

NORTHBROOK

MARCH 2018



Communication is Key During Emergencies

March 5-11 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois. The week serves as a reminder for all of us to prepare before a weather disaster strikes. Please see page 2 for important information about preparedness, including details about Northbrook's Outdoor Warning Siren System and suggestions for severe weather monitoring.

Speaking of preparedness, the Village encourages everyone to visit www.northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookNotify to register for local notifications on topics such as missing persons, police activity, and unexpected road detours. If you're on Facebook, please like and follow the Village at www.facebook.com/NorthbrookIllinois

Please see page 6 for information on project specific email notifications using Notify Me.

Severe weather information
continued on page 2

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Gubernatorial Primary Election Information

Election Day - March 20

Early Voting Begins March 5

Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, is an early voting location in Cook County. A government-issued photo ID is not required for early voting.

If you change your name or move, even within the Village, you must update your voter registration or you can be turned away at the polling place. To check your registration, call 312-603-0951 or visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections

**Grace Period Registration is
Available at All Early Voting Sites**

Any voter who needs to register for the first time or file an address change must present two forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address.

Early Voting: March 5 – March 19

The hours for early voting at Northbrook Village Hall are:

- March 5-9,
9am to 5pm, Mon. through Fri.
- March 12-16,
9am to 7pm, Mon. through Fri.
- Monday, March 19,
9am to 5pm
- Saturdays, March 10 and 17,
9am to 5pm
- Sundays, March 11 and 18,
10am to 4pm

For more information on other Cook County suburban early voting sites, or grace-period registration and voting, contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections or 312-603-0906.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

**Spring forward on Sunday, March 11,
and remember to change the
batteries in your smoke and carbon
monoxide detectors.**

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

The first week in March is Severe Weather Preparedness Week

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding, and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds. *Plan Ahead and Be Prepared.* Take a moment to review this important information with your family.

Do you know the terms used to describe a tornado or severe thunderstorm threat?

- **WATCH** – A tornado or severe thunderstorm is possible. Watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter. Please note, severe weather watches are reports of weather conditions in which severe weather could occur. The warning system is not activated for severe weather watches.
- **WARNING** – A tornado or severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. For a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning, take shelter immediately, turn on a battery-operated radio or television, and wait for the “all clear” announcement by authorities.

What You Should Know About the Outdoor Warning Siren System

Northbrook has an outdoor siren warning system installed throughout the community. The system consists of strategically located sirens and is intended to provide warning, for those outdoors, of impending danger. You may not hear the sirens inside your home or business.

Warning System Activation

The system is designed to notify the community by Alert Warning and Attack Warning signals. The signals are standardized for outdoor warning devices by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

► Alert Warning

An Alert Warning signal is a 3 to 5 minute steady siren. This signal is used in the event of a tornado or funnel cloud sighting. The reporting area includes a ten-mile perimeter around the Village. The Alert Warning signal shall indicate to all persons to “immediately seek shelter, turn on your radio or television, and listen for essential emergency information.”

► Attack Warning

An Attack Warning signal is a 3 to 5 minute wavering siren. This signal means that an actual attack against the United States has been detected and that the Federal Emergency Broadcast System has been activated.



► Reactivation

Once it is activated, the warning signal will not be reactivated for the same incident. The warning signal will be reactivated only for new, confirmed incidents.

- The Village will not issue the all clear announcement for any Alert or Attack signals. Please monitor commercial radio and television for further information following a warning, as well as the Village website at www.northbrook.il.us

Things to Remember!

- Know the different signals and know what to do.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.
- Visit www.ready.gov to learn more about how to prepare, plan and stay informed.

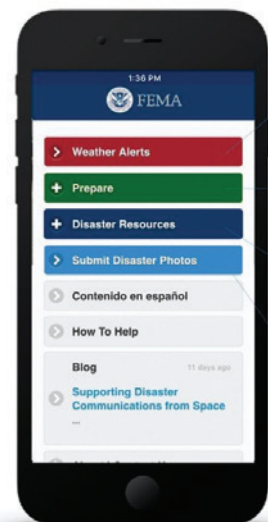
Severe Weather Monitoring

Monitoring the weather has never been easier thanks to a variety of tools available by the media, online, on your mobile device, and on weather radios.

The Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) app is your one-stop-shop with tools and tips to keep you safe before, during, and after disasters. Stay updated with weather-related alerts from the U.S. National Weather Service. Save a list of the items in your family’s emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency. Visit www.fema.gov for details.

Northbrook Notify - Local Mass Notifications

For important information about local emergencies, sign up for Northbrook Notify at www.northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookNotify Northbrook Notify is a notification system that is used to alert residents about information such as, storm clean-up information, road closures, water outages, meeting notices, and special events.





Notes from Village President Sandy Frum



The first week in March marks Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois. Planning for floods, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms before they strike will help you stay safe. Preparedness Week serves as a good reminder for everyone to make sure your family and/or business has an emergency plan. Because this issue is of such importance to all of us, I serve on and currently chair Cook County's Hazardous Mitigation Plan Steering Committee.

While March brings visions of warmer weather, it also brings the start of construction season. This year there are several road and infrastructure

improvement projects on the horizon, some of which may have already started. In addition to various neighborhood street repaving projects, you'll see the three major projects listed on page 6 of this newsletter. Your patience is appreciated during our construction season. I encourage you and your family to take the few extra minutes you may need to continue to patronize our Northbrook businesses, especially those that may be affected by the inevitable detours.

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Those interested in the Village's budget process are encouraged to attend a workshop on March 20 at 6:30 pm at the Village Hall, when the Village Board will be discussing the draft budget for the May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019 fiscal year. Draft budget books will be available for review on March 16 at the Village Hall or Northbrook Library Reference Desk during business hours, and will be posted on the Village's website at www.northbrook.il.us/budget. In addition to this Budget Workshop, there will be a Public Hearing on the Village Budget on April 10.

Purchase of Property

Last year, the Village was informed that Grainger International would be moving their operations from 1675 Shermer Road to their headquarters in Lake County. Their departure provided the Village with a unique opportunity to control a parcel of land that is strategically positioned in our downtown. I'm pleased to share that last month, the Village Board unanimously voted to begin the process to purchase the 10.3 acre parcel of property for \$8.3 million.

It is important to look back at the planning decisions made by prior board members, as well as to look at the bigger picture while we plan for the future. As early as the 1960s, and many times since then, Northbrook Village officials have discussed downtown revitalization concepts.

Securing this parcel now enables the Village to plan for and facilitate projects – whether they be private, public, or a combination thereof – as we continue to enhance and improve the heart of our community.

Signs of Spring - Earth and Arbor Day

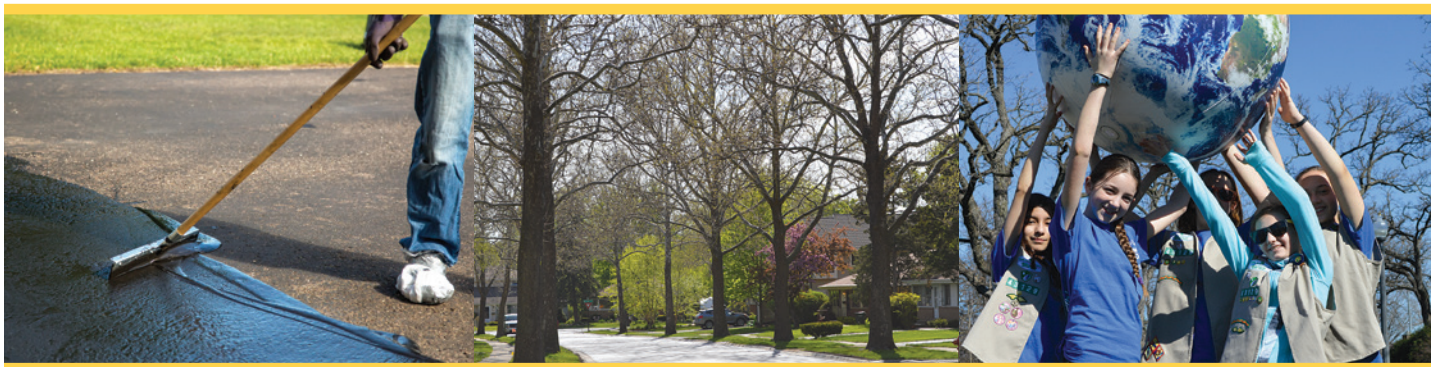
Signs of spring remind us to do household improvements (see page 4), as well as spring-cleaning. With Northbrook's Earth and Arbor Day celebration just a month away, now is a good time to start gathering items for the special recycling event on Saturday, April 21. In addition to electronics, old paint, Styrofoam, tires, and light bulb collections, there will be onsite document shredding for residents. You'll find all the details in the April newsletter or visit www.northbrook.il.us/EarthDay for more information as it becomes available.

More Special Events

One of Northbrook's many assets is the unity of our community. The Community Relations Commission will be hosting a very special Celebration of Cultures event on May 6. Look for details in next month's newsletter. In anticipation of the 2nd Annual Plein Air Painting Festival, taking place September 26 to 30, the Arts Commission is showcasing Northbrook themed artwork at Paintings at Sunset – A Plein Air Art Exhibit which will be hosted at Sunset Foods from March 9 to 11 (see page 5).

Comments, Concerns, and Suggestions

As always, I welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions. Please email me at sandy.frum@northbrook.il.us or call the Village at 847-509-5301.



Before You Sealcoat Your Driveway this Year...

If you decide to sealcoat your asphalt driveway, there are a few things you should know.

The Village of Northbrook has banned the use and sale of coal tar based pavement sealers. The reason for this ban is that coal tar based pavement sealers contain higher levels of chemical compounds that are toxic to aquatic life and at certain levels can be harmful to humans.

As part of this ban, pavement sealing contractors will be required to obtain a Village of Northbrook contractor's license (cost \$60) before performing work and sign a waiver agreeing to not use coal tar based sealers. Property owners do not need to obtain a contractor's license to perform sealing work on their own property. Most home improvement stores no longer carry coal tar based pavement sealers. Property owners and contractors may use asphalt based pavement sealers.

Residents and businesses that are approached by contractors offering to seal their driveways or parking lots should first ask to see proof that the contractor has a Village of Northbrook contractor's license, as they are required to carry it with them at all times.

Residents who wish to report a contractor or find out if they have a current contractor's license may contact the Village at 847-664-4050.

Spring is the Time for Home & Yard Improvements!

Please remember that permits are required for most home improvements in and around your home.

This includes landscaping that involves changing ground elevation, retaining walls, driveways, patios, decks, gazebos, storage sheds, screened porches, basement finishes, fences, and all swimming pools and spas. Permits, which must be obtained before work begins, protect homeowners and ensure compliance with Village codes and ordinances. Most general home repairs, such as driveway resealing, interior or exterior painting, siding replacement and new flooring do not require a permit.



If you are not sure if the work will require a Village permit, please contact the Village at 847-664-4050 and staff will be happy to answer your questions.

For more information on building permits and to download a permit application, visit the Permit Center online at www.northbrook.il.us/permit or call the Development and Planning Services Department at 847-664-4050.

Earth & Arbor Day

**Saturday, April 21, 9am to noon,
Rain or Shine, on the Village Green**

Start organizing your Earth Day Team by gathering your friends, family, organization members and scout troops to help clean up Northbrook.

There will be six cleaning sites, each with a hidden item. If you find the designated hidden item, bring it back to the Expo for a special prize.

Check out the April newsletter for the full event and recycling schedule.

Join our Earth & Arbor Day Expo

We are also looking for groups and businesses to showcase environmentally friendly products and ideas at our Earth and Arbor Day Expo. For more information or to apply as an exhibitor, visit www.northbrook.il.us/earthday



Home and Business Alarm Systems Information

In accordance with the Village municipal code, residents and businesses are required to annually register their alarm systems.

Any assemblage of mechanical or electrical equipment or devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard, occurrence of an unauthorized intrusion, or other activity requiring urgent and immediate attention, is required to obtain a permit.

The Northbrook Police see alarm registration and tracking as an added resource to public safety, as false alarms were approximately 99.8% of the department's 2,079 police alarm calls in 2017.

These calls can be costly to the Village, in that they divert police officers from pro-active crime prevention efforts and delay response to calls that may be true emergencies. The Village would like to see a reduction in the number of false alarm occurrences to give more opportunity for officer engagement and actual emergency response. As an alarm system owner, please do your part by ensuring that your system is maintained and that your family members, guests and/or staff are trained in its operation.

For more information on alarm registrations, renewals, and service charges, please visit www.northbrook.il.us/Alarms or call 847-664-4415.

Safety Tips for Drone Owners and Operators

Drones, or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), represent the future in so many different ways, from their ability to create awesome aerial photography to functioning as a reconnaissance aircraft in disaster locations. Of course, drones are also just plain fun to fly too.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the same agency that regulates all aircraft operations in the United States, from the licensing of pilots and aviation maintenance technicians to operating the nation's air traffic control system (ATC) responsible for safely separating all aircraft from each other when they fly.

You should know that the airspace above your home, your business, or even our local parks, is under the jurisdiction of the FAA. To keep current with the constantly evolving rules and regulations governing UAS, check the FAA website at: www.faa.gov/uas/

What should I do if I see someone flying a drone irresponsibly?

Since all airspace in the U.S. is under the FAA's jurisdiction, the FAA is the agency responsible for enforcement. If you see someone flying in a manner that is potentially dangerous to persons or property, call the local FAA Flight Standards District Office in Des Plaines at 847-294-8700.



Operating a drone near an airport

Flying a drone near an airport is discouraged and dangerous. Please note that most of Northbrook is within the five mile radius of Chicago Executive Airport.

Hobbyists who want to operate drones, including "toy" drones, within five miles of an airport, must contact the airport operator and the airport control tower before they fly.

Call 847-537-2580, and mention *drones* or ask for ext. 117. For more information, visit www.chiexec.com/drones Never let your drone go out of your sight.

Hobbyists not familiar with how airspace is set up, might inadvertently fly a drone too close to an actual airplane in flight.

Anyone who owns a small unmanned aircraft of a certain weight must register with the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) registry before they fly outdoors. People who do not register could face civil and criminal penalties.

How do I register my drone or UAS?

It costs only \$5 to register your UAS and the process is simple and web-based. Visit www.faa.gov/uas/registration for details.



Paintings at Sunset - A Plein Air Art Exhibit"

This free exhibit includes Northbrook themed artwork from the 2017 Plein Air Festival on display and for purchase.

The exhibit will be on display March 9 - 11 at Sunset Foods in Northbrook. Display hours are Saturday, from 10am to 7pm and Sunday, from 10am to 5pm, with an opening party on Friday, March 9, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. The opening party will include a meet and greet with many local Plein Air artists, as well as wine tasting, snacks, and music.

Save the date: The 2nd Annual Plein Air (Outdoor) Painting Festival will be held September 26 - 30, around the Village and at Village Green Park.

Local Construction Projects

Navigating around Northbrook may take some advance planning as road construction projects get underway

Construction to Close Dundee Road at Lee Road for up to Six Months

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will be replacing the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River culvert, which runs under Dundee Road at Lee Road, as well as the road above the culvert. This construction project will require Dundee Road to be closed in early April for six months. Motorists will see signage with the specific closure date, along with detour information. The detour route will divert eastbound Dundee Road traffic to Waukegan Road north, to Lake Cook Road east, to Skokie Boulevard south, and back to Dundee Road. The westbound traffic on Dundee Road will follow the same detour in reverse order.

Questions concerning this IDOT project, may be directed to 847-705-4073.

Construction to Close Section of Shermer Road in Downtown Northbrook

While the bridge on Shermer Road, over the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River located adjacent to Village Green Park, looks updated, it has been identified as structurally deficient due to the poor condition of the bridge's precast structure. The bridge was originally built over the river in 1939 and the superstructure was replaced in 1979. The bridge will be closed to traffic for the next several months with a completion date scheduled for mid-June. Signage will be posted to keep motorists and pedestrians updated on the closure. The posted detour for Shermer Rd. north/west will follow Techny Rd. east, Founders Dr. north, Waukegan Rd. north, and back to Shermer Rd. The south/east traffic on Shermer will follow the same route in reverse order.

Western Avenue Road Reconstruction and Water Main Improvements

Replacement of aging water mains under Western Avenue and reconstructing the road to asphalt is scheduled to begin this spring. The Village recognizes that these improvements will impact a large number of residents, as well as parents and students at Wescott School. All are invited to attend a special Western Avenue Road Improvement Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 5:30 to 7:00pm at Wescott School to learn more about the project.

The Village website will have up-to-date information and weekly project updates. Additionally, you can sign up for project specific email notifications via Notify Me as highlighted below.

Notify Me



Sign up for Notify Me Construction Updates

Anyone interested in learning more about construction progress, as well as information on detours, can visit www.northbrook.il.us/ConstructionProjects Or sign up to receive project specific notifications via e-mail, visit www.northbrook.il.us/NotifyMe and follow the prompts to subscribe to project specific emails.

Wildlife in Northbrook

The Village has negotiated discounted nuisance wildlife trapping services of skunks, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, and chipmunks for Northbrook single-family home residents.

Northwest Suburban Animal Control will perform an initial inspection, set the trap, and monitor Monday through Friday for \$95. The animal pick up/removal fee is \$45 per animal.

To schedule nuisance wildlife trapping services with *Northwest Suburban Animal Control*, call 847-934-1900. *Northwest Suburban Animal Control* is available Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm or send a text message to 847-502-3518. For more information, please visit www.northbrook.il.us/skunks

Skunks Around Northbrook

Residents may notice skunk activity around this time of the year as skunks begin their mating season. Residents who encounter a skunk den on their property are encouraged to call Northbrook's Animal Control Officer at 847-664-4470 for information on how to keep skunks out of their yard.



Coyotes in Northbrook

Once again, residents are reminded that winter weather may make our resident coyotes more visible as they venture from the woodlands to forage for food. Visit www.urbancoyoteresearch.com for information on coyotes. Sightings can be reported to Northbrook's Animal Control Officer at 847-664-4470.

Village Happenings

Summer Jobs with the Village of Northbrook!

Limited openings for office workers and outside laborers for those at least 18 years of age. Applications online at www.northbrook.il.us/jobs

2018 Northbrook Softball Spring House Clinics start Mar. 4th. Please visit www.northbrooksoftball.com for more info and registration.

Join the Northbrook Police Department for a Lunch and Learn on Tue., Mar. 6, to discuss the latest scams and learn what to watch out for to protect yourself and your family. Register online at www.nbparks.org/online-registration or call 847-291-2988. Members: \$7, Non-Members: \$9.

A Pasta Dinner Benefiting the Northfield Township Food Pantry will be held Fri., Mar. 9 from 5:30-8:00pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pfingsten Rd. The suggested donation (\$20 per family up to four people, \$5 per additional person) gets you dinner, dessert, and water! Raffle tickets will also be available.

Tri Curling League offers an opportunity to try curling during a 3-week evening league (Mar. 9, 17, 23) where participants play real games with **Chicago Curling Club** members for a flat \$99. Registration required (21 and over) or take a 2-hour lesson on Mar. 10, 18, 25, or 31 for \$75 per session (amount is then deducted from a new membership.) For details visit www.learn2curl.org

On Sun., Mar. 11, **the Library will host Accessibility Hour**, for families to visit the library one hour before it opens (12:00-1:00pm) to browse and check out materials and engage in sensory-friendly activities. Please call 847-272-4300.

Sharpen your driving skills with a two-day class on Mar. 12 and 13 from 9am-1pm, geared toward drivers age 50 and older. Preregistration is required. Drivers must attend both days of the course. Call the Senior Center at 847-291-2988 to register. AARP Members \$15, Non-Members \$20.

Try out your luck at the Casino with the Senior Center on Wed., Mar. 14, from 8:30am-5pm. Register online at www.nbparks.org/online-registration or call 847-291-2988. Members: \$19, Non-Members: \$25.

Celebrate everyone's favorite green holiday at the Senior Center, 3323 Walters Ave. on Fri., Mar. 16, from 11:30am-2pm. Lunch and entertainment will be provided. Register at www.nbparks.org/online-registration or call 847-291-2988. Members: \$19, Non-Members: \$29.

Explore the history of letter writing and get inspiration to create memorable letters at Mailbox Memories, presented by author Mary Potter Kenyon on Sun., Mar. 18, at 1:30pm at the Library.

Celebrate Women's History Month at the Library! Explore how laws affect a woman's experience by watching Equality for Women on Mon., Mar. 19, at 7pm, and enjoy a Chicago-based duo's concert featuring all female composers at Women in Music on Mon., Mar. 26, at 7pm.

RAIN (Racial Awareness in the North Shore) will host **Talking About Race**, a workshop on building skills to navigate difficult conversations, at the Library on Tue., Mar. 20 at 7:00pm.

On Tue., Mar. 20, from Noon-3pm, adults can enjoy lunch and a **showing of Schindler's List**. Register online at www.nbparks.org/online-registration or call 847-291-2988. Members: \$6, Non-Members: \$9

Wizard of Oz Casting Call. The Northbrook Theatre invites adults and children in third grade or higher to audition. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.nbparks.org/auditions Walk-ins are welcome.

Hop on over to meet the Spring Bunny on Sun., Mar. 25 from 2:30-4:30pm at GBN. Children can hunt for candy/toy filled eggs and enjoy face painting and activities at this free family event. Bring a basket. The first egg hunt begins at 2:45pm. The Spring Bunny will sit for photos from 3-4:15pm.

All are invited to the Ridge Grand Opening Celebration and Open House, on Fri., Mar. 16, from 11am-2pm and take a tour of the new workout space at the Park District's Leisure Center and Senior Center.

Northbrook's very own Northbrook Symphony presents Solace of Nature, on Sun., Mar. 25, 4pm at the Sheely Center. For tickets, visit www.northbrooksymphony.org or call 847-272-0755.

Spend your spring break with the Park District Mar. 26-30! Spring Break Escape field trips include outings to Safari Land, Field Museum and Lego Land. Before and after school care is available. Register online at www.nbparks.org

What's the next chapter of the Marvel Cinematic Universe? Connect with other fans at the Library's new Fandom Discussion Group to take a deep dive into the films on Thurs., Mar. 29, at 7pm at North Shore Comics.

Northbrook Garden Club invites all to learn how to prepare or amend your soil and select the proper plants this spring for a successful garden this summer. Scott Thalman will share his knowledge and expertise on Tue., Apr. 3, at 10am at the United Methodist Church - corner of Western and Cherry. The public is always welcome! For more details visit www.northbrookgardenclub.org

Save the date: The Northbrook Senior Services Commission, in conjunction with the North Shore Village, is hosting a program entitled **"When is the Right Time to Move"** on Mon., Apr. 23, from 1:30 to 3pm at the Village Hall. Speakers will be presenting information for seniors and their families about downsizing and planning for the future.

Register for the **Cancer Wellness Center's 14th Annual Stepping Up to Wellness Run/Walk** on Sun., Apr. 29, at Independence Grove in Libertyville. Visit www.cancerwellness.org for details.

Mark your calendar for the annual Northbrook Days Festival, August 1-5 at Village Green Park. Visit www.northbrookcivic.com

Last Chance to Save on 2018 Summer Camps!

Learn more about Northbrook Park District summer camps programs and register online at www.nbparks.org

Enjoy a variety of sports indoors at Greenbriar School Gym. Check out the Northbrook Park District event calendar at www.nbparks.org/events for indoor open gym times.

Current Events Discussion Group is welcoming new members and meets Tuesdays, at 1pm at the Park District Senior Center inside the Leisure Center. It's free for Senior Center Members.

Fine jewelry, classic china, crystal, antiques, and collectibles are available at the North Shore Senior Center's Shop, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Donations are always welcome. For information call 847-784-6035.

The Library's Annual 2 Pianos 4 Hands concert series returns this month! Concerts are held each Sun. in Mar. at 3:00pm in the Auditorium. Don't miss this unique, beloved concert! Cosponsored by the Northbrook Arts Commission.

The Library's Sat. films will now offer a new 10:30am open captions screening! Please visit www.northbrook.info to see all upcoming films or reserve a spot for an upcoming showing.

Trains! Trains! Trains! The Mid-America Modular Rail Club will set up the HO gauge modular railroad layout at the Historical Society, 1776 Walters Ave., on Saturdays, Mar. 17 & 24, 12-4pm, and Sundays, Mar. 18 & 25, noon-3pm.

Art Display at the Village Hall. Enjoy beautiful Plein Air art by Northbrook Artist John Paterson, featured in the Village Gallery in the Board Room. Exhibit open during business hours.

New curlers are encouraged to join the Chicago Curling Club at the reduced "end of season" first-year rate of \$220. Members would have the chance to join teams, enjoy free lessons, and a healthy dose of broomstacking (socializing!) after each game. Registration required at www.learn2curl.org



THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK

www.northbrook.il.us
village@northbrook.il.us
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm
Front Desk open on Tuesdays until 6:30pm in June/July

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

Village Officials:

President: Sandra E. Frum

Village Clerk: Debra J. Ford

Village Manager: Richard A. Nahrstadt

Village Trustees:

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This newsletter is published ten times a year by the Northbrook Information Association.

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Historian's Corner

presented by the Northbrook Historical Society

Northbrook – A Village by A Stream - A little history about the brook and bridges in Northbrook

Like other small tributaries, the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River which flows through Northbrook, meandered back and forth. Its course was altered with the addition of the railroad in the 1870s. The river through the Central Business District required two bridges on Shermer Road. Old-timers described the two bridges as being within 200-feet of each other. They were located between Church Street, then called Midway Road, and the barns on Barrenscheen's Grove, which is now called Village Green Park.

The meandering creek would often cause serious flooding in the business district, as well as Barrenscheen's Grove.

To eliminate the flooding problem, a petition signed by 56 citizens of Shermerville was presented to the trustees of the Sanitary District in May 1919. The petition asked the Sanitary

District to take immediate steps to straighten and dredge the river running through Shermerville. At that time, the population of Shermerville was under 500 people and only the men had the right to vote.

The straightening of the river eliminated one bridge and alleviated the frequent flooding of the downtown, as well as Barrenscheen's Grove. Once the straightening was completed, a cement bridge was built over the river on Shermer Road in 1926.



Pictured above is Shermer Road Bridge over the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River, looking east. The lovely Kiest home, at the southeast corner of Shermer Road and Church Street, is seen on the right in this 1912 Shermerville postcard.

To learn more about Northbrook history, visit www.northbrookhistory.org