

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 11 May 2012



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

As spring has arrived, we look forward to the coming summer with hope and expectations of fun. So too does the Village Board look forward to meeting the challenges facing us as we plan our next budget. Voters decided the PTELL referenda, reverse 9-1-1 (Code Red) is in place, village improvement construction projects will begin shortly, vehicle stickers will be on sale May 1st, and there was time for fun at our annual Easter egg hunt.

PTELL Referenda

As you know the referenda on the March 20th primary election ballot to raise revenue for police protection, streets, and village debt was unsuccessful. On behalf of your VBT, I want to thank all of you who voted with regard to this matter. This was (and is) a matter of significant importance to the Village, such that the VBT sought input from our residents through the ballot. We respect the majority vote. To those who supported the referenda, I share your disappointment. To those who opposed them, I understand. As a resident said at one of our meetings, we all float in the same boat and we rise and fall together. It should be clear that without the additional revenue from the PTELL referenda, the Village will be constrained from moving forward as suggested to address residents' requests for enhanced police protection, street repairs, and for payment of the bump up in village debt payments next year. However, as we plan the coming fiscal year budget for 2012/13, we will take the guidance given by our residents to prudently tighten the belt on expenses and do our best in going forward with the resources we have. With your understanding, support, and cooperation, we will be successful!

Code Red

Last year, in the aftermath of the criminal activity in our village, residents and your VBT alike requested a system to notify residents immediately of emergency matters. Phone calls to homes (called "reverse 9-1-1" or "robo-calls"), cell phones and/or e-mail alerts were discussed. I am pleased to report that such a system is in place in IHP at this time for land line phones through a program known as "Code Red". Chief Alonzo has researched various programs for this purpose. Code Red addresses our need for notification to residents of "real emergencies" at no additional cost to the Village through our affiliation with the Southwest Central Dispatch Center. If you have a land line, that number is automatically included in the 911 system. As such, your land line number is available

to send voice messages of emergency matters to you through Code Red. Currently, Chief Alonzo is gathering additional information for residents to include cell phone numbers and/or e-mail, hopefully at no cost to our residents. More information will be provided on this as it becomes available for implementation.

Village Improvements

As you read this issue of the Smoke Signals, two village improvement construction projects should or will be underway shortly. First, as you know the Village received a grant (\$165,000) from the Lyons Township Board for improvements at Blackhawk Park from the Township's park bond that we all must support with our taxes. As such, the funds must be spent for park purposes. This project is expected to begin by the end of April and includes a new concrete pathway, new signage, landscape and new roofing at the gazebo. Construction is expected to take about 15 work days. In addition, a sidewalk will be installed on the west side of Willow Springs Road from the Walgreen's drug store to 65th Street. The VBT awarded the bid for this construction project at the April VBT meeting. We obtained funding (\$88,000) from the State in connection with the Illinois Capital program for this sidewalk (and capping a municipal well plus a water main on Cochise). This has been in the works since 2009 and although it was approved by the State's General Assembly, funds are just now slowly being released. As an aside, we requested a number of other items with varying costs through our State Senator Christine Radogno and State Representative Jim Durkin, including a sidewalk along Wolf Road, from the Illinois Capital program.

Our representatives worked hard for us and were able to get these items included in the bill in the face of fierce competition for funds. We owe them our thanks!

Vehicle Stickers

Included in this issue of Smoke Signals is a flyer to remind residents that vehicle stickers go on sale starting May 1st through June 30th. They must be displayed commencing on July 1. Your prompt cooperation in purchasing and displaying the stickers is appreciated and expected by all residents. Applications are mailed to all residents before May 1st based on village and State records. If you have not received one by May 10th or are new to our community, please stop by the Village hall to arrange for the purchase of your vehicle stickers.

continued on page 2

Message continued from page 1

Village Fun

The annual Village Easter Egg Hunt was held in Blackhawk Park on April 7th under sunny skies and moderate temperatures. There were about 250 children and adults in attendance. This annual event was sponsored by your elected village officials who donated the candy and plastic eggs and arranged for the Easter Rabbit to appear for photo ops with the kids. Our thanks to the students at the LaGrange Highlands School who filled the eggs with the candy as a community service project and to our residents and staff who helped get things in place that day. We are grateful for their help with this!

Please note, we are grateful that through the generosity of a Village friend, the Heritage Center parking lot will be seal-coated and re-stripped on the Mothers' Day weekend of May 12-13 at no cost to the Village. Accordingly the library will be closed that weekend.

Congratulations to Dennis Schermerhorn on his re-appointment as Chairman of our Village Planning and Zoning Commission. Dennis and all the PZC Members perform a valuable service in maintaining the ambiance of Indian Head Park.

Finally, as the school year nears its conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the VBT and our residents, to extend our congratulations to all IHP graduates from pre-school to PhD's.

Your accomplishments are a source of pride to your families and to our community.

Happy Mothers' Day to our IHP moms and grand-mothers!
Respectfully, Richard S. Andrews, mayor

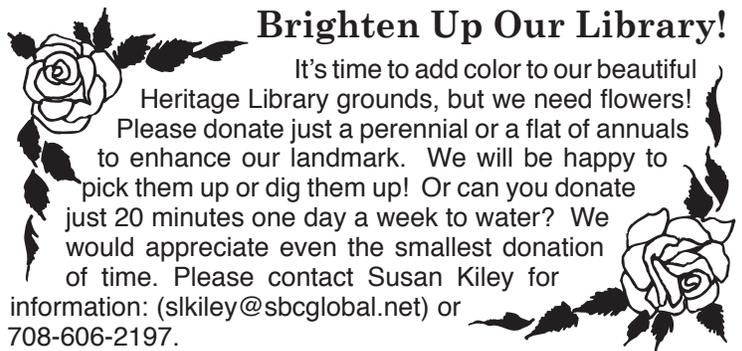
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Smoke Signals (708) 246-3137	Volume 43, Number 11 Circulation 2000
<i>Smoke Signals</i> is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.	
Tepee 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.	
www.indianheadpark-il.gov	

Brighten Up Our Library!

It's time to add color to our beautiful Heritage Library grounds, but we need flowers! Please donate just a perennial or a flat of annuals to enhance our landmark. We will be happy to pick them up or dig them up! Or can you donate just 20 minutes one day a week to water? We would appreciate even the smallest donation of time. Please contact Susan Kiley for information: (slkiley@sbcglobal.net) or 708-606-2197.



Advertisement

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Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, May 10, 2012
Thursday, June 14, 2012

Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.:
Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Fire and 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!

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: Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

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

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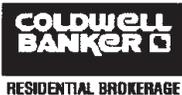
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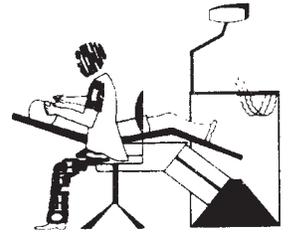
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TEEPEE TOPICS

The National Wildlife Federation recently announced that the property of Roy and Shirley Lundin located in Indian Head Park, Illinois is now recognized as an official Certified Wildlife Habitat site. The property attracts a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife by providing a wildlife friendly landscape. The wildlife habitat certification program was established in 1973 and has since certified almost 150,000 habitats nationwide. Any habitat enthusiast can create a certified habitat and learn the rewards of gardening for wildlife. In order to become certified, a property owner must provide the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young; and must employ sustainable gardening practices.

In addition to providing for wildlife, certified habitats conserve our natural resources by reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and/or irrigation water, which

ultimately protects the air, soil and water throughout our communities.

Congratulations to Emily Pall, who qualified for Illinois State Special Olympics in gymnastics held at ISU. She received 3 gold and 2 silver medals in balance beam, floor, vault and rings. Emily earned a spot at the State competition. This is Emily's third year on Team S.E.A.S.P.A.R.

The West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry Foundation will be hosting a Computer Recycling Drive and Living Green Festival on Saturday, May 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lyons Township High School located at 4900 S. Willow Springs Road. For further details, please contact Katherine Leibforth at (708) 387-7550 regarding these events.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Muldowney Sr. who recently passed away.

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