



VILLAGE NEWS

January/February 2018

Meet the New Faces in the Police Department



Officer Lauren Sheehan and Officer Jonathan Pennington were officially sworn in at the December 11, 2017 Village Board of Trustees meeting.

Of the 85 applicants who took the written test in February 2016, Officer Sheehan and Officer Pennington scored in the top 10%.

Both officers attended the Part-Time Basic Law Enforcement Academy at Moraine Valley College from January 7, 2017 through July 19, 2017. Officer Sheehan and Officer Pennington began their field training on July 21, 2017.

Officer Lauren Sheehan earned a graduate degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Lewis University and previously served as a community service officer with the Park Forest Police Department.

Officer Jonathan Pennington is currently enrolled in college while a member of the United States Army Active Reserves. While on active duty, Officer Pennington served as a detention specialist at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Andrew Venerable successfully completed his unpaid internship with the Olympia Fields Police Department during the summer months of 2017. Venerable is a senior at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater majoring in Social Justice Administration with double minors in Political Science and Sociology. He is currently undergoing the recruitment and testing process for the Chicago Police Department. Venerable lives with his family in Olympia Fields.

Lionel Keys will begin his unpaid internship with the Olympia Fields Police Department in January 2018. Keys is a senior at Western Illinois University majoring in Law Enforcement Administration with a minor in Homeland Security. Keys lives with his family in Glenwood. After graduation, he hopes to enlist in the United States Navy to pursue a career in Naval Intelligence.

Delinquent Property Taxes

Each year, thousands of Cook County property owners pay their real estate property taxes late or neglect to pay them at all.

We want to make you aware that the Village has been notified by Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, that there are 47 properties in Olympia Fields that have past due property taxes for the 2016 tax year. There are dozens of reasons why property owners have not paid their taxes, but what we have found is that some property owners may not know that they are behind in their taxes. In some cases property owners are delinquent due to not updating their mailing address with the Cook County Treasurers Office.

The next Annual Tax Sale will be held in May of 2018. If you have any questions or need assistance with paying your property taxes contact the Cook County Treasurers Office at 312-603-6202.

CodeRED Emergency Notification

CodeRED is an emergency alert system utilized by the Olympia Fields Police Department and the SouthCom Dispatch Center. The CodeRED system provides Village officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or to the entire Village within minutes in the event of an emergency when critical information must be communicated. A pre-recorded message is delivered describing serious situations from evacuations to missing child alerts.

A calling database will be created in the Spring by capturing home phone, cell phone and email address information from the Village's Utility Billing Database. The CodeRed system has the capability of providing emergency information to cell phones via text messages and E-mail messages to those residents that may or may not be home at the time of an emergency. All contact information will remain private and will only be used for community notifications.

To opt out of the CodeRed Emergency Notification System please visit the Village's website to complete the **"do not call release form"** and return the form to: The Village of Olympia Fields, 20040 Governors Hwy, Olympia Fields, IL 60461. To update your contact information please call Village Hall during normal business hours at 708-503-8000.

Be Prepared for Winter Weather

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

Keeping Our Commitment

The Oak Lawn Regional Water System (RWS) provides Lake Michigan water to the Village of Olympia Fields. Although the RWS has increased the Village's water purchase price by \$.20 beginning in January 2018, we are able to keep the water rates stable due to a 6% savings in water loss.

The Village of Olympia Fields is committed to keeping the water rate stable and has not increased the water rate since May 2015.

11th Annual Holiday Award Winners

The Beautification Committee conducted its 11th Annual Holiday Award review of the top three nominated homes from each of the 12 participating subdivisions on December 20, 2017. Thirty-six homes were nominated as finalists for displaying outstanding decorations that demonstrated curb appeal, creativity, originality and coordination of décor to the home.

From the nominated finalists, the following top three were selected by the Beautification Committee to represent the Village:

- 1st Place - 3238 Oregon Trail (The Trails) Stubbs Family;
- 2nd Place - 20341 Achilles (Arcadia) Perozzi Family; and,
- 3rd Place - 3509 Ithaca Rd (Arcadia) Foelsch Family.

These homes will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place signs placed in their yard by the Public Works Department. In addition, these families will receive gift certificates from Bizios Fresh Market in the amount of \$100 for 1st place winner, \$75 for 2nd place winner and \$50 for 3rd place winner. The award and gift certificates will be presented formally at a Village Board meeting on January 16, 2018.

Other nominated homes will receive certificates of recognition for their efforts. Thank you for keeping Olympia Fields beautiful for the holidays!

Are You a Veteran?

The Veteran's Affairs Commission is building a database of Olympia Fields Veterans to keep them informed of local services, resources and events of interest.

If you are interested in adding your name and contact information to our database, please visit our website at www.olympia-fields.com or pick up a form at Village Hall.