



**UP  
Beat**  
Mayor  
Vivian E.  
Covington

**President Obama Wins  
2nd Term - Veterans Wall  
Re-dedicated**

**Have Happy & Safe Holidays**

First, I must say congratulations to President Barack Obama on being elected to a second term, beginning with the **Inauguration on Monday, July 21, 2013**. In fact, if you and your family want to attend, there will be a bus leaving from **90 Towncenter on Saturday, January 19, 2013**, and returning on **Tuesday, January 22**. Show your support and be a part of history.

Contact University Park Coordinator Star Lawson at GydNSTAR4u@yahoo.com for trip details.

Please make sure to review the election picture roundup and election analysis beginning on p.8.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make the Veterans Military Wall re-dedication ceremony a success on Friday, November 2. Special thanks to **Tom Yuska** and his staff at **Home Depot in Matteson**. I would also like to thank University Park Librarian **Tracy Duckworth** who sang our National Anthem, like no one else.

Thanks also to the **Veterans from Legion Riders Post #1941**, who delivered the 3-Round Volley and their **President Anthony LaVine**, who delivered memorable remarks at the site of the wall.

GSU's **Keith White** is also in my gratitude for serving as the MC for the second half of the program; and **Rev. Reginald W. Williams, Jr.** of First Baptist Church, University Park, for delivering both the Invocation and Benediction. I appreciate our **Board of Trustees** and all of the elected and non-elected officials, including **Sen. Toi Hutchinson** for participating. As

*(Continued next page)*

We are continuing our work on the Family Dollar project. The project remains on schedule. The Developer's engineer has completed their plans. These plans have been reviewed by the Village's engineers.

Also the attorneys for the Village and the Developer have completed all substantial negotiations of the redevelopment agreement. I am completing my reviews of TIF consultant proposals and expect to have a recommendation soon.

The jurisdictional transfer of 1.6 miles of road on University Parkway from Western Ave to Stunkel Road was approved by IDOT on October 22, 2012. This road may now be added to the Village's inventory.

The electrician has begun work at the Kids Health Center. This is another major component of the renovation. This will be followed by the dry wall installation, followed by the floor installation.

# COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

I will be interviewing candidates for the Village Prosecutor and Director of Economic Development positions during the month of November 2012. I anticipate having a new prosecutor in place by the first week of December 2012. I also plan to have a new Director of Economic Development in place by the first week of the New Year.

The University Parkway street lights installation is underway. The installation takes approximately two weeks. IDOT is working with the Village to obtain the necessary

*(Continued next page)*

Congratulations  
**President  
Obama**

Congratulations  
**Crete-Monee  
Warriors**  
STATE CHAMPS  
DIVISION 6A!



well as **Donna Gaston**, chair of the Human Services Special Events Committee, and Committee **Liaison Trustee Milton C. Payton**, for their help in making the program a success.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank our keynote speaker **Michele S. Jones**, Director of External Veterans/Military Affairs and Community Outreach, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, for her stirring remarks. She was gifted with a military statuette in recognition of her outstanding service to her country.

We also honored, with a military statuette, our own **Master Sergeant Larry L. Wayne**. Master Sergeant Wayne is an inspiration to all of us, for his immense contributions in service to America. But, beyond that, he inspires us because he is the proud father of three daughters who have followed their father, in dedicating their lives in service to their country... **Pricilla, Latisha and Natasha**; please know that we honor you as well.

In November I was pleased to speak to a group of young ladies, 5th - 8th grade who are members of the AKAs Emerging Young Leaders group. Using President Obama as an example, I talked to them about the importance of preparing for leadership.

I told them, "Remember, you don't get anything out of life

*without giving back. You also have a responsibility to your community to give of yourself...to help those who are less fortunate than you."*

I left them with this, "We cannot always build the future for our youth; but we can build our youth for the future."

Speaking of our youth, I am so proud of the University Park Lions Football team. I was happy to attend a sendoff event on Sunday, November 11th as they prepared to play in the **National Football Tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee**, the weekend of **November 16th**. On behalf of the Human Services Special Events Committee, I presented a personal check for \$1000 to the **University Park Youth Athletic Association**. And Donna Gaston HSSEC chair, presented a \$2000 check to the organization as well.

Congratulations, to the Crete-Monee Warriors STATE CHAMPS Division 6A. They beat Cary-Grove 33-26 on Saturday, November 24, at Memorial Stadium in Champaign. We wish Laquon Treadwell and the rest of the team, coaching staff and parents well.

In December, I will bring you the highlights of the **Chicago Southland Economic Development Forum**, held on **Friday, November 16th** at the **University Golf and Conference Center**.



Rights-of-way for the University Parkway Central to Cicero reconstruction Project. We continue to meet on a regular basis. The Mayor, State Officials, IDOT staff, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association staff and Village staff attend these meetings. All parties are working collectively to assure this road is reconstructed in the 2013 calendar year.



**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

*Director Keely Childress*

**Congrats to the Director of Parks and Recreation Department, Keely Childress**, recipient of the **Rising Star** award from the **Illinois Parks and Recreation Association**. The awards ceremony was held at the **Chevy Chase Country Club**, on **Friday, November 9th**.

**Award criteria include:**

- \* Member of an association section for less than 5 years
- \* Evidence of contribution to the section, or continued professional growth
- \* Achievements must have occurred in the past 18 months
- \* Evidence of leadership role in section

Childress has been cited as an outstanding leader in the field of Parks and Recreation, and served as chair of the **Ethnic Minority Section** for four years. She has also **mentored** new professionals in the field.



**OKTOBERFEST AT THE TOWNCENTER WAS SPOOKTACKULAR!**

Oktoberfest brought out young and old trick or treaters to the Towncenter. Over 180 people attended the event.



There was loads of candy for everyone. The fire department supported the event by passing out important fire safety information to the children.

The fire department brought the fire trucks for everyone to touch and see up close. The Peerleaders led the entertainment with carnival game stations that gave prizes of candy and toys. Residents got an opportunity to show their creativity with their costumes.



Mayor Vivian E. Covington and Laquon Treadwell - Crete-Monee H.S. star wide receiver. High on the list of college recruiters nationwide, Treadwell will play in the Under Armour All-Star Football game in St. Petersburg, FL. In January.

There were tons of smiles and happy faces at Oktoberfest. This is an annual event loved by all. It allows the children to safely trick or treat. Light snacks were enjoyed by all.

**JOHNNIE WHITE, LONGTIME PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE RETIRES**

**Johnnie White**, capped his career in style as Co-Grand Marshall for the 2012 Back-To-School Parade. Starting as a volunteer with Parks and Recs in 1990, White became a seasonal worker in May 1995, before becoming a part-time Maintenance Technician in January 2004. He retired on **Friday, September 14, 2012**.

Even in retirement White will remain active with the department. He will also be involved with **University Park Youth and Recreation** as a voting member. **Department Director Keely Childress** said, "Mr. White's commitment to this village will never be forgotten. He will truly be missed as an employee."



L-R - Trustees Elizabeth Williams, Oscar H. Brown, Jr., Milton C. Payton, Mayor Vivian E. Covington, Parks & Recreation Retiree Johnnie White, Spouse Richetta White, Trustees Joseph E. Roudez, III, Keith J. Griffin, Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones, Trustee Larry B. Brown

**TRUSTEE NEWS**

This on the scene report in from Trustee Milton C. Payton who recently attended the **Illinois Municipal League** conference in downtown Chicago, October 18th-22nd.



*"My primary purpose and focus during this conference was to seek out information on how I can better help the Village address its high tax rate. As the*

*trustee Liaison to the Finance Committee, I wanted to be better informed of the resources and opportunities to help start developing a more acceptable tax rate for our community. I attended the following seminars:*

**Property Tax 101:** This session covered the basics of levying municipal property taxes and included a process by which property is valued, the procedures for the Levee ordinance, and the interplay between the budget and the tax levy.

**Financing Municipal Improvements:**

I gained an overview of traditional financing tools for municipal improvements, including the various types of bonds, installment contracts, and short and long-term borrowing alternatives. This included discussions of the use of special assessments, special service areas, business districts, and tax increment financing



districts to finance municipal improvements.

**What Tools Are In The Toolbox To Induce Economic Development Besides TIFs?:** Economic development is one of the most important issues confronting local governments today. During this session, I learned about several statutory provisions in addition to TIFS (Tax Increment Financing), or enterprise zones that are available to assist municipalities to spur economic development.

**Retail Economic Development - Creating Revenue For Your City:** This session was designed to inform city leaders about the changing face of economic development as it pertains to business retention, retail recruitment, and marketing their communities. As such, the session highlighted retail trends, franchise opportunities in restaurants and retail, and the importance of public-private partnerships and economic development.

**MEANWHILE BACK IN THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK**

On Saturday, October 20th at the Towncenter, I attended an open house that featured the planned University Village Development. Many of the topics reviewed during the IML sessions, proved to be beneficial in understanding the benefits of this development, and its future significance in getting the Village's tax rate to an acceptable level. It should benefit as we strive to move our Village forward.

**COMMITTEE/ COMMISSION NEWS UNIVERSITY PARK BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSIONERS UNDERGO TRAINING**



Back: L-R) Commissioners: Clay Robey, Ken Mitchell, Richard Moore, Mitch Turner and Terry Mitchell (Front: L-R) Commissioners: Deborah Young and Gloria Barnett-Brookins

**Gloria Barnett-Brookins** filed this report with COMMUNICATE!. "University Park's Board of Fire & Police Commissioners attended the Illinois Fire & Police Commission Association's (IFPCA) Bi-Annual Training Conference at Pheasant Run Resort from November 1st - 3rd."

There are seven modules that are mandatory for active Commissioners. Overall, this process takes about two years. "Subjects include the Firefighter and Police Officer hiring process, Discipline and Hearings, and updating the law as it relates to Commissioners, including case law," Barnett-Brookins said.

Continuing she noted, "Most people do not know about the required training, or the legal responsibilities that the Commission has. I think some people view it as just another Village commission."

**PARTY AT THE PIER - ROBINSON ENGINEERING CELEBRATES ITS 75TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY**

On Saturday, October 20, Robinson Engineering hosted a formal Gala event to celebrate its 75th (Diamond) Anniversary.

One of the event's ultimate goals was to extend Robinson Engineering's sincere appreciation to its client communities for allowing them to serve - whether for 75 years or one year - their clients are number one. Robinson Engineering continues to further extend its hands toward community commitment, community development, and community friendship. They are a mainstay for municipalities and its leadership - committed to the region and its capacity to sustain itself. Robinson Engineering will continue to serve our neighborhoods and its community leaders for many years to come.

The Navy Pier Grand Ball Room was buzzing with over 850 employees and guests in formal attire. The celebration included dancing to the Chicago Catz, Diamond Charity Raffle, and an hour-long program, which featured:



Nick Quirke of Words & Pictures, Inc., a PR and marketing firm with Mayor Covington



A video presentation exploring the 75-year history of Robinson Engineering, with special commentary by Mayors Vivian Covington, Don DeGraff, and Ed Zabrocki.

Robinson's CEO Russ Prekwas, humbly thanked all of the employees and valued clients for their support and significant role in making Robinson the business it is today.

Master of Ceremonies, Comedian Tom Dreesen, of Harvey, gave a lighthearted and entertaining performance that included interesting facts and anecdotes about the southland region. The celebration ended with a video showcasing the 75 Giving-Back Service Projects helping local communities (IL & IN) that Robinson Engineering volunteers have been conducting throughout the year. The 75th project was completed at the Gala: proceeds from the night's raffles are going to benefit local charities. It was, without a doubt, an extraordinary event. **Happy 75th Robinson Engineering!**

**DIVERSITY INC. CELEBRATES 30TH YEAR**

In October, cities, villages, townships, businesses and residents joined to celebrate Diversity, Inc.'s 30th year as an intergovernmental organization.

Diversity, Inc.'s program of recognizing leadership in diversity matters has been supported by AT&T for the past 17 years. Diversity Inc.'s Executive Director Joe Martin, reported that over 100 individuals, groups, businesses and municipalities have been honored by the AT&T awards. The awards program is part of Diversity, Inc.'s Annual Dinner sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.

**GOVERNOR QUINN LAUNCHES ILLINOIS OPEN TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE**

Gov. Pat Quinn has announced a major accountability and transparency initiative designed to help local governments expand the amount of data available to the public.

The Illinois Open Technology Challenge is a pilot program that will make Illinois' open data platform, Data.Illinois.Gov available to municipal

governments statewide. The Challenge, which will launch in the pilot communities of Belleville, Champaign, Rockford and Chicago's South Suburbs collectively, will promote the availability of public data and encourage the use of technology to address government challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.

The South Suburban event of the Illinois Open Technology App Challenge, took place on November 27th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Governors State University Hall of Honors. The event was hosted by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. For more information contact Mike Rizzitiello at (708) 922-4673 or mrizzitiello@ssmma.org.

**NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH**

Take care of somebody... You never know when someone may have to



take care of you. Caregivers are among our unsung heroes. Toiling daily usually anonymously, they take care of their loved ones, as only they can.

It is well known, that in the African American family, nursing homes are a

(Continued next page)



distant last when determining options for a family member, who can no longer care for themselves. Historically those being cared for were usually the elderly. Now, due to the rampant violence in our communities, those needing care are often younger members of the family.

**Caregiver Tips**

1. First and foremost, take care of yourself, mentally and physically.
2. Be prepared to provide a wide range of caregiving, before assuming responsibility.
3. Create a care plan.
4. Create a safe environment in your home, or wherever care is being provided.
5. Manage finances. Be aware, that at least at first, there might be some trust issues involved, especially when the person is used to being independent and private about the nature of their finances.
6. Review all legal papers. Look into getting power of attorney. Note that even if you have power of attorney over finances; it's usually necessary to get a separate power of attorney over health issues.
7. Connect with others facing the same challenges.

Finally, be as open and transparent as you can. No matter what you do there will no doubt exist a long-time friend or family member, who will not agree

with the decisions that you make. Be especially careful when dealing with financial issues.

Hire an attorney who specializes in this area to guide you along the way.

Good luck!

**BE SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS**



While others take time off to relax and spend money and time with family during the holidays...Criminals are hard at work, looking for ways to take possession of your possessions.

You know that you have to be on the lookout for pickpockets in your pocket during this time of year. But, make sure you protect your house and what you have inside. The **FBI** reports that a **burglary** occurs every **14 seconds** in the United States. And that's throughout the year. What do you think the statistics are during the holidays, especially around Christmas?

One thing you can do is to make your after-Christmas garbage look like garbage. Don't put that box that held your 150 inch flat screen television

curbside, with the rest of the trash. That's an open invitation to a burglar to come shopping at your house when you're away, exchanging all of the gifts that you had no use for.

**HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

Light up the areas around your house, front and back. And while you're at it, invest in a wireless burglary alarm system.

Don't let outside decorations obscure your vision of the areas outside of your house.

**Don't set your house on fire, while trying to celebrate the holidays.** According to the **U.S. Fire Administration**, Christmas Eve and Christmas are the top days for home candle fires. And about **200 Christmas trees** burn up annually, resulting in deaths, injuries and more than **\$6 million** in damages.

**Never leave candles burning** when you're away. Be careful not to **overload your electrical system** with too many lights, or faulty lights and connections.

**You don't want to end the holidays celebrating the new year in someone else's house.**

While out shopping, be aware of those around you. Be suspicious of anyone who is overly friendly, or trying to invade your space.

\* Carry only the credit cards you intend to use and ID.

\* Don't let your credit card be pro-

cessed unless you can see what's going on.

\* Leave your Social Security card at home. You're not likely to need it while shopping.

\* Give yourself the gift of protection. Spend a few bucks on ID theft protection.

\* Make sure the cheerful guy trying to deliver a package is indeed a delivery man. He might be cheerful because he's about to rip you off.

In short, have a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**. If you avoid spending all of your money, burning up your house, or being the victim of a burglar; you're already off to a good start to the new year!

**LOCAL BUSINESSMAN AND GOOD SAMARITAN WINS \$100K AND HELPS SANDY VICTIMS**

University Park resident and businessman, **John Turner**, co-owner of **National Catastrophe Solutions of Chicago**, decided to take a work crew to New York and New Jersey and help with the cleanup in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Turner is in the business of disaster cleanup, as well as helping homeowners and businesses with mold remediation and related services.

While helping others, he took a little time out to play the lottery, winning the tidy sum of \$100,000. Married with three children, Turner plans to

share his winnings with his church, another family in need and invest the rest in his business.

Turner and his business were covered in **COMMUNICATE!** in a feature earlier this year.

**NEW COPY DEADLINES FOR COMMUNICATE! STARTING IN JANUARY**

Those wishing to contribute to the monthly newsletter should have all



copy and pictures submitted by end of business day, the first Friday of the preceding month.

*Example: Copy for January issue is due by end of business day on Friday, December 7th.*

This will be the case for each month going forward. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to except in the case of extreme emergencies.

If you have an event that is time-sensitive, please submit one month early.

*Example: Events occurring in February should be submitted in time to be run in the January issue. To be sure that it gets in you might even*

*want to submit two months ahead.*

All copy and pictures should be submitted to [wperk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wperk@sbcglobal.net). Please submit all copy and pictures at the same time.





# Money Doesn't Necessarily Buy Happiness... Or Elections

And we're so glad that it can't. This presidential election set records on both sides for the billions of dollars spent, much of it donations from Super-Pac corporations. Well, at least one side probably wishes they could get their money back.

The aftermath of the **Tuesday, November 6th** election saw **President Barack Obama** retain his seat for another four years, the four years that will determine how history will view his presidency.

Some are still scratching their heads, trying to figure out exactly what happened. As recently as late night Election-eve, former **House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich** was smugly predicting "a landslide." Now, a contrite Gingrich is telling anyone who will listen how wrong he was...How much he misjudged the American electorate...Blah, blah, blah.

If this election taught anyone anything, and there were many lessons to be learned; people should come away understanding that politics is not about Democrats or Republicans; it's about the people.

And, despite the narrowness of the popular vote, the people have spoken. At least for the next four years.

But, a review of the election returns suggests that the people may have made a longer term statement.

While the Republicans were insulting huge voting blocs, Latinos, unmarried women, single mothers, young people, and just about anyone with a net worth of less than \$1 million; the Democrats were courting those same constituencies.



Witness the fact that the **Obama camp** got **5 million more votes** than the opposition, of **new voters under 30 years old**.

**Exit polls reveal that the President received:**

- 70 percent of the Latino vote
- 73 percent of the Asian vote
- 60 percent of the under-30 youth vote
- 90 percent of the African American vote

Unmarried women also chose President Obama 2-1 over the Republicans.

And if you're still wondering why the President did so well in the hotly contested "swing states," just take a look at Florida. There his well-organized campaign boosted the number of registered Latino voters by 300,000 over the count in 2008.

**Now what?**

Use some of your holiday cash to buy a parachute to help you float over the "**fiscal cliff**." No matter what the politicians do on this issue, expect to pay more in 2013 for something. The American public has never been told just how bad the economy really is.

To get some objective insight check out, "*Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World*," by Liaquat Ahamed. This book documents the world economic collapse in the 1920s, focusing on the roles of the heads of the Bank of France, the Bank of Germany, the Bank of

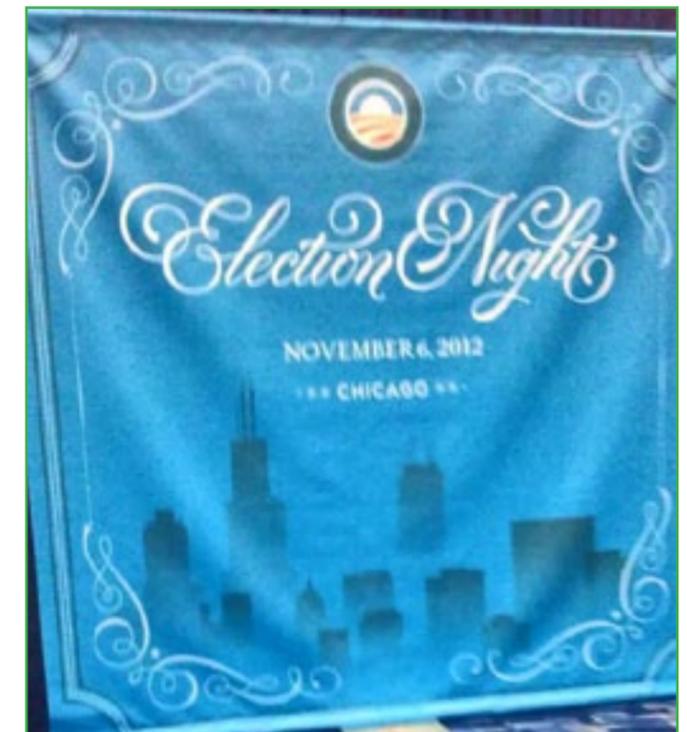
# Campaign 2012 Roundup



England, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

They say that history repeats itself. The events of 1920 were eerily similar to what happened in the early 21st century.

The book costs almost \$35, but it will give you a better understanding of what's going on, and how to deal with it going forward.





## Veterans Wall Re-dedication Ceremony Held

Friday, November 2nd was a special day for University Park Veterans and other Military Personnel, in and outside of the Village. There was a two-part ceremony that began with a special re-dedication of the Military Wall that sits in the Towncenter. It is a permanent memorial to the sacrifices made by Veterans everywhere, with a special emphasis on those from and affiliated with University Park.

First erected in a special ceremony in November 2011, the wall has been significantly upgraded with contributions of time, labor and materials from the local Home Depot in Matteson, headed by Store Manager Tom Yuska.

The first half of the Towncenter celebration featured an introduction and welcome by Mayor Vivian E. Covington, remarks by the Board of Trustees and other elected officials, including State

Senator Toi Hutchinson, Keynote speaker, Michele S. Jones, Director of External Veterans/Military Affairs and Community Outreach, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, also gave remarks at the opening session. University Park Librarian Tracy Duckworth, gave a stirring rendition of the National Anthem.



A 3-Round Volley saluting veterans capped off the first half of the program, followed by a caravan to the University Golf and Conference Center, for the rest of the program.

Michele Jones provided much for the audience to reflect on, during her keynote address. She also received an award commemorating her military service. Other highlights included Veterans/Military tributes by those in attendance.



An award was also presented to University Park resident Larry L. Wayne, who rose to the rank of Sergeant Major during his military service. His many awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with one Oak Leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with five Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with six Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement, and the U.S Army Recruiting Badge (with three sapphire stars).

Sergeant Major Wayne is married to the former Bettie J. Evans. They have three children Priscilla, LaTisha and NaTasha, all of whom are currently serving their country in the military.



# December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Toddler StoryTime 10:45AM Computer Class -PowerPoint- 6:00PM	5 Fitness Class 6:00PM	6 Movie Night -Madagascar 3- 6:00PM	7 8 Jewelry Making Class 1:00PM	15
9	10	11 Toddler StoryTime 10:45AM	12 Christmas Craft 3:30PM Video Game Night 6:00PM	13	14	22
16	17	18 Toddler StoryTime 10:45AM	19 Fitness Class 6:00PM	20 Movie Night -Ice Age: Mammoth Christmas- 6:00PM	21	29
23	24 LIBRARY CLOSED	25 LIBRARY CLOSED	26	27	28	30
	31 LIBRARY CLOSED					

University Park Public Library  
 1100 Blackhawk Drive - University Park, IL 60484  
 708-534-2580 - www.universityparklibrary.org



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*\*Fish buffet is the first friday of each month*



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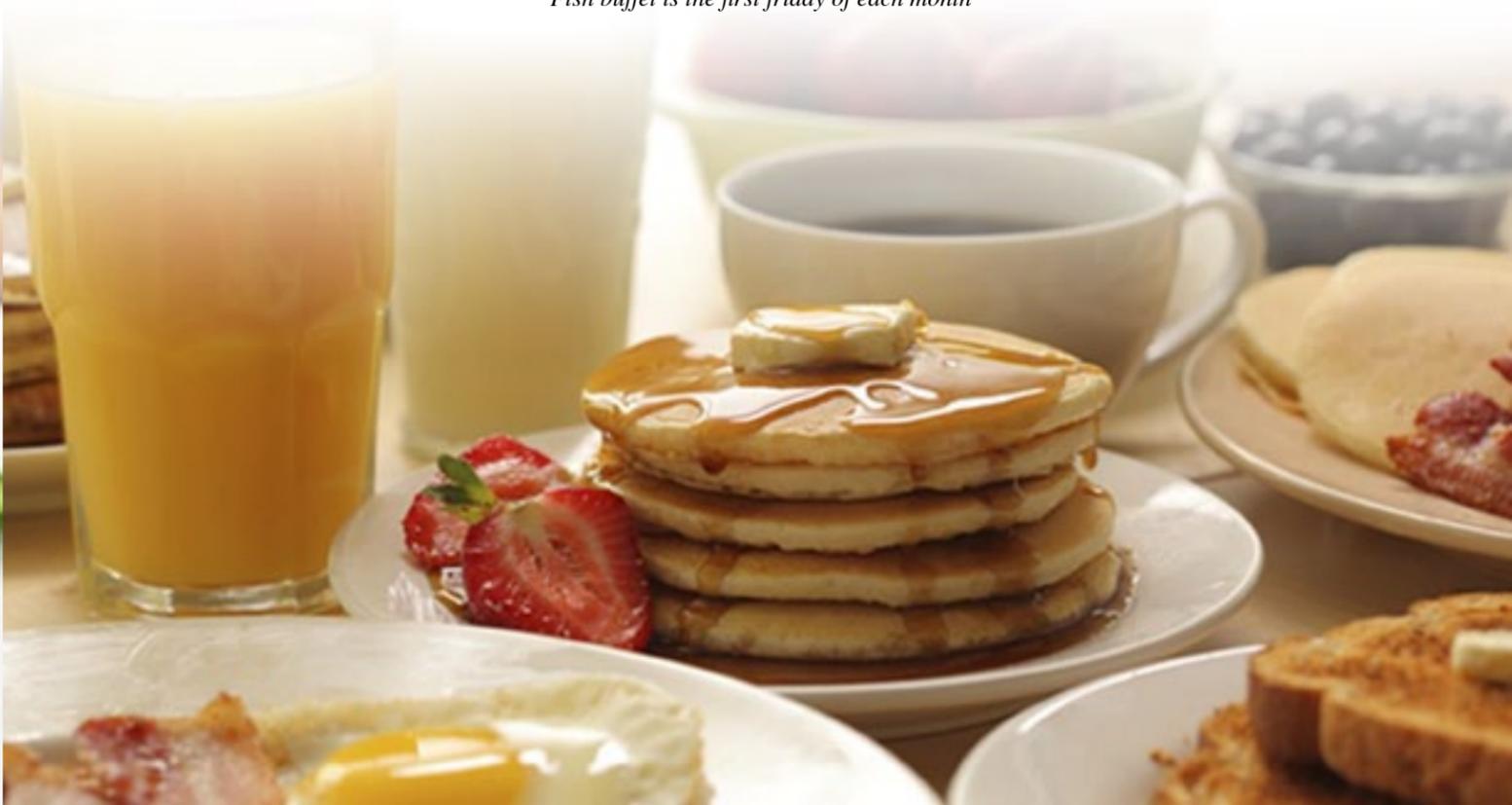
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*\*Fish buffet is the first friday of each month*





**THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK**

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## SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 7th  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE  
LIGHTING**

Starts at 7:00 p.m.  
90 Towncenter

Saturday, December 15th  
**COAT & GIFT CARD  
GIVEAWAY**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
90 Towncenter

**Recipients must be pre-qualified by Will County**

**Contact:**

*Monee Township Building  
26121 Egyptian Trail  
(708) 534-6020*

**MAYOR**

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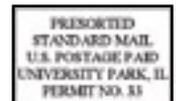
**VILLAGE MANAGER**

Lafayette Linear  
llinear@university-park-il.com

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



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



**RESIDENT**  
**University Park, IL 60484**