

Countryside CONNECTIONS

FALL 2014

www.countryside-il.org



From the Mayor's Desk . . .



Summer flew by as always and fall is already here. We know it is true because our successful Summer Concert Series is complete. More than 300 people on average attended the popular weekly concert series, made possible by the generous support of Westfield Ford and numerous other Countryside businesses. Local Countryside restaurants helped make it an extra special night out – no cooking required! We are lucky to have such community focused traditions in our City.

This past summer, we recorded a record amount of rainfall in one day. The vast majority of the City's infrastructure handled the rain fall but there were some areas, within the City, that did not fare well. Countryside survived better than other local communities but with a 100+ year rain fall, very few designed storm water system could have handled it. The City Council, with our City engineer, will be looking to see if there is anything that can be done for these areas.

Another sign of fall approaching is that our cool summer weather is turning cooler yet – we have already experienced some November like temperatures. Many are predicting a winter like our previous one which means we need to start thinking about snow blowers and shovels and making sure our homes and cars are winter ready. If it seems like I am rushing the seasons and I am not alone. Holiday decorations and displays have popped up in many retail locations across the area.

Some people are naturally organized and do their holiday shopping all year long. Some may be prompted to start early based on the winter forecast. Of course, there are still those who wait until the last moment. No matter what category you fall into, I encourage you to consider our local Countryside businesses whenever you begin your holiday shopping. We have wonderful restaurants for your holiday parties or maybe to purchase gift certificates to share with others. You can buy books, toys, electronics, tools and so much more. If you are thinking of a fourth quarter car purchase, why not stop in at the many car dealerships we have within our City.

Good news! When the Winter Countryside CONNECTIONS goes to press, the construction on LaGrange and Joliet roads should be complete. We know it has been an inconvenience to businesses and citizens alike and appreciate your patience during this process.

As always, your comments and opinions count, so feel free to reach out and call me at (708) 485-2050 or write to me at ekrzeminski@countryside-il.org.

Upcoming Meetings

October

7	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
7	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 p.m.
8	City Council	7:30 p.m.
14	Countryside Women's Club	7:00 p.m.
15	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
21	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
22	City Council	7:30 p.m.
27	Aging Well	7:00 p.m.

November

4	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
4	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 p.m.
11	Countryside Women's Club	7:00 p.m.
12	City Council	7:30 p.m.
18	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
19	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
24	Aging Well	7:00 p.m.

December

2	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 p.m.
9	Fire & Police Commission	6:00 p.m.
10	City Council	7:30 p.m.
16	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 p.m.
17	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
22	Aging Well	7:00 p.m.

Ward Reports

WARD 1

Alderman James Jasinski

(708) 828-3563

jjasinski@countryside-il.org

Alderman Robert Pondelicek

(708) 354-5001

bpondelicek@countryside-il.org

- ◆ Z-Tech Automobile Service is now open at 9825 W. 55th Street, behind Charter Fitness.
- ◆ The owners of the property at 9825 W. 55th Street are requesting to expand the rear parking lot. The expansion of the parking lot will provide more customer parking for Charter Fitness.
- ◆ A soccer school is interested in purchasing the vacant parcel of property located at 57th Street and LaGrange Road.
- ◆ The alley resurfacing program has been completed with the reconstruction of the concrete alley east of LaGrange Road from 55th Street to Bobolink.
- ◆ The City continues to work with Orput Companies on the marketing of lot 3B in the City Center.

WARD 2

Alderman Karen Michalczyk

(708) 917-2573

kmichalczyk@countryside-il.org

Alderman John Von Drasek

(708) 482-7663

jvondrasek@countryside-il.org

- ◆ Tony's Finer Foods has received their building permits and the contractors have been working hard to remodel the store. Officials from the store hope to have it open by Thanksgiving.
- ◆ The Ward 2 Aldermen would like to remind you to call ComEd when you have any type of power issue. Some areas in Countryside have been experiencing light flickering and brown-outs but ComEd is not aware of it because no one has called to report it. Don't assume that your neighbor is calling, just make sure you do.
- ◆ Staff have worked with the City Engineer on the area of Sunset and 74th Street where there has been some erosion to the road from drainage issues. As a temporary relief, the City installed Rip Rap to help with the erosion issue. This street was recently paved with the help from the Cook County Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- ◆ Please make sure to call the Department of Public Works if you see standing water in the streets.
- ◆ Congratulations to Jim and Patty Essig on becoming grandparents!

WARD 3

Alderman Sean McDermott

(708) 354-2350

smcdermott@countryside-il.org

Alderman Scott Musillami

(708) 334-5803

smusillami@countryside-il.org

- ◆ Construction on the additional condominium buildings at Clocktower Pointe is moving ahead. Be sure to stop by to view a model unit.
- ◆ The Barkin' Boutique located at 6525 Joliet Road opened for business in August.
- ◆ The alley resurfacing program has been completed with the reconstruction of the concrete alley west of LaGrange Road from 55th Street to Plainfield Road.



Wishing our residents and their families a Happy Thanksgiving!

Economic Development Update

The City's Economic Development Committee "EDC" is actively working on two new proposed projects within the Commercial TIF district. Both of these projects are proposed for properties currently owned by the City.

City Center Lot 3B - At the August 17th EDC meeting developer Greg Orput presented three site plans for consideration of the committee. Site Plan A included a single tenant, Chick-fil-A with a double drive-thru. Site Plans B1 & B2 both included a two-tenant building with potential end-users including Chipotle, Potbelly's, Five Guys and Kay Jewelers. Site plan C included a three tenant building which would include a mix of the same end users. The EDC turned down the three tenant building site plan. The EDC will meet again at the beginning of October to finalize a recommendation to the City Council on a single or two-tenant site plan once all information can be finalized.

5631 La Grange Road - Oak Lane Development submitted a proposed project which includes Lil Kickers Soccer School and retail. Their architects gave a 3D presentation of the facility which includes multiple soccer fields, office space, retail space and a winter garden waiting area for parents. The concept is to include retail complementing the soccer school. The EDC directed staff to begin negotiating a redevelopment agreement with the developer.

Tony's Fresh Market - Will be opening soon. They conducted a job fair on September 24th and 25th to begin the process of hiring approximately 150 new employees. The store will open by year end and hopefully before Thanksgiving.

TONY'S
Fresh Market

Make-A-Wish Event in Countryside

Countryside Ward 2 resident and wish kiddo Mia has wished for an above ground pool and Make-A-Wish made it happen in August! Mia age 5, is an easy-going and content girl who likes music and attention from people. Diagnosed with a life-threatening nervous system disorder, Mia has difficulty with movement and speaking, and her condition has resulted in developmental delays. Referred to Make-A-wish by her physicians, Mia and her family are very excited about her wish being granted. Make-A-wish arranged for an above ground pool to be installed in the family yard. The pool was filled by the Pleasantview Fire Protection District firefighters and the City of Countryside. Her wish was celebrated when the installation was complete, and many family and friends were present on the big day. Ward 2 Aldermen Karen Michalczyk and John Von Drasek were also present to congratulate Mia on her new pool.



Mia with her parents, John and Gabriela (behind her), Make-A-Wish Volunteers, Pleasantview Fire Protection District Firefighters, Fire Chief Buckley and Aldermen Michalczyk and Von Drasek.

Pleasantview Fire Protection District firefighters and the City of Countryside. Her wish was celebrated when the installation was complete, and many family and friends were present on the big day. Ward 2 Aldermen Karen Michalczyk and John Von Drasek were also present to congratulate Mia on her new pool.

Make-A-Wish Illinois grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength, and joy. Since being founded locally in 1985, the chapter has granted more than 12,000 wishes and continues its mission to share the power of a wish with children across the state with help from dedicated volunteers and generous community members. For more information please visit www.illinois.wish.org.

Welcome to Countryside

AFC Sushi

(inside Jewel)
5545 Brainard Avenue
Sushi take-out



Barkin' Boutique

6525 Joliet Road
Dog grooming salon

Dotty's

5321 S. LaGrange Road, Unit A
Gaming café



ECOATM, Inc.

(inside Jewel)
5545 Brainard Avenue
Recycling kiosk for small electronics

My Pinky Nails

6568 Joliet Road
Nail salon

Perform Physical Therapy

7023 S. Willow Springs Road
Physical therapy



T Nails

(formerly: K & T Nails)
6524 Joliet Road
Nail salon

Beware ...

There have recently been coyote sightings in Wards 1 and 2. Please make sure that you watch your small pets.

Police Department

2014 Citizens Police Academy



We are looking to begin another Citizen's Police Academy but due to low enrollment we have postponed the start date. This very successful program was initiated in 2011 and has trained many Countryside residents and business people over the last three years. A great deal of time and effort goes into a program of this nature and because of this we have established a minimum enrollment threshold. At the present time we have not met this threshold and we are actively recruiting to fill up our 2014 class. If you are a resident of

Countryside or work in Countryside we want you. This is a great opportunity to not only meet the men and women of the Countryside Police Department but also train like a police officer. Applications are available at our front desk.

Distracted Driving

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 3,328 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in 2012. An estimated 421,000 people were injured. Distracted driving does not only include cell phone use but also eating, grooming, reading, using on board navigation or computer systems, anything that takes your focus from the road. Our goal is to reduce these numbers. The police department can only do so much. Since January 1st when a handheld ban on all drivers became a law our officers have written 217 citations for drivers using a cell phone while driving their vehicle. The citations were both warning tickets and moving violations. In order for us to reduce this epidemic as a community everyone has a role. Parents have to educate their children and also lead by example. Children have to warn their parents if they are setting a bad example. Accidents do happen but removing a distraction greatly reduces the problem.

Halloween



Trick or treat hours are from 3 - 7 p.m. on Friday, October 31st

Our Halloween festivities are right around the corner and the safety of our children is a biggest concern. Our bike patrol will be out in force keeping an eye out.

Halloween Safety Tips for kids:

- ◆ Children under the age of 12 should be with an adult.
- ◆ Use sidewalks and cross at intersections. Do not dart out into the street.
- ◆ Watch for cars backing out of driveways.
- ◆ Do not wear masks that obstruct your vision.
- ◆ At night, use glow sticks or flash lights so you are visible.
- ◆ Have an adult check your treats before you eat them.

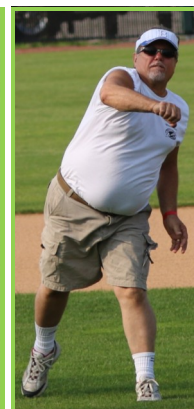
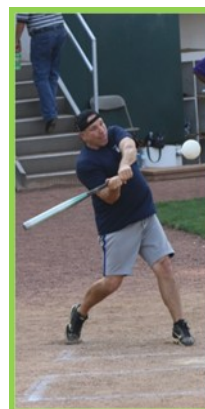
Halloween Safety Tips for adults:

- ◆ Welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and any exterior lights on.
- ◆ Slow down especially in residential areas. Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road. Kids tend to walk along the curbs, cutting across the street to get to other homes.
- ◆ Be on the alert for kids darting out into traffic.
- ◆ Use caution while backing out of driveways.

Battle in the Burbs

The Village of Crestwood hosted the second annual "Battle in the Burbs" on July 20th at Standard Bank Stadium to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. Mayors from the suburbs competed against their fire and police chiefs. The game ended with a score of 26 - 12, the south suburban police and fire chiefs won. This event raised more than \$4,000 in donations for the Special Olympics of Illinois.

Below: Deputy Chief Scott Novak and Chief of Police Joe Ford.
Right: Chief at bat and Mayor Ed Krzeminski fielding the first hit of the game.



Public Works Reminds You . . .

Fall Leaf Pick-Up (October 13 - December 5)

Crews will be collecting leaves on a continuous cycle throughout the entire program period. The leaf collection program provides residents with an alternate way to dispose of leaves. Instead of bagging, or for those who do not mulch leaves, residents may rake leaves onto the parkway.

In order for this program to be successful, we ask all residents to observe the guidelines listed below.

- ◆ Leaves **SHOULD** be raked onto the parkway.
- ◆ Leaves should **NOT** be raked into the street.
- ◆ Do **NOT** deposit branches, sticks, garbage, or other debris into the leaf pile.

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. Please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390 with questions.

Brush Pick-Up

Branch and brush pick-up will be provided through **October 31st**. Public Works crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis. If you have questions, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.

Keep Storm Sewer Covers Clear To Prevent Flooding

The Public Works Department is requesting that residents with a sewer cover near their homes help prevent street and parkway flooding by keeping the cover and inlets clear of leaves and other debris throughout the year. Clearing the sewer covers also helps prevent storm water backup into homes.



Water Department

MXUs Update

The MXU replacement program in Countryside is moving along quite well thanks to the great cooperation of our residents. With over 80% installed, it won't be long before we can call this project complete.

For those who have not yet scheduled an appointment, we ask that you do so. Your cooperation is pivotal to our success. Residents who have not yet made appointments are urged to do so by calling **UMI Inc. toll-free at 1-877-533-8964**.

Some residents who have had the new MXUs installed by UMI have received second notices and please disregard, this was done in error.

Participation in this project is **mandatory** in order for the City to read your water meter.

Congratulations!

To Mike Hartigan, Lead Water Operator of the City of Countryside Water Department for being awarded "runner up" in the Operator for the Year Award presented by the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association (IPWSOA) at their conference in Springfield, Illinois on September 11, 2014.

In this state wide competition, Mike was one of three (3) finalists in the water distribution category.



Did You Know...?

The City collected water samples from 20 Countryside residences in August for the purpose of IEPA lead and copper testing. We are pleased to announce that Countryside tested well within the acceptable limits for these substances. Thanks to all that participated!

Flooding in Countryside



In the early morning hours of August 22, 2014 while most of us were sleeping, the City's Public Works employees were hard at work clearing the storm sewers. This storm exceeded the 100 year flood. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines the term "100-year flood" as: Flood elevation that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. The term "100-year flood" is misleading. It is not the flood that will occur once every 100 years but rather, it is the flood elevation that has a 1% chance of occurring annually. Thus, the 100-year flood could occur more than once in a relatively short period of time, as happened this summer.



August 22, 2014 was a morning of record flooding. According to WGN, Countryside was hit with a historic rainfall event during the early morning hours where 7.5" of rain fell in approximately 7 hours. The most intense portion of the storm stretched over Countryside to Midway Airport. According to data taken at the airport the most intense portion of the storm delivered approximately 4.25" of rain in about a 45 minute period. "Bulletin 70" rainfall data for northeastern Illinois calculates the 45 minute 100-year storm event at approximately 5.83" verifying that the Countryside storm exceeded the 100-year flood.

Public Works Superintendent Jim Essig reported "the August 22nd storm was the worst I have witnessed in my 36 year career. I personally witnessed flooding in several areas of the City that have never flooded in the past or at least not to the extent that they did. I also witnessed areas that occasionally flood being far worse than normal."

The City has been very proactive in stormwater management programs and flood control projects over the years. A few highlights include:

- The City Council passed a Stormwater Detention Ordinance in 1970, which requires all new developments to provide onsite storage for the 100-year flood. The City continues enforcement of this ordinance and has witnessed its benefits over the years.
- The City is diligent in its efforts to study problem areas and coordinate map revisions with the FEMA. The City has successfully reduced floodplain and floodway in several areas and coordinated map revisions with FEMA. The City has spent approximately \$140,000 on engineering studies and FEMA coordination efforts in the past 20 years.

FEMA MAP REVISIONS

- ◆ Peck Avenue ditch
- ◆ Kensington Avenue ditch
- ◆ 57th & 59th Street ditches
- ◆ 67th Street ditch

- The City has been very proactive with Flood Control projects over the years. Approximately \$7,500,000 has been spent from the City's General Fund revenues in the past 23 years with no pass along cost to property owners in the form of a property tax or storm water fee.

- The City purchased flood plain property at 5539 Peck Avenue, demolished the home and constructed Andrew Whiting Memorial Park which includes a rain garden. This project was possible with partial funding through an OSLAD grant

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- ♦ Vulcan Quarry overflow weir in Ward 1
- ♦ 57th & 59th Street ditch enclosure in Ward 1
- ♦ 67th Street ditch improvements in Ward 2
- ♦ "Triangle" area box culvert installation in Ward 3
- ♦ Kensington Avenue ditch restoration in Ward 3
- ♦ Andrew Whiting Memorial Park in Ward 3
- ♦ Various residential drainage improvements in all Wards



Despite all the efforts of the past there is still work to be done going forward including:

- The City continues to coordinate local drainage issues with both the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Cook County Highway Department for all state and county roadway improvements. This includes in-line stormwater detention when required.
- The City staff has and will continue to pursue grants for our storm sewer infrastructure.
- The City staff has inspected all 28 resident complaints pertaining to the August 22 storm event. Staff is working on classifying the issues into various categories. This information will be presented to the Infrastructure Committee at a future meeting.

IDOT - Joliet Road and LaGrange Road Construction

IDOT is completing the first phase of the Joliet Road and LaGrange Road project, including storm sewer construction, curb removal and replacement and widening of turn lanes. This work is expected to be completed in November. Weather permitting, permanent traffic signal installation is expected to take place during the winter and final paving and landscaping is scheduled for the spring of 2015. The estimated completion date has been pushed back due to utility conflicts.



City Services

Pool Reimbursements: 2014 outdoor pool membership to any outdoor swimming pool needs to be presented by December 31, 2014 to be eligible for reimbursement. Fitness Clubs and YMCA memberships are not eligible unless a separate "outdoor pool" rate was established from Memorial Day through Labor Day and you must produce a letter of cancellation.

To apply for the reimbursement, bring your paid membership receipt and a valid driver's license to the City Clerk's office.

Driveway Apron Snow Removal: Senior citizens and disabled Countryside 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 after all City streets are cleared. The City is **not** responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, please call the City Clerk's office.

Selling Your Home or Business: All property sales in Countryside require a pre-sale inspection and the following information:

- ♦ A completed Real Estate Property Transfer Declaration form
- ♦ A final water meter read
- ♦ A paid sewer receipt

The cost of the stamp is \$50 (no personal checks), and is the responsibility of the seller.

For more information about these services, please contact the Clerk's office at (708) 354-7270.

Forms are also available on our website.

Speak Out!

"Speak Out" provides a way in which YOU can communicate with the City of Countryside elected officials and administration. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive a response. If you need more space, please attach a separate sheet.

Full Name: _____ as a citizen/business owner of the City of Countryside, it is my opinion that: _____

Date: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to: "Speak Out" City of Countryside, 5550 East Avenue, Countryside, IL 60525 or e-mail to:
cityhall@countryside-il.org

Full Name, mailing address, or e-mail address are required for a response.

Upcoming Holidays

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

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27, 2014

Friday after Thanksgiving
Friday, November 28, 2014

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25, 2014

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1, 2015

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clock back one hour at 2:00 a.m. on November 2nd. The time now becomes 1:00 a.m. This is where the saying "Fall Back" comes from.



When you turn your clock back, also change the batteries in your smoke alarms. This simple habit takes just a moment, but it is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire.

Community Happenings

Leaf Raking For Seniors

The Countryside Aging Well, a program of Aging Care Connections will be sponsoring this service. The service is **free** and is provided by local youth groups as a community service for adults in need of assistance with their leaves.

Leaf raking will take place:

DATE: November 1, 2014

TIME: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Resident must be home at the time the leaf raking service is being performed.

To sign up for this service, or for more information, please call (708) 354-1323 ext. 245. Registration ends on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.



Reminder. . .

Children's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, 12-6-14

**Place: Capri Banquets
6240 Joliet Road**

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**For more information, please call
354-7270.**

100th Birthday Celebration



Countryside resident, Frances Williams celebrated her 100th birthday on August 20th.

In recognition of this "milestone" birthday, Mayor Krzeminski presented Frances with a proclamation, approved by

the City Council, at her birthday party held at her home on August 17th with family and friends.

Run for Kelli

This will be the third annual run for Kelli.

Event Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014

Event Location: Lyons Township South Campus

Packet Pickup: 7:30 am.

Run Start: 9:00 am.

Walk Start: 9:45 am.

This event is being sponsored by the Lyons Township High School for the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Fund.

Summer Concerts Update

The Summer Concert series concluded on Thursday, August 7th. Over the course of eight weeks, there were approximately 2,400 attendees, averaging 300 visitors each week (this is based off of raffle tickets given away).

At the end of the concert series, participants rated their favorite bands, the top three were Final Say, HillBilly Rockstarz and Heartache Tonight.

Westfield Ford was the Presenting Sponsor and donated a scooter to be raffled off as a grand prize at the end of the series. Tickets were \$5.00 each and all proceeds went to the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Fund. This year the City raised \$1,449 for the Fund.

Congratulations to Valerie Chrysokos, the **Scooter** Winner!



Carm Scarpace (pictured on right) from Westfield Ford presented the scooter to Valerie Chrysokos, a resident of Countryside at the August 7th concert along with Fire Chief John Buckley from the Pleasantview Fire Protection District.

CBA Hosting the Countryside Fall Crawl

The Countryside Business Association (CBA) is hosting its first "Pub Crawl" on Saturday, October 25th from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. Two trollies will take you between 9 establishments including Café Salsa, Flagg Creek Golf Course, Harry's Sports Bar, Kenny's Irish Pub, Ledo's Pizza, Mark's on 66, Rafferty's Pub, Tavern on LaGrange and Time Out Sports Bar. T-shirts and raffle tickets will be sold at each place to benefit the CBA's annual Thanksgiving dinner for families in need. Raffle prizes include a TV, neon signs, grill, Hawks tickets and a Bears jersey. Please join the CBA in supporting our local businesses.





City of Countryside
5550 East Avenue
Countryside, IL 60525

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

OFFICIALS

Mayor

Ed Krzeminski

Clerk

Sharon Sweeney

Treasurer

(Vacant)

Aldermen

James Jasinski
Sean McDermott
Karen Michalczyk
Scott Musillami
Robert Pondelicek
John Von Drasek

WEBSITES TO KNOW

City of Countryside

www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk

www.cookcountyclerk.com

Pleasantview Fire Protection

www.plvw.org

West Suburban Chamber

www.westsuburbanchamber.org

Countryside Business Association

www.cbacountryside.com

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



City Hall:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

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

Police Department:

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

Fax: (708) 352-1032

Emergency: 911

Clerk's Office:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Public Works:

Main: (708) 354-3390

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Water Billing:

Main: (708) 485-2465

Fax: (708) 354-9029

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

Fax: (708) 354-9029