

# Northbrook Voice

MARCH & APRIL 2022

FROM THE VILLAGE  
OF NORTHBROOK

THE  
GREEN  
ISSUE



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## From Oral History to Verified History

Ofentimes we hear a story for which we can find no verification. Sometimes the same story is told multiple times by different people. This is what we call oral history. It's our responsibility to verify the truth behind the story before passing it on as verified history. That task is not always easy. We do this by researching in newspapers and reaching out to ask others for help. Occasionally, we find a hidden gem tucked away in someone's file of negatives or photos from family picture albums. For us, it is always a joy to locate such an artifact and prove oral history.

Two examples of this came about during the past year. In February of 2021 we received a request asking if we had a photo of the F7U-3 Cutlass Navy Jet that was a piece of the playground equipment at Oaklane School in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Oral history said that the plane was there. Although we could find information about it, including its serial number, we found no photos. We reached out through Facebook and personal contacts to anyone we could think of who might have attended Oaklane at that time or who might remember there was an airplane at the playground. Nothing new was located. Then, we placed a notice in the Village Happenings section of the May-June 2021 Northbrook Voice newsletter requesting help finding a photo of the jet.

In November, an out-of-state former resident reached out to say he had read the Northbrook Voice newsletter and his father had taken photos of the plane in the early 1960s. One of the photos he sent us showed a close-up of him and his brother standing in front of the jet with a damaged nosecone. Others had partial views of the jet in the background behind them playing. Success - we now had proof that the plane was there, even if the photos did not show the entire structure.

Then, in January 2022, we received two additional photos from the same man who had located them among his father's slides. These latest photos show the jet the day it arrived at Oaklane School. The jet and Oaklane School are long gone, but the memories continue and are now a recorded part of history.



F7U-3 JET AT OAKLANE PLAYGROUND, 1958-59  
PHOTO TAKEN BY RICHARD I. GAVIN



THE RIVER FROM MAIN STREET  
SHERMerville, ILLINOIS, 1917

Shermerville postcards have often provided proof of early oral history. Such is the case for the second example about the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River and early recollections of it before the river was changed to its current configuration in the 1920s. The stories say that at one time the river was deeper and wider. It is also said the river was deep enough for the children in town to swim in, and they could jump in it from the bridge on Shermer Road. The recent acquisition of a postcard dated 1917 once again proves at least part of the story while at the same time showing the large mature grove of Oak and Hickory trees on what is now the Village Green.

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



YOU'LL NEVER SAY "I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT" AGAIN! DOWNLOAD THE SIMPLICITY APP TO STAY INFORMED ON ALL THINGS NORTHBROOK.

You can now get Village of Northbrook updates straight to your smartphone! We are proud to introduce our new mobile-friendly app, Simplicity.

Using the Simplicity app, you can quickly get important community updates, announcements, and upcoming events all in one place. The application is free and available for download from the App Store or Google Play Store.

The Simplicity app does not require registration and does not collect any personal data.

After installing the app, you just need to search for Northbrook

and then select topics of interest to receive personalized notifications. Updates and announcements are published in real-time - you will be notified immediately if you have push notifications turned on.

If you need assistance, contact Communications Specialist Kylie Cerk at 847-664-4016 or [kylie.cerk@northbrook.il.us](mailto:kylie.cerk@northbrook.il.us)



Download here! Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera.



A Message from President Ciesla  
Village of Northbrook

## Sustainable Northbrook, Sustainable Future

### Northbrook's Climate Action Plan

Since making sustainability a top priority in early 2020, the Village dove into creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce our carbon footprint - it's the first of its kind in our area! This community-based effort gained overwhelming support from over 700 members of the public. In August 2021, the Board adopted the CAP and has since shifted focus to implementing its objectives.

### We Are Certified Green!

Northbrook has been awarded a SolSmart Gold designation for our efforts to make it faster, easier, and more affordable to go solar. Gold is the highest designation a community can receive, and we are proud to be recognized as a national leader in advancing solar energy!

After signing onto the Mayors Monarch Pledge, we carried out more milkweed giveaways, educational programming, and conservation initiatives than ever before. Northbrook is now just one of a few towns in the Leadership Circle for the National Wildlife Federation's pledge signatories.

The Village recently received incentives from ComEd to complete LED fixture and light conversions at four Village facilities. This will reduce the Village's kilowatt hour usage by an estimated 548,863 kilowatt hours per year, which is equivalent to over \$60,000 saved annually and 84 passenger vehicles being taken off the road!

### Northbrook is a Tree City Community

Growing Northbrook's tree canopy is an infrastructure investment to improve air quality and stormwater absorption. We gave out 300 free native trees in 2021 and look forward to topping that number in 2022.

For our commitment to effective urban forest management, the Village has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation for the



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." - Lady Bird Johnson

26th consecutive year! We are also pleased to announce that the Village received a Tree City USA Growth Award for environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care.

Inspired by the beautiful Oak trees in Northbrook, I'm happy to introduce our new Sustainability logo! This image will brand our Village sustainability efforts.



### Green Partnerships

To engage our valued partners in the business community, the Village is launching a Green Business Certification program. In its pilot stage currently, the program will provide validation to establishments that are making an effort to become more eco-friendly in big ways or small.

We also created an intergovernmental working group with the Library, Park District, and Schools and provide support for environmental programming.

Due to our dedication to community-centered organizing and research-backed targets, our Climate Action Planning efforts were recognized by the US Green Building Council as a LEED for Cities-Aligned Plan.

Our community groups are to thank for all the great stewardship opportunities we have available in Northbrook. From our Library, Park District, and Schools, GoGreen Northbrook, the Northbrook Farmers Market, Northbrook Garden Club, Friends of the Somme Preserves, and many more, any progress we've made comes from collective care. We can only expect more great things to come thanks to our green community!

PRESIDENT,  
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK



# Friends of the Somme Preserves



In the 1970s, what we now call the Somme Preserves, made up of Somme Prairie, Somme Prairie Grove, and Somme Woods, looked very different than it does today. Almost every square yard of the prairie was overtaken with invasive buckthorn. But in 1977, ecological stewardship came to Northbrook by way of resident Stephen Packard - and restoration began. Ecological restoration was not yet recognized as a practice at that time, so Stephen appealed to the

Forest Preserves of Cook County and rounded up a group of motivated volunteers. Today, there is a global society for ecological restoration, and the work done in Northbrook is celebrated and seen as some of the most influential. There are 500 species of native plants and animals in Somme Preserves, and there are twice as many in the prairie grove as when they started restoration. "They all need each other - rare plants and rare animals. Rare birds and butterflies have come back since restoration, and so have rare people," said Stephen. And those rare people he spoke of are none other than the Friends of the Somme Preserves. This group of volunteers, some as young as nine-years-old, meet every week to care for the beautiful gem in Northbrook that is the Somme Preserves. **"All these wonderful, generous, smart, fun people said 'I want to do this.'"**

In summer they work on controlling invasives and picking early seeds; in fall they finish gathering seeds and prep for planting; in winter they start cutting brush; and in spring they plant the seeds. The Friends also help prepare for prescribed burns and manage many of the footpaths. In every season and in all conditions, these stewards are doing the work. "We used to think that nature was just going to take care of itself," said Stephen. "We're in charge, and we have to learn how to do a decent job." What can you do at home to help? Stephen recommends minimizing insecticides and herbicides. "Let a little bit of wild nature grow in your yard." He also urges residents to get out into the Preserves and appreciate our remarkable, and rare, native wildlife. "It's a really great place to feel like you're part of something larger," said Stephen. Visit [sommepreserve.org](http://sommepreserve.org) to learn about how you can get involved.

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Northbrook

## Ramdan Mubrak from the Northbrook Mosque (ICC-GC)

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic (lunar) calendar. Those who are able fast from the break of dawn (Fajr) to sunset (Maghrib). The fast traditionally ends with water and dates, prayer, and a shared meal. Many wake up pre-dawn to have breakfast (Suhoor) and hydrate. During the month of Ramadan, the first revelations of the Quran were revealed.

As an ancient practice, fasting is observed by many religions universally - such as the "Day of Atonement" in Judaism and "Lent" in Christianity. In Islam it's a time to subdue bad habits, break from worldly possessions, provide for the poor, read from the holy scripture, pray, and rediscover the faith that is in us. "O you who believe, Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become the pious." (Quran, 2:183-84)

There are exemptions from fasting for young children, the ill, sick or pregnant, during travel, and soldiers during battle. Those who are able will make up the days missed. Those who are unable could donate meals or money for meals. This is a beautiful mercy as Ramadan is not meant to be a hardship, but rather an enlightenment towards oneness with God, peace, and contentment. "Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty" (Quran 2:185). In addition to its spiritual and moral values, fasting also has social values. Ramadan is a signal for a communal movement toward equality throughout the Muslim world for all. The holy month of Ramadan goes beyond refraining from food and drink. It helps promote a sense of community and encourages self-control, kindness, and generosity.



ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER - GREATER CHICAGO, LOCATED IN NORTHBROOK

At the end of Ramadan, the Holiday of Eid al-Fitr is celebrated for three consecutive days. Gatherings and festivals are organized for the local communities and include feasts, exchange of dialogue, and fun activities for all. Many Muslims invite friends and neighbors of various faiths to join. Families get together to celebrate this glorious holiday similarly by sharing a meal, visits, desserts, toys, and gifts. **Ramadan Mubarak! Happy Ramadan!**

## NORTHBROOK CARES: LOCAL AGENCIES HELPING THE COMMUNITY

# Josselyn

*Founded 70 years ago and rooted in our community, Josselyn's mission is to improve lives by providing quality mental health care for communities. Josselyn envisions a world with **mental health for all.*** Currently, Josselyn treats more than 3,600 clients in over 100 communities across Cook and Lake counties. Josselyn anticipates seeing 5,000 clients annually by the end of 2022 and even more in the years ahead.

### Coming in 2023

Josselyn is excited to announce new doors opening in Northbrook in early 2023! Responding to the increasing needs and demand for quality mental health services, Josselyn has purchased a 57,000 sq. ft. building at 1135 Skokie Boulevard as their new regional headquarters, offering space to expand services. Programs and services will also continue to operate from the current Northfield campus and Waukegan center.

### Josselyn Programs and Care

**Therapy:** Long-term, sustainable mental wellness programs with empathetic, culturally aware, licensed therapists. For individuals, couples, young people, and families.

**Psychiatry:** Taking a holistic approach to mental health care combines both therapy and, when necessary, psychiatry or medication management. Josselyn's team of medical doctors and advanced practice psychiatric nurse practitioners partner with therapists to provide the best individual course of care.


**Employment Services:** Josselyn believes everyone, including those with mental health challenges, should have access to the resources, job coaching, resume help, and interview assistance to support the pursuit of job opportunities.

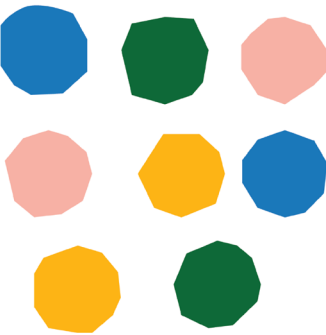
**Walk-In Clinic:** Connect with a skilled specialist and be guided to the needed care during an initial visit. No phone calls. No need to make an appointment. Just walk in.



**The Living Room:** An accessible alternative to visiting a hospital or emergency room, The Living Room welcomes

# Mental health for all.





anyone who is experiencing an emotional or mental health crisis to receive compassionate support in a safe, welcoming space.

**Adult Drop-In Center:** This safe space allows people to identify and manage their mental health challenges, build connections with peers on a similar journey, and engage in planned small group activities on a variety of mental health themes. No appointments, forms, or fees required.

**Camp Neeka:** This accessible and inclusive summer day camp is for children ages 8-12. Directed by trained therapists, youth create friendships while building self-esteem and developing communication and coping skills to improve their everyday mental health.



**Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP):** When teens require more help than what a weekly therapy appointment can accomplish, Josselyn's IOP provides a higher level of care to youth ages 13-18 within a group setting, with the goal of avoiding hospital-based inpatient programs.

**Support Groups:** Aiming to create an inclusive, diverse, compassionate, and welcoming space for individuals across our community to connect, build skills, and learn from others with similar experiences.

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA):** Learn how to identify, understand, and respond to someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. MHFA trainings are open to anyone interested in learning early intervention skills to help those in need.



# Welcome Wildlife: Tree & Shrub Giveaway

Northbrook's Climate Action Plan aims to increase our tree canopy by offering annual free tree giveaways. This year's spring 2022 giveaway includes a variety of trees and shrubs that provide food and habitat to wildlife and are well-adapted to Northbrook's climate.



## Sour Gum

Tolerant to parkways, occasional drought, or flooded sites  
Soil Type: Any  
Light Exposure: Full sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 40' H 30' W  
Shape: Round  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: Green  
Fruit: Dark berries  
Fall Color: Red



## Yellow Birch

Ideal screening tree, tolerant to occasional flooding and shady sites  
Soil Type: Not too wet or too dry  
Light Exposure: Full sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 40' H 30' W  
Shape: Vase  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: Yellow flower cluster  
Fruit: Acorn-looking nutlet  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Sycamore

Requires wide median, tolerant to parkways and flooded sites  
Soil Type: Moist  
Light Exposure: Full sun  
Max Height/Width: 60' H 45' W  
Shape: Broad  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: Yellow flower cluster  
Fruit: Pink, spherical  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Chinkapin Oak

Tolerant to parkways, dry sites, and heavy clay soils  
Soil Type: Dry - well-drained moist  
Light Exposure: Full sun  
Max Height/Width: 50' H 45' W  
Shape: Pyramidal  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: Yellow flower cluster  
Fruit: Acorn  
Fall Color: Orange yellow



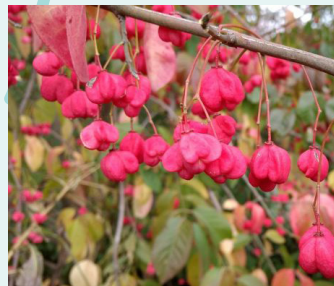
## Bur Oak

Requires wide median, tolerant to parkways, flooding, and drought  
Soil Type: Any  
Light Exposure: Full sun  
Max Height/Width: 60' H 60' W  
Shape: Broad  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: Yellow flower cluster  
Fruit: Acorn  
Fall Color: Yellow



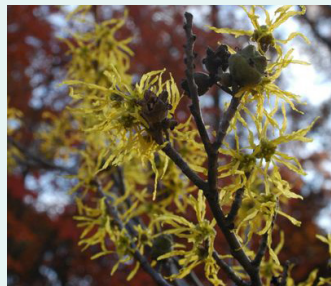
## Pagoda Dogwood

Tolerance for occasional drought or flooded sites  
Soil Type: Dry or well-drained, acidic  
Light Exposure: Part sun – full shade  
Max Height/Width: 15' H 15' W  
Form: Shrub  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: White  
Fruit: Edible dark berry  
Fall Color: Red purple



## Eastern Wahoo

Requires protection from wind, tolerant to flooded or heavy clay sites  
Soil Type: Not too wet or too dry  
Light Exposure: Full sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 10' H 10' W  
Form: Shrub  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: Purple  
Fruit: Ornament-like pink berries  
Fall Color: Red



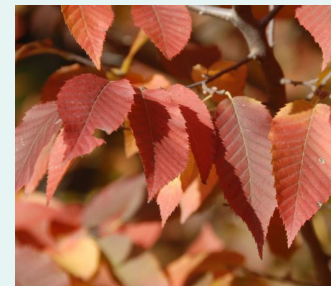
## Common Witchhazel

Requires protection from wind, tolerant to parkways and heavy clay soils  
Soil Type: Dry - well-drained moist  
Light Exposure: Part sun – full shade  
Max Height/Width: 15' H 15' W  
Form: Shrub  
Growth Rate: Slow  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Fruit: Nut  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Eastern Redbud

Ideal screening shrub, requires protection from wind  
Soil Type: Dry  
Light Exposure: Part sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 20' H 15' W  
Form: Shrub  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: Pink  
Fruit: Flat, oblong legume  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Blue Beech

Tolerant to dry or flooded soils and shady sites  
Soil Type: Any  
Light Exposure: Full sun – full shade  
Max Height/Width: 20' H 20' W  
Form: Shrub  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: Yellow flower cluster  
Fruit: Samara cluster  
Fall Color: Orange red



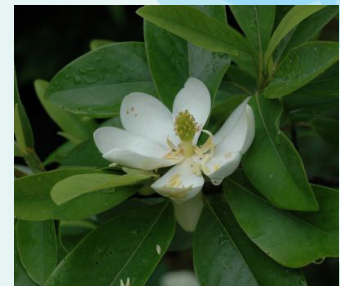
## Ohio Buckeye

Tolerant to shade, flooded sites, and occasional drought  
Soil Type: Moist, well-drained  
Light Exposure: Part sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 50' H 30' W  
Shape: Round  
Growth Rate: Fast  
Flower Color: White  
Fruit: Nut  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Persimmon

Requires wide median, tolerant to parkways and occasional drought  
Soil Type: Moist, well-drained  
Light Exposure: Full sun  
Max Height/Width: 30' H 20' W  
Shape: Narrow  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: Greenish white  
Fruit: Edible large orange berry  
Fall Color: Yellow



## Sweet Bay Magnolia

Requires protection from wind, tolerant to occasional flooding  
Soil Type: Not too wet or too dry  
Light Exposure: Full sun – part shade  
Max Height/Width: 25' H 20' W  
Shape: Pyramidal  
Growth Rate: Moderate  
Flower Color: White  
Fruit: Clustered red  
Fall Color: Orange yellow

Plants are available first-come first-served while supplies last. Visit [northbrook.il.us/trees](https://northbrook.il.us/trees) for an updated species availability listing and more information. To claim your plant, email [tessa.murray@northbrook.il.us](mailto:tessa.murray@northbrook.il.us) with the subject line "Spring 2022 Giveaway." Include your address, species preference, and the date you wish to pick up your plant. Pickups will occur every Wednesday in April at the Public Works Center (655 Huehl Road) between 3:30-5:30pm.





## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ALL MONTH

KICK-OFF EVENT  
SUNDAY, APRIL 3

@ SOMME  
WOODS

9:00AM-NOON

RESTORATION WORKDAY &  
SEED GIVEAWAY (SEE PAGE 10)

RECYCLING EVENT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 23

@ WEST METRA  
COMMUTER LOT

9:00AM-NOON

DRIVE-THRU RECYCLING &  
SAPLING GIVEAWAY (SEE PAGE 11)

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



# Northbrook Recycling Guide

In a sample mix of Northbrook's household recycling waste, Waste Management found that 17% of materials collected were contaminated with items that cannot be recycled through this program.

Being a steward for the environment means you care about where the products you consume come from and where they end up. At the point of purchase, considering whether or not the packaging of something is reusable or recyclable may help inform responsible waste habits.

This useful guide contains information specific to Northbrook's recycling programs and common contaminants!

## Can I Recycle This?

**Pro Tip:** Recycling is important, but did you know that there are other options to consider first before generating waste? **Refuse:** Say no to single-use products! **Reduce:** Simplify your life with conscious consumption. **Reuse:** Remember to bring reusable items like tote bags or water bottles when you need them. **Rot:** Opt for products and packaging that can biodegrade.

### Is it clean and dry?

Rinse any food or liquid residue off the item. Buildup of such contaminants causes mold and mildew that are harmful to waste hauler employees who handle collections.

### Is it made of one material or multiple?

Separate any materials that cannot be recycled from the item. For example, rip off and throw away any tape or stickers. If the item has mixed materials that cannot be separated, like a paper cup with a waxy coating or a plastic pouch with bubble wrap attached, it is likely not recyclable and should be landfilled.

#### Is it plastic?

Does it have a label type 1-5?  
If yes, it is recyclable!

Does it have a label type 6 or no label?  
If yes, it is NOT recyclable.

#### Is it paper or cardboard?

#### Is it Styrofoam?

#### Is it glass or metal, such as aluminum or a tin can?

### Slow down!

#### Is it a plastic bag?

Plastic bags CANNOT be recycled through Waste Management's recycling service because the material often causes jams and disables the hauler's machinery.

If it is a regular grocery bag, laundry bag, or Ziploc bag, bring to Village Hall's plastic bag collection. Local Northbrook business Aargus Plastics, Inc. reuses this plastic to make 100% recycled plastic bags (see page 12).

If it is a bubble wrap, cereal bag, or plastic mailer such as Amazon packaging, bring to storefronts such as Mariano's in Northbrook for recycling by Trex.

**Great! Recycle this item.**

**Stop!**

**Nice! Recycle this item.**

Styrofoam CANNOT be recycled through Waste Management's recycling service. ABT Electronics in Glenview provides a Styrofoam recycling drop-off service.



# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## Electronics Recycling

**March 1 & April 5, 7am-3pm**  
**March 5 & April 2, 9am-noon**

*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.

## Early Voting Changes

This year, Early Voting for the Gubernatorial Primary election will take place in June as opposed to the usual March/April time frame. Northbrook Village Hall will serve as an Early Voting site starting Monday, June 13. Election Day is Tuesday, June 28. For more details on voting, visit [northbrook.il.us/voting](http://northbrook.il.us/voting).

## Family Service Center Resilience Builder Program

**Tuesdays, March 1-May 24 5:30-6:45pm**  
*Family Service Center, 191 Waukegan Road, Suite 206, Northfield*

Do you know a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader who would benefit from building up their skills to better adapt to life's challenges? Applications are now being accepted for FSC's Spring Resilience Builder Program®. This group is facilitated by an FSC licensed therapist who is also a certified Resilience Builder Program facilitator. Call 847-251-7350 or email [info@familyservicecenter.com](mailto:info@familyservicecenter.com) to learn more.



## Village of Northbrook Job Openings

Join our team! The Village of Northbrook is currently hiring for a variety of jobs in different departments. Check out job openings and download an application at [northbrook.il.us/jobs](http://northbrook.il.us/jobs).



## Severe Weather Awareness Week

**March 1-5**

In Illinois, we experience an array of weather events, such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, snowstorms, and flooding; make sure you're prepared! Residents are encouraged to use this week to review their severe weather safety plans. Additionally, make sure you're signed up for emergency alerts from the Village. Register at [northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify](http://northbrook.il.us/northbrooknotify).

## TPAC Awarded Outstanding Facility

Northbrook Park District's Techy Prairie Activity Center received the Outstanding Facility of the Year award from Illinois Park and Recreation Association! The purpose of the award is to honor public agencies for outstanding and unique achievements in the design and development of new or renovated parks or recreation facilities.

## Daylight Saving Time

**Sunday, March 13**

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

## High School Student Needed on Sustainability Commission

Calling all young environmentalists in Northbrook: the Village is seeking participation from teens looking to get involved in Northbrook's Sustainability Commission! Responsibilities include monthly meeting attendance, assisting with community outreach for the Climate Action Plan, and helping shape a more eco-friendly future for Northbrook. Apply at [northbrook.il.us/commissioninfo](http://northbrook.il.us/commissioninfo).

## Bike Banter at the Library

**Thursday, March 17, 7-8pm**  
*Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane*

Are you a cyclist who needs a little more "know-how?" Members of the Pedestrian and Bike Commission will give tips, answer questions, and share exciting updates for biking in and around Northbrook. Register at [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).

## Northbrook Historical Society Seeking Location for R&B Truck

The Northbrook Historical Society is looking for a place to store and possibly display its large Reiland & Bree dump truck in Northbrook. If you can help, email the Society at [northbrookhistory@gmail.com](mailto:northbrookhistory@gmail.com) or call and leave a message at 847-498-3404.



## Green Stewardship Program

Do you consider the environmental impacts of your home, business, or daily routine and take action for the climate accordingly? We want to celebrate you! Community members can learn from each other's eco-friendliness on the Green Steward Spotlight page at [northbrook.il.us/greenspotlight](http://northbrook.il.us/greenspotlight). Interested individuals can email [sustainability@northbrook.il.us](mailto:sustainability@northbrook.il.us).

## Water Bill Assistance

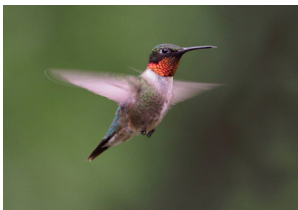
The Village of Northbrook recently became part of Cook County's LIHWAP Program to provide water bill assistance to residents in need. Apply at [CEDAorg.net/pre-app](http://CEDAorg.net/pre-app) or visit the Northfield Township office for help signing up.

## Birds in the Garden: Creating & Enjoying a Bird Oasis

**Thursday, March 31, 7-8:30pm**

*Virtual*

Learn tips on supporting bird populations with landscape enhancements and plant selection with an emphasis on native plants. Register at [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).



## Conserve Water with a Rain Barrel

Protect the Village's stormwater infrastructure by installing a rain barrel on your property. This eco-friendly solution helps conserve water, reduces your water bill, and prevents localized flooding. The Village offers a subsidized rain barrel program for residents to purchase up to two barrels for \$25 each. Visit [northbrook.il.us/rainbarrels](http://northbrook.il.us/rainbarrels) for more details or call 847-664-4134.

## Earth Month Kick-Off Event: Somme Woods Restoration Workday and Seed Giveaway

**Sunday, April 3, 9am-noon**  
*Somme Woods*

Kick off Earth Month by volunteering! Meet in the Somme Woods parking lot for a morning of restoration and invasive buckthorn brush-cutting. Be ready to get your hands dirty and dress appropriately. RSVP at [sommepreserve@gmail.com](mailto:sommepreserve@gmail.com). Village Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray will be providing native seed packets to event participants.

## Parkway Tree Planting Program

**Orders due by Thursday, April 7**

Plant a new tree on the parkway in front of your home and share the cost with us! The Village will provide and install the tree(s) for \$175 each. Get more information and fill out the tree order form at [northbrook.il.us/parkwaytreeprogram](http://northbrook.il.us/parkwaytreeprogram). Note that trees may not be ordered for private property.

## Brunch with the Bunny

**Saturday, April 9, 10-11:30am**

*Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Avenue*

Hosted by Northbrook Park District. Registration is required in advance at [nbparks.org](http://nbparks.org).

## Nature-Inspired Photography Lesson

**Monday, April 18, 7:00-8:00pm**

*Virtual*

Amateur photographer Lisa Musgrave will provide tips for photographing plants, insects, and birds using basic equipment. Register at [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info). Lisa's photos will be on display on the 2nd floor of the Library from March 28 to April 30.

## Earth Month Drive-Thru Recycling Event

**Saturday, April 23, 9am-noon**

*West Metra Commuter Lot*

Residents can drive through and drop off any of the following items with our Public Works staff members: Paint (oil/latex only, no thinners or solvents, ten gal. limit); Molded Styrofoam; Tires (max of four); Printer Cartridges; CFL, LED, and Tube Fluorescent Bulbs; Computers, TVs, Other Electronics; New/Used Household Goods and Clothing; Residential Document Shredding (three bag limit); Household Batteries; and Bicycles. Village Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray will be giving away tree saplings. Thank you to our partners at ComEd, Northfield Township, Working Bikes, and Simple Recycling.

## Take a Bird Walk with Northbrook Public Library

**Saturday, April 30, 9-11am**

*Location provided after registration*

Walk with a birding expert to spot local and migrating birds. We'll see their colors, listen to their sounds, and connect with nature. Bring binoculars. Space is limited to 15 people. Register at [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).

## Northbrook Garden Club "From Our Gardens to Yours" Plant Sale

**May**

The Northbrook Garden Club is hosting a plant sale! In addition to plants donated from members' gardens, there will also be a much larger selection of native plants available this year. They will have experts to help guide how to incorporate native plants into your existing garden beds with beautiful results. For updates on location and times, visit [northbrookgardenclub.org](http://northbrookgardenclub.org).

## Spring Clean Up Day

**Saturday, June 11, 7am-1pm**

This event, hosted by Waste Management, offers residents the chance to dispose of unlimited household waste for free. Stay tuned for more details at [northbrook.il.us/refuse-recycling](http://northbrook.il.us/refuse-recycling).

## Native Plant Giveaway at First Farmers Market

**Wednesday, June 22**

*Cherry Lane & Meadow Road*

Live music, watermelon cutting, free native plants, oh my! Mark your calendars for the first Northbrook Farmers Market of the season. Stop by the Village tent to get free plants suited to your outdoor space's needs.

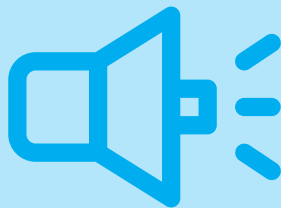
## Artist Workshop

**June 25 & 26, 9am-4pm**

*Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Avenue*

The Northbrook Arts Commission presents the Watercolor In-The Studio Workshop by award-winning artist Spencer Meagher. Sign up at [northbrook.il.us/arts](http://northbrook.il.us/arts).

# Talk Around Town:



## Community Solar & Electric Aggregation

The Village of Northbrook supports renewable energy through our participation in the North Shore Electric Aggregation Consortium (NSEAC). The NSEAC is a joint effort between the Cities of Highland Park and Lake Forest and the Villages of Deerfield, Lake Bluff, Skokie, and Northbrook to maximize purchasing power in creating the largest aggregation cooperative in Illinois! State law allows municipalities to aggregate electricity by utilizing alternative electric suppliers to compete with ComEd rates. Electricity is still delivered by ComEd, which remains responsible for customer service, billing, and outage response.

With the NSEAC, the Village is able to provide two separate electricity programs supporting our sustainability goals for community members that cannot install their own renewable energy system. These are **1. Community Solar** and **2. Electric Aggregation**. Supporting these types of projects helps reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and support clean energy generation.

**1. Community solar** projects generate electricity, and that power is delivered into the electric grid of the utility provider. Northbrook's program is tied to Rainy Solar, a 1.18 megawatt rooftop solar array in Elgin, newly constructed in 2018. Participants in Community Solar continue to receive monthly ComEd bills and pay ComEd for electricity supply service. Once enrolled in Community Solar, you start to receive solar credits on your ComEd statements. Through our program, you are guaranteed to save on your bill with 20% of solar credits earned. All Northbrook residents and small businesses are eligible. Visit [northbrook.il.us/communitysolar](http://northbrook.il.us/communitysolar).

**2.** When the Board approved a new **Electric Aggregation** program in August 2021, community members were contacted by mail whether or not their account was switching to the alternate supplier. The program switches accounts based on their historical annual electric usage: only units or households using 15,000 kWh or less are eligible to participate. Participants in Electric Aggregation continue to receive monthly ComEd bills and pay the same rate as a default ComEd account. The only difference is a new program administrator is listed under the "Supply" section of the ComEd bill. The savings generated from this program are granted directly to the Village and designated for funding sustainability projects. While individual participants would only see a few dollars of savings per year, this program is expected to generate \$279,000 for Village sustainability funding over the three-year contract period!

The Board of Trustees is responsible for deciding how to use these funds. Visit [northbrook.il.us/publiccomments](http://northbrook.il.us/publiccomments) to submit your thoughts on project ideas or priorities.



# 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

**p9** Northbrook  
Recycling Guide  
**p11** Talk Around Town:  
Community Solar &  
Electric Aggregation

Postal Customer  
Northbrook, IL 60062

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

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





#### Village Officials

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

#### Village Trustees:

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

This newsletter is published by the  
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## News You Can Use

### Simple Recycling Program Changes

The Village contracts with Simple Recycling to provide free year-round curbside textile recycling to single-family homes. For 2022, they updated how to arrange pickups. Pickups are no longer determined by your curbside recycling day but instead must be scheduled in advance. Here are two options available for residents:

**1.** Go to [simplerecycling.com](http://simplerecycling.com) and enter your zip code. The system will provide available upcoming days to schedule the pickup. Once scheduled, you will receive a confirmation and a reminder email the day prior.

**2.** Call Simple Recycling to schedule a pickup at 1-866-835-5068.

### What can I recycle through Simple Recycling?

- Textiles: clothing, bags, hats, toys, blankets, curtains, pillows
- Other: jewelry, shoes, tools, silverware, dishes, pots/pans

### Plastic Bag Recycling

Plastic bag recycling is available in the bins behind Village Hall. Accepted items are clean and dry bags made of lightweight plastic, like grocery bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, and Ziploc bags. Cereal bags, bubble wrap, and plastic film will not be accepted. Excessive contamination from unaccepted items will result in discontinuation of the service. Thank you to local Northbrook business Aargus Plastics, Inc. for partnering with the Village on this program!

### TerraCycle Program Changes

Due to a lack of volunteers, Go Green Northbrook's TerraCycle collection outside Village Hall and the train station is discontinued. However, residents can still drop off the following items at the Northbrook Public Library lobby: batteries, eyeglasses, phones, snack and candy wrappers, used pens, pencils, markers, gluesticks, toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, and dental floss containers.