

Countryside CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2024

www.countryside-il.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal, Queen & Court

On February 28th our City Council room was filled with the vibrant colors of green, white and orange. The sound of bagpipes filled the air. Mayor Sean McDermott introduced our 2024 Grand Marshal, Jim Durkan. Mr. Durkan has been involved with the parade since the start serving as our parade announcer. Jim was born and raised in Ireland and moved to the states after college. He moved to La Grange in the early 90s and pursued his career in health care. Jim played a pivotal role as the founding President of The Community Memorial Foundation. Our parade Queen Bea Keenan is a member of the Hinsdale Hospital Junior Board and on the varsity poms team at Nazareth Academy.



Mayor Sean McDermott, Parade Chairman Alderman John Finn and City Council pictured with Parade Grand Marshal Jim Durkan, Queen Bea Keenan, Members of the Queen's Court, Dylan Rafferty and Marya Keenan, and Princess Ainsley Wilson.



A big thanks to our volunteers: Jovan Borojevic; Betsy and Andy Finn; Sil Gomez; Paul, Desire and Alex Kreczko; Maureen and Dylan Lovelace; Deb Lubitz; Kim Payne; Molly Price; Beth and Conner Schwartz; and Mary and Ashley Walker. ***A special thank you*** to our announcer Drew Walker.

Parade Photographs by Resident Janusz Gryglak of Jag International, Ltd. and City Staff

Coffee with the Mayor - May 18th 10 - 11 a.m.

The last coffee with the Mayor was in February. David Schutter, Director of Finance was the guest speaker. He gave an overview of the budget detailing revenue sources and department programs and services. Dave also itemized capital projects proposed for fiscal year 2024-2025, noted below. To make things a little more interesting a trivia contest was held at the end of the presentation awarding local gift cards to the winners. The final budget will be presented to the City Council for their approval on April 24, 2024. Please join the Mayor for coffee and conversation on Saturday, May 18th. We will be raffling off Chicago White Sox tickets.



CAPITAL PROJECTS (5/1/24-4/30/25)

Street Resurfacing Program Sunset Ave, 67th St, Lorraine Dr, Rose Ave, Rose Ct

Police Vehicles and Equipment New Patrol Squads, Body Cam and In-Car Camera Replacements, Accident Reconstruction Hardware/Software

Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Replacements including new Plow Truck and Front-End Salt Loader

Design Engineering - Joliet Rd Bike Path Project and Route 66 Pedestrian Bridge Project

Street Resurfacing 2024

The City received a Community Development Block Grant from Cook County for the resurfacing of Lorraine Drive, Rose Avenue and Rose Court. The City is currently waiting approval from Cook County to go out to bid. In addition to these streets, Sunset Avenue and 67th Street will be resurfaced as part of the 2024 Street Resurfacing Program. If all goes as planned, the City will go out to bid by the end of March, accept bids in April, and award a contract at the following City Council meeting.

Park District of La Grange Terminates Agreement

The City of Countryside entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District of La Grange on July 24, 2013. For the past ten years, the Park District of La Grange had rights to utilize City parks and fields for their programs and Countryside residents could participate in the Park District's programs at the resident rate. Unfortunately, the Park District of La Grange has provided the City of Countryside a 90-day notice to terminate this Intergovernmental Agreement. Effective June 13, 2024, Countryside residents who register for programs at the Park District of La Grange will be required to pay the non-resident rate.

City staff is currently looking at options including an intergovernmental agreement with another entity and expansion of the City's reimbursement programs (currently Pool and Library reimbursements). Options will be presented to a committee for review in the near future. Any change will be reported on our website, Facebook page and the next newsletter.

Don't Feed the Wildlife!

The City has an Ordinance which prohibits ground feeding of animals. This includes to spread, cast, deposit or dump food, including birdseed, nuts, corn, bread pieces, food scraps or any like substance on any public or private property. Violators are subject to a fine of \$50 - \$750. For more information on the dangers of feeding wildlife visit www.fpdcc.com/nature/people-nature/feeding-wildlife/.

Why Shouldn't I Feed Wildlife?

- Human food isn't good for animals
- Feeding animals makes them vulnerable
- Wild animals are unpredictable
- Animals can transmit diseases
- You can be fined by the City, Forest Preserve, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Police Department Updates

New Squad Cars Hitting the Streets Soon!



The Countryside Police Department recently purchased two new Dodge Durangos to add to the fleet of vehicles used to patrol the city on a daily basis. While Ford Explorers comprise the majority of squads currently used for patrol operations, their availability has been severely limited due to manufacturing shortages plaguing the mass market and public safety sectors alike. These shortages have been fueled by a scarcity of microchips that began during the pandemic and that has persisted through the first quarter of 2024. Not only are they needed to build vehicles, these microchips are also responsible for ensuring emergency lighting, computer mounts, and other critical technological adaptations to modern patrol vehicles run smoothly, particularly when responding to emergency situations.

The first of the two Durangos will serve as the Department's Drone Vehicle and will be equipped with a special vault used to house the unmanned aerial vehicle used for processing crash scenes, subject searches, and more. This vehicle replaces a high mileage 2017 Ford Explorer. The other replaces a high-mileage 2016 Ford Expedition and will serve as the PD's Evidence Technician Vehicle equipped with all the supplies and equipment needed to respond swiftly to crime scenes, accident scenes, and more. As is true with all vehicles in the CPD fleet, these new squads will be subject to careful maintenance schedules that ensure these valuable resources are properly cared-for and maintained.



Certified Child Safety Seat Installers are Here to Help

Anyone who has recently used or purchased a child's car seat knows there is a dizzying array of choices on the market - from rear facing infant models to boosters designed to transition growing tots into standard seatbelt usage. Even more challenging is actually installing one of these devices correctly! If you have doubts about the safety of the seats you are currently using or if you are concerned you haven't installed a seat properly, Countryside Police Department's (CPD's) highly-trained personnel can certainly assist you.

Each of CPD's state-certified car seat installers has completed a rigorous National Child Passenger Safety curriculum developed by Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Highway Transportation Safety board. Delivered through local training partners, these certification programs provide our Officers and other techs with 32 hours of instruction and practical exercises that incorporate extensive training in actual installations of all types of child safety seats.

For excellent information regarding all aspects of child seat safety, go to www.safekids.org. To schedule a child safety seat inspection or installation with one of our officers, please call Commander Darrell DuRell at (708) 352-2171 or send an e-mail to carseat@countrysidepolice.org.

We all play a part in ensuring the safety of our most precious cargo!

Introducing New Healthy Countryside

We are excited to introduce an initiative aimed at improving the health of the people who live, work and play in Countryside. The Healthy Countryside initiative will bring more wellness and health prevention education, healthy lifestyle choices and social engagement opportunities to our city. **Our goal: To improve the health of our community.**



Look for more details about Healthy Countryside and how you can get involved, in upcoming newsletters. The new Healthy Countryside committee includes people who live or work in Countryside and have a passion for health. The committee will begin meeting this spring to develop programs and opportunities for Countryside to get healthier.

Healthy Countryside Committee

Co-Chairs: Kris Lonsway and Liz Valdes, Residents

Mayor Sean McDermott

Alderman John Von Drasek

Dr. Olga Garcia-Bedoya, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Laura Laskonis, All Star Pediatrics

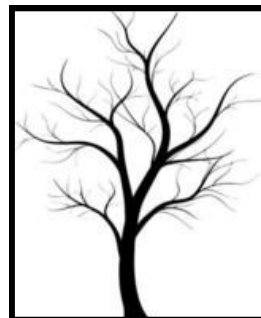
Socorro Mendoza, Director of English Learners, School District 105

Angela Curran, President & CEO, Pillars Community Health

In the meantime, check out Healthy Countryside's new page on the City's website at www.countryside-il.org under the Residents tab for information on upcoming health-inspiring events and links to local resources to help you get healthier.

Cost Sharing Tree Program

The City's Cost Sharing Tree Program runs May 1st through November 15th. This program helps pay for the removal of dead, diseased or nuisance trees (cottonwood, willow and mulberry) on private property. This program helps assure public safety and improve the appearance of Countryside. The City will pay 50% of the cost for removal up to \$500 per household. However, stump removal/grinding is **NOT** eligible for reimbursement. The City caps the entire program at \$40,000 per year and is available on a first come, first served basis.



Ash trees are included in the program provided the stump and chips are removed simultaneously. The total cost to remove the ash tree, stump and chips will be shared 50/50 by the City and the resident with a \$500 cap per household, per year for all trees.

If you believe your tree qualifies for this program the following procedures **MUST** be followed.

1. Call the Clerk's Office to report the tree(s) to be considered for eligibility.
2. An alderman of your ward will inspect the tree to verify it qualifies for the program.
3. The Clerk's Office staff will seek quotes from tree service contractors with a valid certificate of insurance on file.
4. The City will inform the property owner of the low quote and reconfirm their desire to remove the tree.
5. The property owner must pay their 50% share directly to the City **BEFORE** the tree removal is scheduled.

Property owners may select an alternate contractor provided the following conditions are met:

1. Work must be done by the alternate contractor at a cost equal to or lower than the lowest quote received by the City; and
2. The alternate contractor must provide proof of liability insurance coverage that satisfies the City's requirements. Under no circumstances will the City reimburse either the property owner or the alternate contractor if these qualifications are not met.

Please call the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270 for more information or to participate.

Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pickup (April 1 - October 31)

Branch and brush pickup will be provided by the City for residents beginning April 3rd through October 31st. Public Works crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis.

Residents are asked to observe the following rules for branch/brush pickup:

- Cut ends of tree limbs must face the street and be stacked along the parkway.
- Tree limbs should not be over 10 feet in length or over 4 inches in diameter.
- Tree stumps are **not accepted** at the disposal site and will not be picked up.
- Do not include vines in the branches for pickup. They will become entangled with the limbs, creating a dangerous situation during handling.
- City ordinance forbids the depositing of grass clippings, leaves or any other debris in the branch pile or on the street.
- Contractors providing tree and brush trimming services are responsible for the removal of all materials they cut.
- Please allow 7 to 10 working days for pickup.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works at (708) 354-3390.

Spring Cleanup (May 20 - May 22)

This service is provided to all residents **free** of charge and is certainly one of the benefits of living in Countryside! Please note that all items (including electronics) for pick-up should be placed at the edge of the street in front of your home by 7 a.m., Monday, May 20th.

Items **not accepted** include:

Yard waste (including brush)	Radioactive material
Bio-medical and infectious material	Concrete/Dirt
Hazardous and toxic waste of any kind	Liquids and paints
Volatile and highly flammable material	Explosive material



The hauler will not collect any materials that are excessive in size and weight. Items that are not acceptable will be tagged by the hauler.

Water Department

Water Report - 2023 Water System Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)



The City of Countryside will be publishing its 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in June 2024. The CCR includes basic information on the source of your drinking water, the levels of any contaminants that were detected in the water during 2023, compliance with other drinking water rules, as well as educational materials.

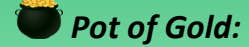
To obtain a **free copy** of the CCR, please contact the Clerk's office at (708) 354-7270 or stop by the Clerk's office at City Hall, 803 Joliet Road, in June. This report will also be available on the City's website at www.countryside-il.org/departments/water-department/consumer-confidence-reports/.

Lawn Sprinkling Restrictions

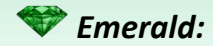
City ordinance restricts sprinkling between May 15th and September 15th. Sprinkling lawns and gardens is **prohibited between the hours of noon and 6:00 p.m.**

During the hours when sprinkling is permitted, odd numbered addresses may water on odd numbered dates, and even numbered addresses may water on even numbered dates.

Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram



Countryside Bank
Countryside Mitsubishi
IUOE Local 150
Novotny Engineering
Township of Lyons
Uncle John's Sports Bar
Wolf's Head Restaurant
Friends of Sean McDermott
Merging Technologies



Autobarn Subaru
Autobarn Volkswagen
Chariot Towing
Committee to Elect Michael Chatal
Double J Riding Club
Groot, Inc.
Highline Automotive
Holiday Inn
Infinity
Napleton's Countryside Mazda
Odelson Murphy Frazier & McGrath
Rafferty's Irish Pub
Time Out Sports Bar
The Mood
Westfield Ford



Countryside Dental Group
Illinois Harley Davidson
BSA Troop 69
Sinnott Tree Service
Heat Engineering Company



No Mow 'Til Mother's Day Program

The City of Countryside and the Sustainability Committee encourage residents to participate in a new "No Mow 'til Mother's Day" initiative. The program invites residents to postpone mowing their lawn, or a portion of their lawn, through Mother's Day to help support the local ecology, specifically the habitats of pollinators and other wildlife.



Countryside residents in single-family homes who wish to participate in the program can sign up on the City's website at www.countryside-il.org, under "News and Notices", (or come to the Clerk's office for an application) until 4:00 p.m. on April 12, 2024. Once registered, residents will receive a lawn sign and will be exempt from the lawn mowing code enforcement through Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Regular lawn care code enforcement will resume one week after Mother's Day and lawn signs will be collected by City staff. For more information about the "No Mow 'til Mother's Day program, please contact the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270.

Stanley Luke Farm Saved!

The owners of Double J Riding Club purchased the Stanley Luke Farm in 2023. Stanley Luke Farm was owned by the same family and been a staple in the Countryside community for over 90 years. "This acquisition provides so much synergy to our current Double J customers as it will allow Double J to offer boarding to our current students and increase the opportunities for lessons and showing to both our current students and the local community" stated Cindy Johnson, owner.

The farm is now called Johnson Equestrian Center. It will continue to provide lessons, training and boarding. Cindy Johnson said, "We look forward to both giving the farm a much needed face lift, which will improve the facility, and boost the opportunities for clinics and horse shows to our students and the local horse community. As fewer and fewer equine facilities are around, we are so happy to have the opportunity to keep this property a horse farm and continue with the rural feel of the area." Both Double J Riding Club and the Johnson Equestrian Center are located on 5th Avenue Cut-off.



Code Corner

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

24-03-0: Title 5 – Chapter 3 – Section 1 *Inoperable Motor Vehicle*

The time period is revised from 30 days to 7 days if the vehicle is incapable of being driven.

24-4-0: Title 3 – Chapter 1 – Section 12 *Business License Penalties*

Failure to submit a new business license prior to operating will result in a penalty of \$250.00.

24-5-0: Title 7 – Chapter 7 – Sections 1 – 5 *Sump Pump / Downspout Discharge*

The code remains the same for sump pump discharge. It shall be 15' from the side yards and 25' from the front and rear yards. Roof/gutter downspouts are reduced to 5' from the property line.

24-6-0: Title 8 – Chapter 14 *Crime Free Housing Updates*

Code updated to incorporate a new a state statute regarding 10-year sealed battery smoke and CO detectors. Also, addresses shall be visible from the street and on all exterior doors. They shall be 6" numbers of contrasting color to the apartment.

Code Enforcement

Are You A Good Neighbor? Is Your Property In Tip Top Shape?

Spring is here and it is time to take a look around the exterior of your property to ensure it is up to code and looking its best for your neighboring properties and the Community of Countryside! The Code Enforcement Department will be driving through Countryside to look at properties for compliance of all ordinances. Below is a checklist to read through to see if your property needs some attention. This checklist will help you keep your property in good condition, maintain your property value, and makes your home attractive for the neighborhood.

- **Address Numbers** on your home are so important for emergency responders. The numbers must be easily seen from the street and be at least 4 inches of contrasting color. This is required by ordinance.
- **Grass and Weeds** shall be maintained and less than 8 inches in length. Weedy areas, especially around trees, fences, garden beds, must be removed.
- **Trees** that are diseased, dying or dead shall be removed from your property. This includes dead branches.
- **Fences** need to be structurally sound. Repaint if necessary and replace broken or damage boards or inserts.
- **Garbage and Debris** must be cleaned up. Garbage, old grills, buckets, ladders, etc. are unsightly and need to be removed from the exterior of your property. Are you storing your garbage cans in a neat manner to keep your neighborhood looking its best?
- **Sump pumps and downspouts** shall discharge onto your own property in such a manner as to not create a nuisance to neighbors or public property. All drainage must be **25 feet from your front or rear property line, 15 feet from your side property lines. No drainage lines can go directly to any Countryside street or sidewalk.**
- **Exterior surfaces** such as siding, soffit and fascia must be free of holes, properly painted and weather proof. Any exterior surface with chipped or peeling paint must be scraped and repainted.
- **Accessory structures** such as decks, detached garages, porches, pools and retaining walls must be structurally sound and in good condition.
- **Decks** must be in good condition. Decks in disrepair can be very dangerous. Check that handrails and guardrails are secure and not missing spindles or boards. They must be less than 4 inches apart. Loose boards must be screwed down and any cracked or rotted boards must be replaced.
- **Pools** shall be in good working order. Check your pool liner for leaks. Check electrical and gas lines for faulty equipment or connections. Pool water must circulate. Small pools without circulation must be drained daily. This is very important to inhibit the breeding of mosquitos that carry life threatening disease.
- **Recreational vehicles** (boats, campers, trailers) may **NOT** be stored in the yard or on the driveway. When stored on a residential property, they must be placed on asphalt or concrete and be screened on three sides by fencing or non-deciduous plants that are at least five feet in height.
- **Roofs** cannot be sagging, missing shingles or defects that allow rain or snow to enter the building. Tarps are only allowed on a temporary basis until replacement or repair of the roof is completed.
- **Gutters** must be properly anchored to the roof, with downspouts properly connected and free from obstruction. Gutters must be maintained, all weeds, seeds, etc. must be removed from gutters and not allowed to grow.
- **Window** glass cannot have cracks or holes. Window frames must be in good condition.
- **Doors and door frames** must be in good condition and weather tight, this includes garage doors.
- **Driveways and walkways** should not have serious cracks, deterioration, or settlement that might cause a trip hazard.
- **Inoperable motor vehicles** are not allowed on public or private property. All motor vehicles must have all tires inflated, no broken windows, be operable and have current proper licensing. Motor vehicle repairs are not allowed in public view, repairs must be conducted in the garage.

Permits - Required Yes or No? Some examples of work that do **NOT** require permits are: painting, carpeting or flooring, landscaping (as long as it does not change the grading of the land), or sealing your driveway. Most other work around the home or business **DOES** require a permit even when you are doing the work yourself. Pools, landscape walls, patios and decks do **REQUIRE** a permit from the City of Countryside. If you are ever in doubt, please call (708) 354-1860 and we will be happy to assist you.

Flagg Creek Golf News

Resident Rates

Effective January 1st, all residents of the City of Countryside or residents that live within the boundaries of Pleasant Dale Park District qualify for resident golf rates. However, you **MUST** renew or establish your resident status **YEARLY!** A valid driver's license or photo I.D. and current utility bill is required. You will not be eligible for resident rates unless you are registered as a resident at the golf course.



Online Tee Time Reservations

Tee time reservations are available 24/7 under the "Tee Times" tab. Log on to www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org. Golfers are able to book 7 days in advance, one foursome at a time. Payment is required at the time of booking. The **BEST** rates are found online!

Junior League Registration

DATES: *Tuesdays* - June 11, 18, 25, July 9, 16
(Rain date - July 23)
Wednesdays - June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17
(Rain date July 24)

TEE TIMES: *Tuesdays* - 7:30 am-12:00 pm
Wednesdays - 10:30 am-1:00 pm

AGES: 8 -13

FEE: \$165 (Resident), \$175 (Non-Resident)

REGISTRATION: Resident - (in-person) begins on April 8th. You must have proof of residency established with the golf course by way of a driver's license **AND** a utility bill prior to registering. Non-Resident - on April 15th through the Flagg Creek webpage.

Spring Scramble

DATE: Sunday, May 19th

TIME: 2:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

COST: \$260 per foursome which includes golf, cart, food, & prizes.



GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF

Contact Michele at (708) 246-3303 for additional information or go to www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

St. Patrick's Day Party

The golf course hosted a family friendly St. Patrick's Day party after the parade. There was corned beef & cabbage and green beer. The kids and adults enjoyed the balloon twister, face painter, inflatable axe throwing, bomb fire with s'mores & roasted marshmallows. JD Kostyk played live music for the event.



Harling School Irish Dancers performed.



Reminders ...

SUMMER CONCERTS

Mark your calendar for Countryside's
Concert in the Park Series

Where: Countryside Park
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Day: Thursday

June 13	Kaleidoscope Eyes
June 20	Strung Out Band
June 27	The Four C Notes
July 11	Howard and the White Boys
July 18	Nashville Electric Company
July 25	Blooze Brothers
August 1	One of the Boyzz (FIREWORKS SHOW AT 9 P.M. with a rain date of August 8)
August 8	Timeless

ALL CONCERTS ARE RAIN OR SHINE

For more information, call (708) 354-7270

Upcoming City Meetings

April

2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
10	City Council	7:30 p.m.
16	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
24	City Council	7:30 p.m.

May

7	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
8	City Council	7:30 p.m.
21	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
22	City Council	7:30 p.m.

June

4	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
12	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
12	City Council	7:30 p.m.
18	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY

When: Monday, May 27, 2024

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Where: Carl W. LeGant Memorial Park

Following the service, a separate ceremony to honor all deceased veterans will be held at 12:00 p.m. at Post 1941.

Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post 1941
900 S. LaGrange Road
LaGrange, IL 60525

Welcome to Countryside

Byline Bank

(formerly: Inland Bank)
5456 S. LaGrange Road
Financial institution

Glaser and Associates, LLC

6428 Joliet Road, Suite 201
Outpatient psychiatry practice

Gremo Tax Services

6502 Joliet Road, Suite 209
Tax preparation and tax advisor

Melted Wax Studio

23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 117
Hair removal services

Physicians Immediate Care

800 W. Plainfield Road
Urgent medical care

Shine Studio

26 E. Plainfield Road
Hair salon



Ribbon Cutting Tuesday, March 12th, Grand Opening Wednesday, March 13th.



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
So Suburban, IL
Permit No. 928

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

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.com

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.