



~ Excerpt from Conserve Lake County Article ~

WE LOVE HEARING ABOUT OUR MEMBERS' GREAT PROJECTS

When we can be of help with them, so much the better! Please enjoy one of our favorite success stories of 2014.

When residents and officials of Green Oaks learned that a 12-acre neighborhood woodland provides refuge to rare species threatened by buckthorn, they united and took action. Knowing that many people value buckthorn for privacy screening, Conserve members in the Reigate Woods subdivision came to us for advice on both ecological and community-building considerations. We helped and, through a cooperative, thoughtful approach, Bryan Muskat and Louise Wood led their community through creation and adoption of an action plan. They increased their capacity through training and contracted support, and we lent them our saws, loppers and other tools.

"Early on, you raised our awareness to the value of this property," said Louise. "In addition, your ecological assessment confirmed that this woodlands was worthy of effort. You helped us refine and focus our strategy to a path with better potential for success. Then, the loan of tools allowed us



to focus our early efforts on cutting buckthorn instead of tool procurement. Conserve Lake County has been a light shining in the dark lighting our way. We owe you much thanks."

We are thrilled to hear that dozens of residents, including elected officials, now meet together regularly to clear buckthorn.

The impact of this is huge. Young trees and wildflowers will receive much-needed sunlight. Developing tadpoles will be exposed to lower amounts of buckthorn toxins and song-birds will eat fewer of the buckthorn berries. Just as thrilling, it's great to hear how this project is bringing together neighbors - connecting them with each other and their woodland's treasure. That's pure joy, and we're happy to have been of assistance. We salute the Village of Green Oaks.



CONSERVE
LAKE COUNTY

Healthy Land for a Better Life



Streets & Roads

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH DOES IT HAVE TO SNOW BEFORE THE SNOW PLOWS SHOW UP?

At least an inch for the main roads, and two inches for side roads. The contract we have with our snowplow contractor, Midwest Snow Solutions, requires them to plow our main roads and school bus routes once we have an inch of accumulation on the ground, and the rest of the village roads, once we have two inches of accumulation on the ground. If you feel that your property has difficult or blind areas that a snow plow driver may not be aware of, please consider placing temporary stakes in the areas of concern to help alleviate any possible damage that may occur.

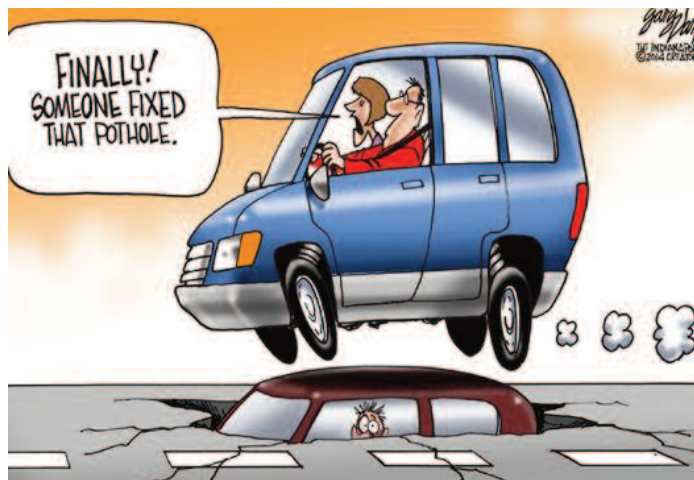
HOW COME I SEE SNOW ON THE GROUND ON MY SIDE STREET, BUT NOT ON 176 OR 137?

Rte 176 and Rte 137, which are maintained by the State of Illinois, are heavily travelled roads, so when those roads are salted, all that traffic on those roads works to grind the salt into the pavement, causing the salt to dissolve in the moisture and release heat to melt the snow. If there's no traffic on a side street to mix in the salt, it just sits there. We generally reserve the use of salt to the main roads and entrances to subdivisions, where it's needed more and the increase in traffic makes it more effective. Also, if the temperature falls below zero, as it did in early January this year, it's too cold for salt to be effective.

HOW MUCH OF MY PROPERTY TAXES GOES TOWARD MAINTAINING THE ROADS?

None of it. The Village doesn't collect a dime out of your property taxes. All the money that goes toward plowing and salting the roads, fixing potholes, and repaving roads come from only two sources: the Village's portion of the State Motor Fuel Tax, and whatever revenues are collected from the sale of village vehicle stickers. That comes out to a little over \$200,000 a year. The Village can't collect any more money to fix the roads without the passage of a referendum.

Trustee Dan Sugrue
Chairman - Streets
and Roads Committee



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Summaries of News Briefs



Ann Maine
Lake County
Board Member
and
Forest Preserve
President

BALANCED BUDGET!

The Lake County Board recently approved a *Balanced Budget* that reflects the boards' long standing practice of focusing on future needs, yet continues to invest in critical areas such as the infrastructure and transportation needs.

32 POLICE DEPARTMENTS GET TOOLS TO REVERSE OPIOID OVERDOSES AND SAVE LIVES!

The Lake County State's Attorney, Sheriff, other law enforcement leaders and the County Health Department recently announced that many law enforcement personnel will be able to carry the antidote Naloxone in squad cars to reverse opioid overdoses.

INDEPENDENCE GROVE 2015 BEACH PASSES NOW ON SALE!

Season Passes to the beach are now on sale for Lake County residents. The pass allows unlimited use of the 400-foot sand beach that runs along Independence Grove's 115-acre lake. Life guards are on duty and an adjacent beach house provides washrooms, showers and lockers. Rates for the season that runs May thru Sept. range from \$49 for one person to \$150 depending on the size of the family. For more information call Independence Grove at 847-968-3499.

LAKE COUNTY PASSAGE

Lake County Passage continues to offer current road conditions and updates on construction projects. Sign up to receive customized email alerts. Also find tips and emergency response protocols for winter storms, power outages and extreme cold at www.AlertLakeCounty.com.

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES OFFER MANY WINTER ACTIVITIES!

Before heading out to a Lake County Forest Preserve for a winter hike or a twirl on the ice, call the 24-hour winter sports hotline at 847-968-3235 for current conditions. You may also visit www.lcfpd.org.

Enjoy evening hiking on lighted trails. With small solar lights to guide their way, hikers, skiers and snowshoers can take a lighted hike along the 1/3-mile fitness trail at Old School Forest Preserve in Libertyville as well as at other sites. The main entrance is located on the east side of St. Mary's road just south of Route 176. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed.

The Old School preserve (above) also offers a **sled hill** which is open till sunset for sledding. **Cross-Country Skiing** is also available when conditions allow. Grooming is typically done two days after a large snow fall.

Snowmobiling: Snowmobilers can use nearly 24 miles of designated trails within the preserves, many of which connect to other snowmobile trails. A 4-inch snow base is required. These trails are groomed and patrolled by Lake County Forest Preserve staff and volunteers.

Ice skating is available on the lake at Independence Grove in Libertyville or the man-made rinks such as at Old School. The shallow rinks typically freeze earlier in the season than the lake at Independence Grove where a 4-inch ice layer is required for ice skating.

Ice Fishing is also available at many sites including the South Bay at Independence Grove. A 4.5 layer of ice is required. All state of Illinois fishing regulations and licenses apply.





PUBLIC WORKS Underground

**Trustee
John Wagener
Chairman**

Community of the Year Award: The Village of Green Oaks was recently commended by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission for its long track record of systematically planning and implementing stormwater management improvements using substantial financial resources and the leveraging of local funds and partnerships. These are the various projects that are discussed from time-to-time in this newsletter. Projects like the Atkinson Road flood control basin, Middlefork streambank improvements and the Doe Lake wetland enhancement and bioswale project have significantly reduced flooding and improved water quality improvement to the benefit of Village residents and the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed. In addition, the Village was recognized for its partnership with Oak Grove School to educate students on non-point source pollution and the benefits of a variety of best management practices.

Dennis Dorsey Conservation Area: Late last year the Village Board passed a resolution designating "Outlot A" of the Reigate Woods Subdivision as the new Dennis Dorsey Conservation Area. The newly designated conservancy was so named to thank and honor Trustee Dorsey for his tireless efforts and dedication to the Village, helping to make it a better community for all. Trustee Dorsey was particularly instrumental in assisting the Village with the implantation of its new tax increment financing district in the Rondout area. This conservancy is the second such area within the Village; the William Milroy Preserve in the Forest Glen subdivision having been the first.

Stewardship Volunteers Recognized: Early in the fall, a group of Village residents approached the Village Board with an idea to create a stewardship program to help maintain and restore some of the significant natural areas within the Village. The first project that they proposed to tackle was to remove invasives, such as buckthorn, from the Dorsey Conservation Area with an eye toward preserving the Northern Flatwoods forest so that oak trees could regenerate and amphibians continue to breed in the vernal ponds. Conserve Lake County provided ecological guidance and loaned the stewardship volunteers some hand tools. After logging over 270 volunteer hours removing buckthorn, the stewards were recognized by Conserve Lake County as one of their favorite



Green Oaks Village President, Trustees & Village Engineers accept the Community of the Year Award. Also pictured, County Board member Ann Maine.

"Success Stories of 2014." Read more about this community-building project elsewhere in the newsletter.

Electronics Recycling Returns: As many of you probably noticed, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County ("SWALCO") was forced to temporarily suspend its electronics collection program in December because its business partner could no longer afford to work under the existing contract. This suspension occurred because the manufacturer's state mandated share of electronics recycling program support was insufficient to support the program. SWALCO found another vendor at a cost of \$200,000 to continue the local program on a limited basis. See the SWALCO website for a new list of drop off sites and their hours. Since we now are faced with an unfunded mandate to collect and recycle electronics, because they are banned from landfills, the Public Works Committee strongly encourages you to contact our legislative representatives and demand that they modify the Illinois Electronics Products and Recycling Act during the next session.

If you have any questions concerning public sewer, municipal water, the trail system, storm water management or solid waste and recycling, please feel free to contact your Public Works Committee chair at john.wagener@greenoaks.org



Current & Future Solid Waste Rates

Garbage pick-up rates were reduced in 2011 pursuant to a contract extension and renegotiation with our franchise service provider, Groot Industries. The contract has built-in annual increases. Seniors still receive a monthly discount. The rates through the end of the contract in 2016 are listed below.

| Jan 1 - Dec 31 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Curb Unlimited Service | \$25.84 | \$26.62 | \$27.42 |
| Senior Unlimited Service | \$24.84 | \$25.62 | \$26.42 |
| Curb Limited Service | \$22.73 | \$23.41 | \$24.11 |
| Senior Curb Limited Service | \$21.73 | \$22.41 | \$23.11 |
| Recycling Only Service | \$5.50 | \$5.67 | \$5.84 |
| Refuse Collection Tag* | * | 2.98 | * |
| Landscape Waste Annual Subscription | \$110.00 | \$120.00 | \$130.00 |
| Landscape Waste Collection Tag | \$2.05 | \$2.15 | \$2.25 |

The Public Works Committee is considering having a larger recycling cart (available on request) and a smaller garbage tote (at a reduced cost), as well as possibly implementing a food scrap program (3 cart system). If you are interested in any of these options for the next contract, please let the Committee know.

* As the refuse collection tag is being shared with the Village of Libertyville, the rate will reflect the same annual increase schedule which is based upon the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).



VILLAGE OF GREEN OAKS

2020 O'Plaine Road • Green Oaks, Illinois 60048
847-362-5363

Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees will be the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. Committees meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Bernard Wysocki ~ 362-2940
PRESIDENT
Elaine Palmer ~ 362-5363
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Clare Michelotti
VILLAGE CLERK

TRUSTEES

Dennis Dorsey ~ 816-4881
Pamela Milroy ~ 362-5805
John Wagener ~ 549-0903
Dan Sugrue ~ 769-2844
Virginia Wood ~ 224-392-1056
Richard Glogovsky ~ 816-1842

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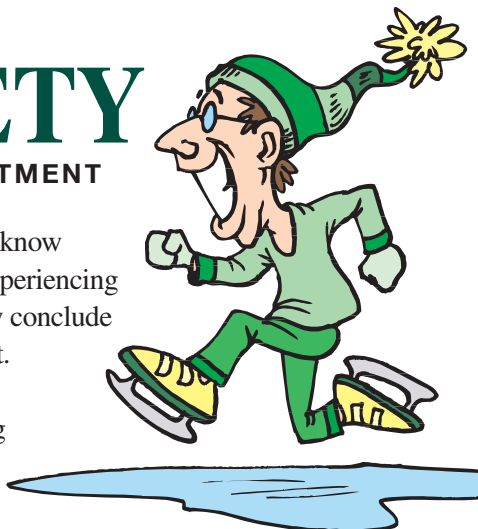
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ICE SAFETY

LIBERTYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

As we reach the end of January we know Winter is half over. Although, after experiencing the Winter of 2013-2014 one can only conclude that this winter has been very pleasant. Because this winter has been mild, the Libertyville Fire Department is asking outdoor winter enthusiasts to use extra caution when venturing out on to the area lakes and ponds. Because the winter has been so mild, ice conditions may not be safe even though the ice appears to be safe at first glance. The truth is, ice is never 100% safe, it is very difficult to determine ice safety on area lakes and ponds for several reasons. Even if the ice is a foot thick in one area on a lake or pond, it can be just an inch thick a few yards away. The safest approach to being safe on the ice is to stay off the ice. This may be unrealistic for the winter sports enthusiast or curious person. Following a few basic ice safety tips can help you enjoy your favorite outdoor winter fun and could save your life.



1. Do not walk out on the ice until there is at least 4 inches of clear, solid ice.
2. Go out with a buddy and keep a good distance apart as you walk. If one of you goes in, the other can call for help and attempt a rescue if carrying a rope or other survival gear.
3. Snowmobiles and ATV's need at least 5 inches, and cars and light trucks need at least 8-12 inches of good clear ice.
4. Contact a local resort or bait shop for information about known thin ice areas on local lakes and ponds.
5. Wear a life jacket. Life vests or float coats provide excellent flotation and protection from hypothermia.
6. Carry a pair of homemade ice picks or even a pair of screwdrivers tied together with a few yards of strong cord that can be used to pull yourself up and onto the ice if you do fall.
7. Avoid driving on the ice whenever possible. Don't drive across ice at night or when it is snowing. Reduced visibility increases your chances for driving into open or weak ice areas.
8. Check for signs that indicate an aeration system is in operation on the lake. Aerators keep areas of water open to provide oxygen for fish. The ice can be weakened by many yards beyond where the ice is actually open. Stay well outside the fenced areas indicated by diamond shaped thin ice signs.

Following these simple safety tips can help you enjoy your favorite winter ice activities.



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President's Corner

– Bernard Wysocki
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Here is a quick look at the Village accomplishments for 2014 and our expectations for the Village in 2015. I will conclude with our selection as “Community of the Year” by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

The Village’s top accomplishment in 2014 was the formation of the Roundout Redevelopment Project Area Tax Increment Financing District “TIF.” The TIF District was formed to provide economic incentive potential for redevelopment of a 300 acre area consisting mainly of industrial and commercial properties. The area was annexed to the Village of Green Oaks more than 20 years ago to bring the area under it’s local jurisdiction for planning, building, and public infrastructure upgrading purposes. Through the just completed TIF formation process, each of the taxing bodies related to the TIF were advised of the redevelopment plans. Through formal meetings with these taxing districts, a unanimous consensus was reached to move forward with the Village plans.

Trustee Denny Dorsey spearheaded the working group which was formed to study, plan, and cause the implementation of the project. This was truly a major group effort in 2014.

In 2015, there is a senior housing development proposal to be located at the Jamacian Gardens location. This will be a \$30 million dollar unified senior housing facility which will consist of independent living units, assisted and skilled care living quarters, and memory care living quarters. The

project will begin this spring with completion by the end of the year or early 2016.

There will be another senior housing development at the northeast end of the Village at Waukegan and Atkinson Roads. The development located at the site of the old Hilltop Sanatorium will be a combination senior living accommodations with a commercial component. This senior based mixed use development is estimated to be over \$125 million and will be completed over the next few years. These projects will bring additional development in the Roundout/Knollwood area for the coming years.

Finally, a couple of weeks ago at a formal meeting of the Lake County Stormwater Commission, the Village of Green Oaks received a plaque and recognition as “*Community of the Year.*” The Village was being commended for a long track record of systematically planning and implementing stormwater management improvements using substantial financial resources and the leveraging of local funds, grants, and partnerships. Projects like the Atkinson Road flood control basin, Middlefork stream bank improvements, the Doe Lake wetland enhancement, and bioswale project have significantly reduced flooding, and improved water quality to the benefit of Village residents and the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed.

In addition, the Village was being recognized for its partnership with Oak Grove School to educate students on non-point source pollution and the benefits of a variety of best management practices.

It was through the foresight of Trustee John Wagener and Village Engineer William Richert that allowed the Village to perform yearly projects to alleviate flooding and pollution from our natural waterways. They have assured us that they will continue to systematically plan additional storm water management improvements. We thank them for their years of dedication to the Village.



ComEd's Winter Readiness Guide for our Municipalities

In light of the winter season, we would like to remind you of several important items.

SNOW REMOVAL & COMED EQUIPMENT

ComEd is committed to keep your lights on and your energy flowing. When clearing or plowing snow at your facilities, please be sure to leave several feet of space around ComEd's equipment. This will prevent any damage to our equipment and also ensure we can access our equipment in the event it's needed. Thank you for your help.

EXTREME COLD AND COMMUNICATING WITH RESIDENTS

In extremely cold temperatures, it can take more energy to keep a home or business warm. This increased demand sometimes requires that more expensive power plants be brought online. This can result in higher energy bills.

Another complication from severe cold is excessive demand on the region's electric grid. To avoid outages that could occur as a result of an overstrained electric grid, PJM Interconnection, ComEd's transmission grid operator, may call upon consumers to reduce overall demand and strain on the grid by conserving energy.

HOME WINTER WEATHERPROOFING

- Sealing leaks, it's simple and cost effective
<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/air-sealing-your-home>
- Snuggle your home in a layer of insulation
<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/tips-insulation>
- Take advantage of ComEd weatherproofing discounts
<https://www.comed.com/home-savings/rebates-tips/Pages/home-energy-rebates.aspx>

eOUTAGE

Severe winter weather outages on ComEd's system may occur. Many municipalities use eOutage during storms to monitor outage status. Attached is a quick reference guide to use when accessing eOutage.

Remember you can also monitor outages on ComEd's outage map (see link below)
https://www.comed.com/_layouts/comedsp/OutageMap.aspx

ComEd is in the process of upgrading the existing eOutage platform which is scheduled to launch in the 2nd quarter of 2015. You can expect to hear more from me about the new product before the actual rollout including available training.



eOutage

eOutage offers you information about outages affecting your community. This website is provided for informational purposes only. The data is not real-time and is updated approximately every 15 minutes. The data is based on preliminary field analysis and is subject to change.

1. Open your internet browser.
* eOutage requires Internet Explorer 3.02 or above, Netscape 4.08 or above or a comparable browser.
2. Enter www.eoutage.com in the internet address bar
3. Enter User name and Password

Once you have gained access to eOutage, you will be required to fill out the user registry. It is essential that you provide the required information for each of the line items contained in the user registry. The keyword will be your personal password to gain entry on to the web site.

User Name: munipw
Password: provided by your External Affairs Manager.

- * After registering, a dialog box will appear displaying the eOutage terms and conditions. Please read the terms and conditions carefully before selecting the "Accept" button.