



NEWS

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Elect New Board Members at the Consolidated Election Tuesday, April 7 or Vote Early March 16 - April 2

Vote for new Village officials on
April 7 between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00
p.m. at the following polling places:

Northfield Twp. Precincts:

8: Divine Word International
2001 Waukegan Rd., Techny

9 & 23: Lutheran Church of the
Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Rd.

37: Park Dist. Community Center
401 Wagner Road (at Willow)

61: Northfield Community Church
Willow Road at Wagner Road

New Trier Twp. Precincts:

20 & 44: Northfield Fire Station
1800 Winnetka Road

Early Voting will be held Monday,
March 16 through Thursday, April 2
at the Northbrook Village Hall, 1225
Cedar Lane, and the Skokie Court-
house, 5600 W. Old Orchard Road,
Rm. 149. For more locations go to
www.voterinfont.com.

**Get Ready for
Village-wide Spring
Clean Up Day
Saturday, May 16**

All Items at the Curb at 7 AM

President's Briefing

This is my final briefing since I have decided not to run for a second term as Village President. I am, however, confident that the change in leadership will be seamless. Following the April 7 Consolidated Election, you will be hearing from Fred Gougler who is running unopposed for President. There will also be two new Trustees on the Village Board. Brian Kozminski and Dr. George Warga, both of whom have experience on other Boards/Commissions, are running for the Trustee positions. They will replace Frank Charhut who has volunteered his time for eight years on the Board and previously 17 years on the Architectural Commission and Ted Greene who served a four year term as Trustee and three years on the Community Life Commission. Terry Gottlieb is running unopposed for a second four year term on the Board of Trustees and previously served on the Plan and Zoning Commission for eleven years. I encourage you to take part in electing the Village's new Board members on Election Day, Tuesday, April. 7.

The Economy and Our Village Budget

In addition to new leadership, there are a number of other changes I want to touch on in this column. Unlike a regular calendar year (January through December), the start of the Village's year (its financial or "fiscal" year) begins on May 1. During the past few months, staff has worked diligently putting together a new Village Budget for fiscal year 2009/2010 which was presented to the Board and the community at the March 3 Budget Meeting.

As you all know, the current economy is one of the most challenging this country has faced in many years and most of us have been impacted in some way, whether it is through a loss in our investments/savings, retirement income, the loss of a job and for some, even the loss of their home through foreclosure. These losses have also impacted the Village's budget in reduced revenues due to decreases in sales at our stores, restaurants and auto dealerships, as well as the Village's own losses in interest income. At the same time, the Village is also experiencing higher expenses in commodities like road salt, utilities and state mandated increased contribution amounts to employee pensions.

To help balance the Village budget, staff has made a number of cuts. Two full-time positions that were vacated by retirements have been eliminated, two part-time positions were also eliminated while other part-time hours have

(Cont'd on Pg. 3)

Village News

Village Joins with Park District to Celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, at 10:30 AM

The Village and Park District will join with fourth grade students from Sunset Ridge School to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Village Hall. The Arbor Day proclamation will be read and a tree planted to celebrate the event. Following the tree planting, students will read their winning Arbor Day poems based on this year's theme, "Trees are Terrific...in Cities and Towns" and participate in various activities. Residents are welcome to attend. Call 847-446-9200x2231 for more details.

Northfield Honored for 24 Consecutive Years as a "Tree City USA"

For the year 2008, Northfield has been designated as a "Tree City USA" for the 24th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Each year Northfield submits information on their tree programs in order to be considered for this award. 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 "GREEN"**

Plant Trees!

Waste Management Awarded New 7-Year Contract effective May 1

After 13 years of waste and recycling collection and disposal service from Waste Management Northwest, it was decided to do a thorough search of all solid waste collection companies in northern Illinois in order to get truly competitive proposal prices prior to the end of the current contract on April 30, 2009. Five waste companies responded to the Village's request for proposals (RFP). The group was narrowed to three and it was quickly apparent that Waste Management's prices were the lowest for residential service as well as for most commercial categories. Although it was expected that rates would increase with a new contract, the closest competitor's prices were more than double Waste Management's new base price for waste and recycling collection and removal. By keeping the same hauler, residents also save by not having to replace their waste and/or recycling container/toters. The current basic monthly rate of \$10.45 for one time per week collection of refuse and recycling at the curb, which is billed direct to residents, will increase to \$14.03 effective May 1, 2009. The new rate includes the rental cost of the recycling toter so there will not be an additional recycling toter rental fee added to bills. Under the current rates, the toter rental was an extra \$1.00 per month making the total basic rate \$11.45. Basic service under the new contract also includes pick up of one bulk item per week (not white good). Additional services for residents who request them include twice a week pick-up, backdoor service, yardwaste collection, equipment rental and special pick-ups. Northfield residents continue to have the option of buying or renting waste and/or recycling toters. Three toter sizes are offered with a cost of \$50 for the 34 and 65 gallon sizes and \$60 for the 95 gallon toter. 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 \$60.00 for the season (Apr. 6-Dec. 7). To change service, order new service or report problems, contact Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696. If you have any questions about the new contract rates and/or service, call 847-446-9200x2231 or email lgittel@northfieldil.org.

Village-Wide Clean Up Day - Saturday, May 16

Plan your spring cleaning project and get rid of old or unused items that are not recycled from your closets, basement, attic and garage on **Saturday, May 16**. 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 and see Page 5 for information on finding hazardous waste disposal sites.

Yardwaste Collection Season Begins April 6 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 6 and runs **Mondays** through December 7 (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 \$60.00 for the 2009 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 2009, call Waste Management (1-800-796-9696) between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

President's Briefing *(Cont'd from Pg. 1)*

been reduced. Non-essential training or training that is not needed to update staff licenses or that is not required for staff to do their job was cut, memberships were reduced or eliminated, public relations expenses related to Police and Fire-Rescue programs have been scaled back as has general operating expenses, office supplies and contractual work. Another program that will help the Village save includes going "green" by eliminating paper newsletters. With the recent start up of "E-News," you can receive the latest Northfield Newsletter and other Village news electronically via email. To sign up for "E-News," go to the Village website, www.northfieldil.org and follow the prompts. Getting the Northfield Newsletter electronically will save the Village paper, printing and postage costs. Other programs like the co-operative tree program and the sidewalk program are programs the Village will still be offering. However, the Village will no longer absorb 50% of the cost for trees planted on parkways nor 50% of new resident sidewalks that do not present a trip or fall hazard.

Water and Sewer Increases

Additional changes that will impact residents beginning May 1 include a 7.5% water rate increase and a 10% increase in the sanitary sewer rate, which has not been increased since 2005. These increases were proposed by the Capital Improvement Program Committee and approved by the Board in December 2008. The increases will help cover improvements to the Village's water and sewer infrastructure systems and keep them viable.

A New Solid Waste Contract

There is one other change that will impact the community on May 1. After 13 years with Waste Management and, with our current contract due to expire April 30, 2009, the Village felt it was important to get the most competitive waste collection and disposal rate possible and sent out requests for proposals (RFP's) to all the solid waste companies in northern Illinois. The Village received proposals from five companies including Waste Management. After comparing all the proposals, the field was narrowed to three companies whose rates were then closely compared. In January 2009, the Board awarded a new seven year contract to Waste Management which offered the lowest prices in all residential categories as well as in most commercial areas. The closest competitor's rates were more than double Waste Management's prices. In addition, because the Village is staying with Waste Management, pick up days will stay the same, residents will not have to rent or buy new waste containers/toters and you will continue to enjoy the same reliable service you have had over the years. The basic waste and recycling rate for one time per week curbside service which is currently \$10.45 per month plus a \$1.00 recycling toter rental fee for a total of \$11.45 will increase to \$14.03 per month. This new rate includes the recycling toter rental fee in the base price. I am happy to report that staff has done an outstanding job of "keeping the lid" on garbage collection and disposal costs for the community. *(See Page 2 for more complete details on the new waste contract and other rates.)*

Willow Road Update

The Village's Traffic and Transportation Committee continues to communicate with IDOT regarding their plan to select an engineering firm to conduct Phase I and Phase II studies on Willow Road which is the first step in their plan to widen the roadway. Because of the economy and the state of the Illinois budget, transportation and roadway projects are running behind as many Federal and State agencies await funding from government stimulus programs. IDOT's engineering consultant is scheduled to begin Phase I and Phase II planning this spring. IDOT says such engineering planning should take 48 months to complete. In the meantime, the Traffic and Transportation Committee is working with consultants to make sure that Northfield has input into any plan in order to get a road the community feels is safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing.

(Cont'd on Pg. 4)

For Your Information

New Water and Sewer Rates Effective May 1

After studying the capital requirements of the water and sewer systems for months, a Village Board sub-committee determined that water and sewer rate increases were needed to maintain and update the systems infrastructure. In December, the Village Board approved a 7.5% water rate increase. For each 100 cubic feet of water billed in each quarter annual period on or after May 1, 2009, the rate will be \$4.14 and there will be a minimum water charge of \$45.54 for each quarter annual period where the volume is equal to or less than 1,100 cubic feet. The sanitary sewer rate which has not been raised since May 2005, will increase 10% and will be \$1.38 per 100 cubic feet billed. The minimum water and sewer charge will increase from \$56.65 per quarter to \$60.72 where the volume is equal to or less than 1,100 cubic feet of water. Users of sewer service only residing within the Village will be charged \$87.65 for each quarter annual period billed May 1 or after.

Village Newsletter Goes Green to Save on Printing and Postage

The March-April edition of the Northfield News is the last Village newsletter that will be printed and mailed. In an effort to save on paper, printing and postage, the Village Newsletter will now be available electronically via E-News and the website. To continue receiving Village Newsletters go to our website, www.northfieldil.org. By clicking on the "Newsletter" icon on the front page, you can print out a copy of the latest or past newsletters. Or, click on "E-News" and sign up to have the latest Newsletter and other Village news emailed to your computer. For those without a computer who would like a copy of a current Newsletter, please contact the Editor, 847-446-9200x2231.

Red Light Violation Fee Raised to Match Rates in other Towns

Red light vehicle violations that occur at the Village's two intersections equipped with automated cameras that record images of motor vehicles entering the intersection against a red light signal will now carry a \$100 fee per violation. This rate is currently in effect.

Presidents Briefing *(Cont'd from Pg. 4)*

New Business and Additions to the Downtown Area

There is a light at the end of every economic downturn. In Northfield, we have some positive signs of better times ahead. Because Village staff has been in discussions with both owners of the boarded up gas stations on Willow Road, I am hopeful that the buildings will be removed soon and that new grass or other improvements will soon be blossoming. Several new restaurant groups are talking with Friedman Properties about the former Haussmann Brasserie location. Finally, Fields auto dealership recently negotiated with the Village to build a new Volvo dealership on West Frontage Road, north of their current buildings. They expect to begin construction later this year.

Discover All that Northfield Offers

As we go about our daily lives, it is good to remember that Northfield's business center offers residents and others convenient and attractive stores with friendly service for grocery shopping, hardware, clothing, gifts, shoes, furniture, automobiles, nursery plants and trees, jewelry, sports equipment, baked goods, chocolate and ice cream treats and a selection of dining opportunities at 12 restaurants and coffee shops. Northfield also offers services that include doctors, dentists, chiropractors, banks, hair and nail salons, cleaners, home remodeling and decorating, pet care, printing, gas stations and auto repair. Our community has its own small and inviting library with comfortable chairs, a fireplace, books and computers, a post office and some of the best schools in northern Illinois. As a non home rule community, Northfield, even more than other towns, depends on its residents to buy in town to keep the community healthy and vibrant and to provide the sales revenue that Village services depend on. By keeping your purchases local, you are also doing your part in the "greening" effort by saving on gas and, you are helping independent businesses prosper. Discover all that Northfield provides!

Villages Continue to Pursue Use of UP Railroad ROW for Bike and Walking Trail

When Union Pacific Railroad discontinued service on the railroad tracks that run through Northfield years ago, the crossing gates were removed but the railroad never fully declared service as abandoned. Over the past two years in an effort to keep the property in tact to use UP's right of way for a linear park and bike and walking trail, the Villages of Wilmette, Glenview, Northbrook and Northfield have worked together with a consultant to develop a feasibility study to determine the potential of the trail that would connect with the existing Skokie Valley Trail in Highland Park to the north and trails being developed to the south in Skokie, Lincolnwood and Chicago. Over the past six months, the Committee has written Union Pacific three times asking to lease the right of way in a railbanking agreement to develop the property into a trail. Union Pacific has not responded. The trail is recognized as a potential bike/walking path on regional bike maps and is considered a Legacy Project for the Burnham Plan Centennial Program being planned in Chicago

Police Department Alert

Be on Alert for Home Repair Contractors Looking for New Projects

The Police Department reminds homeowners that with spring around the corner and thoughts turning to repairs and home projects, to be on the alert for con artists posing as contractors. An important warning sign is whether a contractor makes an unsolicited offer of work saying "they were in the area", or so and so is having some work done on their home and they can offer you a good deal. Commonly, a home repair fraud artist will seek out a house in need of some repair or maintenance and offer the homeowner an unbelievable deal. After money is paid to the contractor, they will either use inferior materials or simply never show up again. Those incredible "deals" might be very tempting and sound plausible when the contractor explains they are cutting prices to get business in the slow economy. However, Police warn that making hasty agreements with contractors is not a good idea. They advise you to take time to research contractors through references and other resources such as the Better Business Bureau or do an internet search. Homeowners should feel comfortable with their decisions, not rushed or pressured into a potentially victimizing deal.

Code RED System Contacts You in Emergencies Requiring Immediate Action

The Villages of Northfield, Winnetka, Wilmette, Glencoe and Kenilworth working together have instituted an ultra high-speed telephone communication system for emergency notifications called Code RED 911. This system allows the Police Department to telephone all or specific targeted areas of the Village in case of an emergency to notify residents of a situation that requires immediate action such as fires, floods, environmental emergencies, a missing child, boil-water orders or other emergencies. The system is capable of dialing 60,000 phone numbers per hour and delivers the Police Department's recorded message to a live person or an answering machine. The Code RED system will make three attempts to contact the phone number(s) you have provided. In the past, Code RED has been used for alert of a missing person, fires and floods, a bomb threat, hostage situation, a chemical spill and drinking water contamination. To provide your number or to add an additional phone number such as a cell phone, visit www.CodeRedWeb.com. Also, click on Emergency Information on the Village website, www.northfieldil.org for other emergency information.

Bike and Walking Trail *(Cont'd)*

to celebrate the 100th anniversary of David Burnham's "Plan of Chicago." The SVT Committee has submitted an application for a grant to pay for Phase I and II engineering leading to development of the trail but remain unsure of Union Pacific's position regarding the right of way.

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.).

Options 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.

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 95, 65 or 34 gallon recycling toter on wheels, call Waste Management, 1-800-796-9696.

The "Duke" of Public Works Hangs Up All-Weathersuit after 40 Years

The longest serving Village employee is hanging up his boots and all weathersuit and retiring after 40 years. His friends and co-workers know him as "Duke" while residents he has visited to read their water meters or help with other problems, know him as Gale Dykas.

Gale started as a public works laborer on November 25, 1968 and over the past 40 years has rarely missed a day on the job. Early in his career, he handled reading water meters, fixing water main breaks, cutting grass,



rodding sewers, fixing streets, and handling calls and complaints about water bills. As he progressed in the department, he was named a foreman, then Assistant to the Public Works Director and is retiring as Assistant Public Works Director. Gale is a working director and is more often seen as pictured above or in his truck than at his desk. During his 40 years, Gale has seen the Village grow adding more and larger homes. Where once he knocked on every door and went in every home to read water meters, changes in equipment permitted reading meters by hand held remotes from the truck; sanitary sewers that had to be dug up and repaired or replaced are now sliplined. Gale's years of experience include many stories about fixing broken water mains in the worst of weather at below zero temperatures, when mains usually break, in blizzard conditions or pouring rain, late at night or before sun up, Thanksgiving Day or Sunday morning. And because Gale also served as a Volunteer Firefighter during those many years, at times he climbed out of the trenches and got on the fire truck to face other types of emergencies. His wife of those many years and three children might tell you they did not see Gale much over the years but as adults his children now realize the sacrifices and hard work of their father. In retirement Gale will have a little more time to finish working on the '64 Chevy he is restoring, tend to his garden and putter around the house. Over the past 40 years, "Duke" has made many friends because he was dedicated to helping Northfield residents resolve whatever public works problems they had. He will be missed!

Community Events

Lutheran Church of Ascension Hosts Blood Drive Sun., Mar. 8

All those between the ages of 16 and 80 years of age who are in good health are prospective blood donors and are invited to participate in the Blood Drive hosted by Lutheran Church of the Ascension on Sunday, March 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Church, Willow Road at Sunset Ridge Road in Northfield. Life Source will provide a thorough health screening. Call 847-446-8335 for an appointment. Walk ins also welcome.

Northern Suburban Special Recreation Assoc. Holds Gala Fundraiser at Fields March 14

Enjoy "Peace, Love & NSSRA" gala fundraising event Saturday, March 14 from 7-11 p.m. for NSSRA at Fields Jeep, 670 W. Frontage Road in Northfield. Dress up in 60's attire and dance to groovy music while helping raise awareness of NSSRA. Classic food, beverages, music, live and silent auctions. Tickets \$100 per person. Call 847-509-9400.

Senior Center Offers Women and Spirituality Conference Mar. 21

The North Shore Senior Center will hold 13 different workshops for adult women of all ages and beliefs offering various ways of connecting with your spirit given by experienced and dynamic presenters on Saturday, March 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road. For registration and information, call 847-784-6030 or visit

www.spiritualtransformations.org.

Cost: \$75/per person with lunch.

Northfield Twp. Holds Recycling Events in 2009

Due to the popularity of their November 2008 recycling event, Northfield Township will host a series of free recycling events throughout 2009 for township residents and businesses. Recycling events will be held at the Northfield Twp. Road District Garage at 1928 Lehigh Street in Glenview on the follow Saturdays: March 14, March 28, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 26, October 17 and November 21. Items that will be accepted at the Lehigh Street facility include: computer hardware, household paint (both oil and latex), engine oil, hydraulic oil, transmission fluid, cell phones/pagers, metal, batteries (all types), tires, and bikes, toys and clothing in usable condition. For additional information, contact the Northfield Twp. office, 847-724-8300 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday. Or call the Twp. Road District at 847-724-7055.

Farmers Market Opens Saturday, June 6
7:30 AM to Noon across from New Trier West

Calendar of Events

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

Mar. 17 & Apr. 21 - Village Committee and Board Meetings - 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 7 - Consolidated Election - 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 7 - Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 7 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 13 - Architectural Commission Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 24 - Village celebrates Arbor Day - 10:30 a.m.

Apr. 29 - Traffic & Transportation Meeting - 7:00 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 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