

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 44/Number 9 December 2013



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

As you read this, the 2013 Holiday Season is upon us in full measure. Thanksgiving is a distant blur that I hope all of you enjoyed. We have much to be thankful for as residents of Indian Head Park and some challenges that we must collectively strive to resolve. Your Village Board has established a Finance Committee to assist with our budget process and has taken a step closer to implementing a street repair program subject to our residents' approval. Let's take a brief look at these items as we prepare to celebrate another Christmas in our Village.

Finance Committee

At our November 14, 2013 meeting, the VBT enacted an ordinance (#2013-10) creating a finance committee for Indian Head Park. The committee will be comprised of two trustees (Schnauffer and O'Laughlin), Village Administrator Frank Alonzo and Finance Director Dave Brink plus two residents selected from a pool of applicants. As I write this, the two resident appointees have not yet been selected and confirmed by the Board. The ordinance provides that the committee shall work with and advise the VBT concerning the budget among other financial matters. The budget is a good focal point for the committee's efforts in its first year in existence and coincides with the beginning of the budget process for FY 2014/15. We look forward to working with them and having their input.

Street Repair Program

As you may recall, last June I requested the VBT to study and recommend a street repair plan.

Over the summer, the VBT began working on this and expanded its scope to include infrastructure and capital improvements. With the assistance of public works trustees Bailey and Wittenberg, Public Works Superintendent Ed Santen, Water Operator Bill McConaughy, Village Engineer Dave Vandervelde, Treasurer Steve Busa, Finance Director Dave Brink, Village Administrator Alonzo and Village staff, a plan was presented and discussed. A townhall meeting was held on November 7, 2013 to allow time for questions and suggestions from our residents. At the townhall meeting, three scenarios were presented to the residents and their associated costs as well as various means of funding the program. Based on the discussion, the residents present favored the most comprehensive program at a cost to the Village of \$2.5 million. The plan involves a comprehensive village-wide street repair program that will address our critical street maintenance issues and most, if not all, of the not so

critical needs. A street bond payable over 10 to 15 years appeared to be the favored method of financing this program.

After careful consideration of the input from our residents and a lengthy discussion, the VBT settled on a course of action (to be finalized at the December 12th VBT meeting). In general, the VBT agreed that the comprehensive scenario 3 financed by a street bond to be paid off over 15 years be pursued. To do this, property taxes similar to the 1996/97 road bond would have to be raised in the Village. That earlier bond allowed the Village to pave streets in 1997 and was finally paid off in December 2011. Our residents saw a reduction in the Village portion of their property tax bill in 2012. A new street bond would allow the Village to do the same and add back the cost to the Village property tax. Two of the major considerations to do this at this time are the relatively low interest rates and the economy of scale by doing a larger project. Accordingly, the VBT directed our Village Attorney to prepare the appropriate ordinances/resolutions needed to appear on the ballot for the March 18, 2014 general primary election for ratification by our residents. More information (street plan scenarios, meeting minutes, etc.) is available on-line at the IHP website and will be provided in future issues of the Smoke Signals.

In closing, I want to thank the following residents for their time and devotion to service on behalf of us all: Police and Fire Commissioners Tom Anselmo, Tom Reynolds, and Mario Stefanini; E-911 Board members Matt Walsh, Joe Consolo, Carol Coleman, and Anne Bermier; and Planning and Zoning Commissioners Diane Andrews, Noreen Costello, Tim Kyzivat, Earl O'Malley, Dennis Schermerhorn, Bob Tantillo, and Jack Yelnik.

So, as we enjoy the Holiday Season, on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, Village Administration, and staff, I want to wish each of you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!** May Peace and Joy fill your entire Holiday Season and may the spirit of Christmas touch us all and enhance our community!

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

Agnes M. Pharo (1904-1985) --writer

Thank you again for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your mayor!

Sincerely, Richard S. Andrews

Story of a Flower Shoppe

In 1964, a flower shoppe opened in Western Springs, and was given the name "Cha-Lor Flowers", after the owners Charlie and Lorraine. They made beautiful flowers together until 1969, when Norm and Shari took over, and the shoppe was renamed "Norm's Cha Lor". The business flourished under their green thumbs! Eventually, "Norm's Cha-Lor" moved to larger spaces in Indian Head Park. They blossomed and grew for many years. In the new millennium, 2002 to be exact, Jeff took over the shoppe, with the help of his sister Jan, and a group of talented designers, most of whom currently work at "Chalor Flowers". In August, 2013, two of these designers became the new owners of the shoppe, which will now be known as "Heather and Vine" by Chalor. The new owners look forward to doing continued business with many of the long time loyal customers as well as meeting many new friends along the way. The business is located at 6960 Wolf Road in Indian Head Park so stop by when you have a chance. The website for the business is www.heatherandvine.com



Heritage Center Library

The Heritage Center Library is open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. (except during holidays). With winter approaching, there is no better time to curl up with a good book to read on a cold winter day. A variety of reading materials for all ages are available at the library, so please stop when you have a chance. If you have books that are no longer needed, book donations are always accepted and may be left in the vestibule at the Village Administration Offices at 201 Acacia Drive anytime during regular office hours.

Aging Care Connections

Programs and Services



The programs and social services offered by Aging Care Connections are provided to adults age 60 and older and their family members.

Programs and services are designed to provide options for care to seniors in order to enhance their ability to remain as independent as possible in their own communities.

Aging Care Connections employs professionally-trained staff who can assess the needs of older adults facing a change in health or functional ability on an individual basis. A case manager can offer information, assistance and referral to in-home services designed to address the needs identified. Programs and services can also provide support and assistance to family members caring for older adults. Caregivers can receive valuable information on a wide range of programs, services, support and resources currently available. Aging Care Connections provides comprehensive information about local, state and national resources important to older adults and their family members. An Information and Assistance Specialist is available daily to answer questions, make referrals, and discuss options for care. Aging Care Connections can provide a skilled professional able to access services through direct referrals to service providers; linkage to assessment for in-home care and benefits; and information on aging issues, chronic illness and support networks. Aging Care Connections is your local point of entry to a statewide network of care coordination units able to provide help throughout the state with timely, appropriate, and accurate information. For further information, please contact Aging Care Connections at (708) 354-1323 or send an e-mail to info@agingcareconnections.org

Smoke Signals
(708) 246-3137

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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.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

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: Richard S. Andrews

Trustees: Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer
Tom Hinshaw Matthew P. Walsh II
Brenda O'Laughlin Amy Jo Wittenberg

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, January 9, 2014 – Regular Meeting
- Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.:**
Tuesday, January 7, 2014
- Fire and Police Commission: 5:00 p.m.**
Thursday, January 2, 2014
- 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!

Advertisements

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- For Sale Ariens #932000 Series Snow Thrower, 5 HP, five speed, electric start. Overhauled in April 2013. Asking \$500.00. Call (708) 246-1276.
- For Sale Queen headboard, bedspread, pillow shams, bedskirt – asking \$100.00. Contact Jen at (708) 246-6635 if you are interested.

Advertisements

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TEEPEE TOPICS

Local girl makes firm debut

Gabrielle Walsh, was the recipient of the Indian Head Park Woman's Club Scholarship in 2007. She will be making her film debut as the female lead in Paramount Studios' Paranormal Activity the Marked Ones which is to be released in theaters on January 3, 2014. Ms. Walsh was chosen to play the role of Marisol after auditions were held worldwide for the popular Paranormal Activity horror series. Gabrielle participated in the Theater program at Lyons Township High School and attended Moscow Theater of Fine Arts and Northern Illinois University graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater in 2011. Gabrielle now resides in Los Angeles and she recently starred in Jada Pinkett Smith's music video "Nada Se Compara" directed by Salma Hayek.

We applaud the following students from Indian Head Park who achieved academic excellence and who were named to the honor roll: **(Nazareth Academy):** Bridget Brodlo, Haylee Donovan, Taryn Kryza, Ali Nix, Rachel Pellegrino, Anna Rafanelli, Cara Rafanelli, Michael Yu and Kevin Connelly.

(Fenwick High School) Rachael Tank, Maeve Lynch, Emily Pacella, Nicole Tank and Patrick Bailey.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Hattie Schermerhorn, Patricia Dougherty and Harry Stomberski who passed away. Hattie Schermerhorn, age 95, of Sturgis Michigan was the mother of Indian Head Park Planning and Zoning Chairman Dennis Schermerhorn. Hattie was a homemaker and a local artist, she was a member of the Howe United Methodist Church in Indiana and a 50 year member of the Sylvan Chapter #251 O.E.S. of LaGrange, Indiana. Patricia Dougherty also passed away. She was the grandmother of Police Officer Paul Retzke. Harry Stomberski, age 85, was the father of resident Alan Stomberski. Harry retired after 29 years of employment from the Fisher Body Division of General Motors in Willow Springs, he loved his church and family, fishing, gardening and tinkering around the house or following his beloved sports teams the Chicago Cubs, Bears and Blackhawks.

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