



UP Beat

Mayor
Vivian E.
Covington

Happy Holidays

Gov. Pat Quinn has extended the deadline to file petitions for the **2013 municipal elections to December 26**. The previous deadline was December 24. While Christmas Eve is not a state holiday, it has traditionally been either a full or half-day holiday for many local governments. The extension means that municipalities will not have to make special arrangements to stay open until 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

On **Friday, November 16**, I was pleased to preside over the **Chicago**

Southland Economic Development Corporation's and **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association's** quarterly economic forum. It was held at the **University**

Golf Club and Conference Center.

I gave an update on several pending **University Park** projects including:

- I-57 - Steunkel Road Interchange
- Governors State University transition to a 4-year institution beginning in 2014
- University Park and Pace vanpooling program
- Upcoming groundbreaking and ribbon cutting for the Family Dollar project

More than 200 business and community leaders, elected and appointed officials, and residents were in attendance.

I was honored to be in attendance representing the Village in welcoming famed poetess and social commentator **Nikki Giovanni**, when she visited GSU this past November. The internationally acclaimed Giovanni showed the audience why she remains in high demand, and why she is still socially and culturally relevant.

Friday, December 7 was the date of our annual tree lighting and Christmas celebration in the **Village Towncenter**. Earlier

(Continued next page)

COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Village Manager
Lafayette Linear
& Village of University
Park Departments



PARKS &
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

Director
Keely Childress

On **Friday November 9** the **Peer-leaders** took 12 students on the local college tour trip to **North-ern Illinois University (NIU)**, in **DeKalb**. During open house students got an opportunity to see every aspect of the university.

NIU provided an educational fair where all departments were represented. This included a welcome address, keynote presentation, and an overview of university life. Students were able to get information on all of the majors offered in one location. All academic and recreational departments were represented. Students actively participated and asked questions.

The
university



offered seminars explaining every aspect of financial aid, making it easy for both students and parents

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**NOW YOU KNOW!
BUSINESS FEATURE
SHOE JUNKIEZ
P. 12**

**GET ON BOARD
PACE
VANPOOLING
P. 2**



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that day the annual staff Christmas party was held at the **University Golf Club and Conference Center**. And on **Friday, December 14** the **Committee and Commissions** held their Christmas party.

I want to take this time to wish everyone **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy Kwanzaa**. To those of you who celebrate neither Christmas or Kwanzaa; enjoy happy holidays that extend into and beyond the **New Year**. I ask everyone to be especially safe during this time.

I would go even further and ask that those of you who have, to be generous with those who have not. The holidays are especially stressful for many of us. We are bombarded with messages that encourage us to spend money. Messages that often challenge us to spend money that we really don't have, to buy things that we really don't need. Be especially careful as this nation moves closer to "falling off the cliff".

If our leaders in Washington don't make



Mayor Covington and Nikki Giovanni



Left to right: CEO LeShawn McCree, Mayor Covington, Awardee Mary Duncan, J-L: Awardee Kenyatta Smith and wife, Tabitha Smith

the tough decisions...If they don't make the right decisions...That dollar that you recklessly spend in December, might be the same dollar that you need to keep your lights on in January.

Also, as you are out and about this holiday season, do something to help someone who is not as fortunate as you. The good thing about helping others is that you can do it all year.

That is what I appreciate about the **Carra House** and its **CEO LeShawn McCree**. Located in Hazel Crest, the Carra House is about helping children all year long. In addition to serving as a home to homeless children, the Carra House also offers a variety of social and developmental services to serve the needs of youth.

Some of those children gave personal testimonials at their awards ceremony and fundraiser on **Saturday, December 8**, where I was honored with the **Beatrice Velma Morgan Lifetime Achievement Award**.

to understand. NIU offers 36 Greek organizations and more than **200 student-led clubs**.

Northern Illinois University is a large campus spanning several streets. Students were invited to apply during the open house. One of our students applied on the spot. The Peerleaders were also able to participate in a chartered bus tour of the entire campus.

Other News

VANPOOLING WITH PACE

Rising gas prices are a financial burden on most individuals who

commute to and from work. Pace offers a variety of services to help reduce transportation costs and congestion with over two hundred fixed bus routes, Dial-a-Ride and Call-n-Ride programs, ADA Paratransit Service, Community Vehicles, Advantage Vans, Traditional Vanpools, and the Pace RideShare



matching service. Details about these programs can be found at PaceBus.com.

In some areas, fixed bus routes might not be available or meet a commuter's specific needs. Vanpooling is economical, easy, and an environmentally-friendly alternative to driving alone. A vanpool is formed by a group of five or more people who live and work near each other and have similar work schedules. Pace supplies the vehicle and covers costs including fuel, maintenance, insurance, tolls, roadside assistance, van washes, and an emergency ride home program for the participants.



In coming months I will be sharing more about the mission, work and achievements of the Carra House, and sharing how you can support their noble efforts.



Each member is billed monthly and fares are scaled based on the round-trip commute mileage and the number of people in the vehicle. One rider agrees to be the primary driver. This rider keeps the vehicle, does not pay a monthly fare and receives an incentive of 300 personal miles per month. Backup drivers receive a \$10 per month discount. This program is available to those commuting to work who live and/or work in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry or Will County.

Pace RideShare is a free, easy and convenient online matching service that connects commuters who are interested in forming a vanpool (5

or more people) or carpool (2-4 people). The website, PaceRide-share.com, will confidentially match commuters based on starting location, destination location and work schedule and will even let you know if you match with an active vanpool.

Pace Community Relations Representatives are available to educate employers and employees on the various transportation options available. Whether your organization is relocating, expanding, or interested in "Green Initiatives" Pace is here to serve you. Please feel free to contact Jessica Mitchell at (847)-372-2077 or Jessica.Mitchell@pacebus.com for further information.

CHICAGOLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S FALL FORUM A HIT IN UNIVERSITY PARK

Special from Linda Pendleton
Director of Communications and Development for SSMMA



Nearly **230 business leaders, elected officials, strategists, media representatives and local residents** met at **University Park's University Golf Club and Conference Center** on **November 16** to brainstorm about land banking, a finan-

cial instrument called the Development Fund, and assorted industrial and manufacturing economic issues at the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation's quarterly forum.

University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington hosted the event and shared news about some of the town's economic development projects. One involves **new university housing** for **Governors State University's** 2014 transition into a four-year institution. Other issues discussed included economic growth potential of the I-57/Stuenkel Road Interchange and the University Park Transportation Program.

The new Southland Community Loan Fund and the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority were among other discussion topics. Oak Forest Community Development Director, Adam Dotson provided a definition of land banks:

- They can acquire property through purchase, or receive property.
- They can hold and manage property.
- They can sell for profit so other properties can be acquired and managed with returns.

Land banks exist to administer a regional economic development tool for municipalities, with limited manpower and financial resources to manage and rehabilitate abandoned, vacant or foreclosed properties. So far, the bank's charter communities



include Oak Forest, Park Forest and Blue Island. They invite other towns to participate.

The new Southland Community Loan Fund is positioning itself to offer low-interest loans to help support development or redevelopment projects from the land bank and other housing inventory, as well as mixed-use, industrial or manufacturing projects, particularly those along transit hubs, said Andy Geer at the forum. He is vice president and market leader of Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

The \$6 million loan fund that Geer hopes to grow to \$15 million provides low-cost, flexible loans and hands-on technical assistance to community development organizations for affordable housing and economic commercial development. In addition, the fund supports challenging projects that help revitalize low-moderate income neighborhoods and suburban communities throughout metropolitan Chicago, aiding families and communities along the path toward economic stability, prosperity and sustainability.

Also speaking at the forum was Rubin Kuznitsky, vice president of operations for Esmark Steel Group. He promoted manufacturing careers as a choice to help fill a skills gap in the industry, where there are far more jobs than there are trained workers.

Edward Warbick of Paine/Wetzel World Wide Real Estate Services provided a verbal tour of the South-

land industrial market. He pointed out new developments such as Winpak packaging company in South Chicago Heights and Sauk Village. He also discussed the Clorox bleach facility in University Park, and the M. Block distribution facility in Tinley Park.



CSEDC and SSMMMA Director of Economic Development, Reggie Greenwood

Finally, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and CSEDC Director of Economic Development, Reggie Greenwood wrapped up the forum with a request for participation and investment in the CSEDC's work in the Southland.

NOVEMBER 2012 - APRIL 2013 CHICAGO SOUTHLAND FESTIVALS & EVENTS GUIDE AVAILABLE

Looking for free or low-cost activities and entertainment? The guide highlights many winter events and spring festivals taking place in the 62 communities that comprise the Chicago Southland. There is something for every family. For your free guide, call or email the Chicago Southland CVB today at (708) 895-8200 or at info@VisitChicago-Southland.com.

OBAMACARE ADDS ABOUT 500,000 TO MEDICAID ROLLS IN ILLINOIS

Thankfully Illinois is not one of several states where governors have rejected Medicaid expansion as too costly. Medicaid expansion is a key part of the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)**, which will extend Medicaid coverage to an estimated **30 million Americans**. This provides health care to individuals making a maximum of \$15,415 a year, or \$26,344 for a family of three, according to a recent report released by the non-partisan **Kaiser Family Foundation**.



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has said that he supports expansion. The **state** is projected to spend an **extra \$6.4 billion**, a 5.2 percent increase. The **federal government** will pick up the **additional \$29.4 billion**.

HUMAN SERVICES SPECIAL EVENT COMMITTEE NEWS

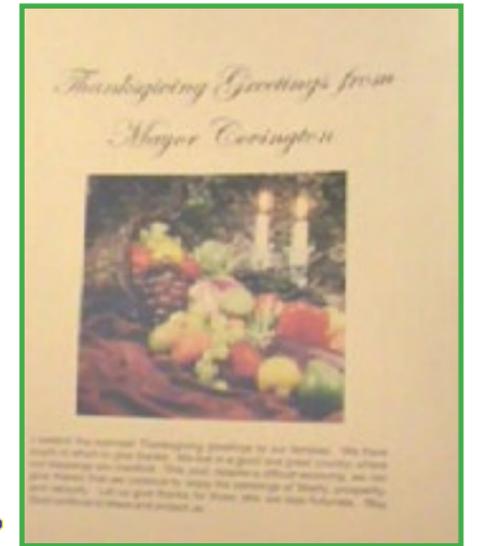
ABOUT 350 TURKEYS GIVEN IN UNIVERSITY PARK AT TWO EVENTS

The **Faith Movers Church** with support from the **University Park Human Services Special Event Committee (HSSEC)**, gave more than **200 Thanksgiving turkeys and fixins** on **Saturday, November 17**, to residents of **University Park**. Faith Movers members were present to meet and greet residents, while giving out the Thanksgiving treats. HSSEC members were also in attendance.

On **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22**, **HSSEC**, and the **Thanksgiving sub-committee** chaired by **Star Lawson** gave away **free Thanksgiving dinners** with trimmings and dessert, to **University Park residents**.

Mayor Vivian E. Covington and **Trustees Larry Brown, Milton Payton** and **Keith Griffin**, were all present and helped serve. All food was donated. **Kujo Baffour** of **PK's Christian Catering & Restaurant**, cooked the meals.

There's something about the holiday season that just makes people want to help others. In University Park that spirit of giving continues, as we move into the Christmas season.



University Park Parks & Recreation Winter Camp 2012-2013

**Are You Looking for
Child Care over the
Winter Break?**

Winter Camp Dates
December 26, 27, 28, 31st
January 2nd, 3th, 4th
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Winter Camp Cost
\$150.00 per child

Before & After Care Available
Before Care 7:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.
After Care 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

**Our Winter Camp will be on the following
dates:**

**December 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st,
January 2nd, 3rd, 4th
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**The price includes: 2 field trips, arts and
crafts, dancing, movies and more
indoor camp fun.**

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BRING
A BAG LUNCH AND DRINK DAILY.**

**Space is filling up fast. Sign up today.
All payments are final**

**For more information contact:
University Park
Parks and Recreation Department
at (708) 534-6456.**



Happy Holidays





PERFECT! CRETE MONEE ARE THE STATE 6A CHAMPIONS

Crete Monee finished its season in perfect fashion (14-0) in Champaign on Saturday, November 24, with an impressive 33-26 victory over Cary Grove H.S., capturing the first ever State Championship in school history.

LaQuon Treadwell saved his best performance for last. Treadwell scored two touchdowns (69 yard run, 57 yard reception), made a two point conversion, kicked an extra point, 1 interception and 12 tackles.

He did everything except serve popcorn! Coach (Tip) Murray said, "LaQuon is the best player I've seen on the high school level. And I've seen some great ones. He is a very special young man on and off the field. Our team just followed his lead all year. He also is very competitive, and losing is not in his vocabulary. I expect to see him playing and succeeding at the next level and possibly on Sundays in the NFL. He is that good"

Continuing Coach Murray said, "Before we came out this week, I told them they are connected for life now. There will always be a brotherhood with this 2012 team."

Treadwell, considered by many to be the best receiver prospect in the nation, gave Crete-Monee the lead for good just 2 minutes, 23 seconds into the contest with his 69-yard run.

His 57-yard catch from Marcus Terrell made it 21-10 early in the third quarter, but the Trojans still had plenty of fight.

They cut their deficit to 21-16 on a 24-yard pass from Quinn Baker to Ryan Mahoney with 5:23 left in the third. They were driving with a chance to take the lead, when Treadwell's interception swung the momentum back to Crete.



A 52-yard touchdown pass from Terrell to Lance Lenoir and a 5-yard fumble return for a score by Deon Benton, extended the lead to 33-16 with 2:51 left in the third.

Cary-Grove (13-1) scored the final 10 points to get within seven with 3:02 to play. But the methodical (Wing-T) offense, that rushed for 263 yards on 70 attempts, had to call a timeout within the last 1:53 minutes, before driving 80 yards, because of their limited passing capabilities.

"That was a great team," Treadwell said. "You couldn't really prepare for what they have. They play hard every play. We battled and came up with hits, and basically we got a couple of stops when we needed to."

Coach Murray stated that he was very proud of how the community embraced the team during the season. It was wonderful to see the towns of Crete, Monee and University Park all come together for this historical time.

"The guys were in awe when they saw all of the towns' Police and Fire Departments escorting us off the expressway, and all of the residents lined up and down the streets when we were coming back from the game.



"What an experience! I don't think they will understand what we have accomplished until a year from now, when they are by themselves. Right now everyone is on a wave of clouds." Murray said. "I truly hope that we have done our communities proud, "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

**"THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
SUPPORT THIS SEASON"**





23520 Crawford Avenue • University Park, IL • 708-747-0306 ext. 14

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
FIRST & THIRD FRIDAY
“ALL YOU CAN EAT”
FISH BUFFET

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Enjoy a variety of our culinary delights
on the first friday of every month*

\$15.95 For adults & \$7.95 For children

www.universitygolfclub.com
**Fish buffet is the first friday of each month*



23520 Crawford Avenue • University Park, IL • 708-747-0306 ext. 14

ALL YOU CAN EAT
BREAKFAST BRUNCH

Sunday from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

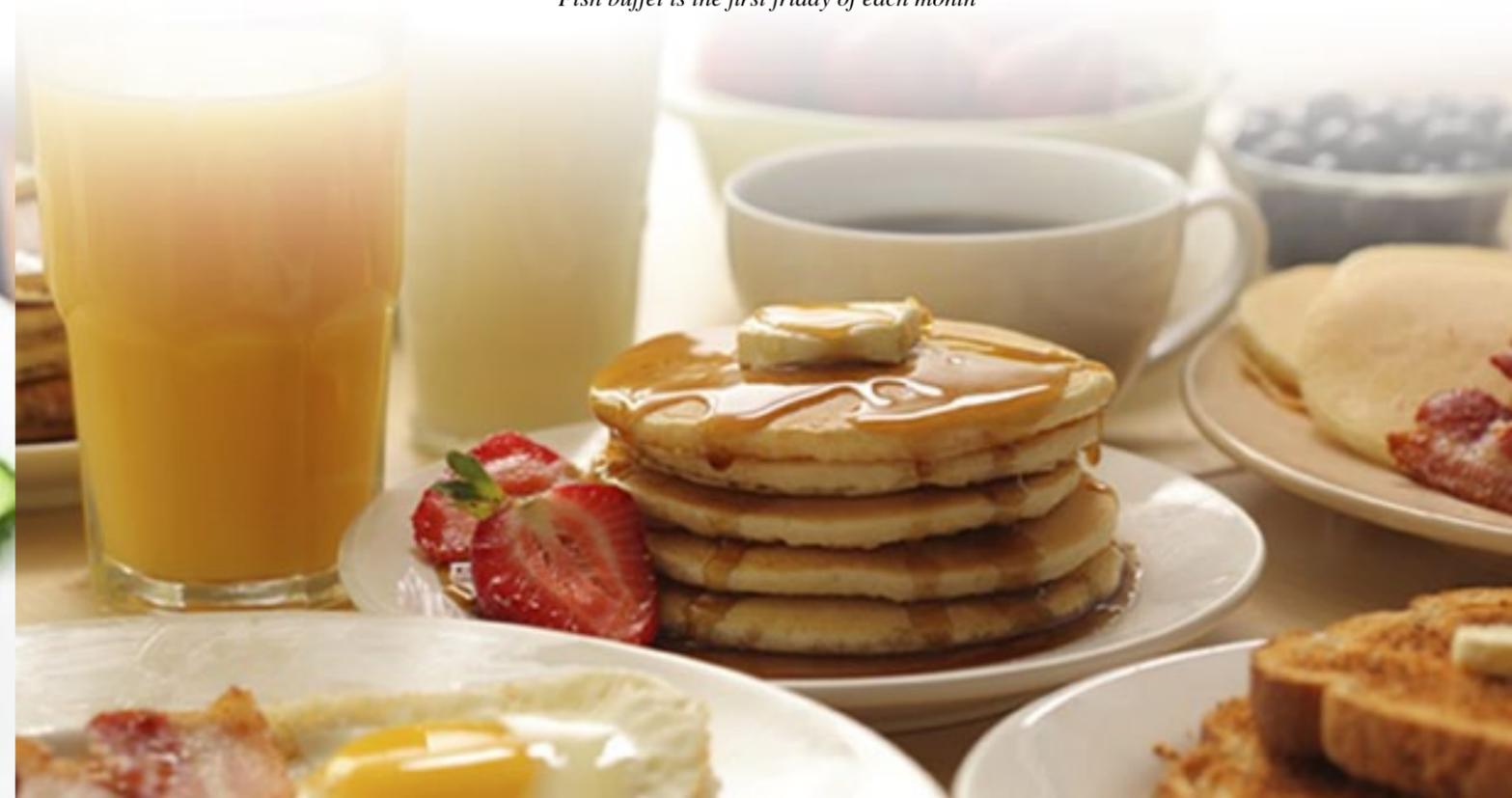
All Your Breakfast Favorites
Including

**MADE TO ORDER OMELETES,
WAFFLES AND A CARVING STATION**

\$11.95 per person / \$5.95 for children age 3 -10

LARGE GROUPS ARE WELCOME

www.universitygolfclub.com
**Fish buffet is the first friday of each month*





NOW YOU KNOW!

COMMUNICATE!
Feature – Highlighting
Business in University Park

Demetria Hickson - Shoe Junkiez

CREATIVE BUSINESS NAME. WHERE DID IT COME FROM? I actually came up with the name Shoe Junkiez while working on a graphic design project my sophomore year in college. The project was to come up with a fictitious store that was opening up in the Mall of America. We were assigned to create a name, magazine ad, logo, slogan and container. That then became the official start of **Shoe Junkiez**.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN BUSINESS? Actually, I have been doing this consistently for the past four years, while in college.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND. ANY SPECIAL TRAINING FOR THIS BUSINESS? I attended **Concordia College** in Minnesota and graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in Graphic Design. When I began, I started out wanting to become a veterinarian. After my first semester, I knew that art was the right path for me. Art is a passion that I have had since I was kid. After my first semester in college I knew that was where my passion was. While in college, I had several art-related classes,

including basic art classes such as drawing and painting and graphic design.

HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO OPEN THIS TYPE OF BUSINESS? During my senior year in high school I painted my first pair of custom shoes. I then decided to produce more wearable pieces of art. In college, I used my passion for drawing to earn extra money to purchase more art supplies. My friends and family saw my capabilities, and how I transformed their ideas into art work, and placed them on items of their choosing.

WHO IS YOUR TYPICAL CUSTOMER? OLDER, YOUNGER? Anyone can be a customer. The business mainly attracts a younger crowd. I also have parents that order for their children.

HOW DOES THE SALES PROCESS WORK? FOR EXAMPLE, IF I HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND DO I DESCRIBE IT TO YOU? DO YOU SKETCH OUT A DESIGN? HOW DOES THIS WORK? How it works is first visit the website at www.shoekjunkiez.net. Once there select the style and color of the shoe you want, or any other specifications for other available items. There is an input box where you type in all the details of the design that you want. Once that is done, the customer purchases the shoe and I receive the request. Once I get all the necessary information, I do a quick sketch of your customizable item, after you purchase the item. Once cleared with

the customer, I paint their piece of art.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, CUSTOMERS FIRST GET THE CHANCE TO VIEW AND TRY ON THE SHOES AFTER THEY ARE CREATED AND PAID FOR. WHAT IF THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT THEY ORDERED? WHAT IF THE SHOES DON'T FIT? It is the customer's responsibility to know their size. There is a list of available sizes on the website. With the available brands of shoes, the sizes are the same ones available as if purchasing from the original websites.

The only difference is that your pair of shoes will be hand-painted with whatever you want on it. Once the sketch is done and confirmed by the customer, the design will be hand painted on the purchased item.

TELL COMMUNICATE! READERS ABOUT SOME OF YOUR OTHER PRODUCT LINES. ARE THEY CUSTOMIZED AS WELL? I have been working on a variety of items. You have a choice of **tote bags, eye glasses and skateboards**, to name a few. I also do water color paintings and create business logos.

HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN YOUR BUSINESS? My mother is a big supporter. She is always passing out my business cards trying to bring me customers. But mainly, I do all the work in creating the actual products.

(Continued next page)





WHAT KIND OF MARKETING DO YOU DO TO TARGET POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS? I use my family as advertisers. I have created shoes for my mom and my sisters. They have been my walking ads. My mom's employer has also allowed me to place a sample of my product in her place of business.

A large part of my marketing also deals with social networking sites such as Facebook. There I promote my **Facebook** business page and website to gain more traffic and customers.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR SHOE JUNKIEZ? Well, I have just launched my new Shoe Junkiez Web Site. I am also venturing out into more products such as placing art on clothing, and hoping to turn Shoe Junkiez into a well known name.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT YOURSELF OR YOUR BUSINESS? I am a dedicated artist. This is my passion and I love what I do. I hope to share my art with anyone who is willing to take it in, share and partake in it with me.

HOW CAN PEOPLE CONTACT YOU? They can reach me at shoejunkiez@yahoo.com or call (218) 329-1519.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the **COMMUNICATE!** Staff!



THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013

SAVE THE DATE

CORETTA SCOTT KING PTO'S 1ST ANNUAL

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

**11 & Older - \$6.00 - 10 & Younger \$3.00
1009 Blackhawk Dr., University Park, IL**

**Come join us for some good food,
good friends & great prizes!**

**2 seating times available:
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Pre-order tickets to guarantee seating time. Ticket order forms will be sent home December 21st; return no later than January 16th.

Contact Ashley Dehymer at csktposecretary@yahoo.com.

All you can eat refers to pancakes only. Subject to discretion.

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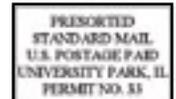
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