

Countryside CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2025

www.countryside-il.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Our City Council gathered on February 26, 2025 in high spirits for our annual pre-St. Patrick's Day meeting. The Mayor had the privilege of announcing John Fitzgerald as this year's Grand Marshal. John served as the city's engineer for nearly 23 years. John has shown unwavering support and commitment to the City and has been a frequent sponsor of the parade making him a deserving leader for this year. We proudly crowned Kaitlin O'Brien as our 2025 St. Patrick's Day Queen. Kaitlin was chosen for her dedication, community spirit, and embodiment of Irish heritage. Also honored were Gillian John, Queen's Court and Abigail Dunlap, Parade Princess. A big thanks to Bagpiper, Kevin Dahill who filled the Council Chambers with Irish music.



THANKS TO OUR MANY SPONSORS

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of Willow Springs
Double J Riding Club
Illinois Harley Davidson
Keeper's Heart
Milano Day Spa



Coffee with the Mayor—March 22—10-11 a.m.

Guest Speakers: Julie Reschke, Senior Policy Analyst, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
& Dave Schutter, Finance Director, City of Countryside

Police Department Updates

New Officer Sworn In

On February 12, 2025, Jacob Terpstra was sworn in by Ward 3 Alderman Scott Musillami as the newest member of the Countryside Police Department. An Army Veteran who served with distinction for four years, Officer Terpstra is also an active member of the Army National Guard. Ofc. Terpstra is currently studying at Indiana Wesleyan University where he is majoring in global security and strategy management. After his graduation from the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield, Ofc. Terpstra will complete a minimum of 12 weeks of additional, rigorous training with Countryside Field Training Officers to further familiarize him with the best practices, policies, and procedures employed by CPD personnel. **Welcome Officer Terpstra!**



Linktree Solutions for Countryside Residents

Did you know many P.D. services are available to residents via a useful online portal? The QR code below accesses a wealth of information and resources often sought from our Officers and staff. Scan it:



- ◆ Visit our Website
- ◆ Enter Overnight Parking Requests
- ◆ Enter Vacation Watch Requests
- ◆ Purchase Accident Reports
- ◆ Pay an Administrative Tow Fee
- ◆ Pay Parking Tickets
- ◆ Pay Local Ordinance Citations
- ◆ Download FOIA Forms



New Technology Enhances Public Safety

The Countryside Police Department is dedicated to ensuring patrol operations are safe for residents, visitors, and personnel. As a means of eliminating the incidence of high risk traffic activity, the P.D. recently acquired 4 StarChase GPS units through a grant awarded by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. These vehicle mounted launchers tag, track, and locate fleeing vehicles through a real time core mapping electronic platform - a much safer alternative to roadway pursuits. The time and space these units provide our Officers allow for planning and coordinating informed tactical responses that lead to safer arrests. We are grateful to the Illinois Attorney General's Office for its generous support of this important initiative.



Sign Up Today

Countryside residents can receive City News updates via email. To join the list, click on "Sign Up for E-News" on the home page of the City's website, www.countryside-il.org, and follow the easy onscreen instructions.

Sustainability—Rebates, EV Chargers, and More

ComEd has announced \$100 million in Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates, including all-electric fleet rebates and charging infrastructure rebates for the public sector and businesses. For residents, ComEd is offering rebates on EV charger and installation costs for your home. For more information on rebates go to www.ComEd.com/Clean.

As a member of the Mayor's Caucus's EV Readiness Program, the City of Countryside is committed to providing an easy permit and inspection process to further the expansion of EV chargers. A new checklist guide and permit applications have been developed by staff and posted to the City's website. We encourage all EV owners to register their EV with ComEd. This will allow ComEd to assess your electric service needs for charger installation.



Want to put off mowing your lawn and help the environment? If so, sign up for the **"No Mow 'til Mother's Day"** initiative. This program allows residents in single-family homes to postpone mowing their lawn until the week of Mother's Day. You can sign up on the City's website at www.countryside-il.org, under News & Announcements or come into the Clerk's Office until 4 p.m. on April 11th. Once signed up, residents will receive a lawn sign and they will be exempt from the lawn mowing through Mother's Day. Regular lawn care code enforcement will resume one week after Mother's Day and lawn signs will be picked up by City staff. Join to help support the local ecology, specifically the habitats of pollinators and other wildlife.

The Clean Energy Aggregation Program will restart. On February 26th, the City Council unanimously approved the execution of an agreement with Chicago-based MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (MC²). The agreement will serve eligible residents and small business customers with an electricity supply price equal to the ComEd rate beginning with the June 2025 ComEd meter read cycle. Residents will be charged the exact same rate as they would with ComEd, while still being billed by ComEd directly. Virtually there will be no change to residents and small business owners from a billing perspective. In addition, this electric aggregation program will create over 8,000,000 kWh of renewable energy which will enable the City to once again earn the Environmental Protection Agency's (the "EPA's") Green Power Community ("GPC") designation. The level of clean energy creation is equivalent to:



Letters for this program will be sent out in April to inform all residents and eligible small business owners of the program. Letters will be different for all residents depending on each individual situation. All residents will have the ability to "opt in" or "opt out" of the program at no cost at any point during the duration of the program. Residents will continue to pay the ComEd rate regardless of whether they opt in or out of the program. For further questions or inquiries you can reach

out to the City's Finance Department at 708 354-7270 or you are also free to reach out to our consultant, Adam Hoover, who administers this program, at ahover@nimec.net or by phone at 224-255-5135.

Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pickup (April 1 - October 31)

Branch and brush pickup will be provided by the City for residents beginning April 1st 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.

Spring Cleanup (May 19 - May 21)

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 19th.

Items **not accepted** include:

Yard waste (including brush)
Bio-medical and infectious material
Hazardous and toxic waste of any kind
Volatile and highly flammable material

Radioactive material
Concrete/Dirt
Liquids and paints
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. If you have any questions, please call Public Works.

Fireworks are Illegal in Countryside

The Consumer Product Safety Commission states, "Fireworks are beautiful to watch, but they can be deadly when mishandled or misused, or if the fireworks themselves contain illegal components." Fireworks can explode unexpectedly or go off in the wrong direction. Fireworks burn at more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and can cause burns, loss of a finger or hand and surgery/hospitalization.



It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, offer for sale, expose for sale, sell, use or explode any fireworks within the city other than supervised public displays of fireworks approved and permitted by the City. Due to the number of complaints received about illegal fireworks last year, the City Council increased the fine. Violations shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$750.00. Please respect your neighbors and their property. Every year more than 10,000 firework injuries are treated in emergency rooms. Don't be the cause of one of them!

Welcome to Countryside

Revel Supper Club

5403 S. LaGrange Road
Restaurant

MFB Therapy

475 55th St., Suite 108
Outpatient mental health services for all ages

Trading Eights LLC

5336 East Avenue
Wholesale Warehouse

Hemraa Coughlin Corporation

7061 Willow Springs Road, 2nd Floor
Commercial Flooring Sales



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.



THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Gabi Casabal
 Liz Casabal
 Noah Casabal
 Jim Durkan, *Announcer*
 Betsy Finn
 Alex Kreczko
 Vicki Lyons
 Kim Payne
 Terra Payne
 Michelle Preissler
 Evan Rosato
 Emily Walker
 Mary Walker
 Jeanne Walsh
 Zachary Walsh

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.com. 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 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8
(Rain date - July 15)
Wednesdays - June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9
(Rain date July 16)

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

AGES: 8 -13

FEE: \$155 (Resident), \$175 (Non-Resident)

REGISTRATION:

Resident - (in-person) beginning March 24, 2025.

Non-Resident - (on website) starting April 8, 2025.

Spring Scramble

DATE: Saturday, May 10, 2025
TIME: 2:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
COST: \$280 per foursome
which includes golf, cart,
food, & prizes.



GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF

Contact Michele at (708) 246-3303 to register or for additional information about future events.

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.com

St. Patrick's Day Party

Flagg Creek was happy to host one of the St. Patrick's Day parade after parties! There was live entertainment by The Dirty Wellies, an outstanding performance by the Harling School of Irish Dance, a bon fire to enjoy roasting marshmallows and making s'mores, corned beef & cabbage and green beer!!



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

Community Garden Program—2025 Season



Every year around this time, the City of Countryside offers to its residents an opportunity to grow and cultivate a garden of vegetables at the northwest corner of Kensington Avenue and 61st Street. Each garden plot (10' x 10') is available to Countryside residents to play in the dirt and be a "Community Gardener" for the season. Open registration begins on March 17th with the official season kicking off on May 5th, weather permitting. Please visit www.countryside-il.org or call (708) 485-4775 for more details and registration materials.

Water Department

The City Of Countryside has teamed with BSI to assist in cross connection management.

General information: As part of its on-going responsibilities under Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regulations, the City must maintain an active cross connection program to prevent backflow. This page answers some of the common questions the City receives about cross connections and the role they play in our water system.

What is backflow? Backflow is the reverse flow of water from an individual water customer's private system to the public distribution system. This can occur any time there is pressure change in the system (from a water main break, etc.) If pressure in private system becomes higher than in the public system, it can cause water to be suctioned back into the public system.

What are cross connection programs? A cross connection program is designed to identify potential places where backflow can occur and secure them by means of installing a special backflow prevention device. These devices work by preventing water that has already flowed through the device from reversing course. In Illinois, these programs require that utilities oversee the annual submission of testing certifications for each testable backflow device in their service area and conduct periodic surveys to identify any previously unknown devices or places where a device is required but not currently installed.

Who is BSI online? BSI online (also known as Backflow Solutions) is a backflow device data management firm that has been contracted by the City to manage its cross connection program. If you have one or more backflow prevention devices, you will receive notice directly from BSI Online regarding when your annual tests are due. Additionally, you will also receive notices from BSI Online about the periodic backflow surveys that the City must conduct. These notices are legitimate.

If you have any questions about these notices, please contact BSI Online directly via email (support@backflow.com) or phone (888) 966-6050 if you have any other questions.

BSI Customer Service Team: 888-966-6050

The State of Illinois requires all water systems to have and maintain an effective cross-connection control program. A component to the program is a comprehensive mail survey of the water system.

The City of Countryside partners with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI Online) to assist in cross-connection management, including mail surveys and annual testing notifications.

What is a Cross-Connection?
A cross-connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the public drinking water system piping. This connection, if not properly protected, can lead to the contamination of the drinking water system through a backflow event – or when the flow of water is reversed.

Healthy Aging Event at Helping Hands Countryside

Join us for complimentary light bites and refreshments and learn about local healthy aging resources with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association, Aging Care Connections, Edward Jones and many more. Expert presentations on how to reduce your risk of getting Alzheimer's or dementia and when and how to seek support for yourself or a loved one. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help you thrive throughout life's journey. **Admission is free with registration.** Live ASL and Spanish interpretation.

A flyer for a 'Healthy Aging' event. At the top, it says 'Healthy Aging' in a large, bold font, followed by 'presented by: OptWell' with the tagline 'choosing healthy, thriving together.' Below this, it lists 'Resource Fair', 'Presentations by Experts', and 'Light Bites'. A circular photo of an elderly couple is in the top right corner. A green circular badge with 'FREE ENTRY' is also present. A large brown box in the center contains the date and time: 'THURSDAY, APRIL 10 5:30pm - 8:00pm' and the location: 'Helping Hand - 9649 W 55th St, Countryside'. At the bottom, there are logos for the Alzheimer's Association, Edward Jones, FNBC Bank & Trust, Aging Care Connections, and the Mental Health Commission of Lyons Township.

See full event details and registration at

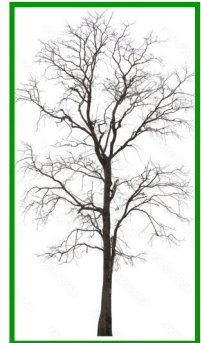
<https://optwell-healthyaging.eventbrite.com> or call Alzheimer's Association @ 800-272-3900 (Opt 1).

Need Transportation? Please call to arrange by April 2nd: CARS @708-354-9328, Township of Lyons @708-354-0292.

Cost Sharing Tree Program

The City's Cost Sharing Tree Program runs from 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.



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.

Reminders ...



SAVE THE DATE
COUNTRYSIDE
BLUEGRASS FEST
AUGUST 16, 2025
1:00PM-9:00PM
COUNTRYSIDE PARK 630 61ST STREET

FIVE BANDS **FOOD TRUCKS & BREWERIES**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 708-485-2595



COUNTRYSIDE
 CHICAGO'S WESTERN GATEWAY

EASTER EGG HUNT **FREE EVENT!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
AT 10:00 AM

COUNTRYSIDE PARK
630 61ST STREET COUNTRYSIDE IL, 60525

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL
 708-354-7270

Upcoming City Meetings

April

1	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
9	City Council	7:30 p.m.
15	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
23	City Council	7:30 p.m.

May

6	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
14	City Council	7:30 p.m.
20	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
28	City Council	7:30 p.m.

June

3	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
10	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
11	City Council	7:30 p.m.
17	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK 2025

COUNTRYSIDE PARK
 THURSDAYS 7:00-9:00PM

JUN 12

RHYTHM ROCKETS

JAZZ, RHYTHM & BLUES FROM THE 40'S & 50'S

JUN 19

SEMPL

CHICAGO COVER BAND; ALL GENRES & CURRENT MUSIC

JUN 26

THE DBS

A COLLECTION OF BLUEGRASS TO BLUES TO ROCK

JUL 10

GENERATION

CLASSIC ROCK & SOUL

JUL 17

BEYOND THE BLONDE

COVERS OF PINK, GWEN STEFANI, LADY GAGA, AND OTHER FEMALE ICONS OF POP & ROCK

JUL 24

ERIC CASE BAND

CLASSIC COUNTRY & SOULFUL ROCK

JUL 31

OPENER: BIPOLAR BEAR COVER BAND
STRUNG OUT BAND
 ULTIMATE TRIBUTE BAND TO THE 1970'S

FIREWORK SHOW AT 9:00 PM!

ANCHORS AWAY

YACHT ROCK (AKA SOFT ROCK) COVERS GENRES FROM THE MID-1970S TO THE MID-1980S

AUG 7



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

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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.