

Countryside CONNECTIONS

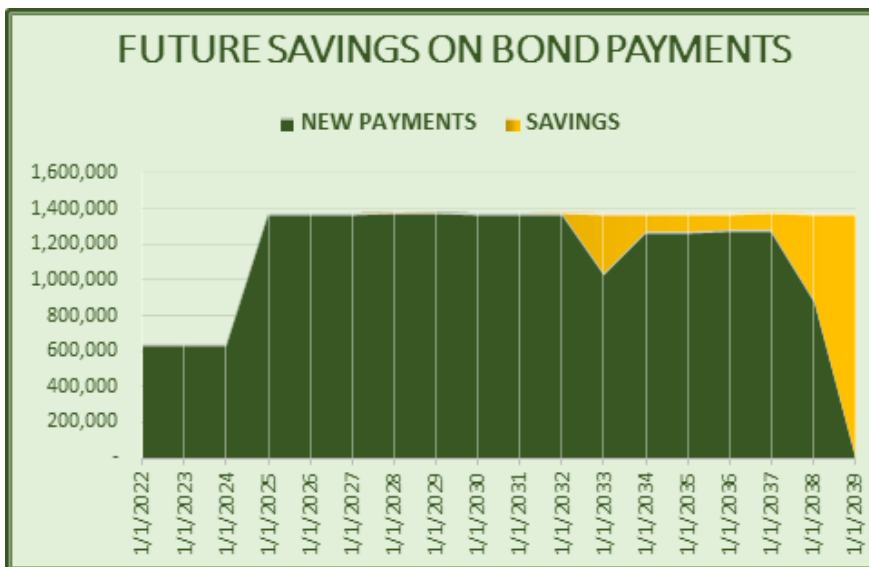
SPRING 2021

www.countryside-il.org



City Saves Taxpayers Almost \$2.6 Million In Bond Refinancing

The City issued bonds in 2008 to pay for the City Center Redevelopment project in combination with significant private investment. This completed project boasts over 60,000 square feet of retail space and has substantially increased the City's tax base which now allows the City to fund its budget without assessing property taxes. In 2014 the City refinanced the bonds at a lower interest rate, saving almost \$1.5 million in interest costs. Today bond interest rates are at historic lows compared to 2008 and 2014 and therefore offer the opportunity for even more savings. City staff began working with Mesirow Financial last fall to begin the process of refinancing the 2014 bonds.



Just like refinancing a home mortgage can either lower the monthly payment or pay it off faster, savings can be achieved from refinancing bonds when the interest rate on the new bonds is substantially below the interest rate on the old bonds. On February 10, 2021 the City issued new bonds at a rate of 1.97%. The money received was used to pay off the 2014 bonds that carried an interest rate of 4.40%. **This significantly lower interest rate from the refinancing enabled the City to save almost \$2.6 million in future interest payments while reducing the time to repay the bonds by six years.**

In Memory of James N. Jasinski



It is with much sadness that we report the loss of Alderman Jim Jasinski of Ward 1. Jim passed away suddenly on March 8th while visiting family in Delaware. Jim served as alderman since 2011. During his tenure he chaired the Special Events Committee. He truly enjoyed planning and attending these events with the public. Prior to becoming an alderman, Jim served as a commissioner on the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals for 4 years.

Our heart goes out to Jim's wife Nancy of 39 years, his daughter Michelle, son-in-law Jake, and precious granddaughter Ava. You will be missed.

Mayer Sean R. McDermott and City Council

Economic Development Updates



Jameson's Original Charhouse opened in February. This restaurant, located in the Holiday Inn at 6201 Joliet Road, is a great addition to Countryside. Jameson's Charhouse was established in 1990. They are renowned for serving hand-cut aged steaks and fresh fish. Their menu boasts house specialties, prepared by Chef Phil Siciliano including baby back ribs, chicken marsala and pan seared seabass to name a few. The remodeled dining room offers a pleasant atmosphere close to home and is managed by Eric Lewchenko and Kevin Callaghan.



Domino's opened at 5410 South La Grange Road. Owner, Matthew Hemingway lives in a neighboring community with his wife and daughter. We were happy to welcome them to Countryside with a ribbon cutting on January 25th. This is Matthew's sixth restaurant and he is in the process of building number seven.



Try them out, Domino's isn't just for pizza anymore. Their menu also includes oven baked sandwiches, pasta served in bread bowls and chicken wings in a selection of bold flavors.



Business and Shopping District Signs Approved

Did you ever wonder why the great City of Countryside's shopping district was never on the attraction sign for exit 276C? Well Mayor Sean McDermott did! Staff embarked on a mission of bringing advertising to our restaurants, stores and businesses. It began with inquiries at the State of Illinois. An application, marketing plan and letter of support from the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors

Bureau were all filed with the Illinois Office of Tourism. We are happy to report the Office of Tourism approved the City's application. The City recently received notice that IDOT installed the signs. The mainline sign is located on the I-55 Exit 276C sign. The trailblazer sign is located on Joliet Road just west of the La Grange Road intersection. These signs help advertise and bring attention to the City's business and shopping district.



Welcome to Countryside

Defining Style

6534 W. Joliet Road
Hair salon

Domino's Pizza

5410 S. LaGrange Road
Pizza restaurant

Fenix Trans Inc.

5504 S. Brainard Ave., Suite E
Consulting - transportation company

Free Style Trucking

6432 Joliet Road, Suite D
Trucking transportation of goods

Jameson's Charhouse

(formerly: William Tell Restaurant)
6201 Joliet Road
Steak house



Magnum Freight

450 W. 55th Street
Dispatch administration office

Mavis Tires & Brakes

9850 Joliet Road
Tire retail and basic automotive maintenance

RD Expedited

500 W. Plainfield Road, Suite 300
Overseas trucking company

RDS Funding

500 W. Plainfield, Suite 200
Finance broker

Salon N.R.G.

921B W. 55th Street
Hair salon

Tina's Salon

6534 Joliet Road
Hair salon



COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of mid-March, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) reported over 216,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 4,000 COVID related deaths in Cook County. If you have not registered for the vaccine yet, you can do so by:

- Go to Cook County's Community Vaccination Program website at www.vaccine.cookcountyil.gov or
- Call the Vaccine Sign-Up Hotline at (833) 308-1988



If you are one of the lucky ones already vaccinated, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued guidelines for those fully vaccinated. An individual is considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's

Go to the CDC website for recommended precautions for fully vaccinated individuals at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html.

A big thank you to Alderman Von Drasek and Countryside Jewel-Osco Pharmacy Manager Presley Birova for working together to schedule and administer COVID-19 vaccination shots to residents and staff on February 8, 2021 and March 8, 2021 at the Countryside Senior Apartments, located at 6406 Joliet Road.

Alderman Von Drasek worked closely with Jacqueline Rodriguez, Resident Service Coordinator at the Countryside Senior Apartments. As a result of everyone's efforts, approximately 74% of the residents and 100% of the staff have been vaccinated.



Countryside is Getting Greener!

It all started with a green building and now the City is working on a greener community. Mayor Sean McDermott appointed a Sustainability Committee to begin the process of developing a sustainability plan for the City of Countryside. The committee, Chaired by Alderman Musillami, met three times in 2020. The following actions were taken:

- Adopted a resolution endorsing the Mayors Caucus Green Region Compact's "GRC" goals and objectives
- Directed staff to pursue a renewable aggregate energy alternative
- Began prioritizing the goals and objectives of GRC's framework of 49 consensus goals in 10 categories

In 2021, this committee will:

- Finish prioritizing the objectives of the Framework
- Post the Framework on the City's website inviting public comment
- Finalize the City's Sustainability Plan
- Adopt the Sustainability Plan by Ordinance
- Continue to work on programs and initiatives for a greener community.
- Educate the public on sustainable practices at home and at work.

GRC FRAMEWORK CATEGORIES

CLIMATE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ENERGY
LAND
LEADERSHIP
MOBILITY
MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
WASTE & RECYCLING
WATER

City to Launch New Clean Energy Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a voter referendum in November 2012, the City initiated an electric aggregation program. Under this program the City pooled and competitively bid out the energy supply needs of all participating residents and small businesses in an effort to secure the best pricing available. The City's program ran from 2012 to 2019. During this time residents and businesses enjoyed significant savings as the program's rate was below ComEd's rate for most of the time. However, in 2019 when the City sought renewal bids, the City did not receive any bids that resulted in achievable savings and the program was suspended.

The Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) has managed the City's aggregation program since 2012. NIMEC recently tested the market and confirmed that a fixed rate lower than the ComEd rate is not achievable at this time. As an alternative NIMEC has recommended a new aggregation program. Under this program residents enjoy the satisfaction of receiving power from 100% Earth friendly renewable sources supplied at ComEd's guaranteed rate. In addition, the City is provided with an annual Civic Contribution that it can use to support energy efficient projects and programs to the benefit of the community.

Participation in this program will enable the City to be designated as an Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Community and it will also meet the objectives of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact which more than 110 communities in Northern Illinois have adopted. Both of these accomplishments will advance the goals outlined in the City's Sustainability Plan and are consistent with the sustainability objectives of the City Council. Approximately 60 Illinois Communities have successfully implemented this program.



When suppliers implement a Green Community Aggregation program they analyze the supply costs for each individual account. Based on the economics of providing power to each account the alternate supplier will identify individual accounts that will remain on ComEd supply. The supplier then purchases Renewable Energy Certificates to validate 100% Clean Energy for the entire community. All residents will continue to be billed by ComEd at the ComEd rate. The program has no additional costs to the residents or the City for 100% Clean Power. All residents will receive notice of the program, with the explanation that their power consumption is offset by Renewable Energy Certificates from wind generators in the Midwest.

Police Updates

OPT-IN NOW for ALERTS on SMART 911

In the Winter newsletter we invited our residents, as well as anyone that works in or visits the City of Countryside to sign up online and create a **Safety Profile** on “Smart911”. This free service allows individuals and families to provide key information to 9-1-1 call takers during an emergency. This information includes any details you would like to provide about your household such as allergies, pets, emergency contacts, other household information, medical history, and vulnerable needs. You can sign up today by typing the following address into your web browser and following through the prompts <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=Countryside>. You decide how much information you want to provide when you sign up. All information is optional and you have the ability to choose what details you would like to include. This information is stored on the “Smart911” secure online system.

While creating your **Safety Profile**, you can also opt-in for “**Alerts**”, which we highly recommend. The “**Alerts**” portion of “Smart911” acts as a mass notification system and allows the City and Police Department to notify you of vital information and emergency situations that may be occurring in your neighborhood. By opting in for notifications you can receive this vital information via text, email, and/or voice message.

If you need help or would like assistance signing up for either of these services on ‘Smart 911’ we would be happy to help! You may contact Deputy Chief Scott Novak directly at (708) 485-2516 or stop in and we can make arrangements to walk you through the sign up process and help you create your Safety Profile and set up your alerts. Please take advantage of this invaluable tool as it can help save precious seconds and minutes in the event of an emergency. So invaluable that we highlighted it on our newsletter page again!



Department Awards and Personnel Updates

Life Saving Awards were presented to Sergeant Sodt, Officer Gleespen, and Officer Venem for their actions when responding to an ambulance assist on September 10, 2020. Officer Cahue was presented with a Life Saving Award for his actions when responding to a possible drug overdose on December 18, 2020. Sergeant Sodt was presented with an Honorable Mention for his performance throughout the course of an 11-month criminal investigation of Aggravated Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Victim which ultimately resulted in an arrest. Officer Maher was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on October 5, 2020 and Officer Venem was promoted to the rank of Detective on December 12, 2020.

Tobacco Compliance Checks

Tobacco compliance checks are conducted in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Human Services. Through the State of Illinois Tobacco Enforcement Program, our department receives grant funding to conduct retail education and enforcement initiatives. This State program helps support community-based efforts through the distribution of tobacco retailer kits and the completion of retailer compliance checks. The compliance checks are designed to educate retail establishments and eliminate the illegal sale of tobacco to minors in our community.

On February 17, 2021 Countryside Police Officers conducted tobacco compliance checks on the 18 businesses in Countryside with tobacco licenses. 15 of the 18 businesses were in compliance with Local and State Regulations regarding the sale of tobacco to minors.



Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pickup (April 1 - October 29)

Branch and brush pickup will be provided by the City for residents beginning April 1st through October 29th. 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 17 - May 20)

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 17th.

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.

Water Department

Water Report - 2020 Water System Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)



The City of Countryside will be publishing its 2020 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in June 2021. The CCR includes basic information on the source of your drinking water, the levels of any contaminants that were detected in the water during 2020, 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.

Lawn Sprinkling Restrictions

City ordinance restricts sprinkling between May 15th and September 15th. Sprinkling lawns and gardens is **prohibited between the hours of 12:00 (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.

Pay Your Bills Online

Countryside offers online billing and payment service that gives customers greater flexibility to view and pay their water bills and building permits online.

Additionally, this easy-to-use payment portal provides customers with quick access to their account to view bills, check their balance, and email reminders.



Water Bill

- ❶ Go to www.countryside-il.org and click on the Pay Online button to access the payment portal.
- ❷ Click on Register Now to create an account or click on Pay Now to make a one-time payment.
- ❸ Enter your information and select the invoice that you would like to pay. Add it to your cart or click the option to register.
- ❹ Follow the steps to complete your payment. You may also choose to go paperless and sign up for pay by text during this time. **OR, to pay by phone 24/7, call (855) 329-4908.**

Building Permit

- ❶ Go to www.countryside-il.org and click on "Departments" and select "The Community Development Department".
- ❷ Click on "Online Building Permits" (please review the listed instructions) click on "Online Permit Link" to begin the permitting process.
- ❸ Type the numbers of the Countryside address, and select your address from the listed results.
- ❹ Check the owner information and under the permit tab click on "Apply for a Permit".
- ❺ When your permit is approved you will receive an email with a link to pay your permit.



Selling Your Home, Business or Property - Here is what you need to know ...

The City of Countryside requires when selling a home, business or property that a Pre-Sale Application form be completed. The form is available on-line by going to the city's web site, clicking on Residents > Selling Your Home > Click HERE for the Pre-sale Permit and Handout.

Once you download the application, complete the application and then either submit an on-line permit request by going to Departments > Community Development > Online Building Permits > ONLINE PERMIT LINK and follow the prompts or you can also e-mail the application to building@countryside-il.org.

Be sure to select the inspection day and put the calendar date on the form. Inspections are scheduled 24 hours in advance so if you want to schedule on a Friday, you should have the form submitted no later than 2:00 PM on Thursday.

Once the application is processed, an e-mail will be sent to you with a link on how to pay for the permit application. The inspection date will be confirmed in an e-mail.

In the permit application packet, on page three, there is a sequential check list to follow that will assist in the process of obtaining a Real Estate Property Transfer Stamp which is required in order to close on the sale. The stamp is issued by the Clerk's Office upon completion of all the required steps. The cost of the transfer stamp is \$50 (no personal checks accepted), and is the responsibility of the seller.

Flagg Creek Golf News

Resident ID Cards

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. You **MUST** renew or establish your membership yearly. A valid driver's license or photo ID and a current utility bill is required. **You will not be eligible for resident rates without your updated resident card from the golf course.** New pictures will be taken upon registration.



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.

League Information

Flagg Creek offers many golf leagues.
Senior Men's League (Mondays)
Wednesday Ladies League
Thursday Ladies League
Short Summer Ladies League
Chicks with Sticks (Monday & Thursday afternoons)
Friday Men's League (Friday afternoons)



Contact the Proshop at (708) 246-3336 for additional information or go to www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Finance Department Earns The Distinguished Budget Award

The City's Finance Department has earned the Distinguish Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada during this fiscal year. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and the Finance Department has earned it for the 5th consecutive year. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications device.

Voter Registration Deadlines For April 6, 2021

VOTE BY MAIL: Applications are available at the Countryside Municipal Complex in the Clerk's Office or by applying online at www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/VoteByMail. Paper applications must be submitted to the Cook County Clerk's Office by April 1, 2021. Mail ballots must be postmarked by April 6th.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Online: April 1

By mail: Postmarked by April 6

In person: April 6

EARLY VOTING: March 22nd through April 5th at the following locations:

- Brookfield Village Hall, 8820 Brookfield Avenue, (708) 485-7344
- Hodgkins Village Hall, 8990 Lyons Street, (708) 579-6700
- Lyons Village Hall, 4200 S. Lawndale, (708) 442-4500

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE !

Reminders ...

Cost Sharing Tree Program

If you have a dead or diseased tree on your property, the City has a program to assist you with the cost.

Community Garden

We have ten 10' x 10' garden plots available to Countryside residents.

Call (708) 485-4775 for more details and registration materials.



Drive-Thru Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday April 3, 2021

WHERE: Old City Hall (55th Street & East Avenue)
TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (or while supplies last)

Each car of children will receive a goody bagged filled with Easter eggs and a chocolate bunny pop. Children ages 0-12 must be present in the vehicle.



Memorial Day Holiday



When: Monday, May 31, 2021
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

Upcoming City Meetings

April

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

May

4	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
12	City Council	7:30 p.m.
19	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
26	City Council	7:30 p.m.

June

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



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

Caryn Stancik

Aldermen

Mark Benson

John Finn

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

Pleasantview Fire Protection

www.plvw.org

West Suburban Chamber

www.westsuburbanchamber.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) 354-9445

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

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.