



NORTHFIELD NEWS

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Options Offered for Primary Election Registration/Voting

The regular deadline to register to vote in the Feb. 5 Presidential Primary Election is Tuesday, Jan. 8. However this year, the County Clerk's office also offers Grace Period Registration and Voting from Jan. 9 through Jan. 22 at the Clerk's downtown office at 69 West Washington St., Room 500, Chicago. Those registering must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by Election Day, be a resident of their precinct at least 30 days prior to an election and show two pieces of identification. Those who register during the Grace Period must vote Absentee either immediately upon registering or by mail. The last day to receive an application to vote Absentee by mail is Jan. 31. All other registered voters may choose to vote at their precinct on Election Day or Vote Early from Jan. 14 through Jan. 31. No reason or excuse is needed. The nearest locations for Early Voting are at the Villages of Northbrook, Glenview or at the Skokie Courthouse from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., and 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Sat. and Sun. In Person Absentee Voting will only be conducted at the County Clerk's offices and mini-centers (Skokie Courthouse or at 69 W. Washington St. in Chicago) from Friday, Feb. 1 to Monday, Feb. 4, 2008.

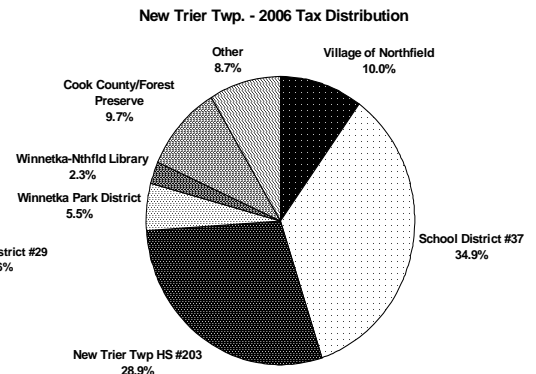
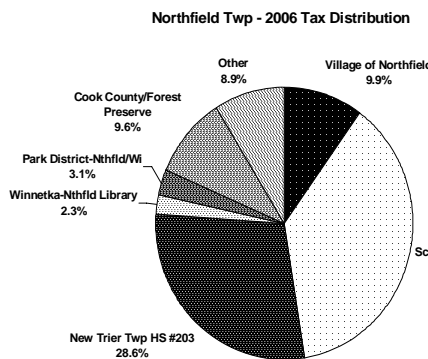
Village Financial Briefing

2007 Tax Levy Increases 3.1% with Most at 2.5%

At their December 3, 2007 meeting, the Village Board considered the proposed 2007 tax levy for the Village of Northfield's fiscal year, May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008. The Board adopted the Tax Levy ordinance which is 3.1% higher than the taxes extended in 2006. In accordance with Cook County tax caps, 2.5% of the increase is attributable to inflation and 0.6% to estimated new property that will be added to the Village's tax rolls for 2007. The tax dollars associated with the additional 0.6% will be borne only by new properties. In general, property owners in Northfield can expect an increase of approximately 2.5% or \$12.50 on the Village portion of a \$5,000 real estate tax bill. However, a property owner's actual 2007 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 2006, about \$0.10 of every dollar goes to the Village. The Village's share pays for services that include police and fire protection and street maintenance. Of the total amount of property tax money collected, approximately 65% is spent for education and another 25% goes to Cook County and other agencies for various services. The charts below shows how taxes are divided for residents in Northfield and New Trier Townships.

Northfield 2006 Property Tax Distribution



Financial Briefing (Cont'd)

Discussion of FY2008-2009 Proposed Village Budget Set for Tues., Feb. 26 at 6:00 PM

The Village Board Committee of the Whole will discuss Northfield's proposed 2008-2009 fiscal year budget which includes capital projects, equipment replacement as well as proposed departmental budgets at a workshop meeting to be held Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Village Hall. If further discussion is needed, a second workshop will be held Tuesday, Mar. 4 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 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The budget must be adopted prior to April 30, 2008, the end of the Village's fiscal year.

Village Center Task Force Embraces Moderate Density Design Concept for Re-Development

At their Dec. 17 meeting, the Village Center Task Force members reviewed a wide range of design concepts. Each scenario depicted one of three levels of development and ranged from a more rural, low intensity plan comprised entirely of one and two story structures to a more urban-intensive scenario with five to seven story structures. The group determined that the more urban concept was too dense and not appropriate for Northfield's distinctive small-town setting. The Task Force consensus was to proceed with the moderate intensity redevelopment scenario. Design consultant Myefski Cook Architects will spend the next several weeks honing the moderate intensity designs and exploring the vast number of scenarios on how the Village Center may develop over time. They will review this with the Task Force on January 10. A powerpoint presentation with the various design concepts will then be presented at a Community Forum to be held Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 361 Happ Road. All residents are encouraged to attend the Forum to provide input on the future of the Village's downtown redevelopment plan.

Willow Road Committee Reviews Resident Input from Workshops to Develop Preferred Plan

With the third and final Community Workshop completed, the Willow Road Steering Committee is meeting with the design planner, The Lakota Group, during January and February to discuss the input received from residents of Northfield and Winnetka. They will be looking at how "Context Sensitive Solutions" concepts on maintaining and enhancing community character and quality of life work best with the various ideas discussed on moving traffic through the communities more efficiently while providing for the safety of children and adults who go back and forth across Willow Road to schools, parks and shops along this main thoroughfare. For residents who were not able to attend all three community workshops, you can review the information presented and discussed by visiting the Village website, www.northfieldil.org and clicking on the icon "Keeping Up on Willow Road." This takes you to all the agendas, publicity, meeting dates, newsletters, meeting minutes and workshop materials. To view the Workshop presentations click on www.thelakotagroup.com/willowroad. After the meetings have been completed, the preferred road enhancement plan will be presented to the Village Boards, Senator Schoenberg and IDOT.

Village Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2008

(3rd Tuesday of month)

Board Meetings

January 15
February 19
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17
July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21
November (no meeting)
December 1*

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

Smoke Free Illinois Act Effective Jan. 1, 2008 Prohibits Smoking in Public Places

As of midnight Jan. 1, 2008, Illinois required all public places and places of employment including bars, taverns, restaurants and casinos to be smoke free in an effort to improve public health. The law has been enacted to help save lives that could potentially be at risk from second hand smoke and to prevent cancer and other diseases such as pneumonia, coronary heart disease, emphysema, ear disease and asthma. The American Cancer Society states that for employees who have worked in smoke-filled environments, one eight-hour shift is the equivalent of smoking 16 cigarettes. In addition, the Act requires that no person can smoke within 15 feet of any entrance to a public place or workplace. Enforcement of the Smoke Free Act will be handled by the Illinois Dept. of Public Health and local municipal health departments. Illinois joins 22 other states in mandating "Smoke Free" workplaces and public places. Complaints of violations can be filed by calling 217-782-4977 or visit www.smoke-free.illinois.gov.

Putting Names with Faces: Employees in the Spotlight

M. Quill Retires after 36 Yrs. in Dispatch and Police Dept.

He came straight out of high school and followed his dream, retiring in December as the Detective on the Northfield Police Department. Martin G. Quill better known as "Marty" grew up in and around the Police Department. Marty's first job was in Dispatch, today known as the Police Communications Center. In December 1977, after six years in Dispatch, he was sworn in as a full time Police Officer and in 1981 was made Corporal. Marty reached his career goal of becoming Detective in June 2001 and continued as the Department's Detective until his retirement last month. Marty served a total of 30 years on the Northfield Police Force. During his career, he received numerous Departmental and Citizen Commendations and has been described by Chief Bill Lustig as "a great asset to the Department contributing to its growth." Over the years, Marty volunteered his service to the famous Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Chicago Police Department becoming a distinguished snare drummer and playing at engagements across the country. Marty and his Irish humor and stories will be missed. A retirement dinner honoring Marty Quill will be held at the White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant in Niles. The Police Department has appointed eight-year veteran Officer Chad Jones as the new Detective and swore in two new Officers, Matthew Aniolowski and Thomas Hanus, to complete the Department. They begin their careers in the Police Department with 10 weeks of training at the Police Academy followed by additional on-site training.

CORRECTION

There was an error in the Nov.-Dec. 2007 issue of the Northfield News article titled "Water Rates to Increase Jan. 1 to Pay Bonds." The sentence reading "...a new \$0.67 per cubic feet charge will be added to the rate billed for water" should read "...a new 0.67 per 100 cubic feet charge will be added to the rate billed for water."

Northfield Police Dept. Re-Accredited by CALEA

On Nov. 17, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) re-accredited the Northfield Police Department at its formal Commission hearing in Colorado Springs. Northfield's Police Department, which was initially accredited in 1993, received re-accreditations in 1998, 2001 and 2004. During the 2007 examination, Northfield met 100% of the mandatory standards and was found to have excellent, well-trained personnel. In addition, Northfield's Officer Friendly Program was noted for the high level of commitment by Officers and the reciprocal enthusiasm by the public. CALEA was formed in 1979 by four major law enforcement associations and developed standards designed to increase law enforcement agency capabilities, improve cooperation and coordination with other agencies and increase citizen and employee confidence in goals, objectives, policies and practices of the agency. Northfield's re-accreditation certificate will be presented to the Village Board at an upcoming meeting.

New Laws on Teen Age Drinking Impact Driving Privileges

New laws effective Jan. 1, 2008 require Northfield's Liquor Control Commissioner to report not only convictions regarding possession and consumption of alcohol by minors but also cases that involve court supervision given to minors for such violations. As a result of such reporting, the Secretary of State will order a three (3) month suspension of the individual's drivers license. Prior to January 1, only convictions were required to be reported. Parents will want to make sure their teens are aware of this new law and how underage drinking can impact their driving privileges. In 2007, motor vehicle crashes killed 1,254 people in Illinois and of those deaths, 47% were alcohol-related crashes.

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, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get Involved, Stay Informed on Village Issues

The Village Board and administrative staff have made it their goal to keep residents informed on issues that come before them, their work with consultants and topics such as how money is budgeted and spent, plans for future re-development of the downtown area, and Willow Road. The Village website, www.northfieldil.org provides updates on these issues and more. Also, residents can now review the monthly packet of information for each Board meeting also available on the website, www.northfieldil.org.

Community Events

Register New District 29 Kindergarten Students at Middlefork School on Jan. 30

Parents of prospective kindergarten students at least five years of age by Sept. 1, 2008 are asked to register children for the 2008-09 school year on Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Parents should bring an original of the child's official birth certificate. Entering students need not be present. For questions, call 847-881-9500 prior to Jan. 30.

Christian Heritage Academy Snowflake Festival on Feb. 2

Parents and preschoolers are invited to this annual community celebration of winter on Sat., Feb. 2 at 9 AM-Noon. Enjoy storytelling, crafts, cookie-decorating, Kindermusik and more. For info or to RSVP, call 847-446-5252.

Temple Jeremiah Offers Parenting Workshop Jan. 13

On Sun., Jan. 13, parents will receive practical, easy-to-implement, creative tips on navigating the tough challenge of child rearing in an affluent society at a free workshop, "Raising Respectful, Responsible and Resilient Children in a Privileged World held at 11:15 a.m. at Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd. Call to RSVP, 847-441-5760.

Winter Carnival Offers 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. 19** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clarkson Park. Events also include children's entertainment 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.

Sunset Ridge School Dist. 29 Asks for Your Input on Survey

To help improve the experiences of all District 29 students, school administration is conducting a survey to better understand where improvements can be made as well as what is done well. A letter explaining the survey will be mailed to all residences in early February and asks for completion by Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008. If you do not receive a letter, please contact the Sunset Ridge office, 847-881-9400. The survey is electronic and can be taken on any computer at home, at the Library, North Shore Senior Center or Sunset Ridge School. A paper survey can also be provided. Visit www.sunsetridge29.net for more information.

Calendar of Events

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

Jan. 7 & Feb. 4 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 15 & Feb. 19 - Village Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 23 - Village Center Redevelopment Community Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 5 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

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

Feb. 26 & Mar. 4 (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.

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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