



# NORTHFIELD NEWS

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## Early Voting for the Primary Election Held Jan. 11 - Jan. 28

Residents who want to vote in person prior to Election Day for candidates running in the Primary Election for offices including U.S. Senator, Rep. of Congress, Rep. in the General Assembly, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, County Clerk and other offices, can take advantage of the Early Voting period which will be conducted between Jan. 11 and Jan. 28. Early Voting allows residents to cast their ballot at a nearby location without having to provide a reason or excuse. Voters are required to display valid identification such as a current driver's license, state-issued ID card or other government-issued ID with a photograph to an election official in order to receive a ballot to vote. Early Voting in the Northfield area will be held at the Glenview Village Hall, 1225 Waukegan Rd., the Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane and at Centennial Park, 2300 Old Glenview Rd. in Wilmette Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Voters can also vote Absentee by mail or in person. To vote Absentee, voters must provide a reason why they cannot make it to their polling place on Election Day such as "they will be out of town." For more information or to download a mail-in application to vote Absentee, visit [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com).

**Primary Election - Feb. 2**

## President Fred Gougler's Letter to Residents

### 2010 - A Year of Resolution Village Assesses Options to Address \$1 Million Dollar Annual Budget Deficit

As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Trustees and Village staff to extend our best wishes to all of you in 2010. Often a new year presents opportunities to reflect on the past and envision the future - to make changes and resolve to fulfill them. For the Village of Northfield, this is such a year - a year of critical decisions that will impact our Village now and into the future. They are decisions we will make together as a community.

As a new Village President, I remember being eager to dive into the financial matters impacting the Village - the magnitude of which were not fully apparent at the time. It was easy to become engrossed in the complexity and detail of fund accounting, capital improvement plans and unfunded pension liabilities. It was then that our Finance Director Steve Noble reminded me that the real place to begin one's understanding of these issues is not through their analysis but by envisioning the sort of community that we live in. Why did we choose to live here in the first place? What do we value most? What do we wish to change? As a 25-year resident of Northfield, I thought I knew the answers to these questions. Now I am asking them again. I invite you to do the same.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with members of the Northfield Village Caucus on the state of our Village and would like to share some of my remarks with you. I began by acknowledging how fortunate I felt to be a resident of this community. I have met literally dozens of Mayors and Village Presidents over the past months from big cities to small villages like ours. I have learned that every community is unique with a different character and quality of life. Our issues are daunting but often pale in comparison to what many other communities are facing. And, I have found our Village to be universally admired and respected by my peers - a reputation earned through years of sound management and leadership. We are fortunate to share in that legacy. Let's always keep that perspective.

That said, we have a serious financial crisis on our hands. Our Village is faced with a \$1,000,000 annual budget deficit, approximately 10% of our \$10 million total expenditures. The deficit is a direct result of the recession and caused by two primary factors. The first is a sharp decline in sales tax revenue upon which the Village depends for operating needs. The second is a significant shortfall in the obligatory funding for our police pension plan caused by the collapse of the investment markets. Our police pension plan is now only 50% funded, well short of the 90% funding level a decade ago. The Village is obligated by law to address this funding gap. (Cont'd on Pg. 3)



## Discussion of FY2010-2011 Proposed Village Budget Set for Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 PM

The Village Board Committee of the Whole will discuss Northfield's proposed 2010-2011 fiscal year budget which includes capital projects, equipment replacement as well as proposed departmental budgets at a workshop meeting to be held Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Village Hall. If further discussion is needed, a second workshop will be scheduled. Residents are invited to attend the workshop at the Village Hall, 361 Happ Road. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The budget must be adopted prior to April 30, 2010, the end of the Village's fiscal year.

## 2010 Census Provides Wealth of Information and Temporary Job Opportunities

2010 is the start of a new decade and time for the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct its once-in-ten-year count of the country's population which provides information on demographics, socioeconomic and housing characteristics. The 2010 census counts all U.S. residents - citizens and non-citizens. Did you know that census information affects your vote? It's true! The census helps determine the number of seats the State occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. Information the census collects also helps determine how more than \$400 billion of federal funding is spent each year on infrastructure and services like hospitals, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects, emergency services and job training centers. Census data is used to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases and locate pools of skilled workers. In March, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. There are just 10 short questions to answer. Then, mail your form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. What should you do if you do not have a permanent address or don't have a home? If you don't have a permanent address you will be counted where you live and sleep most of the time. This residence rule is the guiding principle for the census whether you are living with relatives because of a disaster or foreclosure, are a college student living away from home or a soldier living on a military base. Also, the Service Based Enumeration (SBE) operation is designed to provide an opportunity for people experiencing some form of displacement or lack of permanent address to be included in the census by counting them at service-based locations such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens, etc. The Be Counted form is another way people can take part in the census. As part of the census operation, Census Takers are needed to visit people in their community who did not return their census form. They are hired by the Census Bureau to make sure all neighborhoods are represented as accurately as possible. Census Takers are sworn to protect the data and privacy of respondents under federal law with fines up to \$250,000 or imprisonment. Residents of the community who are interested in working part time and earning good hourly wages by helping the Census Bureau should contact the Local Census Office by calling 1-847-221-1250 or 1-866-861-2010 or visit [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov).

## IDOT Holds Second Willow Road Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting Thursday, Jan. 14 at High School

The Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) will hold its second CAG meeting to discuss concepts for the future of Willow Road on Thursday, Jan. 14 at New Trier High School West in Northfield. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Room 234, Bldg. C. All CAG members and interested residents are invited to attend.

## Did You Know?

New 2010 laws prohibit Emailing or Texting while driving. They also prohibit use of Cell Phones in school or construction speed zones unless no-hands devices are used.

## Village Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2010 (3rd Tuesday of month)

### Board Meetings

**January 19**  
**February 16**  
**March 16**  
**April 20**  
**May 18**  
**June 15**  
**July 20**  
**August 17**  
**September 21**  
**October 19**  
**November (no meeting)**  
**December 6\***

(\* Not regularly scheduled day due to observed holiday or to adopt tax levy.

## Fields to Build "Green" Volvo Dealership at 770 Frontage Road

Last summer, the Village Board approved plans for a new 32,000 sq. ft. Volvo sales and service facility at 770 Frontage Road, north of the Fields' BMW property in Northfield. The new dealership will replace an existing single-story office building which will be demolished in early 2010. Fields in conjunction with Volvo Corp. plans a building that will be one of the nation's first "green" or LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified automobile dealerships. Fields' design team is reviewing the original Village-approved building design to find ways to conserve energy, incorporate renewable materials as well as incorporate more efficiency into the overall design of the building. It is anticipated that the revised building plans will be presented to the Village's Architectural Commission in February or March. Northfield welcomes a third Fields autodealership and is proud to be home to the nation's first LEED Certified Volvo sales and service facility!

## What to Do About Damaged Mailboxes, Burned Out Street Lights and More

If a Village snowplow hits your mailbox and damages it or knocks it down, contact the Public Works Dept. to report the damage within 48 hours, 847-441-3810, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If it is determined the Village caused the damage, the department will repair or replace the damaged mailbox with a standard 4 x 4 treated post and a standard Federal regulation mailbox. Residents who live on County roads including Sunset Ridge Road, Wagner Road, Winnetka Avenue, South Happ Road, and Frontage Roads, should contact the County at 847-827-1164; for State roads including Willow Road, Hibbard Road and Waukegan Road, contact IDOT, 847-705-4222 to report plow-damaged mailboxes. Residents can report downed street signs and burned out street lights to the Northfield Police Dept., 847-446-2131, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## PACE Bus Plans Service Reductions on Areas Routes

Due to a shortfall in funding, PACE Suburban Bus is reducing service on certain unproductive bus routes as part of its cost cutting measures. Effective Feb. 7, 2010, Saturday service will be eliminated for Route 422 which travels between the Linden CTA, to Edens Plaza, Loyola, New Trier and The Glen and Route 423 which goes from the Linden CTA to Winnetka and west on Willow to the Glenview Metra station and on to the Harlem CTA station in Chicago. Visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com) for more information.

## Northfield Library Offers Free Programs on Career Searches and Tips on Staging Your Home

The Northfield Branch, 1785 Orchard is holding the following free programs in February: Jump Start your Career on three Wednesdays, Feb. 10, 17 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Preparing Your Home for Sale on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:00 p.m. Also, local residents can enjoy spirited discussions on issues of interest at the Current Events Roundtable which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Register for programs at 847-446-5990 or visit [www.northfieldlibrary.org](http://www.northfieldlibrary.org).

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## President's Letter (Cont'd)

As a Non Home Rule community our options are limited. We are significantly constrained in our capacity to raise revenue and our property tax levy was increased by 0.1%, the rate of inflation. This is projected to add only \$25,000 toward our \$1 million shortfall. The Village has an operating reserve of six months, roughly \$5,000,000. With the budget deficit expected to continue and potentially increase, we are on what our Long Range Financial Planning Sub-Committee Chair Trustee Jack Chapin describes as "a steady predictable path toward insolvency."

Your Board of Trustees and Village staff share my conviction that such a course is not acceptable. Inaction is not an option. The Long Range Financial Planning Sub-Committee, which I appointed in May, has been meeting diligently to determine the magnitude and duration of our fiscal imbalance, develop options to resolve it and, importantly, set this Village on sound financial footing for the future. Four options have been identified and are in the process of being thoroughly evaluated. All will involve change to our community. Let me highlight them for you.

**Option 1. Cut staff and Village services by 20%.** this will entail a significant change to our service delivery impacting police, life safety, public works and virtually all aspects of our Village.

**Option 2. Raise property taxes.** Preliminary estimates suggest that a 2% to 3% increase in an average property tax bill would adequately address the shortfall. This option would require a referendum and voter approval.

**Option 3. Access the merits of becoming a Home Rule community.** All Illinois communities with populations in excess of 25,000 are granted Home Rule authority. Since our population falls beneath that threshold, we have a restricted level of authority and are constrained in our capacity to access alternative revenue sources and exercise a greater degree of local control in our community. Non Home Rule communities such as Northfield, without such flexibility, have been particularly vulnerable to the recession. The flexibility in being a Home Rule community would enable us to address the deficit without dependence on property taxes alone. This option would require a referendum and voter approval.

**Option 4. Consider strategic restructuring, consolidation of services and/or expanded intergovernmental agreements.** Northfield has a long history of departmental consolidation (Fire-Rescue/Public Works) and collaboration with other municipalities which have translated into significant cost savings. In fact, we are a model for many communities. Additional opportunities in this area will be explored.

The Village Board and Long Range Financial Planning Sub-Committee are in the process of evaluating each of these options in detail and will complete its assessment before Spring. Subsequently, we plan to hold a Town Hall meeting to speak directly to the community on these issues. We have come a long way in the last six months and I want to commend our Trustees and Village staff for their efforts. The extent of the fiscal crisis demanded an urgent response and it was delivered. We are now on a timeline where, with your engagement, this matter will be resolved. This is encouraging news. We expect a final recommendation to the community by early Summer. As I said, 2010 will become a year of resolution. Inaction is not an option. Above all else remember, this is your community and your future. Decisions made now will impact our community for years to come. We will facilitate the conversation but ultimately the decision will be up to you. Please consider this as an invitation to engage in this matter of critical significance to our future. An eternal optimist, I will close on a positive note. The last few months have been vigorous as we have come to grips with the challenges facing our community; however, it is during these times that the true character of a community is revealed. Ultimately, what distinguishes our Village is its residents. With your engagement and support, we can and will resolve these issues, set Northfield on solid financial footing and, ensure that the quality of life that attracted us to this community is preserved for the future. I want to close by thanking all of you on behalf of the Trustees and Village staff for your support. We will keep you informed as we move through the process in the weeks and months ahead. Again, best wishes to you and your families in the new year.

## Community Events

### League of Women Voters Sponsors Forums for Feb. 2 Primary Election

The Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth League of Women Voters gives you an opportunity to meet the candidates for the Feb. 2 Primary Election as they face off in a neutral environment. Visit [www.lwv-wnk.org](http://www.lwv-wnk.org) for a schedule of the January meetings and locations.

### Temple Jeremiah Hosts Documentary "Banished" in Honor of M.L. King Jr. Day

In cooperation with the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, Temple Jeremiah will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by hosting famed documentary, "Banished: How Whites Drove Blacks Out of Town in America" on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 1:00 p.m. at Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ. A discussion will follow. This program is suitable for ages 13 and up.

### Register New District 29 Kindergarten Students at Middlefork School on Jan. 27

Parents of prospective kindergarten students at least five years of age by Sept. 1, 2010 are asked to register children for the 2010-11 school year on Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Parents should bring an original of the child's official birth certificate to be copied. Entering students need not be present. For questions, call 847-881-9500 prior to Jan. 27.

## Be Part of Winter Carnival Fun January 16

All residents are invited to experience the fun of ice skating, saucer races, a family snow sculpture contest (bring your own decorating materials) and sled decorating contest at Northfield Park District's Winter Carnival, **Saturday, Jan. 16** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clarkson Park. All new outdoor carnival games include igloo golf, snowball launch and bean bag toss. Free coffee and hot chocolate. Concession food also available for purchase. Contact the Park District for more information, 847-446-4653 or visit their website, [www.northfieldparks.org](http://www.northfieldparks.org).

### Sunset Ridge School Dist. 29 Begins Community Meetings

School Dist. 29 will continue the facilities study begun last year to assist the District in designing a master plan for future facilities by engaging the community, staff, and the Board of Education in meetings that offer an engaging collaborative process leading to a plan that supports the school's educational vision and provides the greatest benefit to the community. Meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Sunset Ridge School (room location to be announced): 1/26, 2/16, 3/16, 4/6, 5/4, 5/25 and 6/22. Parents, community members, staff and representatives of community groups are invited to participate in the meetings. Call 847-881-9400 for more information.

## Calendar of Events

**Call the Village for the location of the meeting you want to attend and agendas.**

Jan. 11 & Feb. 8 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.  
Jan. 19 & Feb. 16 - Village COW and Board Meetings - 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.  
Jan. 27 & Feb. 24 - Traffic & Transportation Meetings - 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 1 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 2 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Mar. 2 - Village Budget Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

### The Northfield News

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Village of Northfield

361 Happ Road, Northfield, IL 60093  
847-446-9200 (TDD)847-446-7131

President Fred Gougler

Trustee John N. Chapin, Jr.	Trustee Joan Frazier
Trustee Terry J. Gottlieb	Trustee Brian Kozminski
Trustee Fred Teichert	Trustee George Warga

**Village Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday**  
**847-446-9200 or 446-7131/TDD; Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies.**

**Go to Cable Channel 6 or [www.northfieldil.org](http://www.northfieldil.org) for Village News**

## Resident Input

The Village President and Board of Trustees provide this opportunity to address any questions or concerns that you may have. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Forward inquiries to Stacy Alberts Sigman, Village Manager, Village Hall, 361 Happ Road, Northfield, IL 60093