

# Village of Island Lake: January 2024 Mini-Newsletter

**From Mayor McLaughlin**



**We are working to improve and enhance our parks.** Maple Ridge Park got a makeover—including new playground equipment. Converse Park—aka—Castle Park is next. The old equipment will be removed this January and new equipment with some ADA features will be installed in the spring. An 18-hole disc golf course is in development at Puri Family Park (behind Walgreens) and a portion of Veterans Park.

**Vandalism is a preventable problem with a greater cost than just money.** It shows disrespect for our staff and the many volunteers who take time and pride in making our public lands welcoming and attractive. If you see it, report it. If you are thinking of doing it, think again. Your time is better spent joining the volunteers who are making a difference in our community.

**Business News:** Don't forget to renew your business registration in 2024. Forms are available on our website. This year, you will receive a window decal when you register instead of a paper certificate. **Emerald Dispensary** will open in January 2024. I am still aggressively seeking a grocery store.

[Forms](#)

**The aesthetic appeal of business property attracts businesses.** Signs, awnings and parking lots in good repair are part of creating a clean and attractive business district. Code enforcement is encouraging business to improve properties.

**The Lakeview Bridge project construction phase is slated for 2026.** The project for replacement of the current bridge—built in 1975—began in 2020 and involves approvals and cooperation of various agencies, including the Army Corp of Engineers and departments of transportation. This project is funded by a federal grant.

**Spring 2024 Road Projects will be in Newbury Village.** This will include repair, repaving and curbs.

## Assorted Information

- **Look for a Mayor's Monthly Podcasts** to start in January 2024. Watch the website for details.
- **Village Board Meetings on Zoom** should resume in February.

*Have a safe and happy 2024.*

**Public Works and Water, Director Chris Carlsen**

## Meet the Staff

It's our pleasure to introduce the dedicated individuals who take care of our community's infrastructure.

- *Chris Carlsen, Director*
- *Elvia Rustman, Administrative Assistant*
- *Andrew Peterson, Streets Foreman*
- *Elias Villarreal, Streets Technician*
- *Jeffery Sonne, Streets Technician*
- *Mike Nickels, Streets Technician*
- *Dennis Adkins, Streets Technician*
- *Mike Paulus, Streets Technician*
- *Brandan Price, Mechanic*
- *Daniel Celske, Water Technician*
- *Daniel Powell, Water Technician*
- *Pete Skowron, Water Technician*

All Public Works staff have picture IDs and will show them upon request. Be careful and safe.

## Public Meetings

**Village Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs.\* of the month, 7:00pm  
\*No meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. in Nov. & Dec.

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of month, 7:00pm as needed

**Parks and Lake Commission:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mon. of month, 6:30pm as needed

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

**Police and Fire Commission:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of month, 6:30pm as needed

**Historical Society:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mon. of month, 7:00pm

**Interested in serving on a Village Commission?** Click on the **Job & Village Commissions** tab on our website.

[Job & Village Commission Opportunities](#)

## 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](http://www.villageofislandlake.com). Click on the **Contact Us** link in the blue toolbar on the left and select a department.

[Contact Us](#)

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

## Assorted Information

- Cardboard Sled Race, Jan 20\* 1-4pm  
\*Alternate date: Jan 27
- The 2024 Events calendar is in progress. Visit our website for information on popular returning events and new ones.

## 'Tis the Season: Winter

As the season changes, our operations change from warm weather jobs to snow removal and other winter related projects. Snow removal is by far our most visible task during the winter months. We take extreme pride in providing you with the safest possible roads when snow and temperatures falls.

**Can your mailbox post withstand the impact of plowed snow?** Examine the position and condition of your mailbox and post and reposition or repair damaged or rotted sections. *Public Works repairs only the ones that have been directly hit by the plow, and not by the snow that is being pushed by it.*

**Do not shovel, blow or plow onto the roadway.** Village ordinance prohibits placing snow onto the roadway. *No person shall shovel, plow or otherwise place snow [...] upon any highway or sidewalk so as to hinder, obstruct, impede or otherwise interfere in any way with the movement of traffic upon such highway or sidewalk. (Village Code, Title 7, 7-10-1 D).* Also, try to keep the fire hydrants clear.

**During snowfall, park your vehicle off the street.** This allows crews to clear the entire roadway and prevents your car from being plowed in, ticketed or towed. (*Village Code, Title 7, 7-1 A.1*)

**Keep storm drains clear.** Leaves, snow and other debris can block drains, clog pipes and result in street flooding—especially perilous in freezing weather.

## New Developments



**New playground equipment was installed at Maple Ridge Park.** Located in the Fox River Shores subdivision, the park is accessible by a driveway off Waterford Way. Enjoy the safe and modern play area!

**Our new, state-of-the-art WaterGator Lake Weed Harvester** was put into service in the summer of 2023 to enhance our efforts in lake management and environmental health.



## Water Department

**Installation of a new water metering and software system for all residential and commercial water accounts is in progress.** The initial phase involves installation of new exterior transmitting boxes (MIUs) on homes and businesses. *This replacement work will not cause any disruption to water service or billing cycles, nor will it require inside access to buildings in most cases.* We anticipate that the project will take several years to complete. The result will be greatly improved auditing of water usage, a more efficient billing system and, eventually, real time access to water usage data by the Water Department and customers.

*The entire crew of the Public Works wishes you a SAFE and HAPPY New Year!*

### **Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Reminders**

- All materials must be at the curb/roadside by 7:00am on Mondays.
- Call LRS, 847-381-9300, for billing questions, missed pickups and large item pickup requests.
- Yard waste pickup resumes: Monday, April 1, 2024.

**Midwest Organics will accept leaves all year long if you drop them off in paper yard waste bags.**

**Effective January 1, 2024, Vehicle Stickers are required only for boats, golf carts and recreational off-road vehicles (ROV).** Stickers will be available for purchase January 9, 2024.

No applications will be mailed. Forms are available on our website.

### **Village Office Hours**

The Village Office is open Mon – Fri 8:00am – 4:30pm; **CLOSED FOR LUNCH** 12:30 – 1:30pm  
Special holiday hours are posted on the website and on the door of the Village Hall.

**Phone: 847-526-8764; Fax 847-526-1534**



When Seconds Count... Your Help Is Needed.

When you have an emergency, you want help to arrive as soon as possible. The experience of calling 911 is usually a stressful event. Although emergency responders have access to GIS mapping, there are occasional errors with exact location in the system. For this reason, the Village does have an ordinance 8-7-1 that states:



"It is hereby made the duty of the owner, agent or occupant of every building now existing, or hereafter erected, to number each building. Each of the figures of every number shall be not less than two and one-half inches (2 1/2") in height so marked as to be easily and distinctly read or as required by the United States Postal Service. The numbers shall be placed in a conspicuous place on, at the side of, or above the front door of the buildings to which the same are attached." (Village Code, Title 8, 8-7-1)



To help us help you, the Police Department is seeking voluntary compliance with this ordinance. Also make sure your house number is on your mailbox per the United States Postal Service (USPS) regulations. We ask that you properly number your home or business by February 1, 2024. Failure to comply may result in a citation being issued to you with a fine of \$50 up to \$750.

Seconds also count in stopping to avoid hazards on the roads. Roads may be slippery at this time of year. Kids may be getting on or off buses in the dark. Pets may dart out into traffic. Oncoming drivers may miss stop signs.

Safety is a team effort. Join the team and have a safe and happy 2024.

Building and Building Code Enforcement

Getting ready for some home improvement projects?

Useful information to reference before you start your project is on our website here on the Forms tab: www.villageofislandlake.com/Forms. They include:

- Building Permit Application
• Contractor Registration Application
• Building Department Information
• New Business Guidelines Packet
• Tree Removal Permit Application
• Dumpster Permit Application

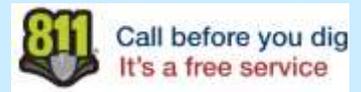
Also refer to Title 8 Building Regulations of the Village Code on the Ordinances tab for detailed information about building requirements and adopted codes.



Winter is an opportune time for indoor remodeling projects. Permits are required for most work. Simple replacement projects that do not involve plumbing, electrical or structural changes may not require a permit. Check the requirements first to avoid penalties.

Check the requirements first to avoid penalties.

Call JULIE to locate and flag underground utilities for before you dig. You can also request utility locators on their website. NOTE: The Village of Island Lake Building Department does not call JULIE for locates. Be wise; be safe; protect your family and your neighbors.



Contractors performing work within the Village must register. Penalties also apply for working without a registration.

Permit processing may take up to 20 business days. Complete paperwork and a \$50 permit application fee must be submitted with the application. Make inspection requests at least 48 business hours in advance. Display the orange permit card in a front window for inspections to take place.

Building Code Enforcement gives residents 14 days to remedy violations to avoid fines. Respect your neighbors and your property. Clean it up.

ATTENTION Do It Yourself (DIY) folks! If you are not confident in your skill to tackle a building project, hire a professional. The Building Official is not your professional advisor. You may schedule a consultation for a fee, but permit applications and paperwork are your responsibility.

## Parks and Lake Commission



The Parks and Lake Commission saw significant strides in enhancing and showcasing our parks and lake in 2023! The following illustrate our commitment to a vibrant, sustainable, engaged community.

- ✓ Installation of a new playground at Maple Ridge Park
- ✓ Allocation by the Village Board of 10% of video gaming proceeds for park improvement
- ✓ Hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Earth Day Expo
- ✓ Launched the Adopt-a-Park program that increased community involvement
- ✓ Sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cardboard Sled Race



- ✓ Hosted the Inaugural Cache In Trash Out (CITO) event—an environmental initiative of the geocaching community
- ✓ Sponsored several parks and lake clean-up days to unite residents in preserving our natural spaces and to showcase our commitment to a vibrant, sustainable, and engaged community
- ✓ Submitted a \$205,000 grant application for new playground equipment at Converse Park

On the lake front, our 2023 initiatives prioritized environmental health and community engagement, demonstrated our commitment to lake wellbeing, and promoted ecological balance and diversification of our aquatic ecosystem. Initiatives included:

- ✓ Performed targeted spring herbicide treatment
- ✓ Promoted the purchase of the WaterGator Lake Weed Harvester
- ✓ Established a Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) protocol
- ✓ Initiated a shoreline stabilization project at Channel Park
- ✓ Successful return of annual Carp Fest, with plans to feature a Kids Fishing Derby to increase participation in 2024



- ✓ Removed 2,500 lbs. of invasive carp supported by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) research and recommendation
- ✓ Participated actively in Lake Lovers and Global Water Works meetings sharing knowledge between lake communities.
- ✓ Trustee Stacey Pyne earned the Lake Guardian from the Illinois Lake Management Association (ILMA) for outstanding contributions to lake conservation.

### 2024 Parks and Lake Events

**Sat., Jan. 20, 2024\*, 1 – 4pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cardboard Sled Races**, *\*sled hill conditions permitting; Alternate Date: Sat., Jan. 27, 2024 1-4pm*

Join us for a day of snow, hot chocolate, and cardboard sled racing—ideal for STEM enthusiasts. Find details and registration form on the Village website.

**Sat., Apr. 20, 10am – 3pm: Earth Day Expo**

Explore environmental initiatives with kids' activities, vendors, a food truck, Greenleaf Woods Trail

Geocaching, gardening exhibits, Adopt-a-Park sign-up, and a speaker series.

**Fri., June 7 – Sun., June 9: Carp Fest and Children's Fishing Derby**

Enjoy days of fishing as you help remove invasive carp from Island. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.



*Stay tuned for upcoming events that will continue to engage and unite our community in the stewardship of our parks and lakes.*

Watch for updates on **Before and After School Club 2024-2025** and **Camp Greenleaf 2024** programs. Check our website for enrollment information and deadlines.