Take a Walk Around Your Home and Yard . . . You Might Be Surprised at What You See

For most of us, our home and property is a source of personal pride. It’s where we raise our children, relax in the evening, create bonds of friendship with our neighbors, and make treasured memories. Maintaining our homes and keeping our property looking its best is an investment that pays off for each individual homeowner and the entire neighborhood.

But occasionally we are too busy or too preoccupied with the demands of everyday life to notice something that needs attention. Consider this a gentle reminder that the Village has property code regulations governing maintenance of the home and property as a way to preserve home values for all residents in the neighborhood.

Take a quick visual survey of your property:

Does the exterior need some TLC? Are there any areas with peeling paint, rotted wood, torn or ill-fitting screens, missing trim, dangling gutters or missing downspouts, or other issues that need attention?

Have the grass and weeds gotten ahead of you? Village code requires that lawn grass must be below 8 inches in height.

Perhaps you never quite got around to calling the tree removal contractor. Dead trees are unsightly and can be a hazard in extreme weather conditions when they could be vulnerable to falling on your home or vehicle. Dead trees should always be removed in a timely manner.

Garbage, recycling materials, and landscape waste: These items should be placed curbside the day of collection, no earlier than 24 hours prior to collection day. Store these items inside the garage, behind your home, or at the side of your home. Always have tight fitting lids. All kinds of creatures would love to make your mealtime leftovers into a banquet if you let them.

Boats, RVs and more: Restricted vehicles such as boats, commercial and recreational vehicles, and storage trailers are only permitted on a residential lot for the purposes of loading and unloading. Parking or storage of restricted vehicles or equipment may be permitted for a period of up to 14 days upon written request.

Now through December 11
It’s the Season of Giving

• Toys for Tots Drive: Toys must be newly purchased and still in their packaging.

• Winter Coat Drive: New or gently used adult and children’s coats are needed for the PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) organization.

Toys and coats may be dropped off at the Inverness Village Hall as well as at the Inverness Police Department.

Farewell Sgt. Adamczyk, Welcome Officer Belmonte

Sergeant Ted Adamczyk retired from the Inverness Police Department on September 30. Sergeant Adamczyk was one of the original members of the Village of Inverness Police Department, which was established on May 1, 2009. He made numerous contributions in the development of the department. Village of Inverness staff and officials join in wishing Sergeant Adamczyk well in his retirement.

The newest addition to the Inverness Police Department is Officer Joe Belmonte, who started with the department on September 16, 2015. Officer Belmonte recently retired from the Mount Prospect Police Department where he served for 25 years and obtained the rank of sergeant. Welcome, Officer Belmonte.

The Village of Inverness’ practice of staffing its police department with seasoned police officers who have retired from other police departments continues to result in significant savings in terms of salary, benefits, and pension funding.
Dear Residents:

With winter around the corner, this issue of InverNews provides several recommendations that every homeowner should use to maintain a beautiful home that we all expect from our neighbors. One very important project during the winter season is the maintenance of a homeowner’s culvert. A blocked or obstructed culvert can cause an ice dam, which will encroach into the street, create vehicle and pedestrian hazards. Please spend some extra time this winter keeping the driveway culvert free of debris, snow, and ice.

In the previous issue of InverNews, Dick Gallagher, Chairman of our Finance Committee, and I provided an overview of the potential impact of the State of Illinois’ financial troubles affecting our community. Unfortunately, some of our concerns have become reality. As a result of the State’s budget impasse, and the State operating without a budget for over 4 months, Motor Fuel Tax and 911 payments to local governments have been suspended.

The lack of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funding has created a shortfall of over $70,000 or 30% of the estimated annual MFT revenue to Inverness. As a result, we are currently reevaluating the annual street maintenance program scheduled for this Spring.

In addition to the MFT funds, the State has also been withholding the distribution of the monthly surcharge paid by telephone users that is routed to county and local 911 dispatch centers, such as the Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD), which provides 911 services to Inverness. If 911 funds are not released to 911 dispatch centers in the near future, many dispatch centers, including NWCD, will be required to borrow money to maintain minimum service levels. Borrowing money will only add unnecessary cost to our residents.

Since the Village maintains a healthy fund reserve, or “rainy day” fund, we can maintain our financial stability for at least a year in the event additional unplanned losses of revenue or natural disasters.

On a “Good News” story, in May, Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services affirmed its ‘AAA’ long-term bond rating for Inverness, one of only 20 municipalities in the State to receive the highest available rating.

The rating is based on the Village’s:

- Strong management, with “good” financial policies;
- Strong budgetary performance, with operating surpluses in the general fund;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with a strong fund balance;
- Very strong liquidity and access to external liquidity;
- Low overall net debt, at less than 3% of market value; and rapid amortization, with all debt scheduled to be retired within 10 years; and
- Strong institutional framework score.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees, we want to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season.

Please be safe this winter.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles, Mayor

Protect Your Mailbox from Damage This Winter

Mailboxes are occasionally unintended casualties of the snow season. If a Village snowplow physically strikes a properly installed mailbox while removing snow, the Village’s contractor will make repairs or replace the mailbox with one of a standard design. Mailboxes should be mounted so that the front of the box is a minimum distance of 6” to 8” from the edge of the pavement or back of the curb. According to U.S. Postal regulations, the height of the mailbox should be between 41” and 45” from the road to the bottom of the box.

The Village will not replace or repair mailboxes where the damage was caused by heavy snow coming off the plow blade, so we suggest that you examine your mailbox early in the snow season to ensure that it is structurally sound and properly maintained.

Damage must be reported within 24 hours for investigation.
New Reflective Address Markers Available

The Palatine Rural Fire Protection District is offering reflective address markers designed to be attached directly to your mailbox post. They are highly reflective and could save lives and property during a fire or medical emergency. Clearly identifiable house addresses can help firefighters, paramedics, and police find your house quickly. Time is of the essence when you need help.

Also available are reflective address markers on a post that can be placed in your front yard near the street. It is important to place these markers where snowplows won’t uproot them.

Both signs are made of durable plastic and available for $15.00 per sign. Free delivery and installation is available. Please contact the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District at (847) 991-8700, or email to info@prfpd.org, to order your signs.

Make it easy for help to come to your aid.

Holiday Closings

Village offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

November 26 & 27: Thanksgiving
December 24 & 25: Christmas
December 31, January 1: New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day

Changes in Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Pickup

Refuse and recycling will be collected one day later than usual due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s holidays.

The last day for yard waste pickup is December 10.
Flu Vaccination: The Best Way to Protect Yourself and Loved Ones from the Flu

Have you gotten your flu vaccine this season? If not, now’s the time. An annual flu vaccination is the best way to prevent the flu as well as flu-related complications that could lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and even death. Health experts across the country recommend that everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine.

Influenza is among the most common respiratory illnesses in the United States. The severity of flu illness can vary from mild to severe. CDC estimates that from the 1976-1977 season to the 2006-2007 flu season, flu-associated deaths in the United States ranged from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details of coverage. If you do not currently have health insurance, visit www.HealthCare.gov to learn more about affordable health coverage options. For more information about influenza or vaccination, talk to your doctor or other health care professional, visit http://www.cdc.gov/flu, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

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(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)