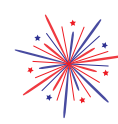


CONNECTIONS

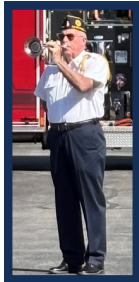
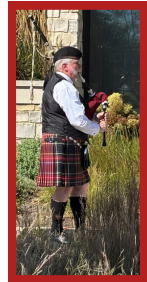


PATRIOT DAY

★ ★ ★ Day ★ ★ ★



Patriot Day is an annual observance held on September 11th to honor the lives lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It is hard to believe 25 years have passed. The City wants to thank the American Legion 1941, Pleasantview Fire Protection District, Countryside Police Department and public servants from neighboring communities for a heartwarming ceremony.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

On July 7th Mayor Sean McDermott welcomed Illinois Senator Mike Porfiro, District 11 and Shantel Franklin, candidate for Illinois House of Representatives, District 8. The Mayor thanked Senator Porfiro for securing a total of \$750,000 in funding for the City's infrastructure improvements and his work with veterans.

Senator Mike Porfiro discussed his legislative agenda. He worked on the Serve Act with Shantel Franklin which provides protections for service members at universities. He has also secured funding to start clinical trials of break through therapies to promote veteran suicide prevention.

Shantel Franklin won the primary and is running unopposed in the general election. She introduced herself to the residents and discussed some of her agenda items. The Mayor closed by thanking the Duck Stop located at 10000 75th Street for their generous donation of refreshments.



NEXT COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR - DECEMBER 12, 2026 10 a.m.



NEW APPOINTMENTS



ALDERWOMAN

COURTNEY BOLT

Former Treasurer, Courtney Bolt was appointed Ward 2 Alderwoman at the August 12th City Council meeting. We are grateful for her time, dedication and service in the Treasurer role.

Alderwoman Bolt replace a former Ward 2 alderman who retired July 31st. We are thrilled to see her continue her public service as alderwoman. We look forward to see what's to come. Congratulations, Courtney!



TREASURER

JACK BENTON

Jack Benton was appointed Treasurer at the September 9th City Council meeting. Jack lives with his wife Laura and their daughter Ellie in Ward 3. He is an active member of the community, volunteer coach at the Pleasant Dale Park District and participates in numerous events within School District 105.

Jack is a former member of Countryside's Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. Jack is looking forward to continuing to interact with his community and working alongside all of the local officials.



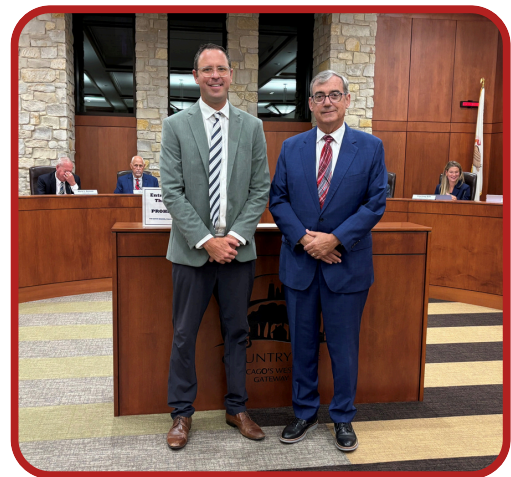
PLAN COMMISSION/ZBA COMMISSIONER

TED VERNON

Ted was appointed commissioner at the September 23rd City Council meeting. Ted replaced Jack Benton on the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (PC/ZBA).

Ted resides in Ward 3 with his wife, Christina and daughters Margo and Ella. In addition to serving on the PC/ZBA, Ted also serves as a board member of the Barrett Boesen Foundation and the Chicago Interactive Marketing Association.

Ted has over 15 years of sales experience. We look forward to Ted brining his business perspective to the commission.



If you are interested in serving your community, please complete the Board/Commission Interest Form which, can be found on the City's website under forms.

CONSTRUCTION Updates

We know you've noticed construction is everywhere in Countryside. We understand your frustration with traffic backups and motorists cutting through onto residential streets. Unfortunately, most of the projects are out of our control and in the hands of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The City's staff engineer was able to updates from the contractors for the three IDOT jobs currently impacting Countryside. Please see updates to the right. Thank you for your patience.



55th St. looking east at the La Grange Rd. intersection.

SAVE THE DATES...

City of Countryside's Annual
Children's Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5th, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 11:30am
Premier Catering & Events - 6240 Joliet Road
Tickets may be picked up at City Hall Monday through
Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm beginning November 9th, 2026.
For more information, please call: 708-354-7270
Don't forget your camera
to take photos with Santa!



IDOT UPDATES

55th STREET (I-294 to PLAINFIELD ROAD)

IDOT intends to substantially complete this project this fall, including milling, paving, striping and installing fall landscape plantings. They will be back in spring for spring plantings.

55th STREET & LA GRANGE ROAD - The current phase should be completed by November. This includes installation of the 60" storm sewer, other storm sewer construction and the concrete barrier due to depth of the sewer. IDOT intends to substantially complete the project by the fall, 2027 with some landscaping work in the spring, 2028.

JOLIET ROAD & BRAINARD AVENUE - The contractor intends to complete all the storm sewer improvements and roadway widening on the NE corner of the intersection. They are committed to completing as much work as possible before year end which may include the widening on the NW corner. The City anticipates the contractor will be back in the spring to complete the milling, paving & striping and landscaping.

WINTERFEST 2027
PLACE: FLAGG CREEK GOLF COURSE
DATE: SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 2027
TIME: 1-4 P.M.
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES.
FOR MORE INFO CALL 708-455-2595



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Burlington is doing an interior buildout of 29,598 SF and exterior changes including signage at the former JoAnn Fabrics location. Burlington offers name brand merchandise at reasonable prices for the family and home.



DUNKIN'

Dunkin' Donuts has submitted plans to demolish their current building at 5500 S. La Grange Road to build a new 2,064 SF store with a drive-thru. This project will include a new parking lot configuration, parking lot lights and landscape islands.



Planet Fitness is also moving into Countryside Plaza. They are combining the former Party City and Edible Arrangements sites. This location will be 13,255 SF and will feature state-of-the-art equipment, the PF Black Card Spa®, clean locker rooms, and friendly team members. The development costs are estimated at \$750,000. See the PF Countryside website for more information. They plan to open in November, 2026.



A new restaurant and event space at 6420 Joliet Road has been approved. This 20,895 SF location will be completely remodeled in the interior to convert the former car dealership. Exterior work includes a covered patio, covered drive-thru for customer drop off, and parking lot improvements. The construction cost estimate is \$5 million. They plan to open January, 2027.



A permit has been issued to Jewel Osco at 5545 S. Brainard Avenue for a complete remodeling of the interior space. The 61,349 SF remodeling project will include adding 1,500 SF for 2 new front vestibules. They will also update their parking lot and make all improvements ADA compliant. The construction cost estimate is \$1.8 million. Substantial completion is expected by year end.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT continued



Texas Roadhouse located at 9960 Joliet Road moved into the City Center Development over 10 years ago. A new 480 SF addition is planned for 2026-2027. This addition will increase seating and decrease customer wait time.



Development is also occurring in the Dansher Industrial Park. The building located at 5325 9th Avenue was issued a permit for a complete interior remodel, installation of a new generator, parking lot improvements, upgrades to the exterior lighting and fence installation. The construction cost estimate is \$12.2 million for this 19,441 SF facility. The work is expected to take 9-12 months.

OLD CITY HALL PROPERTY DEMOLISHED

The old City Hall and Police Station has been demolished. The foundation walls for the City Hall basement turned out to be 12" - 15" thick with lots of rebar making removal a tedious task. The basement was originally built to be a storm/bomb shelter. Once all the foundation walls are removed, the contractor will begin to backfill the area with compacted clay fill. All materials will be removed from the site with most building materials being recycled.



WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Hausrack Interiors ~ Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling ~ 1408 W. 55th Street
Cameo Dental Specialists ~ Dental Office ~ 5650 S. Brainard Avenue



ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

Business and liquor license renewals will be mailed in November. Please submit your completed renewal form and payment by 12/31/2026 to avoid penalties.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 4th, 2026, the Countryside Police Department hosted National Night Out in partnership with the Villages of Brookfield, La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs Police Departments. This event is an annual community-building event held at locations across the country to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities served.

The year's event featured local vendors, community organizations, giveaways, games, and special appearances by Southpaw, the Chicago White Sox mascot, and the McDonald's Hamburglar. Hundreds of community members joined us for an evening of fun and the opportunity to meet their local police officers and other first responders. We appreciate everyone who attended and those who helped make this year's National Night Out a success!

Congratulations to Lawrence Johnson, winner of 4 box seat tickets and a parking pass to a Chicago White Sox game. Stay tuned for next year's event, which will be held in one of our neighboring communities.



TEXAS ROADHOUSE FUNDRAISER

On August 24, the Countryside Police Department held our annual "Tip a Cop" fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse. During the event, our officers assisted the Texas Roadhouse staff with serving customers and interacting with those who stopped by for a great meal. Tips and other generous donations collected during the event benefit Special Olympics Illinois and help support the organization's athletes and programs. ***This year's event raised \$1,325.75 in cash plus all credit card donations, which went directly to Special Olympics.***

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, enjoyed a meal, and supported this worthy cause. We greatly appreciate your generosity and continued support of Special Olympics Illinois!



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES cont.

SCAM AWARENESS

The police department has recently seen an increase in scams being attempted via email, text message, and telephone. These scammers use a variety of tactics to convince victims to provide banking information, personal identifying information, or even cash.

The tactics used in these scams can be very convincing. Scammers may send realistic-looking emails that encourage victims to call phone numbers controlled by the scammer or click on malicious links. These links can direct victims to websites designed to trick them into providing confidential information. We recommend following these tips if you suspect that you have encountered a scam:



- Don't click on links in unexpected emails or text messages.
- Verify alerts by typing the organization's official website address directly into your browser rather than clicking on a link.
- Be wary of urgent language demanding immediate or fast action.
- Hang up on unsolicited calls from people who demand access to your electronic devices, bank accounts, or personal identifying information.
- Verify information independently by contacting your bank, the police department, or other organizations directly using publicly listed phone numbers, or by visiting them in person.

Please don't hesitate to call us at **708-352-2171** if you are ever suspicious of an email, text message, or phone call you receive. An officer will be glad to respond and assist you in determining whether it is a scam attempt.

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

BRUSH PICK-UP ENDS OCTOBER 31ST

Branch and brush pickup will be provided through October 31st. Crews will be covering the entire City on a weekly basis.

LEAF PICK-UP BEGINS OCTOBER 12th

Crews will be collecting leaves on a continuous cycle throughout town from October 12th - December 1st. The leaf program provides residents with an alternative way to dispose of leaves. Instead of bagging or mulching, residents may rake leaves onto the parkway.

For it to be successful the City asks residents to observe these guidelines:

- Leaves **SHOULD** be reaked onto the parkway near the street;
- Leaves **SHOULD NOT** be raked into the street; and
- Do **NOT** deposit branches, sticks, garbage or other debris into the leaf pile. This can damage the equipment and cause harm to our employees.

Please allow 7 to 10 working days between pick-ups. This is a labor intensive program which, typically takes a week or more to make a full cycle throughout the City.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SREJMA – MICHALEK MEMORIAL PARK



This park is named after Jerry Srejma and Gary Michalek who gave their lives fighting a fire in Countryside on October 26, 1981. This year is the 45th anniversary of their ultimate sacrifice. The City is replacing all the playground equipment. This will be the first Countryside park to have a friendship swing, zipline, and adjustable basketball hoops. The Pleasantview Fire Protection District is creating memorial pillars in Firefighters Srejma and Michalek's honor. Please join us as we rededicate this park on **Saturday, October 24th at 10:30 a.m.** including a ceremony to honor these brave firefighters.



This is the first park equipped with a friendship swing, zipline, and adjustable basketball hoops in town. Residents **Luke and Eva Szczepaniak and Theo Studzinski** have been checking the progress daily.

LARRY ROBB PARK



Unfortunately the contractor had an issue with the fence which caused a 4 week delay. Upon its delivery, the fence installation and landscaping will be completed. This is expected to take approximately 2 weeks. This park will be dedicated in the memory of Larry Robb, long time resident of 5th Avenue Cut-Off, race car enthusiast and neighborhood picnic planner. The dedication is scheduled for **Thursday, October 29th at 11:00 a.m.**

ANDREW WHITING MEMORIAL PARK

Bruce and Joanne Montgomery moved to Countryside in 1962. Bruce taught history at Highlands Middle School for 35 years. Joanne had many secretarial positions including secretary to the principal at Lyons Township High School. Their daughters dedicated a bench in their memory. Mayor Sean McDermott and Alderman Mark Benson participated in the dedication.



COMMUNITY EVENTS Cont.



The OptWell **WALK WITH A DOC** program kicked off Tuesday, September 15th. Unfortunately due to the weather the event was moved indoors at the Park District of La Grange. There were approximately 40 participants who had an opportunity to exercise and ask Doctors questions at the same time. The next walk is **October 20th at 11 a.m.** Please register at www.optwell.org/events/walk-with-a-doc/.



The Countryside **HEALTHY KIDS RUNNING SERIES** is back. This program helps children to set their own goals for improvement each week. The program runs on Sunday afternoons at **3 PM at Countryside Park**. The series runs for five weeks. Please join the group for fun, fitness, and friendship.

Countryside Park is located at 61st & Kensington

Sept 27 | Oct 4 | Oct 11 | Oct 18 | Oct 25 | Rain date: Nov 1



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 9th, our beautiful tree will be on display in the City Clerk's office. You 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 14th** wrapped or unwrapped. Gifts will be distributed to families from December 14th through the 18th. The Tree of Hope Program is a great opportunity for residents, families, community groups, and coworkers to spread holiday cheer to others who may not otherwise receive a gift. Check out our website at www.countryside-il.org/special-events or call the Clerk's Office at (708) 354-7270 for additional information.

FLAGG CREEK GOLF COURSE



New **HOLE IN ONE** league members:

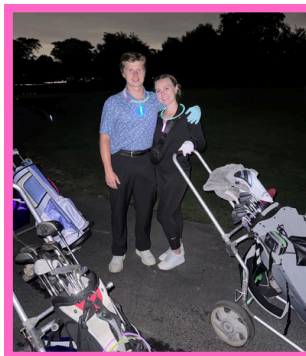
Candy Papanicholas - Hole #2 (Wed. Ladies League) **Play for P.I.NK. Event**

Richard Minshall - Hole #4 Mustangs Men's Club

L.T. WINS!!!



Congratulations to the Lyons Township High School golf team for taking 1st place in the L.T. Boys Golf Invitational on September 12th. In addition, Greyson Kuta won medalist by shooting a 63 (18 holes). Greyson started playing at Flagg Creek on our Junior League program and has been playing here ever since. He considers "Flagg Creek" as his home course. **Way to go Greyson!!!**



The course was lit up Friday night, September 18th for the annual **NIGHT GOLF** event. Each golfer receives 2 glow golf balls, glow items to wear and put on your clubs for safety and a drink ticket. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed the evening. Come out next year!



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 6th & Saturday, December 12th

Doors open at **10:00 AM**

\$35 Adults, \$20 Kids (13 yrs. & under)

Registration coming soon to:

www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.com

Fall / 2026

SPECIAL EVENTS



BLUEGRASS FEST 2026

Saturday, September 12th Countryside Park was filled with toe-tapping music, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a fantastic crowd enjoying a beautiful evening. Grassfed Collective kicked off the festivities, followed by Chicken Wire Empire and Big Sky Ensemble, each bringing their own energy and style to the stage. The Grateful String Band closed out the evening with their unique bluegrass take on Grateful Dead favorites. The night wrapped up with an incredible all-band jam session.

Of course, no festival is complete without great food and drinks. Ledo's Pizza and Tacos Mario kept festivalgoers well-fed, while BuckleDown Brewing, Imperial Oak Brewing, and Brio provided plenty of refreshing drinking options throughout the night.

Thank you to all of the bands, vendors, City staff, elected officials, and most importantly the attendees who came out to enjoy bluegrass music! We'll see you at next year!



ELECTION DAY

Nov. 3rd

For voting information visit:

www.cookcountyil.gov/service-groups/voting-and-elections

VOTE!



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OFFICIALS

Mayor

Sean R. McDermott

Clerk

Elizabeth A. Kmet

Treasurer

Jack Benton

Aldermen/Alderwoman

Mark G. Benson

Courtney Bolt

John Finn

Thomas Frohlich

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

Township of Lyons

www.lyonstownshipil.gov

Pleasant Dale Park District

www.pdparks.org

Pleasantview Fire Protection

www.plvw.org

PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall/Clerk's Office

Main: 708.354.7270

Hours: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM M-F

**Community Development/
Building Department**

Main: 708.354.1860

Flagg Creek Golf Course

Main: 708.246.3336

Police Department

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: 708.352.2171

Public Works

Main: 708.354.3390

Water Billing

Main: 708.485.2465



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