

# Field Notes

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## Olympia Fields Thanks Bizios Fresh Market For Offering Quality Products and Personalized Customer Service During COVID-19

Bizios Fresh Market, a family-owned and operated grocery store at 3446 Vollmer Road in Olympia Fields, is committed to quality and customer service. Opened in 2008, Bizios goes a step above basic daily essentials to also provide customers with a selection of specialty, gourmet, gluten-free and organic products.

"We care about feeding the community food that we would eat. We offer a better-quality product and homemade cooking and recipes," says Manager Nick Bizios.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, Bizios adapted quickly. "We took action right away.," says Nick Bizios. "For us, the managers are owners so we're hands-on. We weren't equipped for curbside pickup, but a customer called and asked us, so we figured it out."

Local businesses are flexible to customers' needs and can make adjustments, request products or handle requests. "We get to know customers at a personal level," says Nick Bizios. "It's a community—it's really a family."

Small businesses play a central role in building a strong community. Business owners get to know the community and the people in it and care about providing personalized service and quality products. Remember to support local businesses and help contribute to the strong Olympia Fields community.

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## **The Village of Olympia Fields and the Olympia Fields Park District Distributed COVID-19 Vaccinations to More Than 200 Residents**

The March 18 event was a collaborative effort by Family Christian Health Center, Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). More than 200 doses of the Moderna vaccine were administered to residents.

Olympia Fields was grateful to have the opportunity to bring this important health benefit to our community. This vaccine distribution plan implemented by IDPH is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to aid in building immunity to the COVID-19 virus. Once enough of the nation has been vaccinated, we can all get back to our pre-COVID routines and the end of the pandemic.

A special "thank you" to the Family Christian Health Center, Mia Cross, RN, BSN and Dr. Lisa Green and staff; Cook County Department of Public Health; Illinois Department of Public Health; Olympia Fields Park District; Trustee Cassandra Matz and the Village of Olympia Fields staff for their coordination of this event.

We will continue to bring information to the community as we receive it. Remember to monitor the [Village's website](#) and [subscribe to receive emails and alerts](#) regarding any updates.

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# **RESTORE ILLINOIS**

**A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State**

## Along with the Framework for Phase 5, Governor Pritzker Announced All Adults Age 16 and Older Will Be Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine Starting Monday, April 12

Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced a new framework for Illinois to advance to Phase 5 of the state's [Restore Illinois Plan](#).

In recognition of an increasing national vaccine supply and the state now averaging 100,000 vaccine administrations per day, all Illinois residents age 16 and older also will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine starting April 12.

## Applications for the Week-Long Summer 2021 Exelon Foundation STEM Leadership Academy for 10th and 11th Grade Girls Are Open Now to Sunday, April 25

The Exelon STEM Leadership Academy is a free, week-long, residential program for 10th and 11th grade girls interested in STEM. It will be held at the Illinois Institute of Technology\* from Sunday, July 11 to Friday, July 16, 2021.

Participants learn from women working in STEM and other leaders; explore sustainability, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change; and connect with like-minded peers.

The Academy concludes with an energy challenge and a chance to win great prizes. Each participant will also receive an iPad to use for Academy activities and to take home at the end of the week.

*\*The Academy is closely monitoring COVID-19 guidelines. The 2021 Academy is being planned as an in-person, on-campus event but may be converted to a virtual event based on local health recommendations and requirements.*







## **Applications for the Village's New Beautification Enhancement Program Are Now Available to Homeowners Associations for Beautification Projects Up To \$1,000**

The Olympia Fields Beautification Committee (BC) is excited to announce the Village has approved Resolution #2021-01, which establishes a Beautification Enhancement Program for the Homeowners Associations (HOA) and applications are now available. This is an exciting partnership with the HOAs and the BC implemented to enhance and maintain our natural assets in the Village.

The program will require the HOA to complete an application and submit a detailed project plan with supporting documentation to the BC. Projects may include but are not limited to the following: the subdivision entrance; landscape design with trees, shrubs, perennial and or annual flowers; and the addition or repair of hardscape. There will be an orientation for the process and the BC encourages all HOA presidents and/or their beautification chairs to participate.

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## In Celebration of Earth and Arbor Day, Olympia Fields' Beautification Committee is Making April Spring Clean-Up Month

In celebration of **Earth Day, Thursday, April 22**, the Village Beautification Committee in conjunction with the Southland Green Committee is participating in a month-long clean-up and celebration.

This allows each individual/family and Homeowner Association to participate in accordance with their personal schedules. With this effort, the Beautification Committee wants to encourage the community to be environmentally focused by remembering to recycle and use products that are environmentally friendly.

The effort culminates on with the annual **Arbor Day** tree planting in the Village on **Friday, April 30**. More information is coming to your Homeowner Association President regarding clean-up month in the Village.



## The Beautification Committee Kicks Off the 2021 Summer Landscape Award Program to Recognize Homeowners

This annual award program is designed to recognize homeowners who exhibit pride in ownership by maintaining beautiful landscapes. Each Homeowners Association (HOA) is asked to submit a list of nominees citing their top three and at least three other homes that have also demonstrated significant efforts.

All nominated homes will receive a "Certificate of Recognition" for their efforts. The home reviews are usually conducted in June/July by the Village Beautification Committee.

In addition to the award certificate, the top three village-wide awardees selected will also be given a nursery gift certificate for first, second and third place honors, respectively valued at \$100, \$75 and \$50.

If you would like additional information about the Summer Landscape Program, please contact Village Hall at (708) 503-8000.



## Learn Key Dates and Locations for Voting in the April 6 Election

### Important Dates:

- Tuesday, March 16: First day of early voting
- Thursday, April 1: Last day to request a mail ballot. Applications for mail-in ballots are available on the [Cook County Clerk website](#).
- Monday, April 5: Last day of early voting
- Tuesday, April 6: Election Day
- Tuesday, April 6: The last day mail ballots can be postmarked

### Early Vote at Any of These Sites:

- Matteson Community Center (20642 Matteson Avenue, Matteson, IL 60443)
- Park Forest Village Hall (350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466)
- Markham Courthouse, Room 238 (16501 S. Kedzie Avenue, Markham, IL 60428)



## Review the Village's Political Signage Policy

Political and/or campaign signs are constitutionally protected as an expression of free speech. Consequently, Village policy regarding these types of signs is as follows:

- Political signs shall only be permitted on private property, with the consent of the property owner.
- No political signs shall be displayed where the placement of the signs will obstruct the view of motorists or pedestrians as determined by the building commissioner.
- No political signs shall be attached or affixed on village property, including but not limited to poles, trees, fences, posts or buildings.
- The maximum size for a sign shall be sixteen (16) square feet. No more than eighty (80) square feet of total signage shall be allowed per property.
- No signs shall be placed over or in a public (village, state, county or township) right-of-way, which includes, but is not limited to utility poles, bridges, fences and trees. These signs will be removed and destroyed without notice.

We would also like to respectfully ask that campaign signs be removed as quickly as possible after Election Day, which is April 6.



## Submit Your 2021 Dog Registration by Wednesday, March 31

Please visit the Village website using the links below to download and complete the forms and applications. Payments are accepted at Village Hall or via US mail.

All dogs should be registered by Wednesday, March 31.



## **The South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC) is Offering Assistance to Homeowners Looking to Refinance for a Lower Interest Rate**

The South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC) is offering assistance for homeowners who want to look at refinancing for a lower interest rate.

If you're interested in discussing lower interest rates, or other housing matters the SSHC has partnered with the Village Community Relations Commission to help you safely and privately take that step.

## **The Village's Building Department Now Offers an Online Process to Accept Permit Requests and Payments Online**

Follow these steps to complete the building permit process online:

1. Download and complete the Building Permit application – the forms are available on the Village's [Website](#).
2. Attach all supporting documents (plans, signed contracts, work proposals, etc.); along with the permit application and email it to [permits@olympia-fields.com](mailto:permits@olympia-fields.com). You will receive an email confirmation that the permit has been received.
3. The Building Department will contact you once the permit has been approved.
4. When you receive your permit number, go to the website at <https://www.olympia-fields.com/131/Online-Payments> and select "permits" to pay by e-check or credit card. You will need to have a valid permit number to submit the payment.
5. Once payment has been confirmed, your permit will be emailed to you.
6. The permit must be printed and displayed on the window or door facing the street.

If you have any questions about the requirements of a building permit, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Department at (708) 679-3401.



**Village of Olympia Fields  
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