



# VILLAGE NEWS

November/December 2018

## Don't Let the Grinch Steal Your Holiday Joy

With the holiday season upon us, many people are preoccupied with the details of holiday planning and shopping. Unfortunately, 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.

With "free shipping" being offered by many retailers, you can prevent a holiday "Grinch" from ruining the season by promptly collecting any delivered items from your front door. Be sure to lock your doors and windows! Don't leave the curtains open with gifts in plain view. 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 and please do not leave valuables such as cell phones, wallets, purses, laptops, gifts and other items in plain view.

If you are leaving town for the

holidays, make sure your home appears occupied. Leave interior and exterior lights on timers and have your neighbor pick up newspapers, mail, and take flyers off your door. Ask a neighbor 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, pay special attention to your financial statements and transactions during holiday shopping and report any unauthorized transactions immediately.

The Village 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.

From our family at the Village of Olympia Fields 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!"

## Let's Keep in Touch

We hope by now you've had a chance to visit the Village's 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.

## In case you missed it ... what people are saying about Olympia Fields

As seen in the October 8, 2018, edition of the Daily Southtown.



### Two Southland residents open up their homes to show art collections

Joan Dameron Crisler has a deep passion for art created by people of African descent. That is why she has a collection of about 800 artworks displayed in her Olympia Fields home.

In Flossmoor, Leona Calvin shares Crisler's love of such artistic creations. She has more than 100 pieces spread throughout her residence.

*View this story and more on our Village website: [www.Olympia-Fields.com](http://www.Olympia-Fields.com), under News.*

## 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 1.5 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 snowpack. Under normal conditions, it is the goal of the Public Works 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.



## It's Time to Register Your Pet

The 2019 dog license tags are now available at Village Hall. Any dog in the village must be licensed annually per Village Ordinance. Proof of current rabies must be provided when completing the license application. The annual fee is \$10 per pet.

If you have not received a renewal notice in the mail or if you adopted a new pet recently, please stop by Village Hall and register your dog today!



## Olympia Fields Police Warns Residents of "Scam Callers"

**IRS SCAM CALLS**- Scam artists tell consumers that they owe back taxes and threaten to have them arrested if they don't provide immediate payment.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) advised that if the IRS wants a taxpayer's attention, the first contact is through the U.S. mail.

The IRS **WILL NOT** ask for a payment using a debit card, money order, or a wire transfer **NOR** ask for a credit card number or bank information over the phone.

TIGTA advises to HANG UP! If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS or in a new twist, the Treasury Department, and uses threat of legal action if you do not pay immediately, that is a sign that it is not the IRS calling, and your cue to hang up.

Information about this and other scams is available at on the Village's website under the Police Department's section on Crime Prevention.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Olympia Fields Police Department, at (708) 503-8100 with any concerns.

**If You See It, If You Hear It, REPORT IT!**