

Chicago Southland

Tourism Marketing Information



Vol. 3 Issue 1 May 2017

~ Get Ready for HITS Balmoral Park Grand Opening ~

New York is home to the small town of Saugerties where the HITS corporate headquarters is located. HITS, which stands for Horse Shows in the Sun, purchased historic Balmoral Park located in Crete, IL in May of 2016. The old harness racing track has literally been transformed into an international show jumping facility. Each horse will bring a staff of three to seven support personnel. Tom Struzzi, President/

CEO plans to hold 13 shows a year primarily during spring and summer months, featuring 1,200 horses per event. These high end hunter/jumper equestrian horses will compete for \$3 million during the first season of competition. "The excitement of HITS coming to the Chicago Southland has been very positive and will have a tremendous economic impact on our region especially for our hotels, restaur-

ants and retail. We encourage everyone to join us for the Grand Opening celebration scheduled for Saturday, June 10th with continuous competition from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and featuring the Opening Ceremony and \$50,000 Purina Animal Nutrition Grand Prix commencing at 2 p.m.," stated Jim Garrett President/CEO of the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information email: info@hitsshow.com ~TMI



Bring the Entire Family and Be Amazed!

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Showplace Spring Classic I | May 10-14 |
| Showplace Spring Classic II | May 17-21 |
| Showplace Spring Classic III | May 24-28 |
| Showplace Spring Spectacular I | June 7-11 |
| ~~~ Grand Opening Celebration | June 10 |
| Showplace Spring Spectacular II | June 14-18 |
| Showplace Spring Spectacular III | June 20-25 |
| WCHR Week & \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby | |
| Showplace Summertime I | July 5-9 |
| Showplace Summertime II | July 12-16 |
| Showplace Summertime III | July 19-23 |
| \$10,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby | |
| Showplace End of Summer I-FEI CSI2 | August 9-13 |
| USHJA Child/Adult Hunter Championships - North | |
| USHJA Team Jumper Championship Zone V & VI | |
| Showplace End of Summer II-FEI CSI4 | August 16-20 |
| Showplace Fall Classic I | September 13-17 |
| Illinois Hunter Jumper Assoc. Medal Finals | |
| Marshall & Sterling Insurance League Midwest Finals | |
| NCEA Junior Medal Finals - Midwest | |
| Zone V HOTY Championship | |
| Showplace Fall Classic II | September 20-24 |

~ What's Been Happening ~

~ April Food Day Deemed a Success ~

April Food Day was a big success and collected over 109,000 pounds of food, which was distributed to seven regional food pantries. This will help over 5,000 families in need of assistance in the Chicago Southland.

“Food is love and sharing food is the most sincere way to show people that you care about them.”

Johanns Williams, CHA Director of Franchise Services LaQuinta Inns & Suites

This was a regional collaboration by the United Way, Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau and the area hospitality communities. Calene Echevarria, General Manager of the Comfort Suites and Sleep Inn located in Lansing created an April Food Day staff competition to see who could bring in the most food. PepsiCo of Quaker Oats & Central Grocers both donated two semi trucks full of food. Jim Garrett, President/CEO of the CSCVB said,



Pictured above sorting food: Caitlin Cloosser, United Way Staff Volunteer Services Dept.; Jill Zaleski, volunteer from Prairie State College

“This couldn't have come together without the leadership of Johanns Williams and the many volunteers that helped make this happen. This was a wonderful example of regional cooperation all coming together for a great

humanitarian cause. Special thanks also to Daniel Fitzgerald and the staff at the Tinley Park Convention Center for their valued support in coordinating the distribution.” ~TMI

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A "Not to Miss" Event



Two Area Sporting Events Honored by SportsEvents Magazine

Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau was instrumental in bringing two national competitive events to the Chicago Southland in 2016. The STIHL TIMBERSPORTS – U.S. Pro & Collegiate Championships was held at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL and the U.S. Log Rolling Open was hosted by Centennial Park in Orland Park, IL. These events were submitted by the Chicago Southland CVB to SportsEvents Magazine, as sporting events to watch. Nominations were received from readers throughout the year; the top picks were selected based on results from an online voting system. These two national events were selected and featured in the January 2017 issue of SportsEvents. ~TMI

The U.S. Log Rolling Open will take to the water at Lake Sedgewick in Centennial Park, Orland Park, IL on June 10th for the second year! This sport has been popular in the upper Midwest, the Pacific Northwest and Canada, all areas where logging is a large industry and now it's growing to other regions as popularity increases. This sport is winning major recognition; for example, log rolling has been covered on Comcast Sports NET Chicago, ABC, FOX News, ESPN, Outdoor Life Network and WCIU You & Me. Be sure to save the date and make your way to view this exciting new sport being feature in the Chicago Southland. For more information, please go to VisitChicagoSouthland.com/USLogRollingOpen ~TMI

~ What's Been Happening ~

Winning Partnership for the Southland

The top teams in Women's NCAA Bowling showcased their skills in the 8th Annual NCAA Women's Crusader Classic Bowling Tournament that took place February 18th – 19th. "Valparaiso University Athletics has been excited to be partnering with the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Village of Richton Park in hosting one of the premier events in NCAA collegiate bowling this past February" said Stephen Anthony, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Valparaiso University. "The opportunity to host the top teams in the nation at a tremendous facility in the Chicago Southland provides terrific exposure for our bowling program, while providing a wonderful opportunity for student-athletes from across the country to compete at a high level."

**A big congratulations to the winning team
University of Nebraska, these ladies did a great job!**

"We're excited to have such a great event here in the Village of Richton Park," said Mayor Rick Reinbold.

ValpoAthletics.com/wbowling/schedule

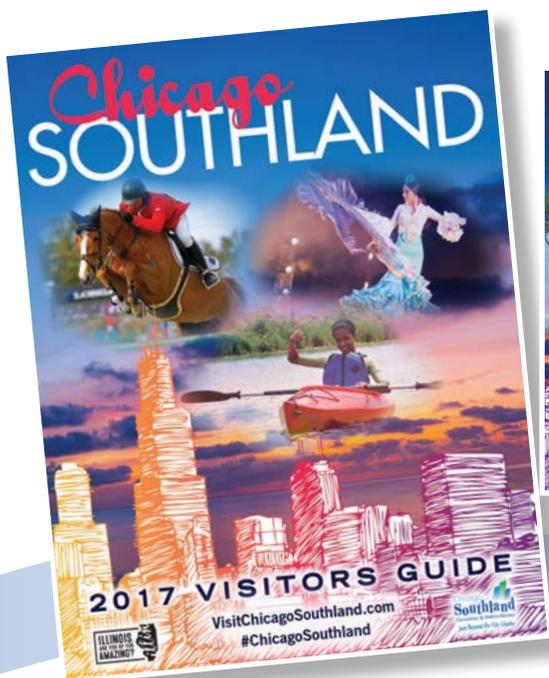
Tournament dates for the future are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| February 16, 17, 18 of 2018; | practice 2/15 |
| February 15, 16, 17 of 2019; | practice 2/14 |
| February 14, 15, 16 of 2020; | practice 2/13 |



Get Your 2017 Chicago Southland Visitors Guide & Festivals and Events Guide

Now is the time to dust off the calendars, gather the family/colleagues/friends and plan the perfect trip!



To order a copy of the 2017 Visitors Guide or Festivals & Events Guide, call or email the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau today toll free at 888-895-8233 or info@VisitChicagoSouthland.com. For the latest up-to-date listings of our festivals and events go to VisitChicagoSouthland.com/events.

Upgrades Galore throughout the Hospitality Industry

One of the best things about the Chicago Southland is the outstanding hospitality-hotel circuit. What's even better is when they improve upon themselves, like our members below have done.



While staying open not skipping a beat over the last year-and-a-half renovation, Comfort Suites not only revamped their lobby, but took on all their guest rooms. This entire \$500k investment is reflected in the excitement all employees share as being a part of this transformation. This lobby renovation encourages you to start your day off right with a free hot breakfast. Take a dip in the heated indoor pool or keep up with your workout routine in their fitness center. At the newly renovated Comfort Suites, you'll find more of the space you need to spread out, relax and be your best. The spacious rooms let you unwind, preparing you for wherever the world takes you. Contact Calene Echevarria with any questions or to set up a site tour. 2235 173rd Street, Lansing 708-418-3337



The DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago-Alsip is proud to announce the continuation of their renovation. The transformation includes a makeover of the property's 193 guest rooms and suites to complement the recent updated lobby, public areas and meeting spaces. The restyled rooms now offer contemporary comfort and exceptional function to enhance the guest experience. The top-to-bottom improvements included the redesign of bathrooms and bedrooms with a urban chic aesthetic accented in colors of reds and greys. Contact the hotel at 708-272-4200 and ask for Sales should you have questions or wish to set up a site tour!



In 2013 Holiday Inn Express-Crestwood completed a multimillion dollar renovation to the entire hotel. Now during 2017 they will freshen up all 123 rooms so that they will be looking smart just in time to start 2018! The entire hotel will receive new carpet, mattresses, window treatments and more. The urban contemporary style is welcoming and current. The staff has been in place for 20+ years and is excited about the room upgrades. One perk all guests should know is rooms have refrigerators and microwaves at no additional cost. Holiday Inn Express is surrounded by many new restaurants and attractions all within walking distance. Contact Laura Tews at 708-597-3330 with any questions or to set up a tour.



The Baymont Inn & Suites in Alsip is proud to announce that the hotel is under new ownership. The hotel was purchased in early June of 2015. The new owners have since completely renovated the property, which has been completed as of late January 2017. The renovations consists of newly: exterior and interior painting, awnings, enlarging the lobby, new carpet throughout the property, flooring, furnishings, lighting, wall covering, beds and new bedding. The Baymont Inn & Suites offers 92 newly appointed standard rooms and six suites. Enjoy our complimentary continental breakfast in our new Breakfast room where you will enjoy Belgium waffles, French toast and much more. Start earning points with our Wyndham Rewards program that was voted #1 Best Travel Rewards by U.S. News for 2016-2017. The Baymont Inn & Suites offers discounted rates for all groups, schools and corporations. Contact Candace Fransen at 708-597-3900 with any questions or to set up a tour.

CSCVB Welcomes New Members

THE SHRINE
OF CHRIST'S PASSION



The Shrine of Christ's Passion
219-365-5226
10630 Wicker Ave., St. John, IN
ShrineofChristsPassion.org



Homewood Bat Co.
708-713-8000
17845 Bretz Dr., Homewood, IL 60430
HomewoodBat.com



FGS, Inc.
312-421-3060
815 W. VanBuren #302, Chicago, IL 60601
FGS-Inc.com



Fun Fun Fun DJs
815-469-1214
P.O. Box 91, Tinley Park, IL 60477
FunFunFunDJs.com

~ Looking Ahead ~



Progress Moving Forward Accelerate Indoor Speedway Anticipated Opening Fall of 2017

All ages indoor
go karting fun
for the entire family!
40+ mph



708-457-7772
8580 Springlake Drive, Mokena, IL 60448
AccelerateSpeed.com

Dragon Boats Ahead!

Dragon Boating is back in Blue Island in 2017, and it's bigger than ever. The 2nd annual Chicago Southland Dragon Boat Festival will take place at the MWRD SEPA Waterfall & Park along the Cal-Sag, June 3, 2017. The festival includes practices, dragon boat races, music, vendor village featuring the Southland's best food, craft beer, awards ceremony and after party. The festival is now open for team and individual registrations.

Become a Dragon Boat Champion, sign up today!

ChicagoDragonBoats.com

June 3rd, 2017 Blue Island



CSCVB Awards Grants



Chicago Gaelic Park, Irish Fest Promotion

City of Oak Forest - \$5,000

Pictured here: Marian Ryan & Kim Kislowski



United States Hockey League

Village of Orland Park - \$3,000

Pictured here: Jim Garrett & Doug Christiansen



2017 Southwest Half Marathon & 10K

City of Palos Heights - \$2,500

Pictured here: Jim Garrett, Mel Diab, & Jeff Prestinario

New Board Members



Pete Saunders

Welcome Aboard!!!

~ Looking Ahead ~

WE NEED YOU!!!!



If you enjoy golf then you're a perfect fit for lending a hand for this exciting event!

Each volunteer will receive a pass for the day and additional tickets to use for the week.

Contact Mary Patchin at 708-895-8200 ext. 18 to reserve your volunteer spot!



**June 27th – July 2nd
Olympia Fields Country Club**



2304 173rd Street
Lansing, IL 60438
VisitChicagoSouthland.com

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Come Join Us!



p.s. This means you!