



FIELD NOTES

Olympia Fields *Of Course!*

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

Staff Highlights

Each month we will be introducing Village of Olympia Fields staff, both new and not so new, whose primary job is to make the Village work for you—our residents—and to ensure that we are responsive to your needs. We exist to serve you. We want to get to know you, but more importantly, we want you to get to know us!

Finance Department



From L to R: Nicole Mason, Lisa Fifer-Smith, Betty Zigras and Miles Wade.

We are proud to say that the Village's financial condition is sound. This is in no small part due to the top notch fiscal oversight of the stellar team that comprises the Village's Finance Department, helmed by Mrs. Betty Zigras. Mrs. Zigras, who has been with the Village for over six years, manages a team of three, who together, handle routine day-to-day financial operations, including water billing and fee collection, as well as more complex fiscal management tasks.

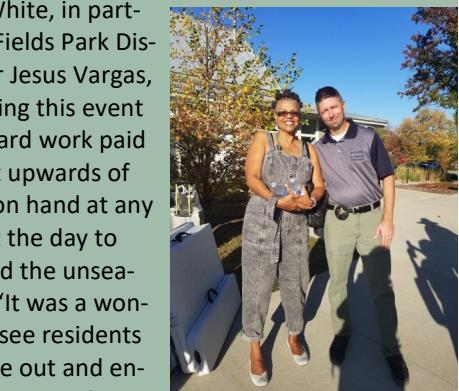
We introduced new team members Mrs. Lisa Fifer-Smith, assistant finance director, and Mr. Miles Wade, water billing clerk, in our August/September newsletter. Rounding out the team is Mrs. Nicole Mason, finance assistant, who has been with the Village for just over one year.

The next time you journey to the Village Hall to pay your water bill or pay a fee, odds are you will be assisted by a member of the Finance Department. Don't forget to say hello!

Village Happenings

OctoberFest In the Park

OctoberFest 2022, a joint production of the Village of Olympia Fields Community Relations Commission and the Olympia Fields Park District, is in the books and by all accounts, a good time was had by all. Community Relations Commission (CRC) members Mr. Carl Hill, Mrs. Stephanie Mills, Mrs. Andrea Townson and Trustee Howard White, in partnership with Olympia Fields Park District Executive Director Jesus Vargas, worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition, and their hard work paid off. It is estimated that upwards of 200–300 guests were on hand at any given hour throughout the day to enjoy the festivities and the unseasonably warm temps. "It was a wonderful event! Great to see residents in the community come out and enjoy their local park on a beautiful day filled with live entertainment, food and friends. We hope to make this an annual event, expanding upon our activities, live entertainment and vendor offerings," commented Mr. Vargas.



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Three Guiding Principles

The Village of Olympia Fields operates under the framework of Three Guiding Principles:

1. *To Preserve and Maintain the Beauty and Charm of the Village;*
2. *To Improve the Efficiency of Our Government; and*
3. *To Protect the Village's Property Values through an Economic Development Program Consistent with Future Lifestyles and New Economy Business Models.*

Each month, we will highlight Village programs, events and activities that exemplify these three principles, which, going forward, we will refer to as the PIP (Preserve, Improve, Protect). Collectively, we can make a positive difference in our community, and it is our goal to showcase the efforts of our residents, volunteers, staff and commercial partners who contribute to making Olympia Fields the destination place that it is.

Protecting the Village's Property Values through an Economic Development Program Consistent with Future Lifestyles and New Economy Business Models

Lawrence's Fish & Shrimp Makes a Splash in Olympia Fields

Lawrence's Fish & Shrimp restaurant located in Butterfield Plaza at 3248 Vollmer Road, hosted its grand opening on September 15. On hand for the official ribbon cutting were Dan Griffin, CEO of Lawrence's Fish & Shrimp, Mr. Kurt



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Maintaining and Protecting the Beauty and Charm of the Village

Bagworms Are Out to Get Your Trees!

Submitted by Arlene Burke and Susan Moroney, Beautification Committee

Bagworms are caterpillars that molt into moths in the adult stage. They hatch from their eggs in mid-to-late June, then spin silks to catch the wind and balloon to other plants. Bagworms



feed throughout the summer and given enough room, they may nest on the same plant indefinitely; they are especially fond of Arborvitae (evergreen members of the cypress family) and Juniper trees. However, they can feed on many kinds of trees including both evergreen and deciduous trees.

These small caterpillars feed on the outer layer of the leaves or needles of their host, causing browning, usually starting at the top of the tree. Young bagworm caterpillars feed on the upper

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Improving the Efficiency of Our Government

Update Your Contact Information with the Village

In our ongoing effort to improve efficiencies, we want to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information on file for our residents. Why is this important? It is imperative that we communicate critical resident-related information with you effectively and in a timely manner.

We also want to be able to share Village news with you via our Village e-newsletter, which is chock full of information you can use.

There are two ways you can ensure that your most current information is on file with the Village:

- Click on the following link to our Notify Me facility to update your contact information.
<https://www.olympia-fields.com/list.aspx>
- Alternatively, email us your updated information at info@olympia-fields.com.

All information shared will be confidential for Village use only.

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Someone You Should Know ...

Pamela Oliver

Light the Night for Mental Wellness



Mental health-related issues have historically been taboo subjects—something swept under the rug and rarely discussed publicly. However, in recent years, mental health has begun to garner the attention that it has long deserved. Village resident Pamela Oliver is doing her part to shine a light on mental wellness, particularly among youth. The suicide of the son of a close friend was Mrs. Oliver's call to action. Believing that her friend's son was just one of many young people suffering unbearably in silence, Mrs. Oliver set out to be the change that she wanted to see. "This hit close to home...this was someone I watched grow up. His death by suicide moved me to do something," said Mrs. Oliver.



ship, were on hand to speak one-on-one with attendees and offer resources to interested guests.

Mrs. Oliver, an assignment editor with NBC Chicago, and her

husband Kelvin Oliver, a Village trustee, whose daughter Kristin succumbed to a rare heart cancer in 2020, know the pain of losing a child. In their daughter's honor, the Olivers established the Kristin Oliver Memorial Charities. "Kristin was always concerned about the mental health of her family and friends," shared Mrs. Oliver.

When asked about the takeaways she hoped attendees would gain from the event, Mrs. Oliver stated that she wants people to know that "It's okay to say I'm not okay." Further, she wants to encourage others to lead with compassion. "If you see someone in distress, Mrs. Oliver says, ask them 'Are you okay?'"

Mrs. Oliver is on a mission to prevent the suffering and self-inflicted harm that often results from depression and untreated mental illness. And clearly, others are listening to her pleas—in the aftermath of the Light the Night event, several other communities have requested that she sponsor similar events for their residents. Mrs. Oliver's goal is to make Light the Night an annual event. "I look forward to lighting the night next year," said Mrs. Oliver. While it's difficult to quantitatively measure the success of events like Light the Night, per Mrs. Oliver, "If we can touch one life, then we've been successful."

For more information on the Light the Night for Mental Wellness program contact helplightthenight2022@gmail.com.

Save the Date

The Kristin Oliver Memorial Charities will sponsor its annual blood drive on April 23–24, 2023. The blood drive will take place in Olympia Fields, however, the venue has yet to be determined. Stay tuned for more details.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Resources

National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
Dial 988

Kirby Rehabilitation, Inc. (Matteson)
Mobile Crisis Team
773-614-4002/www.kirbyrehab.org

Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI)
Mobile Crisis Response Team
773-291-2500

NAMI Chicago Helpline
833-626-4244

Grand Prairie Behavioral Health
Flossmoor: 708-799-2200

Grand Prairie Services
Chicago Heights: 708-503-9670

Halloween Candy Giveaway

A ghoulish goodtime

Kids from all over the Southland area descended upon Village Hall on Sunday, October 30, to satisfy their sweet tooth, at the annual Halloween Candy Giveaway, hosted by the Village's Community Relations Commission. Commission members Carl Hill and Andrea Townson and Village resident Demetra Ashley were on hand to pass out a variety of sweet treats to the young attendees. They were joined by Olympia Fields police officers who dispensed treats from the trunks of their police vehicles. A ghoulish good time was had by all!



OctoberFest

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and songstress Genesis Pate and her band.

CRC member Mills commented, "The day was beautiful. The art, clothing and jewelry vendors were personable, and they presented unique items; the food purveyors supplied tempting goodies and the music was relaxing and enjoyable." CRC member Townson remarked that "the CRC is so pleased with the success of our first OctoberFest! It was warmly received and strongly supported. We look forward to hosting next year's event, as we continue to highlight our wonderful Village!"



If the goal of OctoberFest 2022 was to "Go Big," then mission accomplished!



Improving the Efficiency ...

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Stay Informed about Emergencies with CodeRED

The CodeRED emergency notification system is an extremely high-speed telephone communication service that can deliver customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses via voice, email and text. The service is free to residents and businesses within the Village of Olympia Fields.

We encourage all Village residents and business owners to sign up for CodeRED. It is an indispensable tool for communicating critical emergency information such as natural disasters, public safety matters, power outages, traffic detours and watermain breaks. CodeRED sends alerts about emergency and non-emergency events affecting the Village.

Read more about the CodeRED emergency notification system on our website. Don't be caught unaware again...visit our website to sign up today! <https://www.olympia-fields.com/315/CodeRED-Emergency-Notification-System>

Holiday Landscape Awards Season is Approaching

The holidays are just around the corner, and the Olympia Fields Beautification Committee is looking forward to receiving nominations for the annual holiday landscape awards from each subdivision in Olympia Fields. The Beautification Committee will disseminate information to the homeowners' association (HOA) presidents about the nomination/award process, in early December.

The HOA presidents may nominate as many homes as desired in their subdivisions. The top three nominees from each neighborhood will receive signage designating them as a nominee, to be placed in their yards. The nominees will then be judged by the Beautification Committee. The top three holiday landscapes will be chosen from the nominated homes.

Homes are nominated and judged for holiday landscape displays that demonstrate curb appeal, creativity, originality and coordination of décor to the home. Judging will take place in December. Check with your HOA presidents for more details.

Park District News

As the holiday season approaches, it's not too early to start planning for post-holiday cleanup. The Olympia Fields Park District, in partnership with Irons Oaks, will be sponsoring holiday tree and light recycling events:

Holiday Lights Recycling

November 21, 2022–January 18, 2023

Collection locations: Irons Oaks, Sergeant Means Park, H-F Raquet & Fitness Club, Marie Irwin Center, Goldberg Administration Center.

Drop off your broken holiday lights and extension cords.

Holiday Tree Recycling

December 26, 2022–January

18, 2023

Collection location: Irons Oaks located @ 2453 Vollmer Road (Vollmer Lot)

Drop off your undecorated and unwrapped holiday trees—Donated trees will be chipped and used for the trails at Irons Oaks.



Save these Dates & Keep Olympia Fields Green!

Bag Worms

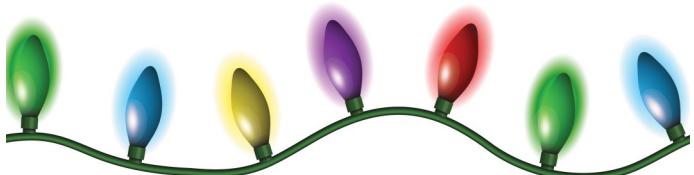
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surface of the leaves and may eat enough to create small holes in the leaf. Older caterpillars can consume entire needles or leaves. Heavy infestations, characterized by foliage that has been eaten away, can be unsightly. Such infestations kill branches and decimate whole plants. A healthy deciduous tree or shrub that has been defoliated by these pests may be able to produce a new flush of leaves and survive. However, a defoliated evergreen cannot push out an additional set of leaves and is more likely to decline or die. It is important to note that bagworms pose no threat to human health.

Bagworms are much easier to eradicate when they are small. They are susceptible to chemical treatment into early July. An insecticide with malathion, diazinon or carbaryl can rid you of a bagworm problem, if applied to bushes and trees when the worms are still young larvae.

For more information, please contact the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program in Urbana at (217) 333-5900. The Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at (630) 719-2424 or plantclinic@mortonarb.org is another good resource.

Don't let bagworms get your trees!



Resident News You Can Use

Each month we will answer some of the pressing questions commonly asked by residents. We will also use this space to share special announcements, information and other news you can use.

Fielding Your Questions

Want to join a Village advisory board, commission or committee? Need a list of Village-approved contractors? Selling your home? We are here to help you navigate these and other thorny issues. Read on...

- ◆ **Joining an Advisory Board, Commission or Committee:** Residents interested in joining a Village advisory board, committee or commission are encouraged to complete an Application for Appointment to an Advisory Board/Commission/Committee, which can be downloaded from the Village website, under Permits and Applications. Applicants must also submit a current resume along with the application to Village Hall. All appointments are made by the Village President.
- ◆ **Obtaining a List of Approved Contractors:** All contractors who perform work in the Village are required to be licensed and approved by the Village. Contact the Village's Building

Department at 708-503-8000 ext. 3401 to obtain a list of approved contractors.

- ◆ **Are you a contractor seeking to obtain Village approval?** The Contractor's License form can be found on the Village's website, under Permits and Applications. Additionally, all contractors and subcontractors must pay an annual \$100 fee and submit a Certificate of Insurance to the Village.
- ◆ **Selling Your House:** Residents planning to sell their home are required to schedule a Point-of-Sale Inspection prior to the sale. Applications for Point-of-Sale Inspections are available on the Village website under Permits and Applications. The fee is \$50 per inspection. Inspections are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Additionally, homeowners must schedule a final water meter read at least two business days prior to closing. The Village will issue a Certificate of Occupancy once the final water bill has been paid and all code violations have been remediated.

We encourage you to make the Village's website at www.olympia-fields.com your first stop for information. Can't find what you are looking for on the website, then please contact the Village Hall at 708-503-8000. We are here to help!

Grand Opening

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Schweig, president, and Ms. Kelley Whalen, marketing director. Joining them were several Village of Olympia Fields officials and community members, including President Sterling Burke; Economic Development Commission co-chair Trinette Britt-Johnson and Commissioners George Chandler and Phillip Paige;

and Trustees Desiree Watkins and Sandra Finley. Also in attendance were Mr. Eddie Finley and Ms. Naomi Perkins. Attendees sampled a variety of offerings from Lawrence's extensive seafood menu. President Burke proclaimed September 15 as Lawrence's Fish & Shrimp Day and, in conjunction with the Village's Economic Development Commission,



presented the restaurant with a welcome gift that included a framed business license, a \$250 check and an Olympia Fieldsopoly (Monopoly) game.

Batter & Berries Is Coming, Batter & Berries Is Coming!

Did you hear the news? At long last, the renowned Batter & Berries restaurant is coming to Olympia Fields. The restaurant,

Batter & Berries  which has one other location in Lincoln Park, is expected to

open its doors in December 2022, in the Bizios Plaza at 3446 Vollmer Road. So get ready—a great breakfast/lunch/brunch experience is coming soon!

VCA Animal Hospital

Olympia Fields will soon be home to the VCA Animal Hospital. The animal hospital will be located at the corner of Olympian Way (Kedzie Avenue) and Route 30, right next door to the CVS Pharmacy.



Village Focus

Homeowners' Associations: HALO Program

Strong and thriving communities don't just happen. They are carefully cultivated by the people who inhabit them. Citizen involvement in the future planning and governance of the Village is essential to creating a socially and economically viable community. In the Village of Olympia Fields, that involvement is embodied in its Board of Trustees, advisory boards, commissions, committees and homeowners' associations, all of which comprise residents who are committed to seeing the Village flourish. Our new Village Focus column will introduce you to these groups and the work they do on behalf of Olympia Fields. Our goal is to not only educate but also encourage broader involvement among residents for the betterment of our Village.

In this issue, our focus is on the Village's Homeowners' Associations (HOAs). There are 15 HOAs in Olympia Fields—one for each subdivision. The HOAs actively promote the quality of life in their subdivisions and, by extension, the Village at-large. One of the most effective ways that HOAs can proactively work to improve and protect their subdivisions and residents is by participating in the Homeowners' Association Liaison Officers (HALO) program, which fosters collaborative relationships between Village residents and the Olympia Fields Police Department (OFPD). Each HOA has an assigned OFPD officer.

HALO officers should be considered the first point of contact between residents and the OFPD for non-emergency, quality of life and minor law enforcement matters. A component of community policing, the HALO program is an effective vehicle for relationship building between the community and law enforcement. We strongly encourage HOAs to get to know their HALO officers. To that end, HOA leadership teams should consider inviting their HALO officer to their HOA meetings to meet residents and establish connections.

Sergeant Lawrence Smith oversees the Village's HALO program. Contact him at 708-503-8100 with any questions. Go to <https://www.olympia-fields.com/184/HALO-Program> for a full list of HALO officers assigned to each HOA.

HALO is not intended to replace calling 911 or contacting the Olympia Fields Police Department for matters which require immediate attention.

Remember, if you see it, if you hear it, report it!

OFPD News

Praise & Thanks for the OFPD



The good works of the Olympia Fields Police Department (OFPD) have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Eugene Broyles accompanied by a contingent of his fellow Arcadia residents surprised the entire staff of OFPD officers with \$25 gift cards for Lawrence's Fish & Shrimp in appreciation for a job well done in keeping Olympia Fields safe.

The Emmaus Community church at 20820 Western Avenue also recently praised the OFPD for their service to the Village in a thank you letter addressed to Chief Derrick Blasingame. Keep up the good work OFPD!

OFPD Goes to School



Chief Blasingame recently completed a mandatory orientation program for new chiefs of police in Peoria, titled *Enduring, Surviving, and Thriving as a Law Enforcement Executive in the 21st Century*. The orientation was presented by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute.



All Olympia Fields police officers just completed mandatory CPR training in October.

Franciscan Health News

Welcome to the Village



The Village of Olympia Fields extends a warm welcome to Mr. Raymond Grady, new President and Chief Executive Officer of Franciscan Health Olympia Fields. Mr. Grady brings over 40 years of healthcare leadership and administration experience to the Southland area. Having served as president and chief executive officer of Northshore University Health System's Evanston Hospital, Mr. Grady's career

has also included leadership roles at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Methodist Hospitals in Gary and Merrillville, Indiana. The Village supports the work of Mr. Grady and Franciscan Health in promoting the health and wellbeing of the residents in the Southland.

Franciscan Health Foundation Gala

Trustee Kelvin Oliver and his wife, Pamela Oliver, represented the Village at the Franciscan Health Foundation Gala 2022, held at the Field Museum on Saturday, October 29. The proceeds of the event will assist at-risk patients through the Foundation's Health & Wellness Fund. Pictured (bottom right) with Trustee Oliver is Ms. Laurie Crosby, executive director, Franciscan Health Foundation-South Suburban Chicago.



Friday Flyover at Arcadia Elementary

Our very own Arcadia Elementary School's Pumpkin Patch was featured on CBS Morning News' Friday Flyover on October 28. View the link below to see a clip of the flyover.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/friday-flyover-arcadia-elementary-school-pumpkin-patch/>

Library News

The Village of Olympia Fields shares library resources with the Park Forest Library. The Olympia Fields Library Board (OFLB), comprising seven trustees, provides oversight for the Village's library services. Led by President Howard Robinson, the OFLB is responsible for ensuring access to library services for Olympia Fields residents. We encourage residents to take advantage of all that our local library has to offer. Here is just a taste of the free activities, events and resources available:

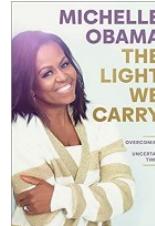
Good Reads:

- **"No Pressure Community Read"**



The November 2022 Community Read book selection is *The Rewind* by Allison Winn Scotch. Pick up a FREE copy of the book starting November 1 @ 11am and read it at your leisure. **Registration required!**

- **Pop-Up Book for the 50+Population**



The Pop-Up Book pick is *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*, by Michelle Obama

Registration is required to receive a FREE copy of the book, while supplies last.
Registration opens at 9am on November 16, 2022

Story Time for the Kids:

- **You Are Enough! Storytime with L. A. Horne**



Kids' Zone on Tuesday, November 15 @ 5:30pm
Put on your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffy and blanket, and join us in the Kids' Zone for a special evening story time with local author Leslie Horne! Leslie will be reading her new book *Who Does Yiayia Love?* as well as a few other favorites. **Registration for this event is required.** For more information, contact Miss Nikki at 708-748-3731 ext. 31.

At the Movies:

- **Holiday Movie Marathon for all ages**



Spend the day watching your favorite holiday movies in the Ringing Room @ 10:30am on December 12, 2022. **Registration for this event is required—registration opens**

November 28. Contact Miss Nikki or Miss Kaitlyn at 708-748-3731 ext. 31, for more information.