

Countryside CONNECTIONS

FALL 2023

www.countryside-il.org



Patriot Day Remembrance



American Legion Post 1941 hosted their annual Patriot Day remembrance ceremony at the Municipal Complex on Monday, September 11, 2023. It was a beautiful ceremony reminding attendees of the attacks on American soil 22 years ago. Dignitaries and first responders participated from the City of Countryside and the Village of La Grange. The program included: Ringing the Bell - Return to Quarters by the La Grange Fire Department; the Invocation by Post 1941 Chaplain Ray Hodson; American Legion Remarks by Al Krenz, Adjutant - Post 1941; Placement of Memorial Wreath by Countryside Mayor Sean McDermott and Clerk Liz Kmet; Rifle Salute by Post 1941 Rifle Squad; Playing of Taps by Post Bugler; and music by bagpiper, Steve LaRue.



Coffee with the Mayor - December 9th from 10-11 a.m.



Congressman Sean Casten was the guest speaker at Coffee with the Mayor, September 9th. Congressman Casten gave background information on his 5 years in office. He spoke about the current temperament of Congress and concerns he has about passing the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. He answered many questions from the audience on topics including electric vehicles/charging stations and the infrastructure improvements necessary, the Ukraine war, and the lack of political participation by young voters. The next coffee with the Mayor is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 a.m.



Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Program

Cook County is helping small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic lower energy costs, save water and reduce waste through their BRITE program. The County is offering free assessments that identify where potential environmental upgrades could be made. Grant opportunities are also available to help business owners purchase and install equipment that will help reduce pollution.

The program is available to *dry cleaners, auto body or auto repair shops, metal finishers and food and beverage manufacturers* that meet all of the following criteria:

- ➔ 500 or fewer full-time employees
- ➔ Located in suburban Cook County
- ➔ Negatively impacted with a proven loss of revenue from the pandemic
- ➔ Was in operation prior to 2020

For more information or to request an assessment, visit: www.cookcountyil.gov/BRITE.



Tornado

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023 an EF-1 tornado hit the City of Countryside. Ward 2 residents were impacted the most. Over 100 residential structures experienced damage to roofs, soffits, fascias, decks, sheds, gutters, windows, doors and garages. Numerous trees were taken down by the storm or lost significant branches.

The police and public works employees were immediately dispatched to the area. The first priority was to clear the streets of trees and debris to allow public safety access. The Pleasantdale Fire Protection District was dispatched to assist with downed power lines. But it was the residents who came out with chain saws, bottled water and a lot of energy that made a big difference. A special thank you was given at the July 17th City Council meeting to members of the Cub Scouts Pack 69, Boy Scouts of America Troop 69, and students from Pleasantdale and Lyons Township schools. Their community service during this difficult time was immeasurable. Ward 2 Alderman John Von Drasek said, "Thank you to everyone that came out to help clean up the entire area. I'm so proud of how many people came together. I'm grateful nobody was hurt."

The Community Development Department staff was dispatched to inspect homes for damage and habitability. They inspected 288 single family residences and 2 multi-family buildings in three days. Thank goodness only a few were uninhabitable.

The City also received assistance from neighboring towns including Bridgeview, Hodgkins, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lyons, Lyons Township Highway Division, and Willow Springs. Their assistance made the cleanup more manageable for our staff of only 12 in Public Works.

Volunteers

Cub Scouts Pack 69

Dominic Bruno-Gallo
Giovanni Bruno-Gallo
Vito Bruno-Gallo
Evan Engel
Madeline Engel
Michael Pintaro

BSA Troop 69

Gabi Casabal
Dylan Lovelace
Emily Lovelace
Egan Payne
Sophia Rodriguez
Zac Walsh

Student Volunteers

Isaiah Garcia-Enriquez
Ajeet Kapur
Alex Kobylarczyk
Maddox Lee
Michael Natale
Filip Radecki
Caden Schwartz
Connor Schwartz
Ryan Schwartz



Public Works Reminds You . . .

Fall Leaf Pick-Up (October 9- December 1)

Crews will be collecting leaves on a continuous cycle throughout the entire program period. The leaf collection program provides residents with an alternate way to dispose of leaves. Instead of bagging or mulching, residents may rake leaves onto the parkway.



In order for this program to be successful, we ask all residents to observe these guidelines:

- Leaves **SHOULD** be raked onto the parkway near the street.
- Leaves should **NOT** be raked into the street.
- Do **NOT** deposit branches, sticks, garbage, or other debris into the leaf pile. This can damage the equipment and cause a dangerous situation for our employees.

Please allow 7 to 10 working days between pick-ups as it typically takes a week or more to do a full cycle of the City.

Benefits of Mulching Leaves

Don't rake them, mulch them! Mulching is a great fall clean up option that eliminates large leaf piles and returns nutrients to your soil. Mulching leaves is simple: Just shred the leaves with your lawn mower as much as possible soon after they fall. Check to make sure that the mulched leaf material left behind is not excessive.

Mulching leaves has many benefits, not just for the lawn but for the environment. Mulching leaves reduces landfill space, helps prevent leaves from clogging up sewers, and keeps them away from surface water where the broken-down nutrients from the dead leaves can cause algae blooms. The leaves that collect on your lawn cover the grass, reducing air flow and sunlight that would otherwise reached the grass blades. This accumulation of leaves can cause the grass underneath to suffocate and die off.

Brush Pick-Up

Branch and brush pick-up will be provided through **October 31st**. Crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis. If you have questions, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.

Sunset Avenue Water Main

The City has contracted with Suburban General Construction, Inc. to replace the existing deteriorated 6" water main on Sunset Avenue between 71st Street and Stalford Road for a total distance of 3,127 feet. The \$1,582,753 project will consist of the construction of new 12" and 8" PVC water main, including hydrants, valves, water service reconnections, and the temporary restoration of all disturbed surfaces. The project was originally expected to be constructed this summer, so the street could be resurfaced this fall, but due to the underground industry being inundated with work this spring and summer, the City had to change the schedule to fall construction and rebid the project. Construction began on September 5, 2023, and is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2023. The City will be putting the resurfacing project out for bid in late fall/early winter and expects the resurfacing work to begin in the spring of 2024.

Remember... The Community Development Department reminds you that some home improvement projects require a permit, which can be obtained from the Community Development Department. Some examples of work that does not require a permit are painting, carpeting or flooring, landscaping (as long as it does not change the grading of the land), or sealing your driveway. Most other work around your home or business does require a permit and if you are ever in doubt - please call and your City staff will be happy to assist you with your questions. For more information or to answer any questions, please call the Community Development Department at (708) 354-1860.

Police Department

Sign Up Today For Our Updated Citizens Police Academy!



The Countryside Police Department is currently accepting applications from citizens who are interested in attending our next Citizens Police Academy. The goal of the Citizens Police Academy is to improve lines of communication with the community we serve, while providing participants a better understanding of police work.

Not only does this program help to build valuable relationships between our officers and the community but it provides the opportunity for citizens to experience firsthand the daily operations of a police department and to gain an insight into law enforcement practices and procedures. Our officers will present topics such as criminal and traffic law, evidence processing, investigations, and patrol procedures. Classes are taught in a casual atmosphere and will offer both informative and interactive experiences geared toward assisting citizens in understanding laws, police practices, and the tasks, challenges, and decisions our officers encounter every day.

The Citizens Police Academy is *free* to attend and classes will be held one evening per week for 6 weeks from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Any citizen over 18 years of age who lives, works, or volunteers in the City of Countryside is eligible to apply. With new technology, topics and content, past academy graduates are also encouraged to apply. Applications may be obtained by visiting the police department in person or online at <https://www.countryside-il.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CPA-Application-Fillable-2.pdf>.

Welcome Countryside's Newest Police Officer

Margaret Greenfield was sworn in by Mayor McDermott at the City Council meeting on September 13, 2023. Officer Greenfield spent her first week with the department in orientation and she started the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at College of DuPage on August 28, 2023. The academy runs for 16 weeks and Officer Greenfield is scheduled to graduate on December 15, 2023. After graduation Officer Greenfield will complete a minimum of 12 weeks of field training with Countryside Field Training Officers learning the streets of Countryside. *Welcome Officer Greenfield!*



Sign Up for Emergency And Community Notifications with "Alerts"

What is Alerts powered by Smart911? Alerts is the Countryside Police Department's official emergency alert and notification system. This system is used to send alerts to the public during emergencies. This service is free to Countryside residents and allows you to sign up online to receive customized alerts via text message, email, and voice message. You can also choose to receive customizable community notifications. These include notifications about severe weather, safety, health, utility disruptions, major traffic incidents, and more.

Why should I sign-up for Alerts powered by Smart911? When emergencies happen, be the first to know. The Countryside Police Department uses Alerts powered by Smart911 to send official, real-time alerts to the public with information about potentially life-saving actions they may need to take to keep themselves and their families safe.

How does it work? When an emergency occurs that meets the criteria for sending out an alert to the public, emergency dispatchers for the Countryside Police Department will gather the necessary information and push out an alert to the affected area. Alerts can be sent out city-wide to everyone who has opted-in to the system, or to a specific area or neighborhood for more localized events.

How do I sign-up for Alerts powered by Smart911? Finding out more information and signing up is easy! Just visit our website at <https://www.countryside-il.org/smart911-and-alerts/>.

If you need helping signing up or if you have any questions, you may send an email to police@countrysidepolice.org or call the police department at (708) 352-2171.

Creative Academy Ribbon Cutting

Creative Academy, a brand new daycare center located at 6535 Joliet Rd, is set to open its doors and provide a nurturing and inspiring environment for your little ones. This exciting addition to our City is sure to bring joy and peace of mind to families in need of quality childcare.

The center will offer a wide range of activities tailored to different age groups, including interactive play, arts and crafts, story time, and educational games. From infants to preschoolers, Creative Academy will provide age-appropriate programs that promote cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Congratulations to Creative Academy's owners, Angel and Ray Woods. For more information visit <https://creativeacademycc.org/>.



Route 66 Monument Sign

The Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau (HCCVB), an Illinois non-profit, received Route 66 grant funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The State of Illinois made the grant funds available to HCCVB for the purpose of celebrating the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Route 66 (2026), which included the fabrication and delivery of Route 66 monuments along the first 100 miles of Route 66. The HCCVB offered one of the interactive monument signs to the City of Countryside to promote tourism in Illinois. The sign has been installed at 6402 Joliet Road. A big thank you to Chariot Towing for allowing the installation on their property. Stop by and take your picture with or in the sign.



Welcome to Countryside

All Star Pediatrics

6410 Joliet Road
Pediatrician Office



Avis/Budget Rent a Car

9665 W. 55th Street
Auto rental

Barber Shaves & Trims

23 Countryside Plaza, Suite 121
Hair salon



Uncle John's Bar & Grill

6542 Joliet Road
Bar and grill

Upcoming Meetings

OCTOBER

3	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
11	City Council	7:30 p.m.
17	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
25	City Council	7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
8	City Council	7:30 p.m.
14	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

5	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
13	City Council	7:30 p.m.
12	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
19	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.

A Special Thank You to Westfield Ford for being our Presenting Sponsor and all the attendees for coming out and enjoying the music at our Summer Concerts in the Park.

Bluegrass & Brews Festival

Bluegrass and Brews Fest in Countryside delights music and beer enthusiasts! On August 26th, the City of Countryside came alive with the rhythmic melodies of three talented bands: Don Stiernberg Trio, Chicken Wire Empire, and Anderlik, Otto, and Church Bluegrass Band. This lively festival also showcased the craftsmanship of BuckleDown Brewing and Imperial Oak Brewing, offering a delightful selection of brews to complement the foot-stomping music. It was an unforgettable day of toe-tapping tunes and delicious food from our three food vendors: Ledos, Monks, and Grz Grub.



Back To School Celebration and Neighborhood Festival

The City of Countryside and School District 105 hosted their second annual Outdoor Wellness Fair/ Neighborhood Festival at Ideal School Park. There were 34 vendors that supplied hygiene kits, back packs filled with school supplies, and mental health material for school age children. 400 local D105 families benefitted from the event. We would like to thank our presenting sponsor Autobarn Subaru, and our other sponsors: the Greater Chicago Food Depository, D105, Community Memorial Foundation, The Leader Shop, and Pepsico Adelante team for raising funds to purchase the book bags and school supplies. The afternoon was spent playing bingo and listening to great live music from the band Timeless.



Flagg Creek Golf Course Updates

Hole-in-One!



Marlene Wiet, age 90 of La Grange Park got a hole-in-one on the 8th hole on August 22nd. Marlene was golfing with her daughter Liz when they witnessed this incredible moment!

Celebrating 30 Years in July

Congratulations to Flagg Creek Golf Course on its 30th Anniversary! We

continue to grow and make the course a welcoming place for golfers of all ages. Thank you to our staff who has made each year a great success and a special place in the community.



Driveway Apron Snow Removal Program

Citizens 62 and older and disabled residents may sign up each year to have their driveway aprons plowed if more than 2-inches of snow falls. This removal will be done **ONLY** after all City streets are cleared. Please note that the City is **NOT** responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, please fill out the form below and return to the City Clerk's office. Allow 48 hours for processing.

**City of Countryside
Senior/Disability Snow Removal Program Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____, Countryside, IL 60525

Home Phone #:: _____ Mobile Phone #: _____

Email: _____

How many driveways do you have? _____

What street is your driveway on? _____

Basis of Application (initial where applicable)

_____ I am 62 years or older.

_____ I have enclosed: (1) medical certification from my doctor confirming my disability and inability to shovel/remove snow; or (2) A copy of the Secretary of State License Disability Placard or registration of disability through Social Security.

Please note that once we receive your form, it will take up to 48 hours to be registered.

By submitting this documentation, I hereby voluntarily release protected health information to the City of Countryside that is otherwise protected by law, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA).

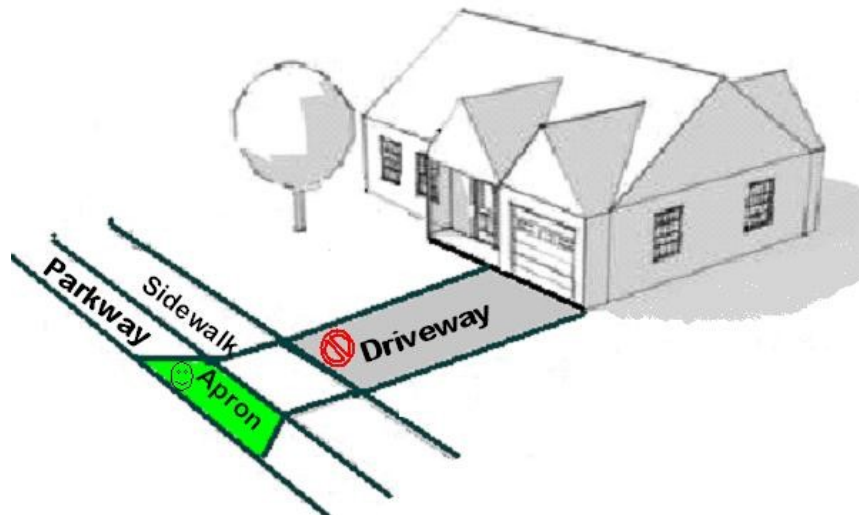
The resident(s) hereby release and hold the City, its officers, officials, and employees harmless from any damage to property or other liability which arises directly or indirectly from the City's snow removal program.

I state that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, correct and complete.

Applicant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

What is/isn't included in this program:



Community Events

Angel Tree Program

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community? Do you know of a Countryside resident or family that could use a little help this holiday season? After many years of success, the City of Countryside is once again hosting our Angel Tree Program.



Beginning November 6th, our beautiful Angel Tree will be on display in the City Clerk's office. Generous sponsors are invited to select an individual or family from the tree and purchase gifts from their wish list. All gift recipients are anonymous. The donated gifts should be returned to the Clerk's Office by December 11th. Gifts will be distributed to families from December 13th through the 22nd.

The Angel Tree Program is an excellent opportunity for residents, families, community groups, and coworkers to spread holiday cheer to others who may not otherwise receive a gift this year. Check out our website at www.countryside-il.org/special-events or contact the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270 for additional information.

Small Business Saturday November 25, 2023



Countryside residents can join in and support the small businesses in our neighborhood and across our City by shopping small.



Reminder...

Children's Christmas Party
Date: Saturday, 12-2-23
Place: Premier Catering & Events
6240 Joliet Road
Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon
For more information, call (708) 354-7270.



WHERE: *Flagg Creek Golf Course*
6939 S. Wolf Road

DATE: *Saturday, January 13, 2024*

TIME: *1 - 4 P.M.*

Some of the tentative activities include: DJ, a photo booth, face painting, snowflake bingo, craft project, kids games. More information will be coming soon.

For more details, call (708) 485-2595 or visit www.countryside-il.org/special-events.

Upcoming Holidays

Please note that City Hall will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veteran's Day - Friday, November 10, 2023

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 23, 2023

Friday after Thanksgiving - November 24, 2023

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 26, 2023



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
So Suburban, IL
Permit No. 928

OFFICIALS

Mayor

Sean McDermott

Clerk

Elizabeth Kmet

Treasurer

Courtney Bolt

Aldermen

Mark Benson

John Finn

Tom Frohlich

Thomas Mikolyzk

Scott Musillami

John Von Drasek



Websites to Know

City of Countryside

www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk

www.cookcountyclerk.com

Flagg Creek Golf Course

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org

Pleasant Dale Park District

www.pdparks.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection District

www.plvw.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911

City Hall/Clerk's Office:

Main: (708) 354-7270

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Community Development:

Main: (708) 354-1860

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Police Department:

Main: (708) 352-2171 (non-emergency)

Fax: (708) 352-1032

Public Works:

Main: (708) 354-3390

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Water Billing:

Main: (708) 485-2465

Fax: (708) 354-9445

Disclaimer: If you attend a local festival or City function and the event is photographed, your image may be used for news and promotional purposes.