

MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFF

COPY: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEPARTMENT HEADS

FROM: Richard Nahrstadt, Village Manager

DATE: April 5, 2013

RE: STAFF BRIEFING

WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2013

APRIL 2 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

The Northbrook Plan Commission conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 2. During the meeting, the Commission conducted a public hearing on Docket No. 13-06 a request by Blue Chip Marketing for Special Permit approval to allow a wall sign above 20' in height. The proposed sign would be approximately 50' above grade at the top of the building. All other design components of the sign met the Zoning Code criteria. Following a brief discussion of the proposed sign, the Plan Commission ultimately adopted Resolution No. 13-PC-03 recommending approval of the proposed wall sign. This item will appear on the Board's regular agenda on April 16 for final approval.

The Plan Commission also conducted a workshop discussion on parking stall dimensions, as well as loading spaces. Staff informed the Commission that they had recently been approached by at least two potential developments: Walmart at 1000 Skokie (*which has not formally filed an application yet*) and the former Center of the Northshore site at 770 Skokie (*which has filed a formal application requesting reduced stall dimensions for the residential portion of the development*) requesting text amendments to reduce the required parking stall dimensions from 9'x20' to approximately 9'x18'. Staff presented research to the Commission about the parking stall dimension requirements other communities implement, as well as the dimensions recommended by other traffic organizations and the Village Traffic Consultant. Ultimately, the Plan Commission agreed that a reduction in the parking stall depth could be considered if the parking stall width and drive aisle widths were increased to adequately accommodate maneuvering in and out of a shallower parking stall.

In regards to the discussion about the Village's standards for loading spaces, the Plan Commission understood that the current requirements were no longer adequate for all developments in the community. The Plan Commission suggested that staff consider a way to amend the Zoning Code to specify what types of uses would require specific loading spaces; as well as what size those spaces should be. The Commissioners also recommended that staff review the ability to allow for administrative review of the need for loading spaces in development applications. If an Applicant did not agree with the administrative recommendation for a loading space, or the size of a loading space, the applicant could always still request a variation from the Plan Commission as part of the development application. Staff will continue to research parking stall dimensions and loading space requirements and return to the Plan Commission at a future date with suggested Zoning Code amendments.

APRIL 3 ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

The Northbrook Architectural Control Commission held a rescheduled regular meeting on Wednesday, April 3. The meeting was rescheduled due to a lack of quorum. The majority of the meeting was devoted to a comprehensive review of the 2012 International Plumbing Code and how it relates to 2004 Illinois Plumbing Code. The Commission completed their review of suggested local amendments associated with the state

and international codes. There was significant discussion of the existing local amendment related to requiring drinking fountains for enlarged business spaces. Both staff and commissioners agreed that the current language should be reworded to clarify the Village's intent. The Commission also reviewed the merits of requiring interior hot water lines to be looped for larger homes and businesses. The IPC requires a hot water run of longer than 50 feet to re-circulate. The ACC also reviewed and approved five new single-family homes:

- a) 1152 Cedar Lane
- b) 1330 Hillside Rd.
- c) 658 Laburnum
- d) 1833 Maple
- e) 4000 Maple

The next meeting of the ACC will take place on April 11, 2013, when the commission will review additional codes (fuel gas and mechanical, energy conservation), one new single family home and a permit extension request.

APRIL 4 ELECTRICAL COMMISSION MEETING

The Northbrook Electrical Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, April 4, to discuss the work performed by an electrical contractor on a new single family home. The Village's Electrical Inspector reported that there were major deficiencies in the workmanship, resulting in some dangerous conditions; beyond the routine code violations usually encountered. Corrections were made to the wiring. The Commission reviewed evidence submitted by staff and questioned the contractor. The Electrical Commission concurred with staff to pursue suspension of the electrical contractor's license. They also recommended that an independent electrical engineer inspect the home and provide a report stating that the home is safe and code compliant before a certificate of occupancy is granted. The Commission will meet again in a few weeks to determine how to proceed with the electrical contractor's license suspension.

ARTS COMMISSION

On Thursday, April 4, the Arts Commission approved the purchase of a pop-up tent featuring the new Arts Commission logo (pictured right). The tent will be utilized at a variety of community events, such as the Art in the Park Festival. The Commission confirmed Little Louie's would be the exclusive food vendor at Art in the Park on July 13 & 14. Details about the event, which features over 70 artists, and a call for volunteers will be included in future Village newsletters. It was noted that the Arts Workshop scheduled this weekend is full; however, there are still openings for Spring Pastel Portrait Workshop, May 4 & 5, from 9am to 4pm, at the Village Green Center. The cost is \$125. For information about arts events and workshops visit www.northbrookarts.org



Immediately following the meeting, the Commissioners hosted an Artist's Reception for the 45 Northbrook resident artists who are displaying their artwork in the Northbrook Originals Art Show at the Library. The exhibit runs through April 29 and features 52 pieces of work on all three floors of the Library.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

On Thursday, April 4, the Community Relations Commission held a regular meeting. Plans for the Asian Heritage Month celebration are well underway. The event, *Taste of Asia*, will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30pm-3:30pm at the North Suburban YMCA. This event highlights the diversity of Asian culture, with participants representing Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Russia.

There will be art exhibitions and demonstrations, music and dance performances, and a wide selection of delicious dishes to purchase and sample.

Interfaith Sunday will be held on April 21. This year thirteen Northbrook houses of worship will open their doors to the community for a fun and educational afternoon. Start the day off by bringing your friends and family to the Northbrook Village Green Park Gazebo, 1810 Walters Ave., at 12:30pm or to any of the participating houses of worship starting at 1:00pm and pick up your "passport." Then visit as many institutions as you wish. Your passport book contains a listing of participating institutions. All are invited to come to the Northbrook Village Hall at 4:00pm, for pizza and to meet new friends, gather for discussion, play some games and win some prizes.

Plans are also underway for the Welcome to Northbrook/Flamingo Friday's Kick-Off event. Open to all residents, the fun will be from 5:30pm-7pm on Friday, May 17, on the front lawn of Village Hall. In case of inclement weather, the event will move into the Village Hall vestibule. Residents are invited to join in welcoming new residents to Northbrook while also kicking off a summer of Flamingo Fridays fun.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Thursday, May 2.

POLICE HONOR STATE TROOPER

A contingent of Northbrook Police Officers attended the funeral services on Tuesday, April 2, for Illinois State Trooper James Sauter who was tragically killed Friday evening, March 29, while on duty monitoring traffic on I-294. Police Officer Nicole Ochab was the first Northbrook Police Officer to arrive at the scene and attended to traffic direction on the Tollway, which was backed up for miles. Commander Roger Adkins, Sergeant Greg Glickauf, Officer Jon Garcia, Officer Nicole Ochab and Telecommunicator Tina Fischer represented Northbrook at the funeral and burial services at Moraine Valley Church in Palos Heights. Officers from as far away as Alaska attended to pay their respects.

POLICE ACTIVITY

Police responded to a suicide of an 18-year-old male on Monday evening, April 1. Counseling Services Director Vaccaro and Chaplain Braband were called to the scene to console the parents. The GBN School Resource Officer and Police staff are working with GBN administrators and the student community to answer questions and provide counseling services.

Police are investigating a burglary in the 2000 block of Butternut Lane. Homeowners returned home from a vacation to find one of the offenders and the offender's father in the driveway. The offender confessed to being a part of the burglary and returned some of the stolen items, offering apologies. Other offenders are being sought for questioning. The case is under investigation.

On Monday evening, April 1, the Major Crash Assistance Team was activated to investigate a motor vehicle versus pedestrian accident in Skokie. The crash occurred at Main Street and Skokie Boulevard. The pedestrian was crossing Main Street northbound in the crosswalk when a vehicle, which was turning eastbound from southbound Skokie Boulevard, struck him. The pedestrian was transported to St. Francis Hospital with severe head injuries, which were considered to be life threatening. The driver of the vehicle had chemical testing conducted by the Skokie Police Department.

NORTHBROOK AND WHEELING FIREFIGHTERS CONSOLIDATE RESOURCES IN JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE

During the week of April 1, a joint training exercise was conducted with the Northbrook and Wheeling Fire Departments. Firefighters performed rescue operations and firefighter survival skills in an acquired residential structure in town. Emphasis was on advanced skills and proficiency with Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), and interoperability in rescue situations. The firefighters' vision was blocked throughout the drill to simulate reduced visibility from smoke during a fire. SCBA and survival training of this type satisfy requirements of OSHA, IDOL, as well as the Illinois State Fire Marshall and NFPA industry standards.



MUTUAL AID FIRE

On Wednesday night, Northbrook Engine 10 responded to Lincolnshire-Riverwoods for a Mutual Aid Box Alarm structure fire. Upon arrival, E10's crew was tasked with finishing primary search of the residence until the crew found the second floor was compromised and started to collapse. One resident was transported by ambulance to an area hospital suffering non life-threatening injuries. Northbrook Station 10 was staffed with call-back personnel.

NSEAC ANNOUNCES NEW AGGREGATED ELECTRICITY RATE FOR 2013/2014

This week, the North Shore Electricity Aggregation Consortium (NSEAC) released the negotiated rate for the second year of a three-year contract with MC Squared Energy Services (mc²). The Consortium has secured electricity rates of 4.990 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for June 2013 through May 2014 billing cycles for residential and eligible small commercial customers. Last week, ComEd announced that its residential rate for the same period will be 6.047 cents per kWh. The Consortium's rate represents a modest 3% increase over the current Consortium rate of 4.836 cents/kWh, and results in savings of more than 17% when compared to ComEd's new rates. Certain small business customers and space heat customers are expected to save even more under mc²'s new rates

Modest cost increases for the electricity commodity were expected and are represented in the new rate for both the Consortium and for ComEd. ComEd's rate has decreased substantially from last year as the utility has shed some longer-term contracts. However, in addition to a still-lower rate, the Consortium is able to offer additional security to residents and businesses by negotiating with mc² for the removal of the \$25 early termination fee and other changes to the rate structure to minimize increases to consumers. A new online customer portal is also available at www.northshoreelectricityaggregation.com where new customers (those who have moved into a Consortium community, or may want to change providers) can register. Letters will be sent to potential new customers twice per year as well to ensure that they are aware of the lower Consortium rate. It is expected that the first round of letters will be mailed the week of April 22. As before, residents may also call mc² directly at (888) 808-7731 or email at NorthShore@MC2energyservices.com for more information.

Under the Consortium's rate pricing in Year 2, customers will retain the opportunity to support renewable energy resources through voluntary participation in a 100% Green Power Program that purchases renewable energy certificates.

In the first year of the program, which began in June 2012, the 70,000 residents and businesses of member communities comprising the NSEAC are projected to realize savings of over \$26 million off of Commonwealth Edison ("ComEd") residential electricity rates. Specifically in Northbrook, residents are

projected to save over \$400 in the first 12 months. In total, Northbrook customers are projected to save over \$4.7 million in the period of June 2012 – May 2013.

ANNUAL ASPHALT STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM

Work relating to the annual asphalt street resurfacing program began this week with the Village's contractor replacing sewer structures throughout the Northbrook Estates area (see map). This portion of the project is expected to be completed by the end of next week. The contractor is scheduled to begin replacing sections of curb next week; however, with rain in the forecast, this work may be slightly delayed.



STORM SEWER INLET INSTALLATION

Earlier this week, Public Works crews worked to install a storm sewer inlet in the 1700 block of Marcee Lane. This inlet will assist with drainage during the winter months when snow cover blocks the overland drainage from the back yards of homes on Chapel Court and Marcee Lane. Approximately 30 feet of 6-inch PVC pipe was installed under the roadway and connected to the existing 10-inch storm sewer. The photo depicts the new inlet and storm sewer as it is being installed under Marcee Lane.



TREE CITY USA

For the 19th consecutive year, the Village of Northbrook has been named a Tree City USA. The Tree City USA program is administered by the Arbor Day Foundation and recognizes communities that meet standards of sound urban forestry management. Northbrook is one of 184 communities in Illinois that have received this recognition.



POTHOLES

Over the past month, the Public Works Department has responded to 14 work orders for potholes on Village streets. The Department is also proactively checking sections of town for potholes and repairing them. Potholes are generally the result of the freeze/thaw cycle placing stress on older roadways. Crews work to fill potholes with asphalt material within 48 hours of a work order being submitted. Crews will return during the summer to streets that have experienced numerous potholes and patch those sections of the roadway.



EARTH/ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

This year's Earth/Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 20, at the Village Green, with the cleanup beginning at 8:30am. This year, a Public Works crew will be hiding a sign in each of the cleanup areas and the clean-up teams that successfully return the signs to the registration table will receive prizes. Throughout the day, there will be numerous events including live music, environmental exhibits highlighting "green" services and products, and children's activities. In addition, a recycling event will take place in the parking lot on the west side of the train station where residents can dispose of electronics, paint, and other materials.

As part of the Earth/Arbor Day celebrations, trees around the Village Hall, train station, the Cherry Lane median (between Meadow and Church), and at the Village Green will have informational tags from the Morton Arboretum hung on them to inform people of the benefits of trees. Tags will be put up on April 15 and removed the week of April 29.

Staff will provide support for this event by setting up and tearing down tables and chairs for use by the exhibitors, handing out food during the event, conducting traffic control, and

coordinating the various events. More information about the Earth/Arbor Day Celebration can be found on the Village's website at www.northbrook.il.us/earthday.



WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2013

SAT.	4/6	9am-5pm	Last Day for Early Voting - Board Room
MON.	4/8		No Meetings
TUES.	4/9	6am-7pm	ELECTION DAY - Precincts 2 & 29 in Board Room
		7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Regular Meeting - Rescheduled to 4-16
WED.	4/10		No Meetings
THURS.	4/11	7:30 a.m.	Foreign Fire Insurance Board - Station 11
		5:00 p.m.	Rural Fire Protection District Meeting - Station 11
		5:30 p.m.	Architectural Control Commission- Terrace Room
FRI.	4/12		No Meetings