

# Northbrook Voice

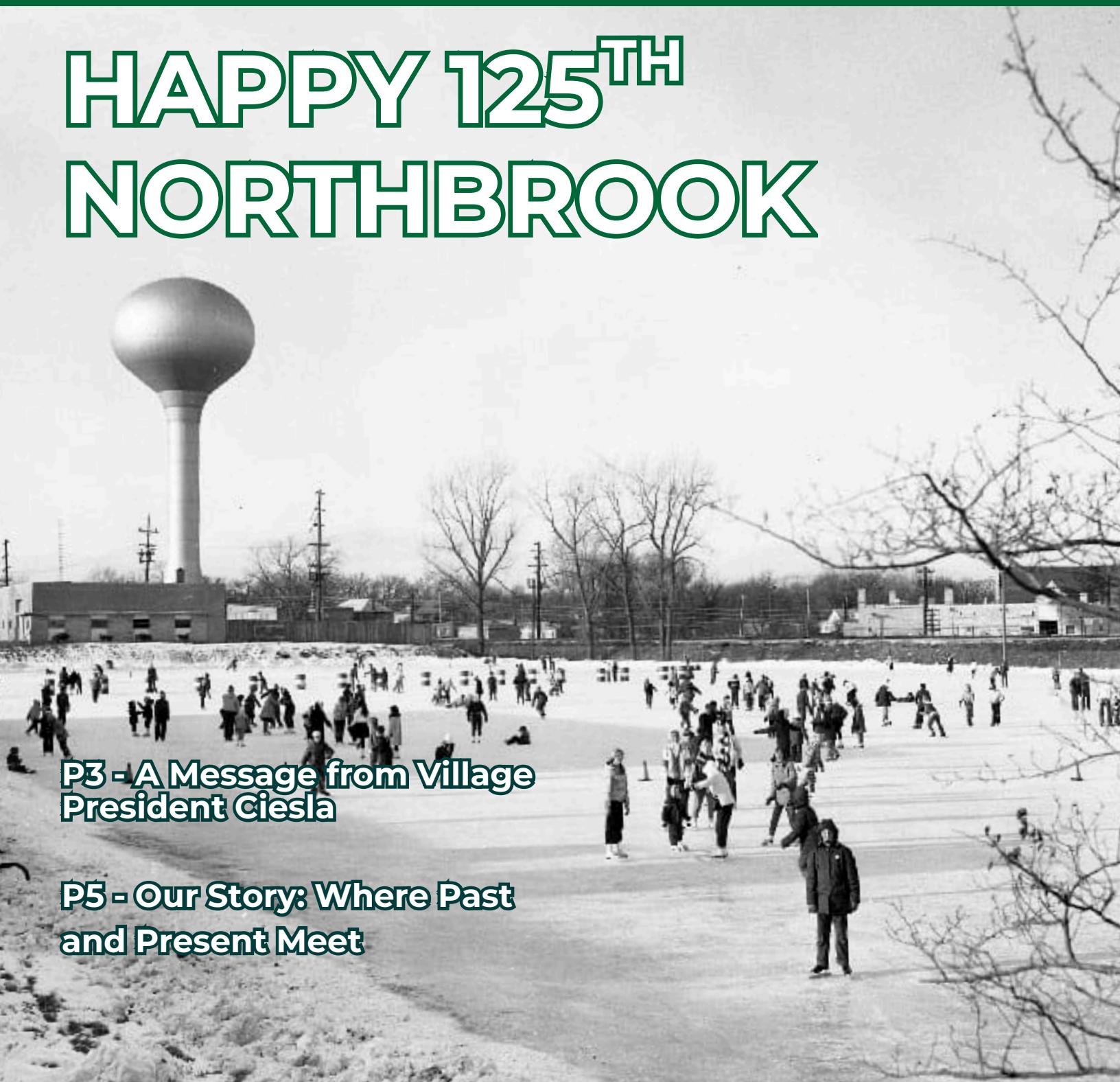
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JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY 2026

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## HAPPY 125<sup>TH</sup> NORTHBROOK



**P3 - A Message from Village  
President Ciesla**

**P5 - Our Story: Where Past  
and Present Meet**

## **NOVEMBER STORIES RECORDED IN HISTORY**

The Village of Northbrook turns 125 years old in 2026. That is one of three celebrations we will commemorate this year. Across the land, people will be celebrating America turning 250 years old. Back in 1976, as part of America's Centennial celebration and the Village's 75th Birthday celebration, the Northbrook History Museum opened its doors to the community for the first time as the Keeper of the Stories.

Twenty-five years ago, the Village of Northbrook's year-long Centennial opening event, Celebrate Northbrook: A Century in Song was held at the GBN Sheeley Center on November 18, 2000. The opening act that evening covered the decade of the 1901 incorporation included a new song written for the occasion. The Elementary School Honors Choir, created for the occasion was directed and accompanied by Bill Vaananen who also wrote the words and music for their closing song "Village by a Stream".

The children who sang that evening are now adults who may have children of their own. They have watched the changes in their hometown over the past 25 years just as have decades of children from the beginning of settlement to today. The song they sang is as descriptive of our Village today as it was then. You can take a step back in time by following the QR code at the end of the story to hear the children lift their voices to honor our Village by a Stream.

### **Village by a Stream**

*When you stand in the Village Green;  
To the east, you may notice a stream;  
A brook that travels south;  
Into a river to the city.*

*For a hundred years it has flowed;  
Watching houses and industry grow;  
Beginning as a trickle;  
And broadening to a rush of dreams  
and ideas.*

*A confluence of Humanity!*

*When you stand in the Village Green  
To the east, you may notice a stream  
A brook that travels south  
Into a river to the city.*

*For a hundred years it has flowed;  
Watching houses and industry grow;  
Beginning as a trickle;  
And broadening to a rush of dreams; and  
ideas.*

*A confluence of Humanity!*

*A Sister City to the world;  
Where beliefs and cultures live in  
harmony.*

*A place where we can grow;  
A home where we can dream;  
A simple, noble village by a stream.*

View a video from the  
Northbrook History  
Museum with these  
stories and more by  
scanning this QR  
Code



## **2026 VILLAGE PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE**

All meetings are open to the public. Village Board and Plan Commission meetings are cablecast live on NCTV Cable Channel 17 (replayed Wednesday and Sunday at 9am and 7pm) and streamed live and archived at [northbrook.il.us/MeetingArchivePortal](http://northbrook.il.us/MeetingArchivePortal). Village Board meetings are also streamed live on Facebook at [facebook.com/northbrookillinois](https://facebook.com/northbrookillinois).

### **Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole Meetings:**

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6pm

### **Village Board of Trustees Regular Meetings:**

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month,  
7:30pm

### **Village Board Work Committees:**

Meet on call

### **Arts Commission:**

1st Thursday, 7pm, monthly

### **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners:**

1st Thursday of May, 7:30am

### **Community Commission:**

4th Thursday, 7pm, monthly

### **Pedestrian & Bicycle Commission:**

2nd Wednesday, 7pm (February, May,  
August, and November)

### **Plan Commission:**

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm

### **Rural Fire Protection District:**

2nd Thursday, 5pm (April, July, October,  
and December)

### **Senior Services Commission:**

3rd Thursday, 5:30pm, monthly

### **Sustainability Commission:**

3rd Thursday, 5:30pm, monthly

### **Disability Inclusion Commission:**

1st Thursday, 6:30pm, monthly

### **Following Meet on Call:**

- **Zoning Board of Appeals**
- **Electrical Commission**
- **Police Pension Fund Board**
- **Stormwater Management Commission**
- **Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Board and commissions may also meet occasionally on an unscheduled/special basis. As required by the Open Meetings Act, notices for all public meetings, including special meetings, will be posted on the Village website and the Village Hall lobby bulletin board. Agendas and approved minutes are available online. For questions or to confirm dates, call the Village Manager's Office at 847-664-4010.



## A Message from President Ciesla Village of Northbrook

# 125 YEARS - 5 THINGS THAT HAVE EVOLVED & 5 THINGS THAT HAVE ENDURED

There's a truth I've learned over the years: a community is defined by the people who call it home. When I look at Northbrook, at our history, our progress, and how we face challenges with optimism, I'm reminded that this Village has always believed that tomorrow can be better than today.

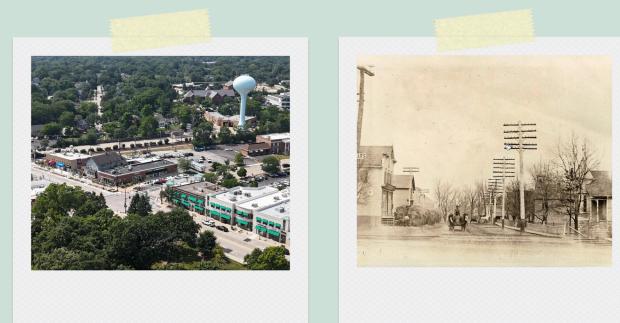
Now as we start to celebrate our 125th year, we have our own challenges like any generation, but we also have the same optimism and determination that has fueled Northbrook since its inception. We've grown, we've adapted, and yes, we've modernized, but we've also held tight to the traditions and values that make Northbrook... Northbrook. As we look back at how far we've come, here's a snapshot of 5 things that have changed and 5 things that have stayed the same.

### 5 Things That Have Evolved

**1. From Prairies to a Patchwork of Neighborhoods** - In the 1840s, Northbrook was mostly prairie with a few sturdy hickories and oaks. Today? We've got more than a dozen neighborhoods, each with its own personality.



**2. A Water Glow-Up: Wells → Glencoe → Our Own Pipeline → AMI Technology** - Northbrook's water system has come a long way—from wells and cisterns to buying water from Glencoe, to the bold 1963 moment when Lake Michigan water first flowed through our own pipeline. Today, we're taking the next leap: every home is receiving a digital AMI meter and access to the WaterSmart portal—an upgrade that's like going from a flip phone to a smartphone for your water use.



**3. Northbrook Downtown** - Once quiet in the 1950s, downtown is now a mix of longtime favorites, new restaurants, and ongoing streetscape improvements. The look may evolve, but the spirit of gathering there remains—and grows stronger each year.



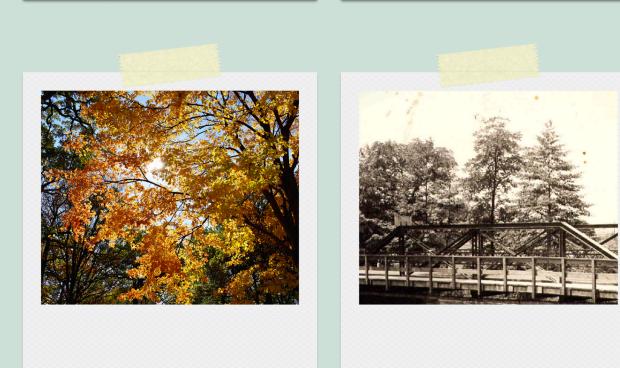
**4. The Business Scene: From General Stores to Global Brands** - Early Northbrook's commercial life was a handful of shops near the rail line. Today, we're home to corporate headquarters, light industry, fresh dining, and new storefronts – all feeding a strong sales tax base.



**5. How We Connect With Government** - In the past, you'd stop by Village Hall to pay a bill or ask a question. Now? Modern technology allows for online bill-pay, digital water usage monitoring, and other new customer service features that make engagement easier than ever.

### 5 Things That Haven't Changed

**1. Traditions That Stick With You** - From early parades in the 1940s to 1966's radio-powered march and this year's Illuminate Northbrook, our celebrations evolve—but the spirit behind them endures, rooted in resilience and community.



**2. Every Generation Has Its "Own Northbrook"** - Whether you remember Tonelli's, Little Louie's, or another local favorite, each era leaves its own memory map. The places shift, but the feeling remains.

**3. The Trees Still Win Every Beauty Contest** - Our prairie grew into a canopy, and every fall it proves Northbrook knows how to put on a show. As a Tree City USA, we keep nurturing the roots of our natural beauty.

**4. A Village of Creators** - From the imagination once championed by John Hughes to today's artists and storytellers, Northbrook thrives on creativity and the people who keep it vibrant.

**5. Northbrook Is—And Always Will Be—The Coolest Place in All the Land** - From neighbors who once fixed their own streets to volunteers who kept local government running, Northbrook has always been powered by people who show up—and that's what makes it the coolest place in all the land.

# VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION HIGHLIGHT

### CELEBRATING ASIAN NEW YEAR TRADITIONS: A SEASON OF RENEWAL, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION IN NORTHBROOK

As we welcome a new year and celebrate Northbrook's 125th anniversary, we recognize the traditions that strengthen our diverse community. For many Asian cultures in Northbrook, late December and early January are meaningful weeks of reflection, family, and welcoming good fortune.

Residents of Asian ancestry make up roughly 16.3% of Northbrook's population, representing a vivid tapestry of nationalities, languages, and histories. Korean and Chinese communities are the largest groups here, but our village is also home to families with roots in India, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand, Taiwan, and many others. Each culture brings distinct traditions to the New Year season—yet all share common themes of gratitude, renewal, and connection.

Across Asia, late-December and early-January celebrations take on many forms. Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, is celebrated by Chinese, Taiwanese, and many Southeast Asian communities and often falls in late January or early February.

Families reunite for festive meals, exchange red envelopes symbolizing good luck, honor their ancestors, and enjoy traditional dishes like dumplings and sweet rice cakes.

Korean Seollal, which also follows the lunar calendar, is a time for paying respect to elders through Sebae, sharing tteokguk (rice cake soup), playing games like Yutnori, and reconnecting with extended family. It is a celebration centered on tradition, respect, and hope for the future.

In Japan, Shōgatsu, observed on January 1, is one of the most important holidays of the year. Families clean their homes to welcome good fortune, visit Shinto shrines, enjoy beautifully prepared osechi ryōri, and display symbolic decorations that invite prosperity and good health.

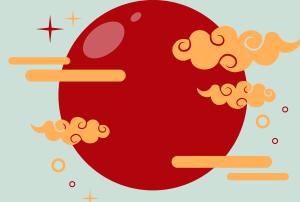
Throughout India and South Asia, New Year celebrations occur at different points in the calendar. Festivals like Diwali, Vaisakhi, and Ugadi mark spiritual renewal and the start of new agricultural cycles. Yet many families also celebrate January 1 with meaningful traditions.

rooted in gratitude, reflection, and family connection. In the Philippines, the New Year is welcomed with gatherings, music, and feasts. All meant to bring abundance in the year ahead.

These traditions offer a universal message that resonates deeply in Northbrook: honoring the past, celebrating the present, and embracing hope for the future. As we commemorate 125 years of Northbrook, these celebrations remind us to foster a community where everyone feels at home.

As the New Year begins, we join our Asian neighbors in welcoming a season filled with joy, gratitude, and new beginnings. May this year bring health, connection, and prosperity to all who call Northbrook home.

Happy New Year!



### NORTHBROOK'S STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE



As we begin a new year, the Village of Northbrook is pleased to share an update on the progress of our first-ever modern Strategic Plan—an effort designed to guide the Village's priorities, operations, and long-term vision for years to come.

The Strategic Plan is a roadmap that helps ensure Village government continues to deliver efficient, effective, and forward thinking services.

With support from our consultant, BerryDunn, and input from residents, Village officials, staff, and community partners, this plan will help us align resources, strengthen decision-making, and build a shared vision for Northbrook's future.

Here is a snapshot of where the project stands as of January 1:

#### Phase 1: Project Planning - Complete

This phase set the project's foundation—timeline, engagement strategy, and overall approach—allowing the Village and BerryDunn to move confidently into community engagement.

#### Phase 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Environmental Scan - Active

The Village is analyzing input gathered from residents, businesses, community groups, and staff between September and December 2025. BerryDunn is conducting an environmental scan to identify trends, strengths, challenges, and long-term opportunities.

#### Phase 3: Strategic Plan Development - Current Phase

The Village Board of Trustees will define long-term goals, priorities, and strategies, including key themes, focus areas, and performance measures. The Board and staff will review community feedback with BerryDunn to develop the plan—turning community input into a clear, actionable roadmap.

#### Phase 4: Implementation Planning After Board Adoption

After approval, staff will create an implementation framework.

#### Looking Ahead

Drafts of the plan are expected to be refined over the next several months, with opportunities for community review before final adoption. Visit [northbrook.il.us/StrategicPlan](http://northbrook.il.us/StrategicPlan) to stay updated and engaged in the process.

## NORTHBROOK NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

# WHERE PAST AND PRESENT MEET: ONE NEIGHBOR'S LOOK AT NORTHBROOK'S STORY

As Northbrook begins the year that will lead into its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this November, resident and Northbrook Historical Society board member Elyse Malamud is helping highlight the stories that make our community unique. Elyse, a Glenbrook North and Northwestern University graduate, began volunteering at the Northbrook Historical Society more than four years ago while researching Glenbrook North's (GBN) history for a school project. That experience grew into a deeper involvement with local history and the work of the Society.



Elyse Malamud: a Northbrook resident, Glenbrook North and Northwestern University graduate. Here, Elyse sits in front of the 1901 quilt artifact.

Elyse sees the upcoming anniversary as an opportunity for residents to discover "history hidden in plain sight." She points out everyday places with remarkable backstories. "Everything in Northbrook has an amazing story behind it," she said. "People drive by these places all the time without realizing how much history is around them."

One example she shares is the early pioneer cemetery located at the intersection of Sanders and Dundee Roads. Another is the fact that Northbrook is the only off-shore suburb that receives its water directly from Lake Michigan. These details, she explains, show how deeply history is woven into the spaces residents see and use every day.

Among the Northbrook Historical Society's many artifacts, Elyse is especially fond of a quilt from 1901.



1901 quilt which includes hand-stitched names of congregants and early community members.

The quilt includes embroidered names of early community members and congregants from St. Peter's Church. It also dates to the same year that Shermerville, now Northbrook, was officially incorporated. To Elyse, the quilt is a rare chance to physically connect with the people who helped shape the village during its earliest years.

Buildings around town also hold important stories. One of her favorite examples is Crestwood Place. Today it provides housing for older adults, but it once served as Northbrook's first high school.



Shermerville School, built in 1901, prior to the Village's 1923 name change to Northbrook.

Much of its exterior remains unchanged, giving residents a direct view of what the community looked like generations ago.



Today, Crestwood Place serves as a senior living community in Northbrook.

As preparations for the anniversary continue, Elyse hopes that residents will explore the parts of Northbrook's

history that interest them personally. She notes that many visitors to the Society enjoy researching their homes or neighborhoods. She believes that history resonates most when people can link it to something familiar.



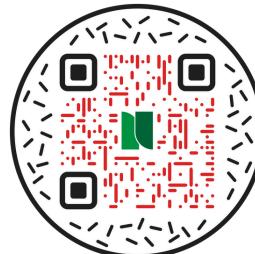
The Northbrook Historical Society's archives document generations of Northbrook residents.

Looking ahead to November, Elyse views the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as both a celebration and a moment to reflect on how far the village has come. "The amount of change we have had in town is enormous," she said. "I hope people will celebrate all the wonderful things that have happened and feel optimistic about the future."

Elyse's passion for local history offers a reminder that the stories of Northbrook are all around us. Throughout this anniversary year, she encourages residents to take a closer look.

In Northbrook, history is often right in front of us, hidden in plain sight.

**Scan the QR code to watch a video spotlight featuring Elyse Malamud!**



# VILLAGE INVESTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village has undertaken a multi-year effort to evaluate key public safety facilities. In 2025, the Village Board of Trustees approved the construction of a new Fire Station 11 at 820 Dundee, to replace the current station built in 1971 which is located at 740 Dundee as well as the renovation of 3504 Commercial Avenue as an adaptive reuse project to replace the current Fleet Maintenance Garage built in 1956 near Village Hall. For each facility, a thorough evaluation found that the existing buildings could not be renovated to meet current building standards or public safety needs. Additionally, the same evaluation work has been done on the Police Station, built in 1974, and located at the southeast corner of Landwehr and Walters and the Fire Headquarters which is attached to the current Fire Station 11. Site selection decisions are pending in 2026 for both of these facilities which also require replacement.

## FIRE STATION 11

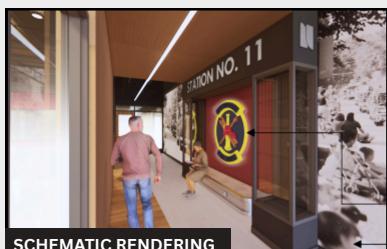


Fire Station 11 has served Northbrook since 1971, built for a smaller department with simpler equipment and fewer emergency calls for service. The site no longer supports modern emergency needs. It lacks sufficient space for response equipment, personnel, storage, and gender-inclusive living facilities.

The new station will come with space to support training, education programs, and living quarters for the employees that all work 24-hour shifts. Firefighter/paramedic wellness has been prioritized in the station design as employees and fire command staff participated directly in the design process and decisions about the facility.

The new Fire Station 11 includes open common areas, modern bunk and living quarters, an upgraded kitchen, and amenities to support firefighter/paramedic wellness. It will also feature large bays and an optimized apparatus layout that supports quicker, safer deployment.

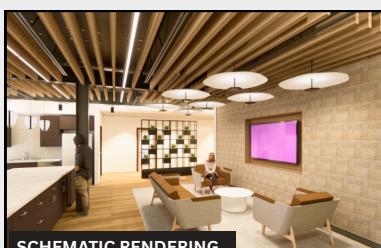
Fire Station 11 is being built to support the next fifty plus years of firefighting and emergency medical services.



## FLEET MAINTENANCE GARAGE

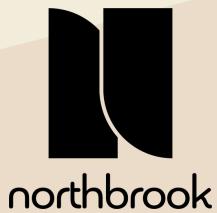


The Fleet Maintenance Garage, currently located behind Village Hall, was built in 1956, and is not able to support the mechanics who maintain the Village fleet of fire trucks, ambulances, police patrol vehicles, and snow plows to name a few the larger vehicles that are used every day in the Village.

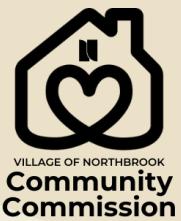


The new Fleet Maintenance Garage will provide the upgraded space with necessary ceiling height to support the work areas required to perform maintenance on the largest apparatus. As employees change tires and wiper blades during snowstorms, as well as perform other technical engine maintenance work on diesel, gas powered, and hybrid vehicles, the properly sized garage expands vehicle bays and space for additional equipment that is needed by staff. Secure tool and part storage will enable quicker repairs, improved workflow, and safety. Employee locker rooms and training space will also enhance working conditions.

Both the new Fleet Maintenance Garage and Fire Station 11 will incorporate modern eco-design elements, including upgraded insulation, LED lighting, geothermal heating and cooling for the site to reduce energy use, lower long-term operating costs, and support the Village's commitment to sustainable infrastructure.



**NORTHBROOK COMMUNITY  
COMMISSION PRESENTS**



# **CULTURAL FAIR**

**Sunday, February 22, 2:30-5pm  
North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road**

- The Northbrook Community Commission is excited to host the 2026 Cultural Fair celebrating the many cultural backgrounds of Northbrook residents!
- The event features artistic displays, musical acts, demonstrations, arts & crafts, food and more!
- Learn more at [northbrook.il.us/events](http://northbrook.il.us/events)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



The North Suburban YMCA



# UPCOMING ARTS COMMISSION EVENTS



## The Unfolding Story

*A Retrospective of Judith Joseph's Art*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 | NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join the Northbrook Arts Commission on Thursday, February 5, from 7:00-8:30pm at the Northbrook Public Library, for a milestone evening honoring local artist Judith Joseph, whose work weaves together storytelling, nature, memory, and the quiet poetry of daily life. Through painting, calligraphy, and printmaking, her pieces invite viewers into an intimate world shaped by heritage, imagination, and profound attention to detail.

This landmark exhibition also marks a significant moment: the first solo show by a woman at the Northbrook Public Library. Come support a beloved community artist and experience decades of creativity, craftsmanship, and heart—right here in Northbrook. The event is free to the public.



Scan to register or visit  
[www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info)

## Northbrook Artists Wanted

*Northbrook Originals: Celebrating Local Artists*

SPRING 2026 | NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

In Spring 2026, the Northbrook Arts Commission will once again shine a spotlight on the remarkable creative voices within our community. Northbrook Originals brings together artists of all mediums—painters, photographers, sculptors, printmakers, fiber artists, and beyond—to share their work with neighbors, friends, and fellow makers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Northbrook's artists to have their original artwork seen, appreciated, and celebrated by the community.

If you're an artist living or working in Northbrook, we'd love for you to get involved. Scan the QR code or visit [northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookArtists](http://northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookArtists) to join our mailing list and be the first to know when submissions open.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## Electronics Recycling

First Tuesday and Saturday of the month



Village of Northbrook  
1227 Cedar Lane, Fleet Maintenance Garage  
Recycle your old and unused electronics!  
Residents are responsible for removing items from their vehicles. Do not leave items at the Village's facility outside of the recycling events. 1st Tuesday of the month, 7am-3pm & 1st Saturday of the month, 9am-noon.

## Strength through Struggle: Cultivating Hope in Everyday Life

Monday, January 5

7:00-8:00pm

Northbrook Public Library  
Hope is a powerful force that can support physical & mental health. Join Jan Hincapie to explore traits of hopeful people and learn ways to cultivate hope in yourself & others. Visit [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info) to register.

## Northbrook's Capital Improvement Plan

### Village of Northbrook

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) outlines the Village's projected capital needs, infrastructure improvements, and major purchases over the plan period. The FY 2027-2031 CIP, covering May 1, 2026-April 30, 2031, is available at [northbrook.il.us/finance](http://northbrook.il.us/finance).

## Job Seekers Drop-In

Thursday, January 8

2:00-4:00pm



Northbrook Public Library  
Searching for a job? Librarians are available to guide you through essential steps. Registration is not required for this drop-in program. [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).



## Cosmic Skating

January 9 & February 6

7:00-9:00pm

1730 Pfingsten Rd,  
Northbrook Sports Center  
Show off your best ice-skating moves with disco lights, DJ music, games and activities for all ages. Entry is \$8 per person, skate rental is \$4. Visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org).

## American Flag

### Recycling

#### Village of Northbrook

Recycle American flags that are no longer fit to fly outside the front door at Village Hall. Flags are collected by Scout Troop 64 and the Northbrook American Legion Post #791 to be retired respectfully.

## Northbrook Symphony:

### The Titan

Sunday, January 11

4:00-5:45pm

2300 Shermer Road, Sheely Center for the Performing Arts  
Maestro Mina Zikri conducts Gustav Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 1 with the Northbrook Symphony. Host, singer and arranger Robbie Ellis provides a curtain raiser called "A Taste of Vienna" with songs by Tom Lehrer and Alma Mahler. Visit [northbrooksymphony.org](http://northbrooksymphony.org).

## Mythological Science

Thursday, January 15

4:00-5:00pm

Northbrook Public Library  
Learn the science behind some of the most famous myths. You will learn about STEAM and mythology while engaging in fun educational activities. Grades 3-5. To register, visit [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).



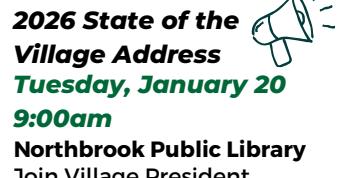
2026 Summer Camp

## Open House

Thursday, January 15

5:30-7pm

180 Anets Drive, Techny Prairie Activity Center  
Learn more about the Northbrook Park District's 2026 Summer Camp offerings at this in-person event. Kids are welcome! Talk to Camp Supervisors, receive giveaways and enter a drawing for a free week of camp and other prizes. Visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org) for more information.



2026 State of the Village Address  
Tuesday, January 20  
9:00am

Northbrook Public Library

Join Village President

Kathryn Ciesla for an annual presentation on what's new in Northbrook, and what's on the horizon. Visit [northbrookchamber.org](http://northbrookchamber.org) for more details. For those who cannot attend, video of the presentation will be made available at [northbrook.il.us](http://northbrook.il.us).



Kidpalooza

Sunday, February 1

12:00-2:00pm

North Suburban YMCA

Kidpalooza is a free family event designed to provide an afternoon of fun, creativity, and community for all families. This indoor event is the perfect way to get out of the house during the winter months and enjoy interactive activities, games, and entertainment in a welcoming and family-oriented atmosphere. Visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org) for more information.

## Dozin' With Dinos

January 17 through

January 18

### Chicago Field Museum

NSYMCA members are invited to join the Rangers for an overnight "Dozin' with the Dinos" adventure at the Chicago Field Museum. This special dads/male guardians-and-kids event (ages 6-12, all genders welcome) offers a night filled with hands-on activities, science challenges, fossil explorations, and flashlight tours through the museum after dark. To register, visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org).



Light Up the Night

Friday, February 6

6:30-9:00pm

933 Skokie Blvd,  
Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel

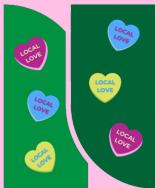
Join the Park District for the annual Light Up the Night Dance—an evening of music, dancing, dinner, a photo booth, and an ice cream bar! Kids can attend with a parent, grandparent, or any special adult. Don't wait, sign up today! Fee is per adult/child pair. Visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org) for more information.



Monday, January 19

### Village of Northbrook

Village offices will be closed to the public for staff in service training.



**Local Love this  
Valentines Day  
Saturday, February 14**

**Village of Northbrook**

Let's embrace the spirit of Valentine's Day by showing affection not only to our loved ones but also to the businesses that make Northbrook special. Support locally owned shops by choosing gifts, crafts, meals, or ingredients right here in town. Let's celebrate local! [finditinnorthbrook.com](http://finditinnorthbrook.com).

**Presidents' Day**   
**Monday, February 16**

**Village of Northbrook**

Village offices will be closed to the public for staff in service training.

**Lunar New Year  
Festival Show**   
**Saturday, February 21  
2:00-3:30pm**

**Northbrook Public Library**

The Northbrook Chinese American community presents a variety show featuring traditional dances, music, impressive acrobatics, martial arts demonstrations, and engaging talk shows. [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).

**Popular Annual  
Financial Report**   
**Village of Northbrook**

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the Village's fiscal year that ended April 30, 2025 is now available. This report contains key financial information presented in a simplified format compared to the Village's detailed annual audit. The PAFR is an additional voluntary report prepared by Village staff to provide transparency to interested parties and the public. To view the most recent PAFR, visit [northbrook.il.us/finance](http://northbrook.il.us/finance).



**Northbrook Cultural**

**Fair**

**Sunday, February 22**

**2:30-5:00pm**

**North Suburban YMCA**

Village of Northbrook's Community Commission presents the Northbrook Cultural Fair in partnership with the North Suburban YMCA. The event is located at 2705 Techy Road and is free and open to the public. You can find artistic displays, musical acts, dance demonstrations, samples of food, along with educational and informational tables.

**Tax Year 2025 Property  
Tax Levy Approved**

**Village of Northbrook**

On December 9, 2025, the Village Board approved an ordinance approving a municipal tax levy to be collected in calendar year 2026 of approximately \$25.9 million, an increase of about \$2.8 million over the prior year. The levy will be used to pay for eligible employee pensions, debt service payments, and the funding for general operating expenditures. Excluding the pension and debt service components, the levy is expected to be about 12% of total Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund budgeted revenue used to support the routine operations and administrative functions of the Village.

# NORTHBROOK NEWS

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## VILLAGE APPOINTS CHAIR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION: STACY OLIVER

On December 9, 2025, the Village of Northbrook Board of Trustees appointed Stacy Oliver, current President of the Northbrook Public Library Board, as Chair of the Village's Ad-Hoc 125th Anniversary Commission. The commission was created to support the planning, coordination, publicity, and fundraising efforts behind Northbrook's 2026 quasquicentennial celebration.

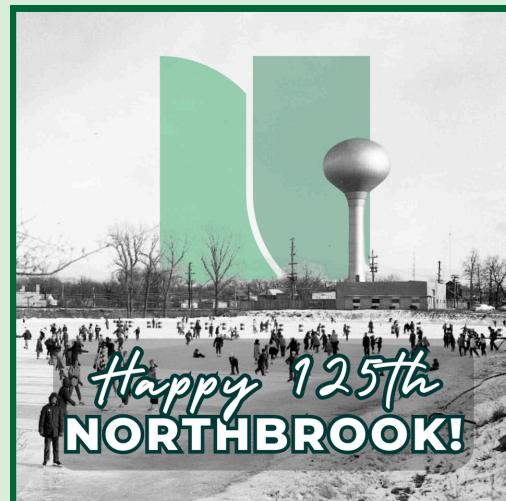


Chair Oliver brings extensive leadership experience to the role. She is serving a 2023-2027 term as Library Board President and works as Associate Director for Communication at Ohio University. Her more than 20-year career in higher education includes roles in student success, residence life, communication strategy, and organizational leadership.

As Commission Chair, Oliver will help lead a community-wide effort to honor Northbrook's history and the people who have shaped it over the past 125 years. The commission will collaborate with the Village and local organizations to create programs and events intended to engage residents throughout the anniversary year.

The Commission will start to meet in January 2026. The planning will continue throughout 2026, with more details shared in the coming months.

The Village thanks Chair Oliver and all commissioners for the dedication towards making this milestone celebration meaningful for the entire community.



# Northbrook Voice

Northbrook Information Association  
1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062

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## **p6-7 - Northbrook Invests in Public Safety Facilities**

## **p8 - Don't miss the Northbrook Community Commission's 2026 Cultural Fair**

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..... Village President  
Derek R. Gau..... Village Clerk  
Cara Pavlicek ..... Village Manager

**Village Trustees**  
Robert P. Israel  
Heather E. Ross  
Johannah K. Hebl  
Joy U. Ebhomielien  
Michelle Z. Kohler  
Matt T. Cassidy

Email [pr@northbrook.il.us](mailto:pr@northbrook.il.us) with questions  
and comments

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## **News You Can Use: E-BIKE ORDINANCE**

Electric bicycles, scooters, and other motor-driven devices are increasingly common in Northbrook. On October 14, 2025, the Village Board approved an ordinance updating local rules to align with state law, improve safety, and clarify where these devices may be used. The ordinance also provides exemptions for personal mobility devices that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.



**Traditional Bicycles** - Human-powered bicycles with no motor or battery.

- **Sidewalks:** Yes, except in the Central Business District
- **Requirements:** No state age restriction



**Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes)** - Illinois law recognizes three classes of e-bikes, all of which have operable pedals and electric motors up to 750 watts.

- **Class 1:** Pedal-assist up to 20 mph
- **Class 2:** Throttle-assist up to 20 mph
- **Sidewalks:** Not allowed
- **Requirements:** No state age restriction



**Class 3 E-Bikes:** Pedal-assist up to 28 mph

- **Requirements:** Must be 18 or older per Illinois law and hold a driver's license.
- **Sidewalks:** Not allowed



**E-Scooters:** Less than 100 lbs., two or three wheels, solely powered by electric motor & human power, max. speed 10 MPH

- **Requirements:** 18 or older under Northbrook's ordinance and posses a valid driver's license.
- **Sidewalks:** Yes, except in the Central Business District

**E-Motorcycles / Moto-Bikes:** No pedals, max speeds 28 MPH+ with an electric motor more than 750 watts.

**Requirements:**

- Cannot be registered with the State of Illinois
- Cannot legally operate in public spaces in Northbrook.

To help residents navigate updated standards, the Village has created a companion matrix that outlines each vehicle category and the full list of rules associated with them available at [northbrook.il.us/e-bikes](http://northbrook.il.us/e-bikes). Or scan the QR code.

