



# VILLAGE NEWS

November/December 2017

## Let's Keep in Touch

We hope by now you've had a chance to visit the Village's new website. One of the features we would like to encourage all residents to utilize is the "Notify Me" tool. By creating an account, you can choose the information you'd like to receive from the Village as new information is added to the website.

For instance, you can choose to receive notifications via text or email when Agendas, Bid Postings and Job Postings are added to the website. You can also sign up to receive Alerts on road closures, water main breaks, meeting cancellations, etc.

If you have any concerns, you can also go to Report a Concern and submit a request. Concerns can be reported



anonymously - even if you have an account created – by simply requesting not to be contacted. If you choose to be contacted, you will receive an email addressing your concern.

## Winter Preparation Tips



As the summer and fall seasons end, there are several things you can do in your yard to prepare for winter and ensure a healthier spring for your trees, lawn and shrubs.

Proper mulching is critical. By putting down a layer of natural mulch, you can help regulate soil temperature to keep your trees stable through the winter and to help them be healthier in the spring. It also conserves moisture and helps to improve root development. Do not use volcanic mulch, which welcomes fungi, insects and other unwanted problems for trees.

Don't think you have to remove all those dead leaves in the fall. They provide cover and nutrients for perennials returning in the spring.

### 2017 Holiday Awards Program

The Beautification Committee will be viewing holiday decorations the week of December 18<sup>th</sup>. The nominations are provided by each Homeowners Association to the Beautification Committee. Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Summer Landscape Awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 2630 Oakwood (Olympia Fields East)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 20535 Hellenic (Original Village)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 5 Strauss (Vienna Woods)

## Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

It is the Village's commitment to maintain Village-owned streets and public parking areas in a safe and passable condition, especially in the winter months. In order to accomplish this, street crews apply highway deicer salt to pavement surfaces until snow accumulation reaches 1 1/2 inches or more. At that time, salting operations are suspended and plowing operations begin.

During snow plowing operations, snow is pushed to the side of the street and is continuously repeated until the storm subsides. Once the storm has passed and all streets have been plowed of snow, a final drive-through pass of the Village is done and another application of salt is applied to rid the pavement of any unplowed snow-pack. Under normal conditions, it is the goal of the Department to have all streets plowed and salted within 10 hours after the storm has stopped. Obviously, with larger snowfall totals, completion times are extended.

As unfortunate as it seems, safety and traffic flow dictates that main streets be plowed first, followed by secondary streets and finally cul-de-sac and dead-ends. It is important to note that not all streets within the Village of Olympia Fields are the responsibility of the Village to plow. For instance, Western Avenue, Governors Highway and Lincoln Highway are State-controlled; and Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue are County-controlled.



# Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

With the holiday season upon us, most people are preoccupied with the details of holiday planning and shopping. Unfortunately, the safety precautions we normally take can be forgotten as the excitement of the season causes us to let our guard down. The Olympia Fields Police Department wants this to be a safe holiday season for all, so we remind you to follow these simple tips while you enjoy the Village and the season!

You can prevent a holiday "Grinch" from ruining the season by keeping your gifts out of sight and promptly collecting any delivered items from your front door. Be sure to lock your doors and windows! Christmas presents displayed around your tree can be a pretty sight, but can also be tempting to burglars. It's better to scatter the gifts around the house, in closets or cupboards, where they can't be so easily seen. Be sure to lock your vehicle as well and please do not leave valuables such as cell phones, wallets or purses, laptops, and other items in plain view!

If you are leaving town for the holidays, make sure your home appears occupied. Leave inside and outside lights on timers and have your neighbor pick up newspapers, mail, and take flyers off your door. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway.

Put a timer on a talk radio station for several hours a day.



With identity theft and credit card fraud on the rise, during your holiday shopping (either online or in person) pay special attention to your financial statements and report any unauthorized

transactions immediately. Did you know the chances of becoming a victim of identity theft is greater than the risk of being a victim of all other crimes combined?

The recent data breach involving Equifax will affect nearly 50% of the population! Residents are reminded to carefully monitor their financial statements and account activity on a weekly basis.

Most major banks and credit card providers offer some level of protection against unauthorized activity. Residents should consider requesting a free credit report from any of the three major credit reporting firms on a regular basis. For additional security, residents may wish to consider a fee based credit monitoring service. Older family members who are not internet / tech savvy are most at risk to be victimized.

Our underlying purpose at the Olympia Fields Police Department is to serve our residents, recognizing that an organization exists to serve a higher purpose. As your Chief of Police I recognize that an effective organization serves every stakeholder, whether they are residents, community members, employees or elected officials.

The Department is here to serve our residents to the very best of our collective abilities. Don't hesitate to contact us with a question, problem, concern or comment. We continually strive to increase the level of service provided to our residents and your input is vital in helping us achieve that goal.

Be sure to review the Village's new website at [www.olympia-fields.com](http://www.olympia-fields.com). The new website contains a wealth of information and is constantly being updated with new content.

From our family at the Olympia Fields Police Department to yours, we wish you and yours all the best this holiday season.

*And remember - "If You See It, If You Hear It, Report It!"*

# Financial Transparency

While the Village of Olympia Fields has shown its commitment to financial transparency by posting financial documents on our Village website, including the Village's annual operating budgets and audited Financial Statements, sometimes additional information may be sought out by our residents. Often times that information is most easily understood through interactive charts and graphs.

In an effort to enhance transparency in financial reporting, the Village of Olympia Fields is offering an interactive reporting tool that allows Village residents to explore the Village budget and actual financial data online in various graphical formats.

The Village of Olympia Fields is providing actual data from FY2011 for public view in hopes to strengthen the connection between the Village and our residents.

To access the Village of Olympia Fields' interactive portal, view the link under Government on our website.

## Let's Keep Everyone Safe

Make sure when your dog is out among neighbors and residents, that they are either kept in a secured enclosure or on a leash in the possession and control of a person capable of controlling the dog.

Remember, one of the most frightening situations a person can be in is being approached by an unfamiliar dog.