

A Message from Mayor Harger

Every time I sit to write this article I think of all the many things that make serving the community so special. I usually write about the accomplishments of the staff and our employees or something special that happened in the Village. This time, I would first like to take a minute to share with you the great loss we all suffered with the untimely death of Officer Ken Free. While the irresponsible "journalist" from the *News Sun* chose to tell only part of the story, I will tell you that Officer Free was a hero every day he spent in our military, every day he went to work for the Village, and every night he was away from his family with his duties with the Metropolitan Enforcement Group. What the *News Sun* neglected to tell everyone was that Officer Free kept us all safe from the absolute worst criminals there are. Officer Free will not only be missed by his family but by those whose lives he touched making this community a safer place for all to live. The loss of Officer Free is devastating and tragic. The *News Sun* should be ashamed of its coverage.

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Tree Lighting Tradition Continues

Join your neighbors at Cook Park on November 23



Share the holiday spirit with your family and friends at the Village annual tree lighting at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 23, at Cook Park. Santa will set the lights aglow and take a moment to visit with the young and young-at-heart. Two dance troops, the Star Steppers and Triple Threat Troop, will perform and lead the community in traditional carols beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cap off the perfect evening with

shopping at local merchants offering extended hours, hot chocolate and cookies at the St. Lawrence Church Open House, and a tour of the Ansel B. Cook Museum. The museum will host additional weekend tours in early December as well.

The holiday season in the Village also features Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 15, at the Indoor Sports Complex. Santa will sneak away from the North Pole to have breakfast with children ages three to eight, accompanied by an adult. The breakfast is hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Holiday traditions in the Village also include the annual MainStreet Dickens of a Holiday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, December 1, 8, and 15. The celebration features photos with Santa, horse-drawn carriage rides, a children's holiday shop, strolling carolers and costumed characters in the downtown area, a free children's movie, and a Victorian Tea. For a complete list of activities, dates, and times, please contact MainStreet at 847-680-0336.

Throughout the holiday season, don't forget to shop your local merchants for unique gifts and friendly, personal service.



A Message from Mayor Harger *(continued from page 1)*

In the past few weeks the Village unveiled its new website. Please take a minute and check-out the new additions, the greater detail and the completely new look. There is great access to the day-to-day operations, board agenda and even the approved minutes of previous meetings. Due to the efforts of our employee website committee, the Village will now be able to keep residents better informed while saving considerable money. Please visit www.libertyville.com and register for the improved version of our E-News.

As the weather begins to turn and the needs of the less fortunate become more apparent, we all need to be aware of our neighbor's needs. We are a very fortunate community; however, we also have homeless, abuse, and seniors that need a little extra help now and then. Because of these needs, we have several local agencies that can help. Should you find someone in need and you don't know where to turn, please call the Village Hall or check our website for a list of community organizations and agencies in our community that can help.

Jeff Harger

Shop Libertyville
this holiday season!



Train Whistles Quiet!

To the delight of Village residents, train whistle quiet zones will take effect in Libertyville and neighboring communities. Two of three

quiet zones approved are in place and the third should take effect soon.

A quiet zone became effective last summer along the EJ&E Railroad line, which in Libertyville runs between the Acura dealership and the former Franks Nursery. On October 12, a quiet zone was initiated along the Canadian National/Metra North Central line which stops in Vernon Hills, Mundelein and at one of Libertyville's Prairie Crossing stations. A quiet zone has been approved for the Metra Milwaukee District North line, which stops in downtown Libertyville and at a second Prairie Crossing station. This quiet zone will go into effect as soon as improvements are completed at a crossing in Grayslake.

The quiet zones are the result of three studies Libertyville participated in with neighboring communities. The Federal Swift Rail Development Act of 1994 and subsequent rulings allowed for the creation of quiet zone corridors along rails lines when alternative safety measures are used to avoid the mandated sounding of train horns at highway crossings.

KLB Contest Winners

Keep Libertyville Beautiful Commission announced the winners of its annual Home Beautification Award contest at the October 23 Village Board meeting. First place was awarded to the Andrew Peterson family at 900 Whilshire Court. Second place honors went to the Jeffrey Wright family at 614 Paradise Lane. KLB encourages quality landscaping, stimulates civic pride and provides recognitions for improving the appearance of the community.



900 Whilshire Court



614 Paradise Lane

www.libertyville.com

Your Link to the Community

Would you like to get a copy of your birth certificate, locate a local business, pay your water bill online? Libertyville's new, expanded website is your link to these and scores of other services and activities in the community. The Web address is still www.libertyville.com, but the new site is triple the size with 175 pages of useful information about Libertyville's government and businesses, as well as sections on living and visiting in the community.

In the Government section, you will find links to Village Board agenda and minutes, boards and commissions, Village departments, staff, and even a Citizen's Guide to Board Meetings.

More than 750 businesses are listed in the Business section of the website. You may search the business directory by category or alphabetically to find the businesses that suit your needs. This section also offers helpful information about business opportunities available in Libertyville.

The Living In section contains information such as activities, phone numbers and addresses of utility providers, a listing of community organizations, and voter registration and vehicle sticker information. In the Visiting section, residents and visitors alike will find places to visit and how to get around the area.

Have you ever wondered where to park when you ride the train? Answers to frequently asked questions like this are found in the FAQs sections throughout the website. You can also send us your comments, questions, or concerns at the Contact Us link.



At www.libertyville.com, you can

- Download building department forms
- Register for Parks and Recreation programs
- Pay water and sewer bills online
- Initiate or discontinue water and sewer service
- Download applications for birth and death certificates, raffles, vehicle stickers, and more
- Sign up for E-News: e-mail news flashes from the Village
- Link to scores of other services

Shop Libertyville for the Holidays

With hundreds of retailers situated in 24 retail centers, the Village is the perfect solution for all your holiday shopping needs. From unique gifts to party supplies, items large and small, you can find it all in your own hometown. Many retailers offer extended holiday hours, including evening and Sunday hours. Uniqueness of product, dealing directly with store owners who offer their personal touches, expertise about products sold, and being close to home —local is local— are four great reasons to shop Libertyville, according to store owners: Virginia Schaefer of Suttons Bay, Pam Lockowitz of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, and Mike Schudrowitz of Wild Bird Center. All three retailers agree that another great plus for shopping in the Village is that you are supporting your community. The tax dollars stay local and keep Libertyville a vibrant, desirable place to live.



New Officer Added for Traffic Enforcement

Neighborhood safety is getting a boost this month thanks to a police officer whose primary focus is traffic enforcement. Speeding and reckless driving in various residential neighborhoods have been concerns of residents for several years; the newly assigned officer will address these problems.

Recently, the Village Board authorized funding for an additional officer, allowing the police department to dedicate an officer solely to traffic enforcement responsibilities. These include speeding, stop sign violations, and other traffic problems that warrant attention. The new officer will work varying days and shifts to provide the enforcement.



Tips to Avoid Identity Theft and Scams

Identity theft statistics are grim. One in four U.S. families has been the victim of identity theft in the last five years with more than 10,000 people victimized last year alone.

To reduce your chances of being the victim of identity theft, the Police Department recommends the following tips. Do not throw away ATM receipts, credit statements, credit cards, or bank statements in a usable form. Please shred them first! Never give your credit card number over the telephone unless you make the call. Reconcile your bank account monthly and notify your bank of discrepancies immediately. Keep a list of telephone numbers to call to report the loss or theft of your wallet, credit cards, or documents with personal information about you. Report unauthorized financial transactions to your bank, credit card company, and the police department as soon as you detect them. Review a copy of your credit report at least once each year. Notify the credit bureau in writing of any questionable entries and follow through until they are explained or removed. If your identity has been assumed, ask the credit bureau to print a statement to that effect in your credit report.



Many other scams are widespread in the United States. One of the most common and longest lasting scams is the Nigerian Old Scam and its many variations. Originally, scam artists sent personal letters, and later they progressed to fax notifications. Today, potential victims are most commonly contacted by e-mail. In all variations of this scam, the sender pretends to be a government employee of a foreign country who will send you large sums of money after you send your bank account information or a relatively small amount of money. Don't fall for this one!

Libertyville Foundation

As we approach the end of the calendar year 2007, please consider making a tax exempt gift to the Libertyville Foundation. More information can be found at www.libertyville.com or by requesting a Foundation booklet at the Village Hall.

New Video Service Provider

In late October, AT&T received state approval to offer a new service to residents. AT&T's new U-verse brand will include Internet, telephone and video service on one bill. It will include traditional TV channels for movies and sports, as well as interactive services. The service will be available in some areas of the Village next spring. In preparation for the new service, AT&T is working with the Village installing approximately 29 boxes in the utility rights-of-way. Landscape screening will be provided in residential areas to minimize the impact of the boxes.

Detect the Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. You can't see it, smell it, or taste it. In order to prevent the deaths and illness caused by it, Illinois law now requires carbon monoxide detectors in every home.

As of January 1, 2007, buildings that use fossil fuel and have bedrooms or have an attached garage must have a carbon monoxide detector installed within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea, and dizziness. If your carbon monoxide detector goes off, call 911 and leave your home.

Detectors may be either battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, or hard wired with a battery backup.

May your Holidays Be Bright *and* Safe

Stringing lights indoors and out, burning candles, and decorating trees with our families bring many of us joy during the holiday season. To help ensure that your family enjoys these traditions for years to come, the Fire Department offers the following fire safety tips.



Lights:

- Be sure all indoor and outdoor lights bear the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Discard lights that have cracked or frayed cords.
- Do not overload outlets or run an extension cord under carpets or across doorways.
- Unplug all decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Trees:

- Choose a fresh tree that doesn't have shedding needles, and be sure to keep it watered.
- If the tree dries out, remove and store it well

away from your home until you can dispose of it.

Candles:

- Never burn candles near a Christmas tree, decorations, curtains, or other combustibles.
- Never leave candles unattended.

Butler Lake Project Nearly Complete

The Butler Lake dredging project is nearly complete. Approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment were dredged from the middle of Butler Lake, which will dramatically improve fish life. Another plus of the project: the shoreline stabilization and prairie restoration that accompanied the dredging will filter storm water runoff into the lake.

As for the lake's current appearance, the dredging released large amounts of nutrients into the water. This created conditions for the additional growth of water lilies, algae and coontail. To address this overgrowth, the Village hired a contractor to annually treat these invasive plants. Along the shoreline, native prairie plantings are being established and will require several years of maintenance, mowing, reseeding, and herbiciding. In addition, the Village is considering improvements to the ponds located on the west end of Butler Lake. Following a recent study, short-term and long-term recommendations are under evaluation.



Here Comes Winter!

Plowing will begin when snow is more than one inch deep and when freezing temperatures indicate there will be no melting.

The Village plows and salts Milwaukee Avenue from Adler Drive to Hollister Drive, and Park Avenue from Butterfield Road to Mungo Industrial Center. All other state and county roads in and around the Village are cleared by state or county crews.

Please note that state law does not hold citizens liable when they make reasonable efforts to clear sidewalks of snow and ice in the interest of public safety.

Tips for Homeowners:

- When you are clearing your driveway, shovel or blow the snow onto the parkway to the right side of your driveway as you face the street. Depositing snow on the street is a violation of Village ordinance and creates a hazard after it freezes.
- Park your vehicle off the street. On-street parking is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during snow events.
- Make sure your mailbox is placed 12 inches from the curb line and that the post is secure.
- Consider "adopting" a fire hydrant and keeping it clear of snow. It is there for your protection.



Libertyville parks are great places to be for winter fun. Enjoy sledding and ice skating at Adler Park. Recreational ice skating and hockey rinks are available at Bolander and Nicholas Dowden parks, weather permitting. Please call the hot line for opening/closing information at (847) 680-5267. The Libertyville Sports Complex also offers great indoor winter fun, including a climbing mountain, soccer, batting cages, basketball, and open gym. Check the Parks and Recreation Department Winter Brochure for more information.



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The Village Views is published four times a year by the Village of Libertyville, Illinois, in the belief that interested and informed citizens are the safeguard of good government.

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