

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 42/Number 3 November 2009



Happy Thanksgiving

Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

On November 11th, we remembered and honored our veterans, both living and deceased. Today there are at least twenty-five million veterans living among us. Our World War II veterans are now passing away at a rate of 1,000 per day. We must never let the passage of time or the comforts of peace diminish the memory of their service and sacrifice nor prevent us from saying a simple "thank you".

A poem entitled "**What is a Veteran**" by Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, U.S. Marine Corp, brings home the importance of honoring and giving thanks to our veterans:

What is a Veteran

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating 2 gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers did not run out of fuel.

He is that friend or neighbor who as a young man spent hours of unparalleled bravery standing guard near the 38th parallel in Korea.

She is the nurse that fought against losing courage to continue to treat wounded in Vietnam and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years.

He is the P.O.W. who went away one person and came back another. He is the drill instructor who has never seen combat, but has saved countless lives turning care-free boys into marines and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade riding American Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with an artificial hand.

He is the white haired old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp.

A vet is an ordinary and extraordinary human being – someone who offered his life's most vital years in the service of his country.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and nothing ore than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the greatest nation ever known. We will never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owe. It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank Mr. Jim Bird for making our "Heritage Center" possible. In early 1963, Jim and Jo Bird began in earnest to find an old and charming house that they could call home. Driving in the area, they noticed the parsonage had a "sale" sign posted in the front yard. At a later date, Mr. & Mrs. Bird purchased the home even though it had only well water, no municipal sewage system, heated by oil and the property was unincorporated at that time. The house was on a lot approximately 300' by 125'. In 1975, the Bird's neighbor Pete Hoekstra, who had a "L" shaped lot, asked if they would like to buy the leg of his lot (50' by 125'). The Birds were delighted to purchase the lot. Jo named the area the "North Woods". She also named the area south of the driveway the "South Forty".

In 1970, Mr. & Mrs. Bird celebrated the 100th birthday of their home which had been built in 1870. Over the years, they celebrated many occasions with friends. One elderly guest mentioned that she gave birth to her daughter in the house and it was so cold she had to huddle in the living room where the wood stove was located. After Mrs. Bird died in 2001, Jim Bird began to think about moving to a smaller home. Then one day the President of Indian Head Park, Richard Pellegrino, mentioned to Mr. Bird that if he ever wanted to sell the parsonage, the Village would like to purchase it and make the home a Heritage Center. As Jim said, "the rest is history". Thank you Jim for selling your home to the Village and donating many of the artifacts that are in the center.

Today the Heritage Center includes a library containing books for all ages. Mayor Andrews and the Village Board of Trustees give thanks to Jane Kuhn and all the volunteer docents for their time and effort, especially for conducting a book sale on November 14th to help raise funds for the center. We also want to thank Karen Bartel for donating the lilies that were planted along the fence.

Special thanks to the Acacia Association, Mary Mynaugh, Jose Herrera and the Acacia grounds crew for the new

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Message continued

perennial plantings and the installation of lighting in the Acacia north and south entrance islands.

On October 7th, "International Walk/Bike to School" took place. On that day, I met Mrs. Jean Baum, who crosses the children who attend School District 106 at the Heritage Center on Wolf Road. Mayor Andrews and the Village Board of Trustees wish to extend a thank you to Mrs. Baum and all the other crossing guards who keep our students safe.

The Village sponsored Halloween Party was held on October 24th. We thank the families for following the make-shift path to the Village Municipal Facility due to the reconstruction of the parking lot. Many volunteers were involved in making this event a success: Mary Crowley, Dale Strazzante, Public Works staff, Chief Alonzo and the Police Department, Diane Andrews, Rachel Pellegrino, Trustee Coleman, Trustee Anselmo, Trustee Bermier, Mayor Andrews and Joe Consolo ("Judgie the Clown"). Thank you to all who have supported this annual event.

In closing, Mayor Rich Andrews and the Board of Trustees wish to extend to all residents and their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely, Trustee Anne Bermier

Composting Leaves



The leaves of one large shade tree can be worth as much as \$50 of plant food. Pound for pound, the leaves of most trees contain many beneficial minerals. For example, the mineral content of a sugar maple leaf is over five percent, while even common pine needles have 2.5 percent of their weight in calcium, magnesium, nitrogen and phosphorus, plus other trace elements. Since most trees are deep-rooted, they absorb minerals from deep in the soil and a good portion of these minerals go into the leaves.

Leaves can be used much more conveniently in the garden if they are ground or shredded. Leaves in their natural state tend to blow away or mat down into a tight mass. If shredded they turn into compost or leaf mold much faster, and make better mulch.

If you don't have a shredder, there are various other devices you can adapt to leaf shredding, or make yourself. Many people use a rotary mower for shredding leaves and even for weeds. A mower that is not self propelled is best, as it is easiest to control. A leaf-mulching attachment placed on the mower will cut the leaves up finer, but sometimes it is not necessary. Some people use a mower with a mulching attachment to cut leaves up right on the lawn.

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For Sale. . . . Singer sewing machine \$45, Simplicity Serger \$45, Ladies Skis, Boots & Poles \$150, oriental rugs. All in excellent condition. Call Jean (708) 246-6635.

Smoke Signals Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach (708) 246-7099, extension 101 kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Volume 42, Number 3
Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals 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 *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is December 10, 2009.

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Advertisement

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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: Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept. Non-Emergency 246-4534
Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 352-9229
Emergency 9-1-1

The advertisements and notices of privately sponsored events or activities contained in *Smoke Signals* are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Village of Indian Head Park, its officials or employees. The inclusion of a product advertisement or notice of a privately sponsored event or activity herein should not be construed as an endorsement by the Village of that product, event or activity.

Scheduled Meeting Dates

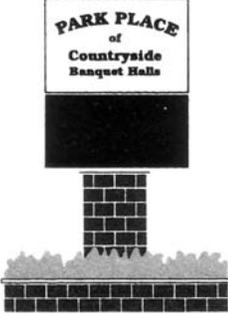
Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:
Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:
No meetings scheduled at this time.

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

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Frank DeLaurentis, owner

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NOTE: Not valid with any other offers.



Indian Head Park Woman's Club

Tuesday, December 8th - The club's Christmas Party will be at the Marriott Hotel in Burr Ridge (1200 Burr Ridge Parkway). Dinner will be served around 7 p.m. and cocktails (cash bar) will be at 6 p.m. The cost for the party will be \$30/person and reservations are required. Our entertainment will be the "Village Vocal Chords" - a 30 women barbershop chorus that has won the International Barbershop Championship eight times. Please join us for a fun-filled evening; guests from other suburbs are always welcome. Contact Lois Kirchner at 708-784-0297 for reservations.

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10 QUESTIONS MINUTES

TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

The Census: A Snapshot

- **What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—both citizens and non citizens.
- **When:** You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.
- **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **How:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

2010 Census Questionnaire: Easy, Important and Safe

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

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CENSUS HISTORY

The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census also was created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement as the nation grew.

ABOUT THE CENSUS BUREAU

The Census Bureau was established in 1902. Today, in addition to administering the census of population and housing, the Census Bureau conducts more than 200 annual surveys, including the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey and economic censuses every five years.



**We move
forward
when you
send it back.**



TEEPEE TOPICS

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park on their academic achievements!

Cara Rafanelli, a student at St. John of the Cross Parish School, has been accepted into the People of the World Leadership Forum. She will join a group of students in Washington D.C. next summer to study leadership and explore the sites.

Emily Walter graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She also earned a Critical Care Nursing certificate from St. Louis University. Her mom and dad, Albert and Lorraine Walter are very proud of her accomplishments.

John C. Skreko, DDS has achieved one of dentistry's most prestigious career goals. By becoming a Master in the Academy of General Dentistry, John C. Skreko has demonstrated a long-term commitment to providing various treatment options and superior dental patient care. The Mastership Award is the highest honor available in the Academy of General Dentistry and one of the most respected designations in the professional. To accomplish this, Dr. Skreko completed 1,100 hours of continuing dental education in the 16 disciplines of dentistry, including 400 hours dedicated to hands-on skills and techniques.

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