

Maine Township News Release

Maine Township Town Hall
1700 Ballard Road Park Ridge, IL 60068-1006
847-297-2510 Fax 847-297-1335

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For information contact:

Dick Barton, 847-720-4495

Maine Township Promotes Samaan as New Code Enforcement Officer

Michael Samaan, 28, is Maine Township's new Code Enforcement Officer. His appointment was approved by the Township Board earlier this month. Samaan most recently worked in the Township's Maintenance Department where he started in 2003. He replaces Larry Bunyon who left for a position with Cook County Homeland Security.

As a graduate of St. Patrick's High School, Chicago, Samaan also studied criminal justice at Triton College and Wright College. He is avid hockey fan and also plays on three men's teams.

"The Code Enforcement Officer is a vital position, since he is working with residents on a daily basis to get cooperation on areas affecting sanitation, appearance, and other issues such as weed control," says Carol A. Teschky, Township Supervisor.

Samaan said, "I look forward to learning as quickly as possible and doing my best to keep the unincorporated areas of Maine Township looking good for everyone's benefit."

In 1997, the Code Enforcement Officer was created as a full-time position in Maine Township. It was one of the first Townships in Illinois to do so following passage of state law. According to Teschky, the law granted Maine Township the authority to enforce property maintenance, garbage and parking ordinances—something it previously could not do. She said, "The Code Enforcement Office was started in response to complaints from residents of the unincorporated area that local building and land use codes were not being enforced. The lack of code enforcement resulted in a deterioration of the quality of property in the area."

Code Enforcement Officer – add one

Samaan said his goal is to ensure compliance with community standards that will result in an improved quality of life for all residents and a continuing increase in property values for homeowners. He will seek to achieve this goal through educating residents about their responsibilities as property owners. Among the possible areas of concern to the Code Enforcement Office are vehicle storage, garbage, exterior maintenance, accessory building and materials, vegetation, driveways and walkways, infestation and extermination, parkways and snow removal.

Residents concerned that Township codes are not being obeyed may report concerns to the Code Enforcement Office by calling 847-297-2510, Ext. 259 to leave a message or by writing a letter addressed to 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Once a complaint has been received, Samaan will visit the property in question to assess the situation. He will then try to contact the property owner personally to discuss the code violation. If the property owner is not present at the time of inspection, he will write up a Notice of Deficiency which will detail the specific code violation and what steps are required to bring the property back into compliance.

The notice includes a warning that a fine of up to \$500 may be assessed if the violation is not corrected within 10 days. After 10 days, he will check the property to see if the deficiency has been corrected. If no correction has been made then a second notice will be left at the property and a phone call will be attempted to speak directly with the owner. If compliance is still not achieved then a fine will be issued.

For more information on township codes and other information, visit www.mainetownship.com or call 847-297-2510.

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