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# Business News



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## Mayor's Message

ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, the Park Forest economic development team and I attended the annual International Conference of Shopping Centers in Las Vegas. We have been attending this annual event – billed as the largest gathering of retailers in the U.S. – every year in an effort to attract more business to our community.

Initially we walked from booth to booth at the conference, trying to speak with as many business representatives as possible. Then, after a few years, we arranged to have our own booth, which – due to the high costs involved – was miniscule compared to some of those present at the conference. Then I had the occasion to talk with a fellow mayor from DuPage County and he explained to me that several of the municipalities from that region joined together to obtain one large booth where they sold not only their individual communities but also their entire county.

The more I thought about it,

the more convinced I became that something similar might be advantageous for our South Suburban region. After all, several other of our local communities also had individual presences at the ICSC.

At last year's conference, we had our first joint effort to promote the economic advantages of attracting more business to the Chicago Southland. Seven municipalities combined efforts to create a very attractive booth that promoted both our individual towns and our entire region. This year, that number was expanded to include 12 communities and an even larger booth that stood out sufficiently enough to attract a large number of passersby.

I share this information with you to illustrate two points: (1) that we are making concerted efforts to improve the economic climate in our community and region by seeking more businesses, and (2) to illustrate the importance of collaboration

and the strength that comes in numbers.

Every new business that is located in Park Forest and our neighboring communities is of value to every one of us. There's an old retailing adage that "Food attracts food," which probably is why so often we see a McDonald's and a Burger King and a Wendy's all located in close proximity to one another, or why sometimes four gasoline stations will be located at one intersection. I am convinced that the more businesses we attract in Park Forest and the Southland, the more our local shoppers will make their purchases closer to home, and thus benefit the local communities by increasing the tax-base, but also benefit the individual businesses by increasing the potential for new customers.

In the past, our presence at the ICSC has helped in attracting new enterprises to our community. Let's hope our 2015 venture pays off as well. ■

*Mayor John A. Ostenburg*

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## Village Earns 3-STAR Community Rating

After a long application process, the Village of Park Forest was awarded the 3-STAR Community Rating during the June 1 board meeting. This is the nation's first comprehensive certificate program for evaluation of local sustainability, encompassing economic, environmental and social performance measures.

For additional details about the award and process, please check our website at [villageofparkforest.com](http://villageofparkforest.com) ■

## SouthWorks MakerLab in Park Forest Opens May 6

THE FIRST PART of the grand opening celebration for SouthWorks MakerLab in Park Forest started at Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Boulevard, on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m.

The ceremony began with a screening of *Maker, The Movie*, followed by comments from **Mayor Ostenburg**, **Mollie Dowling**, *OAI, Inc.*, **Craig Schmidt**, *Prairie State College*, **Robert Steiner**, *District Director, Small Business Administration, Illinois District*, and **Congresswoman Robin Kelly**.

The event moved to an open house conducted at SouthWorks MakerLab in Park Forest located at 214 Forest Boulevard in DownTown Park Forest..

**Some background on the development of the MakerLab...**The Village, in partnership with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC), recently won a competition sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a \$50,000 grant from the Growth Accelerator Fund. The SBA received 832 applications for this competition nationwide, and only awarded 50 grants, two in Illinois. The goal of the Growth Accelerator Fund is to assist business accelerators with their mission to support start-ups to grow, become commercially viable, and have real and sustained economic impact. The winners are focused in areas where there are gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The initial acquisition of equipment for the MakerLab in Park Forest includes two 3D printers, a laser cutter, an electronics lab, and computers and design software.

The goal of the MakerLab will be to enable users to create prototypes of new products that can then be marketed for larger production and sale. The MakerLab will also provide a program of courses and workshops that will educate the public about production, marketing, patents, and other key issues involved in the manufacturing process. At this time, the SouthWorks MakerLab in Park Forest is co-located with OAI, Inc. Chicago Southland, a new DownTown tenant at 214 Forest Boulevard, because staff of OAI will be managing the MakerLab until funds are available to hire staff that can be dedicated to the Lab.

For a current class schedule, please visit our website at [www.villageofparkforest.com/DocumentCenter/View/1211](http://www.villageofparkforest.com/DocumentCenter/View/1211). To register for a class or obtain general information, please contact OAI, Inc. Chicago Southland at (708) 283-5020. ■



## Estimate Your Retirement Income Needs

“BREE” BREEDLOVE, State Farm Agent, knows how important it is to plan for and focus on “RETIREMENT NEEDS” now and not wait until 6 months before retirement. The following article was written by a State Farm staff associate in 2014. It will assist you in planning your retirement goals. Similar articles can be found on [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com).

Have you been saving for retirement without a clear idea of how much money you’ll need to live on? If so, estimating your retirement income should be an essential part of your saving strategy.

A 2012 study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 42 percent of American workers said they have completed a retirement-needs calculation – the basic planning step that can help individuals determine how much money they may need in retirement and how much they will need to save to meet their retirement goal.

**Plan To Maintain Your Standard Of Living.** Most retirees want to maintain their standard of living during retirement. To accomplish this, financial experts say you’ll need between 70 and 80 percent of your pre-retirement income. So, for example, a couple earning \$60,000 per year would need between \$42,000 (\$60,000 x .70) and \$48,000 (\$60,000 x .80) each year during retirement.

Why less? Retirement typically triggers a number of changes in spending patterns. Your cost of living will change if you’ve paid off your mortgage and other loans, your children have finished college and moved away, or you no longer have working- and business-related expenses. Plus, you’ll no longer be contributing to retirement plans.

Of course, your specific situation will dictate the amount of money you’ll need to live on. You may need more money than you anticipate. Health-care costs have increased, and you could possibly use up a greater portion of your income than you planned to ensure your insurance needs are met. Also, you’ll have more time to do the things you love, so you may spend significantly more on leisure activities, such as travel, entertainment, and hobbies.

**Consider Your Lifespan.** In addition, you need to take into consideration how long you might live. People are generally in better health and living longer, more active lives than ever before. According to the Social Security Administration, a man reaching age 65 today can expect to live to 84; a woman, 87. Those are only averages – one in 10 people will live past age 95.

With so many factors to consider, estimating retirement needs can be difficult. Our retirement calculator (<http://learningcenter.statefarm.com/calculators/retirement/index.html>) is a good place to start to see if you’re on track, answer a few questions about your goals, how much you’re saving now, and your retirement income sources. ■ **Bree Breedlove, EDAG Member**



## Don’t Miss The Most Important Marketing Event of the Year!

**07.15.15**

**Starts at Dining on the Green Banquet Hall  
349 Main Street, Park Forest  
From 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

**To Pre-register and/or Check Prize List, Go To:  
[5thmidsummermadness.eventbrite.com](http://5thmidsummermadness.eventbrite.com)**

*Progress through Downtown to win a chance  
at more than 20 fabulous PRIZES!*

**FREE Goodie Bag to First 100 Attendees!**

**STAY FOR MAIN STREET NIGHTS  
FOLLOWING EVENT**

**FREE EVENT!**

**5TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN DISTRICT  
MIDSUMMER MADNESS!**

LAST YEAR’S EVENT attracted over 180 Attendees, so we invite you to start preparing your advertising material for this popular event with Park Forest residents and surrounding communities.

Look for your package of information to arrive around June 12 with a reply deadline of June 19. The donation deadline will be July 7.

There are vendor booths available at Dining on the Green Banquet Hall and at 298 Main Street for registered Park Forest businesses. First come, first serve. Call Monica DeLord at (708) 283-5617 or [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com) to reserve your space TODAY!



## VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

Economic Development & Planning Department

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Visit us on the web!  
[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)

### Village of Park Forest

#### Economic Development Advisory Group

Phillip Perkins  
*Chair*  
Sheila Friday  
*Vice Chair*

Andre Ahouissousi  
Bree Breedlove  
Mike Jordan  
P.C. Smith  
Zerex Veal

Trustee Georgia O'Neill  
*Board Liaison*

Sandra Zoellner  
*Staff Liaison*

Discusses economic  
development issues in  
the Village.

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday  
of the month at 7:00 p.m. in  
Village Board Conference Room.  
The public is welcome!

**Want to be Included in the  
Bi-Weekly Business eBlast?**

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Notices, Events, Launching New  
Website, Celebrating an  
Anniversary, etc.

Our eBlast Reaches Over 900

Send a PDF or jpg to:  
[mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com)

**Cost? It's FREE!**

## Welcome New Businesses!

**Blackbag Home Physician  
Services, LLC**  
*Provides Medical Care in  
Patient's Homes*  
(815) 406-5011  
[blackbaghomephysician.com](http://blackbaghomephysician.com)

**Deffala Family Food, Inc.**  
*New Owners of Golden  
Quick Mart*  
313 Illinois Street  
(708) 747-5322

**Foster's Kennel**  
*Dog Groomer, Trainer,  
Kennel*  
2348 Western Avenue  
(708) 748-0022  
[www.fosterkennel.com](http://www.fosterkennel.com)

**Garden Club of Park Forest**  
(708) 747-3847

**Grande Tours by Grizzard**  
*Travel Agent*  
(708) 720-2144

**Bill Hutchins Design**  
*Graphic and Industrial  
Design Consulting*  
(708) 747-1588

**Improving Minds, Inc.**  
*Uses donations to assist  
area low income children*  
(708) 631-5846  
[www.improvingminds.org](http://www.improvingminds.org)

**Integrated Technology  
Solutions, Inc.**  
*Audio & Video Contracting  
for Education & Government*  
(708) 747-5838

**Johny's #2 Restaurant**  
*Restaurant - Fast Food*  
347 Liberty Drive  
(708) 481-1175

**M&L Auto Services**  
*Auto Repair Services*  
301 Illinois Street  
(708) 481-0977

**OAI, Inc. Chicago  
Southland**  
*Opportunity Advancement  
Innovation in Workforce  
Development*  
214 Forest Blvd  
(708) 283-5020  
[www.oaiinc.org](http://www.oaiinc.org)

**Prairie Child Care, LLC -  
Algonquin School**  
*Preschool, Before & After  
School Program*  
170 Algonquin  
(708) 323-2818  
[www.prairiechildcare.com](http://www.prairiechildcare.com)

**Prairie Child Care**  
*Commercial Daycare*  
9 North Street  
(708) 234-9304  
[www.prairiechildcare.com](http://www.prairiechildcare.com)

**Rainbows of Hope**  
*Christian-based Consultant  
Providing Assistance*  
(312) 479-8353  
[rainbowsofhope.net](http://rainbowsofhope.net)

**S&J Recovery**  
*Towing Services*  
370 Forest Blvd.  
(708) 513-9604

**SomeWear Apparel &  
Tailoring**  
*Men's Suits & Apparel, Tuxedos,  
Formal Wear, Tailoring &  
Alterations*  
348 Main Street  
(708) 747-5052

**SouthWorks MakerLab in Park  
Forest**  
*MakerLab to Create New  
Product Prototypes*  
214 Forest Blvd.  
(708) 283-5020

**Tactical Construction  
Corporation**  
*General construction*  
(708) 506-0549  
[www.tacticalconstructioncorp.com](http://www.tacticalconstructioncorp.com)

