

VILLAGE *of* PALATINE



FALL 2014

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 4 TO OFFER TOURS, UP-CLOSE EXPERIENCES

Join the Fire Department for a day of fun, safety education, refreshments and an opportunity to meet Palatine Firefighters at the Annual Open House on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station 84, 220 W. Illinois Ave.

Visitors will participate in station tours; witness displays of Fire Department vehicles, specialty team equipment, residential sprinklers; and meet Mr. Wizard. The annual event is an opportunity for residents to learn about fire behavior, how to operate a fire extinguisher and even spray water from a fire hose.

Mr. Wizard will educate attendees in fire behavior. Support agencies such as Nicor,

ComEd and St. Alexis Medical Center also will participate in the event. A Flight for Life helicopter is scheduled to land.

In addition, there will be several opportunities to understand the importance of keeping a door closed between an individual and a fire; a closed door will protect residents while they sleep. The Firefighters will again show the effect of residential sprinkler systems and the need for properly working smoke detectors with a burn room demonstration.

The Palatine Fire Department is a well-equipped, well-staffed and well-trained community service provider whose number one priority is to save lives and minimize property loss during an emergency.

Village Services Continue During Renovation



Tentatively beginning September 29, residents seeking services at Village Hall will have to visit 150 W. Wilson St. Village operations will NOT shut down during the move or renovation of Village Hall.

Starting in October, all Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Village Council meetings will be held at Police Department Headquarters, 595 N. Hicks Rd.

Village hours will remain Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the phone number will remain the same—358-7500 and mail can be sent to 200 E. Wood St.



IN *this* ISSUE

Gubernatorial Election
Tuesday, November 4..... 2
Upcoming Events..... 4
Fall Driving Conditions 5

Curbside Leaf Collections 6
Snow Questions & Answers 8
Fire Departments Consolidate
to Enhance Service, Safety 9

Prevent Home Garage Fires..... 10
Holiday Food Safety Tips..... 11
Palatine Police Focus
on Traffic Safety 12

Farmers' Market Every Saturday through October 25 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Palatine Farmers' Market continues with fall harvest. Entertainment from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located in the train station parking lot at Wood and Smith streets. For updated information, visit www.palatine.il.us.

VILLAGE OF PALATINE

200 E. Wood St.
Palatine, IL 60067

www.palatine.il.us
village@palatine.il.us

VILLAGE HALL HOURS
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday



VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency911
Village Hall.....358-7500
TDD (Emergency)911
TDD (Non-Emergency)359-9000
Village Action Line705-5200
Community Services359-9042
Fire (Non-Emergency).....202-6340
Police (Non-Emergency)359-9000
Public Works705-5200

Mayor

Jim Schwantz359-9007
jschwantz@palatine.il.us

Village Clerk

Margaret R. Duer359-9051
mduer@palatine.il.us

District 1

Tim Millar894-0001
tmillar@palatine.il.us

District 2

Scott Lamerand894-0002
slamerand@palatine.il.us

District 3

Jim Clegg894-0003
jclegg@palatine.il.us

District 4

Greg Solberg894-0004
gsolberg@palatine.il.us

District 5

Kollin Kozlowski894-0005
kkozlowski@palatine.il.us

District 6

Brad Helms894-0006
bhelms@palatine.il.us

Village Manager

Reid Ottesen359-9031
rottesen@palatine.il.us

*All phone numbers are (847) area code
unless otherwise noted.*

NOV. 4 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION OFFERS SEVERAL OPTIONS TO VOTE

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the Illinois gubernatorial election at the Village Clerk's office is Tuesday, Oct. 7. The Clerk's office will register voters during regular business hours. Two forms of identification are required (one with current address). The election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Any 17-year-old citizen who will turn 18 by Nov. 4 Election can register to vote.

Register to vote online, by mail or in person.

Grace Period Registration and Voting

Unregistered voters may vote from October 8 through November 3 by signing up in person only at the Cook County Clerk's Chicago office, 69 W. Washington St., Room 500, and at any

suburban courthouse. Two forms of ID are required.

Early Voting

Registered voters may vote early starting Monday, Oct. 20 through Sunday, Nov. 2. A current government-issued photo ID is required to vote early.

PLEASE NOTE: until further notice, Village Hall will not be an early voting site. For a complete list of early voting sites, visit www.palatine.il.us.

Election Judges

Interested in becoming an election judge? Please contact the Cook County Clerk's office, 312-269-7900.

Election Day

The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day, Nov. 4.

For information, visit www.palatine.il.us or cookcountyclerk.com.



SMART METERS COMING TO PALATINE

ComEd will begin to install smart meters in the Palatine Area in November. A smart meter is a digital electric meter that uses two-way radio communications to collect usage information and securely transmits it to ComEd through a wireless connection.

Smart meters provide customers with access to more information about energy use through online energy-management tools that can help customers manage their electric bills. Additionally, because smart meters automatically send meter readings to ComEd, they also help eliminate estimated bills and reduce operating costs that become a savings on customers' electric bills.

ComEd will be mailing Palatine residents more information about smart meters and the installation process. For information, visit www.ComEd.com/smartmeter or call 866-368-8326.

PalatinE-News

Sign up to receive the latest information on community events, news and alerts at www.palatine.il.us.

HALLOWEEN MEANS SAFETY FIRST

Parents, children and motorists need to follow these important tips for a safe and happy Halloween. Trick-or-treating hours are from 3 - 7 p.m. on Friday, October 31. All children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, but before trick-or-treating, parents should:

- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone.
- Children should not eat any treats until they return home.
- Children should never enter a stranger's home.
- Agree on a specific time for children to come home.
- Children should carry flashlights with fresh batteries to help them see and for others to see them.
- Make sure children or a responsible adult with them carries a cell phone for quick communication.
- Review all appropriate pedestrian and traffic safety rules with children.
- Look both ways before crossing the street and use established crosswalks whenever possible.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house.
- Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or uneven terrain can present tripping hazards. Never walk near lit candles or luminaries.
- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the far edge of the road facing traffic.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is

eaten, then examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering.

- Give children an early meal before going out to prevent them from filling up on Halloween treats or eating anything before parents can inspect.
- Children should only eat factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats unless you know the cook well.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

When Purchasing Costumes, Follow These Safety Precautions

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- After dark, fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags.
- Make sure Halloween make-up is nontoxic. Remove make-up before children go to bed to prevent skin irritation.
- NO MASKS—consider nontoxic make-up or decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- Children should only wear well-fitting costumes and shoes to avoid trips and falls.
- Children should not wear decorative contact lenses; they are a risk for serious eye injury.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible material. NO SHARP OBJECTS.

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Motorists need to be especially alert and cautious when driving on Halloween because of the high number of pedestrians walking the streets.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs or darting out between parked cars.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Discourage teens from driving on Halloween.



Before Digging, Call JULIE at 811

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what residents need to know first.

Whether residents are planning to do it themselves or hire a professional, smart digging means calling JULIE at 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

Call JULIE at 811 at least 48 hours or two business days prior to digging. Residents should tell the operator where they are planning to dig and what type of work they will be doing. The affected local utility companies will be notified about the resident's intent to dig. Within that 48 hours or two business days, JULIE will send a locator to mark the approximate location of underground lines, pipes and cables to designate what is below and where residents may dig safely.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

10/4

Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fire Station 84

220 W. Illinois Ave.

Take this opportunity to meet Firefighters, tour the station and view fire and rescue vehicles and equipment.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit www.palatine.il.us. Search:

Fire Department Open House.



10/31

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

Friday, October 31

3 to 7 p.m.

Homeowners and businesses are encouraged to make trick or treat hours a safe and enjoyable event for all Palatine children.



holiday tree? Just submit a one page letter about the importance of the season for a chance to be selected. Submit letters to "Tree Lighting," Village of Palatine, 200 E. Wood St., Palatine, IL 60067 no later than November 1. The lighting ceremony is at Towne Square, Smith Street and Palatine Road.



11/21 and 11/22

Downtown Merchants Open House

Friday, November 21 and

Saturday, November 22

The Downtown Palatine Business Association will host a Holiday Open House.

For more information, visit www.downtownpalatine.org.



Winter Farmers' Market

8 a.m. to noon

Saturdays, November 15,

December 13, February 7,

The Palatine Winter Market offers residents food items and services they have come to enjoy at the Farmers' Market. Located inside and outside the train station at Wood and Smith streets.



11/22

Annual Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 22

5 p.m.

Do you want to help Mayor Schwantz and Santa light the

SCARECROWS ON PARADE WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22.



To see pictures of the winning scarecrows, visit palatine.il.us. Search Scarecrows.



2014 Hometown Pride Award Winners

The Village of Palatine Beautification Commission recognized families, businesses and Doors of Palatine with the 2014 Hometown Pride Award. They are:

SINGLE-FAMILY

1st place:

Kelly Schnell, 256 E. Colfax St.

2nd place:

Theresa Albers, 118 S. Patricia Ln.

3rd place:

Doreen Rende, 709 Juniper Dr.

MULTI-FAMILY

1st place:

Mary Winch and Valissa Hilliguss
Wood Street Condominium

2nd place:

Richard Scalzo
162 S. Stonington Dr.

3rd place:

Marion Hall & Carolyn Huft
Garden Committee Willow #4

SUBDIVISION/CUL DE SAC

1st place:

Bridge View West -
Homeowners Assn.

BUSINESS

1st place:

Diana Olson
Little Sisters of the Poor

2nd place:

Carol Cook
The Music Room

3rd place:

Deborah Armstrong
Palatine Bank & Trust

DOORS OF PALATINE

1st place:

Carol MacCabe
1065 S. Brockway St.

For a complete list of entries and to view the photo gallery, visit www.palatine.il.us. Search: hometown pride award.

FALL DRIVING CONDITIONS CHALLENGE MOTORISTS

Fall means wonderful change like warm sweaters, foliage, and pumpkin pies. For drivers, fall also brings unique dangers to the roads.

Weather conditions can be unpredictable in the fall. A beautiful afternoon can turn rainy and cold in minutes. With days getting shorter, drivers could find themselves commuting to and/or from work in darkness.

Back-to-school traffic

Back to school means more cars and buses on the roads. Drivers need to watch out for increased pedestrian traffic in the morning and afternoon as children walk to and from school and their neighborhood bus stops.

Rain

The first fall rains can be particularly dangerous as water pools on top of dust and makes the pavement extremely slippery.

Leaves (and leaf peepers)

Fall foliage is beautiful, but falling leaves litter the roads and make streets slick while obscuring traffic lines and other pavement markings. They also hide potholes and other road hazards. Rain can make wet leaves on the roadway as dangerous as ice.

Where there are turning leaves, there are leaf-peeping drivers who tend to crawl along the roads and make unpredictable stops to admire the changing foliage. Drivers behind a car with out-of-state plates should give visitors a little extra space just in case they stop short for a photo.

Fog

Cold fall mornings often lead to fog, which can greatly limit visibility and perception of distance. Fog tends to occur in low places or areas surrounded by hills, water, mountains and trees. One common mistake drivers make during foggy conditions is putting on high beams. This only makes visibility worse because high beams will bounce off the fog and create glare. When driving through fog, slow down and stay well behind the front car to have adequate stopping time.

Frost

During the fall, temperatures tend to drop dramatically during the night which can lead to morning frost and icy spots on the road. This is especially common on bridges, overpasses and shaded areas of the road.

Sun glare

Fall means sun glare on the roads. Sun glare can impact a driver's sight for seconds after exposure, making it hard to see pedestrians, oncoming traffic or the car in front.

Sun glare can also cause problems when the sun sets behind drivers. In this case, sunlight can bounce off the rearview mirror or reflect off traffic lights up ahead, and this can blind a driver for a split second while their eyes adjust. It can also make it hard (or impossible) to see traffic lights, which can prevent a driver from knowing whether to stop or go.

Deer

The fall season brings an increase in deer activity because it's their time for mating. Watch for darting deer, especially when driving at night.

Fall driving tips

- **Watch the speed.** Drive a bit slower when faced with fall driving hazards, especially if driving around a school bus.

- **Keep a distance.** Leave a little more space between you and the car in front on rainy or foggy days, during dawn or dusk, and in areas with wet leaves. This will give more time to react.
- **Stick with low beams.** Keep headlights on low when driving in the fog (and rain). High beams will only cause glare.
- **Clear frost away from windows.** Frost can reduce visibility and response time to hazards in the road.
- **Approach traffic lights carefully.** Sun glare can make it harder to see traffic lights change, approach them with more than the normal care.
- **Avoid using products that increase gloss.** Washing and waxing with these products can magnify the sun glare and make it hard to see.
- **Clean the windshield, inside and out.** When a windshield is illuminated by sunlight, dust particles, streaks, and smudges become magnified, making it hard to see the road.
- **Watch for wildlife,** especially in the early morning and evening hours.
- **Check the tire pressure.** Fall weather rapidly changes from warm to cold causing tires to expand and contract. This can lead to a loss of pressure.

Village Seeks CDL Drivers For Snow-Plowing Season



If you have experience driving large trucks, hold a valid Illinois Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with air brakes endorsement, and can be available whenever needed and could use some extra money, the Department of Public Works wants you! These positions are temporary and require a high school diploma or equivalent.

Applications are available online at www.palatine.il.us and are open until filled.

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTIONS WILL BEGIN BY ZONE OCTOBER 20

There will be two regular leaf collections scheduled between Monday, October 20 and Thursday, November 13 for each residence. All raked leaves must be put into the street and ready for pick up by 7 a.m. on scheduled days, but NO EARLIER than 4 p.m. the day before the collection.

There is only one pass down a street during scheduled collection days. The large volume of leaves makes it impossible for trucks to return a second time.

Leaf collection is a two-step process.

Crews collect leaves with a leaf machine.

Next the sweeper does a final cleanup of leaf debris.

Street cleanup takes longer than leaf pick up due to the slow pace of the machine.

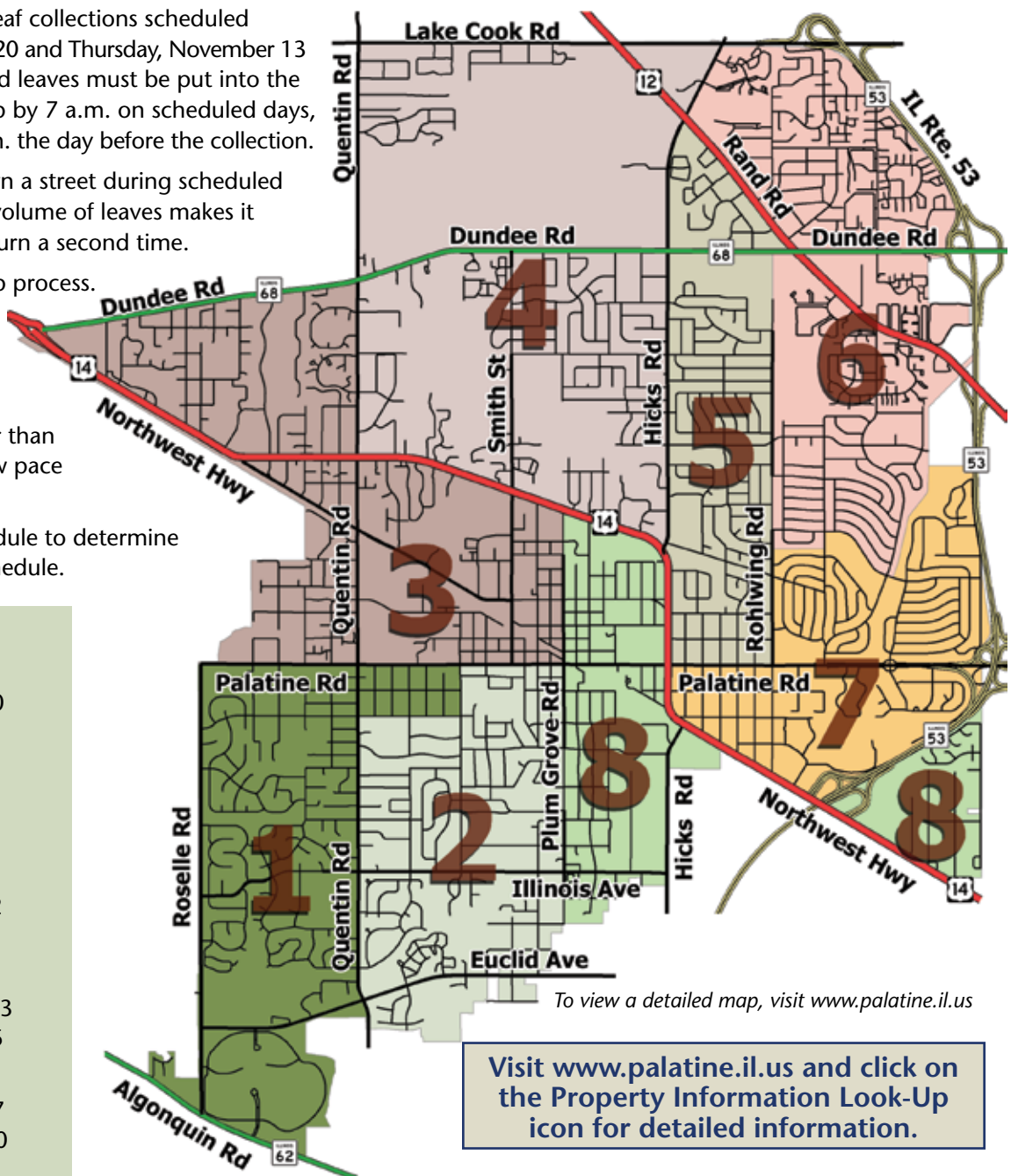
Refer to the map and schedule to determine your zone and two-day schedule.

Zone Day/Date

1	Mon., Oct. 20 Mon., Nov. 3
2	Tues., Oct. 21 Tues., Nov. 4
3	Wed., Oct. 22 Wed., Nov. 5
4	Thurs., Oct. 23 Thurs., Nov. 6
5	Mon., Oct. 27 Mon., Nov. 10
6	Tues., Oct. 28 Tues., Nov. 11
7	Wed., Oct. 29 Wed., Nov. 12
8	Thurs., Oct. 30 Thurs., Nov. 13

ALL ZONES

Mon., Nov. 17



Public Works has scheduled Monday, November 17, as the final leaf pick up opportunity for all Village residences. All zones **MUST** have the final collection of leaves out on the street by 7 a.m. on Monday November 17. Crews will start the final pick up on Monday and continue throughout the week until all the leaves have been collected.

For more information, contact Public Works, 705-5200, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or visit www.palatine.il.us. Search: leaf collection.



Important Reminders

- Parking over a pile of leaves can create a fire hazard—a warm car may ignite leaves underneath it.
- Please do not park on the street during pick up days. Vehicles block the curb for equipment.
- Please do not rake leaves around the edges of cul-de-sac islands. Rake them to the residential curbside.
- Please clean the neighborhood storm sewer inlets to help prevent flooding during rain. Rake leaves into the street about 12 inches from the curb to allow for drainage.
- Please rake leaves into the street on the pavement. Leaves raked just over the curb or on the parkway cannot be picked up. Streets without curbs should have leaves piled as close to the shoulder of the road as possible without hindering vehicular traffic.
- Please do not include non-leaf material (grass clippings, branches, etc.) during the leaf collection to prevent equipment and safety issues. Piles with any other debris will be left at the curb.

In Case of Snow

An early snowfall seriously hampers leaf collection efforts. Leaves raked to the curb most likely will be plowed back onto the parkway. Public Works will make every attempt to collect leaves raked back into the street.

Timing is Everything

Please do not rake leaves too early. Leaves left accumulating for several days before the scheduled pick up may be carried by wind or rain down the curb line and block storm sewer inlets. The backup may flood yards and basements.

Please be patient if crews run behind schedule. Weather, equipment problems and the amount of leaves may slow down the collection process, but crews will be there to pick up the leaves.



Bag Those Leaves for Pick Up Option

Residents have the option to collect fallen leaves in yard waste bags and place them curbside for household refuse pick up. This flexible option works well for those who do not want to be committed to the scheduled leaf collection program.

Final scheduled pick up for curbside yard waste and bundled brush will be the week of December 8. It is possible that Groot may conduct additional curbside collections in December. Information will be posted on the Village website and Palatine television, Xfinity Channel 6 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99.

Winter Curbside Brush Pick Up Scheduled for February

A curbside brush pick up will occur **ONLY ONCE** during the winter season beginning the first Monday in February at 7 a.m. Please have all loose brush at the curb.

Guidelines

- Brush must be eight inches or less in diameter to accommodate the chipper.
- Firewood or tree stumps are not accepted because of the potential damage to the chipper.
- Cut ends must face the curb with branches as long as possible.

Crews will pass through the Village just once. Be patient. If amounts of brush are excessive, the project may take all week to finish.

NEW BUSINESSES

ACCOUNTING/ FINANCE

Accounting Control
800 E. Northwest Hwy.,
#210
776-1090
Accounting/Tax

F. Espinoza Taxes Inc.
1858 N. Rand Rd.
Income Tax Service

AUTOMOBILE

Car Outlet
2088 N. Rand Rd.
221-2903
Used Auto Sales

Palatine Motors
1225 W. Northwest Hwy.
991-2121
Auto Repair/Detailing

CONTRACTORS

**Ridgid Consulting &
Construction**
728 E. Northwest Hwy.
405-778-8877
General Contractor

HEALTH/BEAUTY

Cut and Color Studio
1502 W. Algonquin Rd.
224-558-4378
Hair Salon

Dragon Guan LLC
1590 N. Rand Rd.
Martial Arts

Grande Fit
325 W. Northwest Hwy.
561-6113
Personal Training

**Shear Ambition
Salon Spa**
220 N. Smith St., #104
496-4412
Salon/Spa

MANUFACTURING

Aimtron Corporation
555 S. Vermont St., #1
630-372-7500
*Computer/Electronics
Assembly*

**Chicago Machining
& Tool LLC**
453 S. Vermont St., #C
224-628-0706
Manufacturing

**Fresh Start Custom
Coatings**
655 S. Vermont St.
561-6968
Metal Finishing

RETAIL/RESTAURANTS

Christie's Dairy Delights
45 N. Bothwell St.
212-1703
Restaurant

Five Below
663 E. Dundee Rd.
991-0590
Discount Store

Goodwill Retail Services
760 W. Euclid Ave.
485-8017
Donation Center

Tammy's Delights
117 N. Northwest Hwy.
630-263-3408
Dog Bakery

Tap House Grill
56 W. Wilson St.
934-3000
Restaurant

**Tap House
Management Group**
58 W. Wilson St.
934-4107
Corporate Office

**Village Gift Shop
& Astrology**
107 S. Northwest Hwy.
Gift Shop/Books

Vogue Furniture 4U
1800 N. Rand Rd.
259-3300
Furniture Store

SERVICES

**Dolche Truck
Load Corp.**
473 W. Northwest Hwy., 2H
800-719-4921
Dispatch

FHB Company
800 E. Northwest Hwy.
#700
312-899-6526
Internet Marketing

Mathnasium of Palatine
141 W. Northwest Hwy.
858-354-4991
After School Tutoring

Original Home Care, LLC
675 N. North Ct., #200
Home Care Agency

Smartwerx Studios
350 N. Erie Dr., #105a
502-7004
Recording Studio

VZ & Y Homecare, LP
1540 E. Dundee Rd., #170
253-4295
In-Home Health Care

NEW ADDRESS

Fitness Specialists
240 W. Northwest Hwy.
431-6424
Personal Training

Proshine Auto Detailing
1410 N. Rand Rd.
202-0780
Auto Wash/Detail

(847) area code unless otherwise noted.

SNOW QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The Public Works Department receives a variety of information requests from residents all through the year, especially during the winter when snow falls. Here are the most frequently asked questions with answers.

How many miles is Palatine Public Works responsible to plow?

The Village is responsible for 167 center lane miles of snow and ice control.

How are those miles divided up to plow?

The 167 miles are divided into 11 sections with two trucks typically assigned to each section or route in a plowing event. Public Works is also responsible for plowing Commuter, Fire Station, Police Department, and Village Hall lots.

Why are two trucks assigned to a route?

Tandem plows clear street pavement from center line to curb in one pass.

Why don't plows clear the whole street?

Drivers make a preliminary pass to open up the street. Final curb-to-curb clearing occurs after it stops snowing.

How long does it take to plow a route?

Depending on the type or amount of snowfall, it can take approximately 7 hours to clear 15 miles of streets. A typical route is 15 miles.

Are the same drivers assigned the same route each time they plow or salt?

Yes. There are two drivers assigned to each route for a plowing operation and one driver for a salting operation.

For some storms, plows are out most of the day and at night. Is the same driver out there that length of time?

No. The Department has two fully staffed crews—front line snow plow drivers and backup drivers which include part-time seasonal drivers hired each year.

Where do drivers start plowing?

Major streets are plowed first, such as Northwest Highway, Palatine and Hicks roads, followed by secondary and residential streets including cul-de-sacs.

Are there roads Palatine does not plow?

Yes, the State and County are responsible for Quentin, Roselle, Rand, Dundee and Algonquin roads, Euclid Avenue, Route 53 and Hicks Road north of Dundee Road.

Some sidewalks are cleared but not all – why is that?

The Village Council designated certain sidewalks to be cleared when there is over three inches of snowfall. These sidewalks are the main routes to schools or on higher volume roads to help keep school children and other pedestrians safe from walking in the streets.

Are residents required to shovel the public sidewalk adjacent to their property?

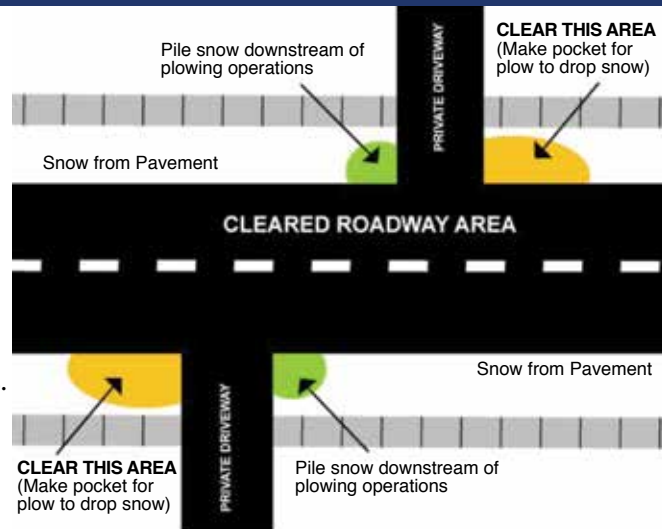
No. However, the Village encourages all residents to clear their sidewalks for the safety of pedestrians and children walking to school.

If residents choose to shovel the public sidewalk adjacent to their property, where can they put the snow?

Place the snow on the parkway in a manner to avoid injury or limited access to any person, animal or property.

Can a resident put snow on a public sidewalk or street?

No. This includes the portion of the sidewalk that crosses over a driveway apron. Village ordinances prohibit plowing, blowing or shoveling of snow into the street, on the public sidewalk, or on a parkway across from your property. This action can create a hazardous condition for both motorists and pedestrians.



If a resident hires a snow plow contractor, who is responsible for notifying that contractor of the Village ordinances?

The property owner is responsible for the actions of their contractor. Non-owners of property should forward this information to the party responsible for conducting the snow plowing and snow removal operations.

The snow plow driver hit a mailbox. How does a resident get mail now?

It is very difficult, especially on cul-de-sacs, to completely clear the snow without risking damage to mailbox or post. If a curbside mailbox or parkway is damaged by a Village snowplow, call Public Works, 705-5200, and the Village will either repair the box and parkway or bring out a temporary mailbox so residents can receive mail delivery. The Village is not responsible for mailboxes damaged during snow plowing if the boxes do not meet Village code.

Why does the snow plow driver always seem to fill driveways with snow after residents have cleared away the snow?

It's not done intentionally. The goal is to have safe roads for residents and other motorists traveling within the Village. Sometimes it is necessary to plow and/or salt after residents have cleared their driveways.

For more frequently asked questions or a full description of Village ordinances, visit www.palatine.il.us. Search: snowplow facts.

3 FIRE DEPARTMENTS STANDARDIZE TRAINING TO ENHANCE QUICK, EFFECTIVE RESPONSES

For over 20 years, the Palatine Fire Department has been operating under automatic aid agreements with both the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District and the City of Rolling Meadows. These contractual agreements help provide the quickest and most efficient response to emergency calls regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

In early 2012, the three communities initiated a functional consolidation referred to as RPM to further enhance resident services. RPM stands for Rural or the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District, Palatine or the Palatine Fire Department, and Meadows or the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

The Chiefs also created three guiding principles to steer the RPM initiative:

- To provide a higher level of service to residents,
- To provide a higher level of safety for Firefighters,
- To seek operational efficiencies whenever possible.

The RPM Departments embarked on several projects that would meet these goals. In January 2013, the Chiefs approved the creation of one training calendar for the RPM Departments that had firefighters train together as often as possible and on the same topics. RPM Departments also combined their monthly paramedic training provided by the Northwest Community EMS System. What used to require 15 classroom sessions per month to cover RPM Department needs was reduced to six—an estimated \$20,000 in annual savings.

Next, RPM standardized all emergent and non-emergent responses within the three jurisdictions, to ensure every call type within any jurisdiction—from a routine ambulance call to a structure fire—would receive the same types and numbers of vehicles as the same call type in another jurisdiction. Each Department then rewrote their run cards to pre-determine exactly what

vehicle(s) responds to each call type within a specific geographic region.

RPM then programmed each new run card into the Computer-Aided Dispatch system (CAD) at Northwest Central Dispatch System in Arlington Heights, which serves all three communities.

With response uniformity across the RPM jurisdiction, the Chiefs created a subcommittee who researched and developed a joint Fireground Operations Guideline. The sub-committee, comprised of members from all ranks from the three communities, helped accomplish this goal. For the first time ALL Firefighters are fighting structure fires the same way at single-family and small multi-family residences.

The sub-committee utilized the latest scientific research regarding the modern fire environment conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Underwriters Laboratories and the Fire Department of New York 2012 Governors Island Research Project. They developed guidelines that would provide greater firefighter safety and lessen the damage caused by the fire.

The new guide specifically outlines the primary and secondary functions of each vehicle type responding to a structure fire based on the order in which vehicles arrive. Although each community generally approached a structure fire in the same manner, there were always nuances unique to each community. These nuances were not a concern to the Firefighters from the affected community; but when automatic aid companies from the other two communities were expected to function under a slightly different set of rules, the operational effectiveness was diminished and opportunity for injury increased.

The Fireground Operations Guideline does not address every possible scenario a Firefighter may encounter, but seeks to offer a structured framework

for Firefighters to attack the vast majority of structure fires they will face. It utilizes the latest science with predetermined roles and responsibilities regardless of which jurisdiction the fire occurs.

RPM Firefighters recently completed three hours of training on fire behavior, a two and a half hour classroom session review of the guidelines, and a six hour practical training session at an actual house where they role played multiple fire scenarios.



Recently, RPM completed the creation of the RPM training committee which consists of one coordinator and three drill masters, one from each of the member communities. This Committee will develop and deliver fire, rescue and emergency medical training, and ensure that all RPM members are trained on the same topics, on the same days, utilizing the same drill objectives.

Future RPM objectives include fireground guidelines for large multi-family and commercial occupancies, as well as joint guidelines for mitigating hazardous materials, technical rescue and water rescue incidents. The members of the three RPM communities will continue to enhance their working relationship to provide the highest level of service to all residents while providing a higher level of safety for their fellow firefighters.



Prevent Home Garage Fires

Electrical malfunction is the leading cause of garage fires, which can be the result of shorted wiring, damaged wires and overloaded outlets. Every year there are 6,600 garage fires. Garage fires in homes cause an average of:

- 30 deaths
- 400 injuries
- \$457 million in property loss

Fire safety tips for homes with an attached garage

- Provide a 20 minute fire-rated door that is self-closing and self-latching from the garage into the house.
- Provide an attic hatch cover if you have attic access from the garage.
- Store oil, gasoline, paints, varnishes, propane and other flammable liquids in a shed away from the house.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging appliances.
- Provide a heat alarm. It will sound if the temperature rises too high.

Heat alarm information

Heat alarms are designed to respond to fire (heat), not smoke. While smoke alarms get most of the attention, heat alarms are another useful part of any home fire detection system.

Some environments, like those found in a garage, can cause smoke alarms to falsely activate due to changes in temperature, humidity as well as dust, fumes and insects. Heat alarms are virtually unaffected by these adverse conditions; smoke alarms are not.

Remember, neither smoke nor heat alarms are required in the garage but adding a heat detector gives additional early notification of a fire.

For additional fire safety tips visit the FEMA website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

PRACTICE GOOD HEALTH HABITS TO AVOID SEASONAL INFLUENZA

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering a cough and washing one's hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. Flu antiviral drugs are also available to treat and prevent the flu.

Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When sick, keep a distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

Stay home when sick

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when sick. This will help prevent others from catching an illness.

Cover the mouth and nose

Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent others nearby from getting sick.

Clean hands often

Washing hands often will help protect from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Practice other good health habits

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

For additional information on Key Facts about Flu and Flu Vaccines visit the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm.

Source: CDC

2015 WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULES

HOLIDAYS

Mark your calendar for these holidays that will affect solid waste collection. For those holidays not listed, solid waste collection will take place as regularly scheduled. Save and post this handy schedule for reference throughout the year and save yourself from hauling the trash to the curb a day early or missing the collection entirely.

Week of	Holiday	Collection
May 25	Memorial Day	all one day later
September 7	Labor Day	all one day later

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE

To rent a garbage cart for an annual fee of \$30 or to upgrade the size of a recycling cart at no cost, contact Groot Industries, Inc. at 800-244-1977.

Please place all solid waste at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on the scheduled collection day.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health Division, 359-9090 or visit www.palatine.il.us.

HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

As residents prepare for holiday entertaining, consider these important food safety tips:

- Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before and after handling any food.
- Wash food-contact surfaces (cutting boards, dishes, utensils, countertops) with hot, soapy water after preparing each food item.
- Do not rinse raw meat and poultry before cooking in order to avoid spreading bacteria to areas around the sink and countertops.
- Consider using one cutting board only for foods that will be cooked (such as raw meat, poultry, and seafood) and another one for those that will not (such as raw fruits and vegetables).
- Do not put cooked meat or other food that is ready to eat on an unwashed plate that has held any raw eggs, meat, poultry, seafood, or their juices.
- Use a food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry and fish are cooked to a safe internal temperature. To check a turkey for safety, insert a food thermometer into the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast. The turkey is safe when the temperature reaches 165°F. If the turkey is stuffed, the temperature of the stuffing should be 165°F.
- Don't eat uncooked cookie dough, which may contain raw eggs.
- Refrigerate leftovers and takeout foods and any type of food that should be refrigerated, including pie, within two hours.
- Set the refrigerator at or below 40°F and the freezer at 0°F. Check both periodically with an appliance thermometer.
- Thaw frozen food safely in the refrigerator, under cold running water or in the microwave—never at room temperature. Cook food thawed in cold water or in the microwave immediately.
- Allow enough time to properly thaw food. For example, a 20-pound turkey needs four to five days to thaw completely in the refrigerator.
- Don't taste food that looks or smells questionable. When in doubt, throw it out.



Call if You Can— Text if You Can't

Can residents send a text to 9-1-1?

Yes. Cellular customers living in or traveling through the Northwest Central Dispatch System service area may be able to use their mobile phones to send a 9-1-1 text for emergency help. NCDS serves Palatine and 10 other northwest suburbs.

Texting should only be used during an emergency when unable to call 9-1-1.

How to text 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter "9-1-1" in the "To" field;
- The first text to 9-1-1 should be brief, contain the emergency location, and type of help needed;
- Push the "Send" button.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.
- Text in simple words—not abbreviations.
- Keep texts brief.

What to know if you need to text 9-1-1:

- Text location information is not equal to current location technology.
- 9-1-1 messages can take longer to receive, can get out of order or may not be received.
- Text-to-9-1-1 is not available when roaming.
- A text or data plan is required to place a text-to-9-1-1.
- If text-to-9-1-1 is not available in the area, or is temporarily unavailable, you will receive a message to contact 9-1-1 by other means.
- Currently, photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1.
- Text-to-9-1-1 cannot include more than one person. Do not send an emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.

Do not text and drive!

CLEAR SNOWY HYDRANTS

Snowfall, combined with the snow plowed from the roadways, often impedes accessibility to fire hydrants. The Palatine Fire Department is asking residents and business owners to help keep some of the 3,557 Palatine fire hydrants clear of snow and accessible. During a fire, time is crucial. The extra minutes a firefighter spends digging out a hydrant makes a critical difference.

Please consider "adopting" a hydrant or two closest to a home or business this winter by keeping them clear of snow. Snow should be removed approximately three feet away from the hydrant in all directions with a pathway cleared between the hydrant and the roadway.



Residents who identify a damaged or leaking fire hydrant, please call the Public Works Department, 705-5200 to report it.

PALATINE VILLAGE HALL WILL BE CLOSED

Tuesday, Nov. 21

In Observance of Veteran's Day

Thursday, Nov. 27

and Friday, Nov. 28

In Observance of Thanksgiving

Thursday, Dec. 25

and Friday, Dec. 26

In Observance of Christmas Day

Thursday, Jan. 1

In Observance of The New Year

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POLICE FOCUS ON EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT

A significant section of the Palatine Police Department's Mission Statement is to "work cooperatively with the public to protect life and property." The department addresses this portion of its mission in many ways—first, by promoting Education, followed by Enforcement.

Unobstructed Windshields

Education: As cold weather approaches, windshields must remain unobstructed. Driving a vehicle with a fogged up windshield or snow/ice covered windows could lead to disaster. Take that extra minute to insure the windshield is clear of any obstructions. The life you save may be your own!

Enforcement: Recognizing the hazard of an obstructed windshield and the devastation it may cause, Palatine Police will be issuing citations to those who violate the law.

Blocked Sidewalks

Education: Society continues to promote wellness by encouraging walking, running and riding a bicycle, but what happens when a parked car blocks the sidewalk? A person may have to walk into the street, which becomes a safety issue—especially for children walking to school. Village Ordinance 18-81-12 prohibits persons from blocking the use of a sidewalk between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Please be neighborly, and don't block the sidewalk!

Enforcement: Because this violation directly impacts the safety of citizens—young and elderly, Palatine Police will actively seek out this Ordinance violation. Be a good neighbor, avoid the \$30 fine.

School Bus Stop-Arm Violations

Education: Now that school is back in session, thousands of Palatine children ride a school bus daily. Illinois law requires all drivers to stop for school buses that have the stop sign extended, lights flashing and are loading or unloading children (except when approaching the school bus from the opposite direction on a four-lane road with two lanes for travel in opposing directions). Drivers must remain stopped until



the stop sign is retracted and the warning lights are off. Be courteous and have some patience for the little learners. Pay attention; the alternative can be devastating!

Enforcement: Palatine Police will be following school buses and watching areas where school buses stop. For those who violate the law, a citation will cost a minimum of \$150 and a suspension of their driver's license and/or vehicle registration.

Village of Palatine Vehicle Sticker

Education: All Palatine residents who own or operate a motor vehicle or motorcycle that is registered or stored in the Village must purchase a Village vehicle sticker; the deadline was June 30. Village vehicle stickers can be purchased online, www.palatine.il.us or at Village Hall.

Enforcement: For the thousands of Palatine residents who have already purchased their vehicle sticker(s), thank you. For those who haven't, please do so as soon as possible. Vehicles without Palatine vehicle stickers properly displayed on the windshield will receive a \$30 citation!

The Palatine Police Department takes traffic safety seriously and will focus on all violations with a zero-tolerance approach. Please be alert, patient and courteous when driving. Don't cause something to happen today that will negatively impact you tomorrow!