

BMW Championship Fever



It is safe to say that the Village came down with a serious case of golf fever in mid-August, when we welcomed just under 119,000 visitors during the FedEx BMW Championship sponsored by the

Western Golf Association and hosted by the Olympia Fields Country Club (OFCC), from August 15–20. Attendees were treated to four days of spectacular play by the final 50 golfers in the FedExCup rankings, culminating in an exciting finish that many thought might go to a playoff. In the end, however, Viktor Hovland of Norway pulled off the win by two shots. The OFCC grounds were replete with a variety of

hospitality venues, each with their own unique views of the course and the players; a putting skills challenge site; merchandise tent; myriad food vendors; and, of course, displays of the latest BMWs on the market. The event took on a fun, festive vibe offering something for visitors of all ages; and it was all for a good cause—to support the Evans Scholars Foundation, which awards full tuition and housing college scholarships to high achieving caddies with limited financial means.

"We are very pleased to have had an opportunity to host the 2023 BMW Championship," remarked Village President Sterling Burke. "This was a world-class event that drew spectators and media from across the globe. The Village worked in tandem with the Western Golf Association and the Olympia Fields Country Club to ensure that everyone—players, spectators, volunteers, residents, local businesses, Village staff, and media—had a posi-



tive and enjoyable BMW experience, and I believe our efforts were successful. The impact of this event on the economy of our small community is immeasurable. The atmosphere was electric, and we are honored to have welcomed close to 119,000 visitors into our midst for those few days in August," said Burke.

We Extend Our Thanks!

An event the magnitude of the BMW Championship requires careful planning and collaboration among multiple parties to ensure its success. First and foremost, we appreciate our residents' strong, ongoing support for this event. In addition, we thank the Olympia Fields Country Club; the Western Golf Association; the 2,000 volunteers (several of whom were Olympia Fields residents); Cook County and our neighboring communities; Currie Motors; Franciscan Health Olympia Fields; and the Olympia Fields business community, to name just a few.

We also thank Village of Olympia Fields staff, who tirelessly logged hundreds of hours prepping for the event, issuing permits; conducting inspections; fielding and resolving resident questions and concerns; and getting the Village in ship shape condition and tournament-ready. Finally, we thank the Olympia Fields Police Department, who, in conjunction with local, county and federal law enforcement, secured the premises, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Teamwork makes the dream work, indeed!

Short Takes on the BMW...

A few residents share their BMW experiences:

Village Trustee Victor Blackwell recounted, "During the recent BMW Championship, I served as a volunteer and had the pleasure of working in admissions at the front gate. While there, I interacted with numerous patrons, attendees and BMW staffers. The BMW was an exciting and spectacular national event that drew people from across the country. Its great success solidified the strong partnership and teamwork between the newly annexed Olympia Fields Country Club and the Village of Olympia Fields."

"I want to thank our wonderful police chief and his great officers for the outstanding job during the golf outing...they were so pleasant," said resident Marilynn Tannebaum. "I can't tell you how touched I was. There was a little mix-up and a few of us didn't get our resident passes. Our very own police chief walked our street and came to every house, apologized and handed us

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VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

National Night Out—A *Smashing* Success

The Olympia Fields Police Department's 2023 National Night Out (NNO) event, which took place on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at Bicentennial Park in Olympia Fields, was by all accounts a smashing success. Anyone who attended last year's NNO event knew to expect a spectacular evening of fun, food and fellowship with friends and neighbors. NNO 2023 did not disappoint. Officer Rhonda Jones and Corporal Chivon Dugan, the coordinators of the event, began planning for NNO 2023 on the heels of NNO 2022. Their goal was to build on the success of last year's event; it's safe to say

they surpassed expectations. Over 650 attendees came out to share in the good times. Rich Township staff grilled burgers and hot dogs, the Olympia Fields Country Club sponsored a miniature golf course, Shawn Michelle's Homemade Ice Cream served up scoops of delicious ice cream, the Chicago Cross Roads Corvette Club displayed their cars, and several vendors showcased their wares. The children in attendance enjoyed mini race cars, bumper cars, a dunk tank and a book giveaway. There was something for everyone of all ages.



Save the Date!

**SATURDAY
10/14/2023**

OLYMPIA FIELDS OCTOBERFest

Sergeant Means Park at the Olympia Fields Park District

10am – 6pm

20712 Western Ave, Olympia Fields IL

A FAMILY FUN EVENT



Short Takes

(Continued from page 1)

our passes. I thought that was outstanding. I'm proud to be a resident of Olympia Fields."

Village resident and golf enthusiast, Byron Chivers commented, "The course was in beautiful shape...and for the first time ever, [I] sat in the grandstand and watched the last three groups on the last day come through...and from my seat, it was perfect viewing...Beautiful day, excellent play..."

"I love golf; it's the only sport I can sit and watch without hesitation. This past BMW tournament was my eighth volunteer experience. I would gladly pay the cost to volunteer any time," remarked resident Geraldine Tyler.

"I've been volunteering at this tournament ever since it was known as the Western Open at Cog Hill," said Thomas Savage, Sr., Village resident and BMW volunteer. "It was awesome to have the BMW in our backyard once again. The Olympia Fields Country Club does a great job hosting PGA tournaments."

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1

Maintaining and Protecting the Beauty, Charm and Nature of the Village

2

Improving the Efficiency of Our Government

2023 Summer Landscape Award Winners Honored

Congratulations to the Walker, Young and Mavrogeanes families—the three top winners of the 2023 Summer Landscape Awards. Beautification Committee Chair Arlene Burke presented the Walkers (1st place) and the Mavrogeanes (3rd place) with certificates and gift cards to Saunoris' Garden Center & Nursery in Frankfort, at the August Board of Trustees meeting. The Young family was not present to receive their 2nd place award.

Didn't win, place or show this summer? Residents will have another opportunity to compete for best-in-class honors with the annual Holiday Décor Awards just a few months away.



GET CONNECTED ... STAY CONNECTED



The Village's **Get Connected...Stay Connected** initiative is in full swing. Our Community Resource Officer is making the rounds to all of the Village subdivisions getting residents signed up to receive critical, need-to-know, emergency information via CodeRED, email and text alerts. The **Get Connected...Stay Connected** enrollment program will ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for our residents.

Please Remember:

- Our Community Resource Officer will have a Village-issued ID. Please do not provide information to anyone who does not show you the proper identification.
- If she misses you, she will leave a card with contact information to enable you to reschedule an opportunity to meet.
- All information gathered will be confidential for Village use only.

When emergencies happen, we have to be able to reach our residents quickly and efficiently. Be a part of this crucial initiative—**Get Connected...Stay Connected!**

3

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

VCA Animal Hospital Making Progress

The VCA Animal Hospital construction is making good progress at the corner of Route 30 and Olympian Way (adjacent to the CVS Pharmacy). The majority of the facility's utility lines are in the ground, crews are now putting in the curbs for the parking lot and construction of the main building has commenced. Stay tuned for more progress updates!



OFPD Accreditation Is Official

It's official! Chief Marc Maton, first vice president of the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) Executive Board, formally presented the OFPD with a plaque in recognition of the department's outstanding achievement in obtaining Tier One accreditation. The OFPD is the 58th police department in the entire state of Illinois to achieve accreditation, which is an extremely rigorous process requiring proof of meeting or exceeding 69 areas of ILEAP standards, representing best practices for developing high-quality law enforcement services and protocols. The majority of OFPD officers are college educated, and some officers have graduate level degrees or are currently working toward such degrees. Additionally, women comprise 25 percent of the force. Special thanks to Administrative Sergeant Donald Dean and Sergeant Michael Smith, who took the lead in managing the internal accreditation process. Congratulations Chief Blasingame and the entire OFPD!



New Officer Sworn In

Officer Jacob Reneau was sworn into office at the August 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. Welcome aboard Officer Reneau!



Officers Receive Commendations



Corporal Detective Aaron Baker, Officer Rhonda Jones and Officer Emmanuel Reeves received commendations for professionalism and bravery for their work in apprehending suspects connected to local car burglaries. The officers were honored at the recent August 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. Great job officers!

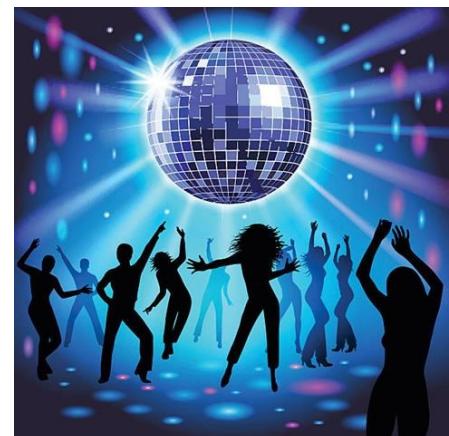
Franciscan Health Foundation Hosts "Franciscan Fever — A 70s Soiree"

The Franciscan Health Foundation—South Suburban Chicago is hosting "Franciscan Fever — A 70s Soiree" on Friday, November 3, 2023, at CD & Me in Frankfort, Illinois.

This fundraising event will feature a regional menu, cocktails, '70s attire (bell bottoms to ball gowns), live entertainment, dancing and a silent auction. The funds raised will benefit

programs that address food insecurity initiatives.

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or make a donation.



VILLAGE FOCUS

Get Involved!

Do you like planning big social events? Want to contribute to decisions that affect the physical infrastructure of the Village? Well, we have just the thing for you. **The Village's Community Relations Commission and Public Works Committee are both looking for new members.** These groups comprise community volunteers who care about the Village and want to meaningfully contribute to its success and well-being. Anyone interested should submit an application accompanied by a resume to Village Hall. The Village President is responsible for making all committee/commission appointments.

Scan the QR code below to download an application.



Scan the QR code below for more information about the various Village committees and commissions.



Scan the QR code below for the 2023 Schedule of Public Meetings.



LIBRARY NEWS

A Taste of Love with Maya Camille Broussard of Justice of the Pies

Join Maya Camille Broussard, star of Netflix's *Bake Squad*, and owner of Chicago-based *Justice of the Pies* for a demo from her kitchen, just in time for Thanksgiving. She will share her love of pie, the stories of those who inspired her, and some tips and tricks to help you make the perfect Thanksgiving pie. Join the conversation on Zoom, Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00pm. Scan the QR code to register.



OLYMPIA FIELDS PARK DISTRICT

Phase II Renovations Planned for Sgt. Means Park

Sergeant Means Park is one of Olympia Field's three community parks. It boasts 20 acres of amenities including a playground, picnic areas, a 20-hole disc golf course, soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball field, sledding hill, and meeting center with banquet facilities. The park also houses the administrative offices for the Olympia Fields Park District.

The proposed Sergeant Means Park Phase II project includes renovation of existing infrastructure and will provide additional recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities. Improvements will include a renovation of tennis courts into multi-use tennis courts and pickleball



courts, a new picnic shelter, new bag toss games, rain garden/pollinator garden, extension of the existing trail system, and expansion of native prairie plantings with interpretive signage.

The Olympia Fields Park District was awarded an OSLAD grant for Phase I improvements at Sergeant Means Park in Fiscal Year 2019 for the following recreational components: an accessible playground, improved accessible walking path, installation of a small picnic shelter, native prairie plantings and new fitness stations.

The Park District has submitted another OSLAD grant to fund the Phase II improvements. In August 2023, the community was invited to participate in a public hearing on the proposed Phase II renovations.

Let's Talk About Swales and Culverts

With a few exceptions, the majority of the subdivisions in the Village of Olympia Fields do not have sewers. What they do have are swales and culverts. For those who don't know, a swale is a low lying, trench-like depressed area of land used for water drainage.

A culvert, which is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain, is the pipe through which water flows into the swale. Swales and culverts are critical to the Village's storm water management protocol; when unobstructed, they ensure that water flows efficiently, preventing flooding and water back up. When swales are filled in with flowers, trees, debris or dirt, or are paved over, they can become obstructed, preventing water flow and increasing opportunities for flooding.

Likewise, damaged or clogged culverts can also cause problems, as they prevent adequate water flow into the swales. So, take care of your swales and culverts—make sure they are performing at peak level.



Emergency Calls—Did You Know...?

When you dial 708-503-8100, the police non-emergency number, your call goes directly to the Olympia Fields Police Department. However, when you dial 911, your call goes to SouthCom Dispatch, which provides fire, police and emergency dispatch services for the villages of Olympia Fields, Matteson, Park Forest and Rich-ton Park. SouthCom serves approximately 65,000 residents in Cook and Will counties.



50/50 Tree Program Cancelled for 2023

The Olympia Fields Beautification Committee's 50/50 Tree Program is cancelled for fall 2023 due to the Periodical Cicadas expected next spring. The spring 2024 Brood XIII will emerge around soil temperatures of 60 degrees and could last up to six weeks from April to June.



Periodical Cicadas appear every 17 years and can damage tree branches due to laying their eggs on small twigs.

The female does this by cutting two parallel slits in a twig where she will lay approximately 24–28 eggs. Some females can lay up to 600 eggs, causing a lot of tree branch damage over time. After the eggs hatch at six weeks, the young cicadas fall to the ground where they burrow into the soil and spend the next 17 years feeding on small roots.

Upon the advice of the Morton Arboretum and University of Illinois Extension, Olympia Fields, along with surrounding villages and towns, has decided to cancel its tree sharing program for this season. Newly planted young trees would be very susceptible to the cicada brood damage. The Beautification Committee plans to offer the 50/50 Tree Program again in fall 2024.

RESIDENT NEWS YOU CAN USE

Scholarship Opportunity

Know a high-achieving caddie in their senior year of high school or freshman year of college who might be interested in becoming an Evans Scholar?

To qualify, caddies must have a strong caddie record, excellent academics, demonstrated financial need and outstanding character.

Scholarship applications are accepted at the beginning of an applicant's senior year of high school, as well as from college freshmen.

Scan the QR code to access the scholarship application.



PUMPKIN SMASH
GREEN YOUR HALLOWEEN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
10 am - 1 pm | Coyote Run Golf Course

Pumpkin Smash is an annual effort to divert pumpkins from landfills by providing a location for residents to drop-off jack-o'-lanterns to be composted



Don't forget to bring in your Halloween candy wrappers and deposit them in the Trick or Trash recycling box.



ChicagoSouthlandGreen.org
800 Kedzie Ave, Flossmoor, IL



Center for Hard to Recycle Materials



South Suburban College
15800 S. State St.
South Holland, IL 60473

Every Tuesday: 7:00am - 12:00pm
Every Thursday: 2:00pm - 7:00pm
2nd Saturday every month: 9:00am - 3:00pm



www.ssc.edu/charm

Items currently accepted at the CHaRM center:

 Household Recycling (paper, plastic bottles and containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jugs)	 Electronics and Computers	 Clothing and Textiles (clean and dry)	 Small Furniture and Appliances	 Styrofoam (clean with no food, tape or labels)	 Personal Healthcare Equipment
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Items currently not accepted at the CHaRM center:

• Plastic Bags	• Wet or greasy paper	• Large Appliances
• Mattresses, sofas or other large furniture items	• Latex Paint	• Tires
• Construction Materials	• Glass, Plastic or Metal items that are not listed as accepted household recycling	• Household hazardous waste (chemicals, gas, oil, etc.)
• Soiled Items	• Batteries	

For more information contact:
Antwon Russell at atrussell@ssc.edu
or (708) 596-2000, ext. 2440

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