

Dawn Gesky

From: Stan Gromer <mallclerks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 8:36 AM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request — Supplemental Request: Post-Meeting Communications Regarding Village Attorney Dispute (June 19–26, 2026)

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, I hereby submit this supplemental public records request. This request follows a prior FOIA submitted on June 19, 2026 regarding the dismissal of Village Attorney Joe Cainkar and the appointment of James Vasselli. That request covered communications through June 19, 2026. This request covers the period immediately following — June 19 through June 26, 2026 — during which the dispute has continued and further actions may have been taken by village officials.

I request copies of the following records:

1. All communications — including but not limited to emails, text messages, direct messages, voicemail transcripts, letters, memoranda, and notes — sent or received between June 19, 2026 and June 26, 2026, by or among any of the following individuals:

- Mayor Annette LaMore
- Trustee Joel Gesky
- Trustee CJ Boudreau
- Trustee Todd Crockett
- Trustee Annette Zimbelman
- All other sitting Manteno Village Trustees
- Village Clerk
- Village Administrator Chris LaRocque
- James Vasselli and/or any attorney or staff member of Vasselli Law
- Joe Cainkar and/or any attorney or staff member of Louis S. Cainkar LTD

...pertaining to: the status of Joe Cainkar's dismissal or reinstatement; the emergency appointment of James Vasselli; the board's authority over the village attorney position; any anticipated or filed legal action arising from the June 16, 2026 board meeting; any communications with outside legal counsel retained or considered by any trustee or the

board collectively; and any communications regarding the village's legal representation in the pending *Concerned Citizens of Manteno v. Village of Manteno & Gotion* litigation.

2. Any legal opinions, correspondence, or research received or generated between June 19–26, 2026 regarding the mayor's appointment powers, the board's reinstatement vote, or the emergency appointment provision.

3. Any communications with the Village's insurer or risk management counsel regarding the attorney dispute or anticipated litigation.

4. Any communications between village officials and third parties — including media, residents, or other government officials — regarding the status of the village attorney position during this period.

Regarding Text Messages and Personal Devices

As stated in my prior request, Illinois FOIA expressly covers all electronic communications pertaining to public business regardless of the device used. 5 ILCS 140/2. This request encompasses text messages sent or received on personal devices by the Mayor and each Trustee individually. All custodians of potentially responsive records must be directed to search personal devices and accounts for responsive communications.

Notice of Duty to Preserve Records

This request renews and extends the preservation demand issued in my June 19, 2026 FOIA request. All records responsive to this request — and all records responsive to the prior request — must be preserved immediately. The village attorney dispute remains active and unresolved, litigation has been publicly predicted by village trustees on the record, and the *Concerned Citizens* case is in active discovery. The duty to preserve is not limited to official village accounts and devices. It extends to personal phones, personal email accounts, and any other medium used by village officials to conduct public business.

Destruction of any responsive record — on any device, by any official — after receipt of either this request or the June 19 request may constitute spoliation of evidence and could carry serious legal consequences in any resulting litigation.

Format and Fee Waiver

I request records in native electronic format where available.

I request a fee waiver pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/6(c) on the grounds that I am a representative of the news media — specifically, the operator of BradleyIllinois.com and BourbonnaisIllinois.com, hyperlocal news publications serving Kankakee County — and

that these records will be used for news reporting purposes contributing to public understanding of the operations of a unit of local government. News media requesters are entitled to a fee waiver for the first 50 pages and are not subject to search and review fees under Illinois FOIA.

In the alternative, please provide a fee estimate before proceeding if costs are expected to exceed \$25.

As required by 5 ILCS 140/3(d), I request a response within five business days of receipt of this request.

Please direct any questions or correspondence to me

Thanks

Stan

5:36

5G 32

New iMessage



To: **Annette Lamore**

7:00 would be better for me as well

Mon, Jun 22 at 4:17 PM

Because of a technicality, and because Steven Orth is out of town, we cannot have this meeting on Wednesday. We will try for Thursday if everything works out according to the regulations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time on

5:36

5G

New iMessage



any two (2) or more

To: **Annette Lamore**

signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1974 Code)

Ok once it is all sorted through please let us know so that we can try to arrange scheduling

Delivered



iMessage



5:36

5G 32

New iMessage



To: [Annette Lamore](#)

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1974 Code)



Or share it in all other iMessage through platform

5:36

5G 12

New iMessage X
it on the agenda.

To: Annette Lamore

Joel, would you be available to come to a meeting on Wednesday evening at 6:00? There are a few things we need to discuss....including terminations and lawyers, events before July 4, and Gotion.

Dawn told me you would be out of town. I just wondered if it was possible for you to come home for a meeting. Thank you.

I will attempt to move around some appointments to make a

+ iMessage meeting

5:36

5G 12

New iMessage



possible
come home for a

To: Annette Lamore

I will attempt to move around some appointments to make a last minute meeting. Plan on it and if I cannot be there I will let you know before the meeting. Since I am not a tech savvy person I most likely prefer to not not utilize the remote attendance for this meeting but if I cannot make it I will work with Chris to participate via remote to make sure we can meet

We might make it 7:00 so CJ can make it after his golf league.



iMessage



Dawn Gesky

From: Joel Gesky
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Fw: Special Meeting June 25, 2026
Attachments: CLEAN Manteno Special Meeting Memo_v2 copy.docx; Manteno.Ltr.v1.docx

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 16:24:48
To: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>
Cc: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Special Meeting June 25, 2026

Please see the attached information that I just received from James Vasselli asking for me to forward to the Village Board.

Dawn Gesky
Executive Administrative Assistant
Village of Manteno
98 E Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com
815-929-4843

Dawn Gesky

From: Joel Gesky
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Fw: Employment Status

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 21:43:29
To: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>; Joseph Cainkar <joe@lfcld.net>
Subject: Fw: Employment Status

FYI from mayor tonight not suprised

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From: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 21:34:41
To: Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Fw: Employment Status

Elected Officials:

I am resending you the email you already received on June 15 with all the reasons why I dismissed Joe Cainkar and the Cainkar law firm.
You have had this information for over a week.
Thank you.

Mayor LaMore



From: Joseph Cainkar <joe@LFCLTD.NET>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:43 AM
To: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>
Cc: CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: RE: Employment Status

Received.

Joseph Cainkar

LOUIS F. CAINKAR, LTD.
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3430
Chicago, IL 60602-3337
T: 312-236-3985 - Ext.15
F: 312-236-3989
C: 708-288-1195

This e-mail communication, together with any accompanying attachments, originates from the law firm of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd. and may be confidential and/or privileged pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and /or work-product doctrine. You may not disclose, copy, distribute or use the contents of this message unless you are the named recipient. The contents of this communication may not be copied or distributed without this disclaimer. Although this e-mail and any attachments are believed to be free of any virus or other defect that might affect any computer system into which it is received and opened, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that it is virus free. Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd. assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage arising in any way from its use. If you receive this message in error, please advise the sender and then delete this message from your system.

From: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Joseph Cainkar <joe@LFCLTD.NET>
Cc: CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Employment Status

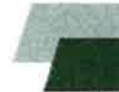
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Joe,

Please see the attached letter regarding an official update on your employment status with the Village of Manteno. The attached document details the termination of your employment. If you have any questions about this transition or need further information, please reply directly to this email. Thank you for your many years of service to the Village of Manteno.

Sincerely,

Annette LaMore, Mayor



Dawn Gesky

From: CJ Boudreau
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Fw: Mayor's agenda

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2026 10:17:02
To: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's agenda

Thank you.

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From: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2026 09:07:10
To: CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Mayor's agenda

Here you go.

Chris LaRocque
Village Administrator &
Interim Building & Zoning Director

Village of
Manteno
98 East Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
815-929-4842

MANTENO VILLAGE BOARD

**CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING ON:
Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.**

Village Board Room
Leo T. Hassett Community Center
211 North Main St.

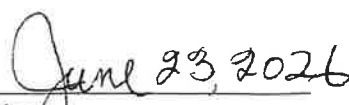
AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Opening Invocation
4. Roll Call
5. Reading of Agenda
6. Public Participation
7. Business
 - a. Discussion of Audit
 - b. Discussion regarding Gotion
 - c. Articulation of reason for removal of Cainkar
 - d. Events:
 - i. Sunday, June 28 at 1:00pm: Slow Roll Bike Ride at Legion Park
 - ii. Monday, June 29, 7:30pm–9:00pm: Silhouettes on the Square
 - iii. Tuesday, June 30, 5:30pm–7:00pm: Puppy Party at Legacy Park
 - iv. Wednesday, July 1, 4:00pm–8:00pm: Market on the Square
 - v. Thursday, July 2, 6:30pm–8:00pm: Stevie Swings on the Square
8. Comments
9. Executive Session
10. Adjournment

I, President Annette Lamore, hereby call a special meeting for the time, date and reasons set forth above.



President Lamore



Date:

Dawn Gesky

From: CJ Boudreau
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: FOIA special meeting
Attachments: 20260626084409.pdf

I got this in an email from Chris LaRocque.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Dawn Gesky

From: CJ Boudreau
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Fw: Special Meeting Agenda June 25, 2026
Attachments: June 25, 2026 Special Meeting.pdf

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 June 2026 17:30:37
To: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>
Cc: Alan Swinford <aswinford@villageofmanteno.com>; Ashley Peterson <apeterson@villageofmanteno.com>; Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>; Darci Kramerich <dkramerich@villageofmanteno.com>; Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Jim Hanley <jhanley@villageofmanteno.com>; Sheila Martin <samartin@villageofmanteno.com>; Yvette Nugent <ynugent@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Special Meeting Agenda June 25, 2026

Dawn Gesky
Executive Administrative Assistant
Village of Manteno
98 E Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com
815-929-4843

Dawn Gesky

From: CJ Boudreau
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Fw: Special Meeting June 25, 2026
Attachments: CLEAN Manteno Special Meeting Memo_v2 copy.docx; Manteno.Ltr.v1.docx

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2026 17:24:48
To: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>
Cc: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Special Meeting June 25, 2026

Please see the attached information that I just received from James Vasselli asking for me to forward to the Village Board.

Dawn Gesky
Executive Administrative Assistant
Village of Manteno
98 E Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com
815-929-4843

Dawn Gesky

From: CJ Boudreau
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:25 PM
To: Dawn Gesky
Subject: Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request RE: Communications Regarding Scheduling of Emergency Special Meeting FOIA#26-138
Attachments: IMG_3633.jpeg; IMG_3632.jpeg; IMG_3634.jpeg; IMG_3630.jpeg; IMG_3631.jpeg; IMG_3629.jpeg

I have some text messages from Mayor Annette Lamore. I have one text message from Joel Gesky.

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From: Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2026 15:01:14
To: Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: FW: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request RE: Communications Regarding Scheduling of Emergency Special Meeting FOIA#26-138

Please see the attached FOIA request.

Dawn Gesky
Executive Administrative Assistant
Village of Manteno
98 E Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com
815-929-4843

From: Stacy Malone <stacymalone16@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request RE: Communications Regarding Scheduling of Emergency Special Meeting

Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

Date: June 26, 2026

FOIA Officer
Village of Manteno
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com

RE: Communications Regarding Scheduling of Emergency Special Meeting

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., I respectfully request copies of the following public records:

Any and all communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, instant messages, letters, memoranda, meeting notices, calendar invitations, phone logs, call records, notes, drafts, and electronic communications regarding the scheduling, discussion, planning, notice, agenda preparation, or necessity of the Emergency Special Meeting scheduled for June 25, 2026.

This request specifically includes communications involving any of the following individuals:

- Mayor Annette LaMore
- Trustee Mike Brey
- Trustee C.J. Boudreau
- Trustee Todd Crockett
- Trustee Joel Gesky
- Trustee Peggy Vaughn
- Trustee Annette Zimbelman
- Attorney James M. Vasselli
- Any employee, representative, partner, or agent of Vasselli Law, LLC

Please include communications:

1. Between any Village official and Attorney James Vasselli;
2. Between Village officials regarding the scheduling or calling of the Emergency Special Meeting;
3. Discussing the reason for, necessity of, or urgency requiring the Emergency Special Meeting;
4. Discussing agenda items to be considered at the Emergency Special Meeting;
5. Discussing the termination, appointment, employment, retention, or replacement of legal counsel for the Village;
6. Discussing compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act regarding the Emergency Special Meeting;

7. Between any Village official, employee, agent, or attorney and Amanda Piker founder, organizer, and/or leader/spokesperson of Concerned Citizens of Manteno (CCOM) concerning the scheduling, purpose, agenda, necessity, or discussion of the Emergency Special Meeting.

This request includes communications maintained on Village-issued devices and accounts, as well as communications concerning Village business conducted through personal devices, personal email accounts, text messaging applications, social media messaging platforms, or any other non-government communication platform used by Village officials, employees, agents, or legal counsel regarding the subject matter of this request.

This request includes records that may have been deleted from a device or account but remain recoverable through backups, archives, retention systems, or other record preservation methods.

Date Range:

Please provide records created, sent, received, or maintained between **June 1, 2026 and June 26, 2026**.

If any responsive records are withheld, please provide a detailed written explanation identifying the specific exemption claimed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and a description of the withheld record sufficient to allow review of the claimed exemption.

If any portion of a record is exempt, please redact only the exempt portion and provide the remainder of the record.

I request that all responsive records be provided electronically via email.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Stacy Malone



708-473-5607

3:22

5G 100



A



Ok, thanks

Annette Lamore

Monday 5:17 PM



Because of a technicality, and because Steven Orth is out of town, we cannot have this meeting on Wednesday. We will try for Thursday if everything works out according to the regulations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1074



iMessage



3:23

5G 100



A



Annette Lamore

We will try for Wednesday. We will try for Thursday if everything works out according to the regulations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1974 Code)

Sounds good. So Steven will be back tomorrow?

Delivered



iMessage



3:23

5G 100



JG



Joel

iMessage
Encrypted

Tuesday 9:58 PM

So we will be going onto
clerk number 4, this is
unbelievable

Delivered

Tuesday 10:58 PM

Well so much for her choices
on appointments

Yesterday 6:12 PM

Call when you can still go to
meetings



A

**Annette Lamore**

I need you...
events.

OK, I'll do my best. I'm gonna be gone until Wednesday afternoon. And my family is in town so I might be limited for that week.

Ok, thanks.

3:22

5G 100



A



Annette Lamore

Thanks

Monday 3:38 PM

CJ, would you be available to come to a meeting on Wednesday evening at 6:00? There are a few things we need to discuss....including terminations and lawyers, events before July 4, and Gotion.

I have golf league on Wednesday so I probably wouldn't be able to make it until seven.
I'm open Thursday.

Maybe we could make the meeting for 7:00?

If you make it for seven, I can probably be there right on time.

1:12



3: SPECIAL



MEETING Annette

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1974 Code)



iMessage



1:12



Annette

Monday 2:37 PM

Annette, would you be available to come to a meeting on Wednesday evening at 6:00? There are a few things we need to discuss....including terminations and lawyers, events before July 4, and Gotion.

We might make it 7:00 so CJ can make it after his golf league.

Ok I am available at either time.



iMessage



Because of a technical

1:12



2

AL



Because **Annette** , nical-
ity, and because Steven
Orth is out of town, we
cannot have this meet-
ing on Wednesday. We
will try for Thursday if
everything works out
according to the regu-
lations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may
be held at any time on
call of the president or
any two (2) or more
trustees; such call shall
be in writing, duly
signed, and shall be
presented to the clerk,
+ ic iMessage



7:49



Anette

you.

We might make it 7:00 so CJ can make it after his golf league.

Mon, Jun 22 at 4:17 PM

Because of a technicality, and because Steven Orth is out of town, we cannot have this meeting on Wednesday. We will try for Thursday if everything works out according to the regulations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed

+ iMessage



7:49



 Todd Crockett
Village business
Get Outlook for iOS

now

the regulations.

1-6-3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call. (1974 Code)

Ok keep me posted

Delivered



iMessage



< Joel Gesky
+1 708-372-0826



She's talking to the attorney
to see if she can take your
request off the agenda!

4:14 PM



She cannot we asked
for it to be put on in
writing please make
sure it remains on

4:22 PM

Will do

4:22 PM



And fyi only atty
currently employed by
village is joe and he is
currently suspended
pending mayors report
to the board

4:23 PM



When village hall closes
posted in our website
should have agenda by
us including our motion

4:24 PM

Yep I just told Dawn to send



**Joel Gesky**

708-372-0826

image is for and he is
current
pending mayors report
to the board

Jun 23, 2026

4:23 PM



When village hall closes
posted in our website
should have agenda by
us including our motion

4:24 PM

Yep I just told Dawn to send
it out with the motion on
there.

4:25 PM



Good! This is not a
dictatorship

4:26 PM



Please take pictures
of the postings on the
village and hasset doors

4:38 PM



So that if she changes
them we have proof

4:42 PM



< 211



4 People ›

James Vasselli

How's everything going? How's everyone doing?

JV

Dennis Rebelletti

Waiting for you

DR

James Vasselli

JV

I am sorry.

Mayor, I am sorry. It took way longer than expected. But my guess is that Dennis and Julie are caught up to speed.

JV

Mon, Jun 22 at 9:00 AM

Dennis Rebelletti

DR

Is there a special meeting tonight?

No, not tonight. Are you available Wednesday night?

Dennis Rebelletti

DR

What time?

6:00?

Dennis Rebelletti

DR

I think that will work. Im flying in from DC that afternoon.



New Message - 2:54





June 25, 2026



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
6:00 P.M.**



**PRESIDENT
ANNETTE LAMORE**

**VILLAGE CLERK
STEVEN ORTH**

TRUSTEES
MIKE BARRY CJ BOUDREAU
TODD CROCKETT JOEL GESKY
PEGGY VAUGHN ANNETTE ZIMBELMAN



Manteno Village Board Room
Leo T. Hassett Community Center
211 North Main Street
Manteno, Illinois

MANTENO VILLAGE BOARD

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING ON:

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

Village Board Room
Leo T. Hassett Community Center
211 North Main St.

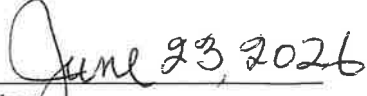
AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Opening Invocation
4. Roll Call
5. Reading of Agenda
6. Public Participation
7. Business
 - a. Discussion of Audit
 - b. Discussion regarding Gotion
 - c. Articulation of reason for removal of Cainkar
 - d. Events:
 - i. Sunday, June 28 at 1:00pm: Slow Roll Bike Ride at Legion Park
 - ii. Monday, June 29, 7:30pm–9:00pm: Silhouettes on the Square
 - iii. Tuesday, June 30, 5:30pm–7:00pm: Puppy Party at Legacy Park
 - iv. Wednesday, July 1, 4:00pm–8:00pm: Market on the Square
 - v. Thursday, July 2, 6:30pm–8:00pm: Stevie Swings on the Square
8. Comments
9. Executive Session
10. Adjournment

I, President Annette Lamore, hereby call a special meeting for the time, date and reasons set forth above.



President Lamore



Date:

Dawn Gesky

From: Joel Gesky
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 11:53 AM
To: Chris LaRocque; Dawn Gesky; Joel Gesky
Subject: Special meeting

If the special meeting takes place for this Thursday. I am requesting that the following be placed on the agenda for a formal vote to take place during this meeting.

Motion to disapprove of the removal and to restore/reinstate Joseph Cainkar and the law offices of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd to the office of Village Attorney effective immediately.

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Dawn Gesky

From: Chris LaRocque
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Joel Gesky; Dawn Gesky
Subject: Re: Special meeting

Will do.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 June 2026 11:53:23
To: Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>; Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>
Subject: Special meeting

If the special meeting takes place for this Thursday. I am requesting that the following be placed on the agenda for a formal vote to take place during this meeting.
Motion to disapprove of the removal and to restore/reinstate Joseph Cainkar and the law offices of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd to the office of Village Attorney effective immediately.

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Dawn Gesky

From: Dawn Gesky
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Annette LaMore; Annette Zimbelman; CJ Boudreau; Joel Gesky; Margaret Vaughn; Michael Barry; Steven Orth; Todd Crockett
Cc: Alan Swinford; Ashley Peterson; Chris LaRocque; Darci Kramerich; Dawn Gesky; Jim Hanley; Sheila Martin; Yvette Nugent
Subject: Special Meeting Agenda June 25, 2026
Attachments: June 25, 2026 Special Meeting.pdf

Dawn Gesky
Executive Administrative Assistant
Village of Manteno
98 E Third Street
Manteno, IL 60950
dgesky@villageofmanteno.com
815-929-4843

Village of
Manteno

JUNE 25, 2026

~~~~

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

7:00 P.M.

~~~~

**PRESIDENT
ANNETTE LAMORE**

**VILLAGE CLERK
STEVEN ORTH**

TRUSTEES
MIKE BARRY CJ BOUDREAU
TODD CROCKETT JOEL GESKY
PEGGY VAUGHN ANNETTE ZIMBELMAN

~~~~

Manteno Village Board Room  
Leo T. Hassett Community Center  
211 North Main Street  
Manteno, Illinois

**MANTENO VILLAGE BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday June 25, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.**

Village Board Room  
Leo T. Hassett Community Center  
211 North Main St.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. OPENING INVOCATION

4. ROLL CALL

5. READING OF AGENDA

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

8. REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

All reports will be ORAL

A) **VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- 1) Presentations
- 2) Appointments
- 3) Proclamations
- 4) Requests
- 5) Announcements
- 6) Discussion
  - Gotion Update
  - Audit Update
- 7) Old Business
  - Articulation & Reason for Removal of Cainkar
- 8) New Business

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A) **CONSIDERATION RE:**

A Motion to disapprove of the removal and to restore/reinstate Joseph Cainkar and the law offices of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd to the office of Village Attorney effective immediately.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

11. COMMENTS

Comments and additional information of general interest to Village residents.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**BOARD & COMMISSION MEETINGS**

VILLAGE BOARD ROOM

Village Board: .....1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. 6:00 pm

Plan Commission: .....2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 6:00 pm

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETINGS**

VILLAGE BOARD ROOM

As Public Works: .....4<sup>th</sup> Tues, 7:00 am

As Gen. Govern: .....4<sup>th</sup> Tues. 7:00 am

As Public Safety: .....3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 5:00 pm

As Planning & Zoning: .....2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 7:00 am

As Finance: .....3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 5:00 pm

As Properties & Rec: .....2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 7:00 am

## Dawn Gesky

---

**From:** CJ Boudreau  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2026 5:25 PM  
**To:** Chris LaRocque; Dawn Gesky  
**Cc:** Annette LaMore; Margaret Vaughn; Michael Barry; Joel Gesky; Todd Crockett; Annette Zimbelman; Steven Orth  
**Subject:** Special Meeting

Hello,

Just want to ask as a board trustee to have this motion on the agenda now that a special meeting on Thursday that has been called:

A) CONSIDERATION RE:

A Motion to disapprove of the removal and to restore/reinstate Joseph Cainkar and the law offices of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd to the office of Village Attorney effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
Cameron Boudreau

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## Dawn Gesky

---

**From:** CJ Boudreau  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2026 6:12 PM  
**To:** Dawn Gesky  
**Subject:** Re: Special Meeting

You did I am doing that because the Mayor is possibly trying to remove it and saying that not enough trustee expressed that interest. Therefore, I sent that email so that there is another trustee that has expressed the intent to have it on the agenda.

You did nothing wrong or just making sure we've Have all the documentation needed if a lawyer decides to challenge the item on the agenda.

Thanks

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---

**From:** Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 June 2026 18:08:33  
**To:** CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Cc:** Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Special Meeting

I thought I put that on the agenda.

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---

**From:** CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 June 2026 17:24:47  
**To:** Chris LaRocque <clarocque@villageofmanteno.com>; Dawn Gesky <dgesky@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Cc:** Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Subject:** Special Meeting

Hello,

Just want to ask as a board trustee to have this motion on the agenda now that a special meeting on Thursday that has been called:

A) CONSIDERATION RE:

A Motion to disapprove of the removal and to restore/reinstate Joseph Cainkar and the law offices of Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd to the office of Village Attorney effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
Cameron Boudreau

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## Dawn Gesky

---

**From:** James Vasselli <james@jmvchicagolaw.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2026 4:15 PM  
**To:** Dawn Gesky  
**Cc:** Annette LaMore  
**Subject:** Manteno. Letter  
**Attachments:** CLEAN Manteno Special Meeting Memo\_v2 copy.docx; Manteno.Ltr.v1.docx

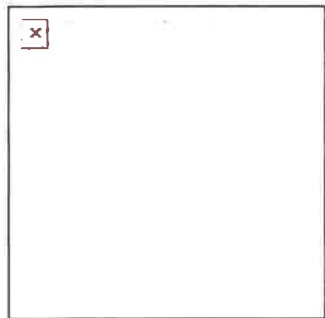
You don't often get email from james@jmvchicagolaw.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Ms. Gesky,

Please circulate the memorandum and letter regarding tonight's special meeting. Thank you for your time on the phone on Tuesday.

Thanks,

Jimmy Vasselli



### James M. Vasselli

*Partner, Vasselli Law*

**M** (312) 415-8277 | **P** (630) 931-8225

**F** (630) 206-2839 | **W** [jmvchicagolaw.com](http://jmvchicagolaw.com)

**E** [james@jmvchicagolaw.com](mailto:james@jmvchicagolaw.com)

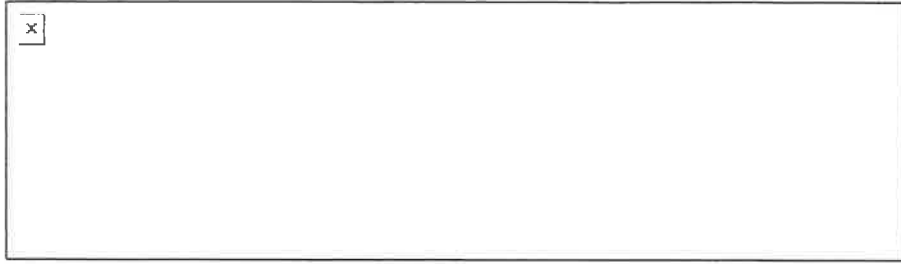
**A** [2021 Midwest Rd., Suite 200, Oak Brook, IL 60523](#)

**A** [11 Douglas Street, Suite 271, Elgin, IL 60120](#)



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**ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED  
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**LEGAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Village President and Board of Trustees, Village of Manteno

**FROM:** Village Attorney

**DATE:** June 25, 2026

**RE:** Legality of Purported Special Meeting Scheduled for June 25, 2026

**ISSUE PRESENTED**

Whether a purported special meeting of the Village Board scheduled for June 25, 2026, is legally valid where, upon information and belief:

1. No written call for a special meeting was submitted as required by Village Code § 1-6-3;
2. No call was presented to the Village Clerk;
3. The Village Clerk did not cause notices to be served upon the President and Trustees as required by Village Code § 1-6-3; and
4. The meeting was instead noticed and posted by individual trustees acting independently of the procedures established by Village ordinance.

**SHORT ANSWER**

No.

Based upon the facts presently known, the purported special meeting does not comply with the mandatory requirements of Village Code § 1-6-3 governing the calling of special meetings of the Village Board. The ordinance establishes the exclusive procedure by which a special meeting may be convened. If the required written call was not submitted, if the Village Clerk was not provided the call, and if the Clerk did not serve notice upon the trustees as required by ordinance, then the meeting was not lawfully convened.

Illinois law recognizes that municipalities are generally bound by their own ordinances until those ordinances are amended or repealed. Because the Village Board derives its authority to act only through properly convened meetings, actions taken at a meeting convened contrary to the Village Code are subject to challenge and are of doubtful legal validity.

Accordingly, it is my opinion that the June 25, 2026, purported special meeting was not properly called under Village Code § 1-6-3 and that any action purportedly taken at that meeting is vulnerable to challenge and should not be implemented by Village officials.

**RELEVANT LAW**

**Village Code § 1-6-3**

The Village's governing ordinance provides:

“Special meetings may be held at any time on call of the president or any two (2) or more trustees; such call shall be in writing, duly signed, and shall be presented to the clerk, who shall proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees in person or by registered letter, and such notice shall describe in brief the nature or object of the call.”

The ordinance contains several mandatory requirements:

1. The call must be in writing.
2. The call must be signed.
3. The call must be presented to the Clerk.
4. The Clerk must serve notice upon the President and Trustees.
5. The notice must describe the nature or object of the meeting.

The repeated use of the term “shall” establishes mandatory, not discretionary, duties.

### **Illinois Municipal Authority**

Municipal bodies possess only those powers conferred by law and may exercise those powers only through legally convened meetings.

Illinois courts require substantial compliance with statutory and ordinance-based procedural requirements that operate as conditions to municipal action. When a statute prescribes procedural steps as conditions to the enactment of a municipal ordinance, those steps must be substantially complied with; and where an authorized local ordinance adds procedural requirements not inconsistent with the statute, those requirements must also be followed. *See Treadway v. City of Rockford*, 24 Ill. 2d 488, 496-97 (1962).

Illinois courts distinguish between mandatory and directory procedural requirements. The question is whether failure to comply with the procedural step invalidates the governmental action. *In re M.I.*, 2013 IL 113776, ¶ 16.

In the special-meeting context, Illinois courts have treated written-call, clerk-filing, and member-notice requirements as legally meaningful to whether a meeting was properly called. *See Village of Atwood v. Otter*, 296 Ill. 70, 76-78 (1920).

### **Municipal Compliance with Its Own Ordinances**

Illinois law recognizes that municipal ordinances remain in effect until lawfully amended or repealed by municipal action of like dignity. *City of Litchfield v. Hart*, 306 Ill. App. 621, 625 (1940); *Naperville Police Union v. City of Naperville*, 97 Ill. App. 3d 153, 156 (1981). A municipality must follow its own valid ordinances and may not suspend or disregard them by informal action or preference. *See People ex rel. J.C. Penney Properties, Inc. v. Village of Oak Lawn*, 38 Ill. App. 3d 1016, 1019 (1976). If a municipality violates its own valid ordinance, its action is illegal and may be enjoined. *Tierney v. Village of Schaumburg*, 182 Ill. App. 3d 1055, 1059 (1989); *Paul v. County of Ogle*, 2018 IL App (2d) 170696, ¶ 29. Thus, unless and until Village Code § 1-6-3 is lawfully amended or repealed, it remains binding on Village officials.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **I. The Purported Special Meeting Was Not Called in the Manner Required by Village Code.**

The Village Code does not authorize individual trustees to independently post an agenda and thereby create a valid special meeting.

Instead, the Code establishes a specific sequence:

1. A written call must be prepared.
2. The call must be signed.
3. The call must be presented to the Clerk.
4. The Clerk must serve notice upon the President and Trustees.

Each step is mandatory. Upon information and belief, none of these procedural requirements occurred. If those facts are correct, the special meeting was never legally initiated under Village Code § 1-6-3. The posting of an agenda cannot substitute for the written call required by ordinance. Likewise, individual trustees cannot assume duties expressly assigned by the Village Code to the Village Clerk.

### **II. Compliance with the Open Meetings Act Does Not Cure Noncompliance with the Village Code.**

Even if the trustees posted an agenda and provided public notice under the Open Meetings Act, compliance with OMA alone does not create authority to hold a special meeting. OMA expressly provides that its notice requirements are “in addition to, and not in substitution of, any other notice required by law.” 5 ILCS 120/2.04. The Municipal Code similarly provides that OMA notice is required in addition to any local notice requirement for special meetings. 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-25.

OMA governs public notice requirements. Village Code § 1-6-3 governs how a special meeting is lawfully called. These are separate legal requirements. Satisfying one does not excuse violation of the other. A meeting may satisfy OMA’s notice provisions and still fail to comply with the Village’s own ordinance governing the calling of special meetings.

### **III. The Clerk’s Statutory Role Cannot Be Ignored.**

The ordinance expressly assigns responsibilities to the Village Clerk. The Clerk is required to “proceed immediately to cause notice of the same to be served upon the president and trustees.” The trustees cannot unilaterally bypass this requirement. To hold otherwise would effectively read the Clerk’s responsibilities out of the ordinance.

Illinois courts generally construe ordinances to give meaning to every provision and avoid interpretations that render language superfluous.

### **IV. Actions Taken at the Purported Meeting Are Subject to Challenge.**

Because the meeting appears not to have been lawfully convened, any actions purportedly taken are subject to challenge.

At minimum:

- The Village President may decline to recognize actions taken at the meeting;
- Village staff should not implement directives issued at the meeting;
- Village officers should not expend public funds based upon actions taken at the meeting;
- Any purported motions, resolutions, appointments, or personnel actions remain legally suspect.

Particularly significant is the agenda item purporting to restore or reinstate the Village Attorney.

If the meeting itself was improperly convened, any such action would lack a valid procedural foundation.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is my legal opinion that the June 25, 2026 purported special meeting was not called in compliance with Village Code § 1-6-3 if, as presently understood:

1. No written call was submitted;
2. No call was presented to the Village Clerk;
3. The Clerk did not cause notices to be served; and
4. Individual trustees independently posted the agenda and attempted to convene the meeting.

Accordingly, the meeting was not properly called under the Village Code and any action purportedly taken at that meeting should not be recognized or implemented unless and until ratified through lawful procedures at a properly convened meeting of the Village Board.

## Chris LaRocque

---

**From:** Joel Gesky  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2026 9:43 PM  
**To:** Chris LaRocque; Joseph Cainkar  
**Subject:** Fw: Employment Status

FYI from mayor tonight not suprised

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---

**From:** Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 June 2026 21:34:41  
**To:** Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Employment Status

Elected Officials:

I am resending you the email you already received on June 15 with all the reasons why I dismissed Joe Cainkar and the Cainkar law firm.

You have had this information for over a week.

Thank you.

Mayor LaMore



---

**From:** Joseph Cainkar <joe@LFCLTD.NET>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2026 8:43 AM  
**To:** Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>  
**Cc:** CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky

<jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth  
<sorth@villageofmanteno.com>

**Subject:** RE: Employment Status

Received.

**Joseph Cainkar**

---

**LOUIS F. CAINKAR, LTD.**

30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3430

Chicago, IL 60602-3337

T: 312-236-3985 - Ext.15

F: 312-236-3989

C: 708-288-1195

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**From:** Annette LaMore <alamore@villageofmanteno.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2026 8:28 AM

**To:** Joseph Cainkar <joe@LFCLTD.NET>

**Cc:** CJ Boudreau <cboudreau@villageofmanteno.com>; Michael Barry <mbarry@villageofmanteno.com>; Margaret Vaughn <mvaughn@villageofmanteno.com>; Annette Zimbelman <azimbelman@villageofmanteno.com>; Joel Gesky <jgesky@villageofmanteno.com>; Todd Crockett <tcrockett@villageofmanteno.com>; Steven Orth <sorth@villageofmanteno.com>

**Subject:** Employment Status

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Joe,

Please see the attached letter regarding an official update on your employment status with the Village of Manteno. The attached document details the termination of your employment. If you have any questions about this transition or need further information, please reply directly to this email.

Thank you for your many years of service to the Village of Manteno.

Sincerely,

Annette LaMore, Mayor

# Annette LaMore

VILLAGE  
PRESIDENT



☎ 815.929.4841

🌐 [www.villageofmanteno.com](http://www.villageofmanteno.com)

✉ [alamore@villageofmanteno.com](mailto:alamore@villageofmanteno.com)

📍 98 E Third Street, Manteno IL 60950

