SMOKE SIGNALS

FALL 2018

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HINSHAW

Hello to my fellow Indian Head Park residents. As we end 2018, the health of our Village is strong. Our financial position is secure with about $1,800,000 in the bank, about four months of cash on hand, which is what our Finance Committee has stated to be our goal for cash reserves. We are moving forward with capital projects in the Village which include $2,000,000 in water main projects over the next two years. Road replacement and repairs continue to happen each year and we are working on updating our capital plan to address some fairly new issues with storm water management across the Village. The board is continuing to follow the ongoing capital improvements plan that has been set in place, as their guideline.

On other news, the Village received a $68,000 grant from "Invest in Cook" to review options for improvements to make Wolf Road in Indian Head Park a "complete street". The "complete street" term means that the road would have sidewalks, curbs, gutters and turn lanes. The grant with the County Review will determine what options we have to get to a complete street. My goal is to have a wider Wolf Road, with a sidewalk/pedestrian path on both sides of Wolf Road. In the meantime, the Village received a grant of about $1,200,000 for the reconstruction of Acacia Drive. This includes the installation of a sidewalk along Acacia Drive.

The Village will be switching our 911 call center from Southwest Central Dispatch over to the Cook County Dispatch Center. We have been a member of SWCD for the last 13 years. When the switchover occurs there will no service interruption, and our Police Department will have better technology. Overall, as a Village we will save $10,000 a month by our switch, and will also migrate away from CODE RED to SMART911. Please sign up for SMART911 as soon as you can, please visit *www.Smart911.com* to do so.

On the business front, our Economic Development Committee, along with the Planning & Zoning Commission, are working hard to improve our commercial districts. One long term resident has described the work being done as the "best thing in our Village in the last thirty years". If you have not seen the plans, please review them on our web site at http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/536/Triangle-Redevelopment.

Some recent discussions in the Village have been about the I-294 Tollway work, residential fences and Sterigenics a company in Willowbrook. Each is a story within itself, more information is available on each issue at our web site, or let me know if you would like an update and I can provide that for you. Please note, we have a service on our web site, the Concern and Complaint Portal, where you can fill out a "work" ticket on an issue you would like the Village to look at. You also can sign up to receive Village news, meeting updates and much more.

Lastly, our beautiful Village was named the 27th Best Suburban Community in the Nation by the community related website Niche. Please take a look at the list at www.niche.com. I am very proud to serve as your Village President, and it is wonderful that we have been recognized as the fantastic community that we are. I am available to address your community group, condo association, club, or neighborhood coffee to address all things Indian Head Park. Happy to hear from you at thinshaw@indianheadpark-il.gov or 708-497-9745.

Happy Holidays, Tom Hinshaw

New Happenings at The Heritage Center

Editorial By Sharon Kalinoski

Thanks to the efforts of many, we have a beautiful new brick paver entry to the building's front door. Volunteers Phil and Peter Carlson, Christian Metz, along with Pedro and Pepe from our IHP Public Works Department, installed the walkway with pavers donated by resident Frank Sabellus. Great job!

At the Village Board meeting on Oct. 11, a resolution was passed to honor our library volunteer docents including recently retired Alice Copeland and Selma Ivan for their many years of service. Thank you ladies!

On Oct. 17, the HC sponsored a presentation for parents to learn ways to help their children learn math concepts. Resident Dr. Louise Nevins arranged for the program at the village hall.

The HC committee usually meets monthly at the library on a Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. Check the village website for details; all residents are welcome to attend.

Gardeners are always welcome to donate plants and help maintain the landscaping around the library building. Future projects at the HC being planned include planting milkweed for Monarch butterflies, and discussion of starting a book club. Depending on the success of the 2019 butterfly season, we may host a program about Monarchs next summer.

We receive many donations of great bestseller books from residents and we appreciate all of the donations. Sometimes we get more than one of each title, and then the overstock goes to the "Book Sale Area" on the back porch. In the spirit of the upcoming Holidays we would like to offer one free book from the book sale area to each IHP resident who comes to the library between now and January. Happy Holidays!

The Annual Pow-Wow Block Party!

Cool weather did not stop the residents of Blackhawk Trail, Pontiac Drive, Keokuk Drive, Wabaunsee Drive and Indian Woods Lane from getting together for a wonderful Block Party at Sacajawea Park on Saturday September 8th. This is the eighth year for the Block Party. 50 adults and 20 children attended and enjoyed a potluck dinner and great activities for the kids. This is a yearly event and is a fun way to meet new residents and make connections between neighbors. *(See Picture of the Pow-Wow Below)*

UPCOMING
Events
DECEMBER

Thursday, December 13th
Board of Trustees Meeting
7:30pm - Village Hall

Saturday, December 22nd
Pictures with Santa!
9:30 - 11:30am - Village Hall

Monday - Tuesday, December 24th &25th
Village Hall Closed
Village Hall will resume regular business hours on Wednesday, December

Representative Durkin's Traveling Office Hours
Last Thursday of Every Month
Always at Village Hall!
Thursday, November 29th 10am - 12pm
Due to the Holiday Season, please check back at the Village website for future dates!

********** **FRIENDLY REMINDER** **********

Indian Head Park Water Bills are due on Monday, December 10th, 2018!

Santa's Annual Visit to Village Hall!

Santa Claus is making his way to Indian Head again this year to spread Holiday cheer at Village Hall on Saturday, December 22nd, 2018. Residents of every age are welcomed to join in on the festivities including pictures with Old Saint Nick himself, holiday crafts and seasonal treats. Santa will be at 201 Acacia Drive from 9:30 am to 11:30am, so do not be late!

Village Implements New Emergency Alert System

On midnight of March 1st, 2019 the Village will be switching over to the Smart911 Emergency Alert System, from the CodeRED system we had been previously using. Smart911 alerts residents of weather, traffic, and other emergencies within our surrounding areas, as well as provides 911 with additional information directly, so they can help you faster in an emergency. The switchover will not affect or harm any interactions with our 911 emergency systems. To sign up visit ***www.smart911.com*** or go to the Indian Head Park website and there is a direct link to sign up.

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Building Permits, Gutters and Hot Water Heaters…Oh My!

Information Provided By: Village Administrator John DuRocher

Why do I Need a Permit to Replace a Water Heater?

Seems like a permit is not needed. But really, it is a matter of safety. Gas water heaters vent carbon monoxide (CO) and if the CO is not vented properly, then it can buildup in the house creating a hazardous condition. There are also other risks to improperly installed water heaters where the temperature/pressure valve is omitted or is improperly installed/defective. This can cause the water heater to explode.

So yes, a Village permit is needed and we recommend a licensed plumber do the installation, who is also a registered contractor within the Village. The cost of the permit is $100.00 and includes the inspection.

Do I Need a Permit to Replace Gutters**?**

No, you do not need a Village permit.

Sterigenics & Our Community

As you know, the Sterigenics of Willowbrook air pollution issue is of concern to all communities in the surrounding area, including our Village. Our Village is less than four (4) miles away and downwind of this facility. Because air pollution knows no municipal boundaries, the Village is actively participating in discussions with State Senators John Curran and Jaqueline Collins, as well as State Representatives Jim Durkin and Mary Flowers, to address this issue with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. We have called for at least the temporary closure of the facility until further investigation can be made by the appropriate authorities. Due to so many inquiries from concerned residents, we have compiled all of the Village's up-to-date information on a page on our website. Check back regularly for any new information!

(Above: protesters stand outside Sterigenics in Willowbrook)

Illinois EPA Hosts Sterigenics Forum

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting an open house and community forum on November 29th, 2018 at Ashton Place, located at 341 75th Street, Willowbrook, Illinois. The open house will be held from 3:00 – 6:00 pm, and provides an opportunity for individuals to talk one-on-one with staff from the U.S. EPA, as well as other agencies about their questions concerns related to ethylene oxide. The community forum will be held after from 7:00 – 10:00pm, and will feature a series of expert panels to respond to questions the EPA has been receiving surrounding communities around Sterigenics.

For more information on the forum & open house please contact Holly Wilson:
Wilson.holly@epa.gov
For more information on the EPA & Sterigenics please visit:
www.epa.gov/il/sterigenics-willowbrook-facility

A Note From the Desk of the Village Administrator
John DuRocher

Every year, the Village has an audit of its financial records by an independent outside auditing firm. In addition to this being the law, it also the right thing to do. The independent auditor looks at the spending and purchasing practices in every department of the Village to look for potential misuses of your money. Although an audit does not guarantee this (think Dixon, Illinois), it is really the best way for us to let you know that we are doing our jobs honestly and with integrity.

We are pleased to report that once again, the Village received a clean and unmodified opinion. This basically means that we are spending Village funds appropriately and within the confines of the law. It also means that when you read our financial or budget reports that they are honest and correct.

In fact the level of accuracy and transparency in our reporting puts us in the top 1% of all units of government in the State with a population under 25,000.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE……

Last year, the Village received the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers' Association. This was our first submission and getting such an award on the first submission is pretty rare. This award is based on how well the budget is presented to the general public. When I first came to the Village, the budget was basically a spreadsheet, it is now, in addition to the spreadsheet, a story of how the money comes in and how it is spent. This is expected to be an annual event. I'd like to thank our Finance Manager, Argelia Garbacz, for her assistance in all of this. She is an integral part of the audit and budget process. Her assistance is really appreciated.
(Argelia Garbacz – Finance Manager pictured right)

Stay Connected & Follow The Village on Social Media!

Our Village Board, along with Mayor Hinshaw want to keep residents up-to-date as quickly as possible, while being as transparent as possible. One way of making this happen is that the Village updated our website, and incorporated social media platforms such as; Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We encourage all residents to follow on all or any of the applications available! Monthly Board Meetings are streamed live on Facebook, and Comcast Channel 6!

Twitter: ***@villageofIHP***

Facebook: ***@IndianHeadPark***

Instagram: ***@_indian_head_park_***

Website: ***www.indianheadpark-il.gov***

Put a Freeze on Frozen Pipes

Frozen pipes can put a damper on any vacation in the winter, and disrupt Holiday festivities. Here are some simple tips to keep your pipes in perfect shape if you are leaving for out of town plans!

KEEP THE HEAT ON: The heat does not have to be kept as high as you normally would keep it if you were actually in the property, but keeping it set above 50 degrees Fahrenheit is a good idea. This should provide enough heat to keep the pipes warm and to prevent any water inside from freezing.

ALLOW FAUCETS TO DRIP: If you are afraid a pipe will freeze, you can allow the faucet to drip slightly. Allowing the faucet to be open like this will relieve pressure in the system. If a pipe freezes, it is actually the pressure that is created between the blockage and the faucet that will cause the pipe to burst. Allowing the faucet to be open will prevent this pressure from building up and thus, keep the pipe from bursting.

KEEP INTERIOR DOORS OPEN: Pipes are often located in cabinets. When the temperatures drop, it is a good idea to keep these cabinet doors open so that the heat from the rest of the house can keep the pipes warm as well. You should also keep all interior doors open so that the heat can flow throughout the home.

SEAL UP CRACKS & HOLES: You should caulk any holes or cracks that exist near pipes. This should be done on both interior and exterior walls. Doing so can help keep the cold air out and the warm air in.

APPLY HEAT TAPE: For pipes that are easily accessible, the electrical heating tape may be an option to keep them from freezing. This tape can be applied directly to the pipe. There are two types of heating tape. One type of heating tape turns on and off by itself when it senses heat is needed. The other type of heating tape needs to be plugged in when heat is needed and unplugged when not in use. Much like a space heater, these products can be dangerous, so you must follow the product's direction and safety procedures exactly.

ADD EXTRA INSULATION: Pipes that are located in areas that do not have proper insulation, such as basements or attics, may need extra insulation to keep from freezing. Pipes in basements or attics are not the only ones that may not be properly insulated from the cold. If you have had a problem with pipes freezing anywhere in your home, extra insulation could be the cure. Pipes can be fitted with foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves to help decrease the chances of freezing. This can be an easy solution for pipes that are exposed but can get expensive if walls, floors or ceilings have to be opened in order to properly insulate the pipe. Additional insulation can also be added to walls and ceilings to keep the pipes warm.

Sharon Kalinowski
Indian Head Park Resident
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Monday: ***9:00am – 4:00pm***
Tuesday: ***9:00am – 4:00pm***
Wednesday: ***9:00am – 4:00pm***
Thursday: ***9:00am – 7:00pm***
Friday: ***9:00am – 4:00pm***

Smoke Signals is published quarterly by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of ongoing activities in the Village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and the good of the citizenship. Circulation is 2,000.

Editor is Trustee Rita Farrell-Mayer. News for the next issue is due by January 31st, and should be electronically submitted to: rfarrellmayer@indinaheadpark-il.gov

Full Page Ads - $200.00; Half Page Ads - $125.00;

3-1/2 x3-1/2 Size Ads - $75.00; Business Card Size Ads - $45.00

Trading Post Ads - $20.00 (no commercial ads, & the ad will run for two circulations at no cost

Extra copies available at Village Hall or by emailing Linda Merrifield at lmerrifield@indianheadpark-il.gov

Village Board of Trustees

Meets the second Thursday of every month – 7:30pm at Village Hall

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 13th, 2018
January 10th, 2019
February 14th, 2019
March 14th, 2019
April 11th, 2019
May 9th, 2019

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