



NORTHFIELD NEWS

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Important First Step in the Election Process is Registering to Vote

By casting your vote in the General Primary Election on Tuesday, Mar. 20, you can help narrow the field of candidates for the Nov. 6 General Election. An important first step is to register to vote **by Feb. 21**. If you recently turned 18, became a U.S. citizen, changed your name or moved, you will want to be sure you are registered to vote. You can register by obtaining an application by mail or in-person at the Village Hall. First time voters who register by mail must vote in person, either absentee in person or at the polling place. Some important dates to keep in mind for the General Primary Election on March 20: --First/Last day of Early Voting is Feb. 27/Mar. 15. Check locations at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

--First/Last day for registered voters to make application by mail or in person for an official absentee ballot is Feb. 9/ Mar. 15.

Proposed Village Budget for FY2012-2013 to Be Discussed Mar. 6 - 6:00 PM

The Village Board will discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012-13 at a workshop meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Tuesday, Mar. 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Village Hall, 361 Happ. The budget covers capital projects, equipment replacement and proposed departmental budgets. Residents are invited to attend. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

President's Briefing

Moving Forward on Long-Standing Issues - The Plan for 2012

Embracing Change a Challenge that Brings Rewards

As I look at the year ahead, I see two long-standing projects on Northfield's agenda that we will be moving forward on and, done well, will enhance our community in important ways. One of the issues, of course, is Willow Road. At the December Board meeting, the Board of Trustees and I thanked the resident members of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) who volunteered their time over the past two years to attend meetings and study the detailed information provided by IDOT. It has been a long and sometimes arduous assignment to ensure IDOT and the other communities heard Northfield's concerns. In 2012, IDOT will be sitting down with the Village and Schools to discuss and negotiate exactly what elements must be incorporated into the plans to make sure safety and preserving the character of the community are represented in the final roadway design concepts. The second issue we face is storm water improvements designed to address repeated flooding in several areas of the community. A thorough review of what is necessary and of how to pay for these kinds of improvements is being considered and weighed. A strategic planning meeting will be held Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Village Hall and residents are welcome to attend.

Before we talk more about these topics as well as what other issues will impact us in 2012, we cannot ignore the obvious - this is a Presidential election year. The Primary Election to narrow the number of candidates running will be held on March 20 with the General Election held November 6. Due to the recent remapping of election districts, there are some changes you should know regarding who represents you as a Northfield resident. (Cont'd on Pg. 2)



President Fred Gougler recognizes members of CAG for their time and hard work on behalf of the community in studying various options for the design of Willow Road.

Electronics Banned in Landfills As of Jan. 1 - WM Announces New Collection Program

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, Public Act 97-0287, the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, bans the disposal of electronics at landfills and establishes a statewide system for recycling and/or reusing computers, monitors, televisions and printers discarded from residences. This means that residents can no longer dispose of old electronics by putting them out for collection with their regular waste. However, to meet the obligation of the new Act, Waste Management will begin a new optional residential service of special pickups of electronics for a cost of \$25 for three (3) items. Only one of the items can be a TV; each additional TV is another \$25. To arrange for a special pickup of electronics after Jan. 1, call Waste Management, 1-800-796-9696. Residents can also bring their electronics to one of the registered Residential E-Waste Collection Sites listed on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's website, www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/index.html. After you are on the EPA website, under the page entitled, Electronic Waste Recycling, click on "collectors/recyclers/refurbishers" and then on "Registered Residential E-Waste Collection Sites." Call the number listed for the location selected to find out the dates and times when the site is open and what electronic items they recycle.

Village Awarded Grants to Upgrade Municipal Buildings with Energy Efficient Lights

The Village has been awarded two grants totaling \$47,000 as part of a green initiative to upgrade the Village Hall, Police Dept., and the Public Works/Fire Rescue facility with energy efficient lighting. The change is expected to reduce energy consumption for lighting by 70% which equates to eliminating 381,984 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions every year! Because existing fixtures will become obsolete in a few years due to new federal standards for lighting tubes, the upgrade will reduce the Village's cost for this required change by 74%.

President's Briefing *(Cont'd from Pg. 1)*

Re-Mapping Changes Congressional and State Representatives

For many years, our Congressional District has been the 10th District. Our Congressman elected in 2010 was Robert Dold. Re-drawing of district boundaries now has Northfield in the 9th Congressional District with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, whose local office is in Evanston, representing us. Northfield's State Senate District continues to be the 9th District with Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg, who recently announced that he will not run for re-election in 2012. Finally, Northfield has been part of the Illinois House of Representative's 17th District with our State Representative being Daniel Biss also elected in 2010. Under the new mapping, Northfield will now be part of the 18th District served by Representative Robyn Gabel. We continue to be in the 14th Cook County Commission District with Commissioner Gregg Goslin. For more information and dates for the Primary Election, see the article on Page 1 of this Newsletter. To review the new district maps, go to www.cookcountyclerk.com and click on "maps."

IDOT Determines Remaining Section of Willow Will Be Four Lanes

After many years of meetings, reviews of statistics and design plan discussions, IDOT will move forward with a four lane plan for Willow Road in the area from Sunset Ridge Road to Northfield Avenue - the last remaining two lane section in Northfield. IDOT is scheduled to sit down with Northfield to discuss how best to incorporate design elements aimed at providing safety for those crossing the road as well as vehicles making left turns. Planted medians with cutouts for turning are part of the plan features being discussed as are sidewalks, curbs, better signalization, crosswalks and improved drainage. IDOT has asked for several meetings with the Village, Park and School Districts in early 2012 to incorporate these types of design elements. IDOT plans to hold a spring meeting to share the final plans with the public. It is hoped all residents will plan to attend.

Continued Emphasis on Storm Water Improvements

Over the past few years, it has been proven that 100 year storm events happen more often than predicted and have devastated homes and properties throughout the area. Northfield has not been spared and it has become more evident that improvements to drainage in flood prone areas are needed. The Village Board and staff will continue working with its engineering consultant to identify and prioritize projects and to work with the appropriate agency having jurisdiction - the State, County, IDOT, Forest Preserve, or MWRDGC to encourage them to incorporate projects that provide the most benefit for the greatest number of properties into their future long term planning. For example, the Village was successful in getting MWRDGC to include three large storm water projects totaling over \$8,400,000 into their long term detailed watershed plan. The Village is also working with Cook County Highway Department on the reconstruction of Winnetka Avenue and is hoping to include an oversized storm water system in the project. However, due to budget constraints, the County does not know when the project will be scheduled in their long range plans. Also, recently the Village retained an engineering consultant to study Churchill Street, an area hit hard during recent storms, to explore possible projects to mitigate flooding. It was determined that in addition to storm water improvements estimated at over \$5 million which are being included in the discussion with IDOT as part of the Willow Road widening project, replacement of an existing pipe on the south side of Winnetka Avenue near Dickens would be the best way to mitigate flooding in this area. This project would cost approximately \$212,000.

Part of the Village's discussions will also focus on finding ways to pay for suggested storm water improvements. Applying for grants is one option which typically requires the community or other agency to share in the expenses and can add additional time in getting the project completed should the project be selected for grant money. The Village has also been exploring implementing a storm water

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President's Briefing *(Cont'd from Pg. 2)*

"utility" which would ensure a reliable and equitable source of funding for storm water projects. Village Board and staff members will be meeting regularly to discuss these issues and how to effectively manage flood control and at what cost. **A strategic meeting to discuss storm water is planned for Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.** It is a public meeting at the Village Hall at which the Board and staff will explore various storm water options. Residents are invited to attend.

Identifying New Businesses That Can Improve Our Revenues

While the economy is showing some signs of improvement, there remain many variables. Undoubtedly, elections this year play a role as businesses adopt a "wait and see" attitude. However, the Village continues to explore all options with developers and interested parties in turning its vacant parcels and/or facilities into revenues that support the community's long range development plan. Being a home rule community with a stable and vibrant downtown area with a high occupancy rate, makes Northfield a desirable location for most types of businesses and development. To get a better sense of what Northfield does well and to identify where we can improve, a questionnaire will be sent this winter to the business community and all Village residents.

Taking on ComEd Results in Historic and Innovative Improvements, Upgrades and Accountability on Performance

The July 2011 storms that knocked out power yet again for residents and resulted in more flooding was the final straw. Residents throughout the north and northwest suburbs had enough and the municipalities that serve them had too. We were frustrated by the lack of response by ComEd after days of power outages and their inability to help local governments provide timely and useful information to help and protect our residents. As a result, the communities gathered together as part of the Northwest Municipal Conference to make sure that if ComEd was to get approval of its proposed grid modernization plan, they had to be held accountable for their performance with penalties attached for failing to achieve them and, we were successful! One of the leaders of the two groups formed was our Village Manager Stacy Sigman. She, along with other municipal managers helped to ensure that recent ComEd legislation was strengthened and reporting and compliance standards tightened to produce better reliability and accountability for all 400 communities. She also negotiated specific upgrades for Northfield. Under the program which starts January 2012, ComEd will file a report every June with the ICC showing how it performed against each standard. The President and Chief Operating Officer of ComEd, Anna Pramaggiore, stated that "this filing is historic and places Illinois at the forefront of innovative regulatory strategies that both stimulate needed infrastructure investment and hold utilities accountable to specific customer benefits from that build-out."

Garden Club Volunteers Use Their Talents to Give the Village Added Sparkle Each Season

Like busy bees, a core group of volunteer Garden Club members gather on the appointed day, rain or shine, to add their special touch to municipal planting areas, planter pots in front of the library and post office and at various downtown locations. They work their magic providing a festive look with holiday greens and bright bows; add a touch of spring and extra color for summer with annual flowers and perennial plantings. They look for the tired, dull spots to brighten them up and fill them in with flowering trees and bushes. The Village Board and staff would like to acknowledge the Garden Club volunteers' work and thank them for helping to make Northfield look its best year round and their generous donation of plantings. We hope residents will stop to admire their efforts and when seeing them offer their appreciation. Volunteer activities like this make our community work better!

State Law Prohibits E-Mailing and Texting While Driving

Village Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2012 (3rd Tuesday of month at 7 PM)

Board Meetings

January 17
February 21
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17
August 21
September 18
October 16
November (no meeting)
December 3*

(* First Monday to adopt tax levy.

Assistant Finance Director Retiring after 20 Years Plans to Increase Her Travels

Her license plate once said it all, "To Travel" which is exactly what the Assistant Finance Director Josephine Jaeger plans to do following her retirement on January 13. Josephine began her career with the Village in 1992 as a Bookkeeper and quickly demonstrated her skill with numbers and charts. She was appointed Assistant to the Finance Director the following year and in January 1994 was named Assistant Director. In her position, Josephine handled day to day accounting functions, assisted with the annual budget and tax levy, monitored capital projects, maintained the equipment replacement fund, served as liaison to the Police Pension Fund Board and coordinated the annual audit. Josephine admits to being happy about giving up the drive to and from work on I-294, particularly during the winter months. Warmer temperature numbers are now on her mind as she closes her books and goes in search of new adventures. To fill the vacancy, Finance Director Steve Noble recently hired Mark LoPiccolo as Senior Accountant. Mark, a CPA and a graduate of Loyola University, will start January 9. He was formerly an accountant with the City of Highland Park for over three years and lives with his wife and two children in Niles.

Community Events

Enjoy Skating with Warm Ups by the Fireplace at Clarkson Park

Bring children and friends for a skate at Clarkson Park, 1950 Willow Road, with warm ups in the Lodge and hot chocolate and snacks available for purchase. Skating is free. Rink hours when ice conditions are favorable are:

Winter Break Hours

Dec. 16: Noon to 9 pm

Dec. 17-Jan. 2: Mon-Sat 10 am-9 pm;

Sun 11 am-9 pm

Holiday Hours

Dec. 24: 10 am-2 pm; Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 31: 10 am-4 pm; Jan. 1: 10 am-9 pm

Regular Hours - Jan. 3-Mid Feb.

Mon-Thurs 4-8 pm

Fri: 4-9 pm; Sat: 10 am-9 pm;

Sun: 11 am-8 pm

If you are interested in working as an ice rink guard, call Neal, 847-446-4428.

Two Exciting New Youth Classes Offered by the Park District

Have a budding engineer? Have your child become a Play-Well Engineer. Students will build cities, bridges and motorized cars/planes and explore creative possibilities with the LEGO* system. Separate programs for children ages K-6 yrs. and grades 1-3 begin 1/12 thru 3/15. Call for more info and sign up. Also offered is, "Headin' to Broadway" for children grades 1-5. Skyline Studios Inc. provides musical theatre experience featuring songs, dances, scenes from Willy Wonka and Seussical! Classes 1/9-3/19 improve communication skills, self-esteem, respect for others and help explore their creative voice.

Winter Carnival Held Jan. 21 - Clarkson Park

All residents are invited to experience the thrill of ice skating, saucer races, a family snow sculpture contest (bring your own decorating materials) from 2:30 -3:00 p.m. and other activities at Northfield Park District's **Winter Carnival, to be held Saturday, Jan. 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clarkson Park.** There will also be craft projects, bingo with prizes and smores! Concession will be open for food and drink purchases. Contact the Park District for more information, 847-446-4653 or visit their website, www.northfieldparks.org.

District 29 Holds Registration for New Kindergarten Students on Jan. 18 at Middlefork School on Wagner Road

Parents of prospective kindergarten students at least five years of age by Sept. 1, 2012 should register their children for the 2012-13 school year at Middlefork School on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. Parents will complete an enrollment form, emergency record card and an early developmental history form. Also needed is a copy of the child's official birth certificate as required by Illinois law. Entering students need not be present. Any parent or guardian unable to attend on Jan. 18 should contact the school office, 847-881-9500 prior to that date. Parking permitted in the main lot along Wagner Road but not in the school driveway.

Calendar of Events

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

Jan. 3 & Feb. 6 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 3 & Feb. 7 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 9 & Feb. 13 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 10 - Village Board Strategic Planning Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 - Village COW and Board Meetings - 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 - Village Budget Meeting - 6:00 p.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, Jr.

Trustee Joan Frazier

Trustee Terry J. Gottlieb

Trustee Allan M. Kaplan

Trustee Brian Kozminski

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 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.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

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