



NORTHFIELD NEWS

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Caucus Holds Town Meeting Jan. 22 at 7 PM to Slate Village Board Candidates

The Northfield Caucus will hold its biennial town meeting to introduce and confirm its slate of candidates for three Trustee positions on the Village Board. The meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers on the first floor at 361 Happ Road. The Caucus nominees, John Chapin, Joan Frazier and Fred Teichert, will run for office in the April 17 Consolidated Election to replace outgoing Trustees Evan Karnes, Ruth Lucchesi and Barbara Moore. All residents are invited to attend the Caucus meeting. Nomination papers and petitions of candidates for election are required to be filed with the Village Clerk at the Village Hall between Monday, Jan. 29 and Monday, Feb. 5 at 5:00 p.m. The Village Hall will remain open until 5:00 p.m. Feb. 5 to accept papers.

Register to Vote

Residents at least 18 years of age who are not registered and plan to vote for candidates running for local offices on Village, School and Park District boards in the Consolidated Election on April 17 must register at the Village Hall or the Cook County Office of Elections, www.voterinfontet.com. no later than March 8, 2007.

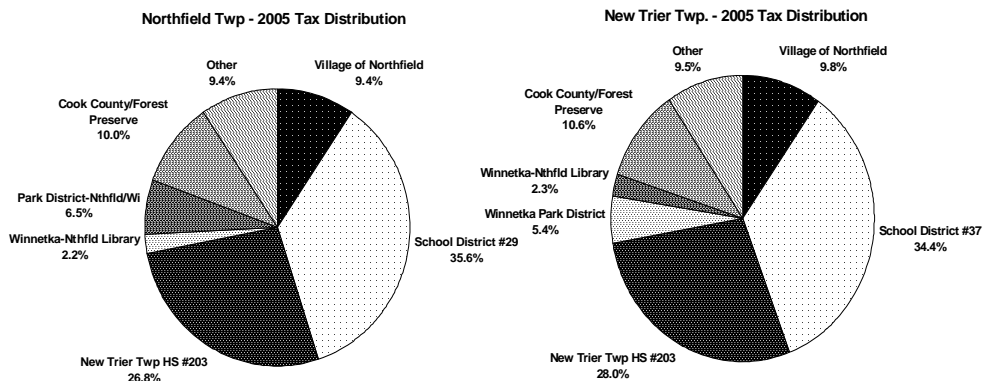
Village Financial Briefing 2006 Tax Levy Increases 4.4%

At their December 5, 2006 meeting, the Village Board considered the proposed 2006 tax levy for the Village of Northfield's fiscal year, May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. The Board adopted the Tax Levy ordinance which is 4.4% higher than the taxes extended in 2005. In accordance with Cook County tax caps, 3.4% of the increase is attributable to inflation and 1% to estimated new property that will be added to the Village's tax rolls for 2006. The tax dollars associated with the additional 1% will be borne only by the new properties. In general, property owners in Northfield can expect an increase of approximately 3.4% or \$17 on the Village portion of a \$5,000 real estate tax bill. However, a property owner's actual 2006 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 2005, less than \$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.

(Finance continued on Pg. 2)

Northfield 2005 Property Tax Distribution



Financial Briefing (Cont'd)

Discussion of FY2007-2008 Proposed Village Budget Set for Tues., Feb. 27 at 6:00 PM

The Village Board Committee of the Whole will discuss Northfield's proposed 2007-2008 fiscal year budget which includes capital projects, equipment replacement as well as proposed departmental budgets at upcoming workshop meetings. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 27 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. 6. 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 20, 2007. The budget must be adopted prior to April 30, 2007, the end of the Village's fiscal year.

Sale of Bonds for Water Main Improvements

The Village held a public hearing on December 5 to consider the sale of bonds for capital improvements. No objections were received on the proposed sale of \$3.95 million in alternative revenue bonds which will be used by the Village to fund the replacement of Northfield's water mains. These mains provide the primary source of water the Village receives from Winnetka. Sale of the bonds is expected to occur in spring 2007 once bid openings for the projects have been completed. This major capital project will also include construction of an emergency water interconnect with the Village of Glencoe and a new SCADA water monitoring system. Debt service on the bonds will be paid through increased water rates which will likely become effective May 1.

Village Debutes New Web Site with More Information and Pictures of the Community

Tune to the Village web site, www.northfieldil.org, on the Internet and check out the new, updated look and more comprehensive information. The first page or home page features a blog of the most recent announcements including community events, Village news and alerts. Along the top of the home page, categories lead you to information on the History of Northfield and a pictorial of neighborhoods, some highlights of the area such as local parks, forest preserve biking trails, Skokie Lagoons, senior center, and schools. You'll also find the Village Calendar of meetings, and Emergency Information. Visitors to the site can also access Northfield's Municipal Code, Maps of the Village and Contacts to Departments and information on e-mailing the Village Board. Categories along the left side of the home page take you to areas such as Village Government which includes elected officials and members of boards and commissions. Under Village Administration, you will find details on the Village Manager, Department Heads, Village Hours and Phone Numbers, and Career Opportunities (if available). Continuing down the page, Village Departments provides information on the various departments, who is in charge, what they handle in the department, forms, and other useful facts. Community Information is where you will find upcoming events, important phone numbers, Village newsletters (current and old), new resident information, frequently asked questions, freedom of information request forms, and external links. Finally, U.S. and State Elected Officials tells you who your representatives are and how to contact them.

Village Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2007 (3rd Tuesday of month)

Board Meetings

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

(*) Not regularly scheduled day due to observed holiday or other.

Winnetka Bans Cell Phone Use while Driving Except with Use of Hands-Free Device

Beginning Feb. 1, 2007, the Village of Winnetka will begin enforcing its new ordinance similar to the one adopted by the City of Chicago that makes it illegal for a person to talk on a hand-held cell phone while driving in Winnetka without the use of a hands-free device. The hands-free device may be a speaker phone mounted to the vehicle or an earpiece that connects to the phone. The Winnetka Village Council cited resident concerns and the need to improve the safety of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians as the reason behind its stand on cell phone use while driving in the community. Statistics used by the Secretary of State note that use of a cell phone while driving increases the chance of a crash by 400 percent. The new ordinance does not apply to 911 emergency calls. Northfield residents and others passing through Winnetka will be held accountable for complying with this local ordinance and could be ticketed if driving and using a hand held cell phone without a hands-free device.

Putting Names with Faces Village Employees in the Spotlight

This is a new Northfield News column suggested by President John Birkinbine as a way to acquaint residents with Village employees so you can put names with faces.

For this first column, it seems appropriate to introduce the longest serving



Village employee, Gale Dykas, of the Public Works Department. Gale has been a Northfield employee for 38 years. Since beginning in 1968, Gale has been a laborer, equipment operator, field supervisor and in 2004 was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works. For 37 of those 38 years, Gale has also been a paid on call member of the Northfield Fire-Rescue Department. If you have lived in the Village for a few years, you may recognize Gale from his years of reading water meters and handling other water and sewer issues. Before working for Northfield, Gale served in the U.S. Navy, worked in the grocery business and was a machinist. Today, you'll find Gale supervising new employees working on water and sewer issues, handling public works complaints and, inspecting work done by outside companies to make sure the work meets Village standards, is done professionally and in a safe manner. In 38 years, Gale has seen a lot of changes. In 1968, the cost of a stamp was 6 cents and the median income was \$7,743. In Northfield, where once there were farm houses, today the community has large, modern homes, multi-family developments and more businesses. In earlier years, much of the work was done by hand, today modern equipment does many jobs. Gale points to the changes in reading water meters - work has gone from in home visits, to remote readings, to using a radio based system to read meters from the truck. What Gale likes most about his job is working with people and the variety each day brings. When you see Gale, we hope you will congratulate him on his 38 years with Northfield!

Fields BMW Looks to Expand Sales and Service

The Village's Plan and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 10 to consider a request by Fields BMW of Northfield to allow an approximate 38,000 sq. ft. building expansion. Fields plans to acquire the office property directly north at 770 West Frontage Road to accommodate increased parking and the expansion of Fields' sales and service areas.

Board Approves A Temporary Moratorium of Nine Months on Development in the Village Center Zoning District

As the Village Center Task Force continues to meet and study Northfield's downtown area, the Village Board adopted a temporary moratorium on development in the area zoned Village Center to allow the Task Force adequate time to formulate a recommended plan of action. The temporary moratorium which expires September 6, 2007, applies to zoning applications, building permits and any development permits pertaining to property within the Village Center Zoning District. The Task Force will hold its next meeting in late January to report on exploratory discussions with various design/architectural firms.

Help Emergency Teams Find You Day or Night

In emergencies such as fires, falls, medical emergencies, break-ins or other life threatening situations, the quicker Fire-Rescue and Police can find you, the faster you will receive help. While dialing 911, the caller's address is displayed on the Police computer screen. Unless Police, Medical or Fire personnel can identify the appropriate residence when they get to the street, unnecessary delays could occur. Village Code requires residents to post their house address in non-script numerals that are at least 4-inches in height that can be seen in both daylight and darkness in a place visible from the roadway (i.e., on home, mailbox or on the parkway). Following snowfalls, remember to clear your address sign and the nearest fire hydrants.

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.

Police & Fire-Rescue Alerts

Use of Cell Phones during Car Refueling Can be Dangerous and Sometimes Deadly

After three incidents in which mobile phones ignited fumes during fueling, the Shell Oil Company issued a warning not only to gas station operators but also to vehicle drivers - **mobile phones can ignite fuel or fumes.** In one incident, the phone was placed on the car trunk lid during fueling. The phone rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump. In the second incident, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car. And in the third case, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were refueling their car. They noted that mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition. It is recommended that cell phones not be used while in a filling station or when fueling a lawn mower or boat. Also mobile phones should be turned off around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust (i.e., solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.).

Shell Oil Company's Four Rules for Safe Refueling :

1. Turn off your engine.
2. Don't smoke.
3. Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off.
4. Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling.

Static electricity is one of the major contributors to "sparking" fires between cell phones and fuel at gas pumps. The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to make people aware of the danger of fire caused by static electricity. They recommend that you NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely must get back in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door, touching the metal, before you pull the nozzle out. Then the static electricity from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle. During their research of 150 cases of fires from static electricity, the Institute found:

- 17 fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.
- 29 fires occurred where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a

variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, the station and to the customer.

- It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire when connected with static charges.
- Almost all cases involved the person getting back into their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started as a result of static electricity.
- Most of those involved wore rubber-soled shoes.
- Of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- Most men never get back in their vehicle until refueling is finished which is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.

Tips from the Police for a Safe New Year

As we begin a new year, the Police Department would like to provide a few reminders to help keep you safe.

Internet and Identity Theft

The Internet is a convenient way for thieves to gain access to your identity for their personal gain. Identity thieves use e-mails in an attempt to solicit personal information in a scam called "phishing." Always keep in mind, banks, credit card companies, utilities and other legitimate organizations will not need to ask for your personal information. When you get e-mails or phone calls asking for personal information, immediately delete the e-mail or ask them questions to get more details.

Personal Protection

If you are attacked and the person wants your wallet, purse or belongings, do not resist. Your life and safety are worth more than your possessions. Whether away from home or while in your home, keep the garage, front and back doors closed and locked to prevent "crimes of opportunity." A recent local robber delivered ordered food and took the opportunity to steal the owners car keys and wallet that were near the door as well as the owner's car in the driveway!

What to Do if You Are a Victim of A Crime

If you have been robbed or think you are a victim of fraud, call the Northfield Police, 847-446-2131 or 911 immediately and explain what happened. Make a conscious effort to provide an accurate description of the criminal including age, race, complexion, clothing, height, weight, hair/eye color, unusual features, a description of the vehicle and license plate number, if possible. Your information is vital in catching robbers, identity thieves and con artists and can help prevent someone else from being victimized.

Places to Go and Things to Do for All Ages

Northfield Park District Programs

In addition to the Winter Carnival (see Pg. 6), the Northfield Park District offers programs, classes and activities for residents of all ages.

Fitness

For all those committed to keeping their resolution for the new year and meeting their goal, the Fitness Center offers a variety of memberships and programs including 3 month, 6 month, and 1 year memberships as well as daily rates. The Center provides state of the art equipment including PreCor treadmills for walking and biking exercise, elliptical trainers that are easy on the knees, upright and recumbent bikes, weight training on the Smith Machine and free weights, use of the workout room for warm up/cooldown stretching, exercise balls plus access to personal trainers. If you work better in groups, try the Early Morning Workout, Yoga or Senior Stretch programs. The Fitness Center is open: M-F from 6 AM-9 PM; Sat., 8 AM-6 PM, and Sun. 10 AM to 6 PM.

Skating

Northfield residents skate free at the Clarkson Park rink, located on Willow Road at Brisol. Proof of residency is required. Non-residents pay \$3. Enjoy a glide around the rink then warm up next to the fireplace in the Lodge with hot cocoa. Regular skating hours from Jan. 3 through mid-Feb.: M-F, 4 to 9 PM; Sat., 10 AM to 9 PM, and Sun. 11 AM to 8 PM.

Skiing

Students 5th through 8th grade are invited to sign up for the Day Off School Ski Trip to Grand Geneva Friday, Feb. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Rental skis available. Bring your lunch or purchase there. Bus leaves the Community Center at 8:30 a.m. Cost \$50. To sign up, call 847-446-4428.

Other Sports Programs

The Park District has a host of programs to keep children active and busy. Check out Floor Hockey and Basketball programs offered for various ages.

Fun Programs

Friday Night Dodge Ball for 4th-5th graders Jan. 19 and for 6-8th graders Jan. 26 from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. Bring your friends. \$15 includes pizza and pop.

Father/Daughter Valentines Ball (4 yrs.-4th grade) on Feb. 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Center gym. Cost \$45. Register by Feb. 1.

Pre-School Programs including Mad Science for early and elementary children.

Special Event

Don't miss **Battle of the Bands** at the Community Center Friday, Feb. 23, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Those in a band can compete against other north shore bands. Register by Feb. 16 - Fee: \$30 per band. A PA system will be provided; participants must bring their own instruments. Admission is free for fans who attend to cheer on their favorite band. To enter the contest, contact Grant Dawson at, 847-446-4428.

Library Programs

The Winnetka-Northfield Branch Library offers youth programs, adult book discussion groups and a current events roundtable to feed minds of all ages. The No Girls Allowed father/son book club for boys grades 4-6 meets Jan. 23 to discuss *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson and Feb. 27 to discuss *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine* by Sally Walker. Check out Storytimes on Mondays from 4-4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10-10:30 a.m. Special activity programs include Monday Morning Crafts for all ages from 10-10:30 a.m.; Spectacular Valentines on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. for ages 8 and up; and Valentine Glitter and Glue, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2-2:30 p.m. for ages 3 and up. Discussions for Adults at the Northfield Branch include: Notable Books Discussion Group which meets the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and Clue: A Mystery Book Club that meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Also, join friends, neighbors and moderator Jerry Ripp Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. to share your views on the issues of the day at the Current Events Roundtable. Call the Library for more details, 847-446-5990.

Senior Programs

The North Shore Senior Center hosts a free Photography Exhibit Jan. 11 to Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. featuring the creativity of local photographers. The Adventure Club keeps seniors active with cross country skiing for beginners to veterans Sat., Jan. 27 at Sportsman's Park in Northbrook. Rental equipment available. Also enjoy, Snowshoeing Sat., Feb. 10 meeting at Tower Rd. Boat Launch at the Skokie Lagoons. Snowshoes provided. Call to register for Adventure Club activities. Members and non-members welcome.

Park District Seniors Group (55 and up) meet the first Monday of the month to plan activities. Enjoy Pot Luck Luncheon Thurs., Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. at the Community Center; Valentine's Day Luncheon at Hackney's Weds., Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with bingo after lunch. Call the Park District to register, 847-446-4428.

Community Events

Register New District 29 Kindergarten Students at Middlefork School on Jan. 31

Parents of prospective kindergarten students at least five years of age by Sept. 1, 2007 are asked to register children for the 2007-08 school year on Wednesday, Jan. 31 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. 31.

Northfield Community Nursery School Enrollment Day Jan. 22

Parents and guardians who would like to enroll their child in the Northfield Community Nursery School, 400 Wagner Road, can sign up on Monday, Jan. 22 from 7-8 p.m. For more information, contact 847-446-1116.

Temple Jeremiah Offers Two Educational Programs in Jan.

On Sun., Jan. 28, the acclaimed Israeli film *"Walk on Water"* provides a look at Israeli society and the Holocaust. Presented at 2 p.m. at Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd. Also, learn about Judaism and the environment on Tues., Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. when Dr. Lankin presents *Judaism's Environmental Imperative* at the Dawn Schuman Institute.

Join "Winter Carnival" Fun Sat., Jan. 21

All residents are invited to experience the thrill of 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, January 21 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.

Northfield Twp. Holds One-Stop Passport "Fair" Jan. 20 to Help Travelers Meet New Passport Requirements

To assist Northfield Twp. residents obtain a passport now required beginning Jan. 23 when traveling from the U.S. to and returning from Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean and Central and South America, a one-stop "Passport Fair" will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the township office, 3801 W. Lake in Glenview. On-site photography for \$15 will be available as well as expedited passport service for \$30. Passports are also available by appointment at the Township office during regular office hours.

Calendar of Events

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

- Jan. 8 & Feb. 12 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 10 & Feb. 5 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 16 & Feb. 20 - Village Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 22 - Village Center Task Force Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 6 & Mar. 6 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 27 & Mar. 6 (optional - if needed) - Village Budget Meetings - 6:00 p.m.

The Northfield News

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

President John L. Birkinbine, Jr.

Trustee Frank J. Charhut

Trustee Evan B. Karnes, II

Trustee Terry J. Gottlieb

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 446-7131/TDD; Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies.

Watch Cable Channel 6 for Village News & Information

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 Mark J. Morien, Village Manager, Village Hall, 361 Happ Road, Northfield, IL 60093