

MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFF

COPY: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEPARTMENT HEADS

FROM: Philip A. Kiraly, Acting Village Manager

DATE: December 30, 2010

RE: STAFF BRIEFING

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2010

VILLAGE HALL CLOSED DECEMBER 31

Village offices will be closed on Friday, December 31 for the observance of the New Year's Day holiday. Offices will open again on Monday, January 3. Happy New Year to all!

12/24 – 12/26 WINTER STORM RECAP

The Village received approximately 9.5 inches of snow from December 24 through December 26. Public Works began salting operations at 3:30 PM on Friday, December 24 and completed scraping and salting of the roads by 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 25. Public Works again began its salting operations at 6:30 PM on December 25 and progressed into a full plow operation at 3:00 AM. Snow from the lake effect storm was cleared by 2:30 PM on Sunday, December 26 after over 8 inches of snow had fallen. As a result of the snow and ice control operations occurring during the holiday weekend, the Village incurred 400.5 hours of double time, 135 hours of overtime, and used 460 tons of salt. Additional clean-up operations and sidewalk plowing took place between Monday and Wednesday this week. In total, 71 loads of snow were hauled out from the Central Business District and Metra Lots.

WATER MAIN BREAK UPDATE

The Village experienced two water main breaks, one in the 300 block of Lee Road and one in the 2700 Block of Woodland over the holiday weekend as well. The break in the 2700 block of Woodland was repaired by a contractor on Sunday (as Village staff would be needed for the anticipated snow event) to stop water flowing into the street and causing an icing hazard. The break in the 300 block of Lee Road was postponed until Tuesday because water was not flowing into the street and no customers were affected by having that section of water main isolated and shutdown. Postponing this repair until Tuesday also allowed the Village to work with ComEd to have buried power lines adjacent to the main de-energized and avoided incurring as many as 40 hours of overtime on Christmas Day. The repair was successfully completed on Tuesday during regular work hours, with no disruptions in service.

PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING WEATHER SYSTEM

A weather system moving into the region saw temperatures begin to rise on Wednesday, December 29 through Friday December 31. In addition to the warmer temperatures, the weather system will bring with it minimal amounts of rain, predicted to be less than ½ inch. The gradual warm-up over several days has helped to lessen the possibility of flooding. Despite that, crews have been proactively going through the Village this week ensuring that storm sewer drains are open to minimize chances of flooding. Public Works will monitor the weather and respond as conditions dictate through the weekend.

WEBSITE LAUNCH ANTICIPATED

Staff finalized the date with Vision Internet this week for the official launch of the Village's new website. It is expected that the site will go live with a soft launch on Tuesday, January 11. Marketing of the new site will begin in earnest with the February newsletter and a series of press releases as well.

CAR IN DITCH, THREE PATIENTS

Friday, December 24, firefighters and paramedics were called to the 1100 block of Skokie Blvd. for a vehicle that had skidded into a ditch. While firefighters made sure the vehicle was stabilized, paramedics evaluated three occupants of the vehicle for injuries. All three had suffered minor injuries and were treated at the scene before being transported to Highland Park Hospital for further treatment.

SENATE BILL 2485 – PUBLIC CERTIFICATION OF UTILITIES

The Village received notice this week that Senate Bill 2485, intended to create a fast track process to have a new gas and electric plant approved in Taylorsville, Illinois, will be on the table for consideration after the new year. The coal-fired plant will produce electricity and substitute natural gas (SNG) that can be used by other natural gas power plants to generate electricity. An amendment to this bill also requires that all electricity suppliers in the State of Illinois purchase 5% of their energy from this plant to help pay for its construction and operation.

The result of this legislation will likely mean an increase in electricity rates for all customers, however residential increases are capped at 2% in the bill. Business and government customers do not have a cap on price increases they may see, meaning that these customers will pay approximately \$286 million more in electricity costs each year. The Village of Northbrook believes that it will see an increase of at least \$10,000 to \$15,000 in electric costs for its facilities. Staff has reached out to organizations such as the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to compile additional information and determine what their positions are on this bill. President Frum will also be reaching out to legislators to inform them of the negative impacts this will impose not only on the Village itself, but also its businesses and residents.

WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2011

FRI.	12/31		New Year’s Eve – Village Hall Closed (<i>New Year’s Day Observed Holiday</i>)
MON.	1/3		No Meetings
TUES.	1/4	9:00 a.m.	Department Head Staff Meeting
		7:30 p.m.	Plan Commission – Board Room
WED.	1/5		No Meetings
THURS.	1/6	5:00 p.m.	RFP District Meeting – Station 11
		7:00 p.m.	Arts Commission – Northbrook Public Library
		7:00 p.m.	Community Relations Commission – Northbrook Public Library
		7:30 p.m.	<i>Rescheduled</i> EQC Meeting – Shermer Study
FRI.	1/7		Orthodox Christmas
		10-Noon	Blood Pressure Testing – Shermer Study