



The Spokesman

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY TO THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY
WWW.PARKRIDGE.US

Streetscape workshops underway

All community residents, leaders and business/property owners are invited and encouraged to participate in a community workshop on Uptown Streetscapes, Thursday, December 8, at 8 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

A workshop was also conducted in November.

The workshops are part of a process to plan and design the remaining Uptown streetscapes, including Northwest Highway, Prospect, Summit, Touhy and Washington Avenues. The City has commissioned a team of consultants including Spaceco (civil engineering), The Lakota Group (urban design and landscape architecture) and Christopher B. Burke Engineering (lighting design and engineering), to assist in designing, budgeting and engineering these improvements.

The consultant team gathered data, conducted inventories of physical conditions throughout Uptown and developed preliminary streetscape concepts and ideas.

The consulting team will review area issues and opportunities, and will present concepts and ideas for future streetscape improvements.

Information gathered from the workshops will be considered for incorporation into conceptual

streetscape designs.

Please join your neighbors, bring your ideas and help us look to the future of Uptown Park Ridge.

For more information contact: Juliana Maller, deputy city manager, 847/318-5206 or Sarah Mitchell, city engineer, 847/318-5455. ▲

Volunteers light up the City

Mother Nature gave us a perfect day on Saturday, November 12, when hundreds of volunteers came together to light up the trees in Park Ridge for the holidays.

Representatives from all the Indian Scouts, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Rotary, Taste of Park Ridge, and Chamber of Commerce worked to plan, manage, and guide the event.

Thirteen restaurants donated lunch: Affresco Restaurant; All on the Road Catering; D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub; Domino's Pizza; Einstein Bros Bagels; Hay Caramba; Jason's Deli; Lisa's Homemade Italian Ice; Noodles & Co.; Panino's Pizzeria; Perry's Pizzeria; Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory; and Tasty Pup.

The Holiday Lights planning committee included Scott Richter (Indian Scouts Federation), Jackie Mathews (Park Ridge Chamber president), Theresa Olson (Park Ridge Chamber president-elect), Dean Patras (Taste of Park Ridge), Mike McGrath (Kiwanis/City of Park Ridge), Mel Thillens (Indian Scouts), Bonnie Trenkle (Kiwanis), Jim Butler (Boy Scouts), Tony Tripp (Kiwanis/Photographer),

Alternative electric supply services pursued

Under a new law, the City may seek bids for the provision of aggregate electricity supply services to residential and small commercial retail customers by alternative electric suppliers. This could mean significant savings for customers.

The Act provides two types of programs: an "opt-in" program, in which a customer must affirmatively agree to service by the selected alternative supplier, or an "opt-out" program in which all residential and small commercial customers would be switched automatically to the alternative supplier, unless a customer affirmatively opted out of the program and continued service through ComEd or another provider. Under either program, ComEd would remain the distributor of electricity in the City; the selected alternative supplier would generate the electricity provided and deliver it to ComEd for distribution.

To operate an opt-out program, City residents must first approve a referendum. The City Council has taken steps to place a public question regarding an opt-out program on the March 20, 2012 primary election ballot.

The City Manager has been attending meetings of north shore communities interested in forming a consortium for bidding the electrical service in the hope of gaining additional savings. ▲

Like us on Facebook

The City of Park Ridge is on Facebook! Type "City of Park Ridge" in the search box and then "Like" our page. The page is frequently updated with the latest news and events happening in the City. ▲

Happy anniversary

Congratulations to the Human Needs Task Force as it celebrates its twentieth anniversary in December.

(Continued on page 6)

Volunteers saluted; staff thanked

I have regularly used this space to explain the urgent need for the City to get its fiscal house in order and for the residents and elected officials to demand more from the senior management who are charged with the City's day-to-day operations. Although we have not succeeded in cutting all spending that I believe needs to be cut, I am happy to say we have made great progress, enjoying our first real balanced budget in many years. However, we are nowhere near close to finishing the job that needs to be done before we have a city government that we can be proud of and which is the envy of and the model for our neighboring communities.

I could go on about how we must continue to be tight-fisted in our fiscal planning, even if it occasionally rubs people the wrong way. The bottom line is that you, the taxpayers, OWN this government. We are here to serve you and answer to you, not the other way around. That will continue to be the simple principle I follow in 2012, and it is my hope the new City Council will continue to grow into the job and recognize the principle that their loyalty and industry belong to you, not city management, not the employees and not the special interests... just you, and only you.

But rather than use what space I have left to continue hammering on budget and management issues, I want to take time to salute the many vol-

Energy survey conducted

During the recent electronics recycling event, the Cool Cities group and volunteers surveyed participants regarding use of energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy, and electric vehicles in Park Ridge.

There was overwhelming support for such ideas and potential related initiatives. Of the 226 respondents, almost everyone (94%) said they understood the basics and benefits of renewable energy sources like solar and wind, and a majority were interested in learning more (61%). The vast majority of respondents were interested in using public funds to improve energy usage in public buildings if supported by state incentives (92% in favor); public investing in renewable energy solutions like solar and wind power (84% in favor); and installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations in public areas (81% in favor).

Cool Cities Park Ridge is a volunteer team interested in improving the energy and environmental future of Park Ridge. Anyone can join, from children to the elderly, high school individuals or groups, all have something to offer to help Park Ridge become environmentally sustainable. For more information, please email Cool Cities Park Ridge at info4coolcities@gmail.com or visit its new and developing website, at <http://www.orgsites.com/il/parkridgecoolcities>. The group meets monthly at the Public Works Service Center. ▲

City clerk's corner....

The Clerk's office handles a great deal more than elections and keeping Council and City records. One of my special duties is acting as the chair of the Sister Cities Commission, developed to enhance our cultural and global friendships with other communities around the world. Our commission has created a colorful new 2012 wall calendar highlighting the success of the Kalo Foundation opening of the Iannelli Studios Heritage Center and the many cultural, historic, and artistic treasures of our City.

It was available for purchase at City Hall and other select locations starting at Thanksgiving time. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars will fund our future Sister Cities hospitality events, opening doors to visitors from abroad. It makes a great gift for former Park Ridgians as well.

Remember, you can register to vote in the City Clerk's Office. Avoid the pre-primary rush and do so now. Voter registration is during regular business hours; two forms of ID are required. ▲

unteers who serve on our City's Commission, Boards and Task Forces. We all lead very busy lives, and the members of those groups do as well. Nonetheless, they take time out of their hectic schedules and serve their community by performing a real and very important function: they act as the conscience and the caretakers of the City's character. A special salute goes to our Flood Control Task Force, which worked very hard with the City's staff and consultants to come up with a comprehensive plan to deal with chronic flooding issues. For years, mayors and aldermen have been talking about doing something. Now, with the help of the Task Force, this Council has finally approved a comprehensive plan and begun the process, and they should all be congratulated for that.

Finally, I want to thank the City's employees for their hard work this year. Some people claim I do not like our employees and think they all are poor performers. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact that I have vetoed pay raises and have been critical of management on occasion should not be construed as blanket criticism of the entire staff. Most of our staffers are regular folks like us, trying to do their jobs and working to make ends meet. It is my hope that through strengthened upper management, our staff will be able to perform even better and play an integral part in giving the taxpayers the model city government they pay for and deserve.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. See you in February.

Sincerely,



David F. Schmidt, Mayor

The Spokesman

CITY OF PARK RIDGE

505 BUTLER PLACE • PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

(847) 318-5200 FAX: (847) 318-5300

HOME PAGE: www.parkridge.us

ELECTED OFFICIALS

David F. Schmidt Mayor
Betty W. Henneman City Clerk

ALDERMEN

Joseph F. Sweeney First Ward
Richard DiPietro Second Ward
Jim Smith Third Ward
Sal Raspanti Fourth Ward
Daniel J. Knight Fifth Ward
Thomas A. Bernick Sixth Ward
Marty Maloney Seventh Ward

The Spokesman is published by the City as a public information service for residents.

Jim Hock City Manager
Aggie Stempniak Editor

City Hall hrs: 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon–Fri

City Council meetings:

First and third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

Use licensed contractors

The Municipal Code requires all contractors be licensed by the City of Park Ridge before beginning any project here. To protect yourself and your investment, homeowners should verify any contractor working on their property has obtained a City license. Oversight for the licensing is provided by the Community Preservation and Development Department.

The contractor licenses may be obtained from the Community Preservation and Development Department on the second floor of City Hall. They must be renewed each January 1.

Please call 847/318-5291 to verify if a contractor is currently licensed to work in Park Ridge. ▲

City snow plan

Here's how you can help

The City's snow plan goes into effect in the event of a 2" or more snow storm. Here are a few reminders that will help City crews do the best possible job in removing snow. A parking ban is in effect for 24 hours to allow for snow plowing operations. Streets where the ban applies are signed to indicate the restrictions. However, even in areas not signed, please keep cars off the street for at least 24 hours after the storm has passed to allow for plowing operations so streets may be cleared of snow "curb to curb." When shoveling or snow-blowing, do not put the snow into the street. If possible, put snow to the right of the driveway so plows do not move it back into the cleared area. Do not place refuse containers or carts in the street as they could be damaged during plowing. They should be placed on the parkway. Depending on manpower and availability, equipment is sent to each of the City's 14 snow plowing districts and cul de sacs, as well as to major arterial and collector streets, parking lots and sidewalks. In conjunction with other snow removal efforts, residents are asked to clear snow away from fire hydrants nearest to their homes. There are over 1,400 fire hydrants in Park Ridge. The Fire Department works to clear snow from



C. Peterson

Officers (left to right) Tom Rechlicz, Steve Tracy and Kristin Abbinante shown with Mayor David Schmidt and Chief Frank Kaminski. They were honored at a City Council meeting for their excellent police service in assisting with the arrest of a man with a gun at a convenience store. Officer Greg Taylor (not pictured) was also recognized.

as many hydrants as possible, starting with special target hazards, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Snow/Storm Command Phone: 847/318-6101—will advise citizens if snow parking regulations are in effect.

Park Ridge Police Department phone: 847/318-5252—will advise citizens where to pick up towed vehicles. ▲

New rules adopted for electronic recycling

Recently, Governor Quinn signed legislation that makes extensive changes to the Illinois Product Recycling and Reuse Act that expands the number of covered electronic products to include the following items: televisions, monitors, printers, computers (including tablet computers), electronic keyboards, facsimile machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, digital video disc players, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, digital video disc recorders.

Beginning January 1, 2012, residents will no longer be able to place any of the above electronic products in their refuse for disposal. ARC Disposal will not collect these items. SWANCC has worked with its member communities to provide environmentally sound recycling for electronics through one-day collection events and permanent drop-off locations. For a complete list of options, please visit swancc.org. ▲

O'Hare airport commission reports....

O'Hare expansion plans call for another runway over Granville Avenue. In addition, plans call for two existing runways, which currently do not send air traffic over Park Ridge, to be decommissioned. As a result, more traffic will be sent to two existing runways whose air traffic crosses Park Ridge from the Country Club to Southwest Woods and over the Manor. Park Ridge is forecasted to receive up to 250% more day and nighttime flight activity (1,000 flights daily) when these expansion plans are complete.

There are common sense relief measures that can help lessen the noise and emissions impact on the City. An important first step has been taken. In October, the City officially requested the FAA conduct a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ("SEIS") to obtain a current and accurate noise and emissions impact report given the current and planned increased airplane traffic over Park Ridge. To view the official letter to the FAA, visit "Living in Park Ridge", "Airport Issues" at www.parkridge.us. The O'Hare Airport Commission (OAC) will host an open forum discussion at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at the Park Ridge Public Library. ▲

Address correction

The correct address in the Annual Beautification Awards reported in the October *Spokesman* is at 208 Grand Blvd. We regret the error. ▲

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Monday
Employment Counseling, by appt
 @ Center of Concern 847/823-0453

Every Thursday
PR Lions Club Meetings; noon
 @ Riggios, Niles

Every Saturday
Critter Connection – Family Presentation
 PR Park Dist. @ Wildwood Nature Ctr.

December

1 Thursday
Classical Guitar Concert; 7:30 p.m.
 @ Maine South Auditorium

2 Friday
PR Panhellenic Holiday Musical; 12:15 p.m.
 @ PR Country Club

“Once Upon a December”; 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Chamber First Friday Event -
 Shops and restaurants throughout the City
Science Fair; 6:30 p.m.
 @ Roosevelt School

4 Sunday
It's a Wonderful Life movie; 1 p.m.
 to benefit PR Comm. Fund @ Pickwick Theatre

6 Tuesday
**20th Century Club
 Holiday Luncheon & Concert; 11:30 a.m.**
 @ PR Presbyterian Church

9 Friday
Center of Concern Annual Holiday Party; 7 p.m.
 @ South Park Recreation Center

10 Saturday
PR Chorale Christmas Concert; 7 p.m.
 @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church

11 Sunday
Maine East Winter Concert; 2 p.m.
 @ HS Auditorium

14 Wednesday
NSDAR General Mtg & Program; 11:30 a.m.
 @ PR Country Club 847/328-6946

16 Friday
Free Friday Fun Flick; 6:30 p.m.
 @ PR Presbyterian Church

18 Sunday
Winter Holiday Concerts; 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.
 @ Maine South Auditorium

19 Monday – 22 Thursday
Winter Break Workshop; 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 also Dec. 22, 23 & 26 - 30; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 @ Brickton Art Center & Gallery

January

2 Monday – 6 Friday
Winter Break Workshop; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 @ Brickton Art Center & Gallery

6 Friday
Health Care by Rainbow Hospice; 12:15 p.m.
 PR Panhellenic @ PR Country Club

January 9 – March 2
**Winter Reading Club
 “Read for a Winning Season”**
 @ PR Public Library

11 Wednesday
NSDAR General Mtg & Program; 11:30 a.m.
 @ PR Country Club 847/328-6946

13 Friday – 14 Saturday
Orchisis Dance; 7:30 p.m.
 @ Maine South Auditorium

17 Tuesday
**20th Century Club
 General Meeting & Program; 1 p.m.**
 @ PR Presbyterian Church

20 Friday
Free Friday Fun Flick; 6:30 p.m.
 @ PR Presbyterian Church
Thespian Coffeehouse; 7:30 p.m.
 Maine South @ Backstage Auditorium

21 Saturday
8th Grade Workshop; morning
 @ Maine South Fine Arts Dept. art area
Pre-School & Enrichment Fair; 10 a.m.
 @ PR Public Library

Annual Recognition & Installation Dinner; 5 p.m.
 PR Chamber @ PR Country Club

24 Tuesday
Winter Jazz Concert; 7:30 p.m.
 @ Maine South Auditorium

SAVE THE DATES

Center of Concern Bunko Party
 Feb 10, 12:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
District 64 K, New Student Registration
 Feb 7, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., district schools
 Feb 9, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., all schools except Carpenter

Police offer party watch

Going out of town and leaving young adults at home? Request a Party Watch for your residence in order to deter underage drinking parties. The Park Ridge Police Department will strive to maintain a generalized presence in the area surrounding your residence while you are away. Local emergency contact information must be supplied to the Department. If an incident is observed or the Department is provided with information that an underage drinking party is occurring, the Department will respond and attempt to notify the listed, local emergency contact.

Stop by the Park Ridge Police Department, 200 South Vine Avenue, and complete a Party Watch Request form. You may contact the Park Ridge Police Department at 847/318-5252 for more information. ▲

Mission Statement

The City of Park Ridge is committed to providing excellence in City services in order to uphold a high quality of life, so our community remains a wonderful place to live and work.

Healthy community partnership marks 20 years

The Park Ridge Healthy Community Partnership will be celebrating its 20 year anniversary in 2012. The group, sponsored by Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, meets at City Hall and represents a cross section of individuals in our community including City staff (fire, police and health), business owners, private residents, township, school and church representatives. The mission statement adopted by the partnership is “To identify and evaluate currently unaddressed health and safety needs in the community and, in collaboration with local partnerships, help initiate programs to address them.”

Over the years, it has initiated a wide range of programs, to name a few: Turn Off Your TV Night, Health Issues in Men (HIM), “No Texting While Driving,” sunscreen use for sports participants in schools, bicycle helmet safety, Teenagers and the Law pamphlets, and the Park Ridge Community Help guide...a resource pamphlet available in City Hall, as well as in other locations throughout the City.

The Community Help Guide is also available on the web at PRCHG.com. The partnership will determine the focus for its anniversary year soon. ▲

Public art commission considers steel project

The Public Art Commission is working to develop plans for using a piece of steel given to the City from the World Trade Center. The aim is to honor those who lost their lives in a fitting way. The Commission, in conjunction with the Fire and Police Departments, has chosen to place the memorial in front of Fire Station #35, at Cumberland and Devon.

Currently, it is seeking to engage the services of an artist, architect, or designer to help with this public art project. A request for letters of interest in determining how to best display the steel was sent to a number of artists, architects, and designers in November. ▲

To obtain event details, visit <http://www.ParkRidgeArts.org> or call 847/318-5200.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FISH turns 40

For 40 years FISH (Friends Indeed Serve & Help) volunteers have served Park Ridge and Maine Township residents by giving free rides to medical appointments. Last year FISH provided more than 1200 rides for older adults, dialysis patients and others, contributing over 2400 hours of volunteer service on a modest budget. Help is needed to continue the service.

If you can spare three hours per month to drive neighbors to medical appointments, please contact Ed Oken, president, at 847/696-0761. Since volunteers use their own cars, criteria include a driver's license, a good driving record, and auto insurance.

The group motto is "neighbors in need are neighbors in deed." Need a ride? Contact Gloria, Fish transportation coordinator at Maine Township, 847/297-2510. ▲

Police department coordinates toys for tots

The Park Ridge Police Department is again coordinating citywide efforts to assist the United States Marine Corps Reserve in its annual Toys for Tots campaign. Toys for Tots distributes toys, games and educational items to thousands of underprivileged children and teens throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and throughout the nation every holiday season. "We are excited to participate again this year. I think that our efforts this holiday season are even more important given the increased number of families affected by the troubled economy," said Chief Frank Kaminski. "We ask everyone who is able to dig deeper this year and help extend this program out to more and more families," he added.

Anyone interested in donating toys, games and books, should insure that they are not wrapped in holiday paper, are new and in original, unopened condition.

Donations will be accepted at

City Hall, 505 Butler Place; Fire Station #36, 1000 N. Greenwood Ave.; Fire Station #35, 901 W. Devon Ave.; Police Department, 200 S. Vine Ave.; Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave; and the Public Works Center, 400 N. Busse Hwy. ▲

Historical society moves

The Park Ridge Historical Society has moved its operations into the historic Solomon Cottage at The Youth Campus on North Prospect Avenue, with plans to create a vibrant History Center for the citizens of Park Ridge. The Society Board is now busy continuing plans to renovate this landmark building. This year the Society is involved in a program of expansion, reaching out to the community, seeking input, involvement and support through community meetings.

The Society recently created an annual appeal to help defray the costs of running the Society, which include the community celebrations, lectures and programs hosted by the Society.

For more information go to www.pennyville.org. ▲

Mural progress continues

The Mural Restoration Committee reports steady progress in raising funds to restore the Park Ridge Post Office mural. ▲

Yardwaste collection ends for season

Yardwaste collection ends for the season the week of December 12, depending upon your regular garbage day. Collection will resume in April. ▲

Christmas tree collection set

Christmas trees will be collected for chipping the week of January 9, 2012, on your regular garbage day. Please remove the trees from the bags and take off all lights, garland and ornaments. All trees placed out for chipping should be placed curbside. Trees placed out at other times, or in the alley, will be collected by ARC Disposal and taken to the landfill. ▲

Holiday closings observed

City Hall will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; and Monday, January 2. Residents are reminded that in conjunction with the holiday scheduling, the City takes a break from issuing parking tickets only on the following dates: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. ▲



Solomon Cottage by Paul Adlat



POSTAL CUSTOMER
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068

Presort Standard
U. S. Postage
PAID
Park Ridge, Illinois
Permit No. 491



Anthony Tripp

Hundreds of volunteers gather after placing holiday lights on trees in the City.

Lights *(continued from page 1)*

John Warnimont (Rotary/Electrician), and Gail Haller (Park Ridge Chamber executive director). Thanks to the previous years' work put in by Jim Bruno and Ed Latko from the Indian Scouts, the 2011 planning committee was able to layer onto what they learned. ▲

Art at Iannelli studio

Volunteers are helping to clean and ready the Iannelli Studio property for expanded use. Park Ridge Boy Scout Troop 1, the oldest boy scout troop in the U.S., is also decorating for Christmas. Prino projects (mini-classes) will begin shortly, according to Betsy Foxwell, Kalo president, and classes in silver clay are planned in January followed by a special exhibit featuring Park Ridge artists in February.

For details go to the Kalo website: www.kalofoundation.org. ▲

It's a wonderful life

The holiday season is fast approaching so plan to attend Liberty Bank for Savings' showing of *It's a Wonderful Life* on Sunday, December 4. Families and individuals of all ages are invited to the historic Pickwick Theatre. Admission is free, however, donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund (PRCF) are gratefully accepted.

Holiday music and live entertainment will start at noon when doors open with the movie set to begin at 1 p.m. Entertainment will include a performance on the historic Hammond organ and carolers from The Willows Academy in Des Plaines. Further information on the holiday movie or other PRCF activities are available by calling 847/825-5311 or at www.PRCCommunityFund.org. ▲

Welcome new business

We welcome new businesses and congratulate their successes. We encourage residents to look to the City first for their shopping and service needs.

Gumba Joe's

Restaurant recently expanded menu and hours with new dining room evening service comparable to its former location as "Sonny's." Casual lunch.

112 Main Street

Phone: 847/685-2500

www.gumbajoes.com

Nonna Silvia's trattoria & pizzeria

Cited as one of Chicago's Best by WGN TV in October. Old world recipes and pasta made in house.

1400 S. Canfield Road

Phone: 847/292-9970

www.nonnasilvias.com

Wiggle Butt Pet Grooming

creative pet grooming

630 Busse Highway

Phone: 847/452-0023

wigglebuttgrooming@gmail.com

Author speaks

Daniel Patrick Smith gave insights about his book *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police Department* to graduates of the Park Ridge Citizens Police Academy (CPA). A ride-along with his brother, a Chicago policeman, planted a seed for the book. Many CPA participants have done ride-alongs in Park Ridge. The book is available at Lake Claremont Press: www.lakeclaremontpress.com. ▲