



NEWS

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Installation of Red Light Cameras Started at Two Village Intersections

Work has begun on the installation of red light photo enforcement cameras at the intersections of Willow and Waukegan Rds. and Willow and Wagner Rds. It is anticipated the cameras will be operational on or about April 1. Use of cameras at these intersections completes a year-long study by the Village Board and staff to establish automated traffic law enforcement systems at specified intersections to decrease the potential for personal injury and property damage due to collisions caused by red light violations. The automated cameras work in conjunction with red light signals to record images of motor vehicles entering an intersection against a red light signal. The Village will begin the program with a 30 day warning period before a penalty fee of \$75 per violation is charged for citations issued.

Feasibility Study on Use of Union Pacific ROW for Bike/Walking Path Presented Mar. 6

An Open House to present the Feasibility Study on the use of the Union Pacific railroad right of way for a walking/biking/linear park is planned at the Wilmette Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Ave., Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to review the plans for a multi-use trail being studied by Northfield, Glenview, Wilmette and Northbrook. Please RSVP to 847-446-9200 x2231 or lgittel@northfieldil.org.

President's Briefing

The year 2008 is an important one for our community because it represents the completion of a number of projects that can have a major impact in the years to come. The Village projects that will be completed this year include:

1. Infrastructure improvements on the Village's water system including a new watermain to Winnetka to replace two aging mains as well as an emergency water interconnect to Glencoe, providing the Village with added insurance that should there be a major disruption of water service from Winnetka, interconnects with Glencoe, and other communities would continue to provide water to Northfield residents and, a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor potential water system problems including water system disruptions. These capital improvements are being paid for with general obligation bonds that will be repaid over the next 20 years by increased water rates.

Other important planning projects that the Village Board and Committees have focused on and that will be completed in 2008 are:

2. A plan for the re-development of the Village Center and making the necessary zoning changes to carry out the plan, and ending the moratorium on development in the Village Center effective May 6.
3. Completion of a Willow Road plan. Residents of the communities of Northfield and Winnetka have been working in conjunction with The Lakota Group to incorporate the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT's) "Contact Sensitive Solutions" for the development of a safe and workable plan for Willow Road from Sunset Ridge Road in Northfield east to Provident Street in Winnetka. After interviews and workshops with residents in the communities and many committee meetings, a plan will be presented for both Boards' review and a recommendation to Senator Jeff Schoenberg and IDOT. Since receiving word of the completion of the resident workshops, IDOT has contacted the Villages that it will begin resurfacing Willow Road and doing bridge repairs this summer.

Other areas the Village Board and staff have been diligently working on is balancing the Village budget, improving general finances and providing convenient payment options for water and sewer bills. For more specific information on these topics and other projects see Page 2.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 9
Set Clocks Ahead One Hour

President's Briefing (Cont'd)

Water System

As noted earlier, the Village is completing a major capital improvement to the Village's water system. Installation of the new water main to Winnetka is on target for completion this spring. Installation of the new water main under the Edens Highway and the Skokie River/North Branch of the Chicago River which flows into the Skokie Lagoons has been successfully completed. One of the final complex parts of the project will involve underground work at the Willow/Happ/Central intersection which may impact traffic in this area before the project can be completed. The interconnect with Glencoe is operational and the SCADA system work is 85% complete and expected to be operational by summer.

Village Center Redevelopment Plan

Following a presentation to the community in January, the plan recommended to the Village Board for their approval by the Village Center Task Force provides for development guidelines that encourage a moderate density plan to create a downtown look for Northfield plus provide for a more pedestrian and retail friendly approach. The plan calls for gateway features that announce the downtown area of the community as well as landscaping enhancements. While downtown buildings could be a maximum of three stories, the plan recommended properties along the Edens to the north of Willow Road could be six to eight stories. Other features of the plan recommended creating a plaza-type effect in the Happ/Orchard Road area and simplifying the intersection by straightening it or creating a round-about. The plan also addressed area wide parking issues as well as on-street parking for convenience and to create a buffer for pedestrians. The plan also considered development of a biking/walking/linear park in the railroad and utility rights of way and buildings that would enhance the area around the Middlefork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Changes in the Village's current zoning laws for the downtown area will be needed to allow the proposed changes in building heights and types of businesses permitted. It is hoped that these changes result in increased revenues and encourage a greater diversity of retail and commercial businesses. Those changes are being studied by the Committee and will be presented to the Board later this year. The proposed plan provides a blueprint for the future redevelopment and revitalization of the Village Center and makes it more pedestrian friendly.

Willow Road

Snow and freezing temperatures have been wreaking havoc on local roads particularly in Cook, Lake and neighboring counties due to the severe weather conditions during the 2007-08 winter season. Like many roadways, Willow Road has a rash of potholes that are creating hazards for drivers. Unfortunately, when drivers are unable to avoid some of the pot holes, flat tires can result. On the Edens Expressway, a major pothole near Willow Road recently caused a series of flat tires one morning. Other major routes such as 41 (Skokie Boulevard), 43 (Waukegan Road) in Cook County and Routes 60 and 137 in Lake County have similar problems and, in some areas, problems are even more severe. The Village has received numerous phone calls from people concerned about the condition of Willow Road and what is being done to fix it. Because Willow Road is a State route, the Village has been in constant contact with IDOT to see that the potholes get patched as quickly as possible. Over the past couple of weeks, IDOT has had crews in the area filling pot holes several times. Unfortunately, the weather has remained severe and new ones appear as others are filled. This is mainly due to the extremely poor condition of the overall roadway surface. However, the Village is happy to report that IDOT engineers have confirmed that the 2008 roadway resurfacing project is on track. IDOT anticipates having resurfacing of Willow Road east from the Edens to Hibbard Road and west from the Edens to Sunset Ridge Road on their April 2008 bid letting. Actual construction is expected to begin in June or July. The Villages of Northfield and Winnetka have been working together over the past year with

(Cont'd on Pg. 5)

For Your Information

Cook County Holds Workshop on Property Tax Assessments and How to Appeal on March 8

Residents who want to know more about how your property is assessed and how to appeal your property tax assessments are invited to a free workshop to be held Saturday, March 8 at 11:00 AM at the Winnetka Presbyterian Church, 1255 Willow Road (NE corner of Willow and Hibbard Roads). Because filing of appeals for assessments for properties in New Trier Twp. has closed, this workshop will be for Northfield Twp residents. Advance sign-ups are requested. Presentations will be made by representatives of the Cook County Board of Review and others who will demonstrate techniques for assessment analysis and presentation of appeals. There will be ample time for individual questions and answers. Sign-ups are requested. Contact Bob Lewis, 847-784-8992 or email, Robert.t.lewis@comcast.net. Information on how to find comparable properties and how to file an appeal as well as forms for appealing assessments are available at the reception desk at the Village Hall, 361 Happ Rd. The Village is open Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Assessment appeals for Northfield Twp. properties must be filed by March 20, 2008.

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, 847-446-9200x-3551.

Village News

Village Celebrates Arbor Day at the New Willow Park on Friday, April 25, at 10:30 AM

The Village will hold its annual Arbor Day festivities with fourth grade students at Willow Park on the State-designated Arbor Day - Friday, April 25 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. The Arbor Day proclamation will be read and a tree planted at the newly renovated Willow Park. Following the tree planting, students will read their winning Arbor Day poems and participate in various activities in the Community Center. Residents are welcome to attend. Call 847-446-9200x2231 for more details.

Northfield Celebrates Its 23rd Year as a "Tree City USA"

For the year 2007, 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 23rd 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 in Spring and Fall. The Village will hold its Co-operative Tree Program offering 50% savings on trees planted in the parkway during Fall only. Watch for more details.

Waste and Recycling Collection Rates Increase by 2.8% Effective May 1

The fifth and final 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. A Waste Management brochure outlining the revised rates will be mailed in May. The new rates which are tied to the CPI rate with a maximum annual increase of 3%, have increased by 2.8% for 2008/09. The basic monthly rate of \$10.17 for one time per week collection of refuse and recycling at the curb which is billed direct to residents will increase to \$10.45 effective May 1, 2008. 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 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 which is picked up on Mondays only for those who contract for this service will increase to \$46.28 for the season (Apr. 7-Dec. 8). To change service, order new service or report problems, contact Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696.

Village-Wide Clean Up Day - Saturday, May 17

Plan your spring cleaning project and get rid of old or unused items from your closets, basement, attic and garage on **Saturday, May 17**. 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 7 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 7 and runs **Mondays** through December 8 (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 \$46.28 for the 2008 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 2008, call Waste Management (1-800-796-9696) between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

New Options Available for Recycling Home Electronics

The dilemma consumers face when upgrading computers, printers, fax machines, and other electronics has been what to do with the old equipment. In recent months, a number of new solutions have emerged. Abt Electronics on Milwaukee Avenue in Glenview has opened a recycling center that is open to the public from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays in a free-standing building west of the main Abt store. The center also recycles tvs, refrigerators and air-conditioners. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$30 for various equipment. Another program is offered through OfficeMax stores which encourages customers to recycle by bringing their equipment to the nearest OfficeMax location. There is a small recycling fee and in-store coupons are given toward new equipment.

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.

Dominick's Roof Collapse Keeps Store Closed over Coming Months

The collapse of Dominick's roof early Sunday morning on Feb. 17, just minutes after the store opened, seemingly due to the weight of ice and snow, has delivered a significant jolt to the community which depends on this convenient grocery store. Air conditioners mounted on the roof fell into the store during the collapse but fortunately no one was hurt. The store's structural engineers are assessing the damage to pin point the cause of the failure before reconstruction work begins. Employees have been relocated to other stores.



(Friends of Northfield Foundation Chair Pat Karr presents Village President John Birkinbine with a check for \$27,500 representing donations from Northfield residents and organizations for a new Community Events Sign for the northwest corner of Willow and Central.)

Friends of Northfield Foundation Contributes \$27,500 to Village to Replace Community Events Sign

The non-for profit Northfield organization whose sole purpose is to receive and maintain funds of real or personal property or both to use and apply for the benefit of and in the interest of the community of Northfield, presented a "big" check for \$27,500 to the Village Board for use in the construction of a new Community Events sign located on the northwest corner of Willow Road and Central Avenue. The contribution represents various donations made by Northfield residents and organizations some specifically earmarked for this use and others left to the decision of the Foundation. In the past, the Foundation has contributed over \$10,000 to the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments for the purchase of defibrillators to help save lives. They have also given various donations for community beautification projects, made grants to the Northfield Branch Library for its first computer; for the fireplace in the Branch Library and in support of the One Book Two Villages program. Other contributions have been made to the Northfield Community Center for a trophy/artwork display case, kiln, and equipment for the exercise room. Contributions have also been made for Village flags, computers for the North Shore Senior Center and a grant to the Josselyn Clinic to provide counseling for Northfield residents who might not be able to afford the fees. The Community Events Sign will be constructed this summer following excavation work at the corner for the new Village water main.

Police Department Alert

Steps You Can Take to Prevent Becoming a Victim of Burglary

The Police Department reports there are simple measures you can take that go a long way in preventing you from becoming a victim of theft or burglary. One important step is to lock your car doors when you exit your vehicle even if your car is parked in your garage. A would-be burglar will more likely move on to the next car in the hopes of finding an unlocked vehicle. Another reminder is not to leave valuables in plain sight in your car. GPS devices are popular items for car burglars, so popular that they smash vehicle windows to get them. Tuck your GPS device away and periodically wipe off those telltale suction cup circles. To prevent burglaries at home, consider burning a 60 watt light bulb over doorways during the nighttime hours. For pennies a day, it is a great way to turn away burglars who are tempted by a dark place. As always, call the Police Department, 847-446-2131, to report any suspicious activity or persons. Let criminals know you are on the alert and your home and neighborhood will be less inviting.

Senior Center Programs Offer Music, Art and Movies for All Ages

The North Shore Senior Center, located at 161 Northfield Road in Northfield is offering a variety of programs for all ages. As a prelude to spring, the following programs will delight with art, music and movies:

Flowers, Flowers, Flowers: Women's Invitational Art Exhibit - March 6 to April 24. Springtime freshness greets you at this cheerful showing by women artists in the NSSC fine art program and other invited artists. You will be amazed by the array of media and styles exhibited by this talented group. Stop by the Atrium Art Gallery, Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Paddy Homan and Friends - Saturday, March 9 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Traditional and contemporary Irish songs performed to get you in the mood for St. Patrick's Day. Admission: \$6 - free parking.

Humphrey Bogart in Performance - Mondays, March 24 and 31. View and discuss with Loyola University Professor Joe Cunniff two special Bogart performances, *They Drive by Night* and *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. Fee: \$14/NSSC members; \$18/others.

**Village-Wide Spring Clean-Up
Scheduled for Saturday, May 17**

Presidents Briefing (Cont'd)

the Lakota Group planning firm to develop a long term solution for this important roadway corridor. Both communities are excited that an interim roadway resurfacing project will take place this year and are hopeful that long term improvements which benefit both communities will follow soon thereafter.

New Programs Provide More Payment Options for Water and Sewer Bills

Over the next several months, the Village Finance Department will unveil two new water/sewer payment programs that will make paying water and sewer bills easier and more convenient. Village customers will be able to set up a direct debit to pay water and sewer bills using a credit card or debit card. Currently, the Village allows direct debits from savings or checking accounts. Over 200 households have taken advantage of the current program. With the new system, customers provide the Village with their credit card number and the water/sewer bill is automatically paid from the credit card on the due date. The second new program gives customers the ability to pay water/sewer bills online. You will have the ability to go to the Village's website, www.northfieldil.org, log on to your account and pay your bill by either credit card, debit card or e-check. In addition, once you have established an account, you will be able to view your billing and consumption history, print a copy of a bill, contact the Village with questions or concerns about your water and/or sewer account and even sign up to receive an e-bill rather than have a paper bill sent via regular mail. Watch for more information about these two new payment programs in upcoming newsletters, on the Village website and in the message portion on your water/sewer bills.

Village Meets with Community Leaders to Plan "Safe Routes to School"

Representatives of Northfield's schools, houses of worship and Village staff including Police, Public Works and Administration Departments have begun meeting to discuss how to improve Northfield's sidewalks and paths so children and other pedestrians can safely walk and bicycle to schools and parks from their homes. The Committee is reviewing the paths children currently take to area schools, existing Village sidewalks and, is working with the School District to survey parents and children on current modes of transportation used. Federal grants are available to establish and improve routes through the "Safe Routes to School" program.

Community Events

Scouts Hold Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Mar. 8 - 8:00-11:30 AM

Cub Scout Pack 17 is hosting its annual fundraising pancake breakfast at the Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Road on Saturday, March 8 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.

Christian Heritage Academy Hosts March Madness Dads' Breakfast/Basketball Tournament

Enjoy a home-cooked type breakfast followed by 3-on-3 Half-Court Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 8, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. WMBI-FM radio host Roy Paterson will talk about the challenges facing men today. Call 847-446-5252 for more information.

Award-Winning Author Speaks on Religious Fundamentalism on May 3 at Temple Jeremiah

Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, features award-winning journalist, author and TV commentator Judith Miller on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m. She will speak on "The Rise of Religious Fundamentalism" in the three major Western faiths - Islam, Judaism and Christianity - over the past three decades. Ms. Miller discusses the necessity of striking a balance between protecting national security and preserving civil liberties in a post 9/11 world. Open to all. For more details and to RSVP, call 847-441-5760 or log on to www.templejeremiah.org.

One Book Two Villages Library Program Selects *The Septembers of Shiraz* and *Esperanza Rising*

The popular annual Library program, One Book Two Villages, takes Northfield and Winnetka residents on a shared reading adventure of a selected book for adults and one just for children. As part of the program, readers can attend book discussions, author visits and other related events. The books chosen for adults and children are thematically linked and families are encouraged to participate in the library programs together. The adult book selected for 2008 is *The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer. It is a story of a family in distress set against the devastating background of a country in flux and is based on the author's own experiences. It explores the universal questions regarding identity, loss, alienation, faith, loyalty and love in the face of overwhelming odds. The youth book selected is *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. It is a story about a young girl who lives in a beautiful home in Mexico with her parents until a sudden tragedy shatters her world and she is forced to flee to California to a very different life under difficult circumstances. The One Book Two Villages Program runs March 1 to May 18. Related programs are offered for children. For complete details, 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. 3 & Apr. 7 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 11 & Apr. 1 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 10 & Apr. 14 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 18 & Apr. 15 - Village Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 25 - Arbor Day Celebration - 10:30 a.m.-Noon

The Northfield News published since 1976 by the Village of Northfield

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847-446-9200 (TDD)847-446-7131

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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