

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS Staff Highlights

Betty Zigras Retires

In April we said farewell to Betty Zigras, finance director, as she retired from the Village of Olympia Fields after almost eight years of dedicated service. We wish Betty well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life and thank her for her service to the Village of Olympia Fields.



HAPPENINGS Happenings

The Village Cleans Up in Honor of Earth Day

A dedicated band of clean-up warriors joined forces on April 20 to do their part to keep the Village clean during the annual Village-wide Clean-Up Day sponsored by the Beautification Committee.

Residents, student volunteers from Rich Township 227 and Lincoln-Way high schools, as well as Village staff members, donned their safety vests and grabbed their garbage pickers in honor of Earth Day.



Free Mulch...Get Yours Today!

The Department of Public Works has mulch available free for the taking.

Stop by the DPW parking lot at 20701 Governors Highway at any time to pick up as much mulch as you need.

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3 Guiding Principles

1

Maintaining and Protecting the Beauty and Charm of the Village

The Cicadas Are Here!

The Periodical Cicadas arrived, and Olympia Fields residents were ready for them. Heeding the advice of our Beautification Committee, many residents secured their young, immature trees with the appropriate protective netting prior to the onslaught of the cicadas.



Reminder

Remember to keep the netting on the tree(s) until the cicadas are no longer a threat. Be sure to remove the netting from the tree and any string or rope used to secure it once the cicadas have died.

Arbor Day 2024

The Village of Olympia Fields proclaimed April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the Village. Residents are urged to support efforts to protect our trees and woodland areas. Typically, the Village's Beautification Committee plants a tree in April to commemorate Arbor Day. However, due to the anticipated influx of Periodical Cicadas, the committee postponed their annual tree planting until the fall.

Over the past 51 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 communities. We encourage our residents to support the Village's tree planting efforts.

Let's keep Olympia Fields green!

Guiding Principle 1 Continued on Page 5

2

Improving the Efficiency of Our Government

Holding the Line on Property Taxes

The Village has held the line on property taxes for two consecutive years. Most recently, the Board of Trustees approved a "Hold the Line" tax levy for 2023 property taxes (payable in 2024). Accordingly, Olympia Fields property owners should see no increase in the Village portion of their property taxes this year.

Village Water Quality Report Coming Soon

The 2024 Annual Water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available for viewing online beginning July 1, 2024.

The information in this report details the Village's water quality parameters from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Hard copies will not be mailed en masse; however, you may call the Department of Public Works at 708-503-8200 to have a report mailed to your home. You may also access the report via the QR code beginning July 1, 2024.



Business Is Booming in Olympia Fields!

The Village's commercial landscape will soon see the addition of several new businesses including the VCA Animal Hospital, Vintrendi Wine Company, Harold's Time Out Bar & Grill, Manifest Salon Suites, and Little Caesars Pizza, all opening this spring and summer.

Charley's Cheesesteaks and Wings, located inside the Olympia Fields Walmart on Western Avenue, hosted their grand opening in February. Excited customers happily stood in long lines that extended well beyond the doors of the Walmart building from as early as 4:30am for the restaurant's 10:00am grand opening.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For Your Information

Branch Pick-Up

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will retrieve branches only after inclement weather-related events such as storms and high winds. The DPW will pick up branches **By Appointment Only** on the following schedule:

- East side of the Village: First (1st) and Third (3rd) Tuesdays** (Graymoor, Maynegaite, Olympia Fields East, Reserves of Maynegaite, The Greens, Wysteria)
- West side of the Village: Second (2nd) and Fourth (4th) Tuesdays** (Arcadia, Hawthorne Hills, Lakes of Olympia, Olympia Club, Original Village, Suburban Woods, Traditions, Trails of Olympia Fields, Vienna Woods)

Please Note the Following:

- Branches cannot be greater than 8 inches in diameter.
- Branch bundles cannot be higher than 3 feet.
- Branches must be placed on or near the curb line.
- Branches from Buckthorn and sap producing trees will not be collected.
- Yard waste, i.e., weeds, grass, and flowers, will not be collected.
- Branches cut down by private landscape contractors will not be collected.

Contact the DPW to make an appointment following inclement weather events at **708-503-8200**.

For Your Information Continued on Page 5

Commendations & Graduations & Promotions, Oh My!

The Olympia Fields Police Department has much to be proud of these days.

- Sergeant Lawrence Smith recently graduated from Northwestern University's Staff & Command Program, and he has been promoted to the position of Administrative Sergeant.
- Detective Corporals Aaron Baker and JaVonnie Royster were both promoted to sergeant after completing a rigorous application, interview, and exam process.
- Officers Diamond Lasenby and Jacob Reneau recently graduated from the police academy and successfully completed their respective FTO (Field Training Officer) programs.
- Officers Anoribe Nwannewuihe, Morgan McNeal, Rhonda Jones, Diamond Lasenby, Emmanuel Reeves, and Sgt. JaVonnie Royster have recently been awarded commendations for professionalism and bravery in the line of duty.
- Officer Jerral Houser successfully completed Field Training Officer Instruction and Certification coursework and has now

joined the OFPD's FTO program as a Master Police Coach. Officer Houser has also completed CPR Instructor training, enabling him to provide CPR instruction to his fellow officers.

- Officers Portia Simpson, Jacob Reneau, and Anoribe Nwannewuihe recently completed Lead Investigator Training classes.

Way to go OFPD!



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OFPPD Carries the Torch for Special Olympics

The Olympia Fields Police Department showed up and showed out for the 2024 Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois, on June 5. The Torch Run is an annual event that raises awareness and much needed funding for Special Olympics Illinois. The theme for 2024 is "Together We Can," and several of our very own OFPPD officers participated in the south suburban leg of the run, doing their part to ensure that the torch reached its final destination—the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games in Normal, Illinois held on June 7–9.



3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3 Guiding Principles

Guiding Principle 1 Continued from Page 2

Olympia Fields, a Tree City —15 Years and Counting!

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 15 consecutive years. Scan the QR code to view the official press release announcing the Village's Tree City status.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For Your Information

Continued from Page 3

DPW @ Work

Now that spring has sprung, the DPW is fast at work! With the acquisition of their new mini-excavator, affectionately nicknamed "Lucille," the crew is able to repair water main breaks, perform swale repair and replacement and other projects with little to no damage to adjacent yards and surrounding grassy areas. What's more, Lucille gives the DPW staff the capability to do a lot more of this type of work in-house, which is a much faster, cost-efficient solution and more effective use of your tax dollars.



Olympia Fields: One of the Best Places to Live, Of Course

Chicago Magazine has discovered what we have always known...the magazine has named Olympia Fields one of the "Best Places to Live in the Suburbs." The magazine's recent article on the best of suburban living included our Village in the category of communities "Where You Can Get a Pretty Big House for \$500,000." Scan the QR code to view the article.



Committee Volunteers Wanted!

Like to plan parties and events? If you answered yes, we need you!

Community Relations Committee (CRC)



The CRC plans and hosts Village-wide events, such as OctoberFest, the Halloween Candy Giveaway, and Caroling in the Park, and they are currently making plans to

add a summer event to the lineup. The Commission meets the first Monday of every other month at 7pm at Village Hall.

Interested in applying? Complete the Application for Appointment to an Advisory Board/Commission/Committee, which can be found on the Village website at www.olympia-fields.com. Mail or email your

application along with a resume to the office of the Village President, care of Jessica Washington, 20040 Governors Highway, Olympia Fields, IL 60461 or jwashington@olympia-fields.com. The Village President makes final recommendations on all appointments.

100th Anniversary Planning Committee

In 2027, the Village will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding, and we are looking for volunteers to join the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee. If you are interested, please contact Trustee Kelvin Oliver at

koliver@olympia-fields.com.



HALO Program Is in Full Swing

One of the most effective ways that HOAs can proactively work to protect their subdivisions and residents is by participating in the Homeowners' Association Liaison Officers (HALO) program, which fosters collaborative relationships between Homeowners Associations and the OFPD. Each HOA has an assigned HALO officer who should be considered the first point of contact between residents and the OFPD for non-emergency, quality of life 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 get to know residents and establish connections. Administrative Sergeant Lawrence Smith oversees the Village's HALO program, and Officer Rhonda Jones is the assistant coordinator. Contact them at 708-503-8100 with any questions.

A Friendly Reminder

Thank you to the HOA presidents who have already responded to Administrative Sergeant Smith's April 15, 2024, email request for information. For those who have not yet responded, it's not too late...

Please forward the requested contact information to Sgt. Smith at lsmith@olympia-fields.com at your earliest convenience. This updated information will be confidential but is needed to ensure that the OFPD has current HOA data on file.

SAVE THE DATES

HOME TEAM HEALTHCARE HERO NIGHT



SATURDAY, JULY 27
2024

FRANCISCAN *Razzmatazz* A '20s AFFAIR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
2024

HOME TEAM HEALTHCARE HERO NIGHT

Windy City ThunderBolts Professional Baseball
vs. Joliet Slammers

Saturday, July 27, 2024

Ozinga Field

14011 Kenton Avenue, Crestwood

4PM - Gates Open

4:15-5:30PM - Live entertainment behind home plate courtesy of "Strawdawg Band" playing today's biggest country hits

6:05PM - game time with postgame fireworks



**SPONSORSHIPS/INDIVIDUAL
TICKETS AVAILABLE**

FRANCISCAN RAZZMATAZZ A '20s AFFAIR

Showing out for Franciscan Health Foundation

Friday, November 8, 2024

CD & ME

23320 S La Grange Road
Frankfort, IL 60423

6-10PM



**AD BOOK/SPONSORSHIPS/
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE**

For more information, contact the Franciscan Health Foundation at (708) 852-2430 or sscfoundation@franciscanalliance.org

All proceeds from both events will be directed towards areas of urgent need in the community.

The Franciscan Health Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Franciscan Alliance, Inc. The Foundation is responsible for the advancement, investment and management of all charitable giving to the hospitals, clinics, and mission programs of the Franciscan Health Hospitals.



**Franciscan HEALTH
FOUNDATION**

Olympia Fields Park District Awarded \$270,600 OSLAD Grant

The Park District has been awarded a \$270,600 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for Phase II renovations at Sergeant Means Park. The Phase II project includes renovation of existing infrastructure as well as new facility installations such as upgraded tennis courts, new pickleball courts, new picnic shelter, bag toss games, rain garden/pollinator garden, extension of the existing trail system, and expansion of native prairie plantings and signage. Funding for the OSLAD Grant comes from the State of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Library News

Save the Date for the Following Library Events!

Check out the Park Forest Library events calendar at <https://www.pfpl.org> for registration information.

- Tropical Treats Virtual Cooking Class**
June 26 • 6:30–7:30pm
- Container Garden Secrets**
June 29 • 1–2pm
- Wealth Building 101 Workshop**
June 29 • 3–4pm