



## UP Beat

**Mayor  
Vivian E.  
Covington**

As I look forward to my first full year in office as the **Mayor** of the **Village of University Park**, I would like to thank everyone who helped me make the transition from **Village Trustee** to **Mayor**. It is an awesome task but my spiritual strength, my family and the residents of the Village are enabling me to face the fresh challenges of the new year.

I would like to thank all of those who made **Family Fun Day - "Don't Sit Get Fit"** possible, and all of those who

participated and volunteered. I think that we are starting to see a new energy and optimism in **University Park** that has been absent. As we continue bringing new programs, developing new projects and involving more people in the rebirth of the Village, you will see that spirit not only continue but grow.

I would like to thank **GSU Assistant Professor, Dr. Robin Washington, Trustee Milton Payton, the Human Services Special Events Committee, department of Parks & Recreation, as well as our elected and appointed officials, volunteers, residents and participants;** for making **Family Fun Day** a big success.

This is the type of event where everyone wins. It also helped to showcase the new synergy between the Village and Governors State University. Although GSU was not an official sponsor; there was much cooperation and assistance

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## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Done Right Family Fun Day A Big Hit

"This is what brings families together and helps to grow a community," was the reaction of **University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington**, on the first annual **Family Fun Day - "Don't Sit - Get Fit."**

Monday, **January 16** was a special day indeed, beginning with the annual celebration of **Dr. King's** life at the **Performing Arts Center at Governors State University (GSU)**.

Mayor Covington said "Dr. King was so prophetic. It's too bad that so many people misunderstand what he was really trying to say and do." **January 15** marked what would have been Dr. King's **83rd** birthday.

**Dr. Robin Washington**, an **assistant professor of Physical Therapy** at Governors State University, and



**Certified Rehabilitation Counselor**, and a major facilitator of the day's events said, "Overall, the first annual Family Fun Day, "Don't Sit - Get Fit" event was a major success on so many levels."

One factor cited by many participants was the fact that so many elements of the Village of University Park came together to make the event a success. Volunteers included: **Human Services & Special Events Committee; Department of Parks & Recreation** and the

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**Now You  
KNOW!  
VISITS UNCLE BUBBA'S**

**SEE  
BLACK HISTORY WEEK  
SCHEDULE  
P. 9**



Mayor Covington celebrates January 9 birthday at University Park Golf Club and Conference Center.

given from those within the university. I look forward to continuing and growing that relationship, as GSU moves to become a four-year institution.

I would also like to take a moment to reflect on the life of **Maggie Daley**, the recently deceased wife of former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. I was honored to attend the recent memorial held in her honor. Chicago's former "First Lady" is a great example of someone who represented her city well, in thought and good deeds. She was so highly regarded that condolences came in from around the world, on word of her passing. Maggie Daley represented the best there is when it comes to selfless public service. We will all miss her.

In the aftermath of Dr. King's birthday it is time to prepare ourselves for the March primary, which will soon be upon us. While it is difficult to identify his ultimate legacy, because he was a man of so many accomplishments...It is safe to say that the **1965 Voting Rights Act** would not have passed without his leadership and persistence.

If you do nothing else to honor this great man; at least recognize his contributions to your freedom of thought and choice by exercising your right to vote. As you know there are efforts across the country to not only limit, but end the right of African Americans to vote.

We cannot allow this to happen.

Dr. King once said, "No nation can long continue to flourish or to find its way to a better society while it allows any one of its citizens...to be denied the right to participate in the most fundamental of all privileges of democracy - the right to vote."

In his nationally syndicated column Marc Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League wrote, "Today, new voter restriction laws on the books or in the works in at least 34 states could deny the right to vote to more than

5 million Americans this year. These laws include new photo ID requirements, elimination of early voting, bans on voting by out-of-state college students, and rollbacks of voting rights for ex-felons."

States trying to push these restrictions on an unsuspecting American public, claim that they are necessary to prevent voter fraud. However neither the Bush or Obama Justice Departments have found any evidence of significant voter fraud in American elections, following extensive investigations.

Please understand, those whom would try to restrict your right to vote know that voting empowers you to not only select those whom you want to represent you; voting allows you more power over quality of life issues for you and your family.

I am urging you to first make sure you

are registered. If you plan to early vote, there are new rules. Make sure you understand them well in advance of the March 20th Primary Day and the November 6th General Election day.

And remember, bad weather is not an excuse not to vote. It might be bad in March. It might be worse in November. No matter, you owe it to yourself and your family to get out and vote. You also owe it to Dr. King and all of those who fought, went to jail and died to give you that right.

Finally, I would like to share this poem with you. It is both inspirational and thought-provoking. It reads:

*If we strive to share  
a bit of kindness everyday,  
and care for those who suffer  
pain and strife -  
If we listen patiently  
and try to understand,  
we can make a difference in this life.*

*If we share our laughter  
and our smiles with everyone,  
and help each other feel a sense of worth,  
God will bless our lives,  
and though we pass this way but once,  
we can make a difference here on earth.*

Emily Matthews

Also, thank you to the Rich East family for inviting me to serve as **"Principal for a Day" on Thursday, January 10.** I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to embrace and interact with the students, faculty and administrators at Rich East.

**Until next month.**



**Peer Leaders; Health Administration faculty from GSU; GSU sophomore Physical Therapy students; members from the GSU Youth Swim Program; volunteers from the Chicago Southland Gymnastics program; and University Park residents, staff, and officials.**

Continuing Dr. Washington said, "The event significantly exceeded my expectations, providing fun and excitement for all involved. New relationships were formed which will provide additional opportunities to work as a community, on improving the health of our children (and families).

"Children were provided the opportunity to visit the Kids Health Center, as **Coach Vernard Alsberry** led circuits utilizing the exercise equipment including the **Sports Wall.**"



**Trustee Milton Payton**, whose vision, ideas and energy are a major reason for the Kids Health Club coming to the village said, "If the

expression on the children's faces was any indication, they really enjoyed Family Fun Day. They had tons of fun. Many did not want it to end and were disappointed when they had to leave at 4:00 p.m."

Continuing Trustee Payton said, "**Baseball Commissioner Eugene Lawson** said, 'This was the best event that University Park has staged...ever.' "This from a person who has probably participated in hundreds of events over the years, as a volunteer."

Mayor Covington, Dr. Washington and Trustee Payton all emphasized their happiness at the enthusiasm and cooperation of the volunteers;

and the fact that Family Fun Day demonstrated additional evidence of the growing partnership between GSU and the Village of University Park.

Trustee Payton said, "Some of the visitors provided ideas on what should be included to make the facility even better. They were very pleased that the Village was finally doing something positive for the children."

Now that the big day is over and the center has been introduced to the community...What's next?

Dr. Washington says, "Immediate steps will be taken to start planning the next Family Fun Day, and

preparing for the grand opening of the Kids Health Center. Once the center opens and trained staff is in place, I will recruit children to participate in the youth health study.



"I would like to give a special thanks to Mayor Vivian Covington for her vision; Trustee Milton Payton for his wisdom, partnership

and dedication to the Family Fun Day event and opening of the Kids Health Center. Finally, a special thanks to Dr. DeLawnia Comer-HaGans, and Zo Ramamonjarivelo, and Holly Ditzler for their support throughout this process."

Trustee Payton said that next steps include, "Convening a meeting with the Mayor and Village Manager to develop plans to complete and open the permanent location for the Kids Health facility."





# COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT

I am continuing to regularly review all existing TIF agreements. The latest on the Iliana Project is that it is going well. We do need to receive input from our citizens at the scheduled public hearings. Please fill out surveys, questionnaires and provide other information, to ensure that your interests and the interests of the Village are met.

My office has an application pending that, if successful would result in a reduction of the amount the Village currently pays out for unemployment insurance. We paid out about \$191,000 last year.

Also, MB Financial the receiver for Fairview Estates, reports that they will be prioritizing homeowners' requests once the weather breaks.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Chief Chuck Exner*

I am pleased to announce that the University Park Fire Department has been notified that it will be receiving a grant of \$11,914.43 from the Will County 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System Board.

This grant will be used for communication/9-1-1 equipment. An Intergovernmental Governmental Agreement will need to be signed in order to receive the grant.



## PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

*Director Keely Childress*

### LIFEGUARD TRAINING

Governors State University Pool  
February 7 - March 13 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Every Tuesday

\$225 per person  
Minimum 5 - No Maximum 10

Registration Deadline  
Friday February 3

### INTERVIEWING AND APPLICATION SKILLS 101

University Park Library

Tuesday, February 28  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Free - Minimum 5 - Maximum 15

Registration Deadline  
Monday, February 20, 2012

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

### DODGE BALL LEAGUE

South Suburban Complex  
1329 Commerce, Crete, IL

Saturday, March 17  
Noon - 2:30 p.m.

\$40.00 per person - Minimum 4 -  
Maximum 10

Registration Deadline - Thursday,  
March 16

### UNIVERSITY PARK YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Registration will be held on Fri-  
days 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at  
Crete-Monee Middle School, 635  
Olmsted Road, University Park.  
**For more information contact the  
Parks and Recreation Office.**

### PARENT/CHILD DANCE

University Golf Club and  
Conference Center  
23520 Crawford Avenue

Saturday, March 3  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
\$20.00 per couple  
\$5.00 additional per person

Registration Deadline  
Friday, February 17

### MEN'S OPEN GYM BASKETBALL

Crete-Monee Sixth Grade Center  
(760 W. Exchange)

Starting March 6 on Tuesdays  
and Thursdays  
\$5.00 at the door -  
Minimum 10 - No Maximum

Ages 21 and over

### FOUR WINDS CASINO, NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN

Thursday, March 8  
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m. pickup - 90 Towncenter  
9:30 a.m. pickup - Thornwood  
Apartments

\$20 per person  
Minimum 35 - Maximum 57

Registration Deadline  
Thursday, February 16

### CREATE YOUR RESUME/ APPLICATION WORKSHOP

University Park Library

Tuesday, March 13  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Free - Minimum 5 - Maximum 15

Registration Deadline  
Monday, February 27

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUMMER WORKERS

Day Camp Coordinators

Counselors  
Before and After Care Supervisor  
Senior Cashier/Office Attendant  
Cashier/Concession Attendant  
Seasonal Lifeguard  
Pool Attendant(s)  
Farm Worker(s)  
Park Worker(s)

If you are interested in joining our team this season, applications will be available starting **March 14 - March 23 at Village Hall, 698 Burnham Drive.** Please include your dates of availability and the position for which you are applying. **Background checks will be performed.**

### EMERGENCY LIFESAVING TRAINING CONDUCTED



Director Keely Childress and Program Supervisor Gregory Murray attended the University Park Fire

Department's CPR/AED training, conducted by Lieutenant Jeff Duhoski in December. Basketball, football, baseball and Family Night Volunteers also attended. All attendees are now certified to participate with any programs that host events inside any Crete-Monee School District facility.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Chief Mel Davis*

### HOMICIDE SUSPECT ARRESTED

Tommie Crockwell, 46, of Country Club Hills, has been arrested and charged with murder, in the October 27, 2011 homicide of Johnnie "Duke" Rouse, 19, a resident of the Village of University Park. The suspect is being held on a \$1 million bond.

### COFFEE/TEA MEETINGS WITH THE CHIEF AND POLICE COMMAND STAFF

Starting January 2012 the police department will be implementing our new community awareness strategies to keep residents informed. Police Department and University Park Public Safety Committee will work together on making a difference in our community.

### ROADSIDE SAFETY CHECKS

The police will be keeping the streets safe by spearheading quar-

*(Continued next page)*



terly **Roadside Safety Checks**. This will keep drunk drivers, uninsured motorists and wanted drivers off of our streets. “**Operation Safe Passage**” will be in effect starting January 2012.

**TRUCK ENFORCEMENT**

Due to street conditions and the constant (needed) repairs being reported, the department has developed truck enforcement strategies to address this problem.

**University Park and L.A.W. Publications are fighting public enemy #1 “DRUG ABUSE.”** Stop by Police Department or Village Hall for a copy of the publication “Fight Drug Abuse.”



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Director Jerry Townsend

**WILL COUNTY’S RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Earlier in 2011, Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation that made extensive changes to the amended Illinois Products Recycling and Reuse Act in 2012. The amended legislation bans electronic items from landfills. As of January 1, 2012, **garbage disposal companies** will no longer pick-up electronic items covered under the new legislation.

Will County responded to legislation with a new program called **Will County’s New Residential Electronic Recycling Program**. This program offers 13 free of charge drop-offs locations, as well as a FREE front-door collection service for electronic items. The pick-up service is offered by Will County’s contractor, **Vintage Tech Recyclers**.

**Examples of items accepted (broken or obsolete) include but are not limited to:**

- Personal Computers
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Keyboards
- Cable / Satellite Receives
- Printers
- Fax Machines
- Televisions
- VCR, DVD, Laser Disc Players
- Cameras
- Cell Phones / Telephones
- Microwaves

**For more information** regarding items accepted and the guidelines for recycling please visit Will County’s Green website [www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com), call University Park Public Works Department at (708) 534-4823 or visit Village of University Park’s website [www.university-park-il.com](http://www.university-park-il.com).

To schedule pick-up from your front door, contact Vintage Tech recyclers by phone or email.

- Call (866) 631-1707 Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm

- Email them at [willcounty@vintagetechnrecyclers.com](mailto:willcounty@vintagetechnrecyclers.com).

When emailing include your name, address, and telephone number as well as the type and number of items you want picked-up. There is a limit of ten items per collection.

If you plan to drop your items off, the three closest locations to University Park are listed below. The complete list can also be found on Will County’s Green website.



**MONEE**

Monee-Forest Preserve District of Will County  
27341 Ridgeland Ave  
(Monee Reservoir)

708-534-8499

Hours: 7 days a week 8am-4pm

**MANHATTAN**

Manhattan Township  
24645 S Eastern Ave

815-478-3123

Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-3pm  
1st & 3rd Sat 8am-Noon

**BEECHER**

Beecher-Washington Township  
30200 Town Center Road

708-946-2026

Hours:  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-3pm  
2nd Sat of the Month 8am-12pm

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT IN THE WORKS**

The intersection at **Monee/Manhattan Road** is in need of a traffic signal. A letter of agreement from involved governmental entities is pending. Those affected include the Village of University Park, the Village of Monee and the Will County Highway Department. Once in effect the two villages will pay 25% each and Will County 50% to cover construction costs. Once completed the two villages will split maintenance costs 50/50.



**UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

Manager Paul Blockoms

Join us every weekend for the “All You Can Eat Breakfast Brunch.” Enjoy all of your breakfast and brunch favorites with our made to order omelettes and fresh waffle stations.

**Adults - \$11.95**  
**Children - \$5.95 (ages 3-10)**  
\* Price includes non-alcoholic beverage

Friday Night Stepper’s Set with DJ “Lavell C” - Come out and enjoy the “Best” Stepper’s Set in the South Subur4bs. Good music and food, plenty of free parking.

Only \$5.00 cover charge until 11:00 p.m. and \$10.00 after.

For information on our Birthday Packages call (708) 747-0306, ext. 21.

**THIS WINTER - GET YOUR SWING ON AT THE UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB**

**SEVEN INDOOR BAYS WILL KEEP YOUR GAME SHARP FOR 2012**

**WORK ON YOUR PUTTING STROKE ON OUR 336 SQUARE FOOT PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN**

**WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME? GIVE PAUL BLOCKOMS, PGA MEMBER, A CALL AT (708) 747-0306, EXT. 23., or [Pblockoms@universitygolfclub.com](mailto:Pblockoms@universitygolfclub.com)**

**HITTING BAY RATES**

**Weekday**  
\$10.00 for half hour  
\$18.00 for one hour

**Weekend**  
\$13.00 for half hour  
\$24.00 for one hour

\$275 for Seasonal Pass





# COMMUNICATE! NEWS BRIEFS

## BOARD NEWS

### COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS UPDATE

**Gloria Brookins** has been appointed **Chairperson** of the **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**. **Roosevelt Martin** is the new **Chairman** of the **Public Safety Committee**. Other appointments are as follows.

**Public Services & Utilities Committee**  
**Theaprise Brooks** - 12/31/14

**Information Technology & Cable Commission**  
**Kiesha Dyson** - 12/31/14

**Code Enforcement Commission**  
**Bill Smith** - 12/31/14

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Bill Smith** - 12/31/14

### VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

**Village Clerk's Dee Jones** reports that office staff have been trained by the **Will County Clerk's Office** on the use of the newly installed electronic voting equipment. Machines will be ready for **early voters** who show up for the **General Primary in March**.

And **COMMUNICATE!** is pleased to report that **Clerk Jones** has received her **Certificate of Executive Appointment** to the **Municipal Clerks Training Institute Committee**, signed by **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn**.

### TRUSTEE NEWS

If you are in need of a GED or continuing educational services; **Trustee Elizabeth "Liz" Williams**, wants you to know that the **Adult Education** department at **Prairie State College** is there to serve you.

Trustee Williams has been working diligently on a **Community Outreach Program** with **Prairie State College**. This pilot program is for those who need to pass the **General Education Development (GED)** test, or receive training from the **Adult Literacy Institute**.



The program is **free** to participants and of minimal cost to the village, a win win for residents and the Village of University Park.

**Adult Basic Education** courses will be offered locally in the **University Park Towncenter**. How will this local class help? It offers the opportunity to continue your education for a better life. These classes also eliminate the need to travel outside of your local area to acquire an education.

**See page 13 and fill out the questionnaire** needed to determine how many people are interested. We need at least **30 participants**. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to **Trustee Williams**. Or, pass it on to someone you know who may need this service. **Trustee Williams** says, "Remember I am working for you. I would like to see everyone elevated in University Park, one person at a time. **University Park** is a great place to live, shop and grow."

The following is currently available.

**Adult Basic Education (ABE)/General Education Development (GED)**  
(708) 709-7880 or (708) 709-7931  
amaltbia@prairiestate.edu

**Adult Literacy** - (708) 709-3724  
divory@prairiestate.edu

**English as a Second Language (ESL)/General Education Development (Spanish GED)/Citizenship Training** - (708) 709-7922 / (708) 709-3790

**Community Outreach - ABE/GED**  
(708) 709-7880/(708) 709-7931  
Amaltbia@prairiestate.edu

**ESL/Spanish GED** -(708) 709-7922 / (708) 709-3790

*It is the policy of Prairie State College to provide on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities.*

**Prairie State College** - 202 South Halsted Street  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 709-3500  
prairiestate.edu

**University Park Contact**  
Trustee Elizabeth "Liz" Williams - 4 Town center -  
University Park IL 60484 (708) 534-4237  
Liz Williams@university-park-il.com

## OTHER NEWS

**The Village of University Park, II  
Human Services and Special Events Committee**

### 2012 BLACK HISTORY MONTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Honoring our Past, Inspiring our Future.**

#### WEEK ONE

**Friday: February 3, 2012**  
**Movie Night, Crafts, and Reading with the Stars!**  
Mrs. Verlinda Willis, Librarian, Matteson School  
District 162 & Village of University Park Library

Location: University Park Library  
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm Refreshments will be served

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**A Kickoff Event with Those Funny Little People, Black Cowboys, Know your History Game, and more.**

Location: 90 Town Center  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Refreshments will be served

#### WEEK TWO

**Friday, February 10 2012**  
**The State of the Black Business and the development of the black community in the 21st Century**  
Mr. Emmett T. Vaughn, Supplier Diversity Manager for Exelon Corp.

Location:  
University Park Golf Club and Conference Center  
Reception 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm/  
Event 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Refreshments will be served (BUSINESS ATTIRE)

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**  
**BLACK ON BLACK LOVE**  
**Celebrating the African American Relationship and Marriage**

Soul Café (Live Music)  
Honoring the longest married couple and the most recent married couple in University Park

Location: 90 TownCenter  
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Refreshments will be served

#### WEEK THREE:

**Friday, February 17, 2012**  
**Movie Night and Crafts**  
Feature Movie: (Drum line)

Location: University Park Library  
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Refreshments will be available

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**  
**Greek Night: Old School v/s New School**  
Fraternities & Sororities: i.e. Alpha Phi Alpha, AKA,

*(Continued next page)*



Sigma Gamma Rho, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Step Show.

Guest speaker: Dangers of Hazing College Information Fair

Location 90 TownCenter Time: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Refreshments will be served

WEEK FOUR

Saturday, February 24, 2012

Movie Night and Crafts

Feature Movie: The Help

Location: University Park Library Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Refreshments will be served

Saturday, February 25, 2012

“Black Women in American History and Culture” who we honor through their achievements

Honoree’s: TBA

Location: University Park Golf Club and Conference Center Time: Reception 6:00 pm -7:00 pm/ Event 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

For additional information contact the library at (708) 534-2580. For all other events, contact Mrs. Virnita Martin at (708) 663-9669 or Mrs. Bobbie Greer at (708) 941-7611.

Higher Education Association Elects GSU President to Board of Directors

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon, newly elected to three-year term to the board of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The AASCU, based in Washington, D.C., consists of nearly 420 public colleges, universities and higher education systems. Dr. Maimon said, “My leadership role in AASCU will help promote GSU as a model 21st century university.

Lt. Governor Simon Points Illinois Residents To JOBS!

If you’re looking for a job, Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon says you don’t have to go any further than the state of Illinois online data base, Illinois JobLink. Site is maintained by the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Those looking for work can access postings for free!

Get to a computer and go to: https://illinoisjoblink.illinois.gov.

Good luck.

Batter UP!

Baseball Commissioner, Eugene Lawson, Jr., wants to see you this upcoming baseball season.

University Park 2012 Baseball Registration

Ages 4-14 years-old Ongoing now until April 15th, 2012 Contact Parks and Recreation - (708) 534-6456 or Eugene Lawson, Jr. (708) 534-5894 lawsonjr.eugene@yahoo.com

Tribune: University Park A Low Cost Option For Seniors

Check out the first page of the January 22 Money & Real Estate section of the Chicago Sunday Tribune. There is a picture of the scenic, winding grounds of Thornwood House, a privately owned and run complex. The caption reads, “A landscaped area with a winding path is among the features at Thornwood House Apartments in University Park.”

Tenant and University Park resident Westly McGee says, “The apartment at Thornwood House was several hundred dollars a month cheaper than the others, and it was all new.”

The Village of University Park, is currently reviewing plans that would increase the housing choices for seniors already living in, and those who might be interested in coming to University Park.

NOW YOU KNOW!

COMMUNICATE! Feature

Uncle Bubba’s Cowboy Rib House

By Evan Dozier, Staff Writer

If you’re looking for a place that serves quality bar-b-que, look no further than University Park’s own Uncle Bubba’s Cowboy Rib House. Located at 450A S. Cicero Ave., it was recently started by Mr. Abe Scott.



brought in a good flow of customers”.

Uncle Bubba’s is doing so well that it is difficult to pinpoint customers’ favorite items.

Scott explains, “The rib tips and links is selling well.

It’s hard to tell which item sells the best because everything sells well.”

While discussing the high turnover and potential involvement in the

food service business, Scott simply replied, “Get ‘hands-on’ experience before you do”.

Scott has a standard by which he conducts business which is, according to him, to serve the community. He also expresses thanks to those who have already supported him.

He said, “One thing I would like to say is that I really appreciate the turnout of the community in support of the business including those from University Park, Monee, Chicago Heights, Mattesson, Richton Park and other areas. Word of mouth even attracts people from as far away as Chicago. I also appreciate the support from the mayor and her staff”.





KJ Franklin (28) Celebrates with teammates



### Former UP LION/Crete-Monee Star Scores Winning TD To Help St. Xavier Win Their First NAIA National Championship

Former UP Lion and Crete-Monee star KJ Franklin fulfilled his dream of not only capturing a championship but scoring the winning touchdown to help St. Xavier University when NAIA National Championship.

What makes this even more amazing is that KJ played the last six games on one leg! Franklin will have to have surgery to repair torn ligaments in his leg.

Coach (Tip) Murray spoke about KJ stating “KJ is a very special person. I had the honor of coaching him in youth football for the Lions and we moved to the High



School level together (Crete-Monee). He has always played with passion and has always been one of the most explosive & exciting players that I have seen/coached in years.”

Murray recalls Franklin’s senior year at Crete. “KJ and that group of seniors are the ones who got the winning tradition started at Crete. After battling a tough TF South team in the first round of the playoffs, Crete played Joliet Catholic which was ranked #11 in the Country. No one gave us a chance to win that game at all” Murray recalls.

“Nobody had scored 21 points on that team all year! The first possession we had the ball on the first play KJ took the ball 70 yards for a touchdown. As a matter of fact KJ scored 4TDs that night including a 95 yard interception run for a TD. That was the most exciting run that I have ever witnessed in high school football. We lost the game, but that put us on the map as a team to be reckoned with.

“I still show the highlights of that game with KJ. I tell incoming football players, this is what it means to be a Warrior. The kid scored every touchdown in the biggest game of our program’s life at the time. He is deserving of all of his good fortune. We are very proud of him.”



### University Park Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Prairie State College Adult Education Department

#### Off-Campus GED® Preparation Classes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Are you interested in earning your GED certificate?  Yes  No
- Did you graduate from high school? If yes, When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- Do you have a state ID or driver's license to prove you live within the district?  Yes  No
- Do you have transportation?  Yes  No
- Can you attend classes at 90 Towncenter two days a week for 12 weeks?  Yes  No
- Would you be interested in a morning class or evening class?  morning  evening
- What days would you prefer to attend classes? **Choose one option:**  Monday / Wednesday **or**  Tuesday / Thursday
- Do you have/need childcare to attend classes? Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

#### Qualifications necessary to register into the Prairie State College / University Park GED® classes:

- At least 16 years of age
- A district resident
- Not currently enrolled in high school / non-high school graduate
- Has a photo ID

#### University Park Contact Information

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2012 MLK Dream Keepers Contest

# Winners

## K-2nd Grade

- 1st Place Grace Tibbs
- 2nd Place Kayla Reed
- 3rd Place Savannah Hirsch

## 3rd—5th Grade

- 1st Place Maurice Jenkins
- 2nd Place Shemiah Plenty
- 3rd Place Karla Preciado

## 6—8th Grade

- 1st Place Victoria Misters
- 2nd Place Kayla Vaughn
- 3rd Place Trinity Lee

## 9th—12th Grade

- 1st Place Patrick Holman
- 2nd Place Nakia Franklin
- 3rd Place Tunde Odulate

Crete-Monee School District in conjunction with the Prairie State College Adult Education Department is hosting

## OFF-CAMPUS GED PREPARATION CLASSES



**Registration**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Crete-Monee High School**  
**1515 W. Exchange Street • Crete, Illinois**

- **Classes begin on February 21, 2012**
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays 5 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**
- **Located at Crete-Monee High School**

Registration will be held on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring an ID and proof of medical card, if applicable. Registration is for new students and students who have successfully completed a semester within the past 12 months. Due to limited resources if you do not show up for class after completing the assessment/registration process, you will not be able to register for next semester.

Please call 708.709.7931 or 708.367.8315 for more information.



John M. Rodgers, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools



**THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK**

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State Representative  
**Anthony DeLuca**  
and State Representative  
**Lisa Dugan**  
Invite you to their



# Senior Information Forum

**Friday, February 10**  
**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

*University Park Golf Club & Conference Center*  
*23520 Crawford Ave. • University Park*

This event is free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Donna Fanning at (708) 672-0200.

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