

Countryside CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2016

www.countryside-il.org



Coffee with the Mayor - February 6th 10 - 11 a.m.

You are invited to come meet with the Mayor over a cup of coffee at the City Hall Council Chambers. Information discussed at past meetings included economic development, crime free housing and code enforcement. You will have the opportunity to give your opinions on items discussed, give suggestions for improving our community, and bring problems to his attention. Mayor McDermott looks forward to meeting you.



2015 Children's Christmas Party



The 2015 Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 5th at Capri Banquets. Over 200 children attended. Musical entertainer, Macaroni Soup was a crowd pleaser with her interactive show which included an indoor snowball fight! Two boys and two girls from each age category were awarded a specially wrapped gift by Mayor Sean McDermott and Alderman Jim Jasinski, Recreation Committee Chairman. The grand prize winners were awarded a \$175.00 gift certificate from Terry's Bike Haus good towards the purchase of a new bicycle. Thanks to Santa and all his helpers.



Ward Reports

WARD 1

Alderman James Jasinski
Alderman Robert Pondelicek

(708) 828-3563
(708) 354-5001

jjasinski@countryside-il.org
bpondelicek@countryside-il.org

- ◆ Work is progressing on Chick-fil-A located on LaGrange Road in the City Center. They will be opening in February. Apply on-line at www.pleaseapplyonline.com/CFACountryside. The new owner, Nathan Hunter, and his wife, Emily, are from Atlanta, Georgia. Upon visiting Countryside, they immediately fell in love with the area. Nathan has been with the company for close to six years, starting as a team member and working his way up to become owner. He is very excited about this opportunity and cannot wait to start serving our community.
- ◆ This past fall, rubberized mulch and drainage was installed at Holland's Park. This should help alleviate the flooding issues that often occur in this park.
- ◆ The Rotary Club of Countryside donated dictionaries to the 3rd graders at Ideal School. Rotary Club members presented the dictionaries to Mrs. Hobe's and Mrs. Polston's students on October 7th. The Rotary Club, in an effort to improve literacy, has donated over 9 million books as of 2015.
- ◆ Several drainage projects were completed last fall throughout the City. In Ward 1, backflow devices were installed at 56th Street and at the East Avenue main drainage ditch. These improvements should help alleviate the flooding in the areas.
- ◆ In late October, Andy's Frozen Custard discussed with City Staff a revised site plan to improve the circulation of the drive-thru and parking lot by reducing some of the parking spaces. This would require them to appear before the Planning and Zoning Board. The owners hope to finalize their plans and appear before the board over the winter, so that they can begin the work in the spring.

WARD 2

Alderman Thomas Mikolyzk
Alderman John Von Drasek

(708) 263-3973
(708) 482-7663

mikolyzk@countryside-il.org
jvondrasek@countryside-il.org

- ◆ The following streets are included in the preliminary budget for resurfacing: 67th Street from Willow Springs Road to Sunset Avenue.
- ◆ The drainage project was completed this past fall. The project consisted of installing two catch-basins and a 12 inch drain pipe at the properties near Parkside and Crestview. This work should alleviate the flooding in this area.
- ◆ The new Route 66 benches were installed along Joliet Road.
- ◆ Rubberized mulch and drainage was installed in the Srjema-Michalek and Woodland Ridge Parks.
- ◆ The City recently replaced the water main on 71st Place from Willow Springs Road to the dead-end.

WARD 3

Alderman Mark Benson
Alderman Scott Musillami

(708) 579-1299
(708) 334-5803

mbenson@countryside-il.org
smusillami@countryside-il.org

- ◆ The following streets are included in the preliminary budget for resurfacing: Barton Road from Brainard Avenue to Longview; Constance Lane from Brainard Avenue to Joliet Road.
- ◆ The 2015 drainage projects have wrapped up, and the following areas were completed: 61st Place, Blackstone Avenue, and Peck Avenue.
- ◆ The Class B liquor license hours of operation were amended at the November 11th City Council meeting. Class B is now permitted to begin liquor sales at 7am, every day of the week. This includes Countryside Liquors, Osco Drug, and Prestige Liquors in Ward 3.

St. Patrick's Day Family Parade

The City of Countryside is a wonderful place to raise a family and it's been named the 4th best place to open a business in Illinois. We want to bring both together for the City's first St. Patrick's Day Family Parade. The City, International Operating Engineers, Local 150, Countryside Business Association and Kenny's Irish Pub are co-sponsors of this event. The parade will be on **Saturday, March 5th beginning at 1 p.m.** Staging for the parade will be at Countryside Park beginning at 11:45 a.m. The parade will begin at 61st St. & Kensington and proceed one mile ending at 55th Pl. & Edgewood. See map of parade route to the right.

All businesses and families are invited to march in the parade. Consider creating a festive float or displaying your family name on a banner. Families with banners will automatically be entered in the banner contest to win prizes from local establishments. A post party will be held at Kenny's Irish Pub, 917 W. 55th St. There will be musical entertainment including Irish dancers, bag pipers and a band. Please consider joining the festivities.

Rules for the parade, registration form, and ongoing parade updates can be found on the City's website www.countryside-il.org under the special events tab. You can also pick up an application at City Hall. Applications and fees should be returned to the City of Countryside *no later than February 12, 2016*. If you have any questions please contact **Parade Chairman, Tim Ryan** at parade@countryside-il.org or 708-655-9828.

Business sponsorship levels and entrance fees:

\$500 Pot O' Gold Sponsor (name on website, banners and shirts and entrance fee)

\$250 Emerald Sponsor (name on banners and entry fee)

Non-profits & Family entrance fees:

\$100 Shamrock (Entry fee for non-profits and non-residents marching)

\$25 per family (Entry fee for Countryside residents)

All proceeds will benefit the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Foundation.



2015 Capital Improvements

The City of Countryside completed 7 major capital improvement projects this past year at a cost of over \$1.7 million. This amount does not include maintenance items such as storm sewer catch basin cleaning which was done throughout the City, furnace replacement, etc. The major capital projects include street resurfacing, storm management, and water main replacements. The City was able to make these improvements to our infrastructure and public properties without issuing debt. The funds for these projects came from sales tax and fees.

Please remember to support your local businesses. We use the taxes collected from our businesses to fund general operations and capital improvements such as these. We would like to continue to maintain as much of our infrastructure as possible without issuing debt.

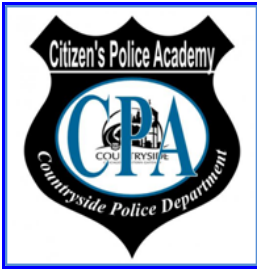


- ➔ No parking on streets after 2" of snowfall.
- ➔ It is a violation of City Code (7-3-2) to push snow from your driveway onto any public street.

Project	Amount
Street Resurfacing	\$277,300
Stallford (Joliet – Cul-sac)	
9 th Avenue (56 th St. – 57 th St.)	
Hillsdale (Sunset – Lorraine)	
Drainage Projects	\$136,620
6849 Parkside	
5608 Blackstone	
5602 Peck	
630 61 st Place	
56 th St. & East Av. Drainage Ditch	
Water Main Replacements	\$832,270
56 th St. (6 th Av. – 7 th Av.)	
6 th Av. Cul-sac	
Sidewalk Replacement	\$55,000
Flagg Creek Golf Course	
Various locations throughout City	
Welcome Signs	\$140,000
Park Drainage Improvements	\$122,000
Woodland Ridge	
Srejima-Michalek	
Hollands	
LED Streetlighting	\$145,000

Police Updates

2016 Citizen's Police Academy



The Countryside Police Department is still accepting applications for the 2016 Citizen's Police Academy. Any citizen who lives, works, or volunteers in the City of Countryside is encouraged to enroll. The Citizen's Police Academy provides insight into law enforcement techniques and classes are geared toward assisting citizens in understanding laws and police practices. The program lasts 12 weeks and is no cost to attend. Classes are planned to begin in late January 2016 and are held one evening per week from 7:00PM until 9:00PM at the Countryside Police Department. For additional information, please visit our website or contact the Countryside Police Department at 708-485-4018 or police@countrysidepolice.org.

Crime Free Housing Program

As you may already know, the City of Countryside has taken all the preliminary steps to institute a Crime Free Housing Program to reduce crime and prevent neighborhood degradation created by poorly operated and maintained rental properties. This program will strengthen our relationship with rental property owners and managers. On November 11, 2015, the City Council approved Mark Battaglia as our first ever Crime Free Housing Coordinator. His initial duties will include identifying all rental properties in Countryside and meeting with property owners and managers to take the necessary steps to realize the goals of the program. For more information about the Crime Free Housing Program please contact Mark Battaglia at 708-485-3902 or at mbattaglia@countrysidepolice.org.



Join Neighborhood Watch



Neighborhood Watch helps residents to build valuable relationships within the community and help contribute to neighborhood safety. By participating, residents are kept up to date on City ordinances, State laws, and tips to prevent crime. Many Neighborhood Watch Coordinators also hold block meetings to exchange information about current happenings and events and often plan a block party or other social events. The Countryside Police invites you to contact us so we may assist in getting your Neighborhood Watch Group up and running. Please contact Deputy Chief Scott Novak at 708-352-2171 or snovak@countrysidepolice.org.



Outstanding Elderly Service Officer Award



On September 16, 2015 Officer April Bisignani received special recognition from Attorney General Lisa Madigan for outstanding service to older citizens. Officer Bisignani and Chief Ford attended a luncheon in Champaign, IL where Officer Bisignani was presented with a certificate for her service.



Congratulations Officer Bisignani!



Trust your instincts.
If it doesn't look or feel right, it might not be.

Rush Hour - Evening rush hour (between 4 and 7 p.m. weekdays) is among the most dangerous time to drive due to crowded roadways and drivers eager to get home after work. During the winter season, it's dark during rush hour, compounding an already dangerous driving situation.

- ◆ Don't be an impatient driver; slow down
- ◆ Stay in your lane and beware of drivers who don't; anxious drivers dart from lane to lane
- ◆ Even though the route may be very familiar, don't go on autopilot; stay alert
- ◆ If you're in an unfamiliar area, consult a map before you go and memorize your route
- ◆ Don't touch your phone, and don't eat, drink or do other things that take your mind off the road (nsc.org)

3rd Annual Shop With A Cop

The Countryside Police Department held its 3rd Annual Shop with a Cop event on December 12, 2015.

This event provides ten children from Countryside an opportunity to interact in a positive way with law enforcement officers while shopping for holiday gifts. The children who were chosen to participate were able to benefit from the extra financial help during the holiday season.

Several of Santa's helpers (some pictured here) including officers' family members, Police Department and City Hall staff and their family members, along with volunteers from Aging Well contributed to making this a memorable day for the children.



Water Department

Water Main Break Notification Procedures



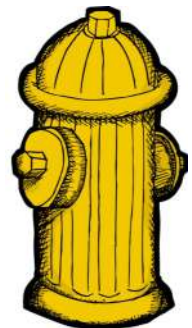
If a break occurs during normal waking hours, City staff will generally attempt to notify the affected homes and businesses in person. However, if the break affects a large number of properties, a "Reverse 911" call will be initiated. If the break occurs after 10pm, the Water Department will make repairs and generally request a "Reverse 911" call in the morning (5am) if repairs are not complete.

The Reverse 911 system is an important tool for notifying residents of problems or conditions. ***It is important to remember that Reverse 911 calls go only to "listed" phone numbers.*** If you have an unlisted phone number and want to be added to the call list, contact the police non-emergency number at (708) 352-2171.

Help Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

It is important to remind our residents the significance of keeping the City's fire hydrants free and accessible. The City asks that you help to keep fire hydrants accessible for firefighting operations by keeping space clear around sides of the hydrant as you do your shoveling or snow blowing. With 446 fire hydrants in Countryside, it is not possible for the City's employees to clear them all after a major snow storm when the priority is snowplowing the roads.

If you notice a damaged or leaking fire hydrant, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.



Sump Pump Discharge

Winter is here and with that comes ice. City code prohibits sump pumps and downspouts from discharging into the street since the water freezes and creates hazardous situations. The ice can also create a dam that prevents melting snow from reaching the storm sewers. Please take a moment to ensure that your sump pump and downspouts are in compliance. City Code section 7-7-5 states that sump pumps and downspouts shall discharge the water at least 25 feet from the front or rear property line and at least 15 feet from the side property line.

If you are unsure about your property, please feel free to contact the Community Development Department at (708) 354-1860 and we can assist you.

Don't forget to disconnect any hoses that may have been connected to outside spigots to prevent frozen pipes.

Owners of vacant properties should be reminded to have enough heat in their buildings to keep pipes from freezing.

Driveway Apron Snow Removal: Senior citizens and disabled Countryside residents may sign up each year to have their driveway aprons plowed if more than 2-inches of snow falls. This removal will be done only after all City streets are cleared. The City is ***not*** responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, please call the City Clerk's office.

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

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

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 directions.

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

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

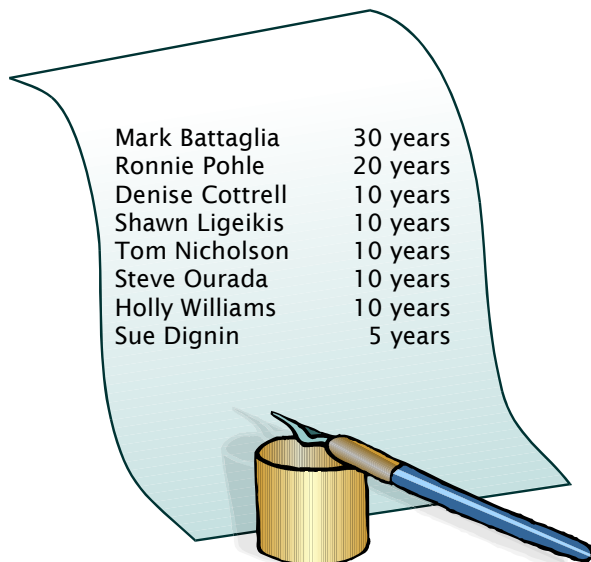


Check out our new **SPECIAL EVENTS** tab on the main page of the City's website. We will include information about the St. Patrick's Day parade, Concerts in the Park, and other upcoming City events!

Property Tax Levy Eliminated for the 2nd Consecutive Year!

The City Council approved tax abatement ordinances for all outstanding bond issues at the December 9th City Council meeting. Staff has determined that all City costs can be covered from general fund revenues. Historically, the City has not levied a property tax to cover operating costs, yet debt service costs were partially met from tax levies as a result of recessionary economic conditions during calendar years 2010-2013. As a result of improving economic conditions and economic development efforts of the City, the debt service levy was reduced by 85% to \$150,000 for calendar year 2014, and completely eliminated for calendar years 2015 and 2016.

City Employees Service Recognition in 2015



Flagg Creek Golf News

Resident I.D. Cards - Effective January 1st all residents of the City of Countryside and/or Pleasant Dale Park District who wish to take advantage of resident rates at Flagg Creek Golf Course must renew or purchase a resident I.D. card YEARLY. The cost of the card is \$5 per year. You must show proof of residency with a current utility bill and photo I.D. No resident rates will be given without the card present.

Junior League and Lesson Sign Up - Tuesday, February 9th, 2-4pm. and Wednesday, February 10th, 6 - 8 pm.

Non-Resident Junior League and Lesson Sign Up - Tuesday, February 10th, 7 pm. *(This is a lottery sign up)*

Permanent Tee Times and Golf Outings - Sign up is February 5th from 6-8 pm.

Tree Sponsorship Program - We have lost many of our beautiful trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer. You can help replenish the golf course by planting new trees by participating in our Tree Sponsorship Program. What a unique way to celebrate a special occasion to honor a loved one.

Each Tree Sponsorship is a minimum \$250 donation that is tax deductible. The sponsorship includes a recognition plaque and a complimentary round of golf. Call the Pro Shop at (708) 246-3336 for more details!

Video Gaming - Has arrived! Three video gaming machines, featuring the newest games, were delivered to Flagg Creek Golf Course in December. The machines can be played for as little as a penny per line and bets can be made up to \$1.50 per spin/hand. Come and try your luck at poker or one of the exciting line games and see if you can be a winner!

Community Happenings

CBA Thanksgiving Dinner

The Countryside Business Association (CBA) board members, along with volunteers from the City of Countryside and the local community, served Thanksgiving dinner to approximately 400 family members, at Capri Banquets. Guests enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and each family received a grocery bag filled with non-perishable food items, purchased with donations made by Jewel Osco, Continental Honda, and BlueSky HomeCare. Coupons for a free treat, donated by Andy's Frozen Custard, were also included in each bag of groceries. The Autobarn donated reusable totes to hold the groceries.



A Special Thank You To...

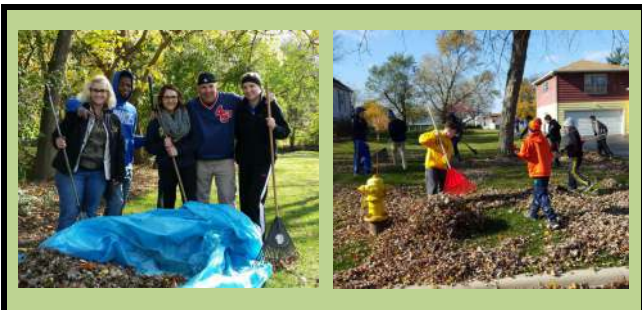
Bountiful Sponsors: Autobarn of Countryside, Westfield Ford, Ledo's Pizza, Capri Banquets, Infinity Communications Group, Terry Plumbing Company, Jewel Osco, Vulcan Materials

Cornucopia Sponsors: Jewel Osco, BlueSky HomeCare, Continental Honda, Andy's Frozen Custard

Family Sponsors: Schwartz Excavating, IL Harley-Davidson, NuMark Credit Union, Inland Bank, Young at Heart

Harvest Sponsors: Mainstreet Wines, Hinton Family, Essig Family, Sabatini Family, UPS Store, Margaret Carey

Leaf Raking for Countryside Seniors



Students and community members volunteered their services to help 29 houses clear their properties of leaves. Elderly Service Officer, April Bisignani, is featured on the far left.



Route 66 Benches



Countryside Resident, Marie Johnson, talking with Alderman Von Drasek on one of the new Route 66 benches along Joliet Road. Marie brought the idea of installing benches to Alderman Von Drasek.



McCook Public Library Wants You!

The City of Countryside and the McCook Public Library District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement which entitles Countryside residents to obtain a non-resident library card at a fixed rate. The annual fee to obtain a non-resident library card is \$50 for high school and college students and \$100 for all other residents. This is another example of how Countryside has partnered with our neighboring municipalities to offer more to our residents at a reduced cost.

The Library is located at 8419 W. 50th Street. They underwent an expansion about four years ago. The library has study rooms available, a children's room and comfortable spaces for reading. For more information see their website at www.mccook.lib.il.us.



Railroad Crossing 47th & East Avenue

The City has received complaints about the condition of the railroad crossing at 47th & East Avenue. Unfortunately, the City of Countryside does not have any control over these railroad tracks. First, these tracks are outside the City limits; and secondly, East Avenue is a state road not a local road. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has the statutory responsibility to improve the safety at public railroad crossings. Please address your concerns to the ICC at www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint/, or call 1-800-524-0795 or by mail at:

*Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave
Springfield, IL. 62701*



Coyotes in Countryside

The City has received several calls about Coyote sightings in Countryside. It is important to understand that coyotes are a permanent fixture in rural and urban areas. Coyotes are protected as a furbearer in the State of Illinois. Coyotes in urban areas may only be removed if a nuisance wildlife permit is issued by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources' District Wildlife Biologist.

A misconception about coyotes is that they prey on cats and small dogs. A recent study of coyotes in Cook County found that small rodents were the primary food source for urban coyotes. Cat remains were found in less than 2% of the coyote scats studied. Another misconception is that coyotes are a danger to humans. There are no known incidents of Coyotes attacking humans in Illinois. Coyotes do provide us with some benefits including preying on small rodents such as mice, voles and rabbits and they eat geese eggs which, helps control the geese population.



Recommendations for coexisting with coyotes:

- ☐ Do not feed coyotes.
- ☐ Keep garbage stored securely. Although coyotes may eat garbage, they typically are attracted to the rodents that feed on garbage.
- ☐ Use squirrel-proof bird feeders as squirrels tend to be an option for coyotes when other rodent populations go down.
- ☐ Feed your pets indoors.
- ☐ Do not leave small pets unattended outdoors especially after dark.
- ☐ Do NOT run if a coyote approaches you. Stand up straight, waive your arms high in the air (to appear larger) and yell loudly or throw something at the coyote to scare it away.



City of Countryside
5550 East Avenue
Countryside, IL 60525

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OFFICIALS

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Susan Burdett

Treasurer

Caryn Stancik

Aldermen

Mark Benson

James Jasinski

Thomas Mikolyzk

Scott Musillami

Robert Pondelicek

John Von Drasek

WEBSITES TO KNOW

City of Countryside

www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk

www.cookcountyclerk.com

Pleasantview Fire Protection

www.plvw.org

West Suburban Chamber

www.westsuburbanchamber.org

Countryside Business Association

www.cbacountryside.com

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



City Hall:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

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

Police Department:

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

Fax: (708) 352-1032

Emergency: 911

Clerk's Office:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Public Works:

Main: (708) 354-3390

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Water Billing:

Main: (708) 485-2465

Fax: (708) 354-9029

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

Fax: (708) 354-9029