

Countryside CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2019

www.countryside-il.org



Coffee with the Mayor - February 23rd 10 - 11 a.m.



On Saturday, November 10th the morning began with Mayor Sean McDermott and guests recognizing the many veterans in attendance. John Eallonardo and Adam Shotkus of Frederick Quinn Corporation joined the Mayor in presenting the finalized layouts of the new Municipal Complex and a video presentation of the construction site. There were several great questions by the audience regarding backup generators, air quality and equipment performance. City Administrator Gail Paul presented information on the City's Commercial Tax Increment Financing District. She highlighted the increase in incremental taxes, the 2018 developments completed and the redevelopment



expected in 2019. The morning concluded with a raffle for four complimentary passes plus free parking to see Holiday Magic at the Brookfield Zoo. There were 3 lucky winners.

The next coffee with the Mayor will be on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 10 a.m.

City Wins Police Pension Spike Appeal!

The City of Countryside filed a lawsuit against the Police Pension Board in 2012 after several attempts to rectify what the City believed was an illegal pension spike. The City won this Circuit Court case in 2017. The Pension Board and the individual retirees appealed their case to the Illinois Appellate Court. The City recently won the appeal. It was a unanimous decision by all three presiding judges. Their opinion stated, ***"While we recognize that the retirees may have proceeded in reliance on the Board's original (but illegal) computations, the public interest in enforcing the Pension Code and ensuring fiscal solvency of the local fund must take priority over the retirees' expectations."*** See full article on page 2.

No Property Tax Levy for the 5th Consecutive Year!

City staff presented a proposed fiscal year 2020 budget to the Finance Committee in October of 2018 which concluded that all operating and capital costs could be funded without levying a property tax for the General Corporate Fund. This marks the 5th consecutive year that the City will meet its budgetary obligations without the use of property taxes. On December 12, 2018, the City Council voted to abate all debt service property tax levies on file with the Cook County Clerk as related to the City's outstanding general obligation bonds. The unanimous vote eliminated any property tax extensions for fiscal year 2020. (A levy is automatically filed with the county for debt service when bonds are issued. In order to eliminate that levy, an abatement ordinance must be passed by the City Council each year).

The Finance Committee will meet again in January to further discuss the fiscal year 2020 operating and capital budgets for all City funds. City staff expects to present a balanced budget to the City Council for consideration before the end of the current fiscal year, April 30, 2019.

Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and successful 2019!

WINTER / 2019

Pension Spike

How did this happen?

1. Police officers belong to a Police Pension Fund run by an elected/appointed Pension Board. Two active officers and one retired officer are elected by the members. The City Council appoints two members to the Board. The fund and its board are governed by State Statute with oversight by the Illinois Department of Insurance (ILDOI).
2. The City negotiated union contracts back in 2001-2002 which added a little longevity benefit. §14.2 stated:
“...eligible officers, employed as of August 1, 2001 and thereafter, shall be paid the following longevity amounts which shall be considered part of the base salary attached to their rank for all purposes: \$800 effective August 1, 2001; \$850 effective August 1, 2002.”
3. The Pension Board has the duty to approve pension benefits per State Statute. For years, the pension board both calculated **AND** approved the benefits without any confirmation from the City. In 2009, the “spiking” of the annual longevity benefit of \$850 by the number of pay periods in a year was questioned by one of the City’s newly appointed board members.
4. The Pension Board Attorney confirmed that the City Treasurer should approve the calculations. Going forward, the City Treasurer reviewed and disagreed with the calculations. The majority of the Pension Board members ignored the City Treasurer’s calculation and approved the pension benefits typically by a 3-2 vote.
5. The ILDOI audited the Police Pension Fund in 2004 and again in 2013. **Both audits noted the improper handling of the longevity benefit.** The majority of the Pension Board members ignored the ILDOI.
6. The City tried to resolve this disagreement through union negotiations to no avail. The City Council felt it had no other choice but to file a lawsuit against the Police Pension Board in Circuit Court. The City received a favorable ruling in 2017. Unfortunately, the Board (by a 3-2 vote) and the individual retirees decided to appeal the decision. The Appellate Court also ruled in the City’s favor. The Pension Board decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court by a 2-3 vote; however, the individual retirees did appeal. The City will continue to vigorously defend our position.

PENSION SPIKE EXAMPLE		
Years of Service:	30	
Age at Retirement:	54	
	Pension Board	ILDOI Examiner
Annual Salary	93,163.00	93,163.00
Holiday Pay	3,224.88	3,224.88
Longevity Benefit	22,100.00	850
Pensionable Wages	118,487.88	97,237.88
Original Monthly Benefits	7,405.49	6,077.37
Original Annual Benefits	88,865.88	72,928.44
Overpayment Year 1		15,937.44

Example for one retiree from the 2013 IDOI Audit Report

The Appellate Court opinion states...“the retirees’ pensions were calculated incorrectly on day one- based on the employment contract, statutes, and regulations then and now in force. The retirees could only “contract” for benefits allowed by law. Put simply, “[a] right cannot be protected if it does not exist.” A host of individuals affiliated with the City, aided by the employees who sat at the bargaining table, constructed a fictitious calculation method based on erroneous advice and used the method to award pensions far higher than those permitted by law. They steadfastly refused to rectify the situation after the DOI admonished them-several times over the course of a number of years- that the method was illegal. Although we understand that some or all of the retirees may have left service in reliance on the advice given to them at the time of retirement, they are nonetheless charged with knowledge of the laws.”

What does this mean to the average taxpayer?

The Pension Board awarded approximately \$2 million in excess benefits to retirees from 2002 – 2017. The Pension Board took the **annual** longevity benefit of \$850 and compounded it by the number of pay periods in a year (see the box above). In this example, this retiree was overpaid nearly \$16,000 in year 1 alone. If this retiree lives to age 80, the Pension Board would overpay this one retiree over \$645,000. This practice of spiking pension benefits is both illegal and not sustainable. If this practice continued, the City Council would have no other choice but to cut services/staff or increase taxes.

What now? The individual retirees have chosen to now appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. The City Council will continue to vigorously fight for what is right. We are confident the City will prevail.

Brainard Avenue Shared-Use Path

In 2014, the City was awarded an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant for the installation of a shared-use path along the east side of Brainard Avenue from Joliet Road to 55th Street. IDOT is the lead agency on this project. The City is funding \$145,550.00 for the project, \$946,200.00 is being paid for using federal funding through the ITEP grant, and \$90,000.00 is being paid from an Invest in Cook County grant (the City was notified that it was a recipient of the Invest in Cook County grant in July 2018). This project is on the March 2019 State letting schedule and work should begin within six weeks of the letting date. The scope of work consists of earth excavation, installation of an aggregate base course and hot mix asphalt; storm sewer and drainage improvements; pavement markings; signage; traffic signal modifications and parkway restoration. The path will be fully operational by the fall of 2019. We have been meeting with homeowners who will be affected by the installation of the shared use path, and a common question we have been asked is, "What is the benefit of a shared-use path near my home?" Here are a few reasons a safe walking and biking community is important overall (*source, Municibid, October, 2018*):

- ➔Promote healthier citizens and cleaner air quality by burning more calories and less gasoline.
- ➔Real estate values can be 30% higher in walkable neighborhoods.
- ➔Neighborhoods with high pedestrian activity create social cohesion, "eyes on the street" and deter crime.

We feel that the Brainard Avenue shared-use path will be a benefit not only to the residents along Brainard Avenue, but to the community overall, it will help connect all the areas of Countryside and make getting around Countryside much easier for all of our residents. For more information on the shared-use path, please call Sharon Peterson at (708) 485-2595.

Angel Tree Program Update

Thank you to all of the generous "Angels" who participated in our Angel Tree Program. This award-winning holiday program is designed to assist our residents who are experiencing a hardship during the holiday season. The generosity and goodwill of the community make this program a success!

This year, we were able to assist 58 individuals from 14 families. Wish lists included basic items such as coats, gloves, and boots, along with requests to assist with payment of utility bills. Clerk's Office staff members coordinate this program each year. They work diligently to identify families and individuals who qualify for the program. Happy Holidays to all of our Angel Tree participants!



WHERE: Flagg Creek Golf Course

DATE: Saturday, January 19, 2019

TIME: 1p.m.

Have you ever miniature golfed through ice sculptures? Have you ever seen a fire pit made of ice? Do you have any plans on Saturday, January 19th? If you answered yes or no to any of these questions, then our Winter Fest 2019 celebration is the event for you!

Activities include: ice miniature golf through ice sculptures, ice sculpture fire pit, horse drawn carriage rides, DJ, photo booth, snow flake bingo, Home Depot craft project, balloon twister, face painter, a visit from Anna & Elsa from Frozen, a visit from South Paw from the Chicago White Sox, and ice skating, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing (weather permitting).

A Special Thank you to our Sponsors!

SPONSORS

Blueder Tree Service
Chilton Yambert Porter LLP
Combined Warehouse LLC
Countryside Bank
Countryside Chamber of Commerce
Heat Engineering
Ledo's Pizza
MB Financial
Merging Technologies
Mesirow Financial
Novotny Engineering
Schwartz Excavating
Township of Lyons
Tressler, LLP

2019 St. Patrick's Day Family Parade

Get your green shirts ready! The City of Countryside proudly announces our 4th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade - **Saturday, March 9th at 1p.m.** This year's Grand Marshal is **John Buckley**, Chief of the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. The presenting sponsor is **Jack Phelan—Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM** for the third year in a row.

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

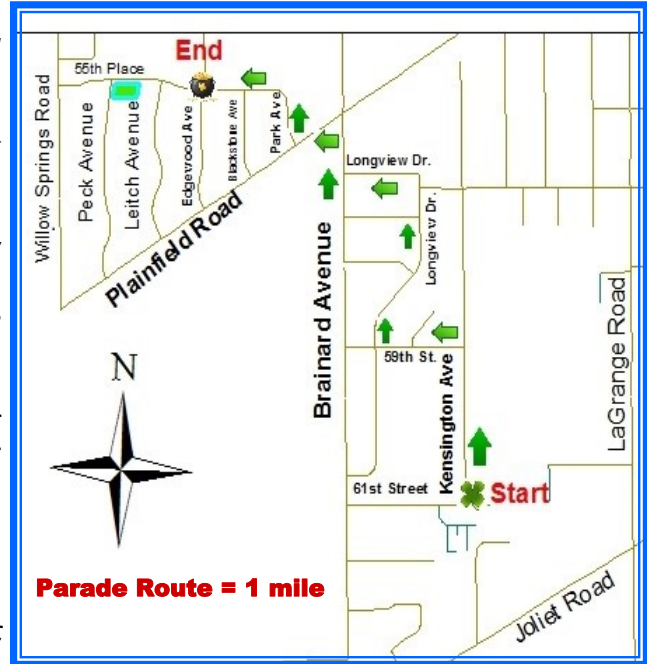
All parade proceeds will benefit the **Pulmonary Hypertension Association** and the **Illinois Carol Fisher Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation**.

PARTICIPATE. Countryside businesses and families are encouraged to march in the parade. Consider creating a float or marching with your family or group. Prizes will be awarded for the best floats, banners and "Best Party Along the Route."

AFTER-PARTY. Everyone is invited to check out the local establishments participating in this year's **post-parties**. (*Establishments and specific information will be announced later.*)

SPONSOR. SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND FEES:

- ✱ **\$1,000 Pot of Gold Sponsor** (name on website, shirts, and large print on banners)
- ✱ **\$500 Emerald Sponsor** (name on website, shirts, and banners)
- ✱ **\$250 Shamrock Sponsor** (name on website and banners)
- ✱ **\$100 Parade entry fee for Political Parties and Non-residents**
- ✱ **\$25 Parade entry fee for Non-profits & Residents**
- ✱ **Local Schools are FREE**
- ✱ **Non-advertising Business Sponsor** - support the parade and our charities by making a donation in any amount you choose.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There are many volunteer opportunities available for teens and adults. Please contact John Finn at (708) 299-7387 or send an email to parade@countryside-il.org.



St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen. The 2019 **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, or reside in Countryside. Applications are available on the City's website and at City Hall. Applications must be received by February 6, 2019. The queen will be crowned at the February 27, 2019 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 15, 2019**. If you have any questions please contact **Parade**



JACK PHELAN



DODGE

CHRYSLER

Jeep



Police Department Updates

Need Police Service? Dial 9-1-1

Recently we have had several incidents where citizens have dialed our 7 digit non-emergency number (708-352-2171) for services that require a police response. This number places citizens in contact with administrative staff, officers, and detectives at the police department to assist with services such as records and information requests, overnight parking requests, and case follow-ups. Dialing the non-emergency number when police response is needed can slow or delay calls and officer response times since the call then needs to be transferred to our 9-1-1 central dispatch center.

As public servants our mission is to provide the highest level of police service to our community so we cannot stress enough the importance of dialing 9-1-1 in any situation that you need a police response.

Our citizens are our extra set of eyes and ears, so if you see something, say something DIAL 9-1-1.

DIAL 9-1-1:

*to file a police report
to report an incident in progress
to report a suspicious person or vehicle
to report a stray animal
to report a parking problem
to report a vehicle lockout
at any time you need an officer to respond*

Pop Tops For Joy



The Police Department collects pop tabs throughout the year to donate to Pop Tops for Joy in memory of

Kelli Joy O'Laughlin and to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. This year, after a final weigh-in at the 2018 Run for Kelli, Countryside placed 3rd out of 5 agencies for the most pop tops collected.

The Countryside Police Department collects pop tops year-round for Pop Tops for Joy, so please keep collecting those pop tops and drop them off at the Countryside Police Department 24 hours a day or give us a call at (708) 485-4018 to arrange a pick up time.

Shop With A Cop

The Police Department held its 6th Annual Shop With a Cop event on Saturday, December 15th. This event provides ten children from Countryside an opportunity to interact in a positive way with law enforcement officers while shopping at T.J. Maxx for their family's holiday gifts. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time. A special thanks to Westfield Ford and Autobarn VW and Subaru

Citizen Award/Appreciation

Countryside resident and crossing guard, Elizabeth Wittenberg, received recognition at the December 12th City Council meeting. Her assistance was invaluable in locating an offender during an investigation of a hit and run traffic crash which occurred in November, 2018.



Citizen's Police Academy (CPA)

Live, work, or volunteer in Countryside? Are you over 18? Then check out our CPA. Visit our website at www.countrysidepolice.org or contact the Countryside Police Department at (708) 485-4018 for more information.



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 are reminded to have enough heat in their buildings to keep pipes from freezing.

Driveway Apron Snowplowing For Those In Need

The City provides driveway apron plowing for seniors *in need* and disabled residents. Countryside is proud to be one of a few communities which provide this very important service. If you are disabled or a senior citizen (age 65 or older) and have difficulty shoveling/snow blowing your driveway, the City will plow your driveway apron after all the streets have been plowed and are safe for motorists.

We often get calls from residents asking when their driveway apron will be done. The City cannot guarantee a timeframe. Driveway aprons will only be plowed after management determines it is safe for the staff to continue to plow. Our employees are no different than over the road truck drivers. Continuous driving without proper rest can cause danger to our employees and our residents. In addition, the City only has 4 pickup trucks to plow nearly 200 driveway aprons. This takes time and we appreciate your patience.



If you are not on the driveway apron list for this season and qualify for the program, please call the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270.

City Services

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.*



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.

Welcome to Countryside

Beau T Impact

23 Countryside Plaza, Phenix Suites
Hair salon



Braid Co.

23 Countryside Plaza, Phenix Suites
Hair salon

National Seating & Mobility

5444 East Avenue
Wheeled medical equipment



Salon Rush Studio

23 Countryside Plaza, Phenix Suites
Hair salon

Smoke & Talk Tobacco, Inc.

5526 LaGrange Road
Tobacco products



City Employees Service Recognition in 2018



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.

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, wave your arms high in the air (to appear larger) and yell loudly or throw something at the coyote to scare it away.

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 stats 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 and rabbits and geese eggs which, helps control the geese population.

Code Corner

The City would like to notify all residents and businesses of this newly passed ordinance which is effective immediately.

18-45-O: This ordinance requires that all trash receptacles be stored in the side yard or rear yard of all residential properties with the exception of trash pickup days, where the receptacles may be stored on the front curb.

Library Reimbursement



The City Council will consider increasing the library reimbursement to 100% of the cost to a maximum of \$100 at their January 12th meeting.

The City negotiated a contract with the McCook Public Library for Countryside families to become members for a flat rate of \$100. If the Council approves the reimbursement recommendation, 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.

Upcoming City Meetings

January

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

February

5	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
13	City Council	7:30 p.m.
20	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
27	City Council	7:30 p.m.

March

5	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
13	City Council	7:30 p.m.
12	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
20	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	7:00 p.m.
27	City Council	7:30 p.m.



Countryside Chamber of Commerce (CCC) News

The Countryside Chamber of Commerce (CCC) welcomes Maureen Blaber as its new Executive Director. Blaber will work with the CCC Board of Directors to carry out the Chamber's mission of supporting local businesses and being a trusted resource in the community. Sandy Dorgan, owner of Ledo's Pizza and CCC Vice President stated, "The CCC and its membership will greatly benefit from Mrs. Blaber's knowledge, experience and local ties to the community."



The CCC promotes a healthy environment for businesses in Countryside. It provides opportunities for business owners to gain exposure, exchange ideas, network with businesses and community leaders, and participate in workshops and seminars that are relevant to business ownership/management. Additionally, the CCC organizes and supports community events that bring business and community together.

The CCC was awarded the Google Grant in 2018 - an in-kind AdWords Grant that helps gain wider exposure for chamber members and the community. The chamber is also bringing back the Gift Certificate Program. These gift certificates can be used at any of the participating Countryside businesses (go to our website at www.countrysidechamber.org for the list of participating businesses). The certificates will be sold in \$10 and \$25 increments. Chamber gift certificates will be available for purchase at the City of Countryside (**cash or check only**).

Gift Giving Made Easy...



For information about the CCC, visit www.countrysidechamber.org.

Flagg Creek Golf News

Resident I.D. Cards - Effective January 1st, all residents of the City of Countryside who wish to take advantage of resident green fees must show a valid driver's license at the time of purchase. If you live within the boundaries of Pleasant Dale Park District you also qualify for resident rates, however, you **MUST** renew or sign up for a Resident I.D. card. 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 and new validation sticker.**



Permanent Tee Times - Registration is **Friday, February 8, 2019** from 5:30-8 p.m. Please RSVP with the Proshop if you plan on attending by February 4, 2019.

Junior League Dates - (TUESDAYS - 9:00 a.m. SHOTGUN START)

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9. Rain date is July 16 (ages 8-14) Resident Junior League registration starts **February 11, 2019** between the hours of 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily before the non-resident sign up date. There will be no lottery for non-resident junior league sign up. Open registration will be available starting **March 2, 2019** after 10:00 am.

Employment Opportunities - Flagg Creek Golf Course will be taking employment applications for various seasonal positions starting January 8, 2019. Applications are available in the Pro Shop or at the City of Countryside City Hall.

Heating Safety Tips

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December - February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening:



- ✓ Keep anything that can burn at least 3' away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- ✓ Never use your oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ✓ Always use the right kind of fuel for fuel burning space heaters.
- ✓ Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your furnace and fireplace every year.
- ✓ Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- ✓ Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Community Happenings

Children's Holiday Celebration



The 2018 Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 1st at Via Bella/Bella Banquets. Over 200 children attended. Musical entertainer, The Scribble Monsters was a crowd pleaser with their interactive show. Two boys and two girls from each age category were awarded a specially wrapped gift, presented by Mayor Sean McDermott, Recreation Chairman Jim Jasinski, and other elected officials. The grand prize winners were awarded a \$175.00 gift certificate from Terry's Bike Haus good towards the purchase of a new bicycle. The event wrapped up with slices of pizza, courtesy of Via Bella for all the participants. Thanks to Santa and all his helpers, and a big thanks to Kirk DeLise and his staff at Via Bella for the beautifully decorated venue.



Grand Prize Winner Alexis Paton



Grand Prize Winner Filip Rogic



LaGrange Periodontics Ribbon Cutting



L to R: Tiffany Jensen, Marian Babinec, Maria Przislicki, Chief Joe Ford, Dr. Michelle Jennings, Mayor Sean McDermott, Denise Lanham and Finance Director, Dave Schutter.

LaGrange Periodontics has been in Countryside since 1991. Recently, Dr. Michelle Jennings relocated her practice from 55th Street and Plainfield Road to a state of the art facility located at 6520 Joliet Road. Dr. Jennings is joined by Dr. Monica Babbitt in performing all procedures and surgeries related to gum disease including implants, grafts, crown lengthening, and laser treatments. Dr. Jennings also teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Reminder...Parking After 2" Of Snowfall

No parking on any public street in the city at any time within twelve (12) hours after a snowfall of two inches (2") or more has occurred, unless the snow has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.



Community Happenings

Countryside Recognizes Its Good Neighbors



In the Summer edition of Countryside Connections we asked our residents to nominate a good neighbor. The idea was presented to us by Countryside resident, Katrina Ladyga, who felt that the good deeds of our neighbors shouldn't go unnoticed. Four residents were recognized for their kindness and good deeds towards their fellow neighbors. Residents recognized (left to right) were: Bill Nawrot, George Palmerin, Mary Sobecki and Dwight Beard (not pictured).

JDRF As Benefactor from Summer Concert Series Raffle



At the October 24th City Council meeting, the Council presented a \$1,260 check to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). This check was from the proceeds of our \$1,000 visa gift card raffle at the summer concerts. Brandi Miller and her son Colton along with the rest of Colton's family accepted the check on behalf of the JDRF.

Leaf Raking for Countryside Seniors



Shannon Rapp, Alderman Von Drasek, Officer Bisignani, and Alderman Jasinski, team members of Aging Well, organized students and community members to volunteer their services to help 26 houses clear their properties of leaves. A special thanks to Keith Vedmore (Grace Lutheran Church), and John Findley (Troop 216) for organizing the volunteers, and Nathan and Emily Hunter (Chick-fil-A) and McDonalds for donating refreshments for the event!



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

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

Countryside Chamber of Commerce

www.countrysidechamber.org

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection

www.plvw.org

West Suburban Chamber

www.westsuburbanchamber.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

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



Police Department:

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

Fax: (708) 352-1032

Emergency: 911

Clerk's Office:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Public Works:

Main: (708) 354-3390

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Water Billing:

Main: (708) 485-2465

Fax: (708) 354-9029

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

Fax: (708) 354-9029

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.