A Chief and 11 Officers Make Inverness Police Department A Reality

The Chief is on duty, the officers have been hired, the uniforms ordered, the squad cars painted and the office space readied. All systems are go as Inverness’ first-ever Police Department prepares to assume responsibility for the safety and welfare of Village residents on May 1, 2009.

“This is both a challenging and exciting period in the history of our community. A shift to our own Police Department will not only enhance service levels, but save residents millions of dollars in the coming years,” stated Mayor Jack Tatooles.

The Department is being headed up by Robert Haas, Jr., a 27 year law enforcement veteran and Inverness resident who has been Deputy Police Chief in the Village of Palatine since 2002. He was selected to head up Inverness’ Police Department after a nationwide recruitment process that resulted in 65 letters of interest from candidates with a wide range of law enforcement experience.

Since their official hiring date of March 16, Inverness’ 11 police officers, profiled on page 3 of this newsletter, have been involved in intensive training including familiarizing themselves with the Village’s geography and residents. These veteran police officers from the north and northwest suburbs bring more than 325 years of experience to the new Department, and are well qualified to provide the highest standard of public safety.

The six week overlap between the officers’ hiring and the official transfer of police duties from the Barrington Police Department is designed to assure that the Inverness Police Department will seamlessly assume the duties that have been performed by Barrington officers.

“We will always have a minimum of two officers on patrol and on some occasions up to six officers,” according to Chief Robert Haas. “We will operate under the Community Policing philosophy, working with the citizens in a proactive manner to avoid crimes and situations that would provide an opportunity for crime. Whether we are enforcing traffic regulations or assisting at an accident scene, it is our goal to serve residents in a professional manner at all times.”

Haas says his top priorities are straightforward and simple: the community and the community’s safety. “These are not only my priorities, but those of the officers employed by the department,” he said. “This is your community and we want to be part of it. A partnership between the police officers and its residents gives both the citizens and officers a sense of ownership.”

Chief Haas urges residents to remember that 911 is not just for emergencies. “It is for any type of police service that requires a police response,” he said. “If you see a suspicious vehicle, person or something that just doesn’t seem right, call us immediately. It may be nothing, but by calling 911, you may prevent a crime.”

The new Inverness police station is located on the southwest corner of Roselle and Baldwin Roads in the Village Hall Annex, which has been remodeled to accommodate the Police Department. “We will have an open house in the near future,” Haas said. “Residents are always welcome to stop in to visit us and see the new station.”

Election Day is April 7, 2009. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Be sure to vote!
A Message from the Village Board

There’s no doubt these are challenging times for everyone. As elected Trustees of the Inverness Village Board, we are pleased to report that Inverness is in an extremely strong position now, and is poised to continue so in the years to come.

This financial strength has also allowed us to obtain extremely attractive interest rates. This was particularly beneficial when your Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a $9.5 million bond issue, to make system-wide improvements to Village streets over the next three years, instead of using our previous fifteen year cycle. This will result in a lower overall cost per mile, will provide much needed roadway rehabilitation and will provide real savings to taxpayers in the coming years.

Your Village Board of Trustees also voted unanimously to begin our own, dedicated Inverness Police Department, which begins on May 1. After 25 years of outstanding shared, contracted police services from Barrington, it became clear that escalating costs and the differences in police services required by both our villages, made this move inevitable. This will save Inverness taxpayers millions of dollars in the coming years, while enhancing police coverage in our Village. Just as importantly, we are now in a position to make policing decisions that are best suited for the completely residential character of Inverness, and without regard for the increasing focus on retail business in Barrington.

While these are unsettling economic times, your Village Board of Trustees is working hard to ensure that Inverness retains its residential standards and character, while maintaining strong fiscal health. We are pleased to confirm what Standard & Poor’s highest-possible “AAA” rating has already told us—your Village is financially sound. Coupled with a united focus and direction for your Village, we have good reason to feel good about Inverness and its bright future.

Sincerely,

Russell P. Fitton, Trustee  
Janice Stremel, Trustee  
Richard C. Gallagher, Trustee  
Timothy W. Tiedje, Trustee  
Patricia D. Ledvina, Trustee  
John R. Willis, Trustee

Come Celebrate Arbor Day on May 11

The Village of Inverness will celebrate Arbor Day at the Village Hall at 4:30 p.m. on May 11. Join us for refreshments and a renewed commitment to the importance of the beauty and environmental benefits that trees bring to our community.

Children are invited to participate in our annual Arbor Day poster contest. The poster must include the words “Inverness Arbor Day 2009” and “Tree City 18 years.” The child’s name, address, phone number and age must be written on the back of the poster. The winner will receive a $100 U.S. savings bond. Entries must be received at the Village Hall by 4:00 p.m. on May 1.

Dig Into These Ditch Maintenance Reminders

Driveway culverts and the open ditch system throughout the Village are the primary method of storm water management in Inverness. And that means that keeping them free of leaves and other debris is essential in order to prevent flooding problems for your upstream neighbors. Spring is a perfect time to inspect your ditches and driveway culverts on a regular basis. Keep them free of leaves or other debris that could obstruct the flow of storm water.
Meet the Officers of the New Inverness Police Department

Sergeant Mike Praffe comes to Inverness with 30 years of police service, most recently as Deputy Chief for the Village of Schaumburg. He holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Aurora College, and is also a graduate of Northwestern University’s Staff & Command School. “I am looking forward to building a Police Department from the ground up and working with the citizens of Inverness to keep the community a great place to live and raise a family.”

Sergeant Ted Adamczyk served as a Commander in the Mt. Prospect Police Department before coming to Inverness. He has a B.A. in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University and is a graduate of the Staff & Command School at Northwestern University. He has nearly 29 years of police experience with specialization as a Firing Range Officer and extensive investigations experience. “I look forward to working with the residents to meet their needs through community policing.”

Jeff Glueck serves as a Detective in the Palatine Police Department. The 29 year police veteran graduated from Mac Murray College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. He has been a Field Training Officer and has experience in Tactical Operations. “I look forward to continuing my law enforcement career in Inverness and working with the citizens of the community.”

Tony Cinquegrani was a Sergeant in the Wheeling Police Department before coming to Inverness. He holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Lewis University and is a graduate of the Command Officer Development course at the University of Kentucky. His areas of expertise are Investigations and Juvenile Affairs. “I am looking forward to serving with a group of highly trained officers in the unique community of Inverness.”

Mike Untiedt, most recently a Detective with the Glenview Police Department, brings 27 years of police experience including expertise in Accident and Arson Investigation. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University with a B.S. in Law Enforcement Administration. “I am honored to have been selected as one of the original members of the Inverness Police Department and look forward to serving its residents.”

Don Suchomski has 30 years of police service, most recently with the Schaumburg Police Department. He is a graduate of Harper College with special experience in Traffic Enforcement, Investigations, and Field Training. “I am privileged to be part of the new Inverness Police Department and look forward to building new relationships within the community.”

Mark Waclawski comes to Inverness from the Elk Grove Village Police Department where he serves as Sergeant. He is a graduate of Harper College and the Staff & Command School at Northwestern University. The 27 year police veteran is a Firing Range Officer and Field Training Officer. “I am excited about the opportunity to help mold a new Police Department from the beginning.”

Wes Gustafson, a 28 year police veteran from the Elk Grove Village Police Department, is a graduate of Loyola University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. His areas of expertise include Accident Investigation and Reconstruction, and Truck Enforcement. “I have lived in and developed close personal ties to the area over the last 28 years and I now look forward to serving the community.”

John Pearson, previously a Commander in the Rolling Meadows Police Department, has a B.A. in Management from National Louis University and is a graduate of the Staff & Command School at Northwestern University. A 30 year police veteran, he has experience as an Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, and Arson Investigator. “The new Inverness Police Department offers me a chance to get back to doing the things I think are so important: making a positive difference for the community, and helping people in distress.”

Jeff Glueck serves as a Detective in the Palatine Police Department. The 29 year police veteran graduated from Mac Murray College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. He has been a Field Training Officer and has experience in Tactical Operations. “I look forward to continuing my law enforcement career in Inverness and working with the citizens of the community.”

Mike Kirby, a Sergeant in the Wheeling Police Department, is a graduate of Triton College with 30 years of police service. He has been a Field Training Officer and has experience in Major Crimes and Tactical Operations. “Being with an organization from the start and watching it grow is a great feeling. I look forward to molding the Inverness Police Department from the ground up.”
Help Find the Cure: Join Relay for Life on June 12-13

The American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life is an overnight walk/run to raise money for cancer education, advocacy, awareness, support and research to help find a cure. This year’s Palatine/Rolling Meadows/Inverness event will be held on June 12-13 at a local school.

An important part of the Relay For Life event is recognizing our cancer survivors. The Survivor Celebration takes place immediately following the opening ceremonies, at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12th. All survivors in attendance are asked to take the first lap with their caregivers. It is the most inspiring lap of the Relay event! The survivors are then invited to a dinner reception held in their honor on site.

If you or someone you know are a cancer survivor, please contact Taylor Bogdan at the American Cancer Society, (847) 368-1166 or visit www.relayforlifepmi.com for a registration form.

Does The End of Winter Bring Thoughts of Spring Home Improvements?

If you are planning a home improvement project that involves new construction or remodeling, you will need to obtain a permit application from the Building Department. If you have questions or need assistance in filling out the application, we will be glad to help. Contact the Building Department at (847) 358-7960. The Building Department is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

A Word to the Wise: 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 four weeks. The review and approval process for permit applications for all other types of construction/remodeling projects typically takes about two weeks.

Inverness 50/50 Tree Program is Back!

Be watching for details in the fall issue of the Village newsletter.