

SMOKE SIGNALS



Volume 45/Number 19 Fall 2015

Administration Message

Dear Indian Head Park Residents,

I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer. It was a busy summer and I spent my time watching my son's soccer games at LTHS. Now we're ready for a busy fall in Indian Head Park!

I am pleased to announce that we are close to identifying and hiring a permanent Village Administrator. By the time this edition of the Smoke Signals reaches you we most likely will have made the decision on this important hire for the Village.

We have a fairly new staff member, Erica Stewart, who is assisting our Village with water billing, vehicle stickers and other Village business. We also have a fairly new Board member, Heidi Lopez, who is focusing on revamping the Village website, implementing Project Tracking and working with Trustee Farrell-Mayer on Communications. Sergeant Ray Leuser was appointed Interim Police Chief.

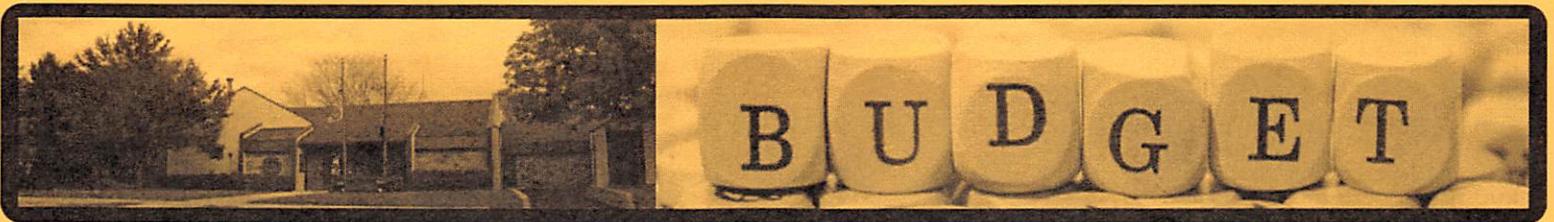
The Village Board continues to focus on water and sewer issues. We will hold a special Town Hall meeting on August 27th 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall to discuss the planned water and sewer rate increases. (Please see the Water & Sewer Rate Increase article for more information.) The Public Works Department will be hosting an Open House on September 26th from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Please stop by to meet fellow residents and see our Village facility at 11308 West 70th Place. Food and refreshments will be served.

In an effort to improve resident communications, we have started a Communications Committee and we are looking for interested residents to participate. We are also working to post Village ordinances and resolutions on our website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov.

As always, please drop me an email, give me a call (708-497-9745), or stop by to discuss anything you have on your mind. I look forward to continued collaboration. Our Board is working to improve transparency and communications with residents, and we value your feedback and opinions.

Best,

Mayor Tom Hinshaw



Most of us are aware that government budgets are difficult to balance. There are always plenty of expenses and never enough revenue. Tackling Indian Head Park's 2015-16 budget was no different. It was an onerous task taken on by the IHP Finance Committee (IHP Finance Director Dave Brink, Interim Village Administrator Art Osten Jr., and Trustees Brenda O'Laughlin and Christian Metz.) This committee devoted many hours to number crunching and were able to present the VBT with a balanced budget that was passed at a special Board meeting on June 25, 2015.

Both one-time and on-going fixes were incorporated into balancing the 2015-16 budget. Excess reserves in our insurance funds, impact fees from the neighboring Timber Trails development, and an anticipated water rate increase are among the key changes. Most surprising was the discovery that IHP is paying Countryside for approximately 90 million gallons of water while billing our resident customers for only 80 million gallons. This discrepancy can be directly attributed to aged, under-recording water meters as well as leaks and breaks in the water mains.

Some items included in this year's budget include a new replacement dump truck/snow plow, a long overdue online codification of Village ordinances, an upgraded Village website, and replacement of an inoperable pump for our emergency water reservoir. To better serve our residents and manage staff, the VBT has separated the Village Administrator and part-time Police Chief into two positions.

The IHP Finance Committee views our annual budget as a living document, and will monitor our expenses and revenues monthly to spot any irregularities immediately. By being proactive we are working to eliminate any surprises for next year's budget.

REP. DURKIN TO HOST TRAVELING OFFICE HOURS FOR INDIAN HEAD PARK

State Rep. Jim Durkin (R-Western Springs) has announced his traveling office hours schedule for Indian Head Park for the remainder of the year. Each month Anthony Dubicki, of Rep. Durkin's District Office, will be at the Indian Head Park Village Hall to assist constituents with any questions, concerns or issues related to state government.

The dates and times are listed below:

August 27, 2015

(5 p.m. - 7 p.m.)

September 24, 2015

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

October 22, 2015

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

November 19, 2015

(5 p.m. - 7 p.m.)

And as always, you can call the District Office at (630) 325-2028, email State Rep. Durkin at repdurkin@hotmail.com or stop by the District Office in Burr Ridge at 16W281 83rd Street Suite C.



State Representative Jim Durkin

HALLOWEEN TIPS

The Village trick-or-treating window is
Saturday October 31st from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Indian Head Park Police suggest never sending children out alone to trick-or-treat. Children should always go as a part of a group, or with a trusted adult. This is a good opportunity to remind children about talking to strangers and what to do if they are approached.

- The Department suggests only trick-or-treating during daylight hours. For safety reasons the Department suggests ending the night at dusk, or at the threat of inclement weather.
- If your child is trick-or-treating after dark, the Police Department recommends adding colorful or reflective items to the costume and to carry a flashlight.
- Children should avoid wearing dark costumes, as it can make it harder for drivers to see them.
- Children should stay out of the streets and keep on the sidewalks or close to the curb in areas without sidewalks.
- Children should trick-or-treat at familiar houses unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Children should stay away from dark homes and head to homes that are well lit.
- Give children a cell phone if they are out with friends so they can check in with parents. Parents also are advised to have a set check-in time with their children.
- At the end of the night, any fruit given to children should be washed and examined by an adult.
- With candy, the best rule is "When in doubt, throw it out." Examine your child's candy closely and discard any candy that is opened.

Although Halloween is typically a holiday for children, many adults celebrate as well. Area Police Departments will be conducting special patrols to keep an eye out for unsafe and drunk driving.

Residents with questions for the
Indian Head Park Police Department may call 708-246-4534.



A Service of Emergency Communications Network

What is CODERED?

CODERED is a service that enables the Village to contact you in case of an emergency or severe weather. The phone number you provide is confidential and will only be used for alerting you to an emergency. CODERED calls are delivered only to those who are registered.

There is a link to the CODERED registration page at <http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/police.html>. Once you click on the link you will be asked to supply your contact information and choose the alerts you wish to receive.

When a situation arises in Indian Head Park, Village staff will use the CODERED mapping tools to designate an emergency call area based on resident addresses. Very quickly, a pre-recorded message describing the situation will be sent to the phone numbers of the people in the affected area. If the recipient is not available a voicemail will be left.

The pre-recorded message may include instructions that require action on your part such as:

- Boiling Contaminated Water
 - Bio-terrorism Alerts
 - Evacuation
 - Sheltering in Place
- Once the situation is remedied, a call can be placed to the area signaling that the issue has been addressed and that normal activities can be resumed.



POLICE and SAFETY UPDATE

We want to give residents an update on the activities at the Indian Head Park Police Department, your partners in public safety.

Police Activity (for the period of June 1 - July 25, 2015)

756 Calls to 911 Activity by Incident:

7 Batteries	1 Missing Person	3 Tavern Checks	67 Assist County Sheriff
2 Domestic Batteries	3 Vandalism	10 Sick Calls	3 Assist State Police
1 Burglary from auto	3 Finger Printing	6 Vehicle Lock Out3	1 Assist Other Police
2 Thefts under \$300	58 Ambulance Calls	1 Court	87 Assist Citizens
1 Retail Theft	1 Repossession	38 Extra Patrols	12 Assist Public Works Department
1 Deceptive Practice	1 Sex Offender Registration	10 Parking Complaint	4 Assist Schools
2 Fraud	10 Suspicious vehicle	4 Check for Well Being	3 Traffic Control
1 Identity Theft	6 Suspicious Noise	13 Commercial Alarms	1 Curfew
1 Computer Fraud	11 Suspicious Person	4 Hold up Alarms	3 Civil Complaints
1 Criminal Damage to Property	4 Domestic Disturbance	13 Loud Noise Complainant	7 Stray Animals
1 Reckless Driving	2 Neighborhood Complaint	5 Other Public Complainant	1 Sick Animal
3 Hit and Run Car Accidents	2 Disturbance	1 Lost or Stolen License	7 Found Animal
1 No Valid Insurance	2 Notifications	10 Residential Alarms	196 Premise Checks
1 Suspended Driver's License	25 Community Contact	9 Motor Assist	1 Death Investigation
1 Harassment by Telephone	12 Accident Non-Injury	7 Solicitor Complainant	8 Open Doors
15 Assist Fire Department	4 Accident Injury	4 Information for the Police	1 Attempt Suicide

Special Safety Items to be Aware of:

- Turn on your exterior garage lights.
- Consider installing motion detector lights.
- Make sure your home address signs are visible from the street and well-lit at night.
- Trim overgrown hedges near windows, doors, driveways and walk ways.
- Report all suspicious activity immediately by dialing 911.
- With the heat rising make sure you check on your neighbors from time to time, making sure they are able to cope with the heat. Call 911 for any heat related emergency, or to check on someone you have not seen or heard from in a while.
- Sign Up for Community Alerts through CODERED.

WANTED

Volunteers needed for the redesign of Smoke Signals and our Village Website.

Looking for residents with design ideas and/or prior experience.

Flexible commitment. Please contact:

For Smoke Signals Project

Trustee Rita Farrell-Mayer (rfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov)

For Village Website Project

Trustee Heidi Lopez (hlopez@indianheadpark-il.gov)

Volunteers needed to fill two important vacancies at the Heritage Center Library

on the first Saturday of the month 12:30 - 3 p.m.

and the fourth Sunday of the month 12-3 p.m.

Please contact: Jean Southerland (jeansoutherland@gmail.com or (708) 768-4500

DON'T MISS IT!

Public Works Open House

Saturday, Sept. 26

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at

11308 W. 70th Place

Join fellow residents for food, refreshments, and a tour of our beautiful facility. Go behind the scenes and gain a better understanding of all the things the Public Works Department does for our community.

ATTENTION SENIORS...VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK SUPER SENIOR MOBILE EVENT

Sept. 16, 2015 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wilshire Green • 115 Acacia Drive

- Rules of the Road (10 – 11:30 a.m.)
- Drivers License/State ID Card (Renewal, Replacement, Corrections)
- Vision Screen (with License Renewal)
- Illinois Vehicle Sticker Sales (License Plate)
- Motor Voter Registration
- Organ/Tissue Donor Information/Registration

To renew a current Illinois driver's license or ID card, a valid driver's license or ID card must be presented. To apply for a duplicate or corrected driver's license or ID card, two forms of identification must be presented.

For information about acceptable forms of identification, please call (217) 782-7044.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Village Board has declined all compensation, saving Indian Head Park more than \$30,000 each year.

The median Indian Head Park household uses 5,000 gallons of water each month.

All contractors working on your property must be registered with the Village. Call (708) 246-3080 for additional details.

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Smoke Signals
(708) 246-3137

Volume 45, Number 19
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 edited by Trustee Heidi Lopez and Mary Uhrina. News for the next issue is due by November 6 and should be submitted to: hlopez@indianheadpark-il.gov.

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.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

8/27	Water & Sewer Rate Increase Hearing	7:30 p.m.	Village Hall
9/7	Labor Day - Village Office CLOSED		
9/10	Village Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Village Hall
9/16	Super Senior Mobile Event	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	115 Acacia Drive
9/26	Public Works Open House	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11308 W. 70th Place
10/8	Village Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Village Hall
10/31	Halloween Trick-or-Treating	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	
11/12	Village Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Village Hall
11/26	Thanksgiving - Village Office CLOSED		
11/27	Thanksgiving - Village Office CLOSED		

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.

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: Tom Hinshaw

Trustees: Heidi Lopez Chris Metz
Glen R. Mann Brenda O'Laughlin
Rita Farrell Mayer Amy Jo Wittenberg
Laurie Scheer

Village Clerk:

Interim Village

Administrator: Art Osten Jr. 246.7099

Police Dept. Non Emergency 246.4534

Emergency 911

Fire District Non Emergency 352.9229

Emergency 911

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INDIAN HEAD PARK FACES WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE

Public Meeting Thursday, Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. @ Village Hall

This article applies only to residents who receive their water and sewer services from Indian Head Park. About 15% of our residents receive water and sewer services and billing from the LaGrange Highlands Sanitary District. These residents also pay a separate fee on their real estate tax bill.

The Current Situation

To maintain a viable, financially stable water system, your current Village Board is working diligently to develop a plan and rate structure to meet present and future needs. Extensive analysis (confirmed by a Federal program with the University of North Carolina) has revealed that the water and sewer revenues collected by Indian Head Park are insufficient to cover operating expenses. The current fees do not cover the \$300,000 in infrastructure repairs needed in each of the next 10 years, \$400,000 necessary to replace aging water meters, nor do the fees allow the Village to build a reserve for large, unexpected emergency repairs.

Current Indian Head Park residential water rates are \$10.05 per 1,000 gallons of water used. Sewer rates consist of a fixed rate of \$3.20 plus \$0.60 per 1,000 gallons of water used. An increase is an extremely unpleasant reality, but it can't be put off any longer. Revenues are almost 50% less than what is required.

The water rate charged to residents is intended to cover the operating and maintenance costs of the Indian Head Park water system and the cost of the water we buy from Countryside. Indian Head Park water originates from Lake Michigan, via Chicago, McCook and finally from Countryside into the Indian Head Park water main distribution system. Our water system consists of a pump station, a 500,000 gallon underground reservoir, a back-up well, and over 16 miles of pipe. The sewer rate charged to residents is intended to cover the operating and maintenance costs for the 12 miles of pipe that comprise the Indian Head Park sewer system. Residents also pay a separate property tax to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for sewage treatment.

The Options

The water system must be maintained and available for everyone at all times regardless of how often or how much water is used. Although the increase is inevitable, the Village Board is considering options on how the increase occurs.

One option is to raise water and sewer rates a set percentage.

Today, the water bill is based on usage only and includes a minimum usage amount that is billed even if the minimum usage isn't reached. The other option under consideration is charging everyone a usage fee for consumption plus a flat access fee for the water service. The sewer fees already have this structure, but it is not currently reflected on the sewer bill. A usage fee cannot be eliminated because the Village must pay for the amount of water its residents use, and we want to encourage water conservation.

The access fee would be based on the capital costs for operating and maintaining the system and would include a modest emergency reserve. This structure would allow for a reduction in the access fee once meter replacement and infrastructure updates are made and an emergency reserve is established.

Public Meeting for Discussion Scheduled

A public Town Hall meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015 at Village Hall to bring residents the information they need to understand the financial situation and what must be done now to deal with the conditions we face. Please make plans to attend.

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