



## UP Beat

Mayor  
Vivian E.  
Covington

I would like to first recognize **National Women's History Month**, giving honor to all women everywhere, for the tremendous contributions that they have made to the history of this country and their individual communities.

It seems that sometimes in the aftermath of the holiday season and **Black History Month**, that sometimes we forget to eloquently and adequately celebrate our nation's women. Even now, women still are underpaid and underrepresented in the top ranks of educational, business, governmental institutions and organizations.

That is slowly changing with the election of Gary Mayor **Karen Freeman-Wilson**, the first female Mayor of Gary, Indiana, GSU President **Dr. Elaine Maimon**, ComEd President & CEO **Ann Pramaggiore**, and now **Robin Kelly**, for all intent and purposes the Congresswoman-elect for the 2nd Congressional District.

Please read with pride our special section on **National Women's History Month**, starting on P.8 in this issue.

Also, congratulations to Robin Kelly who emerged victorious in the Special Democratic Primary on February 26th. There were about

*(Continued next page)*

## COMMUNICATE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Village Manager  
Lafayette Linear  
& Village of University  
Park Departments

### Village Manager's Report

This past month I attended various meetings including the Regional Black Mayors bi-weekly sessions, and the bi-monthly meeting with **Mayor Vivian E. Covington** and **GSU President Dr. Elaine Maimon**. This month I will be attending the **National League of Cities (NLC)** meeting in **Washington, D.C.**

The **Family Dollar** continues to be on schedule for a spring opening. We have resolved utility issues, which will enable the building to include a sprinkler system, per **University Park's** requirements. The sprinkler was not included in the developer's budget. However they have made the necessary adjustments. The Village may be required to pay the cost incurred by Aqua to increase the size of the water supply line. We are currently negotiating the price.

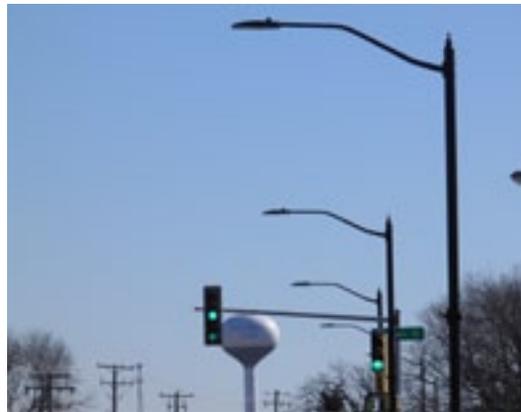
The first phase of the **University**

**Parkway streetlight installation** is complete. The lighting systems have been tested and passed engineering requirements. Reimbursements for the lights from our business partners are being deposited into the **Towncenter Fund**. We plan to extend this program this year.

We have hired an **Interim Finance Director Joe Jones** His priority is to work on the budget for the Fiscal Year starting May 1, 2013 and ending April 30, 2014. He is also working to facilitate the FY 2010 audit completion. His duties include completing open items left from the former director's tenure, and overseeing the department.

Finally, we continue to work with IDOT on the road construction project from Central to Cicero. The Mayor, IDOT officials, Village engineers, Public

Works foreman and I regularly meet to keep the project moving forward.



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**Special Women's  
History Section**  
p. 8

**GET OUT AND VOTE**  
on Tuesday, April 9th



20 candidates (15 Democratic and 5 Republicans). I look forward to convening with her after the election on **Tuesday, April 9th**. There are several important matters regarding the **Village of University Park**, that I am anxious to discuss.

The most important issue is, of course, that of economic development. How do we

bring more businesses and jobs to the Southland, and specifically our Village? Among other things, I am anxious to hear her plan for the 3rd Airport in Peotone. In addition, I plan to discuss how Congresswoman Kelly can support:

- Federal grants for the Village
- Crime prevention programs
- Programs for youth and seniors
- Voters rights amendments
- Improved water quality
- Tax reduction bills

I would like to encourage her to work or continue working on the problem of **Economic Redlining**, which continues to plague the Southland. We need more high quality retailers like **Whole Foods** and **Trader Joe's** to locate in our area.

Congratulations are also in order for **Rep. Al Riley**, recently named an **Assistant House Majority Leader** in the **Illinois House of Representatives**. Since assuming office in **2007**, Rep. Riley has secured funding for numerous municipal and regional development projects. He has also been in the forefront of fighting foreclosures in his legislative district. He was recently sworn in to begin his **4th term** as **State Representative** for the **38th District**.



I would also like to congratulate **Rep. Anthony DeLuca** on his new appointment as **Chairman of the Cities and Villages Committee** of the **Illinois House of Representatives**.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our own **Dr. Nakia Hall**, recently elected vice president of the board of **201U**. Dr. Hall is also profiled in our **Women's History Section**.

Please reach out, hold close and pray for the families of **David Lawson** and **Phil Henderson**, both of whom recently passed.

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## Good News From IDOT & Robinson Engineers

**COMMUNICATE!** has learned that the **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)** has green lighted two major road projects. The **good news** is that there will be **no cost** to the **Village of University Park**. A brief description of both projects follows.

**Illinois Route 50 (Cicero) from Steger Road to Governors Highway, 1.71 miles of Resurfacing.** Low bidder **D Construction** at a cost of **\$1,024,405.44**.

**Roadway Reconstruction on Interstate 57 at Stuenkel Road from I-57 to Harlem Avenue.** Low bidder **Capitol Cement Company** at a cost of **\$5,886,631.38**.

According to **Ernest R. Roberts, III, Sr. Engineer, Robinson Engineering**, "*Construction is anticipated to begin April/May of 2013.*"



Illinois Route 50 (Cicero Avenue) from Steger Road to Governor's Highway



Stuenkel Road from I-57 to Harlem Avenue

## UPBeat

(Continued)

**David Lawson**, is the brother of **University Park resident Eugene Lawson** and brother-in-law, of wife **Star. Phil Henderson**, started



his basketball career at Crete-Monee High School and was a McDonald's High School All-American in 1986. He continued his career as a top

guard at Duke University, helping Duke get to three Final Four NCAA Tournaments. He was drafted by the Dallas Mavericks in the 1990 NBA draft. He later played professionally in the CBA and overseas, passing away at the age of 44 at his home in the Phillipines in February.

Much love to the Lawson and Henderson families.

Thank you for your support of the **Global**

(Continued on page 10)



## Parks & Recreation Department Seeks Summer Workers

If you are interested in joining our team this season, applications will be available beginning **March 18 - March 29** at Village Hall, 698 Burnham Dr. Please include your dates of availability and the position for which you are applying.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Director Keely Childress at (708) 534-4837 or Lilleta Rogers at (708) 534-6456.

We are currently seeking qualified seasonal summer applicants to fill the following positions:

- Day Camp Coordinators
- Before and After Care Supervisor
- Senior Cashier/Office Attendant
- Cashier/Concession Attendant
- Park Worker(s)
- Camp Counselors
- Jr. Counselors
- Farm Worker(s)
- Seasonal Lifeguard
- Pool Attendant(s)



## Reminder - Garbage Bills and Pickup Dates



Bills for refuse pickup are mailed quarterly, **November 1, February 1, May 1 and August 1**. The charge is \$45.90 per quarter, or \$15.30 per month, \$3.83 a week, and \$0.51 a day **for single family homes and town homes**.

Service is subject to possible interruption and/or late penalty if payment is not received by the last business day of **November, February, May and August**. Payments can be made in person at Village Hall between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., via the Village website, or placed in the drop box outside of Village Hall.

Refuse pickup for the Village is on **Wednesdays**, except when preceded by a major holiday (New Year's Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas). When that happens, service will resume the next day. Refuse should be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

If you have any questions, please contact **Claudia Webb @ (708) 534-6451**.

(Continued next page)

### Twice-a-Week Dental Care & Screenings Available in Towncenter

The Will County Mobile Dental Clinic sees patients the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the **Towncenter parking lot**.



Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. Walk-ins are seen on a first come, first serve basis. Services include: exams required for school, oral exams, X-rays, cleaning, sealants, fluoride treatments, cleanings and simple extractions. Clinic also does **oral cancer screenings**. Services are targeted at children. Adults may be referred through Health Center physicians. Dental services are available to Medicaid recipients. Low income and non-insured patients are responsible for payment at time of services. Charges are based on a sliding fee scale with proof of income.

To **schedule an appointment** contact Linda @ (815) 546-4090, or via email [listogu@willcountyhealth.org](mailto:listogu@willcountyhealth.org). Leave a detailed message and she will return call.

### Summer Jobs for Youth Available Through Cook County Forest Preserves

The **Student Conservation Leadership Program** and **Friends of the Forest** are currently accepting applications from **high school students** (15 - 19 years-old), or **Crew leaders** (21 years and older), for the **2013 Chicago Conservation Leadership Program**.

This program is a **paid 6 week summer job opportunity** to work in the **Cook County Forest Preserves**. You must have a strong interest in the environment and completing hands-on conservation and restoration projects, within areas of the Forest Preserves in Cook County. Applicants are highly encouraged to apply early as positions are filled on a rolling basis.

For more information contact Alice Brandon: [alice@fotfp.org](mailto:alice@fotfp.org). Applications can be downloaded at [www.fotfp.org](http://www.fotfp.org).



GSU President Dr. Elaine Maimon

### GSU News

#### Dorm Construction Contracts Approved

The **GSU Board of Trustees** have approved more than **\$17 million** in construction contracts for the first phase of the housing complex, **Prairie Place**, at their February 15th meeting. The complex, featuring both apartment and suite style housing, will be ready for occupancy in summer, 2014. This is GSU's first residential housing complex.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-March, with a formal groundbreaking ceremony on **Friday, April 5th**. **Phase 1** will contain 77 units and 296 beds, all fully furnished.

**Governors State University**, the only public university in the Chicago Southland region, serves more than 7,000 students in undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs. It is nationally recognized for its innovative **Dual Degree Program**, providing a quality pathway from community college to university graduation. In **2014**, GSU will become a full-service, four-year university, admitting its first freshman class. The university is located at **1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois**. For more information on Prairie Place go to [www.govst.edu/housing](http://www.govst.edu/housing).

#### GSU's Dual Degree Program Wins National Award

The **Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience**, a unit of the **American College Personnel Association (ACPA)**, has selected **Governors State University's Dual Degree Program (DDP)**, to receive the **Outstanding Program/Project Award**.

The nationally recognized **Dual Degree Program** is an innovative partnership between the university and area community colleges that paves the way, for successful completion of both associate and bachelor's degrees.

**DDP** students receive:

- Guaranteed admission to GSU
- Waived application fee
- Locked in GSU tuition rate, effective the first semester in DDP
- Access to two different full-tuition scholarships
- An assigned DDP transfer specialist to help students complete their dual degrees in the shortest time possible

Approximately **400 GSU and community college students** are enrolled in the program. More information on the **DDP** is available at [www.govst.edu/dualdegree/](http://www.govst.edu/dualdegree/).

### Mayor Covington Offers Condolences on behalf of Village

Please keep the following families in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Services have been held for **David Lawson**, brother of **University Park** resident **Eugene Lawson**, at the Big Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago. A **Memorial Service** in his honor was also scheduled.



Also former **Crete-Monee High School** guard **Phil Henderson**, passed away at his home in the Philippines on Sunday, February 17th at the age of 44. He worked with the **Parks and Recreation Department** as **Basketball Clinic Instructor**, as recently as 2010 and 2011. **Parks Director Keely Childress** said, "On behalf of the entire Parks and Recreation Department family, we are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Phil Henderson. Our hearts go out to his mom and family. Phil was a talented player and a good man with a gentle soul. We will miss him dearly."

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**Program Supervisor I Greg Murray** said, "Truly a sad day for me. He was like my little brother. I will miss him deeply. He was a perfect example of how to give back to your community. He and I made a commitment to give back. The kids absolutely adored him. I will miss our talks about who will be the next great out of University Park; and to teach that individual the importance of giving back to the community."

### Attention Vets - Family & Medical Leave Act Amended

The **U.S. Labor Department** has issued a final rule implementing two important expansions of the **Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**, offering additional protections.

The first expansion provides families of eligible veterans with the same job-protected **FMLA** leave currently available to families of military services members. It also enables more military families to take leave for activities that arise when a service member is deployed.

The second expansion modifies existing rules enabling airline personnel and flight crews to make better use of the **FMLA's** protections. For more information including fact sheets and other information, visit [www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/2013rule](http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/2013rule).



# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: WANT A GREAT SUMMER JOB WORKING IN THE FOREST PRESERVES?

## CHICAGO CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SUMMER 2013



Join a crew of students to help the forest preserves this summer.

Work on assignments like:

invasive plant removal • native gardening • tree mulching • trail maintenance

Paid position, maximum compensation is \$1,500

Program Dates: July 1 – August 9, 2013

Must be in high school or a 2013 high school graduate (ages 15 to 19)

Must like working hard outdoors in a variety of weather conditions

Must have a strong interest in learning about the forest preserves and the environment

To learn more or to apply contact Alice Brandon: [alice@fotfp.org](mailto:alice@fotfp.org)

Applications can also be downloaded at [www.fotfp.org](http://www.fotfp.org)

(click on “About” then “Jobs & Internships”)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 12, 2013**



## Need a Job? Get Ready for May Job Fair

Whether the economy is improving, as reported, probably depends on whether you have a job. If you don't, the upcoming **University Park Job Fair**, may have the opportunity that you've been seeking. But, you've got to prepare. In the following interview, **Job Fair Coordinator, Roosevelt**

**Martin, Jr.**, tells participants what to expect and how to take advantage of the third job fair held in University Park in the past two years.

**Please give readers the who, when (date & time) and where of the upcoming job fair.** May 2, 2013, 90 Towncenter Dr., University Park, IL 60484, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**How many companies do you expect to participate?** We are expecting 40 to 50 employers.

**Have any companies confirmed?** Burlington Northern railroad, Illinois State Police, Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, Liberty Mutual Insurance, and Snyder Trucking. We are expecting to hear from many others.

**What should participants expect? How should they dress? How many resumes should they bring? Should they expect on-site interviews?**

Participants should expect employers who are looking for talent and who are hiring. Bring plenty of resumes. Be prepared for an on-the-spot interview in some cases. In other cases they may be required to complete an online application, and be scheduled for an interview at a later time.

**What kind of jobs will be available?** Jobs will vary from entry-level to middle management and everything in between. This job fair promises to have something for everyone.

**This is the third job fair held in University Park in less than two years. What kind of feedback have you received from participating companies, that could help job applicants this time around?**

Employers believe that University Park residents have a lot to offer and have been impressed with the room setup, and the ability to reach a wide range of applicants in short order.

**What kind of helpful feedback can you offer participants, that could help them be successful in getting a job?** Come early. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want. Close the sale. Bring plenty of resumes and be patient.

**What is the profile of the successful applicant?** The successful candidates have been those who come dressed to impress, with plenty of resumes and a “can do” attitude.

**How would you describe an unsuccessful applicant?** Unsuccessful candidates are those wearing unprofessional dress attire. They generally lack self-confidence.

**Are there any tips you can share about how to conduct a successful interview?**

- Discuss plenty of examples of things you have accomplished in the past.
- Have references readily available
- Be ready to explain gaps in employment

**What about attire? What does the successful applicant wear? Please include any advice about colors or designs that they might want to avoid.** The successful candidate should be clean-shaven and well-groomed in business or business casual. Blue, black, grey, brown or tan are what the employer is seeking. Avoid over-accessorizing. Keep smells (ie.... perfume or cologne) to a minimum. Overpowering scents tend to distract or (even) anger potential employers.

**There are a disproportionate number of ex-offenders in the African American community, who have paid their debt to society. Many of them need jobs. How should they handle questions about their past, when they come up on the application? What is your best advice?** Be honest and state the facts. Employers are (often) willing to give ex-offenders a second chance if the infraction occurred awhile ago.

**What else would you like for COMMUNICATE! readers to know about the upcoming job fair?** The job fair will be productive. Employers are calling to reserve a spot. Free resume writing workshops are available at the University Park Library.

**Is there a contact person and number to call for information?** Those interested can call Reginald Whitley at (773) 558-0758.



## Special Section: March is Women's History Month

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. By 1986 14 states declared March Women's History Month. In 1987 Congress declared March National Women's History Month. Since then a special President Proclamation is issued every year honoring the extraordinary achievements of American women.



## SPOTLIGHT ON - Ida B. Wells - 1862 - 1931



The name **Ida B. Wells**, though born in **Holly Springs, Mississippi**, is well known by those who live in Chicago, because of the recently demolished housing project that was named after her.

What many don't know is that **Ida B. Wells** was a journalist, teacher, women's rights activist, civil rights pioneer, and one of the founders of the **NAACP** at the turn of the **20th Century**. She was also an internationally known **anti-lynching crusader**.

### The Crusader

After the office of the **Memphis Free Speech** newspaper was destroyed and a price put on her head, **Ida B. Wells** became an exile from Memphis in 1892. She went to New York City where she wrote and spoke to groups of people about the brutal realities of lynching. She later went to the United Kingdom, also denouncing the brutality of lynching.

In 1894, Ida B. Wells began publishing a column in England titled "*Ida B. Wells Abroad*," for the *Daily Inter Ocean* newspaper, seeking support against lynching from the Brits.

Wells' writing gave insight into the cruelty and hypocrisy of America at that time. The generation of African Americans who had hoped that the end of slavery would be the end of their injustice, learned from Wells how those hopes had not come to pass.

### Ida B. Wells Homes

Built in 1941 as a **Public Works Administration (PWA) project**, it included a city park and was a segregated housing development. It consisted of 2 and 3-story brick apartment buildings. They were arranged in a way that created numerous hidden spaces and pockets that enabled crime and violence to occur. Large internal spaces were hidden from view and isolated from city streets. The homes were demolished several years ago. A mixed-income site was supposed to be built on the site at a future date.

## SPOTLIGHT ON - Gabriel Douglas - 1995 -

Better known as **Gabby**, the 17 year-old gymnast came to the world's attention during the **2012 Summer Olympics**, as a member of the **U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics team**.

Born December 31st in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Douglas became the first African American to win gold in the individual all-around event. She also won a team gold medal with four other teammates.

Her first gymnastics experience was at the age of 3 when she perfected a straight cartwheel, using a technique learned from older sister, Arielle, a former gymnast. Gabby began formal gymnastics training at the age of 6. Two years later, in 2004, she was named a **Virginia State Gymnastics Champion**.

At the age of 14 she left home and moved to West Des Moines, Iowa to train with famed **coach Liang Chow**. And in **2010** Douglas debuted on the **national scene** at the **Nastia Liukin SuperGirl Cup**, placing fourth in the competition. Doing well in several subsequent tournaments enabled her to come to the world's attention at the **2012 Summer Olympics**.

*"Her unique blend of power, flexibility, body alignment and form has led her to be compared with three-time Olympian Dominique Dawes,"* says the American-Gymnast.com.

Gabby's international success at such an early age is a reminder that excellence, whether in sports, academics, politics or business, demands intense preparation at an early age.



## Other African American Women of Note



**Josephine Baker (1906 - 1975)** - Singer, actress, civil rights activist and WW II heroine

**Mary Bowser (1839 - Unknown)** - Freed slave became Union spy during Civil War



**Bessie Coleman (1893 - 1926)** - First black woman to earn a pilot's license

**Zelma Watson George (1903 - 1994)** - Opera singer, educator and UN delegate



**Fannie Lou Hamer (1917 - 1977)** - Founder of Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party



**Barbara Jordan (1936 - 1996)** - Congresswoman and orator



**Wilma Rudolph (1940 - 1994)** - First black woman to win 3 Olympic track and field gold medals in one game

**Susie King Taylor (1848 - 1912)** - First black nurse during the Civil War

**Susan McKinney Steward (1848 - 1918)** - First black woman doctor in N.Y. State



**Carol Moseley Braun (1947 - )** - First and only black woman elected to U.S. Senate

**UPBeat**  
*(Continued from page 3)*

**Food Fest**, part of our **Black History Month** celebrations. Thanks to the **Human Service and Special Events Committee** for organizing the fest.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to leave you with a positive thought.

*"I am only one, but I am one. I can not do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."*

**Until next month.**



**SPOTLIGHT ON - Local Women of Note**

**Dr. Nakia Hall**, a resident of the **Village of University Park**, was recently elected **vice president** of the **Crete-Monee 201U School Board**, where she has served for the past four years.

**In Her Own Words**

*"At the age of 19 I found myself the mother of two young children and thought that my dreams of becoming a college graduate were over. However, through my faith of God and the help of others I went on to earn my A.A. degree (Associate of Arts) from Prairie State College."*

Dr. Hall later went on to earn a B.S. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University, and an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Olivet Nazarene University. Most recently she has earned her Doctorate of Education in Ethical Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University.

The esteemed educator completed **dissertational research** on the history of **African American education** and the **African American student achievement gap**.

Dr. Hall is well known locally for giving back to the community. For the past seven years her **Serve...Give...Meet the Need** program has given food, clothes, toys, school supplies and parental seminars to families in need. She is a testament that through faith, hard work, and determination dreams are not only attainable, but sustainable.



**SPOTLIGHT ON - Ann Pramaggiore ComEd President & CEO**

You knew something had to change when more than 850,000 people were left without power in the summer of 2011. Not only had the power gone out, ComEd's communication system failed as well, leaving hundreds of thousands of customers not only in the dark, but angry.

Ann Pramaggiore, with ComEd since 1998 heard the anger and realized that something had to be done. In a recent interview with the *Chicago Tribune* she said, "We heard our customers loud and clear that summer. Everything else in the world is instantaneous, and they don't understand why they have to sit and wait without power or information."

Fast forward to February 2012 when Anne R. Pramaggiore was named President & Chief Executive Officer of ComEd. Before taking on her latest challenge Pramaggiore was president and chief operating officer (COO) of the giant utility. Before that she served as executive vice president of Customer Operations, Regulatory and External Affairs.

The new president and CEO is a 1989 graduate of DePaul University School of Law, and also served as editor-in-chief of the school's Law Review. She has a bachelor's degree in Communications and theater from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Pramaggiore is a member of several boards including, the Art Institute of Chicago, DePaul University, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Urban League, the Economic Club of Chicago, The Chicago Network, Lincoln Park Zoo and the Babcock & Wilcox Company Board of Directors.

**ComEd** has 5,700 employees and revenues of about \$6.1 billion. A unit of Chicago-based **Exelon Corporation**, **ComEd** delivers electricity to approximately 3.8 million residential and business customers across northern Illinois, about 70 percent of the state's population.

**ComEd** customers can now communicate with the company via phone, text or online. They can use an iPhone, Android app or communicate with a **ComEd** representative on **Twitter** or **Facebook**. Since Pramaggiore has been in charge, the company's smartphone app has generated more than 1 million transactions.



**QUOTES OF NOTE**

A Salute To All Women During Women's History Month

*A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape... But a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape.*

*A strong woman isn't afraid of anything... But a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear.*

*A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her... But a woman of strength gives the best of her to everyone.*

*A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future... A woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be God's blessings and capitalizes on them.*

*A strong woman walks sure-footedly... But a woman of strength knows God will catch her when she falls.*

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SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, March 26**

**1:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

Crete-Monee Middle School  
635 Olmsted Rd., University Park, IL

## **St. Baldrick's Head-Shaving Event**

St. Baldrick's Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity that funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government.

Give hope to infants, children, teens and young adults fighting childhood cancers



### **MAYOR**

**Vivian E. Covington**

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### **VILLAGE TREASURER**

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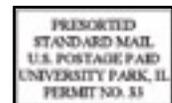
### **VILLAGE MANAGER**

**Lafayette Linear**

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Village of University Park  
Village Hall  
698 Burnham Drive  
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**RESIDENT**

**University Park, IL 60484**