



InverNews

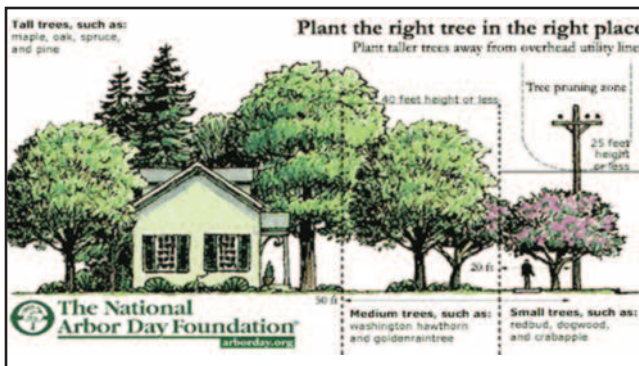
The Village With A Heritage

Fall 2011

Trees and Power Lines: Dead or Overgrown Trees Are an Outage Waiting to Happen

A common cause of power outages might be lurking in your own back yard. Trees growing underneath or a close proximity to overhead electrical lines are an outage waiting to happen. Dead or dying trees can fall into power lines during storms. Similarly, overgrown trees can interfere with overhead power lines.

You can help minimize outages in your areas by conducting an assessment of trees in your easements. Now is a good time to have dead or dying trees removed and prune back overgrowth on healthy trees.

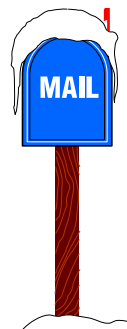


Is there a tree on your property that is a power outage waiting to happen? This illustration shows the correct tree clearance zone in relation to overhead power lines.

When removing or trimming trees near power lines, important safety precautions must be taken. When hiring a tree contractor, homeowners should verify that the individual is line-clearance qualified to work within 10 feet of energized conductors. Homeowners should *never* attempt to do this work themselves. Only line-clearance arborists who meet (continued on page 3)

Check It Now: Make Sure Your Mailbox is Winter-Ready

Mailboxes are occasionally unintended casualties of the snow season. Snow being thrown off the snowplow blade is often wet and heavy. Weakened posts and mailboxes or those too close to the pavement may be unable to withstand the weight of the snow. Village code specifies that the face of the mailbox must be at least 12 inches from the edge of the pavement. According to US Postal regulations, the height of the mailbox should be between 41" and 45" from the road to the bottom of the box.



The Village will not replace or repair mailboxes where the damage was caused by heavy snow coming off the plow blade, therefore we suggest that you examine your mailbox early in the snow season to ensure that it is structurally sound and properly maintained. While crews always do their best to protect lawn areas and mailboxes adjacent to the roadway, we ask you to report any damage caused by snow plows within 24 hours so that we can investigate and make repairs as warranted.

A Note About Property Taxes

This fall you received your 2010 property tax bill from Cook County. Properties in north and northwest Cook County were reassessed across the board based on market value reduction. The decrease in taxable value ranged from 10-17%. In Inverness, the assessed value declined by 14% when you factor out new construction value. This reduction in assessed value yielded a Village tax rate of .429, which was 9.4% greater than the prior year.

The rate increase does not tell the whole story however. The Village's tax levy is comprised of two components. 65% of the property tax levy is earmarked for police services. The remaining 35% goes to pay debt service on bonds that were issued to finance road and drainage improvements. For 2009, the Village's property tax levy totaled \$2,436,491. The 2010 property tax levy was \$2,442,686. This was only .25% greater than in 2009, or \$6,195 more in actual dollars. (continued on page 2)

Village Hall Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving:

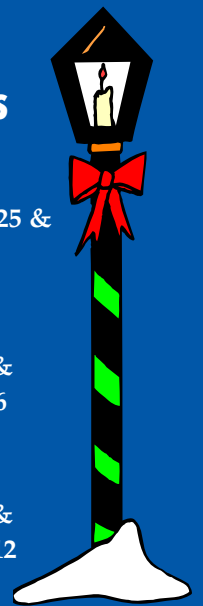
Thursday November 25 &
Friday, November 26

Christmas:

Friday, December 23 &
Monday, December 26

New Year's:

Friday, December 30 &
Monday, January 2, 2012



Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

I would like to take this opportunity to report and update you on my progress with ComEd. Most of you know all too well the problems with electrical reliability this summer. ComEd's performance during these storms was terrible. We had many neighborhoods without power for 4 or 5 days on multiple occasions. Information on restore times provided by ComEd was lacking as we attempted to respond to your questions. Since these storms, I have met with senior ComEd officials on several occasions to seek answers on the causes of these outages and their plans to correct service in the more problem areas.

As a result of these meetings, I was able to get ComEd's commitment to make improvements to their distribution system in several neighborhoods. These improvements include greater tree trimming along certain circuits, the installation of additional overhead fusing, underground cable replacement and related transformer work. They are also evaluating the use of Hendrix cabling (designed for better performance in areas with heavy tree coverage) in areas where tree trimming may not be an adequate or long term solution. This work should be completed by the first quarter of 2012 in time for the next round of storms in the Summer of 2012. I also continue to stress the point in all of our meetings about the greater impact to residents on private wells and septic systems and the need to change their restoration protocols. This topic was part of my testimony before the Public Utilities Committee of the Illinois House last August. While I have been told that this issue is being discussed at a senior level in ComEd, I have yet to get any firm commitment. I will continue to hammer this point home in future meetings.

In this newsletter, there is an article on the benefits of assessing your property and utility easements in order to identify and remove dead or overgrown vegetation that could interfere with overhead transmission lines. I strongly encourage you to do this. We all have a part in this and your own maintenance efforts are important in reducing the amount of tree related power outages to you and your neighbors, as well as our entire community.

On behalf of the rest of the Village Board, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,



Fees Waived for Standby Natural Gas Generators

As a result of the power outages from last summer and in an effort to assist residents, the Village is waiving building permit fees for standby natural gas generators. While a building permit application and final inspection are still required, those permits will be issued at no cost. The Building Department is also expediting approval of these permits in most cases.

Since last summer, the Village has issued 10 permits at no cost. According to Mayor Tatoes, "The Village needs to make it as easy as possible for residents to protect their property and be comfortable in their homes as long as electrical reliability is a problem."

More information on permit requirements can be obtained by calling the Building Department at (847) 358-7960.

Property Taxes *(continued from page 1)*

in actual dollars. This entire additional amount was for bond debt service. The Police Department portion of the levy was unchanged from 2009.

The Police Department continues to provide excellent service at a lower cost than contract services. This in turn keeps property taxes lower than would be the case under contracting out for this function. Last year actual Police Department expenses

were \$571,000 less than the projected expenses for contract services during this same period. This savings is passed on to all property owners in the Village as the result of lower and more stable revenue needs.

More information on the Village's budget, police expenses and audits can be found on the Village's website at www.villageofinverness.org/news.html.

If You Will be Giving or Receiving Electronics This Holiday Season . . .

With the holiday season just around the corner, you might be in the market for new electronics. But what do you do with the old equipment you are replacing? In 2009, Illinois adopted an electronics recycling law known as the Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act. This legislation initially banned televisions and monitors from entering landfills beginning January 1, 2012. Recently, Governor Quinn signed legislation that made extensive changes to the Act by expanding the number of electronic products banned from landfills to include the following:

Televisions	Monitors
Printers	Computers including tablets
Electronic Keyboards	Facsimile Machines
Videocassette Recorders	Portable Digital Music Players
Digital Video Disc Players	Video Game Consoles
Small Scale Servers	Scanners
Electronic Mice	Digital Converter Boxes
Cable Receivers	Satellite Receivers
Digital Video Disc Recorders	

For more information, visit www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/amendments.html.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) provides a number of environmentally sound options for electronics recycling. For a complete list of these options, go to SWANCC's website, www.swancc.org/recycling/computerelectronicsrecycling.html.

Power Outages *(continued from page 1)*

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) qualifications can work within 10 feet of energized power lines. ComEd's line-clearance arborists can also provide this service for customers at a cost. The Clear for Customers' Removal Program is available by calling 800-Edison-1 (800-334-7661). Upon request, a representative will contact the residential customer or a contractor to arrange an inspection of the affected tree or trees. The customer will receive a written estimate for the work to be performed.

Our wooded community is one of Inverness' most important assets. We strive to balance our concern for this community value with an equally important set of concerns: public safety and the reliability of electrical power.

ComEd provides tips on tree-planting and tree-trimming practices for residents. Trees and bushes that grow to heights less than 20 feet (e.g., dogwoods or crabapples), may be appropriate for planting near power lines. Trees that grow more than 30 feet tall (e.g., maple, elm and blue spruce), should never be planted under or near power lines. At full height, these trees could contact lines and cause a power outage or create a safety issue.

For more information about vegetation maintenance along power lines and ComEd's Right Tree, Right Place program, visit www.comed.com/sites/customerservice/pages/treespowerlines.aspx

Garbage Pickup For Upcoming Holidays

Thanksgiving: The holiday falls on Thursday, November 24; garbage pickup will be on Friday, November 25.

Christmas: No change

New Year's: No change



It's The Season of Giving

The holiday season is a wonderful time not only to celebrate and give thanks, but also to reach out and share with those who are less fortunate.

The Inverness Police Department has partnered with the United States Marine Corp. for the Annual Toys for Tots Drive. Beginning Friday, November 25 (the day after Thanksgiving) through the holiday season, residents can drop off new unwrapped toys at the Village Hall or Police Department.

You might consider joining with neighbors on your block, or co-workers at the office, to purchase toys that will make this a special holiday for a child who might otherwise be forgotten.

Calendar of Events

December

- 13 Village Board
- 20 Plan Commission
- 21 Zoning Board

January

- 10 Village Board
- 17 Plan Commission
- 18 Zoning Board

February

- 14 Village Board
- 15 Zoning Board
- 21 Plan Commission



STD. PRE-SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Palatine, IL P & DC
Permit No. 2854

Village of Inverness
1400 Baldwin Road
Inverness, Illinois 60067

847/358-7740
847/358-8858 fax

Website: www.villageofinverness.org

Village Hall Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Jack Tatoes. Mayor
Laurie C. White. Clerk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Russell P. Fitton Janice Stremel
Richard C. Gallagher Timothy W. Tiedje
Patricia D. Ledvina John R. Willis

Newsletter Editor Kaye Lowman Boorum

Printed on Recycled Paper

Snow Season Reminders: Plowing, Parking, Holiday Trees & More

The holiday season and winter weather are on their way to Chicagoland. The Village’s snow plowing crews stand ready 24/7 to keep the roadways safe for travel. Check out these brief but important snow season reminders:

- **Please remove all landscaping obstructions** -- such as boulders, stones and tree limbs – from the right-of-way before the first snow-fall. Such items can pose a significant safety hazard for snow plowing crews.
- **Never shovel or plow snow from the driveway into the street.** Snow from driveways that is deposited on the roadways can become compacted and icy, posing a significant danger to both vehicles and pedestrians.
- **Remove snow from your driveway after the plow has made its last pass.** We recommend removing snow from your driveway after the plow has made its last pass. Snow plows are designed to push snow to the outside edge of the road, which means the plow will inevitably leave snow at the bottom of your driveway. You can save yourself both time and frustration by waiting to clear the bottom of your driveway until the plow has made its final pass on your street.

- **Clear driveway culverts.** Remove debris and obstructions to prevent ice dams from forming.
- **Parking reminder.** When snow-plowing operations are underway, vehicles should not be parked on the street until the pavement has been cleared. Parking on Village streets is prohibited from 1:00-6:00 a.m. throughout the year.

Enjoy Your Christmas Tree -- Then Put It at the Curb Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb free of charge on Thursday, January 5 and Thursday, January 12. No sticker is needed for the curbside tree pickup.

Residents are invited to continue the spirit of the holiday season through the coming months by contributing to the Village of Inverness Good Samaritan Fund. Donations in any amount may be dropped off or mailed to the Village Hall, 1400 Baldwin Road. Checks should be made payable to the Village of Inverness Good Samaritan Fund.

All monies from this fund are made available to those in need in our community, as well as to local food pantries and agencies serving the elderly, children and families in need.

WINTERTIME TRAVEL INFORMATION



Illinois Department of
Transportation 312-DOT-INFO;
www.dot.state.il.us

For information about state highways including Palatine, Dundee and Barrington Roads.

Cook County Highway
Department (708) 485-7130;
www.cookcountygov.com/portal/server.pt/community/highway_department/298/highway_department/411

To report problems on county highways such as Ela, Roselle, and Bradwell Roads.

Illinois Tollway Information Line
1-800-TOLLFYI (1-800-865-5394);
www.illinoistollway.com

For tollway information including problems with fog, snow, ice, high winds and trailer bans. This information is updated every four hours, more often if weather conditions warrant.

