

# The OakLeaf

WINTER 2023

VILLAGE OF GREEN OAKS NEWSLETTER



VILLAGE OF  
GREEN OAKS

MAYOR BERNARD WYSOCKI

**STRESS FREE  
IN 2023  
HAPPY  
NEW 🍍 YEAR**

NORTH SHORE





2020 O'Plaine Road • Green Oaks, IL 60048

Phone: 847.362.5363 • [greenoaks.org](http://greenoaks.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 2pm

### MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

**Committee of the Whole:** 1st Wed. @ 7:30pm

Immediately following TIF Committee

3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm

**TIF Committee:** 1st Wednesday @ 7:30pm

**Regular Board:** 4th Wednesday @ 7:30pm

**Plan Commission:** 2nd Wed @ 7:30pm

~ As Needed ~

**Bernard Wysocki ~ Village President**

[bernard.wysocki@greenoaks.org](mailto:bernard.wysocki@greenoaks.org)

**Denise Kafkis ~ Village Administrator**

[denise.kafkis@greenoaks.org](mailto:denise.kafkis@greenoaks.org)

**Clare Michelotti ~ Village Clerk**

[clare.michelotti@greenoaks.org](mailto:clare.michelotti@greenoaks.org)

### TRUSTEES

**Richard Glogovsky ~**

Annexation, Planning & Zoning  
[richard.glogovsky@greenoaks.org](mailto:richard.glogovsky@greenoaks.org)

**Pete Furlong ~ Building**

[pete.furlong@greenoaks.org](mailto:pete.furlong@greenoaks.org)

**Mahdi Sellami ~ Finance**

[mahdi.sellami@greenoaks.org](mailto:mahdi.sellami@greenoaks.org)

**Kevin Griffin ~ Public Affairs**

[kevin.griffin@greenoaks.org](mailto:kevin.griffin@greenoaks.org)

**John Wagener ~ Public Works**

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

**Dan Sugrue ~ Streets & Roads**

[dan.sugrue@greenoaks.org](mailto:dan.sugrue@greenoaks.org)

### PLAN COMMISSION

**Theresa Guerriero ~ Chairwoman**

**Greg Winters ~ Vice-Chairman**

### MEMBERS

Justin Beger, Jeff Powers, Pamela Milroy,  
Anne Gordon Rebmann, Tony Filippo

# President's Corner

**Bernie Wysocki ~ Village President**

Annually, the Village Board holds a Strategic Planning Meeting to define our vision for the future of the Village, and identify our Village goals and objectives for the next year or two.

This process takes an entire morning to try and decide how the Village should allocate its limited resources to attain the goals for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Unfortunately, during the Covid years we were unable to fully explore options and implement a tight budget. The Village Board met with smaller committees and reported to the full Board their plans. Sometimes projects and plans would be delayed or carried over because of the difficulty of meeting with everyone.

This year we were able to engage everyone from consultants, staff and board members to try and reach consensus for the New Year. We truly appreciate our local leaders' contributions to our small but mighty community.

The Village's successful strategies involve strong and diverse community leadership. The Board has been inclusive, collaborative and connected in its approach to problem solving many infrastructural issues that we all faced over the last few years.

We are very thankful for our Village Board, hundreds of Village residents, business owners and other local communities who have shared their expertise for the comprehensive plan of the Village. Hopefully, from our planning meetings, we will again be able to provide a balanced budget for our fiscal year that begins May 1st each year. With the "road map" that was discussed at our meetings, we can again predict that the Village will not be increasing its local tax levy, but will continue to care for our residents' concerns.

Thank you all again for adding to the fabric and high standard and quality of life that we enjoy in Green Oaks. As always, please let us know if you have questions, concerns, or issues that we can address in the coming year.



# Finance

Mahdi Sellami ~ Village Trustee

Government entities like the Village of Green Oaks, need financing to carry their responsibilities.

Besides tax revenue, which is the main source, municipal bonds offer supplemental revenue especially when it comes to financing major capital expenditure projects.

A defining feature of such bonds is the interest rate charged by the lender along with a preset time schedule for repaying the debt (interest + principal). The interest rate depends on the rating, a measure of the financial "health" of the borrower. The higher the rating, the lower the risk and the interest rate charged by the bond buyers.

Before committing to such bonds, municipalities are mandated to conduct a public hearing as an opportunity to inform and gather feedback from residents. Once the mutual decision is made to move forward with a bond, municipalities are statutorily entitled to pass through the interest portion of the bond to residents as incremental tax (aka Tax Levy) invoiced and collected on the property tax bill.

In the case of our Village, Green Oaks, we currently have four outstanding bonds that were obtained to finance key projects related to road improvement as well as our TIF district. Green Oaks stewardship and prudent fiscal management practices have two important implications as it relates to these bonds:

1. It earned the Village a top 'AAA' bond rating allowing us to negotiate the lowest interest rates.
2. It generated enough savings that allowed the Village to cover the interest on these four bonds without having recourse to incremental taxpayer money (no need for the Tax Levy described above) As such, the Village proactively reaches out to the Lake County assessor to waive any tax billing related to these bonds for Green Oaks residents (a process called tax abatement).

Taking 2022 as an example, the interest on the four outstanding bonds amounted to **\$920,000**, none of which is passed through to residents saving what would have been approximately **\$500** in incremental property tax for an average Green Oaks home.

**“Transparency  
AND  
Fiscal Responsibility  
HAVE BEEN THE CORE  
to Who We Are  
AS A VILLAGE AND  
Set to Continue So!”**



# Public Works

John Wagener – Village Trustee



**New Solid Waste Franchise Agreement** – The Public Works Committee is pleased to announce that it has worked out the terms of a 5-year extension to the Village's franchise agreement with Groot Industries. The extension includes no price increases for regular and unlimited garbage services for 2023, and a 4% cap on any CPI based increases thereafter. More importantly, Groot has also agreed to include a food scrap collection component this year known as a "ride along program." If your household wishes to compost its food scraps, the service will be available during those 8 months when yard waste is collected (April-November). Groot will make smaller totes available for rental or you can use your own hard plastic tote. No paper bags are allowed for this due to the obvious failure mode of the paper and food scrap combination.

**Recycle That** – The Village recycled 590 tons of materials in 2022. This is down from the prior years' numbers: 650 tons in 2021 and 624 tons in 2020; but higher than 2019's total of 506 tons. Reasons for the fluctuations include pandemic related increase as more people stayed home and the current trend toward light-weighting of plastic materials, such as water bottles. "Refuse what you do not need; reduce what you do need; reuse what you consume; recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse; and rot (compost) the rest."

**Municipal Water Connections** – The Special Service Area No.13 Watermain Extension project is now in operation. This project is located along Placid Lane, Haven Lane and Lockwood Drive, just east of O'Plaine Road. Homeowners in that area are now completing their hook-ups and enjoying the benefits of a consistent reliable municipal water supply.

As soon as the contractor put away their SSA 13 shovels, the Public Works Committee was approached by another group of concerned homeowners in Saddle Hill 2 and also along Cranbrook who were interested in bringing municipal water to their areas. This project is in the early planning

stages, but initial indications are that support is strong and the project will move through the required steps as outlined in the Illinois Revised Statutes (35 ILCS 200/27-5) in 2023, with an eye toward water main installation in early 2024.

## **Green Thumb Anyone? –**

Happy Gardening!  
In partnership with University of Illinois Extension Lake County and Master Gardeners and the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) is offering its annual Garden Learning Series for this new year 2023.

The series features a number of workshops to help and educate on a variety of topics. The first program will cover seed starting for your garden and of course, SWALCO will offer a program dedicated to compost and composting! Visit SWALCO's website [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org) for more information about this and other SWALCO programs.



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).



# Streets & Roads

Dan Sugrue ~ Village Trustee

The Village rehabilitated 19 miles of road since 2019, nearly six times the 3.2 miles rehabilitated between 2008 and 2018. Consequently, it is imperative for the Village to prioritize maintenance activities to preserve the condition of the roads and maximize pavement life. The annual Road Improvement Program (RIP) will continue to complete



large scale rehabilitation, but the Village will also increase maintenance activities, specifically crack sealing and pavement rejuvenator application.

Crack sealing is one of the least expensive maintenance activities with the greatest impact on extending pavement life. Sealing centerline, edge, and other cracks in the pavement prevents water from entering the base and limits freeze-thaw impacts. The next cycle of crack sealing is slated for Spring/Summer 2023. Outreach to residents along impacted streets will be provided prior to the start of the work.



Lexington Road post-Reclamite application (right lane only)

Pavement rejuvenators are an older technology gaining popularity in northeast Illinois. The product adds maltenes (like a glue) to seal the upper 3/8 inch of the pavement surface to reduce oxidation, crack formation, and impact of moisture. Application of a rejuvenator can add up to 5 years of pavement life.

applies it to all of their new roads, in some cases as soon as the same year they are paved. In 2022, LCDOT applied Reclamite to St. Mary's Road - a County road - south of Route 176.

Reclamite costs approximately \$1.15 per square yard. For

## Reclamite®

The Village first applied Reclamite, a rejuvenator, in 2020 to all streets in Tantara and Ashford Trails as well as White Fence, Saddle Hill, and Rockland Road. In 2022, the product was applied on streets in Forest Lake, Forest Cove, Greenbrier, Saddle Hill I and II, and Reigate, among other streets. When first applied, the Reclamite looks like the end-result of an oil spill and is not aesthetically pleasing. However, after several months the road returns to its normal appearance.

The Village is not alone in applying this product. Lake County Department of Transportation

comparison, a 2-inch mill and overlay is approximately \$30 per square yard. Even if the Village only obtains one additional year of service life, a positive return on investment is realized.

We understand and acknowledge comments received regarding the appearance. It is not permanent, the road will return to normal, and remain in better condition for a longer period.

If you have any questions concerning streets and roads, please feel free to contact your Streets & Roads Committee Chair at [dan.sugure@greenoaks.org](mailto:dan.sugure@greenoaks.org).



# Public Affairs

Kevin Griffin ~ Village Trustee



## Santa Parade 2022

On Saturday, December 10, 2022, Green Oaks held its annual Santa Parade. Santa and his elves traveled throughout the Village spreading cheer in every neighborhood. Residents were out in full force waving to Santa and enjoying the sights and sounds of the holiday. Andy Yarc, Green Oaks resident and Firefighter/Paramedic with the Libertyville Fire Department was our Santa this year. **Thank you Andy!!**









# A Day @ The Office

Denise Kafkis ~ Village Administrator

Happy New Year Everyone and WELCOME to another "A Day @ the Office" portion of our Winter Edition of the Oak Leaf Newsletter. I don't have to tell you, once again, it's been a huge year for construction projects and capital improvements in Green Oaks. Thankfully, the Village's projects are now nearly complete and we appreciate how patient our Green Oaks residents have been during the road construction this year.

## Snow Operations

Please extend that same understanding to our snow crews when they're out working to keep the roads clear all hours of the day and night. When Green Oaks residents wake up to find the streets are dusted with snow, few are aware that the Village's Snow Operations team often works long extended hours, snowplowing and removing ice on our roads. Their goal? Ensuring that all roads in Green Oaks are safe for that first morning, or evening commute.

Led by Ken Ghiselli of Midwest Snow Solutions, the Snow Ops team handles 26.8 miles of roadway. The Village's snow removal plan is not as simple as one would think, it's a true team effort designed to meet the needs of residents and businesses. Finally, thanks to all Village Staff who work so hard to minimize the disruptions and keep us informed.

The Village's Snow Operations team begin plowing streets when snow is more than one inch deep and when freezing temperatures indicate there will be no melting. Many state and county roads such as Rt. 176, St. Mary's, Buckley and Guerin Roads are cleared by state or county crews (Guerin is a multi-jurisdictional road maintained by Village of Green Oaks, Libertyville Township and City of Waukegan). Streets with high traffic volume, emergency routes, and bus routes on school days receive priority for plowing over residential, non-primary routes that typically do not have heavy traffic volume.

## Mailbox Replacement Policy

If you believe a Village snowplow caused damage to your mailbox, please report the damage by contacting the Village of Green Oaks Administrative Office Monday thru Friday 9am to 2pm at 847.362.5363 **within 5 days.**

## Vacation House Watch

As you head out of town, please consider placing your house on the Lake County Sheriff Department's watch list. Officers visit properties on the list and check for signs of disturbance as call volume allows. If areas of concern are noticed, officers will notify your emergency contact or key holder. You may contact the Lake County Sheriff's non-emergency phone number at 847.549.5200.

## Save a Stamp

Postage-free mail for Village related payments may be deposited in the grey drop box located at Village Hall 2020 O'Plaine Road.





# Fountain of Youth

Libertyville High School Juniors Sofija Tijunelis and Logan Howard made waves in the new LHS pool this past fall swimming season. Both athletes were on the relay teams that broke pool and school records. They led their team to 1st place in the IHSA Sectional Championship and 17th place finish in the Illinois State Championship.



**SOFIJA TIJUNELIS**

**New LHS Record**

200 Freestyle Relay  
100 Backstroke

**New Pool Record**

200 Medley Relay  
400 Freestyle Relay



**LOGAN HOWARD**

**New LHS Record**

200 Freestyle Relay  
100 Freestyle

**New Pool Record**

200 Medley Relay  
400 Freestyle Relay

# DEA Drug Takeback

Once again our local Lake County Sheriff and DEA hosted a Drug Takeback Day back in October 2022. Green Oaks collected more than 42 pounds of prescription drugs. Thank you to our residents for safely disposing of your unwanted medicines. A 2023 date has yet to be scheduled, but please stay tuned.





**Coming  
Spring  
2023!**

**GAS N WASH**



## Building & Community Development

Pete Furlong ~ Village Trustee

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# Construction Begins

## Spring 2023!

## Annexation, Planning & Zoning

Rich Glogovsky ~ Village Trustee



**Marisa Rademaker**  
Marketing & Communications  
Manager

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## Upcoming Events

### **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

Feb 20, 2023 • Village Hall Closed

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

March 4, 2023

### **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION DAY**

April 4, 2023

### **2ND QUARTER WATER, SEWER MAINTENANCE BILLS DUE**

April 30, 2023

### **ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP**

May 15, 17 or 18, 2023

