

MEMORANDUM

TO: STAFF

**COPY: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEPARTMENT HEADS**

FROM: Richard Nahrstadt, Village Manager

DATE: July 23, 2010

RE: STAFF BRIEFING

WEEK OF JULY 19, 2010

JULY 20 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

The Plan Commission held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 20 and discussed the following:

- Docket No. 10-10: Mark Vend Sign. The Commission held its first public hearing on Docket No. 10-10, an application by Mark Vend Company requesting a Zoning Code text amendment to allow electronic message signs as a special permit use in the I-1 Restricted Industrial District and special permit approval to allow an electronic message sign at 3000 MacArthur Boulevard. A majority of Commission members were open to continue to discuss allowing such signs subject to strict limitation on where they are allowed in the community and how the signs can operate. A majority of the Commission appeared only interested in possibly allowing such signs as long as the electronic message would only advertise the businesses, products or services located on the site on which the sign is located as well as public service announcements for the Village or other non-profit community groups located in the Village of Northbrook. The Commission continued the public hearing to August 3 and requested additional information regarding electronic message signs, IDOT and Tollway Authority regulations of such signs along their roadways, and where the Village may see additional requests for such signs along I-94 and I-294.
- Docket No. 10-6: New Comprehensive Plan. The Commission held its fifth public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Plan. At the public hearing, staff received further clarification and direction from the Commission regarding three key policy questions:
 - Neighborhood Edge Classifications: The staff asked the Plan Commission whether or not the recent discussions at the Board of Trustees level concerning the property at Dundee and Sanders Roads (Chase Bank) altered the Plan Commission's desire to have two types of transitional or "neighborhood edge designations in the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission continued to believe that two types of designations were appropriate and that no changes in the land use map were warranted.
 - Southeast Corner of Skokie & Dundee: The staff discussed the fact that Nestle Foods was going to be occupying the former Plunkett Furniture building and the fact that the 885 sunset Ridge property was designated as appropriate for commercial (retail) use, not office. The Commission was asked if this land use change altered the focus of that quadrant of the Dundee/sanders Road intersection. The Commission did not believe it was significant enough to alter that vision completely, but agreed to change the designation of that quadrant to commercial or office.
 - Impact of Economic Downturn on Policies: Finally, the staff briefed the Commission on how Northbrook is not immune from the lingering impacts that the recession and that economic development and code compliance efforts have had to increase. The staff asked whether or not these changes warranted any adjustments to the overall goals or policy directives of the Plan. The

Commission felt that the goals of the Village should remain the same, but we should continue to explore new strategies over time to achieve those goals.

The Commission is scheduled to review the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan and vote on a resolution recommending approval of the document at its August 3 meeting. The Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled to review the Plan during the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 17.

FIRST 'GREEN BUILDING' APPLICATION SUBMITTED.

The Development & Planning Services Department received its first formal application for a new "green" (LEED certified) single family home to be located at 2104 Greenview. The plans are now under review by staff and will also be reviewed by the ACC in August. Under the Village's "Green Building" incentive program (Ord. No. 08-24), the first residential structure approved will have 100% of its building permit fees rebated once LEED certification is obtained. Subsequent applicants will receive a 10% reduction in fees.

CONSTRUCTION STRIKE HAS BEEN SETTLED

The construction laborers and operators strike was settled this week on Wednesday when union members ratified the negotiated contract between their representatives and the area contractor companies. Public Works staff is beginning the process of meeting with each of our contractors for the commuter parking lot resurfacing, Pfingsten Road water main replacement, Pfingsten Road resurfacing, Northbrook East water main replacement and the asphalt street resurfacing projects to determine when these projects can commence. The strike lasted approximately three weeks.

Staff is most concerned with the construction start date delays for the commuter parking lot and asphalt street resurfacing projects. We now anticipate the commuter parking lot project not being able to be started until late August/early September, when use of the parking lot is back at its fullest. This will make it very challenging to complete this project and minimize disruption to the users. It was originally intended to complete this project in late July/early August when use was lower because of the summer vacation season. The asphalt resurfacing project will also have to be pushed later into the fall because we need to wait until the water main work has been completed in the Northbrook East subdivision, where we will rehabilitate these streets following the replacement of the water mains.

MATT MORRISON JOINS PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works department is pleased to announce that Matt Morrison has joined the Village as the new Assistant to the Public Works Director, effective this past Tuesday, July 20. Matt comes to us from Glenview where he spent three years as a Management Analyst. His primary focus was supporting Public Works and had responsibilities in procurement, contract management, program review, committee support and numerous other functions. We are excited to have him part as our team and please join us in welcoming him to the Village!

FINDING WIRELESS 911 CALLERS

On July 16, at 2:27 a.m., a call from the National Veterans Crisis Hotline was received reporting they had a male caller on the line threatening suicide. This crisis line is available to veterans from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The crisis worker advised she had a male subject stating that "he just wanted to end it all" and would not provide any further information. An Internet search of the cell phone number revealed that it was "registered" to Northbrook. We have learned before that this only means that this particular cellular exchange is billed through a Northbrook Central Telephone Office, and doesn't mean it necessarily has anything else to do with our Village. It was determined that the cellular number listed to Verizon Wireless and an exigent circumstance form was completed. Approximately 40 minutes later, Verizon advised they had "pinged" the phone and the last call placed from that cellular device hit off a tower in Belleville, Illinois. The subscriber information also registered to an individual from Belleville. Belleville

Police Department was contacted where a well-being check was requested. At 4:30 a.m., Belleville PD called stating that they had made contact with the individual who placed the call to the crisis hotline and were providing him assistance. They also indicated they have had contact with this subject previously regarding similar incidents.

On July 17 at 12:45 p.m., two cellular 911 calls were received from a cell site from the 2900 Old Willow Road (AT&T) tower. A muffled voice could be heard, with the connection breaking up, as is sometimes the case with wireless connections, but the calls dropped before any information could be obtained. At 12:52 p.m., Northbrook Police Dispatch received a third call from the same phone, with the caller saying, "help me" twice in a very low volume. Again, the call/connection dropped off. The latitude & longitude coordinates from the third call were captured and plotted to a general address range on Fontana Drive, Glenview. Glenview Police were notified and responded to the area. Glenview Police Dispatch advised their responding officers of previous domestic-related calls at one address within this range; but upon arrival, this residence appeared unoccupied and abandoned. While this activity was taking place, Northbrook dispatch was in contact with AT&T Mobility to request subscriber information for the cellular telephone number. Upon the Glenview Police units clearing the Fontana Drive address, subscriber information was received from AT&T. The phone number registered to a female subject on Summit Drive in Glenview; a short distance from the Fontana location. As this information was being relayed to Glenview Police, they also received a wireless 911 call from an elderly female subject who stated she was locked in her vehicle (vehicle's electrical system failed). It was determined the female subject was the same person who placed the other 911 calls. These examples emphasize the variables associated with wireless connections, as well as the time consumed in tracking these callers down.

SAVE A STAR DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Chief Wernick researched and consulted staff and community members regarding the above program whose goal is to dispose of expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medications in an environmentally safe way. More importantly, this program is intended to keep drugs out of the hands of young children and those who might use drugs for recreational purposes.

This program works through collection sites, in the form of mailboxes, set up at local police departments for consumer disposal and proper incineration. There is a list of accepted and non-accepted drugs. Accepted drugs include mostly medications, controlled substances, vitamins, medicated ointments, etc. Non accepted drugs include needles, syringes with needles, thermometers, infectious waste, etc. More information can be found on the web site www.saveastar.org.

Lake Forest, Highland Park and Deerfield are either currently participating or considering participation. Currently, there is only one disposal site in the area located in Indianapolis. The DEA requires a police presence on disposal of the drugs. Lake Forest and Highland Park have agreed to work with Northbrook on police presence and transportation for disposal.

Chief Wernick sought advice from NCDAA President Marsha Doniger and received her support. They are considering asking GBN art students to assist with decorating the mailbox which will be stationed in the lobby of the Police Department.

The only costs to Northbrook will be the commitment to share responsibilities with our participating neighbors to deliver the drugs in a vehicle to Indianapolis with police presence.

BURGLARY

On July 17 it was reported to the Police that a female subject arrived at her workplace in the 1900 block of Cherry Lane and left her purse in her vehicle. She subsequently drove to five different locations throughout Northbrook during the day and at day's end she discovered her purse containing currency, credit cards and personal information missing. There were no signs of forced entry to the vehicle.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

On July 16, at approximately 1:30 p.m., two subjects, feigning to be AT&T employees, were buzzed into a condominium complex in the 600 block of Ballentrae. Shortly after entrance, the homeowners became suspicious and after a minor physical confrontation the subjects fled the area. Immediate notification with physical descriptions was sent to surrounding agencies.

CAR INTO BUILDING

Early in the afternoon on Saturday, July 17, firefighters were called to the “For Eyes” store on Skokie Boulevard for a car striking the building. Upon arrival companies found a single vehicle completely inside the store. The vehicle also pushed in the wall at “Le Nail Spa” located next door. Paramedics evaluated the driver and one occupant of the store, treated and released them on location. Tom Poupard was called to the scene and he checked the structural integrity of the building and isolated affected utilities in both stores. Fire Department personnel remained on location until the vehicle was removed. No other hazards were noted.



CHILD DROWNS IN SWIMMING POOL

On Sunday afternoon, July 18, a five year old child drowned in a swimming pool in the Rural Fire Protection District in the 2100 block of Post Road. Fire Department paramedics were dispatched to a house with an in-ground backyard pool where the child was last seen swimming with friends. Bystanders removed the child from the pool, and began CPR with the help of dispatchers instructing over the telephone. Paramedics arrived and initiated advanced life support treatment and transported the patient to Glenbrook Hospital where the child regained a heartbeat and began to breathe but did not regain consciousness. The child was eventually transferred by private ambulance to Lutheran General Critical Care Unit and ultimately was pronounced dead on Monday afternoon. Counseling professionals provided assistance to family members and to first responders.

MUTUAL AID WATER RESCUE/RECOVERY IN GLENVIEW

Early Monday morning, July 19, on-duty dive team members in Dive Rescue 10 were dispatched for a drowning victim after a canoe overturned about 1:30 a.m. in a Valley Lo Lake in Glenview. Divers from Northbrook were assigned to deploy the MABAS Division 3 side scan sonar to aid in the rescue/recovery. The victim was discovered in ten feet of water and transported to the hospital. The 29 year old Evanston resident was pronounced dead at Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview at 3 a.m. Monday, according to Glenview police.

AMMONIA LEAK AT 625 ACADEMY

On Monday morning, July 19, firefighters were called to an office warehouse building, at 625 Academy Drive, for a leak of ammonia. On arrival, the area was cordoned off and the Division 3 Hazardous Materials

Team was called in. Entry teams found several containers that had been delivered over the weekend that were leaking, filling the area with toxic ammonia fumes. The containers were isolated and secured, and the facility was ventilated until the building was verified completely clear of fumes. A private cleanup company was contacted to remove the affected containers.

DEATH INVESTIGATION

Police were called to a residence in the 2900 block of Koepke Road on Monday morning, July 19, regarding a well being check on a person sleeping in his vehicle parked on the street. Upon Police units arriving and seeing no signs of life on the subject, the Fire Department was advised and responded. The subject was found to be deceased. Notification was made and the body transported to the Medical Examiner's office to determine cause of death. The incident is under investigation. No foul play is expected and we are awaiting toxicology results.

WEEK OF JULY 26, 2010

MON.	7/26	7:30 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals – Board Room
TUES.	7/27	7:30 a.m.	ICDC – Cancelled
		6:30 p.m.	Public Works Committee Meeting – Terrace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Regular Board of Trustee Meeting – Board Room
WED.	7/28		No Meetings
THUR.	7/29	.	No Meetings
FRI.	7/30		No Meetings