

## 6th Annual Village President's Golf Outing



development initiatives started by the Homeowner Associations and the Enhancement Organization of Olympia Fields. This year over \$7,000 was distributed to the Homeowners Associations and the Enhancement Organization of Olympia Fields. We always have a great dine.

### Village Clerk

Jeff Cohn is an 11 year resident of Olympia Fields. He attended Northwestern University from 1979 through 1983; he obtained a BA in Economics and Sociology. Jeff played on the Northwestern Wildcat Football team, where he was the team's starting running back for 3 seasons.



After graduating from Northwestern University, Jeff worked for Procter & Gamble, Pepsi Cola and American Telecom Corporation. He currently works for Sprint Business Solutions as a Sales Manager.

Jeff also owns and hosts Suburban Issues. Suburban Issues is a local talk show that airs on Comcast Cable. In addition to being the Village Clerk of Olympia Fields, Jeff is also a School Board Member of Rich Township School District 227. Jeff is the proud father of 3 children: Jacob, Joshua and Hannah.

### DAVID A. MEKARSKI, AICP Village Administrator

David A. Mekarski comes to the Village of Olympia Fields with over 25 years of municipal management experience. With a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science from the State University of New York, College of Buffalo, NY; a Masters of Science degree in Urban Regional Planning from the



University of New Orleans, LA and a second Masters of Science degree in Public Administration from Oakland University, MI. As a 2000 recipient of the Taubman Fellowship Award, regional, elected officials acknowledged him for his leadership in the advancement of professional governance and the promotion of regional coordination to problem solving. As a Taubman Fellow, he was honored with a full scholarship to attend Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local government, graduating in June of 2000.

Serving as the Village Administrator for the Village of Matteson, IL, from the period of 2001 through 2004, Mr. Mekarski was responsible for launching a comprehensive economic strategy that spawned the development of the Lincoln/Cicero retail power center and the development of the Manheim Business Park. In 2004, he was selected for the International City/County Manager's Association Best Practices recognition for Matteson's "Green Power Campaign," a retail marketing strategy designed to combat the process of unconscious racism leading to retail redlining impeding the economic development of Chicago's Southland. His leadership re-energized the local retail economy while diversifying and expanding its economic base.

Now serving as Village Administrator for Olympia Fields, Mr. Mekarski will be working to showcase our Village as the gem of the Chicago Southland. His goal objective is to maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the Village while attracting new economic and residential development. In the upcoming weeks, citizens will partake in a comprehensive economic strategy which will examine new development alternatives for the Village's remaining vacant lands, witness the launching of a retail marketing strategy to target "Class A" retail and restaurants to our community, as well as define a strategic action plan which will define our economic future.

Village Hall Hours:

Monday 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00

# From the President's Desk:

## VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

First, let me thank the residents of Olympia Fields for re-electing me to my third term as Village President. I love the work and the opportunity to address the needs of our residents and businesses in maintaining our high community standards. I am also glad to continue working with Trustees Debra Meyers-Martin, Bill Ryza, and Bill Pennington. I



congratulate them on their election to the Board along with Jeff Cohn, our new Village Clerk.

We are very fortunate to have David Mekarski as our new part-time Village Administrator. I had the opportunity to work with David on several projects when he was Matteson's Village Manager, including the "Green Power" effort, Southcom and federal appropriations. He has already hit the ground running with a planning strategy for the last two undeveloped parcels in the Village, a strategic planning initiative for the Village, and a web-based marketing strategy to support our businesses.

### Personal Note

My deepest gratitude to many residents for their cards and words of comfort and entoungement to my family upon the death of my father. My father was truly the inspiration for my love of public service.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Construction of the Metra Parking Lot at 203rd Street continues after a long delay caused by approvals needed from various state and county agencies. We expect it to open next spring. Scott Drive will be completely resurfaced this fall thanks to a federal grant. The Kedzie Road project will begin in the spring and should be completed by the end of the



Trustee Gibson

year. The new retail center on Vollmer Road is taking shape with a Bank One center, a Fitness Center and a small shopping center under construction.



Village President Jones and his wife Gloria visited with U.S. Senator Barack Obama in Washington DC in May 2005 while seeking Federal funds for the Village.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10, 2005	Village President's Sixth Annual Golf Outing	Glenwoodie Golf Course
September 18, 2005	Fall Family Celebration	Bicentennial Park
September 22, 2005	Autumn Gala Celebration of Unity Luncheon	Odyssey Country Club
September 24, 2005	Hands Across the Southland	Governors State University
September 24, 2005	Fall Bulb Sale	Sgt. Means Park
September 29, 2005	Diversity Inc. Dinner	Olympia Fields Country Club

#### Inside This Issue

6th Annual President's Golf Outing .....	2
Jeff Cohn .....	2
David Mekarski .....	2
From the President's Desk .....	2
Economic Development .....	2
Calendar of Events .....	2
Metra Parking Lot .....	3
Volunteer Appreciation .....	3
News from the Library .....	3
2005 Garden Walk A Big Success .....	4
Water System Improvements .....	5
Tree Ordinance .....	5
Residents Nominated For Distinctive Awards .	5
AARP Driver Training .....	6
Fire Safety .....	6