

NORTHBROOK

JANUARY 2012



Northbrook to Ask Voters for Approval to Bid Out for Electricity

The Village Board unanimously voted to place a referendum on the ballot in the March 20th primary election that will ask voters whether Northbrook should bid on the purchase of electricity for residential and small commercial businesses. Through a bidding process, the Village may be able to arrange lower rates than are currently available. It should be noted that ComEd would still serve as the power system distributor. Customers will continue to receive a monthly bill from ComEd. ComEd has no position on the program, as it does not impact them financially.

So far, over 20 Illinois communities have participated in an “electrical aggregation” program that lets them enter into agreements with electrical suppliers who are less costly than the current provider. Please watch for additional information on electric aggregation in the February newsletter. More information on electrical aggregation is also available on *the Illinois Commerce Commission Electric Choice Website* www.pluginillinois.org

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Our Crews are Ready

The next snowstorm might be just around the corner! Here are some important tips to make this winter a breeze!

Please Be Patient as the Public Works Department Clears Our Roadways!

Remember — It takes six (6) to seven (7) hours, after the snow has stopped, to clear Northbrook’s roadways, and can take even longer during heavy or extended snowfalls. When driving, please give snow plows plenty of room. Large plows take longer to stop and have multiple blind spots.

Parking Restrictions When the Snow Falls

After a snowfall of two (2) or more inches, it is illegal to park on Northbrook streets until they have been completely cleared. Vehicles in violation are subject to ticketing and towing. If your vehicle has become disabled, call 847/564-2060 to inform the police.

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NEW NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Our Village Newsletter was redesigned to complement our Village website — www.northbrook.il.us We hope you enjoy our new look!



Business Briefs

Shop Northbrook

This past fall and holiday season the Village partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote shopping at Northbrook businesses. The promotional campaign branded "Live-Shop-Dine Northbrook" included the following elements:

- "Live-Shop-Dine Northbrook" banners in downtown
- A printed restaurant and shopping guide distributed through Pioneer Press newspapers to all households in Northbrook and surrounding communities.
- A new micro-website, www.shopdinenorthbrook.com, highlighting shopping and dining in Northbrook.
- An ad campaign for the holiday season that included online placements in Triblocal.com and Patch.com and print display ads in the Pioneer Press, TribLocal, and Time Out Magazine.

As the New Year begins, the Village encourages you to continue to support local businesses by shopping and dining in Northbrook.

Downtown Plan

Are you interested in seeing what the future of downtown could be? The Downtown Plan Steering Committee will be doing just that as they review the draft downtown plan on Monday evening, January 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Village



Hall Board Room. The consultant team headed by Teska Associates will present the draft plan, including the following preferred development options as selected by the Committee:

- Main Metra Parking Lot (Shermer Road) — New residential development and structured parking for Metra users.
- Landmark Inn Block — Preserve existing buildings and expand commercial space along Meadow Road.
- Meadow Shopping Plaza — Two potential development options for this site will be presented:
 - Rehabilitation of existing structure to create new store fronts that face onto

Meadow Road, as well as the existing private parking lot.

- Redevelopment of site consisting of commercial space, 5-stories of multi-family residential, and a combination of surface and structured parking.
- C-1 Zoned Properties Along Shermer Road (across from Bank of America) — Retain existing structures, add new buildings along Shermer and office buildings behind, while providing suitable setbacks from adjoining single family homes.

The draft plan will be available on-line at www.northbrook.il.us/downtownplan near the end of the week of January 2.

New Businesses

Please welcome the following new businesses to Northbrook:

Caribou Coffee 1347 Shermer Rd.	May's Cleaners 4169 Dundee Rd.	Pear Tree Catering 630 Dundee Rd.	Secret of Her Youth 1500 Shermer Rd.
Compass Health Center 60 Revere Dr.	NB Family Eye Care 2750 Dundee Rd.	S.A. Elite Northbrook Court	See's Candy Northbrook Court
Goodman Distribution 3600 Woodhead Dr.	Oro Gold Northbrook Court	Sak Fifth Ave: Off 5th 127 Skokie Blvd.	Sherwin Williams 1398 Meadow Rd.
			Sur La Table Northbrook Court

Lettuce Entertain

You Wine Club
(on-line liquor sales only)

Magic Clippers
2853 Dundee Rd.



If you have questions or suggestions about business development in Northbrook, please contact David Schoon, Economic Development Coordinator at 847/664-4052 or david.schoon@northbrook.il.us



Notes from Village President Sandy Frum



Happy New Year! On behalf of the Village Board and Staff, I wish you a very happy 2012! As we welcome the New Year, I'm sure you've already noticed the new look to our Village newsletter. I hope you find the revitalized format to be more reader friendly!

From a new, stricter Ethics Ordinance to better communication through our redesigned website and Northbrook Notify, www.northbrook.il.us/Notify, to the quarterly review of Village finances, and

completion of Northbrook's new water tower, 2011 was a busy year. I've addressed these topics in past newsletters, but I'd like to briefly focus on three areas of change for Northbrook in 2012.

Stormwater Management

After many years of dealing with stormwater, we have taken a new look at how to better handle flooding. In the past we focused on large detention areas — picture the ponds at Meadowhill Park, Northbrook Court, or at the intersection of Lake Cook and Pfingsten Roads. Our new plan focuses instead on local/neighborhood storage.

We don't have a problem with conveyance of water; we have a problem of where to retain that water until it can be released once there is capacity downstream. The new Stormwater Management Master Plan embodies this concept, and begins to address it with over 20 projects (long-term) that will help control flooding in many areas of the community.

And while there will always be street and backyard flooding (which are part of any plan), basements shouldn't flood.

ComEd

Even though we're in the midst of winter, I don't think many of us have forgotten the trials of last summer's storms. In November, the Board heard from ComEd representatives who addressed the issue of electrical reliability in Northbrook.

Here's what's in the works: Replace over 10,000 feet of old overhead cable with new "Hendrix" overhead cable which is less susceptible to outages; Improve automation and power source redundancy on three feeders in and around the Central Business District of Downtown Northbrook; replace old underground cable and have bi-annual meetings with the Village to review outage history and future improvements.

In addition, through the Northwest Municipal Conference, of which Northbrook is an active member, we have vigorously participated in legislative solutions designed to ensure that major power outages, such as those we saw due to the storms of June and July, will be addressed in a timely manner. I remain cautiously optimistic that what is being done will make a difference.

Finally, the Village Board has approved a resolution authorizing a referendum regarding electrical aggregation for the March 20 election. (See article on front page.)

Downtown Planning

Over the past couple of months, over 150 members of the Northbrook community — businesses, property owners, residents — have been involved in dreaming about possibilities that can, over time, transform our downtown. And while I haven't seen the final recommendations yet, the process has been exciting. They've talked about parking and residential structures, four-story buildings, an improved park behind the Village Hall with a lake, better access to and usage of the creek, bike lanes, and reorientation of buildings. I look forward to receiving the Committee's report and working to bring these dreams to reality.

As always, your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcomed, please send me an email at village@northbrook.il.us or call the Village's General Government Department at 847/664-4010.



Fire Prevention Tips by Northbrook's Fire Prevention Bureau Director Kevin Frangiamore

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in the U.S., someone dies from a home fire roughly every 134 minutes and every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. Smoking was the leading cause of home fire deaths overall, but in the months of December, January and February, smoking and heating equipment caused similar shares of fire deaths. With these startling statistics in mind, here are some safety tips for you and your family:

1. Have your furnace and/or fireplace inspected annually.
2. Keep flammable material 36 inches away from both your furnace and fireplace.
3. Before you go to sleep be sure your fireplace's fire is extinguished. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fire place.
4. If you must use an electric heater be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use a properly rated extension cord.
5. Do not use portable space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
6. Always make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in proper working order.

Our Crews are Ready continued from page 1

Clear the Snow Around Your Nearest Fire Hydrant!

In case of an emergency, seconds count! Please work with your neighbors to keep the fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow for easy access.

Winter Snow Removal: Residents Encouraged to Pitch-in!

Please take the time to shovel the public sidewalks for the benefit of students, mail carriers and other pedestrians.

It's courteous and the right thing to do... and contrary to rumors, there is no liability per state law! (745 ILCS 75/1 and 75/2 of the state statutes generally provides immunity to owners, lessors or occupants of residential property for shoveling snow.)

Keep in mind that the Village is not responsible for all the roadways within the Village limits. Before calling, check the list on page 5.

Please work with your neighbors to keep the fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow for easy access.

Winter Carnival

The annual Winter Carnival from the Northbrook Park District welcomes all ages on Saturday, January 14 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at a new location — Meadowhill Park. The free family event includes snowboarding and dogsled demonstrations, a snowshoe obstacle

course, chili cook-off, sled decorating contest, family games, DJ music, food, and a bonfire with free s'mores. Reds Garden Center, Sunset Foods and Chipotle are event partners. For more information, visit nbparks.org or call 847/291-2995.



Village Board Highlights

Recognized

- Jeff Ross on his retirement for 33 years on the Northbrook Police Force.
- Patti Burmeister for 17 years as a member of the Northbrook Police Department.
- The Melodeers Chorus for their record-breaking achievements.

Amended

- Annual Fee Ordinance to reduce the number of Class A Liquor Licenses.

Authorized

- Purchase of standby radio transmitter for the Police Department, \$18,200.
- Purchase of transmitter to serve as repeater for Police Department radio coverage, \$15,000.
- Purchase of replacement of Public Works two-way Radios for FCC Compliance, \$30,073.
- Renewal of contract for GIS software licenses, \$13,100.

- Purchase of equipment for the Water Plant SCADA System, \$14,511.
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Wheeling Township for snow-ice control services, \$1,038.
- Purchase of replacement Police vehicle, \$21,926.
- Budget transfer for remaining construction work on the new water tower, \$785,795.
- Renewal of Microsoft software licenses & assurance program in three annual installments of \$31,272.

Approved

- Annexation Agreement 1603, 1608 & 1609 Techny Road.
- Design Review Permit for signage at 1300 Meadow Road, Fifth Third Bank.
- Issuance of \$3 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2011, of the Village of Northbrook.

- Renewal of Special Permit for the operation of liquor store with accessory food sales at 899 Skokie Blvd., Suite 102.
- Amended the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map and approved special permits for building height in excess of Rs District limit, Floor Area Ratio in Excess of Rs District Limit and Site Plan approval, The Lodge Sr. Housing — Techny Parcel Ec-2A.
- Amended & Restated Non-Exclusive Water Main Easement, 4201 Lake Cook Rd.
- Four year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150.
- Third extension of Tentative Plat and rezoning for Pine Knolls Subdivision., 3895, 3925, 3955 Dundee Road.
- Property benefit shares for storm sewer extension on Briarwood Lane

Who Plows the Streets?

Northbrook Public Works

Neighborhood Streets

(except private roads/streets)

Grant Road

Lee Road

Pfingsten Road

(between Highland & Maria)

Shermer Road *(Dundee to Willow)*

Skokie Blvd. *(within Village limits)*

Voltz Road

Walters Ave. *(between Pfingsten & Lee)*

To report emergency conditions on the above roads, call 847/272-4711.

Cook County Highway Department

Lake Cook Road

Landwehr Road *(south of Dundee)*

Sanders Road

Skokie Boulevard

(south of 1101 Skokie Boulevard)

Sunset Ridge Road *(south of Midway)*

Techny Road *(Shermer to Sanders)*

Walters Ave.

(between Pfingsten & Sanders)

To report emergency conditions on County roads, call 708/485-7130.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Dundee Road

Pfingsten Road

(south of Highland and north of Maria)

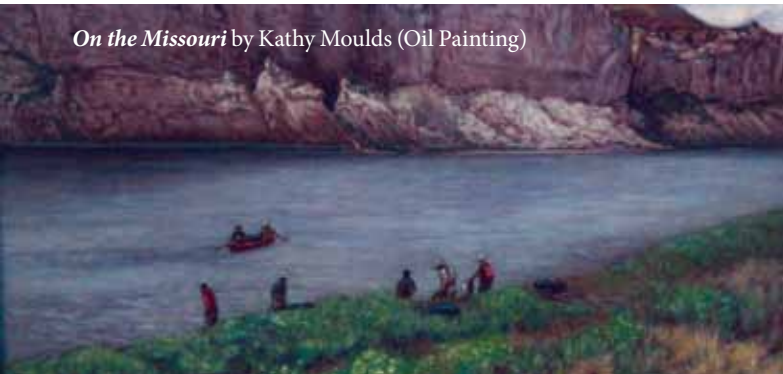
Waukegan Road

Willow Road

To report emergency conditions on State roads, call 847/705-4610 or visit www.dot.state.il.us

The Illinois Tollway Information Hotline is 800/865-5394.

On the Missouri by Kathy Moulds (Oil Painting)



Northbrook Originals Exhibit at the Library

The Northbrook Arts Commission, in collaboration with the Northbrook Public Library, announces the 2012 Northbrook Originals Juried Art Exhibition. Thirty-nine Northbrook artists will display their work in the library from Jan. 3 to Jan. 31. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some incredible hometown talent! Please visit www.northbrook.info for more information.

What's Playing? On NCTV Channel 17

Here is the schedule for Northbrook Community Television, Cable Channel 17 in January:

7:00 am & 3:00 pm

Where Is Northbrook Now?

8:00 am & 4:00 pm

Northbrook Civic Foundation presents the 2011 Civic Awards

9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Spotlight on Northbrook Arts by Don Hintz, Woodworker

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Our Environment, If Not Now, When?
Earth & Arbor Day 2011

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

Northbrook! The Video Newsletter

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

Talk Around Town with Jack & Susan
with Village President Sandy Frum

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

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

1:00 pm & 9:00 pm

NCDAA Parenting Series with Gale Dreas, LCSW; *Top 10 Tools For Parenting Your Teen.*



Northbrook's Residential Scavenger Fees for 2012

	2011	2012
Curb Pick-up 1x per week	\$18.74	\$19.25
Curb Pick-up 2x per week	\$22.90	\$23.50
Backdoor Pick-up 1x per week	\$23.75	\$24.40
Backdoor Pick-up 2x per week	\$30.10	\$30.95

The charge for picking up bulk items such as carpeting, furniture, construction debris, etc., requires a special pick-up at \$30 per yard. (Appliances are \$35 each.) Every household gets a free one-time special pick-up of up to three cubic yards on their first special scheduled pick-up of the year. You must call by Tuesday to schedule special pick-ups, which are on

Wednesdays. Any questions? Contact Veolia at 847/272-4145.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Get your Christmas tree ready for composting! Veolia will pick up trees on your recycling pick-up day between Jan. 2 thru 13. Please remove all non-organic materials from the tree before you place it safely at your curb.

2012 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held monthly at the Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, unless otherwise specified. All meetings are open to the public. Village Board and most Plan Commission meetings are cablecast live on NCTV-Cable Channel 17, and replayed the following day at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm and the following Sunday at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm, as well as streamed live and archived on the Village website at www.northbrook.il.us (AT&T customers may access NCTV on channel 99 and search "Northbrook.")

Architectural Control Commission — 2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm.

Arts Commission — 1st Thursday, 7:00 pm.

Bicycle Task Force — 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm. Bi-monthly starting in January.

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners — 1st Thursday in May 7:30 pm. (Police Dept. Headquarters)

Special Meetings: 48 hours notice

Community Relations Commission — 1st Thursday, 7:00 pm. (Northbrook Library)

Economic Development Committee — Twice per year, January & July, 7:30 am.

Environmental Quality Commission — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm.

Foreign Fire Insurance Board — Quarterly

Industrial and Commercial Development Commission — 4th Tuesday, 7:30 am.

Plan Commission — 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 pm. Cablecast on NCTV Cable Channel 17

Senior Services Commission — 2nd Thursday, 7:00pm., January, March, May, July, September and November

Stormwater Management Commission — 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm., January, March, May, July, September and November

Village Board of Trustees Regular Meetings — 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 pm. Cablecast on NCTV Cable Channel 17

Village Board Committee of the Whole Meetings — 3rd Tue., 7:30 pm or as posted. Cablecast on NCTV Cable Channel 17

Village Board Work committees — On call

Youth Commission — 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals — 4th Monday, 7:30 pm.

In addition to the above, various Boards meet from time-to-time on an unscheduled basis; e.g. Board of Local Improvements and Electrical Commission. Notices for these meetings, as well as Special, Adjourned and Rescheduled Meetings of the above listed Boards, will be posted on the Village website and the bulletin board in the Lobby of the Village Hall, in addition to being sent to all registered news media and interested individuals/groups in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Board of Trustee Meeting Agendas and Approved Minutes are posted on the Village website, www.northbrook.il.us Meeting notices will also appear on the Village website and on NCTV-Channel 17 Video Bulletin Board. Please note on occasion, meetings may be canceled. Please check with the Village Manager's office to confirm dates and agendas (847/664-4010, ext. 4223).

Village Happenings

Save the date! **In honor of Black History Month**, a special program, presented by the Community Relations Commission, will be held at the Library on Sat., February 18 from 1:00 –4:00 pm. Vaun Monroe, Assistant Professor, Columbia College, will present select film clips and an interactive discussion of the dramatic impact of films on race relationship in America. For more information call 847/664-4032

The **Northbrook Garden Club** will meet Tuesday, January 3, at 12:30 pm at the Northbrook Public Library. Members will prepare holiday containers for use at the Rosewood Nursing Home for the resident Garden Therapy sessions. Seed packets will be prepared for the May Plant Sale.

Northbrook Community Choir - Monday night rehearsals begin January 9 from 7:30–9:00 pm at the Leisure Center. Choir founder Sue Young is back! For more information, visit nbparks.org or call 847/291-2995.

Northbrook Community Art Associates of the Chicago Art Institute will have a January lecture series on “The Renaissance — Nature, Women Artists, and Conflicts,” at the Northbrook Public Library on January 10, 17, and 24, from 9:45 – 11:00 am. Guests welcome. For more info call 847/564-1051.

Mark R. Neaman, President and CEO of NorthShore University HealthSystem will be speaking on “**The Status of Healthcare Reform**” at the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd. on Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 am. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information, call 847/784-6030.

Learn cross-country skiing at Sportsman's Country Club. Lessons on Saturdays in January, 10:00 am to noon. Ski rental is available. Ages 14 and older are welcome. For information or for details on the January 14 Candlelight Skiing, visit www.nbparks.org or call 847/291-2351, ext. 3.

TRAINS! The Mid-America Modular Rail Club will set up the club's HO gauge modular railroad layout in the lower level of the Northbrook Historical Society, 1776 Walters Ave., on Saturdays, January 21 and 28, 12:00–4:00 pm, and Sundays, January 22 and 29, 12:00–3:00 pm. Club members will be present.

Artists Wanted! Art in the Park, A Northbrook Fine Arts Festival, July 14–15 in the Village Green Park, seeks artists to exhibit. For info and applications, visit www.emevents.com

On Saturday, January 21, the curtain will rise on “**Bunnacula**” at the Northbrook Theatre. The musical comedy is about a vampire bunny; the story is told from the perspective of the family dog and cat. Performances are 10:30 am and 1pm on Saturdays thru February 25. Seats \$8/\$10 online or at the door. Tickets at www.northbrooktheatre.org, in the Leisure Center, or by phone at 847/291-2367.

District 28 PTO **Council's Concert for Africa, a fundraiser to help build a school for orphans in Kenya**, runs from 6:15–8:15 pm, January 27 at Northbrook Jr. High, 1475 Maple Ave. The concert will feature student bands: Radio Edit, 7 Cents, Axidents, and George and Andrew Christopoulos. Admission \$10. Fred Outa, a former street boy who founded School in the Kibera Slum, will be attending. www.northbrook28.net

The Northbrook Symphony presents “Turkish Delights,” a concert that displays the exotic influence of Turkish music on Viennese composers of the late 18th century, at 4:00 pm Sunday, February 26, at The Sheely Center for Performing Arts at GBN. Prior to the concert, there will be a lecture from our popular lecturer, Jim Kendros, at 2:30 pm. Purchase tickets by calling 847/272-0755 or visit www.TheNSO.org

Seniors! The Northbrook Park District Senior Center, 3323 Walters Ave., offers a wide variety of programs for adults, age 55 and over. For info about Winter Trips, Computer Classes, Zumba, Bingo, and more, call 847/291-2988, visit nbparks.org, or stop by the Senior Center.

A Parkinson's Support Group for person's with Parkinson's and their caregivers, meets, 10:00 am–noon at Covenant Village, 2625 Techny Rd. on the 2nd and 4th Mon. of the month. Call 847/509-0927 to register.

A Memory Loss Support Group for families and caregivers dealing with Alzheimer's and other dementias meets on the 3rd Thurs. of the month at 7:00 pm at Covenant Village, 2625 Techny Rd., Call 847/412-7303 for info.

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

Northbrook Baseball House League registration for players currently in grades 3–8 will be held on January 5, 6 and 26 at Meadowhill Park. Visit www.northbrookbaseball.org for details.

The Cancer Wellness Center, 215 Revere Drive, offers free programs and services for anyone impacted by cancer. Offerings include free physician lectures, counseling, support groups, nutrition classes, yoga, massage and much more. Visit www.cancerwellnesscenter.org or call 847/509-9595.

The Northbrook Woman's Club Foundation is accepting applications from organizations that wish to be considered for **grants from the club's Philanthropy Funds**. Call 847/480-8832 for an application which is due by February 14.

The Northbrook Woman's Club Foundation Benefit, “A Taste of Napa” will be held on Sat., February 4, 6:00 pm at Sunset Ridge Country Club, Northfield. Silent and live auctions, a Wine or Dine raffle and gift certificates. Come enjoy a special evening with music, dancing and auctions. For reservations call 847/559-8997.

Northbrook Community Nursery School is now enrolling for 2012–13. Call 847/272-5430 for enrollment or visit www.ncnskids.org for an enrollment application.

Free Blood Pressure Testing every Sat. from 9:00 am–noon at Fire Station #11, 740 Dundee Rd.

Looking for a place to be creative? Art studio time is free to Northbrook residents on Wed. nights from 6:30–8:30 pm at the Leisure Center. The Park District provides tables, stools and easels. The fee for nonresidents is \$5 per day. Artists can register at nbparks.org or any Registration Office or just drop in for the weekly sessions. For more information, call 847/291-2995.

The Northbrook Arts Commission invites you to visit the **Village Gallery**, featured in the Village Hall Board Room. This month, enjoy the beautiful art of Northbrook Artist Susan Dienhart. Check out the Lobby Display case showcasing the work of several artists in the Northbrook Originals show at the Library.



THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK

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

Hours; Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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

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Historian's Corner presented by the Northbrook Historical Society

Winter Wonderland that was Northbrook

Generations of Northbrook children experienced the exhilarating joy of taking their sleds and toboggans down the sledding hills and gliding across the ice on sharpened ice skate blades. Skating for pleasure was a family activity. Prior to the time of outdoor rinks, children in town skated on the river which was frozen solid for most of the winter. There are even stories of skating to Glenview and back. Last winter, the river was frozen solid for just a few days.

The outdoor rink has occupied several locations. In the early days, the rink was behind the Northbrook School (now Crestwood Place). Later, the natural depression behind the Historical Society was the site.

The Tower Rink has been in official use since the late 1950s when the Cedar Lane property was purchased for the Village Hall. The rink was considerably larger than



Shermerville children enjoying winter sports on the frozen river behind the Zimmerman house at 1244 Church Street — Circa 1912

it is today and had great ice for most of the winter. Today's winters are warmer and the ice is available for much shorter periods.

Of course, hockey players and speed skaters also filled outdoor rinks before the Sports Center and West Allis training

facilities were built. Speed skating was such an important part of outdoor activities that at one time large speed-skating competitions were held in town. Northbrook gave birth to champion speed skaters who went on to win Olympic medals for the United States.