

Countryside CONNECTIONS

FALL 2021

www.countryside-il.org



Patriot Day Remembrance

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, City officials, first responders, veterans and residents joined the American Legion Post 1941 in a heartwarming tribute to those who lost their lives 20 years ago. Commander Steve Jasinski reminded those in attendance of the number of lives lost at the ground zero (2606), the four planes hijacked (265), and the pentagon (125). Countryside Police Chief Joe Ford gave the keynote address. He spoke about personal loss and the sacrifices of the first responders both on this day and the weeks and months that followed. 343 members of the NYC Fire Department and 71 law enforcement officers gave their lives. The LaGrange Fire Department participated in the Ringing of the Bell and the incredible posting of colors as the National Anthem played. Thank you to Jerry Matuch, Post 1941 Chaplain for the Invocation and Memorial Prayer. Countryside's own Kevin Dahill played Amazing Grace as Mayor Sean McDermott and Treasurer Courtney Bolt placed a memorial wreath by the flags waving at half-staff. Thank you to everyone who participated. This is truly a day for every American to remember.



Countryside resident, Therese Schey presented the City with a replacement Blue Star Salute Flag to be flown at the Carl W. LeGant Memorial Park. The blue star flag honors those who are currently serving or who have served in our armed forces from Countryside. Therese Schey is the former President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #1941 and the former President of Countryside Women's Club. Therese's husband, Joseph served during the Vietnam conflict.



FALL / 2021

Swearing in of New City Treasurer

Courtney (Essig) Bolt was appointed City Treasurer by Mayor Sean McDermott and the City Council on September 8, 2021. Courtney comes from a long line of Countryside residents. She was raised in the community since she was 9. Courtney lives with her husband Mike and three sons: Mason, Colin, and Cameron. She attended Pleasantdale Elementary School, Lyons Township High School, and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Courtney is an active member and volunteer in Pleasantdale's PTO. She worked many summers as a paraprofessional with LADSE (LaGrange Area Department of Special Education). She volunteered at Christ Community Church in Lemont in their Children's Worship Program. Courtney has worked at the Flagg Creek Golf Course since 2012. Growing up Courtney attended Countryfest and the Countryside Children's Christmas parties and is looking forward to helping out at these events now as a newly-appointed official. Courtney loves the City of Countryside and is eager to work alongside the City Council and the community.



Coffee with the Mayor - October 16th 10 - 11 a.m.

It was evident that residents missed coffee with the Mayor as the Council Chambers was full on July 17th. Mayor Sean McDermott welcomed everyone back after the COVID-19 hiatus. Finance Director Dave Schutter explained the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the City's revenues. He also presented an overview of fiscal year 2021-2022 budget and recapped all of the capital improvements the City will complete this year despite the pandemic. Please join the Mayor on Saturday, October 16th at 10 a.m.



COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy Approved

The City Council approved a COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy at their meeting on September 22, 2021. The purpose of this policy is to minimize exposure to and the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in the workplace by providing occupational protection to employees and thereby preventing exposure to employees and their families. Mayor Sean McDermott stated, "I am extremely proud that the City Council voted unanimously to require COVID-19 vaccinations for all elected officials, full-time and part-time employees. This will protect the health of our employees as well as the residents we serve."

Jim Jasinski Gazebo Dedication

Former Alderman Jim Jasinski was remembered at the last concert of the season on August 19th. His wife Nancy unveiled the sign dedicating the gazebo at Countryside Park to her late husband's memory. Jim served as the chairman of the Special Events Committee which organized the summer concert series among other events. His love of music was evident at each concert. It was only fitting to dedicate the band's stage (the gazebo) in his memory. The City Council wore fedoras as it was part of Jim's attire at each and every concert. ***Jim will be missed!***



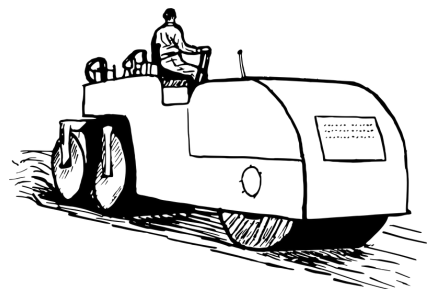
Summer Concert Series

A Special Thank You to Westfield Ford for being our Presenting Sponsor and all the attendees for coming out and enjoying the music. It is the City's plan to bring back the full 8-week concert series in 2022 with food, raffles and fireworks!

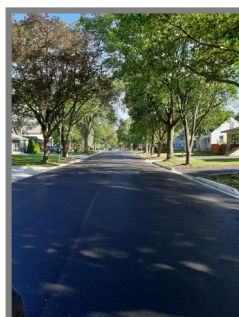
2021 Street Resurfacing Program Update

In July, the City began its annual street resurfacing program and resurfaced seven streets. The project included curb replacement as needed, roadway base repair, and replacement of asphalt surface from curb to curb. The following streets were resurfaced:

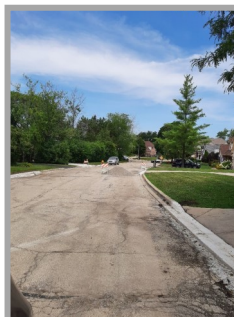
- Pleasantdale Drive from 5th Avenue Cutoff to Pleasantdale Court
- Pleasantdale Court
- 55th Place from Willow Springs Road to 55th Street
- Edgewood Avenue from 55th Place to 55th Street
- Blackstone Avenue from Plainfield Road to 55th Place
- Park Avenue from Plainfield Road to 55th Place
- Madison Avenue from Plainfield Road to 53rd Street



Madison– Before



Madison- After



Park Avenue - Before



Park Avenue - After

City Awarded Over \$6 Million in Grant Funds

Over the last two budget cycles the City has been awarded over \$6 million in grant funding commitments to help cover significant infrastructure improvements, to invest in new equipment and technology, to operate public safety and compliance programs, and to recover from the economic effects of the COVID 19 global pandemic. The City will have local match requirements anticipated to be just under \$1.4 million over the next several years.

The City received just over \$3 million to install several different multi-purpose shared use paths specifically along Joliet Road, 55th Street and East Avenue corridors. The City and State are currently in the planning stages. Construction will be completed over the next several years. These paths will eventually connect the City to the neighboring towns of Indian Head Park and Hodgkins as well as the Cook County Forest preserve on the south side of Joliet Road.

Other infrastructure funding is coming from the federal CDBG program and the State's Rebuild Illinois program which will be used to resurface Madison Avenue from Plainfield to 53rd Street, and Longview from 59th Street to Brainard. The City was also able to secure just over \$7K from the ComEd Green Region Openlands Grant Program which will be used to create pollinator gardens within the City including at the entrance to the Flagg Creek Golf Course, the north end of Countryside Park and at Ideal School/Park. The gardens will be completed in 2021-2022.

The Police Department secured funding from the Illinois Law Enforcement Standards Training Board to replace all in-car cameras in the squad cars and to provide much needed body cameras for our officers. Several different stimulus and public health/safety programs were created by the Federal Government of which the City is a recipient. Last year, the City was awarded over \$200K from the CARES Act and FEMA public assistance grant programs that provided funding for PPE and public safety salaries. Most recently the City was awarded over \$800K in funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – these funds can be applied broadly for the provision of governmental services to the extent of revenue lost during the pandemic. Half of this funding is expected in the near term with the remaining balance to be paid in the next fiscal year.

GRANT PROGRAM	AWARD AMOUNT	LOCAL MATCH	AWARD FISCAL YEAR	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Capital Grants:				
ITEP (1) / STP (2)	2,582,000	198,000	2022	Joliet Road Shared Use Path Project
STP (2)	894,542	298,181	2022	IDOT East Avenue Improvements (Joliet Road to 55th Street)
STP (2)	1,028,642	832,863	2022	55th Street Modernization Project
RIPI (3)	388,504	-	2022	Longview (59th St. to Brainard Ave.) Resurfacing Project
CDBG (4)	100,000	30,000	2022	Madison (Plainfield to 53rd St.) Resurfacing Project
Openlands	7,160	-	2022	Pollinator Gardens
ILETSB (5)	50,018		2021/2022	State Grant for In-Car/Body Cameras
Operating Grants:				
STEP Program (6)	37,820	-	2022	National Traffic Safety Program
USFDA/IDHS (7)	1,870	-	2022	Tobacco Compliance Program
COVID-19 Mitigation Grants:				
ARPA (8)	806,000	-	2022/23	Federal Direct Relief to Governments
Public Assistance (FEMA)	38,782	-	2021	Federal Assistance for Public Safety Overtime and PPE
CARES Act	180,518	-	2021	Federal Assistance for Public Force Labor Costs
IL Risk Management Agency	2,500	-	2021	PPE Grant from the City's Liability Insurance Risk Pool
TOTALS	6,118,356	1,359,044		

Acronyms:

- (1) Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is a federal infrastructure program administered by (IDOT).
- (2) Surface Transportation Program (STP) is a federal infrastructure program administered by (IDOT).
- (3) Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure Program (RIPI) provides funding for public infrastructure.
- (4) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) provide federal infrastructure funding administered locally by Cook County.
- (5) Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board (ILETSB) provides equipment and training to local law enforcement.
- (6) Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) is a federal traffic safety program administered by IDOT.
- (7) U.S. Food & Drug Administration provides funding through the IL Department of Human Services.
- (8) The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) created funding for the City for the provision of government services.

Police Department

Police Department Non-emergency Phone Number (708) 352-2171

Job Opening for Community Service Officer (Part-time)

The Countryside Police Department has openings for the Community Service Officer position. Apply today, if you are interested in working with the public at the front desk of the Police Department. Varied responsibilities include: greeting the public, answering, screening and routing non-emergency telephone calls and walk-in inquiries, collecting monies associated with fees, fines, and bonds, generating reports, and maintaining records. This position requires excellent communication skills. Candidates must be able to effectively communicate with members of the public, sworn officers, and City employees and be able to convey information effectively and discreetly. Bilingual communicator and knowledge of Microsoft Office a plus. Prior public safety experience desirable.

Starting salary is \$13/hr. The work schedule entails shift work (afternoons and midnights), including weekends and holidays with a maximum of 16 hours per week. Benefits are not offered for this position.

Applications are available at: CITY HALL, CLERK'S OFFICE 803 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525; Hours: M-F 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

"Coffee for Champions"

On Friday, August 20, 2021, the Countryside Police Department participated in the 2021 Law Enforcement Torch Run Coffee for Champions for Special Olympics Illinois event. Officers were at the Dunkin' Donuts on 55th and La Grange in Countryside from 5 AM until 12 PM in support of Special Olympics Illinois. This event raised over **\$3,000** for Special Olympics Illinois.



Crime Free Rental Housing Seminar

The Countryside Police Department has scheduled a Crime Free Rental Housing seminar for landlords and rental property owners/managers that have not completed the training as part of the City of Countryside's Crime Free Rental Housing Ordinance.

Landlords and rental property owners/managers are required to attend a 4-hour Crime Free Rental Housing training seminar which educates them on the Crime Free Housing Ordinance, provides tips on screening rental applicants, and shares State landlord/tenant laws.

The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM. To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact the Crime Free Housing Coordinator Mark Battaglia at (708) 485-3902 or mbattaglia@countrysidepolice.org.

Driver's License Expiration Dates

The Illinois Secretary of State website states "Illinois driver's licenses, instruction permits and identification cards that have an expiration date between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 have been extended until January 1, 2022. Commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits are excluded from this extension."

Halloween 2021 As with Halloween 2020, the City of Countryside will be reviewing guidance as it is received from public health officials and once guidelines regarding Trick-or-Treating in Countryside are finalized the information will be posted on the homepage of the City's website at www.countryside-il.org and on the Countryside Police Department Facebook page.



Butterfly/Pollinator Gardens



The City of Countryside is committed to improving our environment. Did you know? Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small animals that pollinate plants are **responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food**. They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce.

Our efforts began with the Municipal Complex's landscaping. The design included native plants which are drought resistant and attract pollinators. Last year, milkweed was added as it is the main food source for monarch butterflies. A few staff members volunteered to try to raise monarch butterflies, a candidate under the Endangered Species Act. See pictures below.

This year the City received a grant from Openlands to expand our butterfly gardens throughout the community. The Sustainability Committee selected 3 locations – the entrance to Flagg Creek Golf Course, the north end of Countryside Park and Ideal School. Staff is coordinating with landscape designers for the layouts and recommended plants.

In addition to expanding the City's gardens, staff will be developing model plans for residents interested in starting their own butterfly/pollinator gardens. The plans with recommended plants and seed mixes will be available for spring planting.

1. Staff harvested eggs from the underside of the milkweed leaves. Each egg along with a portion of the leaf was placed in a small plastic container.



2. Small caterpillars emerged from the egg. Staff made sure they had adequate milkweed until they grew to about 1 inch.



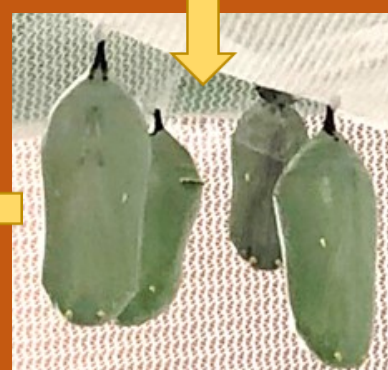
3. The caterpillars were moved into a butterfly house where they continued to eat fresh milkweed leaves and pods.



6. Staff had the pleasure of releasing the monarchs from the roof top garden.



5. In about 8-12 days the monarchs emerged. We kept them for 1-2 days to allow their wings to stretch and dry.



4. In about 2 weeks the caterpillars were full grown and embarked on building their cocoons. The chrysalis stage.

If the *BEE* disappeared off the globe then man would only have four years of life left. *No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.* -Albert Einstein

Public Works Reminds You . . .

Fall Leaf Pick-Up (October 11 - December 3)

Crews will be collecting leaves on a continuous cycle throughout the entire program period. The leaf collection program provides residents with an alternative way to dispose of leaves. Instead of bagging or mulching, residents may rake leaves onto the parkway.

In order for this program to be successful, we ask all residents to observe these guidelines:

- Leaves **SHOULD** be raked onto the parkway near the street..
- Leaves should **NOT** be raked into the street.
- Do **NOT** deposit branches, sticks, garbage, or other debris into the leaf pile. This can damage the equipment and cause a dangerous situation for our employees.

Please allow 7 to 10 working days between pick-ups as it typically takes a week or more to do a full cycle of the City.

Brush Pick-Up

Branch and brush pick-up will be provided through **October 29th**. Crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis. If you have questions, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.

Code Corner

The City would like to notify all residents and businesses of these newly passed ordinances which are effective immediately.

21-30-O: Title 6 - Chapter 6 - Section 3

Enclosure Requirement - New refuse containers for commercial, industrial and residential (containing 4 unit dwellings or more) shall be enclosed or effectively screened on all sides. Existing refuse collection areas shall conform to new code requirements if alteration, repair or replacement exceeds 50% of the enclosure.

21-31-O: Title 7 - Chapter 7 - Section 5

Use of Public Sewer Regulated - Below grade piping from sump pits and downspouts shall have a discharge end not closer than 25' from front & rear property lines and 15' from side property lines.

21-32-O: Title 8 - Chapter 1 - Section 2

Fees, Charges and General Permit Requirements - Electrical and zoning plan review fees are increased from \$100 to \$150.



Upcoming Meetings

OCTOBER

5	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
13	City Council	7:30 p.m.
20	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
27	City Council	7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
10	City Council	7:30 p.m.
17	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

7	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
8	City Council	7:30 p.m.
14	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
15	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Countryside

Invicta Kickboxing, LTD

5230 East Avenue

Kickboxing instruction

Jeri's Tropical Sno

6564 Joliet Road

Hawaiian shaved ice products

Linda's Hair Studio

6534 Joliet Road, Suite 1

Hair salon

Modern Hill, Inc.

5410-5418 Dansher Road

Photography & light wood repair & restoration

Shirt Printing 4 U

5345-5349 La Grange Road *(new location)*

Retail & custom shirts



Driveway Apron Snow Removal Program

Citizens 62 and older and disabled residents may sign up each year to have their driveway aprons plowed if more than 2-inches of snow falls. This removal will be done **ONLY** after all City streets are cleared. Please note that the City is **NOT** responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, please fill out the form below and return to the City Clerk's office. Allow 48 hours for processing.

City of Countryside Senior/Disability Snow Removal Program Application

Name: _____

Address: _____, Countryside, IL 60525

Home Phone #: _____ Mobile Phone #: _____

Email: _____

How many driveways do you have? _____

What street is your driveway on? _____

Basis of Application (initial where applicable)

_____ I am 62 years or older.

_____ I have enclosed: (1) medical certification from my doctor confirming my disability and inability to shovel/remove snow; or (2) A copy of the Secretary of State License Disability Placard or registration of disability through Social Security.

Please note that once we receive your form, it will take up to 48 hours to be registered.

By submitting this documentation, I hereby voluntarily release protected health information to the City of Countryside that is otherwise protected by law, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA).

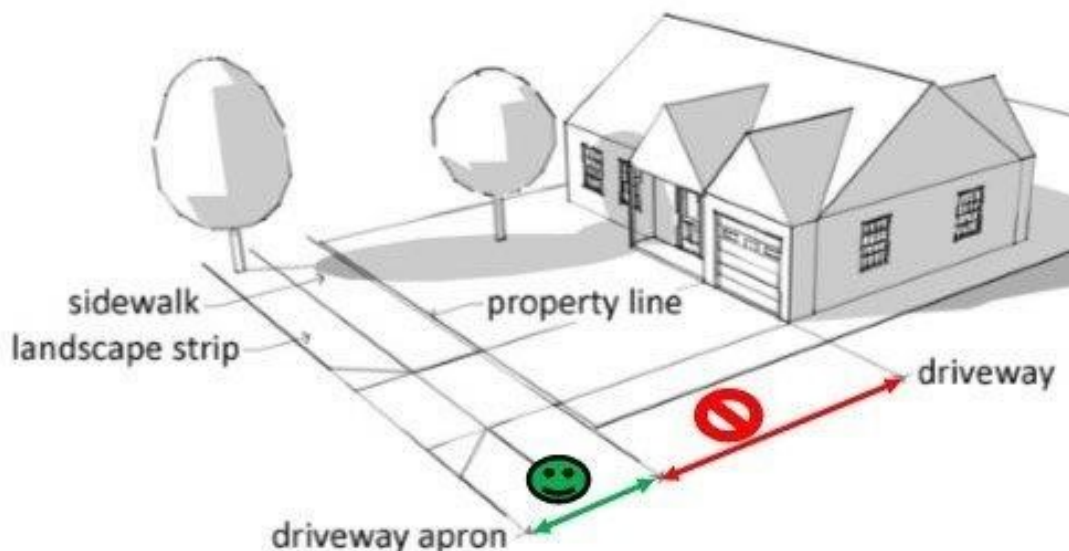
The resident(s) hereby release and hold the City, its officers, officials, and employees harmless from any damage to property or other liability which arises directly or indirectly from the City's snow removal program.

I state that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, correct and complete.

Applicant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

What is/isn't included in this program:



Community Events

Angel Tree Program

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community? Do you know of a Countryside resident or family that could use a little help this holiday season? After many years of success, the City of Countryside is once again hosting our Angel Tree Program.



Beginning November 8th, our beautiful Angel Tree will be on display in the City Clerk's office. Generous sponsors are invited to select an individual or family from the tree and purchase gifts from their wish list. All gift recipients are anonymous. The donated gifts should be returned to the Clerk's Office by December 13th. Gifts will be distributed to families from December 15th through the 23rd.

The Angel Tree Program is an excellent opportunity for residents, families, community groups, and coworkers to spread holiday cheer to others who may not otherwise receive a gift this year. Check out our website at www.countryside-il.org/special-events or contact the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270 for additional information.



Small Business Saturday is November 27, 2021. Countryside residents can join in and support the small businesses in our neighborhood and across our City by shopping small.



Reminder...

Children's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, 12-4-21

Place: Holiday Inn Countryside *
6201 Joliet Road

Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

** New Location**

For more information, call (708) 354-7270.



WHERE: Flagg Creek Golf Course

DATE: Saturday, January 15, 2021

TIME: 1 - 4 P.M.

Some of the tentative activities include: DJ and photo booth, face painting, snowflake bingo, craft project, cookie painting, kids games, a magic show, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing. More information will be coming soon.

For more details, call (708) 485-2595 or visit www.countryside-il.org/special-events.

Upcoming Holidays

Please note that City Hall will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veteran's Day - Thursday, November 11, 2021

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 25, 2021

Friday after Thanksgiving - November 26, 2021

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24, 2021

Christmas Day - Monday, December 27, 2021

New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31, 2021



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

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OFFICIALS

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Elizabeth Kmet

Treasurer

Courtney Bolt

Aldermen

Mark Benson

John Finn

Tom Frohlich

Thomas Mikolyzk

Scott Musillami

John Von Drasek



Websites to Know

City of Countryside

www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk

www.cookcountyclerk.com

Countryside Chamber of Commerce

www.countrysidechamber.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

Pleasant Dale Park District

www.pdparks.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection District

www.plvw.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911



City Hall/Clerk's Office:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Police Department:

Main: (708) 352-2171 (non-emergency)

Fax: (708) 352-1032

Public Works:

Main: (708) 354-3390

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Water Billing:

Main: (708) 485-2465

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Disclaimer: If you attend a local festival or City function and the event is photographed, your image may be used for news and promotional purposes.