

Countryside CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2023

www.countryside-il.org



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

At the February 22nd City Council meeting, Mayor Sean McDermott introduced Countryside resident Kevin Dahill as the Grand Marshal of the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mr. Dahill has been involved in the City's St. Patrick's Day Parade since its inception in 2016. Kevin and his wife Donna raised their three children in LaGrange and most recently Countryside. They are parishioners of St. Cletus Church in LaGrange where his children attended school, and he coached the JV-football team for 11 years. Our Queen Colleen Ramicone (also a Countryside resident) is a member of the environmental club at Nazareth Academy and also volunteers for St. Cletus' giving tree.



Mayor Sean McDermott and the City Council pictured with Parade Grand Marshal Kevin Dahill, Queen Colleen Ramicone, Members of the Queen's Court, Isabella Broderick, Sophia Foltz, Katie Springer, and Princess Lanie Reilly.



A big thanks to our volunteers: Paul, Desire & Alex Kreczko; Mary & Ashley Walker; Betsy & Andy Finn; Joe Pulciani; Molly Price; Tina Rounds; Grace Diaz; Amber Mataczynski; and Kristin Barrero.

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

Coffee with the Mayor - May 20th 10 - 11 a.m.

Mayor Sean McDermott welcomed Illinois State Senate Minority Leader Senator John Curran to Coffee with the Mayor in February. Senator Curran was sworn in to represent the 41st District in July 2017. The 41st District covers the southern area of Countryside, from the south west side of Joliet Road and Willow Springs Road south to the 5th Avenue Cutoff. Also included in the 41st District is Lorraine Drive, Hillsdale Road and Sunset Avenue south of Hillsdale Road.

John provided his personal background. Prior to the General Assembly, he served as the Vice-Chairman of the DuPage County Board, and was a board member from 2008 - 2017. Senator Curran also worked for 19 years as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Senator Curran now works as an attorney at a private law firm in Oakbrook.



Please join the Mayor for coffee and conversation on May 20, 2023 for the next Coffee with the Mayor.

City of Countryside Receives CISCO Award

The Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) introduced the annual Pride in Construction Awards program in 2005 to recognize excellence in Union construction in Northeastern Illinois. Each year, CISCO awards construction projects in specific categories, as well as an educator, a labor advocate, and a public body who contribute to the overall quality of the industry.

CISCO announced that as part of their 2022 Pride in Construction Awards program, the City of Countryside was selected as the recipient of the Public Body of the Year award. Mayor Sean McDermott accepted the award on behalf of the City at a ceremony on February 10, 2023.



Voter Deadlines for April 4, 2023

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 March 30, 2023. Mail ballots must be postmarked by April 4th.

EARLY VOTING: March 20th through April 3rd; Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the following locations:

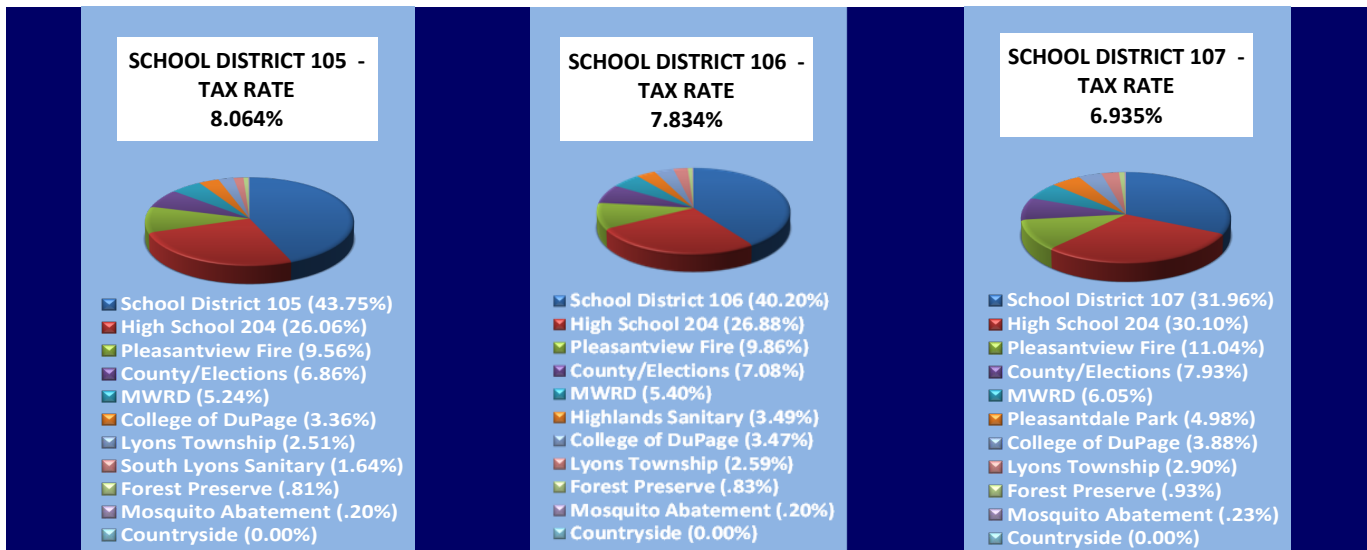
- Brookfield Village Hall, 8820 Brookfield Avenue, (708) 485-7344
- Hodgkins Village Hall, 8990 Lyons Street, (708) 579-6700
- Lyons Village Hall, 4200 S. Lawndale, (708) 442-4500



Countryside - NO Tax Levy in Cook County (1 of 135)

"I am pleased to report that this marks the 9th consecutive year that the City will meet its budgetary obligations without the use of property taxes" said Mayor Sean McDermott. In fact, the **City is the only municipality with 100% of its property value in Cook County to accomplish this feat out of a total of 135 municipal districts.** The City of Elmhurst and the Village of Oak Brook (DuPage County), the Village of Homer Glen (Will County), and the Village of Deer Park (Lake County) do not levy property taxes although they have over 99% of their property values in their primary counties. **In addition, the City has the 7th lowest average tax rate in the County at 7.878%,** which makes the property tax burden more manageable for residents. The City is able to accomplish this due to its careful management and growth of the retail and commercial economic base which now produces over \$10.7 million in sales tax revenues annually.

So where do your property tax dollars go? City staff researched tax statistics on the three primary school districts in Countryside and graphed the results below.



So how does Countryside compare to neighboring communities? As shown below, the average tax payer has to pay their local municipality \$160 to \$2,169 annually to provide for municipal services in addition to property taxes paid to the County/Forest Preserve, Fire Protection District, Township, School Districts, Community College, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), and Sanitary Districts.

Taxing District	Local Property Taxes	Local Tax Rate	Median Home Value	Property Taxes Paid for City Services
City Of Countryside	-	0.000%	269,200	-
Village of North Riverside	597,547	0.232%	263,500	160
Village of Burr Ridge	517,115	0.120%	672,500	230
Village of Indian Head Park	1,294,873	0.846%	258,600	572
Village of Willow Springs	2,269,583	1.210%	301,300	974
Village of Westchester	9,262,642	1.644%	257,500	1,107
Village of Hodgkins	4,090,007	1.650%	277,851	1,212
Village of LaGrange Park	5,163,480	1.278%	370,900	1,296
Village of Western Springs	7,892,294	1.010%	506,300	1,434
Village of LaGrange	7,912,297	1.028%	514,700	1,486
Village of Brookfield	11,825,607	2.790%	276,200	2,035
Village of McCook	4,276,300	3.791%	220,000	2,125
Village of Riverside	5,926,184	1.857%	422,300	2,169

Route 66 Pedestrian Bridge Grant

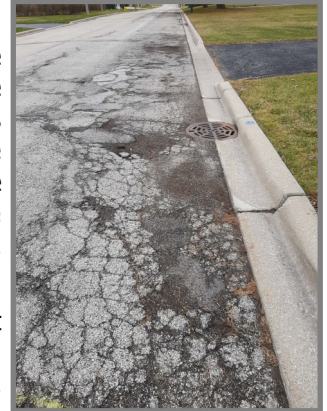
The City of Countryside secured \$2.5 million in funding for a pedestrian bridge in the 2020 Capital Bill. It is part of Governor J.B. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Infrastructure Plan. This bridge will be constructed at the intersection of Joliet Road and Brainard Avenue. It will be completely ADA accessible including elevators to provide access to all.

The City entered into an engineering agreement with Novotny Engineering for the design of the bridge at their meeting on March 8th. The goal is to complete construction in time for the Route 66 Centennial celebration in 2026. This project is fully funded by the State of Illinois.

2023 Street Resurfacing Program

Each year the Public Works Superintendent and City Engineer assess the conditions of all streets and alleys in Countryside. The streets and alleys in the worst condition are included in the 5-year street resurfacing plan. This plan is reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee to determine which streets will be improved each year, taking into account the conditions and costs. This year the following streets will be included in the resurfacing program: Sunset Avenue (71st Street to Stalford Road) and 67th Street (Sunset Avenue to the east limit). The total estimated cost of the 2023 street resurfacing program is \$524,000.

This year the City will be replacing the water main on Sunset Avenue from 71st Street to Stalford Avenue. This project was discussed at the November 2022 Infrastructure Committee meeting. The total cost of the project is \$1,145,000. Once this project is completed, Sunset Avenue and 67th Street will be repaved.



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 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.



Trees considered nuisance species include cottonwood, willow and mulberry. 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.

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 14, 2023. 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 14, 2023. 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.

Air Quality

What is air quality? It is a measure of how clean or polluted the air is. According to the Center for Science Education, "When air quality is good, the air is clear and contains only small amounts of solid particle and chemical pollutants. Poor air quality, which contains high levels of pollutants, is often hazy and dangerous to health and the environment."

How is air quality measured? The air quality index (AQI) measures how clean or polluted the air is. The AQI uses a scale from 1 – 500. The AQI is divided into six categories. See the chart below for a description of the categories.

What changes air quality? Air pollution and weather can change the air quality. Pollution comes in many forms including mobile transportation exhaust, factories and power plants, wood burning fire places and from natural events such as wildfires and volcanoes.

Different aspects of the weather affect the amount of ozone and particulates present in an area. Sunshine, rain, high temperatures, wind and air turbulence all affect pollutant concentrations and therefore, air quality.

How does air quality affect me? When we breathe, pollution enters our lungs and can enter our blood stream. Poor air quality can cause or worsen health problems especially those involving the lungs and breathing.

What can I do to help air quality? You can reduce the number of trips you take in your car; reduce or eliminate wood stove and fireplace use; avoid burning leaves, trash and other materials; and avoid using gas powered lawn and garden equipment especially on days when high particle levels are expected.

AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution			
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Value of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

2007 Economic Development Action Plan Update

In 2007, the City Council and staff participated in an Economic Development workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to identify economic development priorities. Five categories were identified as most important with many initiatives derived for each. The Economic Development Committee met to look back over the past 15 years noting 80% of the initiatives were accomplished. Major accomplishments include:

Improve Community Image & Quality of Life

- Upgrade City Parks
- Install a bike path (Brainard Avenue)
- Pursue grants (over \$11.4 million in grants have been received in the past 10 years)

Improve the Corner of La Grange and Joliet

- Intersection improvements completed
- Assembled 9 acres for the City Center Development
- Completed the LaGrange Road Streetscape project
- Hired a developer for the City Center

Countryside Plaza Redevelopment

- Façade improvements completed
- Expansion of outdoor sales for Home Depot

Conduct Business Retention & Attraction Efforts

- Completed City Center Development
- Attract more restaurants (Buona, Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, Halal Guys, Hooters, Jameson's Char-house, 7 Gates and Texas Roadhouse)

Identify Economic Development Opportunities

- Created an Economic Development Committee
- Develop underutilized properties (Flame purchased for Municipal Complex)
- Created two Tax Increment Financing Districts

Top 10 Sales Tax Generators

The City of Countryside depends on sales tax revenue to support the majority of general City operations. It has and will continue to be a top priority for the City to attract high sales tax generating businesses.

The total sales tax rate in Countryside was 9.75% during calendar year 2022 and of this total rate, the City automatically receives a 1.0% local share of the tax rate and an additional .75% home rule sales tax rate on qualifying purchases (general merchandise only - not vehicles.)

For calendar year 2022, the total sales tax collected by the City was about \$10.8 million dollars. The top ten businesses (listed in alphabetical order) generate almost 45% of the taxes collected. ***Shop Countryside!***

Autobarn VW
Countryside Nissan
Ettleson Hyundai
Floor & Décor
Gerald Honda
Home Depot
Jack Phelan Dodge/
Chrysler/JEEP/Ram
Jewel
TJ Maxx
Westfield Ford

Library Reimbursement Program



In January 2022, the City Council renewed our Intergovernmental Agreement with the McCook Public Library. Countryside residents may become members of the McCook Public Library at the rate of \$100 per person, and the City will reimburse each member the \$100 rate. If you choose to join another library, the reimbursement amount will be capped at \$100. To apply, please bring in your library card, receipt and photo ID to the Clerk's Office. Reimbursements take approximately three weeks to process. For more information, please contact the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270.

Welcome to Countryside

ABC Therapy Clinics

917 W. 55th Street, #C

Consulting services (children, ages 2-17)

ACE Sushi @ Tony's Market

6704 Joliet Road

Sushi take-out

Grit and Grace Yoga

51 E. Plainfield, #2-C

Yoga and fitness group classes



Police Department Updates

Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) - Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop

Mark your calendars for the Special Olympics LETR 2023 **Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop** event that is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2023 from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. Those who donate \$10 or more will receive a LETR/Dunkin' branded mug (while supplies last) and a coupon for a free medium hot coffee.



Harley Davidson Raffle tickets for this year's drawing for a 2023 HD Street Glide will also be available for purchase at the Police Department for \$10 per ticket in early May. This year's drawing will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

Officers Observe Open Doors and Windows

While officers are conducting preventative patrol, they often times notice conditions such as an open garage door, open car door, or insufficient lighting that may pose a threat to personal property. In our efforts to keep Countryside safe, our officers may leave you a card indicating the condition they viewed and some security measures that you can take. In 2022, our officers observed **101 open doors** and when possible, contacted the homeowner or business owner directly. In the event contact could not be made, a card was left and our officers attempted to secure the open door.

**COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OBSERVATION CARD**



DEAR RESIDENT / BUSINESS OWNER,

WHILE ON PREVENTIVE PATROL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, I NOTICED A CONDITION WHICH IN MY EXPERIENCE MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO YOUR PROPERTY. PERSONS WITH UNLAWFUL INTENTS OFTEN LOOK FOR INVITING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO SELECTING A TARGET FOR THEIR CRIME. SOME OF THE MORE COMMON CONDITIONS MARKED ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD WERE NOTED TO BE PRESENT ON YOUR PROPERTY.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN MAKING COUNTRYSIDE A SAFER COMMUNITY IN WHICH TO LIVE. SHOULD YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THIS OR ANY OTHER SECURITY MEASURE WITH ME, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT **708-352-2171**.

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____
TIME: _____ OFFICER: _____

☐ OPEN DOOR (FRONT / REAR / SIDE)	☐ GARAGE DOOR OPEN
☐ INSUFFICIENT LIGHTING (INTERIOR / EXTERIOR)	☐ DOME LIGHT ON
☐ ADDRESS NUMBER NOT VISIBLE	☐ CAR DOOR / TRUNK OPEN
☐ VALUABLES LEFT IN AUTO	☐ KEYS IN VEHICLE
☐ OTHER _____	

ALARM: I RESPONDED TO A BURGLAR ALARM AT THE ABOVE LOCATION.

STATUS AS FOLLOWS:

☐ ALL SECURE	☐ OPEN WINDOW	☐ CAUSE UNKNOWN
☐ KEY HOLDER NOTIFIED	☐ OPEN DOOR	☐ WEATHER RELATED

CR# _____

Mission Statement:
Our mission is to serve and protect the Countryside community, while building strong relationships based on mutual trust and respect. We will carry out our mission with the highest level of professionalism, integrity, fairness, and excellence.

Successful Implementation of Electronic Ticketing and Online Payments

February 1, 2023 was the "go-live" date for our transition to electronic ticketing and local ordinance adjudication. All local ordinance tickets issued by the Countryside Police Department and Building Department are now completed electronically through Quicket Solutions cloud-based software. The only paper generated is the printed copy of the ticket that is provided to the defendant. The remainder of the information exists electronically in the Quicket software allowing for a fully integrated and paperless process system to efficiently pay, adjudicate, and track tickets. Once issued, all ticket information is available in real-time. When a ticket is adjudicated the hearing officer is able to review all of the case information and adjudicate the case entirely through the software.

This software also facilitates electronic submittal of traffic violations to the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk's office as well as electronic submittal of crash report data to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Scan the QR Code to:



- ✓ Visit our Website
- ✓ Enter Overnight Parking Requests
- ✓ Enter Vacation Watch Requests
- ✓ Purchase Accident Reports
- ✓ Pay an Administrative Tow Fee
- ✓ Pay Parking Tickets or Local Ordinance Citations
- ✓ Download Freedom of Information Act Forms
- ✓ Connect via Social Media



THANKS TO OUR MANY SPONSORS

JACK PHELAN



DODGE

CHRYSLER

Jeep



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Friends of Sean McDermott
Local 150 – IUOE
Merging Technologies
Novotny Engineering
Township of Lyons
Westfield Ford

EMERALD SPONSORS

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Flagg Creek Golf Course
Gencar, Inc.
George Keporos
Groot Industries, Inc.
Holiday Inn of Countryside
Hooters
Infinity Communications
Napleton's Countryside Mazda
Numark Credit Union
Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier & McGrath
Park District of LaGrange
Rafferty's Irish Pub
The Autobarn Subaru & VW
Time Out Sports Bar
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Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pickup (April 3 - 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 22 - May 25)

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 22nd.

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 - 2022 Water System Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)



The City of Countryside will be publishing its 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in June 2023. The CCR includes basic information on the source of your drinking water, the levels of any contaminants that were detected in the water during 2022, 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 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.

Community Solar

Thanks to Illinois' new clean energy bill, Solstice (a solar energy producer) is working within the statewide program Illinois Solar for All. Qualified households can save up to 50% on the supply portion of their energy bills through this program.



What is the Illinois Solar for All Program?

The Illinois Solar for All program was created to spread the benefits of low-cost energy to income-eligible Illinois residents. This program offers monthly electric bill savings to all participants, but not all households are eligible to participate.

How does it work?



A solar energy project gets built near you. Renters and homeowners can subscribe to be a part of the farm that matches their energy use.

When you join, your solar share sends its energy through your utility's power grid, so there's no need to install anything on your home or pay extra to participate.

You will get your electricity as normal, no change to your everyday life, except for the savings you get and the good feeling of supporting clean energy.

Savings Rate – Community solar subscribers in this program earn savings of up to 50% on the supply portion of their electric bill. This savings equals about 25% of your total bill.

Term – Your savings will be locked in for 15 years, unless you cancel early. There is no fee to cancel. Solstice just asks you to provide a 90 days' notice so that they can fill your spot in the program.

Qualification – This is an exclusive program for income-qualified Illinois residents. Solstice will see if you qualify for the state-sponsored program based on your household income. Visit Solstice's website at www.solstice.us/ilsfa to find out if you qualify, or call Solstice at (866) 826-1997 to find out over the phone.

Finance Department Earns Audit and Budget Awards for Best Practices

The Finance Department is being recognized for earning both the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (audit award) and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (the "GFOA") during this fiscal year. GFOA best practices and policy advocacy are considered the gold standard in the governmental finance industry.

This is the 16th consecutive year that the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This prestigious award represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The City also received the Distinguish Budget Award for the 7th consecutive year. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. In order to receive this award, a governmental must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications device.

Code Enforcement

How Does Your Home Measure Up?



Spring is upon us and the Community Development Department will be resuming their code enforcement patrols of the City. We would like to take this time to make you aware of some of the areas that will be looked at to assure that exterior surfaces and surroundings are up to code. This checklist will help you keep your property in good condition.

1. **Address Numbers** must be easily seen from the street, and be at least 4 inches of contrasting color.
2. **Roofs** cannot be missing shingles or show any defects that would allow rain or snow to leak through, or any signs of sagging.
3. **Gutters** must be anchored to the roof, with downspouts properly connected and free from obstruction.
4. **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.
5. **Window** glass cannot have cracks or holes. Window frames must be in good condition.
6. **Doors and door frames** must be in good condition and weather-tight.
7. **Exterior surfaces**, such as siding, soffit and fascia must be free of holes and be properly painted and weather-proofed.
8. **Driveways and walkways** should not have serious cracks, deterioration, or settlement that might cause a trip hazard.
9. **Accessory structures** such as decks, detached garages, porches, pools and retaining walls must be structurally sound and in good condition.
10. **Decks** must be in good condition. Always check that handrails and guardrails are secure. Any loose boards may need to be screwed down.
11. **Garbage and debris** need to be cleaned up. Unused tires, garbage, grills, etc. can be unsightly and will need to be removed from your property. Let's keep Countryside clean.
12. **Fences** need to be structurally sound. Replace any broken or damaged fence boards.
13. **Pools** shall be in good working order. Check your pool liner and any electrical or gas pipe for faulty equipment or connections. Pools not in use need to be drained so they don't harbor mosquitos.
14. **Recreational vehicles** (boats, campers, trailers) may not be stored in the front yard or on the driveway. When stored in the side or rear yard, they must be placed upon either asphalt or concrete and be screened on three sides by fencing or non-deciduous plants that are at least five feet in height.
15. **Trees** that are diseased, dying or dead shall be removed from your property.
16. **Grass and weeds** shall be maintained to 8 inches or less.

Permits - Required or Not!! Some examples of work that does not require a permit 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 your home or business does require a permit even when you are doing the work yourself. If you are ever in doubt - please call and we will be happy to assist you.

For more information or to answer any questions, please call the Community Development Department at (708) 354-1860.

Free Seed Give-Away

Once again the City will be giving away free seed mixes for pollinator gardens. There are three mixes; one for a sun garden, one for a moist garden, and one for a shade garden. Seed mixes can be picked up at the Clerk's Office, Monday - Friday, during regular business hours from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. beginning May 1, 2023.



Flagg Creek Golf News

Resident Rates

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!** You will not be eligible for resident rates unless you are registered as a resident at the golf course. A valid driver's license or photo I.D. and current utility bill is required.



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!

Wedge Clinic

DATE: Sunday, April 30th
TIME: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
COST: \$150 per person which includes a short game lesson, wedge fitting from Cleveland golf, and a free sleeve of Srixon Q-star.

Spring Scramble

DATE: Sunday, June 12th
TIME: 2:30 p.m. Shotgun
COST: \$280 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 and cabbage and green beer. Entertainment was provided by Zack Edwards. The kids and adults enjoyed the balloon twister and a face painter.



WinterFest 2023 ...

Was a fun-filled day at the Flagg Creek Golf Course. There was a magic show, balloon artist, face painter, bingo, Home Depot craft, bonfire with s'mores, DJ, photo booth, and reindeer for the kids to pet.



Reminders ...



The City Hall will be closed in observance of **Good Friday**, Friday, April 7th.

Mark your calendar for Countryside's Concert in the Park Series
Band acts start at 7 p.m.!



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

- | | |
|----------|---|
| June 15 | Mackenzie O'Brien Band |
| June 22 | Classical Blast |
| June 29 | Michael Charles Band |
| July 6 | The Special 20's |
| July 13 | Rosie & The Rivets |
| July 20 | No Turn on Red |
| July 27 | Opening Act 6 p.m. -
The Vaughn Building
7 p.m. - Mellencougar
(FIREWORKS SHOW AT 9 P.M.
with a rain date of August 3) |
| August 3 | Heartache Tonight |

ALL CONCERTS ARE RAIN OR SHINE

For more information, call (708) 354-7270

Sign Up Today—E-News Mailing List

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

Upcoming City Meetings

April

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 11 | 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. |

May

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | Plan/ZBA Commission | 7:15 p.m. |
| 10 | City Council | 7:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Flagg Creek Admin. Board | 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 | City Council | 7:30 p.m. |

June

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 6 | Plan/ZBA Commission | 7:15 p.m. |
| 13 | Fire & Police Commission | 5:00 p.m. |
| 14 | City Council | 7:30 p.m. |
| 21 | Flagg Creek Admin. Board | 7:00 p.m. |

Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, April 8th
Place: Countryside Park
630 61st Street
Time: 10 a.m.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER & HONOR



When: Monday, May 29, 2023
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



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

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Officials:

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Elizabeth Kmet

Treasurer

Courtney Bolt

Aldermen

Mark Benson

John Finn

Tom Frohlich

Thomas Mikolyzk

Scott Musillami

John Von Drasek



Websites to Know

City of Countryside

www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk

www.cookcountyclerk.com

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.com

Pleasant Dale Park District

www.pdparks.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection

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.