

# InverNews

The Village With A Heritage



Spring 2013

## Be Aware: Ruse Burglars Are Once Again Targeting Local Homeowners

Sophisticated teams of burglars are gaining entry to area homes by posing as utility employees or contractors offering free estimates, and then stealing cash, jewelry, sterling silver and other valuables while the homeowner is distracted.

This type of scam knows no season and is becoming more prevalent year round. Residential burglars often prey on senior citizens and may even push their way into homes under the pretense that they will perform some handiwork.

Scenarios typically involve having one team member, dressed in a uniform and often arriving in an official-looking van, ringing the doorbell and posing as a utility employee, electrician or construction worker who needs to check a meter or something else located in the basement. As the homeowner and burglar make their way to the basement, the burglar uses his two-way radio to let his waiting partner know it is safe to enter the house and help himself to whatever valuables he can find.

In warmer weather, the scenario changes to giving the homeowner a reason to go outside with the burglar to give an estimate on tree trimming, driveway seal coating, or checking property boundaries. *(continued on page 2)*



*If you suspect a ruse burglar is knocking, call 911 immediately.*

## Yardwaste Pickup Resumes on April 4

If the last snowstorm had you dreaming about the arrival of spring and the opportunity to spruce up your yard for the warm weather months, here's some timely information about yardwaste pickup:

- **There is no charge for the first two bags/bundles:** Any combination of two yardwaste bags or bundles per week will be picked up at no charge.
- **Stickers are required for additional bags/bundles:** Yardwaste stickers are \$2.25 each. Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall, the Jewel at 1485 Palatine Road, or directly from Groot by calling 1-800-244-1977.
- **Other requirements:** Bags must be biodegradable paper bags. Bundles may be no larger than four feet in length, two feet in diameter, may not weigh more than 50 pounds, and must be tied with twine.



## Consolidated Election is Tuesday, April 9

*Here's the information you need to make voting simple and convenient.*

### Early Voting

Early voting began on March 25 and will continue through April 6. Three Early Voting sites are available for Inverness residents:

#### **Barrington Township**

602 S. Hough Street  
Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

#### **Palatine Village Hall**

200 E. Wood Street  
Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

#### **Rolling Meadows Courthouse**

2121 Euclid Avenue, Room 218  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

### Grace period registration & voting by mail, March 13-April 6

Grace period registration is available at any Cook County Courthouse.

Those who wish to vote by mail may download an application from [cookcountyelection.com](http://cookcountyelection.com), or pick one up from the County Clerk's six locations, or Village Hall.

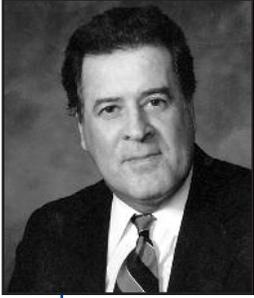
### Not sure where to vote on Election Day?

Go to [cookcountyclerk.com/elections/voterprofile](http://cookcountyclerk.com/elections/voterprofile), enter your last name and street address, and the website will provide the location and address of your polling place.

### Election Day is Tuesday, April 9

Be sure to VOTE!

## Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

The implementation steps for the Village's electrical aggregation program have been completed. I am happy to report that the transition went well. Over 98% of eligible Inverness accounts chose not to "opt-out" and enrolled in the program. The actual switch to Constellation Energy took place in mid-March. As you may recall their rate was 4.931 cents per kWh for two years. You should start seeing the savings on your April electrical bill. Our consultant estimates that most households will see annual savings of over \$600 based on the current ComEd rate. While actual savings are subject to change later this year when ComEd rates are readjusted, the Village's program has a rate guarantee. Under that guarantee Constellation cannot charge more

than the ComEd rate should it drop during the two-year term of our agreement. If you chose not to enroll in the beginning, you can still enroll by contacting Constellation Energy directly at 800-718-1493.

In this edition of *InverNews* there is an article from the Police Department warning you about "ruse" burglaries. These are occurring more frequently in the northwest suburbs so we thought it important that you be reminded of this problem. Along these lines, I want to remind you that you should not hesitate to dial 911 for any type of police response. As Chief Haas continues to stress, 911 is not just for emergencies. It is the best way to get the Police Department to respond to your needs.

As spring approaches, solicitors will also be more evident. To avoid being bothered, the Village provides free "Solicitors Prohibited" door stickers. The sticker must be displayed in order to for the Police Department to enforce the regulation. Call us at (847) 358-7740 and we will be happy to mail one to you.

Spring also provides us with an opportunity to get out in the yard and see what's going on. I would encourage you to inspect your driveway culverts and make sure they are free of debris and unobstructed. This will improve surface drainage in your neighborhood and minimize local flooding.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation is still a major problem. If you have Ash trees, please have them inspected by an arborist for EAB. More information on EAB can be found at [www.illinoiseab.com](http://www.illinoiseab.com). If you think an Ash tree in the right of way is infested, please contact Village Hall at 847-358-7740 and we will have the Village Arborist inspect the right of way tree. As a general rule of thumb, the right of way extends about 20' from the edge of pavement. The Village will remove infested Ash trees in the right of way.

Do not hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

## Ruse Burglaries (continued from page 1)

Inverness Police Chief Bob Haas urges homeowners to be alert and cautious when any unknown individual comes to the door. "If someone posing as a contractor going door to door in the neighborhood asks to come in and give you a free estimate on a project, do not let him into your home."

Beware of anyone who comes to the door and says, "We are out of gas and need assistance." "May we come in to check your water pressure or water quality?" "We found some money. Is it yours?" "Can you come outside and show me your property line before I cut down these trees?"

"Many people hesitate to call 911 for a non-emergency, but it is the correct number to call for ANY police service, whether it is an emergency or non-emergency," Haas said. "Our best chance of apprehending a criminal is while he is still in the neighborhood, so the sooner we are called, the better our chances of apprehending him before he moves on to another area."

And if you have an alarm, set it when you leave the house, no matter how long you will be gone.

## Calendar of Events

### April

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

### May

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

### June

- 11 Village Board
- 18 Plan Commission
- 19 Zoning Board

## Dispose of Sharps & Medications Safely

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) sponsors a collection/disposal program for expired or unused medications and sharps, and provides a one-quart collection container for needles. Recent research by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey revealed that there are a substantial amount of antibiotics and steroidal hormones in rivers, lakes and wells caused by people flushing their medications down the toilet or putting them down the sink. Additionally, sharps can cause needle-sticks and health issues if thrown away in the garbage or put in the water system.



Residents are asked to leave their medications in the original containers and to mark out their personal information. No over-the-counter liquid medications, commercial or institutional waste, or controlled substances will be accepted.

Nearby collection sites are:

**Palatine Rural Fire Protection District**, 35 Ela Road, (847) 991-8700  
Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Arlington Heights Senior Center**, 1801 W Central Road, (847) 253-5532  
First Thursday of each month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Sharps are accepted during regular business hours. No drop-offs in July.

**Barrington Public Safety Building**, 400 N Northwest Hwy., (847) 304-3300  
First Saturday of each month: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm every day.

## Timely Reminders

### 2013 vehicle stickers:

Applications will be mailed at the end of May to notify residents that vehicle stickers will be available for purchase on June 1. Stickers are \$10 each and must be displayed by July 1. The fee rises to \$20 on September 2, and \$100 on October 2. Dog licenses are \$5 until September 1; \$10 thereafter.

### Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors:

The building code provides that whenever a permit is issued, smoke alarms are required to be added if they do not currently exist in every bedroom, the hall outside the bedrooms, and on every other level of the home. Most homes have a smoke alarm on each level but the installation of a smoke alarm inside of each bedroom could provide additional time to escape if a fire occurs. Even if you are not doing work that requires a building permit, it is well worth the nominal cost to install smoke alarms in every bedroom and the bedroom hallway. State law requires carbon monoxide alarms within fifteen feet of all bedrooms.

### Unwelcome solicitors knocking on your door?

The only action the Police Department can take is the enforcement of the door placard that indicate "Canvassers, Solicitors and Peddlers Forbidden." These window clings are available free of charge at the Village Hall and Police Department. If you do not have a placard posted, we cannot take any action against those who come to your door.

### Always lock the doors of your vehicle.

Most burglary to vehicles do not involve forced entry -- the burglars just open the unlocked door and help themselves.

## Is Your Address Easily Visible for Emergency Responders?

No one ever expects an emergency, but emergencies happen every day. The moment you need to call for emergency police, fire or medical help, is the moment you will realize how important it is for your house number to be easily visible for those who are coming to assist you. Please take a moment to make sure your home address is visible for emergency responders.

### Three things that make it difficult to find your home:

1. Address is hard to see and/or blends in with the mailbox.
2. Address is missing entirely.
3. Address is on the mailbox across the street and not on the home.

These issues pose a significant danger because they may cause delays in identifying your home at a time when delays of seconds or minutes could be critically important.

**Make it easy to find your home by making it easy to see your address.**

- The house numbers should contrast in color where affixed
- The numbers should be at least 4 inches in height
- The numbers should be reflective if possible
- The house numbers should be displayed so that they are visible in both directions of travel

Many residents have purchased reflective address signs from the Palatine Rural Fire Department. They can be seen in many neighborhoods in Inverness. The Fire Department is offering these signs for a small fee of \$15.00. For more information, call (847) 991-8700 or stop in at 35 N. Ela Road (at Palatine Road) to order yours.





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](http://www.villageofinverness.org)

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

Jack Tatoes. . . . . Mayor  
Laurie C. White. . . . . Clerk

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**New Ambulance Features Integrated Child Seat, LED Lighting Technology And More**

The Palatine Rural Fire Department purchased a new 2013 International Horton Ambulance. It replaces one of the District’s current ambulances that was purchased in 1997. The other existing ambulances will remain in reserve.

The new International/Horton Ambulance is equipped with the latest in safety technology which, includes, but not limited to:

- The latest LED lighting technology for improved visibility
- High visibility exterior graphics
- Rear backing camera
- Patient compartment air bags
- Integrated child seat



Chief May, who headed the research and purchasing process stated, “This new ambulance features safety and patient care enhancements that were carefully selected to meet current and future needs.”

**Palatine Rural Receives a “Class 3” Rating by ISO**

Palatine Rural Fire Protection District (PRFPD) recently received some excellent news, for both the Department and the communities it serves, when it received a “Class 3” rating from the Insurance Service Office (ISO).

ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk. ISO’s staff collects information about fire suppression efforts in communities throughout the United States, analyzes the relevant fire department data and then assigns a Public Protection Classification – a number from 1 – 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program and Class 10 indicates that the area’s fire suppression program does not meet ISO’s minimum criteria.

With the newest “Class 3” rating, Palatine Rural has joined an elite group of fire departments: only 4% of the 48,000 fire departments in the U.S. receive a “Class 3” rating. In Illinois, only 6% receive a “Class 3” rating.

**Be a Dog-gone Good Neighbor**

Warm weather is on its way, and for lots of folks, that means enjoying a walk through the neighborhood with Fido.

Just a friendly reminder that Village ordinance requires that whenever you are walking your dog off of your property, he/she must be on a leash and under your control at all times. Any “deposits” should also be cleaned up immediately.

**Have A Residential Alarm System?**

Remember that if you have a permit on file, the information on it must be updated every two years. Permit applications are available online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm).

If your permit is less than two years old, you do not need to do anything unless any of the information on the permit has changed.