

Cook County clears storm debris

100,000 cubic yards removed; another \$8M pledged toward effort

By Elena Tittel
DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said about 100,000 cubic yards of debris has been removed from south suburban areas affected by severe storms in August, and pledged another \$8 million to continue that effort.

The funding comes in response to the Aug.

11 storms that swept across Southern Cook County, burdening many areas with the task of repairing severe storm damage. The county committed to about two weeks of work across affected south municipalities, officials said.

The county has already worked with municipalities and mutual aid partners to provide disaster relief. The new money, from the county's disaster relief fund and county funding, will go directly toward helping municipalities pay companies and crews that can provide sufficient cleanup, county officials said.

Alexander Joves, executive director of Cook County Emergency Management Services, said while there is more work to do,

the county's investment will increase municipalities' ability to remove remaining debris and continue the recovery process.

"There is a tremendous amount of work that lies ahead. For some of our smaller municipalities, the scale of that work can exceed their available equipment, personnel and financial resources," Joves said. "This is where Cook County and Emergency Management and Regional Security makes the difference."

Preckwinkle issued a disaster proclamation Aug. 14 as a result of widespread severe storms. Destructive straight-line winds and three EF-1 tornadoes came through Tinley Park, Orland Park, Country Club Hills, Home-

wood, Flossmoor, Glenwood, Lansing and several other towns, according to a news release.

Homewood Mayor Rich Hofeld told the Southtown he had never seen storms like this before.

Hofeld said he watched more than 1,500 trees come down, even one at his own home, as two EF-1 tornadoes hit the Homewood-Flossmoor area.

"I had never seen anything like it," Hofeld told the Southtown.

He said taking care of stumps and branches will continue throughout the winter and

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Vendors Tina Carso and Candy Fitzgibbon at Three Sisters Antique Mall on Friday in Blue Island. Three Sisters has more than 90 vendors. **ELENA TITTEL/DAILY SOUTHTOWN PHOTOS**

A long time in business

Three Sisters Antique Mall celebrates 30 years in Blue Island

By Elena Tittel
DAILY SOUTHTOWN

When Joseph Murphy purchased an old variety store, he and his family dreamed of establishing Blue Island as an antique destination. Thirty years later, he and his family are reflecting on how they created a community space for vintage and antique lovers across all generations.

Three Sisters Antique Mall, 13042 S. Western Ave., opened in July 1996 and was named after Murphy's three daughters: Jackie, Julie and Cara. The building occupies former F.W. Woolworth five-and-dime, a variety store built in 1918 that closed in 1993.

"I put my heart and soul into this place," Murphy said. "We've been really



Some cars in one of Andrew Soukup's cases at Three Sisters Antique Mall.

committed to making sure it has lasted, and I think we've gotten through the worst of times."

The 14,000-square-foot space hosts more than 90 different vendors selling hundreds of antiques and

collectibles. It has two levels open to the public, with the third level belonging to Murphy and his wife.

Since opening, the store has undergone a complete transformation. Much of the original structures have

been torn down to create large spaces for vendors to set up booths and cases. For example, the old basement has shingles for dealers to hang signs and a cobblestone

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Three Sisters Antique Mall in Blue Island has more than 90 vendors.

Orland Park holds off on speed cameras

Village board allows fines for parents after teen takeovers

By Olivia Stevens
DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Orland Park Village Board members held off Monday on plans to bring speed cameras to the village but will crack down on teen takeovers by fining parents and guardians.

After proposing multiple public safety policy changes Sept. 21, the board agreed Monday to take more time before purchasing speed cameras.

As state law prohibits municipalities outside Chicago from issuing traffic citations based on speed camera data, Orland Park attorneys plan to look closer at officials' plan to issue fines under the village's nuisance ordinance.

"There were a lot of people that were in favor of the speed enforcement cameras," board member John Lawler said. "So it's not gone, we're just tabling it for now until we do more research."

The village planned to purchase and install two cameras from Itasca-based company DacraTech near Carl Sandburg High School and another two near Orland District 135 schools on West 151st Street.

Board members said a public survey sent out Oct. 1 showed strong community support for the cameras and other proposed safety measures.

"It seems like almost everybody answered 'in favor' for all of these," member Michael Milani said. "These all sound like something that the public want — they realize that there are some issues that we need to address."

TEEN AND STREET TAKEOVERS

The board moved forward with other changes to the village code, including measures to prevent street and teen takeovers. The village will now hold parents responsible if they fail "to make all reasonable, necessary and effective efforts" to prevent their children from engaging in either activity, following in the footsteps of other municipalities.

Parents and guardians can be fined jointly or separately from children who engage in large disturbances that threaten the safety of residents, damage public or private property, disrupt governmental services and place extraordinary demands on law enforcement and emergency

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State Farm raising homeowners insurance rates by 8% in Illinois

By Robert Channick
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It may not cause the sticker shock of last year's whopping increase, but State Farm is set to raise homeowners insurance rates in Illinois by another nearly 8% this fall, according to a recent filing with the state.

The increase went into effect for new policies on Oct. 1, while current customers will see the higher rates beginning in December. Bloomington-based State Farm has about 1.49 million homeowners policy holders in Illinois, according

to the filing.

State Farm said the rate increase is once again driven by catastrophic losses related to extreme weather events in Illinois.

"Across Illinois, more customers are experiencing firsthand the effects of severe weather trends that are more frequent and severe — and related repair costs continue to increase," a State Farm spokesperson said in a statement. "To remain financially prepared to pay claims as risks and costs change, State Farm is making rate adjustments."

The 8% increase will add about

\$10 per month to the average Illinois homeowners insurance bill, the company told the Tribune Monday. State Farm has paid out \$1.22 in claims and expenses for every \$1 in premiums collected the past three years in Illinois, the company said.

Last year, State Farm hit Illinois homeowners with a 27.2% rate increase — one of the largest in the state's history — and also implemented a minimum 1% deductible on all wind and hail losses, raising the out-of-pocket costs for

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Debris lies on the ground on March 11 after a tornado struck the evening before along South Sandbar Road in Aroma Park. The homes border the Kankakee River. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**