



# Sun River Terrace

2025

APR

MAY

JUN

The SRT 2025 Village Fest will be coming up in September. If you are interested in being on the Planning Committee, please email the mayor at [mayor.bonds@sunriverterrace.com](mailto:mayor.bonds@sunriverterrace.com).

*Bring Your Ideas!*



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

### Welcome to Spring 2025, Sun River Terrace!

Dear Residents of Sun River Terrace,

As we step into the vibrant season of spring, I want to take a moment to greet each of you with warmth and gratitude. Though our nation may be weathering many storms—both literal and metaphorical—our community remains strong, united, and resilient. In Sun River Terrace, we take pride in the strength we draw from one another. We face challenges together, and we stand tall as a close-knit family, supporting one another through whatever obstacles lie ahead.

Spring brings with it a season of renewal, and we are excited to share several upcoming initiatives that will continue to enhance the beauty and vitality of our village. We are looking forward to road repair season, which will ensure that our infrastructure is in the best possible shape for all residents. The annual Village Festival in September promises to be a highlight of the year, bringing together families, friends, and neighbors for a celebration of all that makes our community special.

Additionally, we have many exciting activities and programs planned that will allow us to connect, grow, and thrive as a community. From community clean-ups to outdoor events, we are committed to providing opportunities for you to get involved and build lasting bonds with your fellow neighbors.

Together, we will continue to make Sun River Terrace a place where everyone feels at home. I encourage you all to embrace the coming months with enthusiasm, knowing that we are stronger together.

Here's to a joyful and prosperous spring!

Warm regards,

Spring 



Congratulations to the Mayor and Board members on their re-election!!!

# A Story About Our History

Walter Thomas Bailey was a Black American born in 1881 in Kewanee, Illinois. He became:

- the first Black American awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture from the University of Illinois (1904);
- the first licensed Black American architect in Illinois (1905);
- the first Black American to receive a master's degree in architecture from the University of Illinois (1910);
- likely the first Black American architect in Memphis (1915);
- the first licensed Black American architect in Chicago (1924).

Mr. Bailey had an important connection to the beginning of our community. Here is a chapter about that connection from a recently published book, *WALTER THOMAS BAILEY: STARING INTO THE YAWNING GULF OF ETERNITY*. You can learn more about the book at [www.waltertbailey.com](http://www.waltertbailey.com).

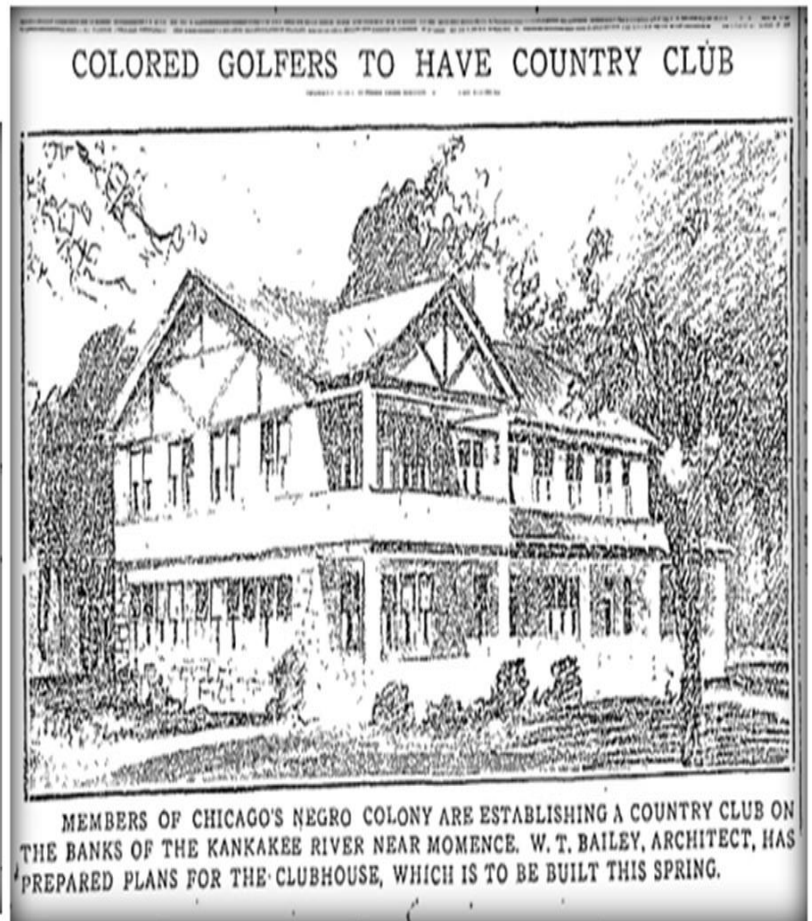


***Right: Ezzard Charles interviewed at Sunset Hills. Left: Retired heavyweight champion Joe Louis interviewed at Sunset Hills. Photos from Kankakee County Museum Photo Archive.***

Other notables also used the course and surrounding housing as well. In 1949, boxer Ezzard Charles trained

at Sunset Hills for his heavyweight title bout with Jersey Joe Walcott. Charles won the National Boxing Association Heavyweight title when he defeated Walcott later that year at Comisky Park. But in the early 1960s, the club went under, and the course was purchased for housing development. The clubhouse was abandoned and then burned down on a Halloween night in the 1970s. But the land is now part of a Black American community named Sun River Terrace, incorporated in 1980. Once again, Bailey was instrumental in helping develop communities for fellow Black Americans.

**Open Colored Country Club.**  
There will be Memorial day speeches May 30, 1927, at the formal opening of the Sunset Hills Country club, the first completely developed Negro country club in the world. The membership is made up of Chicago colored people. The club is located four miles southwest of Momence, Ill., and is being developed by Faulkner-Cook company, 127 East 47th street.



*May 21, 1927, THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS*

*March 3, 1928, THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.*

### **The Sunset Hills Country Club Clubhouse – Momence (IL).**

The Jackson Park Golf Course in Chicago, just southeast of the developing Bronzeville district, was the first public nine-hole course west of the Alleghenies. It opened in 1899 and expanded to 18-holes in 1900.

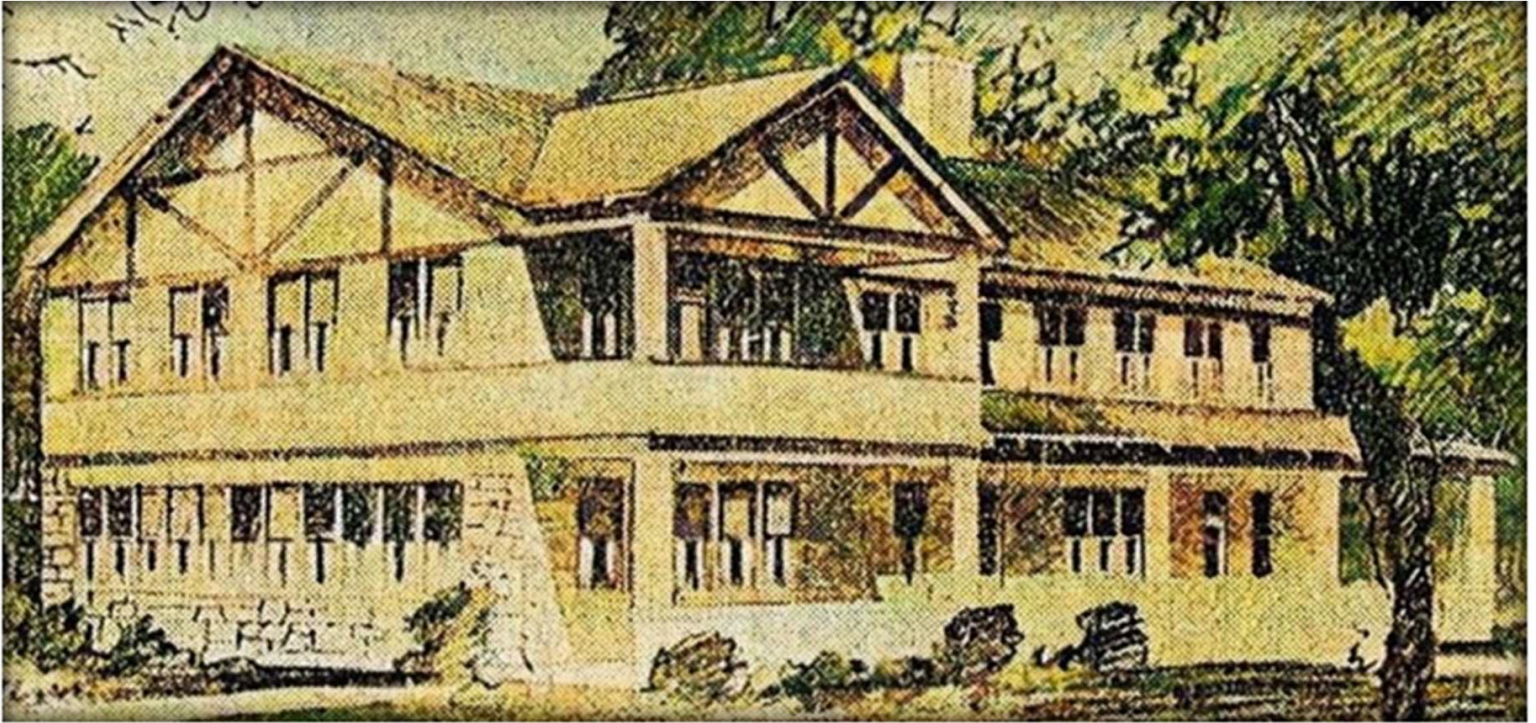
But Black Americans were excluded from playing on the public facility.

A decade later, Black American golfer Walter Speedy settled a lawsuit brought by him and three others against the Chicago Park District, winning the right for Black people to play on the city's courses.

Golf was slow to take off among Black Americans, but by the mid-1920s, its popularity increased as access to courses grew.

Then in 1927, the opening of the Sunset Hills Country Club was announced. THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS reported that it was “the first completely developed Negro country club in the world.” The course was located four miles southwest of Momence, near Kankakee. It included a nine-hole golf course covering 40 acres. The membership was comprised of Black Americans from Chicago.

In early March 1928, THE DAILY NEWS announced that “[m]embers of Chicago’s Negro Colony are establishing a country club on the banks of the Kankakee River near Momence. W. T. Bailey, architect, has prepared plans for the clubhouse, which is to be built this spring.” THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY reported that Bailey’s Clubhouse would be completed at a cost of \$25,000.



*Momence Country Club design by Walter T. Bailey.*

In addition, an adjoining 250 acres was being developed as an exclusive Black American summer-home mecca. The two-story clubhouse included a dining room, barroom and clubroom on the first floor. The second floor held overnight accommodation for guests. The property had a shooting range and walking paths to the Kankakee River where members and guests could swim, fish and boat. Many of the club’s members and friends traveled from Chicago for weekend get-aways. The club served exceptional Sunday dinners and held an annual wild game dinner.

In 1931, the course hosted a United Golfers Association tournament where Black American golf champion Edison Marshall won.



*Historical Aerial Photography for Kankakee County, IL, 1939.*

Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis regularly took his excellent golf game to Sunset Hills

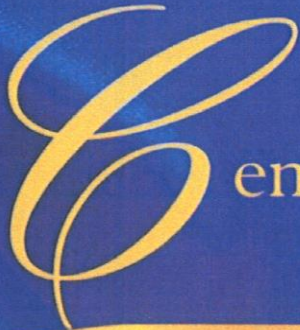


*September 12, 1931,  
PITTSBURGH COURIER.*

All of the previous information was compiled and assembled by Dean Karau, who graciously allowed the Village to post the information in our newsletter. We would like to thank him for submitting to us this historic information about our beloved Village's early history.



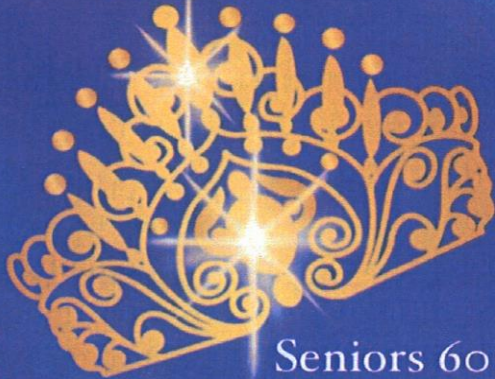
Upcoming Event



entral Illinois State Pageant

*Presents*

MS. ILLINOIS SENIOR AMERICA  
2025 PAGEANT



Seniors 60 and up  
Tickets - \$25.00

General Admission \$35.00

VIP Tickets \$55.00 Tickets

Cashapp - \$Priority401

For Tickets and vendor  
information Scan QR code

Date: April 26, 2025  
Time: 11am



Location:  
Kankakee High School Auditorium  
1200 W Jeffery Kankakee IL. 60901

*Pembroke Seniors Fundraiser Event*

Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

From 3pm Until 7pm



Tickets \$10.00

Includes Dinner and Door Prize Raffle Ticket

There will also be a 50/50 Raffle

Location:

NABVETS BALLROOM

Inside

The Blue Building

13161 E. Central Ave

Hopkins Park, IL 60958

Contact for tickets at:

Kim@(779)301-0884

Bernice@ (773)544-2240





SUN RIVER TERRACE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
ACTING DIRECTOR: Sheryl Mason Thomas

OFFICE PHONE # 815.370.5244 – EMAIL: [dtlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:dtlibrary@comcast.net)  
LIBRARY HOURS: TUES.-THURS. 4:00-6:00 pm; MON., WED., & FRI. CLOSED



7219 E. Chicago St., Sun River Terrace, IL 60964  
Inside The Ralph Bailey Community Center

Sun River Terrace Library Cards are here. All residents are welcome to fill out the application and receive your new library card. You can get an application at the Library, Village Hall or Community Center. We are still compiling our collection. We are taking request and selections of books and will do our best to get your requested item, (no guarantees) that you would like the library to carry. Please feel free to email us at [srtpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:srtpubliclibrary@gmail.com), or call us at 815-352-6877 for suggestions or information.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS AN ERROR ON THE BALLOTS FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES. ALL CANDIDATES WILL REMAIN ON THE LIBRARY TRUSTEE BOARD. THEY ARE UNABLE TO CORRECT THE BALLOTS BEFORE THE ELECTION.**

Thanks

Sherri Benson, Library Board President



MT. CALVARY MB CHURCH  
AND  
THE SUN RIVER TERRACE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENTS

# EASTER EGG HUNT

FOOD - ACTIVITIES - PRIZES

**Saturday, April 19, 2025**

**1:00-4:00pm**

7377 E. Illinois St.

Sun River Terrace, IL 60964

Scan me



scan the QR code to rsvp



# Community Pop Up & Bazaar



**Saturday, June 14, 2025 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**7219 E. Chicago St., Sun River Terrace, IL 60964**

This event will be an opportunity for fun and togetherness with neighbors, surrounding communities, businessmen and women, entrepreneurs, and craftsman.

**Come Buy, Sale, Trade & Barter, and Enjoy the Food!**

**Must Register by June 2, 2025**

Indoor and Outdoor Spaces: 12x12 Slots are \$35.00 per space

Food Vendors: Outdoor Slots are \$60.00 per space

Food vendors will be responsible for the payment of \$25.00 to the Kankakee County Health Department for the inspection fee.

Payment is due with the application and must be paid on or before **June 1, 2025**.

Set-up Times are as follows: Friday, June 13th – 6 pm-9 pm, and before the event on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 6:00 am-7:30 am.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

The Ralph J. Bailey Community Center at (815) 304-4498.

# **“Inspirational Old Fashioned Country Brunch”**



**The Ralph J. Bailey Community Center Presents its’  
Annual Fundraiser for the  
Summer Food Meals Program**

**When:** Sunday, May 10, 2025 - Mother’ Day

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 4:00pm

**Location:** 7219 E. Chicago Street,  
Sun River Terrace, IL 60964)

Menu items include: turkey sausage patties, bacon, Biscuits and Gravy, Shrimp and Grits, eggs, smothered potatoes, Salmon Croquette, Rice, Juice, Coffee, Tea,

The tickets are \$15.00 per person

Kicking off the Summer Healthy Meals, Educational Enrichment, Arts and Crafts, and Physical Activities.

**ALL Donations are Welcome**

For advance ticket sales please contact Kenneth Shaw, Ralph J. Bailey Community Center at (815) 304-4498 or [email: Communitycenter@sunriverterrace.com](mailto:Communitycenter@sunriverterrace.com)

# SOUL LINE DANCING



*With Rod* Mondays at 6-8 pm



## THE GOLDEN GEMS & GENTS

Senior Nutrition Program



When: Every Wednesday  
Program Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Lunch will be provided between 11:30 am & 12:00 pm, with games immediately following! [Games include Bingo, Bid Whist, Dominoes, Checkers, etc.]

- ❖ AGE 60+
- ❖ SPOUSES OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, REGARDLESS OF AGE
- ❖ INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES RESIDING WITH AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL

### R.J. BAILEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DIRECTOR: KENNETH SHAW

OFFICE PHONE # 815.304.4498 – EMAIL:

7219 East Chicago Street



# Free Summer Food

## HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS SUMMER MEALS

Available for children (18 and under) when school is out.



Ralph J. Bailey Community Center

7219 E Chicago St. Sun River Terrace IL 60964

Call (815) 304-4498



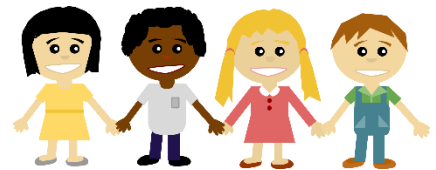
Date: June 2, 2025- July 31, 2025

Days of the week: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Breakfast: 10:30am-11:30am

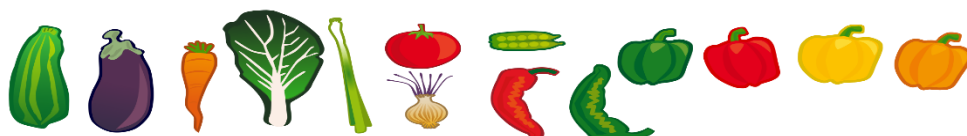
Library/Activities: 11:30am-1:30am

Lunch: 1:30pm-2:30pm



**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT.** In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) e-mail: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Registration forms are needed in order to provide enough materials for activities for all program participants. Any questions regarding this program please contact the SRT Community Center at (815) 3044498 or the SRT Library at (815) 351-9962. Forms are available at the SRT Community Center, Library, and the Village Hall.





## RALPH J. BAILEY COMMUNITY CENTER

### 2024 REGISTRATION FORM

Sun River Terrace Community Center

7219 E. Chicago Street

815-304-4498

Sun River Terrace, IL 60964



#### 1) CHILD INFORMATION: [Please print legibly]

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) CHILD INFORMATION

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3) CHILD INFORMATION

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons Authorized to pick-up child: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child on any type of special diet? \_\_\_\_\_ Any Food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please attach an additional sheet with explanation if needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Free summer meals are part of the Summer Food Service Program sponsored by the United States Dept. of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This information is needed so that we will have enough materials for activities for all program participants. Any questions about this program please contact the Ralph J. Bailey Community Center at (815) 304-4498 or the SRT Library at (815) 351-9962.