

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 44/Number 12 April 2014



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

I am happy to report that this spring has been a busy time for your Village Board and Administrative team. We have a new Police Chief/Village Administrator with the appointment and confirmation of John W. Brooks to fill the positions left open by Frank Alonzo's retirement. Our Village electorate approved the \$2.5 million street bond referendum in the March 18th primary election. We can now move forward with a street renovation program that will begin this summer and while the streets are torn up replace some water mains. Our one year contract with Constellation Energy is coming to an end in May and we are working on an extension or new supplier. Vehicle Stickers for 2014/15 will go on sale on May 15th and the new stickers must be displayed on July 16th. Our Annual IHP Easter Egg hunt was again a big success this year thanks to our corporate friends at our local Walgreen's Drug Store. Here are the details.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual IHP Easter Egg hunt was held in Blackhawk Park on Saturday April 19th. There were a few hundred adults and children participants this year. A large measure of the success is due to the generous donation of candy for the Easter eggs by Store Manager Chris Norder on behalf of our local Walgreen's drug store. Thanks also to the students at the LaGrange Highlands School for stuffing the eggs with candy and to Diane Andrews, Jonathan Andrews, Trustee Brian Bailey, Anne Bernier, Trustee Matt Walsh and his son Matt, Trustee Amy Wittenburg and her son Jake for setting the eggs in the park for the hunt!

The 2014 IHP Street Program

As you know, our village residents have given their approval to our street bond referendum by a vote of 597 to 278. The Referendum was approved by voters of every precinct in the Village. This means that the Village can go forward with the "all streets" plan that was discussed at our Town hall meeting last November. On behalf of the VBT, I want to thank all of our residents who voted and provided their input to this plan through their ballot. It is an honor for me and the VBT that our residents have shown their trust in this administration by granting us the authority and the means to go forward with the much-needed repairs to our streets. Our entire Village will benefit from this project in one way or another. Since the election, a lot of work has been done toward implementing the street program.

We have held meetings with our Village Engineers to develop a plan schedule and get cost estimates based on final site reviews. As you may have noticed, surveyors and engineers have been out on our streets taking measurements and samples for use in preparation of final engineering data. During the first review of the streets with an eye to our "all streets" scenario, it appears that there would be some funds still available. Accordingly, it was decided that some streets such as those in 45 acres like Indian Head Trail that were scheduled for crack-sealing to be included in the mill and overlay plan. That means the contractor would remove the top 2 inches of asphalt and repave the street. A map is posted on our website that shows the streets that will be re-constructed (all asphalt removed down to the gravel base) and those which will receive "mill and overlay" treatment. This means that the residents will see more new blacktop throughout the village. Also, the VBT has unanimously approved an agreement to award the engineering contract to Christopher B. Burke Engineering. They are our current engineers and are very familiar with our streets. Also, we have established a timetable for going out to bid and awarding of a contract to the lowest bidder.

Currently (and as with most things subject to change), the plan is to publish our request for bids on April 24th with a return date for opening on Tuesday, May 6th. The bids will be opened on May 6th giving the VBT and our professional engineering and legal team time to review them before the May VBT meeting. We contemplate awarding the contract to the successful bidder at our May 8th meeting. Thereafter, the contract will be finalized and signed and a notice to begin work will then be given to the contractor. Aside from weather related delays, it is estimated by our engineers that the work would take from 60 to 80 working days to complete the street program. Accordingly, work on our roads should begin sometime in June and be finished by the end of September (trying to be conservative here).

In addition to the street program, I have met with the engineers and Public Works Director Ed Santen regarding the possibility of replacing some water mains where we are doing reconstruction or mill and overlay on the streets. No one likes to see a new street put in only to watch a year or two later while it is dug up for some other type of project. There is a little over \$500,000 available in our water and sewer fund that

continued on page 2

Message continued from page 1

will allow us to undertake some water main replacements with no additional costs to our residents. At our last VBT meeting, the Board agreed that about 900 feet of water main be replaced along Cascade across from Blackhawk Park and additional 1100 or so feet of water main along Pontiac. Our engineers and village staff are working on this as well. Our aim is to obtain some quotes on the water main work and reach agreement with a contractor to do the work without delaying the street program. My personal desire is to get the streets and water main replacement done during the summer when, hopefully, the weather is warm and dry. It is important to get the job done so that we do not have delays due to wet weather, leaves falling on the streets where final paving is to be done, or having the contractor rush to finish the job before the asphalt plants close. I will urge the VBT to act positively on those matters within our control to avoid delay and allow us to get a top quality product on completion.

Finally, as we all know, this street project would not be possible without the residents approving the street bond referendum on March 18th. In connection with the street bond, the VBT will receive bids for award of the street bond at the May 8th meeting. Based on input from our financial consultants, the Village Board has agreed to stay with a 15 year term for repayment of the bond. This will add an additional cost to our property taxes of about \$128 per year for a \$250,000 market value home with an EAV of about \$76,250. Remember, property taxes are tax deductible.

So, please keep in mind that with the street program this summer, there will be some dust kicked up and some inconvenience to our residents especially where a street reconstruction is taking place. We intend to keep the residents informed of the progress and provide other helpful information as appropriate and available. If you were thinking of redoing a driveway or some other home improvement job with landscaping, etc. I recommend that you postpone the projects until after the street work is done. The same thing applies to outdoor parties. There is likely to be periods of time when you may not be able to park on your street or access your drive-

way during the construction project. There will be some inconvenience to all of us, so your understanding and patience will be very much appreciated. It will all be worthwhile in the end when this Village-wide improvement is completed. Please check our 2014 Street Program webpage on our Website for more information and updates as they become available.

Electric Aggregation

As you know, in accordance with the wishes of our residents who approved the referendum question allowing the Village to engage in electric aggregation, the VBT approved and entered into a contract in May 2013 with Constellation Energy. Our one-year contract gave us a rate of 4.899 cents per kWh. This contract expires in May this year and efforts are in progress to work out a new deal with Constellation or some other electric energy supplier. At our meeting on April 10, 2014, the VBT approved a resolution accepting a 3-year renewal with Constellation at a new rate of 7.19 cents per kWh. Yes, like the stock market, the energy market fluctuates from day to day and within the day. In approving this bid at the higher rate, the VBT took into consideration that the ComEd rate was likely to be higher (7.63 cents per kwh by some estimates) than the Constellation rate and that there would be a new opt-out period for our residents at the start of this new extension. Also, our original agreement contained a price protection provision whereby the Village could terminate the agreement in the event the ComEd rate dropped below the Constellation rate. It appeared to be a "no-lose" situation. Unfortunately, as Village Counsel worked through the details of the extension agreement, Constellation indicated that it would no longer agree to the price protection provision. As such, I was not able to sign the extension without that provision and our energy agreement with Constellation has converted by its terms to a month to month basis. Our new rate beginning in mid-May for one month will be 5.85 cents per kWh. I have instructed Counsel to prepare documents to go out for bid that should allow us to enter into a longer term agreement with a new company at

continued on page 3

Smoke Signals (708) 246-3137	Volume 44, Number 12 Circulation 2000
<i>Smoke Signals</i> is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.	
Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.	
Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).	
Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of <i>Smoke Signals</i> can be obtained at the Village Hall.	
www.indianheadpark-il.gov	

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Office Hours		
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Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.		
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Chief of Police/ Administrator:	John Brooks	
Police Dept.	Non-Emergency	246-4534
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Fire Dept.	Non-Emergency	352-9229
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Message *continued from page 2*

our May 8 VBT meeting. If not, it appears at present that we could end the aggregation and go back to ComEd. Please watch the Village website for more information as it becomes available. Keep in mind, your electricity will stay on and you will not get locked into a long term deal you do not like.

New Police Chief/Village Administrator

As you know, IHP bid farewell and happy retirement to Chief Frank Alonzo on February 14th. Thereafter, as the Village geared up for what could have been a quite lengthy search for a viable candidate, I was fortunate to find a highly qualified individual in John W. Brooks. Chief Brooks was nominated and confirmed by the Village Board at a special VBT meeting on March 6th and he has taken the helm with great enthusiasm. John is a recent retiree of the federal government where he was the special agent-in-charge of the Chicago Field office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division. As such, Chief Brooks supervised and managed the field offices in a region covering 14 states including offices in Chicago, Denver, Kansas City and Cleveland each having about 33 investigators and staff under his direction. Previous to this, Chief Brooks acquired 8 years of experience as a Berwyn police officer and detective. His law enforcement credentials and management skills are impeccable. Not only does Chief Brooks have superb qualifications, he was immediately avail-

able and agreed to work for the Village under the same terms as we had previously given to Chief Alonzo! Chief Brooks is a practical solution to an immediate need that saved us the time and resources a protracted hiring process would have consumed. Such a delay was not something the best interests of the Village could afford at this time with a major street renovation project upon us.

Village Vehicle Stickers

The 2014/15 Village Vehicle stickers go on sale on May 15, 2014. The renewal applications will go in the mail at the beginning of May. The stickers will be on sale through July 15th. After that, the late fee cost of the annual stickers will double from the current price of \$50 to \$100. Owners of vehicles registered to IHP that do not display the new stickers will be ticketed beginning July 16th. Please see the notice elsewhere in this issue of Smoke Signals.

Triennial Re-assessment

This year marks the triennial re-assessment for property in the southern tier of Cook County, Illinois including Lyons Township. Township Assessor Barbara Weyrick informed us that the re-assessment letters for Lyons Township will go in the mail on May 7th. Assessor Weyrick's office, as always, is ready and willing to help residents with their appeals.

Respectfully, Richard S. Andrews, mayor

Building Department Information – Contractor Registrations

The Village of Indian Head Park Board previously approved an ordinance requiring contractor's conducting work in the Village of Indian Head Park to obtain a contractor's business license to perform work in our community. A contractor registration form may be printed from the Village Website link at www.indianheadpark-il.gov under the Building Department category. Please be aware of any contractors who might be going door-to-door trying to provide proposals for various scopes of work or someone you might be working with directly for home improvement projects. Please keep in mind that in addition to a contractor's business license, a building permit may also be required for various scopes of construction projects including but not limited to: ***decks, additions or alterations to existing residential structures, hot tubs, in-ground swimming pools, interior/exterior remodeling projects, RPZ sprinkler devices, demolitions, fireplace installations, changes in grade, electric service or plumbing upgrades or changes, installation of new signage and various other miscellaneous improvements.*** A "Guide to Obtaining a Building Permit" may be downloaded from the Village's Website under the Building Department category at www.indianheadpark-il.gov. The guide lists the requirements for submitting plans to the Village for review and approval if a building permit is required for various projects as well as defining the current codes adopted by the Village. If you have any questions pertaining to the Building permit process, please contact Kathy Leach, at (708) 246-7099, extension 101.

Arbor Day Proclamation



Whereas, In 1827 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for planting of trees, and Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and; Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and; Whereas, trees in our Village increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community, and Whereas, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and Whereas, the Village of Indian Head Park has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree planting ways, Now, Therefore I, Richard S. Andrews, Mayor of the Village of Indian Head Park, do hereby proclaim, April 25, 2014 as; ARBOR DAY in the Village of Indian Head Park, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our Village's forestry program, and Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, May 8, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.:
Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Fire and Police Commission: 7:00 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

E-911 Board: 6:30 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at
201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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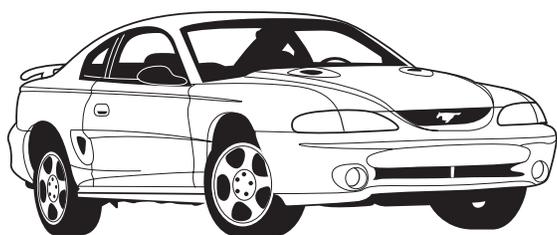
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Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers may be purchased beginning May 15, 2014 anytime during regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (check or cash are the forms of payment accepted). Stickers may also be purchased by mail by submitting your completed form that should be received in the mail in early May or by printing a blank form from the Village Website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov. Please make checks payable to the Village of Indian Head



Park. For your convenience, forms with your check may also be deposited in the silver dropbox in the Village parkway at 201 Acacia Drive anytime during, before or after business hours and your stickers will be returned by mail.

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TEEPEE TOPICS

Aging Care Connections offers

Take Charge of Your Health Program

Aging Care Connections in La Grange, will offer a Take Charge of Your Health program for people managing chronic illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression and chronic pain. The program will be held on Tuesdays beginning April 22 through June 3 from 10 am - 12:00 noon at Countryside Senior Apartments, 6404 Joliet Road, Countryside. The program is free, but registration is required. Please call 708-354-1323 to register.

The Take Charge of Your Health program, a series of seven sessions taught by two trained class leaders, is based on the "Chronic Disease Self-Management Program," created by Stanford University. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of the program in improving the health outcomes of participants over time. The topics covered in the series are: coping with fatigue; frustration, pain and isolation that may be related to ongoing health conditions; exercising to maintain and improve strength, flexibility and endurance; using medications; communicating with family, friends and health professionals; practicing good nutrition; and evaluating new treatment options. The series is made possible through a partnership of Aging Care Connections, Community Memorial Foundation and Mercy Housing Lakefront.

Aging Care Connections is a non-profit organization which is the connection to the most comprehensive, expert information, programs and services enabling older adults to remain

independent and their families to make the best, most informed decisions regarding needed care in their lives. Serving communities in Leyden, Lyons, Norwood Park, Proviso and Riverside Townships, Aging Care Connections' programs and services are made possible by community support and donations, and, in part, by the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA), AgeOptions, Community Memorial Foundation and local United Ways. To learn more, visit www.agingcareconnections.org.

Academic Achievements

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park on their academic Achievements: Sarah Carlson who made the dean's list at Kansas State University, Gabriela Pavletic who was named to the dean's list at St. Ambrose University.

TRADING POST

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