



Village of Olympia Fields

field notes

September 2025



National Night Out

The Olympia Fields Police Department hosted another fabulous National Night Out in Bicentennial Park. More than 1,200 people enjoyed this annual family friendly event. National Night Out happens across the country on the first Tuesday in August with the goal of enhancing the relationship between the community and law enforcement. From delicious food to a showcase of beautiful Corvettes, there was something for everyone. The children's faces were full of smiles as they participated in a variety of kid-friendly activities, including a petting zoo, bumper cars, inflatable slides, arts and crafts, and storytelling. The deejay played hits from various genres and decades. The camaraderie among all ages was undeniable. If you missed it, be sure to make it next year.

Jeff Cartwright Honored

The Village has dedicated the maintenance facility at the Department of Public Works to a stellar retired employee, Jeffery Cartwright. Cartwright is a beloved former Assistant Director of Public Works. During his 31-year tenure, Cartwright regularly drove through the community at 5 a.m., before his official workday began, to inspect the Village. He worked tirelessly in his quest for perfection in the Village. Even after he retired in 2019, he continued to share his wisdom. The Village surprised Cartwright with this honor. He thought he was stopping by to impart some of his institutional knowledge. In typical Cartwright fashion, he brought cookies as a treat for the staff, but instead he was treated with what he called "the nicest thing ever." The Jeffery Cartwright Maintenance Facility is a testament to Jeff's everlasting impact on the Village of Olympia Fields.

field notes



Multi-Year Road & Infrastructure Improvement Program

The \$500,000 road resurfacing and curb replacement project in the Wysteria subdivision, which commenced in late June 2025, has been completed. Construction crews projected 35-working days to finish but were able to bring the project to close earlier than anticipated. The Wysteria project is a component of Project 2 of the Village's road and infrastructure improvement program. Project 2 also includes future road and infrastructure work in the Arcadia, Hawthorne Hills, and Vienna Woods subdivisions.

The \$1.5 million Project 1 road and infrastructure work in the Graymoor and Olympia Fields East subdivisions is nearing completion. The road repaving is finished, and construction crews are wrapping up the last of the culvert replacement work, grading, and restoration of affected grassy areas.

continued on pg. 3

Road & Infrastructure Program continued from pg. 2

The Village plans to complete several road and infrastructure projects over the course of the next few years to improve streets and drainage systems where needed throughout the community. Refer to the Pavement Management Report included in the March 2025 *Field Notes* newsletter to find out where your street ranks in the Village's overall future road resurfacing plan.

And the Winner Is...

Summer Landscape Award Winners Announced

It's the end of summer...that means it's time for the Beautification Committee's annual Summer Landscape Awards. We thank the HOA presidents who nominated deserving homes in their subdivisions. Kudos to the nominees who worked diligently to maintain the curb appeal of their homes. Beautification Committee Chair Arlene Burke formally recognized the winners at the August 20, 2025, Board meeting. We congratulate the three top prizewinners on a job well done!

- **1st Place:** The Lee Family - Original Village
- **2nd Place:** The Johnson Family - The Greens
- **3rd Place:** The Taylor Family - Olympia Fields East (accepted by HOA President Carlando Owens)



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

50/50 Tree Program Returns in Fall

Good News! The Beautification Committee will be sponsoring a second 50/50 Tree Program in fall 2025 following up their successful 50/50 program in May 2025. Through this program, residents may purchase a tree(s) at 50% of the purchase price. The Village will split the cost of the tree(s) with the resident. Look out for more information about the fall 50/50 Tree Program later in September. **Note:** Beginning in 2026, the 50/50 Tree Program will only be offered in May.



Greeks in the Garden

Tolentine Park was the venue of choice for "Greeks in the Garden," sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Lambda Tau Omega Chapter, on June 13, 2025. The sorority hosted an elegant evening of light dining, fellowship, and discussions about all things gardening, in conjunction with the Twenty Pearls Foundation, Inc., and the Chicago Heights Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Guests were treated to a community garden opening celebration, which featured master gardeners who shared valuable gardening tips.

field notes



Get Your Green Thumb On...

The Community Garden at Tolentine Park (20700 Governors Highway) is open to the public. Plots are available to rent from April–October (weather permitting) for \$30 each for both Olympia Fields residents and non-residents. Call 708-481-7313 ext. 221.





New Library Board Members Appointed

Libraries are a key component of any community. The Olympia Fields Library Board is dedicated to feeding the residents' thirst for knowledge. Recently appointed to the Library Board, Mr. Keasar Driver and Ms. Fredi Taylor, were sworn into office by President Sterling M. Burke.

Driver specializes in telecommunications and broadband services and is an avid traveler. Taylor is a longtime educator and advocate for equity. Both Driver and Taylor believe that libraries help anchor a community and are passionate about supporting and strengthening our already robust library system.



Centennial Committee Survey

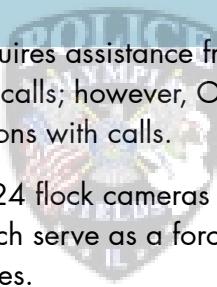
Preparations are underway for the Village's Centennial Anniversary in 2027. The Centennial Committee, chaired by Trustee Kelvin Oliver, is hard at work planning a variety of activities and mini-events leading up to our capstone celebration in 2027. As they plan, the Committee is interested in knowing the following:

- The names of residents who have lived in the village at least 25 years, 50 years, or 75 years.
- The homes that are approaching 100 years of age.
- The businesses/houses of worship that have been in Olympia Fields the longest.
- The "generational families"—children of families raised in the village who are now raising their own families here.

Your feedback to these survey questions is much appreciated. If you have answers to any of these queries, please forward your responses to the Centennial Committee at centennialcommittee@olympia-fields.com. Thank you!

Did You Know?

- The Olympia Fields Police Department (OFPD) comprises 19 officers, who are assigned across three shifts, ensuring 24-hour police coverage for Olympia Fields residents.
- The OFPD responds to 911 calls in less than 4 minutes, on average.
- The OFPD rarely requires assistance from other jurisdictions when responding to calls; however, OFPD officers routinely assist other jurisdictions with calls.
- There are a total of 24 flock cameras in the Village of Olympia Fields, which serve as a force multiplier to OFPD to deter and solve crimes.



Utility Project Info

The small colored flags in the ground in various areas of the Village denote that utility projects are happening at those locations. Now you can learn more about the work taking place in your neighborhood by visiting the Utility Projects page on the Village website at olympia-fields.com. Just click the Utility Projects button on the homepage for updates. Scan the QR code below to view the projects currently going on in the Village.



AT&T Comcast ComEd NICOR

Things to Do, Places to Go in Olympia Fields

Check out our "Things to Do, Places to Go" page on the Village website to find a listing of Village businesses, services, and amenities in our community. You will also find information about businesses offering special events, discounts, and limited time only promotions. Scan the QR code to visit the Things to Do, Places to Go page.



field
notes



Save the Date:

Halloween Candy Giveaway: Sunday, October 26, 2025, 2-4pm, Village Hall

Carol in the Park: Saturday, December 13, 2025, 2-4pm, Sgt. Means Park

Branch Pick Up Ends in October

Branch pickup concludes on the third Tuesday of October for the east side of the Village and the fourth Tuesday of October for the west side of the Village.

REMINDER: The Department of Public Works (DPW) will retrieve branches that have fallen **due to inclement weather events only**, i.e., storms and high winds.

Please Note the Following:

- Branches must be 8 inches or less in diameter.
- Branch bundles should be no more than 3 feet tall and must be placed on or near the curb line.
- Buckthorn trees and yard waste, i.e., weeds, grass, and flowers, will not be collected.
- Branches cut down by residents or private landscape contractors will not be collected.



Please call DPW at 708-503-8200 to schedule a pick-up of storm-related fallen branches.

Old Village Hall Reopens

What's old is new again...The interior rooms of Old Village Hall are undergoing a rehab. The Village is reopening Old Village Hall through a phased renovation that will create several meeting spaces for our homeowners' associations and committees. Rehab of the former board room has been completed and that space is currently available for meetings. Several restrooms have also been rehabbed for use. Once the full renovation has been completed, a total of three meeting spaces will be available. To reserve Old Village Hall for your next HOA or Village committee meeting, please contact the office at 708-503-8000. You will be provided a key/fob, which will allow your group to access the premises. Simply return the key/fob to the office when your meeting is over. Please note that this space is not available for event use or private rental.

