



# Coyotes!

## WE HAVE ALL SEEN THEM, HEARD THEM, AND PASSED ALONG OUR EXPERIENCES TO OUR NEIGHBORS



Residents have reported frequent sightings of coyotes and instances where they became alarmed or found their pets to be in danger. The Lake County Forest Preserve District's Wildlife division and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have extensive information regarding coyotes and their behavior in populated areas in Illinois. We wish to pass on some of this background information.

Coyotes or "prairie wolves" are natural to this area. They are a member of the dog family and a relative of the fox. They mate for life, and will build a den for their litter of 6 to 8 pups that are born in the Spring. The female will stay with the pups while the male will hunt for food. The coyote will feed on rabbits, rodents, birds and insects. Here in the Chicago area, coyotes have taken advantage of two other abundant food sources: Canada goose eggs and deer fawns. A healthy adult deer will not be prey for coyotes. If there is a source of food around residences in your neighborhood, it will teach coyotes that if they risk coming close to humans, they will be rewarded with these unnatural sources of food. Therefore it is very important to keep areas around homes free of these food sources. DO NOT keep garbage cans easily available, do not feed animals, do not keep pet food or bird seed available.

Coyotes are NOT dangerous to people, in fact they have a natural fear of humans and are not interested in confronting them. If you see a coyote, never approach it or feed it or let your dog approach it. If it does seem aggressive or approaches you, scare it by shouting and waving your hands/arms over your head. This reinforces their natural fear of humans. If a coyote becomes aggressive or will not be scared away, these are signs that it has lost its natural fear of people. This is most often a result of someone feeding it. If this occurs, that individual coyote may need to be trapped and killed. This will not however, thin the population in the area as another coyote will relocate and come in to take its place. But this new coyote will have a fear of people and will therefore not exhibit the same aggressive behavior.

Coyotes cannot tell the difference between their natural prey and domestic pets. Therefore they have been known to occasionally prey on cats. Coyotes, which are dogs themselves, do not think of dogs as prey and usually will not attack a dog for food. However, they do view dogs as competition for territory, food, or mates and they will protect a territory just like a dog will protect a yard.

*- Continued on Page 6*

# Village Roads

Following is a brief update on progress being made throughout the village on road/ maintenance repairs and infrastructure changes.

## OLD MAN WINTER: ROADS UPDATE

Old man winter just keeps rolling along! (Sorry - the river's frozen.) With one of the snowiest, coldest winters on record, we continue to battle snow, ice and subsequent potholes on our roads. Our plows have been out night and day, on holidays and weekends, including Christmas and New Years Day. What a difference a year makes!

## CHEERIO LAD

Do the plow drivers think they're in Great Britain by driving on the left side of the road? No. And it's not Guinness, either. They do so, so they can see better -- the view of the left side of the plow is clearer than the right side... and avoid hitting mailboxes on the edge of the road. If you've had a mailbox damaged by a plow, please let us know by calling the Village Hall at 847-5363, or emailing us at vilgmoaks@aol.com. It's often hard for the drivers to see the edge of the property, so feel free to put up temporary stakes to help them out.

## PLEASE BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

On New Year's Day alone we had 16 inches of snow here in Green Oaks, and as of this writing, more is expected. And there are areas that are more exposed to blowing and drifting snow, such as Guerin Road. The plows often come back in the middle of the night to further clean up in time for the morning commute. Under our snow plowing contract, if there's just an inch of snow on the ground, only our major streets and school bus routes will be plowed. If there are two or more inches of snow on the ground, all the streets will be plowed. If you know of a particular stretch of road which has been noticeably slick, please let us know, so that our snow plow contractor can pay special attention to that area in spreading salt

**Trustee Dan Sugrue  
Chairman - Streets  
and Roads Committee**



## Winter Wonderland Activities

Independence Grove Dog Area Reopened. IDOT contractors installed a dedicated left turn lane off RT. 21 into the Dog Area and reconstructed parking lot. A required annual or daily permit allows canines and their companions access to all four Lake County Forest Preserve Dog Exercise Areas. Though the dog area has reopened, road work along Route 21 in Libertyville continues. IDOT expects all four lanes to be opened in early 2014.

At the Old School Forest Preserve in Libertyville, small solar lights allow hikers, skiers and snowshoers to get evening exercise along a 1.3 mile lite fitness trail.



## The New Veterans Court

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit currently has three Problem-Solving Courts – Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and the newest addition, Veterans Court. The mission of the program is to reduce crime, enhance public safety, and reduce jail populations by rehabilitating offenders and providing treatment for the underlying problems of their criminal behavior. More information is available through LakeCounty.org as well as a video of first-hand accounts of success stories.



## VILLAGE OF GREEN OAKS

2020 O'Plaine Road • Green Oaks, Illinois 60048  
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Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees will be the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. Committees meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall.

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Elaine Palmer ~ 362-5363

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#### ASST VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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Virginia Wood ~ 367-0091

Pat Thomas ~ 530-8692



**PUBLIC WORKS**  
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**John Wagener**  
**Chairman**

**Keep on Recycling** – The Village increased its recycling volume during the 3rd quarter of 2013. Residents recycled a total of 160.70 tons of material. Although down slightly from previous years’ Q3 result totals, the Village still obtained a rebate of nearly \$1,100 for the third quarter alone through its cooperative agreement with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (“SWALCO”). The recycling dollars are important to the Village budget and help to defray the cost of providing the fall leaf pick-up program, which is free to our residents. Lower rebate amounts are due to depressed market prices for some recycled materials, particularly glass and paper. According to SWALCO, the reduction in recycling tonnage is largely attributable to lighter weight packaging and decreased consumption due to the economy. However, the percentage of overall waste that is recycled in Lake County remains fairly constant at about 25%.

**Fabric Recycling is Coming Soon** – Don’t throw those old clothes and shoes into the trash. Currently, SWALCO operates the “Reuse-a-Shoe” program, which has collections sites located throughout the County. This recycling program is going to expand into clothing collection in the near future. Watch this space for more details as the program gets rolled out in the Spring. Also, SWALCO is now working with a new venture to bring carpet recycling to this area. Keeping these fabrics out of landfills and directing them to secondary markets will extend the useful life of the area’s landfill operations. The end result being lower trash collection costs for all member villages.

**Storm Water Project Updates** – The Public Works Committee has completed several significant projects in the past year, including the Saddle Hill 2 Pond & Swale remediation, rehabilitation of the Oak Grove School BioSwale and adjacent wetland, and the Kenton-Doe Lake drainage ditch remediation. Next up on the proverbial drawing board is some minor ditch regrading along Cranbrook and cleaning out the spillway for Banbury Pond. The Committee continues to work its way upstream and this proposed work will help to alleviate the periodic nuisance flooding that some residents in that area experience.

If you have any questions concerning public sewer, municipal water, the trail system, storm water management or solid waste and recycling, please feel free to contact your Public Works Committee chair at [john.wagener@greenoaks.org](mailto:john.wagener@greenoaks.org).




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## March 18 Primary Election

Voting by mail begins February 6. Voters may now complete an electronic request to be mailed a ballot. A new law now allows 17-year old voting: Seventeen year olds may now vote in primaries if they will be 18 by the following November general election.

For more information on the upcoming MARCH 18th Primary Elections visit [countyclerk.lakecountyil.gov](http://countyclerk.lakecountyil.gov).



## Many New Laws for 2014

HERE IS A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF JUST A FEW...

- **A new state law**, starting Jan 1, 2014 prohibits all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. Drivers 19 and older are permitted to use cell phones only with hands-free technology such as Bluetooth.
- **Speeding:** The maximum speed limit on tollways and interstate highways in Illinois will increase to 70mph, up from 65mph.
- **Teen Tanning:** Tanning facilities may NOT permit anyone less than 18 years of age to use tanning equipment, regardless of whether the person has permission from a parent or guardian.
- **Medical Marijuana:** Patients suffering from certain medical conditions can use medical marijuana with their doctor's permission.
- **Sex Education – Abstinence:** Public School sex education courses offered to 6-12th graders must now cover contraception as well as abstinence.
- **“Lemon” Pets:** Pet owners can return a pet or be reimbursed for veterinary costs if an illness was not disclosed by a seller.
- **Social Networking:** It will be illegal for a school to ask for a student's social networking password without proper cause.
- **Litter:** Littering will cost a \$50 fine, and that includes cigarette butts.



## Foreclosure Mediation

A new program through the 19th Judicial Circuit aims to help homeowners avoid the financial and emotional devastation of foreclosure through mediation. Homeowners whose foreclosure cases were filed on or after Dec. 2 are eligible for this program designed to help explore options and reach a resolution.



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## National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program (Phase II)

According to the USEPA, polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Polluted runoff is discharged directly into local water bodies via ditches or storm sewers. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways. The NPDES Stormwater Program is a comprehensive two-phased national program mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act to address non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges which adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. (Source: USEPA, NPDES FAQs)

For information on the Village's efforts to comply with the NPDES Phase II program and on ways residents can assist in eliminating pollutants discharged to stormwater systems, please see the Village's new NPDES Phase II webpage at <http://greenoaks.org/information/page11610557.aspx>



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Water-Efficient Landscaping

With inevitable snow melt coming this spring, it is time to set time aside for yard clean-up and planning. If you are looking to give your yard a facelift this spring, consider implementing water-efficient landscaping for your home. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, approximately 7.8 billion gallons of water (30% of total usage) used are devoted to outdoor uses daily. Using water-efficient landscaping techniques can help reduce the total amount of daily water used and also has other benefits. These benefits range from lower water bills, conservation of natural resources, decreased

energy use, and reduced landscaping labor and maintenance costs. Multiple factors come in to play when designing water-efficient landscaping: proper planning and design, soil analysis, appropriate plant selection, efficient irrigation, and proper mulch selection all aid in the success of your efforts. A local garden shop can help you select the proper plantings that will help your yard look great and help reduce your environmental footprint. For more information about water-efficient landscaping please visit <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/waterefficiency.pdf>.



## President's Corner

– Bernard Wysocki  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Each year local scout leaders, contact me to have their groups meet with the Village President to fulfill part of their civic merit badge.

Besides explaining how a village operates and our history, I try to explain to the children that they can make a difference in their community - even in their world.

I like to relate the story of “Ryan’s Well.” Ryan Hreljac was in kindergarten when his teacher told his class how children in Uganda, Africa, had to walk miles every day to try and find fresh drinking water. Ryan came home from school and started doing chores to raise \$70.00, a figure he thought it would take to drill a well for the village.

It turned out the cost was \$2,000 to drill, so Ryan enlisted his classmates to raise money for the project. This story caught the attention of the residents in Ontario, Canada, where Ryan lived.

Monies, over the years, poured in to build over 700 wells that provided drinking water to more than 745,000 people in Africa as well as Haiti.

If a six-year old boy from Canada can make such a difference, so can our future young men and women of Green Oaks. So when I get a teaching moment with the girl and boy scouts, I try to leave them with the message that we can make a difference no matter who we are or how old we are.

On the subject of our “Chi-Beria” 2014 winter, our snow plow drivers have worked long hours to try to make our roads safe to commute to work or school. I am very grateful for their efforts. I am even more grateful for our Village residents who have checked on our senior citizens and neighbors during these wintery days. Thank you to all our caring villagers, and let’s all start thinking “Spring.”



## Extreme Weather Conditions

Be prepared and stay safe this Winter! Pack an emergency car kit that includes blankets, water, food, etc. Also check in with elderly neighbors or anyone that lives alone. “Alert Lake County” on Twitter as well as “Lake County Passages” will provide emergency warnings and traffic information.



# Coyotes

*continued from Page 1*



Therefore, if a dog, or any animal, enters a coyote’s territory, the coyote will chase it off, or attack it if it won’t be chased away. This can also happen when dogs are allowed to wander off-leash in natural areas. Coyotes are not afraid of your dog, but they are afraid of you. By supervising your dog closely (even in your backyard), keeping them on a leash and staying on designated trails, contact with coyotes can generally be avoided. Coyotes are most protective January through June when they are mating and protective of their den sites and young pups in early summer.

### FINDING COYOTE TRACKS IN THE SNOW?

Coyotes weight from 20-30 pounds with pointed ears and narrow muzzles. Pelts are usually grayish-brown. Their tail is rather bushy and is held down. Coyote tracks are similar to a dog’s prints but narrower and more elongated. It is the spacing and pattern of the individual prints that distinguishes a coyote track from a dog track. Coyotes are referred to as “perfect steppers”. This means that their front and rear paws land in the same spot when the coyote is traveling in stride.

More information can be obtained at the Lake County Forest Preserve website [www.LCFPD.org](http://www.LCFPD.org).



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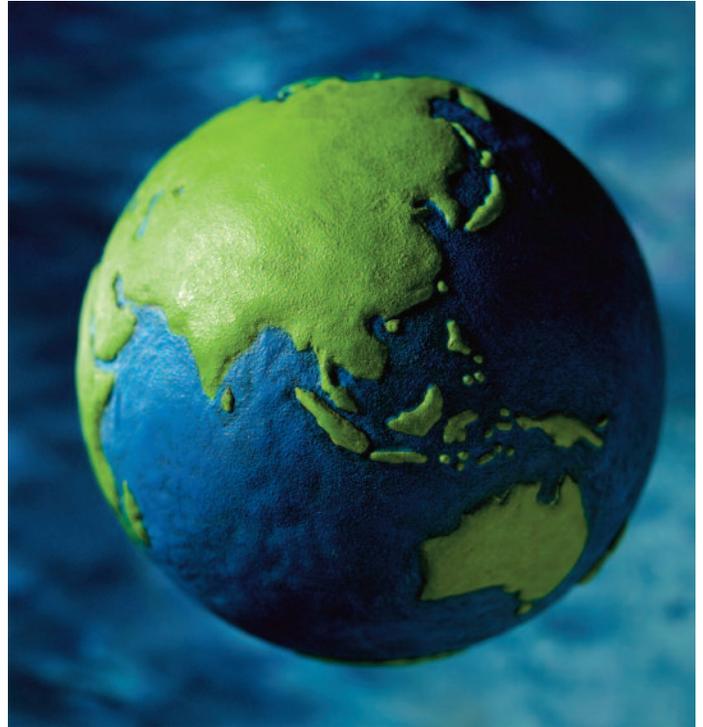


# A Full Week of Earth Day

Enjoy a week of free nature programs in honor of Earth Day (April 22) on behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Celebrate spring, learn about ecology, join a nature walk or lend a hand to help save the planet by joining a special volunteer workday. All programs are FREE. All ages permitted. No registration required. The program runs from Sunday, April 20th through Saturday, April 26th and includes the following programs:

- Sunday 20 Meet and Greet Education Animals
- Monday 21 Rookery Watch
- Tuesday 22 Playdate with Nature
- Wednesday 23 A Fishy Tale
- Thursday 24 Pond Scooping
- Friday 25 Experience Nature at Night
- Saturday 26 Instilling a Land Ethic –  
Come High Water River Clean Up

See the full schedule and a more thorough description of these free activities at [www.lcfpd.org](http://www.lcfpd.org).



## Summer Youth Employment Program

The Lake County Board's Summer Youth Employment Program places youth in a paid, part-time work experience over the summer. Participants are matched with local work sites and gain valuable experience while earning a pay check. Applications must be received by February 28th. For more information visit [www.lakecountyjobcenter.com](http://www.lakecountyjobcenter.com).

### Job-A-Palooza:

#### Resource Fair for Young Adults Ages 16-21

Nearly 30 employers will provide job information of full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions for young adults. Thursday, March 6, 6-8:00 at the College of Lake County, Grayslake. Call 847-543-2059 for more information.

