



I continue to be honored to serve the Village as your Mayor. The Village Board and I are working to make Indian Head Park an even better place to live, work, play and enjoy. We want our beautiful community to be the best in Chicago's western suburbs.

The Village's prior budget year ended with a \$484,000 surplus attributable to many factors. Foremost reasons being (1) an increase in state revenue, and (2) purposeful cost cutting. We have used part of that surplus to bolster our bank account balances and to attend to some of the infrastructure needs in our Village. Some of these needs included repairing and maintaining the Village roads, re-grading roadside ditches for better storm water runoff, inspecting and repairing sewers, repairing water main breaks as they are discovered, and of course, installing new water meters with electronically transmitted usage readings (for the 85% of the Village who receive their water from our water system).

We were pleased to have received an overwhelmingly high customer satisfaction rating with the water meter replacement program. However, at the switchover of the first billing cycle using the new water meters and ending the old billing system, we encountered a billing discrepancy that affected many of our water users. Due to age and environmental breaches, the outside meters were not always keeping up with the inside meters. Many customers received very high water bills due to the discrepancy between the two meters. The Village Board wanted to do what we could to lessen the impact for the customers who had a meter discrepancy, while at the same time working to keep the rest of the Village whole. We revised our formula and sent out adjusted water bills to those residents with the excessively high water bills. Going forward, we believe the new water billing system and new meters will function correctly.

Unfortunately we have experienced a delay in releasing our new and improved Village web site. We have chosen to wait to go online until the web site is a good product, ready for our residents to use. Our existing web site continues to be online and functional. As soon as our redesign is completed we will encourage you to sign up to receive important updates from the Village. When you create an account on our new web site you will be able to log requests in the "request tracker" and by having your email we will be able to send you timely updates on Village activity.

The Village Board recently approved a repeal of the resale property transfer inspection ordinance. This means that the Village will not be required to inspect your property if you sell and this will save you the cost of that inspection.

Moving forward, we are starting the yearly process to get our budget ready for next year. We are also working on a plan to be able to televise our Village meetings live on channel 6, for those who have Comcast. This will be done at no cost to the Village.

In 2017 the Village Board will be focusing on Economic Development in our Village. We also will be installing a new payroll system - our existing system has been in place for many years and is basically paper and pencil driven. Finally, we will focus on documenting the procedures and processes in our departments. We also will continue to investigate replacing the worst water mains in the Village. As I have said before, the Village has about 12 miles of water mains that are over 40 years old and need to be replaced. It costs about \$1,000,000 a mile to replace a main. If you are interested, a map of the water system leaks can be found on the web site at <http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov>

We welcome the participation of our residents at Village meetings. We want to hear from you. Please let me know about any questions or concerns that you may have. My phone number and email address is on the web site and here: Mobile: 708-497-9745, [thinshaw@indianheadpark-il.gov](mailto:thinshaw@indianheadpark-il.gov).

Thank you and best of luck in the New Year!

***Tom Hinshaw, Mayor***



Santa arrived at the Village Hall on Saturday, December 17th at 9:30. A Robotic Santa greeted the children and parents as they arrived, along with a mural in the hallway drawn by children from Indian Head Park. As they walked into the Board Room, they saw the 10 foot snowman standing next to Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helpers. After the children gave their lists of presents to Santa and their parents finished taking pictures, Mrs. Claus gave them candy canes and cookies. The children then went to the craft table to make candy canes out of pipe cleaners with the help of Santa's helpers Amy & Joan. Everyone enjoyed the morning's festivities and all are looking forward to Santa's next visit.



## Repeal of the Home Resale Inspection Ordinance

After much consideration and a public hearing, the IHP Home Resale Inspection Ordinance was repealed by the Village Board at the meeting held on November 10, 2016. The repeal became effective on November 11, 2016. The ordinance required residents to pay, for a fee, an IHP inspection of the property being sold before a closing on the sale of the property. This cost was imposed for the inspection by a Village staff member and a Village stamp that had to be obtained prior to closing. The Board looked at several factors in determining whether to take action on the repeal – burden on Village staff, the necessity of a separate home inspection, and the burden imposed on residents and businesses in the sale of their property. The Board decided that the resale inspection ordinance did not advance the interests of the Village or its residents, and that repeal was warranted.

### Village Meetings On TV

The Village recently obtained a grant from the West Central Cable Agency (the Village is a member) to purchase a video broadcasting system so that we will be able to broadcast our monthly meetings live on Comcast Channel 6. The Village will also be able to re-broadcast its meetings on a regular schedule. The grant pays for 100% of the cost to purchase the equipment which includes two high-definition cameras, two high-definition monitors, plus all the transmitting equipment needed to make the Village even more accessible.

Tune in on Comcast Channel 6, Thursday February 9 at 7:30 pm to see your elected officials in action.

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## Update on Wolf Road properties

Some residents have inquired about the status of the five residential structures located on Wolf Road south of Joliet Road and the Indian Head Plaza. The homes have been unoccupied and in a dilapidated condition for some time. After several failed attempts to work with the owners to bring the properties into compliance with Village zoning requirements, the Village Board authorized the Village Attorney to file suit to have the properties demolished at the expense of the property owners. The lawsuit is pending at this time and the property owners have now come forth with a plan to demolish the structures on the three properties. It is expected that the demolition will be completed by the end of January.

### Rachel Thompson

Broker

(773) 203-7522 (cell)

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## Website & Ordinance Codification Update

The Village Administrator and Staff have been hard at work putting the finishing touches on the new Village website in conjunction with Civic Plus. After several unexpected delays the new website should be launched within the next few weeks, providing up-to-date information on Village events and notices. Within several weeks of the site launch the Village will be able to include publication of the entire content of the Village Code for the first time ever. Approximately 475 pages of ordinances were reviewed to insure that the most current versions will be published. This will assist residents and IHP businesses by giving free and easy access to a complete set of the Village ordinances.

### *Selling or Buying a Home?*

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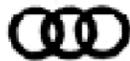
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## Welcome to the New Chairperson and New Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission

Dennis Schmerhorn retired from this position as Chairperson from the IHP Planning & Zoning Commission in October 2016. Dennis served for many years as a member of the Commission and then as its Chairperson. The Village is very grateful for his numerous years of service. Noreen Costelloe has agreed to assume the Chair of PZC. Noreen has served on the Commission for 15 years and brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Resident David Anderson was selected by Mayor Hinshaw to fill the seat vacated by Ms. Costelloe. Thanks to all who volunteer to serve our Village!



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**Village Board meets the second  
Thursday of every month  
Upcoming Village Board meeting dates  
February 9 \* March 9 \* April 13**

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

Editor is Trustee Rita Farrell Mayer. News for the next edition is due March 31 and should be submitted electronically [torfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov](mailto:torfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov).

Full page ads-\$200, ½ page ad-\$125, 3 1/2"x 3 1/2" size ads-\$75, business card size ads-\$45. Trading Post ads-\$20 (no commercial ads-the ad will run two times at no cost, then a \$20 charge).

## VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525  
708-246-3080

[www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)

### Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Thursdays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

**Mayor:** Tom Hinshaw  
**Trustees:** Heidi Lopez Chris Metz  
Glen R. Mann Brenda O'Laughlin  
Rita Farrell Mayer Amy Jo Wittenberg

**Village Clerk:** Laurie Scheer  
**Administrator:** John DuRocher  
**Police Dept:** Non emergency 246-4534  
Emergency 911  
**Fire District:** Non emergency 352-9229  
Emergency 911

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