Don’t be a Victim of a ‘Crime of Opportunity’

During the past several months, the north and northwest suburbs have seen an increase in auto thefts. A majority of these thefts occurred when vehicles were located on the owner’s driveway, with the vehicle unlocked and the vehicle’s key fob inside. The thief only needs to enter the unlocked vehicle and press the push button start system to steal the vehicle. No make or model of a car is immune to theft.

Some thieves who are not quite as bold are content to simply take what they see laying on the seat of the vehicle. In most cases, burglary to a vehicle does not involve forced entry – the burglars simply open the unlocked door and help themselves. Always take valuables with you, or store them out of sight in your locked vehicle.

Most burglaries from cars and homes are “crimes of opportunity” that could be prevented by taking some simple proactive steps. The Inverness Police Department recommends the following:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended with keys in the vehicle.
- Always lock your vehicle doors and keep the windows closed, even when parked in front of your home.
- Do not leave valuables – GPS, cell phone, purse, wallet, etc. – in plain view.
- Never leave your vehicle registration or other personal documents in your vehicle.
- Park your car in the garage when possible.
- Do not leave garage doors open overnight.

Call 911 immediately if you observe any suspicious persons or vehicles, anytime, anywhere.

State Budget Crisis Halts Mailing of Vehicle Registration Renewal Notices

Don’t bother watching your mailbox for your vehicle license plate registration renewal notice . . . it won’t be arriving. Due to the lack of a state budget, the Illinois Secretary of State’s office has suspended the mailing of vehicle license plate registration renewal reminder notices. During this suspension motorists can sign up to receive their reminder notices electronically at http://www.ilsos.gov/greenmail/.

To sign-up for an e-mail renewal notification, you will need to enter your vehicle license plate registration ID and PIN located on the renewal notice you received in the mail or on your current registration card.

If you do not have a renewal notice or a current vehicle license plate registration card, you may call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your vehicle license plate registration ID and PIN number.
Dear Residents:

In this edition of the InverNews, we welcome our two newest Police Officers, Randy Akin and Keith Rollins. Randy and Keith replace Officer Mark Waclawski who left the Inverness Police Department in December 2015 to join his family in Kansas, and Officer Wesley Gustafson, who retired on July 15th. Both Mark and Wes were original members of the Inverness Police Department. We thank both Mark and Wes for their years of service with the Inverness Police Department and wish them both a very enjoyable retirement.

On May 2nd, the Village celebrated Arbor Day and the Village’s 25th anniversary as a Tree City USA community. To commemorate this wonderful honor, the Village planted three Honeycrisp Apple Trees at Village Hall, which were donated by the Garden Club of Inverness. In addition to the Honeycrisp Apple trees, 30 American Hornbeam trees were offered to attendees to be planted throughout our community. Sam Berry, age 12, was the proud winner of the annual Arbor Day program cover art contest. Sam’s winning artwork is pictured to the right. Thank you to the Inverness Tree Commission for hosting another wonderful event.

Last month, the State of Illinois lawmakers approved a 6-month budget plan, after going an entire state fiscal year without a budget agreement. The stopgap budget does allocate local pass-through funds to municipalities to fund 9-1-1 services, which was held up last year for numerous months.

On page 3 of the InverNews, Finance Committee Chairman Dick Gallagher provided an overview of the current financial condition of the Village. Due to the Village’s ongoing conservative budgeting practices, the Village regularly finishes each fiscal year with a surplus, to eliminate the need to increase taxes or fees.

Have a wonderful Summer and Fall.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles, Mayor

Keep Refuse and Recycling Bins Screened from Public View

Residential refuse and recycling containers should be completely screened from public view, either wholly within the interior of a building or screened by other accessory buildings/landscaping.

Warm Weather Reminders

- Be visible when out walking at night: Make sure passing motorists can see you. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing. For extra safety, stop by the Police Department and pick up a free flashing light to make yourself more visible. The light has an on/off button and can be attached to your clothing or your dog’s leash.

- Expect the unexpected when it comes to kids: Children out playing with friends or riding their bikes often forget to watch for vehicles. More than one motorist has had to hit the brakes hard to avoid a child who ran into the street to chase a ball. Expect the unexpected whenever children are present.

- Practice proper pooch etiquette: When enjoying a walk through the neighborhood with Fido, remember Village ordinance requires that whenever you are walking your dog off of your property, he/she must be on a leash and under your control at all times. Any “deposits” should be cleaned up immediately.

- Having a party? No Parking signs, to be posted on the day of your party, can be checked out from the Police Department to ensure that guests only park on one side of the street. These signs are available on a first come, first serve basis.

- Be sure your address is easily visible. Seconds count in an emergency. Reflective signs and letters are available from the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District.
Inverness Continues to Have Exceptional Financial Rating & Performance

The financial health of our Village is excellent. We have a “AAA” bond rating from Standard and Poor’s and continue to meet the Village’s financial policy regarding the reserve fund balance in the bank. We finished our Fiscal Year 2015-16 (ending on April 30th) with a surplus (of revenues in excess of expenditures) of an estimated $600,000. Given the turbulent financial situation of the State of Illinois, this is an extraordinary performance by your Village management. Our unallocated reserves provide the Village with a financial cushion in the event of any potential cutoff of funds to the Village from the State of Illinois.

On June 14th, your Village Board approved the Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-17 providing for total expenditures of $3,864,645. Village residents are concerned as to how these expenditures will impact their property tax bill.

For a number of years, it has been Village policy to utilize all the property taxes that the Village receives to solely fund our police operations. This year, there will be NO INCREASE in the general fund taxes that the Village levies on residents. The Corporate tax levy will be $1,755,000 – the same amount as last year and will be applied to the operation of the Police Department (that budget is $1,755,000). The other revenues to cover our expenditures for this coming year are derived from other local and intergovernmental sources.

Chart 1 shows the portion of your total property tax bill that the Village receives for those residents who live in the Palatine Township side of Inverness. For the typical Palatine Township resident of Inverness, only 6% of your overall property tax bill goes to the Village of Inverness. As you can see from this chart, 74% of your property taxes go to fund the School Districts.

Chart 2 shows a similar breakdown for those residents who live in the Barrington Township side of Inverness. For those residents, 8% of your overall tax bill goes to the Village of Inverness and 71% of your property taxes go to the School Districts.

Dick Gallagher, Village Trustee Chairman, Finance Committee

Yardwaste Pickup Reminders

Weekly yardwaste pickup will continue through December 15.

Please remember:

- **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 required for additional bags/bundles:** Yardwaste stickers are $2.40 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.

- **Size and weight:** Bundles may be no larger that four feet in length, two feet in diameter, may not weigh more than 50 pounds, and must be tied with twine.

- **Other requirements:** Bags must be biodegradable paper bags.

Holidays Affecting Garbage and Recycling Pickups

Two upcoming holidays will bring changes to the regular garbage pickup days in Inverness.

**Labor Day:** The holiday falls on Monday, September 5; garbage pickup will be on Friday, September 9.

**Thanksgiving:** The holiday falls on Thursday, November 24; garbage pickup will be on Friday, November 25.
8 Easy Steps to Avoid Conflicts with Coyotes

Although many people are concerned that a coyote is a threat to their children or pets, the Illinois Department of Resources records indicate there have been only 16 coyote attacks on humans in the past 30 years. The majority of these cases occurred when people tried to hand-feed the animal.

These simple steps will reduce the likelihood of an encounter with a coyote:

1. Keep small pets indoors or on a leash from dusk until dawn.
2. Feed your pets indoors or only during daylight hours if you feed them outdoors. Never leave pet food out at night.
3. Make sure trash is not left outside in bags and that all trash cans have secure lids.
4. Install motion sensitive lights in your backyard and around your house.
5. Don’t leave fruit, berries or compost on the ground uncovered. Pick up fruit that falls to the ground.
6. Keep compost piles securely covered. Cover new compost material with soil or lime to prevent it from smelling.
7. Hang birdfeeders high or in areas not accessible to coyotes.
8. NEVER feed coyotes. Coyotes that are fed by people tend to lose their fear and may become territorial which may lead to aggressive behavior.

Coyotes in the Suburbs
Fascinating Facts About Urban Coyotes

Urban coyote dens are surprisingly hard to find: Though coyotes may be denning in the middle of a park, in an old storm drain or even under a shed, it is still not likely you’ll stumble upon one while strolling down the street or hiking through a preserve. Coyotes do their best to hide their dens and will often have multiple dens and multiple entrances to a den to help conceal their activity. These dens are usually tucked away in shrubbery or the wooded patches of parks, culverts, golf courses, preserves and similar spaces.

Urban coyotes may live in family packs or on their own at different points in their lives: Coyotes are highly social animals. They may live as part of a pack, which usually consists of an alpha male and female, perhaps one or two of their offspring from previous seasons and their current litter of pups. The pack may also welcome in a solitary traveler if their territory can support another member.

Urban coyotes mate for life and are monogamous: Coyotes mate for life and are 100 percent faithful to that mate.

Urban coyotes do not feast on pets and garbage; they typically stick to a natural diet: Many urban residents think all coyotes are out to eat their dog or cat at the first opportunity, or that they’re dumpster divers of the first degree. Although there is always the danger of a coyote snatching the family pet, studies have shown that urban coyotes stick mainly to a natural diet.

Urban coyotes help control the populations of other sometimes problematic urban wildlife like rodents, deer and Canada geese: Canada geese can wreak havoc on baseball fields and golf courses, deer can easily become a nuisance in yards and gardens of residential housing and spread disease-carrying ticks, and rats have been an issue in cities ever since cities were invented. Coyotes play a role in limiting the populations of these species and more, helping to keep a balance and increase biodiversity in urban ecosystems.

Trapping and killing or relocating urban coyotes does not reduce the overall population of coyotes: A common reaction from urban and suburban residents when they learn coyotes are living in their area is to ask for the removal of the coyotes, either through lethal means or by trapping and relocating them. However, animal control officers have learned through a lot of experience that this is not only a lot harder to do than it sounds, but it does nothing to reduce the number of coyotes living in an area. In fact, it has the opposite effect.