

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

## Village Happenings

### Caroling in the Park

Holiday revelers braved the frigid temperatures to partake in the second annual Caroling in the Park event at Sergeant Means Park on December 17. The Village's Community Relations Commission and the Olympia Fields Park District, joint sponsors of the event, hosted Sister Mary's Choir as well as performers from several area schools, including Rich Township High School District 227, Mother McAuley High School and St. George School.

Guests enjoyed complimentary donut holes, cider and hot chocolate while they caroled and shopped the mini-holiday market that featured vendors selling a variety of merchandise including jewelry and personal care products. A surprise visit from Santa topped off the afternoon.



## Staff Highlights

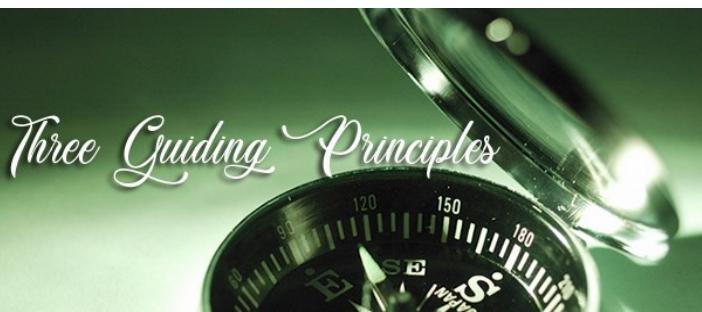
### Building Department

If you have ever pulled a permit, built a fence, requested a variance, or opened a store-front business in the Village of Olympia Fields, then you have worked with the Village's Building Department. Led by Building Commissioner John McDonnell, the Building Department is small but mighty.



Aside from Mr. McDonnell, the department comprises just two full-time staff members—Ms. Naomi Sarver-Perkins, administrative assistant, and Mr. Reginald Ford, code enforcement officer. Commissioner McDonnell also oversees the work of electrical, plumbing and health inspectors. The Building Department is on the front line, charged with the responsibility of ensuring adherence to the Village's building codes and ordinances. The department manages everything from issuing permits and citations for code violations to conducting point-of-sale inspections and reviewing and approving all commercial and residential building plans, and everything in between. So, who are you going to call the next time you want to cut down a tree, post a sign or build a shed? The Building Department...that's who!

*We say goodbye to Mr. Miles Wade, utility billing clerk in the Finance Department. We extend our warmest wishes to him as he moves on to another position outside of the Village.*



### *Maintaining and Protecting the Beauty and Charm of the Village*

## Holiday Award Winners Announced

In recognition of Village residents who went above and beyond in decorating their homes for the holidays, the Village of Olympia Fields Beautification Committee has announced the top three winners of the 2022 Holiday Landscape Awards. And the winners are ...

- In 1st Place  
The Woods Residence  
601 Wysteria Drive  
(Wysteria)
- In 2nd Place  
The Mace Residence  
20213 St. Andrews Drive  
(The Greens)
- In 3rd Place  
The Johnson Residence  
2521 Glen Eagles Drive  
(The Greens)



The winning residences will receive gift certificates from Biziros Fresh Market in the amount of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively.

We congratulate all of the winners and nominees. Thank you for doing your part to keep our Village beautiful!

## The Award Process

Each Homeowners Association (HOA) selects three residential holiday landscapes to represent their HOA. The Beautification Committee places a Holiday Award Nominee sign in the yard of the top three landscapes in each HOA. The Beautification Committee then judges these landscapes to determine the top three landscaped homes Village-wide.

### *Improving the Efficiency of Our Government*

## Monthly Water Billing Coming Soon

The Board of Trustees recently approved Ordinance 2022-18, which amends the Village's Code of Ordinances to establish a monthly billing cycle for water and sewer payments.



Moving to a monthly billing cycle will spread these utility costs over more months, resulting in lower periodic payments for most users, thus enabling users to better manage their expenses and ease the burden of

having to make large lump sum payments. Further, monthly billing will enable users to identify leaks and other problems before they result in costly water bills.

Residents and the Village's commercial customers can expect the transition to monthly billing to take place on or before May 2023.

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

## Economic Development Updates

- Construction on the Quick Run Shell Station at the corner of Crawford and Route 30 is ongoing.



- Little Caesars restaurant is completing renovations of the space adjacent to Perros Brothers on Route 30.



- The owners of Batter & Berries are fast at work with the build out of their new breakfast, brunch, lunch restaurant in Biziros Plaza.



Stay tuned for further updates on these and other new businesses coming to Olympia Fields.

# Park District News

The Olympia Fields Park District, in partnership with Irons Oaks, is sponsoring holiday tree and light recycling events:

## Holiday Lights Recycling

Through January 18, 2023

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

*Drop off your broken holiday lights and extension cords.*

## Holiday Tree Recycling

Through 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.*



## Daddy Daughter Date Night

Friday February 3, 2023

6:30 pm - 9 pm

Sergeant Means Park

### Tickets:

- \$25 per couple if purchased by Jan. 13
- \$35 per couple if purchased after Jan. 13
- \$15 for each additional child
- All reservations must be made by Jan. 24

## Summer Camp Staff Wanted

June 5–August 4, 2023

Interviews for summer camp staff positions will commence on April 3, 2023. Summer day camp and Splash Pad attendants are both needed.

To obtain an application, please call 708-481-7313, or stop by the Park District office at 20712 Western Avenue to pick up an application.

# OFPD News

## Commendations and Promotions

Detectives JaVonnie Royster and Aaron Baker received commendations for their work in identifying and arresting the driver involved in a hit and run accident that occurred in Olympia Fields on October 23. The detectives were able to solve the case in just short of 24 hours.



Additionally, Officers Chivon Dugan and Lawrence Smith, were recently promoted. Officer Dugan was promoted to Corporal and Officer Smith was promoted to Sergeant.



## Friday Flyover

Kudos to the Olympia Fields Police Department for their assistance in making the CBS Morning News Friday Flyover at the Arcadia School Pumpkin Patch a success. The flyover took place before sun-up on October 28. Mrs. Monica Fountain, a Village resident and director of communications for Matteson District 162 and Southland College Prep High School, expressed her gratitude for the OFPD's support. "It was so dark at 6:45 a.m. when the helicopter was scheduled to fly over that I was afraid that the helicopter would not be able to see us. The Olympia Fields Police Department jumped right into action and assisted when I asked them to shine their bright lights on the pumpkin patch," said Mrs. Fountain.



## Show of Appreciation

Pastor and Mrs. Dalton of Central Baptist Church in Olympia Fields, presented the OFPD with a thank you gift in appreciation for the work they do for the Olympia Fields community.

# Franciscan Health News

## Expanding Cancer Care in Olympia Fields

### New cancer specialists at Franciscan Health

Radiation oncologist, Andrew Cook, MD, and board-certified breast surgeon, Diane Drugas, MD, FACS, are the newest members of the Comprehensive Cancer Institute team at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields. Together with Masood Ghouse, DO, Medical Oncologist, and Mir Shah, MD, Radiation Oncologist, this team is committed to elevating cancer care treatment options in the Southland.

The physicians named in this article are Specialty Physicians of Illinois, LLC, physicians who choose to practice at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields.



Dr. Cook, who served his residency at the prestigious Henry Ford Medical Center in Detroit, treats a wide range of cancers, including gynecologic, prostate, lung, spine, liver and pancreas.



Dr. Drugas was drawn to the Comprehensive Cancer Institute by its multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer care. "I believe it's important for those with breast cancer to be cared for by a multidisciplinary team like the team at the Franciscan Health Breast Care Center in Olympia Fields," says Dr. Drugas.



# Library News

## Did You Know ...

Olympia Fields is home to two Little Free Library (LFL) book-sharing hubs? One of the LFL hubs is in Sergeant Means Park at 20712 Western Avenue; the other can be found adjacent to the Olympia Fields Post Office.

Community members are encouraged to take and share books with their neighbors via the LFL program. The goal of the book-sharing program is to not only promote access to books and reading but to also build community.



### Little Free Library Mission and Vision

- ◆ To remove barriers to book access by providing 24/7 access to books
- ◆ To foster the development of new LFLs
- ◆ To provide LFLs in underserved, high-need areas
- ◆ To support diverse books and promote empathy, inclusion and understanding
- ◆ To collaborate with community partners, including schools, public libraries, civic organizations and businesses to expand the LFL program.

# Resident News You Can Use



## BMW CHAMPIONSHIP

OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB  
AUGUST 15 - 20, 2023



The eyes of the world will be on Olympia Fields come August 2023. The FedEx BMW Championship, conducted by the Western Golf Association, promises to attract over 120,000 spectators and 50-plus hours of media coverage.

Interested in volunteering at the BMW or purchasing tickets? Visit [www.bmwchampionship.com](http://www.bmwchampionship.com) for more information.

### Evans Scholars Program

Proceeds from the FedEx BMW Championship support the Evans Scholars Program, which provides full housing and tuition scholarships to high-achieving caddies throughout the United States.

Do you have a student interested in exploring caddying opportunities or applying for the Evans Scholars Program? Visit [www.wgaesf.org](http://www.wgaesf.org) for more information.



## Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow ...

### Snow and ice removal FAQs

Winter in the Southland means snow and ice in the Southland. Here are a few things you should know about snow and ice removal in the Village:

- The Village strives to plow and salt all Village-owned streets and public parking areas within 10 hours after the cessation of a snowstorm. This time frame may vary, depending on the severity of the storm and snowfall levels.
- Our Public Works street crews apply highway deicer salt when snow accumulation is under 1.5 inches, at which time plowing commences.
- Street crews plow the busiest, most heavily trafficked streets first, followed by secondary streets, cul-de-sacs and dead ends.
- Not all streets in the Village are Village-owned: Western Avenue, Governors Highway and Route 30 (Lincoln Highway) are state-controlled roadways; Vollmer Road and Crawford Avenue are county-controlled. The state and county manage snow and ice removal on these roadways.

Any additional questions about the Village's snow and ice removal program? Contact the Public Works Department at 708-503-8200. For Public Works emergencies, call 708-503-8100.



# UPDATED ILLINOIS SMOKE ALARM LAW

## - Effective January 1, 2023 -

In 2017, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance worked with the General Assembly to pass a law which will require Illinois residents to replace their old smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term, 10-year sealed battery beginning January 1, 2023. This would apply to residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired.



### What is the Updated Illinois Smoke Alarm Law?

- Since 1988, all dwellings in Illinois have been required to have smoke alarms.
- In 2017, Public Act 100-0200 was passed to update the Illinois Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in alarm technology.
- Come January 1, 2023, any new smoke alarms being installed within a single or multi-family home are required to be featured with a 10-year sealed battery.
- Smoke alarms in single or multi-family homes prior to January 1, 2023 may remain in place until they exceed 10 years from their manufactured date, fails to respond to operability tests, or otherwise malfunctions.

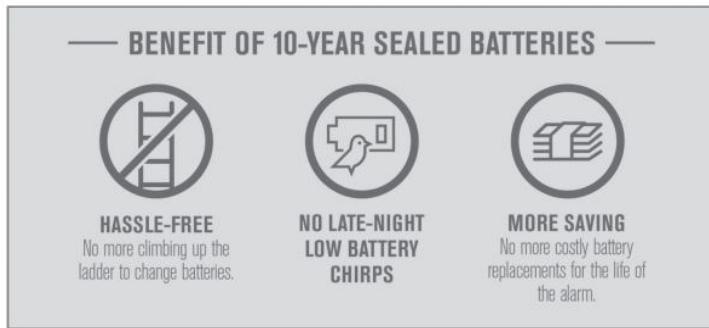
### Exemptions

- Homes built after 1988 that already have hardwired smoke alarms.
- Homes with wireless integrated alarms that use low-power radio frequency communications, Wi-Fi, or other Wireless Local Area Networking capability.

To view the Illinois law in its entirety, visit [www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law](http://www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law)



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance  
(847) 390-0911  
[www.IFSA.org](http://www.IFSA.org) | [ifsa@ifsa.org](mailto:ifsa@ifsa.org)



# Village of Olympia Fields

## Public Meeting Schedule 2023

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Regular meetings of the **Board of Trustees** are held on the following Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 11	May 10	September 13
February 15	June 14	October 11
March 15	July 12	November 8
April 12	August 9	December 13

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Workshop Meetings of the **Board of Trustees** are held on the following dates in the Village Hall Board Room.

Saturday, February 11	Capital Project Workshop 9:00 am
Saturday, March 11	Budget Review 9:00 am

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Regular meetings of the **Beautification Committee** are held on the following dates, as needed, at 5:30 pm in the Public Works Department Board Room.

January (No Meeting)	May 8	September 11
February (No Meeting)	June 12	October 10
March 13	July 10	November 13
April 10	August 14	December (No Meeting)

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Regular meetings of the **Community Relations Commission** are held on the first Monday of every other month at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall Boardroom.

February 6	June 5	October 2
April 3	August 7	December 4

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Regular meetings of the **Economic Development Committee** are held on the following dates at 5:00 pm, and as needed, in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 17	April 26	July 26	October 25
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Regular meetings of the **Education Committee** are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 3	May 2	September 5
February 7	June 6	October 3
March 7	July (No Meeting)	November 7
April 4	August (No Meeting)	December 5

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The **Finance Committee** will meet on the following dates and times in the Village Hall Board Room.

Saturday, February 11	Capital Project Workshop 9:00 am
Tuesday, February 28	Budget Review with Directors 6:00 pm
Thursday, March 2	Budget Review with Directors 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 11	Budget Review 9:00 am

The **Human Resource Committee** will meet in the Village Hall Board Room on the following dates, and as needed.

January 26

April 20

July 27

October 26

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Regular meetings of the **Library Board** are held on Wednesday on the following dates at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 26

May 24

June 28

July (No Meeting)

August 23

September 27

October 25

November (No Meeting)

December 6

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Regular meetings of the **Park District Board of Park Commissioners** are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room at 20712 Western Avenue at 6:00 pm.

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

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Regular meetings of the **Planning/Zoning Commission** are held, as needed, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

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Regular meetings of the **Police Pension Board** are held on Mondays on the following dates at 5:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 23

April 17

July 17

October 16

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Regular meetings of the **Public Safety Committee** are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

July (No Meeting)

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6

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The **Public Works Committee** will meet quarterly from 4:00–5:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room.

January 12

April 13

August 10

December 14