

Village of Island Lake Newsletter: April 2023 Mini-Newsletter



From Mayor McLaughlin

What does warmer weather bring to mind? High on our priority list is *road work*. Our Public Works Director and our Engineer assess our roads, determine which are in most need of repair, and select projects that we can afford to complete with the funds we have. Slated for repaving 2023 are Portsmouth, Debden, Wayside and Kelly.

Respect our parks! They also become a priority in warm weather. We have repaired/refurbished the ball fields and basketball court at the Village Hall, installed new signs at parks with the rules and cleaned up other parks with the help of volunteers. Sadly, recurring vandalism and other abuse of parks is costly and demoralizing. Public Works and volunteers should not have to pick up litter and dog waste. Security cameras for parks are part of our budget considerations.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget work is in progress. The bulk of our revenue is personal property tax. Other sources include sales tax, Motor Fuel Tax (which must be spent on road projects), video gaming tax and cannabis tax. We also apply for grants for like the ones awarded for lake projects and seek donations. We are actively seeking business development to increase revenue. The dispensary due to open late spring/early summer will significantly increase our sales tax revenue.

2023 Events Calendar is on our website. It includes old favorites—like Concerts in the Park, Lake Fest/Carnival, National Night Out and OktoberFest—and proposed new ones. Volunteers are working hard on fundraising and planning.

The Village office closes daily from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Finally, it bears repeating... Praise and thanks to our Public Works, Village Staff, Commission members and volunteers who work to serve you with dedication and patience.

Public Works, Chris Carlsen

The 2023 Hydrant Flushing Schedule to be announced: *Signs for Hydrant Flushing will be placed in each subdivision prior to work start.* Residents are advised to use caution before doing laundry, as hydrant flushing can stir up naturally occurring minerals that can stain fabrics.



Plumbing “Need to Know” for Homeowners: Plumbing can be an “out of sight, out of mind” issue — at least until you suspect a leak. Residents should locate their water meter to do a quick check for water use. Water meters are normally right next to the shutoff valve. It’s the small triangular dial or symbol that spins when water is flowing through it. *If you are not using water and you see the dial spinning, you likely have a leak somewhere.* Check toilets, faucets, and spigots. If you find a leak, *it is critical to find the main shut off valve* to stop the water flow. The shutoff valve is located where the water service line enters their home, normally in a crawl space or basement. If your home is built on a slab the valve will be near your hot water tank.

Toilet Maintenance: We have seen an alarming number of high water use due to leaking toilets. Leaking toilets run through water quickly and may easily missed. *A leak 1/4” in diameter over a 3 month period can leak up to 886,000 gallons of water.* Flap valves in the bottom of your toilet tank are most often the culprit, and should be replaced every 1-2 years to prevent unwanted leaks.

Meter Reading Upgrades: The water department will be replacing existing meter reading devices located on the exterior of homes. Residents will see two water department employees walking in their backyards during this process; ask for their badges if you are concerned. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Public Meetings

Village Board: 2nd, 4th Thurs.* of the month, 7:00pm

**No meeting the 4th Thurs. in Nov. & Dec.*

Planning and Zoning Commission: 3rd Thurs. of the month, 7:30pm as needed

Parks and Lake Commission: 1st Mon. of the month, 6:30pm

Emergency Management Agency: 3rd Wednesday*, 7:00pm **as needed**
**No meeting July, Aug., Nov. & Dec.*

Police and Fire Commission: 1st Wed. of the month, 7:30pm as needed

Historical Society: 1st Mon. of the month, 7:00pm

Are you interested in serving on a Village Commission? Go to the Village website and click on the Job & Village Commissions tab to find an Interest Form.

To Contact the Village:

Village office: 847-526-8764
Public Works & Water: 847-526-8767
Official website of the Village of Island Lake: www.villageofislandlake.com.
Click on the **Contact Us** link in the blue toolbar on the left and select the department you would like to reach.

Visit our website for a directory with a list of Village and Community Contacts.

Assorted Information

- Seasonal Yard Waste pickup begins April 3.
- Visit the Events page on our website for the 2023 Events Calendar.
- 2023 Vehicle stickers: Penalties now apply.
- *Water Bills are mailed quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.*

Storm Damage to Trees: The public works department will remove branches that have fallen *due to storm damage only*. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to bring branches to the curb after each storm.

Water Conservation! As the heat of summer approaches, water use increases. *So will your water bill!* Tips to conserve water: 1) Plant drought resistant lawns shrubs and plants and mulch around them to retain moisture. 2) Water during the early morning to reduce the amount of evaporation. 3) Check for leaks in pipes hoses and spigots. *Whether it's for 20 minutes or 20 hours all of the drips add up and your water meter will most definitely track them.*

Call us with questions or concerns: 847-526-1954.

Police Department, Chief Palmer

Be vigilant for increased outdoor activity. Spring has officially arrived. Warmer temperatures and increased hours of sunlight will inevitably lead to increased outdoor activities. As you move about the Village, be aware of youthful activities that may spill into the streets: chasing a ball, riding a bike, walking with groups of friends.

Obey local speed limit and stop signs. Each summer we get dozens of complaints about motorists violating both of these. While we do enforcement regularly, we cannot be everywhere. Travel safely — especially on the way to or from work, school, errands and leisure activities. But do look forward to spending more time socializing and picnicking safely.



the police department is enforcing non-compliance. If your vehicle is registered in Island Lake, the Village requires the local sticker (*Village Code*, Title 7, Chap. 2).

Finally, a personal note... I arrived here as interim police chief in the fall of 2018 expecting to leave after 6 months. I was invited to remain and will close out a little more than 4 ½ years when I retire at the end of April. I've accomplished what I arrived to do. The department is stable, staffed and equipped — critical improvements needed when I came here. The Mayor and Board are in the process of selecting a new police chief. I hope that the new chief can take this department to new levels and be a vital part of Island Lake. I wish everyone in this community the best.

Vehicle Stickers Reminder: The deadline for purchase and display of 2023 vehicle stickers was February 14;

Building and Code Enforcement

Permit applications are on our website on the "Forms" tab. Processing takes 7-10 working days. Lead time for scheduling inspections is 24 hours. Orange permit cards must be displayed in the window. Fines apply for starting work without a permit.

2020 International and National Electrical Codes apply. Permits are required for interior work that involves adding or changing location of electricity, plumbing or gas line. We do not have copies of plats of survey. We cannot provide advice for building projects.

Refer to the *Village Code*, Title 8 on our website for building regulations. *Consider getting a professional for your building projects.*

Code Enforcement: Respect your neighbors and respect your property by keeping it groomed and free of debris. Spring weather provides a good opportunity to clean up. Common code complaints are unlicensed/inoperable vehicles, and yard debris. If code violations are resolved 14 days from the date of citation, fines will not apply.

Parks and Lake Commission

Earth Day Expo, Sat., April 22: at the Village Hall, featuring fun kids' activities, pollinator and gardening exhibits, compost giveaways, Adopt-a-Park, and things to do to enjoy nature around town. *Attendance is free.*



2023 Carp Fest: June 2, 3 and 4. Mark your calendar and watch our website for updates. In addition to fun in the sun (hopefully), removing carp improves water quality. All proceeds go for lake care.



Association conference in March, recognizing her exceptional efforts to preserve the quality of Island Lake.

Members of the Commission attended the conference to network and learn about lake management.

Thank you to the hearty participants in the first Cardboard Sled Races. All were winners who braved sloshy slope in creative conveyances.

2023 Lake Guardian Award was presented to Stacey Pyne at the annual Illinois Lake Management

Congratulations to Simplistic Holistics on their Grand Reopening.

Shop local and support local businesses!