



# View to the Village

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

Village of North Aurora

February 2008

## Village President's Report - *John Hansen*



Happy 2008! I hope that everyone's winter has been enjoyable thus far. A special thank you goes out to our public works crew and the fantastic job they have been doing in keeping up with the snow plowing. Please remember that our crews work hard to keep the streets clean and when snow is pushed or blown into the street they have to come back and re-plow, this costs the Village time and money. Thank you for understanding, and assisting the Village in its effort to keep the streets free of snow and ice! On the commercial development front, the Village welcomes Wild Orchard Restaurant off



of Randall Road, which should be open by mid-March, a new Citibank off of Orchard Road on Genesis Drive, and in the North Aurora Towne Centre, the new La-Z-Boy opening in March and Discovery Clothing (see left). The Orchard and Randall Road corridors, in addition to the North Aurora Towne Centre, continue to attract high quality tenants. The Village has also officially purchased the five (5) acre site at the northwest corner of Route 31 and Airport Road for the construction of the new North Aurora Police Station (see bottom right). The closing on the property took place on December 20, 2007 and the Police Facility Committee has been working diligently to ensure

that the project moves forward smoothly and quickly, with construction expected to begin in the early Spring of 2009. Turning to the Riverfront Project, the Study is nearly complete and the final report will be presented to the Village Board on February 25th at the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The final report will be posted to the Village website after the presentation. We are all excited to see the study's results and are eager to move forward with this important Village initiative (please see below for more info.). Please continue to be safe this Winter season!



### North Aurora Riverfront Project receiving Intergovernmental Support



The Village's Riverfront Improvement Project is beginning to receive support from other governmental agencies such as the Fox Valley Park District and The Kane County Forest Preserve District. This support comes as the Project moves from the study phase to discussions on implementation. The Fox Valley Park District signed a Resolution of Cooperative Intent for Riverfront Improvements in North Aurora on January 14, 2008, and The Kane County Forest Preserve District awarded the Village \$110,000 in Riverboat Trust Funds for the future implementation of Phase I improvements on the property adjacent to Village Hall. Village staff continues to seek out more grant opportunities and looks forward to working with residents and businesses alike to make this project unique to North Aurora. As mentioned in the President's article, the North Aurora Riverfront Viability Study's final report will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees on February 25th at 7:00pm at Village Hall (25 E. State St.). If you have any questions or concerns, please check out the Village's Riverfront webpage ([www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/riverbend/index.htm](http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/riverbend/index.htm)) for visual renderings of the proposed plan, or contact Village Administration at phone number (630) 897-8228, ext. 233, or via email at [wkornowske@vil.north-aurora.il.us](mailto:wkornowske@vil.north-aurora.il.us).

### Oak Street Widening and the 2008 Road Program to begin in Spring

The Village has received approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation to move forward with Benchmark Construction, Inc. as the general contractor for the Oak Street Widening Project. The project is being joint financed by the Village of North Aurora and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In total, the Project is expected to cost \$3,208,715, with the FHWA covering approximately 63% of the expense and the Village making up the rest. In addition, the following streets are currently scheduled for repaving in the Spring and Summer of 2008 as part of the Village's Annual Road Program:

- **The 100 block of Long Avenue;**
- **Spruce Street, west of Banbury Road;**
- **Oak Street, from Acorn Drive to Route 31;**
- **State Street, from Chantilly Lane to Willow Way;**
- **Harmony Drive, from Cherrytree Court to Willow Way.**

If you have any questions regarding the Oak Street or Annual Road Program Projects, please contact the North Aurora Public Works Department at (630) 897-1457, ext. 230.

### Code Enforcement Reminders

Please remember that after a 2" inch snowfall, parking is not allowed on Village streets. Village plows need to be able to get the streets clean in a timely fashion, and vehicle obstructions delay the process. Tickets will be given to those vehicles parked on the street after 2" of snow if the plows are not out. If plowing is taking place, vehicles parked in the street will be towed. In addition, when shoveling or snow blowing, pushing or blowing snow into the Village streets is also prohibited. If you have any questions regarding these, or any other Code Enforcement issues, please call the Code Enforcement Division at (630) 897-1457, ext. 231. Also, please remember that all of the Village's Ordinances are accessible on the Village website at <http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/municipal-ordinances.htm>.

### Winter Reminders from the Public Works Department

1. **Yard Waste** - The first pick-up for yard waste is Friday, April 4, 2008. Kraft paper bags and stickers are required for the entire Spring and Summer yard waste season which runs from April through November. Leaves will be picked up for free in the months of October and November only.
2. **Snow Removal** - Snow plowing street priority is based on street usage and levels of traffic. All Village primary streets (ex. Oak Street) will be plowed first. Secondary streets that collect and distribute vehicle traffic between the local streets and the primary streets (ex. Cherrywood Drive) will be plowed second. Cul-de-sacs, alleys and dead ends will be plowed last as they are the least traveled.
3. **Village Ordinances to be aware of** - The following is a quick list of winter related ordinances. Ordinance violations can result in a fine of up to \$750.
  - A. It is illegal to park any vehicle on the street after a snowfall of two (2) or more inches, until the snow is plowed or removed by the Village.
  - B. Do not push, pile, or dump snow in the street.
  - C. Homeowners are required to clear snow around their mailbox for the mail carriers.
  - D. Only Village employees or Village approved contractors shall perform snow removal operations on public streets.
4. **Salting** - Village crews will be applying anti-icing chemicals when the ground temperature is 15 degrees or higher. This agent (salt brine) helps to melt snow and eliminate black ice. All Village streets are re-salted after snow is cleared.
5. **Mailboxes** - If a mailbox is hit during snow removal it will be replaced by the Village if it can be proven that the plow hit the mailbox. Damage to a mailbox from snow coming off of the plow will be the responsibility of the homeowner. All mailboxes replaced by the Village will be a standard metal box and a treated 4"x4" post. If a decorative or different mailbox is requested, the additional cost will have to be covered by the homeowner. All mailboxes are required to be installed at least 9" away from the edge of the street pavement or curb.
6. **Other Snowplow Damage** - Any damage to your lawn caused by the Village's snowplows will be repaired as the weather warms and the ground thaws. Please contact the North Aurora Public Works Department at (630) 897-1457, ext. 260 as soon as you identify snowplow damage.



### Public Information Announcement

#### Waste Management Recycling Totes



There has been some concern from residents that the smaller recycling containers (as shown above and to the right) have been seen in streets and littering people's lawns during strong winds. Waste Management does rent the larger 64 gallon recycling totes for \$3 a month, which is billed quarterly to the homeowner. A \$20 deposit is also required for the tote's delivery. Please call Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696. Thank you for helping to keep North Aurora's streets free from blowing recycling containers.

#### Spring Cleanup Day has been Scheduled

The annual Spring Cleanup Day has been scheduled for **Friday, May 16, 2008**. Regular garbage and yard waste require stickers as usual, but all other items, large or small, will be removed for **FREE** with no sticker required. The Waste Management guidelines for what will be picked up for free are as follows:

- Large items for disposal must be contained in either cans or bags (up to 33 gallon capacity) not exceeding 50lbs, or tied in bundles 4'x2' not exceeding 50lbs in weight. Bulk items such as sofas or tables are exempt from this regulation on clean up day. Items not properly prepared will not be picked up, and will require the appropriate number of stickers for the next regularly scheduled collection day.

**Water Billing Reminders**



If you pay your water bill on-line, please check to ensure that you are using your new account number on your water bill with your on-line bill payer. These numbers were changed in June 2007. This will help to ensure that your payment is posted correctly and quickly to your account.

Please also remember that the Village offers free automatic payment of your water bill from your checking account on the bill due date. Visit the Village's web site at <http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/finance/index.htm> to download the direct debit application. If you have any water billing questions or concerns, please contact the Village Finance Department, Utility Billing Specialist at (630) 897-2662, ext. 223. Thank you!

**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 October 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. During that period, the level found for combined radium was 6 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 two years, two treatment plants have been constructed. These plants are intended to reduce the radium and gross alpha levels within the drinking water. Plant #1 is in full operation and removing radium from two of the Village's four wells. Plant #2 is also complete and has been testing satisfactorily. Plant #1 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 Public Works Department - Water Division, attention Paul Young @ 630-897-2662 x229.

**News from the North Aurora Police Department - Chief Tom Fetzer**

**North Aurora Police Department Website**



The North Aurora Police Department's website is constantly being updated and simplified to better serve our community. It is the goal of the North Aurora Police Department to provide the most up to date information, while making it easy for our residents to use. The site contains information on all aspects of the department. Residents can find information on the patrol division, investigations, crime prevention, local and state laws, community policing, juvenile information, village phone numbers, internet safety, as well as email addresses of Department personnel. There is also a link to a comprehensive listing of registered sex offenders. All residents are encouraged to visit the site and learn more about the Police Department and what it has to offer. The Department's web address is: <http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us/police/index.htm>.

**North Aurora Police Department Bicycle Registration**

For those of you who may have received a new bike over the holidays, it is a good time for you to register your bicycle with the North Aurora Police Department. It is absolutely FREE. To register your bike, just stop by the police department (25 E. State St.). Registration only takes a few minutes, and could save you a lot of time down the road. Springtime traditionally brings out not only bike riders, but also bike thieves. Historically, stolen bicycle reports in North Aurora reveal a common trend: The majority of the reported stolen bikes were not locked at the time of the theft. Some were taken from schools, some from parking lots and even a few out of open garages. How many people are careless enough to leave their car parked with the keys in the ignition and the doors open? In essence, you are leaving your bike similarly unsecured when it is parked without a lock on it. Unless properly secured, it only takes a thief seconds to steal a bicycle, and the bike itself provides the thief with a quick means of escape. Bike locks are not expensive compared to the cost of replacing a bicycle. While stolen automobiles may be more easily detected by law enforcement officers (i.e., by discovering "peeled" steering columns or license plates that are registered to a stolen vehicle), detecting a stolen bicycle is much more difficult. In reality, if a bike is stolen and its owner cannot supply police with its serial number, the chances of its recovery are very slim. However, if you register your bike with the Police Department, your bike's serial number and complete description will be kept on file. In the event it is stolen, this information can quickly and easily be shared with all other area police departments. Then, when police encounter your bike, they will be able to discover that it is reported stolen from North Aurora, thereby increasing the likelihood of its return to you. Please keep your registration material in a safe and accessible place in your home.



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

**Fire District Website**

The North Aurora Fire Protection District has launched a new website, using the same address as the previous one, [www.nafd.org](http://www.nafd.org). The site is loaded with information regarding resident and business safety, burn ordinances, and many other fire related regulations. The site contains a page for seniors and also an interactive page for children's education. In addition to the aforementioned, Fire District Board meeting minutes and agendas are available for download. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the District at (630) 897-9698. Thank you for all of the support!



**A Special Thank You**

The Fire District would like to thank everyone in the community who sent cards, emails, called, or stopped in with food for the firefighters as we mourned the loss of our brother firefighter, Marco Ordaz. Marco was a true public servant, dedicated to his profession and to protecting the residents of our community, he will be missed.

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

**Library Updates**

**Library Closed: Sunday March 23, 2008 – Spring Holiday**  
*Please note:* The library will be also be closed or have late openings on several Fridays during the months of March and April due to staff training on the new library software. Final dates and times have not been finalized. Visit the library website for updates and closing times.

**National Library Week 2008: April 13-19<sup>th</sup>** - Everyday, libraries transform their communities. At the Messenger Library people of all backgrounds can come together for community meetings, lectures, and programs, to do research with the assistance of a trained professional to get a job or to find homework help. The library has something for everyone so “Join the Circle of Knowledge at your library” during the week of April 13-19!

**Register to Vote at the Library** - 2008 is a presidential election year. The library has several staff members that serve as deputy registrars. Are you registered to vote? If not, you can take care of that the next time you are in the library! Call the Circulation Desk prior to visiting the library if you have any questions and to make sure that a registrar will be available.

**Federal and State Tax Forms Available at the Library** - The library will be carrying a supply of basic U.S. and Illinois State tax forms.

**New Library Software will Launch April 17<sup>th</sup>** - Library patrons should be aware that the software migration process will include some temporary changes in how service is provided during the months of March and April 2008. Direct patron initiated holds for reserves of library materials will be suspended for a short period of time beginning March 1st.



**Village of North Aurora Telephone Directory**

Village Hall Main Line (630) 897-8228 ([www.vil.north-aurora.il.us](http://www.vil.north-aurora.il.us))

Department Head	Department	Telephone Number
Sue McLaughlin	Administration	(630) 897-8228, ext. 226
Scott Buening	Comm. Dev.	(630) 897-1457, ext. 228
Bill Hannah	Finance	(630) 897-8228, ext. 225
Mike Glock	Public Works	(630) 897-8228, ext. 230
Paul Young	Water	(630) 897-2662, ext. 229
Tom Fetzer	Police Department	(630) 897-8705

**Fire Protection District**, 2 N. Monroe, North Aurora, IL 60542 - (630) 897-9698 ([www.nafd.org](http://www.nafd.org))

**Messenger Public Library**, 113 Oak St., North Aurora, IL 60542 - (630) 896-0240 ([www.messengerpl.org](http://www.messengerpl.org))

**Village Trustee Contact Info**

President John Hansen	(630) 897-8228, ext. 232
Trustee Dale Berman	(630) 569-0042
Trustee Mark Gaffino	(630) 897-8228, ext. 801
Trustee Mike Herlihy	(630) 892-2292
Trustee Max Herwig	(630) 897-6610
Trustee Linda Mitchell	(630) 897-8952
Trustee Bob Strusz	(630) 897-8228, ext. 802

**Village Meeting Schedule**

	Feb	Mar	Apr
<b>Committee of the Whole</b> 7pm @ Village Hall		3 17	7 21
<b>Village Board</b> 7pm @ Village Hall	25	10 24	14 28
<b>Plan Commission</b> 7:30pm @ Village Hall		4	1
<b>Library Board</b> 7pm @ Messenger Public Library		13	10

**\*Bold means joint meeting**