



# The Messenger

Spring/Summer 2012

Official Publication of the Village of Lake in the Hills

## Happy 60th Anniversary Lake in the Hills!



*First Village Hall and Police Station*

Photos Courtesy of the  
Lake in the Hills Historical Society



*Lake in the Hills 1975 Midget Baseball Team.  
Photo looks north toward the Fen.*



*Walter LaBuy House, Built 1923-1924*

LAKE IN THE HILLS  
WELCOMES YOU



*1973 'New' Dodge Police Car*



*Woodland Gates*

*16 E Oak Street looking  
east in 1950-1*

*First Lake in the Hills  
Village Board, 1952*



*Background Image: 1969 Sign at Hilltop  
and Algonquin Roads by Fred Kruse,  
Superintendent of Roads*

## Letter From the Village President



### Village President

**Ed Plaza**

(847) 960-7401  
eplaza@lith.org

In the last five years, a little bug has had a major impact across Illinois. That bug is the Emerald Ash Borer. In 2009, it was found in 18 trees Village-wide. By 2011, over 1000 trees have become home to the EAB. Since Ash trees make up 27 percent of the Village's trees on public land, we face a significant challenge. This challenge is also being faced by all of our neighbors.

Public Works has implemented a plan to deal with the EAB and its impact on our Village trees and budget. First, 200 of the largest and healthiest Ash trees are being treated with a systemic insecticide to help ensure their survival. This will help maintain the beauty in the areas where these established trees are located. Second, the Arborists in Public Works are making every effort to identify the trees impacted by the EAB. They regularly replace dead and dying trees each spring and fall. When the EAB creates a serious health problem with a tree, they act to get it replaced during the next cycle. The EAB is well established across northern Illinois, so Public Works is focusing its efforts on trees whose health is rapidly declining. As part of this year's tree planting, they will be placing tags on EAB positive trees scheduled for replacement. This will help individual homeowners to identify which trees are

planned to be removed so they avoid making any improvements which will only end up being removed.

We have also worked hard to obtain outside funds to help replace the trees lost to the EAB. In 2010, we received a \$20,000 grant from the Metropolitan Caucus of Mayors targeted at removal of Ash trees. The money was spent to purchase replacement trees and the labor was provided by Public Works. Additionally, the McHenry County Department of Transportation provided 240 trees to replace trees removed along the Rakow Road construction project. These efforts have helped preserve our tax dollars.

There are a few things each of us can do help to in these efforts. Homeowners should check the trees on their property. If you suspect you have Ash trees and possibly the EAB, consult with a local professional arborist. They can help you determine how to best deal with this pest. Also, use local firewood rather than moving it from here or bringing it back from outside our area. The EAB moves less than a mile a year by its own flight. The fastest way to help it spread is to give it a free ride.

We will continue to make every effort to maintain the natural beauty of our community while keeping costs at a reasonable level.

*Ed Plaza*  
Village President

## Sunset Park Project Completed



In 2011 the Village received a grant from the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The funds were specifically used for capital construction at Sunset Park. The three major projects were: two sets of bleachers for Sunset baseball/softball field #9, a two stall vaulted restroom, and Big Belly solar trash compactors. A ribbon cutting ceremony and big belly demonstration will occur in late April. The long-term environmental impact of the solar trash compactors will be the savings



from reduced trips of emptying garbage containers, less emissions, less fuel used, and literally less waste being sent to the garbage dumps. Recycle containers will also be distributed throughout the park for plastic beverage containers, bags, paper and the like.

## Village Shredding Day - June 2, 2012

The Village of Lake in the Hills will be hosting a Shredding day for all Lake in the Hills Residents on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 9am to Noon at Village Hall, 600 Harvest Gate.

Residents can bring any paper documents that they would like shredded to Village Hall. AMS Store and Shred will be on

hand to take those paper documents, which will be put into 95 gallon totes and then locked. At the end of the day, AMS will take the locked totes back to their facility at 13 Prosper Court, Lake in the Hills and shred all the paper documents within the totes. This service is being provided at no cost to Village residents.



# Regulations

## Dog Restraints/ Regulations

The Village would like to remind residents that the Code requires all owners to restrain their dogs from running at large within the Village. It is also unlawful for an owner to walk their dog in the Village without having sufficient equipment to remove any dog litter which may be deposited. Any such litter must be immediately removed from any property not owned by the dog owner, unless permission has been granted. Those found in violation of the Code can be fined a minimum of \$50.00 for each offense.

The Village has new mobile signs (above) which will also be used to help remind pet owners of their responsibilities. Please respect your neighbors and clean up after your pets.



## In Season Boats, Trailers and Recreations

### Vehicles

During the “in-season” from April 1 to November 30th a boat, trailer or recreational vehicle may be parked anywhere on residential properties in the Village, however they still must be placed on a prepared hard surface such as concrete, asphalt or paver blocks.

## High Grass and Weeds

As a reminder for this spring and summer, Village Ordinances make it unlawful for any person to permit any grass or weeds to grow over 8 inches. If you are cited for having grass or weeds over this height, you will be given 5 days to bring your yard into compliance. Failure to cut your grass or weeds within this time frame will result in the Village hiring a contractor to cut your grass. The cost for this will be charged back to the owner and can be as high as \$250. In addition, a fine will be issued to the owner. The Village appreciates your cooperation.

## Spring/Summer Projects

Permits are needed for many of the projects you may be planning this spring or summer. Fences, decks, pools, sheds and patios are a few of the improvements that do require permits. Except for siding and roofing projects, it generally takes five to seven days for us to review and issue a permit.

The Community Development Department has brochures available that provide submittal requirements for each of these projects. It should also be noted that contractors are required to be licensed in the Village. Contact the department at 847-960-7440 or visit our webpage at [www.lith.org/Permits.html](http://www.lith.org/Permits.html) for more information and to download brochures and permit applications.

## New Illinois Traffic Law Allows Red Light Running by Motorcycles

Motorists are cautioned to be on the lookout for motorcyclists this cycling season. A new law passed this year allows motorcyclists, bicyclists or moped riders to disobey red lights at intersections.

The New Law Reads:

“After stopping as required by law, the driver of a motorcycle or bicycle, facing a steady red signal which fails to change to a green signal within a reasonable period of time because of a signal malfunction or because the signal has failed to detect the arrival of the motorcycle or bicycle due to the vehicle’s size or weight, shall have the right to proceed subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign as required by the Illinois Vehicle Code.” (1) (2)

This new law only applies to motorcyclists, moped riders or bicyclists. This change in the law does not permit drivers of motor



vehicles to disregard the same traffic control devices. Drivers of vehicles are however, cautioned, to be on the look out. A traffic accident between a motorcycle or bicyclist are likely to result in personal injury or even death.

The law went into effect on January 1st 2012, unfortunately for Chicago riders, the statewide law does not apply within Chicago city limits. The law was instituted on the fact that motorcycle riders who

would often have to wait for long periods of time at traffic lights that used in ground sensors to change the signal. Most motorcycles are not heavy enough to trigger the in pavement sensors.

The Lake in the Hills Police Department encourages everyone to wait as long as possible at an intersection prior to proceeding in order to avoid an often fatal traffic crash. Make sure you wait as long as possible before proceeding safely thru an intersection. Look in all directions frequently to make sure there are no vehicles approaching and keep in mind this law does not give riders the legal right to disobey traffic control devices any time they are red, only when they have waited at the red light a reasonable time period and proceed safely.

- (1) Cyberdrive Illinois
- (2) Illinois State Police

# Village Events



## Rockin' Rotary Ribfest

The Lake in the Hills Rockin Rotary Ribfest is set to take place at Sunset Park, starting Thursday, July 5 and running through Sunday, July 8. This signature event is a fantastic opportunity to come out and enjoy great food with fantastic music, while supporting an event that raises funds for a number of philanthropic ventures.

Food vendors will be coming from across the United States and this year, 11 acts have

been signed to perform at the event, including Foghat, Fran Cosmo, former lead singer of Boston, Your Villian my Hero and 7th Heaven.

Proceeds from the event are used by the Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills to fund both local and international projects as well as provide scholarships for local teens.

For more specific schedule information on the Ribfest, go to <http://lithribfest.com>



## Triathlon – June 10, 2012

It's time to set your goals for the year – why not include participating in a triathlon. You supply the swim goggles, bike, and running shoes; we provide the motivation and assistance to complete the race. The race includes a ½ mile swim in Woods Creek Lake, 15.5 mile

bike ride along area roads, and a 4 mile run through residential and park sites. All levels are welcome. To register in person – stop by the Parks & Recreation Department. Online registration is available at [www.signmeup.com/79515](http://www.signmeup.com/79515).



## Sound Bites – Summer Concerts

Fun, free entertainment right in your own neighborhood! Our summer concert series will be fun for the entire family. Concerts are held on the North Lawn at Village Hall beginning at 7pm and food and beverages are available for purchase. Come early for the family activities at 6pm followed by kids' entertainment during the concert. Kids activities will include: face painters, balloon artists, and a bubbleologist.

- 6/23 The Incognitos – Cover/Variety Band
- 7/21 Tropixplosion – Carribean/Reggae
- 8/3 Jin & Tonic – Country



## Public Works Open House

The annual Public Works Open House will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to meet the Department staff and see some of the equipment utilized to maintain the Village infrastructure. The Open House runs from 11:00am to 2:00pm and will include tours of the adjacent water treatment facility as well as informative information and demonstrations from the Water, Street, and Public Properties Divisions.

Snow plows, tractors, loaders, mowers and other vehicles and heavy equipment used by the Department will be on display for everyone to see and sit on to get an actual experience. Bring the entire family for a complimentary lunch, hot off the grill to all who are present. You are encouraged to mark your calendars and attend this family fun event this spring. The Public Works facility is located at 9010 Haligus Road. It is one block south of the intersection of Haligus Road and Miller Road.



## Village Events

### Village Celebrates Arbor Day

Lake in the Hills will be celebrating Arbor Day on Friday April 27, 1:00pm at Village Hall. We will celebrate the many benefits trees provide to the environment by planting a ceremonial tree. The Arbor Day celebration is part of the Village's Tree City USA program. Over the last several years, the grounds surrounding the Village Hall have been the site for planting a wide variety of trees. Come join us and some of the students from Lincoln Prairie Elementary School for the celebration.

#### Did You Know?

- In just one year the average American consumes enough wood and paper to equal a tree 100 feet tall and 16 inches in diameter.
- The bristlecone pine is the oldest living tree. One specimen is 4,600 years old.
- The Pacific Yew tree, which grows in northern Idaho, produces a cancer-fighting agent called "taxol". Doctors use taxol to control ovarian and other types of cancer.



### Young Eagles 2012

Young Eagles is a program that introduces children ages 8 to 17 to aviation and the thrill of flying. The program is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), an international aviation membership association founded in 1953.

at 815-479-7960 or go to the EAA Young Eagles website at [www.young eagles.org](http://www.young eagles.org).

Chapter 790 of the EAA has tentatively scheduled Young Eagles Rallies at the Lake in the Hills Airport on the following dates:

EAA Chapter 790 pilots donate their time, fuel, and aircraft at the rallies and offer free airplane rides to children. A signed waiver form is required from a parent or guardian. For more information call the Airport office

- June 16, 2012
- July 14, 2012
- August 18, 2012
- September 8, 2012
- October 13, 2012



### Park Parties

Pack up the kids and a picnic lunch and join us for a party in the park. Children's entertainment will begin at 11am. On Friday, June 8th we will be entertained by Ken Schultz, "The Flying Fool" and his variety act. This is a great show for children of all ages. On Friday, July 13, Raisin

Rhyme will get you on your feet with their fast-paced, interactive concert. On Friday, August 3rd, The Frog Lady will offer fun facts and show off her impressive collection of reptiles and amphibians. This show will be both educational and fun. Park Parties are held on the North Lawn at Village Hall.



### National Night Out Against Crime

The National Night Out program is designed to get the Village's neighborhoods involved in a "stand against crime in their community". This is a two day event which includes several block parties throughout the Village, which are attended by Police Officers and Village Officials. The block parties will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 7:00-10:00pm. Call the Community Relations Division at 847-

658-5676 to register your block party.

The Community Cookout will be held at Safety Town on Saturday, August 11, 2012 from 5pm - 7pm where FREE HOT DOGS & POP will be provided. Attendees will get the opportunity to tour the Police Department, take part in Simulations, try their hand at the Fatal Vision Driving Course and much more!



## Senior's Calendar

### Preparing Simple Wills

Held at Village Hall by appointment only on the first Thursday of each month between 1:30-3:30pm. Call (847) 960-7460 to schedule your appointment.

May 3, 2012

June 7, 2012

July 5, 2012

August 2, 2012

### LITH Senior's Club

Held in the Village Hall Multi-purpose room from 9:00am - 12:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

May 8 & 22, 2012

June 12 & 26, 2012

July 10 & 24, 2012

August 14 & 28, 2012

### Senior Trips

Arlington Park  
Wednesday, June 13  
11:00 - 6:30pm

Potawatomi  
Monday, June 25  
8:00am - 6:00pm

Cantigny  
Wednesday, July 11  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Brookfield Zoo  
Monday, July 23  
9:00am - 4:30pm

Harrah's Joliet  
Monday, August 6  
9:00am - 4:30pm

Legacy Girls  
Tuesday, August 28  
10:00am - 3:30pm

## Senior Serenity Wednesdays

The Village of Lake in the Hills wants seniors in the area to stop by on Wednesdays, between 10:00am and 2:00pm. During the calendar year, the Village Hall Board Room is used to accommodate local seniors for a weekly afternoon of activities. The monthly calendar can be found at [www.lith.org/Seniors.html](http://www.lith.org/Seniors.html) and will show a variety of things to do. Cards, Bingo, movies, and more! Stop by to meet new people or spend time with friends.



## Family Bike Rides



Get out and stretch the legs on your bike for a family ride. Speeds are leisurely enough for 7 year olds to 99 year olds. Make sure your tires are filled up with air; you have a helmet, and water for the ride. A ride guide will travel with the group to point out various landmarks. On Friday, May 4 we depart at 5:30pm from Leroy Guy Park and on Sunday, May 20 we depart at 3 pm from Sunset Park. Rides are free, however; please contact the office to register your name. If it is raining and the pavement is wet, we will not ride. Additional rides will be on June 24 and July 27. Check the summer Parks & Recreation brochure for those dates, times, and locations.

## Youth Sports

Anyone looking for athletic activities this summer can find a variety of programs in the Summer 2012 brochure. Program providers include Skyhawks, Sports R Us, Pro Player, Golf Club of Illinois, Algonquin Community Tennis Association, United Cricket Club, ALITHSA, Premiere Soccer Camps, and Player's Choice Academy. Programs include golf, lacrosse, soccer, t-ball, cricket, tennis, baseball, multi-sport programs, and more!! Be sure to pick up a brochure in May and register for programs starting in June.



## Pilates Class

Are you experiencing one of the following issues: Constant or sporadic pain in your lower back? Sitting all day at work over the computer? Back pain while sleeping? Practicing Pilates can assist you in improving poor posture, back pain, and allows you to stand taller, get out of a chair or bed easier, and dance your way to better health. Mat Pilates will be taught during June and July at the Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. Registration begins May 3rd, visit [www.lith.org/registration.html](http://www.lith.org/registration.html).

## Park Clean up Day April 21

Take pride in your local park at this annual park clean up day. Gather your neighbors, scout groups, or the family to clean up your community park. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department to reserve your park (847) 960-7460.

## Summer Camps

We've Got a Really Groovy Way to Spend Your Summer Vacation!

Lake in the Hills FuntastiCAMP is packed with exciting activities, challenging sports, creative outlets, and awesome trips! Weather permitting; campers enjoy sand, sun, and splashing at Indian Trail Beach!

Our experienced camp counselors focus on ensuring your child is having a wonderful camp experience in a safe and friendly environment. Fee includes daily activities, beach trips and weekly trips, and a camp T-shirt. Campers bring their own snacks, water bottle, sunscreen, and lunch daily. This year camp is located at Marlowe Middle School, 9625 Haligus Road.



Camp begins on June 4 with the hours of 7am - 6pm daily. The weekly rate for residents in Pre-K through 5th grade is \$140/week. Additional siblings are \$130/week. Non-residents Pre-K through 5th grade rate is \$150/week. Additional siblings are \$140/week. Early bird rate is \$126 for residents and \$136 for non residents.



Nomad campers are kids in 6th grade through 8th grade. Rates for Nomad campers are \$150/week for residents and \$160/week for non-residents. Early bird rate is \$135 for residents and \$145 for non residents.

The Early Bird Rate is only available through May 1st. To receive the Early Bird Rate for ALL weeks your campers will attend, you must SIGN UP and PAY IN FULL by May 1st.

## 2012 Photo Contest

The Village of Lake in the Hills is holding a photo contest to find an image that best captures life in Lake in the Hills. Photos must be submitted on CD and must be accompanied by an 8x10 print and an entry form, which can be downloaded from the Village's website at [www.lith.org/photocontest.html](http://www.lith.org/photocontest.html).

All entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2012 to be eligible. Winners will be notified via e-mail as soon as the judging is complete. Select photographs will be featured on the Lake in the Hills website and in future Village publications. The contest is limited to Lake in the Hills residents.

*2011 Contest Winner,  
"Fall Reflections",  
submitted by Rolour Garcia*



## Head Down to the Beaches this Summer

Did you know that Lake in the Hills has two beaches? Discover for yourself the beautiful beaches located in your back yard. Indian Trail and Butch Hagele Beaches are located on the shores of the Woods Creek Lake on the East side of the Village. They

provide a fun and safe atmosphere for families looking to cool off this summer. Beaches are guarded in the summer by Red Cross Certified Lifeguards. Bring your family out to experience the beauty and fun at our beaches.

Beach Hours:	Indian Trail 228 Indian Trail	Butch Hagele 71 Hilltop Drive
Gates Open:	Sunrise-Sunset Year round	Sunrise-Sunset May 26 – August 19
Guarded:	10:00am – 6:00pm June 2 – August 19, 25, & 26 Sept. 1, 2, 3	11:00am – 5:00pm June 2 – August 12,

### Beach Special Events

- June 2 - Pirate Treasure Hunt (1 pm)
- June 15 - Movie at the Beach (8:45 pm) rain date June 16
- July 10 - Magical Night at the Beach (7pm)
- July 31 - Barefoot Hawaiians Beach Show (7pm)
- August 9 - Beach Blanket Bingo (6:30 pm)



### Paddle Boat and Kayak Rentals

Don't miss an opportunity to experience the beautiful scenery of Woods Creek Lake by boat with family and friends. When you get out on a boat in the middle of the lake; the view changes dramatically. Paddle boat and kayak rentals are available at Indian Trail Beach, 228 Indian Trail, from Noon – 5:00pm (when the beach is staffed). Fees are \$6 for a 30-minute rental and \$11 for an hour rental. It's a fun and educational family outing you won't want to miss.



### Lake Use Tags, Boat Tags & Beach Admission Fees

Take advantage of the beautiful Woods Creek Lake by splashing around at our beaches, go fishing, or enjoy the water by boat. The lake provides a variety of recreational opportunities for you and your family. To participate in these activities on the lake (boating, fishing, swimming), you need to have a Lake Use Permit or have paid a daily use fee. Lake Use Permits, Boat Permits, and Boat Slips may be purchased at the Village Hall on or after Tuesday, May 1. Note: For returning boat permit and boat slip holders, you may renew your existing boat slip, boat stickers, and lake use permits after April 17. If a current slip owner wants to move their current slip location, they can do so on May 1. Daily admission fees are also available at the beaches (in-season) and Police Department.

	Residents	Non-Residents
Lake Use Permit	\$40 (Senior \$30)	\$60
Beach Daily Admissions	\$2.00	\$5
Boat Permit *	\$10 (Senior \$7)	Not available
Boat Slip \$20	(Senior \$15)	Not available

\*All boat users are required to pay a daily fee or purchase a Boat Permit and Lake Use Permit to utilize Woods Creek Lake. Your current IDNR registration must be included with your registration form to be eligible to purchase current boat permits. For the safety of the environment and other beach and lake patrons, only trolling motors are allowed on the lake.

# Stay Informed!!

## Emergency Alerts Via Cell Phone

The McHenry County Emergency Telephone System Board which governs the McHenry County 9-1-1 system has updated the GeoCast Emergency Notification System, which is used to notify residents and businesses of emergency situations.

Previously this system only allowed residents to be alerted via a landline telephone, installed in a residence or business. A Self Registration Portal (SRP) has been added to the notification system. This free, new, online enhancement will allow Lake in the Hills residents & businesses to sign up to receive emergency notifications from the Police via their landline telephone, cellular telephone, text message and e-mail.

In order to receive the notification via your cell phone, text message and e-mail,



residents or businesses must sign up for the alerts at the following web link: <https://mchenryco.onthealert.com>

After accepting the terms and conditions, follow the instructions for emergency notification registration.

For more information, please contact the Lake in the Hills Police Department at 847-658-5676.

## Village Marquees



The Village provides information to our residents regarding Village news and events, as well as other community updates via three marquees within the Village. These marquees are located at the corner of Randall & Miller Road, by the Police Department at Crystal Lake Road & Hilltop, and by Village Hall at 600 Harvest Gate. Information on the marquees can often be found on the Village's website at [www.lith.org](http://www.lith.org).

## Join Our Mailing Lists

There are various mailing lists that residents can sign up for to receive information electronically from the Village. Simply go to [www.lith.org](http://www.lith.org) and click on "Join Our Mailing Lists". You will be asked to provide your email address and to click on the "continue" button to see the various publications, such as "Resident Insider Weekly Newsletter", "Shop Lake in the Hills", and "Race Events". Just click on the publications that you would like to start receiving.



## Shop Lake in the Hills - Keep Your Money Local

Would you like to help out your community? Support the Shop Lake in the Hills program and shop at your local businesses whenever you can! The Village collects 1.75% out of the 7.75% charged for sales tax on general merchandise purchases at Lake in the Hills businesses. These sales tax dollars add up, currently contributing 17% of the Village's total general fund revenues. These revenues are used to maintain Village roadways, perform capital projects, provide valuable services and offer residents a variety of recreational programs. In addition to strengthening the local economy, shopping local also influences increases in local employment, enhances community identity and improves the environment.

Shopping at local businesses can also save you money! You can subscribe to the Shop Lake in the Hills program and receive periodic emails containing offers and coupons from registered Shop Lake in the Hills partners. Visit [www.lith.org/shoplith.php](http://www.lith.org/shoplith.php) and sign up today!

Village Departments also subscribe to the shop local philosophy and whenever possible will purchase needed supplies or services from local companies. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate or would like a list of Lake in the Hills businesses, visit the Village's website at [www.lith.org](http://www.lith.org) and click on the "Shop Lake in the Hills" logo.

# Did You Know???

## Development Updates



The Residences of Lake in the Hills Senior Housing Facility next to Village Hall began taking their first residents in this past March. The facility has 92 units that sit on 5.7 acres and is the first senior housing development in the Village.

## Disc Golf Course

At the time of this publication – staff along with the Lake in the Hills Rotary are working together to construct a disc golf course at Linda K. Fischer Park. The park is located one mile west of Sunset Park on Miller Road at the intersection of Grafton Farm Drive. The course is being installed and plans for the ribbon cutting ceremony will be announced in late spring. The course hosts 9 challenging holes that encompass many of the existing land features. Those features include the trees, hills and dips on the property. Parking along Grafton Farm Road is available and the Miller Road bike path connects to the park as well. Disc Golf is free and can be played by any age group. The course is open from sunrise to sunset.

## Clarke Mosquito Abatement

(800) 942-2555

Mosquito control throughout the Village is handled by Clarke Mosquito. They routinely check standing water, ponds, and West Nile traps to maintain a reasonable comfort level for residents. During the summer months, they will spray in the evening for adult mosquitoes. To get on their phone list or for further information, please call (800) 942-2555.

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## Sidewalk Replacement Program

The Public Works Department has an active program to replace hazardous public sidewalk sections. They currently replace sidewalk sections that have a ¾-inch step separation or height difference. Some property owners desire improvement to the public sidewalk at their home before it reaches this point. To meet these needs, the Village is accepting requests from property owners to participate in the new Cost-Sharing Sidewalk Replacement Program. Only public sidewalks will be eligible for reimbursement.

The program allows the property owner to have a contractor replace portions of the

sidewalk. Following inspection of the completed work, the Village will reimburse the property owner \$3.25 per square foot. Before arranging with a contractor, the property owner must submit an application with the Public Works Department. The application explains the requirements of the work and allows the property owner to ensure funds will be available for reimbursement.

Forms are available at the Public Works facility, 9010 Haligus Road, or online at [www.lith.org/StreetsDivision.html](http://www.lith.org/StreetsDivision.html).

## Free Mulch!

The Village is offering free mulch to its residents! In an effort to help minimize the stress put on our parkway trees, the Village trims parkway trees during the winter months while they are dormant. These branches



are then shredded and turned into mulch. We make this mulch available to the Village residents. The mulch pile is located at the Public Works facility at 9010 Haligus Road on the west side of the driveway. It is available every day of the week during daylight hours.

## Building Safety Month

May will be Building Safety Month and is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation. First observed in 1980, Building Safety Month raises the public's awareness about the importance of safety in the work environment. Building code regulations help to ensure that homes, workplaces, schools and other buildings are as safe as possible. For the fourth year, the Community Development Department will be visiting one of the local elementary schools to educate students about safety throughout the home. We will have other educational information for the community during Building Safety Month. Free informational brochures can be downloaded from the International Code Council's web site at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). In addition, the Community Development Department will be at the Public Works Open House in May where several of the ICC's safety brochures will be available.



Questions regarding the Replacement Program or other public sidewalk issues should be directed to the Public Works Department at 847-960-7500.

## Gypsy Crimes

Spring and summer are very active times for Gypsy related crimes. There are typically three types of Gypsy crimes:

- Home Repair Fraud
- Ruse Entry Burglary
- Burglary

Gypsies are people of a Gypsy culture who have chosen to live a criminal lifestyle. Typically Gypsy crimes are non-violent and non-confrontational. A Gypsy crime will usually consist of 2-6 people, although the victim may only see one. At times, Gypsies will include women or children to avoid raising anyone's suspicions. Gypsies are experts at creating false identifications.

Gypsies who commit these crimes are career criminals specializing in home repair fraud and ruse burglaries. Their primary targets are the elderly. They will profile their victims by looking at a home's décor (window drapes), lawns that may be poorly maintained, single garbage cans and four door sedans.

Home repair fraud:

Gypsies will drive through residential neighborhoods looking for elderly persons. Once they spot a target, they will approach the person and offer to do some type of home repair work such as driveway seal coating, painting, tree trimming or roof repairs. Many times the quoted price will be very low and the work will be substandard or, if money was paid in advance the work will not be done at all. Other times the work will be done for a low quoted price but then

much more money will be requested.

Ruse Entry Burglary:

One Gypsy may distract the homeowner while others search the house for valuables. The distraction can be by asking the homeowner to go to the back yard and point out the property lines while someone else comes in the front. Other times they will simply keep the homeowner at the front door talking while someone else enters the back door. They do this very quickly and go after cash or jewelry where the homeowners most often keep these items.

Burglaries:

Another crime is a burglary (this is committed when no one is home). Entry to the home is made by prying open a window or door. Sometimes the door is just kicked open. Once inside, they go straight for cash and jewelry and they are out very quickly. Jewelry is hard to trace as pawn shops and gold buyers don't keep it for long before being sold to a refinery where it is melted.

How to protect yourself:

- Never allow someone to perform home repairs simply by showing up at your house and soliciting business. Ask for a business card and end the conversation. Their goal is to keep you at one spot and distract you with conversation. Gypsies will tell you that a repair is urgent and must be done immediately. Do not get drawn into a

debate about this. Call the police and we will check them out. If you can, get a vehicle description.

- Never let anyone into your home. If someone tells you they need assistance, ask them to wait outside while you call the police. If they tell you they are with a utility company, look up the company's number and call them to verify the work. Do not call a number that the person at your door provides to you.
- If you are outside when you are contacted, do not let anyone roam around your property. They are either distracting you or looking for an easy way into your house at a later time, such as a door or window that is either unlocked or concealed from other's view.
- Don't keep cash or jewelry in easy to access locations. If you must keep a lot of cash or expensive jewelry in your home, consider investing in a safe.
- Have photographs of your jewelry. If we locate jewelry at a gold buyer store or pawn shop, this may be the only way to identify the jewelry as yours.

These crimes are not limited to the Gypsy culture, although they are the most common criminals to commit such crimes. If you are unsure about someone at your door, call the police immediately. If they are a legitimate contractor or utility worker they will likely not have a problem with the police verifying their legitimacy.

## Synthetic Drugs



We seem to be hearing more and more these days about synthetic pot, also known as K2 and Spice. These substances are often smoked but marketed as incense or a legal form of marijuana (not showing positive in drug tests). Although thought to mimic effects of marijuana, the chemical makeup and effects are quite different and can be 10 times more intense than those from marijuana. The symptoms of use range from severe hallucinations, soaring heart rate, seizures, paranoia, near-death experiences and even death.

The laws both federal and state regarding the sale and possession of these substances continue to get stricter, yet teens report that access is easy

through the internet. Just last year a law went into effect that banned K-2 but soon similar drugs with a different chemical makeup began popping up that were just as dangerous. Effective January 1, 2012 a new law went into effect that includes a longer list of banned synthetic marijuana substances but unfortunately there are already new compounds being fabricated around the world that can fit through the legal loopholes.

If you have any information regarding illegal drug activity or knowledge of stores selling these illegal products, please contact the Lake in the Hills Police Department at 847-658-5676 or in emergency 9-1-1.

# Construction Projects

## Water Main Replacement Project

The 2012 Water Main Project is underway and will be completed by the end of July. This project will replace obsolete water mains, isolation valves, and fire hydrants. The modern infrastructure is a great benefit to the local community by creating greater circulation, optimized water main looping, and significantly increasing flow for fire protection. This year's project will be located along Maple Street, Cedar Street (Cherry Street to Burr Street), Plum Street (Cherry Street to Burr Street), Burr Street (Plum Street to Oak Street), Pheasant Trail (Oakleaf Road to Crystal Lake Road), Deer Path (Oakleaf Road to Crystal Lake Road), and Hunters Path (Oakleaf Road to Crystal Lake Road).



This project will create some limited inconveniences in the area listed above. Extended water service disruptions are not anticipated and any disruptions will be coordinated with the residents before they occur. Updates on the progress of the project can be found on the

Village website at [www.lith.org/PWProjects.html](http://www.lith.org/PWProjects.html). You may also sign up for e-mail updates on Village construction projects from this page. If you have any questions regarding the water main project, please contact Public Works at 847-960-7500.

## Resurfacing Project

It's that time of year again – summer construction season. Construction will soon be underway with the 2012 Road Resurfacing Program. Money from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund pays for the pavement improvements. As in past years, a portion of the pavement restorations will follow last year's water main replacement project. The completed work will restore the appearance and quality of the roadway.



The streets designated for resurfacing this year include:

- Area bounded by Ash Street, Plum Street, Cherry Street, and Hilltop Drive
- Sycamore Street
- Heartland Gate
- Michael Court
- Barbara Court
- Kurt Court
- Bonnie Court
- Lisa Court
- Elizabeth Court
- Viewpoint Drive (Sierra Court to Grace Drive)
- Anderson Drive (Grace Drive to Joseph Street)
- Joseph Street (Anderson Drive to Anderson Drive)
- David Street (Anderson Drive to Anderson Drive)
- Winslow Way (Chancery Way to Normandy Drive)

This project will create some limited inconveniences in the areas listed above. Updates on the progress of the project can be found on the Village website at [www.lith.org/PWProjects.html](http://www.lith.org/PWProjects.html). You may also sign up for e-mail updates on Village construction projects from this page. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-960-7500.

## Rakow Road Project

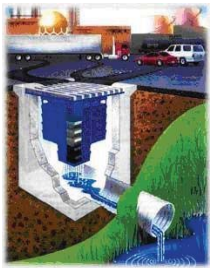
The McHenry Division of Transportation is continuing with the Rakow Road construction project this year. The project started in the spring of 2011 and will be completed with all new lanes open to traffic in the fall of 2012. The construction limits for the project include Rakow Road from south of Ackman Road to IL 31 which is a length of just over three miles. There will be one lane of traffic in each direction open throughout the entire project.



The project consists of relocating part of the roadway, rebuilding the intersections along Rakow Road and constructing a new pedestrian / bicycle bridge over Rakow Road for the bike trail east of Pyott Road. If you would like up to date information about the project you can visit the website at [www.rakowroad.com](http://www.rakowroad.com).

# From the Water Division

## Protect Our Waterways



The creeks and lakes throughout the Village are a major contributor to the beauty of our community. A significant part of the water supplying these elements is stormwater. Stormwater is water resulting from rain or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. Along the way the water may pick up and transport contaminants

including litter, pet waste, motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, brake dust, fertilizer, pesticides, and soil sediment. All of this eventually flows into our creeks and lakes.

Together we can help keep our waterways clean. Here are some suggestions:

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Use water-based paints such as latex and wash paintbrushes in the sink with water. When using paint thinner, reuse and recycle it. Never pour unused paint or paint thinner into a storm drain.
- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our creeks and lakes.

For tips on where to dispose of toxic products and other household chemicals, visit the McHenry County Recycling directory and Green Guide at [www.mcdef.org/recycling\\_information.htm](http://www.mcdef.org/recycling_information.htm). The directory provides information about where specific items can be recycled or reused. You can also contact the Illinois EPA at 217-785-8604 for more information. Please do not dump these unwanted chemicals down the storm drains.



Dumping anything other than water into a storm drain is known as an illicit discharge and is illegal. The Village storm sewer systems are not designed to accept, process, or discharge such wastes. Illicit discharges which enter the system through either direct connections or indirect connections contribute to high levels of pollutants in our water bodies. If you witness a questionable discharge into a storm drain, you are encouraged to report this activity. You can report such activity to the Lake in the Hills Public Works Department by calling 847-960-7500 or the Lake in the Hills Police Department at 847-658-5676. We need to work together to protect our waterways.

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## Rainwater Reuse

The Village is doing its part to help recycle some of its rainwater by collecting it as it falls from the Public Works facilities roof into a collection container. It is then reused to water plant material within the Village. Collecting the roof runoff reduces the amount of water flowing to creeks and detention basins during storms, allows Public Works to use unchlorinated rainwater on new plants, and saves money by avoiding the use of treated water.

You can do the same at your home to help the environment and be Earth friendly by

investing in a rain barrel. The rainwater can then be used to irrigate your garden. Anything that you can do to collect rainwater is always a good thing, not to mention that whatever you spend on your system is a huge savings that you get back as you find yourself spending less money on your water bill.

If you buy a rainwater collection system make sure that it is free of dust, leaves, and bird droppings as it is washed into your system from your roofs. Keeping your storage tank free of debris is critical if you

want to maximize water pressure and ensure that the system lasts a long time. You can cover the system with a simple mesh which will be good for filtering out contaminants. Be sure that the screens are accessible to make the cleaning and maintenance easier.

Rain barrels can be purchased from the Land Conservancy of McHenry County ([www.conservemc.org/rainbarrelsnew.htm](http://www.conservemc.org/rainbarrelsnew.htm)), the McHenry – Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District ([www.mchenryswcd.org](http://www.mchenryswcd.org)), or local nursery & home improvement stores.

## Outside Water Restrictions & Water Conservation

A sustainable clean water supply for McHenry County is becoming a bigger topic with each passing year. As concerns about the long-term availability of ground water continue to mount; State, County, and Municipal Officials are meeting more frequently in an effort to do what is necessary to safeguard what is essentially our most precious resource. While outside water usage poses the largest and most immediate threat to the water supply, we should not focus on that problem alone. All aspects of responsible water conservation need to be aggressively pursued.

The Village of Lake in the Hills enforces an outside water usage ordinance in order to prevent unnecessary waste for what amounts to 50% of all water consumption annually. The ordinance states that odd numbered addresses are allowed to use outside water only on the odd days of the month, while the even numbered addresses are allowed outside usage only on the even days of the month.

The other 50% of yearly consumption takes

place inside the home, where unnecessary waste can also be an issue. Some of the water conservation techniques for the home are obvious, such as the use of water and energy saving appliances, while others are more subtle and not often considered. Tactics for the little things may seem like exactly that by themselves; little, but are plentiful and can have a major impact on water conservation when employed together. Simple changes such as not allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth, loading dishwashers to safe operating capacity before operation, close monitoring of toilet leaks and re-use of water can greatly reduce water consumption if successfully performed by multiple households throughout the community.

There are several more water saving techniques you can take advantage of both inside and outside of the home. The Village makes this information available to you in the form of free pamphlets at the Village Hall and Public Works buildings and on the Village website at <http://www.lith.org/WaterDivision.html>.

## Water Softeners

The Village of Lake in the Hills Water System is supplied by eight unique water treatment facilities. Each facility has a treatment process which is specifically designed to remove the contaminants which exist in the aquifer it pumps water from. Three of the eight facilities are softening plants. These facilities utilize ion exchange softening technology for the sole purpose of removing barium and radium from the drinking water. Softening for aesthetic purposes is not the reason the Village uses this technology, but softer water in the immediate area of these plants occurs as a result.

The remaining five water treatment plants utilize pressure or gravity filtration systems, designed to remove dissolved solids such as iron and manganese. Just like the ion exchange facilities, the water produced from these filtration plants is clean and free of staining irritants, but softened water is not a byproduct of their treatment processes. Conversely, this water is rich in

minerals and generally much harder. This represents the majority of what is produced in the Village.

The decision to soften water is a matter of personal preference for each household. There are many people that desire soft water and several others that do not. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate hardness in drinking water and has not made an association between hardness and health, other than advising people with hypertension to be cautious of sodium levels in softened water. Softened water has increased levels of sodium, has been described as having a slimy feel to it, and can produce a blue or green hue to the water due to copper leaching on occasion. Hard water is scale-forming, which is most noticeable in the form of calcium carbonate buildup on dishes and plumbing fixtures. Most people see this in the form of a white film on their dishes. There are advantages and disadvantages to both types in terms of aesthetics.

## Spring Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department will be conducting the first phase of its semi-annual hydrant flushing program in April of this year. The flushing program draws water from the treatment plants and towers and pushes it out to the ends of the distribution system. Through this process, sedimentation that naturally collects in the water main pipes over time is removed from the water system, improving the water quality throughout town. Following each successful hydrant flushing event, more and more sedimentation is removed which results in a quicker process and a cleaner water system each time.



The flushing program also allows each fire hydrant in the Village to be operated at a high rate of flow, which helps Public Works personnel identify any deficiencies that may exist and get them repaired quickly for optimal fire protection. In conjunction with annual hydrant maintenance programs, this helps ensure that the fire hydrant closest to your home operates without issue when it is needed.

Public Works will post signs the night before flushing at the entrances to the neighborhoods being flushed the next day. You may also contact Public Works at 847-960-7500 for more details.



If you are interested to know the hardness concentration in your water, an interactive hardness map is available on the Village website at <http://lith.org/hardnessmap.html>. The values indicated in the hardness map are shown in grains per gallon, which is the unit of measurement commonly required by domestic softening appliances. For further information, contact Public Works at 847-960-7500.

# Community Calendar

## May

- 1 Police Commission, 7pm, Police Department
- 3 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Village Hall
- 4 Senior Spaghetti Dinner, Village Hall, 5:30pm
- 4 Family Bike Ride, Leroy Guy Park, 5:30pm
- 8 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 10 Senior Trip to Lake Geneva, departs Village Hall at 9am
- 10 Village Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 15 Business Relations Committee, 6:00pm, Village Hall
- 19 Public Works Open House, 9010 Haligus Road, 11am - 2:00pm
- 20 Family Bike Ride, Sunset Park, 3pm
- 22 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 24 Senior Trip to Geneva, departs Village Hall at 9am
- 24 Village Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 28 Village Hall Closed
- 31 Photo Contest Entry Deadline

## June

- 2 Beaches open
- 2 Shredding Day, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Village Hall
- 2 Pirate Treasure Hunt, Indian Trail Beach, 1:00pm, FREE
- 4 Funtasticamp begins, Marlowe Middle School, 7am-6pm
- 7 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Village Hall
- 7 Mat Pilates, Village Hall, 6:30pm
- 8 Park Party – Ken Schultz, The Flying Fool, Village Hall, 11am, FREE
- 10 Triathlon, Ken Carpenter Park, 6:30am
- 12 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 14 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 15 Movie at the Beach, Indian Trail Beach, 8:45pm, FREE
- 16 Young Eagles Rally, Lake in the Hills Airport
- 18 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 19 Business Relations Committee, 6:00pm, Village Hall
- 23 Sound Bites Concert – The Incognitos, Village Hall, FREE  
6PM – Children’s Activities (provided by People for Parks Foundation)  
7-8:30 PM – Concert and Spray on tattoo artist for kids
- 24 Family Bike Ride, Plote Field, 3pm, FREE
- 26 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 28 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall

## July

- 4 Village Hall Closed
- 5 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Village Hall
- 5-8 Rockin’ Rotary Ribfest, Sunset Park
- 10 Magical Night at the Beach, Indian trail Beach, 7pm, FREE
- 10 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 12 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 13 Park Party – Raisin Rhyme, Village Hall, 11am, FREE
- 14 Young Eagles Rally, Lake in the Hills Airport
- 16 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 17 Business Relations Committee, 6:00pm, Village Hall
- 21 Police Pension Meeting, 9:00am, Police Department
- 21 Sound Bites Concert – Tropixpllosion, Village Hall, FREE  
6PM – Children’s Activities (provided by People for Parks Foundation)  
7-8:30 PM – Concert and Balloonologist for kids
- 24 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 26 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 27 Family Bike Ride, Location to be determined, FREE
- 31 Barefoot Hawaiians Beach Show, Indian Trail Beach, 7pm, FREE

## August

- 2 Fall Resident Registration Begins
- 2 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Village Hall
- 3 Park Party – Frog Lady, Village Hall, 11am, FREE
- 7 National Night Out Block Parties, Throughout Village
- 7 Police Commission, 7pm, Police Department
- 7 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 9 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 9 Beach Blanket Bingo, Indian Trail Beach, 6:30pm, FREE
- 11 National Night Out Community Cookout, 5:00pm, Police Department
- 11 Sound Bites Concert – Jin & Tonic, Village Hall, FREE  
6PM – Children’s Activities (provided by People for Parks Foundation)  
7-8:30 PM – Concert and sand art for kids
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 14 Business Relations Committee, 6:00pm, Village Hall
- 18 Young Eagles Rally, Lake in the Hills Airport
- 21 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 23 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall
- 31 Sunset 5K, Sunset Park

Please refer to the Parks & Recreation Brochure for a full listing of recreational activities.  
Residents are also encouraged to visit [www.lith.org](http://www.lith.org) for the most up to date news and information on the Village.

