



VILLAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE

Press Release

Contact: Brad Woodbury, Public Works Director
Phone: 847-913-2381
Email: bwoodbury@lincolnshireil.gov

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Lincolnshire Hydrant Expert to Retire After 38-Year Career

(LINCOLNSHIRE, ILL.) Joel Strzelczyk, Public Works general maintenance utilities employee, will retire on May 17 after a 38-year career in local government, 22 of which were with the Village of Lincolnshire.

Strzelczyk, who began serving in the Public Works Utilities Division in June 2001, was instrumental in developing and maintaining the Village's intricate potable water and sanitary sewer infrastructure systems.

Joel, also known as The Hydrant King, flushed Lincolnshire's fire hydrants over 19,000 times throughout his tenure, as well as installed, removed, and rebuilt many of the Village's 944 fire hydrants. Additionally, Joel contributed to the success of the Village in the following ways:

- Worked on over 250 water main breaks.
- Fulfilled over 60,000 J.U.L.I.E. locate requests.
- Responded to thousands of incidents occurring after hours, on weekends, and over holidays as a 24-hour emergency on-call first responder.
- Spent countless hours snow plowing Lincolnshire streets.

"Joel brought his positive and professional attitude each and every day when interacting with coworkers, residents, and businesses. He trained the next generation of employees how to properly flush and service hydrants, and many of the Village's achievements were made possible because of Joel's efforts," Brad Woodbury, Public Works Director, said. "The Village of Lincolnshire was truly lucky to have such a dedicated public servant and I wish him the best in his retirement!"

"The safety, quality, and pressure of the water when residents turn on their sinks, flush their toilets, and water their gardens is thanks to our Utilities Division team and dedicated employees like Joel Strzelczyk. He assisted in growing Lincolnshire's water and sanitary sewer system by miles as the Village's population grew by thousands and as new businesses developed. We owe him a heartfelt thank you and we wish him well in retirement," Brad Burke, Village Manager, stated.

Mayor Elizabeth Brandt issued a proclamation memorializing Joel's public service during the May 8 Regular Village Board Meeting. Joel served the Village of Mount Prospect for 16 years prior to Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire's Utilities Division employees manage a wide range of tasks, including: testing, maintenance, and repair of the potable water and sanitary sewer infrastructure; fixing emergency water main breaks; flushing Village fire hydrants; inspecting construction sites for utility installations or improvements; performing J.U.L.I.E. locate requests on public and private property; collecting samples for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure safe drinking water; and much more.

The Village of Lincolnshire, 1957, is a northern suburb of Chicago and is conveniently adjacent to the Tri-State Tollway. Lincolnshire is home to 7,940 residents, two nationally-recognized public school districts, and over 400 businesses – a number of which are global headquarters and Fortune 500 companies.

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Enclosed: Photo of Joel Strzelczyk