

“That energy which makes a child hard to manage, is the energy which later makes him a manager of life.”

My recent participation in the **KaBOOM! Playground Build** on Saturday, July 28 at the now renovated Craig Park, was a current reminder of why those of us in public life do what we do.

The smiles on the faces of the children makes it all worthwhile. The coming together of parents, staff, Elected Officials, Rep. Anthony DeLuca, and Rep. Al Riley, volunteers and corporate entities, in this case **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois** and **KaBOOM!** are the glue that holds a community together; (special thanks to Mrs. Mildred Morgan for her dedicated efforts).

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress also had a vision, one that led her to write the grant that resulted in the playground being built.

But it is the children who keep it together.

KaBOOM!'s vision of building a playground within “walking distance of every child in America,” is well on its way of becoming a reality in the **Village of University Park**. Places to play are also places to cooperate and share. Places to play are also, places to learn, places to develop skills...places to experience life.

This vision and spirit is one that should be shared by all.

It is also the vision and spirit that will be reflected in the activities at the Kid's Health Club, once it opens.

(Continued next page)



**UP
Beat**
Mayor
Vivian E.
Covington

Volunteer Effort Key To Success of University Park's Special Events

The **Village of University Park** is known for both the quantity and quality of its special events. From **Family Fun Day (January)**; to the **Black History Month Celebrations (February)** to the **Community-Wide Garage Sale & Block Party (June)** and the recently held 2-day music festival at **Pine Lake in July**, the **Human Services Special Events Committee** chaired by **Donna Gaston** has been busy.

Following is an interview with **Chair Gaston** as the committee prepares for yet another event, the **4-day Family Festival & Carnival, Thursday, August 16th to Saturday, August 19th**, including the annual **Back To School Parade** set for **Saturday, August 18**, kicking off from **Palmer Park at 10:00 a.m.**

Besides the fact that this is a four-day affair, what are some ways this upcoming event will be different from the Annual Family Fling? *We're working more on bringing family fun and togetherness to the community.*

What can you say that will excite families and make them want to participate? *We are going to have cook offs and baking contests that we want them to judge.*

In your opinion, what are the top three reasons for people to come? *Togetherness, to see what's happening in and with their community. Get to know some of your neighbors.*

Do you expect that families might come on more than one day? *Yes. We hope that unlimited rides on Thursday from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00*

(Continued next page)

KaBOOM! Volunteers Build a Playground
P.12

President's Affordable Care Act Mostly Upheld. P.4



UP BEAT Continued

On behalf of the children of University Park, my thanks goes out to all who made this happen.

We are working hard to bring new development to the Village of University Park. We had the first reading at the July 24th meeting on the proposed Family Dollar proposal, completing the first hurdle on the road to bringing this national chain to town.

During these times of uncertain weather, we want to ensure the safety of all of our residents. Please forward your contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses, which we will add to our social media alert list. That way you and your loved ones will be notified whenever there is a pending emergency, whether weather or crime-related. Send information to Village Hall or call Claudia Webb at (708) 534-6451.

We would like to congratulate Police Chief Mel Davis on starting the Citizens Police Academy. I attended one of the sessions and found them to be very beneficial. I would encourage all citizens to take part in future sessions.

This in from Sheriff of Cook County, Tom Dart, "I am in receipt of your recently signed participation agreement for the Cook County Sheriff's Gang Task Force. This agreement provides all agencies involved with the opportunity to share and gather intelligence that, as a collective force, we may not have otherwise had access to."

p.m. - 5:00 p.m., will encourage multiple visits.

Talk a little about the cost and how the Village hopes to raise money. We are trying to keep the cost down, and provide good quality fun for our University Park families.

How will some of the proceeds be used? Some of the money will be used to purchase coats and food for the needy in our community.

The cost sounds reasonable, but things are still tight for many families. Is there assistance available for those who can't afford to come? We are offering cut rate tickets for families who qualify. They will be notified.

Tell us a little about the parade. There is a different

Just another example of this Village's determination to not only be the best place to live in the Southland, but the safest.

Also, bus shelters are now completed with trash cans added, enhancing both local transportation and maintaining the cleanliness of University Park. Wiring for lights are being installed as well.

In the near future we are looking forward to the start of new construction. Also, free lights will soon be installed in the Town Center, compliments of several Industrial Park companies. The Veteran's Wall will also be completed in October, and we are working on getting fire hydrants painted.

And, KaBOOM! was not the only good thing happening for our youth. The baseball team had a great year, thanks to League President Eugene Lawson, and all of the, parents, coaches and volunteers.



Sandra Warren receives volunteer award.

The Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a talent show that showcased the outstanding ability and creativity of our children.

In other recent events I was honored to be the keynote speaker at Miller Chapel's 22nd anniversary, highlighted by a mortgage burning ceremony. Congratulations to Pastor Rosalind Shorter Henderson and the Miller Chapel congregation.

route this year, correct? Yes, mainly because we will be having the Carnival on University Parkway. So the parade will actually go backwards from past years, from **Palmer Park to Craig Park.**

Are you still in need of volunteers for both of these events? If so, who should they contact and what is the contact information? Yes, volunteers are always needed and welcome. The volunteer contact for the parade is **Nai Neva Jenkins (708) 534-6456.** The person to call if you want to volunteer for the carnival is me, **Donna Gaston at (708) 534-1853.**

Is there anything else that you want people to know about the upcoming Back To School Family Festival,

Carnival and Parade? Most of all we need their participation to make this endeavor a success. As Uncle Sam says "We need You."

We expect to see you at the Back To School Family Festival & Carnival. Don't forget the parade.

August 16th - 19th Family Festival & Carnival

Between Burnham Dr. and Red Oak Lane along University Parkway

August 16 - 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

August 17th & 18th - 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

August 19th - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

\$25/30 Tickets - \$20/25 Tickets - \$1 Per Ticket

Saturday, August 18th! Parade kicks off from Palmer Park at 10:00 a.m.

www.university-park-il.com

Stay tuned for other upcoming events including:

- Police & Fire Recognition & Appreciation Day - September 11th
- Community Golf Outing - September 23rd
- Community Health Fair & Coat Drive - October 20th
- Senior & Impaired Citizens Awareness - October TBD
- Fire Prevention & Emergency Preparedness - October 22nd -November 3rd
- Military Veterans Recognition & Appreciation Day - November 9th
- Thanksgiving Dinner - November 22nd
- Annual Holiday Tree Lighting & Winter Festival - December 1st - 22nd



Desire To Give Back Inspires University Park Volunteers

If you look behind the scenes of any community you will no doubt find, that those places known as a desirable place to live, are often fueled by a strong core of volunteers. From the **Job Fair**, to the **Communitywide Garage Sale & Block Club**, to the **Pine Lake Concerts, the KaBOOM! playground build**, and now the **4-Day Back To School Carnival, Family Festival, and Parade, University Park** has many dependable volunteers.

Two of the most visible are **Donna Gaston** (see related article), and **Robert Travis**, both of whom consistently assume leadership roles with the **Human Services Special Events Committee (HSSEC)**.

Following is an interview with Robert Travis, chair of the upcoming 4-Day Back To School event.

You and Mrs. Gaston spend a lot of time volunteering for the Village of University Park. What do you want to say about the importance of volunteers? *Volunteers are very important because they are looked upon as an important part of the process of keeping the community going.*

You are preparing a rendering of the location where the Festival and Carnival will take place. How will that be used? *The rendering will be use to show attendees where certain activities will be held. Also this layout will help the village police, fire and public works departments plan how they are going to work the carnival.*

About how many volunteers are working on the overall event? *We don't have the exact number but it could be 30 to 40 people.*

Do you still need volunteers leading up to the event? If so, what are some areas where the committee needs help? *Yes, in the areas of marshaling the attendees and clean up.*

What about the day of the event, what are the areas in which you need assistance? Who is the contact person(s) and how can they be contacted? *We should have everyone in place by then.*

(Continued next page)



Supreme Court's Slim Health Care Decision Surprises Everyone

The American public has grown used to, if not weary of, the nation's high court making important decisions by the narrow vote of 5-4. So when the Obama administration's **Affordable Care Act** was brought up for a vote in June; many believed the court would renounce it either in full or significant part.

But they didn't. In yet another 5-4 decision, the court upheld most of what has become somewhat derisively known as "Obamacare", the deciding vote being cast by **Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.**

The result? Hundreds of thousands of those without healthcare insurance, for whatever reason, are now eligible for coverage. Roberts upheld the, "**individual mandate**",

the key section of the legislation, that requires that all Americans get health insurance or pay a fine. Critics claim that he did a bit of legal wrangling, calling the fine a tax, which Congress can levy constitutionally.

For now Chief Justice Roberts can probably address both the **NAACP** and **National Urban League** conventions, without fear of being soundly booed, like **Mitt Romney**, the presumptive Republican nominee for president in the upcoming November election. In July Romney drew the ire of the **NAACP** members when he addressed them at their annual convention.



The reason? He promised to repeal the **Affordable Care Act**, if he becomes president.

So now that the vote is in, what does all of this mean to you?

Remember, much of the new law doesn't take effect until 2014. And, if you can demonstrate financial hardship, you can avoid the penalty/tax, for not purchasing health-care insurance.

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Please discuss any special efforts being made to get senior citizens and the Special Needs population to and from the event. Who should be contacted and how can they be reached? We will be interfacing with the village senior committee. The contact is committee Chairperson Debra Stroud.

Why are these kinds of events important to the community? These events are important, because they help bring the community together. Residents don't have to leave the community in order to be entertained, or to get involved.

In the unfortunate event that the weather doesn't cooperate (like last year), are there designated rain dates? None, we will include rain dates next year.

What else would you like for the community to know about these upcoming events? Both the Parks and Recreation Department and The HSSEC have a number of events including the community health fair: golf outing, Military Veterans Recognition and Appreciation; Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Festival. The events will improve, because we are reviewing the way they are planned and developed.



Come Celebrate With the Village of University Park
We Are

SENDING STUDENTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL IN STYLE

Largest Carnival in South Suburbs
August 16th - 19th

August 16th 5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

August 17th & 18th 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

August 19th 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dare You To! Get On the - Zipper, Super Slide, Vortex, Dragon Wagon, 20+ Rides, Games, Food, Fun!
Bring the Whole Family

\$25/30 Tix, \$20/25 Tix, \$1 per Ticket

Village of University Park
Human Services and Special Events Committee
and the Department of Parks and Recreation
For More Information hssec@university-park-il.com
Call (708) 235-4808

Parade - Saturday August 18th 10am
Palmer Park to Craig Park

Family Festival Saturday August 18th 12noon-4pm
At Craig Park

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Children's Games and More Fun
New KABOOM Playground

Under the BIG Tent 5pm to 8pm

At 800 University Parkway (between Burnham Drive & Red Oak Lane)
Meet With Local Colleges Educational Information

Earn a Free Book Bag

Have Your Photo Taken In a Real Race Car
Fast & Furious Cars and Custom Motorcycles

Pie, Cake & BBQ Contest

LIVE Entertainment 5pm till dusk

FIREWORKS at Dusk





STARTING IN 2014

- Insurers must offer coverage at competitive rates even for those with “pre-existing conditions”
- Once insured your company cannot cancel coverage if you get sick
- If your employer doesn’t offer insurance, you can buy through private state-run “exchanges”
- If your insurance costs go up, it won’t be due to the new healthcare plan
- Insurance companies can no longer set lifetime limits on benefit payouts
- Adult children, who have no separate insurance, can remain on parents’ policy until the age of 26
- Medicare benefits will not change, although high earners will pay more for Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage)

WHAT ABOUT MEDICAID?

The **Affordable Care Act mandated** states to significantly increased health care benefits to **Medicaid** recipients, the government health care program for **low-income people**. If this section of the law had been upheld by the Supreme Court, the **Congressional Budget Office**, estimates that about **17 million uninsured people** would have gained coverage.

Instead of a **mandate** the Supreme Court gave states an option of determining whether to increase coverage under **Medicaid**. So this part of the law will have to play out on a state by state basis. Those of you who think that it is important that **Medicaid** be expanded, enabling more of those in lower income brackets to receive healthcare coverage, should contact your **Congressional** representatives.

GOOD NEWS THAT COULD LOWER YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

In the **Tuesday, July 10 (P.2)** edition of the **SOUTH-TOWNSTAR, COLUMNIST, Phil Kadner**, penned a piece titled, *“Too good to be true’ card available for drug discounts.”* In that column he talks about the **Coast2Coast Rx** program, that is saving consumers big bucks on their monthly drug prescriptions.

Kadner says, *“The card is available to everyone through township governments, even if you already have a prescription drug card through your health insurance at work.”*

COMMUNICATE! suggests that readers read Kadner’s very informative column, and give him a **shout out** for bringing this to our attention.

Also, go to **Coast2CoastRx.com** for more details to see if you and your family are eligible to sign up. If it works for you tell somebody else, so they can save a little cash as well.



NOW YOU KNOW!

COMMUNICATE!
Feature

Need Cleanup, Restoration, Remediation or Testing? Who Do You Call?

National Catastrophe Solutions, Inc.

We think it’s a good idea to know who is in your town doing business. Supporting local businesses is a winning situation for the business, the residents of the town, and the Village of University Park.

So from time to time **COMMUNICATE!** runs feature articles on local businesses, so you know who to call when you need products and services.

There are some signs that the housing industry is in a state of slow revival. Some real estate professionals note that business is up in some parts of the country. People who have been stuck, unable to sell, move up or move out are starting to look for the right deal that will enable them to improve existing housing situations.

Because of the severe recession some people have allowed their homes to deteriorate, simply because they lacked the funds to pay for necessary services like mold detection and removal. Also, because of the large numbers of foreclosures nationwide, there are few neighborhoods that have escaped the blight caused by vacant homes and businesses. In some cases whole strip malls are mostly vacant.



These situations not only depress property values, they can lead some on the path to mental depression, when they look out of their windows and see the sad state of their neighborhoods.

Enter **National Catastrophe Solutions, Inc.**, a company that has been doing business in Chicago for about four years, and the **Village of University Park** for about a year and a half.

Following is an exclusive interview with co-owner John Turner, who runs the company with **wife/CEO Tracey Turner**.

How many people do you employ? *We currently have 6 full time employees.*

I’m assuming that you hire painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc...What are some other types of specialists that you might hire? *Majority of the work is performed in house. We also have a network of contractors that perform Roofing, Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry and HVAC on commercial and residential projects.*

What exactly does your business do? *We are a com-*
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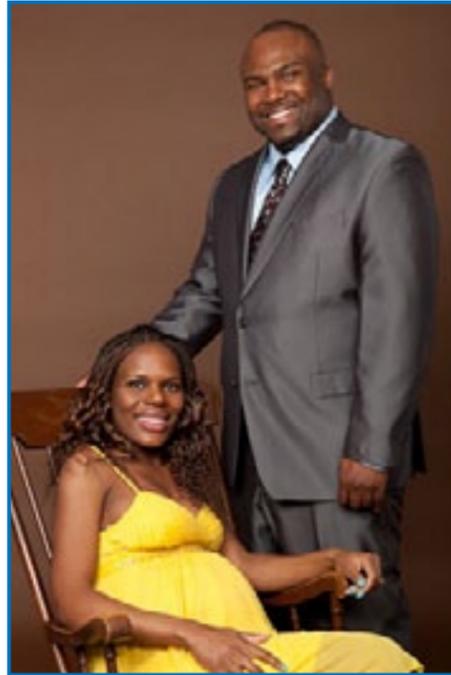




plete 24 hour Mitigation, Remediation and, Restoration company. Our services include, Fire and Water Damage Restoration, Mold Remediation, Mold Testing and Consulting, Carpet Cleaning, Air Duct Cleaning, Board- Up Services, Crime Scene Clean Up, Smoke/Malodor Control, Bed Bugs removal, and Construction Services. We work with all insurance companies.

Do you do commercial and residential work? Yes, we do Commercial and Residential projects.

What are some of the questions that a consumer should ask before hiring someone to do the work that your company does? When seeking a Mitigation/Restoration professional, the potential client should ask if the company is licensed, bonded and insured.



They should also find out if the company is an accredited firm with the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)/The Clean Trust, or the Restoration Industry Association,

We would also recommend that they find out if the company is an accredited firm with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Also ask if their employees are uniformed and whether they have identifying vehicles with company logos.

Are there any special licenses that one has to have to do the type of work that you do? Yes, one needs to be certified through industry trade association, and have a GENERAL Contractor's License.

What specific role does your wife, the company CEO, play in the business? Well, as the CEO, her role is to handle day-to-day operations. Create new ways to provide superior services for current and future clients. Finally, to continue being a visionary for the continued growth of the company.

How did you and your wife become interested in starting this type of business? Well, I have over 20 year of experience in Construction, mitigation/remediation, and carpet cleaning. My wife has over 10 years of experience in the Property Management industry that equips her to better identify the individual needs of our clients.

Carpet cleaning experience allowed us to tap into the mitigation, remediation, and restoration industry. We decided that there was a need for a minority company to offer a better quality of services in this industry. So here we are.

Is there a particular skill set that one should have to be successful in this type of Business? One must first have integrity, be perspicacious, and be very meticulous.

Any children? If so, how many? Do any of them plan to be active in the family business? Yes we have two daughters and one son. Yes when they are of age.

What else would you like COMMUNICATE! Readers to know about National Catastrophe Solutions, Inc.? We want to communicate that we are minority-owned and woman-owned. We are also an "A" Rated firm with the BBB. Our customer service is second to none. Integrity is at the core of our foundation. At National Catastrophe Solutions Inc. we believe that there are; as our motto says "Solutions For A Better Tomorrow".

www.natcatsolutions.com
info@natcatsolutions.com

Phone: 800-760-8772
Fax: 800-694-1152

"SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"



COMING DEVELOPMENT SPELLS OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS



VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT

Lafayette Linear

There's nothing worse than not being able to take advantage of an opportunity. But, that could happen if local contractors in the Village of University Park don't have all of their paperwork filed with the Village. That includes ensuring that all fees are paid.

New businesses are coming to University Park. The word is out that not only is this a good place to live, it is a good place to work and do business.

Local contractors, including electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and others needing licenses from the Village to do business should get ready and be prepared. Don't miss out on an opportunity because you failed to do the necessary paperwork and pay the required fees. That's all part of the price of doing business.

Don't wait until the last minute, get everything in order now. If you don't, **OPPORTUNITY** will pass you by. Once new businesses begin looking outside of the Vil-

lage for qualified contractors...it just might be too late.

Please take note. See the attached General and Sub-Contractor License Form. Fill out, detach and return to Village Hall.

After all fees have been paid, and you have your license number your work is not done! You next need to obtain a **Permit. The cost for a permit is as follows:**

\$8.50 per \$1,000 of work performed. For example, a \$10,000 job requires payment of \$85 for a permit fee.

Installing a roof, fence, deck or shed? Write a check for \$75.

Some work requires a plat of survey and/or a J.U.L.I.E. dig number before the permit can be issued.

Electrical, Plumbing and HVAC repairs require an inspection by the Village after the work is completed by the Village-licensed contractor. The fee for the inspection is included in the cost for the permit.

If you have any questions please contact **Code Enforcement @ (708)-235-4818.**





GENERAL AND SUB-CONTRACTOR LICENSE APPLICATION FORM

Village of University Park
698 Burnham Drive
University Park, IL 60466-2708
Phone (708) 534-6141 • Fax (708) 534-3430

In order to obtain a General or Sub-Contractor License within the Village of University Park, the following must be returned with your completed application.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
(All applicable items must be received before license is issued)
General Contractor License Fee - \$75.00
Certificate of Insurance
License or Permit Bond - min. \$5,000.00

SUB - CONTRACTOR:
(All applicable items must be received before license is issued)
Sub - Contractor License Fee - \$50.00
Certificate of Insurance
License or Permit Bond - min. \$1,000.00
Copy of Electrical Certification
Copy of State Plumber's License
Copy of State Roofer's License

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

Business Owner(s) Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Whoever violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of Ordinance 1442 shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or on which a violation or noncompliance occurs or continues.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Applicant's Fee: _____ Date Issued: _____

License Number: _____ Comments: _____



COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Village Manager
Lafayette Linear
& Village of University
Park Departments



PARKS &
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

Director
Keely Childress

7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**WANT TO BEAT THE HEAT?
FORGET THE LAKE - COME TO
HICKOCK AQUATIC CENTER**

Now open the **Hickock Aquatic Center** remains among the best kept secrets in the Southland. It is a zero depth facility with a **Water Slide** that delights toddlers as well as older children. Parents enjoy lounging poolside under umbrellas, while watching their families swim and enjoy the day.

Bring the whole family and your neighbors as admission is only **\$3.50** per person for **residents**. And **non-residents** are welcome as well, paying a surprisingly low **\$5.00** per person.

The **Hickock Aquatic Center** is available for group and private events. Don't wait until the last minute to make your reservation. This spot is jumping during the summer months, especially during the recent high temperatures.

Hours are Monday - Friday 2:00 -



POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Chief
Mel Davis

**MORE FROM THE CITIZENS
POLICE ACADEMY**

A CPR/AED training class was held on Saturday, July 7. Class instructor was **Russ Perez a State Certified CPR Instructor** and a **24-year veteran** with the **North Riverside Fire District**.

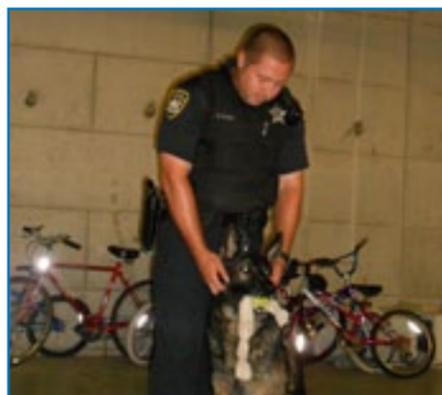
The art of saving lives has changed drastically. If you have had this training before 2010, it's highly recommended that you undergo retraining, due to injuries that can occur during CPR procedures. Our students learned the latest procedures and are now certified.

Instructor Perez mad the class fun, yet serious and educational, while teaching a vital skill that enhances the effectiveness of our police officers.

**SEARCHING FOR DRUGS?
GIVE GILLESPIE A CALL**

Dave Gillespie and his **K9** from the **Crete Police Department**, recently gave a class of University Park Police Officers, a demonstration on how to conduct a systematic search





for drugs with the assistance of a K9.

When our department needs assistance from a highly trained K9 and handler, Gillespie is who we call.

In another demonstration **Stan Bailey**, a former **University Park Officer**, now employed by Amtrak, demonstrated his K9 handling skills in bomb detection and handling. Various types of explosives were planted in the training area. Without hesitation the K9 detected and alerted participants to the location of the explosive device.

Next Instructor Bailey had eight participants walk in a line. One was

carrying a briefcase with C-4 inside. The alert K9 immediately identified the person with the briefcase.

COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S GANG TASK FORCE TO WORK WITH UNIVERSITY PARK

The recently signed agreement enables the **University Park Police Department** to be part of a county-wide network. This will enable all participating towns to identify and share intelligence when similar crime patterns are noted. Additional manpower will be deployed as necessary to avert any potential flare-ups.

According to Sheriff of Cook County Tom Dart, *"University Park's partnership will further solidify a proactive approach in combating criminal activity and creating a safer environment for all residents in your town and throughout other communities."*

This type of collaboration is important to the citizens of University Park, and enables the Police Department

to better utilize its' resources, and be more proactive in addressing criminal behavior.



UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Manager
Paul Blockoms

In this issue we would like to highlight some of our "UGC Stars" and we ask the question, "How can we serve you better?"

We are delighted to share with you that on Saturday, April 20, 2012, Mayor Vivian Covington hosted her first "High Tea" event at our beautiful facility. She was so pleased with the professional and courteous service, that she and her guests received, Mayor Covington honored staff members at the Board of Trustees meeting in May. Those honored were: Mr. Anthony Burton, Mrs. Lourdes Capetillo, Mr. Jason Hen-

derson, Mrs. Gale Purnell, and Mrs. Dorothy "Dottie" Tracey. In addition, she was pleased with our wonderful and talented Head Chef and staff for the professional presentation of food and desserts. "Thank You," UGC Stars for a job well done!

The University Golf Club and Conference Center staff is working hard to provide quality service to all of our customers. We are pleased to offer a variety of events that we believe will interest you. We want to remind our readers that, whether you are a beginner or experienced golfer, or just looking for somewhere to dine, relax with friends, host a corporate or an elaborate and memorable event, the University Golf Club and Conference Center is here for you! Join us for our Breakfast Brunch on Saturdays and Sundays; share an evening of Live Music on Thursdays; or for the dancers, our Friday Night Stepper's set. Learn to Line Dance on Tuesdays. Our professional staff will always welcome you! Come out and have fun and let us know how we can serve you better. We are offering \$5.00 off with a purchase of \$20.00 or more at our restaurant.

More importantly, summer is here! We have already experienced a record number of days of excessive heat. Please remember to stay hydrated and limit your time in the sun. Also, remember to check on the elderly, neighbors, family, and friends. For cooling stations visit the Village of University Park website. **ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

OTHER NEWS

UNIVERSITY PARK YOUTH IN THE NEWS

If you are a parent, or youth leader raising and/or working with young people in the community; it sometimes seems as if no one pays attention to the positive programs and activities in which many of our youth are involved.

Well they do exist.

One such program is the **"Leaders For Tomorrow"** initiative led by the men of **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated**, under the auspices of the **Theta Mu Lambda Charitable Foundation**.

They recently sponsored the **"Creating a Legacy"** program at the **University Golf Club, on Saturday, May 19**. Two **University Park** youth, **Gregory Box** and **LeVonte Hudson**, were among the **20 "Leaders for Tomorrow"** recognized at the event.

Profile: "Leaders For Tomorrow"

The **Leaders for Tomorrow (LFT)** program operates under the guidance and directions of the Director of Educational Activities of the Theta Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. LFT is designed as part of Alpha Phi Alpha's national program, "Go to High School, go to College".

This year's program provided academic enrichment in math. This spirited instruction helped to increase students'



Pictured on right: Gregory Box, Jr.

test taking skills and study habits. LFT students participated in workshops that included: Public Speaking, Political Awareness, Business Acumen, Personal Finance, Law Enforcement, Engineering, and Health and Fitness.

The 2012 LFT class also toured the Northern Illinois University Campus. Students participated in Mock Trial activities at the John Marshall Law School (Chicago). LFT students and parents (also) participated in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies. In addition, the program hosted lively discussions of selected articles from newspapers and essays from, **"The Black MALE Handbook"**, edited by Kevin Powell.

Many students from LFT will be attending The Leadership Development Institute this summer at the University of Louisville, in Kentucky.

Source - "Creating a Legacy" Program Book

"Leaders For Tomorrow" participants **Gregory Box, Jr. and LeVonte Hudson**, submitted the following letter to **COMMUNICATE!** describing their experiences as part of this

(Continued next page)

\$5.00 OFF

With a purchase of \$20.00 or more at our restaurant.

Valid from September 1- September 30, 2012

(One coupon per visit)



important youth leadership development program.

Dear Editor:

The Alpha Phi Alpha Leaders For Tomorrow is a great program. The Alpha brothers help out kids from 8th grade to 12th grade. Skills required for success are explained throughout the entire program. The Program teaches life lessons that help out with future goals.

The Leaders For tomorrow program sponsors many trips that are both fun and educational. One trip that we went on that was fun for us was the John Marshall Law School Mock Trial trip. On that trip we had to study a case that we had to re-enact in the courtroom. They put you on teams and you were judged on your individual effort and team effort. When we were there we both received a great amount of scholarship money, gift cards, and certificates.

In this program we read educational books, and had leadership training on law, finance, health,



Pictured on right: LeVonte Hudson

as well as other topics. This is a great program that we will be in for years to come. We recommend it to any teenager who is of age.

Respectfully,

LeVonte Hudson
Gregory Box, Jr.

And This In From Eugene Lawson, Jr., President University Park Youth Baseball league.

Greetings,

This has been an outstanding year! We have placed two teams in the championship game, and a third team missed the championship game by only one game. Our Pintos (7 & 8 year olds), coached by James Worthington were 6-0 in the playoffs and played the Glenwood Pirates for the championship in that division on Saturday, June 30th at Hickory Glen Park in Glenwood.

OUR Pony team (13 & 14 year olds) coached by Reginald Burton were 7-2 in the playoffs and played South Chicago Heights for the championship in that division on Sunday, July 1 at Grant School, in South Chicago Heights.

These coaches, players and parents have invested some valuable time with over 25 games for each team. Now they get to play in the last game of the season.

New Playground in University Park Built by Hundreds of Volunteers

Special Report - Mike Vietti - Communications Manager - KaBOOM!

Rome wasn't built in a day, but 219 volunteers built the new 2,800-square foot playground at Craig Park in less than eight hours on July 28.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and the Village of University Park teamed with national non-profit KaBOOM! on the done-in-a-day playground project, which resembled an old-fashioned barn-raising. The playground marked the 14th built by KaBOOM! and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and represents one of more than 150 playground builds KaBOOM! will lead across North America in 2012 as the organization strives to achieve its vision of a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. KaBOOM! has directly built more than 2,100 playgrounds since its inception in 1996, but this project was the first this far south in the metro area.

The project is also part of "Healthy Kids, Healthy Families," a three-year initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of children through community investments by



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. "Healthy Kids, Healthy Families" invests in non-profit organizations that encourage health education, promote physical activity, prevent and manage disease, and support safe environments for children.

The project at Craig Park kicked off with an energetic ceremony at 8:30 a.m. led by Danielle Trezek from KaBOOM!, Village of University Park Director of Parks and Recreation Keely Childress and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Analyst Arnold Tate, and University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington, who participated in the ribbon-cutting.

In opening remarks Mayor Covington said, "This is a historic day for everyone in University Park. It is a great example of what can be accomplished when people and organizations unite for a common cause, our children."

At 8:50 a.m. the 200-plus volunteers scattered across the build site in the fashion of a large ant farm and the project was underway. Some volunteers worked on assembling playground components, some worked on building a shade

structure and picnic tables/benches and others tackled the mountain of engineered wood fiber as volunteers moved 43,740 square feet of mulch by hand during the day – enough to cover nearly 10 NBA-sized basketball courts!

The project featured more than labor from adults. Children from the area actually designed the playground after participating in a Design Day in June. Several younger children also participated in the event and worked on arts and craft projects that were showcased in front of volunteers at the end of the day.

The volunteers worked so hard that the playground and side projects were completed in time for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new playground at 2:30 p.m.

Trezek from KaBOOM!, Tate from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and Village of University Park Trustee Joseph Roudez, III thanked the volunteers for their incredible spirit and work ethic.

The new playground, which replaced equipment nearly 20 years old, will bring smiles and laughter to thousands of children in the area for years to come.





THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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UP Senior Citizens Committee

The University Park Senior Citizens Committee will host its annual
Senior Fun Day
Wednesday, August 29, 2012.

This year's event titled
"Taste of Cultures" will be held at
90 Town Center
from Noon-4:00 p.m.

University Park seniors are invited to
come out and enjoy food, fun, and games.
See you there!

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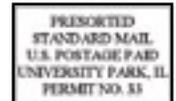
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