

Countryside CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2017

www.countryside-il.org



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

Mayor Sean McDermott met with approximately 40 residents on November 5th for coffee. Margaret Carey, Deputy Clerk presented the City's Angel Tree Program. The tree, built from recycled materials by DPW's Jesse Serna, was unveiled for the first time. Several people attending graciously sponsored a family or individual from the program.



In addition, Tom Varchmin, from the Cook County Department of Public Health "CCDPH" was a special guest. He discussed the CCDPH's role in inspecting all businesses serving food in Countryside. These businesses are inspected semi-annually without notice. The CCDPH's inspectors make sure the food is being kept at the appropriate temperatures, check the conditions of the facility including running hot water and verify food is being properly disposed. If you ever have a concern about a restaurant please call the City of Countryside's building department.

Please join the Mayor for coffee and conversation on February 11, 2017 from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.



Bench Dedication

Former Aldermen Bob Pondelicek and Mike Smetana were honored for their years of service. The ceremony took place on November 12th at Memorial Park. A bench was dedicated in each of their names.



The Pondelicek Family



The Smetana Family

Ward Reports

WARD 1

Alderman John Finn

(708) 299-7387

jfinn@countryside-il.org

Alderman James Jasinski

(708) 828-3563

jjasinski@countryside-il.org

- ◆ Chipotle officially opened for business November 12th. Stop by this fast casual restaurant for some great tacos and burritos.
- ◆ Ettleson Hyundai will begin construction on their new dealership in the spring of 2017.
- ◆ The following street is included in the preliminary budget for resurfacing: 56th Court from 9th Avenue to the west limit.

WARD 2

Alderman Thomas Mikolyzk

(708) 263-3973

tmikolyzk@countryside-il.org

Alderman John Von Drasek

(708) 482-7663

jvondrasek@countryside-il.org

- ◆ The following street is included in the preliminary budget for resurfacing: 67th Street from Willow Springs Road to Sunset Avenue.
- ◆ Come out to Flagg Creek Golf Course and cross country ski this winter!
- ◆ Stop signs were recently installed at 71st Street and Sunset Avenue, making the intersection safer for the residents in that area.
- ◆ Please do not put food outside for the animals in the area. Sometimes we think that the old bread is being eaten by the birds, when in fact it's attracting coyotes, skunks and raccoons.
- ◆ Have a safe and happy 2017!

WARD 3

Alderman Mark Benson

(708) 579-1299

mbenson@countryside-il.org

Alderman Scott Musillami

(708) 334-5803

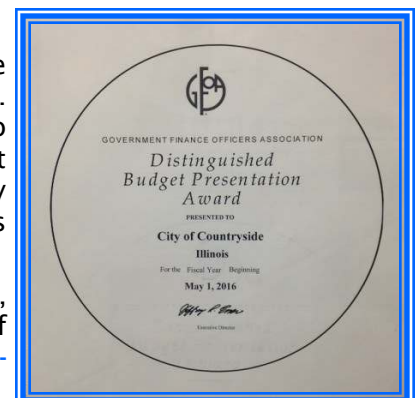
smusillami@countryside-il.org

- ◆ The Constance Lane water main project and the street resurfacing project has been completed.
- ◆ The following alleys are included in the preliminary budget for resurfacing: the alley north of Plainfield Road from Kensington Avenue north to LaGrange Road, and the east-west Plainfield Road alley to 53rd Street.
- ◆ The TCF Bank in the Jewel grocery store is proposing to install a drive-up ATM machine in their parking lot. This case is pending review with the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals.

Budget Award

The Government Finance Officers Association presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Countryside. This award reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. A budget document must be rated "proficient" in each of four categories: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

This award represents a significant achievement by Dave Schutter, Director of Finance and the staff in the Finance Department. A copy of the budget document can be found on our website at www.countryside-il.org.



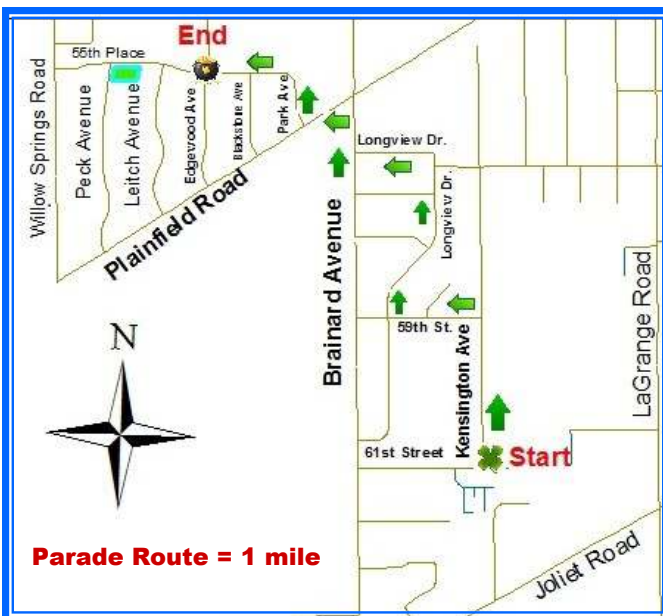
2017 St. Patrick's Day Family Parade

Get your green shirts ready! The City of Countryside proudly announces our 2nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade—**Sunday, March 5th at 1PM**. This year's Grand Marshal is James Sweeney, President-Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150. The presenting sponsor is **Jack Phelan—Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM**.

The parade steps off at 1PM on **Kensington Avenue at 61st Street** and proceeds one mile—ending at 55th Place & Edgewood. (See map to the right.)

All parade proceeds will benefit JD RF - The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation!

All Countryside businesses and families are encouraged to march in the parade. Consider creating a festive float or marching with your family or group. Prizes will be awarded for the best float/banners. This year we are adding a new contest - "Best Party Along the Route." This year's **post-party** will be a "pub crawl". A number of establishments around town will participate in after-party festivities—and residents are invited to check them out. Participating establishments will be announced at a later date.



Business sponsorship levels and entrance fees:

- ♣ **\$500 Pot of Gold Sponsor** (name on website, shirts, and large print on banners)
- ♣ **\$250 Emerald Sponsor** (name on banners)
- ♣ **Non-advertising Business Sponsor** - support the parade and JD RF by making a donation in any amount you choose

Political Parties entrance fees:

- ♣ **\$100 Shamrock Sponsor**

Non-profits & Family entrance fees:

- ♣ **\$25** (Entry fee)

School entrance fees:

- ♣ **Free!** (No entry fee for local schools)



Want to be Queen for a day? The 2017 **St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen** will be selected from applications received from the community. We are seeking candidates who possess any of the following: Irish heritage, demonstrated community involvement, and residence in the Countryside area. Applications are available on the City's website and at City Hall. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017. The queen will be announced at the February 22, 2017 City Council meeting.

Rules, forms, and ongoing parade updates can be found on the City's website www.countryside-il.org under the special events tab or at City Hall. Applications and fees should be returned to the City of Countryside *no later than February 10, 2017*. If you have any questions please contact **Parade Chairman, Tim Ryan** at parade@countryside-il.org or (708) 655-9828.



JACK PHELAN



DODGE



Jeep



Economic Development

Chipotle Mexican Grill opened to the public on Saturday, November 12th with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Sean McDermott and Chipotle manager, David Gutierrez did the honors. Many employees and officials were on site for the opening,



including: Aldermen Jim Jasinski, John Finn, Tom Mikolyzk, John Von Drasek, City Administrator Gail Paul, Pat Schwartz, (CBA Board Member), Greg Orput, (Orput Real Estate) and many employees eagerly ready to serve. We wish Chipotle much success in Countryside!



Ettleson Hyundai appeared before the Plan Commission in November to discuss their proposed new car dealership. The project includes a 25,000 square foot single story car dealership to be built at 5631 S. La Grange Road. This is the last large parcel left in the City's Commercial TIF District. The City Council concurred with the Plan Commission's recommendation to approve the project. Site work is scheduled to begin in the spring. Construction will likely start in the summer.



The City solicited Statements of Qualifications "SOQ" from 8 architects for the design of the new **City Hall and Police Station**. The City received 9 SOQs from architects. These SOQs were reviewed in detail by staff and reviewed with the Infrastructure Committee. The top three architects were selected to give presentations at the City Council Special Meeting on November 30, 2016. All three architects are highly qualified. They have vast experience in the design of municipal facilities and LEED projects. The City Council directed staff at their December 14, 2016 meeting to negotiate a contract with Dewberry Architects. Assuming a contract can be finalized with this firm, it will be presented to the City Council for approval in January, 2017.

In the meantime, the City Hall Design Committee will be finalizing the Design Standards which will be the foundation for the architect to begin the design process. Updates will be provided periodically on our website and in future newsletters.

Welcome to Countryside

Chipotle Mexican Grill
5801 S. LaGrange Road
Restaurant



Fix Auto Countryside
(formerly: Countryside Collision)
9600 Joliet Road
Automotive collision repair

Maria's Barber Shop
6501 Joliet Road
Barber Shop



Salvatore Hair Salon & Spa
5536 S. LaGrange Road
Hair salon & spa (facials, waxing & permanent makeup)



Police Updates

4th Annual Shop With A Cop



The Countryside Police Department held its 4th annual Shop With a Cop event on Saturday, December 10th. This event benefits ten children from less fortunate families in Countryside and provides them an opportunity to interact in a positive way with law enforcement officers while shopping for holiday gifts.

Officer's family members, Police Department and City Hall staff and their family members, along with volunteers from Aging Well all helped officers make this a memorable day for the children. A special thank you to the Countryside Business Association, Westfield Ford, and Gina Fisher of the Autobarn of Countryside for their generous donations in support of this event.

Citizen's Police Academy Class of 2016

The 2016 Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) concluded on November 15th with a graduation Ceremony. During the 12-week academy, students had many exciting experiences including shooting a handgun, "lifting" fingerprints, and riding along with our officers. CPA is open to anyone 18 and over who lives, works, or volunteers in Countryside. For more information regarding the CPA, visit our website at www.countrysidepolice.org. The CPA is typically offered once a year and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.



Noise, Neighbors, Pets



The Police Department frequently receives calls regarding barking dogs and dogs running at large, so please remember to be mindful of both your pets and your neighbors when leaving your pets outside. If you do not have a fenced yard always be present as dogs love to meet new people. Even if your dog is friendly, an approaching pooch can be alarming to others. Your neighbors and your pet will thank you, and our officers won't have to issue citations which is the last thing they want to do. Also remember...pet owners can walk their dogs in Countryside Park from December through March. Always curb your dog and be a courteous neighbor and pet owner.



During the August 10, 2016 City Council meeting, Countryside residents Kathy Vondriska and Rebecca Richard presented Officer DiGangi, handler of Police K-9 Dago, with a plaque and an artist's drawing of Dago to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Dago's untimely death. Kathy related that the presence of K-9 Officer Dago during a traumatic incident she had experienced provided her comfort. To this day, she still has a special bond with Officer DiGangi and the memory of K-9 Dago.

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 is \$5 per year. You must show proof of residency with a current utility bill and photo I.D. You will **NOT** be eligible for resident rates without the card.

Junior League Dates - June 13, 20, 27 and July 11, 18: Rain date is July 25 (ages 8-12)

Resident Junior League and lesson registration starts February 10, 2017. Residents will have the opportunity to sign up early between the hours of 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily before the non-resident sign up date. Non-Resident Junior League registration is March 7, 2017. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., lottery will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Permanent Tee Times - Registration is February 24, 2017 from 5-8 p.m. Please RSVP with Michele if you plan on attending. She can be reached at (708) 246-3336 ext. 6.

Water Department



Water Main Break Notification Procedures

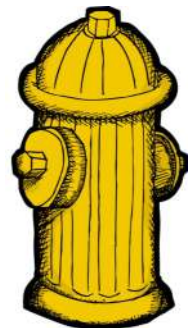
If a break occurs during normal waking hours, City staff will generally attempt to notify the affected homes and businesses in person. If the break affects a large number of properties, a "Reverse 911" call will be initiated. If the break occurs after 10 p.m., the Water Department will make repairs and generally request a "Reverse 911" call in the morning (5 a.m.) 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

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 will 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.

City Services

Driveway Apron Snow Removal: Senior citizens and disabled Countryside residents may sign up annually 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.

Selling Your Home or Business: All property sales in Countryside require a transfer tax stamp. Issuance of the stamp requires the following:

- ◆ A completed Real Estate Property Transfer Declaration form.
- ◆ A pre-sale inspection.
- ◆ A final water meter reading and payment in full.
- ◆ Receipt showing payment in full for sewer services.

The cost of the transfer tax stamp is \$50 (no personal checks accepted), and is the responsibility of the seller.

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



The City's Building Department issued 730 permits in 2015 and 786 in 2016. This is an 8% increase.

Important Election Dates for April 4, 2017

January 4 - March 30

- ◆ Apply for a mail ballot

March 8 - April 3

- ◆ Grace period registration and voting

March 19

- ◆ Last day for online voter registration

March 20 - April 3

- ◆ Early voting period

April 4

- ◆ **ELECTION DAY**

To locate voting sites or find your polling location, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Countryside City Clerk staff are available to register residents to vote. Visit City Hall Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE !

Speak Out!

"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.

Full Name: _____ as a citizen/business owner of the City of Countryside, it is my opinion that: _____

Date: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

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

Full Name, mailing address, or e-mail address are required for a response.

Rental Inspection Program

On April 14, 2010 Ordinance 10-15-O – Licensing and Inspection of Rental Property – was adopted by the City Council. The Rental Registration Program was implemented to help identify problem properties and absentee landlords. It is used to assist code enforcement efforts to improve the quality of life for tenants and neighbors of rental dwellings.



No person shall rent, lease, let or sublet any real property unless a license has been issued and is in effect. The current fee structure calls for an annual registration fee of \$50.00 payable on or before January 1st of each year.

Licenses shall be issued by the building official for a period of one year from the date of issuance, unless sooner revoked, and may be renewed for successive periods of not to exceed one year. No license shall be transferable to another person, unit, or building.

In addition to the registration fee, the Building Department will require an inspection of the property. The inspection fee structure is as follows:

- ➔ Single family Homes = \$135.
- ➔ Multi-family Properties = \$135 per dwelling unit plus \$135 for any common areas.

The schedule for inspections is as follows:

- ➔ Single family homes will be inspected one (1) time every four (4) years.
- ➔ Multi-family properties will have 25% of the units inspected annually.

What else may trigger an inspection of the property? Any of the following will also result in an inspection being performed:

- ➔ Complaint received.
- ➔ The registration certificate being revoked.
- ➔ The property has been found to be abandoned.
- ➔ The property has excessive exterior violations.

Texas Roadhouse Honors Veterans

Texas Roadhouse is typically only open for lunch on the weekends. However, on Veteran's Day last year, they opened their doors from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. to serve lunch to local area veterans and their families. Guests had their choice of 11 entrees, 2 sides and soft drinks at no charge. Managing Partner, Jason Loebig stated that 684 guests were served by employees who came in early to work for this great cause. Many personnel from the local American Legion Hall were in attendance with volunteers from the community. Thanks Texas Roadhouse for recognizing and honoring our local heroes!



2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Drainage Projects	\$60,000
58 TH St. Ditch	
Street Projects	\$444,699
Constance Lane Reconstruction	
Barton Surface Patching	
Longview Surface Patching	
Water Main Projects	\$507,598
Constance Lane Replacement	
Countryside Plaza Main Lining	
Flagg Creek Golf Course	\$91,600
Golf Carts	
Pump Station Upgrades	
Pond Improvements	
Infrastructure Improvements	

No debt was issued for any of these improvements. The cost of these projects was paid from revenue sources other than property taxes.

Upcoming City Meetings

January

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

February

7 Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
8 City Council	7:30 p.m.
15 Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
22 City Council	7:30 p.m.

March

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

Countryside's Link to the Past Flagg Creek Museum and 1856 Vial House



Museum Open – Mondays 10am-1pm
House Open – Thursdays 10am-12:30pm
Museum & House Open – First Sundays
of month, April thru October, 2pm-4pm
Pleasantdale Park
7425 S. Wolf Rd, Burr Ridge
FlaggCreekHeritageSociety.com



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Christmas at City Hall



Lots of laughs, as City staff show off their ugly sweaters at the annual holiday luncheon - hosted by the City Administrator and Chief of Police.

Hiring Part-Time Account Clerk

The Countryside Finance Department is seeking dependable, highly organized, detail-oriented applicants.

Flexible work hours, approximately 15-20 hours per week.

More information and an application can be found on the City's website at www.countryside-il.org.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15

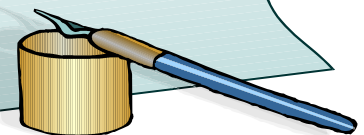
10am at Countryside Park
Over 1,000 candy filled eggs
to be hidden in the park

For more information,
please call 708-485-2595.



City Employees Service Recognition in 2016

Fred Helmstetler	25 years
Greg Adamec	15 years
Agostino Alonzo	10 years
Brendan Gleespen	10 years
Mike Hartigan	10 years
Meiling Lieu	10 years
Sharon Peterson	10 years



Countryside Business Association (CBA) News

Thanksgiving Dinner

The CBA's annual Thanksgiving Dinner for local residents in need took place on Thanksgiving Day at Capri Banquets and Catering in Countryside. The afternoon was enjoyed by many thanks to the generosity of the following sponsors and the people who helped plan this event and volunteered their time: Autobarn of Countryside, Westfield Ford, Infinity Communications Group, Operating Engineers Local 150 and Capri Banquets and Catering.



Sticker Card Promotion

This promotion ran from November 1 - November 26 and was a huge success! There were 6 lucky winners who won amazing gifts. Ledo's Pizza donated a flat screen TV (1st prize) and a tablet (2nd prize).



TV Winner - Gianna Bratta

L to R: Board Member Pat Schwartz (Schwartz Excavating), Gianna Bratta, Shannon Rapp (BlueSky Home Care) and Sandra Dorgan (Ledo's Pizza).



Tablet Winner - Judy Hanaway

L to R: Board Member Pat Schwartz (Schwartz Excavating), Shannon Rapp (BlueSky Home Care), Judy Hanaway and Sandra Dorgan (Ledo's Pizza).

Participating Merchants

All Kids Closet
Andy's Frozen Custard
Baci Salon & Boutique
Countryside Bank
Countryside Dental Group
E. Formella & Sons
Flagg Creek Golf Course
Heartland Bank
Inland Bank
Little Joe's
Milano Day Spa & Wellness Ctr.
Sammy's Deli

Shop Local Coupon Books

These books are still on sale! Get one for yourself and give one as a gift before they are gone! Over \$2,500 in savings for \$15! Most coupons are valid until May 31, 2017, so don't delay. A portion of the sales benefits Helping Hand Center in Countryside. Visit Via Bella, A-Team Automotive, Tavern on La Grange, Flagg Creek Golf Course, or Mainstreet Wines to purchase your Shop Local Coupon Book today! Special thanks to Marry Me Jewelry, Ledo's Pizza and



Remember to Shop Countryside! The City pays for most of its general operations from sales tax generated by our local businesses.

2017 Board of Directors

The Countryside Business Association would like to thank Russell Nicoletti (Infinity Communications Group) for his many years of service to the organization. Russ has served as a member of the board and is currently the CBA President, but will be passing the torch to Carm Scarpace (Westfield Ford) in 2017.

Starting January 1, 2017, the CBA Board of Directors will be: President, Carmelo Scarpace (Westfield Ford), Vice President, Sandra Dorgan (Ledo's Pizza), Treasurer, Patricia Schwartz (Schwartz Excavating), Secretary, Kristin Walker (Countryside Bank), Past President, Russell Nicoletti (Infinity Communications Group), Members-at-Large: Shannon Rapp (BlueSky HomeCare), CJ Mueller (Heat Engineering), Michele Stepanek (Flagg Creek Golf Course), Megan Richards (Best Western Plus), and Victor Geraci (Milano Day Spa and Wellness Center).

Be sure to visit www.cbacountryside.com for upcoming events in the community.

Community Happenings

Children's Holiday Celebration

The 2016 Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 3rd at Via Bella/Bella Banquets. Over 200 children came to see Santa. Musical entertainer, Rick Kelley was a crowd pleaser with his interactive show. Two boys and two girls from each age category were awarded a specially wrapped gift by Mayor McDermott and Alderman Jim Jasinski, Recreation Committee Chairman. Congratulations to the grand prize winners, Johnny, age 10 and Lili, age 8. Each winner received a \$175.00 gift certificate to Terry's Byke Haus. Many thanks to Kirk DeLise and his staff at Via Bella for the beautifully decorated venue.



Angel Tree Program Update

Last Fall, the City of Countryside introduced a new holiday initiative - The Angel Tree Program. This program was designed to assist residents who were experiencing a financial hardship. Our goal was to help make the holidays a little brighter by matching them up with generous donors who purchased gifts from their wish lists. In total, 44 individuals from 11 families were served through this program. Wish lists included everything from baby dolls to winter coats and warm blankets. The success of this new program was not easy to predict. However, the overwhelming generosity of residents, business owners, and City employees made this program even better than we had originally envisioned. Program participants were delighted and grateful for the gifts they received. The City looks forward to continuing this program again next year.



Leaf Raking for Countryside Seniors



Students and community members volunteered their services to help 25 houses clear their properties of leaves.



City of Countryside
5550 East Avenue
Countryside, IL 60525

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
So Suburban, IL
Permit No. 928

OFFICIALS

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Susan Burdett

Treasurer

Caryn Stancik

Aldermen

Mark Benson

John Finn

James Jasinski

Thomas Mikolyzk

Scott Musillami

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