It was a bold step for Inverness to break away from contractual services and create its own police department in 2009, but it has paid off in every way, according to Chief Bob Haas, a 32 year law enforcement veteran. Haas and the 11 officers who were hired in 2009 are all still with the Department, with the exception of Sgt. Mike Praffe who retired on April 30. All 12 were experienced officers who had retired from neighboring police departments. “They joined our department because they wanted to continue police work after their official retirement, and were willing to work for a lower salary because they were retired. It provided Inverness with the dual benefit of a highly experienced police force at a lower than average salary level. By bringing policing services in house, we have saved more than $2 million over what contractual services would have cost over that time period. It has been a win-win.”

The department logs about 2,000 calls a year, ranging from traffic accident investigation to a suspicious vehicle in a neighborhood. Haas is especially pleased with the number of calls coming in from residents who are reporting suspicious activities they have seen that they feel warrants investigation. “We have done a lot of educating... (continued on page 3)
Dear Residents:

During this past harsh winter, the Village experienced new challenges handling constant snow storms and extreme cold. In several parts of the community, we experienced extreme ice on residential streets. Unfortunately, the roadway ice was caused by poorly maintained driveway culverts and illegal sump pumps discharging into the right-of-way ditches. As a reminder, homeowners are responsible for maintaining their right-of-way property including the road shoulder grass and ditch drainage.

Earlier this month, ComEd released their new summer residential electric rates. ComEd’s rate increased from the current 5.523 cents per kWh to 7.596 cents per kWh for June – September 2014. This is a reminder that all residences of the Village can participate in the Village’s Electric Aggregation Program from Constellation Energy with a rate of 4.931 cents per kWh through February 2015. This summer, residents can save over 35% compared to the ComEd rate. To enroll, contact Constellation at 800-718-1493.

On Monday, May 5th, the Village celebrated Arbor Day and the Village’s 23rd year in Tree City USA. Hunter Theim, age 11, was the proud winner of the annual Arbor Day program cover art contest. Thank you to the Inverness Tree Commission for hosting another wonderful event.

Since 2004, the Women’s Club of Inverness has been collecting personal items, such as sunscreen, paperback books and magazines, telephone calling cards and other personal commodities and sending them to servicemen and women serving overseas, including canine military members. Last year, over 70 “Shoebox Express” packages were sent to soldiers. For more information about how to assist with the “Shoebox Express” program and the Women’s Club of Inverness, visit them at www.womensclubofinverness.com

We have two new faces serving our community, Village Administrator, Sam Trakas and Police Officer John Koziol. Sam joins us after over 15 years at the Village of Palatine and John recently completed a 29 year career with the Palatine Police Department and retired as the Police Chief, a position held since 2001.

Have a wonderful Summer season.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles, Mayor

New Runway Configuration Reduces Aircraft Noise

(continued from page 1)

has 70% of air traffic following a west flow with arrivals over northwest Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs, including Park Ridge, on three parallel runways. Thirty percent of aircraft arrivals follow an east flow over western suburbs including Bensenville, Wood Dale and Itasca.

The new 10C/28C runway is fourth in a future six-parallel runway configuration at O’Hare.

The O’Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC), in cooperation with the Chicago Aviation Department, uses 33 noise monitors throughout the region and issues monthly reports on aircraft noise levels. Readings at the Rolling Meadows noise monitor, which captures noise from flights over the northwest suburbs, indicate that aircraft noise has decreased to a November, 2013 reading of 54.9 DNL, down from 59.1 DNL in September, 2013.

For further information, visit oharenoise.org.
Village of Inverness Welcomes New Village Administrator

On February 10th, Sam Trakas began serving as the new Village Administrator. Sam replaces Curt Carver, who retired after serving as Administrator for Inverness since 1995.

Prior to arriving in Inverness, Sam worked for the Village of Palatine since 1997 through many different capacities. For the past five years at Palatine, Sam was the Assistant Village Manager/Administrative Services Director managing the Administrative Hearing Division, community outreach programs, special events, and providing support for all aspects of local government.

“I am honored for this opportunity to serve the residents of this great community,” Trakas said. “I look forward to continuing and expanding the high quality government services which the Inverness residents expect every day.”

Sam was raised in the northwest suburbs and currently resides in Palatine with his wife, Georgia, and two children: Olivia, 6, and Evie, 3.

Police Department Marks 5 Year Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

about calling 911,” he says. “It is not just for emergencies. It is to alert us to anything that might be important.”

Haas credits relationship building in the community with being the foundation of the department’s success. “Residents regularly stop to tell us how much they like having an officer get to know their neighborhood,” he said. “We have embraced the old fashioned kind of policing where one officer is assigned to a specific area, and that officer routinely stops to talk to residents so that they get to know him and he gets to know them. We regularly have residents stop by the Police Department to ask a question or just to talk. These relationships have enabled us to solve a number of crimes as well as stopping others from happening because residents feel comfortable calling 911 to report something they see that seems out of the ordinary.”

Haas says one of the highlights of the last five years is solving a cold case murder in Inverness. Carl Gaimari was murdered in his Inverness home in 1979 in a staged home invasion. Shortly after Haas became Police Chief, a colleague who was part of the original investigation recommended that the department take a second look. Witnesses were reinterviewed, and new evidence came to light resulting in the arrest of Gaimari’s wife, Jackie, for his murder.

As for the day-to-day operation of the Police Department, the mission is simple. “Our goal is and always will be to provide the best possible service to our residents,” Haas said.

NEWS TO KNOW—

2014 Vehicle Stickers, Dog Licenses

Applications for the 2014-15 vehicle stickers and dog tags will be mailed at the end of May. You may return the completed form and your check in the envelope that is enclosed with the application. Your stickers and dog tags will be sent to you by return mail. You may also purchase stickers and dog tags at the Village Hall beginning June 1.

The deadline for displaying the 2014 vehicle sticker is July 1, 2014. Vehicle stickers purchased on or before June 30 are $10 per vehicle; $25 for stickers purchased on or after July 1. Dog licenses are priced at $5.00 year round.

Yardwaste Pickup Reminders

- 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 $2.30 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.

Be a Dog-gone Good Neighbor

Village ordinance requires that all dogs must be on a leash and under the control of the owner at all times when off the owner’s private property.

When walking your pet, please be sure to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

A friendly reminder that those who violate the Village’s leash law may be ticketed and fined.

Welcome . . .

and Farewell

Top photo: Mayor Tatooles swears in Officer John Koziol on April 8, 2014.

Bottom photo: Chief Haas presents Sgt. Mike Prajek with his retirement badge in recognition of his 5 years of service to the Village.
Springtime Maintenance Will Keep Your Culvert Clean and Free Flowing

We are all grateful that winter 2013-14 is finally behind us, but it is important to recap the lessons learned relating to the serious roadway safety issues we experienced this winter that were caused by obstructions in driveway culverts.

- **It is imperative that driveway culverts be maintained and kept free of obstructions during the winter months.** A little bit of salt treatment at the culvert ends during each snow event can help prevent the culvert from becoming blocked with ice. When the culvert is filled with ice, then any runoff from snow melt or early rains cannot flow through the culvert and may run onto the road pavement. This situation creates icy roads when temperatures then fall below freezing.

- **Sump pump discharge lines are required to discharge within your private property and be setback a minimum of 20 feet from the right-of-way line.** There were multiple locations in the Village where icing conditions were present on the roads because sump pumps were discharging into right-of-way ditches which had ice-filled culverts.

- **Snow plowed from your driveway must remain on your property.** Snow cannot be plowed across the street into the opposite right-of-way. Plowing snow across the street creates three significant problems: (1) it creates windrows (snow trails) off each side of the plow which become icy patches for drivers on the road; (2) when not plowed far enough it reduces the road driving width; and (3) when pushed fully off the road pavement it blocks the drainage ditch so that when snow melt and rains occur the ditch has a frozen ice dam which prevents proper drainage.

- **Leaves and debris should regularly be cleared from culverts.** As part of your spring cleanup, culverts should be carefully examined and the winter’s accumulation of leaves and debris removed so that rain water will flow freely. Please be aware that shrubs and bushes should never be planted in the culvert.

We are all responsible for the maintenance of the right-of-way (including road shoulder grass and ditch drainage). With the extraordinary conditions of this winter season, coupled with rainy periods which accompanied the thaw, the road shoulders have been exceptionally subject to tire ruts and related damage. We each need to maintain and repair our own right-of-way to promote the beautification of our community.

The quality of our community relies on the shared individual responsibilities of each of us for the continued beauty of our neighborhoods.

Garbage Pickup Days Change for Memorial Day and 4th of July Holidays

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

**Memorial Day:** The holiday falls on Monday, May 26; garbage pickup will be on Friday, May 30.

**4th of July:** The holiday falls on Friday, July 4; no change in the regular Thursday pickup day.