

Countryside CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2021

www.countryside-il.org



City Officials Re-Elected



John Finn (Ward 1)

John Von Drasek (Ward 2)

Mark Benson (Ward 3)

Elizabeth Kmet (City Clerk)

The May 12th City Council meeting included the swearing in of 3 re-elected Aldermen and the City Clerk. All took the oath of office, administered by Mayor Sean McDermott. The Aldermen will serve 4-year terms and the City Clerk will serve a 2-year term.

Congratulations!

Welcome Tom Frohlich - Ward 1 Alderman



Tom was appointed Alderman of Ward 1 by Mayor Sean McDermott and the City Council on June 9, 2021. Tom will continue to serve as a member of the Flagg Creek Golf Course Advisory Board.

Tom and his wife, Therese, have lived in Countryside since 1985. They have a grown son, Keith (a LTHS graduate) and two grandsons. Tom is also a LTHS alumni; served in the United States Air Force; and holds an AA from the College of DuPage and a BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Tom is a retired transportation management professional having worked for over 45 years at various multi-billion dollar companies such as FedEx Trade Network, Insight Enterprises, and Bombardier Aerospace.

He looks forward to working with the City officials to serve the residents and businesses of Countryside's 1st Ward to the best of his abilities.

Coffee with the Mayor is Back on July 17th from 10 - 11 a.m.



Please join Mayor Sean McDermott for coffee and conversation on Saturday, July 17th. Finance Director, Dave Schutter will review the impact of COVID-19 on the City's revenues. He will also review the fiscal year budget (May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022) which was approved by the City Council on April 28th. This budget includes nearly \$5 million in capital expenditures. Dave will provide a description of the capital improvements to be undertaken over the next year. Please consider joining us for an informal discussion. We meet at the Municipal Complex, 803 Joliet Road in the Council Chambers.

Memorial Day Ceremony



The Robert E. Coulter VFW Post 1941 held Memorial Day Services at the Carl W. LeGant Memorial Park located at the intersection of 55th Street and Plainfield Road. Mayor Sean McDermott, and Aldermen Benson, Finn, Musillami, and Von Drasek attended the ceremony. Past City officials, family members and residents were also in attendance. TAPS and a rifle salute were performed as part of the service honoring our fallen heroes.

Countryside is Getting Greener!

It all started with a green building and now the City's working on a greener community. Mayor Sean McDermott appointed a Sustainability Committee to begin the process of developing a sustainability plan to guide the City into the future. 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, listed below.

This year, the 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.
- Initiate a renewable aggregate energy program.
- Continue to work on programs and initiatives for a greener community.
- Educate the public on sustainable practices at home and at work.

Look for the **SUSTAINABILITY SQUARE**, like the one below in future newsletters to find out what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.

Wasteful: Electronics represent 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste.

Sustainable: Residents can recycle up to 3 items per day at the Best Buy for **FREE**. They accept computers, printers, calculators, cameras, cell phones, DVD players, etc.

Search recycling on their website at: www.BestBuy.com

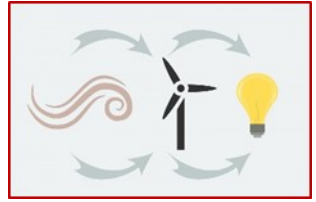


GREEN REGION COMPACT'S FRAMEWORK CATEGORIES

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

City to Launch New Clean Energy Aggregation Program

The City entered into a contract with Eligro Energy to provide green energy to eligible customers. The program features a rate to residents that matches the ComEd rate. All eligible participants will continue to be billed by ComEd at the ComEd default rate. The program has no additional costs to the residents or the City for 100% Renewable Power. This is accomplished by Eligro analyzing all residential accounts in Countryside. They determine which customers use little energy during peak demand. Those customers are included in the program.



High energy users during peak demand periods will continue to receive their power directly from ComEd. All residents will receive notice of the program, whether they are eligible or not and an explanation that their power consumption is offset by Renewable Energy Credits which are derived from wind generators in the Midwest.

Chicago Announces Water Rate Increase Effective June 1st

The City purchases its water from the Village of McCook who is a direct wholesale customer of the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago has announced a water rate increase to \$4.13/thousand or +1.104% which will be effective for water consumed after June 1, 2021 by its wholesale customers. In response to the scheduled water rate increase from the City of Chicago, the Village of McCook announced an increase to the City of Countryside to \$5.27/thousand or +1.35%. In an effort to cover the increased water supply costs and to ensure ample funding for water system operating and capital replacement costs, the City Council elected to increase retail water rates by 1.35%. Effective for water purchased after June 1, 2021 (bills to be sent out in mid-July) the water billing will continue to include the \$5 monthly connection fee plus the following water rates per thousand gallons: Single Family Residential \$7.46, Multi Family \$9.55, Commercial < 20,000 gallons \$10.85, and Commercial > 20,000 gallons \$12.04.

Community Development Reminds You ...

- The City has a long standing code that requires grass and underbrush to be kept under a height of 10". Be sure to maintain lawns these summer months. For further information, please see City Code Title 6, Chapter 3, Item 121 for details.
- The City of Countryside has a detailed sign ordinance that prohibits portable (pin) signs on public right-of-ways or parkways on all residential, commercial or industrial properties. For further information, please City Code Title 8, Chapter 5.
- The summer months bring summer activities such as outdoor grilling and fire pits. Please note the City code states that fire pits must be 25' from any wood or plastic structure and shall be no greater than 36" in diameter and a maximum of 24" in height,. Open flames and charcoal grills shall not be used or installed on wood or plastic balconies or within 10' of wood or plastic structures.
- If you have questions about building permits or possible violations, please contact the Community Development Department at (708) 354-1860 or visit the Community Development's web page on the City's website www.countryside-il.org/departments/community-development.

Open burning of leaves and other landscape debris is **prohibited** in the City of Countryside. The City code section 6-4-7 D states "Open Fires Prohibited: No open fires are allowed, and no person shall burn leaves or other refuse in an open fire." The exception is open fires which are used for cooking food at public and private gatherings. However, they shall meet the smoke requirements of this Chapter and applicable nuisance provisions of the City Code. The City does provide a guide for Outdoor Fire Places (reference Guide - Fire Places, Pits and Outdoor Cooking Devices - 2021 posted on our web site under Forms and Permits - Community Development).

Economic Development Updates



The City is excited to welcome **MEGWEAR** to the Dansher Industrial Park. Megwear opened in May at 5230 East Avenue. They screen print and embroider shirts, hats, safety vests, jackets and more. Megwear's owner, Tim Megenbier gave the City officials and Countryside Chamber of Commerce members a tour of the facility and demonstrated how their machines work. We wish them much success.



Countryside welcomes the Buonavallonta family and their 25th **BUONA** restaurant to Countryside. The grand opening began with the slicing of a gigantic beef sandwich by Don Buonavallonta, followed by Mayor Sean McDermott cutting the ribbon. Also in attendance were Aldermen John Finn, Scott Musillami and John Von Drasek, City Clerk Liz Kmet and Shannon Rapp representing the Countryside Chamber of Commerce.

Buona held a Community Event to raise money for a worthy non-profit organization the same day. All menu items from 5 – 8 p.m. were ½ off. The sale proceeds of \$4,365 was donated to the Center for Independence located at 100 West Plainfield Road. The Center helps children and adults with physical disabilities maximize their independence.



Police Department Updates

Lots to Celebrate at the Countryside Police Department!

After 28 years of dedicated service with the Countryside Police Department **Deputy Chief Scott Novak** retired on June 11, 2021. Over the course of his career Deputy Chief Novak worked his way up from patrol officer to serve as FTO, an Investigator, a Sergeant, and Deputy Chief of Police. Deputy Chief Novak also spent many years of his career as a member of the multi-jurisdictional investigation task forces, the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) and the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF). In his many years working with those task forces he held leadership positions as the Team Commander of MCAT and an assistant Team Commander with SSMCTF.

With the retirement of Deputy Chief Novak, a swearing-in ceremony was conducted at the City Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. **Commander Paul Klimek** was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief and **Sergeant James Stern** was promoted to rank of Commander.

After 27 years in law enforcement, the best 14 years of it with the Countryside Police Department, our **Records Coordinator Guadalupe "Lupe" Hamernik** retired on May 7, 2021. Lupe came to our department as a dispatcher from Schaumburg in 2007. Over time Lupe became a Dispatch Supervisor and eventually the Department's Records Coordinator. As Coordinator Lupe brought a high level of professionalism to records management.

With Lupe's retirement, **Joanne Hernandez** was hired as our new Records Coordinator. Joanne was already with our department for 4 years, serving as a part-time CSO. Her first day as Records Coordinator was May 10, 2021.



Deputy Chief
Scott Novak



Deputy Chief Paul Klimek



Commander Jim Stern



Records Coordinator
Lupe Hamernik



Records Coordinator
Joanne Hernandez



Don't Let Them In! - Ruse Burglaries and Confidence Crimes

Confidence Crimes continue to be one of the most difficult for police to prevent without the assistance of the citizens in our community. One common scam is the ruse burglary where an offender comes to your door and purports themselves to be from a utility or construction company doing work in the area, only to distract the homeowner while their accomplices sneak into the residence and steal money and jewelry. These offenders typically prey on our senior citizen community. What can we do as a community to prevent or catch these offenders? If you have an elderly neighbor, keep an eye on their house for strange cars or people on their property. If someone comes to your door to "check the pipes" or "do work in the neighborhood" do not let them in to your home. Speak with them through a closed door. In all instances, call 911 and let the police investigate them. If they are legitimate, they will not mind waiting for an officer to arrive.

City Adopts Budget for New Fiscal Year

The budget cycle began in October 2020 with a requested budget for the General and Capital Funds. City management uses this initial budget to determine its ability to cover all operating and capital costs without the use of a property tax levy. **The Finance Director and City Administrator advised the City Council in December that all budgeted costs could be covered without the use of a property tax extension for the seventh consecutive budget cycle.** The City Council adopted the final budget for fiscal year 2022 (May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022) following a public hearing on April 28, 2021. The budget consists of nine Funds totaling just over \$25 million dollars in combined expenses.

Category	General Corporate	Motor Fuel Tax	Hotel/ Motel	Commercial TIF Funds	Capital Projects	Drug Forfeiture	Water (2)	Sewer	Flagg Creek Fund
Revenues	14,281,134	232,218	264,480	698,830	1,065,877	127,500	4,698,613	26,021	1,322,745
Expenses	14,281,134	-	264,480	292,583	1,643,500	127,500	7,150,885	31,650	1,322,745
Surplus (Deficit)	-	232,218	-	406,247	(577,623)	-	(2,452,272)	(5,629)	-
Beg Fund Balance (1)	11,199,300	405,037	1,309,428	(6,970,787)	577,623	140,378	4,958,738	5,629	(147,000)
Ending Fund Balance (1)	11,199,300	637,255	1,309,428	(6,564,540)	-	140,378	2,506,466	-	(147,000)

(1) Represents projected beginning/ending unrestricted (liquid) fund balances.

(2) The Water Fund has accumulated significant reserve which will be used in part to fund current large scale projects.

Despite the significant economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is expected to close fiscal year 2021 with a balanced General Fund without a significant reduction in any City services and planned capital programs. In addition, although economists are projecting significant global growth this year, the City passed the current budget with very conservative estimates for revenue collections while still maintaining the ability to fund nearly \$5 million in capital improvements this year.

In this budget cycle the Finance Director and department heads put together a 15 year capital replacement plan for all of the City's assets, including infrastructure and critical operating equipment used for Public Works, Public Safety, and Flagg Creek. This plan will be reviewed and adjusted annually to determine priorities, needs, and available funding to cover these costs. A summary of this year's budgeted capital improvements are contained in the following chart.

Project Description	Amount
2021 Street Resurfacing Program	1,053,500
STP East Avenue Grant - Local Share	100,000
Police Equipment & Vehicles	65,000
Police Squad Replacements	127,500
DPW Equipment	385,000
Water Main Replacements	3,015,000
FCGC - Equipment/Vehicle Replacements	67,350
FCGC - Infrastructure Improvements	132,500
Project Totals	4,945,850

Welcome to Countryside

Artistic Engraving

35 E. Plainfield Rd.

Custom engraving

Beauty by Angelita

23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 118

Hair salon

Buona

20 W. Plainfield Rd.

Restaurant - sandwiches, pasta, pizza, salads

Fero's Resale Shop

919 W. 55th St., Unit B

Resale store- shoes and toys

La Grange Fuel & Mini Mart

5501 S. LaGrange Rd.

Gas station and general merchandise



Mirabellas

5508 Brainard Ave., Office 2

Hair salon

Outlashed Cosmetics

23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 120

Eyelash studio

Rake City Baseball

5446 Dansher Road

Baseball training facility

US Expeditors

6428 Joliet Rd., Suite 202

Dispatch, safety and accounting for trucking co.

Wexford Home Corporation

430 E. Plainfield Rd.

Wall art manufacturer



Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pick-Up

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.

Lawn Sprinkler Systems/Fire Sprinkler Systems

The City of Countryside requires that RPZ/Backflow devices on all lawn/fire sprinkler systems are to be inspected and tested annually to prevent cross-contamination of the potable water system. Test results should be emailed to building@countryside-il.org.



Fire sprinkler testing can occur at any time. Irrigation systems should be tested before activation in the spring.

City ordinance restricts sprinkling between May 15th and September 15th. Sprinkling lawns is **prohibited between the hours of Noon - 6:00 p.m.** During the hours when sprinkling is permitted, properties who addresses end in an odd numbered digit may water on odd numbered dates, and properties who addresses end in an even numbered digit may water on even numbered dates.



2021 Street Resurfacing Program

The City of Countryside will be contracting for road resurfacing work on seven streets this summer. The project includes curb replacement as needed, roadway base repair, and replacement of asphalt surface from curb to curb. This work is part of the City's 5-year street and alley program to improve the road system throughout the community. The funding for the project will be from the City's General Fund and a portion of the Madison Avenue paving will be from Cook County Development Grant funds, and as always, there will be no direct charge to the property owners on these streets.

The City will notify the affected homeowners and businesses prior to work beginning.

STREETS

- ✓ Pleasantdale Drive from 5th Avenue Cutoff to Pleasantdale Court.
- ✓ Pleasantdale Court to Pleasantdale Drive.
- ✓ 55th Place from Willow Springs Road to Park Avenue.
- ✓ Edgewood Avenue from 55th Place to 55th Street.
- ✓ Blackstone Avenue from Plainfield Road to 55th Place.
- ✓ Park Avenue from Plainfield Road to 55th Place.
- ✓ Madison Avenue from Plainfield Road to 53rd Street.



City Services

Block Party Request: An application must be completed and returned to the Clerk's office at least 3 weeks in advance of the event. There is no charge for this service.

Garage/Estate Sale: A permit is required at no cost to the resident. Two garage/estate sales are permitted per household per calendar year, for three consecutive days each.

Library and Pool Reimbursements: The City has a contract with the McCook Public Library for Countryside families to become members for a flat rate of \$100. Families can choose to join the McCook Public Library and get reimbursed 100%. If you choose to join another library, the reimbursement will be capped at \$100. To apply; bring your library card, a valid driver's license, and the paid membership to the Clerk's office.

Residents are also offered a 50% reimbursement (one per household, up to a maximum of \$100) toward the cost of a membership to any outdoor swimming pool. Fitness Clubs and YMCA memberships are not eligible unless a separate "outdoor pool" rate is established. To apply for a reimbursement, bring in your paid receipt and valid driver's license to the Clerk's office. All 2021 pool memberships must be presented by December 31, 2021 to be eligible for a reimbursement.

For more information about these services, please contact the Clerk's office at (708) 354-7270. **Forms are available at the Clerk's office or on our website.**

Energy Assistance Programs

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

COMED

SPECIAL HARDSHIP - Customers who demonstrate a financial hardship may be eligible for ComEd's **Residential Special Hardship** program, which provides a grant of up to \$500 to help pay past-due energy bills. Learn more at [ComEd.com/ResidentialHardship](https://www.comed.com/ResidentialHardship).

CHAMP - ComEd offers help to military families who are past due on their energy bills. The **CHAMP** program provides grants to activated or honorably discharged members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserves and veterans. Learn more at [ComEd.com/CHAMP](https://www.comed.com/CHAMP).

NICOR

SHARING PROGRAM - Qualified customers get one-time annual grants up to \$400.

ENERGY AIDE PROGRAM - Provides one-time grants up to \$250 for eligible residential customers with past due balances. This program is administered by the Salvation Army.

DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN - Residential customers can enroll in a 24-month deferred payment plan until July 31st. Learn more about Nicor Gas's assistance programs at [nicorgas.com/residential.html](https://www.nicorgas.com/residential.html).



BUSINESS PROGRAMS

COMED

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE - Eligible businesses can take advantage of the **Small Business Assistance** program that offers a grant, once every 12 months, up to \$1,000 towards a past-due balance. Enrolled businesses may also place a remaining balance on a payment plan of up to 6 months. Visit [ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance](https://www.comed.com/SmallBizAssistance).

NONPROFIT PROGRAMS

COMED

SPECIAL HARDSHIP - Financial assistance is available for eligible nonprofit organizations through ComEd's **Nonprofit Special Hardship** program. Grants up to \$2000 are offered to help pay past-due energy bills. Learn about program eligibility at [ComEd.com/CARE](https://www.comed.com/CARE).



powering lives

Community Happenings

Westfield Ford Presents the 2021 Summer Concert Series

The City of Countryside Summer Concert Series is back! Join all of your family and friends for a night of music and fun at Countryside Park. Concerts will be held for six weeks starting Thursday, July 15th. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and will end at 8:30 p.m., rain or shine. We have a great lineup for all musical tastes. For more information, please call (708) 352-7270.

July 15: Kaleidoscope Eyes - Chicago's premiere acoustic Beatles tribute band

July 22: Ethan Bell Band - A retro pop and country band

July 29: Chicago Tribute Anthology - A driving rhythm section, powerful horns, and authentic vocals to recreate the sound of the band Chicago

August 5: Serendipity - A pop/rock band that plays a combination of popular 60's, 70's and 80's covers as well as current pop hits

August 12: Rockin' Fendershirts - All your favorite rock-n-roll oldies

August 19: Johnny Russler & The Beach Bum Band - Combine the songs of Trop Rock, Reggae, Surf and Calypso along with songs by Jimmy Buffet, Bob Marley, Zac Brown and the Beach Boys

Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District

The Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement district has just detected its first West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools this month. The combined efforts of any mosquito abatement program can't succeed without the assistance of the public.



Help Control the Mosquito Population

- ◆ Change water in your birdbath regularly.
- ◆ Flip over that wheelbarrow or store it inside.
- ◆ Screen rain barrels to prevent mosquito's from depositing eggs on the water's surface.
- ◆ Clean your gutters/downspouts.
- ◆ Keep weeds and grass cut short.
- ◆ Maintain your swimming pool.
- ◆ Remove containers, buckets, etc. which may accumulate water.
- ◆ Window screens should be inspected and repaired if damaged to prevent mosquitos from entering the home.

Upcoming Meetings

July

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

August

3	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
11	City Council	7:30 p.m.
18	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.

September

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

Upcoming Holiday

The City Hall will be closed in observance of
Labor Day, Monday, September 6th



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021

Place: City Hall Parking Lot
803 Joliet Road

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Prevent consumer fraud and identity theft by shredding your personal papers.

(Limit of 5 small boxes)





City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

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Officials:

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Elizabeth Kmet

Treasurer

Caryn Stancik

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

Countryside Chamber of Commerce

www.countrysidechamber.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

Pleasant Dale Park District

www.pdparks.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection District

www.plvw.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.