



NEWS

PRE SORT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WINNETKA, IL
PERMIT NO. 357

361 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847-446-9200

March/April 2010
Volume 20, No.2
www.northfieldil.org

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Northfield, IL 60093

Other Important Meetings

IDOT Holds Open House to Discuss Willow Road Plans Thursday, Mar. 4, 4:30-7:30 PM

Northfield residents are invited to attend an Open House Public Meeting hosted by IDOT concerning Willow Road from Waukegan Road east to the Edens Expressway as part of the Context Sensitive Solutions process. The meeting will be held in Northbrook at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Winnetka Ballroom A&B, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be an audiovisual presentation shown every half-hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. IDOT will outline its planning process, review transportation needs gathered to date and seek additional public comments regarding the project. The meeting is accessible to disabled individuals. Anyone needing special assistance can contact 847-705-4125.

Proposed FY2010-11 Budget Discussed Mar. 9 at 6 PM

All Northfield residents are invited to attend the Village Budget Workshop Tuesday, March 9 beginning at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed budget for FY2010-11 at the Village Hall, 361 Happ.

**Get Ready for
Village-Wide Spring
Clean Up Day
Saturday, May 15**

All Items at the Curb at 7 AM

Village Assesses Options to Address Projected Budget Deficits in Coming Years

Town Hall Meeting Scheduled for April 27 at 7 PM

Soon after the start of his term in 2009, Northfield Village President, Fred Gougler came face to face with the depth of the recession and its adverse impact on Village finances. Northfield was facing financial problems it had never had to deal with in the past - a deficit projected to reach up to \$1 million and more in years to come. President Gougler acted quickly forming the Long Range Financial Planning Sub Committee and the Personnel Compensation and Benefits Sub Committee and charged them with getting an in-depth look at the Village's financial situation by analyzing past budgets and projections, expenditures, whether there are better, more cost efficient ways to operate, as well as reviewing its personnel, compensation and benefit policies. Following the completion of these reviews, he then charged the Long Range Financial Planning Sub Committee with finding a solution to the Village's deficit. Inaction, he stated is not an option to what Sub Committee Chair Trustee Jack Chapin described as "a steady predictable path toward insolvency."

Four Options Developed and Considered in Detail

The four options the Sub Committee discussed and reviewed in their search for a solution to long range deficits were:

Option 1. Cut Staff and Village Services by 20%. This option would entail a significant change to service delivery impacting Police, Fire/Rescue, Public Works and virtually all aspects of the 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. Assess the Merits of Becoming a Home Rule Community. All Illinois communities with populations in excess of 25,000 are granted Home Rule authority. Since Northfield's population falls beneath that threshold, it has a restricted level of authority and is constrained in its capacity to access alternative revenue sources and exercise a greater degree of local control over State mandates. 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 it to address the deficit without dependence on property taxes alone. This option would require a referendum and voter approval.

Option 4. Consider Strategic Restructuring, Consolidations 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 over the years. In fact, Northfield has been a model for many communities and additional opportunities in this area would be explored.

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)

Village News

Village Joins with Park District to Celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 30, at 10:00 AM

The Village and Park District will join with fourth grade students from Sunset Ridge School to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. at Willow Park, 401 Wagner Road. The Arbor Day proclamation will be read and a tree planted to celebrate the event. Following the tree planting, students will read their winning Arbor Day poems based on this year's theme, "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise" and participate in various activities. Residents are welcome to attend. Call 847-446-9200 x2231 for more details.

Northfield Honored for 25 Consecutive Years as a "Tree City USA"

For the year 2009, Northfield has been designated as a "Tree City USA" for the 25th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Each year Northfield submits information on their tree programs in order to be considered for this award. TREE CITY USA began as a 1976 Bicentennial project co-sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters and USDA-Forest Service. The national award is presented to communities that demonstrate a commitment to environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care.

In addition to their joy and beauty, trees increase property values; they cool and beautify the Village, reduce erosion of topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, clean the air, produce oxygen, provide habitat for wildlife as well as provide paper, wood, fuel and countless wood products.

Trees Help the Village Stay "GREEN" and Help You Conserve Energy!

Options to Address Budget Deficits

(Cont'd from Pg. 1)

After carefully considering each of the options, the Long Range Financial Planning Sub Committee recommended advancing Option 3 - Assessing the Merits of Becoming a Home Rule Community. This option, which is in place for most of the neighboring communities with the exception of Glencoe and Kenilworth, would enable Northfield to continue to provide the existing level of life safety and public works services which its residents have come to expect and importantly, provide the flexibility to secure its financial stability in the future. By expanding the scope of revenue options widely used by other Home Rule municipalities, the Village could fund its projected deficit without undue burden on property taxes alone. Non Home Rule communities such as Glencoe and Kenilworth have property tax rates much higher than Northfield. Home Rule communities such as Wilmette, Winnetka, Northbrook and Glenview typically have more diverse and balanced sources of revenue. In addition, and of equal importance, Home Rule authority would provide a greater degree of local control over issues such as zoning and ordinance enforcement.

The Board is now turning its attention to a thorough assessment of Home Rule and President Gougler has assembled a Task Force to address this issue specifically. The Task Force has been charged with evaluating the legal and financial implications of Home Rule authority. As Home Rule authority would require voter approval via referendum, the Task Force will also consider an educational program directed at informing residents of the important aspects of Home Rule and how it would be implemented.

While the Village has not been silent about the growing financial problems it faces, many residents are still unaware of them and the important deliberations that have been going on over the past months. President Gougler has been sharing information with residents through his financial briefings and letters in the bi-monthly newsletter available on the Village website, www.northfieldil.org and via E-News. To further engage residents and to hear their comments and questions on the Village's critical financial issues, **a Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chamber**, 361 Happ Road in Northfield. All residents are encouraged to attend.

New Water and Sewer Rates Go into Effect May 1

In December, the Village Board approved a 7.5% water rate increase and a 10% sanitary sewer increase which are needed to maintain and update the systems' infrastructure as well as to cover a wholesale price increase from the Village of Winnetka for water in fiscal year 2010-11. For each 100 cubic feet of water billed in each quarter annual period on or after May 1, 2010, the rate will be \$4.40 (up from \$4.14) and there will be a minimum water charge of \$48.40 (formerly \$45.54) for each quarter annual period where the volume is equal to or less than 1,100 cubic feet. The sanitary sewer rate will be \$1.51 (up 14 cents) per 100 cubic feet billed. The minimum water and sewer charge will increase from \$60.72 per quarter to \$65.01 where the volume is equal to or less than 1,100 cubic feet of water. Users of sewer only service residing within the Village will be charged \$96.41 for each quarter annual period billed May 1 or after. *Note: The rate increases are on the base water and sewer service rates and do not apply to the debt service amount.*

Village Welcomes Three New Businesses to Downtown

The Village Board has approved Special Uses for three new businesses in the Village Center. ProMotion Spinal and Sports Rehabilitation operated by Drs. Sotos and Pajerski, will locate at 300 Happ Road, in Suite 107. They provide chiropractic/physical therapy, massage therapy and exercise and joint manipulation. U Dawg U, a fast service restaurant offering a broad menu including hot dogs, burgers, sandwiches, salads and more will open in late spring at 300 Happ, Suites 108 and 109. Owners previously had locations in Niles and Glenview. Also, Results 22, a personal training facility that focuses on a healthy lifestyle with nutritional guidance, massage therapy and speed and agility programs for children, will be located at 203 Northfield Road.

Other Village News

Yardwaste Collection Season Begins April 5 for Residents who Sign Up

For residents who contract with Waste Management Northwest for landscape waste service, the season in Northfield begins Monday, April 5 and runs **Mondays** through December 6 (Tuesdays on holidays). Yardwaste collection is an optional service that must be rescheduled with the start of each new contract year (May 1). This service is available to residents at \$61.32 for the 2010 season. Paper leaf bags or garbage-type containers clearly marked "**yardwaste**" can be used. There is no limit to the number of yardwaste bags or containers residents can put at the curb for collection. Landscape materials that will be collected include grass clippings, leaves, garden material and small branches (up to two inches in diameter and four feet in length). Branches set out for collection must be tied with string made of natural fibers. ***Do not put yardwaste in unmarked Recycling or Garbage totes or plastic bags - it will not be picked up.*** All landscape waste must be kept separate from regular garbage, rubbish and recyclable materials. **To initiate landscape service for 2010, call Waste Management (1-800-796-9696) between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

Waste and Recycling Collection Rates to Increase by 2.2% Effective May 1

The start of the second year of the new seven year contract with Waste Management begins May 1, 2010 for all residential and commercial services including refuse, recycling, landscape waste collection, roll-off container rental and other miscellaneous waste services. A new Waste Management brochure outlining the revised rates will be mailed in May. Rate increases are tied to the CPIU rate with a maximum annual increase of 5% and a minimum of 2% whichever is less. For 2010-11, rates will increase by 2.2% making the basic monthly rate for curbside pick up of waste and recycling increase from \$14.13 to \$14.44 per month. Additional services for residents who request them include twice a week pick up, backdoor service, yardwaste collection, equipment rental and special pick-ups. Refuse and recycling will continue to be picked up on Thursdays with the second waste pick-up on Mondays. Landscape waste, which will increase to \$61.32 for the season (Apr. 5-Dec. 6), is picked up on Mondays only for those who contract for this service. To change service, order new service or report problems, contact Waste Management, 1-800-796-9696.

Who to Contact to Clear Blocked Rivers and Streams to Prevent Flooding in Your Area

To report small stream blockages near your home and to submit a blockage clearing request, contact the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, 1-708-588-3171 or visit their website, www.mwrd.org.

Census Questionnaire Mailing in Mid-March

One of the shortest and an easy-to-fill out Census questionnaire will be arriving in the mail beginning in mid-March. It contains 10 questions pertaining to name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and homeownership status of each individual residing at a particular address as of April 1, 2010. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all information and violations are crimes that carry severe penalties. The U.S. Census Bureau collects this information to determine how more than \$400 billion is allocated to local and State governments and other groups over the next 10 years including schools, job training centers, hospitals, emergency services, senior centers and bridges, tunnels and other public works projects. Census information also determines which States gain or lose representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Take a few minutes to complete this important questionnaire and help shape the decisions that affect our community over the next 10 years. Forms not completed and returned will be followed up on by a visit from a census taker. For more information, visit the 2010 Census website at www.census.gov/2010.

Local Bridge Repairs Mean Detours on Two Roads in Spring/Summer 2010

The Village of Northfield recently learned it was successful in securing \$100,000 in federal funding for resurfacing work on the Old Willow Road bridge over the Middlefork of the Chicago River and secured an additional \$244,000 for the Cook County Highway Dept. to complete similar repair work on the Winnetka Road bridge west of Happ Road. These local bridges will be closed to all traffic at various times this spring and summer. To avoid concurrent closings and to minimize disruption to the Middlefork School campus during the school year, the Village has delayed construction work on the Old Willow Road bridge until mid-July. Meanwhile, three months of repair work on the Winnetka Road bridge is scheduled to begin in mid-April according to Cook County Highway officials. The bridge will be closed to traffic for the full duration of the construction project. Please check the Village's website for updates on these bridge repair projects. Your patience and cooperation during these projects is appreciated.

Get Ready for Village-Wide Clean Up Day - Saturday, May 15 at 7:00 AM

Plan your spring cleaning projects and get rid of old or unused items that cannot be recycled from your closets, basement, attic and garage on **Saturday, May 15**. All items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. No hazardous waste, construction debris, landscape waste or "white goods" (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) will be picked up. Contact Waste Management to arrange for a special pick up of white goods and go to www.epa.state.il.us/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste for information on finding hazardous waste disposal sites.

Community Events

Cub Scouts Host All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast March 6

Northfield Cub Scout Troop 17 invites the community to their annual pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday, March 6 from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Road. Proceeds help support local Cub Scout activities throughout the year. Tickets: \$5.00.

Northern Suburban Special Recreation Assoc. Holds Gala Fundraiser at Fields BMW Mar. 6

Enjoy a gala fundraising event Saturday, March 6 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for NSSRA's 40th anniversary held at Fields BMW, 700 W. Frontage Road in Northfield. The evening includes music, food, silent and live auctions. Proceeds help increase awareness of NSSRA and support participation in recreation programs by adults and children with disabilities. Call 847-509-9400 for ticket information.

Park District Offers Activities during TV Tuneout Week

TV Tuneout Week is March 7-13 and the Northfield Park District will host fun activities to keep children busy. There will be Open Gym from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Mar. 7 and Mar. 13; Bingo on Mar. 8 from 4:15-5:15 p.m. and Dodgeball on Mar. 10 from 4:15-5:15 p.m. Call 847-446-4428 to sign up for Bingo.

Best-Selling Author to Speak at Temple Jeremiah on Mar. 14

Daniel Levin, author of "The Last Ember" will be the keynote speaker at the Jewish United Fund breakfast program on Sunday, Mar. 14 at 10:00 a.m. at 937 Happ. RSVP, 847-441-5760.

New Trier High School Group Says "Lights Out!"

The Integrated Global Studies School at New Trier Twp. High School has asked the Village's help to raise awareness to conserve energy among all residents having determined that lighting illumination consumes the largest amount of electricity in the average household. Because the Village Board recognizes the environmental benefits of energy conservation, it supports the students' efforts and encourages residents to participate in a community "blackout" during which residents refrain from turning on lights for a one hour period on the third Sunday of each month beginning Sunday, May 16, 2010. Research by the students of Integrated Global Studies School estimate that an average household with ten rooms and eight 80 Kwh light bulbs in each room can eliminate approximately eight pounds of carbon emissions from the atmosphere. All residents are encouraged to support this effort to reduce their energy consumption and join in the positive impact on the community house by house.

Farmers Market Opens Saturday, May 29

7:30 AM to 1:00 PM across from New Trier West

Calendar of Events

Call the Village Hall for the location of the meeting you want to attend

Mar. 8 & Apr. 12 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 16 & Apr. 20 - Village Committee and Board Meetings - 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 17 & Apr. 28 - Traffic & Transportation Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 5 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 6 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 27 - Town Hall Meeting on Village Finances - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 30 - Village celebrates Arbor Day - 10:30 a.m.

The Northfield News

published since 1976 by the
Village of Northfield

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

President Fred Gougler

Trustee John N. Chapin

Trustee Brian Kozminski

Trustee Joan Frazier

Trustee Fred Teichert

Trustee Terry J. Gottlieb

Trustee George Warga

Village Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

847-446-9200 or 847-446-7131/TDD; Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies.

Watch Cable Channel 6 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 so a response can be provided.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

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