

# City of Palos Heights News and Updates



November, 2019

## CITY SAVES \$\$ ON EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE COSTS

*City Council approves 2020 Health Insurance Renewal.*

At the November 19 City Council meeting, the Finance Committee presented a motion to approve a health insurance contract renewal with United Healthcare for calendar year 2020. Each year, as the contract comes up for renewal, the City shops around to ensure our quote is competitive. This year after shopping a few different companies, United Healthcare proposed a 3% renewal premium for 2020. They also offered a premium waiver for December, 2019 that saves the City approximately \$111,000. When we include the December credit with the 2020 premium, it comes out to approximately a -5.3%.

## SIDEWALKS IN PALOS HEIGHTS

*Are They a Feasible Option?*

Over the years, residents have occasionally inquired about installing sidewalks through the residential areas of town. Palos Heights is unique in the fact that, unlike our neighboring towns, most of our side streets do not have sidewalks. Recently, at our "Mayor for a Day" program, a couple of students indicated that if they were Mayor, they would install sidewalks. So, we put their campaign promises to the test. Are sidewalks really a feasible option in Palos Heights?

The City's engineering firm, Morris Engineering, Inc. completed a preliminary study to come up with an estimate of cost to install the sidewalks. The project would involve many different sub-projects, including such things as: tree removal, earth excavation, driveway pavement removal and replacement, mailbox relocations, utility pole relocations, fire hydrant relocations, and adjustments to culverts, water mains, storm sewers, and sanitary lines.

The bottom line preliminary estimate is \$985,720.50 per block (an estimated 10 residents). That comes out to almost \$100,000 per home. That is a lot of tax dollars.

## CAN'T GET ENOUGH PALOS HEIGHTS NEWS?

Check out the Channel 4 Palos Heights videos on YouTube. All the latest news is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/phtv4/videos>. You will find a variety of news updates including: City News, Financial News, Library events, City events, City Council meetings, and much more.