

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 44/Number 17 April 2015



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

As you begin to read this, my final message as your Mayor, I want you to know that I am having difficulty in putting into words my sentiments and appreciation for all of your support for me over the past 16 years – 8 years as Trustee and the last 8 years as Mayor. My involvement in our local government actually began in 1988 when my neighbor then Village Trustee Cicota recruited me to get involved as a member of our Zoning Board of Appeals. I served in that capacity until 1991 when I was appointed to be the first Chairman of the newly created Planning and Zoning Commission. I served on the PZC until 1993 when I was asked to fill a vacant position on the Village Board due to the resignation of trustee. I served as Trustee until May 1995 when I decided not to run for re-election due to family circumstances. In 1997, I was asked to return to the PZC as a member and then later to be its chairman again. In 1999, I was elected as Village Trustee and in 2007 I was elected Village President. You, my friends, have supported me over the years in each election and before that in my committee work. I am grateful to everyone beyond my ability to convey that appreciation in words. So please accept my simple “thank you” and understand the sincere heartfelt emotions that I have in saying those words to you! Thank You!

I will say that it has been an interesting journey for me. My position allowed me to meet many nice people within our village and elsewhere. I have been exposed to more issues, legal and otherwise, than I could ever imagine. As Mayor, I have had the good fortune to interact with the professionals who gave me guidance regarding village matters. I have learned to judge that input and act upon it not for how popular it would be received but for the quality of the professionalism that stood behind that guidance and because, after careful consideration, believed my actions were for the good of the village. I have been called upon to assert leadership and make difficult decisions, even unpopular ones, for the good of the village.

President Abraham Lincoln stated, “I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have.” I tried to do the very best that I could as mayor in accordance with the light given to me by God and to continue along the journey of progress and growth begun by my predecessors as Mayor. In dedicating myself to that endeavor, I re-called the words of President John F. Kennedy who stated that “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” I valued the trust you placed in

me to make decisions for the Village and learned much from the process of doing so. With the input of the trustees and assistance of the Village staff and your support, I believe I did my best in keeping our Village moving forward. In the words of Sir Winston Churchill, “it is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what’s required.” There were times when I felt that doing my best did not seem to be enough but thankfully during those times, I had a supportive Village Board who helped US do what was required for the benefit of the entire community.

In addition to a supportive Village Board at crucial times, and a wonderful staff, I was fortunate to have learned some of the most valuable “tools of the trade” necessary to be mayor from my predecessor Mayor Pellegrino. He taught me that conditions are not always perfect and decisions and action cannot be delayed until they are lest nothing gets done. I learned to be thankful for the positive people who have touched my life and provided valuable insight to village problems. It takes so little thought to criticize and tear down that a fool can do it. Real intelligence is required to show how to do things better. Significantly, at least to me, is that Mayor Pellegrino taught me not to take myself too seriously. As an IHP resident of 37 years, I grew to love my home, my friends and neighbors, and my community as I love my family. As Mayor, like a lion defending his pride, I took attacks and threats to the betterment of our Village sometimes too personally. My experience as your Mayor has shown me that everyone makes mistakes, to accept that you cannot change that, but you can learn from them and then, to move on.

Our Accomplishments 2007-2015

When I took the solemn oath of office as Mayor in 2007, I accepted the duty and responsibility of the position to guide the Village and move it forward. My guiding premise was always to do what was right for the Village and not any personal agenda. Ultimately, to do what was right for the Village, became the tie-breaker on many difficult decisions that I was called upon to make. I will be leaving office on May 14th satisfied with the accomplishments of your Administrative team and in my belief that the village is a better place. I am acutely aware that my successes as Mayor are due to the hard work of the village officials, staff, and volunteers through whose hard work and diligence those successes were made possible. Let me share with you those accomplishments:

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- ▶ Completion of the 2014 Road Improvement Program;
- ▶ Negotiation and coordination of Acacia parking space paving in conjunction with the 2014 Road Improvement Program at a savings for the Association and no cost to the village;
- ▶ Achieving a rating of AA- from Standard and Poor based on sound financial management. This was the first time our Village had completed the process leading to this rating;
- ▶ Saving the 2014 Road Bond from an error made at the County level;
- ▶ Paving Blackhawk Trail through a \$400,000 grant received from the 2009 federal economic stimulus;
- ▶ Obtaining a \$165,000 grant from Lyons Township park improvement bond that was used for improvements at Blackhawk Park;
- ▶ Obtaining a \$65,000 grant to install the sidewalk from 65th Street to Walgreen's along Willow Springs Road;
- ▶ Obtaining a \$30,000 grant to cap an old well;
- ▶ Obtaining a \$285,000 grant to replace a water main along Cochise;
- ▶ Obtaining the installation of a sound wall along I294 at Plainfield Road to close the gap that had been there for many years. Project valued at \$350,000 but at no cost to the Village;
- ▶ Obtaining the re-commitment of payment of \$200,000 outstanding in impact fees from the current developer of Timber Trails that was previously obtained by Mayor Pellegrino;
- ▶ State legislative commitment for \$600,000 in low interest loans for the Village for water meter and water main replacement;
- ▶ Refinancing the 2001 and 2003 Debt Certificates in 2009 to take advantage of lower interest rates, save money, and soften the impact of the re-payment schedule on Village finances;
- ▶ Replacement of water mains along Cascade and on Pontiac;
- ▶ Served as Village Seaspar representative;
- ▶ Negotiated the Village's first ever collective-bargaining agreement with our local Police Union, an extension agreement, and two successor agreements the last of which is in effect beginning May 1, 2015 for four years at favorable terms for the Village and minimal legal expenses;
- ▶ The re-consolidation of the office of police chief and village administrator upon the death of Chief Pat Crowley at considerable savings to the Village in salary costs;
- ▶ Appointment of Frank Alonzo as a Police Chief/Village Administrator following Chief Crowley's death;
- ▶ Establishment of the ranking sergeant position to provide leadership to the police department in the absence of a chief;
- ▶ Appointment of John Brooks as Police Chief/Village Administrator upon the retirement of Chief Alonzo;
- ▶ Implementation and oversight of the first village-wide electrical aggregation program and negotiation of an initial one year agreement and the now current 3-year agreement;
- ▶ Implementation of an Identity Protection Policy for IHP;
- ▶ Passage of an ordinance granting the Village President authority to act in the absence of a village administrator;
- ▶ Elimination of stipends and benefits for all elected officials and committees;
- ▶ Re-paving the Village Hall parking lot;

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<p>Smoke Signals (708) 246-3137</p> <p><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.</p> <p>Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of <i>Smoke Signals</i> can be obtained at the Village Hall.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.indianheadpark-il.gov</p>	<p>Volume 44, Number 17 Circulation 2000</p>
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VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK		
201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525		
(708) 246-3080		
www.indianheadpark-il.gov		
Office Hours		
Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and		
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.		
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays		
Mayor:	Richard S. Andrews	
Trustees:	Brian T. Bailey	Norman L. Schnauffer
	Tom Hinshaw	Matthew P. Walsh II
	Brenda O'Laughlin	Amy Jo Wittenberg
Village Clerk:	Joseph V. Consolo	
Chief of Police/ Administrator:	John Brooks	
Police Dept.	Non-Emergency	246-4534
	Emergency	9-1-1
Fire Dept.	Non-Emergency	352-9229
	Emergency	9-1-1

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- ▶ Completion of repairs and renovations to the Heritage Center;
- ▶ Designation of village Freedom of Information Act officials and implementation of policy;
- ▶ Implementation of a Community Awareness Program with Chief Alonzo;
- ▶ Establishment of the IHP Neighborhood Watch Oversight Committee;
- ▶ Dedication of Kelli's playground and memorial to Kelli Joy O'Laughlin;
- ▶ Coordination of the Village celebration of its 50 years of incorporation in 2009;
- ▶ Numerous appointments of qualified and dedicated residents to necessary village commissions and boards.

This list could go on and I am proud of all of these accomplishments. At the top of my list of favorites though is the financial turnaround of our general fund from \$700,000 in the red to the current near \$200,000 in the black amounting to a \$900,000 change for the better during the 8 years I was mayor despite the deepest recession our Nation has endured since the Great Depression and the high rating from S&P stemming from this financially managed turnaround. Also, the 2014 Road Improvement Program, and the completion of the I294 sound wall are among my favorites. However, I am proud for any achievement for the betterment of the Village in which I played a role, big or small, with the support of our VBT, staff, and resident volunteers. Again, without their support, these successes would not be possible. I am also thankful for the help of our local elected officials who worked to make these possible especially Senator Christine Radogno and State Representative Jim Durkin and to Congressman Dan Lipinski for assistance with the federal grants. Thanks to these individuals for their dedication and help.

So my friends, before closing, I want to congratulate Tom Hinshaw on his election as our new Village President; Laurie Scheer as Village Clerk; and Rita Mayer, Glen Mann, and Chris Metz as Village Trustees. I wish the new Board well and offer my assistance to our new mayor and this wonderful community whenever I am called upon.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to my outgoing Board colleagues Village Clerk Joe Consolo, Village Trustees Brian Bailey, Norm Schnauffer, and Matt Walsh for their hard work, dedication, loyalty and friendship. Moreover, they are well-deserving of the thanks and appreciation of our entire community for their devoted involvement. So, from all of us, "Thank You!" We wish you well in the future! Stay close and involved as your time permits!

Finally, I am most grateful for the support, patience, and unconditional love given to me by my wife Diane, my son Jonathan, my daughter Erica, son-in-law Mike and my two beautiful grand-daughters Gloria and Eleanor. They have indulged the demands on my time as mayor with patience and acceptance and provided me with a reality check about what truly is important when I began to feel overwhelmed. I love them!

And so, for one last time, "Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your Mayor!" I will always cherish this opportunity and your support throughout!

Sincerely, Richard S. Andrews, Mayor

TRADING POST

Alterations . . . Experienced with silks, woolens, ultrasuede, leathers, hems, zippers, etc. Heirloom christening gowns designed from mother's wedding gown. Call Jean at (708) 246-6635.

2015 Vehicle Stickers

As current residents already know and new residents should know, the IHP 2014-15 vehicle stickers expire on June 30th. The new 2015-16 vehicle stickers will go on sale on Monday May 11, 2015 and must be displayed on your vehicle on or before July 13, 2015. Please note that there is a grace period built in of almost two weeks! However, beginning July 14th and thereafter, a 100% late fee will be imposed and vehicles without a valid sticker will be subject to tickets and fines. There are no exceptions! The renewal forms will be placed in the mail on about May 7th. If you have not received a pre-printed renewal form by May 18th, you may stop in at the Village Hall and get one there or download it from the IHP website vehicle sticker page. (See, http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/vehicles_stickers.html). The fee for a passenger automobile is \$50.00. This year, for the first time, renewals only may pay on-line. New residents and those adding a new vehicle must still pay by cash or check at the Village Hall.

Vehicle stickers are required for all motor vehicles "registered or housed" in the Village. Avoid late fees and fines by getting your IHP 2015-16 vehicle stickers when they go on sale. For more information, please see the vehicle sticker web page on our web site.



New Village Board



As you know, the general municipal elections were held in our Village on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. Indian Head Park residents cast their ballots for candidates for school boards, park districts and our local municipal officers. This year, five positions were up for election. They included the Village President, Village Clerk and three (3) Village Trustee positions. All candidates for these IHP Village offices ran unopposed. The results of the election showed that **Tom Hinshaw** was elected to become the new Village President. **Laurie Scheer** was elected as the new Village Clerk, and **Glenn Mann, Rita Mayer, and Chris Metz** were elected as new Village Trustees. All of us congratulate them on their election to office and wish them well in guiding our Village in the future. We also congratulate all those who ran for and those elected to the various other local positions in our area. Finally, a special thanks to all those who cast ballots in this election.

Advertisement

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VACANT TRUSTEE POSITION

On May 14th, the new Village Board will be sworn in at the 7:30 p.m. meeting. Please come say thanks to the outgoing members of the Board for all their years of service and welcome the new board members to their positions. The new Board will have a need for residents to express their interest to fill an open Trustee position vacated by Tom Hinshaw. Tom will be the new Village President. This new to-be-appointed Trustee will serve the remaining 2 years of Tom's term.

All Indian Head Park residents may apply. An application is available on the Indian Head Park website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov or by request at the Village Hall.

The process to express your interest in filling the soon to be open Trustee position is:

1. Submit your application after May 14th and before June 2nd, 2015.
2. Be prepared to possibly speak briefly about your interest and qualifications at the June 11th Village Board meeting.
3. The Board will together make the decision on the appointment of the new trustee.
4. The target is to approve and swear in the new trustee at the July 9th Village Board meeting.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact any member of the new Board after May 14th.

IHP Resale Inspections

Now that spring is upon us and the housing market is improving, you may be considering placing your home on the market. Before you do so, you may want to take note of this friendly reminder. Pursuant to Ordinance #2011-6, a resale inspection ordinance was enacted by the Village on August 11, 2011 which requires a property inspection prior to the sale of a property. The inspection shall include, but may not be limited to: (1) proper and legal use and/or uses conforming to those regulations for the zoning district in which the building and/or structure is located; (2) any illegal construction work not done under a Village permit; (3) failure to install and maintain fire safety devices as required by state law and; (4) failure to comply with any other applicable codes, rules, ordinances or laws of the Village or any other governing body with jurisdiction.

Resale inspections protect the community's health, safety and property values by requiring a minimum standard for housing at the time of any transfer of ownership. The resale inspection process can be very simple if you plan ahead and observe the requirements and provisions of the ordinance. The fee for a resale inspection is as follows: residential-\$200; condominium-\$100; commercial-\$400; bank sale-\$500. Note that an owner placing their property into a land trust is exempt from the inspection and fee provisions of the ordinance but must obtain a transfer stamp for the deed-in-trust. Cook County will not record any deed for property transfers in Indian Head Park without a stamp. For further details, including the ordinance, information sheet, application, and checklist, please see the home page of our IHP website. One more thing, if you are selling and moving elsewhere, we are sad to see you go and wish you the very best!

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Aging Care Connection News

Information and Assistance

Aging Care Connections provides comprehensive information about local, state and national resources important to older adults and their family members. An Information and Assistance Specialist is available daily to answer questions, make referrals, and discuss options for care. Aging Care Connections can provide a skilled professional able to access services through direct referrals to service providers; linkage to assessment for in-home care and benefits; and information on aging issues, chronic illness and support networks. Aging Care Connections is your local point of entry to a statewide network of care coordination units able to provide help throughout the state with timely, appropriate, and accurate information.

Mark Your Calendars for Celebrating Seniors Week

The third annual Celebrating Seniors Week is set for Monday, May 18 - Friday, May 22. Aging Care Connections is coordinating the week-long celebration which includes FREE programs and activities that are fun, informative, and relevant to aging well. Please go to http://www.agingcareconnections.org/forms/2015publications/SW_Calendar_of_Events.pdf for more information.

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