

# Northbrook Voice

MARCH &  
APRIL 2023



northbrook

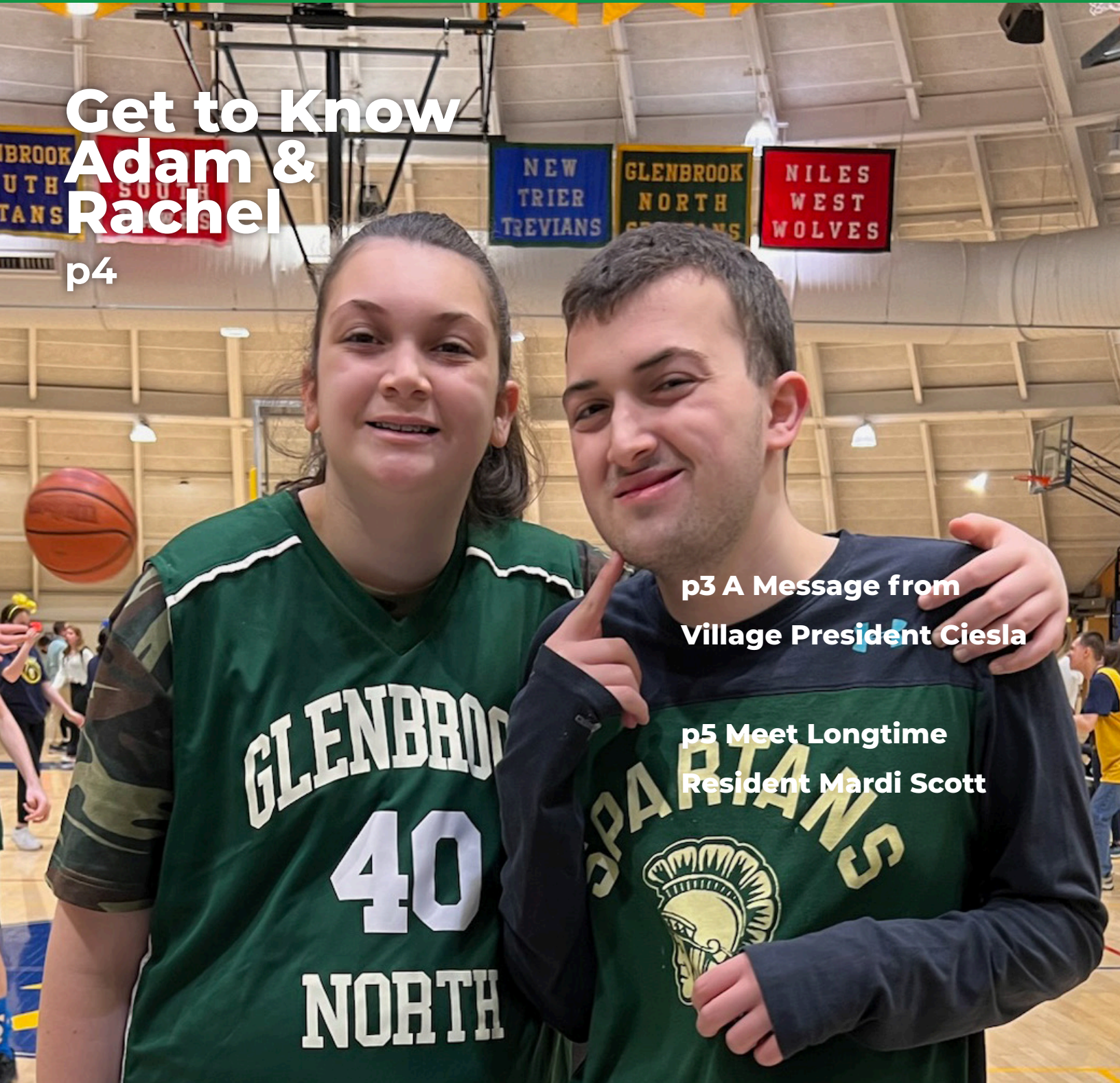
THE  
GREEN  
ISSUE

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Adam &  
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Resident Mardi Scott





# History Hidden in Plain Sight

**O**ne hundred years ago, the Village changed its name from Shermerville to Northbrook but there are still original elements of the Village that remain for residents to enjoy. One visible man-made element, which happens to be a natural resource, has influenced the growth of the village, the placement and size of our downtown, and is very important to the history of the town we call home today.

River North, the inspiration for our village's name, has had a large impact on the size and available land for our downtown. Although most people think of it as a creek or a brook, it is actually the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. In fact, the train line that runs across our community in the river valley from the north to south was also another element impacted by the location of the river. For decades, the river supplied entertainment for children in the community. During the winter months, children sled down the banks of the river or strapped on their skates and leisurely headed to Glenview. Today, there are few winter days cold enough for the river to freeze.



*Photo captured on the Meadow Road bridge courtesy of Jan Hincapie*

The Northbrook Historical Society has anecdotal stories of these adventures and photographs to go along with them. In earlier days, the river also meandered its way from north to south through what is now Northbrook. At one time, there were two bridges crossing the river on Shermer Road, and in certain spots the river ran perpendicular to the road.

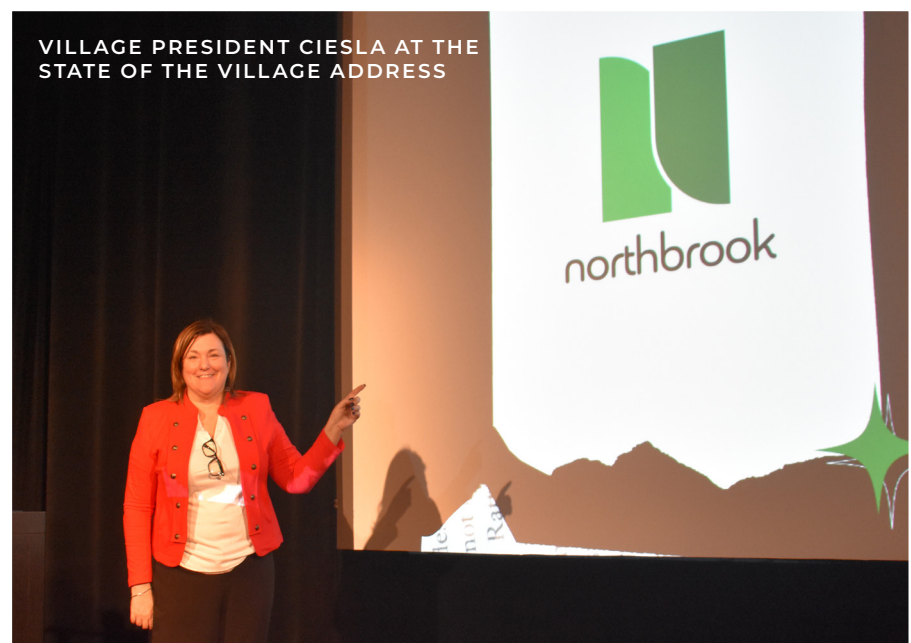
In 1926 the river was straightened by channelization. A year later, the Village had its first comprehensive plan drawn. Instead of turning its back to the river as we did for decades, the plans called for a wide tree-lined parkway along the river from the northern Village borders to the southern borders. The plan also called for a large commercial and industrial area on either side of the river. The Great Depression ended those plans. In 2000, the Village began a river revitalization and bank stabilization project in the downtown portion of the river. Today, you can enjoy the sound of the flowing river and view the return of wildlife while strolling along the pathway in the Village Green. You can also watch as the Rotary Club of Northbrook fills the river with yellow rubber ducks during their annual Rubber Ducky Race. No matter the season, the river for which we are named provides a peaceful vista for all Northbrook residents. Walters Avenue is the perfect spot to watch the force of flowing water, and to experience Mother Nature in action.

Learn more about Northbrook history at [northbrookhistory.org](http://northbrookhistory.org) or [facebook.com/northbrookhistory](https://facebook.com/northbrookhistory).

## New Look, Same Great Place

Notice anything new around here? Unveiled by President Ciesla at the 2023 State of the Village Address, Northbrook's refreshed visual identity and tagline officially launched March 1.

You'll see Village communications and materials transition from using the traditional seal to the new logo shown here. Using feedback from over 1,000 Northbrook stakeholders, the Village's consultant developed a logo and taglines that represent the community's emphasis on inclusivity, education, and sustainability while remaining community-centered with outstanding services.





A Message from President Ciesla  
Village of Northbrook

# Sustainable Northbrook: Reaching Our Goals

**S**pring brings fresh flowers and new opportunities. It's the season of renewal. As we welcome back our traditional Earth and Arbor Day recycling event on Saturday, April 22, I look forward to future partnerships with other local organizations to bring educational and hands-on sustainability programming.

## CAP Update

In August 2021, the Village of Northbrook adopted the Climate Action Plan (CAP) with an ambitious commitment to reduce the community-wide carbon footprint by 80% by 2040. Since then, the Village has made great strides in implementing the CAP with nearly 76% of Phase 1 initiatives in progress or completed, and another 13% in the early planning stage. Notably all sectors, aside from waste management and water/wastewater, show progress aligning with the CAP's 2030 targets. Luckily, these sectors are where we, the residents of Northbrook can make an impact to reverse these trends.

Since 2021, the community's total emissions have reduced by 41.8% from 2010 levels – equivalent to eliminating over 5.4 billion cubic-feet of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere! The Village itself is leading the way by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% from our operations. Beyond these reductions, Northbrook was recognized as a SolSmart Gold community by making it easier to install rooftop solar throughout the village and designation from the National Wildlife Federation for our commitment to pollinator



conservation. Go Northbrook!

## How You Can Help

The most recent annual progress report indicated that emissions from solid waste increased by 10% from 2010 levels. We all can help to reduce unnecessary waste by opting for reusable products, and recycling right utilizing local opportunities. The Village offers twice monthly electronics recycling, plastic bag recycling and battery disposal in bins at Village Hall, and curbside textile recycling through Simple Recycling. Check out the Village Happenings on pages 10-11 for more details on these recycling opportunities and more!

Composting can also be one of the most effective ways to reduce our individual carbon footprint as according to the EPA, methane released from landfills are the

third largest source of emissions nationwide. Through Waste Management, residents can sign up for either a yearly subscription or utilize the service weekly from April until November through the sticker program. Both options offer collection of yard waste and food scraps. Be sure to confirm which items are included in the program (no pet waste). For more information visit **WM.com** or call WM at 800-796-9696.

Remember, we can all make a difference!

President,  
Village of Northbrook



# Connecting with Nature to Better Your Mental Health

by Robin Lake, LCSW of Family Service Center Northbrook

Although we typically think about therapeutic treatment when we consider addressing mental health concerns, there are many ways to care for our mental wellness. Beneficial and inexpensive strategies are available to strengthen and maintain mental wellness, including getting a good night's rest, connecting with friends, playing, exercising, practicing mindfulness, and being around nature. Taking a few moments each day to connect with nature is likely to improve your concentration, reduce stress, enhance self-control, better your mood, and increase empathy. Even the presence of green spaces near schools and in neighborhoods has been shown to

promote cognitive development and improve attentional functioning. In fact, just looking at nature will help positively impact someone's mood, attention, and cognitive functioning. With so many benefits, it's easy to choose going outside as a strategy to support mental health and wellbeing. Nature also offers the opportunity to combine strategies and meet a friend, go for a walk, get some exercise, play a game, or meditate.

***"...It is hard to imagine a single thing you can do that is better for your body and mind than finding awe outdoors," Dacher Keltner, PhD explains in his book Awe. "Doing so leads***

***to the reduced likelihood of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes, depression, anxiety, and cancer."***

Consider taking a break from homework, screens, or work by going outside and enjoying nature. Looking at images of nature, walking around the block, or doing a visual meditation outside can help re-focus attention and soothe our busy minds. We're so fortunate to have beautiful parks, green spaces, lots of trees, and fields in our community. When you take advantage of the opportunities to experience nature, your mind and body will thank you!

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Northbrook

Autism Awareness Month by Laura Florek, Special Needs Commission Member

Autism Awareness Month is especially important for my family, as it is an opportunity to celebrate my two amazing young adult children Adam, and Rachel.

Adam, 19, was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 2, and Rachel, 17, was diagnosed at the age of 3. There is a popular tagline that says, "When you have met one person with Autism, you've met one person with Autism." Autism is a true spectrum and even though many individuals share the same diagnosis, they could be as different as night and day--including my two children.

Throughout those early years, there were times when I doubted whether my kids would be capable of doing "typical things." I often struggled with other parents constantly talking about how early their children met their developmental milestones. It was tough listening to parents cheerfully detail how amazing little

Suzie was because she "learned to walk before she turned 1 year old." I had to remind myself repeatedly, "Different kid, different set of issues.



Adam, 19 and Rachel, 17

Keep moving forward." Fortunately, I have been able to celebrate many of Adam and Rachel's accomplishments over the years. Behaviorally, socially, and academically, my kids continue to exceed my expectations and

show me that they can do anything if they have the right resources and support to assist them. An important part of my job as their mom is to instill functional daily living skills while collaborating with the school and transition program to provide them with vocational opportunities so they can become responsible employed adults. Further down the road, our goal is for Adam and Rachel to reside in some sort of group housing with a day program that will provide them with the ability to have a meaningful impact on their community.

I am an Autism mom and I celebrate my children every single day. My hope is that when you see individuals that may not look like you, or come in contact with children who are taking a different path than your own, that you do not judge. That you do not look away. That you teach your children to embrace those differences.

# Meet Mardi Scott

## Founder of District 225's Transitional Services Environmental Club



The Village of Northbrook is an ideal place to raise a family, further careers, and get involved with the community. Mardi Scott, a longtime resident of Northbrook has maximized her time as a community member through her service as an educator and environmental advocate.

She is the founder of District 225's Transitional Services Environmental Club, a space for young adults with special needs to smoothly transition into adulthood, and join in on everyday activities their peers are involved in. The Transitional Services Environmental Club has partnered with many Northbrook nature organizations like the Chicago Botanical Garden, Somme Nature Preserves, River Trails Nature Center, and the Village's Sustainability Department. The club's mission is to provide students with volunteer experience, and help prepare them with the tools to troubleshoot real-world dilemmas. On average, six students from ages 18-22 join the program every semester and the club is led by a

pair of staff members, including Mardi. Founded nearly five years ago, this club changes the way that the Northbrook community interacts with their special needs neighbors, friends, and family.

***"As an adult, you have choices on what you'd like to be involved in and we wanted our students to have that," Mardi explains. "All of our activities were tailored to fit each student because we want them to have a meaningful experience."***



Trustee Heather Ross, Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray, and District 225's Transitional Services Environmental Club in the Village Hall Rain Garden.

Mardi moved to the Village with her family when she was in first grade, and fell in love with Northbrook as a child. She met her husband at Glenbrook North High School and after graduating college they moved back to Northbrook to raise their three daughters. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from the University of Illinois and attended Northwestern University for her Master's Program in Speech Pathology. Mardi went on to teach Special Education at Glenbrook North for 28 years, and retired in 2022. She helped make the Village a better place by devoting significant time to the betterment of her students and community. In fact, one of Mardi's favorite things about the Village is the **"close, tight-knit community"**. For years she has had the pleasure of living and working in the Village, and running into students, friends, and neighbors at the grocery store or post office.

Outside of getting involved, Mardi enjoys staying active. She frequently bikes around the Village and utilizes the nature trails and preserves in the area. In her free time she works with local universities, and Northbrook organizations like Monarch's, Milkweeds, & More, and Go Green to stay involved with environmental issues, and to help mold the next generation of special needs educators.

Mardi hopes District 225's Environmental Transitional Services Club will continue to make a difference in the lives of students, and that Northbrook residents will keep at the effort to understand and embrace their special needs community members.



# 7 Ways to Live an Eco-Friendly



## Save on Energy with Efficient Upgrades

The greenest energy is the energy you don't use. ComEd Electric and Nicor Gas partner together to offer free Energy Efficiency Programs to customers. Schedule an in-person or virtual energy assessment, which includes a free inspection to determine energy-saving opportunities and free energy-saving products. The free products that an energy advisor may install are LED bulbs, energy-efficient showerheads and aerators, hot water pipe insulation, and programmable thermostats. ComEd and Nicor offer free kits and rebates on qualifying products for all Northbrook residents. Visit [comed.com/waysstosave](https://comed.com/waysstosave) to schedule an assessment today.

## Compost Organic Waste

Don't send your organic waste like food scraps or yard trimmings to the landfill! These create a greenhouse gas called methane, which is 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Waste Management offers two ways for residents to recycle organic waste. The subscription program gives residents the option to subscribe to a year-round compost pickup. The sticker program doesn't require a subscription, and residents are able to dispose of food and yard waste by placing collection in labeled Kraft-type paper, plastic, or metal containers on the same day as regular curbside pickup. Sign up for the subscription program, and learn more about collection schedules at [wm.com](https://wm.com). Stickers are available for \$2.12 each at Village Hall from April 1-November 30.



## Support Clean Energy with Community Solar

No rooftop needed! Northbrook is a member of the North Shore Electricity Aggregation Consortium which provides consumers with electricity bill savings and easy access to new community solar farms in northern Illinois. A community solar project is a single site solar installation that is shared by multiple subscribers. Each subscriber receives credits towards their ComEd bill for their share of the electricity generated by their community solar installation. These credits reduce the amount of electricity charged to the subscriber's account each month to yield cost savings. The average Northbrook resident saves \$194/year through this program! Join the waitlist for enrollment at [northshorecommunitysolar.com](https://northshorecommunitysolar.com).



## Create a Pollinator Habitat

Scientists warn that pollinators, especially insect pollinators, have been declining rapidly in numbers over the past few decades. Any pocket of greenspace can serve as vital habitat for wildlife. Less frequent mowing (every other week) is a good first step, but adding native wildflowers and grasses is a better alternative for wildlife. Free “Pollinator Habitat” garden signs are available at Village Hall to community members who commit to sustainable practices on all or a portion of their outdoor space with 1) a diversity of native plants, 2) nesting areas where leaf litter and vegetation remain in place, and 3) exclusion of inorganic pesticides such as weed-killers and mosquito barrier treatments.



## Conserve Water & Reduce Flooding

Green infrastructure improvements, such as rain gardens or bioswales, use vegetation that is adapted to our regional climate to better absorb rain water during major storm events and reduce runoff flowing into storm drains. Residents with flooding conditions that qualify will be reimbursed by the Village for up to 70% or \$5,000 of the cost of acquiring and installing a green infrastructure improvement. If interested, contact the Public Works Department at 847-272-4711. Additionally, all residents are eligible to receive up to two rain barrels for \$25 each at Village Hall. Rain barrels collect rain runoff from roofs and allow residents to store water for later use on lawns, gardens, and houseplants. Stop by Village Hall Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4pm to get yours!

## Explore State & Federal Energy Incentives

Under the State of Illinois' Adjustable Block Program, you can earn one solar renewable certificate (SREC) for each megawatt hour of electricity your solar system produces over 15 years. For the average residential system, this adds up to more than \$10,000 in additional savings! The Federal Government offers an Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for solar installations equal to 30% of the price of a solar project (equipment, installation, and fees). The average homeowner saves nearly \$6,150 on the cost of going solar as a result of the ITC. You can also receive credits and rebates on clean energy improvements like heat pumps, electric vehicles, energy storage, and energy-efficient upgrades or appliances.



## Increase Active Transportation

Transportation emissions are the second-largest contributor to Northbrook's carbon footprint behind building energy. A great way to reduce local air pollution and improve health is to take less car rides and more trips using active transportation such as walking, biking, and public transit. Active transportation gives residents the opportunity to stay active in their daily lives, which improves health and wellbeing. Brisk walking or cycling for daily trips, such as cycling to the store, yields similar health benefits to a structured exercise like running or going to the gym.



# EARTH MONTH



**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY**



**KICK-OFF WORKDAY**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**  
*SOMME WOODS*  
9AM-NOON



**RECYCLING EVENT**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
*WEST METRA COMMUTER LOT*  
9AM-NOON



**ARBOR DAY GIVEAWAY**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**  
*VILLAGE HALL*  
3-5PM



**EARTH MONTH WORKDAY**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**  
*TECHNY PRAIRIE PARK & FIELDS*  
1-2:30PM

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH EVENT ON PAGES 10-11

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**NORTHBROOK.IL.US/EARTHDAY**  
**PRESENTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK**



# Understanding Your Finances: Quarterly Water & Sewer Rates

**RATE INCREASES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2023**

## What can you expect?

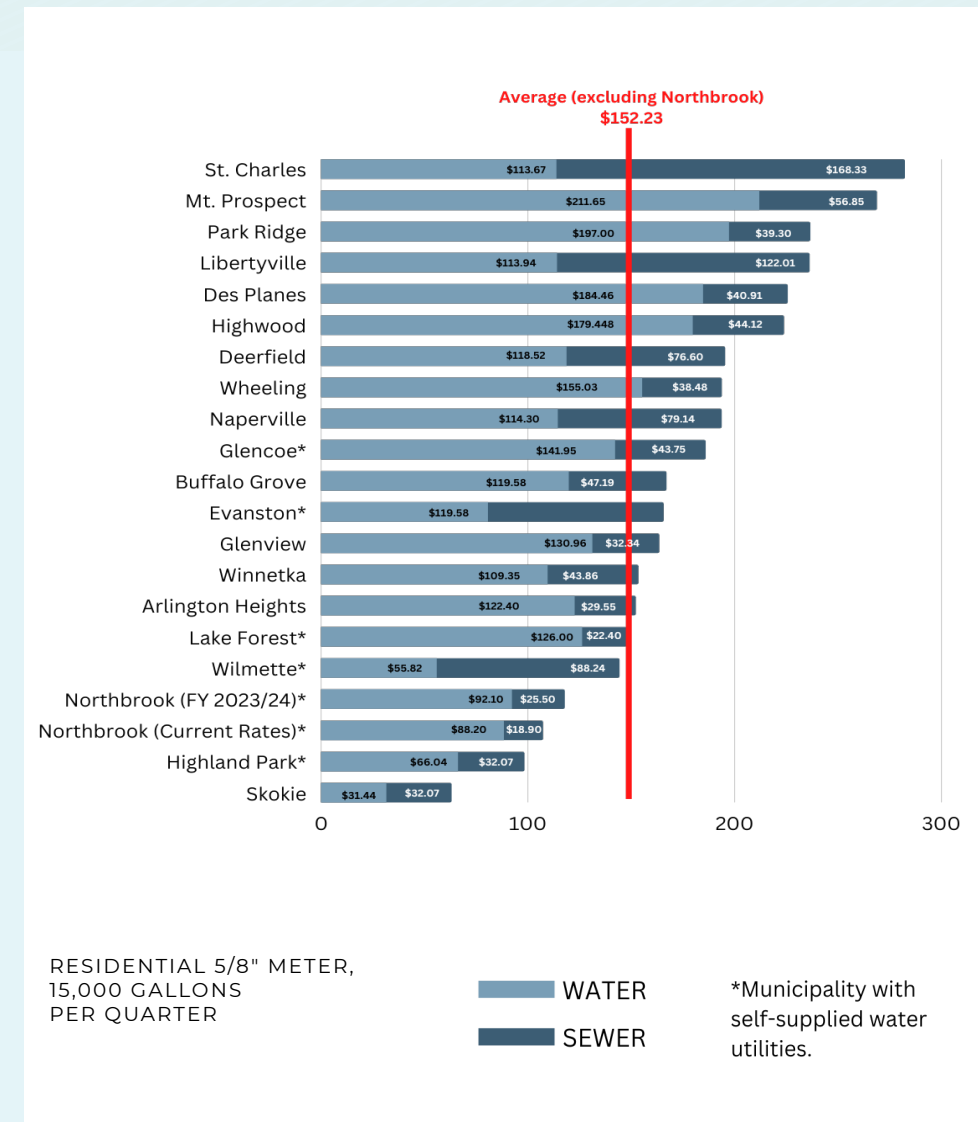
Effective May 1, 2023, water and sanitary sewer rates will increase by \$0.26 and \$0.44 per 1,000 gallons, respectively. The water rate will increase to \$6.15 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum quarterly charge of \$43.05. The sanitary sewer rate will increase to \$1.70 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum quarterly charge of \$11.90.

## Why now?

In 2022, the Village engaged a consultant to assist in conducting a comprehensive water and sanitary sewer rate study to develop a fair, equitable, and sustainable rate structure for the long-term fiscal health and maintenance of the Village's water and sanitary sewer utilities. The consultant advised the Village that a moderate rate increase tied to the amount of water and sanitary sewer use was necessary to support the overall cost of maintaining a safe water system and addressing capital repairs that are required annually to both the water and sanitary sewer systems. The last rate increase for both utilities was in May 2018.

## How is this revenue used by the Village?

The water and sanitary sewer utilities are entirely funded by fees, not property tax revenue. This means that utility rates must generate enough revenue to cover operating costs of the water and sanitary sewer utilities, and provide for future capital needs. The revenue that will be collected from increased rates will support critical water and sewer infrastructure



investments needed to ensure long-term safe drinking water and sanitary sewer operations.

## How does this impact me?

For the average Northbrook bill, these rate changes will result in a \$10.50 increase per quarter. As shown in the graph above, Northbrook's rates have been and will remain one of

the lowest in the area, even after the rate change goes into effect. When the Village Board approved the rate increases in December 2022, they simultaneously decreased the property tax levy.

For more information visit [northbrook.il.us/utilitybilling](http://northbrook.il.us/utilitybilling).

# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## Northbrook Public Library Blood Drive

**Thursday, March 2, 1-5pm**  
Northbrook Public Library,  
Pollak Room

The Northbrook Public Library encourages you to help save a life by donating blood! Use the following link to make an appointment [northbrook.info](http://northbrook.info).

## Invisible Warriors Showing Sunday, March 5, 2-3pm

Northbrook Public Library  
Join the Northbrook Public Library for a three-part exploration of the film that analyzes the documentary Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II.

## YMCA Annual Art Reception

**Sunday, March 5, 3-4:45pm**  
Northbrook Public Library  
Mark your calendars for the annual winter art show featuring art from all winter art students!

## Electronics Recycling

**March 4, 9am-noon**  
**March 7, 7am-3pm**  
**April 1, 9am-noon**  
**April 4, 7am-3pm**  
Fleet Garage behind Village Hall, 1227 Cedar Lane  
Bring your old and unused electronics to be recycled. Residents are responsible for removing items from their vehicle for contactless disposal. Do not leave items at the Village's facility outside of recycling events.

## International Women's Day

**Wednesday, March 8**  
International Women's Day is a global holiday that celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

## Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 12

Spring forward and move your clocks ahead one hour for the start of Daylight Savings Time. The Northbrook Fire Department reminds residents to also change the batteries in their smoke alarms and CO detectors.

## St. Patrick's Day Friday, March 17

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day locally! Be on the lookout for events and deals held by Northbrook businesses.



## Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers Program Monday, March 20, 7-8pm

Northbrook Public Library  
Learn about the fascinating world of the beaver, and their dam-building abilities at this upcoming event held by Northbrook Public Library.

## First Day of Spring Monday, March 20

Celebrate the start of Spring by spending time outdoors at local nature preserves and trails!

## CATCH Lunch and Learn: Signs of Mental Health Concerns in Our Kids Tuesday, March 21, noon-1pm

Zoom  
Join CATCH's monthly conversation with mental health professionals about parenting kids who struggle with their emotional well-being. To register for the Zoom event visit [catchiscommunity.org](http://catchiscommunity.org).

## Hebrew Language Storytime

**Monday, March 27, 10am**  
Northbrook Public Library  
Bring your children ages 2-6 for a bilingual, interactive experience. Children will experience the Hebrew language and culture through stories, songs, and sensory activities.

## Earth Month Kickoff Workday

**Saturday, April 1, 9am-noon**  
Somme Woods  
The Village will co-host an ecological restoration workday alongside Somme Woods Community experts. Dress for the weather, expect to get muddy, bring gloves, and water to drink. For more information on what to expect visit [sommepreserve.org](http://sommepreserve.org).

## Election Day

**Tuesday, April 4**  
Be sure to exercise your right to vote on election day! To learn more about your voting location visit [northbrook.il.us/voting](http://northbrook.il.us/voting).



## Easter

**Sunday, April 9**  
The Village wishes all who celebrate a happy and joyous Easter Sunday. In Christian culture, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## National Day of Silence Friday, April 14

The Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration that sheds light on the challenges faced by many LGBTQIA+ people in schools. Thousands of people across the world will voluntarily take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination.

## CATCH Lunch and Learn: Parenting Young Children in Our High-Pressured Community

**Tuesday, April 18, noon-1pm**  
Zoom  
Looking for alternative ways to parent your children? Join CATCH's monthly conversation with mental health professionals about parenting kids who struggle with their emotional well-being. To register visit [catchiscommunity.org](http://catchiscommunity.org).

## Youth Services Spring Gala Saturday, April 22, 6-11pm

Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling, IL  
Mark your calendars for Youth Services' biggest event of the year! The Spring Gala will feature both silent and live auctions, and musical entertainment. To register for the event, or to donate a live auction item visit [ysgn.org/springgala](http://ysgn.org/springgala).

## Earth Month Recycling Event

**Saturday, April 22, 9am-noon**  
West Metra Commuter Lot  
Residents can drop off any of the following items: paint, molded styrofoam, tires, printer cartridges, CFL, LED, and tube fluorescent bulbs, computers, TVs, residential document shredding, household batteries, and bicycles.

## Earth Month Arbor Day Giveaway

**Friday, April 28, 3-5pm**  
Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane  
Stop by Village Hall for a free tree seedling packet, available first-come first-serve until supplies last.





**Earth Month Workday**  
**Sunday, April 30, 1-2:30pm**  
*Techny Prairie Park & Fields*  
This sustainability project brought to you by Monarchs, Milkweed and More, Northbrook Park District, and the Village of Northbrook will include removal of woody invasive species, litter pick-up, educational discussions, and free giveaways! The event is free to attend, but pre-registration is required. Register at [nbparks.org/earthmonth](https://nbparks.org/earthmonth).

**Family Service Center of Northbrook: Leadership and Resilience Builder Program (LRBP)**  
**March 13-May 27**  
*191 Waukegan Road*  
The Family Service Center is accepting applications for the LRBP! This is an evidence-based program lead by certified clinicians for children in grades 6-8. LRBP will help children bolster leadership and self regulation skills. Call 847-251-7350 to sign up.

**Free Legal Consultations**  
Want answers to legal questions, or concerns for your safety? North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic attorneys are available to help free of charge within the areas of domestic violence, housing or immigration. For more details call 847-737-4042.

**Northbrook Park District Registration**  
Register for Winter and Spring programs taking place until May. The Winter and Spring program guide has information about ice skating, athletics, senior programs, youth programs, special events, summer camps, fitness, indoor golf, and more. For more details visit [nbparks.org](https://nbparks.org).

**Safety Tips from the Northbrook Police Department**  
Avoid becoming the target of a crime! The Northbrook Police Department encourages residents to be aware of their surroundings. This means keeping your valuables, like purses, wallets, and keys, with you at all times. Avoid distractions such as cell phones and headphones while out and about. Criminals will target distracted individuals and commit thefts in a matter of seconds. These small steps will help you avoid becoming a target to these thefts.

**Free Downtown Parking at Metra Commuter Lots**  
The Village has commuter parking lots downtown that are free on weekends and weekdays after 10am. Next time you visit downtown Northbrook for shopping, dining, or services, we encourage you to check out the ample parking available in these lots.

**Village of Northbrook Commissions**  
Participate in the future of Northbrook by joining a Village commission! The Village has a variety of boards and commissions made up of volunteers with different skills sets. To learn more visit [northbrook.il.us](https://northbrook.il.us).

**Biking, Walking, and Driving Safely**  
As winter thaws and the spring season blooms, residents may be eager to spend time outside. To promote safety and education, the Village has compiled tips and resources for all ages on biking, walking, and driving safely in Northbrook. Visit [northbrook.il.us/biking](https://northbrook.il.us/biking) to learn more.

# Talk Around Town



## Single-Use Bag Tax

### Background

Following a recommendation from Northbrook's Sustainability Commission, the Village Board of Trustees approved an ordinance adopting a single-use bag tax at the Board Meeting on February 7, 2023. The tax will be implemented on January 1, 2024. The program is intended to encourage customers to bring their own shopping bags and avoid using single-use, disposable bags that may end up as litter.

### What is the single-use bag tax?

The tax is a 10-cent charge for each paper or plastic bag (single-use bag) that the customer would receive at the time of purchase, when exiting a store. Half of the tax, \$0.05 will be retained by retailers, and the other half will be submitted to the Village.

### Which retailers will be impacted?

The ordinance affects retail stores larger than 3,000 sq. ft. in building area, with some exceptions. Exemptions apply for restaurants, pharmacies, farmers markets, dry cleaners, or for perishable items such as produce. Businesses may provide single-use bags at no charge to customers that participate in SNAP, WIC, or other food assistance programs.

### What will the fees be used for?

For each ten-cent tax, five cents are to be retained by the business and five cents will go to the Village. The single-use bag fees submitted to the Village of Northbrook will be used to fund sustainability projects as reviewed and approved by the Village Board. At the start of the program rollout, the Village will supply free reusable bags for distribution at applicable businesses.

### More Information

This tax was first recommended in Northbrook's Climate Action Plan because research finds that such initiatives work to encourage reusable bag usage and reduce stray litter in a community. Both paper and plastic bags are included because there are negative environmental impacts associated with natural resource consumption from the production and end-of-life disposal of both products.

Many residents have expressed enthusiastic support for the bag tax, which encourages source reduction of waste and minimizes the negative impacts of pollution, litter, and water use.

You can reach out to the Village Sustainability Coordinator at [sustainability@northbrook.il.us](mailto:sustainability@northbrook.il.us) with questions.

# Northbrook Voice

Northbrook Information Association  
1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062

CAR RT SORT  
Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Northbrook, IL  
Permit 1243

## p9 Utility Rates Increase

## p11 Talk Around Town: Single-Use Bag Tax

Postal Customer  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Village of Northbrook  
1225 Cedar Lane  
Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm  
[northbrook.il.us](http://northbrook.il.us)

Village Hall .....	847-272-5050
Village Hall Fax .....	847-272-1892
Police/Fire Emergency .	911
Police Non-Emergency.	847-564-2060
Fire Non-Emergency .....	847-272-2141
Public Works .....	847-272-4711

### Village Officials

Kathryn L. Ciesla .....	President
Debra J. Ford .....	Village Clerk
Cara Pavlicek .....	Village Manager

### Village Trustees

Robert P. Israel	Muriel J. Collison
Heather E. Ross	Johannah K. Hebl
Daniel H. Pepoon	Joy U. Ebhomien

*This newsletter is published by the  
Northbrook Information Association.  
Email [pr@northbrook.il.us](mailto:pr@northbrook.il.us) with questions  
and comments.*

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[facebook.com/northbrookpoliceil](https://facebook.com/northbrookpoliceil)  
[twitter.com/northbrookilpd](https://twitter.com/northbrookilpd)



## News You Can Use

### Annual Spring Clean Up

Save the date! This year's annual spring clean up is Saturday, June 10 from 7am-1pm. Waste Management is offering Northbrook residents the chance to dispose of unlimited household waste for free. IDs will be checked to confirm residency. The following items will not be accepted at this event: electronics, landscape waste, organics, construction debris, rocks, sand, lightbulbs, paint, hazardous waste, tires, white goods or other restricted waste.

### Severe Weather Preparedness Week

Severe Weather Preparedness Week is Monday, March 6-Friday, March 10. In Illinois, we experience a range of weather conditions, make sure you're prepared! Residents are encouraged to use this week to review their severe weather safety plans.

### Northbrook's Strong Neighbor Spotlight

Do you know an active and engaged community member that deserves to be recognized as the next Northbrook Strong Neighbor? Nominate them today! The Village of Northbrook is looking to highlight residents that inspire others, and works to make our community a better place. Find all of the details at [northbrook.il.us/neighborspotlight](http://northbrook.il.us/neighborspotlight).

### Job Openings

Join our team! The Village of Northbrook is hiring for an array of full-time and part-time positions. For more information visit [northbrook.il.us/jobs](http://northbrook.il.us/jobs).

### Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

Stay connected with the Village during local emergencies! Sign up for Northbrook Notify at [northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify](http://northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify).