

Village of Palatine

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

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Roadway, Lighting, Pedestrian and Water System Improvements Coming This Summer

The next several weeks will see a variety of roadway, street lighting, water system and pedestrian safety improvements get underway in Palatine. Following is a quick look at what's happening and when:

Cedar Street Improvements

Work will continue this spring on the Cedar Street corridor from Illinois Avenue to Wood Street. Roadway rehabilitation on Cedar Street between Palatine Road and Wood Street began in April. The entire corridor will have new curb and gutter installed. Additional storm sewer will be installed at each intersection, and a uniform pavement width will be created to match work completed on Cedar, south of Palatine Road, between 2005-2007. The work will also include filling sidewalk gaps and resurfacing the roadway pavement.

Pinehurst Street Lighting

Street lighting will be installed this summer in the Pinehurst subdivision, south of Gardenia between High Grove and Old Hicks Roads, as part of the Village's continuing efforts to add lighting in our neighborhoods. The Pinehurst lights will be the same style as those that were installed in Capri Gardens in 2006, on Baldwin between Gardenia and Nichols in 2004, as well as those installed on Gardenia between Baldwin and Old Hicks in 2003. As in years past, funding for the street lighting is being provided through the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program. Work is scheduled to begin in June with completion expected in September.

(continued on page 3)

Come Early for Best Bargains at Palatine Police Department Auction!

Where: Palatine Police Department, 200 E. Wood Street
(West end of Community Center)

When: Saturday, May 17

Time: Property display & viewing 9:30 a.m.
Auction begins: 10:00 a.m.



This year's auction items include 75 bicycles, power tools (some new), new windows, a stroller, digital cameras, lawn decorations, and other miscellaneous items.

Payment for items will be by check with a photo I.D. or cash. All sales are final.

The auction is open to the public, so bring a friend or neighbor to join in the fun and take home a bargain!

Special Census Coming to Palatine

In the coming weeks, Palatine will conduct a Special Census in select areas to get an updated population count.

This new count will help us qualify for state revenues that we need to provide essential services like street repair, education for our children, programs for our seniors, and other important services we depend on every day.

Census Bureau enumerators will begin contacting residents very soon. To find out more about our Special Census and Special Census jobs, visit www.palatine.il.us/specialcensus



Smoking Cessation Forum & Health Screenings -- Tools to Help You Quit!

Stopping a smoking habit is never easy, but you can arm yourself with helpful tools and get on the path to quitting by attending an upcoming public forum. Northwest Community Hospital and the Palatine Board of Health welcome residents to a free "Smoking Cessation Forum – Tools to Help You Quit!" on Wednesday, May 7, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers, 200 E. Wood Street. The smoking cessation forum is part of the Palatine Great American Health Challenge, a year-long campaign to educate residents about how to reduce the risk of cancer. (continued on page 2)

Smoking Cessation & Health Screenings -- Tools to Help You Quit

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The forum will feature Mayo Clinic-certified smoking cessation specialists who will cover a variety of smoking topics, including coming to the decision to quit, nicotine replacement options, weight gain and exercise, adolescent smoking, and the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Before the forum, free health screenings including Spirometry and Age Progression Analysis will be provided by GlaxoSmithKlein from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C of the Village Hall. Spirometry measures lung function and assesses damage caused by smoking and secondhand smoke. An age progression analysis projects your appearance at age 72 if you continue to smoke. Registration is required for the free screenings by calling Health Connection at (847) 618-4YOU (4968).

"Tobacco dependence is a chronic condition that warrants repeated treatment until long term or permanent abstinence is achieved," said Lyn Tepper, Advance Practice Pulmonary Nurse who heads Northwest Community Hospital's anti-smoking programs. "Effective treatments do exist, and that's why we are committed to making sure that people who smoke receive the tools they need to pick a quit date." For information on Northwest Community Hospital's smoking cessation programs, visit the hospital's website at www.nch.org.



Residents who are unable to attend the forum can watch it at a later date on the Village's Cable Channel 6. For more information on the Palatine Great American Health Challenge visit www.palatine.il.us/pgahc or contact the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090.

Hydrant Flushing Now Underway

The Village of Palatine is currently conducting its annual hydrant flushing program, which will continue through the week of May 12th. This process is used to flush out accumulated sediments, ensure the quality of the water, and to make sure the hydrants are working properly. The flushing process may cause some temporary water discoloration but will not affect the water's safety. Running the water for several minutes should eliminate the problem.



Memorial Day Parade Steps Off at 10:00 AM on May 26

The Memorial Day Parade, organized by members of the American Legion, is set for Monday, May 26. The day's events will begin at 9:45 a.m. with placement of flags and a prayer at veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery on Smith Street.

The parade will step off at 10:00 a.m. from Cornell and Eric Drive, then proceed north on Smith, east on Robertson, south on Brockway Street, then turn east on Wood Street to the Veterans Memorial in Community Park.

The ceremony at the Veterans Memorial will include a keynote speech by Combat Medic and Palatine Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Duer at 11:00 a.m., as well as a 21 gun salute, presentation by the color guard, speeches by elected officials and dignitaries, and the Fremd High School marching band.

For further information, call the Palatine American Legion at (847) 359-1606.

Palatine Farmers' Market to Open Early Bird Market in May

In response to popular demand, the Palatine Farmers' Market will open on Saturday, May 10, the day before Mother's Day, to offer bedding plants, potted arrangements, and hanging baskets. Although a full line of locally grown produce will not be in season yet, young asparagus, spring rhubarb, early lettuce, greens and greenhouse tomatoes will be available for Mother's Day dinner. "There's nothing like that first tender asparagus and fresh rhubarb pie," said Market Manager Marg Duer.

"The vendors want to meet the request of residents to have their flourishing potted arrangements, hanging baskets, bedding plants and herbs, and early spring produce in May, so we are opening the Market four weeks earlier than usual," Duer said. The Palatine Farmers' Market usually runs every Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. June through October.

In addition to the flowers and produce, many of the other vendors will be on hand with buffalo meat, spices, Southwestern mixes, tea, nuts, pickles, bread, and, of course, pet treats. Gil Davis will have her colorful pottery and her mother, Anne, will have her original watercolors and cards. Kris Davis will have a new selection of artistic gourds for special gifts for Mom. This year, Ron Lester, the Buffalo Man, will add to his meat

products a variety of cheeses from specialty cheese makers in Wisconsin.

Be the early bird this May and come to the Palatine Farmers' Market Saturday morning, May 10, at the Palatine Train Station, Wood and Smith streets, for the Early Bird Market. Mark your calendar!



Building Permit Review Process Made Simple

Design and construction can be complex processes involving drawings and calculations that must reflect compliance with current laws, codes, and ordinances. By reading this article you've already taken the first step toward protecting the outcome and investment value of your construction project and guarding against a lawsuit or injury. The following information describes simple steps you can take to obtain a building permit and how permits can work for you. You'll be surprised at how easy the whole process is. By working with Village staff, you will benefit from their knowledge of building codes and construction. This will help to ensure your construction project is built right, will be safe, and will last. The Village of Palatine Building and Inspection staff is here to help you through the process.

WHAT'S A BUILDING PERMIT?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call the Building and Inspections Services Division at (847) 359-9042. Discuss your plans with a Project Development Professional before beginning construction to determine whether you need a permit. You will be asked some basic questions (What are you planning to do? Where?), advised of any requirements, and, if necessary, referred to other departments. The Project Development Professional will provide you with the resources and information needed for compliance with the applicable building codes. Even if a permit is not needed, the Project Development Professional will answer your questions and may provide valuable advice.

WHAT ARE EXPRESS PERMITS?

For small residential projects such as fences, decks, sheds, driveways and other similar projects, express permits are available. Express permits require less information than full permits and are processed in 3 business days. Visit the Building and Inspection Services website at <http://www.palatine.il.us/permits/index.htm> or call (847) 359-9042 for more information.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO SUBMIT FOR A PERMIT?

The Village of Palatine wants your project to be a success and will

help you avoid potential problems that could cost you time and money. There are many forms and documents available at the Building and Inspection Services website at <http://www.palatine.il.us/permits/index.htm> In addition, beginning in June, a Project Control Coordinator will have a pre-submittal meeting with you to review the submittal requirements for your project and review the permit process with you. To schedule a pre-submittal meeting, contact the Project Control Coordinator at (847) 359-9042. Wait times for appointments vary due to seasonal issues and customer demand, however, we will make every effort to schedule appointments within one week of the request.

SUBMITTING FOR YOUR PERMIT

At this stage you should have all the required documentation gathered. Residential projects require that you submit three copies of plans and specifications. All information must be provided before a permit submittal will be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Within 10 business days, the Village will review your plans and determine if your project is in compliance with local ordinances. If your plans meet these requirements, a permit is issued. If not, a plan review letter will be provided to you outlining areas that need correction.

CONTRACTORS

Information for each contractor working on the project must be provided. Contractors must be registered and bonded with the Village of Palatine and where applicable with the State of Illinois. This information is not required at time of application but must be provided before a permit will be issued. When choosing a contractor, please refer to the Illinois States Attorney publications website for useful tips: http://www.ag.state.il.us/consumers/consumer_publications.html

RECEIVE PERMIT

Now that you have been approved for a permit, you have legal permission to start construction. A fee, based on the size of the job, is collected to cover the cost of the application, the review, and the inspection process. Village staff is available to you should you have any questions concerning your project. Look to our next newsletter for information on the building inspection process.

Roadway, Lighting, Pedestrian and Water System Improvements

(continued from page 1)

Barrington Woods Water Main Replacement

The existing municipal water mains in Barrington Woods will be replaced this summer as part of an overall updating of the water system in that area. The new water main is scheduled to be installed by open trench within the existing pavement areas in the public right-of-way. Water services will then be transferred to the new main as part of the Village improvements. Work on this project is currently underway, with substantial completion expected by the end of August.

Emergency Water Interconnection with Rolling Meadows

As a safeguard against any possible interruption in the water supplied by the Northwest Water Commission, Palatine and Rolling Meadows have agreed to jointly construct a water main interconnect between the two communities at Hicks Road and Illinois/Industrial Avenue. An intergovernmental agreement between the two communities has been approved, and work is

expected to begin sometime this summer on this emergency pipeline. Although such an interruption of water service has never occurred, both communities felt the need to have an alternative source of water should the supply from the Northwest Water Commission be interrupted for an extended period of time.

Pedestrian Signal Installations

The Village will continue its systematic installation of pedestrian walk/don't walk signals at specific intersections this summer. This year's program will include the intersection of Rand Road at Old Hicks Road, Northwest Highway at Sterling Road, and Palatine Road at Quentin Road. Construction is scheduled to begin in June, with substantial completion targeted for September. Once construction is underway, weekly updates will be posted on the Village's homepage: www.palatine.il.us

For further information about any of these projects, contact the Engineering Department at (847) 359-9044.

Vehicle Stickers Available for Purchase; Must be Displayed by June 30

If you live within the corporate limits of the Village of Palatine, you must display your 2008-09 Village vehicle sticker by June 30. Stickers may be purchased at the Community Center, 200 E. Wood Street, beginning in May.

The vehicle stickers are valid from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The price for passenger car stickers, if purchased during the months of May and June, is \$25.00. Stickers purchased on July 1 and after are \$35.00 per passenger vehicle.

One vehicle sticker per person is available at the reduced rate of \$5.00 if the driver qualifies as a disabled veteran (proof by vehicle registration), holder of handicapped license plates issued by the State of Illinois, (proof by authorization from the Secretary of State of Illinois) or as a senior, 65 years or older. There is only one reduced rate vehicle sticker per household.

The Village of Palatine office hours are:

Monday-Friday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays (only in June)	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

And Don't Forget Fido and Fluffy!

Animal tags also need to be purchased by July 1 at a cost of \$6.00 per animal. A current rabies vaccination number is required for purchase.



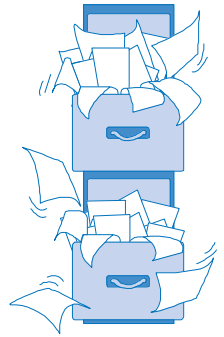
Document Destruction Event Coming to Palatine On August 2

Prevent identity theft while cleaning out your files!

The Village of Palatine and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) will be hosting a free document destruction event on Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. at the Palatine Public Works facility, 148 W. Illinois Avenue. Paper documents will be shredded on site and then recycled.

This event is open to residents who live in SWANCC-member towns only, including the Village of Palatine. Proof of residency will be required. No business waste will be accepted.

For additional information, contact the Palatine Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090.



Emerald Ash Borer: The Green Menace Continued

Although the emerald ash borer has not yet been seen in Palatine, the metallic green beetle has been found in several Cook County communities.

The adult emerald ash borer emerges from May through July. It measures half an inch long and an eighth of an inch wide. The female lays eggs in bark crevices. The eggs hatch in seven to 10 days, and then the larvae burrow into the bark. This creates winding galleries under the bark which restrict the flow of nutrients and water, causing dieback in the top of the tree and eventually the death of the tree.

The adult may be seen eating ash tree foliage between late May and July. Since the adults can fly only short distances, it is believed the pest is moved to new areas when ash tree firewood, branches and nursery stock are transported from one area to another. Be sure to purchase firewood only from locally known sources and use all of the firewood during the winter months. There are state and local quarantines restricting the movement of ash wood and branches.

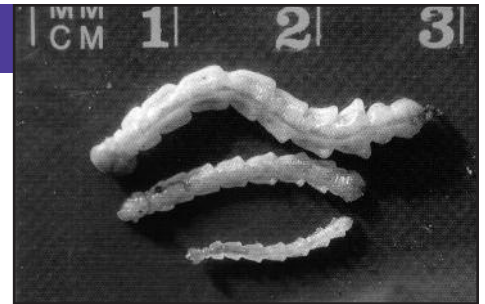
Native borers also attack ash trees. The exit holes from native borers are larger, about an eighth of an inch D-shaped holes in the

bark when they emerge. Other signs and symptoms include:

- Vertical splits or cracks in the bark
- Excessive sucker growth on the base of the trunk
- Dieback at the top of the tree
- Small D-shaped exit holes about one-eighth inch across

Woodpeckers often feed on beetles, causing damage to the bark. Woodpecker activity may be a sign that the tree is infected.

Efforts will be underway shortly to begin removing ash trees that are in declining health. Through these efforts, the Village will diversify the parkway tree population, thereby making it less susceptible to infections and disease.



Emerald Ash Borer larvae shown actual size. They can be transported to new locations while hidden under the bark of firewood.

If you believe any tree on your property has emerald ash borers, call the Public Works Department at (847) 705-5200. The Department's Forestry Division personnel will inspect your trees free of charge to let you know if they are infected with emerald ash borers.

Additional information about the emerald ash borer can be found at the following web-sites:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

<http://www.mortonarb.org/plantinfo/plantclinic/EAB>

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/index.php?pg=0>



Planning a Garage Sale?

If the discards you've discovered while spring cleaning your closets, basement and garage have you thinking about turning them into cash with a garage sale, here's some important information for you:

- Garage sales may last no longer than 12 hours per day for a maximum of three consecutive days.
- The Village limits each resident to no more than three garage sales per year.
- Garage sales do not require a permit.



It's Palatine Spring Clean Up Week May 16-21

Garbage and Refuse May Be Placed at the Curb Early

It's that time again for spring cleaning, and the Village is doing its part to make the job as easy as possible.

The week of May 16-21, 2008 has been designated as our annual Spring Clean Up Week. During this time garbage bags and other refuse items may be placed at the curb in advance of your normal set-out day throughout the weekend without violating Village ordinance. Refuse will be collected only on your regular collection day.

All refuse items placed at the curb must be prepared according to standard specifications. Items restricted from Clean Up Week include appliances, tires, paints, household chemical waste and bulk items exceeding 60 pounds. Construction debris must be properly bundled and is limited to a maximum volume of two cubic yards.

For more information please call the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090 or visit www.palatine.il.us.



**USA DEAF
SPORTS
FEDERATION**

Palatine Swim Team Hosting National Swim Competition

The Palatine Tiger Sharks Swim Team, a program of the Palatine Park District, has been selected by the USA Deaf Sports Federation as the host team of the National Team Trials for the 2009 Deaflympic Games. The 2009 Deaflympics will be held in September of 2009 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The National Team Trials will take place concurrent with the Palatine Swim Team's hosting of their Annual Summer Splash July 11-13 at the new Birchwood Aquatics Complex. The new 10-Lane, 50 meter competition pool at Birchwood, one of the premier outdoor facilities in Illinois, combined with the Palatine Swim Team's strong reputation, were the top factors in the selection of the National Team Trials location.

The Swim Meet and Team Trials is open to the public. Come out and see future olympians!

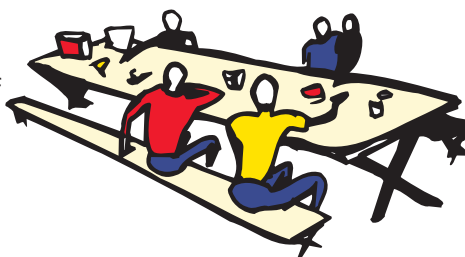
For more information on the Palatine Swim Team or the USA Deaf Sports Federation, please visit their websites at www.ppdswim.org and www.usdeafsports.org.

Planning A Block Party This Summer? We Can Help You Make It Extra Fun and Safe

Planning a neighborhood party too big for the backyard? Make it extra safe and lots of fun by obtaining a block party permit that will enable you to close off a street until as late as 11:00 pm.

Our Fire and Police Departments would be pleased to attend your event and educate the kids on good safety practices.

For further information, call the Village Manager's office at (847) 359-9050. Forms are available through the Village of Palatine website, www.palatine.il.us **Publications and forms; Block Party Request**; or feel free to visit us in the Administration Department to submit your request.



Protecting Your Home from Spring and Summer Floods

Spring and summer brings the greatest risk for flooding from heavy rains, particularly if they occur after an extended period of wet weather. Saturated grounds will produce more and faster runoff. Debris blockages in creeks, ditches, culverts and storm sewer inlets can result in flooding of areas that usually do not flood.

Know if you live in a flood-prone area. Check with the Village's Engineering Department, (847) 359-9044, or stop by the Village Hall to see if your property is within a designated flood hazard area. These flood hazard areas are depicted on the Federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's). The FIRM's primarily show the flood hazard areas along Salt and Buffalo Creeks. Other designated flood hazard areas are low-lying land shown on USGS Maps. Also, a property still may be subject to flooding even if it is not within any of the designated flood hazard areas. It's best to find out the history of flooding in your area.

Carry flood insurance. Normal homeowner's Insurance does not cover flood damage. If your home is indicated on the FIRM you must carry flood insurance if you have a mortgage on the home. It makes sense to still carry insurance even if you no longer have a mortgage. You don't have to be in a designated flood hazard area to be able to purchase flood insurance. In fact most flood damages and claims paid are for properties not shown in a flood hazard area on the FIRM's. Even if you rent, you can obtain insurance for your possessions. For more information on flood insurance ask your insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-888-FLOOD29 or TDD# 1-800-427-5593.

Keep an eye on the weather. If you live in a flood prone area, monitor the potential for weather conditions that could result in flooding. The Weather Channel on cable channel 39 provides local weather forecasts and updated Doppler radar maps every 10 minutes. The Weather Channel can also be accessed at www.weatherchannel.com. Local flash flood watches and warnings are also posted on this and on local TV and radio channels. For a current notice of any flood watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service for counties in Illinois, check <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/il.html>. This information is updated every two minutes. Keep these sites as "Favorites" for easy access. With enough advance warning you can take steps to protect your home, move possessions or, in the worst case, plan for an evacuation.

Keep an eye on your drainage. If you know of a storm inlet in your street or yard, a culvert or ditch that is important to protect your home from flooding, check on it to make sure it is not blocked by snow, ice or debris. If you have any questions as to what assistance the Village can provide in clearing these drainage facilities, call the Public Works Department at (847) 705-5200. The entire length of the creeks within the Village are thoroughly inspected twice a year and periodically throughout the year, especially before and during rain events. If you live on or near any creeks and notice any debris obstructing the flow or



the water level in the creek seems unusually high, call the Public Works Department. Do not attempt to clear any blockage in the creek yourself.

Protect your property. Most of the flood damages in Palatine do not occur from major widespread flooding but are typically localized problems. Check to make sure your gutters and downspouts are functioning and are clean. Check to make sure the land, sidewalks and patios drain away and not toward the house. Mud-jack or replace those concrete surfaces that drain towards the house. Fill in low lying areas next to the house with dirt. Do not use mulch or landscaping stones to do this as they are too porous. Check your foundation and have any cracks repaired. Make sure your sump pump is functioning and the pump is an adequate size. It is illegal for sump pumps to discharge into the sanitary sewer system. If you have a battery back-up sump pump, make sure the battery is good. The time to find out is not when the power goes out in a storm. These are special deep cycling batteries so car batteries should not be used. Keep possessions off the basement floor on shelves. Wood platforms for washing machines and dryers can often raise them enough to protect them. If you have an older home that periodically experiences sewer backups, the Village has a low interest loan program where you can install backflow prevention or overhead plumbing. For certain improvements, the Village will pay up to 50% of the cost. Contact the Engineering Department at (847) 359-9044 if you are interested.

Protect yourself and your family. Do not drive through a flooded area. Your car may stall or could float or be washed away if the water is two feet or deeper. Do not walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not let your children or pets play in flooded areas. There may be drains or culvert pipes underwater that they could be sucked into. Also, this water is not clean. Floodwaters pick up fertilizers and pesticides from lawns, dirt and chemicals off of roads, animal wastes and decaying vegetation. Do not enter a flooded basement unless you are sure the electricity is turned off. Call Commonwealth Edison Co. 1-800-334-7661 to turn off the power. Stay well away from any downed power lines outside as the electricity can travel through wet ground. Again, call Com-Ed if you see any downed lines. If your home floods it is important to clean it up as soon as possible with disinfectants. Finally, remember to help your neighbors, especially those that are elderly or have disabilities.

Clean Air Counts! We'll Buy Back Your Gas Lawn Mower for \$150 to Help Protect The Environment



Again, this year, in keeping with the Village's commitment to doing all we can to protect the environment, residents are urged to take advantage of the Lawn Care Buyback and Gas Can Replacement Program.

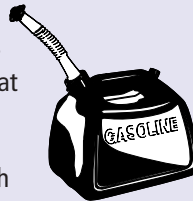
Palatine residents made a significant contribution to better air quality through their participation in last year's Lawn Care Buyback Program. The gas powered equipment residents exchanged reduced the amount of Volatile Organic Compounds by 2,134 pounds.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 14 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Public Works Facility, 148 W. Illinois Avenue. Only homeowners in Cook and surrounding counties are eligible. No contractors or businesses, please.

Through this program, homeowners may receive a rebate of \$150 toward the purchase of an electric (cord or battery) lawn mower or push type reel mower when a gasoline mower is turned in. In addition, a rebate of \$50 each will be offered for small gasoline operated equipment (leaf blower, trimmer, edger, or chain saw) that is turned in. These items will be destroyed and sold for scrap.

We'll Replace Your Gas Can Free of Charge . . . While Supplies Last

The second part of this program is a free replacement of your current portable gas can with an environmentally-friendly gas can that features a shut-off valve to reduce harmful vapors by as much as 75%. Emissions from gas cans occur due to leaks in the can, from overfilling or spillage during refilling, and escape of fumes through vent holes. It is these fumes that affect health and safety.



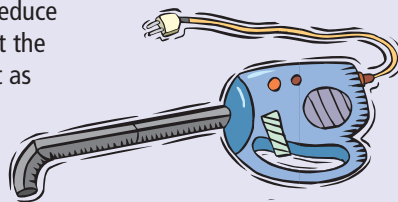
Our thanks to Palatine Ace Hardware for supplying the environmentally-friendly gas cans being given out as part of this program.

Here's Why Using Environmentally Friendly Lawn Equipment Is So Important

The use of gas powered lawn care equipment (mowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers) contribute to regional smog and air quality problems by emitting pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). These are the pollutants that can inflame lung tissue and aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma.

The Regional Lawn Care Buyback and Gas Can Replacement Program is a project of Clean Air Counts, a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. EPA and the Illinois EPA. It provides innovative, non-regulatory programs to voluntarily reduce emissions. Funding is made available to offset the expense of replacing gas-powered equipment as an incentive for homeowners wanting to be environmentally conscious.

Further information is available from program coordinator Bob Franz. He may be reached at (847) 202-6976, or email rfranz@palatine.il.us



You Can Help Prevent West Nile Virus Through Reporting Dead Birds

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus is an infection carried by mosquitoes. The virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Human illness occurs when a person is bitten by an infected mosquito. Residents play an important role in monitoring for West Nile Virus by reporting dead birds and standing water to the Village of Palatine and the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District.

Report Dead Birds

The reporting of dead birds assists in the prevention, monitoring, and use of control measures to minimize the spread of the virus. Report all dead perching birds such as crows, blue jays, grackles, starlings, sparrows, finches, robins, cardinals, swallows, mockingbirds, warblers and wrens to the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090.

It is important to also report if any of these birds have been dead for less than 24 hours. Birds must be in good condition and have no signs of attack or decay. Such birds may be submitted by staff for testing. Staff will identify and determine if the bird will be collected for testing. Birds not collected for testing should be double bagged and disposed of in the garbage. Avoid handling any dead birds directly and always wash hands with soap and water.

Report Standing Water

To eliminate mosquito breeding, report any water sources on or near your property that hold water for greater than 7 days to the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District at (847) 537-2306 or online at www.nwmadil.com. In addition, report properties which fail to remove standing water after 7 days from items such as tires, swimming pools, birdbaths, boats, clogged gutters and containers to the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090.

For Further Information

For further information on West Nile Virus prevention, please contact the Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090 or online at www.palatine.il.us and the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District at (847) 537-2306 or online at www.nwmadil.com.

Palatine Upcoming Community Events

- May 5-11 **Building Safety Week**
See page 10
- May 10 **Farmers' Market Opens**
Early Bird Market -- bedding plants, hanging baskets, early produce; Train Station commuter lot; see page 2
- May 16-21 **Clean Up Week**
See page 5
- May 17 **Police Auction**
See page 1
- May 18 **Palatine Historical Society Cemetery Walk**
Hillside Cemetery, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Information: (847) 991-6460; see page 11
- May 16-18 **Palatine Appreciation Weekend**
Arlington Park Racecourse, see page 11
Information: (847) 385-7410
www.arlingtonparkevents.com/ticket;
- May 26 **Memorial Day Parade**
Hillside Cemetery, 9:45 a.m.; parade 10:00 a.m.
Information: (847) 991-6460; see page 2
- June 13 **Relay For Life**
Details at right
- June 14 **Lawn Care Buyback/
Gas Can Exchange Program**
Rebates toward purchase of electric or push lawnmower; free gas can replacement; see page 7
- June 19- 21 **Towne Square Business Association**
Annual sidewalk sales; watch local newspapers for details
- June 21 **Household Chemical Waste Collection**
Palatine High School; see page 12
- June 27-29 **Greekfest**
St. Nectarios Church, Palatine & Roselle Road
Information: (847) 358-5170; www.stnectariosgoc.org
- June 29 **Palatine Historical Society House Walk**
Begins at Clayson House, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.
Information: (847) 991-6460; see page 11
- July 1-6 **Palatine Jaycees 4th of July Fest**
Community Park, Wood Street
Fireworks, July 3, Parade, July 5
Information: (847) 604-0288 - hotline
www.palatinejaycees.org/fourthofjuly/index
- August 2 **Document Destruction Event**
9:00-11:00 a.m., Public Works Facility.
See page 4
- Aug. 22-24 **Downtown Palatine Street Fest**
Details in the next Village newsletter.
- October 7 **Last Day to Register to Vote**
Information: www.palatine.il.us
- November 4 **Presidential Election**
Information: www.palatine.il.us

Join Mayor Rita Mullins In Fighting Cancer By Participating In 2008 Palatine Relay For Life



It is my pleasure to announce that the American Cancer Society's 2008 Relay For Life of Palatine/Rolling Meadows/Inverness will be held at Palatine High School this year on June 13-14th. Cancer is now the number-one killer in the United States, and I'd like to encourage you to join in our efforts to battle this disease.

The Relay For Life is an overnight walk/run to raise money for cancer education, advocacy, awareness, support and research to help find a cure. I encourage you to form a team - this could be anyone from a high school sports team to co-workers and friends or family members. The object is for team members to raise pledges prior to the event to help us reach our goal of \$165,000. Throughout the 12 hour event, one of your team members is walking on the track.

The Relay features a Survivor celebration, a touching Luminaria ceremony at 10:00 p.m., special exhibits on cancer prevention and control, and entertainment (live bands, contests, and more) - all night long. The Survivor Celebration takes place immediately following the opening ceremonies, starting at 6 PM. All Survivors in attendance are asked to walk the first lap with their caregivers. It is the most inspiring lap of the Relay event. The Survivors are then invited to a reception held in their honor on site. If you are a cancer Survivor or know someone who might want to participate in this inspiring event, please call Ellie at (847) 368-1166. The Relay For Life event is open to the public until 11:00 p.m.

I hope you'll join us as the communities of Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Inverness join together to fight cancer. The steering committee for this event - which includes students from Fremd and Palatine High Schools -- has worked hard to make this an enjoyable, rewarding event. It will be an evening you will never forget!

For more information on ACS's Relay For Life of Palatine/Rolling Meadows/Inverness, for Survivor information or to order a Luminaria, please call Ellie at (847) 368-1166 or visit www.cancer.org.

For professional 24-hour cancer information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or click on www.cancer.org.

Sincerely,

Rita L. Mullins, Mayor

Tornado Watches, Warnings and Sirens – What Do I Do?

It's that time of year again, tornado season. And this year it started in Illinois sooner than expected. On January 9, 2008 an EF3 tornado struck McHenry County and Southern Wisconsin just over the Illinois border that caused damage to dozens of buildings and injured one person.

Though a tornado's time on earth is short lived and their destructive paths relatively small, tornadoes are among mother nature's most violent weather-related events. With spring here and summer right around the corner, we are entering prime tornado season.

On the average, Illinois experiences 39 tornadoes every year. However a record 126 tornadoes spun through Illinois in 2006, breaking a state record set in 2003 when there were 120 and dwarfing the 19 tornadoes that hit the Land of Lincoln in 2005. Last year, 2007, was relatively quiet, seeing only 23 tornados with no reported deaths or serious injuries.

In Illinois alone, there have been a number of extremely destructive tornadoes causing millions of dollars of property damage and numerous injuries and deaths. The deadliest and most destructive in the past 20 years occurred on August 28, 1990 when a violent (F5) tornado hit the Village of Plainfield. A large portion of town was leveled and 29 people were killed. More recently we saw an F3 tornado blast through Utica in April of 2004 killing eight.

Because of the unpredictability in which tornadoes appear, it is necessary to be prepared should the conditions arise that could spawn a tornado. The need for families to have a preset "disaster plan" in place is critical. Knowing what to look for and where to go if a tornado is sighted is critical in significantly increasing your chances of surviving a tornado strike.

Other than the test conducted at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, a Tornado Warning in our area is the most common reason why the Village's ten outdoor warning sirens would be activated. While most people are aware of what the sirens mean, particularly during a storm, there are some who may not. It is not uncommon after the sirens sound, that our Police Department can take hundreds of phone calls with people asking, "What are the sirens for?" Many more calls are received by Northwest Central Dispatch, which handles 9-1-1 calls and dispatching of Police and Fire Departments for eight communities. As you might imagine, this creates a tremendous excess workload on the dispatchers as things are already hectic with the threatening weather.

Spring and summer thunderstorms usually are the catalyst for tornadoes. Because of the frequency of spring and summer thunderstorms, it is wise to be prepared to seek shelter should a

severe thunderstorm arise. Severe thunderstorms are usually accompanied by heavy rain, high winds and hail. Depending on the severity of a thunderstorm, the National Weather Service may issue either a **tornado watch** or a **tornado warning**.

A **tornado watch** means that tornadoes may occur in or near your area. You should listen to local radio and television for information and instruction. If you have a line of sight to the southwest, be alert for funnel shaped clouds. If you should spot one, seek shelter immediately and contact 911.

A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately, turn on a battery-operated radio, preferably a NOAA radio, and wait for the "all clear" announcement. Many areas around the state have outdoor warning sirens. Should a tornado warning be issued for a particular area,

listen for the Village emergency sirens to be sounded. When you hear the siren, do not waste time-- get to your shelter immediately. Remember:

- If you are at your home, go to the lowest level of your home. If you do not have a basement or crawl space, go to an interior closet or hallway. If possible get under a sturdy table and protect your head.
- If at a school, nursing home or like structure, go to pre-designated shelter areas, usually on the lowest floor.
- If you are In a car, get out and take shelter in a nearby building if possible. If there are no structures, try to find a drainage ditch or other low lying area. Never try to outrun a tornado. They move deceptively fast and in an erratic manner.

Additionally, it is suggested that you purchase a NOAA Weather Warning Radio which will automatically alert you of severe weather in your area. Receivers can be found at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. The National Weather Service suggests receivers which carry the Public Alert logo. If you are unable to purchase a NOAA radio, tune in 1660 AM on your radio and get weather information on the Palatine Emergency Weather Radio Station.

When tornadoes threaten, immediate action can save your life. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls in your home and cover your head. Any debris becomes flying missiles capable of inflicting mortal injuries.

For additional information you can go online to the IEMA, NOAA and NWS websites or Palatine's Emergency Management Agency website at www.palatine-ema.org or contact Tom Smith, Palatine Emergency Management Coordinator at tsmith@palatine.il.us.



Keep Those Creeks Clean and Natural



The rivers and creeks along with their adjacent lands throughout the Chicago area bear little resemblance today to their natural state. Originally they were meandering with broad flat areas that could store floodwater when needed. Early farming activities straightened creek channels and filled low areas to maximize land that could be planted with crops. This practice continued with early urban developments. Fortunately around the 1970's the benefits of natural creeks and their floodplains were finally realized and laws were passed regulating the elimination or construction within floodplains. Now the focus is turning to improving the water quality and preserving or reversing the loss of natural habitat associated with the creeks and their adjacent areas. The Village, as it undertakes creek maintenance projects, has been incorporating features such as stream bank restoration and planting native plant materials that enhance water quality or improve the natural habitat. Landowners who have creeks, wetlands or other waterways on their property are encouraged to consider planting native materials.

Unfortunately for some people who live on or near creeks, wetlands or other drainage-ways, these seem like a handy place to get rid of yard wastes. After all, it is no different than what grows there naturally. And eventually they will decay and fertilize the area. WRONG! It is illegal to deposit any type of debris including branches, leaves, grass clippings or dirt into or adjacent to any creeks, ponds, wetlands detention basins, ditches or other areas that periodically collect and convey storm waters. Besides being unsightly, they can cause obstructions that aggravate flooding. Materials left on the banks or shores will kill the natural vegetation under it resulting in soil erosion. Any person found guilty is subject to a fine of not less than \$75.00 nor more than \$750.00. Anyone seeing someone dumping anything in these areas should call the Public Works Department at (847) 705-5200.

Besides the above described problems, this dumping also seriously impairs water quality. The second phase of the federal "Clean Water Act" first passed in 1972 is underway. The goal is to make all the waterways in the United States fishable and swimmable. Though

not too many people may want to swim or fish in Salt or Buffalo Creeks, the water quality in these creeks affects the quality of the Des Plaines and Illinois Rivers into which they discharge. The focus of Phase 2 will be on polluted storm water runoff. The source of the pollution can be oils, chemicals and debris washed off of streets and parking lots; fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides off lawns; soils erosion and other contaminants from construction sites and the deliberate dumping of chemicals and other wastes into waterways or storm sewers. There is a Village ordinance that prohibits the discharge to the storm drainage system of anything but storm water. This includes things such as old motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids; unused paints, solvents or cleaning fluids; waste water such as from carpet cleaning; animal wastes; etc. Any person discharging pollutants into the waterways or storm drainage system is liable to criminal prosecution and is subject to a penalty of not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 per violation. In accordance with the Federal Storm Sewer Regulations, if anyone sees someone dumping chemicals, paints, solvents or other pollutants into the creeks or into storm drains or streets so that they get into the creek system, or if a resident has any other storm water quality or concerns or issues, please contact the Public Works Department at (847) 705-5200. Most household wastes can be recycled, disposed of with the normal garbage collection when properly prepared, or brought to a hazardous waste collection site.

Check with the Village's Environmental Health Department at (847) 359-9090 or visit the Village's website at www.palatine.il.us for further information on disposing of these wastes. It is important to know that every curb inlet and storm drain in the Village discharges into a pond or creek.

Palatine is Celebrating Building Safety Week May 5-11



Americans spend over 85% of their lives indoors. Yet most people spend little, if any, time thinking about the safety of the buildings they inhabit. Fortunately, the Village of Palatine spends a lot of time and energy thinking about building safety and fire prevention every day.

To help raise awareness of building safety, the Village of Palatine is celebrating Building Safety Week from May 5th through 11th. The theme for this year is "Building Safety: Where you Live, Work and Play." As part of its mission to promote ideas, methods and technologies that encourage the construction of durable, sustainable buildings and homes, the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF) sponsors Building Safety Week each year to promote the use and understanding of construction and building codes.

First observed in 1980, Building Safety Week annually raises public awareness of critical safety issues affecting every person, regardless of age or occupation. These entail the structural soundness of the buildings where we live and work, reliability of fire prevention and suppression

systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

Inspectors, plan reviewers and others in the Village of Palatine work to ensure the safety of the structures in which all of us live, work, attend school, worship and play. These officials provide the first line of defense against building disasters. We are silent but vigilant guardians who work daily to ensure safety in the built environment.

During Building Safety Week, the Village of Palatine will have numerous brochures and literature on safety tips for homes and families, tips on mold prevention and control, and the benefits of building permits, along with other information that ties into building safety and fire prevention available in the Village Hall first floor lobby. There will also be activity books, pencils, and stickers available for children.

Palatine News Briefs

NEED A NEW SIDEWALK?

If the sidewalk in front of your home is uneven, severely cracked, or deteriorated in a way that meets specific safety standards, you can have it replaced for half the actual cost through the Village's 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program. The cost to the homeowner for 2007 is approximately \$40.00 per sidewalk square. Requests for participation in the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program can be made by calling the Department of Public Works at (847) 705-5200 between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

The Village's Hazardous Sidewalk Program is designed to identify and eliminate the worst tripping hazards, at no cost to the homeowner. The Village has been divided into areas, and each year one of the areas will be inspected and the **MOST HAZARDOUS SIDEWALKS REPAIRED**. The area targeted for this year is bounded approximately by: Cunningham to the north, Northwest Highway to the south, Hicks Road to the east, and Smith Street to the west.

Call the Department of Public Works at (847) 705-5200 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday for further information about the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program or the Hazardous Sidewalk Program.

PALATINE'S HISTORY COMES ALIVE AT CEMETERY WALK ON MAY 18

The Palatine Historical Society is hosting its popular Cemetery Walk on Sunday, May 18 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Hillside Cemetery on Smith Street just north of Colfax Street. Costumed actors will portray the lives of some of Palatine's early pioneers.

Tickets can be purchased at the cemetery that day. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for Historical Society members, and \$2.00 for children 16 and under.

HOUSE & GARDEN WALK SET FOR JUNE 29

The Palatine Historical Society's annual House & Garden Walk will be held on Sunday, June 29 from 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. The tour begins at the Clayson House Museum, 224 E. Palatine Road, then it's on to several Palatine homes and gardens.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person in advance, \$20.00 on the day of the event. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Clayson House Museum or the Palatine Park District Community Center.

FREE TICKETS TO ARLINGTON PARK RACECOURSE MAY 16-18

Arlington Park invites you to Palatine Appreciation Weekend May 16, 17, and 18. Call (847) 385-7410 or log onto www.arlingtonparkevents.com/tickets for two FREE admission tickets per Palatine household. The special offer on Saturday, May 17th is the "Bistro Lunch Package" --\$16 includes free admission, Daily Racing Guide, Bistro Lunch & reserved seats!

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 16: 1st Race at 2:30 pm

Saturday, May 17: 1st Race at 1:00 pm

- Official Palatine Appreciation Day
- Second leg of Triple Crown: Preakness Stakes

Sunday, May 18: 1st Race at 1:00 pm

- Free Pony Rides, Petting Zoo & Face Painting

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO CATCH VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS ON RADIO, TV

If you are unable to watch the Palatine Village Council meetings when they are broadcast live on cable TV channel 6, please note that for your convenience they are rebroadcast on the following days and times:

Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	12:00 noon

Council meetings are also broadcast live on AM radio channel 1660.

Council meetings are held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays of the month.

PALATINE HOSTS SISTER CITIES FIRST MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Illinois Sister Cities Association hosted the first-ever five state Midwest Regional Sister Cities Conference in April in Palatine. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Missouri. Because the majority of partnerships in the Midwest are with European cities, the Regional Conference focused on the current impact of the European Union, the Euro, and international trade, according to Margaret Duer, president of the Sister Cities Association of Palatine. Honored guests included ambassadors from various Consulates in Chicago, representatives from Midwest cities and guests from Palatine's French Sister City, Fontenay-le-Comte.

Household Hazardous Collection --

Bring Your Items to Palatine High School on June 21

Wondering what to do with those old lawn and garden chemicals, paint, and household cleaners you discovered while spring cleaning the basement and garage? Bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, June 21 at Palatine High School, 1111 N. Rohlwing Road.

The event, which is being co-sponsored by the Township of Palatine, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), will be held 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Those bringing items for disposal must be in a vehicle, and wait times may range from 10 to 40 minutes.

What exactly is household hazardous waste? The term is used to describe the fairly common chemical products accumulated in the home from a variety of cleaning, painting, pest control and yard work activities. These chemical products are generally labeled as toxic, flammable, corrosive, and/or reactive on the packaging.

Proper disposal of these wastes can be a challenge. Household hazardous waste should never be poured down the drain, dumped onto the ground or into storm sewers. Household hazardous wastes also should not be thrown out with your household garbage.

The IEPA sponsors one-day and long-term collections statewide to encourage proper disposal of such household wastes. All Illinois residents are eligible to participate.

Acceptable Wastes For Collection

Oil-based paints	paint thinners	herbicides
insecticides	pesticides	old gasoline
pool chemicals	mercury	solvents
used oils	drain cleaners	fluorescent lamp bulbs
weed killers	batteries (household and auto)	
antifreeze	hobby chemicals	propane tanks (empty)
aerosol paints	household cleaners	fire extinguishers (empty)

Unacceptable Wastes – Please Do Not Bring

Latex paint	explosives	fireworks	medical wastes
smoke detectors	tires	computers	electronics
business and institutional wastes			

For questions about the event, please contact IEPA's Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604 or visit www.epa.state.il.us and MWRD at (312) 751-6633 or visit www.mwrdd.org.

For additional information, contact the Palatine Environmental Health Division at (847) 359-9090.

Village
of Palatine

N E W S L E T T E R

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