

Field Notes

olympia
fields
of course

A Message from the Village President Sterling Burke



At the last board meeting, the Board approved several groundbreaking technology initiatives to improve the quality of services for residents, centralize customer data, increase productivity, streamline business processes, automate workflow and enhance information transparency.

These initiatives included updating our I/T infrastructure – approving a high-tech centralized Senus FlexNet tower, which reads water meters throughout the village in real-time.

The new system will reduce residents' water bills by better detecting leaks. The Board also approved the implementation of Flock cameras around the Village to enhance resident and business security.

The Village is Upgrading I/T Infrastructure Services and Networks

The Board chose to contract with Concentric Integration to upgrade the Village's I/T infrastructure and to ensure that it is stable, secure and capable of supporting all the new upcoming technologies. The new 24/7 support services contract will act as the foundation for all cloud-based projects.

- Implement cloud-based Office 365 to allow all employees to work cooperatively from any platform and any location.
- Upgrade outdated computers and notebooks so each user can access network file shares, manage their own passwords and greatly improve cybersecurity.
- Replace the existing end-of-life servers and consolidate them into a single, virtualized hybrid server that will be more secure and easier to support all Village Departments.

Cloud-Based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems Will Increase Productivity and Quality of Services for Residents and Staff

The Village of Olympia Fields recently completed a two-month / multi-phase Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software selection process for solutions that included a number of functional areas the Village was looking to address.

These include:

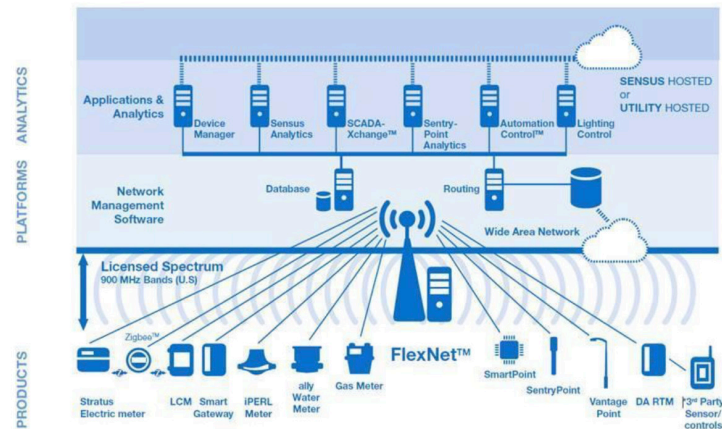
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable
- Cashiering
- Budgeting
- Permits, Planning & Code Enforcement
- Licensing
- Time & Attendance
- Public Safety
- Advanced Scheduling

Leading this in-depth selection process was The Baecore Group, a premier public sector consulting firm. Now that the software selection phase has been completed, the implementation phase is next. During the January board meeting, Baecore was selected to provide project management services to help ensure successful conversion and implementation. Intime, Paylocity and BS&A ERP systems are cloud-based and can run on any platform. This project will take about 12 to 14 months to complete.

Board Approves FlexNet Technology for Village Residents that Will Improve the Accuracy and Timeliness of Water Bills

The Sensus FlexNet Tower will assist the Village in increasing the accuracy and timeliness of the meter reading process, which will result in the ability to provide monthly billing. The Sensus FlexNet communication network is a long-range radio network that provides scalable and reliable two-way infrastructure.

The system receives data not only around customer usage but also from meters and other sensors that assist in optimizing the operation of water to reduce costs and improve safety and customer satisfaction.



Benefits include the following:

- Being able to quickly identify leaks, equipment issues, outages or other abnormalities using collected usage data.
- Reducing infrastructure costs and strengthening network performance.
- Ensuring accurate billing and helping customers to better understand usage.

It is expected the technology will be fully operational later this year.

Olympia Fields Adopts Flock Cameras as Part of Comprehensive Safety and Protection Strategy

Protecting the Village of Olympia Fields is of the utmost importance. The Village President Sterling Burke and the Board of Trustees have authorized the Police Department to purchase and install four Flock security cameras. The cameras will be strategically located throughout the Village to monitor traffic flow in and out of the Village 24/7.

By capturing license plates entering and leaving the Village, the cameras will help prevent and solve crime, ensuring the safety and security of our residents and guests. The cameras are expected to be operational in the coming weeks.



Community Updates





Congratulations to the 14th Annual Holiday Award Program Winners for Displaying Beautiful and Creative Decorations

The Beautification Committee presented the winners of the 14th Annual Holiday Awards Program at the Board of Trustees meeting on January 19, 2022. Homes were nominated for displaying decorations that demonstrate curb appeal, creativity, originality and coordination of décor to the home.

This past season 13 of our 15 Homeowners Associations participated in the program. Each participating HOA chose up to six homes for recognition. The top three from each HOA had nominee signs placed in their yards prior to the Beautification Committee's judging.

From the field of 39 homes, the Beautification Committee selected the overall top three winners village-wide. These homes had first, second and third place signs placed in their yard. The winners received award certificates and Bizios Fresh Market gift cards: First place received \$100, second \$75 and third \$50.

The winners are:

- First Place - Charlene & Melvin Woods of 601 Wysteria Drive (Wysteria)
- Second Place - Doris Graves of 20500 Attica Road (Arcadia)
- Third Place - Timothy Horace of 13 Strauss Lane (Vienna Woods)



The Olympia Library Board Welcomes Dr. Taneen Brinson

The Olympia Fields Library Board would like to welcome Dr. Taneen Brinson as the newest Library Board Member.

Dr. Brinson and her husband Tyree have been long-term residents for more 17 years and bring a wealth of knowledge to the board.

Olympia Fields Library Board currently has one remaining Board position and is welcoming applications. If interested, please send a letter of interest to Ms. Nerissa Cronister at ndgermain@gmail.com.

Covid-19 Updates

Get Vaccinated or Boosted on Tuesday, February 22 or Wednesday, February 23 at The Bradford Barn from 10am to 2pm

On Tuesday, February 22 and Wednesday, February 23 from 10am to 2pm, come to the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at The Bradford Barn at 20712 Western in Olympia Fields. First dose, second dose and booster shots are available, as well as Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. This is free and open to all Cook County residents in partnership with Rich Township.

Get Free At-Home Covid Tests Mailed to Your Door

There are two new programs for ordering free at-home Covid tests:

1. A new U.S. government program will begin providing free at-home, COVID-19 rapid tests via the United States Postal Service to all households nationwide. Illinois residents can order at-home COVID-19 tests, limit **four per household**. Tests are expected to ship within seven to 12 days after the order is made. Order here: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
2. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is announcing the availability of 225,000 free, rapid COVID-19 self-administered test kits through Project Access Covid Tests (Project ACT). These tests are available on a first-come-first-served basis. **Each household will receive five tests** within one to two weeks after ordering. The tests and shipping are free to eligible residents. Order here: <https://www.accesscovidtests.org/>

Find Out Which Property Tax Exemptions Automatically Renew This Year



In response to COVID-19, the Cook County Assessor's Office will continue the automatic renewal of the Senior Freeze, Veterans with Disabilities and Persons with Disabilities Exemptions. The Homeowner and Senior Exemptions will continue to auto-renew every year.

If a homeowner received any of these five exemptions last year (tax year 2020), they do not need to reapply this year (tax year 2021).

To verify which exemptions were received last year, homeowners can visit the Cook County Property Tax Portal at cookcountypropertyinfo.com, enter their PIN and look under the exemption tab. In addition, homeowners will receive a postcard or letter in March 2022 confirming which exemptions will be automatically renewed.

For first-time applicants, the 2021 tax year exemption filing period will begin in early March 2022. Homeowners are encouraged to file online.

[Learn More](#)



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