



March/April 2019

VILLAGE NEWS

Spring Weather Can Bring Safety Hazards

Spring Weather Safety Hazards include tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning and flooding. As a record number of tornado outbreaks in December clearly demonstrated, severe weather can happen at any time of the year. To help people better prepare for weather emergencies, IEMA and the Olympia Fields Police Department will be promoting Severe Weather Preparedness.

Thunderstorms can produce tornadoes, strong winds, large hail and lightning.

- ◆ Practice a severe weather plan for home and work.
- ◆ Seek shelter in a sturdy structure away from windows on the lowest floor.
- ◆ If you are unable to reach a building, being inside a vehicle is safer than being outside.
- ◆ Create and practice a communica-

tions plan so you can contact loved ones.



Tornadoes

- ◆ Winds from tornadoes can exceed 200 miles per hour.
- ◆ Flying debris is most dangerous.
- ◆ Seek a sturdy shelter in an interior room away from windows on the lowest floor and cover your head.

Tornado Warning – tornado expected – seek shelter immediately.

Tornado Watch – tornado possible – be

prepared to take action.

SouthCom's tornado siren warning system is connected in series with all SouthCom municipalities.

If a siren is activated in Olympia Fields, the sirens for Matteson, Richton Park and Park Forest will also be activated to alert everyone in the area!

Flooding

- ◆ Flooding can be caused by rapid snow melt, ice jams and heavy spring rains.
- ◆ More than half of all flood related deaths are vehicle related – NEVER drive into flooded roadways or around barricades.
- ◆ It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car!

Remember to enroll in the Village's CodeRed emergency alert system!

Cook County to Begin Tax Sale May 3rd

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 (originally due in 2018.)

In Olympia Fields, there are 90 properties that will be offered for sale due to delinquent taxes.

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 localgovoutreach@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.

Olympia Fields Joins the Green Committee

As a part of the administration's guiding principles, Olympia Fields has joined the "Green Committee" as an active partner in the intergovernmental efforts with Homewood-Flossmoor to promote environmentally-conscious activities to residents, businesses, and participating governmental agencies through events, advocacy, and public outreach.

The goal of the Committee is to collaborate on initiatives that encourage actionable resource conservation and sustainability practices on a block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, all of which are supported and encouraged by member governmental agencies.

Success is defined by a steady improvement in the quantity and quality of adopted, formalized, and realistic sustainability practices across the Homewood-Flossmoor-Olympia Fields area, with regular assessments to ensure that goals are being met.

This year, our first, Olympia Fields will actively participate in a Community Clean Up Day scheduled for April 6, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until noon along with the Olympia Fields Park District in the "Greening of Olympia Fields". Now we need your participation.

To register for the Clean Up Day events, for further information about the Green Committee, please go to <https://hfareagreencommittee.wordpress.com/> or if you wish to join the Olympia Fields Green Committee, contact Susan Moroney at smoroney@olympia-fields.com.

If you have received this notice after the date of the event, please add it to your April calendar as an annual event.



Prescription Drug Take Back Program



Join thousands of Cook County residents who have turned over more than 23,334,000 pills to the Cook County

Sheriff's Prescription Drug Take Back Program since 2017.

Cook County residents can choose from more than 140 permanent drop-off sites to bring their unwanted medication— including Village Hall.

Residents may drop-off unused and expired prescriptions drugs and non-prescription drugs in pill or dry form, in or out of containers. We do not accept liquids or syringes.

More information on the program is available at (844) 688-7379 or visit <https://www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/home/>.

Don't Forget to Apply for Permits

Over the last several years the Village of Olympia Fields has had a growing number of residential restoration projects. This is good news because these projects increase your property values.

If you're starting a construction project or just replacing an exterior door or a fence, please remember the project will most likely require a building permit. You can contact the Building Department to get information about required building permits. You will need to pay the required fees, possibly submit plans and have inspections performed during the construction. That way you will know your project is safe.

There is a very important reason why building permits are required for construction. Building codes help insure that the structures in which we live, work and play meet the standards against collapse, fire and other potential dangers. If structures are not up to code, insurance companies may not pay on damage claims, and property owners can be liable for damages if someone is injured.

If you have any questions about the requirements of a building permit, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Department (708)503-8000, or stop by Village Hall at 20040 Governors Highway for more information.

