



IN FOCUS

Connecting Neighbors. Sharing Stories. Building Community.

HOLIDAY CHARITY FILLS THE HILLS!



Shop with a Cop

Holiday cheer filled Walmart in Country Club Hills as the South Suburban Association Chiefs of Police hosted their annual Shop with a Cop event on December 13.

Local police officers spent the morning shopping alongside students in 5th through 8th grades, each receiving \$200 to purchase gifts and personal items of their choice. The experience created meaningful connections between officers and youth while bringing smiles to students and families during the holiday season.

The event also included Walmart giveaways and a special appearance by Santa Claus, making the morning both festive and memorable. Shop with a Cop continues to be a powerful example of how compassion and community partnership truly fill the hills during the holidays. (Continued on page 4)



From The Mayor...

Happy New Year from the Mayor! Wishing you joy, peace, and prosperity in the coming year, I hope this year is filled with new adventures and good health to all staff members, employees and residents. I am also hoping that all the City of Country Club Hills families and colleagues often focus on love, laughter, success, and embracing new opportunities in 2026.

-Mayor James W. Ford

MIDWEST HAWKS WIN BIG ON THE NATIONAL STAGE



Midwest Hawks Bring Home National Honors

Country Club Hills is celebrating a championship season as the 9U Midwest Hawks captured the title of 2025 D1 American Youth Football National Champions, delivering a powerful performance on the national stage.

Competing in the largest bracket of the tournament, the 9U Hawks rose to the occasion—winning four straight games to secure the national championship and bring the title home to Country Club Hills. Their run was marked by discipline, teamwork, and determination, making the victory a proud moment for the entire community. (Continued on page 4)



MAYOR FORD NAMED "A MAN OF EXCELLENCE"

Country Club Hills Mayor James W. Ford has been named a 2025 Man of Excellence by the Chicago Defender; one of the nation's most prestigious African American newspapers. Mayor Ford recognized during the Men of Excellence Awards Ceremony, held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, there he received the prestigious Vanguard Award.

Mayor Ford was one of 10 Southland Mayors honored this year for demonstrating exceptional leadership, professional achievement, and a lasting commitment to uplifting the community. The annual awards celebrate African American men whose contributions shape business, government and civic life throughout the Chicago southland region.

Country Club Hills has seen growth through Economic Development, commercial and infrastructure improvements. These accomplishments have helped the well-being and quality of life for the city, frosting renewed pride among residents.

Ford's recognition reflects his continued focus on progress, innovation and service. Congratulations to Mayor Ford and all the Southland Leaders recognized.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS



- Make sure that your vehicle is well maintained and "winter ready" (recommended fluid levels, PSI for tires, good battery etc.). Understand that the utilization of remote start systems is the safest way to warm up your vehicle when unoccupied. Keys in an unoccupied running vehicle is NEVER recommended.
- It is important that you dress for the weather. Keep additional warming apparel (hat, gloves, etc.) hidden in the passenger compartment of your vehicle. Winter travelers should always be prepared for emergencies that may require you to remain outside of your vehicle for long periods of time.
- Remove all excess snow from your vehicle before entering the roadway. This will improve your vision of the roadway and lessen the chance that blowing snow from your vehicle will impair the vision of others. Always make sure that your tailpipe is free from snow and debris before starting.
- Please remember that time and distance matter. Give yourself additional time to arrive at your destination. Increasing the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you will reduce the probability of rear-end collisions. It's important that you adjust your normal acceleration and braking habits to reduce the chance of sliding or losing control of your vehicle.
- Bridges and overpasses freeze first. It is important to use caution on surfaces that are elevated or near bodies of water. To minimize chance of losing control, drivers should also use caution when driving on freshly plowed, unsalted surfaces.

Public Works Working for you...



WINTER REMINDERS

During winter snowstorms, plow drivers clear major streets first to allow access for emergency vehicles and commuters. Crews then move to secondary streets, followed by cul-de-sacs and dead ends. Plowing begins with a single center pass on each street.

Important Reminders:

- No parking on city streets from 3:00–6:00 AM and during snowfalls of 2 inches or more
- Do not blow, plow, or shovel snow into city streets
- Shovel sidewalks adjacent to your home or business
- Keep fire hydrants clear and visible in case of emergency
- Shovel and salt walkways promptly to prevent ice buildup

Prevent Frozen Pipes:

When temperatures drop below freezing, especially below zero:

- Let faucets drip in cold bathrooms
- Keep heat set to at least 65°F
- Open cabinet doors under sinks located on exterior walls

City Events

A Year of Celebration Awaits!

Country Club Hills is gearing up for an unforgettable year of community events! Get ready for a year filled with connection, culture, and celebration! Join us as we celebrate Black History Month in February, welcome the season with Spring Fling festivities, spring dances, and community gatherings, there's something special in store for everyone.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned, more details coming soon!

For more information, contact Doreen Marlowe, Events Coordinator, at 708-798-2616 Ext. 2062



Park District Winter Highlights

The Country Club Hills Park District offers a variety of winter programs and youth sports at the Community Recreation Center.

Youth Baseball Registration begins January 2, 2026

Hi-Lo Hip Hop Cardio starts January 8 at 7:00 PM

Ballet & Tap runs Jan. 6 – Feb. 10,

with a second session Feb. 24 – Mar. 31

Fitness Bootcamp runs Jan. 5 – Feb. 27

Jump Rope Fitness takes place Jan. 7 – Feb. 12

The Winter Youth Basketball League tips off January 2–3, 2026, with All-Star Weekend set for February 13–14, featuring Friday night All-Star games and a Saturday skills competition.

For more information, contact Bobby Hall, Athletic Coordinator, at 708-798-8497.

Senior OAK Programs & Activities

The James W. Ford Resource Center offers a wide range of engaging programs designed for Country Club Hills seniors to stay active, social, and connected.

Weekly favorites include Game Day, Puzzle Addicts, Bingo, Crochet Club, Arts & Crafts, Line Dance, and Silver Foxes Grey Wolves Chair Cardio, providing opportunities for fun, fitness, creativity, and fellowship.

Seniors can also take advantage of Computer Classes for all skill levels, a monthly Movie Club, and Podiatry Services offered by appointment.

Special programs include informative sessions such as "Hold That Thought" (memory and aging) and Estate Planning workshops led by legal professionals.

In addition, free transportation services are available for Country Club Hills seniors and residents with disabilities for medical appointments, shopping, and activities (advance notice required).

For schedules, reservations, or more information, contact Debra or Mary Ann at 708-374-7899.

HOLIDAY CHARITY FILLS THE HILLS!



(Continued from page 1)

The Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway, presented by the Country Club Hills Police Department, drew a large turnout as residents filled the CCH Amphitheater parking lot with gratitude and community pride.

Officers and volunteers were honored to serve families as turkeys were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, creating a powerful moment of unity across the city.

Special thanks to Mayor James W. Ford, the City Council, and the CPR Foundation for their continued support—and to the Country Club Hills Police Department for leading this meaningful Thanksgiving initiative.



Country Club Hills was filled with holiday cheer as Mayor Ford presented a second and well-organized turkey distribution. Smiles, gratitude, and community pride were on full display throughout the event.

Thank you to Mayor Ford, the City Council, City Administrator Brian Mitchell, and all the volunteers who helped make this day a blessing for so many families.

MIDWEST HAWKS WIN BIG ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

(Continued from page 1)

The success continued with the Mini Hawks, who earned an impressive 3rd-place finish at Nationals in Naples, Florida. Their season was nothing short of dominant, finishing undefeated and allowing only 12 total points throughout the entire regular season.

Adding to the celebration, the Midwest Hawks Cheerleaders returned from Tampa, Florida, with outstanding results of their own. The teams finished 8-for-8 and undefeated, earning five 1st-place finishes, two 2nd-place finishes, and one 3rd-place finish—a remarkable showing that reflects the hard work of the athletes, coaches, and families.

From the field to the sidelines, the Midwest Hawks continue to represent Country Club Hills with excellence, pride, and heart. Congratulations on an unforgettable season and a championship year to remember.

Congratulations to all teams that are part of the Midwest Hawks Youth Football and Cheer Organization for an outstanding season. Your commitment, sportsmanship, and excellence continue to make Country Club Hills proud.



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 26th 7pm

City Council Meeting

City Hall - 4200 West 183rd Street

FEBRUARY 16th

Presidents Day

City Hall Closed



Simple Ways to Stay Healthy

Winter is a great time to reset your routine and focus on staying well. A few small habits can go a long way—drink plenty of water, stay active with short walks or stretching, and protect your sleep with a consistent bedtime. Even simple movement each day can help boost your energy and keep your body feeling its best during the colder months.

Also, remember that winter is a season when staying connected matters. Take a moment to check on neighbors and loved ones, especially during extremely cold days. A quick phone call, text, or knock at the door can mean more than you think. And if you're feeling a little "stir crazy" indoors, consider reading, journaling, or doing a small home project—anything that keeps your mind positive and your spirit encouraged.

Let's stay safe, stay healthy, and keep looking out for one another this season.

Subscribe to Our Newsletter



Stay tuned for the latest news, events, and updates from around Country Club Hills. The next issue of City Happenings arrives January 2026 — don't miss it!

WWW.COUNTRYCLUBHILLS.COM

ELECTED OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Mayor - James W. Ford

jford@countryclubhills.org

Ward 1 Alderman - Deidra N. Strothers

dstrothers@countryclubhills.org

Ward 2 Alderman - Vincent E. Lockett, Jr.

velockett@countryclubhills.org

Ward 3 Alderman - Tyrone K. Hutson

thutson@countryclubhills.org

Ward 4 Alderman - Ricardo D. Spivey

rspivey@countryclubhills.org

Ward 5 Alderman - Anthony J. Davis

adavis@countryclubhills.org

City Clerk - Patricia D. Hutson

phutson@countryclubhills.org

City Treasurer - Steven R. Burris

sburris@countryclubhills.org

DEPARTMENTS DIRECTORY

City Administrator

Brian D. Mitchell - (708) 798-2616 Ext. 2020

Police Department

EMERGENCY: 911

Non-Emergency (708) 798-3191

Fire Department

(708) 798-3270

Parks & Recreation

(708) 798-8497

James W. Ford Resource Center

708-798-2616 ext 6007

City Hall

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

4200 West 183rd Street

Country Club Hills, Illinois 60478

(708) 798-2616

www.countryclubhills.org

  "cityofcountryclubhills"

• Stay Informed •

- Quarterly In Focus Newsletter
- Facebook: @cityofcountryclubhills
- Outdoor digital signage at City Hall
(building & front yard)
- Theater campus digital signage
- Indoor digital signage at the
City Hall front counter
- Comcast Channel 4



Stay connected and never miss what's happening in the Hills!

For more information, please contact Dr. Eric L. Booker at 708-798-2616 Ext. 2063.

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(708) 798-2616

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Mayor James W. Ford

