Are Home Improvements on Your Radar When Spring Arrives?
With the new year, if you have been thinking of an upcoming home improvement project, this is a reminder that you will need to obtain a building permit application. For your convenience, these building permit applications are available online at www.inverness-il.gov.

If you need assistance in filling out the application or have general questions regarding the permit process, contact the Village of Inverness Building Department at (847) 358-7960. Building Department hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Following are some guidelines to make the permit process go smoothly:

Plan Ahead: Be Sure to Allow Enough Time for Permit Review And Approval
The review and approval process for permit applications for new construction of single family homes typically takes about six weeks. The review and approval process for permit applications for all other types of construction and remodeling projects typically takes about three weeks.

(continued on page 3)

Village of Inverness Electric Aggregation Program Suspension
Following the passage of a voter referendum in November 2012, the Village of Inverness contracted with alternate retail suppliers to procure lower cost power supply for resident and small commercial retail accounts. Savings to date reached an average $610 per participating household and $1.26 million Village-wide.

The Village renewed the program in subsequent years and again sought competitive bids to extend the program at the expiration of the current term, which is February 2018. With savings margins narrow or negative, the Village chose to suspend the program and may revisit in Summer 2018.

Residents who are currently enrolled in the program need do nothing. They will be automatically switched to the default ComEd supply service rate at their meter read date in February 2018. They will receive a “Confirmation of Drop” notice from ComEd in late January, informing them of the upcoming switch.

PLEASE NOTE: with the suspension of the Village’s program, residents will receive increased solicitations from electric suppliers. When considering any solicitation, residents are advised to avoid variable rates that may have no upward cap, termination fees, and added miscellaneous fees (that are added to a supply rate).

A recent Illinois Commerce Commission study reported that Illinois residents who engage in an individual supplier contract (i.e., not a Village program) paid an average 24% above the ComEd rate. That equates to an overpayment of $236 per year for the average Inverness resident.

Never provide your ComEd account number to a solicitor unless you have contacted them directly to enroll and you have reviewed all terms and conditions. Avoid supposed deadlines associated with signing up for a program.

No solicitor is associated with the Village. If a solicitor claims otherwise, take their information and report to the ICC at http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint. For more information about electric rates, visit www.PlugInIllinois.org.

The Village may seek competitive bids in 2018 to see if rates are favorable. If so, the Village may re-start the program, and all residents would be given formal notice.

Welcome . . . and Farewell
On January 16, 2018, the Village of Inverness welcomed Ernie Myerson as its newest patrol officer. Ernie retired with the rank of Commander from Palatine Police Department where he served 28 years. He worked, and was a Gang Specialist as well as an Investigator in the Detective Bureau. He is a Certified Taser Instructor and a firearms specialist. He holds a bachelor degree from North East Missouri State in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute Staff and Command School in Louisville, KY.

Police officer John Koziol ended his tenure with the Inverness Police Department at the end of December to become Mt. Prospect Chief of Police. In his three years with the Inverness Police Department, John enjoyed partnering with the community.
Dear Residents:

In 2013, the Village started participating in the Municipal Electric Aggregation program to provide an alternative electrical supplier option for our residents, compared to ComEd. Since the inception, the Village residents have saved over $1.2 million from this program. Last fall, the Village sought bids to renew the program, however, the bids received did not result in savings compared to the ComEd’s current winter rates (2017-2018), and projected 2018 summer rates. As a result, the Village will be suspending the program. All resident and small business accounts currently in the program will automatically be returned to ComEd following meter readings in February. No action is needed on your part to revert back to ComEd.

This past summer, the Chicagoland area experience record rainfall, which resulted in significant flood damage to our neighbors to our north and localized flooding in our community. During the storms, Village Staff and Village contractors were actively clearing out storm water inlets and blocked culverts to reduce flooding. Unfortunately, a majority of the street and yard flooding was caused by residents not maintaining or clearing their culverts and private storm drains on their property. One neighborhood flooded as a result of an exercise ball blocking a storm water inlet serving a dozen homes.

Residents are encouraged to keep their driveway culverts unobstructed at all times and conduct regular maintenance on any private drain line and swales on private property. One obstructed culvert can affect several homes and cause flooding along a resident street, and icy conditions during our winter months.

We offer the following simple seasonal maintenance suggestions that will keep your culvert pipes trouble free:

**Spring:**
- Inspect culverts.
- Remove any obvious debris such as trash, leaves, and brush, that could cause blockage.

**Summer:**
- Clear and flush the inside of the culvert pipe.
- Trim and remove brush from around the ends of the culvert pipes.
- Re-establish grass around the pipe ends to prevent erosion.
- Remove obvious blockages.

**Fall:**
- Clear culvert pipe ends.
- Remove obvious blockages.

**Winter**
- Clear ice from the ends of the pipes if possible.
- Inspect the culvert for any accumulated debris.

Please be safe this winter.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles, Mayor
Changes in Refuse, Recycling & Yardwaste Pickup

Legal holidays often bring changes to refuse and recycling pickup days. Mark your calendar for these date changes in 2018:

- **Memorial Day, Monday, May 28:** Pickup will be on Friday, June 1
- **Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4:** Pickup will be on Friday, July 6
- **Labor Day, Monday, September 3:** Pickup will be on Friday, September 7
- **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22:** Pickup will be on Friday, November 23
- **Christmas, Tuesday, December 25:** Pickup will be on Friday, December 28

Curbside yardwaste pickups will resume on April 5, 2018.

Mosquito Season is Just Around the Corner

The sounds of summer will soon include the buzzing of mosquitoes.

Although we dislike them as much as you do, the Village does not spray for mosquitoes. That job belongs to the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, a separate taxing body that monitors mosquito levels throughout the suburbs. The District provides larviciding in places where mosquitoes are most likely to breed, such as ponds, catch basins, and other bodies of shallow water.

For information about mosquito abatement, spraying or other related issues, call the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District at (847) 537-2306, or visit their website at www.nwmadil.com. You will also find updated information on the West Nile Virus on this website.

Building Permits (continued from page 1)

In order to obtain a building permit, you’ll need:

- A completed permit application, available online.
- Two plats of survey, one of which must be an original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Land Surveyor.
- Two sets of architectural plans original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Architect or Illinois State Licensed Structural Engineer for all other types of construction.

Depending on the type of construction or remodeling project, you may also need:

- Septic layout
- Septic contractor’s license
- Homeowners’ association letter of approval

The Village of Inverness has adopted new building codes with amendments that will be in effect as of January 1, 2018. These codes are as follows:

- 2015 International Building Code (with Village Amendments)
- 2015 International Residential Code (with Village Amendments)
- 2015 International Swimming Pool Code (with Village Amendments)
- 2015 International Mechanical Code
- 2015 International Fire Code
- 2015 International Property Maintenance Code
- 2014 National Electric Code (with Village Amendments)
- 1997 State of Illinois Accessibility Code/Environmental Barriers Act
- 2014 State of Illinois Plumbing Code (with Village Amendments)

For more information about the Village Building Codes, visit www.inverness-il.gov

Village of Inverness

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Yardwaste Pickup Resumes on April 5

If the last snowstorm had you dreaming about the arrival of spring and the opportunity to spruce up your yard for the warm weather months, here’s some timely information about yardwaste pickup:

- 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 $2.44 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.
- Other requirements: Bags must be biodegradable paper bags. Bundles may be no larger than four feet in length, two feet in diameter, may not weigh more than 50 pounds, and must be tied with twine.

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NEWSTOKNOW—

VEHICLE APPLICATIONS TO BE MAILED THE END OF MAY

2018/2019 vehicle stickers: Applications will be mailed at the end of May to notify residents that vehicle stickers will be available for purchase on June 1. Stickers are $10 each and must be displayed by July 1. The fee rises to $25 on July 1st.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT OVERNIGHT PARKING REGULATIONS

Village ordinance specifies that “… it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any street, alley, or public right of way within the Village between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM.” Overnight parking is prohibited because it helps police officers identify vehicles that may be involved in some type of criminal activity. It also helps keep your auto insurance rates lower because it reduces the opportunity for possible damage or theft to vehicles left out on the street.

PUT THEM AWAY, PLEASE!

Remember that refuse and recycling toters must be stored out of sight from public view and your neighbors. Please be considerate of your neighbors and help keep Inverness looking its best.
Planning to be Away for Business or Pleasure? We’ll Keep an Eye on Your House While You’re Away

Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, the Inverness Police Department offers a free Vacation Watch program for residents who will be away from home for any length of time. Officers will check your house on a daily basis for any signs of suspicious activity.

Signing up for Vacation Watch is easy. The Vacation Watch form can be downloaded from the Village’s website at www.inverness-il.gov or you can stop by the Police Department or Village Hall to pick one up.

Before leaving on your trip, the Inverness Police Department suggests that you:

• Have your mail forwarded to you, held at the post office, or arrange to have it picked up daily. Never leave mail in a single central location, such as the kitchen table or countertop, where it can be seen and taken as an obvious sign that you are gone.
• Cancel your newspaper delivery.
• Leave a phone number where you can be reached with one or more neighbors so you can be notified of an emergency.
• Give your home that “lived in” look by using timers for your lights and a radio or television. Vary the times they switch on and off. Ask the person checking your home to open and close shades, move small objects like dishes, shoes or magazines, to make it look more natural.

Planning a Garage Sale?

Village ordinance states that the definition of a garage sale includes basement sales, house sales, yard sales, attic sales, rummage sales, estate sales or other similar occasional sales conducted from residentially zoned premises.

Garage sales are permitted for three (3) consecutive days between the hours of nine o’clock (9:00) A.M. and six o’clock (6:00) PM each day.

Not more than three (3) garage sales shall be conducted on the same premises within any calendar year. There shall be a minimum of thirty (30) days between each such sale.

Top 10 Ways to be a Good Septic Owner

1. Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional
2. Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
3. Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
4. Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
5. Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
6. Follow the system manufacturer’s directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
7. Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
8. Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
9. Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
10. Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)

For more SepticSmart tips, visit www.epa.gov/septicsmart

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency