

# Countryside CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2020

[www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org)



## *Coffee with the Mayor - January 18th 10 - 11 a.m.*

Please join Mayor Sean McDermott on Saturday, January 18th for coffee and City updates. Joining us will be a representative from the Illinois Tollway to discuss the central Tri-State reconstruction project. They will give an overview of the project, estimate timeline, and impacts on Countryside residents including sound walls.



## *We Moved!*

Staff said goodbye to the old City Hall this past October. They will not miss the power outages, leaking roof, drafty windows or cramped quarters. A grand opening celebration was held on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Many came at 11 a.m. to be part of history in the community-wide photo taken by resident, Janusz Gryglak of Jag International Photography (see pages 6-7). Hundreds of people participated in tours of the new facility. The Municipal Complex offers more space, good light, great air quality and much needed meeting/interview rooms. The official move in date was Tuesday, October 22nd.



Shortly after the move, OGM Productions out of Burbank, California contacted the City of Countryside. They were in the market for an old Police Station to film a portion of their movie, Alex/October. Timing was perfect so in November they filmed inside the police station, building department, Countryside's streets and City Park. A resident, Betsy Finn also was hired as the makeup artist. We look forward to seeing the movie when it is finally released in 2020.

## *No Property Tax Levy for the 6th Consecutive Year!*

City staff presented a proposed fiscal year 2021 budget to the Finance Committee in October of 2019 which concluded that all operating and capital costs could be funded without the use of a property tax extension on residents and commercial property owners in the City. "I am pleased to report that this marks the 6th consecutive year that the City will meet its budgetary obligations without the use of property taxes" said Mayor Sean McDermott. On December 11, 2019, the City Council voted to abate all debt service property tax levies automatically filed with the Cook County Clerk. The unanimous vote eliminated any property tax extensions for fiscal year 2021. The Finance Committee will meet again in January to further discuss the fiscal year 2021 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, 2020) as related to the fiscal year 2021 budget.

## 2020 St. Patrick's Day Family Parade

Get your green shirts ready! The City of Countryside proudly announces our 5th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade - **Saturday, March 7th at 1p.m.** This year's Grand Marshal is **Pat Schwartz**, local resident and owner of Schwartz Excavating. The presenting sponsor is **Jack Phelan—Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM** for the fourth 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.)

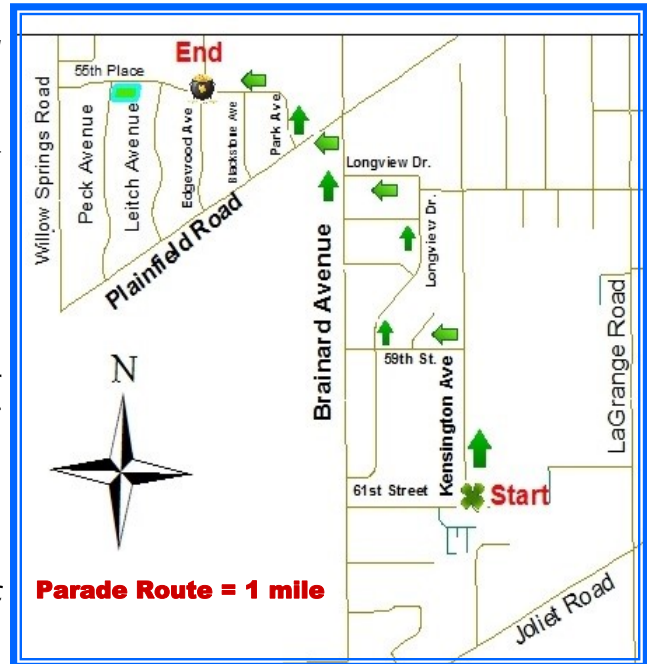
**All parade proceeds will benefit the District 105 Foundation and the Center for Independence.**

**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](mailto:parade@countryside-il.org).



**St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen.** The 2020 **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 the Countryside area. Applications are available on the City's website and at the new Municipal Complex. Applications must be received by February 3, 2020. The queen will be crowned at the February 12, 2020 City Council meeting.

**Rules, forms, and ongoing parade updates can be found on the City's website [www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org) under the special events tab** or at the new Municipal Complex. Applications and fees should be returned to the City of Countryside **no later than February 13, 2020**. If you have any questions please contact **Parade Chairman, John Finn** at [parade@countryside-il.org](mailto:parade@countryside-il.org) or (708) 299-7387.



# JACK PHELAN



DODGE



Jeep



## Police Department Updates

### We're on Ring!

The Countryside Police Department is now one of your Ring Neighbors! We have been using the Neighbors App by Ring as yet another way to communicate with our residents and to share important information and updates that can help enhance safety within our community. Information can be shared in real-time on the Neighbors by Ring App and, since the Ring App is free and can be used by anyone even if they don't own a ring device, residents can also share information in real-time, anonymously. So let's get the word out and grow our community of neighbors. Please contact Commander Klimek at (708) 485-4713 if you would like more information.



**Gift Card Scams.** Remember the old saying "if it sounds too good to be true it probably is"? The Countryside Police Department has seen a dramatic increase in phone and email scams where the caller or sender alleges you owe them a certain amount of money or you are entitled to some type of benefit and all you have to do to clear your name or receive the benefit is to send the code from the back of a pre-paid gift card that you purchase at a local retail store. The caller or sender might even threaten you

with being arrested if you do not comply with their demands. Ask yourself, have you ever paid any type of bill with a pre-paid gift card? If you've received these types of communications you are being scammed. *Never purchase pre-paid gift cards to pay a bill or settle a debt and never supply an unfamiliar caller or sender with ANY of your personal information. Report suspicious phone calls and emails to the police before sending ANY money.*



The Countryside Police Department held its 7th Annual Shop With a Cop event on Saturday, December 14, 2019. This event provided 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.

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and to T.J. Maxx, Westfield Ford, and the Autobarn of Countryside for their generous donations that helped make this event possible.



### AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Several awards were presented by Chief Ford and Mayor McDermott at the City Council Meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2019. In the left photo, pictured left to right are: Officer Alonzo, Officer Rinehart (Meritorious Awards), Officer Venem, Officer Lanzi, Officer Bisignani (Life Saving Awards), and Sergeant Boyd (Honorable Mention Award). Not pictured are Sergeant Andree, Officer Kalker (Meritorious Award), and Officer Maher (Honorable Mention Award). In the right photo, Citizen Adam Fresen was presented with a Countryside Police Department Public Recognition Award for assisting an injured pedestrian before the arrival of first responders.



## 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.**

### Night Deposit Box

For your convenience, a night deposit box has been placed inside the Municipal Complex lobby vestibule. You will be able to leave water bill, business license payments, and also police fines.

The “red” telephone, also located in the vestibule is connected directly to the offsite dispatch center. You can pick up this phone for service in the event that a Community Service Officer is not on duty in the Police Department. The dispatch center will dispatch an officer to the Municipal Complex to assist you.



## Driveway Apron Snow Removal Program

Senior citizens (62 and older) 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. Please note that the City is **NOT** responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, please fill out the form below and return to the City Clerk's office. Allow 48 hours for processing.

| City of Countryside<br>Senior/Disability Snow Removal Program Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | _____, Countryside, IL 60525                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Home Phone:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | _____ Mobile Phone: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Email:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Basis of Application (Initial where applicable):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | I am 62 years or older. (enclosed is a copy of my driver's license or State I.D.)                                                                                                                                                              |
| _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | I have enclosed (1) a medical certification from my doctor confirming my disability and inability to shovel/remove snow; or (2) a copy of Secretary of State License Disability Placard or registration of disability through Social Security. |
| <b>*Please note that once we receive your form, it will take up to 48 hours to be registered.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>By submitting this documentation, I hereby voluntarily release protected health information to the City of Countryside that is otherwise protected by law, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>The resident(s) hereby releases and holds the City, its officers, officials, and employees harmless from any damage to property or other liability which arises directly or indirectly from the Village's snow removal program. The resident(s) hereby releases and holds the City, its officers, officials, and employees harmless for any injuries or liabilities sustained by the resident(s) or others caused, directly or indirectly by the removal or non-removal of any snow or ice from the resident(s) property.</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>I state that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, correct, and complete.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Applicant's Signature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | _____<br>Date _____/_____/_____                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Reminder...Parking After 2" Of Snowfall

Per the City Code, there is **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.

# COUNTRYSIDE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX



## 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 46 individuals from 10 families. Wish lists included items such as winter coats, snow boots and gloves, 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:** *Friday, January 17, 2020*

*(Adults age 21 and up)*

*Saturday, January 18, 2020*

**TIME:** *Friday, 6 P.M. to Close*

*Saturday, Noon to Close*

Back by popular demand...with Winterfest 2019 being such a success, we decided to bring it back for another year of fun filled winter activities for the whole family to enjoy! Adults 21 and over, come join your friends at Flagg Creek Golf Course on Friday, January 17th for a wine tasting sponsored by Main Street Wine & Liquors from 6-8 p.m. and live music from Timeless from 8 p.m. to close.

On Saturday, January 18th, the event kicks off at noon with adult bingo from noon to 2 p.m. Family friendly activities begin at 2:30 p.m. with kids bingo, face painting, a craft project by Home Depot, an Exotic Animal Show, a fire pit, an ice sculpted graffiti and coloring wall, ice sculpted luge with fun drinks and cups, DJ, photo booth, and a cookie painting activity. Saturday's events will wrap up with live music by Bobbie Dunn starting at 6 p.m.

*A Special Thank you to our SPONSORS*

5/3rd Bank

Countryside Bank

Countryside Chamber of Commerce

Hanson Material Service

Heat Engineering

Ledo's Pizza

Mesirow Financial

NuMark Credit Union

Schwartz Excavating

Vulcan Material Company



## Recycling Expanding



Employees have been trained and encouraged to recycle as much as possible. In our effort to go "green", the City is expanding its recycling of batteries and electronics to the public. A battery recycling bin is currently available in the main lobby of the Municipal Complex. Batteries such as AA, AAA, C, D, watch and similar small size batteries are accepted. Car batteries are **NOT** accepted.

The City will also be introducing an electronics (E-Waste) recycling program this spring. Acceptable items will include cell phones, radios, computers, fax machines, printers, hand-held devices, and televisions. Drop off will be available at the Jim Essig Public Works Facility, 5315 9th Avenue. Check the spring newsletter for program details.



## Community Room Space

With the new Municipal Complex, we have been receiving requests from groups looking to rent our space for parties and events. Although we have a Community Room, any potential user must provide "benefit to the community" in order to be considered a valid user of the space. It is the policy of the City of Countryside to ensure that the public meeting space is primarily intended for civic, educational, and public information meetings of non-profit groups serving the City's community-wide interest.

The priority of use is established as follows: City functions, City related meetings, training or activities; other public institutions/governmental agencies (such as schools, county township), non-profit organizations primarily based in Countryside, non-profit organizations serving Countryside residents; organizations comprised predominantly of either City of Countryside residents or business owners or both.

The meeting guidelines are as follows: Meetings should be scheduled during the City's regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in the evening hours (Monday through Friday only). Evening meetings must end by 9:45 p.m. and the premises vacated by 10:00 p.m. All meeting reservations must be made in advance by calling the City Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270. For more information on the meeting room policy, please visit our website [www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org) and look under the section, Forms and Permits.

## City Services

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

1. A pre-sale inspection.
2. A final water meter reading and payment in full.
3. Receipt showing payment in full for sewer services.
4. A completed Real Estate Transfer Declaration Form.

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.**

## City Employees Service Recognition in 2019



|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Tony Boyd        | 25 years |
| Ken Goluszka     | 25 years |
| Robert Sodt      | 20 years |
| April Bisignani  | 15 years |
| Kelly Kalker     | 15 years |
| Paul Klimek      | 15 years |
| Karen Melone     | 10 years |
| Nicole Hervieux  | 5 years  |
| Charity Mitchell | 5 years  |

## Welcome to Countryside

### Blush Esthetics

6534 Joliet Road

Facials, eyebrow & eyelash tinting, face & body waxing, microdermabrasion

### Crystal Moon Salon

23 Countryside Plaza, Suites 112 & 116

Hair salon

### Oak Lawn Vacuum

5540 S. LaGrange Road

Sales/service/warranty for vacuums

### Novi Grooming, Inc.

6558 Joliet Road

Dog grooming

### Rose Gold Body Beauty

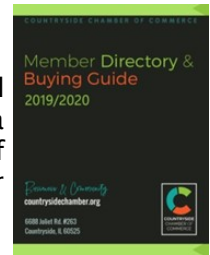
23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 109

Facials, waxing, body treatments, eyelash extensions



## Countryside Chamber of Commerce (CCC) News

The Countryside Chamber of Commerce 2019/2020 Directory has been mailed to all businesses and residents in Countryside. If you have not received a directory, extra copies are available at the new Municipal Complex. The annual directory contains lots of valuable contact information and coupons for local businesses. Make sure you get your free copy today!



## SPRING PUB CRAWL

Mark your calendars! the Countryside Chamber of Commerce Annual **Spring Pub Crawl** is set for Saturday, May 16, 2020. This 21+ event allows you to hop aboard trolleys and tip a few at some of Countryside's best drinking (and eating!) establishments. It is always a great time!

**The Best of Countryside** carnival has a new date. The 2020 carnival runs June 12-14! This year's carnival will feature more music and entertainment than ever before plus all your favorite amusement rides and food options you have come to expect from this family-friendly community event. You won't want to miss it-summer will be here before we know it!



**Looking for an easy gift idea?** The Countryside Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates are now available for purchase at the new Municipal Complex. These handy gift certificates come in denominations of \$10 and \$25 and they make great gifts for everyone including teachers, coaches, friends, and neighbors. Gift certificates are a great way to shop local and support Countryside businesses.



## Flagg Creek Golf News

**Resident I.D. Cards** - 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.**



**Golf Outings** - We recognize that each golf outing, golf tournament, and golf event is unique and will have different needs. We can design your day and organize our staff around your needs. Book your 2020 golf outing today!

**Employment Opportunities** - Flagg Creek Golf Course will be taking employment applications for various seasonal positions starting January 13, 2020. Applications are available in the Pro Shop or at the City of Countryside Municipal Complex.

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## Code Corner

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

**19-32-O: Prohibits parking in front of a mailbox. Individuals will receive a citation if they park in front of a mailbox.**

## Community Happenings

### Children's Holiday Celebration

The 2019 Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 7th at Bella Banquets. Over 150 children attended. Magician John Measner was a hit with his magical act and interactive show. Two boys and two girls from each age category were awarded a specially wrapped gift, presented by Mayor Sean McDermott and Special Events Chairman Jim Jasinski. 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 Bella Banquets for all the participants. Thanks to Santa and all his helpers, and a big thanks to Kirk DeLise and his staff at Bella Banquets for the beautifully decorated venue.



Grand Prize Winner Rianna Valaisa



## Library Membership

The City has an intergovernmental agreement with McCook which provides Countryside residents with a library membership for \$100 or \$50 for students. The City will reimburse residents up to \$100 for their annual library membership. Call the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270 for reimbursement information.



## Upcoming City Meetings

### January

|    |                          |           |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 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. |

### February

|    |                          |           |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 4  | Plan/ZBA Commission      | 7:15 p.m. |
| 12 | City Council             | 7:30 p.m. |
| 19 | Flagg Creek Admin. Board | 7:00 p.m. |
| 26 | City Council             | 7:30 p.m. |

### March

|    |                          |           |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 3  | Plan/ZBA Commission      | 7:15 p.m. |
| 11 | City Council             | 7:30 p.m. |
| 10 | Fire & Police Commission | 5:00 p.m. |
| 18 | Flagg Creek Admin. Board | 7:00 p.m. |
| 25 | City Council             | 7:30 p.m. |



City of Countryside  
803 Joliet  
Countryside, IL 60525

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

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## OFFICIALS

### **Mayor**

Sean McDermott

### **Clerk**

Elizabeth Kmet

### **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](http://www.countryside-il.org)

Cook County Clerk

[www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com)

Countryside Chamber of Commerce

[www.countrysidechamber.org](http://www.countrysidechamber.org)

Flagg Creek Golf Course

[www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org](http://www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org)

Pleasantview Fire Protection

[www.plvw.org](http://www.plvw.org)

West Suburban Chamber

[www.westsuburbanchamber.org](http://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) 354-9445

### 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.