



NORTHFIELD NEWS

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Four Candidates Slated for April 7, 2009 Consolidated Election

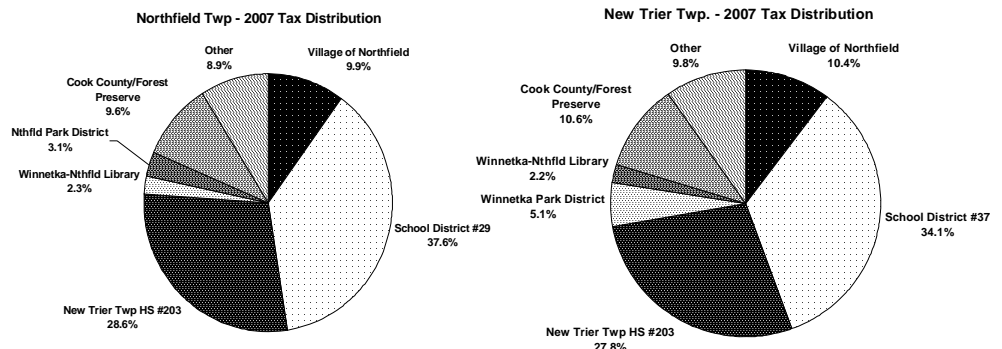
The four candidates slated by the Northfield Caucus and who have filed papers and petitions for the Consolidated Election on April 7, 2009 include one candidate for Village President and three candidates for three Village Trustee positions. The residents slated to serve on the Village Board are Fred Gougler for Village President who currently serves as the Traffic and Transportation Committee Chair, Terry Gottlieb, who is seeking a second four year term as Village Trustee; Brian Kozminski is also running for Village Trustee and is currently serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Traffic and Transportation Committee. The final candidate for Trustee is George Warga who is currently Chair of the Plan and Zoning Commission and has served on that Commission for the past eight years. The candidates submitted their candidacy papers in time for the Consolidated Primary Election on Feb. 24. However, since no other candidates filed to run, there will be no Primary Election and the candidates' names will be submitted for the April 7 Consolidated Election. Board members who will be leaving are President John Birkinbine and Trustees Frank Charhut and Ted Greene.

Village Financial Briefing

At their December 1, 2008 meeting, the Village Board considered the proposed 2008 tax levy for the Village of Northfield's fiscal year, May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. The Board adopted the Tax Levy ordinance which is 4.9% higher than the taxes extended in 2007. In accordance with Cook County tax caps, 4.1% of the increase is attributable to inflation and 0.8% to estimated new property that will be added to the Village's tax rolls for 2008. The tax dollars associated with the additional 0.8% will be borne only by new properties. In general, property owners in Northfield can expect an increase of approximately 4.1% or \$20.50 on the Village portion of a \$5,000 real estate tax bill. However, a property owner's actual 2008 Village property tax obligation may increase more or less depending on the value of their property compared with all other taxable properties in the Village.

Of the total property taxes paid by residents for 2007, only about \$0.10 of every dollar goes to the Village. The Village's share pays for all services including police and fire protection, street and utility maintenance and all general Village services. Of the total amount of property tax money collected, approximately 65% is spent for local schools and another 25% goes to County, Township and other agencies for various services. The charts below show how taxes are divided for residents in Northfield and New Trier Townships.

Northfield 2007 Property Tax Distribution



Financial Briefing (Cont'd)

Discussion of FY2009-2010 Proposed Village Budget Set for Tues., March 3 at 6:00 PM

The Village Board Committee of the Whole will discuss Northfield's proposed 2009-2010 fiscal year budget which includes capital projects, equipment replacement as well as proposed departmental budgets at a workshop meeting to be held Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Village Hall. If further discussion is needed, a second workshop will be held Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. Residents are invited to attend the workshop(s) at the Village Hall, 361 Happ Road. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The budget must be adopted prior to April 30, 2009, the end of the Village's fiscal year.

Changes in Village Center Aimed at Enhancing the Downtown Area

Cosmetic exterior building enhancements are planned for two buildings in the Village Center at 300-312 Happ Road. The project as presented to the Architectural Commission includes the installation of new fascia, columns, awnings and lighting and will also include site amenities such as walkway pavers, landscaping and focal point features. The Commission reviewed the proposal at their December meeting and requested the property owners return with a comprehensive sign plan for the property. It is anticipated that the project will begin in spring 2009 as weather conditions permit. Another change to the downtown area will result in a more attractively landscaped median on Willow Road. With the generous support of the Friends of Northfield Foundation, the Village was able to re-landscape the Willow Road median immediately north of the Village Hall. Hearty salt-tolerant plant materials were specifically selected for this challenging and highly visible location. This spring watch for colorful daylilies to brighten the gro-lo sumac that provides attractive year-round interest to the lane divider. The Village thanks the many residents who have and continue to help fund the Friends of Northfield Foundation with contributions that are used by the not for profit organization for various community projects.

Stormwater Drainage - What Happens Now?

The Stormwater Drainage Report has been submitted to the Village by the consulting engineer (go to www.northfieldil.org "Stormwater Report" for a copy). The Board will be evaluating this document to determine the best way to proceed with projects. During rain events, many residents remain concerned that they may experience flooding like they did last September. Fortunately, the September 2008 storm was an unusual event following the aftermath of hurricanes Ike and Gustav. However, many parts of Northfield are in the flood plain/flood way and therefore remain susceptible to flooding problems. If you find water rising in your sewers and the sump pump is working, an initial course of action is to check with the Public Works Dept., 847-441-3810, to determine if there is any blockage in the Village portion of the sewer. If the problem is not in the Village system, residents can consult with a plumber to see if rodding or other improvements may help. Homeowners can also assist by making sure drainage ditches or catch basins are not blocked by leaves, snow/ice or other debris. If water continues to be a problem in and around your home, you may also want to consult an engineer about other steps you may be able to take.

Village Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2009

(3rd Tuesday of month)

Board Meetings

January 20

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November (no meeting)

December 7*

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

New, Faster Way to Get Village News You Want to Know - E-News!

By the time you read this, E-News should be up and running. The newest, fastest way to get Village news you want is via email. To begin the process, log on to the Village website, www.northfieldil.org, and type your email address in the special box marked E-News. This will take you to a form where you can subscribe to receive news in areas you have an interest. As news becomes available in those areas, you will automatically receive an email update. Some of the categories you can receive news on include Public Safety, News from the Village Board, Hot Topics, and Construction Updates and Road Closures. You can update your choices, make other changes (new email address, etc.), send emails to others you think would want to know the news and, you can un-subscribe if you find the categories or the E-News program is not effective for you. To get started, log on to the Village website, www.northfieldil.org, go to E-News, and sign up. Let us know if you want updates on other subjects that are not provided by emailing the Village.

Spotlight on Public Works From Water Meter Reads to Helping You Keep Water Out

The Village Hall is more than the President and Board, Village Manager, Police and Fire Departments. In this issue of the Northfield News, we want to highlight the many hats worn by members of the Village's Public Works Department. Often seen scurrying around the Village in their trucks, they are a department of all-weather workers. In the winter, they are out plowing the streets and clearing sidewalks to schools. And often, when temperatures drop below freezing, they are digging holes in the ground to locate watermain breaks. Like potholes that appear with the fluctuation in temperatures, watermains also find the stress of temperature extremes too much to handle. Regardless of how cold it is, Public Works crews will need to fix the watermain and restore water to residents in that area. In spring, there are hydrants to flush, potholes on Village streets to fill, flooding problems to deal with, drains to clear and tree debris to clean up after big storms. Just as summer appears, there is a laundry list of jobs to do including lawn maintenance, road and sidewalk replacements, painting of fire hydrants and, trees and flowers to plant. There are lane markings to paint, watermain projects to complete, bushes to be trimmed and grass to be reseeded. And don't forget to keep an eye out for diseased trees that need to be removed because of Dutch Elm or Emerald Ash Borer diseases. There is equipment to be maintained and/or updated - all those Police cars and Public Works trucks need tuning, oil changes and more. Come July, the Park District needs help with setting up for the big 4th of July event and flags need to be hung on the poles. Neighborhoods are having block parties and need horses to close the streets. Street signs need to be made and banners put up or taken down on the new Village Center sign. There's the reservoir at Kraft to monitor, tests to run on Village water, water meters to read, sandbags to distribute when storms dump too much rain and who is going to fish that tree stump out of the river. There are various calls from residents needing assistance.

(Con'd next column)

Northfield Police Recommend "Looking Out"

With the winter months comes shorter days and longer periods of darkness providing opportunities for criminals to use the darkness to their advantage. The Northfield Police Dept. recommends you keep an eye on what is going on in your neighborhood by "looking out" the window whenever you are passing by. The more often you look outside, the more likely the chance you will be able to see something that may or may not be normal. During trips to other parts of the house, look out the window for a few minutes to determine if all is well in the area. If you do spot something suspicious or criminal, don't hesitate to contact the Police, 847-446-2131, so they can investigate. The sooner Police are alerted to suspicious activity, the more likely a crime can be prevented. The Police Dept. estimates that together, there will be roughly 10,000 eyes looking out to help prevent crime!

Keeping the End of Your Driveway Clear of Snow; What to Do if Your Mailbox is Hit and Other Helpful Information

To prevent big plows from leaving snow at the end of your driveway, shovel and mound snow on the parkway to the right of your driveway. Shovel an area to the right of your driveway so the accumulated snow on the plow will be dumped in that area and not on your cleared driveway. If a Village snow plow hits your mailbox and damages it or knocks it down, contact the Public Works Department within 48 hours at 847-441-3810 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) to report the damage. If it is determined the Village caused the damage, the Department will repair or replace the damaged mailbox with a standard 4 x 4 treated post and a standard Federal regulation mailbox. Residents who live on State or County roads including Willow Road, Sunset Ridge Road, Wagner Road, Winnetka Avenue, south Happ Road, Frontage Roads and Hibbard Road, should contact the County at 847-827-1164; for State roads, contact the Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT), 847-705-4222, to report plow-damaged mailboxes. Other helpful information: contact the Public Works Department to report downed street signs and report burned out street lights to the Northfield Police Department, 847-446-2131, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Current members of the Architectural Commission (from left to right) Patricia Leonard, Juergen Fuss, Staff Liaison Linnea O'Neill, Tom Jennings, Jason Felicione, Chair Pat Karr and Steven Hirsch enjoy cake in honor of the Commission's 50th year.

Spotlight on Public Works (cont'd)

And, when an emergency fire or ambulance call comes in, they have to be prepared to drop everything and put on yet another hat since most of the Public Works employees are also trained and work as Firefighters in the community.

Community Events

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

Parents of prospective kindergarten students at least five years of age by Sept. 1, 2009 are asked to register children for the 2009-10 school year on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Parents should bring an original of the child's official birth certificate to be copied. Entering students need not be present. For questions, call 847-881-9500 prior to Jan. 29.

Christian Heritage Hosts Snowflake Festival on Feb. 7

Parents and children ages 2-6 are invited to this annual celebration of winter on Sat., Feb. 7 at 9 AM-Noon, 315 Waukegan Rd. Enjoy storytelling, crafts, cookie decorating, face painting and more. For info or to RSVP, call 847-446-5252.

NSSC Concert Features "The Best of 3Girls3" Feb. 22

A winter concert to get your feet tapping: *Big Band, Bacharach and Broadway: The Best of 3Girls3* - includes song selections from their hit productions including "Bach to Bacharach," "Hip Hop to Boogie" and more. Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Cohn Auditorium at NSSC followed by light refreshments.

Fee: \$8

Enjoy Winter Carnival of Races and Contests

All residents are invited to experience the fun of ice skating and saucer races, snow sculpture contests and the heated competition of a home-made chili cookoff at Northfield Park District's Winter Carnival, **Saturday, Jan. 17** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clarkson Park. Dave Rudolph will entertain children with silly songs from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. Concessions will be open and food available. Contact the Park District for contest registration and entry fee information, 847-446-4653. All contest entrants must be registered.

Middlefork School Plans for 50th Anniversary - Seeks Help

It was October 25, 1959 when the Northfield community gathered for a formal dedication to mark the opening of the Middlefork Primary School. Nearly 50 years later, plans are being made to mark this major milestone. Middlefork friends and family, past and present, are invited to join in planning for this momentous event which will be held during the 2008-09 school year. The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee is currently preparing activities and community members interested in participating on the Committee in any way, large or small, are encouraged to contact Principal Greene at greenem@sunsetridge29.net or 847-881-9505.

Calendar of Events

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

Feb. 2 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 3 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 11 - Architectural Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 20 & Feb. 17 - Village Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 - Traffic & Transportation Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 3 & Mar. 10 (optional - if needed) - Village Budget Meetings - 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 John L. Birkinbine, Jr.

Trustee John N. Chapin

Trustee Frank J. Charhut

Trustee Joan Frazier

Trustee Terry J. Gottlieb

Trustee Ted Greene

Trustee Fred Teichert

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