

THE HIGHLANDER



DECEMBER 15, 2012

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

City Council Approves FY2013 Budget

On November 26, the Mayor and City Council adopted an Ordinance approving the 2013 Annual Budget totaling \$95.56 million. The Proposed Budget was submitted for public comment and Council consideration on October 8 by City Manager David Knapp and Finance Director Nikki Winikates. As recommended in the Proposed Budget, the 2013 Budget provides for a 0.00% increase in the City property tax levy for next year, recommending the use of City fund balance reserves to finance Library capital improvements to reduce the Library's proposed property tax levy increase. The Proposed Budget remains available for review on the City's website, as well as all PowerPoint presentations for the budget workshops conducted by the City Council. The Adopted Budget will be published in January and will be available on the City's website at that time.

The City Council conducted four workshops open to the public to review the proposed budget, reaching agreement on outstanding issues at the November 26 meeting following the November 13 public hearing. Comments received by the public were considered and several revisions were made to the Proposed Budget prior to adoption. The significant priorities in the City Manager's Proposed Budget included public safety as a top priority, investment in City facilities and maintaining fiscal strength by proper use of City reserves. As part of these priorities, the budget includes the addition of two (2) traffic safety officers, one (1) additional fire inspector and an increase in the facilities maintenance budget in excess of \$300,000 over the prior year.

The Proposed Budget also includes strategic, one-time expenditures from the General Fund reserves. In addition to the facilities improvements noted above, the City is planning an investment of \$300,000 into the Bike-Walk Plan, which will assist in the conti-

nuity of the City's sidewalk system and the navigation of public property. An additional \$300,000 has been set aside within the reserves to assist the Park District of Highland Park with repairs to the Central Avenue beach staircase, which will allow residents to safely access the waterfront.

The Proposed Budget also includes several rate adjustments that are necessary to cover all costs of water and sewer funds, including capital infrastructure improvements. These increases will ensure long-term sustainability of these enterprise funds and maintain the current level of capital improvements. The City's water and sanitary sewer rates remain among the lowest on the north shore. Effective January 1, 2013, the adjusted water and sewer rates are as follows:

- Water Rate: \$1.81 per 100 cubic feet
- Sanitary Sewer Fee: \$.80 per 100 cubic feet
- Storm Sewer Fee: \$4.50 per month per Impervious Area Unit (IAU); \$5.00 per month base

In an effort to reduce a proposed property tax levy increase by the Library, the City Council approved a \$300,000 transfer from City General Fund reserves to support capital improvements at the Library, which includes the continuation of improvements related to the top priorities listed in the Library's five-year program for facility improvements. These improvements are accomplished while maintaining fund balance reserves in excess of 35% of annual operating expenditures in the General Fund, consistent with the City's financial and budgetary policies.

For more information, please contact Nikki Winikates, Finance Director, at (847) 926-1020/nwinikates@cityhpil.com.

Neighborhood Meeting Series Concludes

In September and October, the City convened a series of neighborhood meetings to share information concerning current objectives of the City government with the community and to engage other units of local government. Residents had an opportunity to conduct a dialogue with the Mayor, members of the City Council and the City Manager. Residents were invited to address any topic that they wished. Topics addressed included the City's budget, street lights, code enforcement, safe driving (no texting and cell phone use while driving), the Rosewood Beach project, economic development, Central Business District garbage receptacles, the Highland Park Public Library, water treatment plant upgrade project and more. Residents are always encouraged to contact the City about any of the aforementioned topics and with any other questions. Please contact the City using the following phone numbers: City Manager's Office: (847) 926-1000; Community Development - Building (847) 432-0808; Community Development - Planning (847) 432-0867; Finance Department: (847) 432-0800; Police Department (847) 432-7730; Public Works Department (847) 432-0807. Contact information for all City staff members is also listed on the City's website at www.cityhpil.com. Please keep in mind that all City Council meetings and Plan Commission meetings may be viewed online at www.cityhpil.com/media and also by watching Comcast cable channel 10. For more information about the series of neighborhood meetings, please contact the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1000.

'HIGH' NOTES

Holiday Season Reminders

The Mayor and Members of the City Council wish all Highland Park residents a very happy and safe holiday season. Please note that City offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, Tuesday, January 1, and Monday, January 21, in observance of Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, respectively. Residents are asked to call the Public Safety switchboard at (847) 432-7730 if assistance is required. Also, garbage will not be collected on Tuesday, December 25, and Tuesday, January 1. Residents with regular Tuesday refuse and recycling collection will receive service on Wednesday, December 26, and Wednesday, January 2. Customers with Thursday and Friday collection will be serviced one day after their regular collection. For more information, please contact Advanced Disposal Services at (847) 272-4145.

MLK Jr. Day of Service: January 21

Partner with other members of the community by participating and completing fun, meaningful projects in honor of MLK Day. Projects will include among others assembling toiletries for local shelters, writing letters and creating valentines for soldiers and their children, making pet toys for Orphans of the Storm and decorating flower pots for hospital patients. This year, come hear Edgewood Middle School Chorus sing freedom songs (10:00 a.m.) and come explore your First Amendment freedoms by visiting the McCormick Foundation's Freedom Express, a 45-foot traveling museum. This is your chance to turn community concerns into citizen action. For more information contact or Cheryl Levi at (847) 903-9523/levi.cheryl@yahoo.com.

SWALCO Hosting Household Chemical Recycling Events

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) will host household chemical waste collection events on Saturday,

January 12, and Monday, January 28, at its facility, 1131 N. Estes Street, Gurnee. To register for an appointment to drop off materials, please visit www.swalco.org/collectionevents/householdwastecollectionevents. For more information, visit www.swalco.org or contact SWALCO at (847) 336-9340.

Christmas Tree Recycling Available

Residents may dispose of Christmas trees through their primary refuse collection day. Advanced Disposal Services (formerly Veolia) will collect, transport and dispose of trees left curbside by all customers through January 11, 2013. A sticker is not required. For more information, please contact Advanced Disposal at (847) 272-4145.

CPAH Hosts Affordable Housing Information Session

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) is a non-profit that provides affordable housing opportunities for low-and-moderate income households. CPAH buys homes that are then rehabbed and sold at an affordable price (below market value) to local qualified households. CPAH currently has two town homes available in Highland Park for income qualified households. Each home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, an attached garage and is walking distance to a Metra station. To find out more about the program, please attend the following information session:

January 11 at 10:00 a.m.
February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

All sessions are held at CPAH's office, 400 Central, Suite 111, Highland Park. For more information or to register for a session, please contact Amy Kaufman at akaufman@cpahousing.org. More information is available at www.cpahousing.org.

Special Electronics Drop- Off Event: January 5

A recycling "extravaganza" event will be

held on Saturday, January 5, from 8:00 a.m.-Noon at the Firearms Training Center, 1180 Half Day Road. Lake County residents will be able to drop off electronics and foam products at this event. For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1000.

First Annual Indoor Sidewalk Sale in January

The Downtown Highland Park Alliance proudly presents the Indoor Sidewalk Sale beginning Thursday, January 17, through Saturday, January 19, 2013. Visit www.downtownhnp.com for updates on participating stores and happenings during the Indoor Sidewalk Sale.

Register for Well-Being Check Program

The Police Department conducts well-being checks on residents during severe weather events, such as blizzards or extreme heat. This program is aimed at high-risk adults, such as seniors, who benefit from a courtesy check during inclement weather. Those interested in registering for the well-being check program may register online at www.cityhpil.com/wellbeingcheck. For more information, please contact the Police Department at (847) 432-7730.

City Offers Electronic Water Billing

The City offers its customers the option to receive water bills via email, also known as an E-bill. With E-billing, bills will be received via email and will no longer be sent by paper copy via regular postal mail. The E-bill enrollment form is available on the City's website at www.cityhpil.com/ebill. Based on the date of enrollment, it may take up to two billing cycles to activate E-billing. Please note that enrollment in the E-billing program does not alter payment options for water bills. For more information regarding E-billing enrollment, please contact the Finance Department at (847) 432-0800.

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

As the world has grappled with the negative impacts of the global recession, governments have struggled to maintain service levels to their constituents, fund debt and pension obligations, and maintain basic infrastructure. Often we think of Greece and Spain as examples of the governmental fiscal abyss. However, in the last couple of years we have come to learn that cities, counties, states and even the US Government are struggling to operate in this long-term economic downturn.

One of the best measures of a government's fiscal health is the bond rating that governments receive. As an example, many in the nation were shocked and concerned when the US Government lost its highly valued Aaa Bond Rating. The costs to governments of a lowered bond rating are vast, both in terms of quantitative measures, such as the cost to service current debt and the ability for financing future capital projects. There are also qualitative impacts of a lower bond rating to the governmental institution and the residents of the governmental entity. The fiscal health of our governments has a meaningful impact on the ability of nations or communities ability to attract investments and the value of property.

On December 3rd, 2012, the City of Highland Park received a Aaa bond rating from Moody's. This is the highest possible rating from the same agency that down graded France, Greece, Spain, Portugal and the United States Governments' bond ratings in recent months. Some of the reasons we received this favorable economic distinction are as follows:

- Very strong financial reserves - Fund balance of 64% as December 2012
- Funding level of our pension obligations
- Operating costs - Reduction of full time employees from 320 to 273
- Balance of revenues - A healthy blend of revenues including sales tax revenue of about 12 million dollars
- Value of property - Downtown commercial property viability; vacancies in our downtown have been reduced from 59 in 2009 to 37 in 2012
- Conservative fiscal budgeting - Awarded the budgeting award from 2001 to 2012.

Our city uses bond proceeds to fund projects such as the water plant, fire stations and police stations. Our Aaa bond rating enables us to invest in infrastructure that serves our residents today and for years to come. "The savings offered by a high credit rating are significant; it is estimated that the City may be able to save as much as \$500,000 in interest costs on its upcoming Water Treatment Plant project due to its stellar credit rating," according to Nicole Winikates, Finance Director of the City of Highland Park.

It is because of the historic and current hard work, creativity and diligence of the employees and elected officials of our community that we have earned the highly coveted Aaa rating, only one of 14 municipalities in Illinois to do so. It is critical that all of our residents, city employees and elected officials keep our community's fiscal condition front of mind because it is important to us all. One way for each of us to do our part is to shop in Highland Park, as your sales tax dollars are important to our good fiscal health.

In conclusion, this will be my last communication via the Highlander as a member of the City Council, as my term expires in May of 2013. I want to express my gratitude to each and every resident of the City for the opportunity to serve you over the past 12 years. I am very blessed to have grown up in our great community and for my wife, Heidi and I, to be able to raise our family here as well. I also appreciate those who supported my public service. My parents, who are still living in Highland Park, encouraged my public service and were tireless campaigners and supporters over my years in office. My service was also made possible because of my good friends who live in Highland Park; they share my values and contributed extensively to me in order to participate directly in local governance.

During the past 12 years my children have gone from grade school to college graduates, and I thank my wife and children for supporting my public service efforts. There were so many events and moments I missed and there were so many times I was not there for my family because of my public service obligations. My family was always supportive and without them I never could have put the time in that this job required. I also want to thank the staff and my fellow elected officials for their tireless efforts to serve with me in, what I believe, is the best little city in America to live. Finally, I want to share with you that serving the people of Highland Park has been the highlight of my professional career. My mission was never blurred, my goals never deviated from and my desire to help us all build a better community was never diluted. I love the clarity of purpose that my public service brought to me. I came to office without experience in government. I did not run to address one issue that upset me, I ran for office to try and make life just a little better if possible for my family, friends and neighbors. I tried hard to always vote and conduct myself in the best interest of each of us in Highland Park. Most of all I focused on civil discourse, finding common ground and working together with all concerned to face and solve the issues that our community faced over the past 12 years. I thank you for the public trust you granted to me and for the ability to serve each and every one of you.

Sincerely, Councilman Jim Kirsch



ComEd Provides Annual Report to the City

In October, Mayor Rotering and City staff met with Highland Park's ComEd liaison to review the 2011 Municipal Franchise Report. As the City's sole electrical service provider, ComEd is required to prepare this comprehensive service report for the City every year.

The report contained details on the 284 electrical service interruptions that Highland Park experienced in 2011. Over 110 of the service interruptions were attributed to weather or tree-related issues. Additionally, the report discussed actions taken by ComEd to improve system performance and customer service.

In response to the 2011 outages, ComEd created a system improvement plan in September 2011 and presented it at a regular meeting of the City Council. The plan has resulted in extensive tree-trimming, installation of special cables that can better withstand tree contact, and implementation of new technology that can help prevent service interruptions. The improvements have been completed in five of the seven problem-areas identified in the plan, and the remaining work, a cable installation project near Sheridan Road and Lakeside Plaza, and another cable installation project near Crofton Avenue and Bob-o-link Road, will be

completed in the second quarter of 2013. Additionally, ComEd has created several new tools for customers to report outages and receive updates:

- The Storm Center – www.ComEd.com/Storms provides up-to-date information on outage restorations and allows customers to report an outage.
- The Outage Map – www.ComEd.com/Map allows customers to view all outages in the ComEd service area and get details on specific areas, such as the estimated restoration time and status of crews working to resolve problems.
- Mobile Outage Updates - Need to report an outage? Text the word OUT to 26633 (ComEd) and receive updates until your power is restored. Visit ComEd.com/Text for more info and to sign-up.
- Mobile App - Gain the flexibility and convenience of managing your ComEd Residential account on-the-go with ComEd's free mobile app for iPhone® and Android™ devices. Report an outage, make a one-time payment, and manage account features with the swipe of a finger. Learn more at ComEd.com/App.

For more information, please contact Luke Banaszak in the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1030/lbanaszak@cityhpil.com.

Residential Composting Program Expands Citywide

Starting in January, composting will become even easier in Highland Park as all residents will have the opportunity to participate in a curbside food scrap collection and composting program. This Citywide expansion follows the recent conclusion of a pilot residential composting program.

The City of Highland Park – in partnership with Advanced Disposal Services (formerly Veolia Environmental Services), the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), Glad®, and Orbis® - will launch a Citywide, voluntary food waste composting program starting January 1. Curbside compost collection will occur on a bi-weekly basis until March 29. Thereafter from April through November, compost materials must be added with regular residential yard waste collection via sticker and subscription services. Interested participants may use their own containers or rent a cart from Advanced Disposal Services for \$2/month plus a landscape sticker. All collected food waste will be transported to Nu-Earth Organics in Waukegan.

The first 250 registered participants will receive a 33-gallon Advanced Disposal Services cart at no charge, an under-sink collection pail courtesy of Orbis®, and a box of 20 kitchen compostable bags that fit the kitchen pail courtesy of Glad®. Additionally, the first 250 participants will only pay \$5/month for their composting services from January through March, a \$15 total. This fee will be billed directly to the participating residence in the next regular Advanced Disposal Services bill.

For more information on the food waste composting program or to register for curbside collection, please contact Advanced Disposal Services at (847) 272-4145.

Advanced Disposal Services to Assume Residential Refuse Contract

Since 2010, Veolia Environmental Services has been the contracted waste hauler for all residential single-family homes in Highland Park for refuse, recycling and yard waste disposal. On November 21, all current Veolia customers were notified through a letter from Advanced Disposal Services that Veolia ES have combined. The joint company will operate under the name Advanced Disposal Services.

The only significant change that residents will notice is the name and logo of the new company. Going forward, any communication from the company, such as invoices, will feature the new name and logo. Additionally, automatic bill pay will remain the same and be handled just as it has in the past; however, the email will now come from this email address: billpay@AdvancedDisposal.com. Residents can continue to call (847) 272-4145 with any customer service inquiries.

The terms of the contract between the City and Advanced Disposal will not change, and residents should continue to dispose of waste, recycling and yard waste as normal. Route schedules and pickups are also the same. For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1000 or Advanced Disposal Services at (847) 272-4145.

December Business Report

The following businesses have opened recently in Highland Park. For more details, please contact Carolyn Hersch in the Office of Economic Development at (847) 926-1027/chersch@cityhpil.com.

B Beautiful Salon & Spa
Beauty Salon and Spa
784 Central Avenue
(847) 650-2700

Professional Nails Spa
Nail Salon
720 Central Avenue
(847) 926-7480

Perchance Pop-Up
Women's Retail Clothing Boutique
1849 Green Bay Road #105
(773) 244-1300

State Farm Agent Brian Shamash

Insurance and Financial Services
1910 First Street #300
(847) 926-7123

Business Recognition Awards
Mayor Rotering and the City Council, and the Business and Economic Development Commission recognize the following businesses that have been in the community for over 25 years:

Volunteer Pool of Highland Park
49 years
2075 St. Johns Avenue
(847) 433-2190

Bernardi Auto Service Center
47 years
2666 Waukegan Avenue
(847) 433-2158

Fenceworks, Inc.
46 years
2356 Skokie Valley Road
(847) 432-0900

Winter Parking Regulations Effective December 1

A friendly reminder to all Highland Park residents that the "Snow Ordinance" (72.040) is in effect each year from December 1 through March 31. Vehicles may not be parked in excess of 15 minutes on any public streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This is a Citywide ban on parking to facilitate snow removal operations when necessary and to decrease occurrences of accidental damage to vehicles parked on the streets or in City parking lots. This ban applies at all time regardless of snow conditions. Authorized overnight City parking lots are identified on the City website at www.cityhpil.com/parking and require a valid overnight parking permit that can be obtained at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In the fall of 2008, the City increased related signage at key locations in the City to further inform the public about this seasonal parking restriction. Written warnings will be issued through December 14, 2012. Beginning on December 15, 2012, through March 31, 2013, citations will be issued for violations of this ordinance and the registered owner of vehicles in violation of this ordinance will be held accountable. Currently fines for this violation are set at \$20. For more information, please contact Sergeant Chris O'Neill at (847) 432-7730/coneill@cityhpil.com.

Residential Refuse and Yard Waste Rate Adjustments to Occur January 1

Effective January 1, 2013, rates for residential collection services provided by Veolia ES will be adjusted. The new service rates are as follows:

- Sticker Price/Landscape Sticker Price: \$2.46/sticker
- Base Service Fee (BSF): \$5.25/month
- Backdoor Convenience Fee (BCF): \$15.75/month
- Collection Options**
- Curbside Collection – Volume: \$5.25/month (BSF) + Sticker \$2.46
- Curbside Collection – Subscription
 - Once Per Week: \$19.90/month + \$5.25/month (BSF)
 - Twice Per Week: \$39.80/month + \$5.25/month (BSF)
- Backdoor Collection – Volume: \$15.75/month (BCF) + \$5.25/month (BSF) + \$2.46/Sticker
- Backdoor Collection – Subscription
 - Once Per Week: \$19.90/month + \$15.75/month (BCF) + \$5.25/month (BSF)
 - Twice Per Week: \$39.80/month + \$15.75/month (BCF) + \$5.25/month (BSF)
- Landscape Season Collection: \$226.71

Rate adjustments are reviewed annually based upon the Consumer Price Index and made in accordance with the terms of the Residential Refuse and Recycling Agreement. For more information, please contact Luke Banaszak in the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1030/lbanaszak@cityhpil.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITY MEETINGS

The public is invited to attend City meetings, which take place at City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Dates and times are subject to change. Call (847) 432-0800 for further details.

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|-----------------|--|-----------|
| Mon., Dec. 17 | Design Review Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tues., Dec. 18 | Plan Commission | 7:30 p.m. |
| Thurs., Dec. 20 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., Jan 7 | Design Review Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tues., Jan. 8 | Cultural Arts Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Plan Commission | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Police Pension | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Library Board of Trustees (494 Laurel Avenue) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed., Jan. 9 | Natural Resources Commission | 6:30 p.m. |
| | Housing Commission | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs., Jan. 10 | Historic Preservation | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., Jan. 14 | Committee of the Whole | 4:30 p.m. |
| | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| Tues., Jan. 15 | Plan Commission | 7:30 p.m. |
| Thurs., Jan. 17 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 7:30 p.m. |
| Tues., Jan. 22 | Business & Econ. Development | 6:00 p.m. |
| Wed., Jan. 23 | Design Review Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Transportation Commission | 6:30 p.m. |

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Highland Park Public Library presents a variety of free literary and cultural programs. Registration for certain programs may be required as noted. The Highland Park Public Library is located at 494 Laurel Avenue. The Library will close at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, and Monday, December 31, and will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, and Tuesday, January 1. The library will open at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2.

Bubble Wonders Show, Thursday, December 27, 11:00 a.m. – Noon. All Ages. Bubbleologist Geoff Akins creates bubble caterpillars, dancing bubbles, a bubble around a real kid, and more! You'll never look at bubbles the same way again!

Close Encounters of the Chemical Kind: A Workshop, Thursday, January 3, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Grades K-4. Try hands-on experiments that create slime, superballs and more, all yours to take home. See chemical reactions involving exploding foam and displays of fire and liquid nitrogen (in a safe environment)! Presented by The Science Alliance. Registration required for both Winter Break Fun events, and limited to residents of Highland Park or residents of the North Shore School District 112 service area. Register at www.kidsevents.org.

iRead at the Library, Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Kick-off the 112 Education Foundation iRead program! Librarians will help you sign up for a library card and choose books, or browse on your own. Hear District 112 teachers read from their favorite books and meet children's authors including Brenda Ferber (Julia's Kitchen) and Nancy Grossman (A World Away) at 9:30-11:00 a.m. Authors' books will be available for purchase and signing. At 11:00 a.m., family entertainer Chris Fascione brings stories to life through acting, storytelling, comedy, and juggling. Presented with the 112 Education Foundation.

Woody Allen Film Showing and Discussion, Sunday, January 13, 2:00 p.m. Bob Coscarelli, professor emeritus at College of Lake County, introduces and screens a Woody Allen film as part of a series of Woody Allen films. A discussion follows. Presented with the Highland Park Senior Center.

CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

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|---|---|--|--|
| Highland Park Strings December 16 3:00 p.m. | Elm Place School 2031 N. Sheridan Road (847) 204-2397 | Clay Keepsake Boxes January 18 \$18-\$23; 7pm-8:30pm | West Ridge Center 636 Ridge Road (847) 831-3810 |
| The Anastylis Project Through Dec. 30 Free; Call for Information | The Art Center 1957 Sheridan Road (847) 432-1888 | The Baker's Wife Feb. 1- Feb. 10 \$35; Call for Information | The Music Theatre Co. 1850 Green Bay Road (847) 579-4900 |
| Sacred Spaces Through Dec. 30 Free; Call for Information | The Art Center 1957 Sheridan Road (847) 432-1888 | Printmaking January 23 \$18-\$23; 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | West Ridge Center 636 Ridge Road (847) 831-3810 |

YOUTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Youth Services
Serving youth in grades 6-8
1830 Green Bay Road (847) 433-3090

The Firehouse School Year Hours:
Monday - Friday, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Senior Services
Serving Adults Over 50
54 Laurel Avenue (847) 432-4110
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The cold weather has arrived and the fall sports season is over. If your middle school child is looking for something to do after school, consider the Firehouse Youth Center as your answer. A Firehouse membership is only \$40 for the school year. A membership allows your child to drop by the Firehouse any time the facility is open. Payment may be made in person with cash, check or credit card. Registration may be done on the telephone with a credit card. A permission form must be signed for all members.

For an additional fee, you may register your child for transportation from Edgewood, Elm Place or Northwood to the Firehouse. Many working parents find having transportation to the Firehouse is vital for their children. Please keep in mind that the late activity bus at each middle school will also drop off your child at the Firehouse. No advance registration is necessary; students only need to inform the driver when they get on the bus.

The first half of the year is almost over and if you have concerns about your child completing homework, please consider the After 3 Homework Club. Supervised by Sara Shook, this program allows full use of our study room, homework assistance, mentoring from high school students, as well as snacks. Please call the Firehouse (847) 433-3090 for registration and fee information.

The 4th Annual Martin Luther King Day of Service will be held Monday, January 21, at the Highland Park Recreation Center. One of the activities that day will be assembling toiletry packets for organizations serving the homeless. The Firehouse is the drop-off location for toiletries. Please consider dropping off toiletries at the Firehouse from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If this time is not convenient, please call (847) 433-3090 to make alternate arrangements. Please save the date to attend the Martin Luther King Day of Service. This is a fun, meaningful event for all generations!



Mix and Mingles Dine Around the World

This new series takes you on a culinary trip around the world. These wonderful events provide you with the opportunity to meet new people, and explore many of the North Shore's greatest ethnic restaurants. Please register a minimum of one week in advance; (847) 432-4110.

America: Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler at Mardi Gras
Bluegrass Restaurant - 1636 Old Deerfield Road
Wednesday, January 23 from Noon - 1:30 p.m.
\$20/\$30

Celebrate Mardi Gras with the authentic flavors of New Orleans, right here in Highland Park. Enjoy a chef's choice tasting menu featuring many Bourbon Street favorites including Boudin, Louisiana Alligator, Nawlins' Sweet and Spicy Shrimp, Rémoulade Salad, Jambalaya, Crawfish Etouffee. Additionally, lunch includes dessert and your choice of coffee, tea, or soda.

Italy: Valentine's Day Celebration - It's Amore & Musica
Abruzzo - 483 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield
Thursday, February 14 from Noon - 2 p.m.
\$20/\$30

Love is in the air on Valentine's Day! Restaurant Abruzzo offers flavorful, homemade cuisine using the freshest ingredients. Lunch includes fried calamari, soup or salad, your choice of entree served with vegetable medley and Rigatoni pasta, Tiramisu for dessert, and your choice of beverage. Following lunch, enjoy a musical concert featuring love songs galore. When registering, please indicate your choice of chicken breast with mushrooms and artichoke, sautéed lake perch, or eggplant parmesan.

"The Not-So Empty Nest"

Strategies and Support for Parents with Dependent Adult Children
Meets the 4th Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
January 24: Guest Speaker to discuss financial security
February 28: Support Discussion

This free group is open to older adults experiencing concern about their adult children who remain dependent as a result of unemployment, financial challenges, substance abuse, emotional struggles, physical disabilities, or an inability to achieve personal growth. Co-facilitated by Jennifer Aiello, M.S., and Lois Silverstein, LCSW. Please call the Senior Center, (847) 432-4110 to register.

HIGHLANDER

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City Council: James Kirsch
David Naftzger
Paul Frank
Anthony Blumberg
Dan Kaufman

City Manager: David Knapp
Editor: Emily I. Palm

For more information about City services, please contact the following departments directly:

City Manager's Office: (847) 926-1000

Community Development: Building Dept. (847) 432-0808; Planning Dept. (847) 432-0867

Finance Department: (847) 432-0800

Fire Department: (847) 433-3110

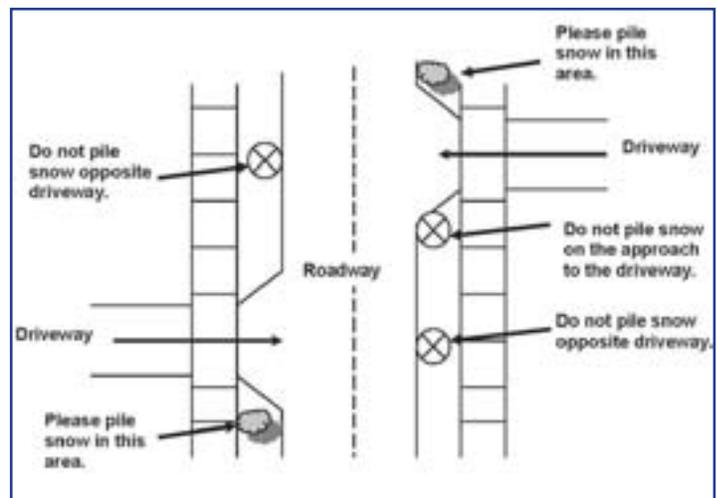
Police Department: (847) 432-7730

Public Works Department: (847) 432-0807

Be Clear Regarding City's Snow Removal Ordinance

In 2006, the City Council approved amendments to Highland Park's Snow Removal Ordinance, making it a violation of City Code to remove snow from one parcel of property and to deposit it onto another parcel (including the adjacent public parkway) without the consent of the property owner. When snow is plowed from private property and deposited onto public streets it creates a traffic hazard. Depositing snow on private property or in the public right-of-way across from the property being cleared of snow can damage property, create a nuisance, and hamper sight lines from adjacent properties. A violation may subject the snow removal company and originating property owner to a fine up to \$200.

It has been a common practice for many snow removal companies to push snow from one property, across public streets, and onto the parkway on the opposing side of the street. This process often leaves ridges of snow on previously cleared streets that create traffic hazards. The deposited snow is often a nuisance to the "receiving" property owner because of potential property damage and reduced sight lines from their driveways. The revised code does provide an exemption that allows for plow operators to deposit snow on the City parkway that is located immediately adjacent to and on the same side of street as the property from which the snow is being removed. Property owners are encouraged to contact their private



The above diagram demonstrates proper and improper methods of removing snow.

snow removal companies and inform them of the Snow Removal Ordinance provisions. Snow plow operators observed improperly depositing snow in violation of the ordinance will be cited; however, residents should be aware that they are ultimately responsible for compliance with this ordinance and may also be cited. For more information regarding the City Snow Removal Ordinance or to report a complaint, please contact Police Sergeant Chris O'Neill at (847) 432-7730/coneill@cityhpil.com.