

The Village of University Park has just experienced a real life example of what happens, when elected officials and citizens work together in the best interests of the community.

Aqua America, Inc. sought an **85 percent** increase in **water rates**, settling for a **70.2 percent raise**, an average of **\$38** a month, after a ruling by the **Illinois Commerce Commission**, following public hearings.



**UP
Beat
Mayor
Vivian E.
Covington**

Although this is the first rate increase we have experienced since **1997**, it is still too much, especially since there remain so many complaints about the **water's condition**. Residents will also have to deal with a **20.9 percent** increase in **sewer fees**, an average of **\$9.52** a month, according to Aqua officials.

At the **March 27** board meeting I challenged Aqua representatives to hold additional public hearings; and to tell us how the quality of the water can be improved.

At that same meeting **Trustee Larry Brown** inquired about whether there were employment opportunities available to residents. Aqua is reportedly working with the Public Works Department to explore possibilities.

And **Trustee Milton Payton** asked for a list of rates in surrounding areas, after being told by the Aqua spokesperson that some local rates were higher and some lower, than the new **University Park** charges.

There are no current infrastructure upgrades being planned, according to Aqua.

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COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Village Manager Lafayette Linear & Village of University Park Departments

I am working with the Finance Department to schedule several budget workshops, to discuss what we are doing to correct our fiscal condition. Our last complete audit was 2008, at which time we had a budget deficit of \$2.4 million. That dollar amount has no doubt increased since that time.

We have conducted several meetings with all Department Directors, to develop a fiscally responsible budget going forward.

One small step toward fiscal responsibility, is my recommendation to purchase the golf course ATM machine for \$1,325. This will offset the \$358 monthly maintenance payments that we have been paying, since the expiration of the lease.

The Mayor and I are making good progress in our efforts to create a corporate citizenship program. The best evidence of such programs are when they are developed in a way that is mutually beneficial.

Businesses in the Industrial Park, as well as our other businesses, including the ones that are home-based, add greatly to the quality of life of the municipality in which they are located... Far beyond the goods and services that they produce.

It is our goal to develop a corporate citizenship program, that will be a model and inspiration to others within the Southland and the state.

(Continued next page)

**VILLAGE
GARAGE SALE &
BLOCK PARTY**
JUNE 9-10

**NOW HIRING
UNIVERSITY PARK
POLICE DEPT.**
PG. 11



PARKS & RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT

*Director
Keely Childress*

Adult Fitness Classes

Summer is around the corner!! If you want to lose weight, tone up, change your lifestyle, and have a total body makeover from inside out, look no farther, it is all in here in our adult fitness program. Work out muscles that have been long forgotten, burn calories and fat while having fun while doing aerobic exercises.

Starts: Monday, May 14, 2012
thru Monday, July 9, 2012
(NO CLASS on Memorial Day on May 28)

Cost: \$ 60.00 per person for
1 hour per week for 8 weeks.

Location: Riegel Farm Complex

Deadline: Friday, May 4, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Superhero Party

Meet us in Palmer Park dressed as your favorite superhero. We will have team games and a snack.

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2012

Deadline: Monday, April 23, 2012

Rain Date: Saturday, June 2, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Palmer Park

Cost: \$5.00 per person
Min 10 /Max 20

Men's 16 Inch Softball

This will be the second season of Men's Softball under the lights. Come join our Sunday league where there is a wonderful family atmosphere, and play Chicago's own 16 inch softball! The league has a ten (10) game season that is concluded with a tournament to close the season out. Ages 18 and older.

Next meeting is on Sunday, May 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Date: Sunday, May 20, 2012 - July 29, 2012

Deadline: Friday, May 11, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Location: Riegel Farm Softball Field

Cost: \$425.00 (per Team)
Min 5 /Max 25

JUNE



Hickok Aquatic Center Opening Day

Saturday, June 2, 2012

711 Hickok Avenue, University Park, Illinois 60484

Phone: (708) 534-6141 or (708) 534-6456

Fax: (708) 534-4822

Email: hickokaquatic@sbcglobal.net

DAY CAMPS

Monday- Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
(call for reservations)

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday- Friday 2:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 12:00p.m.- 6:00p.m.

ADMISSION FEES

\$3.50 (Residents)
\$5.00 (Non-Residents)

MEMBERSHIPS

***Up to five (5) Members on Family Passes

Residents- \$100.00
Non-Residents- \$175.00

BIRTHDAY PARTIES FOR KIDS

Starts at \$8.99 per child

Includes: Hot dog meals, goodie bags, reserved decorated concession area, swimming.

*requires a \$50.00 deposit

RENTALS

Picnic Rentals start at \$100.00

Private Rentals start at \$150.00

*requires a 50.00 deposit

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An important goal of my administration is to **“keep costs down and keep service up.”** We will stay on top of this and other situations, to ensure that the residents’ interests are maintained.

On March 25, I spoke before a group of elected officials and residents from the Southland, including University Park, about the lack of a trauma center in the south suburbs.

If that is not enough the state wants to close the mental health facility in Tinley Park. I am strongly against this proposed action. We must come together as a region to protest the appalling lack of services in the south suburbs. Will County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state

of Illinois. Yet, services are not expanding fast enough to accommodate the growing population.

It is up to us to ensure that our legislators, are not only aware of the current needs of the area; but that they engage in the necessary advocacy to make sure that future needs are met.

I also spoke at a **League of Women Voters** forum in March on recent achievements and future challenges facing the Village.

Also, I and several other elected officials recently participated in **Rich Township High School District 227’s Prin-**

icipal-For-A-Day Program and the **Perfect Attendance Campaign (PAC)**. And I was one of the panelists who took part in the **PEARL GIRL** conference at **Rich South High School**.

PEARL stands for **Powerful - Extraordinary - Admireable - Rare - Lady**

We must take every opportunity to stand as role models for our young people. This is one of the most important parts we can play in improving the quality of life for our youth, not just in the **Village of University Park**, but wherever we might find ourselves

Standing on behalf of our youth will improve our community, more than anything else that we do.

Good news for the Village. **Congress** has passed a **90-day** extension for federal highway and transit funding. This means that all currently funded transportation projects can continue without interruption. This is a good opportunity to let Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., and your two U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk know your feelings. This legislation must be given a long-term extension.





All guests are expected to follow all rules. Everyone pays to enter the facility, even if you are not swimming.

- Anyone over the age of 11 must have identification.
- Ages 4 through 10 must have someone over the age of 15 accompanying them with an I.D.
- Ages 3 and under need an adult over 18 with an I.D.
- All children who are not potty trained must wear a swim diaper.

PROPER SWIM ATTIRE MUST BE WORN TO ENTER THE POOL. THIS MEANS SWIMMING SUITS AND TRUNKS, AND WHITE T-SHIRTS.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Chief
Mel Davis*

I am pleased to report that the **Village of University Park** is the recipient of **\$20,000**, one of only **24** grants awarded by the **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)** recently, enabling the village to purchase a police squad. We were the only village (or municipality) in Will County to receive the funding, out of 315 applicants.

ICJIA works to improve the administration of Illinois criminal justice in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Go to www.icjia.state.il.us to learn more about their important work.

Citizens Beware

The Spring/Summer season is upon us. This is when property crimes increase significantly. The **University Park Police Department** would like to offer some helpful tips to make your home **less vulnerable** to crime.

1. Ensure that all doors and windows are properly working. Secure all locks before leaving home.

2. Confirm and let family members know that alarms are set before leaving your home. If you don't have an installed alarm, get one.
3. Set inside lights on a timer. Install outside lights to highlight dark or secluded areas.
4. Consider leaving a television or radio on while you are away from home.

Inform trusted neighbors and give them a contact number, if you will be away for an extended period of time. Make sure your mail is picked up daily.

Contact the University Park Police Department on our non-emergency line, and request a house watch; free of charge of course.

Also, it's **prom time**. Let's keep our youth safe. Make sure they understand the **dangers of drinking/drugs and driving**.

On behalf of the **University Park Police Department**, I'm wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.

**WE ARE ALL OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER.
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING.**



UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER

*Manager
Paul Blockoms*

Thanks to the unseasonably mild winter, the **Golf Course is open for the Season!** To schedule a **Tee Time**, call **(708) 747-0306, ext. 11**. You may also book on line at www.universitygolfclub.com.

Course renovations have been made during the off-season, to address some drainage issues and to create more challenging play.

Staff have been working on renovations, including the addition of ponds on holes #1, 2 and 8. Additional creeks are being added throughout the Golf Course, which will assist with drainage concerns.



Announcements

The **Women's Golf Association (WGA)** scheduled their **Open House and Registration on Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m.** If you missed it please call (708) 935-4862 for information. The **WGA** offers a variety of times for beginners and novices to play. They also sponsor the annual **"Rally for the Cure Golf Outing."** In addition the organization hosts several **Golf Clinics** during the season, including an **"End of Season Awards Ceremony and Banquet"**, Sunday October 14, 2:00 p.m.

Private lessons are available with our **Head Golf Professional and PGA Member**, Paul Blockoms. Lessons can be scheduled individually or in groups. For rates and availability of times, please contact Paul at **(708) 473-4372**, or email at Pblockoms@universitygolfclub.com.

Our **Annual Mother's Day Brunch** will be held on **Sunday, May 13th**. There will be three seat-

ings at 10:00 a.m., Noon and 2:00 p.m. The Brunch will feature an array of delicacies. Go to www.universitygolfclub.com/urban-room-restaurant.html to view the menu. Or call **(708) 747-0306, Ext. 21** for **RESERVATIONS**.

Complimentary Champagne Fountain - \$25.95 + Gratuity for Adults - \$12.95 + Gratuity for Children 9 & Under.

Residential Discounts - Village of University Park residents receive 20 percent discounts off Menu Orders.

Disclaimer - Does not include Breakfast Brunch, Specials, Alcoholic Beverages or Green Fees..

See Pro Shop Associate for details.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

ComEd Responds to Customer Outrage

Trustee Keith Griffin, Public Works Department liaison, reported on the **Joint Operation Center**, being implemented by **ComEd** in the wake of last summer's extensive and long-lasting outages that in one case, left 850,000 Northern Illinois customers without power for several days.

ComEd recently announced the setting up of 17 temporary communication centers in locations, where 20 percent of customers lose power for three hours or more.

In making the announcement **CEO Ann Pramaggiore** said, "joint operations centers will be staffed 24 hours a day in a storm or other outage emergency. Municipal leaders will receive frequent updates from ComEd and municipal representatives at the facilities."

The plan is designed to improve communications between the utility, which serves about 400 Illinois municipalities, and customers. The focus will be on restoring power to hospitals, nursing homes and other buildings that serve the public.

In anticipation of this summer's inclement weather the utility has added 1,000 lines to shorten wait times. They have also hired 20 percent more first responders to restore power during outages.

Something New From Thornwood House Apartments

The **Service Coordinator Department** is rather new at **Thornwood House Apartments**. It is a coordinated effort to make life easier for the residents.

Toshia Minor and **Carmen Colon**, currently comprise the department. You might ask, "What is a Service Coordinator?" Minor says, "We provide supportive services allowing seniors and those with disabilities to maintain their independence. This helps them remain in their homes, avoiding admission to more costly, institutionalized care."

Continuing the care provider says,

(Continued next page)



UP Gets Ready for June Community Yard Sale & Block Club Party

June is almost here and **COMMUNICATE!** wants to make sure everyone knows what's happening in the Village of University Park.

To get the latest on what's coming up next, we caught up with **Sandra Warren, Chair of the subcommittee of the Human Services and Special Events Committee**, charged with organizing the event.

What are the dates and times for this two-day event?

Yard Sale –Saturday, June 9th time set by the seller.
Block Party–Sunday June 10th 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

What is the contact information for those who want to participate?

A flyer will be made available for participants to sign up for the events. Home address and phone numbers will be required. We will also prepare a map and place ads in the media for the yard sale.

What do residents have to do to prepare to participate in the yard sale?

Just fill out the information on the flyer so that your house is listed in the ad. A yard sale kit will be provided. It will include helpful hints for a successful yard sale. Directional signs will be put up for your area.

Are there any special permits needed?

No special permits are needed. Individuals can start planning now. Ask neighbors if they are interested in having a Block Party. You may want to organize around a theme, such as Luau, Western, 60s or something similar.

Decide if you want to have a potluck or just hot dogs or snacks. Designate a captain for your block and fill out the information on the flyer. There will be an incentive offered to be the BEST block club...so stay tuned.

Any special activities for children?

The (block) club can determine the activities. Some suggested activities are street hockey or street basketball and treasure hunts. A request to block off the street will be required for large street activities.

Do you plan for this to be an annual event? If so, will it occur on the same weekend?

The subcommittee will evaluate the events and make recommendations for continuing, if resident participation is positive.

What else do people need to know about this upcoming event?

This is an opportunity to be neighborly. Meet & greet your neighbor. Clean out your garage... Make a little money!!



“We collect information from residents and seek different services that may benefit them. We try to bring those services to the building, making life more convenient for our residents.”

Service Coordinators also act as “gate keepers” screening fraudulent health care and home maker services, and medical supply companies, who are trying to take advantage of unsuspecting residents.

Minor says, “At Thornwood House Apartments, we say, ‘If you have a problem with your sink; or if your light switch doesn’t work, contact the property manager’s office. But if you have a problem with YOU, come see us! If we are able to help we will do so.’”

GSU Hosting Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp

On **Wednesday, May 9 CenterPoint** invites veterans to attend a **free Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp**. Families and business partners of those serving in the military may attend for only \$25. The event runs from 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., with registration starting at 7:45 a.m.

The **Boot Camp** features presentations from industry professionals; opportunities for free one-on-one counseling; and breakfast with a panel of ex-military business owners. Attendees will also have access to CenterPoint’s extensive entrepreneurial services and resources.

Seating is limited to **100**. Pre-registration is necessary. For more information or to register, contact CenterPoint at Governors State University at (708) 534-4929, or visit www.centerpointgsu.com.

Local Debt Recovery Program Makes It Easier for Local Governments To Collect

The **State Comptroller’s office** has recently opened its **Local Debt Recovery Program** to all units of **local government**. Under the program, your municipality can enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Comptroller’s office to collect any **unpaid parking tickets, fines, fees, or other types of outstanding debts**.

The **Comptroller’s** office will walk village staff through the enrollment process, and assist with formatting data to aid in collecting. Contact Matt Ryan, deputy director of the Comptroller’s Government and Community Affairs Division at (312) 814-4944, or ryanmj@mail.ioc.state.il.us.

Other News - You Can Still Find That Job You’ve Been Seeking

If for some reason you missed the Village of University Park’s April 20th Job Fair, there are still jobs to be found. Check out illinoisjoblink.com, the state of Illinois’ new website helping people connect with jobs. The free site helps link job applicants with specific job openings.



**HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
COMMITTEE FUNCTION CALENDER 2012
Revised, March 24, 2012**

On The Road With The Peerleaders College Tour



EVENTS	DATES 2012
Family Fun Day	January/Martin Luther King's Birthday
Black History Month Celebrations	February
Community Sponsored Job Fair	April 20th
Community Garage Sale and Homeowners Associations and Neighborhood Block Parties	June 9th and 10th
Pine Lake Jazz, Blues & Gospel Concerts: • Jazz & Blues Concerts • Gospel Concerts	July 14th (Saturday) July 15th (Sunday)
Farmers Market	July 16th to September 1st
Back to School Family Festival & Carnival: • Carnival • Family Festival	August 16th -19th August 18th
Police and Firefighter Recognition and Appreciation Day	September 11th
Community Golf Outing	September 23rd
Community Health Fair and Coat Drive.	October 20th
Senior and Impaired Citizens Awareness	October (TBD)
Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness	October 22nd to November 3rd
Military Veterans Recognition and Appreciation	November 9th
Thanksgiving Dinner	November 22
Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Festival: Tree Lighting and Winter Festival	Dec 1st to Dec 22nd

Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Nai Neva Jenkins filed this special report with COMMUNICATE!

The Peerleader College tour took place from Tuesday, April 10 to Thursday April 12, in Atlanta, GA. Forty-four students from the Crete Monee School District, Southland Prep, Rich South and TF North schools participated.

The women got an opportunity to tour historic Spelman College, where they got the chance to visit the Camille Cosby Administration Building. The tour exposed our students to what it's like to be a "Spelman Woman." The campus is very impressive.

Our men visited the Morehouse College campus and were fascinated to learn of its rich history and famous graduates including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., actor Samuel L. Jackson and director Spike Lee.

Together Spelman, Morehouse and Clark Atlanta form the AUC campus. At Clark Atlanta we were

happy to meet up with two former University Park residents. One, Darnita Boyd, is a graduate of Clark Atlanta and now an Atlanta business owner. The other, Alma Vinyard, is an English professor at Clark Atlanta. While on campus students had lunch and had the unique opportunity to see an Alpha Phi Alpha Step Show.

Overall the tour was a great experience for our students, some of whom stood out and were recognized as being honor students. While in Atlanta we also took an hour tour of the CNN building, one of the largest CNN bureaus in the world. Students were able to witness the behind-the-scenes newsroom and broadcasting activity. While there we were





able to see reporters work on a breaking Trayvon Martin story, before it actually aired.

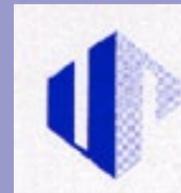
Later, our group visited Phipps Mall in Atlanta, before returning to University Park. This annual college tour gives our students a chance to get a better understanding of life on a college campus. It also helps them as their families begin to make choices about where they will go to school.



UNIVERSITY PARK (IL) POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSIONERS IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POLICE OFFICER AND IS SEEKING TALENTED AND MOTIVATED APPLICANTS TO JOIN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT.

POLICE OFFICERS



Village of University Park
698 Burnham Drive
University Park, IL 60484

The phone number for
the Board of Fire &
Police Commissioners
Is 708-235-4835

upfp.comm@university-park-il.com

The Village of University Park
is an
Equal Opportunity Employer

Salary: \$48,169

Excellent Fringe Benefit Package and Pension Plan

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Age: 21-35, with exceptions, and a U.S. Citizen
- Valid Driver's License
- No felony convictions (and certain misdemeanors)
- Meet the criteria established by the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners
- Permanent residency in Illinois must be established within a thirty (30) mile radius of the University Park Village Hall within one year of your employment date.

HOW TO APPLY

You can obtain an application packet at the University Park Village Hall, 698 Burnham Drive, University Park, IL. There is a \$25.00 processing fee. Applications may be dropped off to Gloria Barnett-Brookins, Board of Fire & Police Commissioners Chairperson, at the University Park Village Hall. For additional information about the Police Department, contact Police Chief Mel Davis at (708) 235-4802.

THE TESTING PROCESS

- Mandatory Orientation
- Written Examination
- Oral Interview
- Physical Agility Test
- Comprehensive Background Investigation
- Polygraph Examination
- Psychological Examination

Application Deadline: Friday, May 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

The **mandatory orientation** will be held on **Thursday, May 31, 2012** and the **written examination** will be held on **Saturday, June 2, 2012 — 9:00 a.m.**—at the University Park Towncenter, 90 Towncenter Drive, University Park, Illinois.

Oral Interviews: The dates for the Oral Interviews will be announced at the Mandatory Orientation on May 31, 2012.

It is your responsibility to notify us of any changes in name, address or telephone number. If we are unable to contact you, it could jeopardize your opportunity for employment.



THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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Village of University Park

Seasonal Employment Opportunities Available

(Village Hall, Public Works, Parks & Rec and Golf Course)

Applications Accepted at:
Davis Staffing, Inc.

Please call for appointment:
(708) 747-6100

21031 Governors Hwy. Olympia Fields, IL

Apply online:
www.davis-staffing.com

*We Drug Screen and E-Verify All Employees
Must be at least 18 years of age EOE/Equal Opportunity Employer*

MAYOR

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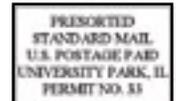
VILLAGE MANAGER

Lafayette Linear
llinear@university-park-il.com

Designed by Gargoyle Creative & Design
Produced by Information Plus Professional Services



Village of University Park
Village Hall
698 Burnham Drive
University Park, IL 60484



RESIDENT
University Park, IL 60484