



# The Illinois Prairie Path NEWSLETTER

Summer / Fall 2004

## Thank You, Trail Cleanup Volunteers

from Don Kirchenberg, IPPc president

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation would like to thank everyone who helped with the very successful cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail on April 24th, 2004. We greatly appreciate the special efforts by the trail cleanup coordinators... Paul Aeschleman, Cook County;

Nancy Becker, Hillside; Eric Keeley, Elmhurst; Hosana Korynecky, Villa Park; Joelyn Kott, Lombard; Dr. Jay Kinzler, Glen Ellyn; Mike Cross, Naperville; Doug Henk, Warrenville; Gladys Johnston, Wayne; Birt Hurlbert, Elgin Branch at Rt. 59; Helen Bartlett, Wheaton; Frank Shannon, Winfield - Geneva Spur; Ed Barsotti, Batavia Spur; Dave & Kandy Jedlicka, Elgin Branch at



L to R: Kately Keck, Chris Wede, Rebecca Wede, Sabrina Keck. Photo by Bob Keck

## Ferry Road Bridge is Completed

by DuPage County Trail Coordinator, Deborah Fagan

Our Division of Transportation reports the new Ferry Road bridge along the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Branch is now completed and open. This new bridge was constructed at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000 as part of the expansion of Ferry Road and was funded by the County Division of Transportation. The remainder of the roadway project, which includes a path along Ferry Road, is expected to be completed by this fall.



Path users can now enjoy the convenience and views from the Ferry Road bridge

Prince Crossing; and Don Kirchenberg, Great Western Trail.

### Glen Ellyn Report

by Jean Mooring, IPPc board member

The weather was perfect for the Illinois Prairie Path cleanup in Glen Ellyn. The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission provided a sign-in table and furnished plastic bags to the participants in the gazebo at Prairie Path Park. Soukup's Hardware donated 100 pairs of gloves for the workers. Dr. Jay Kinzler, a member of the commission, presided at the table assisted by Leslie Foster and, on behalf of The Illinois Prairie Path, Jim Wear. The village

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# The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

This newsletter is published by  
The Illinois Prairie Path  
Board of Directors

**Editor:** Dave Watts

**Address correspondence to:**  
The Illinois Prairie Path,  
P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL  
60189

**Phone:** 630-752-0120

**Web Site:** [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org)

**Meetings:** The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month except August and November, at Rathje Park Building, 616 Delles Ave., Wheaton. Members are always welcome to attend.

## The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors 2004

*Don Kirchenberg, President  
Glendale Heights*

*Dick Wilson, Vice President  
DesPlaines*

*F. Paul Mooring, Treasurer  
Glen Ellyn*

*Nancy Becker, Secretary  
Willowbrook*

*Dave Watts, Office Manager, Web  
Master and Newsletter Editor  
Glen Ellyn*

*Paul Aeschleman, Oak Park  
Bob Bernero, Glen Ellyn  
Mike Cross, Web Master, Naperville  
Paul Didzerekis, Wheaton  
Jean Mooring, Glen Ellyn  
Tom Pedrick, Carol Stream  
Erik Spande, Winfield  
Rob Sperl, Warrenville  
Jan Stortz, Villa Park  
One Board Position Open*

*Thank You continued from page 1...*

provided an attractive array of refreshments including soft drinks, cookies, and other baked goods. Approximately sixty-five of those volunteers who worked signed in officially for the cleanup. They picked up 2/3 of a ton of debris, a large fraction of which was logs that had been discarded on the Path right-of-way west of the Glen Ellyn Library. One volunteer came from Darien and two from Madison, Wisconsin. Many participants were family groups and they all had a grand time.



*Front: Margaret Mooring, Paul Mooring, Ovidio Calderon, Mark Newell. Back: Sam Pyne, Don Evans. Photo by Jean Mooring*

### Elgin Branch Report

*by Dick Wilson, IPPc board member*

Dick and Nancy Wilson, Charlie Johnson and Roger Kotecki (DuPage County Forest Preserve Commissioner) cleaned from Rte. 59 to Smith Road. While Charlie cleaned the south-west facing slope leading to the bridge the rest of us went to Smith Road. We collected four



*Nancy Rice and Karen Schwartz from the Naperville Bicycle Club help clean the Geneva Spur near Industrial Drive in West Chicago in April*

bags of trash and the county was called to remove two long cyclone fence posts with cement still on the bottom.

## Notice of Annual Meeting Sunday, Nov. 7th

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation's annual meeting will be held Sunday, November 7th at 2P.M. at The Abbey, 407 W. St. Charles Road in Elmhurst. The meeting is open to all IPP members and guests.

Keith Olson, leader of the Elmhurst Prairie Management Advisory Group, will be our guest speaker that afternoon (see his article on page four).

## Eric Keeley Steps Down from The IPPc Board

Eric Keeley has served on the Board of Directors of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation for many years. In his volunteer work he has been a consistently strong voice for protecting the natural appearance of the trails.

He and his family have helped us on many occasions and with special projects especially during the annual prairie burns in the spring.

Due to unfortunate health problems in his extended family he needs to dedicate time to helping a family member. We wish Eric and his family well and want to thank the Keeley family for their many hours of dedicated service.

Please pass this extra membership card on to a friend...

### The Illinois Prairie Path

P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton IL 60189

630-752-0120 www.ipp.org

Membership:

- ☐ I am renewing my membership
- ☐ I am applying for new membership
- ☐ This is a gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Society \$1,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$30.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$500.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Individual \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$30.00 |  |

*All contributions are tax deductible*



*Sign spotted in front of Koslow's Cycle in Lombard. We can't claim that the Illinois Prairie Path can cure everything, but it sure is a happy place to run, walk or ride.*

## Scout and Work Day Projects Continue to Benefit Path Users

Eagle scout candidate Jim Lamb has been repositioning mile markers 5 through 10 along the Elgin Branch due to the recent Prince Crossing realignment with the Great Western Trail.

The IPPc Board, along with other volunteers, have been busy this season repairing fences and display cases, painting benches and other assorted trail amenity projects.

### - You too can help -

The all volunteer Board of Directors of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation provides volunteer labor to help maintain prairies, display cases, water fountains, benches, safety railing fences and many other amenities that make the trail safe and enjoyable. These workdays require simple labor and approximately 3 hours of time.

You are encouraged to sign up for notification of the workdays and participate with us one Saturday morning a month in the warm weather months (April to October).



*IPPc board member Rob Sperl helps repair the Winfield Creek railings*

# Prairies on the Illinois Prairie Path

by Keith Olson

The abandoned right-of-way of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin railway is now the site of the Illinois Prairie Path, but another trail has obtained its right-of-way and name from the abandoned Chicago, Great Western Railroad. For most of their length in DuPage county, from Villa Park west, the two railroads veered apart, but in Elmhurst the tracks ran side by side, separated by less than 100 feet, close enough that development was impractical, but sufficiently removed to retain a bit of Illinois' original landscape, the prairie.

As the CGW withdrew piece by piece in the 1970's, the Elmhurst Park District acquired the ownership, finishing with the portion containing the prairie. The city name was coupled with that of the railroad to give the title: the Elmhurst

Great Western Prairie. As one of the places where there is prairie near the Prairie Path, and one of the very few with a core



of original prairie, this bit of native Illinois has been preserved, by accident and foresight, as a living museum. While several prairies are maintained by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation, the Elmhurst Great Western Prairie is maintained by a committee of their Park District.

Complementing the Prairie Path under County ownership, a maintenance agreement between the Park District and the County streamlines efforts to maintain and improve the area, efforts carried out mainly by volunteers who have put in thousands of hours since restoration became possible, most dramatically with an annual burn. Besides the continued assistance of the Park District, the city has cooperated by posting a fire truck at the burn.

Whether strolling, biking or jogging, observe the prairie, adjacent to the Prairie Path in Elmhurst between Spring Road and Salt Creek. Any time of

year is good, for unlike the spring flowering in a forest, the prairie is in bloom spring, summer and fall, and 2004 has been especially colorful. Even in winter the mosaic of multi-hued dry grasses adds color to the scene. A guide for the marked Shooting Star Trail is available in several boxes near the prairie, to aid in appreciating what you can see. Take time to look from the Prairie Path, or use a side path for a closer look at the gold-finches plucking at prairie thistle, the yellows of the silphiums - prairie dock or compass plant, the blue of purple coneflower and big blue stem, Illinois' state grass.

Consider joining the effort in maintaining this prize area on the third Saturday of each month except December and January, helping with brush cutting, seed gathering and spreading, planting and cleanup. Meet at 9 A.M. at Berkley Ave. in Elmhurst in the center of the prairie strip, or call the volunteer coordinator at the Elmhurst Park District, 630-993-8924, to get on the mailing list for the workdays or to ask for a brochure about the area.

Aldo Leopold wrote, "What a thousand acres of Silphiums looked like when they tickled the bellies of the buffalo is a question never again to be answered, and perhaps not even asked." In Elmhurst there are only six acres and no buffalo, but the silphiums remain. The Elmhurst Great Western Prairie is an asset to Elmhurst and a bright spot adding to the variety and interest of the Illinois Prairie Path.



# Lombard Seeks to Take Away Trail ROW

*From Don Kirchenberg, IPPc president*

The Village of Lombard is looking to take away a significant section of the trail's right-of-way for a new parking area for up to 103 vehicles. **The IPPc's Board of Directors has taken a position against their proposal.** More importantly, we have offered a fair compromise that would help both trail users and the homeowners who would benefit from the addition of these parking spaces. See the letter below...

**The Illinois Prairie Path**  
**P.O. Box 1086**  
**Wheaton, Illinois 60189**



May 05, 2004

To: David Hulseberg, Director of Planning and Development  
Village of Lombard

From: The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPc)

## **Second letter regarding: IPPc Response to the Village of Lombard's South Broadway Parking Proposal**

Thank you again for attending our meeting on May 4th. We have taken your information under advisement and have revised our counter proposal to protect the right-of-way of the Illinois Prairie Path in Lombard. While reviewing your information and discussing our concerns we continue to believe that the Illinois Prairie Path is paying an unfair share of use of the right-of-way to solve a community's parking needs. We continue to encourage you and the Village of Lombard to look at alternatives to using so much of the right-of-way including the use of a less obtrusive parallel or diagonal parking design.

**The IPPc has reviewed and commented on the Village of Lombard's proposal to construct 103 parking spaces, expand South Broadway Street, and remove approximately 150 trees on Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) right-of-way (ROW) near South Broadway from east of Chase to the alley west of Westmore Avenue.** This proposal was originally presented to The IPPc Board of Directors (BoD) during The IPPc April 2004 BoD meeting.

After review of the Village of Lombard's proposal, The IPPc BoD has made the following recommendations. We are asking that the IPP ROW be used with the following significant findings, stipulations, and observations.

**Finding 1 - It is the opinion of The IPPc that the number of parking spaces requested by the Village of Lombard is excessive.** The number of parking spaces that is reasonable for this area is 80 since this allocates 2 parking spaces for residents at each unit of the 20 adjacent 2-flat residential buildings that exist between Chase Avenue and the alley west of Westmore Avenue. Moreover, this is approximately the number of parking spaces that are currently used/needed in the Village of Lombard's proposal. Additional parking allocated for non-neighborhood IPP users is not needed since this portion of the IPP is not a known or convenient access area to the IPP.

**Stipulation 1 -** No more than 50 percent of the parking spaces to be constructed in this area will be constructed on IPP ROW; the remainder of the parking spaces constructed as part of the parking space expansion will be on private property.

...Continued on page 6

*Stipulation 2* - The Village of Lombard is requesting to build parking spaces and expand the South Broadway Street on an easement of at least 18 feet of the IPP. This is excessive since this would take approximately 20 percent of the IPP ROW width in the area of South Broadway. As such, The IPPc stipulates that a maximum of nine feet of the IPP ROW may be used for the parking space and street easement, as defined by the Village of Lombard proposal. Nine feet is approximately ten percent of the total width of the IPP ROW in that area of South Broadway. To facilitate this nine-foot easement, diagonal or parallel parking along both sides of Broadway Street is suggested (one of which is on the IPP easement).

*Stipulation 3* - The IPPc recognizes that approximately 150 trees and other existing vegetation along the IPP will have to be removed during parking space construction. Replacement landscaping will be of a variety that will provide a greenspace buffer of native plants between the new parking spaces and the trail. Due to its proximity to parking and the road landscaping vegetation will need to be salt tolerant. Moreover, the landscaping will be appropriate for planting underneath power lines, which exist over the intended construction area.

*Stipulation 4* - In order to integrate the parking easement and the South Broadway neighborhood with the IPP, three access points through the parking area to the IPP will be constructed for use by the residents. The IPPc recommends the following access locations: Chase Street, School Street, and the middle of the long block between Highland and School.

*Stipulation 5* - The Village of Lombard will promptly remove all unlicensed automobiles currently parked on the County-owned IPP ROW. Moreover, in the interest of maintaining community aesthetics and safety, the village will maintain an aggressive program to keep unlicensed vehicles in new publicly owned parking area and work with The IPPc in the Lombard area.

*Observation 1* - Parking space surfaces are, by definition, impervious and will create stormwater runoff that is problematic for the neighborhood and the IPP. Construction of the parking spaces will need to conform to State and County storm water management requirements.

The IPPc believes the Village of Lombard's South Broadway parking space and road expansion proposal, as modified by The IPPc, will benefit the Village of Lombard by meeting neighborhood parking needs and will improve the safety and aesthetics of the neighborhood, and have a minimal impact on the IPP. The IPPc believes that we would accept a tot lot type playground on the right-of-way instead of vehicle parking in return for the private property owners giving up some of the land for parking that would benefit their lives. The tot lot would be a welcome improvement along the Illinois Prairie Path versus parking for up to 103 motorized vehicles as proposed by the Village of Lombard. Further consultation between the Village of Lombard, The IPPc, and DuPage County will provide for a mutually beneficial compromise that will be supported by stakeholders and interested parties.

Signed,  
The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 1086  
Wheaton, IL 60189

CC: Mayor Bill Mueller, Village of Lombard  
Angela Clark, Department of Planning and Development, Village of Lombard  
Village Trustees, Village of Lombard  
Deborah Fagan, DuPage County Trails System Coordinator  
DuPage County Board Members District 3  
DuPage County Chairman Robert Schillerstrom



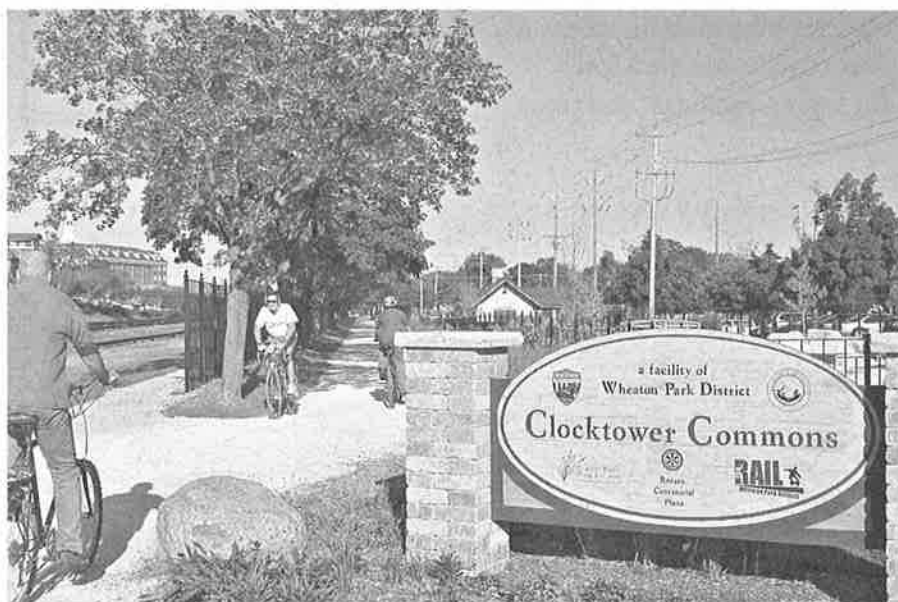
# Grand Opening of Wheaton's Clocktower Commons a Success

By Rob Sperl, IPPc board member

The grand opening for Wheaton's Clocktower Commons, located along the Illinois Prairie Path main stem between Cross Street and Washington Street, took place on June 12. Over 1,200 people attended the event including President Don Kirchenberg who said a few words regarding The IPP's support of the project. The park district and Potbelly Sandwiches provided free hot dogs, snacks and refreshments. Free miniature golf was available to those attending, in addition to use of the skate park.



Above: Don Kirchenberg speaks at the grand opening



**For more  
information  
about Clocktower  
Commons, please  
call (630)  
665-1299**

Left: A view east from the west end of Clocktower Commons

This newest addition to the Prairie Path includes approximately 800 feet of improved path surfacing on the Dupage County right-of-way, in addition to trail amenities such as a drinking fountain, bike racks, picnic areas, and a building that contains concessions and restrooms.

When you visit, be sure to notice the IPP and member bricks at the east end of the park. The two Rotary Clubs of Wheaton are still accepting orders for engraved bricks at the park. More information on the brick program is available at <http://www.wheatonrotary.org/brickform.htm> or by calling 630-871-2857. Please note your preference to be included in the special area designated for members and friends of the Illinois Prairie Path when placing an order.



The two Mooring bricks flank The IPPc logo at the Illinois Prairie Path section of the park



Sculptures adorn the park

# **IDNR Fall Workshops for Local Officials and Bicyclists**

*...a note from Ed Barsotti, Executive Director League of Illinois Bicyclists*

Bicyclists: come on out this fall to learn about trails issues - and bring your town's elected officials and staff while you're at it!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Greenways and Trails Council are holding three educational workshops in the Northern (Oct 15, Malta), Central (Oct 29, Springfield), and Southern (Nov 12, Grafton) parts of the state. Practical advice on issues from planning to funding to bike-friendly towns will be presented for planners, engineers, administrators, and interested citizens.

The League of Illinois Bicyclists encourages bike club members to personally invite your local officials - your request means a lot! See <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/planning> for topics, agendas, and registration forms.

**Got a Question?**



**Just call us at  
630-752-0120**

**(Voice Mail)**

## **Become a Trail STAR**

*from Sheriff Zaruba's office...*

Sheriff Zaruba has created a new citizen trail watch program called STAR. Below is a summary describing the new program. If you need more information, a program application, or have any questions, please call 955-0302.

### **STAR Program Summary**

Sheriff John E. Zaruba is starting a new volunteer program called S.T.A.R. (Sheriff's Trailwatchers Are Responding) as another component of his Office's Prairie Path Protection Project. S.T.A.R. volunteers will be asked to be watchful while they are out enjoying the Prairie Path or Great Western Trail, to assist trail users, and to report any suspicious activity to police.

Anyone who uses the County trail system is eligible to become a member of S.T.A.R. Applicants must be over the age of 21, pass a background investigation, and be willing to participate in a short training class to involve first aid, path orientation, and emergency response procedures.

Following the training class, volunteers will be provided with a distinctive t-shirt to wear while using the paths so the public may easily identify them if they need help. In addition, volunteers who so desire will be provided with a cellular telephone to carry with them. The cell phones are programmed to dial 911 and directly connect to the Sheriff's Office for immediate emergency response, but cannot make or receive any other outside calls.

The S.T.A.R. program will begin with an already established volunteer force trained in the Sheriff's Citizen Police Academy. Furthermore, the office will initiate a partnership with clubs, organizations and individuals to make the trail system safer for all of our families to use.

For a STAR Program Application, call 630-955-0302



## Illinois Prairie Path Store

### Show Your Support For The Illinois Prairie Path! Long Sleeve IPPc Shirts Now Available

Ride or walk the IPP in style! Our new shirt design features The IPPc logo embroidered (green thread) above the left breast pocket of this 7.26 oz. 100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt in both natural (light khaki) and light blue denim colors. Shirt also features wood-tone buttons and double-needle stitching. Price: \$40.00 per shirt, plus add \$5 shipping and handling. For multiple shirt orders, call 630-752-0120 for shipping price. For current shirt inventory, go to [www.ipp.org/GUI/ipp\\_store.htm](http://www.ipp.org/GUI/ipp_store.htm)



### Illinois Prairie Path Color Map 7th Edition



Only \$6 - Includes postage and shipping.

*(Note: new members are sent one free map when they join The IPPc!)*

- Full color illustrations and photos
- Large 18" x 24" size (folds to 3 1/2" x 9") on tear-proof, water-proof paper
- New! Includes updated information on renovated Cook County portion of the Illinois Prairie Path
- Includes full suburb/street detail of the 61-mile trail from Cook County west to Kane County
- Discover 26 points of interest along the IPP and 14 recommended bike routes
- Details train stations, prairies, parking lots, restrooms and drinking fountains
- Learn more about The IPPc's management, its history and its founder May Watts. Published by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation



### IPP Guidebook - by Helen Turner

This 32-page guidebook contains information about the history, geology, trees, flowers, birds and animals of the Illinois Prairie Path. Cost: \$5 per copy includes shipping.

### The IPPc Patch Shows You Care

The IPPc patch can be yours for \$1.50 each. Includes shipping.



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## **The Lights are on in Lombard!**

DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom and Lombard Mayor Bill Mueller preside over the official Path lighting ceremony on September 16th. The new lighting fixtures add safety and ambience to several more miles of the Illinois Prairie Path for evening trail users and residents.



*DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom and Lombard Mayor Bill Mueller preside over the ceremony*