

## UP Beat - Mayor Vivian E. Covington

To the residents of the Village of University Park, this has been a blessed month, another month where we have had an opportunity to show that University Park is on the move.

November has always had a special significance for me. It is a time when I focus on our veterans and our military. As a military mom who has spent most of my working life working with veterans; this is no surprise. The



fact that November is a time when we recognize and celebrate our veterans, really makes this a time of personal reflection.

It also makes me want to work that much harder, to improve the quality of life for the residents of University Park.

On Friday, November 4, I was happy for the opportunity to serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies for our veterans' celebration at the University

Golf Club. The opportunity to honor our men and women in uniform was special. **The newly erected Military Wall of Honor** serves as a permanent monument. I would like to thank all of those who made the wall and our veterans' celebration a success.

**Veterans Day** has been celebrated in some form since **November 11, 1919**, when it was known as **Armistice Day**. It was and is recognized with a holiday so people never forget the great cost of **World War I**.

The best known of all **Veterans Day**

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## Your Elected Officials at Work - Congressional Black Caucus, 2011 Annual Legislative Conference, and The Illinois Municipal League Conference

Although the national media focused on President Barack Obama's closing address to the participants at the Congressional Black Caucus Conference on Saturday, September 24; the real story locally was the attendance and networking that was done on behalf of the Village of University Park, by your elected officials from September 20th-25th.

Leading the delegation from University Park was Mayor Vivian E. Covington, accompanied by Trustees Larry B. Brown, Keith J. Griffin, Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones, and Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend.

Although the representatives attended several workshops, one of the highlights of the trip was an opportunity to engage Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, at a weekly constituent meeting held on **Capitol Hill**.



After updating the senators on plans by Governors State University to become a 4-year institution; Mayor Covington asked Sen. Durbin, "Can you bring the federal job stimulus program to the South Suburbs?"

He replied, "We're caught in this circle where people are losing jobs and can't pay taxes. You live in an

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celebrations is held at the “Tomb of the Unknowns” (also known as “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”), at Arlington National Cemetery.

The inscription reads, “Here Rests in Tombed Glory an American Soldier Known But to God.”

We should never forget the sacrifices made by our soldiers.

A special highlight of the program was the presentation of certificates to all of our University Park veterans, as they took pictures with our elected officials. I would also like to thank Library Director Tracy Duckworth, for her memorable rendition of our National Anthem.

I would also like to especially thank our

keynote speaker, **Farrell J. Chiles** for the message he brought concerning the continuing plight of our veterans. As



L to R: Keynote speaker Chiles, former Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson, Mayor Covington

they begin making the transition from Iraq to home, we must continually keep them in our hearts and prayers, especially those living in University Park

and other areas of the Southland.

This month as I have moved about the village, listening to the concerns, and trying to address the needs of our residents, there has been a reoccurring theme that I would like to share. **The theme of cooperation.**

**There is a special spirit that comes with cooperating. Do not let anyone or anything isolate you. Enjoy the happiness that comes with working together with others. You will not only enjoy a pleasant spirit; but you will reap excellent results. Unity brings wonderful blessings.**

And in that spirit, the **Village of University Park** has reconnected with the following since I have been Mayor: **Diversity Inc., South Suburban Mayors**

**and Managers Association, Governors State University, Chicago Southland Economic Development Commission, Chicago Southland Chapter - Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, and others.**

And we will continue. Connections with these and other organizations increase potential for training, funding and networking opportunities.

**Elected and appointed** officials represented the **Village of University Park** at both the **Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference (Washington, D.C.)** and the **Illinois Municipal League Conference in September**. See lead article for information from our officials about what occurred at those conferences.

**Elected and appointed** officials and **staff** participated in a two-day retreat in October. Policies, procedures, programs and upcoming initiatives were discussed in the spirited sessions. Information resulting from these intense meetings will help the village as it moves forward.

I would ask that you be particularly generous as this holiday season approaches. This is expected to be a very brutal winter; and of course the economic recession continues. Please fill up those containers at **Village Hall**, and elsewhere in the village with warm coats and non-perishable food.

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area of the county that is struggling. I am not opposed to GSU going four years. It would help your area.”

Weighing in Sen. Kirk added, “We need to focus on innovation, not production. We need greater connection between universities, federal agencies, and research labs (to help foster innovation). I believe that as we reduce political corruption in Illinois, more innovation will result.”

Later in a series of meetings scheduled with Sen. Kirk’s staffers, Trustee Griffin said to staff assistant Eric Winter, “I’m concerned about infrastructure - the roads. What can you do to help pass President Obama’s (job

bill?” Clearly frustrated with the current state of partisan politics and political wrangling Winter responded, “We’re doing our best to maintain highway funding.”



Trustee Brown wanted to know, “Can you steer us to securing funds for an underpass?” Winter referenced the Tiger Program, a Department of Transportation initiative, adding “The pickings are slim.” He did agree, however,

to put the trustee in touch with some possible sources for youth program funding.

Village Clerk Dorothy Jones later weighed in with her concern for senior citizens saying, “We want Sen. Kirk to support a bill that will not reduce Medicare or Social Security.”

The Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference has long had the reputation of consisting of one long party, with very little work getting done on the people’s agenda.

Not so!

Every workshop and seminar attended by this writer was substantive and policy-driven. Following are a few examples.

## Black Power and the 2010 Census

**Moderator, District of Columbia Representative, Eleanor Holmes Norton**, asked, “Is D.C. on the way to becoming a full majority white city (as it used to be)? This is the question facing every large city.”

Later she noted, “Atlanta has replaced Chicago as the largest metropolitan area for blacks, outside of New York. Blacks are being priced out. Is this black flight the same as white flight?”

**Panelist, Dr. Michael Fauntroy** of George Mason University said, “Urban black-based (political) power is starting to wane, being replaced by Hispanics and young professional

whites. As people become more focused on work-life balance, wanting to be closer to their jobs, population begins to rise.”



Rev. Joseph Lowery, former head of SCLC

He asked, “What are the political and racial consequences of these changes? Black politicians must adapt to the new political order. Fighting for political power means that black voter turnout will become that much more important.”

Readers might recognize Dr. Fauntroy as a frequent guest on Cliff Kelly’s show on WVON-1690-AM locally.

## Criminal Justice

The most telling piece of information and statistic to emerge from this panel discussion is that in 2008, more than \$5 billion was spent on youth incarceration. This is especially alarming when considering that many big cities, Chicago included, claim that crime, including youth crime has been dropping.

On a positive note this workshop also discussed the **Eagle Academy**, a \$55 million school built in the Bronx, with a very generous personal contribution by NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The school is

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sponsored by the **100 Black Men of New York**.

### Small Business Seminar

**U.S. Trade Representative, Ron Kirk** was the special guest speaker. His message to small business owners and other entrepreneurs? “Going global makes sense because only 5 percent of the world’s population live in the U.S.; the other 95 percent live elsewhere.” He also indicated that 95 percent of businesses in the U.S. that export, are small businesses. And finally he noted, “One billion dollars in U.S. exports equal five thousand jobs.”

Congratulations to the Congressional Black Caucus

On **Sunday, October 16**, I was honored to participate as a “celebrity judge” in the **United Way** sponsored **Big Brothers Big Sisters** program in Joliet. Participants were matched with a local child on their “**Waiting to be Matched**” list. We must keep in mind that there are many local children just waiting to be placed in a loving home. This is something to consider as we count our significant blessings.

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our “**Residents Meet and Greet**” on **Thursday, September 29th**. I look forward to all positive interactions with those who live in the village.

Also look out for the new public affairs show soon to debut on **WUPC Ch. 4**, also called **UP Beat - Informed Citizens Participate**. This show will give those living in University Park, still another way to be informed and participate in the issues of the day affecting their lives.

Until next month.



Foundation for an excellent legislative convention.

A closing note, when leaving the **Walter E. Washington Convention Center**, to head

back to the hotel; you couldn’t help but reflect on the number of homeless people sleeping in the windows of public buildings, in the nation’s capital.

**Meanwhile**, back in Chicago, one week earlier at the Chicago Hilton, newly elected trustees **Elizabeth Williams** and **Milton Payton** attended the Illinois Municipal League Conference.

**Trustee Williams** forwarded this report to COMMUNICATE! about her experience.

### Sessions Attended & Descriptions

- 1. Roundtable for Municipal Officials** - An open discussion with participants speaking candidly and exchanging ideas. Exciting and informative conversations with many participants from different areas. The bottom line? We all face similar issues and can learn from each other.
- 2. Current Issues with FOIA and Open Meetings Act** - Focused on new Freedom of Information Act and its impact of those requesting information, and the municipalities. I learned that some try to abuse the system, and prevention measures.
- 3. Municipal Liens Procedures for Filing, Perfecting and Collecting** - Discussed the proper procedure for filing liens and the importance of doing so. We also learned that attorneys sometimes improperly delay the filing of liens. Also, that liens should be immediately filed once won. This ensures that municipalities are paid if the property should change ownership.
- 4. Presenting Cases Before the Illinois Labor Rela-**



**tions Board** - Discussed filing and response deadlines. We also learned documentation procedures and how to follow time guidelines. Lastly, we were advised that our attorneys must file, respond and attend all hearings in a timely manner.

- 5. Foreclosure and Vacant Property Management for Municipalities** - Advised that banks should retain responsibility until the foreclosure process is completed. Also learned when it is expedient to demolish properties, and how to do so within the court’s guidelines.

### What did you learn that will help you in carrying out your duties as a University Park Trustee?

I learned strategic ways to raise property values without costing taxpayers more money. Also, how to attract new businesses. I learned about how to develop legislation that supports hotel development. Hotels will bring relief to our taxes and help us pay for necessities. There is a hotel tax that enables municipalities to charge off certain debts. This would help us build our coffers for future endeavors.

### How would you assess the training experience overall?

It was well received. Because there were a mixture of veteran and newly elected officials, questions were asked that helped everyone concerned.

### Did you learn anything from other elected officials that will help you in University Park?

I was glad to be able to ask other municipal leaders how they implemented new programs, or made their city or village attractive for economic development and expansion. I spoke with the Mayor of Rosemont and learned innovative ways to support our tax rolls once we begin building in our area. It was a good opportunity to network for future opportunities and learn.

### Anything else that you



### would like to share about this experience?

This was a very relaxed setting in which to learn about the duties of elected officials. The environment in which we met allowed us the opportunity to bond as we attempt to move our region forward. I spoke with a couple of officials from Monee and hope that our board and their board will be able to work together going forward.

I look forward to the next IML con-

ference so I can continue to learn.

And, we received this report from **Trustee Payton** capturing his recollections.

### Sessions Attended & Descriptions

- 1. Homes for a Changing Region** - How to be pro-active in terms of a development plan by looking to the future, ensuring a balanced mix of housing that future residents will need, and creating attractive communities with the amenities and open space that people want.
- 2. Annual Financial Report Compliance** - Review of the requirements and resources available to make certain local governments, file their Annual Financial Report(s) with the Illinois Comptroller’s office timely and accurately.
- 3. Benefits of Broadband for Your Community** - Progressive communities and regions are including broadband connectivity in their infrastructure planning process. This brings opportunities for new economic development, creates energy saving opportunities, enhances public safety, education, health care and more.
- 4. Develop a Broadband Development Strategy** - A review of the resources available and how to plan a broadband development strategy, to achieve community goals.



# COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## VILLAGE MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to welcome new **Police Chief Mel Davis** and **Finance Director Gloria Gibson** to our Village. Please make them feel welcome as they settle into their new positions.

Suite 34 Towncenter will soon open as a temporary site for the **Kids Activity Center**. Meanwhile, I met with **JMA Architects** to discuss revising plans for Suites 70 & 80 Towncenter, which will permanently house the program.

I am meeting weekly with **Village Atty. Ivan Tomic** to review all existing **TIF Agreements**, to bring our elected officials current information on the status of these agreements.

The **University Parkway Road Project**, is currently being actively monitored by a team that includes myself, **Village engineers, IDOT staff, Trustee Keith Griffin, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, and South Suburban Mayors and Managers** staff, where appropriate. We are working

## Village Manager Lafayette Linear & Village of University Park Departments

to return to schedule a project that was started in 1994. Appropriate funding has been requested.

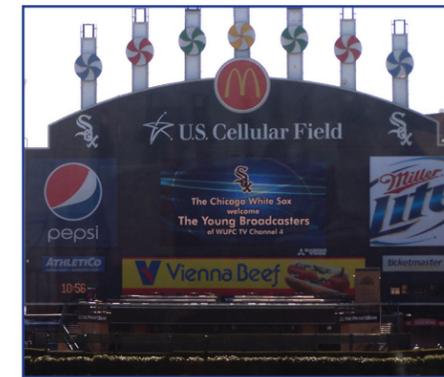
**Sgt. Daniel Murphy** has recently received **FBI Hostage Negotiator Certification** after attending the 40-hour training seminar.

Also, **Sgt. Darryl Stroud** completed his annual **TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures)** training with University Golf Club staff. This training enhances the people skills of servers, sellers and consumers of alcohol beverages.

Following are activity reports from our departments.

## CABLE STUDIO/WUPC-TV CH. 4/ YOUNG BROADCASTERS

On August 11 the Young Broadcasters toured the production facility at U.S. Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox. The visit included exposure to actual game day operations including score-board effects, replay and public address.



Station Manager **Eddie Pearson** said, "We toured the production, audio and public address booth. Our students were able to see the press row and get a

close view of the dugout. I hope to do this annually to expose the program to various dimensions in this industry."

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

Halloween has come and gone. You know what's next. Winter's coming and you've got things to do around your house.

Wait. Don't call the family handyman, or a friend. That might get you in trouble.

What should you do instead?

Before doing any work on your home, call the Village of University Park Code Enforcement at (708) 235-4818. They will let you know if a permit is required. They don't cost much and protect you from poor and unsafe work.

Don't rely on friends, neighbors, or even your insurance company.

Be forewarned. If you begin work requiring a building permit, you will be fined, if you don't have one.

Following are some general rules to follow. You'll be sorry if you don't.

1. Before renting or buying a home in the village, a rental or point-of-sale inspection is required. The cost is \$250 which includes an initial inspection and re-inspection. Additional inspections cost \$50 each.
2. Before buying a home call the Code Enforcement division to ensure all required permits were issued and inspection completed. Ask if a certificate of occupancy was issued. You may incur unnecessary costs if you don't comply with village rules.
3. Before hiring a contractor to do anything get references. Make sure they are valid. To the extent you can, make sure they are not friends or relatives. Go check out the work yourself. Be careful that you don't trespass on private property.

**5. Managing Development In Troubled Times (2 Sessions)** - Explored the avenues municipalities may pursue to facilitate the redevelopment and completion of the construction of infrastructure improvements, within abandoned residential and commercial developments.

**6. Best Practices & Budgeting Techniques for the "New Normal"** - Discussed sound, practical and realistic recommendations and strategies that respond to the "new normal." The "new normal" reflects the troubled economic environment with declining revenues and rising expenses; while still struggling with the enormous responsibility of providing safe, healthy and vibrant communities at the lowest costs possible.

## What did you learn that will help you in carrying out your duties as University Park Trustee?

I learned that we have tremendous resources available

to help us improve our community. It will, however, take careful planning, cooperative relationships and competent staff to take advantage of the possibilities.

## How would you assess the training experience overall?

Very beneficial. As a result of the information presented and the ability to network, I was able to informally discuss some of the key issues related to the existing problems facing the village (directly) with some of our partners such as Aqua Water. In addition, I was able to provide input for future development plans to the Mayor, Village Manager, and other Trustees during our recent Board retreat.

## Did you learn anything from other elected officials that will help you in University Park?

I learned that some of our neighboring communities are looking forward to working with us, with a new spirit of co-operation. While they are still competitors

in many respects, they are willing to work with us for the orderly growth and development of the quality of life in the region. Most other elected officials are very willing to share their experiences with us, to enable us to benefit from their successes and failures.

## Anything else you would like to share about this experience?

This experience confirmed my sense that we are strategically positioned to take advantage of tremendous opportunities for our community. If we work together internally as a community and externally with other communities and organizations; we will develop the Village of University Park into an even better community to raise a family; and a place of which we can be very proud.



**Beware - If you begin work requiring a building permit, which you don't have; you will be fined.**

**BECOMING A LICENSED CONTRACTOR IN THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK**

- \* You must apply to become either a licensed general or subcontractor.
- \* Licensing for all contractors is legally required. See Chapter 1442 of the Village of University Park's codified ordinances.
- \* Contractors must be licensed before granting of required building permits.

**Contact - Claudia Webb in the Business Licensing Department at (708) 534-6451.** She can answer your questions.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Job Search Assistance Available Tuesdays at GSU**

The Mobile Workforce Center's mobile unit, housed in a large bus, will be at Governors State University (GSU) every Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m.-Noon and 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., parked near the university's front entrance.

Center services include resume development; access to online job boards and websites; instruction in conducting online job searches and staff assistance.

The center is equipped with 11

computer stations with Internet access, printer and copy machines. It is also wheelchair accessible. For more information contact the Workforce Services Division of Will County at (815) 727-4980.

GSU is located at University Parkway, University Park, Illinois.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Residents are reminded that with the changing of the seasons and the onset of cold weather, it is important to take extra precaution to ensure that families are safe. At a minimum do the following:

- \* **Change batteries in fire and smoke detectors. Further check to make sure they are in good working condition.**
- \* **Change batteries in carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure they are working properly. If you don't have detectors, buy them. The number you need depends on the size of your house, and how many levels you have.**
- \* **Clean and inspect furnaces before using. Hire a certified professional.**

**It is further recommended** that you not overload your electrical circuits. Beware, especially during the Christmas season.

If you must use a **space heater**, get one that cuts off automatically if tipped over. Don't leave **children**, the **mentally challenged**, or the

**disabled** alone with a space heater.

Schedule a **chimney inspection** annually with a certified professional, especially if you have a **fire place** that you use.

Regularly clean out the **lint tray** on your dryer. Over time an accumulation could cause a fire.

Finally, if you must smoke, **don't do it in bed.**

Be safe.

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



The Parks and Recreation Department is currently developing an association to **promote recognition of youth sports.** Advisory Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at 80 Towncenter Dr. All are invited to participate.

For more information on our programs call **(708) 534-6456**, or email [vparksandrecreationdepartment@yahoo.com](mailto:vparksandrecreationdepartment@yahoo.com).

**Upcoming Highlights**

**Co-Ed Basketball & Pom/Pom Program (Traveling Team & In-House League)**

Grades: 3-8

Registration - November 8, 10, 15 & 17/ December 6 & 8

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Coretta Scott King Magnet School, 1009 Blackhawk Dr., University Park**

Fee: \$85 per participant - includes full uniform & trophy

(\$10 discount for each additional child)

All practices and game locations given out in January 2012.

Only children with registration form and payment can attend open gym during registration days.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK - PARKS AND RECREATION

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

COACHES, TEAM PARENTS & CONCESSION WORKERS

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL: (708) 534-6456 OR (708) 534-4837**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE DURING THE WINTER BREAK?**

University Park Parks & Recreation Winter Camp - 2011 - 2012

Our winter break will be on the following dates:

**December 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2011  
January 3 & 4, 2012**



**NOTE: NO CHILD CARE ON DECEMBER 24, 25, or 26, 2011, or JANUARY 1 or 2, 2012.**

**Cost \$150 - Includes 2 field trips, arts and crafts, games, dancing, movies and more. Weekly Winter Camp Savings Plan Available.**

**All Payments Final. Minimum 10/Maximum 25**

**Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Before Care: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
After Care: 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**For more information call:  
University Park - Parks and Recreation Department (708) 534-6456.**

**VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS**

(**Phil Henderson** formerly of Duke University & the Dallas Mavericks) In a special **YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC**, Phil Henderson will teach our youth the fundamentals and discipline necessary to play winning basketball.

Dates: December 5-16, 2011 (Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays/Fridays)

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Ages: 6 - 13

Place: Crete Monee Middle School, 635 Olmsted Road, University Park, Illinois

Cost: \$15 per session (6 sessions), or \$75 for whole Clinic

Registration: Riegel Farm - 580 Farmview Rd.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**From Chief Mel Davis - University Park Police Department**

**COMMUNITY ALERT - SENIOR CITIZENS SCAMS BEWARE**

There are people out there making plans for Christmas, **with your money.**

We want to educate and warn all residents to be careful when dealing with unknown subjects who come to your home. We are especially concerned about our **senior citizens**, who are especially vulnerable this time of year.

Some unscrupulous individuals may come to your home intent on committing crimes against persons or property. Use caution because they may inflict physical harm when committing these crimes.

**PAY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. IMPOSTER BURGLARY** - Suspect(s) working in teams of two will approach a homeowner pretending to represent a reputable and known agency (ComEd, Comcast, Nicor, Water Department), to gain access to the home. They then divert the homeowner's attention while an accomplice searches for valuables in the home to steal.

\*\* Suspects may have **fake identification cards** displayed and be dressed the part to fool the homeowner into believing that they are

legitimate. Don't be fooled just because they have on **uniforms** or carry **hand-held radios**, or have **official-looking vehicles.**

**Women and children** sometimes accompany suspects.

**MOST COMMON SENIOR SCHEMES**

- 1. Home Repair Fraud**
- 2. Delivery Services (UPS, FedEx, DHL, USPS)**
- 3. Telemarketing Schemes - Apply for do not call registry (1 (888) 382-1222)**

**POPULAR SENIOR SCAMS WEBSITES**

- [www.isp.state.il.us/crime/citizensscam](http://www.isp.state.il.us/crime/citizensscam)
- [www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors/seniors](http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors/seniors)
- [www.caring.com](http://www.caring.com)
- [www.fraud.org/elderly](http://www.fraud.org/elderly)

If you feel that you, family members or friends are being targeted as a scam victim, please contact the **University Park Police Department** immediately. Be aware of your surroundings and contact the police regarding all suspicious persons/activity in your area. Contact numbers for the **University Park Police Department are 911 (Emergency) and (708) 534-0913 (Non-Emergency).**

**Always** make sure all doors and windows are locked. Activate alarms and set timers for lights when away. If possible, leave a TV or radio on when leaving your

home. The Village has experienced a few breakins. The criminal will seek an opportunity, especially during these tough economic times. Always be alert and secure.

**UPDATE**

Will County CrimeStoppers is offering up to a \$5,000.00 reward for the arrest and conviction for the person or people responsible for the homicide of Johnny "Duke" Rouse. Anyone with information should call CrimeStoppers at 1-800-323-6734 or University Park police department at 1-708-235-4803. Tips can be texted to 274637.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

There has been a change in recent legislation concerning electronic recycling. A new program has also been instituted.

Early this year, Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation making extensive changes to the amended **Illinois Products Recycling and Reuse Act**. On **January 1, 2012**, the **Landfill ban for electronics goes into effect**. Also, starting in 2012, all manufacturers of covered electronic products must register with the **Illinois EPA** and meet an annual recycling goal.

The reason? Electronics contain hazardous materials including lead and mercury. Televisions and CRT monitors may contain an average of four pounds of lead, depending on the size. As of Jan 1, garbage

disposal companies will not pick up electronic items covered under the new law.

As a result **Will County** has instituted a **New Residential Electronic Recycling Program** by contracting with **Vintage Tech**, an electronic recycling company. **Vintage Tech** will collect discarded electronic items in a large section of Will County. By year's end services are expected to extend to all of Will County.

This is a Pilot Program funded by various electronic manufacturers thanks to the Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act. There are also 13 Will County Electronic Recycling Drop-off Partners for Communities, such as University Park, who are not yet included in the residential front door service.

For more details on what items are accepted, drop-off locations, and how to protect personal data when recycling, please visit the Village of University Park's website [university-park-il.com](http://university-park-il.com). There is also a link to Will County's website. This program does not include business electronics.

**UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

The Village of University Park proudly welcomes you to the **University Golf Club And Conference Center**. We are confident that you will find our dedication and hard work have resulted in the highest level of golf and dining experience.

The University golf Club boasts an 18-hole championship golf course, a professionally staffed Golf Pro Shop, and a restaurant for family, casual and fine dining.

**GOLF**

The golf course is open year round. This year we will be offering the added feature of indoor hitting bays and a putting green. There are seven hitting bays to keep your golf game sharp for the 2012 golf season. You can work on your putting stroke on the 336 square foot practice green. For more information and rates,

contact Paul Blockoms at (708) 747-0306 ext 23, or [pblockoms@universitygolfclub.com](mailto:pblockoms@universitygolfclub.com).

**GOLF CLUB NEWS**

The **Concerned Golfers of University Golf Club (CGUCG)**, is sponsoring their **3rd Annual Turkey Shoot Raffle**. CGUCG was formed in 2009 by a group of individuals who wanted to assist the University Park community by sponsoring events and service projects to support the needs of the community. For every raffle ticket that is sold during the Turkey Shoot, a family in the local community will receive a Thanksgiving Basket. In 2009, 200 families received baskets, and 280 families in 2010. CGUCG hopes to exceed the goal of 300 this year. Tickets may be purchased at the Golf Club for \$25 each during regular business hours.

**DINING**

University Golf Club's restaurant is among the best in the area. We offer a full dining experience with a scenic view. The menu features a wide variety of selections prepared by our excellent kitchen staff. Join us every weekend for our **Breakfast Brunch**. You can enjoy all of your breakfast favorites with our fabulous made-to-order omelet station, carving and waffle stations. Brunch hours are 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- \* **Monday Night Football - 7:30 p.m. during regular season.** Come out and wear your team colors.
- \* **Wednesday Night Old School & R&B with DJ Opio "Ope-Ski" Latham.** Join us after work and stay for a night of relaxing and dancing. \$5 cover charge starting at 8 p.m.
- \* **Friday Night Stepper's Set with DJ Lavelle C** 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. with a \$5 cover charge before 11 p.m. - \$10 after 11 p.m.



## COMMUNICATE! NEWS BRIEFS

### UN CHIEF DECLARES SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

If it seems like you've been standing in line a little longer than usual... It's not your imagination.

Speaking at a press conference on October 31, UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon said, "Plenty of food but one billion people go hungry. Lavish lifestyles for a few, but poverty for too many others."

While you would think that the number of people populating the world would be beyond dispute, think again. The **U.S. Census Bureau** estimates that the seven billionth human won't hit the bricks until March 2012. And the **Philippines** is said to have welcomed the seven billionth some time ago.

Why the differences? Well, the fact that untold numbers of people around the world are born and die every day, makes it somewhat understandable that it's hard to keep an accurate count.

But the fact that about three billion worldwide live on less than \$2 a day, is generally accepted. And by the year 2050 it's projected that there will be more than nine billion people battling over finite resources.

That's as good a reason as any to begin respecting the environment, and start recycling at the very least.

### SENIORS CELEBRATE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

The Village of University Park lifts up its seniors, always giving them due respect. Weekends in September were reasons enough to honor local seniors, beginning with **Senior Line Dancing on the 10th; Evening of Bingo the 17th;** and ending with an **Ice Cream Social, including special guests Mayor Vivian E. Covington and the Trustees on the 24th.**

*(Continued on page 14)*



## Governors State Begins \$22.6 Million Science Renovation Project

University Park, Illinois, October 19, 2011 - Governors State University Tuesday celebrated a new era in science education with a ceremony marking the start of a \$22.6 million renovation project. The project will bring world-class laboratories and classrooms to the University Park campus' science buildings.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon and members of the Board of Trustees symbolically "tore down the walls" of the university's E and F science wing by removing paneling from the walls. They were joined by more than 150 students, university employees, community members, and dignitaries, including University Park Mayor, Vivian E. Covington.

"Today, we tear down the walls of the 20th century and construct state of the art science labs appropriate to this model 21st century university and, most appropriate, worthy of our students," Dr. Maimon said.

Maimon thanked Governor Pat Quinn and the General Assembly for passing "Illinois Works" legislation in

2009, making the renovation project possible. Quinn signed the papers releasing the funds to the Capital Development Board in June, 2010. Dr. Maimon also thanked other members of the GSU community -- students, faculty, government officials, and business and community leaders -- for their support and for never giving up on the project.

State Senator Toi Hutchison (D-Olympia Fields) told Tuesday's audience that effective government is the art of the possible, and can lead to "righteous projects" like the renovation of the university's science buildings.

"Illinois needed a capital bill and needed to invest in those things that we share in common," Hutchison said. "When we make investments like this, it's not just good for the Southland. It means that GSU can make a bigger contribution to this state."

Julie Smith, Quinn's deputy chief of staff, said GSU officials are exceptional advocates for the university and the Chicago Southland, and that they showed their effectiveness in winning support for the science building renovation.

"Governor Quinn likes to say that one side of society has movers and shakers and the other side is moved

*(Continued next page)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Celebrate New Year's Eve close to home at the University Golf Club. Tickets available!**

\* Saturday, December 31, 2011

\* 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. with DJ "Ope-ski" Latham

\* \$50 per person or \$90 per couple

\* Enjoy an array of delectable Hor D'Ouevres, an Ice Sculpture featuring "Ice Shrimp", Dessert Table, Champagne Fountain & Party Favors

**Visit our website [www.universitygolfclub.com](http://www.universitygolfclub.com), for a complete list of all activities. You can also follow us on Face book - University Golf Club & Conference Center - UGC.**



*Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, GSU President, speaks to the audience gathered to celebrate the start of the long awaited science facilities renovation project*



and shaken. Education is the difference between the two sides,” Smith said. “I know this project will lead to many more of your students becoming movers and shakers.”

The area to be renovated comprises approximately 76,000 square feet of space. The new space will include six research labs, 11 teaching labs, 12 classrooms, nine prep/store rooms, and a new lecture hall that seats 90 students.

During the renovation, crews will replace HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and light systems. Outmoded infrastructure and equipment will be replaced with up-to-date facilities and equipment that will be energy efficient and meet current codes and regulations. The project design calls for structural infill of existing atrium space, adding about 9,000 square feet of additional usable space.

The renovated facilities will serve students and faculty in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, nursing, communications disorders, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.



State Senator Toi Hutchison (D-Olympia Fields) speaks at the ceremony celebrating the start of the GSU Science Facilities Renovation Project

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### MAYOR & CABLE DIRECTOR TOUR GSU'S STATE-OF-ART DIGITAL LEARNING AND MEDIA DESIGN FACILITIES

On Friday, October 7th Mayor Covington and Cable Station Manager Eddie Pearson were hosted by Charles Nolley, Director of Digital Learning and Media Design, and members of his staff.

During the tour it was learned that much of the equipment used by GSU, is the same used by Chicago's major broadcast facilities including top-rated ABC-7. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a working relationship between GSU's program and University Park's cable television operation, Channel 4. Several areas of possible cooperation were discussed including the eventual positioning of Channel 4 as a feeder program to GSU's communication program, with a special emphasis on digital learning and media communications.

### UNIVERSITY PARK REPRESENTED AT THE CHICAGO SOUTHLAND CHAPTER CHICAGO MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE COUNCIL (CMRC)

The manufacturing industry is not dead. That's the message from the CMRC at their October meeting in Park Forest at Dining on The Green. CMRC is a coalition of educators, manufacturers, political figures, and others who have come together to ensure that the Southland gets its share of manufacturing jobs, expected to be created in the near future.

To make this effort successful, significant numbers of people must be retrained. In addition, students interested in careers in the trades, must be made aware of future career opportunities, and the training necessary to become certified and employed. And special outreach must be made to parents to encourage them to position their children to take advantage of some of these opportunities.

For information on how to become involved with this important effort, please contact Park Forest Village Manager, Thomas Mick at [tmick@vopf.com](mailto:tmick@vopf.com).

### THE COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONS HOLIDAY PARTY IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

from 6:00-9:00 PM at the University Golf Club and Conference Center



### Great Season Ends in Peoria

The powerhouse Crete Monee Warriors football team were undefeated at 10-0 (nine regular season, one post-season), before finally losing 51-38 to Peoria Richwoods, leaving them at 10-1 for the season.

Assistant Coach Greg Murray put it best saying, “The kids have nothing to be ashamed of. It was a long trip, and we got caught sleep walking in the first half. But our young men never quit fighting. I'm looking forward to next year to finish our mission (of winning a state championship). I hope we made our community proud.”

Indeed, the future looks promising. The sophomore class has yet to lose a regular season game. With a talented junior class led by LaQuon Treadwell, who ended the season with 75 receptions, 1,391 yards and an eye-popping 18 touchdowns, anything is possible.

Treadwell, one of the most hotly pursued players in the nation, already has the University of Michigan, Notre Dame, Penn State and others, on his trail. The talented wide receiver and defensive end, will be closely watched during the upcoming season.

Other team leaders include Anthony Anderson (strong safety); Dante Kidd (running back); Breon Bailey (wide receiver); Eddie Offett (defensive tackle) and LeMarcus Bryant (defensive tackle).

No doubt the coaching staff, led by Head Coach Jerry Verde, can't wait to bring a state championship to Crete Monee. Assistant Coaches, John Konecki, Darrien Yarbrough, Frank Walz and Jim Jensen, round out the top notch coaching staff.





## THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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