

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 5 August/September 2011



## Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

Summer is drawing to a close and our children are returning to school as this issue is going to press. Labor Day will be upon us shortly, and the 10th Anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attack on our Nation is rapidly approaching. Hopefully, you have many fond memories of a joyous summer vacation as you move forward to face the challenges of the coming school year. Just as we face these matters at home, your Village Administration continues to address the challenges of our larger family known as "community". Here is what has been accomplished during the past summer months. The VBT has passed an Appropriations Ordinance as mandated by law; and after rigorous budgetary cuts and balances, adopted a FY2011-12 Budget with a very modest surplus; and enacted a Resale Inspection Ordinance that will help us protect our residents and maintain the appearance and property values within our town. We have also approved a contract to upgrade the appearance of the Heritage Center and the bids for work to improve Blackhawk Park are being finalized by the Village Engineer.

### ***Labor Day***

The U.S. Department of Labor describes Labor Day this way: "It is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country." We applaud the American Workers for their accomplishments and in doing so, we show respect to our neighbors and ourselves for striving to make our Nation a better place for our children.

### ***Patriot Day – the 10th Anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attack on America***

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. As we all know and should *Never Forget*, on September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil.

Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense and aspects of this impact continue to the present.

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. (EDT) marking the time that the first plane flew into the World Trade Center.

Ten years later, we want to especially remember the firefighters, the policemen, the medical personnel, rescue workers, all the common people who helped others at the attack sites, and those who helped to clean up in the aftermath of 9-11-01. Some of them accomplished some truly heroic tasks, and deserve to be called heroes! In a different context, General George S. Patton said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men [and women] who died. Rather we should thank God that such [people] lived." His point is equally applicable to the first responders in the 9-11 disaster, although our Nation has and will continue to grieve their loss as well as the loss of the innocent victims of that attack. On Sunday, September 11, I ask everyone to honor their heroism and the memory of all who died that tragic day by displaying the flag at half staff and saying something nice to a policeman, fireman, medic, or member (or veteran) of our Armed Forces. May God bless them all!

### ***Appropriations and Budget***

At our July meeting, your Village Board passed our annual appropriations ordinance. Each year the Village approves such an ordinance which is a legal document that gives the Village authority to spend money. Our Village and other municipalities are required by State law to establish an appropriations ordinance within the first quarter of each fiscal year which sets sums of money which the Village is allowed to spend within those appropriated categories set forth in the ordinance. There is no requirement that the amounts appropriated be spent in each category. The appropriations ordinance consists of several sections including: the corporate fund, water and sewer fund, water and sewer general accounts, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, E-911 Fund, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, Social Security Tax, Audit,

*continued on page 2*

**Message** continued from page 1

General Liability, Bonds and Interest, and Special Parks Fund. The total overall appropriation for corporate purposes is \$4,957,850 as compared to the total appropriation from last year of \$4,606,404.

The Village also passes a budget each year as a guideline for spending to monitor expenses in each line item throughout the year. However, the Village is not required by law to approve a budget. For the fiscal year 2011-12 (May 1 through April 30), the Village Board has approved a budget including total expected revenues from all sources of \$3,701,140 and a total estimated expenses of \$3,697,746. Accordingly, if all estimated revenues were received and all budgeted expenditures were made, there would be a minimal budget surplus of \$3,474 although the corporate fund continues to run in the "red" with a deficit of \$51,500. The important point to note is that this is a tool and not every dollar must be spent as budgeted or at all. If special needs arise, some budgeted expenditures may not be made while new unexpected needs will be addressed. Please further note that this year's frugal budget does not include any pay raise for employees including our police department, no leaf pick-up program, no street paving although we know it is needed on Arrowhead Trail, in Ashbrook and other areas in town, no provision to fill, for now, the one full-time sworn police officer position that is vacant. The budget does include some funds set aside now for 2013 when our debt certificate payment increases by \$100,000.

Last year our budget included a projected deficit of approximately \$125,000. However, I am proud to report that we ended the year in the black by firmly controlling those items within our control and good fortune in regard to matters outside our control such as water main breaks (minimal last year), good health of our police employees and the cooperation of their Union to hold down overtime costs, and the low price of road salt, to mention a few. Nevertheless, our general (corporate) fund still shows a \$62,000 deficit which is down from \$362,000 the prior year. However, in the FY2011/12 budget our general fund has a

\$50,500 deficit that will increase the total to almost \$113,000 by this time next year. Please keep in mind that this was only made possible by some of the hard choices that the Village Board was compelled to make including, e.g., the suspension of the leaf pick-up program, suspension of pay raises to our employees, savings on the police side from overtime reduction and operating one full-time sworn officer short, as well as the further postponement of street paving. On behalf of all of our residents, I thank the Police and all our other employees for doing their part to help the Village in this poor economy. In the near term, I believe that the Village can get by, but in the long term, the Village will need new sources of meaningful revenues to maintain the quality of life and character of our community that we enjoy and expect. The Village Board and I look forward to this challenge and know that, with your support, we will be successful.

**Resale Inspection Ordinance**

Would you rather live in a nice neighborhood or one that is run-down or running down? If you live in a nice house, on a nice street where your neighbors maintain their property, and there are no "eyesores" on your street, keep reading! For those who like nice neighborhoods where property values are not affected by homeowners who cannot or will not maintain their properties, you will be happy to know that your Village Board has taken action to further secure and protect the quality and value of all our homes in Indian Head Park. If you believe that the Village could and should assist in maintaining property values in your neighborhood and Village-wide, our recently enacted Resale Inspection Ordinance is for you!

Discussion regarding the Resale Inspection ordinance concerning its need, purpose and requirements began last June, continued in July, and ended with its passage at our August meeting. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the public interest in maintaining the value of their homes and to provide an additional tool to the Village to help protect that public interest. Here is what the ordinance provides in short. (The ordinance is posted on our website at [www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)).

*continued on page 3*

<b>Smoke Signals</b> (708) 246-3137	<b>Volume 43, Number 5</b> Circulation 2000
<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.	
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 <i>Smoke Signals</i> can be obtained at the Village Hall.	
<a href="http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov">www.indianheadpark-il.gov</a>	

<b>VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK</b>		
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(708) 246-3080		
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<b>Office Hours</b>		
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		
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<b>Trustees:</b>	Deborah A. Anselmo	Carol Coleman
	Brian T. Bailey	Norman L. Schnaufer
	Anne Bermier	Matthew P. Walsh II
<b>Village Clerk:</b>	Joseph V. Consolo	
<b>Chief of Police/ Administrator:</b>	Frank Alonzo, Jr.	
<b>Police Dept.</b>	Non-Emergency	246-4534
	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	Non-Emergency	352-9229
	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

*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.*

## **Message** continued from page 2

Generally speaking, homeowners (single family, condos, and townhomes) and commercial property owners will be required, effective October 1, 2011, to apply for a Certificate of Inspection when they are selling (sale, transfer, or change of ownership) their homes. The Village will send a qualified inspector to the home who will determine, according to a checklist, that the property (1) complies with the zoning regulations within the zoning district where it is situated; (2) no illegal construction or alteration work has been performed without a village building permit; (3) fire safety devices are installed and maintained as required by state law; and (4) the building/structure is in compliance with the Village code and those of any other government entity (meaning e.g. state law, county law, etc.) with jurisdiction over the property. The inspection, when required, will be performed within 60 days of the date of the closing on the sale or transfer of ownership. Homeowners are required to give at least 60 day notice prior to the closing of the sale unless the contract provides for a shorter time until closing.

Upon successful completion of the inspection, the Village will issue a Certificate of Inspection that states the building meets the requirements of the Village as to applicable laws as to matters that are readily apparent and visible at the time of the inspection. A stamp will be issued to the homeowner/seller to be affixed to the deed of conveyance. There is no remediation requirement but deficiencies will be noted for the seller's and buyer's information. Contrary to some distorted speculation, there is no intent to delay closings on this account. There is an inspection fee of \$200 for single family and town homes and \$100 for condominiums. Transfers into a land trust and to financial institutions as a result of a foreclosure are exempt (the financial institution must obtain a Certificate of Inspection and stamp when it sells to a buyer) from the inspection ordinance.

The Unsafe Buildings provision in the ordinance authorizes the Village to inspect a building or structure as requested by the village president where reasonable information exists that a building or structure is in an unsafe condition so as to endanger the safety of the occupants or the general public.

Why do we need this? We are blessed with good residents and nice homes. However, in this economy, there are situations that have come to our attention where the owners are or have let their property deteriorate. The owners are not complying with Village Code and the net result is an "eyesore" that hurts the value of the property in the neighborhood or is hurting the sale opportunities of other homes on the block. Our experience is that neighboring residents contact the Village to ask why we are not doing anything about it. Just such a situation occurred at the August VBT meeting during the discussion of this Resale Ordinance when a resident complained of a nearby property that is in the state of disrepair.

In the few days following the meeting, I drove through town and saw several situations that border on, if not require, Village intervention. So folks, though we are generally blessed with good citizens and a good housing stock, there are a few situations in town that can adversely affect all of us through no fault of our own. To be fair to the owners of these

homes in disrepair, the cause may be due to factors beyond their control. Clearly, irrespective of cause, if your neighbor's home is an "eyesore", chances of selling your house and getting what it really is worth are decreased. With the possibility of a double-dip recession, more homes may fall into disrepair. The Village Board believes this ordinance will give the Village a tool to work for all of us to protect property values.

By way of review for newcomers to our Village and those who may have forgotten, in July 2000, the Village enacted a Tree Preservation Ordinance. The purpose of the tree ordinance (available on the Village website) is "(a) maintaining and preserving mature trees within the Village on both public and private property; (b) promoting the zoning and development of property within the Village in such a manner to maximize aesthetic values and the preservation of the natural and wooded characteristics of the Village; (c) promoting the public health, safety and general welfare, including but not limited to the reduction of noise, air pollution and drainage problems and the preservation of natural resources." Removal of a tree on your property requires a Village permit at a cost of \$50.00. In short, the tree ordinance was enacted to protect the trees and the property values in IHP. We all receive value, directly or indirectly, from this tree ordinance.

Our Resale Inspection Ordinance has a similar purpose. The ordinance is designed to give the Village a tool to protect our property values. Similar inspection ordinances are in effect already in many of our neighboring non-home rule communities. Residents who are not selling or those who are selling homes that have been maintained in accordance with law as to the property will not be burdened by compliance with this ordinance. In 2000, some residents favored the tree ordinance at the time of enactment, some did not.

However the Village Board at that time decided in favor of the trees and the preservation of the park-like ambience of IHP. So too does our current Board favor the preservation of our property values and the character of IHP.

Finally, the Village Administration intends to make the application of this ordinance as "user-friendly" as possible for our residents and still accomplish its purpose. Village Administration is developing the application form, procedures, inspection checklist, and protocol for enforcement of the ordinance. Again, the effective date is October 1, 2011.

### ***Heritage Center Renovations***

I am happy to announce that the Village is in the process of making improvements to the exterior of the Heritage Center building.

The Village Board has authorized entering into a contract for the work for \$21,960 plus an additional option which includes the installation of four casement windows and window side lights at an additional cost of \$3,845. The goal is to have this work commenced if not actually completed by Labor Day.

### ***Blackhawk Park***

A new walking path and park sign are among the renovations to Blackhawk Park that we expect will be completed sometime this fall. Funding for this \$165,000

*continued on page 4*

**Message** continued from page 3

project will come from the Village's share of the Lyons Township Park Bond that was obtained for us by your Village Board. Currently, our Village Engineer is finalizing the necessary bids for the work and is completing the paperwork required by the Township.

**Fire Chief Dan Hermes Retires**

We extend our congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement to Pleasantview Fire Chief Dan Hermes who retired on July 8, 2011. Chief Hermes is a great friend to Indian Head Park and not only looked after the needs of our Village regarding fire safety but also supported our Village's community events by his presence. Chief Hermes has been replaced by Kevin Doyle as our new Fire Chief. We look forward to working with our new Fire Chief in the coming years. Also, Fire Marshall Dan Tholotowsky has taken his retirement in July as well. Both of these retirees have a wealth of experience and knowledge that I hope they will use in some capacity in our area in the future. We wish them both a healthy and happy retirement!!

So, as we continue to move forward, have a good school year! Let's hope for a mild winter, and pleasant memories to all of this summer past! *"The things we did last summer, I'll remember all winter long!"* (Sammy Cahn, U.S. songwriter, 1913-1993). Remember, school is open, drive carefully, and watch out for children on their way to school!

Best Regards, Richard S. Andrews, Mayor

**Scheduled Meeting Dates**

**Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:**  
Thursday, September 8, 2011  
Thursday, October 13, 2011

**Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:**  
No meeting scheduled at this time.

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

**E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:**  
No meeting scheduled at this time.

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

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## IHP Municipal Code References

As a reminder, the Village of Indian Head Park has adopted various codes that set forth regulations (a portion of the Municipal Code is in an electronic format and may be reviewed on the Village's Website and a few of the sections are being provided for reference only):

**TITLE 6 – ANIMALS** the Village code requires that dogs be on a lease at all times and pet owners must pick up after their pets. There is no charge to obtain an animal tag for your pet at the Village Offices (please provide proof of a rabies vaccination).

**TITLE 8 – HEALTH AND SAFETY** this section of the code includes the following regulations -- open burning of refuse is not permitted except fires that are contained in outdoor fire pits with a screen covering for recreational purposes only, public nuisances, trees and weeds, the display of street numbers on buildings, alarm system permits and refuse collection and disposal.



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## TEEPEE TOPICS

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park who were named to the honor roll at Highlands Middle School:

Jessica Bendyk, Trevor Bouma (4.)0, Karli Fehrman, Philip Janowiak, Olivia Jones, Anne LeFevour, Jacob McMillan, Tessa Metz, Kelli O'Laughlin, Daniel O'Malley, Jessica Sholler, Dante Stefanini, Matthew Stevens, Alex Vasti, Jack Wing, Jessica Wittenberg, Erin Yang and Kyle Yang, Kelsey Corcoran, Cameron Dowling, Katarina Kaplarevic, Jimmy Kourafas, Joey Leonard, Nick Valdivia and Oliver Wilp,,Kayla Bradley, Alex Ciessau, Gretta Ciessau, Brandon Hayes, Cayla Hultmark, Filip Kaplarevic, Philip Kim, Luke Lopez, Paige McMahon, Kiera Prinz, Jared Rhiner, and Nicole Stevens, Marisol Cowan, Robert Harlow, Max Holzhueter, Parrish Jonen, Avery Millard, Prashanth Sarma,,Sanjiv Sarma, Grace Brannen, Bridget Brodlo, Haylee Donovan, Maranda Jackson, Luke Kehle, Ali Nix, Timothy O'Malley, Shayna Prinz, Arlis Strauss, Cole Tuisl, Hope Walsh, Marisa Capizzano, Alicia DeGeatano, Dylan Jones, Jakub Kundzicz, Quinn Madarang, Mark McCarthy, Charlie Sargent, Richard Scheer and Kamil Zeglen.

Our sympathies to the families and friends of the following

who recently lost loved ones: Nell Moore, age 80. William Higgins, age 87. William was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. Beth Roberts, age 93, a 32 year resident of Indian Head Park. Charles Casper, age 73. Einar Cannelin, age 97 who was the father of resident Margi and Frank Truckenbrodt.

Do you remember your first bike ride and what life long lessons did your bike teach you? Gloria Valentino, an Indian Head Park Writer, is compiling bike stories for a book she is planning to get published. Contribute to this writing endeavor and send her a story about your first bike. (1) Sharing your story in 100 words or less; (2) Add a "lesson learned" from your bike; (3) Give your name and permission to print. Send all inquiries to Gloria Valentino at [ceciliavalentino@att.net](mailto:ceciliavalentino@att.net). Any questions, call her at (708) 246-5528.

The Lyonsville Congregational Church located at 6871 W. Joliet Road in Indian Head Park would like to open its doors to your group or organization that may need space for your groups for bi-weekly or monthly meetings. Plenty of parking available, several classrooms and 2 large basement areas are available for use. For more information, please contact Christopher Korber at the church (708) 246-1255.

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## Heritage Library Book Sale

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1, 2011



Heritage Library is having their annual book sale on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Hundreds of books will be sold including hardcover and paperbacks. The library is located in what was once the Bird home, 6250 S. Wolf Road, which was donated to the Village of Indian Head Park. Volunteers staff the library which is maintained by the village. Plans are being made to replace the windows and re-side the house, making the library a more pleasing asset to the community. The library hours are Saturday, from 9AM to 3PM and on Sunday from 12PM to 3PM. If you would like to join the roster of volunteers working in the library, please contact Jane Kuhn, (708) 246-0293 or Becky Glasscock, (708)784-0418.

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