

Countryside CONNECTIONS

FALL 2025

www.countryside-il.org



Patriot Day Remembrance

The American Legion Post 1941 organized the remembrance ceremony which took place on September 11th. The City would like to thank all members of Post 1941, Pleasantview Fire Protection District, La Grange Fire Department, Countryside Police Department and members of the community for your participation. September 11th is a day in U.S. history which will never be forgotten. Commander, Bill Kiddon of Post 1941 led the ceremony, Chaplain Ray Hodson gave the invocation, Mayor Sean McDermott and Clerk Liz Kmet placed the memorial wreath, Steve LaRue played the bagpipes, the Post Bugler played the Taps and the Post 1941 Rifle squad provided a rifle salute.



FALL / 2025

Coffee with the Mayor - December 6th from 10-11 a.m.

Residents joined Mayor Sean McDermott for coffee and refreshments on Saturday, September 13th. The Mayor welcomed State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid who represents Illinois' 21st House District which covers the southwest side of Chicago as well as the west and southwest suburbs including a portion of the City of Countryside. His discussion covered the legislative priorities in Springfield with a focus on property tax relief for seniors and access to affordable housing. There was detailed discussions and Q&A related to the availability and qualifications for the Senior Freeze Property Tax Exemption as well as the proposed legislation aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing for young families.

The Mayor also welcomed the City's Finance Director, Dave Schutter, who gave a presentation on the City's partnership with the Village of Western Springs which provides the City of Countryside's residents with access to their recreational facilities, programs, and activities at the Village's resident rates. In exchange for this benefit, the agreement between the parties provides for shared use of the City's park facilities. Following this general overview Finance Director Schutter specifically focused on membership options for the Village of Western Springs Senior Center including all the classes, activities, and events offered under each membership structure.



Please mark your calendar for the next Coffee with the Mayor which will be held in the City Council Chambers on December 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Coming Soon - Countryside's New Larry Robb Park in Ward 2

In 2022 the City acquired the property commonly known as 10701 5th Avenue Cutoff. After acquiring the property, the City demolished the existing structure and driveway in early 2023 and cleared the site this summer. The City bid out the construction contract to construct the park which was awarded to Schwartz Construction Group. The scope of the work includes the following: construction of an accessible park with playground equipment installed, installation of rubberized playground surface, permeable paver parking lot installation, drainage improvements including bioretention facilities, a walking path around the park, security camera installation, and landscape improvements. Construction is expected to begin October 1st with an expected substantial completion date by the end of November of 2025.



Police Updates

Tip A Cop Has Another Successful Year

On August 25th, Countryside Police partnered with our local Texas Roadhouse to host a Tip-A-Cop event benefitting Illinois Special Olympics, a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 different sporting events to a community of more than 55,000 participants with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics enables these athletes to realize their full potential in sports and in life by enhancing physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills, and family support. In total, \$1,109.00 was raised at the event. We extend our sincere thanks to our partners at Countryside Texas Roadhouse for their warm hospitality and to Ledo's Pizza, Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, Hooters, and Fullers for their generous sponsorship of this year's fundraiser.



E-Bike Rider Responsibility

The explosion in popularity of e-bikes has, unfortunately, also led to a dramatic increase in the number of complaints the Countryside P.D. has received regarding their unsafe use by riders within our community. We want to remind e-bikers of some of their responsibilities under Illinois law and local ordinance so everyone remains safe. Here are a few highlights:

- Class 1, 2, and 3 bikes cannot be ridden on sidewalks
- All riders must follow local traffic control devices
- Riders shall ride as near to the right as possible
- The use of cell phones is prohibited while riding
- Class 3 riders must be 16 years of age
- No more than 1 rider per bike
- Group Riders in should be single file
- No clinging to other vehicles/bikes

It should be noted that the Countryside City Ordinance governing the use of e-bikes forbids operating these devices in a manner that creates a nuisance which annoys, disturbs, or disrupts the public peace. Furthermore, riders are forbidden from riding e-bikes in a manner that shows willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. To this end, it is the duty of any parent or guardian to ensure their minor child follows the provisions of this ordinance and Illinois Vehicle Code to the letter. Failure to do so will result in the seizure and impoundment of the e-bike and the owner of record will be liable to the City for a bond of \$250 to release the bike prior to hearing. Countryside's complete e-bike ordinance can be found at www.countryside-il.org.



	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

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)

1

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

Mainstreet Wines & Spirits Celebrating 40 Years in Countryside

Mainstreet Wines & Spirits is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Countryside. In an industry increasingly dominated by large



chains, this family-owned business has focused on personalized service, a passion for great beverages at great prices, and complimentary weekly in-store wine tastings. Mainstreet's curated selection rivals much larger retailers, with wines, spirits, and beers available for everyone's preferences.

Getting to know their customers by name, learning their tastes, and making suitable recommendations has been fundamentally important to Mainstreet's owners, John Walano and John Fotopoulos. For many customers, the Saturday in-store wine tastings (2-6pm) continue to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with new people and try terrific new wines. Mainstreet looks forward to celebrating its 40th anniversary with old and new customers at a special complimentary in-store tasting with wines, beers, and small bites on Oct. 18. For more information, go to <https://mainstreetwine.us>



Public Works Reminds You . . .

Fall Leaf Pick-Up (October 13 - November 28)



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 saves landfill space, prevents leaves from clogging 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 have 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.

Let us know if your street light is out!



For neighborhood safety, please contact the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390 if a street light is not working or if the lens is broken. Have the location and/or address near the pole available when you call.

WELCOME to Countryside

- **KCPT, Inc.**, 9910 W. 55th St., #A
Physical Therapy & Rehab-lifting
- **Next Step Physical Therapy**, 919 W. 55th St., #A
Physical Therapy clinic
- **iRepair Tek**, 24 E. Plainfield Rd.
Cell, Laptop, Computer repair shop
- **Grit & Grace Yoga**, 919 W. 55th St., #A
Yoga & Fitness classes
- **TLAFF, LLC**, 5435 S. LaGrange Rd., Ste B
Laundromat
- **American Family Insurance Agency**
475 W. 55th St., Ste 205

Upcoming Holidays

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

- Veteran's Day - **November 11, 2025**
- Thanksgiving Day - **November 27, 2025**
- Friday after Thanksgiving - **November 28, 2025**
- Christmas Eve - **December 24, 2025**
- Christmas Day - **December 25, 2025**

Countryside Bluegrass Festival

The Countryside Bluegrass Fest is a perfect blend of music, culture, and craft beer. On August 16th, the City of Countryside came alive with the rhythmic melodies of five talented Bluegrass Bands. Wheels North, River Valley Rangers, Chicken Wire Empire, The Grateful String Band and Anderlik, Otto, and Church Band. We showcased the craftsmanship of BuckleDown Brewing and Imperial Oak Brewing that offered a delightful selection of brews to complement the foot-stomping music. It was an unforgettable day and even though the rain didn't allow for all the bands to play it was still a great night with music and delicious food from our four food vendors: Ledos, Da Taco Goat, Grz Grub and Beach Ave BBQ. Whether you're a die-hard bluegrass fan or a casual festival-goer, this event has something for everyone, making it a highlight on the calendar of music and beer lovers alike.



Back to School Health and Resource Fair

The fourth annual Back to School Health and Resource Fair hosted by The City of Countryside and School District 105 was on August 9th, 2025 at Ideal School. 40 vendors supplied hygiene kits, mental health material for school age children, and back packs filled with school supplies. 500 local D105 families benefitted from this event. We would like to thank our presenting sponsor Glaser and Randhawa Mental Health Group.



Statewide Organ and Tissue Donation Campaign

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has launched a public awareness campaign encouraging Illinoisans to spark a lifesaving "ripple effect" by becoming organ donors. Illinois has one of the largest registries in the nation, averaging over 20,000 sign-ups per month across DMV facilities, with around 6.5 million total current registrants. A single donor can save or improve the lives of up to 25 people. Approximately 4,000 people are on the transplant waiting list and tragically about 300 die waiting for a transplant every year.



To become an organ donor, Illinoisans can register with the Secretary of State's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by visiting LifeGoesOn.com, calling (800) 210-2106 or signing up at the DMV.

Flagg Creek Golf Course Updates

The Flagg Creek Golf Course had another successful "Play for P.I.N.K." event with the Ladies Leagues. The golf course has raised over \$4,000 for research funding for breast cancer. Thanks to our incredible supporters!



Chicks with Sticks League Year-End *Night in Venice* Party



Fall Golf Scramble

DATE: Sunday, October 12, 2025
TIME: 2:00 pm shotgun start
COST: \$280 per foursome
The fee includes golf, cart, food, & prizes.



Breakfast with Santa

PLACE: Flagg Creek Golf Course
6939 S. Wolf Road
DATES: Sunday, December 7
Saturday, December 13
TIME: 10:00 AM
Reservations required to attend



2025

FLAGG CREEK GOLF COURSE WINTERFEST CANCELLED

Due to the Clubhouse Under Construction

Healthy Countryside

CONGREGATE MEALS AT LA BELLA EVENTS

Days: Monday through Friday

Time: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Location: La Bella Events

5412 LaGrange Rd., Countryside, IL 60525

Cost: \$3.00 suggested donation

The Congregate Meals Program offers a freshly prepared, nutritious lunch all while enjoying the company of friends.

IMPORTANT: Reservations are required.

Please call **708-603-2269**

48 hours in advance to make a reservation or to cancel a reservation.

Eligibility:

- 60+ Older adult
- 60+ Older adult's spouse who is lawfully married regardless of sex and age
- Individuals with disabilities who reside with a 60+ older adult in a noninstitutional household

Any eligible individual who cannot donate is still able to receive a meal at absolutely no cost. There is a suggested donation of \$3.00/meal



Because Aging Well Matters



Guest Policy

- 60+ older adults may bring a guest or caregiver under the age of 60
- The guest must pay the full cost of the meal

Presented by:



choosing healthy. thriving together.



Thank you to our Initial Sponsors:



Sign up for one or multiple sessions
PLUS sign up for our outdoor sessions
at Countryside Park on Saturday,
October 25 from 9-10 am

La Bella Events
5412 S. La Grange Rd., Countryside

- 2nd Wednesdays: Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12 & Dec 10
- 12:45 – 1:30 pm
- Chair or Standing options
- If age 60+, sign up also for the Congregate Meals Program (708.603.2269) and enjoy a \$3 lunch 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.
- RSVP 48 hours in advance.
- Phone registration also available: 708.603.2269 – online preferred

- Movement, mindfulness, & social connection
- Adults of all fitness levels
- Trained instructors
- Take-home resources

- Movimiento, mindfulness y conexión social
- Adultos de todas las condiciones físicas
- Instructores formados
- Recursos para llevar a casa.

First Congregational Church of WS
1106 Chestnut, Western Springs

- 1st & 3rd Thursdays: Oct 2 & 16, Nov 6 & 20 and Dec 4 & 18
- 9:30 – 10:30 am
- Bring mat if you have one
- Advise if need chair
- Phone registration also available: 708-246-1900 – online preferred

RSVP / Get more details

optwell.org/events/mindful-movement-sessions/



Community Events



Tree of Hope 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 Tree of Hope. Beginning November 10th, our beautiful 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 12th. Gifts will be distributed to families from December 15th through the 19th. The Tree of Hope 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.



City staff get in the Halloween spirit each year. The Clerk's Office, Administration, Finance, and Community Development staff dressed up as M&M's in 2024. The City Hall welcomes trick-or-treaters during regular business hours. Have a safe holiday.



Upcoming Meetings



OCTOBER		
7	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
8	City Council	7:30 p.m.
21	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
22	City Council	7:30 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
4	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
12	City Council	7:30 p.m.
18	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.
DECEMBER		
2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:15 p.m.
9	Fire & Police Commission	5:00 p.m.
10	City Council	7:30 p.m.
16	Flagg Creek Admin. Board	6:00 p.m.



City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

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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.