

The Village of University Park was prominently represented at the **Annual Lobby Day**, actually two days of intense activity sponsored by the **Will County Governmental League**, (WCGL) on Tuesday, April 24, and Wednesday, April 25, by the **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association**.

The feeling among everyone was the fact that **Pension Reform** and **Medicaid**, were the two most important issues to be considered by the State Legislature. The outcome of those two issues, will drive the rest of the budget.



University Park participants included myself, Trustee Larry Brown, Village Manager Lafayette Linear and Atty. Ivan Tomic.

## UP Beat

Mayor Vivian E. Covington

A luncheon and legislative briefing kicked off the Will County Governmental League's event, with presentations on various issues that the League suggested as priority advocacy items for legislators' consideration.

Included was **SB-1921** co-sponsored by **University Park Senator Toi Hutchinson**.

**Issue: Direct Deposit of Municipal Share of State Income Tax to Local Government Distributive fund (LGDF).**

This bill, supported by the **WCGL**, would amend the State Revenue Sharing Act and the Illinois Income Tax Act. It provides that each income tax payment received by the Department of Revenue, would be deposited directly into the Local Government Distributive fund. Under current law deposits go into the General Revenue Fund. And,

*(Continued next page)*

## Editor's Notes

### Special Report From Springfield

Although it was billed as a two-day lobbying opportunity in our state capital, Springfield, Illinois; it was really more an opportunity to listen and ask questions for information and clarification.

For all of the elected and appointed officials, staffers, political junkies and other various hangers-on, it was a good opportunity to observe how our government works, or in some cases, how it doesn't work.

In two days of intense listening and observation, I didn't really hear anyone ask for anything. And with two former Illinois governors languishing in prison, is it any wonder? One has got to be careful just how one frames questions these days, so they don't come out the wrong way.

Wandering around the Capitol building, it didn't take long to figure out where the real power is in Springfield. Although all of the columnists and lobbyists seem to know, it was good to see it first hand.

Just a few minutes of watching the trickle of traffic to and from Governor Quinn and Senate President Cullerton's chambers; versus the avalanche of people in and out of House Majority Leader Madigan's chambers, was all I needed to know.

Want a picture with the governor? No problem. Want a sit down with Speaker Madigan? You'd better bring your lunch and a comfortable seat cushion. Also, bring along that 1,000 page copy of "*War and Peace*," that you've been wanting to finish in your spare time.

*(Continued next page)*

**PINE LAKE CONCERTS**  
**Preview P. 15**  
 July 14 - Jazz & Blues  
 July 15 - Gospel

**\$4 Million**  
**Broadband**  
**Grant Submitted**  
**P. 7**



UP BEAT Continued

as of April of this year, the State of Illinois owed just over \$382 million to counties and municipalities, and were four months behind in payments.

If amended local governments' share of funds would be deposited into a secure account that would be distributed directly to cities and villages per historical agreements. I strongly support passage of this bill. These funds will benefit University Park, by helping spur economic development and the creation of jobs.

Just as strongly as I support SB-1921, I oppose SB-3721, which seeks to **Limit Local Government from Recovering Costs for Emergency Services**. WCGL also opposes this bill proposed by Sen. Larry Bomke.

SB-3721 could cost University Park and other municipalities millions of dollars. During these continued tough economic times, this bill would deny deserved funds to local governments. It could also affect the quality and quantity of comprehensive emergency services currently being provided by these governments. We cannot support legislation that would compromise the safety of our citizens.

On Wednesday, April 25 the **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association**, scheduled focus meetings and legislative briefings with various legislators and department heads.

The University Park group spent the afternoon listening to briefings from department heads and representatives of the state environmental protection agency, IDOT and the economic development department. We also met with **Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Christine Radogno** and **House Speaker Mike Madigan's** spokesman **Steve Brown**.

Finally, we had a private meeting with our Senator Toi Hutchinson, who gave us an in-depth briefing on the current and future status of the 3rd Airport. One thing of note; legal mega firm Holland & Knight has been retained by Gov. Pat Quinn to sort through legal issues surrounding how the airport will be governed. In a photo shoot with the Governor later that afternoon, he did offer his opinion that the 3rd airport is coming.

For those of you who haven't seen it; the **Chicago Tribune Home Section** did a major cover story on the **Village of University Park**, in the **Friday, April 27th** issue. It was titled, "A slice of relaxed life - University Park beckons buyers with open space, amenities."

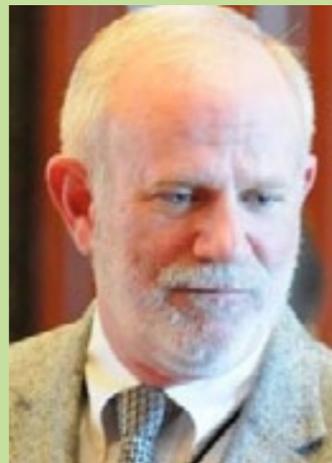
The feature article recognized the Village as having "plenty of recreational amenities, including arts venues at Governors State University."

The Tribune cited the village-owned golf course, and Riegel Farm saying, "The farm has a menagerie of animals and offers a picturesque setting." It also introduced readers to Pine Lake saying that it is open for catfish and bass fishing, May through October.

Finally, the article mentioned Coretta Scott Magnet School, where in 2011, 94 percent of students met or exceeded Illinois educational standards, for the third straight year.

As yet another sign that University Park is on the move, we have recently completed and submitted a \$4 million

EDITOR'S NOTES Continued



Nope, no Madigan, at least not for the group that I was with. What we did get was his spokesman Steve Brown. Steve Brown whom I've been reading about for years. Steve Brown who has an observation, answer and opinion for every question directed about Speaker Madigan's legislative intentions.

Mr. Brown made himself available to a roomful of elected and appointed officials, staffers, political junkies and various hangers-on. Friendly and glib, he obviously likes his job. And who wouldn't? Who wouldn't enjoy the prestige and attention that comes with being spokesman for the state's most powerful politician?

And he's very good at what he does.

I watched as others feverishly wrote down his every thought. Some were even taking notes when he paused to catch his breath. Hoping they might be political science students and not elected or appointed officials,

grant to the Illinois Jobs Now! Initiative, to establish an ultra, high speed broadband network. The lead grant writer was **Val Williams** of **Robinson Engineering**. What was described as a "state-of-the-art video was done by **WUPC-TV 4 director Eddie Pearson**. Please see the article on P. 7 giving detailed information on the grant submission, and what residents can expect if it is funded.

Also, on April 20th I gave an IT presentation at an e-conference at the University of Illinois in Chicago. The

discussion discussed where we have been and where we are going in University Park specifically and the South Suburbs generally. The format was a multimedia power point followed by an extensive Q and A.

I would also like to congratulate the highly successful convenors of the **April 20th Community Job Fair**. More than 200 applicants met with 20 companies including **Applied Systems, Aqua of Illinois, Davis Staffing, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Pembroke Hopkins**

**Park Construction, Governors State University, Robinson Engineering** and others.

**Town Builders Studio**, is to be especially commended as the first company to hire a job fair applicant. See the feature on new hire **Yvette Flowers** on P. 9 Congratulations to **Job Fair Subcommittee members Trustee Keith Griffin** and **Patti Guinn**. Also, to **Subcommittee Chairman Roosevelt Martin** and wife **Virnita**.



staffers, political junkies, or various hangers-on; I wondered what they might be writing.

I glanced at my own blank notebook. Realizing that I needed to have something to justify my presence at this gathering, I started writing.

When I finished I realized that I had inadvertently written out a grocery list for the coming week.

Glancing from side to side, I tried an old college trick...reading someone else's writing upside down. It didn't work. Although at least one other person had written out their own grocery list, including a reminder about the cauliflower sale at the grocery mart back home.

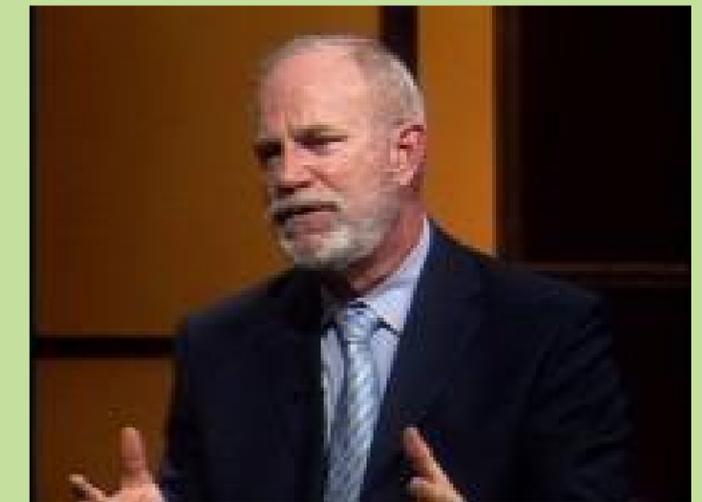
Cauliflower?

Soon Mr. Brown was leaning back in his chair, signaling that this private session was about to end.

As I left I realized that I had learned something valuable, even though I didn't have any notes to show for my time.

I had learned the art of politico speak. That's the art of appearing to say something profound, without say-

ing anything of substance. I don't say this as a criticism of Mr. Brown. On the contrary. This is what he is paid to do. And as I indicated, he does it very well.



The proof is that all I had in my notes was next week's grocery list. The irony is that I didn't need most of that stuff anyway. I just found a creative way to pass the time.

Reporting to you from our state capital.





# COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT

*Lafayette Linear*

The preparation and approval of a fiscally responsible budget continues as my most important current responsibility. As I previously indicated the Village had an operating fund deficit of \$2.4 million dollars, as of fiscal year ending April 30, 2008, the most recent complete audit.

**Finance Director Gloria Gibson** and I have conducted several meetings with all Department Heads, to develop a fiscally responsible budget that will reverse this unsustainable fiscal trend.

I am ensuring that questions raised by Board members and others, at the two Budget Workshops held so far, are being addressed and will be included in the budget.

Also in April, I continued working with Mayor Covington in promoting the Village of University Park. That included seminars at the **Chicago City Colleges**, and the **University of Chicago**.

I also participated in local government days in Springfield on April 24th and 25th, sponsored by the **Will County Governmental League** and the **South Suburban**

## Mayors and Managers Association

Sessions included meetings with various state department heads and representatives including, **IDOT**, and those dealing with economic development, the environment and the state budget. We also met with **Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Christine Radogno**.

The University Park delegation also had a private meeting with our **Senator Toi Hutchinson**. Governor Pat Quinn also made himself available for a photo session.

We also received briefings on the status of Pension Reform, University Park road projects and various funding opportunities.

The **University Parkway** and **University Village** projects continue to move forward.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Mel Davis

Congratulations to **Jason Kinnan**, promoted to sergeant and **Ustad Jaco**, promoted to investigations.

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

Both are well deserving. Sgt. Kinnan, a former teacher and Martial Arts instructor, employed with the department for eight years, has already earned the respect of his peers. His knowledge, training ability and leadership skills, will be a great asset to our Patrol Division.

Investigator Jaco has been with the department over three years. He has demonstrated a keen sense for investigations, while taking a personal approach to every crime. His ability to investigate is natural. He has a feel for people, as well as the streets, and makes everyone he comes in contact with feel comfortable. Crime victims can expect special attention with Investigator Jaco on the case. We will see more follow-up, door knocking, phone calls and arrests.

I have a zero tolerance for drugs and gangs. Therefore, the University Park Police Department will be working closely with the Will and Cook County Task Force units. Collaborating with these law enforcement units means our residents can be assured, that we are using every possible resource to combat crime in our area.

The **First annual Citizens Police Academy** began Monday, May

7th. This 10-week course will bridge the gap between police and the citizens we serve. **Coordinator Sgt. Darryl Stroud** has organized a "dream team" that includes **Sgt. Debra Wilson; Sgt. Dan Murphy; Sgt. Gregory Box; Sgt. Jason Kinnan, Investigator Jermaine Jones; Officer Mickey Mcnair; Officer Scott Glowinke; Officer Jolene Rodriguez** and **Officer Geneka Whitaker**. They are all to be praised for the talent and experience they will bring, to this history-making citizens-police academy.

UPPD giving back! Working together and making a difference!

## 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.

### CRIMINAL RECORD HURTS CHANCES OF GETTING THAT JOB

Help may be on the way for the more than **65 million** Americans who have some type of criminal record. A 2009 research report found that a criminal record cuts

applicants' chances of receiving a job offer, by nearly **50 percent**.

Recognizing that failure to get a job doesn't just hurt the ex-offender, it hurts family and others; the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** recently voted to revise its' guidance to employers about how to properly evaluate job applicants' criminal histories in pre-employment screening. The new guidelines will clarify standards established in 1987.

**Hear this.** Denying jobs solely on the basis of criminal convictions is **illegal**, because it disproportionately affects blacks and Latinos.

The exception is if a prospective employer can demonstrate that refusal to hire is **job-related**, or **consistent with business necessity**. What this simply means is, if you were convicted of robbing a financial institution, don't apply for a job as a bank teller.

However, the standards have been open to wide interpretation, and not always applied fairly. The result? Over the years many ex-offenders who have done their time and are rehabilitated, cannot find jobs to support themselves or their families.

The new EEOC guidelines give employers examples of policies that meet the **job-related** and **business necessity** standards. If applied correctly this should result in more qualified ex-offenders becoming gainfully employed.

**COMMUNICATE!** will keep an

eye on this and other related issues, and keep readers updated as needed.



GSU ANNOUNCES NEW DEAN OF COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Following a national search, Governors State University has named **Interim Dean Dr. Elizabeth Cada**, to the permanent job as Dean of the College of Health & Human Services. Dr. Cada previously served for 15 years as chair of GSU's Department of Occupational Therapy.

GSU President **Dr. Elaine Maimon** said, "Dr. Cada shaped the Occupational Therapy Department into a true point of pride for the University."

University Provost **Terry Allison** praised the appointment saying, "Dr. Cada embodies the spirit and-determination needed to successfully lead the College of Health & Human Services."





# UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER JUNE CALENDAR

Book your Tee Time online at [www.universitygolfclub.com](http://www.universitygolfclub.com)  
Or call the Pro Shop at (708) 747-0306 ext. 11

Book your Tee Time online at <a href="http://www.universitygolfclub.com">www.universitygolfclub.com</a> Or call the Pro Shop at (708) 747-0306 ext. 11					1 Stepper's Set 9pm – 2am <b>URBAN ROOM PARTY</b>	2 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 1pm <b>CCF GOLF OUTING</b>
3 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 2pm	4 Men's Golf League 4pm <b>Every Monday</b>	5 Traveler's Golf League 5pm <b>Every Tuesday</b>	6	7 Rotary Luncheon 12pm <b>Live Entertainment "Plan B"</b>	8 <b>Harvey Ed. Found. Outing</b> Stepper's Set 9pm – 2am <b>URBAN ROOM PARTY</b>	9 Breakfast Brunch <b>St. Mary's Golf Outing</b> <b>Seneca &amp; Larnscie Wedding</b>
10 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 2pm <b>Art &amp; Fashion Expo 4pm – 9pm</b>	11	12	13	14 Rotary Luncheon <b>School District 163 Golf Outing</b> <b>Live Entertainment "Charles Wright"</b>	15 <b>Apostolic Pentecostal Church Outing</b> Stepper's Set 9pm – 2am	16 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 1pm
17 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 2pm <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b>	18	19 <b>Chicago Juneteenth Golf Outing</b>	20	21 Rotary Luncheon <b>Live Entertainment "Plan B"</b>	22 <b>MOA Outing</b> <b>Stepper's Set 9pm – 2am</b>	23 Breakfast Brunch <b>Chicago Women's Golf League Golf Outing</b> <b>Theta Mu Lambda Golf Outing</b>
24 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 2pm <b>Baby Shower</b>	25 <b>Covenant Faith Golf Outing</b>	25	27 <b>Retired Firefighters Golf</b>	28 Rotary Luncheon <b>We Can Golf Outing</b> <b>Live Entertainment "Return II Soul"</b>	29 <b>Rich 227 Ed. Found. Outing</b> <b>Stepper's Set 9pm – 2am</b>	30 Breakfast Brunch 9am – 1pm <b>Ballantrae Golf Outing</b>

## University Park's Broadband Grant Initiative Seeks to Upgrade Technology and Bring Economic Development and Jobs to Village

University Park is committed to the idea that establishing ultra, high speed broadband, is critical to the future of the community and its partnerships, specifically Governors State University, the Industrial Park, Broadband Illinois, and other stakeholders.

Toward that end the Village has formed an advisory group/committee to determine future community technology needs, and has submitted a proposal to the State of Illinois, accompanied by a state-of-the-art video, prepared by **WUPC-TV-4 Director Eddie Pearson.**

That committee led by **Mayor Vivian E. Covington** and **Trustee Milton Payton**, has developed a vision and set of principles that will help guide the work effort if funded. **Val Williams** of Robinson Engineering, took the lead in preparation of the **\$4 million** dollar proposal.

Mayor Covington said, "Broadband will greatly help the Village, businesses, schools, and everybody in University Park."

The funding is under the auspices of **Governor Pat Quinn's** comprehensive Illinois Jobs Now! economic development program. This project is called "**The State of Illinois Gigabit Communities Challenge.**"

The grant contest will result in seed funding awards to build or expand world-class broadband networks in Illinois. The best proposals will outline a viable plan to connect at least 1,000 end users, to an ultra, high-speed broadband network.

### Other Objectives Include:

- Improved employment opportunities
- Enhanced economic development through development of "smart communities"
- Position Illinois' universities to continue leading nation in research, technology and innovation
- Connect health care professionals with their patients
- Increase the number of University Park residents with high-quality degrees and credentials (working with Governors State) to 65 percent by the year 2025
- Working with Governors State University to create new capabilities



The Village of University Park believes that it has created an exceptional proposal, that will help to improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Trustee Payton** says, "We want to be a model for the region and the state."

University Park is committed to becoming a world leader in the universal deployment and use of ultra, high-speed and next generation broadband, if funding is awarded. It is proposed that University Park be wired with the latest in smart technology infrastructure, that will make them among the most connected in the world.

The proposal includes an opportunity for access to wiring



# After JOB FAIR - What's Next?

By all accounts the **1st Annual Community Job Fair** held in the Village of University Park, on Friday, April 20 was successful. This is especially good news considering that for the second month running, job creation was down in the U.S. According to the U.S. Labor Department's monthly job report, only 115,000 jobs were created in April. This compared with a more robust average of 252,000 jobs created in December through February.



**Please sum up or give an overview of the recent University Park Job Fair on April 20th?**

The 1st Annual Job Fair of University Park was a huge success. For the most part everyone followed the script and the event went off without a hitch. We had **20 participating companies** and **219 job applicants**.

At least 10 on the spot interviews were conducted, and one person has already been hired.

Reacting to the low numbers Tom Porcelli, chief U.S. economist at RBC Capital Markets said, *"The economy is losing momentum - especially on the jobs front."*



The **Illinois Department of Employment Security** was so impressed with the venue and the efficiency, that they offered to supply **50+ employers**, additional tables and manpower if the Village agrees to host another one in **September 2012**.

In light of this we asked **Roosevelt Martin**, chair of the subcommittee that convened the job fair about the outcome. Wife **Virnita**, who assisted with the coordination of the event, also participated in this interview. Other members of the subcommittee were **Trustee Keith Griffin** and **Patti Guinn**.

**What were some of the jobs for which people applied?**

People applied for all types of jobs from entry-level to executive level positions, requiring business analysis experience.

with fiber. It will also be equipped with affordable and unlimited access to Internet speeds, up to 500 times faster than typical North American residential networks. The network also provides full community-wide Wi-Fi service.

**Broadband** penetration is now treated as a key economic indicator. The Village also proposes that the Broadband Internet access include

Internet services such as: much faster World Wide Web browsing; telephone, radio, television and



videoconferencing. Also included are: virtual private networks and

remote systems administration. Online gaming, especially massively multiplayer online role-playing games, which are interaction-intensive, are also included.

The Village of University Park is located in Metropolitan Chicago, one of the world's great economic centers. We cannot afford to take our quality of life for granted.



**What is being done by the Job Fair Committee as follow-up?**

The committee will be analyzing the employer surveys and soliciting feedback as to how many people were hired by their respective organizations as a result of our recent job fair.

**Approximately how many people would you expect to be hired, based on feedback you have received?**

We are still gathering this information at this time.

**Is this expected to be an annual event?**

Yes. The economy remains in trouble. Given the numbers of people who simply can't find jobs; we think that this is a valuable service provided by the Village of University Park to its' residents.

**Please give whatever details you have pertaining to the job fair that you mentioned to be held this fall. Who, when and where?**

The event will be held on: September 20, 2012 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 90 Towncenter Drive in University Park

**Anything else you would like to say about the April 20 event or the one upcoming?**

Remember, the Village of University Park is all about connecting people to jobs.



## Job Fair Just a Fair - Unless Someone Gets Hired

On Friday, April 20th **Yvette Flowers** was just like the other 200+ **Community Job Fair** applicants; showing up hoping to walk away with a job.

And we are pleased to report that she was successful, the first of what we hope will be many successes resulting from the Village's first annual job fair. In this exclusive interview with **COMMUNICATE!** Flowers discusses her success, and offers advice to others still seeking that elusive position.



**Which of the 20 participating companies hired you?**

Town Builder Studios (TBS).

**Although the name is descriptive, what exactly does the company do?**

It provides development services for our own (company) investments, as well as for key clients. For a development project to succeed, it requires a team of professionals to address the variables inherent to the project. TBS is a collection of professionals who work together offering complementary development expertise, to advance projects from inception to completion.



Town Builder Studios focuses on project management and meeting the project's financial goals. We truly believe that the community should benefit from the project. Establishing a public-private partnership is a key aspect to our strategy.

**What is your title? What will you be doing?**

My job as Project Manager, requires me to develop and deliver profitable project management and development services. This includes administering the company's business plan. I also develop new business by executing development projects in the public and/or private sectors.

*(Continued next page)*



**Briefly describe your background and how it qualified you for your new job.**

I am the founder of Execuserv, Inc., which assists businesses that are trying to manage a new site development; administering the maintenance and compliance of existing facilities; augmenting corporate staff and departments; or implementing regional and national branding or compliance initiatives.

I am an MBA graduate from Keller Graduate School of Management, with a concentration in Healthcare Administration and Project Management certification from the PMI Institute. I have over 10 years of experience as a Project Manager and Executive Assistant. Execuserv, Inc. is seven years old, and began as a virtual assistant company.

Execuserv's Development Management areas of responsibility include but are not limited to:

- Project Management
- Cost Control
- Document Control & Tracking
- Master Scheduling
- Risk Evaluation
- Project Team Assignment
- Contract Administration
- Project Budgeting
- Project Insurance
- Special Licensing & Processing

**Please give COMMUNICATE! Readers any personal advice you have about obtaining a job.**

You must have patience and perseverance! Above all be flexible. Even though I ran my own consulting company, I was looking for the perfect opportunity that was aligned with my passion, project management. The opportunity presented itself at a job fair.

I had no idea that my experience would fill such an



important gap that TBS was seeking. I consider this opportunity as a way of taking my project management skills to the next level.

**Any things that people should do or not do when seeking a job?**

Be and look professional when attending job fairs. Always remember the rule that you never get a second chance, to create a first impression. Be ready to sell yourself and your personality...be for real.

**Anything else you would like to say about your new job, or the job-seeking process?**

In today's economy you must be willing to think and grow outside of the box. Follow your passion, which will lead you to your purpose. Many people miss their purpose by just taking whatever comes along, although there are times when this is necessary.

Dust off your dreams and move forward in purpose. You will be amazed at what you really can do.



List of Job Fair Companies	
1 American Bus Company Transportation	11 Illinois Department of Employment Security
2 American InterContinental University	12 Illinois Institute of Art
3 Applied Systems	13 Mary Kay
4 Aqua of Illinois	14 Primerica
5 Davis Staffing	15 Pembroke Hopkins Park Construction
6 Evolv Health	16 The Reserve Network
7 Exel	17 Robinson Engineering
8 Governors State University	18 Rasmussen College
9 Harmony Health Plan of Illinois	19 Town Builders
10 Hospitally Ent. Training Center	20 Viridian Energy

# NOW YOU KNOW!

## COMMUNICATE! Feature Part 1

Third feature in the periodic series about people of note in University Park



In February COMMUNICATE! reported on the extraordinary academic achievements of the students at **Coretta Scott King Magnet School**.

This month we are bringing you the story about a young man and a **June 2010 graduate** of **Crete-Monee High School**, whose family still resides in University Park.

If you are a fan of classical music, or regularly read the arts and culture section of your local newspaper, he may have already come to your attention. If not, we'd like to introduce you to **University Park's** own **Matthew Lipman**, 20, a student at the world famous **Juilliard School of Music** in New York City.

Currently a sophomore at Juilliard, he began his studies in August 2010, and plans to graduate in May 2014, with a Bachelor's of Music degree. The young viola player, has already played with famed violinist **Itzhak Perlman** at the **Kennedy Center**, following participation in the Perlman Music Program. At a time when many others his age are trying to "find themselves," young Lipman has played **Carnegie Hall** and **Lincoln Center**; and graced other concert halls, not only across the country, but around the world.

His classical music resume' includes: the **Ars Viva Symphony**; the **Capital City Symphony**; the **Montgomery Symphony Orchestra**; the **Southwest Symphony**; and

the **Minnesota Orchestra**, "one of the most renowned," according to the young virtuoso.

Some might wonder why the viola, instead of the violin. Others might ask, isn't the violin a stepping stone to the viola? The truth is, most of us don't know one instrument from the other. Matthew says the viola has, "greater soul, emotion and depth of character," than the violin. That's why the viola continues as his instrument of choice.

A fixture on both Public Radio and Public Television he is a past winner of the **Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award**. Matthew has won numerous other awards including: the **Johansen International String Competition**; the **Blount-Stawson Young Artists Competition**; the **American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition**; and the **Music Institute of Chicago Concerto Competition**.

Proud of her son, as she well should be; Robin Lipman says, "It makes me sad that 201-U no longer teaches string music. Matthew belonged to the **Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO)**, when he was 10 and 11 years-old. SYSO has a beginner program for any child who wants to learn to play the violin, viola or cello. Visit [www.syso.net](http://www.syso.net) for information about the **Incredible Opportunity Program**, which gives free rental of stringed instruments, and very low cost weekly lessons."

After graduation, Matthew wants to stay in New York to work professionally. He plans to travel wherever his considerable talents will take him. Hopefully, at some point, he will find his way back to his hometown, perhaps playing at the Performing Arts Center at Governors State University, or some other venue within the fast developing village of University Park.

**Now You Know!**





## Kid's Health Club Opening Soon

A partnership is in full swing with the **Village of University Park** and some of its extraordinary residents. Several citizens in University Park have volunteered their time, talent and expertise to enable the **Kids Health Club** to become a reality for the children in **University Park**.



Former **Governors State University** space planning professional **Wesley Coates** started the "relay" to develop the physical layout which will enable the children of University Park to begin focusing on their health and physical fitness. Similar to a track Team running a relay race, the effort was then handed to **Electrical Engineer Robert Travis**. He has donated his vast knowledge of engineering and planning, along with the use of the software AutoCAD to develop detailed plans for electrical, heating, air conditioning, lighting and fire protection. Finally, **Ronald Johnson** an expert craftsman in carpentry is working with the **Village's Public Works Department** and its **Director Jerry Townsend**, and the **Village Manager Lafayette Linear** for completion of the permanent location.

Currently, the **Kids Health Club** is operating as a pilot program at a temporary Towncenter location, as part of an after-school care program. Remodeling of the former Cleo's Liquor Store has started and the Team is looking for additional volunteers to help ... because the Kids can't wait!

The **Kid's Health Club** is expected to open toward the end of June.



Left to right: Wes Coates, Jerry Townsend, Milton Payton, Lafayette Linear, Ron Johnson, and Robert Travis

# BLOCK PARTY

## June 10, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be the Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_

The Theme for block Party will be \_\_\_\_\_

A Prize will be awarded via HSSEC for the best themed block party

## June 9, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



Please feel free to sign up for both events  
Contact Village hall for more information 708-534-6456  
**See April COMMUNICATE! for details.**



# SAVE THE DATE

## Crete-Monee School District 201-U

# REGISTRATION

### Returning Families

July 30 - 1 PM - 4 PM

July 31 - 1 PM - 4 PM / 5 PM - 8 PM

August 3 - 8 AM - 11 AM / 1 PM - 4 PM

### New Families

August 1 - 8 AM - 11 AM / 1 PM - 4 PM

August 2 - 1 PM - 4 PM / 5 PM - 8 PM

August 3 - 8 AM - 11 AM / 1 PM - 4 PM

There will be NO late registration.

**LOCATION:** Crete-Monee High School · 1515 West Exchange Street · Crete, IL 60417

To view steps for new/returning families, registration forms, proof of residency and fee information, directions, health requirements, and more:



Visit us online at [www.cm201u.org/registration](http://www.cm201u.org/registration) or scan the QR Code from your smart phone or tablet!



## Pine Lake To Be Turned Into Outdoor Music Venue This July



This summer, July 14th and 15th to be exact, the Village of University Park will take entertainment to a new level, turning beautiful Pine Lake into the Ravinia of the Southland.

**Bobbie Greer, chairman of the sub-committee charged with presenting the concerts; gives readers some insight into what they can expect when they attend the Pine Lake, Jazz, Blues & Gospel Concerts.**

**Give COMMUNICATE! readers an overview of the two events on July 14 & 15.**

Your readers should expect to enjoy live music which will consist of blues, jazz and take me to church gospel. There will be blues and jazz on the 14th and gospel music on the 15th. We will also be providing shuttle bus services to Pine Lake from off lake parking sites.

**Are any other activities scheduled in addition to the music?**

Just a wonderful time enjoying family and friends at our beautiful Pine Lake.

**What are the costs and hours?**

The cost is \$20.00 for nonresidents, and \$10.00 for residents. Children ages 6 to 12 will pay half price. Children 5 and under are free. The hours for Saturday are 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. On Sunday the hours are 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**Will there be rain dates in case of bad weather?**

No. We will have beautiful weather!



**Will there be vendors? If so, how can they participate and is there a cost?**

Yes, if you are interested in becoming a vendor you may contact Ms. Patti Guinn at (708) 235-5189 for pricing and information.

**Are you still looking for volunteers?**

Volunteers are needed at this time. Please contact Mrs. Donna Gaston at (708) 534-1853.

**What are some of the things that you need them to do?**

Volunteers are needed for various duties.

**Is this planned as an annual event?**

Mayor Covington and the Board of Trustees look forward to bringing this event every year to University Park.

**What else would you like readers to know about the Pine Lake concerts?**

We would like the attendees to come prepared to relax and enjoy themselves. Please come prepared with your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy Music at the Lake.

**Are residents encouraged to audition for the event?**

On Saturday, June 2nd at 90 Towncenter at 2:00 p.m., there will be an open audition for our residents.





## THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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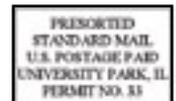
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