

# NORTHBROOK

FEBRUARY 2013



## Gems of Northbrook

Trees dominate the landscape in Northbrook. Collectively, the trees make up a forest with thousands of trees growing on both public and private property – an Urban Forest.

The Urban Forest, like the traditional forest, needs to be properly managed if it is to remain healthy and attractive for future generations of Northbrook residents and businesses. The Village provides a home to over 15,000 parkway trees throughout the six square mile area we call Northbrook.

These trees provide economic and environmental benefits that exceed their initial investment. Did you know that 100 mature trees catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year? The Bebb Oak, pictured above, is one of the oldest trees in Northbrook. *Be a part of Northbrook's tree legacy and participate in the spring Cost Sharing Parkway Tree Planting Program.*

*details on page 5*

## Stay Informed in Northbrook

Whether you are reaching out to the Village for information or if the Village is trying to reach you, one thing is certain, we have many new forms of communication. In addition to this newsletter and Northbrook Notify, our call-out, email and text message notification system, the Village has a variety of outreach options.

Our website at [www.northbrook.il.us](http://www.northbrook.il.us) provides information to residents, visitors, businesses and shoppers. The site has multi-language capability, quick links and a calendar feature that links to meeting agendas. Other helpful items on the website include: colorful icons that help direct users to a plethora of information, an option to pay bills on-line and an interactive feature called GOResult, which allows residents to report and track concerns such as potholes or neighborhood issues. At the top of the screen, visitors will find quick links to a staff directory, job listings, and information about your tax dollars at work.

Residents also have the option of tuning to NCTV – Cable Channel 17 to watch Village Board and Plan Commission meetings, local programming and Village notices. Meetings are also streamed live and archived on the website.

As always, residents may call the Village directly. Please see the back page for details.

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## President's Day - February 18

The Village Hall will be closed to the public on President's Day, Monday, February 18. Village staff will be participating in clean-up day!

## Police Academy Class Begins March 20

The Northbrook Police Department will host the Citizen Police Academy for Northbrook residents and business owners age 21 and older on eleven consecutive Wednesdays, March 20–May 29, from 7 to 9:30pm. Join this exciting, free, hands-on opportunity to learn about Northbrook's Police Department.

Graduates of the Citizen Police Academy will have a clearer understanding of what police officers do and be better informed citizens.

For more information and to sign-up contact Community Relations Supervisor Michael Shep at 847/664-4425 or email [michael.shep@northbrook.il.us](mailto:michael.shep@northbrook.il.us).

Sign-up for the Citizen Police Academy and find out about topics such as:

- Emergency 911 communications
- Patrol and Investigation operations
- Police K9 Unit
- Ride-along with a Northbrook Police Officer!

## Crime Prevention is the Best Defense

Review the following crime prevention safety tips in order to familiarize yourself in ways to help prevent crimes of opportunity.

- Always lock doors, windows and set home alarms, if you have one, before leaving the house. Always lock deadbolt locks.
- If you have an attached garage, be sure to lock the inside door between your garage and house. If you have a detached garage, keep it secured.
- Lock your car doors while at home, even if cars are stored inside your garage or parked in the driveway.
- Keep your garage door closed.
- Remove valuables from vehicles.
- Install secure window well covers.

- If you have double-hung or sliding windows or doors, place a wooden rod or stick in the track.
- Use timers for your lights if you come home after dark.
- If you are going on vacation, be sure to stop mail service and cancel newspapers so they don't pile up in front of your home while you are away.
- Be on the lookout and report suspicious vehicles that look out of place. Remember, burglars can be male or female, young or old, and driving any type of vehicle.

Northbrook remains a very safe community, and we all must work together to keep it that way.

Call 911 immediately with details, descriptions and plate numbers if you see:

- Any suspicious vehicles driving slowly or repetitively through your neighborhood.
- Observe someone at a neighbor's front door, then see them walking to the side or rear of the house.
- Someone rings your doorbell "by mistake." Burglars never just break in - they always ring the bell to see if anyone is home.

If you are interested in having a home safety check, please contact Community Relations Supervisor Michael Shep at 847/664-4425 or visit the Village website at [www.northbrook.il.us/PreventCrime](http://www.northbrook.il.us/PreventCrime)

## Village Board Highlights

### Recognized

- Patrol Officer Tom Covi for 30 years of service at the Police Department.
- Sal Manso and Carol Henning for their Service on the Northbrook Plan Commission.
- Cantor Steve and Susan Stoehr for their 25 years of service to community.
- The Northbrook Library's award of a 5-Star Rating by the Library Journal Index
- Randall "Randy" Hayden for 26 years of service to the Village.

### Amended

- Northbrook Municipal Code to authorize the Village Manager to declare equipment with a value of less than \$10,000 as surplus.
- Annual Fee Ordinance regarding parking regulations on Greenwood Rd.

### Annexed

- 3963 Walters, 3465 Techny and 175 Sanders Road.

### Authorized

- Issuance of Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A and General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012B, of the Village of Northbrook.
- Replacement of light poles on Founders and Techny Roads, \$50,126.
- Purchase of administrative vehicle for Public Works Department, \$18,682.
- Shermerville Commons Regional Detention Facility Options Study, \$21,980.
- Purchase of rock salt for 2012/13 winter season, \$122,340.
- Installation of holiday lighting in downtown Northbrook area, \$35,100.

- Grant Funding of \$85,922 for lighting improvements at Village facilities
- Annual Motor Fuel Tax Program funding appropriation for asphalt pavement patching, gutter replacement, and asphalt markings, \$580,000.
- Annual Motor Fuel Tax Program Intent to Bond Program, \$3,042,910.

### Approved

- Level III Design Review Permit Ground Sign at 1100 Waukegan Road.
- Resolution upholding the issuance of a tree permit for 8 Hickory Lane.

# Notes from Village President Sandy Frum



As Northbrook recognizes Black History month, I'd like to share this quote from Martin Luther King Jr., "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, *What are you doing for others?*" Community involvement and volunteering is a great way to help others and at the same time, serve our Village.

Volunteerism also provides an opportunity to learn more about Northbrook and it's a great way to meet your neighbors. Whether you are interested in helping to plan Village

traditions such as Shermerfest or Northbrook Days, or join a club, there are many organizations and Village Commissions anxious for your assistance. Visit [www.northbrook.il.us](http://www.northbrook.il.us), Living Here, for a list of local organizations. If you are interested to learn more about Northbrook's Finest, the Northbrook Police Department is hosting a Citizen's Police Academy class beginning March 20. See page 2 for details.

## Speaking of Those Who Make a Difference...

The Northbrook Community Relations Commission is again sponsoring the Community Relations Commission Award to recognize a person or persons that helps to promote the diversity and unity of our community. I encourage all who live or work in Northbrook to nominate a worthy candidate. Visit our website for details or call 847/664-4010 for more information. The application deadline is February 15, 2013.

## Events in February

This month the Northbrook Community Relations Commission presents a special free program honoring Black History Month. Please see page 4 for details. There are also a variety of Village Happenings listed on page 7, including details on the upcoming Northbrook Symphony concert, the Library's Winter Concert Series and exciting Park District events.

## Tell the Village your Concern, Complaint or Compliment

Whether you want to report a pothole, express a concern about your neighborhood, just ask a question or compliment a Village employee,

Northbrook's GO Request makes it easy. A new system, launched last year, is available online and to smart phone users. To access the service online, visit [www.northbrook.il.us](http://www.northbrook.il.us) and click the GOREquest logo. The new system features a simple form, is easy to use, and allows you to track the status of your request. The system also offers an app for your smartphone. ([www.northbrook.il.us/GOApp](http://www.northbrook.il.us/GOApp)) Of course you may still contact the Village by calling 847/272-5050 during business hours.

## Reminders for Drivers

By Illinois law, drivers are required to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks even when there are no traffic signals or stop signs. So, if you see someone at the crosswalk waiting to cross the street, please stop for them. Drivers should be alert for vehicles that are "unexpectedly" stopping for pedestrians. The fines for failing to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk can range from \$50 to \$500.

I'm sure we've all seen distracted drivers talking on the phone or texting. Remember, it is illegal to text while driving. It is also illegal to talk on a hand-held cell phone in school zones and in construction zones. Please use common sense, follow the laws, and keep our community safe.

## Village Budget

The Village's Fiscal Year begins May 1, 2013. Be sure to review next month's newsletter for specific dates and times for information about the Village Board budget review meetings for the FY 13/14 draft budget. For more information about Village finances, visit "Your Tax Dollars at Work" linked at the top of the website at [www.northbrook.il.us](http://www.northbrook.il.us).

## Comments?

As always, your comments are welcomed. To contact the Village, please refer to "Tell the Village..." above. If you would like to contact me directly, email me at [village@northbrook.il.us](mailto:village@northbrook.il.us) or call the Village's General Government Department at 847/664-4010



## Celebrate Black History Month

The Black Experience in Chicago's North Suburbs

**The Northbrook Community Relations Commission (CRC) is proud of the diversity within our Village and is pleased to sponsor a special program in honor of Black History Month.**

The Northbrook CRC Black History Month topic for 2013 is "The Black Experience in Chicago's North Suburbs." The program will include a diverse panel that will briefly discuss their experiences living in the north suburbs.

Their comments will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. The program will be held at the North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, on Wednesday, February 13, from 7-8:30pm.

The program is free and open to all; refreshments will be served. This program promises new insights into the Black experience in the north suburbs. Please join us!

The CRC programs are educational and interactive and have been well-received in Northbrook over the past 10 years.

Past programs have included the original play, *A Generation Remembers*, book reviews and lectures, the children's program *African American History Live!*, and a lecture/discussion revolving around the role of Black actors in the movie industry.

## The Village Reminds Residents and Businesses to Get Ready for Earth and Arbor Day Saturday, April 20!

**Northbrook's Earth and Arbor Day celebration is just around the corner!**

Start rounding up the troops and plan to enjoy a community clean-up day complete with events, exhibits, and much more! Everyone is invited to "pitch-in" and keep the green momentum in motion! Get your clean-up team organized and stake your claim to clean-up your favorite Northbrook territory!

Residents or businesses with environmentally friendly products, ideas or projects and would like to participate in our Green Expo are asked to call 847/664-4017. Companies that promote and introduce Green Building technology are also welcome!



## What's Playing? On NCTV Channel 17

Here is the February schedule for Northbrook Community Television, Cable Channel 17.

7:00am & 3:00pm

*Edens Theater: The Life of a Beautiful Bird.* Remember the Edens Theater?

Experience the birth, life and death of a very special building. Watch footage from the construction to the destruction of the Edens Theater. Produced by Frank Randall and Evie Lerner.

8:00am & 4:00pm

*Where is Northbrook Now?* A look back at our history to present.

9:30am & 5:30pm

*Spotlight on Northbrook Arts* featuring Musician and Luthier John McHugh

11:30am, 7:30pm & 11:30pm

*Northbrook! The Video Newsletter* featuring news about Northbrook.

12:00pm, 8:00pm & 12:00am

*Talk Around Town with Jack & Susan*

12:30pm & 8:30pm, 12:30am

*NCDAA FOCUS: Walking on Thin Ice: A Methamphetamine Prevention Video*

1:00pm & 9:00pm

*Parenting Series: Talking about Social Media Before Your Child Is On Facebook* presented by Devorah Heitner, Ph.D

# 2013 Parkway Tree Order Form

## The Village is offering the cost sharing Parkway Tree Planting Program to residents again this year.

New trees will be 2-diameter-inches or about 6 to 8 feet tall. A property owner's cost share will be \$175 per tree ordered, regardless of variety or size. Multiple trees may be ordered, providing there is adequate room within the public parkway area. Sorry, no trees may be ordered for private property.

The trees will be scheduled for planting during the month of May, as weather permits.

### Limitations

Trees must be planted:

- equidistant from curb and sidewalks, typically at least 35' from other parkway trees
- at least 10' from a driveway or street light
- at least 45' from an intersection to ensure unobstructed sight lines
- at least 5' from manholes, fire hydrants and b-boxes

Note: Trees cannot be planted in the same spot as a recently removed parkway tree.

Ten species of trees are currently available. All trees are limited quantities on a first come, first serve basis. All trees may be viewed at [www.northbrook.il.us/ParkwayTree](http://www.northbrook.il.us/ParkwayTree). Orders must be submitted by March 15, 2013.

- Village makes final determination on planting location.
- Orders are processed on a first come, first serve basis.
- Trees may not be refused, moved or exchanged for any reason.

### Return order form to:

Terry Cichocki, Village Forester  
Northbrook Public Works  
655 Huehl Rd. Northbrook, IL 60062

Questions? Contact Terry at:  
847/664-4125 or  
[terry.cichocki@northbrook.il.us](mailto:terry.cichocki@northbrook.il.us)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the number of trees next to each tree description you would like to order on the reverse page.

Make checks payable to *Village of Northbrook* for \$175 per tree ordered.

Should your first choice be unavailable by the time your application is processed, please check one for alternate tree instructions:

\_\_\_ *Please have forestry staff select alternate tree if first choice is not available*

\_\_\_ *Please have forestry staff call me to discuss an alternate tree if first choice is not available*

\_\_\_ *The location for my new tree is under utility wires, please contact me to discuss smaller tree species*

N

Please draw a sketch in the box with an "X" indicating where you want the tree planted and an arrow pointing north. Include landmark reference points for easy field identification

# Parkway Tree Choices



## Accolade Elm (hybrid-disease resistant)

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Vase shaped  
 Height: 60'                      Width: 40'  
 Growth Rate: Fast              Size: Large  
 Summer Foliage: Glossy green  
 Fall Foliage: Yellow  
 Fruit: Seedless



## Frontier Elm

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Upright, pyramidal  
 Height: 25'                      Width: 15'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Medium  
 Summer Foliage: Dark green  
 Fall Foliage: Red to purple  
 Fruit: Seedless



## Bald Cypress "Shawnee Brave"

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Narrow pyramidal  
 Height: 50'                      Width: 20'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Medium  
 Summer Foliage: Bright green needles  
 Fall Foliage: Russet, soft brown  
 Fruit: Small cones mature tree only



## Kentucky Coffeetree

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Round  
 Height: 50'                      Width: 25'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Medium  
 Summer Foliage: Glossy, dark green  
 Fall Foliage: Golden yellow  
 Fruit: Pod (on female trees only)



## Black Tupelo-Black Gum

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Round  
 Height: 35'                      Width: 20'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Medium  
 Summer Foliage: Glossy, dark green  
 Fall Foliage: Red, yellow, orange  
 Fruit: Small blue eaten by birds before drop



## Northern Catalpa

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Crown: Oval  
 Height: 40'                      Width: 20'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Large  
 Summer Foliage: Bright Green, large-heart shaped  
 Fall Foliage: Yellow-green  
 Flowers: Tube-bell shaped, white, 2" long  
 Fruit: Pendulous capsule



## Danada Charm Elm (hybrid to resist Dutch Elm Disease)

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Vase shaped  
 Height: 60'                      Width: 40'  
 Growth Rate: Fast              Size: Large  
 Summer Foliage: Glossy, dark green-emerges red in spring.  
 Fall Foliage: Golden  
 Fruit: Seedless



## Sweetgum 'Slender Silhouette

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Slender column  
 Height: 50'                      Width: 3'  
 Growth Rate: Medium  
 Size: Long (excellent for accent planting)  
 Summer Foliage: Green, star shape  
 Fall Foliage: Crimson with yellow accents  
 Fruit: cultivar-very few star shaped orbs



## European Hornbeam

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Columnar, pyramidal  
 Height: 40'                      Width: 20'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Medium  
 Summer Foliage: Dark Green  
 Fall Foliage: Yellow  
 Fruit: Not significant



## Yellow Buckeye

Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crown: Oval  
 Height: 50'                      Width: 40'  
 Growth Rate: Medium          Size: Large  
 Summer Foliage: Green  
 Flowers: Yellow Spikes          Fall Foliage: Orange  
 Fruit: Nuts

# Village Happenings

Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau (CNSCVB) is celebrating **Restaurant Month**. Nearly 55 area restaurants will offer special deals. Visit [www.northshorediningdeals.com](http://www.northshorediningdeals.com) for a list of participating restaurants. Of course, residents are encouraged to dine local!

**Concerts on 3 at the Library** –Sundays in February at 2pm. Feb. 3, Sophie A. Creutz & Marianna Shteingold – clarinet & piano; Feb. 10, Chicago Guitar Duo – classical guitars; Feb. 17, Er-Gene Kahng & Soyeon Park – violin & piano; Feb. 24, Calumet Chamber Musicians – flute, cello, piano. Performances will include small group and solo works in a relaxed concert setting with a spectacular winter view. Programs sponsored by the Northbrook Arts Commission.

**Meet the Author:** Sun., Feb. 3, 2pm Library Pollak Room. Local author Paul Bartusiak will discuss *Pencils Down Faces Up* – a novel of high-tech corporate intrigue, delving into the psyche of an individual struggling to find his way in post collegiate life.

**Northbrook Symphony Lecture on** Tues., Feb. 5, 2pm, Library Pollak Room – Northbrook Symphony Lecturer Jim Kendros continues his series on the lives and music of great composers. Each selection he explores by Arne, Mozart, and Haydn will be performed by the Orchestra at their Feb. 17 concert. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends.

**Firefighter Chili Cookoff** on Sun., Feb. 10 from 2-6pm at Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, 2080 West Lake Ave. Admission is \$10, children \$5. For more information visit [www.ysgn.org](http://www.ysgn.org) or call 847/724-2620. Enjoy games, entertainment and more.

**Love to sing? Melodeers Guest Night** is the place for you. This international singing organization for women of all ages provides education in vocal production and choreography. Interested? Come to guest night on Feb. 6, 7:30pm, Mart Marion Church (formerly St. Peter's), 2700 Willow Rd. For details visit [www.melodeers.org](http://www.melodeers.org) or call 708/522-6600.

**Romantic Desserts** – Thurs., Feb. 7, 7pm, Library Auditorium – Learn to make some Valentine worthy desserts including flourless chocolate cake, white chocolate Bavarian mousse, and bittersweet chocolate zabaglione. Taste samples and be entertained by Chef Michael Maddox, former owner of Le Titi de Paris. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends.

**Academy Awards Film Discussion** – Sun., Feb. 17, 2 pm, Library Pollak Room – Join independent film maker Reid Schultz in a pre-Oscar night film discussion. This program is sponsored by the Friends.

**Free Blood Pressure Testing** at all three Fire Stations, every Sat. 9am - noon.

**An Evening with Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln** – Tues., Feb. 19, 7pm, Library Auditorium – Max and Donna Daniels portray Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln in a one-hour play. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends and the Northbrook Historical Society.

**Suspicious Minds Mystery Book Club** – Thurs., Feb. 21, 7pm, Library Civic Room - *Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin. Librarian Leah White will lead a mystery discussion.

**Calling all nature lovers and photography enthusiasts!** The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is hosting a new series of photo meet-ups designed for photographers of all skill levels. The next session is on Feb. 23 at River Trails Nature Center, 3120 N. Milwaukee Ave. at 10am. Photographers are encouraged to share photos at [www.flickr.com/groups/fpdcc/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/fpdcc/). For details call 847/824-8360.

The Northbrook Community Art Associates will experience the first **Pablo Picasso exhibition** held at the Art Institute in thirty years on Tues., Feb. 26. A lecture will feature highlights of over 250 works in this exhibition. Call 847/564-1051 for details. Non-members welcome.

The **Northbrook Nurses Club** has nursing scholarships available to Northbrook residents enrolled in an accredited school of nursing. For applications call 847/564-4866.

**Floral Design with Lilies** – Sun., Feb. 24, 2pm, Library Pollak Room – Stephanie Greene, an accredited floral design judge, will teach the basics of floral design.

**Meet the Author:** Thurs., Feb. 28, 7pm, Library Pollak Room – Lisa Barr will discuss her award-winning historical novel *Fugitive Colors*, a suspenseful take of an artist's revenge after World War II.

**The Northbrook Symphony presents "From Classical ..."** a concert featuring works by Arne, Mozart and Haydn, at 4pm, Sun., Feb. 17, at the Sheely Center for Performing Arts at GBN. **Guest artist, Roger Shen, Northbrook's own future superstar (pictured right)**, makes his NSO debut in the performance of Mozart's delightful piano concerto. Pre-concert lecture with Jim Kendros, at 2:30pm. For tickets visit [www.TheNSO.org](http://www.TheNSO.org) or call 847/272-0755. A post concert reception will be held at 6:30pm at the Northbrook Hilton.

**Northbrook Action Baseball** register for spring season: boys pre-school thru 2nd grade and girls pre-school thru 3rd grade. Call 847/564-9849 for details.

Sportsman's Country Club offers **cross-country ski lessons** on Sat. from 10am to noon. Equipment rental is available. For details, visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org) or call 847/291-2351, ext. 3.

The **Northbrook Woman's Club Foundation Benefit "Dancing Through the Decades - American Bandstand Remembered"** will be held on Sat., Feb. 23, 6pm at Sunset Ridge Country Club. The evening will feature auctions with Ron Bernardi as auctioneer. Cost: \$125 per person. Reservations required, call 847/498-8992 or visit [www.northbrookwomensclub.org](http://www.northbrookwomensclub.org).

The **Northbrook Woman's Club Foundation is accepting applications** from organizations that wish to be considered for grants from the club's Philanthropy Funds. For application due by Feb. 15, visit [www.northbrookwomensclub.org](http://www.northbrookwomensclub.org).

A **Parkinson's Support Group** for person's with Parkinson's, their care-partners, caregivers, and families, meets from 10am to noon at Covenant Village, 2625 Techny Rd., on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Call 847/509-0927.

A **Memory Loss Support Group** for families and caregivers dealing with Alzheimer's and other dementias meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm at Covenant Village, 2625 Techny Rd. Call 847/412-7303.

The **Northbrook Park District Senior Center**, 3323 Walters Avenue, offers a wide variety of programs, events, card games and activities for adults, age 55 and over. For information and reservations, call 847/291-2988, visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org), or stop by the Senior Center.

The **Park District offers outdoor ice rinks and sled hills for active winter fun**, open daily from dawn until 9pm as weather permits. For current conditions, visit [www.nbparks.org](http://www.nbparks.org) or call the weather hotline at 847/291-2985.

**Art Displays at the Village Hall:** Enjoy beautiful photography by Northbrook Artist David Harris featured in the Village Gallery in the Board Room and artwork by students from *Art & Soul* in the display case, through February.

**Attention photographers:** Submit your scenic seasonal shots of Northbrook for use in this newsletter, email [cheryl.fayne@northbrook.il.us](mailto:cheryl.fayne@northbrook.il.us)



## THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK

www.northbrook.il.us  
village@northbrook.il.us  
1225 Cedar Lane  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Hours; Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm

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

Village Officials:

**President:** Sandra E. Frum

**Village Clerk:** Debra J. Ford

**Village Manager:** Richard A. Nahrstadt

**Village Trustees:**

James A. Karagianis

A.C. Buehler

Michael W. Scolaro

Todd A. Heller

Kathryn L. Ciesla

Robert P. Israel

This newsletter is published ten times a year by the Northbrook Information Association

**Editor:**

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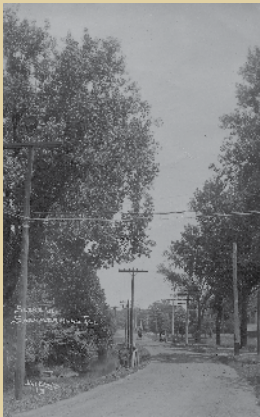
Check out *The Gems of Northbrook, A Guide to our Beautiful Trees*. Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to learn more about the trees in our Village. You may also visit [www.northbrook.il.us/Gems](http://www.northbrook.il.us/Gems)

# Historian's Corner

presented by the Northbrook Historical Society

## Northbrook's Tree Legacy

When our Village was first surveyed for settlement in 1839, there were few trees dotting the open prairie. To the far west was the forested land along the Des Plaines River. Some of these forests did not reach to our Township borders. To the east of the river, about where Charlemagne Drive is today,



Shermer Road looking east toward Waukegan Road. The Village Church property is on the left. (circa 1907)

began a huge grove of hickory and oak trees that stretched from Dundee Road north to the Tri-State Toll Road.

There were smaller groves of trees on either side of Dundee Road at Waukegan Road, south along Waukegan to Shermer Road that joined forested land on either side of the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River.

Settlers used some of the trees to build their homes and more for heat and cooking. New roads and encroaching development took others. About the time some of the groves were dying out, the Cook County Forest Preserve began buying farmland and turning it into forests. Somme Woods, now with a large grove of trees was mostly farmland when the Cook County Forest Preserve District purchased it in 1921. During the Great Depression, the Northbrook Civic Association purchased, and with the Public Works Administration, planted the original trees alongside our streets as the beginning of our urban forest.

Many of these beautiful trees remain, as do some of the oaks and hickories that greeted our Village's first settlers. The Bebb Oak was designated as the official tree of Northbrook in 2000 in recognition of "the magnificent and historic statue of this unique species in our community." The Village's oldest tree, estimated to be between 257 and 412 years old, is part of the large extinct grove off of Dundee Road.

You may stop by the Northbrook Public Works Building, 655 Huehl Road or the Historical Society and look at the book, "The Gems of Northbrook" which features some of our finest Northbrook trees or view it on line at [www.northbrook.il.us/Gems](http://www.northbrook.il.us/Gems).

[www.northbrookhistory.org](http://www.northbrookhistory.org)