



NEWS

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Voters to Elect 3 Village Trustees at the April 17 Consolidated Election

For the Consolidated Election, registered voters will cast their ballot to fill three Trustee openings on the Village Board. The caucus-slotted candidates on the ballot who are running unopposed are John Chapin, Jr., Joan Frazier and Fred Teichert.

New Early Voting Period Starts March 26 - Ends April 12

Voters have the option of casting their ballot in person during the Early Voting period, March 26-April 12, voting Absentee by mail or in person April 13-April 16 or at the appropriate polling place listed below on election day, April 17. During early voting, voters do not need a reason to vote early but must provide a government issued ID such as a current drivers license or state-issued ID card with a photo. In-person absentee voters will need to declare a reason for voting absentee and bring two valid forms of identification.

April 17 Polling Places

(Open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Precincts - Northfield Twp.:

8--Divine Word International

2001 Waukegan Rd., Techny

9 & 23--Lutheran Church of Ascen.
460 Sunset Ridge Rd.

37--Park District Community Ctr.
401 Wagner Rd.

61--Northfield Community Church
Willow Rd. at Wagner Rd.

Precincts - New Trier Twp.:

20 & 44--PW/Fire-Rescue Bldg.

1800 Winnetka Rd.

President's Briefing

Dear Northfield Neighbor,

The year 2007 will produce some important changes for the Village of Northfield that impact every resident and further the Village's goal of providing you with the highest quality municipal services in the most cost effective manner. These changes fall mainly into two categories:

1. Infrastructure improvements on the Village's water system, and
2. Improving the Village's general finances and providing for a balanced budget

Water Mains

Northfield's Lake Michigan water is piped from Winnetka through two huge water mains that pass under the Skokie Lagoons and the Edens Expressway. These mains need to be replaced this year. They are 80 and 60 years old and have already had several small ruptures. If a major rupture were to occur, it would result in the loss of water service to the community.

The Village Board has faced the seriousness of this matter and has taken steps to replace these old mains by approving the issuance of up to \$3,950,000 in bonds. These bonds will finance this project as well as an emergency interconnect with the Village of Glencoe and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. Because the Village operates on the fundamental principal of "intergenerational equity," meaning that various generations benefiting from such major infrastructure improvements share in the cost, the water bonds will be repaid over a 20 year period from water revenues.

Beginning approximately May 1, residents will see an increase in their water bills. However, due to our long history of prudent financial practices, the Village has a sterling credit rating which will help us secure a low interest rate on the bonds and keep the necessary water rate increase manageable.

General Village Finances

In recent years, the Village of Northfield has been faced with dramatically increasing costs in the areas of state imposed unfunded mandates, fuel and utilities, health care, fire services and state regulated pensions.

(Continued on Pg. 2)

Daylight Saving Time Begins Earlier - March 11
Ends Later - November 4
Set Clocks Ahead One Hour - Loose 1 Hour

President's Briefing (Cont'd)

As a non home rule community, we are under State imposed tax caps which limit increases in property taxes and our ability to generate revenues from other sources. To address the increasing gap between revenues and expenses, the Village has aggressively stepped up measures to reduce costs. In addition, we have reduced our cash reserves to a more moderate, but still secure, level.

We will continue on this path in 2007 by reducing staff through early retirements and attrition and through more general cuts in operational costs in all of the Village departments. Also, as part of the operating cuts, the Village has had to make the difficult decision to discontinue partially subsidizing basic waste and recycling collection costs. This will mean that for the new contract year beginning May 1, 2007, the cost for basic refuse collection (one time per week service at the curb) of \$10.17 per month, will be billed direct to all residents. Multi-family homeowners who use multi-use dumpsters will continue to pay for waste collection through their association.

Additional details about these changes have been mailed to your home. After reading this information, if you have questions, feel free to contact Village Manager Stacy Sigman or her Executive Assistant Linda Gittel at the Village Hall, 847-446-9200 x2231. If you prefer, you can email the Village Board via the Northfield web site, www.northfieldil.org, or fill out the Resident Input section of the Northfield News (see page 6).

The Village has spent considerable time and effort weighing our available options to ensure that we provide cost effective, high quality services to the resident of Northfield. We will continue this effort as we finalize our 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

I truly appreciate your support of these changes and look forward to another successful year.

One Step Residents Can Take Today to Reduce Congestion and Improve Safety on Willow Road

While the the Village's plan for Willow Road, which was endorsed by residents and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and preliminary engineering started a few years ago, now lays in "limbo," some of the concepts presented in that plan can be incorporated in residents' driving habits today without making any roadway changes. For example, the plan called for adding turn lanes and cul-de-sacs on some streets along Willow Road to cut down on traffic congestion and to improve safety by preventing rear-end accidents. Although actual roadway changes have not been made, residents can incorporate some of the recommended concepts that accomplish the plan's goals during peak traffic times. One of the most accident prone areas along Willow Road is at Bristol Street where four lanes east of the bridge quickly narrow to a two-lane roadway heading west. At the same location, there are two very busy parks with ball fields and playgrounds as well as a grade school and other much used facilities. Traffic in this area comes to a stop with every car making a left turn. To increase resident safety in this area, we encourage residents to drive a little farther west on Willow Road and make left turns at the Wagner Road light then left onto Bosworth to reach other streets in this area such as Bristol, Abbott Court, Avon, Churchill, Dickens, etc. By making this one small change, residents can do a lot to keep traffic moving through the community and improve their safety and the safety of others. If Northfield's plan for Willow Road is ever implemented, residents would be required to make this change. Adopt the practice today, **"No Left Turns from the Middlefork bridge to Wagner Road."**

For Your Information

Village Center Task Force Reports on Progress

At their most recent meeting in February, the Village Center Task Force discussed redevelopment alternatives for the Village Center district. The goal of the Task Force is to create a viable plan to enhance the downtown area as a pedestrian-oriented retail and service core for the Northfield community. Much of the focus has been to build upon the existing array of specialty shops, restaurants and niche boutiques that make Northfield a distinct destination point while serving the everyday needs of Village residents. The Task Force is looking at improved streetscapes including lighting, landscape, hardscape and street furnishings to help reinforce the Village Center "experience" and encourage multi-purpose visits without the need to drive from place to place. Another goal of the group is the creation of a civic space where Village functions, events and activities can occur providing opportunities for residents to interact and strengthen the sense of community. Once meetings with Village Center property owners and key stakeholders are complete, conceptual plans can be developed and displayed for community-wide meetings and resident opinions. To follow the progress of the Task Force, visit the Northfield web site, www.northfieldil.org, watch for information on Cable Channel 6 and in future newsletters.

Garage and Estate Sales Require Permits

Residents who want to hold a garage or estate sale must obtain a permit from the Village and may not hold more than two garage sales and one estate sale per calendar year. The permit for garage sales is in the form of a pre-printed sign. Residents are permitted two signs on the lot or premises where the sale will be conducted on the day of the sale. A sign may be displayed on the parkway of the nearest public street. Garage Sale permits are available in the Building Department on the second floor of the Village Hall, 361 Happ Road. For more information or to obtain a brochure, call the Village Hall, 847-784-3551.

Village News

Village Celebrates Arbor Day at Sunset Ridge School on Friday, April 27, at 10:30 AM

This year, the Village will hold its annual Arbor Day festivities with the fourth grade students at Sunset Ridge School on the State-designated day - Friday, April 27 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. The Arbor Day proclamation will be read and a tree planted at the school. Following the tree planting, students will read their winning Arbor Day poems and participate in various activities in the School Library. Residents are welcome to attend. Call 847-446-9200x2231 for more details.

Northfield Celebrates Its 22nd Year as a "Tree City USA"

For the year 2006, the National Arbor Day Foundation has again designated Northfield as a "Tree City USA." The Village of Northfield is being recognized as a "Tree City USA for the 22nd consecutive year. 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.

Help the Village stay a Tree City USA. Plant trees selected from the Special Spring Co-operative Tree Program Newsletter coming to your home. Fill in and mail the coupon to register to win a FREE TREE!

New Rates for Waste and Recycling Collection to be Billed Direct in 2007

The fourth year of the Village's contract with Waste Management begins May 1 for all residential and commercial services including refuse, recycling, landscape waste collection, roll off container rental and other miscellaneous services. Waste Management will mail residents a brochure outlining the revised rates. The new rates which are tied to the CPI with a maximum annual increase of 3%, have increased by 2.5% for 2007/08. As discussed in President Birkinbine's letter on Page 1, the basic monthly rate of \$10.17 for one time per week collection of refuse and recycling at the curb will now be billed direct to residents (except multi-family homeowners who use multi-use containers) along with any additional services. Additional services for residents who request them include twice a week pick-up, backdoor service, yardwaste collection, equipment rental and special pick-ups. While the basic rate includes collection of recycling, it does not include the rental cost of the green recycling toter. A \$1 per month rental fee per toter is billed annually or quarterly to residents unless the recycling toter has been purchased for the one time cost of \$50. Refuse and recycling will continue to be picked up on **Thursdays** with the second waste pick-up on Mondays. Landscape waste 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 at 1-800-796-9696.

Village-Wide Clean Up Day - Saturday, May 12

Plan your spring cleaning project and get rid of old or unused items from your closets, basement, attic and garage on **Saturday, May 12**. 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.

Yardwaste Collection Season Begins April 2 for Residents who Sign Up for This Optional Service

For residents who contract with Waste Management Northwest for landscape waste service, the season begins Monday, April 2 and runs **Mondays** through December 3 (Tuesdays on holidays). Yardwaste collection is an optional service that must be rescheduled with the start of each new contract year. This service is available to residents at \$45.02 for the 2007 season. Only 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 toters 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 2007, call Waste Management (1-800-796-9696) between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Northfield Garden Clubs Seek Volunteers for Spring Clean Up of Village on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 at Noon

The Northfield Garden Clubs are seeking volunteers to help with a spring clean up of the community on Earth Day, **Sunday, April 22 at Noon**. Volunteers will meet at various churches, synagogues, the village center and at other locations. Parking is free and trash bags and gloves will be provided. Helpers will work in adult-directed teams to help pick up trash and "spring clean" the Village. Individuals and groups from community agencies are welcome to participate. If you are interested in helping, contact Susan at 847-446-5683. Visit the Village website, www.northfieldil.org, for clean-up locations and updated information. The rain date is April 29.

Cook County Smoking Ban Takes Effect March 15 in Northfield

In an effort to address the danger of secondhand smoke, Cook County has passed the "Clean Indoor Air" ordinance. This ordinance, which takes effect Thursday, March 15, requires that Northfield restaurants, bars, businesses, health care facilities, day care centers, schools, common areas in multi family buildings such as lobbies and hallways, shopping malls, recreational areas, grocery stores, restrooms, reception areas and other enclosed common use areas, public transportation including buses, trains, taxicabs, limousines, as well as boarding and waiting areas of public transit stations, gyms, and public and private school buildings, prohibit smoking. Areas that are exempt from the "Clean Indoor Air" ordinance include:

- private residences except when used as a licensed childcare, adult care facility, health care facility, or a home-based business of any kind open to the public
- hotel and motel sleeping rooms that are rented to guests and are designated as smoking rooms, provided that not more than 25% of the rooms rented to guests are smoking rooms
- private and semi-private rooms in nursing homes and long-term care facilities that are occupied by one or more persons, all of whom are smokers and have requested in writing to be placed or to remain in a room where smoking is permitted
- private clubs or lodges

Every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited is required to post a sign at every entrance stating that smoking is prohibited. Complaints regarding smoking where it is prohibited should be registered with the Cook County Department of Public Health, 708-492-2000. Signs prohibiting smoking can be obtained by calling 708-492-2035.

2007 Senior Assistance Grants Awarded to Two Northfield Residents

Following the North Shore Senior Center's review of applications for 2007, Senior Assistance grants of \$1,200 each, offered by the Village, were awarded to two qualified Northfield residents. The recipients are 63 to 73 years old, have lived in the Village 7 to 10 years and had annual incomes from \$16,000 to \$18,000. Applications for Senior Assistance grants that help offset living costs are available yearly from October through December.

Where to Dispose of or Recycle Household Hazardous Wastes

Hazardous wastes such as oil-based paints, paint thinners, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, old gasoline, pool chemicals, mercury, household batteries, used motor oil and tires, lawn chemicals, solvents, anti-freeze, and fluorescent lamp bulbs will not be picked up during Northfield's clean up week and should not be thrown out with regular waste. For acceptable sites where you can dispose of hazardous wastes and the latest IEPA schedule of collection dates, visit the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) website at www.epa.state.il.us/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste. Another site to check, www.cityofchicago.org, "Environmental Initiatives," to find out about Chicago's new year-round location at 1150 North Branch Street (two blocks east of the Kennedy Expressway at Division Street). The facility is open for drop-offs Tuesdays (7 a.m.-12 p.m.), Thursdays (2-7 p.m.) and the first Saturday of each month (8 a.m.-3 p.m.).

Recycle Products for Re-Use to Cut Down on Waste Going to Landfills

You can recycle paper, cardboard, magazines, plastics, cans and bottles in your green toter for pick up on Thursdays - No Sorting Required!

It is estimated that the average household can recycle approximately 65% of its garbage. Help the environment by recycling your newspapers, mixed paper (junk mail, flyers, cereal and food boxes, magazines, catalogs and phone books), glass, aluminum and tin cans, plastics that include milk jugs, laundry containers, margarine tubs, deli and salad containers. Waste Management picks up recycled goods for collection every Thursday and sorts it at their recycling facility. Use the handy green with yellow-lid recycling toter for all your recycling - no sorting needed. To rent or purchase a convenient 64 or 35 gallon recycling toter on wheels, call Waste Management, 1-800-796-9696.

Recycling Statistics

- Amount of litter discarded on average mile of U.S. highway at any given time? *Answer: 1,457 pieces*
- Number of plastic bottles thrown away every hour? *Answer: 25,000,000*
- Number of trees required to produce Sunday newspapers in North America? *Answer: 500,000*
- Number of aluminum cans produced every minute? *Answer: 500,000*

Police Department Alerts

Watch for New Gift Card Scam

A new scam to be aware of involves gift cards. Some people who receive gift cards may come up empty-handed when they try to use them if subjected to this scam. Here's how it works. Scammers write down the numbers listed on the back of gift cards that are offered for sale and displayed on racks at the check out counter and other locations throughout the store. After several days the scammer calls an 800 number and determines if a card has been activated. If the card has been activated (which occurs when purchased), the scammer goes on line and uses the card number to pay for purchases. When the gift card recipient tries to use the card, it comes up with a zero balance. The reason the scam works so well is because gift cards are often kept on racks where customers (and scammers) have easy access to them. Security experts say placing the gift cards behind the register would go a long way toward solving this problem. If you are buying a gift card, insist that the cashier give you cards that are not being displayed on a rack. Ask that your card be issued from a back up supply of cards that is almost always kept at the register. If the cashier refuses, don't buy the card.

Learn about Village Parking Regulations and Other Codes on the Village Web Site

From time to time, residents and visitors to Northfield ask about the Village's parking regulations. Now it is easy and convenient to learn what the local laws are. With just the click of your mouse, you can go to the Village web site, www.northfieldil.org. After clicking on the web site, look for Municipal Code on the left side bar and click on it. A number of chapters in the Village Code will be shown. To make a quick search, type in a key word such as "parking" and press "search" and a number of Codes that impact parking will come up. All parking regulations are found in Chapter 13, Motor Vehicles. Clicking on the link for Chapter 13 will present the user with a list of Articles included in the chapter. Go to Article IV to find parking Codes. The fees and fines associated with parking regulations can be found in Appendix D, Fees and Bond Amounts, under Article IV. To move from page to page, click on "next document" on the left frame. If you still have questions, contact the Police Department, 847-446-2131.

Watch for a Special Spring Newsletter with Cooperative Tree Planting Program

Board Approves Intergovernmental Agreement to Study Converting RR Tracks into Bike and Walking Trail

At their February Board meeting, the Northfield Village Board approved moving ahead with the neighboring communities of Wilmette, Glenview and Northbrook to have a feasibility study done to look into turning the unused Union Pacific railroad tracks that run through the communities into a bicycle and walking trail. The trail would link with the Skokie Valley Trail, an existing trail that runs north from Highland Park into Lake Forest. The Lake County Transportation Dept. has scheduled an addition to this trail at the north end which would link the trail to the Des Plaines River Trail and the McClory path that extend to the Wisconsin border. At the south end, the trail would link to Skokie, Lincolnwood and a Chicago trail. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation in conjunction with T. Y. Lin International will conduct the study for the four communities. **A public meeting about the trail is scheduled for April 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane.** All residents of the four communities, bicyclers, walkers and anyone interested in the trail are welcome to attend.

Two Long Time Village Employees to Retire in April after a Total of 57 Years

Two familiar voices at the Village Hall will be retired at the end of April 2007, Mary Specht, Zoning Inspector in the Community Development/Building Dept., after 29 years, and Linda Jensen, Administrative Secretary for the Public Works-Fire Rescue Dept. after 28 years of service. Mary started at the Village Hall reception desk in 1977 and became the Dept. Secretary before being named Zoning Inspector. During Linda Jensen's career with the Fire-Rescue Department, she served as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and as the Dept. Secretary. Linda was the Township CPR coordinator and a pioneer in teaching CPR classes in high schools. The Village Board and staff wish them well as they begin their new adventures.

Park District to Begin Reconstruction of Willow Park in Summer 2007

A specific timeline for the Northfield Park District's reconstruction of Willow Park will be determined soon after the bidding process has been completed in mid-March. Director Alexoff is hoping construction will begin following the 4th of July celebration but will notify residents by a special bulletin once the schedule is determined. Changes planned include regrading the park to eliminate standing water on fields, adding playing fields, lighting and additional parking.

Community Events

Scouts Hold Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Mar. 10 - 8-11:30 AM

Cub Scout Pack 17 is hosting its annual fundraising pancake breakfast at the Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Road on Saturday, March 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The all-you-can-eat breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. Tickets are \$5 per person, children under 5 eat free. Proceeds help support Cub Scout camping and outdoor events.

Northfield and Local Chambers Hold Business Expo Mar. 21

The Glencoe, Wilmette, Winnetka and Northfield Chambers of Commerce will host a Business Expo on Wednesday, Mar. 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Northfield Community Center. Business owners and residents are welcome to meet and network at this free event with other owners who can provide you with goods and services and a way of expanding your business horizons.

Temple Jeremiah Offers Series of Programs Open to All Residents

Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, is holding the following free programs: "Dilemmas in Jewish Art" Sunday, Mar. 11 at 2:00 p.m.; "Of Exile and Redemption" Sunday, Mar. 18 at 9:30 a.m.; "Raising Resilient Children" Sunday, Apr. 8 at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.; and "The God Factor" Sat., Apr. 28 at 8:00 p.m.

North Shore Senior Center Hosts Pulitzer Nominated Author

Meet Sherwin B. Nuland, author of *How to Grow Old: A Doctor's Reflections on the Art of Aging* Wednesday, Mar. 14, 4:00-5:30 p.m. with book signing event at 161 Northfield Rd.

One Book Two Villages Library Program Begins in March with *Water for Elephants* and *LionBoy*

Two inspiring Library programs being offered beginning in March to help adults and children tune out television and tune into reading, discussions and other interesting programs are One Book Two Villages and TV Tune Out Week. During TV Tune Out week (Mar. 4-11) some of the programs at the Northfield Branch include: Go Fly a Kite, Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, March 10, enjoy 30/30 Juggling Show, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Registration is required for some programs so please call 847-446-5990. The One Book Two Villages Program runs March 1 to May 5. The adult book selected for 2007 is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. It is a story of two star-crossed lovers who share a mutual passion for a circus elephant and captures the world of a traveling circus and the Great Depression. The youth book selected is *LionBoy* by Zizou Corder. It is a story set in the near future about a boy with the ability to speak the language of cats who sets out to seek his kidnapped parents and finds himself on a circus ship learning to train lions. One of the programs offered: on April 29, the Library will host "Circus in the Park" offering family fund, juggling, fortune telling, balloon art and the Flying Fool Show at 2:30 p.m. in Clarkson Park. For complete details on all programs, visit the Library website, - www.wpld.alibrary.com.

Calendar of Events

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

Mar. 5 & Apr. 9 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 (optional)- Village Budget Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 & Apr. 10 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings - 7:15 p.m.

Mar. 12 & Apr. 9 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 20 & Apr. 17 - Village Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 17 - CONSOLIDATED ELECTION - 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 27 - Arbor Day Celebration - 10:30 a.m. - Noon

The Northfield News

published since 1976 by the
Village of Northfield

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

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Trustee Ruth A. Lucchesi

Trustee Ted Greene

Trustee Barbara M. Moore

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 A. Sigman, Village Manager, Village Hall, 361 Happ Road, Northfield, IL 60093