

NORTHBROOK

JANUARY 2019



Ice and Snow... Take it Slow!

In response to the recent weather related events, Village staff have come to the rescue by clearing snow, fixing broken water mains, and keeping our community safe.

The Public Works Department is responsible for providing snow and ice control for 539 plow lane miles of Village owned streets, municipal parking lots, and designated sidewalks. Operations begin whenever accumulating snow, sleet, ice, or freezing rain are imminent and could be potentially hazardous to the community.

A winter weather event typically starts with seven salt trucks; additional plow trucks are deployed if accumulations reach 1.5 to 2 inches. Plowing and salting operations continue with the goal of clearing all roads within four to six hours after the snowfall stops. Commuter parking lots and sidewalks are cleared as soon as practical following a snowfall event.

See page 5 for winter weather reminders.

Significant Brush and Tree Removals at local Forest Preserves

Local Forest Preserve projects Includes removal of invasive shrubs and trees at two Northbrook sites.

- Chipilly Woods Forest Preserve (south of Dundee Road, and west of Sunset Ridge, by Voltz Road, the North Branch of the Chicago River, and the Union Pacific railway)
- Somme Prairie Nature Preserve (north of Dundee Road, and east of Bach Street, by Underwriter's Lab, the Post Office, and the Canadian Pacific railway)

Work at both of these locations began in December and "will be very noticeable" according to John McCabe, Director of Resource Management, Forest Preserves of Cook County. He noted that projects such as these tend to look drastic at first (especially in the winter), but over time the areas re-populate with native wildflowers and grasses.

The work at Chipilly Woods Forest Preserve is entirely funded by the Friends of the Chicago River and the work at Somme Prairie Nature Preserve is partially funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Great Lakes Coastal Program.

More information about these and other Forest Preserve projects may be found at www.fpdcc.com/spnp

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CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Recycle your fresh Christmas tree by removing all lights and decorations. Leave at the curb on your recycling day before Friday, January 11.



Business Briefs

Northbrook's Diverse Tax Base Benefits the Entire Community

Northbrook is well known as a wonderful community to live with its safe and attractive residential neighborhoods, award-winning schools and parks, and other outstanding public services. A fact often overlooked is that Northbrook is also a major business center for the northern suburbs.

While Northbrook's population is significantly less than nearby communities such as Evanston and Skokie, we are home to more businesses and employees than either of those communities, and more than any other nearby community.

The graph below compares the population, number of businesses and number of private-sector employees of Northbrook with other nearby communities. Some noteworthy statistics depicted in the graphs include:

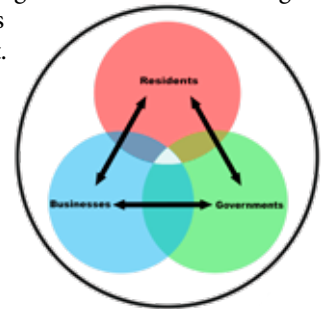
- Northbrook Population (2017 Census Bureau estimate): 33,400
- Number of Businesses in Northbrook (2017): 2,848
- Number of Private-Sector Employees in Northbrook (2017): 48,190

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Management of Companies and Enterprises (8,752 employees) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (5,466 employees) accounted for the two largest segments of our local employment base.

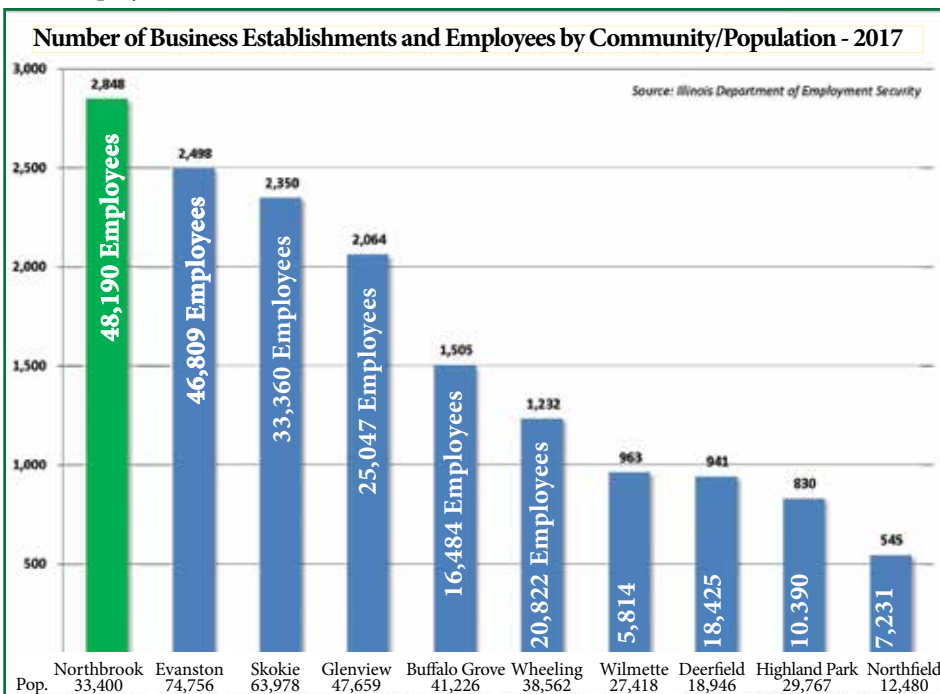
Furthermore, since 1998, the number of private-sector employees in Northbrook has increased from 43,781 in 1998 to 48,190 in 2017 – more than a 10 percent increase.

Having a diverse tax, with a healthy mix of residential and non-residential land uses, is particularly important in funding our public schools, parks, library, public works, and emergency services. The benefit is most clearly seen with our public schools, as businesses do not generate any local school children, but pay the same percentage of their property tax to the local school districts as do our residents. Other communities in the area must rely more heavily on residential property owners to fund their public services. This is a tremendous benefit to the residents of the Village of Northbrook. Retaining existing businesses and attracting new businesses to the community is vital to maintaining this benefit.

This information has been presented at the request of the Village's Economic Development Committee (EDC). The next Village Newsletter will include information on how to read your property tax bill.



Northbrook Economic Development Committee Sustainable Partnerships Built on Common Ground



New Businesses

Please welcome the following new businesses to Northbrook:

Fred Astaire Dance Studio
New ownership
4187 Dundee Road

Green Nails Lab
Northbrook Court

LifeTime Fitness
1100 Skokie Blvd

Mario's Cart
Northbrook Court

Noggin Builders
2nd Northbrook location
Northbrook Court

Northbrook Play
Northbrook Court

Earned Sick Leave Ordinance

The Cook County Sick Leave Ordinance (Ordinance 16-4229), which requires employers to provide paid sick days to employees, will go into effect in Northbrook on January 1, 2019. The ordinance establishes a right to paid sick leave for employees of employers in Cook County. Visit Cook County's website at www.cookcountyil.gov and search "Earned Sick Leave" for more information.



Notes from Village President Sandy Frum



Welcome 2019! On behalf of the Village Board and Staff, I'd like to wish you and yours a very Happy New Year. As I look back at 2018, it is interesting to note the diversity of accomplishments achieved by the various departments that are part of Village operations, from Police and Fire to Public Works and Information Technology. The following includes some of the Village highlights of 2018.

Information Technology

During 2018, the Geographic Information Services (GIS) team continued to update data utilized by Village field staff to document trees and water/storm sewer assets.

The Information Technology (IT) Department completed significant telephone system upgrades for all Village facilities, ensuring these critical services are redundant in the event of an outage.

Fire Department

The Fire Department had a year full of change and growth. Due to retirements, there were 13 promotions in 2018, including Chief Andy Carlson, Deputy Chiefs David Schweihs and David Crawford, as well as eight new firefighters. Last year the Northbrook Fire Department responded to 6,552 calls for service, which is an average of 18 per day. This was a 1.8% increase over the year before and an 11% increase over the last 5 years. Fifty-six percent of our calls are emergency medical, twenty-one percent fire related, and twenty-three percent non-emergency service calls.

Police Department

The Police Department experienced many internal promotions due to retirements in 2018, as well as the hiring of four new officers. The Emergency Communications E9-1-1 Center began implementing a Next Generation 9-1-1 telephone system in conjunction with Wheeling Police Dispatch and the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center. The new system will be capable of receiving "text-to-911" messages and will provide enhanced location services for cellular callers, who make over 70% of the 9-1-1 calls received.

Public Works

In addition to providing ongoing maintenance and regular services, Public Works completed a number of projects within the community, including rebuilding the Shermer Road Bridge in the Central Business District and reconstructing Western Avenue.

The Village also replaced numerous water mains and worked toward the completion of the Master Stormwater Management Plan by building the Woodlawn Road and Glendale Avenue projects. In addition, the department oversaw completion of the Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (MBPP) and facilitated a study of the Village's Police Station, Fire Station 11, and Fleet Maintenance Garage.

Village Finances

Northbrook continues to be a model of strong financial management. Revenues and expenditures remained relatively stable, with one notable exception — telecommunication taxes. Industry competition, bundled plans, and the continuing trend towards dropping landlines have caused this revenue source to decrease by more than \$1 million per year. After careful consideration, the Board increased our home rule sales tax by 0.25% effective July 1, 2018, bringing it in line with the prevailing rate charged by municipalities in the area. The home rule sales tax does not apply to sales of automobiles, groceries, and medicine. All other retail sales are included.

Development & Planning Services

Last year was another busy year for Development & Planning Services as construction activity in the community continued to increase. While the projects are too numerous to include in this newsletter, some notable developments under construction include the 68 townhomes along Shermer Road, 304 apartments and Lifetime Fitness (1000 Skokie Boulevard), an addition to Northshore Place (1000 Sunset Ridge), 21 single-family homes at Timbers Edge (Dundee Road), and 32 single-family homes at Anets Woods (Waukegan & Voltz roads). Other plans under review include Northbrook Court Shopping Center redevelopment, Eating Recovery Center (4201 Lake Cook Road), 84 townhomes (1910 Techny Road), and the Bank of America campus (1200 Shermer Road).

Comments, Suggestions or Questions?

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, contact me at 847-509-5301 or sandy.frum@northbrook.il.us



Coyotes - Living with Wildlife in Northbrook

Coyotes are part of the natural wildlife that surrounds our community. Generally, coyotes are non-aggressive and spend the vast majority of time in the forest preserves.

All are reminded that winter weather may make coyotes more visible as they venture from the woodlands to forage for food. Please review the following information with your family:

- Coyotes will search out small animals for food, so pet owners should be vigilant about watching their small pets when outside.
- Always keep pets on a leash, especially in or around wooded areas, parks, and other open areas such as golf courses.
- Keep your cats indoors.
- Coyotes eat a variety of foods, including plants and small animals, and generally cause few problems in the community.

- Although the coyotes are wild animals and do hunt to survive, they will generally shy away from humans.
- Children should be cautioned that coyotes are not dogs, and they should not chase or try to pet them.
- Aggressive behavior toward humans is rare, but not unknown.
- Try to keep coyotes away from your home by making sure your garbage cans have lids that are sealed tightly.
- Do not feed your pet outside or leave pet food outside.
- Coyotes are most active at dusk and dawn, but be aware, as they could be out anytime of the day or night.
- Never feed the coyotes!

For more information about coyotes in Chicagoland, please visit www.urbancoyotersearch.com

Why do I see other Fire Departments in town?

The Northbrook Fire Department staffs three fire stations to provide fire and ambulance response. Last year, staff responded to over 6,550 emergencies.

At times, all of the Northbrook units are busy, and additional ambulance calls or other fire incidents require more resources from neighboring towns. Sometimes an emergency will occur where the neighboring fire station is closer than the Northbrook station, and the closest unit, regardless of jurisdiction, is dispatched to assist. When this happens, neighboring Fire Departments respond through Mutual Aid agreements to these emergencies at no additional cost to tax payers. Northbrook firefighters also reciprocate in turn and respond into other communities when they need assistance.

This neighbor helping neighbor Mutual Aid occurs seamlessly on a daily basis. Over the past ten years, Northbrook Fire provided Mutual Aid assistance to other communities on average 464 times annually, and received Mutual Aid assistance from our neighbors 468 times annually.

So the next time you see a fire engine from another community in town, know that Northbrook firefighters will be assisting them in their town sometime, providing the most efficient response possible.



Winter Carnival at Village Green Park on Saturday, January 19 - Downtown Northbrook

Come together in the heart of Northbrook for Winter Carnival!

Join your neighbors 11am to 1:30pm on Saturday, January 19 at Village Green Park, located at Shermer and Meadow Roads. The free event features horse-drawn trolley rides, sing-alongs, crafts, hot chocolate, a DJ, food truck, and winter fun for everyone.

All ages are welcome. For information visit www.nbparcs.org or call 847-291-2995.



Winter Weather Reminders

Remember, it takes four to six hours after the snow has stopped to clear Northbrook's roadways and can take even longer during heavy or extended snowfalls.

Please be patient as the Public Works Department clears our roadways!

When driving, please give the snow plows plenty of room. Large plows take longer to stop, have multiple blind spots and make frequent backing maneuvers. Keep in mind that the Village is not responsible for plowing all the roadways within the Village limits.

Parking Restrictions

After a snowfall of two or more inches, it is illegal to park on the streets until they have been completely cleared. Vehicles in violation are subject to ticketing and towing. If your vehicle has become disabled, call 847-564-2060 to inform the police.

Residents Encouraged to Pitch-in!

Please take the time to shovel the public sidewalks for the benefit of students, mail carriers and other pedestrians. It's courteous and the right thing to do, and contrary to rumors, there is no liability per state law!



How to Shovel Your Driveway

When clearing snow from your driveway, shovel snow in the direction of traffic and try to make a pocket on the opposite side of the driveway, as shown. By doing so, snow that is plowed by our trucks will be dumped into that pocket and less snow will end up in your driveway.

Shoveling Does Have Health Risks!

Stop shoveling and call 911 if you experience discomfort or heaviness in chest, arms or neck; unusual or prolonged shortness of breath; dizzy or faint feeling; blurred vision; excessive sweating; nausea; or vomiting.

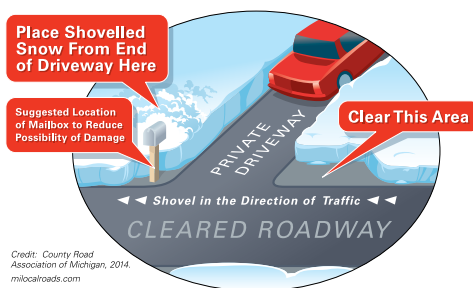
Clear the Snow Around Your Nearest Fire Hydrant!

In case of an emergency, every second counts! Look for the nearest fire hydrants by your home or office. Please work with neighbors to keep the fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow for



easy access. In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant itself, it is recommended to clear a 3-foot area around the hydrant for easier access.

Avoid the "Second Shovel"

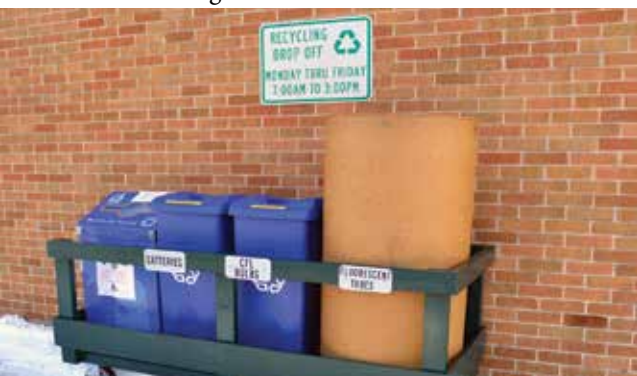


Pretreating Roads Before a Storm

One of the methods used by the Public Works Department to treat the roads during winter weather is a mixture of beet juice and salt brine.

Pretreating arterial roads before a snow storm with this mixture helps to create a layer of an ice melting product to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.

The beet juice is an agricultural by-product that helps to adhere salt brine to roadways while improving the prolonged effectiveness of the salt brine. The liquid mixture is applied to the road by using a tank and spray bar on the back of a dump truck as pictured above.



Recycling Electronics, Batteries, and Bulbs

- **Drop off your household electronics** on the first Tuesday of every month from 7am to 3pm and the first Saturday of every month from 9am to noon, behind the Village Hall at the Maintenance Garage. *The first Tuesday and first Saturday of the month, with the exception of the Earth Day collection, is the only time electronics are accepted. The January recycling days are Sat., Jan. 5 and Tues., Jan. 8.*
- The recycling drop off for CFL, LED, fluorescent bulbs & household batteries is open Monday thru Friday from 7am to 3pm.
- **Recycle Christmas lights** at the Maintenance Garage from 7am to 3pm or at the Village Hall lobby, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm through January 31.

2018 Village Meeting Schedule

Meetings are typically held monthly at the Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, unless otherwise specified. All meetings are open to the public. Most Village Board and Plan Commission meetings are cablecast live on NCTV-Cable Channel 17, and replayed the following day at 9:00am and 7:00pm and the following Sunday at 9:00am and 7:00pm, as well as streamed live and archived on the Village website at www.northbrook.il.us (AT&T customers may access NCTV on channel 99 and search "Northbrook.")

Architectural Control Commission

2nd Thursday, 5:30pm

Arts Commission — 1st Thursday, 7:00pm

Bicycle Task Force — 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm; Bi-monthly starting in January

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

1st Thursday in May 7:30am

(Special Meetings - 48-hour notice)

Community Relations Commission

1st Thursday, 7:00pm

Economic Development Committee

Four times per year, 2nd Wednesday, January, April, July, and October, 7:30am

Environmental Quality Commission

3rd Thursday, 7:00pm

Foreign Fire Insurance Board

Meets quarterly

Industrial and Commercial Development Commission — 4th Tuesday, 7:30am

Plan Commission — 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm; cablecast on NCTV - Channel 17

Senior Services Commission — 2nd Thursday, 7:00pm, January, March, May, July, September, and November

Stormwater Management Commission

Meets on call

Village Board of Trustees Regular Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30pm; cablecast on NCTV - Cable Channel 17

Village Board Committee of the Whole Meetings

3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm or as posted.

Village Board Work Committees

On call

Youth Commission — 3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm; No meetings in June or July

Zoning Board of Appeals

4th Monday, 7:00pm

In addition to the above, various Boards meet from time-to-time on an unscheduled basis; e.g. Board of Local Improvements and Electrical Commission. Notices for these meetings, as well as Special, Adjourned, and Rescheduled Meetings of the above listed Boards, will be posted on the Village website and the bulletin board in the lobby of the Village Hall, in addition to being sent to all registered news media and interested individuals/groups in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Board of Trustee Meeting Agendas and Approved Minutes are posted on the Village website, www.northbrook.il.us Meeting notices are also on the Village website and on NCTV-Channel 17 Video Bulletin Board.

Please note that on occasion, meetings may be canceled.

Please check with the Village Manager's office to confirm dates and agendas by calling 847-664-4010.

Watch your Local Officials in Action

Northbrook residents and businesses can tune to NCTV for Village Board and Plan Commission meetings (AT&T U-verse subscribers-Tune to AT&T channel 99 and search Northbrook to view NCTV). Most Village Board and Plan Commission meetings are streamed live on our website at www.northbrook.il.us Cablecast meetings are also archived on-line. To watch a meeting on line, visit www.northbrook.il.us and click on Meetings and Agendas.



If We Can't Reach You, We Can't Notify You!

The Village's Mass Notification system connects you to important information.

Sign up for Northbrook Notify today at www.northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookNotify

The Village uses Northbrook Notify to send voice, text, and/or email messages to businesses and residents during local emergencies.

Northbrook Notify messages pertain to time-sensitive, common-interest issues such as emergency street closures, police activity, or tornado warnings. These messages supplement other communication modes and public safety/first responder services.

The system is also used for non-emergency notices about special events, meetings, and planned road construction, as well as unexpected service interruptions, such as last month's weather-related refuse pick-up delay.

Reminder! You can now renew your Police Burglar Alarm Permit for 2019 online

Renewals received after January 31 may be subject to a \$75 reinstatement fee. To renew, visit <https://northbrook.alarmreg.com>

For more information about the Police Burglar Alarm System Program, please visit www.northbrook.il.us/Alarms or contact the Program Administrator at becky.nelson@northbrook.il.us

Village Happenings

Looking to get involved and give back in our community? **Meet The Northbrook Civic Foundation.** The organization is looking for new members and new ideas. Help plan Northbrook Days for 2019. Civic meets the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:30pm at the Civic Building, 2002 Walters Ave. Contact info@northbrookcivic.com for info.

The Library's **Winter Reading program**, available to all ages, runs through Jan. 31. Visit www.northbrook.info/winter-reading for more details.

Pianist Svetlana Belsky performs an evening of Chopin's music on Sun., Jan. 6, at 3pm in the Library.

An Evening with the Author: Libby Fischer Hellmann On Tues., Jan. 8, at 7pm, meet the best-selling author and learn about her latest novel, *High Crimes*. Registration required.

Skating and Sledding! The Park District provides outdoor ice rinks at Meadowhill Park, 1479 Maple Ave, and Tower Rink (no hockey), 1225 Cedar Lane, open daily from dawn to 9pm. Rental skates are available at the Northbrook Sports Center, call 847-291-2993. Sledding hills at Techny Prairie Park and Fields, 1750 Techny Road, and Wood Oaks Green Park, 1150 Sanders Road, are open daily. Visit www.nbparks.org/location_status to see when sledding and skating are available.

The Library's **Computers & Coffee series** will explore streaming music on Wed., Jan. 9, at 11am. Get an overview of ways to stream with services like Spotify, Apple Music, and Bandcamp.

Financial Wellness as Your New Year's Resolution? Thurs., Jan. 10, at 7 pm at the North Suburban YMCA. Saving for your future - learn the basic principles of building a financial foundation. Register at www.nsymca.org or call 847-272-7250. For more information contact Karen Brownlee at kbrownlee@nsymca.org

From Jan. 12-15, the Library hosts **Finals Cafe** for high school students. The Library will experience more activity, and seating and parking may be limited.

Calm Heart Healthy Heart Tues., Jan. 15, at 11:15am at the North Suburban YMCA. Mind/body ways of cultivating cardiac wellness. Register at www.nsymca.org or call 847-272-7250. For more information contact Karen Brownlee at kbrownlee@nsymca.org

Popular radio host Steve Darnell presents **A Beginner's Guide to the Golden Age of Radio** at the Library on Thurs., Jan. 17, at 2pm.

Diabetes Prevention Program Thurs., Jan. 17, at 7pm. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program gives you the skills you need and the support you deserve to make lasting, healthy lifestyle changes. Register at www.nsymca.org or call 847-272-7250. For more information contact email kbrownlee@nsymca.org

In January, the Library's **Wednesday Film Series** will feature the works of Robert Redford.

Registration is now open for Northbrook Girls Softball 2019 Spring Season. For more info or to register, visit www.northbrooksoftball.com

The Library will host a **sensory-friendly screening of Smallfoot** on Fri., Jan. 18, at 10:30am. Sensory-friendly film screenings are designed for adults with special needs.

Winter Programs at the Northbrook Park District Most Session I activities begin the second week of January. Programs range from ice skating and hockey to group fitness, bridge and ceramics, as well as classes for seniors. Register at www.nbparks.org

Meet paraprofessionals from local preschools and daycare providers at the Library's **Early Childhood Extravaganza** to learn about the summer and fall programs they offer on Sun., Jan. 20, at 2pm.

Find "one-of-a-kind" treasures made by local artists and Plein Air painting at the new **Artisans at the Inn Shop** at the Northbrook Historical Society, 1776 Walters Ave. Thurs.-Sat., 10am-4pm & Sun., 2-4pm. Call 847-498-3404.

Stop by the Library's Youth Services Department on Jan. 21 to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with volunteering opportunities, a special storytime that explores Dr. King's life, and a special craft for kids. Visit www.northbrook.info for details.

Legendary blues guitarist and two-time Grammy nominee, **John Primer** performs an acoustic set at the Library on Thurs., Jan. 24, at 7pm with special guest Steve Bell on harmonica. There will be a question-and-answer session after the set.

The annual Craft Swap is back! Visit the Library on Sun., Jan. 27, from 1:15 to 3:30pm to pick up items. For more info, visit www.northbrook.info

Design and laser cut decorative boxes for Valentine's Day gifts on Tues., Jan. 29, at 6:30pm in the Library. Registration required.

Visit the Library for a **Live Podcast Recording and Performance** on Thurs., Jan. 31, at 7pm. Local podcast Friskie Morris Sessions will record a special live episode with a Chicago-area punk band.

Make a playdate with Northbrook Park District. Little ones are invited to jump, bounce and run 9-10 am, Mondays and Wednesdays at the Leisure Center. Children will enjoy an indoor playground featuring balls, mats and hula hoops. For information, call 847-291-2995.

Northbrook Woman's Club will be distributing financial grants to nonprofit organizations serving the needs of local residents. Additional information at www.northbrookwomensclub.org Contact Christa Bolt at christa.bolt@gmail.com with questions.

Think pink! Pinkalicious The Musical features a fun-loving tale of what happens when a girl's passion for pink goes too far. Performances are 10 am & 1 pm Sat. Jan. 19-Feb. 23, at Northbrook Theatre, 3323 Walters Ave. Call 847-291-2995 for details. Purchase tickets at www.nbparks.org

Come together for Winter Carnival! Join your neighbors 11am-1:30pm Sat., Jan. 19, at Village Green Park. The free event features horse-drawn trolley rides, singalongs, crafts, hot chocolate, a DJ, food truck and winter fun.

Do you know any Northbrook residents currently serving in the military? Please call 847-664-4038, with their name, rank, and station. The information will be used to update the plaque at Freedom Park, under the flagpole between the Village Hall and Northbrook Library.

Save the date to skate! Families are invited to an afternoon of free skating from 4-6 pm, Sat., Jan. 19, at Northbrook Sports Center. The fun includes a short demonstration by talented ice athletes and free skate rentals while supplies last.

The Northbrook Park District Senior Center at 3323 Walters Ave. offers a wide variety of programs for adults age 65 and over. For information, call 847-291-2995 or visit www.nbparks.org

Senior Center Knitting and Crocheting Club Join your friends and make new ones while sharing hobbies and creating items for donation Wednesdays from 10 am-12pm. All skill levels welcome. For information, call 847-291-2995,

Get ready for Valentines Day! Visit The Shop at the North Shore Senior Center for fine jewelry, unique collectibles, ceramics, handmade quilts, children's and baby gifts - even greeting cards! 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield. Donations welcome. Call 847-784-6035 with questions.

Is the purpose of a high school education only to get the best possible grades and test scores? Or is education bigger than that? How can teens take more control of their own academic self-care? **Attend "Academic Wellness: an oxymoron?"** A Teen Wellness Workshop at the Library on Sat., Feb. 2, from 2-4pm. Register at www.northbrook.info/events Walk-ins welcome!

The Northbrook Symphony presents "Celebrate Mozart!" on Sunday., March 24, at 4pm at the GBN Sheely Center. Children ages 7-8 attend concerts free when accompanied by a ticket holding adult. For tickets and more information, please call 847-272-0755 or visit www.northbrooksymphony.org

The Northbrook Arts Commission presents Artists in Residence, a display of artwork at the Northbrook Library featuring artwork by Northbrook Artists Jane Sticker, Joei Shavitz, John Patterson, and Mark Rosenberg, through February.

Visit the Village Art Gallery, featured in the Village Hall Board Room during business hours. This month, enjoy a collection of Plein Air paintings by featured artist Steve Puttrich as pictured below.



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

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:

James A. Karagianis

A.C. Buehler

Kathryn L. Ciesla

Robert P. Israel

Muriel J. Collison

Jason C. Han

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

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Northbrook, IL 60062

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Historian's Corner

presented by the Northbrook Historical Society

When you read the story on the front page of this newsletter explaining the restoration work set to begin at Somme Prairie Nature Preserve and wetland habitat, did you visualize the land as you know it today?

Perhaps you thought, "Oh no, those trees have always been there!" Such is not the case. Except for a small orchard at the northeast corner of the property, the entire area was wide-open prairie when the Forest Preserve District purchased the land in 1921 from the Werhane family. The trees you see today as you travel on Dundee or Waukegan Roads are either invasive species, or the remainders of reforestation efforts that took place in the 1940s and 50s.

A Man Named John Bach

The goal of the restoration project is to remove all the trees and return the land to a thriving prairie habitat, just as it was when a man named John Bach came to the area when it opened for development and settlement in 1840. Legend has it that he sat down on a boulder, located in what is now Somme Prairie, west of Waukegan Road, and decided that this was where he wanted to settle. Since it was late in the fall, he made a dugout in the groves of heavy timber east of Waukegan Road and spent the winter in the woods. When the first land patents were issued in 1843, he purchased 40 acres of the prairie property, at \$1.25 per acre. He later purchased 160 adjoining acres where he raised a large family and became the proprietor of a productive horse farm.

After his death in 1890, his family sold his land to the brick company. At that time, his son sold five acres across Dundee Road where housing was built for the brick workers. The area, known as Bachtown, was instrumental in bringing enough settlers into the area to incorporate as the Village of Shermerville in 1901.

"Crabs or Crawfish"

Former resident Milton Hans' recollections of life in Shermerville address one of the inhabitants of a thriving prairie. The Hans family lived on Church Street and it was from there that he took the cows to pasture at the southeast corner of Waukegan and Shermer roads.

"In the years when I used to drive cows to pasture in summer and would be barefoot most of the time (because skin grew back (free) on the bottom of the feet, but shoe soles cost money to replace), I remember that after the warm heavy rains, the ground, and especially the road, would be almost covered with what we called crabs - others call them crawfish. It was hard to walk without stepping on some for a while after a shower. I do not know where they came from in such numbers, but do not believe they rained down — as some of them would certainly have hit a person if they had. I think that the heavy rain ran into the holes they had in the ground and forced them out. I don't remember when they did not come anymore, but realized at some time that I didn't see them anymore after a shower."

Will the prairie restoration bring them back? Only time will tell.

www.northbrookhistory.org