



January/February 2019

VILLAGE NEWS

New Laws for 2019

253 new laws went into effect on January 1, 2019. Below is a snapshot of some of the new laws that have gone into effect.

- ⇒ Children under 2 years of age will be required to be in a rear facing car seat.
- ⇒ There will be a 72 hour waiting period for all gun purchases.
- ⇒ Police can take temporary custody of dogs or cats exposed to weather conditions likely to result in injury or death.
- ⇒ Family members of police can ask a judge to temporarily remove guns from anyone who they think is a threat to themselves or others.
- ⇒ Anyone caught texting while driving will be issued a moving violation citation. If you're convicted of three moving violations within a 12 month period, your license may be suspended.
- ⇒ School safety drills must be conducted within 90 days of the start of the school year.
- ⇒ Stalking laws expanded to include messages on social media.

Delinquent Property Taxes

Each year, thousands of Cook County property owners pay their real estate property taxes late or neglect to pay them at all. We want to make you aware that the Village has been notified by Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, that there are properties in Olympia Fields that have past due property taxes for the 2017 tax year.

There are dozens of reasons why property owners have not paid their taxes, but what we have found is that some property owners may not know that they are behind in their taxes. In some cases property owners are delinquent due to not updating their mailing address with the Cook County Treasurers Office. The Annual Tax Sale will begin on May 3, 2019. If you have any questions or need assistance with paying your property taxes contact the Cook County Treasurers Office at 312-603-6202 or email the Tax Sale Department at localgovout-reach@cookcountytreasurer.com.

For your convenience, you may view the PINs that are currently subject to sale at the Annual Tax Sale by Township or Municipality at <https://www.cookcountytreasurer.com/delinquenttaxes.aspx>. This list is updated daily.

Seasonal Safety Tips

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and wish you good health in 2019. We'd like to share a few winter weather preparedness tips. We've been fortunate this winter season thus far has been unseasonably mild. However, with two months left, traditionally January and February can bring significant cold and snow.

- ⇒ Snow or ice totals can vary greatly over short distances.
- ⇒ Winter forecasts can (and do) change frequently.
- ⇒ Focus on a winter storm's potential impact rather than exact or expected snowfall numbers.
- ⇒ Rely on a dependable source for weather related information.
- ⇒ Winterize your vehicle, get a tune-up, check the battery, fluids and tires and perform routine maintenance sooner rather than later.
- ⇒ Know your winter weather terminology. If a Watch is issued, get prepared for hazardous weather. If a Warning or Advisory is issued, TAKE ACTION – hazardous weather is occurring or will occur soon.
- ⇒ Try to keep at least a half a tank of gas in your car to prevent fuel lines from freezing.

Be Courteous: Village Parks and Common Areas are for Everyone

The Village of Olympia Fields has some of the most beautiful and pristine parks and common areas in the entire Southland.

So when walking your dog, please be courteous and remove any deposits made by your dog. Our parks are used by residents both young and old ... we don't want to leave anyone in a poopie situation.

Please remember that no matter the size of the dog—when your dog is outside of your home —**they must be on a leash**.

Working together we create a GREAT COMMUNITY!

The new year is always a good time to make sure your smoke alarms are working properly.

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. Here are some safety tips to use when checking your smoke alarms.

Tips for installing and testing smoke alarms

- ✓ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- ✓ Replace the batteries every new year.
- ✓ Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- ✓ Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- ✓ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- ✓ People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.



Department of Public Works: Snow Plow Operations

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.

