

View to the Village

25 East State Street, North Aurora, IL 60542
www.vil.north-aurora.il.us

Village of North Aurora

December 2006

Village President's Report - *John Hansen*

I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season! The month of November was very active for new businesses. Several grand openings occurred including National Tire and Battery, OfficeMax, MC Sports, Lane Bryant, and McDonalds, with even more planned openings for the month of December. With all of the new shopping alternatives, you can practically find anything you're looking for without leaving the Village. We will continue to plan development for the Village with the best interest of our residents in mind.



Residential development has been experiencing a slight slow down, but the Village continues to receive new applications for building permits. The Village's financial condition remains very strong and staff has continued to practice solid budgetary responsibility. The Village's independent auditor has completed his review of the Village's finances and has deemed North Aurora in very good health. We have been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence for Financial Reporting presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Less than 3/10ths of 1% of communities under 25,000 in population receive this annual award. Please have a safe and happy holiday season!

New Stores Now Open!

Village officials welcomed several new stores with official ribbon cuttings in November. As mentioned in the Village President's article above, National Tire and Battery, Office Max, Lane Bryant, MC Sports and McDonalds are now officially open for business. McDonalds is located in front of Woodman's Grocery Store on Orchard and the other stores are located in the North Aurora Towne Center off of Orchard Gateway. (Photo: Village President John Hansen and Village Administrator Sue McLaughlin help National Tire and Battery formally open on 11/9/2006)



New Business Coming Soon

The Village is anticipating the addition of several new stores currently under construction. JC Penney's is going up quickly at the North Aurora Towne Center, and Aldi's is being completed just north of Walgreen's at Oak and Randall. A new preschool is being finished on Randall Road as is a new retail center near Randall Road and Comiskey Drive. (Photo: JC Penny Construction)



Orchard Road Almost Complete

The reconstruction and widening of Orchard Road is nearly complete. A majority of the paving has already been completed, and the permanent traffic signals have been installed at Oak and Orchard. We thank Woodman's Grocery Store, National City Bank and our residents for their continued patience during this long and arduous project. Less invasive Orchard Road improvements will continue through Summer 2007. (Photo: Oak and Orchard Intersection from the East)



Free Christmas Tree Pick-up



Christmas trees will be collected through the end of January free of charge. Trees must be without decorations and cannot be in plastic bags. After the free collection period, Christmas trees will require one (1) refuse sticker visibly attached to the tree in order to be collected.

Marvo Street Reconstruction Completed



The Village would like to thank several businesses located around Marvo Street for their patience during its repaving. The project is now complete with curb and gutter, and has been widened to standard Village street width. Reconstruction was financed by the Route 31 TIF Fund as part of the TIF's public improvements budget. (Photo: Looking down Marvo Street from the East)

Public Service Announcements

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Beginning January 1, 2007, the State of Illinois will require all houses and apartments to have at least one carbon monoxide detector installed within 15' of every room used for sleeping. The detector may be either battery powered, plug in with battery back-up, or wired into the structure's AC power line with secondary battery back-up. A copy of the Act (State of Illinois Public Act 094-0741) is available at www.ilga.gov.

The homeowner/landlord is responsible for the installation of the detector. If you are going to hardwire the detector, a building permit may be required. Please consult the Building Department for requirements at (630) 897-8228, ext. 222.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The LIHEAP provides qualifying applicants with financial energy assistance. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the State of Illinois. The LIHEAP can help lessen the burden of rising heating costs by providing one-time financial assistance to low-income or at-risk households.

For general information, or to find out if you qualify for assistance, call the Kane County Energy Assistance Program at (847) 697-4400.

Electronic Recycling

Don't throw your old electronics away after you receive new, used electronic equipment (computers, printers, scanners, TV's, cell phones, cameras, etc.) and media (CD's, floppy disks, tape, etc.) will be accepted at the Kane County Circuit Court Building, 540 S. Randall Rd., on 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, and 4/14, all of which are Saturdays. Please call the Kane County Govt. Center at (630) 208-5118 for more information.

Winterize Your Home

Thinking about sprucing up the house before the holidays? Keep the low-rate home improvement loans offered to low and moderate income homeowners through the Mid Valley Neighborhood Improvement Association in mind. Alongside fixed rate home improvement loans, MVNIA can provide technical and resource assistance for a variety of home improvement projects. Please call MVNIA at (630) 584-1996 for more information.

Snow Removal



Snow will be removed first from the primary streets which carry traffic through subdivisions, secondary streets will follow with cul-de-sacs and dead end streets being done last. The following is an overview of the Village ordinances which relate directly to snow removal and carry a fine of up to \$750 if violated.

- It is illegal to park any vehicle on the street anytime after a snowfall of 2" or more until the snow has been removed by the Village.
- No pushing, piling, or dumping snow into the streets from your driveway.
- Homeowners need to clear snow around mailboxes for mail carriers
- Only Village employees or Village approved contractors shall perform the removal of snow from public streets.

Mailbox Replacement

If a mailbox is hit during snow removal it will be replaced by a Village standard mailbox at Village expense only if the plow hits the mailbox. Thank you.

Pay your Water Bill Online



The Village website has been hosting a link to the state of Illinois' electronic pay program dubbed "E-Pay" since October 2005. Just travel to the Village's website (<http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/>) and click on the e-pay link (shown above). The link will take you to the e-pay homepage for North Aurora residents and help guide you through the process of paying your water bill online for a small convenience fee. Payment can be made via Mastercard, American Express, Discover, or E-Check (electronic check). If you have any questions please call the Village Finance Department at 897-8228 ext. 239.

Important Information About Your Drinking Water System has levels of Combined Radium above Drinking Water Standards

This notice is for informational purposes. It is not a notice of immediate hazard to water customers. Should a hazard exist, immediate notification will be made.

The North Aurora Public Water supply advises its customers that the maximum allowable concentration for radium and gross alpha has been exceeded in samples collected during the past year. The maximum allowable concentration for radium and gross alpha, per the Illinois Pollution Control Board, is 5 pico curies per liter and 15 pico curies per liter of water respectively. The most recent violation took place between July 1, 2006 and September 1, 2006. During that period, the level found for combined radium was 12 pico curies per liter.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of cancer. At the levels detected, the short term risk is minimal and no special precautions need to be taken by the customer at this time.

Over the past year, the first of two treatment plants has been completed. Over the next year the Village will be constructing a second treatment plant. These plants are intended to reduce the radium and gross alpha levels within the drinking water. Plant #1 is in operation and removing radium from two of the Village's four wells. The Plant has been removing the radium successfully, and the two wells being serviced by the plant have experienced radium readings under the MCL for combined radium and gross alpha. In short, the radium issue is being mitigated successfully. The Village is required to give public notice of all violations occurring in each quarter until achieving four consecutive quarters of combined radium and gross alpha under the MCL.

Please share this information with all other people who drink water from the Village's public water supply, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e. people in apartment complexes, nursing homes, etc.). For additional information, please call the North Aurora Water Department, attention Paul Young @ 630-897-2662 ext. 229.

News from the North Aurora Police Department - Chief Tom Fetzer

Holiday Shopping Tips

As people begin shopping for the upcoming holiday season it is important to remember some simple, yet effective, ways to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday shopping experience.

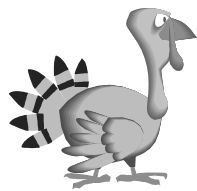


- **Shop with friends or relatives if possible; there IS safety in numbers.** As you shop, be alert in crowded areas. Among pickpockets favorites are revolving doors, jammed aisles, elevators, and public transportation stops and vehicles (especially at rush hour). Carry the day's most expensive purchases closest to your body, and don't carry so much you lose the ability to react quickly.
- **Keep a close eye on your children while you are shopping.** Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they ever get separated from you in a store/mall, and be sure that they know their first and last name so they can tell someone who they are. It is best to keep children under the age of four (4) in a stroller.
- **Return to your vehicle periodically.** While you are shopping please take the time to go back to your vehicle to reduce the amount you are carrying and keeping track of. Remember to put your packages in your vehicle out of plain view, i.e. in the trunk or on the floorboards, etc. Businesses often offer free delivery services as an alternative to using your vehicle for the transport of major purchases.
- **Using debit or credit cards is much safer than carrying a lot of cash.** If the vendors you will visit do not take cards, consider obtaining travelers checks which unlike cash can be replaced if lost or stolen. Visit ATM's only at well-lit and populated locations; visit during daylight hours if possible. Using the drive-up ATM is usually safer than walking up or into a facility. Remember to look around your immediate area as you make a withdrawal. Many ATM's now have "fisheye" mirrors mounted above the keyboard to enable you to view the entire surrounding area while conducting business; try to patronize these "fisheye" equipped ATM's, and use the mirror.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

North Aurora Fire Protection District - (630) 897-9698, Chief Steve Miller

Turkey Raffle Success
 Thanks to everyone who supported our annual turkey raffle on November 17th and 18th. Everyone had a great time and we were able to raise a sizeable amount of money which goes back to the community.



Operation Christmas
 There is still time left if you would like to donate to **Operation Christmas**, which is being sponsored by the NAFD and the Mothers Club. If you would like to make a donation, or for more information, stop in or call the fire station at (630) 897-9698. We will see that your gift gets directed to a needy family in our community.

Help Keep the Red Wreath Red!
 The wreath, located outside of Station #1, will have a red bulb replaced with a different color for every holiday related call that we answer. Fire calls will result in a red bulb being replaced by a white bulb, and emergency calls will have a blue bulb. Please have a fire safe holiday season this year and keep our wreath red.



Messenger Public Library Updates - (630) 896-0240, G. Kevin Davis

Message from the Director
 We welcome you to YOUR Library this winter! We have a growing collection from which to choose and are more than willing to purchase, or borrow, your favorite book if you cannot find it on our shelves. We are here to serve you in-person, via phone, e-mail, virtual reference service, or home delivery service. I encourage you to check out the library website for more information at: www.messengerpl.org, or give us a call. See you at the library this winter, and remember to check out the Library's youth programs!
 -G. Kevin Davis, Administrator
 (gkdavis@northaurora.lib.il.us)-

Your Opinion Counts
 The Library Board mailed out several hundred opinion surveys to randomly selected Village residents during the month of November. Please spend a few minutes to fill out the forms and mail them back to us. The responses will help us in the drafting of a new strategic plan.

Upcoming Events
All at Messenger Library

- **Getting to know your digital camera**
 (Thursday, January 25th, 6pm to 8:30pm)
- **Driver Safety (0 yrs and older)***
- **Women's Self-Defense***

**Dates/Times TBD*

Homebound Program
 Are you unable to leave your home due to a temporary, or long term disability? Why not have library materials delivered to your door this winter! The Library's homebound service is available to Library patrons living within North Aurora. A valid Library card is all you need to take advantage of this great service. Please contact the Library at (630) 896-0240 for more information on this program and the many others the Library offers. Also check our website for more info.

Village of North Aurora Telephone Directory

Village Hall Main Line	(630) 897-8228
Administration	(630) 897-8228, ext. 224
Building/Zoning	(630) 897-8228, ext. 222
Finance	(630) 897-8228, ext. 233
Public Works	(630) 897-8228, ext. 260
Water	(630) 897-8228, ext. 223
Police Department:	(630) 897-870
Fire Protection District, 2 N. Monroe, North Aurora, IL 60542 - (630) 897-9698 (www.nafd.org)	
Messenger Public Library, 113 Oak St., North Aurora, IL 60542 - (630) 896-0240 (www.messengerpl.org)	

Village Meeting Schedule

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>
Committee of the Whole (7pm) <i>Village Hall</i>	2 15	5 20
Village Board (7pm) <i>Village Hall</i>	8 22	12 26
Plan Commission (7:30pm) <i>Village Hall</i>	3	6
Library Board (7pm) <i>Messenger Public Library</i>	11	8