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# Business News



Volume 13, Issue 2

Summer 2020

## Mayor's Message

It has been a rough few months for all Americans; in fact, it has been a rough few months for all Americans and for everyone around the world. The economic impacts of a global pandemic have been severe and far reaching. But, I am proud to say that Park Forest businesses have done an amazing job of responding to the crisis, and Village leadership has been right there to support you through the ordeal. When Governor Pritzker issued the stay-at-home order on March 20, we were the first community to do a free face protection giveaway and we have held numerous mask giveaways since.

Starting on March 20, with the Governor's initial Executive Order to stay at home, Village Staff was reaching out to Park Forest businesses with resources to help them weather the storm. Businesses received regular emails about the grants and loans offered by the US Small Business Administration (SBA), the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Illinois Department of Employment Security, and other sources. Village Staff participated in webinars sponsored by the Illinois Small Business Advisory Council, the Will Economic Network, Cook County, the SBA, the DCEO, and others in order to learn everything they could that would assist you in getting through this

crisis. The Village's website and Park Forest Business Facebook pages were immediately updated to include COVID-19 updates for residents and businesses alike. Residents were provided with lists of open Park Forest "essential businesses" so they could shop local and stay as close to home as possible when they had to go out. All of this labor was done by staff working from home.



While nothing can make up for the lost months of income for Park Forest businesses, employees and residents, some of the "wins" that have come to the Village include the following:

- ▶ Three Park Forest businesses with the guidance staff and the Mayor's letter of support, received a \$1000 grant from the Neighborhood Housing Services program.
- ▶ Four additional pages were added to the Park Forest Shopping and Services Guide in order to provide free ads to support businesses in time for the June re-openings. Over 30 Park Forest businesses took advantage of this offer!
- ▶ Sales tax revenue data is showing a steep incline, meaning Park Foresters adjusted their shopping habits to include local businesses and on-line shopping, bringing in more revenue to the Village to offset property taxes on our homeowners.
- ▶ The Mayor and Board decided to waive all fees associated with outdoor dining allowing four businesses to add or expand their outdoor patio seating.

▶ At least one Park Forest business received an Illinois Hospitality Emergency Grant from DCEO.

▶ Two Park Forest manufacturers made a quick pivot and began making PPE needed for COVID-19 protection in order to keep their workforce employed.



Grand Opening held at **Maliyah Minks, LLC**, 301 Main Street, on July 11.

SEE **MAYOR**, Back Page

## Shop Local Campaign Supports Park Forest Business

A NOTICE WAS mailed out to all Park Forest businesses about the **\$hop Local \$hop Safe Ca\$hback Raffle** in early June. This new promotion works in conjunction with the 2020/2021 Shopping & Services Guide that came out late June and the Restore Illinois Phase 3 & 4 businesses openings.

Here's an overview of the program:

- ⇒ Participants complete purchases in the Village of Park Forest starting June 15 through September 15, 2020.
- ⇒ Receipts are to be either emailed to [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com) or deposited in the Village drop box on or by September 15.
- ⇒ There will be 10 winners each receiving a \$50 Visa gift card. One winner per household.

Participants will receive one raffle entry for EVERY \$100.00 spent with a Park Forest business(es) between June 15 through September 15. See enclosed flyer.

This raffle is open to all! If you have any questions about this program or need additional flyers for your location, please contact Monica DeLord at [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com) or (708) 283-5617. ■

## Did You Know...There is a Park Forest Business Facebook Page

THE PARK FOREST Business Facebook page was created in November 2019 by Heather Jones, DownTown Property Manager, to give all Park Forest businesses additional exposure and provide another resource for information.

This page includes information on the latest business activities in Park Forest such as grand openings, events, special promotions/coupons, the latest COVID-19 information, business loan and grant information, and more!

So forward us your next promotion, anniversary celebration, or special business event to get that extra coverage. Submit your flyer or information about your event to either Heather Jones at [hjones@vopf.com](mailto:hjones@vopf.com) or Monica DeLord at [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com). Don't forget to *Like* the Park Forest Business Facebook page, so you don't miss a thing! ■

## Welcome New Businesses & Grand Openings!

**Asheron LLC**  
Staffing Agency  
(312) 206-1572

**Body by Magic Touch, LLC**  
**Watch for Grand Opening**  
Personal Care Services  
288 Main Street, 2nd FL  
(708) 292-4539  
[www.bodybymagictouch.com](http://www.bodybymagictouch.com)

**Brandy Dominguez Catering, LLC**  
Caterer—Poppin Plates Member  
64 Lester Road  
(708) 253-7374

**Cake Ecstasy, LLC**  
Caterer—Poppin Plates Member  
64 Lester Road  
(708) 889-5399  
[www.cakeecstasy.com](http://www.cakeecstasy.com)

**CC Tots Play, LLC**  
Indoor Event Rental  
261 Cunningham Drive  
(773) 759-8874  
[www.ctotsplay.com](http://www.ctotsplay.com)

**Cheesecake Cherub, LLC**  
Caterer—Poppin Plates Member  
64 Lester Road  
(708) 634-8840  
[www.cheesecakecherub.com](http://www.cheesecakecherub.com)

**Freestyle Learning Center, Inc.**  
Tutoring Services/Homeschool/  
Consulting  
(630) 269-4704

**Maliyah Minks, LLC**  
Beauty Bar; Personal Care  
Services  
301 Main Street  
(773) 688-6799  
[www.maliyahminks.com](http://www.maliyahminks.com)

**OG Gorilla Growers**  
COVID-19 Cleaning Team  
(708) 248-5118  
[corvid19.biz](http://corvid19.biz)

**Serenity's Place Café & Bakery, Inc.**  
Hearty Lean Meals & Baked  
Goods  
323 Main Street  
(708) 898-7006  
[serenitysplacecbi.com](http://serenitysplacecbi.com)

**Sienna's Sweet Shop Limited**  
Sweet Shop Featuring Popcorn,  
Italian Ice, Cookies & More  
290 Victory Drive  
(708) 654-5546  
[facebook.com/siennassweetshop](https://facebook.com/siennassweetshop)

**Source 1 Financial Services, LLC**  
Repair Credit and Business &  
Personal Development  
338 Forest Blvd., 2nd FL  
(708) 206-6060

**The D. Vine Boutique, LLC**  
**Watch for Grand Opening**  
Retail Boutique For Children &  
Workshop  
332 Forest Boulevard, 2nd FL  
(312) 520-2422  
[www.taistar1.com](http://www.taistar1.com)



Ribbon cutting at **Serenity's Place Café & Bakery, Inc.**, 323 Main Street, on March 7. (Before COVID-19 declaration.)

**Shop Local First!**



# Shop Local Shop Safe Ca\$hback Raffle

For every \$100.00 spent with a Park Forest business(es) from June 15 through September 15, you'll get one entry in the raffle! Drop dated receipts in Village drop box (in front of Village Hall) or email to [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com) on or by September 15 with your name, address & phone number. *(Water bill doesn't count towards total.)*

## \$50 VISA GIFT CARD

**THERE WILL BE 10 WINNERS!!**

**1 Winner Per Household ~ Drawing Held 9/17**

***Shop Local Using Your New Shopping & Services Guide!***

\*When shopping during COVID-19, please protect your family and the business by wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth, stay at least six feet apart both inside and outside of the store, try having one member of the family shop, and when possible, avoid using cash.

Questions, Call (708) 283-5617

## First Zoom Webinar Held in June

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR MARCH Business Breakfast was canceled due to the very beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. However, our scheduled speaker for the March breakfast, **Brandon Svec**, *Director and Marketing Economist with CoStar Group*, graciously agreed to participate in our first ever Zoom Webinar on June 24.

His presentation—*Brick and Mortar: How to Compete with Online-only Retailers*—contained fascinating data on retail trends, sales comparison between e-Commerce and Brick and Mortar during COVID-19, a forecast on some of the retail drivers in a post COVID-19 world, and a Chicago retail market overview.

Brandon also presented a consumer survey and shared a variety of surprising trends happening due to COVID-19.

If you are interested in a copy of this presentation, please send a request to [mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com). An updated presentation is expected at the end of the year to see how both fared, so watch for details.

Our next free webinar will be held on Tuesday, August 18 from 8:00-9:00 am. The topic covered by **Kathy Hays**, *Hays Digital Group*, will be *3 Pages Your Website Needs to Publish with Confidence*. Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5U1hQUnYRuGxCuEZQkkB4g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5U1hQUnYRuGxCuEZQkkB4g) or call (708) 283-5617. ■



**Brandon Svec**  
Director and Marketing Economist  
CoStar Group

## NO-CONTACT RecycleFest is September 26

THE 5TH ANNUAL Village sponsored RecycleFest will be held at the intersection of Main Street & Cunningham Drive in Downtown Park Forest on September 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00noon.

This is a NO-CONTACT event. Please bag or box your different types of recyclables separately and place these clearly labeled recyclables in your truck. Stay in your vehicle and staff will unload. It's that easy!

Some of the items being collected are TVs (\$20 per TV), shredding is limited to 3 boxes per vehicle, prescription drugs (no liquids or syringes), eye-glasses, and more. For a complete list of items being collected, check the website at [www.villageofparkforest.com/770/Recyclefest](http://www.villageofparkforest.com/770/Recyclefest).

Did you know there is a *Park Forest Reuse and Recycle Guide* on the Village Sustainability Page? It's a 16 page guide on how to recycle everything! [www.villageofparkforest.com/771/Reuse-and-Recycling-Guide](http://www.villageofparkforest.com/771/Reuse-and-Recycling-Guide).

For any questions about this event, Village sustainability practices, or how you can get involved, call the Park Forest Sustainability Office at (708) 503-8153. ■

**Park Forest**

# RECYCLEFEST

**September 26, 2020**  
Intersection of Main St. and Cunningham  
in Downtown Park Forest

**Items collected:**

- Electronics
- Shredding (limit 3 boxes per vehicle)
- TVs (\$20 per TV)
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Eyeglasses
- Books
- Prescription drugs (no liquids or syringes)
- Trophies
- American flags
- And clean and dry:**
- #6 plastic
- Styrofoam
- Plastic bags/wrap

**THIS IS A NO-CONTACT EVENT:**  
Bag or box different types of recyclables separately. Place clearly labeled recyclables in your trunk. Stay in your vehicle - staff will unload.

VillageOfParkForest.com/Sustainability  
Park Forest Sustainability Office on Facebook  
708-503-8153

LEED

## PHASE 4—Restore Illinois

PHASE 4 of RESTORE Illinois began June 26. Communication has gone out on several occasions reminding businesses of the Phase 4 business guidelines, which are also posted on the Village website.

To reiterate, **public meetings and social events are limited to the lesser of 50 guests or 50% of overall room capacity.** Capacity restrictions will be reassessed based on the latest science and public health metrics on an ongoing basis throughout Phase 4 by Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Please remind your patrons while shopping, and your staff when working, to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth, stay at least six feet apart both inside and outside of your store, and when possible, avoid using cash.

The Village website has the latest updates on business guidelines, grants, and resources available to assist you during COVID-19 at [www.villageofparkforest.com/793/Coronavirus-19-Resources](http://www.villageofparkforest.com/793/Coronavirus-19-Resources). Stay healthy and be safe. ■

## Help Shape The Future of Park Forest

The U.S. Census Bureau announced it will end Census counting **one month early on September 30**.

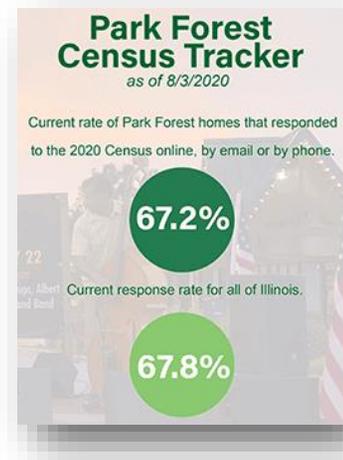
Park Forest is currently tracking at 67.2% counted. The State of Illinois by comparison is tracking at 67.8% counted.

In 2010, Park Forest finished with a response rate of 68.8%.

The Bureau will conduct door-to-door operations in August and September in an attempt to make contact with those still uncounated. With less than two months to go, the time is now for all Park Forest residents to answer the call!

Whether you rent or own, whether you plan to be in the community a short time or for several years, whether you're young or old, the quality of the offerings in Park Forest relies largely on you being counted. From the quality of schools, roads, programming, and so much more — federal funding used to make Park Forest the very best it can be over the next 10 years is being determined now!

Need help? No computer access? No transportation? Call (708) 748-1129 or (708) 283-5622 and a village staff member will be happy to assist you with completing the Census. You can also complete it online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). ■



## Park Forest Cannabis Business Update

THE JANUARY 2020 Business Newsletter described the Village's actions to permit adult-use cannabis businesses to be located in the community. If you are interested in that information, the Newsletter can be found on the Village's website (<https://www.villageofparkforest.com/archive.aspx>).

During the first five months of the year, Staff fielded a number of inquiries from people interested in starting a cannabis business, especially transporters, infusers, and craft growers. Five applications made it through the Village's formal review and approval process and four were submitted to the State of Illinois for cannabis licenses. Licenses for adult-use cannabis craft growers, infusers, and transporters were initially scheduled to be issued by the State on July 1. However, because of the COVID-19 crisis, the application deadlines were extended by six weeks, and on June 30 Governor Pritzker announced the suspension of the deadline for issuance of licenses. When license approvals are finally announced, the Village is hopeful that one or more of the following applications will be opening for business in Park Forest:

- ▶ A cannabis transport business at 80 North Street. The proposed business will occupy approximately 7,800 square feet of space. The State is not limiting the number of transport licenses, so all complete applications will be awarded a license. Staff feels confident that this business will be successful in obtaining a license.
- ▶ A cannabis dispensary and craft growing operation to be located in the former Family Video building on Sauk Trail. The building would be fully renovated to accommodate these new uses.
- ▶ A craft growing operation on the former Norwood property (northwest corner of Western Avenue and 26<sup>th</sup> Street). The applicant would purchase two acres of property from the Village and construct a new 25,000 square foot building.
- ▶ A craft growing operation at 80 North Street. If awarded a license, the first phase of this business would occupy nearly 26,000 square feet. The Village's approval allows for the business to increase to take up more than 70,000 square feet of the building.

The State intends to issue only 40 craft growing licenses. Therefore, the process is very competitive. However, Village officials feel that all three of the craft growing applications are strong, and there is hope that one or more will be approved. If that is the case, it will result in significant investment in the Village for new construction and renovation of buildings. Further, new jobs will result for Park Forest residents.

Anyone interested in more information should contact the Economic Development and Planning Department at (708) 283-5622. ■ *Hildy Kingma, Director of Economic Development & Planning*



## VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

Economic Development & Planning Department

350 Victory Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: 708.283.5617  
Fax: 708.748.4355

[villageofparkforest.com](http://villageofparkforest.com)



[facebook.com/ParkForestILBusinesses](https://facebook.com/ParkForestILBusinesses)

### Village of Park Forest Economic Development Advisory Group

Phillip Perkins  
*Chair*  
Bree Breedlove  
*Vice Chair*

Margaret Banks  
Mercedes Gross  
Kreshina Ingram  
David T. Jones  
Mike Jordan  
Maurae Gilbert McCants  
John V. Moore

Trustee Joseph A. Woods  
*Board Liaison*

Sandra Zoellner  
*Staff Liaison*

Discusses Economic  
Development Issues in  
the Village.

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of  
the month at 6:00 p.m. in  
Village Board Conference Rm  
The Public is Welcome!

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

Send Us Your Business  
Promotions, Events, Launching  
New Website, Celebrating an  
Anniversary, etc.

Our eBlast Reaches Over 1400+  
Send a PDF or jpg to:  
[mdelord@vopf.com](mailto:mdelord@vopf.com).

**Cost? It's FREE!**

## Record Year for Gardening!

HAVE YOU NOTICED the Community Gardens around town?  
Park Forest currently has 10 Community gardeners and counting!

This has been a record year for gardening and we're excited to see the increased enthusiasm, resilience, and connection to local food. Growing your own food gives you the benefit of better nutrition from fresh picked produce, eliminates the need of fossil fuels to process and transport food, allows you to enjoy a wider variety of foods than what is available at the grocery store, and develop a deeper connection to the Park Forest community.

If you're wondering where they're located, check out our new Sustainability website at [www.villageofparkforest.com/99/Sustainability](http://www.villageofparkforest.com/99/Sustainability) to discover all the locations. This map also includes other examples of sustainability around the village – if you have suggestions of things to add to it, including sustainable businesses, let us know by filling out the form linked under the map.



There's still time to get going for fall crops this year or starting early for next spring. If you're interested in starting a community garden at your business, school, church, or on a Village-owned vacant lot, check out our website for information, incentives and applications. ■ *Carrie Malfeo, Sustainability Coordinator*

## What is the EDAG?

The Economic Development Advisory Group was established by Resolution in April 1997. Its primary responsibility is reviewing and advising the Board of Trustees on economic development plans and opportunities based on market conditions and adopted Village plans. EDAG meets on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6pm. The public is invited. ■

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## MAYOR

- ▶ This dining al fresco is an improvement to the Park Forest dining experience that the Village leadership plans to support for the long term. The Village even shared some of the Recreation and Parks picnic tables to a business for outdoor dining.
- ▶ Downtown Park Forest welcomed five new businesses during the pandemic and an industrial building on Western Avenue was acquired and is being renovated to create at least 23 new jobs in Park Forest. ■

*Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt*