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SUSTAINABILITY



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HIGHLIGHTS



News from Evanston City Government – Spring/Summer 2011

3-1-1 Call Center Kicks off 3 of '11



On March 1, 2011 the City of Evanston will introduce a new 311 Call Center. This exciting initiative is meant to improve customer service city-wide and enhance staff efficiency of operations, responsiveness to service requests and accountability.

“Your Key to the City”

The City of Evanston’s 311 initiative includes a call center and an online citizen support center.

The goal is to improve customer service city-wide by:

- Providing a simple to remember phone number for all non-emergency city services;
- Providing 24/7 access to city information through a web portal that will allow citizens to submit requests for service, ask questions, and to be able to track the status of their open requests;
- Utilizing Customer Relationship Management (CRM) technology to address information and service requests in a more efficient and effective manner; **CONT'D PAGE 3**

New Pedestrian Law & Crosswalks Explained

A change in state law regarding pedestrian crossings and the City of Evanston’s efforts to address pedestrian safety with crosswalk upgrades has recently created some confusion for Evanston motorists. With the potential for snowy and icy conditions in the near future, the City of Evanston and its Department of Public Works’ Transportation and Engineering Division would like to clarify the law and the signs associated with certain crosswalks.

As of July 22, 2010, state law changed regarding pedestrians in crosswalks, making it mandatory for all drivers to come to a complete stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks regardless of whether or not there are traffic signals/stop signs present at the crosswalk. Previous law only required drivers to yield to pedestrians and stop when necessary. The purpose of the new law is to ensure the safety for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

“Evanston motorists need to pay special attention to the nearly 50 uncontrolled mid-block pedestrian crossings (those without traffic lights or stop signs) around town,” explained

Evanston Public Works Director Suzette Robinson. “The city is in the process of upgrading these crossings with clearer, more visible signs alerting motorists of an upcoming pedestrian crossing.”

The city has already upgraded 20 such crossings as follows: 100 feet before the crossing, yellow diamond-shaped signs read “pedes-

trian crossing ahead”; 20 feet before the crossing are rectangular-shaped signs emblazoned with a small “stop sign” within the sign labeled “State Law, Stop here for pedestrians”; and at the pavement marked crosswalk are yellow rectangular “pedestrian crossing” signs.



CONT'D PAGE 7

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EVANSTON, IL
PERMIT NO. 21

TO: RESIDENTIAL PATRON
Evanston, Illinois

CITY OF EVANSTON
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201



HIGHLIGHTS is published quarterly by the City of Evanston. Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome at 847/448-8085. Contact information for elected officials is available at cityofevanston.org or call the City Manager's Office, 847/866-2936.

Mayor

Elizabeth B. Tisdahl

1st Ward

Judy Fiske

2nd Ward

Lionel Jean-Baptiste

3rd Ward

Melissa Wynne

4th Ward

Donald Wilson

5th Ward

Delores A. Holmes

6th Ward

Mark Tendam

7th Ward

Jane Grover

8th Ward

Ann Rainey

9th Ward

Coleen Burrus

City Clerk

Rodney Greene

City Manager

Wally Bobkiewicz

Editor

Eric D. Palmer



cityofevanston.org/311

March 1 First Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Evanston Main Library,
1703 Orrington Ave.

March 14 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

March 17 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

March 28 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

April 12 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

April 12 Annual Town Meeting
8 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

April 21 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

April 25 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

**April 30 Earth Day/Arbor Day
Celebration**
1-4 p.m., Evanston Ecology Cen-
ter, 2024 McCormick. Join the
Ecology Center for some festive
activities, earthly games and
nifty crafts. Informational sta-

tions will be set up to help
guide you to a smaller environ-
mental footprint. So, bring the
whole family to honor our
home, sweet home! 847/448-
8256.

May 9 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

May 19 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

May 23 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

June 7 First Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Evanston Main Library,
1703 Orrington Ave.

June 13 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

June 16 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

June 27 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

July 4 Independence Day
Civic Center and libraries
closed. All collections will occur
one day later this week.

July 11 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

July 21 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

July 25 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

August 8 City Council
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic
Center.

August 18 Fifth Ward Meeting
7 p.m., Fleetwood-Jourdain,
1655 Foster St.

August 28 Community Picnic
12 - 5 p.m. Ingraham Park, 2100
Ridge Ave. What's more fun
than gathering with your
friends, family and fellow
Evanstonians to enjoy an after-
noon in the park with free food,
games, activities and entertain-
ment?

The annual COMMUNITY Picnic
will be held from noon to 5 p.m.
in Ingraham Park behind the
Evanston Civic Center, 2100
Ridge Ave. Details will follow
closer to the event date.

SPECIAL EVENTS

See pages 4-7 of the Recreation on other side of this publication

EVANSTON 150 Kicks off March 26 with Community Rally at Levy Senior Center

**Evanston Prepares for Mile-
stone 150th Anniversary in
2013 with a Community-wide
Grassroots Initiative to
Identify Top 10 Ideas for the
Future**

The Evanston150 Steering Committee will host a Community Rally on Saturday, March 26 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Levy Senior Center, at 300 Dodge Ave. The Community Rally will feature food, drink, entertainment, and an introduction to this exciting proj-

ect. Community members of all ages are welcome. Admission is free, and reservations are recommended. For more information or to make reservations, send an e-mail to rsvp@evanston150.org or visit evanston150.org.

EVANSTON150 is a community-wide initiative that engages all of us in imagining our future, resulting in 10 visionary projects to celebrate Evanston's 150th anniversary in 2013.



YOUR IDEAS
FOR OUR
FUTURE

A Kick Off Breakfast to introduce the project to community leaders and the media will take place on Tuesday, March 22nd from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Evanston at 1818 Maple Street.

City of Evanston Water and Chromium



The City of Evanston's Water Division has annually tested for total chromium in

their drinking water since 1979. However, Underwriter's Laboratory, the nationally recognized water quality laboratory utilized by Evanston for this type of water analysis, only has equipment capable of measuring the level of total chromium in water to 5.0 parts per billion (ppb). The chromium in Evanston's water has always been below this detection level and reported as non-detectable, or less than 5.0 ppb.

A December 19, 2010, article in the *Chicago Tribune* indicated that the hexavalent chromium level in Chicago's drinking water to be 0.18 ppb. Based on the proximity of Evanston's water intakes to Chicago's and similarities in the water treatment processes, the City of Evanston's staff assumed that the level of hexavalent

chromium in the Evanston drinking water would be approximately the same as Chicago's. It should be noted that the EPA only requires that total chromium levels be tested. Total chromium includes hexavalent and other forms of the metal.

The current US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois EPA maximum contaminant (MCL) level for chromium is 100.0 ppb. This standard is established in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and all public water supplies must abide by these regulations. MCLs are established to protect human health based on what the EPA believes, given present technology and resources to detect and treat, is the lowest level to which water systems can reasonably be required to remove a contaminant.

At this time, the EPA considers this level of protection adequate to avoid skin irritation or ulceration during short term exposure or damage to liver, kidney, circulatory and nerve

tissues during long-term (lifetime) exposure.

Per the *Tribune* article, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) commissioned the testing for hexavalent chromium levels in tap water from 35 cities. The EWG recommendation is that the EPA should move expeditiously to establish a legal limit for hexavalent chromium in tap water and require water utilities to test for it. The EWG report can be viewed at their website:

ewg.org.

Evanston's Water Division had tests performed on its finished water to determine the levels of total and hexavalent chromium. In samples collected late January, using the same laboratory and lab method as the EWG, the level of hexavalent chromium was determined to be 0.27 ppb. The laboratory also indicated that the total Chromium level of this same sample was 0.20 ppb. These test results provide an indication of the margin of error in the testing methods when sampling for such minis-

cule detection levels in the parts per billion range. For reference a part per billion is equivalent to 1 second in 32 years.

If Evanston were required by the EPA to remove hexavalent chromium, a reverse osmosis/membrane technology treatment process would be required. Based on the capacity of the Evanston water treatment plant, conversion to this technology would cost, at a minimum, \$110 million to install. In addition, this type of treatment process would require an increase in maintenance expenditures of approximately \$3 million annually.

The Evanston Water Utility is committed to testing for both total and hexavalent Chromium on a quarterly basis in accordance with a USEPA request for all large water utilities. The results of these quarterly tests will be reported as they become available.

3-1-1 Call Center to kick-off March 1, 2011

FROM PAGE 1

- Improving accessibility of City services to all constituents via phone and internet;
- Providing exceptional customer service to all residents, businesses and visitors; and
- Improving staff accountability in providing non-emergency services to constituents.

How does 3-1-1 work?

311 will simplify resident and business access to non-emergency City services and information. Residents and businesses often go through multiple channels (multiple phone calls, transfers, etc) to

get desired information or request City services.

311 will provide them with one simple, easy to remember number for all non-emergency information and service requests. Whether needing information on an upcoming City event or program, or requesting service for a pothole to be patched, it will be handled through one phone call to one phone number.

Calls will be handled by trained staff members who take ownership of the call and respond through use of a customer relationship management (CRM) software tool. The

CRM tool will have consistent and accurate information pertaining to frequently asked questions, allowing the call taker to respond to the caller immediately or appropriately assign the work request to city staff for timely response. It also allows staff to track performance and be more accountable to constituents. 311 will make city operations more efficient and responsive to needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

Beginning March 1, 2011, the 311 call center will be open 7 days a week, 365 days a year from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., increas-

ing staff's availability to residents 36% from the current regular business hours. Voice mail will be provided for overnight calls and responded to the following day.

Additionally, 311 services will be available on the city's website. Constituents will be able to access an extensive database of frequently asked questions, submit service requests or inquiries, which will be routed to responsible staff, and track the status of open service requests at any time from the city's website. For more information please visit cityofevanston.org/311.

WOW! Women Out Walking Kicks off March 19th at ETHS

Women Out Walking (WOW) is a 12-week walking and health education campaign to promote health, wellness, community and physical activity for the women of Evanston. WOW is open to women of all ages and fitness levels.

This year's program will kick-off at the Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Avenue (Enter from parking lot on Dodge Avenue).

Walking reduces the risk of certain diseases, helps to manage weight, helps control blood pressure, and much more.

Each walker will receive a walking journal, a pedometer, a WOW t-shirt, and a chance at a healthier life. Join us!

For more information, visit: cityofevanston.org/wow or call 847/328-2100 x 2920



Volunteer Evanston

Connecting you with volunteer opportunities in the Evanston community

The City of Evanston is happy to announce its partnership with Evanston Community Foundation, Northwestern University and School District 202 in promoting volunteerism in Evanston. Through this collaboration, the city and its partners will introduce a community web-based volunteer software platform. The web-based application will allow Evanston agencies to recruit, manage, and organize volunteer opportunities online.

Also, volunteers will have the capability to view and select opportunities online by agency, interest, event and availability. Finding volunteer opportunities in Evanston will be a click away. This user-friendly initiative is part of the

Volunteer Evanston program and launched in January 2011.



Are you looking for ways to strengthen and enhance city services? The City of Evanston Volunteer Program provides many service opportunities for you within city government. Visit: volunteerevanston.org or call 847/448-8266 to find out more.

The 2011 Talking Pictures Festival

Discover independent films right here in Evanston at the 2011 Talking Pictures Festival

Grab your neighbors, friends, and family to travel the world and enjoy films from the U.S., Europe, Africa, Chi-town and everywhere else in between.

Now in its third year, the 2011 Talking Pictures Festival takes place April 14 - 17 in Evanston and celebrates independent films from around the world mixed with brand new offerings by local filmmakers. From animation to documentaries, fiction films and shorts programs, this year's four-day festival will offer Evanstonians the chance to discover a great new crop of films and meet visiting filmmakers up close and in person.

A full festival schedule will be posted in March at: talkingpicturesfestival.org

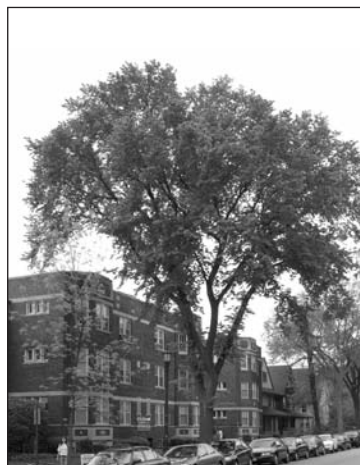


Festival locations this year include two Northwestern University venues: Block Cinema and the Medill School of Journalism, as well as free programming at the Evanston Public Library. The Talking Pictures Festival is produced by the non-profit film arts organization Percolator Films with much help from a group of dedicated volunteers, local community groups and businesses.

For more information, please contact the festival at:

tel 847/371-2804
filmvideoforum@yahoo.com
talkingpicturesfestival.org

Dutch Elm Disease Insurance



The City of Evanston's Parks/Forestry Division offers Dutch Elm disease (DED) insurance to all Evanston property owners.

This insurance covers the entire cost of removal of private elm trees infected with DED to ground level (does not cover stump removal).

Applications and premiums are due no later than June 1 of each year.

See page 30 of this publication (Recreation and Arts section) for details or call the Parks/Forestry Division at 847/866-2912.



Evanston City Council is Now Streaming Live on www.ectv.com

High-rise Apt & Condo Safety

People living in a high-rise apartment or condominium building need to think ahead and be prepared in the event of a fire. It is important to know the fire safety features in your building and work together with neighbors to help keep the building as fire-safe as possible.

Be Prepared!

- »» For the best protection, select a fully-sprinklered building. If your building is not sprinklered, ask the landlord or management to consider installing a sprinkler system.
- »» Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features in your building (fire alarms, sprinklers, voice communication procedures, evacuation plans and how to respond to an alarm).
- »» Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- »» Make sure all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked, not locked or blocked by security bars and clear of clutter.
- »» If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out to notify the fire department and your neighbors.
- »» If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If it is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest way out.
- »» If an announcement is made throughout the building, listen carefully and follow directions.
- »» Use the stairs to get out — never use the elevator unless you are directed to by the fire department.



Escape 101

GO to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call the fire department. If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.

If you can't get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or a disability, **STUFF** wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out.

CALL the fire department and tell them where you are.

OPEN a window slightly and wave a bright cloth to signal your location. Be prepared to close the window if it makes the smoke condition worse.

Fire department evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor evacuation status.

FACT



High-rise buildings are more likely to have sprinklers and fire alarm equipment than other non-high-rise buildings.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. 65% of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms at all or no smoke alarms that work. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.



Safety Tips:

- »» Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound
- »» An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.
- »» Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- »» Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- »» Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- »» Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use ten-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are ten-years-old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- »» Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- »» Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- »» If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- »» An ionization alarm with a hush button or photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- »» Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement, in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- »» Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights. Vibration equipment can be added to these alarms.
- »» Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

Use Local Resources to Kick Your Plastic Bag Habit

BY CATHERINE HURLEY

Waste reduction and recycling is a key component of the Evanston Climate Action Plan. One important way that every Evanstonian can help is to break our reliance on single-use plastic bags.

The data on the plastic bag problem is staggering.

- On average, a plastic bag is used for 7 minutes and then discarded.
- The U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually at an estimated cost to retailers of \$4 billion (*Wall Street Journal*).
- Anywhere from .5% to 3% of all bags wind up recycled (*BBC, CNN*).
- The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only 4 trips to the grocery store.

So how do you go from knowing plastic bags are a drag, to actually decreasing your use of plastic bags? Here

are a few tips on the easiest ways to eliminate (or at least decrease) your bag usage.

Invest in good, robust reusable bags. Big bags with durable handles, especially ones you can put over your shoulder, are best. Even better are ones made from recycled or sustainable materials. In Evanston, you can purchase a reusable bag at the Evanston Ecology Center or at many local retailers including: WholeFoods, CVS, Dominick's, Jewel, Ace Hardware on Davis St., TrueValue Hardware on Central St., Healthy Green Foods on Main St. and many more.

Keep your reusable bags where you will remember to take them with you. This is crucial. If you don't have them, you can't use them. Hang them by the door you use every day or leave them in your car. If you find yourself at



the store and have forgotten your reusable bag, buy another one. Most stores sell them for a dollar or two and the unplanned purchase might help you to remember your bags the next time.

Keep a compact, foldable bag stashed away for emergencies. Tuck one into your handbag, knapsack, glove compartment or anyplace easy and convenient. Generally, these bags are good for lighter

loads, which means they're best for "emergencies only." **Reuse and then recycle your existing plastic bags.** You probably already have a few or several plastic bags at home. Start by reusing them as many times as feasible. Once they are no longer useful as a bag, recycle them. In Evanston, many stores recycle plastic bags, including CVS on Central, WholeFoods, Dominick's or Jewel.

Say no to new plastic bags. Get into the habit of saying "Thank you, but I do not need a bag" every time you go shopping. It is amazing how often a small item such as a pack of gum, a birthday card or a loaf of bread will automatically be placed in a plastic bag at a store. Carry small items out of the store without a bag and help say "no" to bringing more plastic bags into your life.

New Sustainable Programs Coordinator Appointed

Catherine Hurley was named the city's new Sustainable Programs Coordinator and began her work with the city in December 2010.

Ms. Hurley comes to the city from MWH Americas Inc., where she had been a Supervising Project Manager and Resource Efficiency Management Group Leader since 2003. MWH is a large international water, wastewater, engineering and environmental services company. While at MWH, Catherine managed a water conservation and pro-



tection program for the DuPage Water Commission, conducted a baseline inventory of greenhouse gases for the City of Rockford, while her group managed a renewable energy

program for the City of Chicago and participated in a variety of water and wastewater system evaluation studies around the Chicago area.

Catherine has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Dayton, is a Registered Professional Engineer, a LEED Accredited Professional and was named the 2009 Young Civil Engineer of the Year by the Illinois section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

CUB energy saver



The City of Evanston has teamed up with the Citizen Utility Board's Energy Saver program to help you save money on your electric bills.

Sign-up, log in and start saving at
CUBenergysaver.com



Fix a Leak Week

March 14-20, 2011

Save Water and Save Money with Wiser Water Habits

BY CATHERINE HURLEY

Spring is a time for waking up your garden, cleaning your house and settling into new routines for the warmer weather. By making just a few small changes to your daily routine, you can save water, save money and preserve water supplies for future generations. The US EPA WaterSense label will help you identify high-efficiency products and programs. These water efficient products provide the same performance and quality you've come to expect, but with the added benefit of water savings.

Tip 1 Don't Flush Your Money Down the Drain!

If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, you probably have an inefficient model that uses at least 3.5 gallons per flush. New and improved WaterSense labeled models use less than 1.28 gallons per flush—that is at least 60 percent less than their older, less

efficient counterparts. Compared to a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet, a WaterSense labeled toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 annually on their water bill, and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.

Tip 2 Fix That Leak!

Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year. And a leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day. If you're unsure whether you have a leak, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak. To detect a toilet leak, place a drop of food coloring in the tank; if the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Repair a leaking faucet or replace it entirely with a WaterSense-labeled one. For toilets, often a simple fix inside the toilet tank can

stop by the leak.

Tip 3 Make It a Full Load

The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. To achieve water savings, wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate load size selection on the washing machine. When you purchase a new washing machine, buy a high-efficiency model to reduce your water usage to 28 gallons per load.

Tip 4 Shower Power

A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons. Save water by decreasing your shower by a few minutes. If you take a bath, stopper the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.

Tip 5 Turn It Off!

The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of two gallons per minute. Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime can save up to 8 gallons of

water per day, which equals 240 gallons a month!

Tip 6 Water Wisely

The typical single-family suburban household uses at least 30 percent of their water outdoors for irrigation. Some experts estimate that more than 50 percent of landscape water use goes to waste due to evaporation or runoff caused by over-watering. Help decrease the water you use for outside watering by planting native, drought-tolerant plants. Once established, they do not require watering beyond what nature provides. Make sure to monitor your sprinklers to ensure they are not watering the driveway or sidewalks. Even better, use a rain barrel to harvest water for your plants and water your lawn minimally using a hand-held sprayer.

New Pedestrian Law & Crosswalks

FROM PAGE 1

“The city would like to call special attention to six of these new upgraded mid-block crossings as being part of a pilot program that, in addition to using the three separate traffic signs, will also employ the use of yellow in-street signs that are tall, slender and rectangular emblazoned with a small “stop sign” within the sign labeled ‘State Law, stop for pedestrians within crosswalk,’” added City Engineer Paul Schneider.

The locations of these six in-street crossings are: Oakton Ave. and Grey Ave.; Emerson St. and Dewey Ave.; Emerson St. and Hartrey Ave.; Chicago Ave. and Hamilton St.; Main

St. and Ashland Ave.; and Main St. and Florence Ave. These are in addition to the existing in-street sign located at Central St. and Prairie Ave.

What seems to be giving several motorists confusion are the traffic signs that have a small “stop sign” represented on the sign, causing many motorists to stop regardless whether or not there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk. The law is very clear; motorists must only stop when there are pedestrians present; if there are no pedestrians in the crosswalk, there is absolutely no need for a motorist to stop at these mid-block pedestrian crossings.

A rule of thumb for motorists is that if it is a pedestrian crossing without a traffic light or a stop sign and there is no pedestrian present, then you don't need to stop, simple as that. If there is a pedestrian in any type of crosswalk, you should always stop.

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, every year an average of 170 pedestrians are hit and killed by Illinois motorists. In addition, approximately 6,000 accidents involving pedestrians are reported to authorities. The vast majority of pedestrian fatalities occur in crosswalks and over 30% of these accidents involve children. It is

hoped that the law will reduce these accidents and fatalities, ensuring safer streets for all Evanston residents.

The new law has the same penalties in place and imposes hefty fines on motorists who fail to stop at crosswalks and yield to pedestrians. The law imposes a \$150 minimum fine to motorists for the first violation, with the fine doubling for second offenses. An additional \$50 fine can be imposed when the law is broken in a school zone. Currently, approximately 20% of all pedestrian crashes occur within 800 feet of a school.

33rd Annual Evanston Public Library Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards

Join us as we honor the winners of this year's poetry competition and hear them read their poems. Janet Wong, nationally-acclaimed children's poet, will serve as this year's poetry judge. Ms. Wong will also read from her own works as we recognize the 2011 winners.

The Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards is a competition open to all adult and high school-age Chicago area poets. There is also a category open to Evanston elementary and middle school students. The awards are funded by an endowment to the library in memory of Jo-Anne Hirshfield, who found pleasure and delight in poetry. Check our web site for updated information on this year's competition coming soon at: epl.org.

Ms. Wong has received numerous awards and honors for her 21 books, such as the International Reading Association's "Celebrate Literacy



2011 Judge: Janet Wong

Award" for exemplary service in the promotion of literacy, and the prestigious Stone Center Recognition of Merit, given by the Claremont Graduate School. She also has been appointed to two terms on the Commission on Literature of the National Council of Teachers of English. In April 2003, Janet was one of five children's authors invited to read at the White House Easter Egg Roll. Ms. Wong judged the Hirshfield Poetry Awards in 2009 and is happy to return this year.

Author and Book Events at EPL

Agatha Christie's "The Mystery of Living" March 12

Join actress Betsey Means as she portrays the prolific English "Queen of Crime," Agatha Christie. In 1930, Christie married archaeologist Max Malloyan. The program will focus on this part of Christie's life, during which she accompanied her husband into the field continuing to write. The diverse people and places she encountered in their travels inspired many of her stories. 2 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Three Local Authors Read March 13

Pamela Ferdinand, Christine Sneed, and Suzanne Clores, all Evanston-based authors, read from their newest works. 2 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Chicana Poetry & the Specter of La Malinche April 28

La Malinche, the indigenous woman who served as Hernán Cortés's translator and mistress during the Conquest of Mexico, has historically symbolized the inherent treachery of Mexican women. In this lecture, Professor John Cutler surveys the work of several

different Mexican American poets—including Gloria Anzaldúa, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Ana Castillo, and Sandra Cisneros—to show how they have restored La Malinche from her place in historical ignominy. 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Author Event: I'm From Division Street May 3

Author Kenneth Green reads from and discusses his memoir of growing up on Division Street in Chicago in the 1950s. 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Music at Evanston Public Library

Mark Damisch Piano Concert July 10

Acclaimed pianist Mark Damisch returns for an all American piano music concert. 2 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Events at the Evanston Public Library's Loft

Steampunkery! March 7

2 - 3:30 pm, in the Loft. Steampunkery! Create miniature steampunk items and/or jewelry using wirework, stamping, beading, found objects and clay.

Celebrate Teen Tech Week in this delightfully off-beat workshop through hands-on "industrial design", learn more about steampunk, and discuss your favorite steampunk books (Westerfeld's *Leviathan*, Pullman's *A Golden Compass*, Fullmetal Alchemist, Oppel's

Airborn, *Girl Genius*, Jules Verne's classics, or another).

For a list of steampunk books, check out our bibliography at www.epl.org/teens & click "booklists." This workshop is for teens in grades 6-12. Please register at epl.org/teencal

A Midsummer Loft's Dream June 9 - July 30

Thursday, June 9 – Saturday, July 30, 2011, in the Loft. A Midsummer Loft's Dream: The Teen Loft of the Evanston Public Library will be hosting a

Summer Reading Program for teens in grades 6-12 from June 9-July 30.

Sign up for A Midsummer Loft's Dream, win prizes, and join us in the Loft as we transform the space into a summer long festival of programs, hilarity, theater and stories for teens at the Main library, as well as other locations throughout the city.

EVANSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

anytime



anywhere



everyday



Protect Your Neighbors!

HELP PREVENT WEST NILE VIRUS

BY CARL CANEVA

Mosquitoes over-winter by living in the sewers and come out after the first frost. Please take steps to reduce mosquitoes in your neighborhood. All of these activities help prevent the spread of West Nile Virus and will keep your family and your neighbors safe:

- Empty all sources of water, including gutters, watering cans, kiddie pools, pet dishes, or any container that can hold water
- Fix screens on windows and doors
- Remove old tires
- Wear long sleeves and pants if you're out at dusk or dawn



- Wear approved mosquito repellent (more information at: cdc.gov)
- After May 1, 2011, report stagnant water and dead birds to the Health Department at 847/866.2949 or email health@cityofevanston.org
- Contact the Health Department with any questions at 847/866.2949.

Summer Grillin'

BY CARL CANEVA

It's summer and everyone is grilling. Here are some quick food safety tips to keep your backyard barbeque safe for all:

- Use a probe stem thermometer to check food temperatures
 - Poultry 165°F or above
 - Beef 155°F or above
 - Pork & lamb 160°F or above
- Wash your hands often
- Don't reuse plates that had raw food on them
- Don't prepare vegetables or salads with the same knives you used for the raw meat
- Thaw meat in the refrigerator
- Clean surfaces and utensils often

- Keep hot food above 135°F and cold food at or below 41°F during storage and transport
- Call the Evanston Health Department at 847/866.2949 or email safefood@cityofevanston.org with your questions.



Rabies Update

BY MARGARET MATHIAS

In 2010, the City of Evanston had two cases of possible human exposure to rabies, which was up from zero cases the previous year. Rabies is an almost-always fatal disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. However, this disease is fully preventable by taking precautions.

Most commonly, people get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. While all mammals are susceptible to rabies, in this region of the world it is most often found in bats and nonvaccinated Canidae (dogs, foxes, coyotes, wolves, jackals, skunks, raccoons).

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), many other ani-

mals, such as rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, rats, mice and opossums are very rarely infected. In the Midwest, is not uncommon to find live or dead bats in or near one's home.

Any person who suspects they have been exposed to a potentially infectious animal should call their physician immediately. The Evanston Health Department strongly encourages citizens to keep up to date on their pets' vaccines and to call Animal Control at 847/866-5080 if a bat is discovered in the home.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Evanston Health Department at 847/866-2949 or health@cityofevanston.org.

Got Mold?! Some Useful Tips

BY CARL CANEVA

If you have mold in your home, it's an indication of moisture. Mold can trigger asthma attacks and can worsen the health of those with chronic breathing issues. The key to mold is controlling moisture. Here are some quick tips to prevent mold:

- Fix leaks as soon as they happen
- Inspect your home for any wet spots on walls or ceiling
- Increase the air movement using fans or by repairing your ventilation
- Keep drip pans for air condi-



tioners clean

- Use fans and dehumidifiers to dry out rooms
- Call the Health Department at 847/866.2949 or email us at health@cityofevanston.org for more information.

Keep Up to Date on Food Recalls & Safety Tips

BY CARL CANEVA

Want to know about the latest food recall? Need food safety tips for your next family dinner?

The Evanston Health Department has posted a widget with the latest food recall informa-

tion and food safety tips, courtesy of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Please visit

cityofevanston.org/health to view the information on the right-hand side of the page. If you have additional questions e-mail safefood@cityofevanston.org or call 847/859-7831.

Property Maintenance Reminders

BY KERRY DEMSKI

As we approach Spring and Summer, take some time to relax and smell the roses. While you're sitting on your porch drinking that delicious cup of tea, enjoying the beautiful scent of the flowers and freshly cut grass, take a good look around your yard and your neighborhood. Are the lawns mowed and garbage picked up? Is litter blowing down the street or garbage piling up in the alley? How about the exterior of your property and your neighbors'? Do the fences need painting? How about the siding? Do the gutters need to be cleaned? DON'T wait for the END of Summer. Get together with your neighbors NOW! Spring-time is the time to get organized and take care of your neighborhood. Get together with your neighbors and form a Neighborhood Clean-Up Day! Organize with your Neighborhood Watch or Church Group. Bring out refreshments! Get

some EXERCISE! Give the little kids a bag and a rake! Give the teens a paint brush! Moms and dads can make some refreshments! Get together and help your elderly or disabled neighbors with that lifting project that's been waiting for Spring. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors. Join together and make Evanston beautiful!

The Property Standards Division would like to remind you of some of the easy codes to follow that require NO MONEY, just some "elbow grease."

- SANITATION – All exterior property & premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition
- WEEDS & GRASS – Property must be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 8 inches
- TREES – Property shall be maintained free of fallen trees, limbs and branches
- RODENT HARBORAGE – There shall be no accumula-

tion of rubbish, boxes, firewood, lumber, scrap metal or any other materials so that rodent harborage exists. Stored materials shall be stacked neatly in piles elevated at least 12 inches above the ground or grade

- FURNITURE – Outside exterior furniture must be constructed of materials that are water- and weather-proof and resistant to rot, mildew, mold, decay and insect infestation
- PROTECTIVE TREATMENT – Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by PAINTING or other protective covering or treatment
- MOTOR VEHICLES, BOATS & TRAILERS – No inoperative, unlicensed, and unregistered motor vehicle, boat or trailer, shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

- PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES – No vehicle, regardless of status of licensing, registration or operability, shall be parked within a public sidewalk area, parkway area, private sidewalk, or upon any unimproved surface including any vegetation, grass, soil, rock, stone or surface other than concrete, asphalt, pavers or similar surface
- ALLEY FRONTAGE IDENTIFICATION – Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of .05 inches and shall contrast in color with their background.

If you have any questions about any of our Property Maintenance Codes and your responsibilities in reference to our codes, please feel free to call the Building Inspection Services Property Maintenance Staff at 847/866-2927.

2011 Preservation & Design Awards Nominations Due March 25

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BY MARCH 25, 2011

BY CARLOS RUIZ

The City of Evanston's Preservation Commission invites home owners, architects, contractors and Evanston residents to nominate preservation projects for the 2011 Evanston Preservation and Design Awards. This program is aimed at recognizing property owners, architects, contractors and local organizations for their contribution to maintaining and enhancing the architectural, historical and cultural heritage of the City of Evanston through construction projects in the following categories:

Sensitive Addition/Alteration: a project that successfully integrated an addition/alteration within the architectural style of a main house or building and complements the context and character of a historic district, neighborhood or a specific area within the city.

Adaptive Reuse: a project that creatively achieved the adaptive reuse of an existing structure originally used for another purpose. The project must have undertaken at least substantial rehabilitation.

Appropriate New Construction: A new house, building or structure that through its design and use of building materials enhances the quality of the built environment. The

project must have a positive impact on its immediate surroundings, including historic district, neighborhood or a specific area within the city.

Proper Rehabilitation/Restoration: A project that has closely followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and its Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Buildings (landmarks and non-landmark contributing/significant buildings city-wide are also eligible).

The deadline for submission of completed nominations is



March 25, 2011. To obtain the nomination form, contact Carlos D. Ruiz, Preservation Coordinator, at 847/448-8687 or download the nomination from the City of Evanston website: cityofevanston.org/preservationawards

Griffin Appointed Community and Economic Development Director

Stephen K. Griffin was named Director of Community and Economic Development and began his duties on November 29, 2010.

Griffin brings to the position 25 years of municipal community development experience. Griffin was Director of Planning for Prince William County, Virginia, where he held that position since 2002. Prior to his service in Prince William County, Griffin was Director of Planning in Spotsylvania County, Virginia and Director of Community and Economic Affairs in Gulf Shores, Alabama.



Griffin received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. He is also a member of the Ameri-

can Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Mr. Griffin brings to Evanston a combination of working in a large, diverse county along with a history of bringing innovative approaches to project review and economic development. His eight years in Prince William County exposed him to many challenges serving a community that is very passionate about maintaining its quality of life. Successfully navigating the County's unique mix of historic properties and development (pressures being located in the Washington,

D.C. metropolitan area) have prepared Steve well for the challenges he faces in the City of Evanston.

The Community and Economic Development Department provides overall program administration and coordination for housing, planning, zoning, economic development, property standards, building permits and construction activities.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 Update

BY **JOLENE SAUL, AICP**

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2), funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), was designed to help stabilize neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by the effects of foreclosed and abandoned properties. Evanston was awarded \$18.15 million to stabilize portions of west and south Evanston, as well as generate economic opportunities for local residents and businesses.

Property Acquisition

With its NSP2 grant, the city is in the process of acquiring 100 units of foreclosed housing in west and south Evanston. Acquired properties will be rehabilitated and then rented or sold to income-eligible households. At year-end 2010, 23 properties have been acquired, with an additional 11 under site control. In total, these properties represent 53 units, over half of the city's 100-unit goal. Rehabilitation work was under way in January on five of the acquired properties, with the first homes available for occupancy by summer 2011.

Economic & Employment Opportunities

The city is committed to increasing economic opportunity for low-income persons through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 3 hiring and sub-contracting goals. We are maintaining a database of certified Section 3 individuals seeking employment. The city had certified 105 individuals by the end of 2010. This database is being made available as a resource to assist businesses awarded NSP2 subcontracts with their hiring needs and requirements. Applications for Section 3 resident certification are available on the city's website or at the Community and Economic Development Department.

Additionally, the city requires that a minimum of 25 percent of NSP2 construction contracts go to Minority, Woman and Evanston Business Enterprises (M/W/EBE). To facilitate this, the city continues to identify businesses that are M/W/EBE and/or Section 3 business enterprises. Firms seeking certification as EBEs may also be certified as minority- or

woman-owned. Businesses which are not Evanston-based will have to submit certification from another entity in order to be considered as a minority- or woman-owned enterprise. 31 businesses have been certified as M/W/EBE and/or Section 3 by the end of 2010.

To download the applications for business and worker certification, please visit cityofevanston.org/nsp2.

Subcontractor Bid Packages

The first bid package for rehabilitation work was released in October 2010. Subcontracts are being listed on the city's NSP2 website as they are awarded. Additional bid packages will be released throughout the year. If you are interested in being notified about upcoming bid opportunities, please contact Jolene Saul at: jsaul@cityofevanston.org or 847/448-8166.

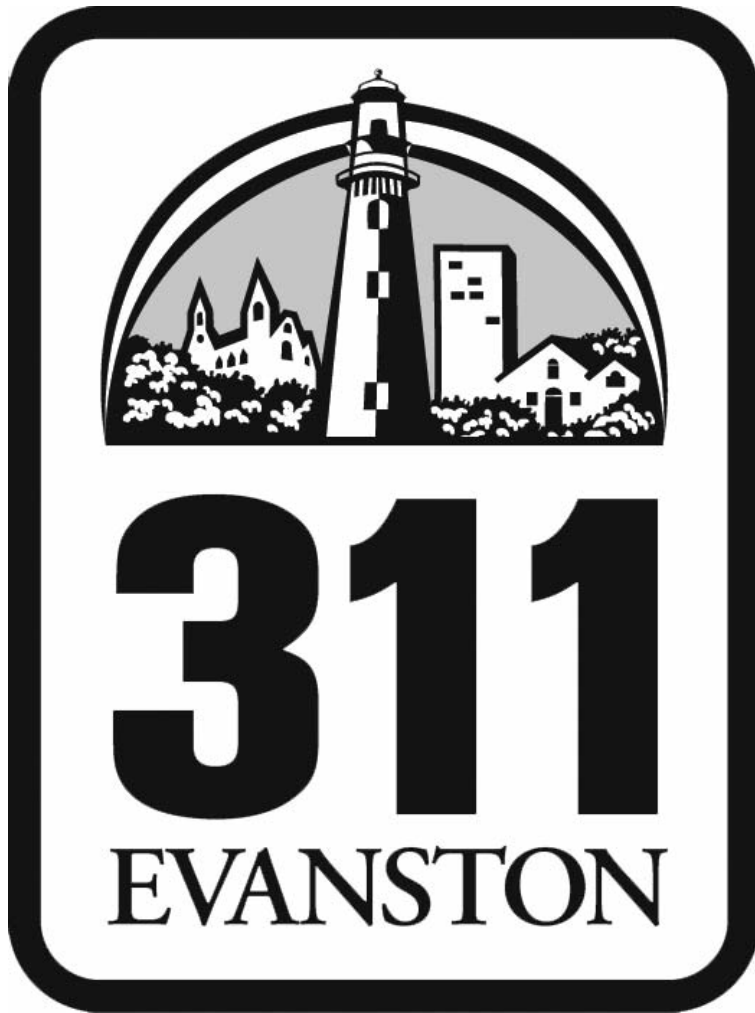
Interested Buyers & Renters

We expect the first set of NSP2 properties will be available for sale and/or lease in mid-2011. To be notified of housing opportunities, please e-mail Jolene Saul at

jsaul@cityofevanston.org. A form will soon be available to sign-up for housing notifications. If you have specific housing needs, such as large family size or a disability, please indicate this in your e-mail.

All homes will be available only to households with incomes at or below 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Some homes will be restricted to households making no more than 50 percent of the area median income. The current income levels are shown in the table below. Area median income is determined annually by HUD and is adjusted based on household size.

	50% AMI	120% AMI
1 Person	\$26,300	\$63,120
2 Person	\$30,050	\$72,120
3 Person	\$33,800	\$81,120
4 Person	\$37,550	\$90,120
5 Person	\$40,600	\$97,440
6 Person	\$43,600	\$104,640



Your key to
the city....
coming
March 1, 2011

For more information, visit:

www.cityofevanston.org/311