



# Inver News

The Village With A Heritage

Spring 2011

## Be Aware: Teams of Ruse Burglars Are Targeting Homeowners in the Area

Several sophisticated teams of burglars are gaining entry to area homes by posing as municipal employees or contractors offering free estimates, and then robbing the home while the homeowner is distracted.

Within the last two months, homeowners in Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Morton Grove and Zion have been robbed of cash, jewelry, sterling silver and other valuables. Robbers attempted to enter a home in Inverness, but the resident wisely did not let them in the door.

Scenarios typically involve having one team member, dressed in a uniform and often arriving in an official-looking van, ring the doorbell and pose as a municipal employee, electrician or construction worker who needs to check a water meter or something else located in the basement.

As the homeowner and burglar make their way to the basement, the burglar uses his two-way radio to let his waiting partner know it is safe to enter the house and help himself to whatever valuables he can find.

In warmer weather, the scenario changes to giving the homeowner a reason to go outside with the burglar. The burglar rings the doorbell (continued on page 3)



*Call 911 immediately to report a suspicious individual. Information from the homeowner is essential in preventing and solving crimes.*

## Yardwaste Pickup Resumes on April 7

Snow blowers and wind chills will soon be replaced by gardening tools and warm summer sun. A sure sign that the seasons have changed is the return of weekly yardwaste pickup on Thursday, April 7.

### A few 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 \$2.20 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.

## Have You Signed Up Yet?



The Village recently used the Everbridge alert system to notify residents of a delay in garbage service. Since then, we have received a number of inquiries about the system, so here is a reminder about what it is and how you can sign up to receive timely alerts.

Everbridge allows emergency service providers to contact the entire community or only those living in a specific geographic area with information about police emergencies or other incidents such as hazardous material spills and emergency road closures in specific areas. The Everbridge system enables Northwest Central Dispatch to call your land line or cell phone, or contact you via email or text message. The system has been used in hundreds of communities to solve and prevent crimes, and avert disasters.

You may opt to have emergency notifications sent to a work phone, cell phone or email address. You may register up to four phone numbers, one email address, and one number for text alerts, giving a priority ranking for the numbers you provide. This information will only be used by the Village or Northwest Central Dispatch for notification purposes.

You'll find the link on the home page of the Village website, [www.villageofinverness.org/forms](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms).

## Jack Tatooles



Dear Residents:

I hope you survived the Blizzard of 2011. I spent a good deal of Tuesday night and all day Wednesday with the Police Department touring as much of the Village as I could. Our Police Officers did an exceptional job during the height of the blizzard, assisting motorists and responding to calls for service. The Palatine Rural Fire Protection District even loaned us one of their four-wheel drive vehicles during the storm, which improved our police mobility significantly. I also believe that the Village's snow removal contractor did an admirable job getting Village streets cleared and functional by Wednesday evening. We did much better than the State and County based on the numerous comments I have heard from Village residents. So far this season, the Village has used almost 1400 tons of road salt, which is about in line with last year, at a total cost of \$98,535. If Mother Nature is kind to us, we should be within budgetary constraints. In these current economic times, we are working hard at the Village to live within our budget even in those areas where we have limited control, such as snow removal.

We were lucky in that power outages were not widespread through the Village. 56 homes were without power and I reached out to our ComEd External Affairs Manager to get those residents restored as soon as possible. Thankfully, he cooperated and those residents did not have to suffer another night without power. As part of our ongoing effort to maintain a positive relationship with ComEd, I had another meeting with their Vice President of External Affairs and their Director of Customer Field Operations. Reliability was the continuing topic of that meeting.

During our meeting, ComEd presented the basics of their modernization program. You might have read about it in the newspapers. ComEd is seeking rate approval for a \$2.6 billion capital investment program that will provide system upgrades, modernization projects and "smart grid" upgrades to their distribution network over the next 10 years. This proposal is currently being discussed in Springfield in the form of HB 14 Amendment 1. The introduction of this legislation should provide for a serious dialogue on advanced grid technology in the State. I expect the current bill will change as that dialogue moves forward and I encourage you to learn more about this by visiting either ComEd's website at [www.comed.com](http://www.comed.com) or the Citizens Utility Board website at [www.citizensutilityboard.com](http://www.citizensutilityboard.com). Feel free to write me at Village Hall concerning your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack".

Jack Tatooles, Mayor

## Color It Gone

Remember this photo and story from the Summer 2010 *InverNews*? It was about eight year old Aisling Finnegan who petitioned the Village to install a "Turtle Crossing" sign on Banbury Road to warn motorists to be on the lookout for turtles living in nearby ponds that sometimes wander onto the roadway. Aisling worried about the turtles and wanted to protect them from being run over.

Through donations and efforts by the Police Department and the Village, two signs were installed at no cost to residents. But sometime in January, someone stole one of the signs. Aisling, who worked hard to accomplish this task, as well as other citizens throughout the Village, are upset about the sign's disappearance.

Inverness Police Chief Bob Haas is asking for your help in locating the sign or asking the person who took the sign to anonymously return it to the Police Department or Village Hall, no questions asked.



## Burglars Targeting Area Homeowners

(continued from page 1)

and identifies himself as a worker or a neighbor who lives behind the homeowner and wants to cut down a tree or install a fence. While the homeowner and first burglar are outside checking property lines, the second member of the crew enters the home and steals jewelry and cash. One homeowner had \$30,000 in cash stolen by one of these sophisticated teams.

Inverness Police Chief Bob Haas urges homeowners to be alert and cautions when any unknown individual comes to the door. "Anytime a Village of Inverness employee needs to come to your home, you will usually be notified by telephone first," Haas said. "If an individual comes to your door and says he is your neighbor but you do not know him, don't leave your home unlocked and follow him outside. If someone posing as a contractor going door to door in the neighborhood asks to come in and give you a free estimate on a project, do not let him into your home."

Haas urges residents to call 911 immediately to report any suspicious individual. "Many people hesitate to call 911 for a non-emergency, but it is the correct number to call for ANY police service, whether it is an emergency or non-emergency," Haas said. "Our best chance of apprehending a criminal is while he is still in the neighborhood, so the sooner we are called, the better our chances of apprehending him before he moves on to another area."

## Thinking About a Home Improvement? Check With Us First to See if a Building Permit is Required

Blizzard 2011 is behind us, and Spring 2011 is in front of us. If you are planning to celebrate the eagerly anticipated arrival of warm weather with any type of home improvement project that involves new construction or remodeling, this is a reminder that you will need to obtain a building permit application. For your convenience, these applications are available online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm). For your convenience, the Village Code can be viewed online at [www.villageofinverness.org/links.html](http://www.villageofinverness.org/links.html) under Local Links.

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.

### 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.
- Three sets of architectural plans original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Architect or

## Have A Residential Alarm System?

Remember that if you have a permit on file, the information on it must be updated every two years. Permit applications are available online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm).

If your permit is less than two years old, you do not need to do anything unless any of the information on the permit has changed.



Illinois State Licensed Structural Engineer for a new single family home.

- 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
- Plumber's letter of intent and contractor license or certificate
- Roofer's license
- Homeowners' association letter of approval



STD. PRE-SORT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Palatine, IL P & DC  
Permit No. 2854

Village of Inverness  
1400 Baldwin Road  
Inverness, Illinois 60067

847/358-7740  
847/358-8858 fax

Website: [www.villageofinverness.org](http://www.villageofinverness.org)

Village Hall Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Jack Tatoes. . . . . Mayor  
Diane C. Haas. . . . . Clerk

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## Protecting Our Water Quality: Here's What You Can Do



As a part of the Village of Inverness' commitment to protecting water quality throughout

- Water Conservation
- Checklist for Septic Failures
- Stormwater Best Management Practices
- Ten Ways Homeowners Can Improve the Quality of Stormwater Runoff
- Environmental Guidelines for Draining Your Swimming Pool

the community, a number of educational brochures dealing with water quality issues are available free of charge at the Village of Inverness Building Department during normal business hours. The brochures are designed to guide you in implementing water quality measures into your everyday activities. Topics include:

Protecting our water quality is in everyone's best interest since we all live downstream from one another. Safeguarding the quality of our streams and lakes is beneficial to the entire community.

## If you are planning to leave town for spring break . . .

Remember to sign up for the Inverness Police Department's free Vacation Watch program before you leave. Officers will



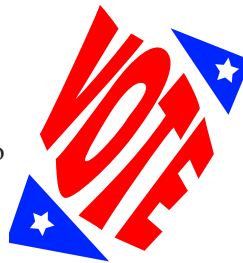
check your house on a daily basis for any signs of suspicious activity.

Signing up for Vacation Watch is easy. You'll find the form online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm) or at Village Hall.

## Register by March 8 to Vote in April 5 Election

Illinois residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, April 5 to elect candidates to a variety of local and state offices.

Those who have never registered to vote, or who have moved, changed their name or turned 18 years of age must register by Tuesday, March 8 in order to be eligible to vote in the election.



Registration is quick and easy. Just bring two pieces of identification, at least one of which must have your current address, to the Inverness Village Hall, 1400 Baldwin Road. Voter registration is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Check local newspapers and the Cook County Clerk's website, [www.cookcountyclerk.org](http://www.cookcountyclerk.org) for early voting sites in our area.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m on Election Day, Tuesday, April 5.

## Calendar of Events

### March

- 8 Village Board
- 15 Plan Commission
- 16 Zoning Board

### April

- 12 Village Board
- 19 Plan Commission
- 20 Zoning Board

### May

- 10 Village Board
- 17 Plan Commission
- 18 Zoning Board