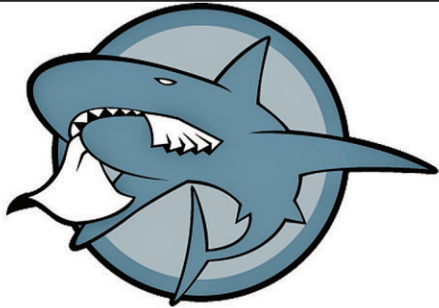




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## PARADE OF TREES ON FRONT STREET –

Food, Toy, Pet Supply Drive and Competition!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 5 TO 7 P.M.**

Vote in person for your favorite decorated business tree on Front Street! Bring as many items as you want to donate to the following: non-perishable food items for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry, and/or new unwrapped toys for Tow Trucks For Tots, and/or pet food and items for N.A.W.S. Humane Society of Illinois. Put your items under your favorite tree(s). Each item counts as 1 vote! Have a tree you really want to see win? Then bring multiple items! It's all going to worthy causes. The business with the most items under their tree at 7 p.m. receives a free tree in 2022 and a \$50 gift card to a fellow chamber member business. Trees will be located on Front Street and Wolf Road near the Front Street Frosty!

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