

# The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER

Fall-Winter 2016

VILLAGE OF  
GREEN OAKS

*Community of Country Living*



## Village of Green Oaks Annual Fall Leaf Pick-Up

### AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED

A time to enjoy raking leaves!! The village is again offering its annual fall leaf pick-up. The service is provided to residents free of charge.

### Saturdays Only: October 22 through November 26

On the night before, or by 6:00 a.m. on the day of the pick-up, rake your leaves to the edge of the roadway where disposal trucks will vacuum them away. **DO NOT BAG THE LEAVES.** To insure maximum drainage during the winter and spring, clear the leaves and debris from all culverts and roadside ditches on your property.

If you prefer to bag your leaves, Groot Disposal, the waste hauler franchised to serve our Village, offers various yard waste disposal options. Customers not already enrolled in the yard waste subscription service can call Groot Disposal at 847-566-5159 to inquire about the programs and options.



## Trick or Treat?

### Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

Monday, October 31st  
from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
These hours coincide with  
those of Libertyville and  
other surrounding communities.



## REMEMBER

Sunday 2 A.M.

November 6<sup>th</sup>



Set  
your  
clocks  
back -

**Daylight  
Saving Time Ends**





# Green Oaks Stewardship Day at Lake Kathryn

For the last two years we've been chronicling the restoration of a 12-acre woodland within the Reigate Woods subdivision. Through a volunteer stewardship process, acres of buckthorn have been cleared from a Northern Flatwoods and Oak Savannah.

The achievement to date has been inspiring and has transformed the woods from a buckthorn-infested woodland to a beautiful and restored woodland where new growth is emerging. Jack-in-the-pulpits, Mayapples and Trilliums are just a few of the many woodland plants that have been given a second chance. Now that the buckthorn has been removed, the acorns and seeds from the oaks and hickories will have a chance to germinate.

The Village will be hosting a stewardship day at Lake Kathryn Park on Sunday October 23rd from 9am – 12pm and an afternoon session from 1pm – 4pm. There will be opportunities for all ages to participate:

- Learn why buckthorn is such a threat to our community woodland areas
- Learn about the positive impact of planting natives
- Take tours of the Reigate Woods restoration area & learn more about the restoration process
- Visit with representatives from Conserve Lake County and the Lake County Forest Preserves
- Participate in hands on sessions of buckthorn removal and other invasive plants
- Rescue an Oak Tree
- Learn how to gather the seeds from coneflowers and other natives
- Help collect acorns and learn how to identify the ones that will germinate into trees

There will be nature crafts for kids and community service certificates are available for students.

Come out and connect with nature and enjoy a day outdoors. Additional details to follow. Please contact Bryan Muskat at [bryan.muskat@greenoaks.org](mailto:bryan.muskat@greenoaks.org) if you have any questions.



**Sunday October 23rd**

**Session 1: 9am – 12pm & Session 2: 1pm – 4pm**



# Streets & Roads Report

**Trustee Dan Sugrue**  
**Chairman, Streets & Roads Committee**

**Road Referendum Feedback Results:** We received more than 500 responses to our Road Referendum Survey. Thank you to all who provided feedback. A review of the results shows that road repairs are an important issue with the residents throughout our Village. (The complete survey will be posted on the village website.)

Survey Question	The proposed property tax was too high					The roads in my neighborhood are not in need of repair					The phasing of the road repairs did not address the highest needs first.					The plan presented did not account for the long term maintenance of the roads.					There was not enough information provided to me to make an informed decision					Rather than road bonds, I would rather see a small property tax implemented for road repair over a longer period of time and ongoing maintenance.				
Responses	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Individual Results Total	242	77	58	38	71	79	54	63	76	215	75	56	243	42	54	94	95	206	40	40	85	92	104	84	109	97	104	103	40	132
Individual Results Percentage	50%	16%	12%	8%	15%	16%	11%	13%	16%	44%	16%	12%	50%	9%	11%	20%	20%	43%	8%	8%	18%	19%	22%	18%	23%	20%	22%	22%	8%	28%
Grouping Total	319	58	109	133	63	291	131	243	96	189	206	80	177	104	193	201	103	172												
Grouping Percentage	66%	12%	22%	27%	13%	60%	28%	52%	20%	40%	43%	17%	37%	22%	41%	42%	22%	38%												

With the failed Road Referendum, the Village Board continues to seek additional financial sources to improve the funding to our roadways. The resources available for purely local road maintenance and repairs are essentially the motor fuel taxes based on local population and other traditional local revenue sources, such as Village stickers. Neither the State nor Federal Governments provide any meaningful financial assistance for purely local roads. So the efforts of the Village Board must continue to be directed toward attempting to enhance traditional methods of revenue acquisition such as sales taxes.

The Village is fortunate to have been able to annex and rezone a new commercial site, Green Oaks Commons, at the corner of Atkinson & Waukegan Road. If retail development takes place on this site, it will be a new source of sales tax revenue to the Village. It will be years, however, before all four of the planned buildings are built, occupied and generate sales tax revenue to the extent retail stores open at this site. In addition, while some progress is being made at finding tenants for the vacant parcel across from Lamb's Farm, it too will be years before the Village receives any sales tax revenue from the site. As with any retail sales, the amount of the Village's local share of the sales taxes is completely dependent on the volume of the retail sales, market conditions and the general and local economy. So, planning for a steady and reliable source of funding year-after-year is challenging.

The Village Board recently approved a petition from Post Time Sports Bar and Grille to permit operation of a restaurant, consumption on premises liquor license and off-track wagering parlor ("OTB") at the site of the former Fatman Bowl. Before considering approval of the petition, some trustees visited other neighboring OTB facilities to observe first-hand the impact that they had on the community. The Post Time proposal from Vince Palmeri (a Green Oaks resident and one of the owners of Café Pomigliano in Libertyville) assured the Village of a first class establishment. The incentive to the Village for this type of establishment is that it provides a new source of revenue for the Village from both the wagering as well as the sales tax generated from food and

beverage sales. The Village has committed the majority of the wagering income to be earmarked towards the roadway budget. It is expected that this revenue will start to be generated in 2017.

While these anticipated new sources of revenue incrementally help relieve some of the financial pressure, they still do not equate to the level of funds needed to pay for all of the necessary roadway repairs. In light of this, the Village Board is proposing a general municipal tax as an assured portion of the needed funds. Only through responsible fiscal management has the Village been able to go 60 years without a municipal tax. However, it is evident that the current funding for our roadways is inadequate

and additional funds are required to implement the necessary roadway repairs. Unlike the Road Referendum, which was developed to repair virtually all of the 24-miles of the village roads over a five year period, the municipal tax that is being proposed will provide a predictable and steady stream of revenue to plan for long term repairs of the roadways with the worst roads receiving a higher priority. While it will take longer to repair all of the roads under the current referendum proposal, additional maintenance and patching will be performed to keep the roads in as good as condition as possible. Once again, this will require voter approval to implement.

The table below illustrates the proposed municipal tax to the prior, failed road referendum proposal.

Proposed Municipal Tax					
	Tax Rate	Annual Tax on \$100K Home	Annual Tax on \$300K Home	Annual Tax on \$600K Home	Annual Tax on \$900k Home
Amount now proposed based on home value of...	0.0928	\$30.93	\$92.79	\$185.58	\$278.37
For Reference Only - Failed Road referendum					
For reference the Prior Road Referendum would have yielded the following...	0.4605	\$144.33	\$433.00	\$893.00	\$1,354.00

The Village Board will continue its work to find additional funding sources for our roadways. The passage of a municipal tax at a rate of less than a tenth of a percent would be a critical financial component to a long-term local road protection and rehabilitation program. You may be asking yourself "why should I support a municipal tax?" One answer is that good roads can be one of the best means to protect our home and neighborhood values. We have a great school system, and we live in a great community. It's only fitting that we have and maintain decent, safe roads to drive on which meet community needs and expectations and to enhance the value of our community.

Public meetings will be scheduled in October to review the details of the plan and answer homeowner questions. Further information will be forthcoming as well as updates on the Village website. Feel free to contact The Village with any questions.







## PUBLIC WORKS Underground

**Trustee**  
**John Wagener**  
**Chairman**

**Your Trash is Golden:** Although the recent move towards “light-weighting” of packaging materials and the state of the economy has caused an overall downward trend in the amount of recyclables that Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) member communities such as Green Oaks have been able to divert from landfills and send to the Waste Management facility in Grayslake, the Committee is proud to report that Green Oaks is continuing to build its recycling numbers. In the first two quarters of 2016, we recycled 258 tons of material. That is significantly up from the same time last year, where only 209 tons of material was diverted. Our goal is to get back up to the 2014 numbers, where the Village collected 286 tons of material. Remember, the more you recycle, the higher the rebate that Green Oaks and its fellow SWALCO member communities receive. These funds are used for green initiatives, such as the Fall leaf collection and Spring clean-up.

**Speaking of Trash:** The Public Works Committee is currently negotiating with our franchise waste hauler, Groot

Industries, on a contract extension. In addition to seeking a rate reduction, the Committee seeks to expand services. One of the items up for discussion is making a 90 gallon toter (same size as garbage) available for recycling on a one time basis for residents. If you would be interested in having the Committee pursue the option to upsize recycling toters during negotiations, please let us know.

**Dirty Jobs:** There is a new Lake County video (see link below) that shows how to properly sort food scraps and the options people have to manage it after sorting it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l34WZNAvpi0&feature=youtu.be>

Please take a look at the video and let the Committee know if you would be interested in having a “ride along” program in our Village where you could mix food scraps with your yard waste (seven SWALCO member communities have this option). Also, if you simply would like more information on backyard composting of food scraps, this video can help. SWALCO still has kitchen pails for sale at \$3.75/pail and offers compost bins for sale at the annual spring event.

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](mailto:john.wagener@greenoaks.org).



### 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 held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. Committees meet regularly at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Bernard Wysocki ~ 362-2940  
**PRESIDENT**

Denise Kafkis ~ 362-5363  
**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Clare Michelotti  
**VILLAGE CLERK**

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John Wagener ~ 549-0903

Pamela Milroy ~ 362-5805

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# President's Corner

– Bernard Wysocki  
**VILLAGE PRESIDENT**

I hope all of our residents have had a safe and restful summer vacation. Summer for village officials means budgeting and appropriation ordinances are adopted. These are then filed with the County Clerk.

In preparing the budget, the Mayor and Board review all books, records and data to make sure no expenditure is made except budget. The budget entails efficient planning, accounting, and review of past expenditures. It indicates the actual past expenditure for the previous year, and the anticipated expenditure for the coming year. The budget is conveniently available to the public at the Village Hall. Notices are placed in the newspaper and a public hearing on the budget is held before passage of the budget and appropriation ordinance.

This year the Village Board adopted a budget that has revenue and expenses totaling \$4,448,707. The Village has two reserve funds, each holding approximately three million dollars. The first reserve fund is called the “sinking” fund. These monies can only be used for emergency repairs for sewer and water main damages. The amount to be held by the fund is determined by the village engineer, consulting with the board concerning the “life expectancy” of our sewer and water lines.

The other general reserve is used to meet expenditures of an emergency nature and to help offset or balance the budget. Any monies not used during the prior year’s budget are directed by the treasurer to the general reserve fund.

The two biggest expenditures from the reserves for the past years have been the rebuilding of Atkinson Rd. and sound walls along the Tollway.

Recently, as has been discussed, our local roads are in need of a major maintenance expenditure. Most cities and villages receive motor fuel taxes from the State of Illinois to maintain their roads. It is a complicated formula on how the state determines what each village receives, but it based on number of gallons of gas sold and the population of the village. Our population is fairly flat and car owners are purchasing less gas in the State so the revenues from the Motor Fuel tax have not changed and the cost of resurfacing the roads has risen. We are hopeful that we will receive approximately \$128,000 paid on a monthly basis.

We obtain a little less than \$100,000 in vehicle stickers that we also use to fund our roads. It is still not enough to maintain or improve roads. The Board has authorized an additional \$574,765 from our general reserve funds to deal with the most critical road repairs this year.

As always, if you have questions or comments regarding our budget, please feel free to contact us.







## A Day At The Office

**By Denise Kafkis  
Village Administrator**

*What makes the Village Administrative Office of Green Oaks unique are the special people who come to work every day to humbly serve the residents of this great community.*

Most of us begin our day simply by turning the water on and as it's flushing away, we don't think of how our Village is working for us at that very moment. Green Oaks works collectively with the City of Waukegan and Lake County Public Works to ensure that the best water and waste water service is allocated to our residents and business owners. The Village Administrative Office of Green Oaks manages the billing and receipt of all payments for residents who use water, sewer and sewer maintenance services. Call 847-362-5363 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with any questions or concerns. We are happy to assist and/or direct you to the appropriate contact.

Need a Vehicle Sticker? No Problem! It's easy to get an application - just log onto our website at [www.greenoaks.org](http://www.greenoaks.org) and at the bottom left hand side please note the box called "Quick Links." Click on the first link, "Vehicle Registration", to download the application. Quick Tip...when removing old vehicle stickers, try using glass cleaner along with a straight edge. It will make removing your sticker easier, with little or no residue left behind!

During the course of your day if you have any questions or concerns regarding burning and or building permits, pot holes, trees, lost, abandoned or injured animals, unkept properties, downed signs or ones in need of replacement, water and drainage issues, zoning and code enforcement, freedom of information requests, etc. please don't hesitate to contact "The Office" and we will be happy to serve you. If you ever wonder who patches pot holes throughout our Village and who is overseeing all code enforcement issues, it's Willie Smith the Village's Road Superintendent and Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. For Building Department inquiries, please ask to speak with Marvin Pensala the Village Building Commissioner, Monday and Wednesday from 11am to 12pm. All Permit Applications can be obtained at the Village Hall or by simply downloading an application from our website. Please note there is no charge for



From Left to Right: Haidee, Caitlin, Anna, Denise

Ash Tree Removal Permits.

At the end of the day, many residents look forward to coming home and taking a healthy walk around the neighborhood. It is the consensus of many that it's NOT preferred to see what your neighbor's four legged family member left behind for you to see...So at this time having some baggage is a good thing.. Let's be considerate of our neighbor's property and the community, and carry a "doggie bag."

When calling "The Office" Caitlin, Anna, Haidee and me, Denise, are always happy to assist you. Caitlin handles file maintenance and application distribution of Vehicle Stickers, Business Licenses, Website maintenance. For the past few years, she is the "Village Voice" you hear when the Village sends out notifications via voice mail. Anna handles General Finance Applications, such as utility billing, accounts payable/receivable, banking and bond refunds. Haidee handles the maintenance of Village's records and building department files, facility operations and Liquor License renewal applications. As the newly-appointed Village Administrator as of January 2016, I oversee the daily operations of the Village. Together with Mayor Wysocki, Village Board of Trustees, Village's Engineers, Planners, Attorney, Village Clerk and Treasurer, we all work tirelessly to find better and more effective solutions to issues within our community. How fortunate I feel to be among the most amazing group of people who devote their time for the betterment of our community. Green Oaks is a great place to live, work and raise a family!



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### Coming Soon - January 2017:

Beginning January 2017 residents and business owners can log on to the Village of Green Oaks Website at [www.greenoaks.org](http://www.greenoaks.org) and pay any water, sewer and sewer maintenance bill(s) online!



### EXCITING NEWS FLASH!

Green Oaks NOW ACCEPTS Credit Cards with a 2% flat transaction fee!



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## Pollution Prevention: Car Washing

Car washing is a common routine for many residents and a popular way for organizations to raise funds. However, the detergents utilized in car washing activities can have a detrimental impact on the local waterways. Urban areas that have a higher concentration of automobiles pose a greater threat than rural areas. The Village urges its residents to review the following best management practices to protect our local waterways:



- Use a commercial car wash facility; detergent laden discharge water is collected by appropriate sanitary sewer facilities
- Wash your car on gravel, grass or other permeable surfaces to allow for infiltration
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically shut off when not in use
- Block off storm drains during charity car wash events and direct discharge to grassed ditches for filtration
- Use biodegradable soaps



## Guidelines for Draining Swimming Pools

Chlorinated water discharged to surface water (wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers, etc.), roadways or storm sewers has an adverse impact on local water quality. High concentrations of chlorine present in swimming pools are toxic to wildlife and fish. When draining your pool for the late fall/early winter, please follow one of the following measures:

- De-chlorinate the water in the pool prior to draining. This can be done through mechanical or chemical means. These types of products are readily available at local pool supply stores. Or,
- Drain the pool over a period of several days across your lawn following the additional guidelines below:
  1. Allow pool water to sit for at least 2 days while receiving a reasonable amount of sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine. Test the chlorine level after 2 days to ensure that safe levels are met (below 0.1 mg/l).
  2. Direct discharges from the pool across your lawn, not down your driveway or into nearby storm sewer inlets. Our storm sewer system leads directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.

These recommendations are based on guidance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Visit [www.epa.state.il.us/water](http://www.epa.state.il.us/water) for additional information. Thank you for doing your part to help promote cleaner wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers.





# Annexation, Planning & Zoning

November 20 will mark the second anniversary of the creation of the Rondout Area Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. Village officials enacted this statutory economic development program to facilitate redevelopment of this specific geographic area.

Projects to alleviate flooding and improve streets and utility service are being reviewed. The former Fatman Bowl is being converted to a Restaurant and Off Track Betting facility. Three significant construction projects are underway: The Sheridan at Green Oaks, Green Oaks Senior Living, and Green Oaks Commons.

The Sheridan at Green Oaks for Senior Living (formerly the Hilltop Property at Waukegan and Atkinson Roads), is scheduled to open for occupancy in early 2017. For more information, call 224-534-6660.

Green Oaks Senior Living (formerly Jamaican Gardens at Rt. 176 and the Tollway), is planning a summer 2017 opening. Please contact them at 847-497-8670 for more information.

The Green Oaks Commons commercial center is finalizing construction of a 14,000-square-foot building at the corner of Waukegan and Atkinson Roads. At full buildout, this area will be home to more than 100,000 square feet of retail/commercial space. For more information on leasing at this site, please call 312-273-9481.

The Rondout Area TIF promises to see more development and projects over the next several years. These will have a tremendous impact on our community.



**TJ Blockhus**  
 PLANT HEALTH CARE MANAGER  
 CERTIFIED ARBORIST #IL-4630A

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## A Friendly Reminder with Regards to Snow Plowing this Winter Season

- Snow will be plowed when accumulation is greater than 1" on main streets and 2" on side streets.
- Major intersections will always be salted during a plow event.
- In the event of icy conditions, neighborhoods and side streets will be salted.
- Any mailbox damaged by the contractor will be repaired or replaced with a temporary mailbox. Any related damages will be reimbursed up to \$50 maximum.
- The contractor will be inspecting all mailboxes by November 15th to determine current mailbox conditions.
- All claims must be made within 5 (five) days of damage.
- Consider marking areas of property and cover plants that are a concern for possible snowplow damage.
- Please keep your garbage and recycle containers off the street during a plow event.



## Be Safe - Be Seen

**IT'S ONLY YOUR LIFE THAT DEPENDS ON IT**

When walking at night, for safety purposes, please wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight.



## Singers Needed

Green Oaks Holiday Chorus seeking singers for upcoming Christmas concert to benefit PADS of Lake County Friday, December 16. Rehearsals on Monday evenings 7-9 beginning Monday, October 3. Any choral experience, no matter how long ago, is preferred. All voices and an alternate accompanist needed. 847-362-3809

### Green Oaks Holiday Chorus Annual Concert Benefits PADS of Lake County

Variety of Christmas carols, popular songs and choral selections to get everyone in the holiday mood! Audience participation!

Friday, December 16, 2016 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
29700 N. St. Mary's Rd • Libertyville

*Free admission, but any amount donated to PADS appreciated. Call 847-362-3809 for more info or if heavy snow, alternate date*



### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

## Village Hall Improvements 2016

We continue to work hard improving our historic village hall. We had completed the following items over the Summer!

- Removed rotted Railroad ties and replaced with Stone Retaining Wall
- Excavated drainage areas, removing brush and stoning area for positive water drainage, storage and appearance
- Continue to refurbish lower level concrete floor
- Removed dead / overgrown foliage

