As many of you are aware, the State of Illinois has the lowest credit rating of all 50 states. Currently, public pensions consume nearly 25% of state revenues. Unfunded pension liabilities are, by one estimate, at $111 billion. Another estimate has the state owing vendors $6.5 billion in unpaid bills. In order to address and help their budget shortfalls and debt, Governor Rauner has proposed a 2016 State budget that would reduce the long established local share of the state income tax by 50%. The impact of this proposal on Inverness would be a loss of over $366 thousand in revenue and place an additional tax burden on its residents.

For other entities, this reduction would be even more significant. As an example, Palatine would lose $3.4 million. The City of Chicago would lose $135 million.

This proposed reduction is very significant for Inverness’ finances. It represents 11% of our Village’s operating revenues. If we are required to make up this shortfall through a tax increase, it would result in a 21% Village property tax increase.

This state revenue sharing program has been in place since the Illinois income tax was enacted in 1969. Since these proposed reductions are so critical to the municipalities that receive them, we are joining a very strong debate on this issue in Springfield.

Inverness is in the process of preparing its budget for the 2016 fiscal year. Since Inverness, in anticipation of the uncertainty and threats by the state to implement these reductions in municipal revenues, the Village has maintained a very strong reserve position. As such, our Finance Committee is recommending to the Village Board that we absorb any 2016 state reductions to our revenues from our reserves.

As noted, our strong reserve position, consistent annual balanced budgets and on time payment of its bills are the key reasons that the Village of Inverness has a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s.

As we all follow these deliberations in Springfield, our residents can rest assured the Finance Committee will not be proposing any increase in your 2016 property taxes. Currently, every dollar collected in village property taxes goes to pay for our police services. Other village services are funded from other revenue sources.

Jack Tatooles, Mayor
Dick Gallagher, Chairman, Finance Committee

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Stream Maintenance Prevents Flooding
Even minor blockages can cause major havoc

The stream that flows through your neighborhood is more than just a scenic part of the landscape or a habitat for wildlife. It serves the vital function of draining stormwater and preventing flooding. In order to function effectively, the stream must be maintained.

Minor blockages can build up quickly in heavy rains, as floating debris piles up and creates a dam. Obstructions in one spot can contribute to flooding far upstream.

Residents and Homeowner Associations are encouraged to identify and fix potential problems before they can cause flooding. Dead and dying trees, which can eventually fall into streams and cause blockages, should be removed from the banks. Harmful invasive plant species, such as Buckthorn, should be removed to permit native plants to thrive and prevent erosion.

For more information about the region’s water system, visit the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago’s website at www.mwrd.org.

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Governor’s Proposal Could Cause Significant Increase in Inverness’ Property Taxes

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Yardwaste Pickup Resumes on April 2

- There is no charge for the first two bags/bundles: any combination of two yardwaste bags or bundles per week will be picked up at no charge.
- Stickers are required for additional bags/bundles: yardwaste stickers are $2.35 each. Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall, the Jewel at 1485 Palatine Road, or directly from Groot by calling 1-800-244-1977.
- Bags must be biodegradable paper bags.
- Bundles should be no larger than four feet in length, two feet in diameter, should not weigh more than 50 pounds, and must be tied with twine.

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From the Desk of…

Jack Tatooles

Dear Residents:

During the past several years, public discussion has magnified the lack of financial fiscal responsibility of the State of Illinois. On the cover of this issue of InverNews, Dick Gallagher, Chairman of our Finance Committee, and I provide an overview of the financial impact of Governor Rauner’s raid of 50% of local governments’ share of the state income tax to resolve the State’s long term financial troubles. By way of example, the potential loss of $366,000, if not more, is equivalent to our annual snow and ice control program (snow plowing and road salt purchasing) or the annual street and right-of-way maintenance program (street resurfacing, pothole repairs, street crack filling, and right-of-way repairs). Currently, the Village only receives about 2% of the income tax collected by the State from our community. The proposed cut of the municipal share will further erode the State income tax share that is returned to Inverness to fund Village services and infrastructure.

To justify the reduction of the local share of the state income tax, the Governor argues that local governments have an excessive amount of funds in reserve and multiple revenue sources. As indicated in a recent Daily Heard analysis, many communities cannot absorb a large loss of revenue. In addition, Governor Rauner estimates that the reduction of the local share of the income tax will only impact 2.2% of a local government’s total revenue. This is incorrect. The projected loss to Inverness will be 11% of our operating revenue. Due to our community’s demographics, new revenue sources are limited without directly impacting Inverness residents. The Village of Inverness has not and will not implement other revenue sources, similar to our neighboring communities, such as a utility tax, electric tax, real estate transfer tax, telecommunication tax, and/or home-rule sales tax to account for the reduction of revenue.

As part of our Fiscal Year 2016 (May 1 – April 30) budget, a list of expenses and projects will be placed on “hold” until the state budget is resolved and the potential loss of revenue to the Village is determined. Projects and expenses on hold may include: the annual road resurfacing program, non-critical storm water drainage projects, and the replacement of a police vehicle.

A community’s fund reserve or “rainy day” fund is essential for good governance. The Village maintains a healthy fund balance of at least one year of its annual operating budget. This fund balance is crucial to maintain our financial stability for emergency expenditures in the event of a disaster or unplanned loss of revenue due to changes in the economy. For many years to assist their cash flow problems, the State chose to delay its payment of the shared income tax payment to municipalities for several months. This repeated delay in payments created a strain on many local governments. Because of good financial planning, the Village was able to account for the delay and continue to pay all our vendors within 30 days. To address the state’s delay of payments, state legislation was enacted last year that prevents the state from falling more than two months behind in making income tax payments to the municipalities.

On a regular basis, the Village reviews its operations to determine the most cost effective way to deliver services to our community. In 2009, the Village established the Inverness Police Department to provide cost savings and increase services to our residents compared to the prior outside police contract services. Initial projected total savings was $1.8 million over the first five years of operations. I am pleased to announce that the Village has actually realized a cost savings of over $3.1 million since 2009. These savings are the result of dedicated management to control costs and the utilization of private sector types of benefits to avoid long-term pension and health care liabilities. Had the Village continued on the path of contracting for police services, this year’s contract payment would have been in excess of $2.5 million versus our cost of $1.7 million for the same period. As we look forward to the next 5 years, an additional $4.2 million is projected to be saved utilizing our police services compared to outside contracted services. Since police services costs are funded 100% by the municipal property tax, these savings have resulted in flat or minimum increases of the Village’s real estate tax levy for the past 5 years. This trend will continue into the upcoming years.

In an effort to increase local government transparency, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas printed each taxing districts’ debt and financial data on the first installment property tax bill. Unfortunately, the data presented does not truly depict the financial condition of each local government. To be clear, the Village is current in its pension obligations and payments as set forth in our Annual Audited Statement (pg. 28) that is displayed on the Village’s website.

Notwithstanding, the Village continues to be in a strong financial position with annual conservative budgeting, low debt burden per capita, and strong general fund balance for emergencies/unplanned expenses. Because of these financial management practices, the Village maintains a Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services’ highest credit rating of ‘AAA’. As we monitor the State in resolving their financial problems, the Village will continue to be financially responsible to our taxpayers with realistic balanced budgets and full funding of the Village’s annual bond and pension payments.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles, Mayor
Beware of Phone Scams

Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams — from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money.

If you receive a call from someone you don’t know who is trying to sell you something you hadn’t planned to buy, say “No thanks.” And, if they pressure you about giving up personal information — like your credit card or Social Security number — it’s likely a scam. **Just hang up.**

**IRS Phone Call Scam**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has seen a surge of phone scams in recent months as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The con artist may utilize caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. If you don’t answer, they often leave an “urgent” callback request.

The IRS will never:

• Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
• Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
• Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
• Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
• Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

**Consolidated Election Is Tuesday, April 7**

**Early Voting**

Early voting is available through April 3. Three local Early Voting sites are available for Inverness residents:

**Barrington Hills Village Hall**
112 Algonquin Road  
Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Palatine Township Center**
721 S. Quentin Road  
Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Rolling Meadows Courthouse**
2121 Euclid Avenue, Room 218  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Not sure where to vote on Election Day?**

Use the Cook County Clerk’s “Your Voter Information” search tool at [http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) below to:

• Verify your voter registration
• Find your polling place
• See your sample ballot, when available
• See a list of your elected officials and their contact information
• Check your mail ballot status

**Election Day is Tuesday, April 7**
**Be sure to VOTE!**

**Holidays Affecting Refuse Collection, Village Hall Closings**

Refuse collection will be affected by the following upcoming holidays:

**Holiday**  
Memorial Day – May 25  
Independence Day – July 4  
Labor Day – September 7

**Scheduled Pick-Up Day**  
Friday, May 29th  
Thursday, July 2nd  
Friday, September 11th

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

Monday, May 25, 2015  
Friday, July 3, 2015  
Monday, September 7, 2015  
Monday, October 12, 2015  

**Memorial Day**  
**Independence Day observed**  
**Labor Day**  
**Columbus Day**

**“No Solicitor” Decals Available**

Village Code prohibits canvassers, solicitors or peddlers to disturb a residence that displays a “No Solicitors” sign. “No Solicitors” decals are available at no cost at the Village Hall and the Police Department.

If you are planning to leave town for spring break . . .

Remember to sign up for the Inverness Police Department’s free Vacation Watch program before you leave. Officers will check your house on a daily basis for any signs of suspicious activity. Signing up for Vacation Watch is easy. You’ll find the form online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms) or at Village Hall.
Save the environment, save the earth

Single Sort Recycling Program

Recyclable materials are collected on your primary day of service. Recyclable materials do not need to be separated.

Acceptable recyclable materials are:

**PAPER**
- Newspaper (with inserts)
- Magazines/catalogs, glossy & non-glossy
- Telephone directories
- Office/school paper
- Advertising/junk mail
- Kraft brown paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard/chipboard

**PLASTIC**
All plastic bottles and containers with these symbols underneath. Examples are:
- Plastic beverage and food containers
- Milk, water and juice bottles
- Liquid detergent, fabric softener, bleach, shampoo
- Yogurt cups
- Vegetable oil bottles

**METAL**
- Aluminum cans
- Steel or tin cans

**GLASS**
- Bottles and jars only
- Brown, green and clear glass

**ASEPTIC PACKAGING**
- Juice boxes
- Milk cartons

**Recycling Preparation**
- All materials may be mixed together.
- Paper may be placed in paper bags (optional).
- Flatten all corrugated cardboard and paperboard boxes.
- Remove any non-paper packing material.
- Rinse all recyclables free of food residue and remove lids.
- Use PAPER bags when possible.
- Caps may be left on plastic containers.

**DO NOT:**
- DO NOT: recycle wire hangers (please return to your cleaners).
- DO NOT: recycle mirrors, lightbulbs, window glass, or ceramics in recycling container.
- DO NOT: include soiled paper fibers (oily pizza boxes, paper napkins, etc.)
- DO NOT: recycle batteries.

for information about where and how to recycle the items listed below, please visit the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County website at [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Batteries
- Electronic Waste
- Medical Waste
- Motor Oil & Tires
- Paint
- Household Hazardous Waste

Free Home Fire Inspections Available

The Palatine Rural Fire District offers residential home inspections as a service to the residents of the Fire District. The program is completely voluntary and provided at no cost to District residents.

The home inspection will cover common residential hazards, and will assist you with keeping your family safe. If areas of concern are found, they will be pointed out during the inspection. A written report will be left with the homeowner at the end of the inspection. The goal is to make homeowners aware of potential dangers within their home, and to provide options to correct these dangers.

Inspections are conducted by appointment only. If you are interested in scheduling a home inspection, please contact us at 847-991-8700.

If a homeowner wishes to do a self-assessment of their residence, the inspection form is available at [www.prfpd.org](http://www.prfpd.org).