Memorial Park Rededication

The City Council honored former Mayor Carl W. LeGant on Saturday, August 25th with a ceremony renaming Memorial Park the Carl W. LeGant Memorial Park. Family and friends of Carl along with elected officials and members of the community joined in the celebration. Mayor Sean McDermott was the master of ceremony. He recapped some of Carl’s major accomplishments with this park and its landmark clock tower being one of his greatest accomplishments. The American Legion presented the colors, Carl’s family presented a patriotic wreath in honor of the veterans and Pastor Christina Vosteen said a prayer. The ceremony concluded with the Mayor unveiling the plaque rededicating the park, the Carl W. LeGant Memorial Park.

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

At Coffee with the Mayor on August 25, 2018, Chief Ford gave an update on the Crime Free Housing Program adopted in 2015. Over the last three years this program has assisted 15 property owners with the eviction process of tenants who have violated the law while in a rental property. See page 6 for more information.

Dave Schutter discussed the City’s Electric Aggregation Program. The City entered into a contract with Constellation Energy for 1 year. See page 8 for more information.

The Mayor wrapped things up with an update about the new Municipal Complex. It included a discussion on the mockups being built north of the current City Hall. Detailed information about the mockups can be found on page 2.

Please join the Mayor on November 10th for City updates and refreshments in the Council Chambers.
The primary purpose of these advanced mock-ups is to enable testing and simulation of air infiltration levels in the building envelope. In other words, how much air from the inside of the building is being leaked to the outside and vice-versa. With the goal of NetZero Building Energy, the Countryside Municipal Complex is aiming to achieve a maximum 0.10 CFM/ft² infiltration rate, which is 400% higher performance than conventional, energy conscious practices might meet. A key take-away from early energy studies by Dewberry Architects was the significance of a tight building envelope in reducing energy demands. The secondary purpose of the advanced mock-ups is that the contractors will be using the actual building construction materials and finishes that will be used on the construction of the new Municipal Complex. Things like, the installation of windows and doors, the color of the brick and mortar, the color of the metal trim, and how all the materials come together will be built on these mock-ups so if a problem occurs during testing, corrections can be made in advance of the actual construction. The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awarded the City a $1 million grant for our net zero efforts.
Economic Development Update

7 Gates Restaurant (10050 W. 55th Street - former Long John Silver's) – A new sit-down family style restaurant will be opening in this location. They will offer fresh bakery, Lebanese cuisine and gelato. All healthy foods with NO fillers! As an added convenience, a drive-thru will be available to serve light sandwiches, salads and gelato. The restaurant owner also plans on offering an outdoor patio area to enjoy your food and/or gelato.

Clocktower Pointe Subdivision – Located near the intersection of Joliet Road and Willow Springs Road, this subdivision consists of 2 condominium buildings (completed) and 4 townhome buildings. 3 of the townhome buildings have been completed. The 4th is under construction with an expected completion date by the end of the year. So far, 4 townhomes have been leased. Developers anticipate having all 23 units leased by 2019.

The Halal Guys (5621 S. LaGrange Road - former Pizza Hut) – The Halal Guys have several popular food carts in New York City serving Middle Eastern food. New Yorkers and tourists have been known to stand in the city’s longest food cart line (sometimes for hours) for their famous premium quality Halal meats. The Guys submitted plans for an interior build-out with some minor exterior renovations. The Halal Guys is the #1 Most Yelped business in all of NYC, and in the Top 3 Most Yelped businesses in the entire United States! We can’t wait.

LaGrange Road Streetscape (Joliet Road – 57th Street) – The Streetscape Project is almost complete. This project included installation of stamped concrete sidewalks, landscaping, benches, garbage receptacles and the construction of an entry way sign at the NW Corner of Joliet Road & LaGrange Road. This monument sign is the last component to be completed. The State of Illinois experienced some delays when the supplier of the fabrications experienced a chemical spill at their plant. It took several weeks to locate another supplier and wait for delivery of the materials. The sign is currently under construction and should be completed in September.

Ledo’s Pizza (5525 S. LaGrange Road) submitted plans for a building addition and outdoor patio area. Final plans are still under review by the building department. Construction is expected to begin this fall. Ledo’s is one of Countryside’s oldest family-owned restaurants.

Napleton Mazda (6060 S. LaGrange Road) – The Napleton Automotive Group purchased C.J. Wilson Mazda on September 10th. They are hoping to submit plans this year for a complete renovation of the dealership. Napleton anticipates construction beginning in 2019. It’s nice to find a large automotive group with the confidence to invest in Countryside.

Russell’s BBQ (5545 S. LaGrange Road) – Interior and exterior renovations continue at the former B&B. Opening date is pending.

Shop & Stay, Dine & Play COUNTRYSIDE
Countryside - One of Five Districts without a Municipal Property Tax Levy

For the fourth consecutive year, the City has passed a balanced operating budget without the use of a property tax levy. For tax year 2017, the City is one of only five municipalities (out of one hundred and thirty-five in Cook County) to levy no property taxes. The other four Cook County communities include Deer Park, Elmhurst, Homer Glen, and Oak Brook, which are all partially in Cook County. In addition, the City has the 10th lowest average tax rate in the County at 7.507%, which makes the property tax burden more manageable. The City is able to finance its operations without property taxes due to its careful management and growth of the retail and commercial economic base which produces nearly $9 million in sales tax revenues annually.

So where do your property tax dollars go? City staff researched tax statistics on the three primary school districts in Countryside (105, 106, and 107) and graphed the results below.

How does Countryside compare to neighboring communities? As shown below, the average tax payer has to pay their local municipality from $152 to nearly $1,900 annually for municipal services and programs in addition to property taxes paid to the County, Forest Preserve, Township, School Districts, Community Colleges, and Sanitary Districts.
City’s Strong AA Credit Rating

The City issued new bonds to finance the construction of the Municipal Complex. In order to sell bonds to the public, the City had to present its financial, management, and economic information and outlook to the credit rating agency of S&P. The City Administrator, Finance Director, and Mayor presented the City’s profile to the agency over a series of conference calls and PowerPoint presentations. The result was an affirmation of the City’s prior credit rating of AA with a Stable Outlook. This rating is just two notches below the highest rating of AAA held by the Federal Government and other select entities. S&P cited a strong economy, strong management, strong budgetary performance, and very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity as its rationale for the strong rating. They also noted lowering the City’s debt level and contingent liability position and increasing the police pension funding as ways to increase our bond rating even further. The full report can be accessed on the City’s website under the Finance Department.

Welcome to Countryside

Face by Joniece Renee
23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 104
Facials, waxing, body services and day spa

Flaunt Studio
23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 117
Eyelash extensions and microblading

Hair Beautiful by Emily
23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 119
Hair salon

Hair and Beauty Studio
5546 S. Brainard Avenue, #2
Hair salon

Lida Export, Inc.
40 Countryside Plaza
Kitchen cabinets showroom

Magic Nails Spa
21 Countryside Plaza
Nail spa

Napleton’s Countryside Mazda (formerly: CJ Wilson)
6060 S. LaGrange Road
Car dealership

Smoke & Talk Tobacco, Inc.
5526 S. LaGrange Road
Cigarette and tobacco sales

With the Grain Barbers
23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 112
Men’s barber shop

Code Corner

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

18-31-O: This ordinance requires that all establishments located within 500 feet of a residential district that have outdoor seating/patio areas will have designated times for the outdoor area to cease all operations. The hours of operation for outdoor patios Sunday through Thursday: Open to 11:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, the hours are from Open to midnight. This ordinance is in effect May through October.

Inland Bank Grand Reopening

Inland Bank has been at its location at 5456 S. LaGrange Road since 2008. They recently renovated the branch by modernizing the interior and updating the exterior. They held a grand reopening on September 20, 2018. City staff joined bank personnel and members of the business community for the ribbon cutting by Peter Stickler, President and CEO.

Inland Bank offers a full line of banking products for individuals and businesses. Countryside is one of ten branches throughout the Chicagoland area. There are plans to open 2 additional branches in 2019.
Thank You for Your Years of Service

Congratulations to Officer Ronnie Pohle and Officer Kreg Floyd on their recent retirements. Officer Ronnie Pohle retired on July 15, 2018 after serving in the patrol division of the Countryside Police Department for 23 years. Officer Kreg Floyd retired on July 29, 2018 after over 20 years with the Countryside Police Department. Throughout his career, Officer Floyd was assigned as an Investigator, a Field Training Officer, an Officer-in-Charge, and a Firearms Instructor. Officer Floyd also responded to aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as part of a contingent of officers with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System.

Thank you both for your service and your dedication to the City of Countryside. Best wishes in your retirement!!!

Welcome to the Department!

We are happy to introduce the newest members of the Countryside Police Department, Officer Connor Rinehart and Officer Kevin Cerny. Both officers were sworn in by Mayor McDermott at the September 12, 2018 City Council meeting. Officer Rinehart earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and is a certified police officer. He served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps and is currently completing field training with our department and becoming acclimated with the Countryside community. Officer Cerny earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and started the 14-week Basic Academy on September 17, 2018. Following his graduation he will complete field training with our department.

Crime Free Rental Housing Program

Since 2015, our Crime Free Housing Officer (CFH) has identified 230 rental properties with over 1000 individual units. Over half of these rental properties have already been certified by the program. 11 CFH seminars with owners and managers have been conducted with two more scheduled for this year. The seminar is part of the certification process which educates rental owners and managers on the ordinance and how to better handle “problem” tenants. Over the last three years this program has assisted 15 property owners with the eviction process of tenants who have violated the law while in a rental property. The owners and managers have been very receptive of the program and have indicated that this program has greatly enhanced their ability to evict problem tenants. For more information or if you are a rental property owner and have not been certified contact CFH Officer Mark Battaglia at mbattaglia@countrysidepolice.org.

Citizen’s Police Academy

As a community policing initiative, the Citizen’s Police Academy is a free, 12-week informational and interactive program intended to encourage community involvement and enhance public awareness. Classes are held one evening per week from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Countryside Police Department. Any citizen 18 and over, who lives, works, or volunteers in the City of Countryside is eligible to participate. For an application and additional information please visit our website or contact the Countryside Police Department at (708) 485-4018 or police@countrysidepolice.org.

Stay Safe! Halloween Safety Tips

- Stay with your friends or with an adult.
- Only go to homes with porch lights on.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Have an adult check the candy before you eat it.
- Stay with your friends or with an adult.
- Watch for cars backing out of driveways.

Trick-or-Treat Hours are from 3pm to 7pm on October 31st.
Public Works Reminds You . . .

Fall Leaf Pick-Up (October 15th - December 3rd)

Crews will be collecting leaves on a continuous cycle throughout the entire program period. The leaf collection program provides residents with an alternate way to dispose of leaves. Instead of bagging or mulching, residents may rake leaves onto the parkway.

In order for this program to be successful, we ask all residents to observe these guidelines:

- Leaves **SHOULD** be raked onto the parkway near the street.
- Leaves should **NOT** be raked into the street.
- Do **NOT** deposit branches, sticks, garbage, or other debris into the leaf pile. This can damage the equipment and cause a dangerous situation for our employees.

Please allow 7 to 10 working days between pick-ups as it typically takes a week or more to do a full cycle of the City.

Brush Pick-Up

Branch and brush pick-up will be provided through **October 31st**. Crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis. If you have questions, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.

2018 Street Resurfacing Program includes 5th Avenue Cutoff

The City has been in discussions with Cook County for the past several years about the poor condition of the County’s road, 5th Avenue Cutoff. Through the City’s determination and the cooperation of Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski, an agreement was drafted to permit the City to bid and complete the resurfacing project with the County reimbursing the City.

We want to thank President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board of Commissioners for approving this agreement so this project could be completed this year. The 5th Avenue Cutoff will remain rural and incorporate a walking path and drainage improvements. The 5th Avenue Cutoff went out to bid with the City’s 2018 street resurfacing program. We anticipate construction to begin in mid to late October.

City Receives Award for Sprinkler Codes

Pleasantview Fire Chief, John Buckley, presented City Council with an award at the September 12th meeting. The award, received from the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition, recognizes the City’s efforts to protect its citizens from fire. The City’s Building Code was updated in 2016 with the approval of Ordinance number 16-06-O to include important lifesaving recommendations, including FEMA’s America’s Burning Report Guidelines and FEMA’s Firefighter Life Safety Summit Recommendations for the Protection of Firefighters, by adopting and preserving progressive Residential Fire Sprinkler Codes for single family homes following NFPA’s 13D standards.

According to Chief Buckley, the absence of sprinklers accounts for approximately 90% of all residential fire fatalities. Sprinklers are proven lifesavers; for both property and life. Buckley added that “our District in the last 30 years or so, has had 66 fires extinguished by sprinklers – 25 of those in Countryside”. He applauds the City’s efforts.
**City Services**

**Pool Reimbursements:** 2018 outdoor pool membership to any outdoor swimming pool must be presented by December 31, 2018 to be eligible for reimbursement. Fitness clubs and YMCA memberships are not eligible unless a separate "outdoor pool" rate was established from Memorial Day through Labor Day and you must produce a letter of cancellation. To apply for the reimbursement, bring your paid membership receipt and a valid driver’s license to the City Clerk’s office.

**Driveway Apron Snow Removal:** Senior citizens and disabled Countryside residents may sign up each year to have their driveway aprons plowed if more than 2-inches of snow falls. This removal will be done after all City streets are cleared. Please note that 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), 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.*

**Electric Aggregation**

Last year, the City entered into a contract with Dynegy/Homefield Energy at a price of 6.663 cents per kWh (kilowatt hour). Over the 14 months of this program which is set to expire in October, the average household will save over $50 while the aggregate savings to the community will exceed $90,000. The City once again put the program out to bid and Constellation Energy emerged as the lowest bidder. The City Council approved a 12 month contract at 7.43 cents per kWh, which compares favorably to the ComEd rate in place for the next 8 months at 7.941 cents per kWh. The program continues to save residents and small businesses money. Those that want to continue in the electric aggregation program do not need to do anything and will be automatically reenrolled. If anyone does not want to participate, then they can simply opt out by telephone, email, or return mail as explained in the August mailing. A Frequently Asked Questions document (FAQ) is on the City’s website.

**Brainard Avenue Multi-Use Path**

In 2014, the City was awarded an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant to construct a multi-use path along Brainard Avenue. The grant provided an 80%/20% split with the grant paying 80% and the City paying 20% of the total project costs. The City also applied and was awarded an Invest in Cook County Grant this year in the amount of $90,000. This grant will help offset the City’s project costs. Work is expected to begin next spring with the path being operational by the fall.

**Crosstown Raffle**

The City and its car dealerships held a crosstown ticket raffle to entice people to visit and hopefully buy their next car in Countryside. The lucky ticket was drawn at the City Council meeting on September 12th. Jarely Ruiz of Lyons won 4-box seat tickets for the Chicago White Sox v. Chicago Cubs game on Friday, September 21, 2018. Jarely was at Continental Honda shopping with her aunt for a new car when she entered. Congratulations!

Thank you to our dealers for their participation. Customers entered from 53 municipalities in Illinois and from 2 other states. Most entries came from the City of Chicago. Brookfield, Burbank, Orland Park, and Plainfield rounded out the top 5 communities. Let’s keep everybody shopping in Countryside!
**Flagg Creek Golf News**

**Fall Scramble** will be held on Sunday, October 14th with a 3:00 pm. shotgun start. The fee is $175 per team and includes golf, food, prizes, Closest to the Pin (optional), Beat the Pro and Skins game. Space is limited! Stop by the proshop or call (708) 246-3336.

**Congratulations** to General Manager, and PGA Pro, Billy Rosinia who has qualified for the Senior PGA Championship golf tournament that is being held in Port St. Lucie, Florida on October 25-28, 2018. Billy will be one of seven professionals who qualified at the Merit Club in Grayslake, IL. Billy won the last qualifying spot in a sudden death playoff on August 14, 2018.

**Meet Nicole Jeray** our new teaching pro. Nicole is offering different types of lessons to better your game. Schedule your next golf lesson with her direct at (708) 955-0533 or by email nicolejeray@aol.com.

**Breakfast with Santa** will be held on Saturday, December 8th and Sunday, December 9th at 10:00 a.m. Please call (708) 246-3336 to make your reservation.

- Ages 2 & under **FREE**
- Ages 3-10 $8 Residents/$10 Non-Residents
- Ages 11 & older $13 Residents/$15 Non-Residents

**Holiday Parties** can be reserved by calling Michele at (708) 246-3336 ext. 6.

**Flagg Creek’s 25th Anniversary** was celebrated on Sunday, July 1, 2018. Two foursomes teed off at 2:00 p.m. in honor of the first tee off when the golf course first opened. One foursome were members of the City Council and the other foursome were members of the Pleasant Dale Park District. There was a party on the patio, drink and food specials, and the band Timeless performed in the clubhouse. It was a great event, and a great way to celebrate the anniversary.

**Gateway Special Recreation Association Golf**

Countryside is a member of Gateway Special Recreation Association. Gateway Special Recreation Association was started in 1989 and provides recreational services to individuals with disabilities. During the summer months, Gateway offers many programs including golf, which is held at Flagg Creek Golf Course. Our General Manager, Billy Rosinia, has taught Gateway golf the summer of 2017 and the summer of 2018. Billy enjoys working with the Gateway participants and helping them improve their game. This past summer, a total of 16 Gateway participants were signed up for the golf lessons. The participants spend time practicing driving a golf ball on the range and putting a golf ball on the putting green. Once a golfer is able to drive the ball for a longer distance, they are able to go out on the golf course. Of the 16 participants, 3 were able to participate in the Special Olympics qualifier.
**Upcoming Holidays**

Please note that City Hall will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Veteran's Day - Monday, November 12, 2018
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 22, 2018
- Friday after Thanksgiving - November 23, 2018
- Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24, 2018
- Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25, 2018
- New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1, 2019

**Upcoming Meetings**

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<th>October</th>
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<td>2 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
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<td>10 City Council</td>
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<td>17 Flagg Creek Admin. Board</td>
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<td>24 City Council</td>
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<td>13 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
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<td>14 City Council</td>
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<td>21 Flagg Creek Admin. Board</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td>4 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
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<td>11 Fire &amp; Police Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Flagg Creek Admin. Board</td>
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**Angel Tree Program**

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community? Do you know of a Countryside resident or family that could use a little help this holiday season? After much success, the City of Countryside’s Angel Tree Program is back again!

Beginning November 10th, our beautiful Angel Tree will be on display in the City Hall lobby. Generous sponsors are invited to select an individual or family from the tree and purchase gifts from their wish list. All gift recipients are anonymous. The donated gifts should be returned to the Clerk’s Office by December 14th. Gifts will be distributed to families December 17 - 21.

The Angel Tree Program is a great opportunity for residents, families, community groups, and coworkers to spread holiday cheer to others who may not otherwise receive a gift this year. Check out our website at [www.countryside-il.org/special-events](http://www.countryside-il.org/special-events) or contact the Clerk’s Office at (708) 354-7270 for additional information.

**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: cityhall@countryside-il.org

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

Leaf Raking For Seniors

Alderman Von Drasek and Countryside Aging Well, a program of Aging Care Connections, will be sponsoring the leaf raking event. This **free** service is provided by local youth groups as a community service for seniors and the disabled in need of assistance with raking their leaves. Leaf raking will take place:

**DATE:** November 10, 2018  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Residents must be home at the time the leaf raking service is being performed.

To sign up for this service, or for more information, please call (708) 603-2342.

Small Business Saturday

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Summer Concerts Update

The Summer Concert series concluded on Thursday, August 2nd. Over the course of eight weeks, there were an estimated 2,987 attendees, averaging 373 visitors each week (this is based off of raffle tickets given away).

Westfield Ford was the Presenting Sponsor and donated a $1,000 Visa gift card to be raffled off as a grand prize at the end of the series. Tickets were $5.00 each and all proceeds went to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**Congratulations** to Liz Kmet, the **$1,000 Visa Gift Card Winner!**

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Winter Fest Celebration at Flagg Creek Golf Course

Countryside will be holding a Winter Fest on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Flagg Creek Golf Course. Some of the planned activities include: horse drawn carriage rides, balloon twisting, snowflake bingo, Home Depot craft project, face painting, a visit from South Paw of the Chicago White Sox and a visit from Frozen Princesses Anna and Elsa.

More information will be coming soon. For additional details, please call (708) 485-2595 or visit the Special Events tab on our website.

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Mark Your Calendar

**Winter Fest Celebration at Flagg Creek Golf Course**

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Reminder...  

**Children's Christmas Party**

- **Date:** Saturday, 12-1-18  
- **Place:** Via Bella Restaurant  
  5412 S. LaGrange Road  
- **Time:** 10:30 a.m. - Noon

For more information, call (708) 354-7270.
OFFICIALS

Mayor
Sean McDermott

Clerk
Susan Burdett

Treasurer
Caryn Stancik

Aldermen
Mark Benson
John Finn
James Jasinski
Thomas Mikolyzk
Scott Musillami
John Von Drasek

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.

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