



**UP
Beat**
Mayor
Vivian E.
Covington

A volunteer is described as one who, *“Acts or does of their own free will without valuable consideration or legal obligation.”*

With that definition in mind, the **Village of University Park** is blessed to have an abundance of volunteers, people who consistently display their concern about their community and neighbors above themselves.

I wanted to let you know that I think you are amazing! Everywhere I go I hear directly from so many of you, about how proud you are to serve our Village residents; and how dedicated you are to this mission of making a difference to our Town.

I always come away from those conversations knowing that you have positive attitudes, strong work ethics, and huge hearts full of compassion and caring, as you watch your town grow.

We are proud of our team working together and the leadership displayed by all organizations; working together in a positive way to meet the needs of our residents.



What we should stress for management, employees and residents is to continue displaying strong leadership and respect on all sides. I can't begin to say how appreciative I am and how proud I am of all of you.

July was a record month! The collaborative efforts of our volunteers and staff have added to our quality of life.

- **KaBOOM!**
- **Citizens Police Academy**
- **Back-to-School Parade & Family Festival**
- **4-Day Carnival**

(Continued next page)

COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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



**PARKS &
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT**

*Director
Keely Childress*

KUDOS & RECOGNITION FOR KAPOOM! VOLUNTEERS

The **July 28th KaBOOM!** playground build in **Craig Park**, was described as the *“Single, largest volunteer effort in the history of*

University Park,” at the **August 14th** Board of Trustees meeting, by **Trustee Joseph E. Roudez, III**, also Trustee Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Department.

A special presentation was done by **Anaya Dennis-Childress** and **Kiwanatae Harrell**, both **10**, thanking **Mayor Vivian E. Covington**, the **Board of Trustees** and **Village Clerk**

Dorothy Jones for their help with the new playground. Anaya read this information to the elected officials. Kiwanatae helped present a large photo received from **KaBOOM!** and **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois**.

Danny Sigers, community engagement liaison for the **KaBOOM!**

(Continued next page)

**U.S. SENATOR
DICK DURBIN
VISITS UNIVERSITY PARK
UP BEAT P.2**

**AQUA ILLINOIS
OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 12
6-8 PM
90 TOWNCENTER**



UP Beat continued from front page

Awesome!

And in **June** we had the **two-day Pine Lake Festival**, which played to record reviews.

You are all making a difference.

In the near future we are looking forward to:

- Kids Health Club
- Restoration of Veterans Park
- Light placement on University Parkway

Once again, we will be looking to our **volunteers** to help make it happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my personal condolences to **Trustee Oscar H. Brown, Jr.**, on the passing of his grandmother **Annie Brown**. A formal resolution was read in her honor at the **August 14th** Board meeting.

SEN. DURBIN VISITS UNIVERSITY PARK

On **Thursday, August 16** **Sen. Dick Durbin** visited **University Park**, taking time to stop at **Federal Signal** in the **Industrial Park**, and **Governors State University**. The senator was impressed with **Federal Signal**, which supplies many municipalities and communities with **alarms, fire protection lights, sirens** and more. Much of their business takes place here in the United States, although they do have an overseas presence, including **Egypt** and **China**.

We are now into the current election cycle, with the upcoming presidential election set for **Tuesday, November 6th**. This promises to be a hotly contested, contentious race. Please carefully read **Village Clerk Dorothy Jones** article in this issue. It contains important information for University Park residents, including **registration deadlines** and **guidelines**.

We all need to make sure that we not only get registered. We must also make sure that once registered, we take the next important step and vote. In a recent **USA Today poll**, **90 million people** reported that they do not plan to vote, for one reason or another. We can only take a guess as to how many of that number are **African American**.

All of the apparent attempts to restrict the votes of **African Americans, Latinos** and **low-income voters**; should make us realize that there is value in the vote. Otherwise, there would not be money and time spent trying to keep certain people from voting.



Currently **Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania** and **Indiana**, strictly prohibit voting unless some form of photo ID is shown.

Illinois voters are asked to track **Senate bill 2496** and **House Bill 3903**, both of which would add **Illinois** to the above list.

An article in the **August 19th Huffington Post** said, "A group of 20 Republican state senators in Illinois have quietly thrown their support behind legislation that would require the state's

voters to present a **government-issued photo identification card** to an election judge upon voting -- a requirement that currently only applies to early voters."

Senate Bill 2496 is currently held up in committee, according to the Huffington Post, where hopefully it will die a not-so-quiet death. For the record, **State Sen. Kyle McCarter (R-Lebanon)** and **State Rep. Dwight Kay (R-Edwardsville)**, are responsible for these bills which, if passed, could take the **African American** community back to the **pre-Civil Rights era**.

Contact your legislators and let your voices be heard concerning this and any other legislation that seeks to roll back your rights as a citizen. That would be the offices of **Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., State Sen. Toi Hutchinson, Rep. Anthony DeLuca** and **State Rep. Al Riley**.

Finally, **University Park** has been listed as one of the more than **40 communities contending for broadband infrastructure funding**. Those communities are competing for a share of the \$6 million challenge grant offered by **Broadband Illinois** to improve **broadband infrastructure**. I will keep you updated on any developments.



What's Happening continued from front page

project singled out volunteer **Mildred Morgan**, for, "Raising over \$8,000 in donations single-handedly."

In related business Trustee Roudez handed out several plaques and certificates including one to Ms. Morgan, Mayor Covington, and each of the Trustees, thanking them for their efforts. **Parks & Recreation Department Director Keely Childress**, thanked Trustee Roudez for his help. **Department Secretary Lilleta Rogers** and **Public Works Director Jerry Townsend** were also presented with a plaque by Director Childress, for their work in pulling the project together.



Commander Stroud is sworn in.

Chief Davis said, "I would like to congratulate both of the new Commanders. It is my vision to have a solid command staff to lead and direct a few good men and women to serve and protect our Village with pride, professionalism and dignity."



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Mel Davis

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION

On **Monday, July 30** the **University Golf Club** was the site of the **first graduation** of the **Citizen's Policy Academy**. In all a total of 14 graduates walked the walk, and were acknowledged with awards and certifications for their hard work during the 10-week course. Eleven

TWO VETERAN OFFICERS PROMOTED TO COMMANDER

It was a packed house at the **August 14 Board of Trustees** meeting at **90 Towncenter**. The occasion? The promotion of two veteran officers of the **University Park Police Department**, **Sergeants Deborah Wilson** and **Darryl Stroud**, to the rank of Commander.

Proceedings were halted for several minutes to allow the new "police brass" to take the oath of office, administered by **Village Clerk Dorothy Jones**.



instructors participated.

University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington and **Trustees, Larry B. Brown, Joseph E. Roudez, III, Oscar H. Brown, Jr., Keith J. Griffin** and **Elizabeth Williams** were in attendance for the ceremony.

The Academy is an innovative program that seeks to educate citizen civilians about how the law enforcement process works. In the process students learn more about their individual rights, as well as the pressures under which police personnel operate.

University Park Police Chief Mel Davis said, "The graduation had a flare of 'Red Carpet' elegance. I felt a sense of pride as I acknowledged the graduating students and participating instructors."

Continuing Chief Davis noted, "Nothing better than watching a plan come together. So many residents came out in support and to educate themselves. We are looking forward to the next one."



PRISm COMES TO THE UNIVERSITY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



“Because of tight budgets and a continued high demand for training, I have developed cost-cutting measures that will still allow for State and Contractual-mandated training,” Chief Mel Davis said.

PRISm consists of real life situations where officers’ judgment, timing and firearm accuracy are challenged by a simulator. All of the officers received the simulated course on the use of force in shoot or don’t shoot scenarios.

The simulator, is an 80 inch screen where actors play out the role of criminals, who display weapons. They use them either on the police or other actors participating in the skits. The staged scenes are so realistic that officers’ heart rates jump. The adrenalin flows as if they were being shot at, stabbed or attacked.

“This kind of training would cost thousands of dollars if we sent officers away for training,” Chief Davis concluded.

CN RAILROAD PROVIDES TRAINING FOR UNIVERSITY PARK OFFICERS

CN Railroad recently provided two, four-hour certified training sessions, to the University Park and Crete Police Departments on the subject of rail safety.

The seminars covered all of the major rail issues that officers should be aware of, when investigating train accidents. Instructor, Officer Eric Graff, kept participating officers on edge with his enthusiastic style of training. CN Railroad offered this training free to participants.



UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Manager Paul Blockoms

ABC/CHICAGO 7 VISITS UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB

On Monday, August 20th viewers of ABC/Chicago 7 News were introduced to one of the Southland’s hidden gems, when Reporter Leah Hope visited the University Golf Club, to get reactions about the Augusta National Golf Club’s decision to finally admit women. Two women, including former Secretary of State Condelezza Rice, were selected as the first inductees.

Augusta, home of the Masters golf tournament, had long come under

fire for refusing to admit women to its ranks. University Park Village Clerk Dorothy “Dee” Jones was among those interviewed for their reaction to the historic selections.

“I am excited that finally another male-dominated organization has recognized the abilities and contributions of Women golfers. I hope that this is truly opening the door and not just a token crack to appease a few,” Village Clerk Jones said.

Women’s Golf Association President Carole Jamison, and members Geraldine Tyler and Anita Odoms, were also interviewed.

JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MENTORING SEASON

The Two Seaters Junior Golf Club concluded their 2012 program on August 4th, with a huge end-of-season recognition celebration and cookout. Over 50 junior golfers ages 8-18 participated in the 17-week program that began in early April, here at the University Golf Club.

Members of the Two Seater Golf Club Foundation, which considers University Golf Club their home course, volunteered their time to coach and mentor the junior golfers over the 17-week period. The junior golfers are from the University Park area and surrounding communities

Many of the juniors were beginners, with several returning members from last year’s program. They

developed the mechanics of golf with lessons at the range, and on the course. They also participated in classroom sessions on golf rules and etiquette. Many of the juniors will continue this fall by joining their high school golf teams.

TSGCF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Two Seaters Golf Club Foundation (TSGCF) awarded their 2012 Scholarship recipients on August 12th with a \$1,000 scholarship and a trunk party. The scholarship is awarded to local high school graduates in pursuit of their college degrees. This year, University Park resident, Alexy Thorpe a graduate of Crete-Monee High School, was one of two scholarship recipients.

Ms. Thorpe will be attending Eastern University. The other winner was Chekinna Mason a graduate of Thornwood High School, who will be attending Northern Illinois University. Each recipient also received a large trunk loaded with all of the basic essentials, and some frills to help them to have a successful first-year as a college student. The TSGCF has been awarding college scholarships to local students for the past nine years.

WOMEN’S GOLF ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB (WGA OF UGC)

The Women’s Golf Association hosted its 2nd annual Rally for

the Cure “Real Men Wear Pink” breast cancer awareness golf and line dance outing on August 26th at University Golf Club. All proceeds are earmarked to improve breast cancer awareness and early screening for the under-insured and uninsured residents in the South Suburban area. The Women’s Golf Association, focuses on providing support to local residents facing challenges during and after treatment.

For information on the Two Seaters Golf Foundation and the Women’s Golf Association, contact Carole Jamison at (708) 935-4862, or at golfingcarole@sbcglobal.net.

Trustee News

GRANDMOTHER OF TRUSTEE OSCAR H. BROWN, JR. HONORED AT BOARD MEETING

A Resolution of Condolence was presented in remembrance of Mrs. Annie Brown at the August 14th Board of Trustees meeting. Mayor Vivian E. Covington and each of the Trustees offered their personal messages to Trustee Brown, on the passing of his grandmother.

GED PROGRAM HAS A FEW SEATS LEFT

Are you are in need of a GED or continuing educational services?

Trustee Elizabeth “Liz” Williams, wants to bring the Adult Educa-

tion Department of Prairie State College to University Park to serve you!

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



Who can come to the classes? Anyone interested ages 16 to 80 and beyond. Do I have to live in University Park? No, these classes are open to anyone. The only requirement is your interest and determination to complete your education. The program is free to participants and of minimal cost to the Village, a true win, win for participants and the Village of University Park.

Adult Basic Education courses will be in the University Park 70 Town Center.

How will this class help?

If you left high school without graduating, the GED test provides a way for you to earn your diploma. Getting your GED can make a big difference in your ability to get and keep a job, or to qualify for further education.

The bottom line is simple. If you get a good education, you’ll:

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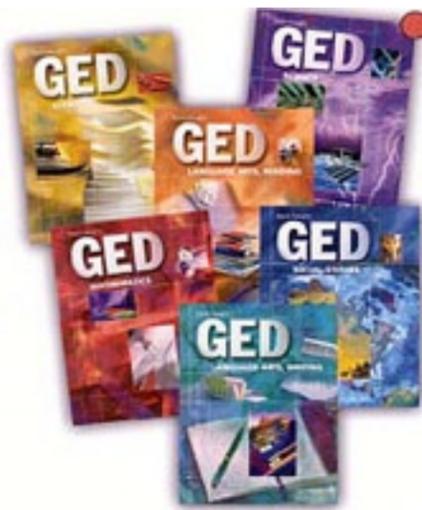
- **Compete for good jobs**
- **Make more money to support your family**
- **Help your children to succeed in school and beyond**

For University Park residents this location will eliminate the need to travel outside the local area to acquire an education, as it is in walking distance while still being centrally located on University Parkway for visitors to easily locate.

In this newsletter **you will find on p.7 a questionnaire**, we need at least **30 participants**. Please fill it out and return it to **Trustee Williams by mail, fax or email. Feel free to deliver it to the Village Hall**, where it will be placed in her mailbox.

UPDATE

Currently the search is on for teachers and volunteer tutors. Prairie State is seeking funds for materials and salary for an instructor.



Trustee Williams says, “We have secured all of our action items, including security for the classes, class room space and secure storage for class materials. We have done surveys and identified students with both the need and interest in securing their GED.”

Continuing she says, “We are accepting donations of cash, pens, pencils and paper for our students. We want to do whatever we can to ensure their success and keep the program here in University Park. Make checks payable to Prairie State. In the memo section state that funds are for the University Park GED Program. Donations will be accepted at Village Hall c/o Trustee Williams.”

Following is a brief interview with more information from Trustee Williams.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY SIGNED UP?

Twenty two students have filled out the survey and are waiting for necessary paperwork from Prairie State, and are ready to begin.

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST THAT YOU EXPECT CLASSES TO BEGIN? Sometime in September we will have budget information from Prairie State and Springfield. I will be in a better position at that time to give a status update.

HOW MANY TIMES A WEEK, AND FOR HOW LONG WILL CLASSES MEET? HOW MANY WEEKS ARE IN THE COURSE?

Classes will be scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays in the mornings. Those are the best times for the majority of the students surveyed. Classes will convene in four-hour time slots, most likely 8:00 a.m. - Noon, or 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. Classes last 12 weeks.

YOU MENTIONED TUTORS. WILL THEY WORK WITH STUDENTS DURING AND AFTER THE COURSE, AS THEY PREPARE TO TAKE THE TEST? We hope to have sufficient volunteers who will be able to help students during and after classes, on an as-needed basis, as they prepare for the test. Please send in your resume to Village Hall c/o Trustee Williams.

I also encourage students to use the computer lab available at the University Park Library.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO LET COMMUNICATE! READERS KNOW ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY PARK/PRAIRIE STATE GED PROGRAM? We have been working with Prairie State College for about a year to establish this program. We have determined that there is enough student interest to host a class. We found space! We found security! Now we are waiting on Prairie State to see if there is enough money in their budget to help our community. Hopefully they/we can find the money!

It takes a village, so **please** encourage someone you know who may need this service. Give them

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

Off-Campus GED® Preparation Classes

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Phone: _____

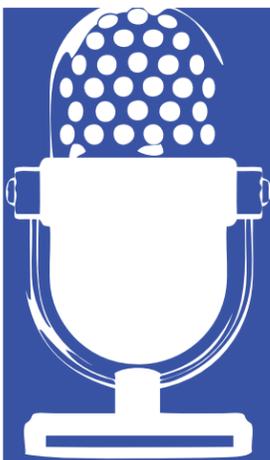
1. Are you interested in earning your GED certificate? Yes No
2. Did you graduate from high school? If yes, Yes No
When? _____ Where: _____
3. Do you have a state ID or driver's license to prove you live within the district? Yes No
4. Do you have transportation? Yes No
5. Can you attend classes at 90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

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

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

University Park Contact Information

Trustee Elizabeth “Liz” Williams
4 Towncenter ~ University Park IL 60484
(708) 534-4237
lizwilliams@university-park-il.com



We're Back!!!!

the YOUNG BROADCASTERS

OUR MISSION:

The Young Broadcasters program gives each student a fundamental concept of camera shooting, video and audio production thus stimulating potential careers in broadcast communications. They also receive quality hands-on training with an instructor, group discussions, class projects and production tours with the other studios! This is a wonderful program for OUR children.

Class Location: 505 University Parkway, University Park, IL
Registration/Open House
Class begins: Tuesday, September 25, 2012
Class ends: Thursday, December 13, 2012
Class Day(s): Tuesdays & Thursdays
Class Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Age(s): High School Students (13-19)
Program Cost: \$25 per student

Sponsored by the Village of University Park

Full Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Telephone(s) _____ Cellular(s): _____

Choose one.

Email: _____

High School Attending: _____ Student Grade: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

Participation will be denied if the signature of the adult participant or parent/guardian and date are not on this waiver.

Waiver & Release:

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in this activity, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages or loss which you or your minor child might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with and this program/activity (including transportation services/vehicle operation, when provided).

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Receipt# _____ Date: _____ Staff Initials _____



the questionnaire and help them get started.

Trustee Williams says, "Remember, I am working for you. I would like to see everyone elevated, one person at a time."

My Vision: "University Park a great place to live, shop and grow." Liz Williams

If interested Contact: Trustee Elizabeth "Liz" Williams - 4 Towncenter - University Park IL 60484

(708) 534-4237 - LizWilliams@university-park-il.com, Fax (708) 534-3182

UNIVERSITY PARK LIBRARY OFFERING RESUME' HELP TO JOB SEEKERS AND OTHERS

On Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., August through December 12, those seeking employment can receive professional assistance. The focus is on **finding employment** and **resume' building**. Call 708-534-2580 for more information.



Message From The Office Of Village Clerk Dorothy "Dee" Jones

We in the United States of America live in the most wonderful place in the world, in a democratic society where we have the freedom, privilege, and opportunity to decide who will lead this Country, and our communities, and who will make those hard decisions that are best for the health, welfare and safety of every citizen. Now we have the opportunity and obligation to exercise those rights to vote, and we must use the power of our vote.

The Primary Election held earlier this year was a very important day for our community, our state, and federal government. It was the day that we elected those individuals whom we felt we needed to represent us in the November General Election. Now the count-down to election 2012 has begun; and if we are to have a chance of receiving the economic support we need to continue to move this Village, our Community and Country forward, we as a community must do our part. Therefore, I stress the importance of your vote, and urge you, the voting population to exercise your God given right and Vote.

October 9, 2012 is the last day to register to vote in order to participate in the **November 6, 2012 General Presidential Election. Voter registration** is available at **Village Hall** and the **Parks & Recreation Department Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.** And there are several Deputy Registrars at other locations throughout the Village.

Remember, In Order To Register To Vote The Law Requires That You Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States of America, either born or naturalized
- Legal resident of the Village for at least 30 days
- 18 years of age or older, or will turn 18 on or before November 6, 2012
- Show two (2) valid proofs of identification
- You should also register if you have moved, even in the same town, or next door
- Register if you have changed your name

To Be Eligible To Vote, The Law Only Requires That:

- You are a registered voter in the municipality in which you reside

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- Show valid proof of identification and residency

Early voting will be available in the Village of University Park **Monday through Friday beginning Monday, October 15, 2012 through Thursday, November 1, 2012** to any registered voter in the Village of University Park, Will County, Illinois at the Office of the Village Clerk at 698 Burnham Drive. Early voting is available for registered voters in the Village of University Park, Cook County at Matteson Village Hall during those same dates.

According to Will County Clerk Nancy Schultz-Voots, State law requires that a registered voter show **valid photo identification** before voting early. **Voters casting an early ballot must display a current driver's license, a state-issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photograph.** For detailed information regarding your early voting options, or to request an absentee ballot by mail, visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call either **(815) 740-4632 or (815) 774-6367.**

Due to the re-districting within Will County several voting precincts were eliminated or merged with other voting precincts, resulting in fewer voting places. Therefore, I urge you to look at your new voter's registration card so you can properly locate your voting precinct. If you have not received a new voter's registration card, PLEASE contact the Office of the Will County Clerk.

Remember, it matters not what your political persua-

sion or affiliation may be, registering, and exercising that right to vote empowers everyone equally, (One person, One Vote).

While history was made across the United States four-years ago during the presidential election, when the nation elected its first African American President; it is my desire that we, all 4,000 + registered voters in the Village of University Park make history by turning



out in record numbers at the next election. Can you imagine the difference in the growth in this community that could be made if every qualified voter in this town voted? Therefore, I urge all of you to become part of making voting history on November 6, 2012 by registering, and honoring your God given right, and your moral obligation to participate in the electoral process and VOTE. Apathy gets us nothing but more heartbreak, disappointment, and wishing things were different.

I could not end this article without expressing my

sincere, heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the invaluable service and assistance rendered to me and this community by **Deputy Village Clerks Sue Sanfratello and Jacelia Kelly.**

The Clerk's Office is your Window to Information, and available to you, so feel free to contact our office at Village Hall, by e-mail djones@university-park-il.com, or phone @ **(708) 473-6201.**

Remember, Your Vote is Your Voice; Let It Be Heard – Register and Vote.

New Feature From the Monee Township Assessor's Office

The **August issue of COMMUNICATE!** introduces the **first installment of a periodic feature from the Monee Township Assessor, Sandra Heard.** The purpose is to enlighten readers about the tax assessment process.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB AS TAX ASSESSOR? Keeping the taxpayers informed on how the assessments x tax rate = tax dollars. In this office we do not determine the rate increases or reductions. However we continue to reduce assessments as property values decrease due to foreclosures and short sales.

WHAT CAN TAXPAYERS DO TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER? Read the Frequently Asked Questions. Call or visit our website to get a better understanding of their assessments. Attend scheduled workshops.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT THE TAX ASSESSMENT PROCESS, AND YOUR ROLE AS THE TAX ASSESSOR? Read all Monee township newsletters; or go to web address at www.moneeassessor.com.

The Monee Township Assessor's office is located at 46 Town Center, University Park, IL. Call us at ((708) 534-6023, or email us at moneeassessor@gmail.com.

Following are some of the frequently asked questions about the tax assessment process. Monee Township Assessment Reductions FAQs



As part of the 2012 reassessment process we did apply reduction factors, by neighborhood, to most property assessments, based on the drop in the economy and market value of properties. You will receive a notification of reductions for your 2012 property assessments in August. Please be advised, the Assessor's Office is **not** responsible for **setting your tax rate**, only the assessments of your property.

Every year we have taxpayers ask questions that are similar to these frequently asked questions. These responses may help shed some light on your own questions:

- Q:** Why do we pay Illinois Property Taxes?
A: The state of Illinois first constitution in 1818 enacted property taxes. The property tax is the largest single tax in Illinois, and is a major source of tax revenue for local government taxing districts. Every person and business in Illinois is affected by property taxes whether by paying the tax or receiving services or benefits that are paid by property taxes. Illinois has more taxing districts than many other states.
- Q:** Who participates in paying Real Estate taxes?
A: Owners of real property (like a Residential, Farm commercial or industrial sites) pay property taxes directly. People who do not own real property most likely pay the tax indirectly, perhaps in the form of rent to a landlord.
- Q:** Who participates in the benefits from Real Estate taxes paid?
A: Anyone who attends public school, drives on roads or streets, uses the local library, has police protection services, or benefits from county, township and municipality services, receives these services paid for, at least in part, by property taxes.
- Q:** How is the market value of Properties determined?
A: You can find the guide in it's entirety at www.revenue.state.il.us/publications/localgovernment/ptax1004.pdf
 By law, most real properties are assessed at 33 1/3 of market value. So if your home is worth \$150,000 the assessed value placed on your home would be \$50,000.
- Q:** What is market value?
A: Market value-is a complicated concept with many definitions. Most real

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property in Illinois must be assessed based on its value on the open market, or its "market value." This value is the amount at which a property would sell in a competitive and open market, presuming that the sale is an arms length transaction.

Q: What is an Arms-length transaction?

A: Both the buyer and seller are knowledgeable about the sale and are using sound judgment by allowing sufficient time for sale. The sale is not affected by undue pressures or distressed properties (e.g. **foreclosure, bankruptcy**).

Q: Is there a certain formula for determining market value?

A: In today's market, market value determination is exceedingly more difficult to determine due to the downturn of the economy that exist in our township, county, state and country. However, we will continue to review Monee Township's properties to provide equitable assessments by neighborhoods.

Q: What can we change while reviewing your tax bill?

A: Many received their 2012 tax bill from the Will County Treasurers office and made contact to our office. While most assessments were reduced for 2012, we did review tax bills with taxpayers and identified areas where their tax rates may have increased. Again, the Assessor's Office is **not** responsible for **setting your tax rate**, only the assessments of your property.

Q: So who is responsible for setting my tax rate?

A: After reviewing your bill you will see a list of taxing bodies that make up the rate for your taxes, as some are the School District**, your Village or Municipality**, Libraries, Fire Department, Police, Parks and others.

**These items represented the bulk of the increase in taxes to be paid for year 2012.

Q: How can I appeal my Assessment?

A: The appeal process begins in your township assessor's office. The window for filing your appeal is usually 30 days after the reassessment notices are mailed in August. Instructions are included in Reassessment Letter.

Q: Can I have my assessment Reviewed prior to receiving this Notice?

A: Yes. Contact assessor's office prior to receiving your

notice and set appointment for a Preliminary review of your assessment

Q: So is there any program to help lower my property tax or keep it from increasing?

A: Other services that are provided in this office includes assisting you with applying for property tax Senior, General, Home improvement, Veteran and Disabled Exemptions, Senior Freezes, Circuit Breaker, Stewardship & RTA Program Passes and more!

Q: Are there any special programs for returning veterans?

A: Yes there is! In fact, there is a new **Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption** that I would like to bring to the attention of returning veterans. This provides a one-time \$5,000 reduction in property's equalized assessed value to qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. To receive this exemption, the veteran must file an application upon their return home.

Q: How do I apply for any of the other programs offered by the Assessor?

A: Stop on by! Your Monee Township Assessor's Office is located at 46 Town Center, University Park, IL 60484.

Our contact information included website www.monee-assessor.com, email, moneeassessor@gmail.com, phone 708-534-6023 and fax is 708-534-6027. If you have questions, you may call during office hours (Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. are winter hours) drop in or set an appointment as needed.



Vets Head Home - Jobs Needed

The Vow To Hire Heroes Act of 2011

New Benefits For Unemployed Veterans

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who meet all the following criteria:

- Unemployed
- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit programs
- Not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

We are accepting VRAP applications now for programs that begin **on or after July 1, 2012**. Participating Veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill - Active duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month. Assistance under this benefit program **ends on March 31, 2014**.

Programs must meet the following criteria to qualify for VRAP benefits:

- Be offered by a community college or technical school
- Lead to an Associate's Degree or Certificate
- Train the Veteran for a high demand occupation

UNEMPLOYED VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS



To qualify, Veterans must:

- Have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program
- Apply within six months of exhausting initial claim for unemployment compensation
- Apply to VA by **March 31, 2014**

VA offers incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants.

- *Veterans must apply and qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits prior to being hired*
- *VA may reimburse up to one-half the Veteran's annual salary for 6 months or longer*
- **Gives Veterans a competitive advantage with employers**

For more information on these great benefits and how to apply, please visit us online at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call toll free at 1-800-827-1000. Also, regularly check www.va.gov for changes and updates to the Vow to Hire Hero Act programs and benefits.

Source - U.S. Department of Labor & U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs





NOW YOU KNOW!

COMMUNICATE!
Feature

University Park Author Finds Unique Way to Teach Children to Read

Residents of University Park may not know that there is a first time author in their midst. Meet **Lonzell Cross**, who understands how important reading is to the future development of our children.

He has written a book that is not only **functional**, it actually makes learning to read **fun**.

How long did it take you to write "Another Alphabet Book Daddy?" The entire process took a little over 1 year. Writing the book was easy. The illustrations, editing, and finding the right publishing company to publish the book was time consuming.

How did you come up with the concept? I was inspired by reading books to my 5 year-old daughter Loni. Although, there are many alphabet books on the market many are missing the fun, and excitement that I have attempted to capture with my book. Using dynamic illustrations, simple rhyme patterns and lots of alliteration this assists with memorizing need to know material, and it helps the learning process.

So, the concept and development of this book is based mostly on personal experience? Yes, I have many times thought about my legacy and what type of impact that I want to have on the world. I can not think of a better gift to give to the world than to share the experience of teaching the youth how to read, and enjoy the process of learning.



Briefly describe your personal, educational and professional background. I am currently engaged to the love of my life Joan Loftin. Our wedding is scheduled for November. Together we share 3 children Loni, Shaqira, and Anthony. I am a graduate of Thornridge High School, and attended South Suburban College. My professional background is in music as a song writer; telecommunications in sales and training; Licensed Realtor and Licensed Barber (both in Illinois); and now as an author, publisher and editor.

In your opinion what is the ideal age at which children should begin the process of learning how to read? It is different for each child. But once children have a full understanding of the language, and can identify people and objects by name, then spelling and reading can begin. I believe it is never too early to begin the process of learning and enjoying books. In my opinion, as soon as children are born parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and caregivers should read to them. Learning is a never ending journey. It begins early and should continue.

Your book was just recently published at the end of July; what has been the reaction? So far, my first book has been received well by parents, educators, and most importantly children. I have donated several copies to day care centers, sold multiple copies, and received orders for more copies to sell.

What would you say to people to encourage them to purchase the book? This book will entertain your child with colorful and fun characters, as well as educate them in the process.

Why, in your opinion, has learning to read become such a hot button topic in the African American community? Our children are dropping out of schools and receiving lower than average test scores at an alarming rate. Education must begin at home early, and not on the first day of school. If we as a community take on the responsibility to mentor and teach our children more often, and at earlier ages we prepare them for success. Lastly, we must have higher expectations for our youth.

How can parents support the school system in helping their children learn to read? Buy my book and help children learn how to read it. Just kidding. Parents need to continue to spend quality reading time with their children, (maybe a bedtime story) visiting their local library, and sometimes have children read to them.

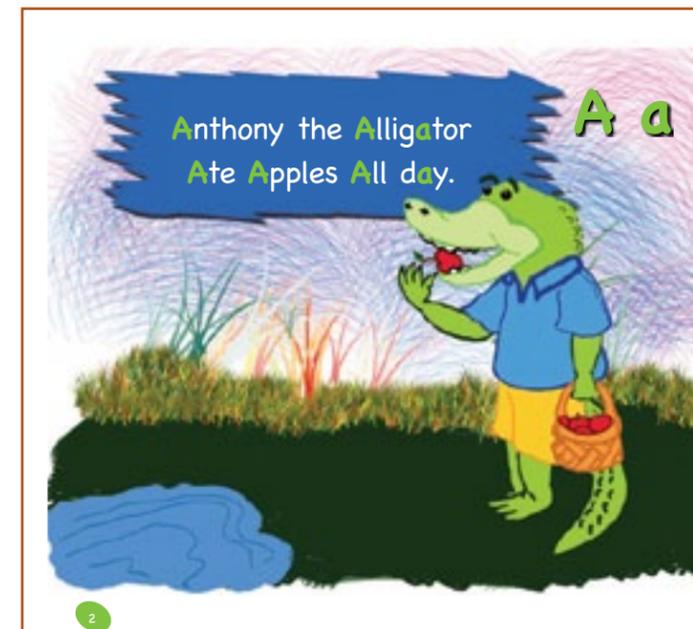
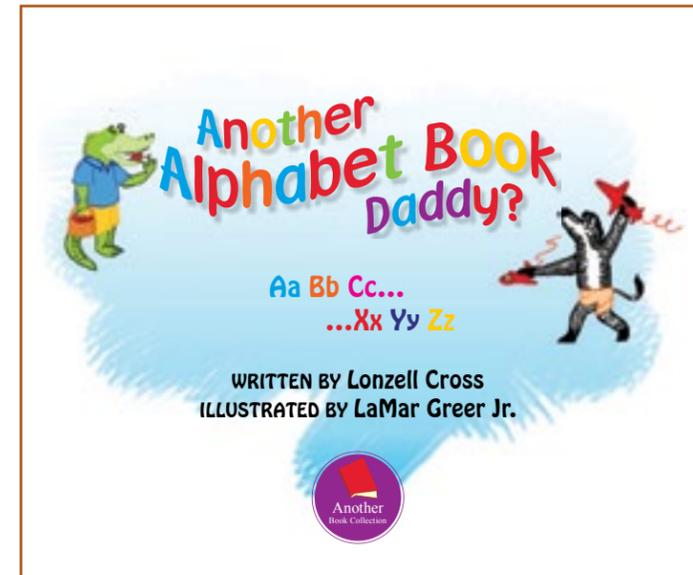
Can you discuss the process of working with an illustrator to create this book? My illustrator is a good friend; so it was easy for me. I wrote the book and pitched the idea

and concept to LaMar. He completed his work several months receiving the manuscript. I was amazed at how he brought the stories and characters to life.

Do you have any other similar educational books in the works? The second book in the series will be a numbers book. We will teach children how to count. Many of the same familiar characters from "Another Alphabet Book Daddy?" will appear in the next several books.

Where can people purchase "Another Alphabet Book Daddy?" The book is available on Amazon at www.amazon.com and CreateSpace at wwwcreatespace.com/3818562. Anyone can reach us for in store appearances, book signings or book readings at **(708) 808-READ (7323)**, or on our website at www.anotherbookcollection.com.

What else would you like COMMUNICATE! readers to know about your book? I wanted to ensure that children and adults everywhere could enjoy reading this book. If you are willing to support our first project, you will not be disappointed. Reading really is fun.



Breakfast

Served 8am-11am

Early Bird Special \$3.95

Two Eggs, Two Bacon,
Hash Browns and Toast

2+2+2 \$4.95

2 Eggs, 2 strips of Bacon or Sausage,
Hash browns and a side of toast

Ultimate Egg Sandwich \$4.95

A large Egg made your way
With Cheese and your choice
of Bacon, Sausage or Ham

Breakfast Wrap \$5.95

Large Flour Tortilla filled with
2 Scrambled Eggs, Shredded Cheese,
Hash browns and your choice of
Bacon, Sausage or Chorizo

Par 5 Breakfast \$7.95

Two Eggs prepared your way served
With Bacon, Sausage and Hash Browns
Your choice of French toast or
Pancakes and a side of toast

Belgian Waffle \$7.95

Light and Crispy Belgian Waffle
Served with fluffy whipped cream
And Sweet Strawberry Topping
With Crispy Bacon or Sausage Patties

Meat Lovers Skillet \$7.95

Ham, sausage, and bacon
With your choice of eggs,
And cheese served over
Our House Made Hash Browns
And a side of toast

Veggie Skillet \$7.95

Sautéed onions, green pepper,
Mushrooms and tomato
Served with your choice of Egg
Piled on top of our
Hand cut Hash Browns, and a side of toast.

Build your own Omelet 7.95

3 Egg Omelet with your choice of
3 ingredients, Hash Browns
and side of toast.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Green, Red Peppers | Jalapenos |
| Sausage | Onions |
| Ham | Bacon |
| Mushrooms | Broccoli |
| Spinach | Olives |
| Chorizo | Tomatoes |
| Cheese | |
| (American, Swiss, Cheddar, Pepper jack, Mozzarella, Blue Cheese Crumbles) | |

Appetizers

Crispy Chicken Wings

BBQ, Buffalo or Plain

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 Wings and Fries | \$5.95 |
| 6 Wings Celery and Carrots | \$6.95 |
| 12 Wings Celery and Carrots | \$10.95 |

Catfish Nuggets

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 6 Catfish Nuggets | \$5.95 |
| 12 Catfish Nuggets | \$9.95 |

Loaded Potato Skins \$8.95

5 Potato Skins Bacon, Tomato, Cheddar Cheese, Green Onion,
served Crisp and Hot with a side of sour cream

Bruschetta \$7.95

Tomato, Garlic, Onion, and Basil with a splash of Olive Oil and
Balsamic Vinegar, sprinkled with Parmesan Cheese served with 6
pieces Toasted Italian Roll

Chicken Quesadilla \$7.95

Large Flour Tortilla toasted with Melted Cheese and Seasoned
Chicken Breast served with Salsa, Pico de Gallo, and Sour Cream

Any substitutions or additions are subject to an increase in the price of item ordered.

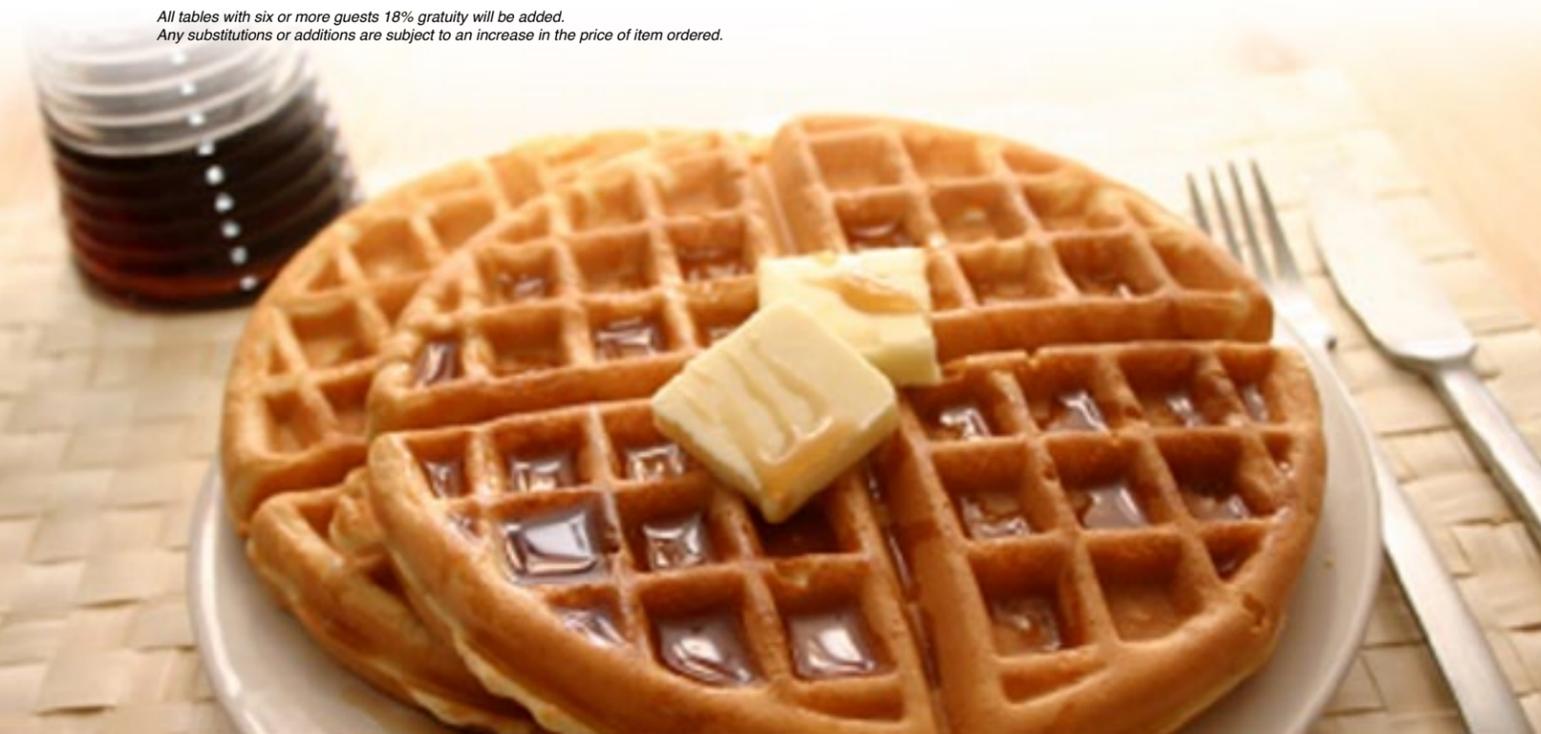
A la Carte

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Oatmeal or Grits | | |
| Cup | \$3.00 | Bowl \$4.00 |
| Short Stack (2) Pancakes | \$4.00 | |
| Turkey Sausage, Bacon | \$3.00 | |
| Cup of Fruit | \$3.75 | |
| Side of Vegetables | \$3.00 | |
| Side of French Fries | \$2.50 | |
| Basket of French Fries | \$4.50 | |
| Baked, Mashed Potato | \$2.50 | |
| Sausage, Links, Bacon | \$3.00 | |
| Sweet Potato Fries | \$3.00 | |
| Soup | | |
| Cup | \$3.00 | Bowl \$4.00 |
| Chili | | |
| Cup | \$3.50 | Bowl \$4.50 |

Additional Items .69

- Jalapenos
4 ounce cup of sauce,
BBQ, Buffalo, Dressings
- Onions
Tomato
Bacon
- Mushroom
Spinach
Grilled Onions
- Olives
Chorizo (Spanish Sausage)
- Cheese
(American, Swiss Cheddar, Pepper jack,
Mozzarella, Blue Cheese Crumbles)

All tables with six or more guests 18% gratuity will be added.





Crete-Monee's Laquon Treadwell Among Top Recruits in Illinois and U.S.

Fresh from his junior year, where he gained 1,391 yards with 75 catches and 18 touchdowns, Laquon Treadwell, a four-star player, is one of the most hotly pursued high school recruits in the country.

The 6-4, 200 pound Wide Receiver has reportedly narrowed his choices to Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Auburn, Florida, Michigan and Michigan St. His many fans no doubt hope he stays close to home, increasing their chances of seeing him shine as a college star.

Last season, for the first time since 1952, the **Crete-Monee Warriors** went 9-0 in the regular season. They finished with a 10-1 record after a heart-breaking loss to state runner-up **Peoria Richwoods**.

Expectations are sky high as Treadwell's senior year fast approaches, putting additional pressure on him and the rest of the team. Top notch Quarterback Marcus Terrell is also back, looking to match or exceed his 2,822 passing yards and 29 touchdowns from last year.

Treadwell, selected by the Chicago Tribune to their first-team All-State team last year, spent the off-season in mental and physical preparation for the challenging season ahead. He also got an opportunity to work out with Mike Richardson, former All Pro Cornerback from the 1985 Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears.

COMMUNICATE! caught up with the busy student-athlete for the following interview.

How did you spend your summer preparing for the most important season of your high school career? I participated in numerous camps. I got to go to Atlanta, California, Florida and Oregon. I was able to play on **ESPNU** (**ESPN's college affiliate**) in the Gridiron Kings and played



pretty well. During all of that, I still had camp at my high school. So I was pretty busy all summer. This year I will play in the **Under Armour All American** game in **Orlando, Florida** in **January**.

What will determine what college or university you decide to attend? I have to feel comfortable with the coaching staff, players and the school.

What do you plan to major in while in college? Sports Medicine or Broadcast Communications.

Are you planning a career in professional football? Yes, but it is great to have a degree to fall back on. God blessed me with a special talent, and I want to use it

to help further my education.

Who has helped prepare you for the pressures of being a star student/athlete? My mom and coaches keep me grounded. However, I have always been low key.

What are your goals as both a football player and student, as you prepare to enter your senior year? To help my team as much as I can with the things I've learned over the summer. Also, to come to school prepared and ready to work just as hard as I do on the football field.

What does Laquon Treadwell do for fun, when not thinking about or preparing to play football? I go bowling, hang out with my friends. I also enjoy paint balling! That is a lot of fun.

What other sports do you play? Basketball. I have been part of two very good teams my last two years. Now I will be one of the leaders this upcoming season.

What advice do you have for those who want to follow in your footsteps? Work hard during football season on and off the field. You must dedicate yourself to be suc-

cessful. You must also do the same in the classroom. Your freshman year is very important. You can't think of it like, I can do better in my sophomore or junior year. By then it might be too late. So, I would tell every freshman to hit the books right away.

Briefly, describe a typical day during the football off-season. My day is football at 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Go home and take a hot shower, eat, talk to my friends and go to bed. And, start all over the next day until school starts.

What pro team is your favorite? Who is your favorite player? Green Bay Packers (uh Oh!) Calvin Johnson Wide Receiver for the Detroit Lions.

Who were your role models as a youth? My mother and a lot of older players whom I played with.

Is there anything else you would like to say about Laquon the athlete, student or person? I just love to have fun, crack jokes and really relax on the days we have off.

Will you give COMMUNICATE! another interview once you announce your college choice? Yes sir. I think this year is going to be very special. I think we have the potential to make it to Champaign to play for a State Championship. We have to keep working hard. Go Warriors!!

Chicago Tribune ALL-STATE

AQUON TREADWELL
WR • CRETE-MONEE

HEIGHT: 6'3" • WEIGHT: 190
CLASS: Junior • COLLEGE: Undecided

| 2011 STATS | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| RECEIVES | YARDS | TD |
| | 1,391 | 18 |

2011 WR ★ CRETE-MONEE **LAQUON TREADWELL**

Fun Facts:
 - **Favorite of:** Heights, walking the railing in the mall.
 - **Favorite Music:** Drake, Tyga, Lil' Wayne.
 - **What he doesn't pay me to:** Dance in front of a crowd. I'm very shy.
 - **Fun Fact I don't know I:** "Used to be a cheerleader and went to the prom in seventh grade."

Chicago Tribune SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE



THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The State of Illinois Department of Employment Security,
& the Village of University Park present a **JOB FAIR!**

Come dressed, prepared
and ready to get that job you've been seeking.

EMPLOYERS ARE HIRING ON THE SPOT!

Forty to fifty employers will be there.

Be prepared for interviews and testing.

For more information call (708) 596-2354

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**IF YOU NEED RESUME HELP,
GO TO UNIVERSITY PARK LIBRARY. See P. 9**

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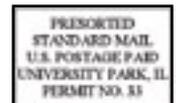
VILLAGE MANAGER

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



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