



# IPWMAN

ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK

News from  
Illinois Public Works  
Mutual Aid Network

September 2020

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City of Spring Valley



Village of Grant Park



City of Oglesby

## Working together works!

Five Northern Illinois communities — Lombard, Oglesby, Villa Park, Spring Valley and Grant Park — received recovery assistance estimated at \$90,000 following the August 10 derecho (a long-lived line of thunderstorms and intense winds) that produced widespread damage to trees, power lines, buildings, and vehicles from hurricane-force winds. In total, 24 IPWMAN members came to their aid, including Village of Bloomingdale, Village of Carol Stream, Village of Hanover Park, Village of Woodridge, Village of Bensenville, Village of Mount Prospect, York Township, City of Macomb, Village of Hennepin, Village of Oswego, City of LaSalle, Hanover Township, Village of Huntley, City of McHenry, Village of Hoffman Estates, City of Des Plaines, City of Rolling Meadows, City of Geneva, Village of Palatine, Village of Beecher, Kankakee County Highway Dept., Village of Montgomery, Grundy County Highway Dept. and Village of Manteno.

The widespread impact of this storm made the task of coordinating assistance extremely challenging. IPWMAN duty officers Elias Koutas and Tim Nearing, along with the responding agencies, worked diligently to assist those members requesting assistance.

Thank you everyone!

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## Shoutout to our Summer duty officers!

**June:** Vince Kilcullen (Primary)

Kelly Kerr (Secondary)

**July:** Scott Schweda (Primary)

Joe Cronin (Secondary)

**August:** Elias Koutas (Primary)

Tim Nearingder (Secondary)

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## 2020 IPWMAN Annual Conference canceled

A virtual Annual Meeting is being planned for October with date TBA. Electronic ballots will be sent prior to the meeting when elections will be held. There is currently one regional director vacancy in both Regions 6 and 7. Interested? Contact Barb Stiehl at [blstiehl@urbanainllinois.us](mailto:blstiehl@urbanainllinois.us).

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## Fall Safety Resources

### September is National Preparedness Month

- **Download the FEMA app.**

Get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.



- Sign up for FEMA text messages to get updates (standard message and data rates apply)
  - Get preparedness tips: text **PREPARE** to **43362**.
  - Search for open shelters (for disaster survivors): text **SHELTER** and a **ZIP code** to **43362**.
  - Get a list of keywords you can subscribe to: text **LIST** to **43362**.
  - Unsubscribe (at any time): text **STOP** to **43362**.
- Before a disaster, follow local government on social media to stay up-to-date with official information before, during and after a disaster. Sign up for Twitter alerts from trusted government agencies to get notified when critical information goes out.

- **Family Emergency Planning**

### October is National Protect Your Hearing Month

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## TRAINING UPDATE

**Illinois T2/LTAP = Virtual Training**

**Implementing Safe Work Zone Operations Strategies  
Training Course**



## IPWMAN Duty Officer Training

Details are coming soon on another duty officer training via teleconference. The training is open to any member who is interested, even if you missed Part 1 in August. Duty officers play a very important role, acting as the initial point of contact following a request for assistance. If you want to be part of the duty officer dream team, contact [ekoutas@palatine.il.us](mailto:ekoutas@palatine.il.us) so he can add you to the training list.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

City of Nauvoo

City of Chenoa: Read their story below

[See all members by county or region](#)

## Chenoa's experience: "Do it sooner."

Chenoa mayor Chris Wilder thought joining IPWMAN was a great idea after he heard about it at a McLean County Mayors' Meeting. He even discussed it at the next city council meeting, but the topic wasn't brought up for a vote, and they just didn't get back to it.



Then a July 11 storm with straight line winds between 75 and 100 miles per hour caused major damage to trees throughout the community of 1,800 residents. Wilder returned from a vacation two days later.

"I hadn't seen anything like that in 50 years," he recalled. "I knew there was no way our city crew of four people could handle the clean-up, especially with our limited equipment."

Unfortunately, IPWMAN could not provide assistance since Chenoa had not yet joined. McLean County helped for three days with two trucks and drivers, but the work lasted two

weeks, eight hours a day, and a small portion of city property still needs to be finished.

“I wish we would have joined IPWMAN when we first discussed it,” said Wilder, who’s served as mayor since 2015. “But after the storm, the city council put the item on our next meeting agenda, I had an ordinance ready and it passed. We’re members now!”

“Even if you’re a small community, you can still help others when a surrounding community needs assistance,” he added. “Just one person and one truck makes a difference — and if one person comes from 8 communities, those 8 people can make a big difference. Just do what you can do.”

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## Audio and video presentations

Do you know a neighboring community who doesn’t belong to IPWMAN? We can now join their meeting via videoconference or teleconference to explain and answer questions. Help us spread the word! Contact [info@ipwman.org](mailto:info@ipwman.org) to talk details!



## 2021 IPSI Scholarships

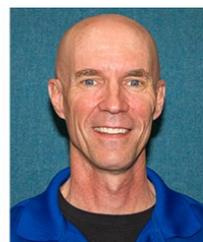
As a sponsoring organization of the Illinois Public Service Institute (IPSI), IPWMAN is offering two \$725 scholarships for 2021: one to attend the IPSI Spring session April 25-30 which focuses on supervisory skills and one to attend the Fall session October 3-8 which focuses on leadership skills. IPSI’s mission continues to be promoting and encouraging professional development through education and training specifically designed for Public Works supervisors and managers.

[Learn more about IPSI](#)

[Get scholarship details/application](#)

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## Congrats new IPWMAN board members



(Left to right)

Executive Board, Treasurer – Steve Miller, Village of Bolingbrook

Finance Committee Chair – Aaron Howe, Village of Hoffman Estates

Region 8 Director – Mark Runyon, Village of Oswego

## Wear your IPWMAN pride!

We've added a couple of items to our apparel line-up that are available for purchase directly from our vendor. Just choose your items, add them to the cart and submit it. Then fill out your contact information and our vendor will be in touch regarding payment and shipping. **Check out the selections!**



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### ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK

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