

**From:** [Village of Lake Bluff](#)  
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**Subject:** Lake Bluff Letter - July 12, 2013  
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## Lake Bluff Letter July 12, 2013

### Union Pacific to Commence with Train Station Stairway Reconstruction Project, July 11, 2013

The Village of Lake Bluff has just been made aware of the planned removal and reconstruction of the eastern and western stairways ("Project") leading from the sidewalk along the north side of IL Rt. 176 to the inbound and outbound Metra train station platforms. This project will be performed by Union Pacific Railroad and will commence on Thursday, July 11, 2013. Access to the railroad platform via the stairways will be limited throughout the Project duration. Union Pacific reports they will be maintaining pedestrian traffic along the Illinois Route 176 sidewalk everyday throughout construction; however, there will be brief periods of time when users of the Route 176 sidewalk may be delayed for several minutes. Therefore, users of the sidewalk on the north side of Route 176 in the vicinity of the Railroad Underpass should allow for several minutes of extra travel time until the project is completed. Signs will be posted and flag personnel will be present to direct pedestrians safely through the Project site.

Union Pacific Railroad workers will begin by removing and reconstructing the eastern stairway followed by the western stairway. All users of this staircase will have to either utilize the switchback ramp located to the east, or the westerly staircase, in order to access the northbound platform. Once the easterly staircase is completed reconstruction of the westerly staircase will commence. The Union Pacific is indicating that the project will take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Commuters should exercise extra precaution and follow construction informational signage, as well as Union Pacific workers and Metra announcements, regarding stairway and sidewalk closures throughout the Project.

Updates on the status of the Project will be provided as they become available from Union Pacific. Additional information regarding the Project is available by contacting Union Pacific Project Manager, Jonathan Smith, at 312-496-4909.

### Lake Bluff Police Chief to Retire

#### Chief Gallagher Stepping Down After 42 Years of Public Safety Service

After nearly 12 years leading the Lake Bluff Police Department, and after four decades of law enforcement service, Police Chief William Gallagher will retire at the end of February 2014. Gallagher is ending his career in Lake Bluff which includes: (i) attaining the reaccreditation status of the Police Department through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies ("CALEA"), a distinction

### Event Calendar -

#### Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

#### Police Pension Board Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2013

#### Farmers' Market

Friday, July 19, 2013

#### Lake Bluff Block Party

Saturday, July 20, 2013

#### Lake Bluff Criterium

Saturday, July 20, 2013

only 35 police departments across the State of Illinois share, (ii) overseeing the implementation of a computer aided dispatch system to facilitate better record keeping and enhanced communications between dispatchers and police officers, (iii) upholding the Village's community policing model of service delivery, and (iv) becoming active participants in the Lake County Major Crime Task Force, Lake County Major Crash Assist Team and the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System Emergency Services Team.

"As the Chief of Police, I have been both honored and privileged to serve this great community," said Gallagher. Gallagher, having come to Lake Bluff after serving 30 years with the Village of Winnetka's Police Department, eight of which as Police Chief, served four years in the United States Army. Following his military service Gallagher graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Psychology. He also graduated from the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute, FBI National Academy and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute Executive Management Program.

Chief Gallagher has served as the Chair of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force, President of the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association, President of the North Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police, President of the Greater Cook County Council of Police Chiefs and as President of the Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory. Chief Gallagher is also a member of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Rotary Club.

"We're really going to miss him," Village President Kathy O'Hara said. "He's been a tremendous asset to the Village ever since he's been here. His 12 years of service has made a positive impact on the community that is second to none." When asked about a replacement, she stated "The Village will look both internally and outside the department for Gallagher's successor."

To assist in hiring a new Police Chief the Village has engaged Voorhees Associates, LLC., a consulting firm specializing in public sector executive recruitment and selection. The Village anticipates making its selection after the new year.

### **Ravine Park Ravine Erosion Control Project Update**

**July 12, 2013** - The Village's ravine contractor, V3 (Contractor), for the Ravine Park Erosion Control Project (Project) has completed placement of all of the rock (rip/rap) along the 2,000 ft. length of the Ravine Park streambed that is to be lined as part of the Project. The sheet piling and new storm sewer installation along Sylvan Rd. immediately east of the Gurney Ave. footbridge has also been completed. Restoration and landscaping work has commenced and it is anticipated that all work will be completed by July 31st.

**Project Summary** - The Village is currently undertaking a significant environmental project, the Ravine Erosion Control Project (Project). The purpose of the Project is to reduce the rate of erosion occurring in the streambed of the Ravine Park ravine and improve water quality, as well as stabilization of ravine side slopes. The location of the Project is 1,600 linear feet of Ravine Park Ravine, from approximately Gurney Avenue to the Ravine/Simpson Avenue intersection. Earlier this spring, the Village Board approved a construction contract, in the amount of \$675,000, with V3 Construction Group Limited to perform the necessary work. The Project has been made possible as a result of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant in the amount of \$789,000. The Village anticipates the trucking work to be completed by mid July and the clean up and restoration work by the end of July.

After receiving the grant, the Village hired Hey & Associates, Inc., a Volo-based environmental engineering company specializing in water resource solutions. Hey and Associates designed the proposed project

and obtained for the Village the necessary permits from the Corps of Engineers and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

It is estimated that the depth of the ravine, along the length of the project area, has increased an average of 4 ft. in the last 40 years. The erosion and lowering of the streambed leads to a steepening of the ravine side slopes, which in turn causes slide failures of the slopes. If this continues to remain unchecked, the streambed erosion could lead in the decades ahead to a loss of portions of the paved surfaces of Ravine Avenue and Sylvan Avenue that are currently in close proximity to the top edges of the ravine. In addition, the erosion causes huge quantities of sediment to be carried from the ravine into Lake Michigan. The sediment causes water clarity issues and covers the bottom of the lake where it can have ecological impacts on aquatic habitats and organisms.

The proposed project will primarily involve the trucking and placement of a large quantity of stone rip/rap material along portions of the streambed. The contractor will be accessing the ravine in four different locations. Two of the locations will be along Ravine Avenue east of Moffett Road and west of Simpson Avenue. There will be an additional access point off of Ravine Avenue just east of the Gurney Avenue footbridge. A fourth access point will be off of Sylvan Road east of the Gurney Avenue footbridge. At the Sylvan Road access location the contractor will install some sheet piling where a significant slide occurred several years ago on the ravine slope right at the edge of Sylvan Road.

The contractor has advised the Village that rock hauling and placement operations will begin the week of May 20th. The contractor will commence with the work in the downstream locations first and then work westbound. The contractor is estimating that rock hauling and placement east of Moffett Road will take approximately 6 weeks to perform once rock placement begins and that an additional 2-3 weeks of rock placement will be necessary for the portion of the project west of Moffett Road.

Unfortunately the rock placement activity will be a very noisy operation and will involve extensive trucking activity. During construction, the portions of Ravine Avenue between Simpson Avenue and the Gurney Avenue footbridge will be posted for local traffic only. During the construction project we ask that residents not utilize Ravine Avenue unless your driveway access is within the portion of the roadway posted for limited access. Depending upon the specific locations where rock dumping is occurring, access to Ravine Avenue on certain days may only be from one direction at a time.

The far east end of Sylvan Road from the Gurney Avenue footbridge to Moffett Road will be closed when work is occurring along the portion of the ravine immediately adjacent to this location. It is the intention that the Gurney Avenue footbridge will remain open to pedestrian traffic, although there may be a week the footbridge is closed to allow the contractor to install the sheet piling and a new storm sewer outfall immediately to the east of the footbridge location along the edge of Sylvan Road.

Upon completion of the rock work in the streambed, the access points into the ravine will be restored and roadway restoration work will occur. The Project, though very disruptive while in progress, will significantly help to provide long term stabilization of the ravine side slopes and the vegetation on those slopes. After a few years the lighter colored rocks will soften in appearance and the exposed rock streambed will begin to silt over.

According to a survey and report by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources performed in 2009, the condition of the Ravine Park Ravine in Lake Bluff is similar to many of the 47 different major ravines along the North Shore (from Winnetka to Zion) that discharge stormwater runoff into Lake Michigan. According to the report all of the ravines have erosion, water quality, and loss of habitat concerns. It is hoped that this project can serve as a model for future ravine restoration

projects.

Additional information is available by contacting Village Engineer George Russell at 847-283-6884 or at [grussell@lakebluff.org](mailto:grussell@lakebluff.org). The Village thanks you in advance for your understanding and cooperation over the next several months.

### Street Resurfacing Program Update

**July 12, 2013** - During the week of July 8th the roadway resurfacing contractor, Peter Baker & Son, completed miscellaneous curb repairs and utility structure adjustment work. Peter Baker is currently anticipating the remaining full width resurfacing work will be completed during the week of July 15th. Driveway apron repairs and parkway restoration will follow during the week of July 22nd.

**July 5, 2013** - During the week of July 1st the roadway resurfacing contractor, Peter Baker & Son, completed all curb and roadway base repairs. On July 2nd work commenced with the full width resurfacing of the roadways. It is currently anticipated all resurfacing work will be complete by July 12th. Driveway apron repairs and parkway restoration will follow during the week of July 15th.

**Project Summary** - On April 8, 2013, the Village Board approved a resolution appropriating \$404,213 from the Village's General Fund to complete the scheduled Roadway Resurfacing Project during fiscal year 2013-2014. Consistent with the Village's 2016 Strategic Plan goals, the Village partnered with the City of Lake Forest to jointly bid the 2013-14 roadway resurfacing work. A joint project was prepared because it is believed a larger contract will result in lower unit prices for the work being performed in each community. The Village's contractor, Peter Baker & Son, is scheduled to start during the early summer season and includes pavement resurfacing on all or portions of 12 streets in the Village. Streets are selected for repair based upon available resources and a survey taken in the fall of each year. Residents living on streets where resurfacing is scheduled will receive information before the work commences.

The roadways scheduled for resurfacing this year include:

<b>Street to be Resurfaced:</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>
Ascot Court	Armour Drive	Cul-de-sac
E. Blodgett Avenue	Sheridan Road	Bluff Road
Bristol Court	Armour Drive	Cul-de-sac
E. Center Avenue (westbound)	Sunrise Avenue	Simpson Avenue
Coventry Court	Armour Drive	Dul-de-sac
Evanston Avenue	E. Scranton Avenue	E. North Avenue
James Court	Armour Drive	Cul-de-sac
Lincoln Avenue	W. Scranton Avenue	W. Washington Avenue
Newman Court	E. Sheridan Place	E. Witchwood Lane
W. Washington Avenue	Western terminus	Western school entrance
Weatherford Court	Armour Drive	Cul-de-sac
Wimbledon Court	Bath & Tennis	565 ft. north

## Club Road

### Patching of Various Streets

Additional information is available by contacting Village Engineer George Russell at 847-283-6884.

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