

## In Memoriam

### Trustee Willis Pennington, Jr.



We are saddened by the passing of Trustee Willis Pennington, Jr., a trusted advisor, friend and Olympia Fields resident since 2002. A member of the Board of Trustees for 16 years, Mr. Pennington was the Village's longest serving trustee. He was a giving person, who graciously served his community not only as a trustee, but also as the chair of the Village's Finance Committee and Board Liaison to both the Finance Committee and Planning and Zoning Commission. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Trustee Pennington was an active supporter of veterans

and represented the Village on matters involving veterans affairs. His kind, gentlemanly spirit and steady leadership will be greatly missed. The Village of Olympia Fields extends its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the Pennington family.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



We welcome several new staff members to the Village of Olympia Fields family. Joining the staff in recent months are Officer Portia Simpson, Mr. Terry Lusby, Jr. and Mr. Bret Scott.

**Portia Simpson**  
*Police Officer,  
Olympia Fields Police Department*

Officer Portia Simpson was sworn in as a member of the Olympia Fields Police Department (OFPD) at the February 2023 Board of Trustees

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## Blood Drive at the Barn

The Olympia Fields Park District played host to the Kristin Oliver Memorial Charities Blood Drive the weekend of April 22–23. Village residents Mrs. Pam Oliver, a former assignment editor with NBC Chicago, and her husband Kelvin Oliver, a Village trustee, whose daughter Kristin succumbed to



a rare heart cancer in 2020, sponsor the drive, annually, to bring awareness to the need for blood donation. The drive also collected donations of non-perishable food stuffs and

post-natal supplies. The Olivers partnered with Versiti Blood Centers, the Franciscan Health Foundation, Gift of Hope and the Center for Food Equity in Medicine for the event.



## Presidential Citizen-Volunteer of the Year Award

Graymoor resident Carl Hill is the inaugural recipient of the 2023 Presidential Citizen-Volunteer of the Year Award. The Community Relations Commission (CRC), which is chaired by Mr. Hill, has been a driving force in bringing big events like OctoberFest and Caroling in the Park to the Village. In addition to his work with the CRC, Mr. Hill is actively engaged with his subdivision, helping to make the neighborhood's Jazz on the Lawn event a big success. Actively developing relationships with the Olympia Fields Park District, local churches and the Village's Enhancement Organization, Mr. Hill exemplifies selfless volunteerism. The Presidential Citizen-Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to one deserving resident, annually.

# 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## 1

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

### Arbor Day 2023

In the last 50 years, the Arbor Day Foundation has planted and distributed approximately 500 million trees in more than 50 countries around the world. Trees help slow climate change, filter our air and water, foster biodiversity, provide habitats for animals and strengthen our

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## 2

**Improving the Efficiency of Our Government**



### Monthly Water Billing Is Here!

Monthly water billing is in full effect! All residential and commercial water and sewer users officially transitioned to monthly billing as of April 2023.

#### **Here's the Good News:**

- Water utility bills will now be spread over more months, resulting in lower monthly payments, enabling users to better manage their expenses, and easing the burden of having to make large lump sum payments.

- Monthly billing will make it easier for users to identify leaks, plumbing issues, and other problems *before* they result in costly water bills.
- Monthly billing will facilitate a better designed, more user-friendly billing statement.

#### **Information to Note:**

- The Village will no longer distribute third notices or orange water shut-off door tags.
- Reminders about the payment of previous balances and disconnection notices related to those delinquent amounts will be mailed to residential and commercial customers.
- If you need any assistance, call the Finance Department-Utility Billing section at 708-503-8000 ext. 3404.

## 3

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

### Batter & Berries Now Open!

April 19 marked the official grand opening of Batter & Berries restaurant at 3462 Vollmer Road in Bizios Plaza. This day was a long time coming, and Olympia Fields residents and brunch lovers from all over the Chicago-

land area have been waiting with bated breath for the opportunity to sate their appetites on the restaurant's elevated breakfast-brunch-lunch fare.

Owners Craig and Dr. Tanya Richardson, along with the restaurant's chef, Ken Polk, welcomed the long line of patrons gathered for the restaurant's opening. Also in attendance were Village President Sterling M. Burke; Village Administrator Drella C. Savage; Trustees Sandra Finley, Kelvin Oliver and Howard White; Trustee-elect Jennifer Beasley; Economic Development Commission (EDC) co-chairs Trinette Britt-Johnson and Mike Lewis; Commission Members George Chandler and Phillip Paige; and rep-



resentatives of several Village committees. Prior to the cutting of the purple and gold ribbon (an homage to Mr. Richardson's

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communities. We are planting trees today for a better tomorrow. On April 28, the Village's Beautification Committee celebrated Arbor Day by planting a Magnolia tree on the grassy knoll at Arcadian Court and Arcadian Drive. Beautification Committee members

Arlene Burke, Susan Moroney and Susan Gowan were joined at the tree planting by Trustee Sandra Finley (liaison to the committee) and Mr. Charles Durley, president of the Arcadia Homeowners Association.

## Tree City USA

The Arbor Day Foundation has once again designated the Village of Olympia Fields as a Tree City USA community. The Village has proudly been a Tree City for 14 years.

### Benefits of being a Tree City USA community

- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%.
- Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler than those without.
- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.
- Homes with trees have higher property values.
- Green space plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.
- Planting and maintaining trees absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change.



## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

### Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

Illinois officially recognized Earth Day this year on April 22, 2023. In honor of Earth Day, the Village of Olympia Fields Beautification Committee promoted a month-long celebration in April. During this time, the committee encouraged residents to walk their neighborhoods cleaning up any debris on their street or neighboring streets.



### Village-wide Clean-Up Day

Approximately 20–25 volunteers of all ages came out to help clean up during the Village-wide Volunteer Clean-Up Day sponsored by the Beautification Committee on April 29. If you were driving through the Village from 10am-2pm on Saturday, you probably saw volunteer crews in their safety vests working on Kedzie and Western avenues.

Of course, clean-up days are not relegated to just one day a year. Any homeowners associations interested in hosting a clean-up day in their subdivision can contact Beautification Committee member Edward Davis at [ejdavis80@gmail.com](mailto:ejdavis80@gmail.com).

## E-Waste Recycling and More

Got e-junk? Looking for a place to recycle your e-waste (and other items)? Well look no more. The Cook County-funded e-waste recycling center located at South Suburban College in South Holland is here to help. This Center for Hard to Recycle Materials is the collection point in the south suburbs. For more information, call 312-603-8200.

**Where:** North side of the college  
**Tuesdays:** 7am–Noon  
**Thursdays:** 2pm–7pm  
**Second Saturday of each month:** 9am–3pm



## How Do I ....

**Sign up to volunteer at the BMW Championship or purchase tickets for the event?**



The eyes of the world will be on Olympia Fields come August 2023. The FedEx BMW Championship, sponsored 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? Scan the QR Codes below:

**To Volunteer:**



**To Purchase Tickets:**



### Sign Up for 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. It is an

indispensable tool for communicating critical emergency information such as natural disasters, criminal activity, power outages, traffic detours and watermain breaks. CodeRED sends alerts about emergency and non-emergency events affecting the Village via telephone, text and email.

Scan the QR code and sign up today. If you need assistance in signing up, please contact Village Hall at 708-503-8000.

**Arrange to have branches picked up from my residence?**

### Branch Pickup Program

The Department of Public Works will collect branches every Tuesday until October 31. Residents living on the **East side of the Village** (The Greens, Graymoor, Wysteria, Olympia Fields East, Maynegaite and the Reserves of Maynegaite) will have branches picked up the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month—weather permitting. Residents living on the **West side of the Village** (Arcadia, Hawthorne Hills, Suburban Woods, Original Village, Olympia Club, Lakes of Olympia, Trails of Olympia Fields, Vienna Woods and Traditions) will have their branches picked up on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month—weather permitting.



Please note the following requirements:

- Branches cannot be greater than 8-inches in diameter.
- Buckthorn trees will not be collected.
- Branches must be placed on or near the curb line no later than 6pm the night prior to pick up.
- **Branches cut by private contractors will not be collected. Residents and/or tree trimming contractors are responsible for the disposal of tree limbs. Failure to comply will result in citations.**
- Staff will only spend 10–15 minutes at each site. If there is a larger pile, staff may return later in the day, or the following day to collect.
- Your regular refuse company should pick up all other yard waste such as weeds, flowers or grass. Please do not mix these items with the branches.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Department of Public Works at 708-503-8200.

*(Guiding Principles 3 = from page 2)*

membership in the Omega Psi Phi fraternity), EDC members presented the Richardsons with a proclamation formally welcoming Batter & Berries to the community, a framed copy of the restaurant's business license, and an Olympia Fields-opoly Monopoly game.

Craig Richardson credited his wife Tanya as the founder and creator of the Batter & Berries concept. "This idea sparked in her head." Batter & Berries "came out of her imagination, her head, her creativity," said Richardson. He also thanked President Burke for his assistance in making Batter & Berries Olympia Fields a reality. Richardson recounted how President Burke visited the Lincoln Park restaurant and invited Richardson to Olympia Fields to have a conversation about bringing Batter & Berries to the Village. President Burke "made me feel comfortable and confident that I would have support if I brought Batter & Berries to Olympia Fields," said Richardson.



## OFCC Annexation

In case you didn't hear, our 2.94 square miles have grown. The Olympia Fields Country Club (OFCC) is now officially a part of the Village of Olympia Fields. The Board of Trustees voted to approve the country club's annexation at the April 17, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. Here's what this means for the Village and its residents:

- **Increased sales tax revenue.**

The annexation is conservatively projected to generate an additional \$150,000-plus in annual sales tax revenue for the Village, which will help offset the amount of property taxes shouldered by residents. This number will increase exponentially during years that the OFCC hosts major golf events, such as the BMW Championship, which is estimated to produce an infusion of over \$400,000 in local area sales tax revenue — that's good news for Village businesses.

- **Additional property tax revenue.**

The annexation will produce additional property tax revenue for the Village. The Village receives 11% in property tax revenue, annually. The Country Club paid approximately \$475,000 in property taxes last year.

- **Increased permitting and licensing fee revenue.**

Annexation enables the OFCC to secure these permits and licenses from Olympia Fields, resulting in increased fee revenue to the Village.

- **Expanded economic growth, increased property values, and brand enhancement.**

The renowned OFCC has hosted the world's top golfers at events such as the U.S. Open, Senior Open, and KPMG PGA Women's Championship. *Golf Digest* ranks OFCC the 9th best U.S. course to host a PGA Tour event (out of 38). The BMW Championship in August is expected to draw an estimated 50-plus hours of televised coverage and over 400 local and national media, placing Olympia Fields prominently on the global stage. Already ranked as one of three premier majority-black communities in the nation by Pew Charitable Trusts, the increased visibility resulting from the OFCC annexation will only enhance our brand and increase property values—our greatest assets.



## Quick Run Shell Station Coming Very Soon

The canopy is up, the pumps are in, the mini-mart is stocked and the countdown has begun for the opening of the Quick Run Shell Station situated at the corner of Route 30 and Crawford Avenue. Stay tuned for information about the grand opening—coming soon.



meeting. She is an experienced officer, having served for over four years with the Metra Police Department, prior to joining the OFPD.



**Terry Lusby, Jr.**  
*Director,  
Department of Public Works*

Mr. Lusby comes to the Village with over 15 years of management experience. Prior to joining the Village, he was the Facilities and Fleet Superintendent with the Village of Tinley Park. Mr. Lusby has a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in construction management.



**Bret Scott**  
*Utility Billing Specialist,  
Finance Department*

If you have called the Village Hall with questions about your water bill, chances are you have spoken with Bret Scott. Mr. Scott comes to the Village from South Holland where he was the assistant village collector for 13 years.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Drive-Up Window

Imagine being able to return a book or DVD, pick up a reserved item or even renew a library card from the comfort and convenience of your car. Soon, patrons of the Park Forest Library will be able to do just that with the addition of a new drive-up window. Construction on the window, which began in February, is slated for completion in early June 2023. The drive-up window is a welcome extension of the curbside services already offered by the library since the pandemic. The window will provide a viable alternative for those who are unable to visit the library in person due to time or physical constraints.

### Calling All Gardeners—Free Seeds Available

The Park Forest Seed Library is offering free seeds. Seeds were donated by the Park Forest Sustainability Office and are available at the Park Forest Library while supplies last.

### Story Tots Storytime

- Interactive story time and art for children ages 5 & under
- Fridays @ 11am in the Kids' Zone
- No registration required
- Contact Miss Nikki at 708-748-3731 ext. 31.

## OFPD NEWS

### ILEAP Accreditation On-Site Visit

An assessment team from the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) will be in the Village of Olympia Fields from May 10–11, 2023, to conduct an on-site assessment of the Olympia Fields Police Department (OFPD). As part of the ILEAP on-site assessment, agency

employees, elected officials, and **members of the community are invited to call-in with comments during a public information session on Thursday, May 11, between the hours of 10am–11am at 708-503-8000.** Telephone comments are limited to five minutes and must address the OFPD's ability to meet ILEAP standards, which are listed on the website. Written comments are also welcome and can be mailed or emailed to the OFPD at:

**Olympia Fields Police Department**  
20040 Governors Highway  
Olympia Fields, IL 60461  
[ddean@olympia-fields.com](mailto:ddean@olympia-fields.com)

### Law Enforcement Torch Run



The 2023 Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois raises awareness and funding for Special Olympics Illinois.

Some of our very own OFPD officers will be participating in the south suburban leg of the run in June, doing their part to get the torch to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games in Normal, Illinois.

### OFPD Goes to School

Arcadia Elementary School invited Olympia Fields police officers to be their valentines. Students showed their love and appreciation by presenting OFPD officers with handmade Valentine's Day cards.



# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## In the Spotlight ...



It was "lights, camera, action" time for two Olympia Fields businesses recently.

NBC Chicago recently featured the **Chéz Déli Salon and Spa** on its evening news program. The salon/spa, owned by Adodo Robinson and located at 2555 Lincoln Highway, Suite 108, hosted a Prom Dress Giveaway for young ladies who would not otherwise

be able to afford a prom dress. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that Chéz Déli has sponsored the giveaway. Check out the news segment by scanning the QR code.

Our very own **Perro's Brothers Gyros**, owned by Albert Haddad and located at 3770 Lincoln Highway, will be featured on the Food Network's America's Best television show. A Food Network film crew spent the day at the restaurant recently, interviewing the



owner and his family and getting a bird's eye view of what it takes to prepare their award-winning gyros, ribs and other favorites. Stay tuned for more information on the air date of the Perro's Brothers Gyros America's Best segment.



## Amazing Women of Rich Township



The Honorable Drella C. Savage, Village of Olympia Fields Administrator/Chief of Staff, and Trinette Britt-Johnson, Co-chair of the Village's Economic Development Commission, were both honored by Rich Township as Amazing Women of Rich Township. Also celebrated in this inaugural 2023 class of honorees was State Representative and former Village of Olympia Fields President, Debbie Meyers-Martin, and Village residents Mrs. Brenda Singleton, Dr. Gail Cansler, Mrs. Eleanor "Kaye" Wilson, Mrs. Lori Carlton-Jordan and the Honorable

Michele M. Pitman.

The 2023 Amazing Women of Rich Township luncheon was sponsored by Rich Township Senior Services. The event, which was held at the Olympia Fields Park District, featured a keynote address by Ms. Yumeka Brown, Commissioner of the Metropoli-



tan Water Reclamation District and Village Clerk of Matteson.

The Village of Olympia Fields was well represented among this class of "amazing women." We salute these and all of the Amazing Women of Rich Township!

# OLYMPIA FIELDS PARK DISTRICT

## Summer Camp Is Just Around the Corner



The Olympia Fields Summer Camp program starts June 5, and there is something for children of all ages.

Contact the Olympia Fields Park District at 708-481-7313 for more information or scan the QR code.

## The Community Garden Is Back...Let's Grow!



Calling all green thumbs! Rent a plot and grow your own veggies this summer for just \$30 per plot. Garden plots are now available for rent through October 31, 2023.

Contact the Park District at 708-481-7313 or scan the QR code for more information.

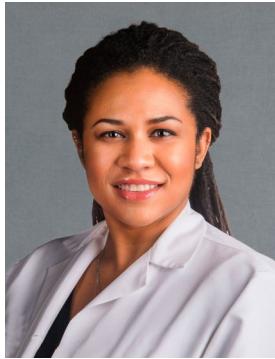
## New Streaming Service for Special Care Nursery Virtual Visits Now Available

The Franciscan Health Olympia Fields Family Birth Center now offers the AngelEye Health System, a secure live-stream video camera system that allows parents to keep a virtual eye on their child anytime, and from anywhere. The Family Birth Center Olympia Fields is the only Special Care Nursery in Chicago's Southland to offer the AngelEye Health System.

Families can also download the AngelEye Health System mobile software app to receive push notifications and alerts via text, including real-time health updates, and messages about feedings and precious moments. To take a virtual tour of the Franciscan Health Family Birth Center Olympia Fields visit [www.FranciscanHealth.org](http://www.FranciscanHealth.org) and search Family Birth Center Olympia Fields.



### Oncologist/Hematologist Joins Franciscan Health Comprehensive Cancer Institute Staff



Oncologist/hematologist Andrea L. Amico, MD, MA, has joined the Patricia A. Joyce Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields and is accepting new patients. She is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology and board eligible in hematology. Her clinical interests include gastrointestinal, breast and neuroendocrine malignancy management; clinical cancer genetics and genetic testing; and cancer risk and prevention.

### Franciscan Health Olympia Fields Heart & Vascular Institute Has a New Director



Omar M. Hamoui, MD, has been named the new medical director of the Franciscan Health Olympia Fields Heart & Vascular Institute. Dr. Hamoui brings more than 20 years of personalized cardiology care experience and academic expertise to his new role.

The Heart and Vascular Institute is located on the Franciscan Health Olympia Fields campus, 3800 W. 203rd Street in Olympia Fields.

## VILLAGE FOCUS

### Homeowners Associations (HOAs)

Have you heard? Funding through the Beautification Committee's Beautification Enhancement Program for HOAs has just been increased to \$3,000. The 2023–2024 Landscape Grant Application is now available on the Beautification Committee page on the Village's website.

### Volunteers Needed

The 2023 Midcentury Modern Road Rally Tour of Homes, scheduled for June 24, 2023, from 10am–4pm, will feature interior and exterior tours of homes in Olympia Fields and Flossmoor that exhibit Midcentury Modern architecture. The famous "glass house," in addition to several homes on Country Club Drive and in the Graymoor subdivision are on the tour. Volunteers interested in working as greeters, docents, wranglers, or trolley guides are needed for this event. Interested? Please contact Mr. Scott Mehaffey at [smehaffey@savingplaces.org](mailto:smehaffey@savingplaces.org).

### Committees & Commissions

There are numerous ways to become more actively engaged in the life and work of the Village. One of the best ways is to join a committee or commission. **Two committees/commissions are currently looking for new members—the Beautification Committee and the Community Relations Commission.** Anyone interested should submit an application accompanied by a resume. The Village President is responsible for making all committee/commission appointments.



Visit the Village's website to view the list of Committees and Commissions and the schedule of public meetings. Scan the QR code to access the application.