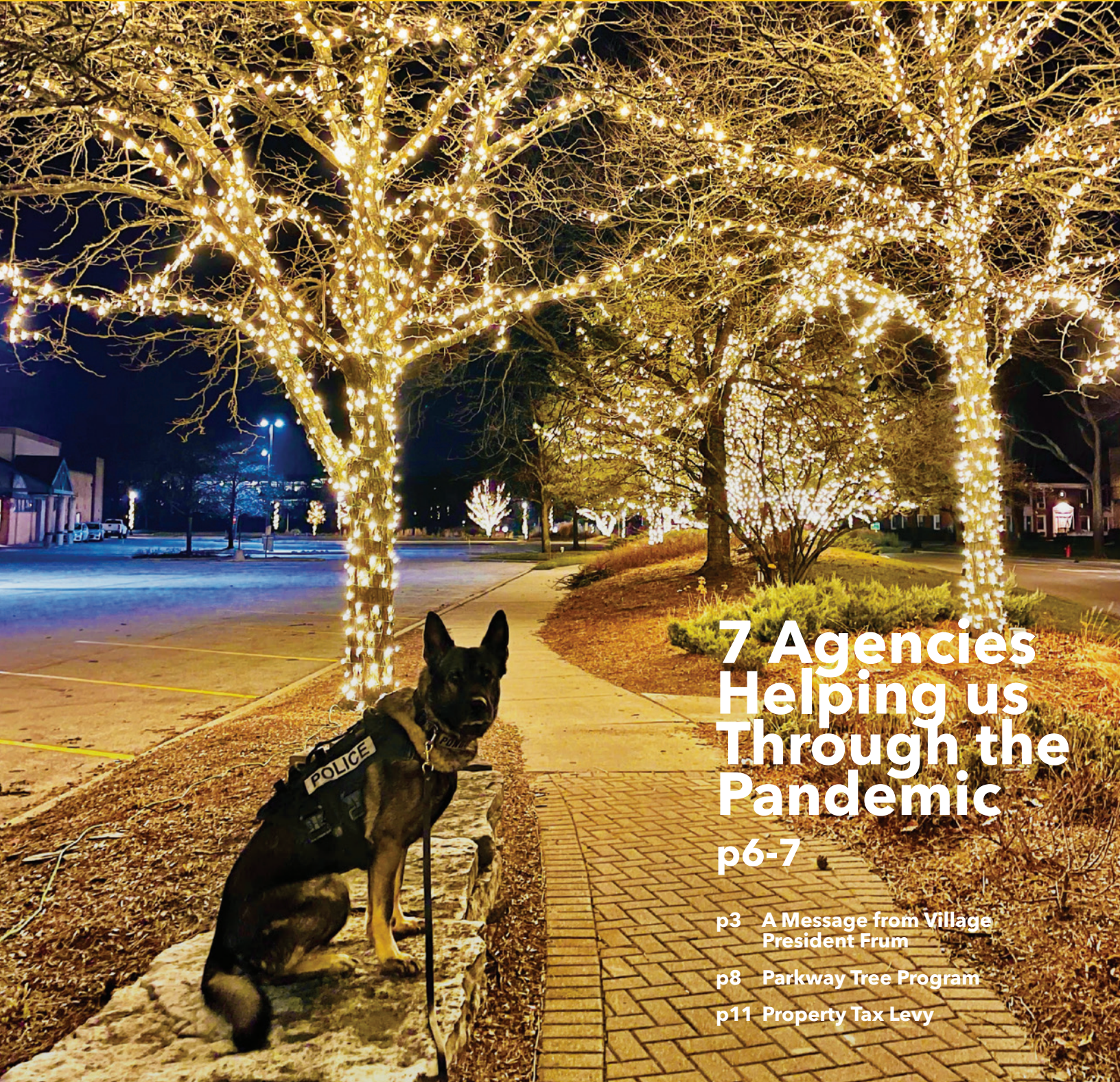


# Northbrook Voice

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

FROM THE VILLAGE  
OF NORTHBROOK

THE  
NEW YEAR  
ISSUE



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# Yesterday is History - Today Becomes History Tomorrow

To fully value the history of a community, you should imagine it through the eyes of someone who lived at that time. Certainly, many of the items we use in our daily lives would seem like science fiction to the people who lived in the Village years ago.

In 1850, each landowner was required to physically work on the streets in their area of town as part of the tax they paid to the Township. Some of these dirt roads were paved in the early 1920s. Next time we joke about potholes, think back and imagine what it must have been like to share the road with horses and buggies, to drive a car for the first time on these smooth surfaces instead of bouncing along the dusty dirt roads. Today, our 130 centerline miles of pavement are maintained, plowed, and repaired by the Public Works Department.

White holiday lights illuminate the night sky in downtown Northbrook. Imagine what it was like when these same streets were illuminated only by gas lights, lit

every night by the lamplighter. Then, think about gazing in wonder when an electric streetlight replaced one of the gas lights after electricity came to town in 1909.

We take the ability to communicate and gather information for granted, but that was not so for decades of residents in the past. The first telephone wires were laid throughout town in 1902. If you had a phone in your house, you probably shared the line with one or more families. A switchboard operator connected your call. When the Village purchased their first computers in 1984, they were connected with wires to a mainframe that filled an entire room. Now, we can get news, take photos, play games, or talk to family and friends across the globe over the phone or virtually as we walk outdoors - all this on a device that fits into our pocket. By stepping back and considering what was going on at the time, or by contrasting today with the past, you can better understand and appreciate how fortunate we are today.



KATIE BELLERT OPERATED THE SWITCHBOARD FOR THE SHERMERVILLE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE FROM THE FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM ABOVE OF HER FATHER'S HARNESS SHOP. C. 1912.

Thinking back makes you appreciate what we have now because of what was new decades ago.

Learn more at [northbrookhistory.org](http://northbrookhistory.org) and [facebook.com/northbrookhistory](https://facebook.com/northbrookhistory).

## 2021 Village Meeting Schedule

Meetings are presently held virtually and at Village Hall with appropriate capacity limits in place. All meetings are open to the public. Most Village Board and Plan Commission meetings are cablecast live on NCTV-Cable Channel 17 (replayed the following day and following Sunday at 9am and 7pm), streamed live and archived at [northbrook.il.us/meetings](http://northbrook.il.us/meetings), and streamed on Facebook live [facebook.com/northbrookillinois](https://facebook.com/northbrookillinois) (Village Board meetings only).

- Architectural Control Commission:** 2nd Thursday, 5:30pm
- Arts Commission:** 1st Thursday, 7pm
- Bicycle Task Force:** 2nd Wednesday, 7pm (every other month)
- Board of Fire & Police Commissioners:** 1st Thursday in May, 7:30am (Special Meetings - 48-hour notice)
- Community Relations Commission:** 1st Thursday, 7pm
- Economic Development Committee:** 2nd Wednesday, 7:30am (January, April, July, and October)

- Environmental Quality Commission:** 3rd Thursday, 7pm
- Firefighters Pension Board:** 2nd Wednesday (February, May, August, and November)
- Foreign Fire Insurance Board:** 4th Thursday, 7:30am (January, April, July, and October)
- Industrial and Commercial Development Commission:** 4th Tuesday, 7:30am
- Plan Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Rural Fire Protection District:** 2nd Thursday, 5pm (April, July, October, and December)
- Senior Services Commission:** 2nd Thursday, 7pm (alternate months)
- Stormwater Management Commission:** Meets on call
- Transportation Advisory Committee:** Meets on call
- Village Board of Trustees Regular Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6pm

- Village Board Work Committees:** Meet on call
- Youth Commission:** 3rd Wednesday, 7pm (no meetings in June or July)
- Zoning Board of Appeals:** 4th Monday, 7pm

In addition to the above, various Boards meet from time-to-time on an unscheduled basis. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, notices for all public meetings, including Special, Adjourned, and Rescheduled Meetings, will be posted on the Village website and the bulletin board in the lobby of Village Hall. Notices are also sent to all registered news media and interested individuals/groups. Board of Trustees Meeting Agendas and Approved Minutes are posted on the Village website at [northbrook.il.us/agendas](http://northbrook.il.us/agendas).

Please note that on occasion, meetings may be canceled. Call the Village Manager's Office at 847-664-4010 to confirm dates and agendas.



A Message from Sandy  
President, Village of Northbrook

# Make Way for 2021!

We did it - we made it to 2021 and can start putting 2020 behind us! That alone feels like reason to celebrate. Usually, the New Year follows a series of holiday indulgences, and it urges us to restart, reevaluate, and refresh. We are pressured to make resolutions that somehow guarantee to make us better people, to quit this or that, to deny ourselves everything that tastes good, or simply to change. While I'll be skipping the resolutions and passing on a detox, I welcome the opportunity for change with wide-open arms.

This year, I'm looking forward to everything new - 2021 truly feels like a fresh start. As a Village, we have a tremendous amount of positive change coming our way. Perhaps most visible, we will elect a new Village President and at least one new Trustee to lead our community. We will also see key staff transition out of their long-term roles with the Village. I have nothing but absolute confidence that the upcoming election and staffing changes will continue to advance the Village's agenda to make Northbrook an even better place to live, work, and play. We are and will remain *Northbrook Strong*.

In 2021 we will also put numerous new initiatives into action. Our first Community Solar subscribers will start to see savings on their utility bills. Seven social service and mental health agencies will implement new or expanded



"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." - Eleanor Roosevelt

services and programs to Northbrook residents using supplemental contributions provided by the Board and the community. We will begin to see the impact of the recently approved affordable housing ordinances on our housing opportunities.

While there's a lot we already know about 2021, there's still much to be decided. And if we, as a community, choose to stay engaged and informed, we will continue

to do great, noteworthy things. Yes, change is hard, but I believe that more often than not, change is good. And I have a very good feeling about the future of our community.

Happy New Year to you and yours,

Sandy

PRESIDENT,  
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK



Subscribe  
Now!

# Converting the Power of the Sun into Savings



Go Green Northbrook Treasurer Marilyn Fish (left) and Go Green Northbrook Board President Sarah Sanford (right) shown in front of Fish's home solar panels.

Since 2016, permits for roof mounted solar panels on single-family homes in Northbrook have increased from one permit to a total of 85 as of 2020.

"Getting a permit approved for a solar array is typically a simple process and accomplished very quickly, but not everyone has the funding or opportunity to install such a system," explained Jackie Clawson, Northbrook's Building Official. "Perhaps large trees shade your home, you rent your home or business, or you live in a multi-unit development."

The good news is that there is now a way to be a part of the solar community without installing panels on your property! **Community Solar is on the horizon.**

A community solar project is a single site solar installation shared

by multiple subscribers. Community solar projects generate electricity, and that power is delivered into the electric grid of the utility. As a subscriber, participants will see a discount on their electricity bill.

While many residents and businesses value sustainability and "going green," saving money while doing so is a benefit.

"It's a win-win for the community and the environment," said Go Green Northbrook Board President Sarah Sanford. "If you can't accommodate solar panels on your home or business, or the upfront costs of installing

*Find your bright spot in the community and learn more about joining the waitlist for an opportunity to enroll!*

solar panels are a concern, then participating in Community Solar is an alternate way to 'go green' and support a local solar project. It's also an easy way to share the benefits of renewable energy... from the sun!"

Residents and small businesses in Northbrook, along with other participating communities in the North Shore, can take advantage of the opportunity to help develop a shared renewable energy resource that reduces dependence on fossil fuels and supports clean carbon-free electricity. This is possible by becoming an mc2 Community Solar subscriber. Subscribers receive credits on their ComEd bill (saving up to 20%) and support the development of new renewable energy resources. Participating in Community Solar does not have upfront costs, will not lock you into a long-term contract, and will provide savings once the subscriber is enrolled.

Long-time Northbrook resident John Cruickshank (father of four-time speed skating Olympian David Cruikshank) signed up for the waitlist, noting, "We all need to gradually dispense with relying on oil. Over a period of time, we can all do more. It's important to make a contribution to make a difference by using alternate power sources, such as solar."

Visit [northbrook.il.us/communitysolar](http://northbrook.il.us/communitysolar) for more information on the North Shore's largest community solar program.

\*Join the waitlist at [northshorecommunitysolar.com](http://northshorecommunitysolar.com).

# Make the Most of a Brand New Year

**Not everything that happened in 2020 was bad.**

The black aluminum front screen door, battered and completely wrong for our 110-year old farmhouse? The one I nevertheless walked through for 20 years? After looking around for a replacement and finding nothing suitable, I took what was for me a dramatic step: unscrewed the thing and just threw it away.

"There are no new beginnings," the poet Kae Tempest says. "Until everybody sees that the old ways need to end."

Welcome to 2021. It's a safe bet that this year will be better than the last—on a grand scale. But what about your life? What are you going to do to better yourself? A single digit changing on the calendar can be powerful inspiration.

"It's very motivating for a lot of people," said Marilyn Fettner, a Northbrook life coach. "It's a fresh start, especially this year. Midway through the year, people were saying, 'I just want 2020 to be over.' It's been such a difficult year. People want a clean slate, mentally, an opportunity to say, 'Okay, here are the things I've been wanting to do.'"

What do you want to do? Often, resolutions have to do with getting in shape. In January, Northbrook welcomes the Techny Prairie Activity Center, a 44,000 square foot exercise mecca.

Improving one area of life tends to improve others.

"This will be more than just a building," said Northbrook Park District Executive Director Molly Hamer.



TECHNY PRAIRIE ACTIVITY CENTER

"People will find friendships here. That's one of the things that happens when you go to a place on a regular basis, to work out or play or drop your kids off to basketball—friendships will be made."

You can improve your life without leaving home. Many Northbrook residents are, like me, sprucing up their places.

"Definitely," said Leo Murillo, manager at J.C. Licht, 1340 Meadow. "Now that people are staying at home, they want to fix the house up a little bit."

I found a classic wooden, made-in-Wisconsin storm door and spent almost two weeks staining it then administering three coats of marine spar varnish. Worth. Every. Second. Now I feel like some TV fix-it-up show flannel-clad master craftsman every time I walk in the house.

Don't assume that resolutions need be only about yourself: your house, your weight, your hopes. You can also resolve to help other people.

"Look at the environment around you," said Mary Hansen, Baha'i representative to the Northbrook

Clergy Association. "Ask, 'what would make this work better? How can I live a life that shows I do care about other people?'"

Finally: figure out not only what you want, but why you want it.

"I work with people all the time on goals," said Lauren Schifferdecker, owner of Inspire Counseling Center in Northbrook. "One key is connecting your head and your heart. To lose 10 pounds, get a promotion, be better parents. That's what your head wants. But what your heart wants is something we overlook a lot. 'I want to lose 5 pounds, but what I really want is some attention. I want someone to notice me.' You can go straight to your heart's goal while you are going for your head's goal. If you can pair them together, it's a lot more fun, a lot more satisfying, when you are aware of what you really deeply want. Connecting your head and your heart is such a powerful thing."

Neil Steinberg is a columnist at the Chicago Sun-Times who has lived with his family in Northbrook since 2000.



*“This is just one way that Northbrook shows it cares – for our community, for our neighbors, for the most vulnerable – during these difficult times.”*

- SANDY FRUM, VILLAGE PRESIDENT



**CATCH**

Community Action Together for Children’s Health (CATCH) upholds their mission to empower families to foster resilience and prioritize mental health and emotional wellness in children through educational programming, access to resources, and peer support. At a time when mental health challenges are greater than ever, CATCH is grateful for the opportunity to support the community. They look forward to sharing a beautiful message that will lift up our neighbors and remind us all to find connections, which are so key to emotional wellbeing. Keep an eye out for the surprises CATCH has in store for Northbrook!

**Family Service Center**

Family Service Center’s (FSC) mission is “to strengthen and empower families and communities by providing accessible evidence-based counseling, crisis response, outreach, and education.” As a community mental health agency, they have seen the impacts of COVID-19 on the community’s emotional wellbeing. FSC plans to provide the “Resilience Builder Program,” a group treatment for youth that focuses on skill building and adaptive coping, and “Coping during COVID-19,” a program designed for adults who may have limited time designated for self-care.



**North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic**

The North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic (NSLAC) is a beacon of hope for those in need of access to justice. They are proud to provide trusted, accessible, and free legal services in the areas of domestic violence, housing, and immigration, without interruption through the pandemic and will continue to do everything they can to be available to individuals and families as we all move forward. NSLAC offers seminars on domestic violence, immigration, and housing rights and strives for success in their programs with community collaboration.



**The Josselyn Center**

The Josselyn Center provides affordable, comprehensive mental health services and free programs that make lives better for clients, families, and the community. The Center offers multiple services, including therapy and psychiatric services for children, teens, and adults; a no-cost Living Room; and an employment program for residents with mental illness. Through these contributions, they will offer free mental health programs to residents, specifically Mental Health First Aid training and Art Therapy groups.

# 7 Agencies Helping us Through the Pandemic

**As a result of COVID-19, the Village Board offered supplemental contributions to these seven social service and mental health agencies funded by “Northbrook Strong” vehicle sticker donations, budgeted funds, and fine fees. The agencies will provide new and/or expanded initiatives designed to help Northbrook residents with the hardships brought on by the pandemic.**

*“During the COVID crisis, we’ve seen our community’s needs increase, so it is critical to respond to that call by providing resources to outstanding local agencies who provide our residents with additional assistance and those who stand at the ready to help their neighbors.”*

- KATHRYN CIESLA, VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**Northfield Township Food Pantry**

The Northfield Township Food Pantry serves Township residents who are unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. With these contributions, the food pantry will be able to purchase a 16’ box truck with a lift gate to pick up food donations and deliver groceries to seniors, homebound clients, and others in need, helping further their belief that hunger is unacceptable in our community.

*“We contributed to organizations that were best suited to address domestic violence, mental health, and isolation of our residents. The hope is to both support these organizations and to overcome the negative stigma of individuals seeking support.”*

- JOHANNAH HEBL, VILLAGE TRUSTEE



**TotalLink2 Community**

TotalLink2 Community works with young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide social and educational programming and help them find jobs in the community. TotalLink will offer programs such as pop-up shops for handmade items, virtual get-togethers with peers, and a Parent Connection Program. During these times of physical distancing and isolation, TotalLink is thankful for the resources to continue virtual social programming. It has provided engagement, social connections, and the opportunity to make the time at home meaningful for those they serve.



**Youth Services of Glenview Northbrook**

Youth Services offers mental health services for children and adolescents with the mission that every child grows up happy, healthy, and hopeful. During these difficult times, they see the demand and need for specialized mental health services right now and in the future. As the community’s needs increase, Youth Services is still committed to each family – regardless of their ability to pay. Through these contributions, Youth Services will provide necessary services like online seminars, individual therapy, grief/loss support, art classes, and pride resources.



Let's plant trees!

# 2021 SPRING PARKWAY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Village of Northbrook is pleased to offer again to residents an opportunity to participate in planting a tree on the parkway in front of their home.

The Village works with the Suburban Tree Consortium to purchase landscape sized trees in various species that will be a great addition to your property. Some of the benefits that you will receive when planting a tree are:

- Improved energy costs because trees provide shade and cool your home
- Improved air quality because trees filter air pollution
- Better sound quality around your home because trees buffer noise
- Increased property values by 12-20%
- Increased psychological benefits (trees make us feel better!)

The Village will provide and install the tree on your parkway after you discuss what tree you may want with the Village Forester. The cost share is \$175, which is a fraction of the retail price for a full planted landscape tree. The Parkway Tree Planting Program is an excellent value for Northbrook residents!

VIEW TREE SELECTIONS AND FILL OUT THE ORDER FORM AT

[NORTHBROOK.IL.US/PARKWAYTREEPROGRAM](https://northbrook.il.us/parkwaytreeprogram). FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DISCUSS TREE SELECTIONS, CONTACT TERRY CICHOCKI, VILLAGE FORESTER, AT 847-664-4125 OR [TERRY.CICHOCKI@NORTHBROOK.IL.US](mailto:TERRY.CICHOCKI@NORTHBROOK.IL.US).

## COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

# Winter Reminders



## Snow Clearing Operations: Dos & Don'ts

### Do -

1. Be mindful when shoveling or snow blowing your driveway. Safety is the number one priority, so stay aware of your surroundings and avoid stepping into the street during plowing operations.
2. Keep an eye on children. Remind them to stay away from the street and parkways during a snowstorm and plowing operations.
3. Be patient.

### Don't -

1. Don't place trash and recycling bins in the street. Public Works cannot clear the road from curb to curb if there is an obstruction.
  2. Don't park your vehicle on the street when plows are out.
- When 2 or more inches of snow fall, it is illegal to park on Northbrook streets until plowing is complete. Offending vehicles may be ticketed and towed. The Village will use its Northbrook Notify system to alert residents via text and email when the parking ban is in effect and when it has cleared. Sign up at [northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify](https://northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify).
  - Having to drive around a car parked in the street is not only a hazard for the plow driver, but it can also create an unplowed curb line stretching up to 45', as the plow needs some distance to maneuver around the vehicle.
  - Since clearing from curb to curb is the goal, it is essential to have parked vehicles moved off the street until plowing operations are complete. A curb-to-curb clearance enables melting snow to find its way to the drains and inlets.

## Prevent Frozen Pipes

When temperatures drop below freezing, unprotected pipes can freeze and burst. To prevent damage to your pipes, try these tips: insulate your pipes properly; periodically open your bathroom and kitchen cabinets to keep warm air circulating around the plumbing; keep your thermostat setting consistent, and leave heat on when you're away; seal off crawl spaces, cracks, and openings, especially around pipes; and let faucets drip during particularly cold weather.

## Clear the Snow Around Fire Hydrants

In case of an emergency, every second counts! Work with neighbors to keep the fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow. In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant, try to clear a 3-foot area around the hydrant for easier access.

## Keep Vents Clear

Clear outside furnace, stove, fireplace, and gas dryer vents of snow and other debris to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Have your furnace, heating system, and chimney serviced each year by a qualified professional to prevent fires.

## Shovel a Snow Pocket

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. By doing so, snow plowed by our trucks will be dumped into that pocket and less snow will end up in your driveway.

Learn more about snow and ice control at [northbrook.il.us/snow](https://northbrook.il.us/snow).



# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## Electronics Recycling

**January 2 & February 6,  
9am-noon**

**January 5 & February 2,  
7am-3pm**

*Fleet Maintenance Garage  
behind Village Hall, 1227  
Cedar Lane*

Bring your old and unused electronics to be recycled. Residents are responsible for removing items from their vehicle for contactless disposal. Do not leave items at the Village's facility outside of the recycling events.

## Northbrook Strong Neighbor Spotlight

An active, engaged, and diverse community is what truly makes Northbrook strong - and we want to celebrate that! Do you know any community members who contribute to our Village, inspire others, or have a unique story to tell? Nominate them for a Northbrook Strong Neighbor Spotlight! Find all the details at [northbrook.il.us/neighborspotlight](https://northbrook.il.us/neighborspotlight).



## Let It Shine Lightshow

**Through January 9  
4:30-11pm**

*Northbrook Court, 1515 Lake  
Cook Road*

Experience the North Shore's largest drive-thru world of lights at Northbrook Court from the safety of your vehicle. Let It Shine is proud to partner with NorthShore University Health System Kellogg Cancer Center this holiday season. At checkout, you will be able to select a donation amount for the Kellogg Cancer Center. Visit [shinelightshow.com](https://shinelightshow.com).

## Finals Care Packages for Local High School Students

**January 9-January 12**

*1201 Cedar Lane (outside the  
building)*

While the library is closed to patrons, local high school students are invited to pick up a special Finals Care Package outside the building during finals week. The package contains treats and other goodies for students. Visit [northbrook.info/teens](https://northbrook.info/teens) for details and outdoor pickup times.



## Discover a Season of Fun at the Northbrook Park District

From arts and crafts to fitness and family events, the Northbrook Park District is offering a variety of activities this winter including new virtual programs. Visit [nbparks.org](https://nbparks.org) for details and to view the online-only Winter Guide.

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

Stay informed on Northbrook news, alerts, and events via email, text message, and/or by phone. Sign up for the Village's weekly e-newsletter and emergency notifications at [northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify](https://northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify).

## Properly Dispose of Waste

Please be respectful of our neighborhoods and public areas by properly disposing of pet waste, single-use gloves, and disposable masks while out and about. It's unsanitary to leave these items on the ground for others to pick up.

## Sunset Foods Hunger Program

Buy a bag of groceries for local students and their families, sponsored by Sunset Foods in partnership with Hunger Resource Network. The \$30 tax free donation provides 8 healthy meals to those in need. Just request the student bag at the register. Learn more about Hunger Resource Network at [hungerresourcenetwork.org](https://hungerresourcenetwork.org).

## Reduce Vehicle Idling During Curbside Pickup

While waiting to pick up food or goods from local businesses, remember to turn off your vehicle's engine. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than stopping and restarting your engine does and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change.

## Sports, Politics & Race

**Saturday, January 12  
7-8pm**

*Virtual*

Veteran sports journalist Mike Bass will discuss how our current political, social, and public health circumstances are changing professional sports. Advance registration is required for this library program. To register, visit [northbrook.info/events](https://northbrook.info/events) or call 847-272-6224.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Monday, January 18**

Honor civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. on this federal holiday. Consider participating in a "Day of Service" by volunteering or giving to those in need.

## TotalLink2 Community Virtual Pop-Up Shop

**Thursday, January 28  
7pm**

Join TotalLink2 Community for their Total Goodness Virtual Pop-Up Shop on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/TotalLink2Community](https://facebook.com/TotalLink2Community). Get a sneak peek of their amazing Total Goodness products made by the TotalLink2 Community Maker's Lab.

## Winter Reading

**Through January 31**

Read books and earn chances to win prizes. You can participate online from home at [northbrook.info/winter-reading](https://northbrook.info/winter-reading).



## Follow Nicki, the Northbrook Shopping Elf

Nicki, the Northbrook Shopping Elf, is a Facebook campaign to promote shopping ideas and special offers from Northbrook businesses. Follow Nicki at [facebook.com/northbrookshoppingelf](https://facebook.com/northbrookshoppingelf).

## Say 'No' to Plastic Cutlery & Straws

Many single-use plastic items end up in landfills or cannot be recycled, which causes harm to our ecosystem. When ordering takeout or delivery, ask the restaurant to leave out the plastic cutlery and straws. Alternatively, opt for reusable cutlery at home or carry biodegradable options.

## Become a COVID-19 Safety Ambassador

NorthShore University HealthSystem is asking for help spreading the word to the community about key COVID-19 safety measures. By becoming a Safety Ambassador, you can help protect your neighbors, family, and friends. Ambassadors have access to toolkit resources and take a pledge to keep themselves and others safe by signing the COVID-19 Safety Promise. Learn more at [northshore.org/covid-19-information-resources/](https://northshore.org/covid-19-information-resources/).



## Presidents' Day

**Monday, February 15**

In observance of Presidents' Day, Village Hall will be closed to the public. The Village's Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments will remain open.

## Northbrook Business Promotions

We want to help you promote your business to the community! For a limited time, the Village is sharing custom promotions on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/northbrookillinois](https://facebook.com/northbrookillinois). Let us know some basic details and what you'd like us to promote through our online form at [northbrook.il.us/businesspromotions](https://northbrook.il.us/businesspromotions).



## Emancipation to Inauguration: Chicago Heroes

**Tuesday, February 16  
7-8pm**

*Virtual*

Chicago historian and radio personality Clarence Goodman will tell stories of the Black musicians, publishers, politicians, and other Chi-Town heroes who helped shape American culture. Advance registration is required. To register, visit [northbrook.info/events](https://northbrook.info/events) or call 847-272-6224.

## Living with Wildlife in Northbrook - Coyotes

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. Winter weather may make coyotes more visible as they venture from the woodlands to forage for food. Remember to always keep pets leashed and in your sight when outside, seal your garbage cans, and do not leave food outside for other animals. Learn more at [urbancoyoteresearch.com](https://urbancoyoteresearch.com).

## Recycle Plastic Bags & Film

*Behind Village Hall, 1225  
Cedar Lane*

Drop off clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging in one of the Village's collection boxes near the back entrance to Village Hall. With this program, the raw materials are re-purposed into durable outdoor furniture.

## Pre-Treat with Anti-Icing Liquid Salt

Road salt has adverse effects on the environment when it washes off roadways, seeps into the ground, and enters our waterways. The Village utilizes a beet juice/salt brine blend to pre-treat roads before a snowstorm, which reduces the amount of salt used on roadways. To help the environment, you can do the same at home! Instead of using salt to remove snow or ice from your driveway or sidewalk, consider making your own salt brine (water and rock salt) to pre-treat these surfaces. Learn more at [northbrook.il.us/salt](https://northbrook.il.us/salt).

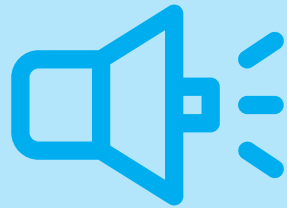
## Rodenticide Poses Risk to Pets & Local Wildlife

During the winter months, mice, rats, and other pests will seek shelter in homes. Many people often put out poison for rodents, which means that dogs, cats, and local wildlife may be exposed to these deadly toxic chemicals. Learn about safe alternatives at [northbrook.il.us/animalcontrol](https://northbrook.il.us/animalcontrol).

## Be Aware of Ruse Burglaries

The Northbrook Police have received reports of ruse entry burglaries and advise residents to be cautious. Offenders will often target elderly victims and try to draw them out of the house, or lure them to another area of the house, while a second offender burglarizes the residence. If someone you do not know comes to your residence unexpectedly, do not open the door; call 911 to contact the police. Learn more at [northbrook.il.us/ruseburglaries](https://northbrook.il.us/ruseburglaries).

# Talk Around Town:



## Property Tax Levy

On December 8, 2020, the Village Board approved an ordinance establishing the Village's 2020 property tax levy. The approved levy is \$21,865,790, roughly a \$17,000 decrease from 2019.

## What are property taxes?

A property tax is levied on all real property in Northbrook. Several entities including the Village, Park District, Library, and elementary and high school districts receive a portion of the property tax. Property taxes are payable in two installments, one in March and one in September. While the Cook County Assessor's Office determines a property assessment for taxing purposes, the Cook County Treasurer collects the property tax.

## What is the Illinois Truth in Taxation law?

The Illinois Truth in Taxation law requires a taxing body to calculate its estimated levy increase at least 20 days prior to adoption. If the calculated increase is expected to exceed 105% of the previous year's levy, the taxing body is required to publish specific notices and conduct a public hearing prior to adoption of the levy Ordinance. This year, the Village's levy does not exceed 105% of last year's levy.

## How will this affect my tax bill?

As a result of this 2020 property tax levy, the average home in Northbrook will see virtually no change to the Village's portion of their property tax bill.

## How much of my property taxes go to the Village?

For a common 2019 property tax bill in Northbrook, 10% goes to the Village of Northbrook. Depending on the school district, 64% goes to the elementary and high schools. Cook County and the Northbrook Park District both receive about 6% while the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District receives 5% and the Northbrook Library receives 4%. The remaining 5% goes to Oakton Community College and other jurisdictions including the North West Mosquito Abatement District, Cook County Forest Preserve District, and Northfield Township.

# Northbrook Voice

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

Northbrook Information Association  
1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062

- p2** 2021 Village Meeting  
Schedule
- p4** Community Solar

Postal Customer  
Northbrook, IL 60062

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

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




#### Village Officials

Sandra E. Frum .....	President
Debra J. Ford .....	Village Clerk
Richard A. Nahrstadt .....	Village Manager

#### Village Trustees:

Kathryn L. Ciesla  
Robert P. Israel  
Muriel J. Collison  
Heather E. Ross  
Johannah K. Hebl  
Daniel H. Pepoon

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

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## News You Can Use

### Support Northbrook Restaurants & Win

Through the end of January, you can enter to win a \$50 gift card to the Northbrook restaurant of your choice when you spend \$25 or more at a Northbrook restaurant. Submit a picture of your receipt showing the date of your order (November 1-January 31) and the order total (\$25 or more) to [business@northbrook.il.us](mailto:business@northbrook.il.us). Each receipt counts as one entry, and winners are drawn every Monday.

### Alarm System Registration Renewals

As a reminder, all residential and commercial alarm systems must be registered to provide the Police Department with accurate information. An automatic renewal occurs each January with a \$20 renewal fee. Renewal notices for 2021 have been sent by mail or email. Visit [northbrook.alarmreg.com](http://northbrook.alarmreg.com) to update your information and pay. Renewals received after January 31 may be subject to a \$75 reinstatement fee. Learn more at [northbrook.il.us/alerts](http://northbrook.il.us/alerts).

### Holiday Recycling

Recycle old or broken holiday lights at the Fleet Maintenance Garage (behind the Village Hall) weekdays from 7am to 3pm through Friday, January 29. Also through January 29, recycle your organic holiday tree by placing it at the curb on your recycling day. Remove all lights, garland, and decorations. Make sure your tree is easily accessible at the curb.

### Sign up for the Live Shop Dine Text Program

Northbrook residents and visitors can access special offers from over 90 local businesses through this free community texting program. The opt-in service sends text messages linked to a list of promotions from local restaurants, stores, and personal service providers. The community-wide program, presented by the Northbrook Chamber of Commerce and the Village, is free of charge to subscribers and participating businesses. Sign up by texting NBK to 55678 or visit <http://bit.ly/JoinNBK>.