

Tinley Park

NEIGHBORS

JULY 2020

Raising Family, Growing Business in Tinley Park

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You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: jstein@bestversionmedia.com.

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MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Content Due	Edition Date
December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
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November 10	December



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FROM OUR TEAM



Robert Chamberlin
Publisher

Hope – always just around the corner

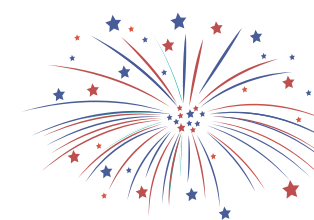
On a recent drive around town, the surreal feeling that started a few months back is being replaced by something different. Little signs of re-awakening are everywhere. There are certainly more cars on the road, more people are out exercising, and our favorite businesses are re-opening. The sight of kids with blue and red Gatorade mustaches, just riding bikes with friends, is one of many positive daily images beginning to change my outlook for the better.

The voice of reason always seems to prevail. As I am reminded by folks who have lived

through depression, world war, pandemics, and social change, hope is always just around the corner. While our world may not feel anything like before, with many challenges lying ahead, we look eagerly toward a brighter future for our families. Another bright sign, featured here in the magazine, is the re-opening of the Tinley Park Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. We'll certainly do our best to feature as many events as they safely return to town.

Regards,

Robert Chamberlin
Publisher – *Tinley Park Neighbors*



John Stein
Content Coordinator



Janet Egan
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To learn more about becoming an Expert Contributor, contact Robert Chamberlin, Publisher, *Tinley Park Neighbors* rchamberlin@bestversionmedia.com



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SIGNS OF HOPE



Tinley Park Farmer's Market safely returns with an explosion of colors and flavors.
Luke Lally of Great American Bagel (bottom right) and other local businesses serve appreciative local residents at the Tinley Park Farmer's Market, open Saturdays 8 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Ave. train station. Owen Murray enjoys a sweet summer treat (top left).

Photo by Sandy Murray, Four 12 Photography



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Tinley Court Provides Catered Independent Senior Living

By John Stein

At Tinley Court, 16301 Brentowne Rd., catered senior living is more than just a slogan. According to Administrator Jennifer Bidochka, her staff's goal is to make residents feel like they are at home, while knowing that a wide range of assistive services are available in-house.

Distinct Services

Providing three meals a day, all utilities, weekly housekeeping, daily activities and plenty of resources to make things easy on the residents and families, Tinley Court is an independent senior living community for the seniors of the South Suburbs.

Tinley Court Retirement Community has been around since the 1980's. It is independently owned and run, which gives it a real 'home-like' feel. Jennifer says her team thrives on the challenge of making senior living affordable and hiring the best staff so that families know their loved ones are safe.

Unique Setting

Uniquely located off the beaten path and nestled near a park and lake, Tinley Court provides a serene setting for residents and their families. "We want Tinley Park to know we are here! We are not located on a main road we are in the neighborhood, so a lot of times people do not realize that we are here,"

says Jennifer, who has been in the property management industry for a decade and with Tinley Court for a year and a half.

"Making the change to senior living has been very rewarding," says Jennifer, who touts her staff as a great team that's capable of joking about stuff instead of getting stressed. The facility offers two floors of one-bedroom studio units, and independent living - with assistance options.

A large, attractive lobby greets guests with a place to enjoy with fellow residents as a lounge area. Featuring an inviting fireplace glowing on chilly days or the bright sunshine beckoning on summer-like days, the setting is relaxing and stress-free.

Family

Jennifer says her biggest inspiration is her 8-year-old son, Jake, who, along with her boyfriend, Aaron, two cats, a dog, and a fish, recently moved from their condo into a new home where they are enjoying the extra space.

Tinley Court has caring staff present around the clock, offering residents the peace of mind that living alone cannot. Unlike most senior apartments, the staff treat residents like family and are always attentive to their needs and well-being. Jennifer says that at Tinley Court, you are not just a tenant - you are part of a family.

In addition to the staff's personal attention, a licensed home health care agency is located onsite, offering numerous forms of care services, for those tenants needing some form of personal assistance.

Visit: www.tinleycourt.com



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Raising Family and Growing Business in Tinley Park

Meet the Pyrzynski Family

By John Stein
Photos by Jean Lachat

The Pyrzynski family, Geoffrey, Stephanie and Eileah, have called Tinley Park's Cambridge Place their home for more than six years. According to Stephanie, the location is ideal for them because they have family very close by and they are close to Tinley's outstanding schools.

"My husband grew up in Tinley for almost his whole life, so it just made sense (to settle in Tinley)," says Stephanie. "It's where he started our business, Geofffresh, back in 2007, so it just felt right to make this our family's home too."

Stephanie and Geoffrey initially met in February of 2008. Stephanie explains she really liked him as a person after the brief encounter and was glad a mutual friend linked their paths once again in 2010. They were married May 19, 2014 on the ship Disney Fantasy, somewhere in the Eastern Caribbean.

Geoffrey and Stephanie both graduated from University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in 2011. Geoffrey has a Bachelor of Science degree in Entrepreneurship and Stephanie has a Bachelor of Applied Psychology degree and a master's in Communication from Loyola University Chicago.

An avid reader who enjoys writing, music, movies, and watching TV, Stephanie shares a very interesting story about her heritage. "I'm Serbian and am actually the first citizen born abroad in what was called the former Yugoslavia. A photo of me appeared in one of the country's newspapers. I was born in the town Kragujevac."

Stephanie says the family has many fun spots they enjoy throughout the region. She says Eileah goes to Gymboree in Orland Hills, Sky Zone in Orland Park, and the Tinley Park Public Library, where her paternal grandmother (Mary Ann) is the Circulation Desk Manager.

"In the summer we explore as many Illinois forest preserves, museums, and other outdoor places as possible," says Stephanie. "I love how we can jump north to visit my parents, and south, east, and west so quickly thanks to having quick access to I-80 and La Grange Road. There's so much to explore in Chicago's south suburbs and beyond."

Speaking of exploring, the Pyrzynski family does have a fourth member: Samantha (Sammie), a 5-year-old Pointer-Jack



Russell mix, who gave the family quite a scare a few years ago when they were involved in a car accident and she leapt out a side window and took off.

"We live in a townhome that looks like every other townhome in our subdivision, so she couldn't find our home. But she remembered her best dog friend Maddie's house, my parents-in-laws' home," says Stephanie. "Their security camera showed that she crawled under a wire fence, she had bloody scratches on her belly from that, and arrived in their backyard at 12:45 in the morning. She'd been missing for twelve hours."

Stephanie says she almost cried when she learned that Sammie, rather than barking and alerting everyone in the home she was outside, slept on the steps to their backdoor all night. "She's so sweet and considerate like that, I think she didn't want to wake anyone. When my father-in-law Ron saw her (the next morning) he called us right away. He thought he was imagining her. It was a wonderful surprise," she says.

During their free time, Stephanie says the Pyrzynski family has many local favorites including Frankie's Ristorante and Tokyo Steakhouse, which at press time was closed by COVID-19 restrictions and she was fearful of their re-opening. Some activities they enjoy together are bike riding, drawing with chalk outside, and kite flying.

"I'm a 1990s Chicago Bulls fan, but I got back into Chicago sports when I became a Blackhawks fan when I began dating my husband," she says. "I've also always liked watching tennis matches since I was little."

Stephanie, who is a member of the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce and on its Marketing Committee, as well as a commissioner on the Tinley Park Branding and Marketing Committee since 2018, says they enjoy Tinley Park events and they especially enjoy the parades. Although, she admits, playing with Eileah and being involved with teaching her things is the great pleasure of each day.

One of the other great pleasures for Stephanie has been the opportunity to work with Geoffrey every day in the family business. Geofffresh (pronounced jef-fresh) specializes in SEO web design, affordable internet marketing, and internet marketing consulting on social media, brand strategy and tech support for small and large businesses.

While attending the couple's alma mater, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Geoffrey started Geofffresh in 2007. Stephanie, who joined as a vice president in 2012, explains he was the guy who would help neighbors, friends, and whoever needed help with technology problems.

Stephanie explains Geoffrey was always the person that would help your cousin with his website, edit video for your



uncle, or transfer old videos to digital copies for your mother. His parents, professors, and mentors encouraged him to take his entrepreneurial vision seriously, so he took Geofffresh from a side business to an Internet corporation.

The company's fresh approach to marketing is all about making things that work for the client, including the creation of engaging and original content. "We believe in working with our clients directly, and even on smaller budgets, our mission



is to develop something that they love and that appeals to the human experience,” Stephanie says. “Whatever a business is trying to achieve or project, we believe that what will be most successful is something that comes from a place that others can feel is authentic and genuine. That’s our key to staying fresh here at Geoffresh. Also, we love trying new things. We always have our pulse on what’s fresh and innovative.”

In May 2017, Stephanie founded Tinley Park Mom (www.tinleyparkmom.com), a destination for helping Tinley Park moms connect on many topics with one another. She also has a private Facebook group called Tinley Park Moms.



At the time of this writing the group had 827 members. “I’m really fond of it—and I hope it is helping Tinley Park moms connect, get informed, get inspiration, and feel less alone.”

Stephanie says that if the family had a motto, it would be: Be the good you want to see in the world. “Even if you don’t have to be; even if lying could get you something better; even if it means you won’t get kindness in return.”

You can check out Stephanie’s blog about how her dog Sammie came home at: <https://tinleyparkmom.com/how-sammie-came-home/2017/07/>.



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Glassine Financial Services Helps Manage Lifetime Tasks

By John Stein

Helping families and small business owners manage their money, plan for the future, and prevent possible losses are all important services Tiffani Frey offers as a financial advisor and insurance agent with Glassine Financial Services LLC, an affiliate of Mutual of Omaha.

“Many of my clients come to me because they are overwhelmed or confused by certain tasks having to do with money, insurance, retirement, or benefits. I help them get some clarity and develop a plan, so they can get back to enjoying life,” says Tiffani.

Helping Others

According to Tiffani, after her morning caffeine and her two tiny dogs insisting it’s time to eat, she’s driven by a real need to help others. Figuring out how she can help her clients secure their future is more than just her job. It’s her passion.

“I watched a dear friend struggle with paying their bills after

a cancer diagnosis left her unable to work. I have worked alongside senior citizens who were forced to get a job because their retirement money wasn’t what they expected. And I have witnessed the grief and horror of a family member losing their young child – and the absolute despair of needing GoFundMe donations to pay for his funeral,” she says.

“I refuse to let anyone – even a stranger – put themselves or their family members in an untenable position.”

Tiffani says her biggest inspiration and what she enjoys most about her job is being able to remove some of the stress from the lives of her clients. She enjoys teaching and being able to educate people on things that makes their life better.

Community

Before moving to the area in November, Tiffani owned a horse farm. She competes in national shows during the summer and trail rides in the fall. Her fiancé teaches economics and finance classes at Columbia, as well as working for Carmax in Tinley Park as one of their buyers. His daughter will be attending U of I in Champaign this fall.

“My family is interracial. We are a beautiful blend of different religions, backgrounds, education levels, cultures, orientations, and even food preferences. We are a tiny speck in this great nation, yet, somehow we represent it for the melting pot it is,” she says. “Let us find beauty in every person we encounter. Let us spread love with every interaction we have.”

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What You Need To Know Before Heading Back To Work Post Covid-19

By Dr. Ebonie Gist

Companies and individuals have many important questions before returning to work in a COVID-19 world. The CDC estimates that 40 percent of COVID-19 transmissions are happening before people feel sick or showing any symptoms, and 35 percent of those who have the virus never show symptoms at all. That means temperature checks alone may not protect you. The CDC stresses the importance of companies implementing comprehensive return-to-work testing strategies.

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ARCpoint Labs of Orland Park is a significant player in the solution to help our world eliminate the COVID-19 threat. ARCpoint Labs is a full-service national third-party provider/administrator of accurate, reliable, and confidential diagnostic testing. We've been in the drug and alcohol testing business for over 18 years, and our staff has over 60 years of combined industry experience.

ARCpoint Labs serves the community by helping businesses formulate safe return-to-work strategies and providing residents affordable testing services. ARCpoint labs was one of the first in the marketplace to begin offering COVID-19 Antibody Testing in early April when testing became

available. From the beginning, ARCpoint Labs has been diligently following and adapting to evolving FDA guidance, policies and procedures.

SAFE WORK STRATEGIES

At the outset of your program, employers may want to test all asymptomatic employees for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in addition to an initial virus test. This will give a baseline direction for testing. Depending on the nature of each business, monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly viral testing may be appropriate.

We can help you develop a plan that is specific to your workplace that adheres to important safety measures set forth by federal, state and local government agencies and aims to reduce the risk of exposure for your employees by following protocols around baseline, urgent, post quarantine, and routine testing.

Whether on-boarding new employees, determining what to do with contractors, or finding ways to bring previously sick employees back to work, we have the guidance you need to ensure compliance with government regulations while decreasing your risk. We welcome asymptomatic individuals and families to be tested at our lab as well.

Dr. Ebonie Gist, PhD, is the Owner of ARCpoint Labs a high complexity laboratory facility servicing South Suburban Illinois. She is passionate about providing affordable access to healthcare to the underinsured or those with high deductible insurance plans. After raising student athletes of her own, she also has a special interest to help uncover undiagnosed heart conditions using innovative testing solutions. Prior to opening ARCpoint Labs of Orland Park, Ebonie gained 15 years of clinical research and quality assurance experience in the Pharmacovigilance field where she worked tirelessly to ensure drug safety by overseeing projects and studies relating to the monitoring and prevention of adverse effects with pharmaceutical products. Contact us at 708-963-1200 to discuss your back-to-work strategy and to fulfill all of your testing needs.

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On My Way puts you in charge of your clinic visit

By Maria Ramos, Franciscan Health

We've all been there – not feeling well and sitting in a waiting room at a doctor's office or immediate care clinic. Now, Franciscan Health's new *On My Way* feature lets you control your wait time. It's an app that brings a new dimension of convenience to your health care.

On My Way streamlines your registration process and eliminates long waits at the Franciscan Physician Network Walk-in Clinic or Franciscan ExpressCare. It's another example of how Franciscan Health prioritizes patient health and safety.

"Your time is important, and no one likes to wait. We think our patients will appreciate how easy and convenient it is to use *On My Way*," said Craig Miller, administrative director of Ambulatory Services for Franciscan Health.

Here's how it works:

Before heading out to Franciscan ExpressCare in Frankfort or the Franciscan Physician Network Walk-in Clinic in Tinley Park, open the Franciscan MyChart application on your smart phone

or tablet. Click the *On My Way* icon and answer a few simple questions.

Select the time you'd like to arrive and show up a few minutes before that scheduled time. It's really that easy!

MyChart simplifies your ability to take control of your health. The app allows patients to quickly and easily perform many valuable functions, including:

- Schedule or request an in-person or virtual appointment
- View details of past and upcoming appointments
- Request medication refills
- Send a message to your doctor
- View and pay bills
- See test results
- Link your children's or relative's medical account to yours for convenient access to medical records

Franciscan Health added *On My Way* to MyChart to further enhance its useful and practical value and make patients'

lives easier.

The MyChart app is free to all Franciscan Health patients. If you haven't already set up your MyChart app, visit FranciscanMyChart.org and follow the prompts.

Please note that while *On My Way* speeds your reservation process and reserves your place in line, walk-in patients with more urgent medical needs understandably take priority.

The Franciscan ExpressCare Frankfort clinic is located at 20180 LaGrange Road, at the corner of LaGrange and LaPorte Roads. The Franciscan Physician Network Tinley Park Walk-in Clinic is located at 16650 S. Harlem Avenue, at the corner of Harlem Avenue and 167th Street.

On My Way is available at all Franciscan ExpressCare and Walk-in locations throughout Illinois and Indiana.

To learn more, visit FranciscanMyChart.org or call 877-900-5741.

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FIRE SAFETY for Grilling Season

By Tori S. Bevins

Summer is here and the smells from backyard BBQs and grill outs are wafting through the neighbourhood. Before firing up your grill this season, remember to be safe. The National Fire Protection Agency reports that nearly 8,500 fires involving grills occur each year. These fires resulted in an annual average of 10 civilian deaths, 140 civilian injuries and \$75 million in direct property damage.

Following these eight, simple, safety tips will help make your grilling experience a safer one:

- 1 Only use propane and charcoal BBQ grills outdoors.
- 2 The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Grilling on outdoor balconies in many communities is against fire code and illegal.
- 3 Always keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- 4 Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grill and in the trays below the grill.
- 5 **NEVER** leave the grill unattended when in use.
- 6 Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it if you're using gas, and never add charcoal, starter fluid or any other flammable liquid to a fire already going in a grill.
- 7 If you are using a charcoal grill, always allow the coals to cool before disposing of them. Always dispose of them in a **METAL** container.
- 8 If you are using a gas grill, inspect the tank and hose for leaks before using it.

Your local firefighters thank you! Have a wonderful summer!



Understand Property Values, Taxes During Pandemic

By Kevin Burns

Your home is the backbone of your investment portfolio and your family's safe zone. Now, more than ever, it's critically important to protect your family from excessive property taxes.

Nobody likes to pay property taxes. Understandably, we only want to pay our fair share. Unfortunately, 7 out of 10 families actually overpay! Based upon a three-year re-assessment cycle, we are told what portion of the government's taxation (levy) revenue pie we are required to pay. In Illinois, we are provided the "opportunity" to appeal on an annual basis with our township or county assessor's office.

By successfully lowering your assessment, your twice-annual bill will go down the following three years. The taxing bodies still get their required (levied) amount they requested, but other property owners shares will go up. In essence, the squeaky wheel gets the oil in this informal, poor man's court process. Most of the south suburbs and Will County open up for appeals June through August. Tinley Park residents should act now.

Pandemic Impact

There has been a drastic change as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Normally, the Cook County Assessor's office is responsible for re-assessing one third of the county's properties each year. Their office opens up each of the 36-plus townships for 40-day windows, where property owners can submit evidence disputing their new assessments. Will County taxpayers will submit their appeals in August.

When the pandemic hit, the assessor's office closed. In order to catch-up, they have announced all remaining assessments will be performed simultaneously placing further strain on everyone. The burden on the homeowners is even greater – they must submit concise and effective evidence. A qualified tax consultant can help greatly streamline this process and likely increase the chance for a property tax reduction.

The good news is that this year's bill in Cook County, typically due in August, has been granted a grace period for payment until the end of October. Will County taxpayers can break their May and August payments into four installments. All of these extensions come with no interest or penalties. Call it a pandemic prayer!

If you choose to complete the process yourself, an abundance of information regarding the initial appeal can be found at www.cook-countyassessor.com and 2nd appeal at: cookcountyboardofreview.com.

Meet Kevin Burns:

Kevin Burns is a former Oak Forest resident for 20 years. His past roles include realtor, appraiser, Cook County Board of Review Tax Appeal Deputy Commissioner, and Frankfort Township Assessor Deputy. Kevin is the current CEO of Patriot Tax Appeals, LTD, a property tax appeal consultant to various property tax firms. Kevin is available to help file your appeal and protect you from excessive taxation, especially during these turbulent times. To reach Kevin, call: 815-277-6043.

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