City of Evanston™

HIGHLIGHTS

News from Evanston City Government – Spring 2009

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City Council approves FY 2009-10 Budget with no property tax increase

The FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget was passed unanimously by City Council on February 9, 2009. The adopted budget maintains current City service levels without a property tax increase.

The budget includes the reduction of 16 positions and hiring deferrals of five management positions. However, there were no layoffs of existing staff. Other details on how the $3.6 million deficit was balanced are as follows:

- A reduction in budgeted wage increases by 2.5%
- A transfer of reserves to the General Fund from the Debt Service Fund of $500,000 and the Economic Development Fund of $300,000, for a total of $800,000
- A reduction of debt service interest costs by delaying bond issuance is expected to provide about $200,000 in savings
- The utilization of 50% of land sale proceeds in the amount of $450,000 deposited in the General Fund
- Northwestern University agreed to provide approximately $100,000 to the City to fund the salt dome and administrative costs for salt purchases
- Council approved a cigarette tax increase from 50¢ to 60¢ per pack, resulting in about $80,000 in additional revenue

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AT YOUR DISPOSAL 2009

Be sure to hang onto "At Your Disposal," the 8-page booklet from the Streets & Sanitation Division, which was mailed separately in March. It includes holiday refuse schedules, bulk trash days, recycling guidelines and street cleaning schedules at your fingertips. If you keep it in a convenient location, it will be handy for easy reference throughout the year.

Expect big changes for Evanston's City Council after April 7 Consolidated Election

When Mayor Lorraine Morton announced her retirement, everyone knew that big changes would be in store. In addition, four of the nine aldermen chose not to seek another term; one of whom, Elizabeth Tisdahl, is running for mayor of Evanston.

The 2009 Consolidated Election will be held Tuesday, April 7, with the polls open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidates seeking the office of mayor are: Barnaby Dinges, Jeanne Kamps Lindwall, Stuart Opdycke and Elizabeth Tisdahl. The contested races for aldermen are Ward 1-Cheryl Wollin (incumbent) and Judy Fiske; Ward 4-Elliot Dudnik, Howard Hartenstein and Donald Wilson; Ward 5-Delores Holmes (incumbent) and Adrian Dortch; Ward 6-Christopher Hart, Mark Sloane and Mark Tendem; Ward 7-Jane Grover, Kevin O'Connor and John M. Zbesko; and Ward 9-Coleen Burrus, Michael Drennan and Mimi Peterson.

Aldermen Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Melissa Wynne and Ann Rainey are unopposed, as is City Clerk Rodney Greene.

Township Supervisor Patricia A. Vance is unopposed, while incumbent Township Assessor Sharon Strobeck Eckersall is challenged by Bonnie S. Wilson.

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Provide your feedback on City services and programs at www.cityofevanston.org/feedback

Comment, complain or commend –yes, commend!

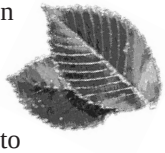
Ward meetings

5th Ward meetings

Fifth Ward Alderman Delores Holmes has announced the dates for her upcoming ward meetings: Thursdays April 16 and May 21. All meetings start at 7 p.m. and take place at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster St.

For more info. on ward meetings, contact the City Manager's Office, 847-866-2936.

Dutch elm insurance available



The City of Evanston has been a Tree City USA for the past 24 years. This recognition has been achieved partly due to our aggressive pursuit to control the spread of Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Without these measures, this disease could wipe out every American Elm tree in Evanston within 10-12 years.

Beginning in early June each year, Forestry Division employees conduct inspections of all elm trees on public and private property, looking for symptoms of DED. Once an elm tree is diagnosed with Dutch Elm Disease, City ordinance requires removal of it within 30 days. If the diseased tree is on private property, the property owner must bear the cost of removal.

To avoid these unexpected costs, the City's Forestry Division offers Dutch Elm Disease insurance to all Evanston property owners. This insurance covers the entire cost of removal of private elm trees infected with Dutch Elm Disease to ground level. It does not cover the cost of stump removal. Insurance premiums are based on the size of the tree and range from $60 to $140 per tree per year.

Applications and premiums are due no later than Monday, June 1, 2009. This annual insurance covers only tree removal costs if the tree becomes infected with Dutch Elm Disease and covers only a one-year period. Insurance applications can be picked up at the Civic Center or residents may call the Forestry Division at 847-866-2912 and ask that an application be sent to them.

Applications are also available on the City's Web site, but must be printed, filled out and mailed back to the Forestry Division office.

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

Mayor
Lorraine H. Morton

City Clerk
Rodney Greene

Interim City Manager
Rolanda B. Russell
www.cityofevanston.org

Acting Editor Mayre Press

Ward Aldermen

Cheryl Wollin	**1st Ward**
Lionel Jean-Baptiste	**2nd Ward**
Melissa Wynne	**3rd Ward**
Steven Bernstein	**4th Ward**
Delores A. Holmes	**5th Ward**
Edmund Moran, Jr.	**6th Ward**
Elizabeth B. Tisdahl	**7th Ward**
Ann Rainey	**8th Ward**
Anjana Hansen	**9th Ward**

City Phone Numbers

Area code (847)

Police/Fire/Emergency	911
Police & Fire TTY	866-5095
Police/Non-emergency	866-5000
Fire/Non-emergency	866-5918
City Information	328-2100
Public Library	448-8600
City TTY	448-8052
Health Department	866-2948
Recreation	866-2900

Dates to Remember

March 30-May 15 Gas-powered leaf blowers permitted for use.

April 6 Street cleaning and yard waste collections resume. A complete street cleaning schedule was mailed this month (At Your Disposal); yard waste is collected on refuse/recycling pick-up days. Yard waste drop-off is closed for the season.

April 7 Consolidated Election, vote for Mayor, Aldermen, City Clerk and Township offices. Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

April 12 Easter Sunday. Evanston Public Library closed.

April 15 Income tax deadline.

April 18 Summer Youth Job Fair, 8 a.m., Evanston Civic Center. For more information, see page 6 or call 847-866-2976.

April 20 Hydrant testing begins and continues through June 5.

April 24 Deadline to nominate preservation projects. Call 847-866-2928.

May 13 Youth Summit, call 847-448-8049.

May 15-17 "Skate by Numbers" Spring Ice Show at Robert Crown Center. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Call 847-448-8258 for details.

May 16 Farmers' Market opens, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through November 7; call 847-866-2958 for details.

May 16-17 Garden Fair, Independence Park both days; Ecology Center on Sat. only; see page 15 for details, 847-448-8256.

May 21 Citizen Police Academy Graduation, at 7 p.m., location TBA.

May 25 Memorial Day. Government offices closed; libraries closed May 24-25. No refuse/recycling/yard waste collections will occur on Monday. All collections will be one day later this week.

City Council adopts Climate Action Plan

On November 10, 2008, about a year after the process was launched, the City Council accepted the Evanston Climate Action Plan. Created through a unique collaboration between the City of Evanston and community volunteers, the plan outlines more than 200 strategies for reducing Evanston's greenhouse gas emissions. After Chicago, Evanston is the second city in Illinois to complete a Climate Action Plan.

Officially adopted by the City Council, the Evanston Climate Action Plan will serve as the City's guide to meeting its community greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

Efforts to reduce Evanston's impact on climate change started in October 2006, when the City Council voted to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Under the Agreement, participating cities – of which there are now more than 800 – commit to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target, which is a seven percent reduction in 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

The key to success will be motivating residents & businesses to take action, with leadership from the City.

After a greenhouse gas emissions inventory was completed, the City partnered with the Network for Evanston's Future to develop the Evanston Climate Action Plan (ECAP). Nine taskforces were formed, each co-chaired by one City staff member and two community members, to develop the Evanston plan.

The taskforces addressed: land use and transportation; energy efficiency and buildings; renewable energy; waste reduction and recycling; food production and transportation; forestry, prairie and carbon offsets; policy and research; education and engagement; and communications and publicity.

In November 2007, more than 130 people attended a community meeting at which residents were invited to join one of the nine taskforces. These groups spent six months researching emission reducing measures, focusing on those most feasible for Evanston because of their associated emissions reductions, cost, existing resources and community priorities.

At an Earth Day event in May 2008, attended by about 300 people, the recommended strategies were presented for community comment. Once community feedback was incorporated into the plan, it was taken to Council for acceptance.

"Evanston's process for developing its Climate Action Plan was unique – recognizing the community would play a key role in the successful implementation of the plan, the City invited the community to take part in shaping its recommendations, rather than develop the plan internally or hire a consultant," said Carolyn Collopy, Sustainable Programs Coordinator for the City.

"Hundreds of community members took part in this process, demonstrating that the Evanston community is ready to take action on climate change issues" said Interim City Manager Rolanda B. Russell.

When totaled, estimated emission reductions from the more than 200 strategies outlined in the plan equal more than double Evanston's 13 percent reduction goal, offering ample options and flexibility for meeting the goal outlined in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

"The key to the success of the plan will be motivating both residents and businesses to take action, with leadership from the City," Collopy added.

This initiative directly supports Goal Five of the City's Strategic Plan: to protect and optimize the City's natural resources and built environment, leading by example through sustainable practices and behaviors.

Get details on Evanston's Climate Action Plan at www.cityofevanston.org/green.

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Evanston Ecology Center

The Evanston Ecology Center invites you to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. Drop by Saturday, April 25, from 1-4 p.m. The Ecology Center will host festive activities, earthly games, nifty crafts and serve organic food. Informational stations will be set up to guide you to a smaller environmental footprint. Bring the whole family to honor our home, sweet home! This free event is sponsored by Whole Foods Market. The Center is located at 2024 McCormick Blvd. For more information, please call 847-448-8256.

Post-consumer paper used for "Highlights"

This newsletter is now being printed on an environmentally-friendly paper that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Printing "Highlights" on FSC-certified, 30% post-consumer recycled paper supports the Natural Resources Vision of the City's Strategic Plan: to embrace the best ecological practices and policies in our government, services and infrastructure and Goal Five: "Protect and optimize the City's natural resources and built environment, leading by example through sustainable practices and behaviors."

HIGHLIGHTS
Rolling out the recycling carts
Water plant roof turns green

Post-consumer recycled content paper is made with recovered fiber, which includes paper, paperboard and fibrous wastes, after the products have passed through their end-usage as a consumer item. Post-consumer fiber does not include fiber derived from printers' over-runs, converters' scrap and over-issue publications. The paper collected through the City's recycling program is considered post-consumer once it is recycled into new fiber.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the only widely-accepted international certification program for forest products, promoting environmentally and socially responsible management of the world's forests. FSC-certified means that the fiber is from a renewable resource, grown in a sustainable manner. The FSC evaluates both forest management activities (forest certification) and tracking of forest products (chain-of-custody certification). The FSC has certified between 8% and 10% of the world's harvestable forests, accounting for more than 180 million acres.

Stemming Foreclosures in Evanston

The foreclosure crisis that is part of the worldwide economic recession touches communities all across the country. The City of Evanston is concerned with the growing number of Evanston residents whose lives are disrupted by foreclosures and the growing number of vacant buildings that can threaten neighborhood vitality and safety.

Last year, there were almost 58,000 foreclosure filings in the six-county Chicago region, with 267 in Evanston, according to a Woodstock Institute report. Foreclosures occur throughout the City, although there are concentrations in some hard-hit neighborhoods and single-family judgment amounts range from less than $100,000 to more than half a million dollars.

Thousands of Americans have the same financial difficulties. Resources are available to help.

Because the crisis is so grave, new national programs and foreclosure prevention guidelines are being put into place to help stem the growing problem. The City plans to apply for federal funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to address its hardest hit areas. There are existing local resources to help Evanston homeowners take advantage of the new mortgage initiatives and guide them through this difficult time. Information is also available for renters whose building is in foreclosure or is owned by the mortgage lender.

If you are having trouble paying your mortgage or are in foreclosure, it is important to take immediate steps to resolve your problems. If you know someone who may be having mortgage problems, urge them not to ignore the situation.

The first step is to contact your lender to discuss your situation and see if they can work out a plan to cure the default or modify your mortgage with payments you can afford. If such a solution isn't possible, discuss a plan with them to sell your house or provide the deed to the house in lieu of foreclosure so you will have time to determine your best move.

Take advantage of free, HUD-certified housing counselors to help you deal with your lender. You will need to stay involved in the process and it will take patience and perseverance on your part. You may feel saddened, ashamed, depressed or anxious about your situation, but remember that you are not alone. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are going through the same difficulties and many resources are available to help you through it.

Finally, don't fall for foreclosure rescue scams that charge fees or say they will pass your mortgage payments on to the lender. Just as some companies once preyed on homeowners to make risky, unaffordable

loans, some now prey on desperate homeowners facing foreclosure to cheat them out of their property or take fees from them without saving the home. Learn how to recognize common scams and red flags by reading about "rescue" scams on the City's Web site, www.cityofevanston.org/foreclosurehelp.

Resources

- Call for a **free** appointment with a local HUD-Certified Foreclosure Prevention Counselor:
  Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, 847-501-5760; Jasmine Brewer, x404 or call CEDA Neighbors at Work, 847-328-5166; Martha Burns, x5412 or Suwana Vollmer, x5416

- Call the City of Evanston if you are unsure what steps to take:
  Donna Spicuzza, Housing Planner, 847-866-2928, x2264 or Evonda Thomas, Director of Health and Human Services, 847-866-2969.

- Visit the City of Evanston's Web site to find more information and resources at www.cityofevanston.org/foreclosurehelp.

- Register to attend a **free** local forum sponsored by a coalition of community organizations. Learn about the origin of the crisis, options to help homeowners save their homes, government programs, owners' and renters' rights in foreclosure and where to get advice. Information from the County Assessor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Legal Assistance Foundation, Metro Tenants Organization and housing counseling organizations will be provided.

  The following **free** forums will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon:
  Saturday, April 4, Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster, Evanston. Call Jasmine Brewer at 847-501-5760 x404 (Interfaith Housing Center) to register.
  Saturday May 23, Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett, Chicago. Call Liz Caton at 773-836-1179 (Northwest Side Housing Center) to register.

A few things you need to know about maintaining your property in Evanston

City Council adopted the "International Property Maintenance Code," 2003 edition, in April 2006. Here are some items that community members need to keep in mind while maintaining their properties:

1. Weeds and grass must be maintained no higher than eight inches.

2. No inoperative, unlicensed or unregistered motor vehicles, boats or trailers may be parked, kept or stored on premises, and none can be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

3. Exterior and interior structure surfaces must be kept clean and free from graffiti.

4. Premises, including parkways and vacant land, must have grass or other forms of approved ground cover.

5. Furniture placed on the exterior of a building must be constructed for exterior use, made out of materials that are water and weather-proof and resistant to rot, mildew, mold, decay and insect infestation.

6. Buildings must have approved address numbers placed plainly legible and visible from the alley as well as the street.

7. From April 1 through November 1, every door, window and other outside opening utilized or required for ventilation purposes must be supplied with approved tight fitting insect screens of no less than 16 mesh per inch.

8. Exterior property and premises must be kept free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage, including parkways. (Food establishments are responsible for keeping the area within a 250 ft. radius of their properties free from litter emanating from their establishments and patrons).

9. Containers servicing businesses, commercial or multi-residential premises must display the name and address of premises.

10. If located in the Downtown Zoning Districts, refuse containers must be maintained with lids shut and locked.

11. Tires cannot be discarded, abandoned, kept or stored on the exterior of any premises.

For more information on the "Property Maintenance Code," call the City's Property Standards Division at 847-866-2927.

Nominate preservation projects

The Evanston Preservation Commission invites homeowners, architects, contractors and Evanston residents to nominate preservation projects for the 2009 Evanston Preservation & Design Awards.

Projects must be no more than five years old or completed after May 2004.

This program recognizes property owners, architects, contractors and local organizations for their contributions to maintaining and enhancing the architectural, historical and cultural heritage 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 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 citywide are also eligible).

The deadline to submit completed nominations is April 24, 2009. To obtain the nomination form, contact Carlos D. Ruiz, Preservation Coordinator, at 847-866-2928 or download it from the City's Web site: www.cityofevanston.org/preservationawards.

Financial assistance opportunities await new homeowners

If you've ever dreamed about owning a home, this could be a good time to make it a reality. Consider taking advantage of low-interest mortgage rates, first-time buyer federal income tax credits and City of Evanston subsidies.

Attend a home purchase workshop to help determine if you're emotionally and financially ready. You'll also learn about mortgage financing, credit issues, purchase contracts, budgeting and home maintenance.

Rehabbed, move-in ready homes are available for income-eligible buyers through non-profit housing developers who received subsidies from the City.

Consider these affordable choices:

- Two-bedroom condos from $100,000 to $160,000 through Reba Place Development Corporation
- Three-bedroom condos for $165,000 through Evanston Community Development Association
- A three-bedroom detached single-family house for $169,000 through Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust.

If you find a house on the open market in Evanston, but need some help with a downpayment, consider the City's Downpayment Assistance Program. Forgiveable loans of up to $30,000 are available for income-eligible purchasers.

Details on affordable units, the Downpayment Assistance Program and home purchase education can be found on the City's Web site: www.cityofevanston.org/ownership, or contact the Planning Division at 847-866-2928.

Calling all teens. It's time to get involved!

Youth Summit: Wednesday, May 13

Location: ETHS, Beardsley Cafeteria Time: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Call the City's Youth Coordinator for details at 847-448-8049, or visit

www.evanstonteens.com

The site by young people, for young people, that lets you know what's going on inside and outside of Evanston.
Find us on MySpace at www.myspace.com/evanstonteens or search for "Evanston Teens" on Facebook.

Mayor's Summer Youth Job Fair April 18

Summer employment opportunities will be available for teens at the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program Job Fair, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a nine-week work experience for in-school Evanston youth 14 to 18 years of age. Specifically, applicants must be at least age 14 on or before June 15 and not older than 18 on or before June 15; all must be Evanston residents or attend school in Evanston.

The City and local businesses will offer teens a variety of full- and part-time jobs, such as office assistants, camp counselors, custodians, and health and inclusion aides, as well as field, production and program assistants.

Additionally, some teens are assigned to a Community Service Team of 30-40 youth. This group is often referred to as the "Green Team" and performs tasks that include cleaning parkways, alleys, traffic calming circles and some parks. There is also a paint crew that will take on such projects as painting traffic signals and boxes.

At the Job Fair, teens can meet and interview with employers who have jobs available. Teens should come dressed appropriately for a successful interview. For more info., call the City of Evanston Community Relations Division at 847-866-2976.

Hundreds of teens line up each year to find summer jobs at the Mayor's Summer Youth Job Fair.

New research options for Evanston Library patrons

The Evanston Public Library has added "LexisNexis® Library Express!" Evanston residents now have access to over 6,000 news, business and legal sources, including articles in national, international and regional newspapers; wire services; blogs and broadcast transcripts. Use the Company Dossier module to retrieve detailed company information and financial performance measures, or identify and compare companies matching specific criteria. Legal resources include law review journals, case law, federal and state statutes, and patents.

You can access all content (except legal) from anywhere in the world, using the library's Web page. For help, visit www.epl.org and click on the Research tab to reach the LexisNexis® tutorials or contact the Evanston Public Library reference desk at 847-448-8630.

Job resources

The Evanston Public Library has a number of resources available to assist in the career planning process. A section devoted to careers can be found in the Reference Department on the third floor. There you will find books on writing resumes and cover letters, the interview process, job banks, occupational descriptions and salaries. Internet stations are also available on the third floor for those who would like to use online resources in their job search.

The Adult Nonfiction Department on the second floor has a number of career-planning books that may be checked out. For a useful list of Evanston employment services, visit www.epl.org, click on the research tab, and then choose "Career/Job Search" from the left-hand column. Finally, if you want to research businesses, read the section on Page 8 about "Info in a Box."

Adult Programs

All programs are presented in the Community Meeting Room at the Main Library, unless otherwise noted, and are free of charge. For more information, call the Library at 847-448-8600 or check the Web site at www.epl.org.

Book Groups

The Evanston Public Library now has three ongoing book groups – all worth checking out. Registration is required and books can be picked up at the time of registration. Register for the African American Literature Group at the second floor Reader's Services desk at the Main Library or call 847-448-8620.

African American Literature Book Discussion Group

Meets monthly on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. The selection for the April 8 gathering is "Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems," edited by Nikki Giovanni. It is a remarkable collection of poetry from the Harlem Renaissance and beyond.

North Branch Book Group

Meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. On March 26, the group will discuss "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery.

The discussion on April 30 will be about "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court," by Jeffrey Toobin. Call 847-866-0330 or visit the North Branch, 2026 Central St., to register.

South Branch Book Group

Meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the South Branch Library, 949 Chicago Avenue. Call South Branch for upcoming titles at 847-866-0333.

Teen Video Gaming Nights

The City's Youth Engagement Initiative and The Loft at the Evanston Public Library will sponsor Video Gaming Nights at The Loft. Teens ages 13-18 are invited to attend Teen Nights in The Loft. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events, all held from 6:30-9 p.m., on Fridays March 27, April 24 and May 29. Along with games and activities, teens will be offered snacks and free bus rides home.

Shakespeare Songs and Stories

Shakespeare's birthday is April 24, so come celebrate with singer-songwriter Tim Duggan at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26, in the Community Meeting Room. He'll sing his lively original songs from Shakespearean stories. Great fun for children and adults!

Used books are Earth-friendly!

BIG BOOK SALE

The Evanston Public Library's spring book sale kicks off with a $5 preview charge on Friday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Veteran shoppers know to come early for the best selection and head to the third floor book sale room. The sale continues on Friday until 5:30 p.m. Hours on Saturday, March 28 are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday is half-price day and the sale is open from noon until 5:30 p.m.

The Main Library is at 1703 Orrington Ave. in downtown Evanston. For more information, call 847-448-8610.

Evanston Public Library

Climate Change: Past and Present

How does an understanding of the Earth's immense history shed light on the current debate about Global Warming? And to what extent is our species changing the climate in the 21st century? What changes lie in store as the 21st century progresses?

Join us Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. in the Library's Community Meeting Room for "Climate Change: Past and Present," an illustrated presentation by Raymond Wiggers. He is the founder/director of the National History Exploration Guild.

In this highly-topical talk, the noted author, earth-science educator and public speaker, Ray Wiggers, will use full-color photos, maps and other engaging images to present a non-technical, geologist's-eye view of the climate change debate and how it has evolved over the past two decades.

Workshop can help you record your life

Finding Your Voice, Telling Your Stories

Facts bring us to knowledge, but stories bring us to wisdom. Carol LaChapelle's popular memoir writing workshop is designed for family historians, journal writers and creative writers who want to record their life stories – those significant tales of transition, adventure, loss and triumph.

LaChapelle uses creative writing exercises to retrieve and record the important people, places and events in our lives.

The fee workshops will be held Tuesdays, April 21 and 28, from 6-8:30 p.m in the Community Meeting Room.

Apply for work at the City of Evanston

Are you interested in applying for a job with the City?

The Human Resources Department has launched a new tool for jobseekers called City of Evanston E-Recruit. It is a software technology designed for candidates/applicants to apply for open employment opportunities with the City of Evanston via the E-Recruit Careers Web site.

It allows applicants to apply for positions by completing an online application and by attaching their cover letter/resume to the position/requisition for which they would like to apply. The applicant/candidate must have an e-mail address.

These are the steps to follow:

* Go to www.cityofevanston.org;
* Click on "employment" in the upper right corner;
* Select "view current open positions" box;
* Click on the position of interest;
* Complete the application and attach cover letter/resume; CAUTION-DON'T USE THE "BACK" BUTTON!
* Click "Submit."

Paper applications/resumes will still be considered. Walk-in applicants will be encouraged to visit the new kiosk space in the Human Resources Department to complete an electronic submission.

Applicants will be able to create online accounts through E-Recruit and may apply for multiple positions quickly and easily. Additionally, applicants can update their personal and professional information and track their progress at any time.

The Department hopes that E-Recruit will be more convenient for applicants and looks forward to continuing to provide more services through technological enhancements soon. For more details on E-Recruit, contact Human Resources at 847-866-2918.

Online Training for Food Service & BASSET

Training for Food Service Managers Certification and BASSET is now available on the City's Web site.

The 15-hour Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) Food Service Sanitation course and the Beverage Alcohol Seller and Server Education and Training (BASSET) can now be completed in the comfort and privacy of your home. The online courses meet State of Illinois requirements for initial certification. Presently, the courses are available only in English. The training costs are $100 for Food Service Manager and $25 for BASSET. Call 847-866-2947 for information.

State of Illinois Amends Food Code for Enhanced Safety

To create safer food storage and eating environments, the State of Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code adopted several amendments in July 2008. These amendments affect many areas of food service operation, including but not limited to: food labeling, hot holding temperature, time as a public health control, and hand washing and personal hygiene.

The City of Evanston, by reference, has adopted the same changes for its 400 or so food establishments.

Food establishment owners and managers are encouraged to refer to the PDF on the City's Web page for more information. Any questions about the new code should be directed to one of the City's health inspectors at 847-866-2949.

West Nile Virus surveillance

In cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the City of Evanston requests that residents with waste tires contact the Environmental Health Division at 847-866-2950 for details on IEPA's Consensual Removal Agreement. Tires serve as a habitat for mosquitoes in summer months. Removal in spring will keep these pests from breeding.

May 1 is the official beginning of West Nile Virus season. The best way to address the virus is prevention. Be sure to empty containers storing rainwater, clean out gutters and remove abandoned tires.

You can help keep yourself safe by wearing long sleeves and pants between the hours of dusk and dawn. Call the Health and Human Services Department at 847-866-2949 with any questions.

Pertussis update

Evanston declared an outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in November 2008. Pertussis is a highly-infectious disease that is easily transmitted through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms can appear 5 to 10 days following exposure, but can take up to 21 days.

Usually, the infection begins with cold-like symptoms, followed by a very pronounced cough that can last for many weeks. In children, the cough is often associated with a distinctive "whooping" sound, which may progress to vomiting.

Remember that basic good hygiene, such as hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, is one of the strongest defenses against any illness. Please call 847-866-2962 with questions about Pertussis.

Try "Info in a Box!"

The Evanston Public Library has 330 encyclopedias and reference sources you can use from the library or remotely 24/7. Topics covered include world history and culture, medicine and health, statistics, literature, business and science. You will need an Evanston library card to access these resources from outside the library. Visit **www.epl.org** (choose the Research tab and scroll down to "Read more. . .") or call the Reference Desk at 847-448-8630.

Tips to use washers and dryers safely

Having washer and dryer units in the home is a modern convenience. But when we use these appliances, do we realize the risk factors such as injury or fire? A National Fire Protection Association study found that in 2005, an estimated 14,500 reported U.S. home fires involved clothes dryers or washing machines with:

* 14 civilian deaths
* 440 civilian injuries
* $207 million in property damage.

Here are a few tips to ensure safe use of the washer and dryer in your home:

- Have the appliances installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not operate dryer without a lint filter. Clean the filter before or after each use. Remove lint from around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is unrestricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Yearly, or more often if you notice that it takes longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and the unit is connected properly.
- Don't overload a washer or dryer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not leave a dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- Washing machines and dryers should be properly grounded.
- In winter, make sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow.
- Never dry items that have come in contact with flammable substances, such as cooking oil, gasoline, paint thinner and alcohol.
- Keep the dryer area clear of things that can burn, such as boxes or clothing.

City's first "Green" building, Fire Station No. 5 reopens

A blustery winter afternoon did not deter the high spirits at the reopening of Fire Station #5. Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky held the ribbon for Mayor Lorraine Morton to cut and officially open the new station at 2830 Central St.

On Friday, February 27, not only was the fire station dedicated, but so was the public art created by artist Robert Smart. The Arts Council's Public Art Committee selected his work from 64 submissions.

Titled, "Emitting Waves," low-wattage light-emitting diodes are embedded in the three acrylic panels to make the work light up in the dark. Subtle transitions in light within each panel create "breathing" movement, emulating the flow of water.

The City employed Muller & Muller Architects, Inc. to design the fire station, directing the company to design a building to meet basic requirements to obtain certification from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The architect plans to surpass basic certification and

attain Silver LEED certification.

The new design has two stories with three apparatus bays, kitchen, dining area, day room, workout room, turnout gear room and de-con room with shower to wash down contaminated turnout gear and equipment. There will also be a watch office on the first floor. The second floor will house dorm rooms, a locker room and washrooms. The building also has a basement to house mechanical equipment and storage.

Fire Department staff requested a drive-through bay to avoid stopping traffic when backing into the station on Central Street when returning from calls.

Citywide hydrant testing set for April 20 through June 5

The Evanston Fire and Life Safety Services Department, in cooperation with the City's Water Division, will conduct the annual citywide hydrant testing program. The testing is set to begin April 20 and run through June 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each hydrant in the City will be opened and allowed to flow water for a short period. This procedure provides valuable information on the status of the hydrant water system.

Some residents may notice their tap water is discolored while the hydrants on their blocks are tested. The discoloration should be short-lived and can be eliminated by flowing tap water. If the discoloration continues, please contact the Water Division at 847-866-2942. For more information on the hydrant testing program, please contact Fire Captain Tim Taylor at 847-866-5930.

Pick up tax forms at the Main Library

Through April, a large variety of IRS forms and Illinois 1040s are available in a display case in the first floor lobby of the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.

Forms may also be printed from the Library computer stations for 10¢ a page. Ask for help at the third floor Reference Desk. There are no reproducible forms anywhere in the Library.

Security deposits earn 0.12 percent

In 2009, Evanston landlords are required to pay 0.12 percent interest on the security deposits they receive from tenants and any deposits they hold.

The Evanston City Council approved amendments to the Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance (RLTO), which dictates Evanston's security deposit rates will mirror those for the City of Chicago.

All security deposits must be held in federally-insured, interest-bearing accounts in banks, savings and loans or other financial institutions located in Illinois.

Evanston landlords are obligated to pay tenants any interest due by cash or credit (applied to rent due), within 30 days after the end of each 12-month rental period, if the lease will be renewed.

If the lease agreement is not renewed after a 12-month rental period, any interest due the tenant shall be paid within 21 days. For more information, please contact Community Relations at 847-866-2920.

Library to Host 31st Annual Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards

The 31st Annual Evanston Public Library Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards ceremony will be held Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. It will feature the winning poets and their entries, as well as a poetry reading by this year's competition judge, Janet S. Wong.

The Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards is a competition open to all adult and high school age Chicago-area poets. There is also an elementary- and middle-school 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. The public is invited to attend this event.

Beach token program for needy families expands

Starting in 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services has selected social service agencies around the City to help distribute free season beach tokens to income-eligible families. The program began with 700 free tokens and has expanded to 1,050 tokens due to the program's success.

The Department will announce social service distributors closer to the summer months. City staff believes these agencies, which often interact with low-income families on a regular basis, have a better relationship with these families and that agency employees could better assess families in need and encourage them to take advantage of free tokens.

In addition, starting April 1, both the Health and Human Services Department and the Evanston Recreation Division will begin distributing free beach tokens to eligible families from their offices in the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue. Families must bring proof of income when requesting free tokens. For instance, families of two must make less than $25,900 to qualify. More details about the income scale and other distribution points are available by calling the Department of Health and Human Services at 847-866-2958.

This year, the Evanston Playground and Recreation Board has created a new initiative to increase the number of free beach tokens provided to Evanston residents who meet guidelines based on family size and income. A dedicated Beach Token Fund has been established and donations will not be used for any other purpose.

Board members are encouraging those of you who can, to contribute to the Free Beach Token Fund when purchasing tokens for your family. This year, the beach token form will have an area where you can indicate the amount of your contribution. If you are able to contribute, your generosity will help fellow residents have a great summer on the beach, too!

Season beach tokens are available April 1 through June 12 at a preseason discount.

Beach tokens purchased through June 12 are $22 each for residents of Evanston or Skokie. Starting June 13, the resident fee is $30 per season token. In addition to the free token programs mentioned above, fee assistance is available to Evanston residents based on total family size and income.

If you are not a regular beach visitor, daily beach passes are $8 for those age 12 and older and $6 for children age 1-11. Beach admission for children under age one is always free. Finally, free beach days for Evanston residents will be held at Clark Street Beach Mondays from July 6 through August 24. For more information, please call the Recreation office at 847-866-2900.

Early voting for April 7 election

from page 1

Early Voting Appeals to Residents

Illinois voters may cast their ballots before Election Day at designated locations without having to provide a reason or excuse.

Casting your ballot before Election Day makes voting more convenient, especially for seniors and voters with busy schedules.

Prior to the Tuesday, April 7, 2009 Consolidated Election, early voting will take place Monday, March 16 through Thursday, April 2, at the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, Room 1700. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

Voters only need to complete an application at an early voting site. State law requires early voters to show valid identification to an election official before receiving a ballot. Valid I.D.s include: a current driver's license, a state-issued I.D. or other

government-issued I.D. with a photo. For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.cityofevanston.org/government/clerk/voter or call 847-866-2925.

Home Day Care permit process

The City of Evanston provides permits to qualifying home day care providers at no charge. To receive a permit, home day care providers must:

- complete general information, medical and criminal background forms
- pass property inspections by the Fire and Health & Human Services departments and Property Standards Division
- clear the Police Department's investigation of the number of calls, if any, made to the address of the home day care.

Once the provider meets the City's requirements, a permit is issued for two years, after which the provider must repeat the entire process for renewal. To apply for a permit for the operation of Home Day Care, please call 847-866-2949.

Pay your water bill online!

Save your stamps, trips to the mailbox, checks and your valuable time!

The service features a recurring payment option to ensure that you never miss a payment.

Visit www.cityofevanston.org and select "I want to pay my water bill" in the right bottom drop-down menu.

Your resources for City information:

www.cityofevanston.org
Cable Channel 16
Radio AM 1650

FREE! Aging Well Conference and Film Festival

for older adults, their families, professionals and other caregivers.

Conference

Friday, May 8
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
North Shore Retirement Hotel
1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston

Workshop topics include:
Financial and Refinancing Scams; Spirituality and Aging; Grief, Loss and Bereavement; Osteoporosis Screening; the Arts in Evanston; Sexuality and Aging; Women's Body Image; the Long-Term Care Continuum; and Aging in the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Community.

Registration:
Soon available on www.cityofevanston.org or call 847-866-2919 for information.

Film Festival

"The Cats of Mirikatani," a film by Linda Hattendorf
Wednesday, May 13
7:30 p.m. at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.

Submit feedback on police at Civic Center box

Evanston community members have a new way to submit feedback about the Evanston Police Department (EPD). A box with the EPD logo is located in the back of the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., just off the parking lot. The new fixture is a receptacle for comments, commendations and complaints about the EPD.

Community members can fill out ready-made forms, available at the EPD, 1454 Elmwood Ave. and at other buildings, or they can also write their own notes and drop them in the box.

Citizens should not place any payments for parking tickets, traffic, water bills, etc., into the EPD box. The container that accepts payments to the City Collector's Office is just north of the EPD box behind the Civic Center and is labeled "City of Evanston."

Complaints about police may be made anonymously; however, such complaints are difficult to investigate without the ability to clarify information from the complainant, according to the staff of the department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

"If we don't know who is presenting the complaint, we can't follow up to determine the details of the situation that resulted in the grievance," said Police Chief Richard Eddington.

All complaints against police officers are reviewed and investigated thoroughly by the OPS or the officer's supervisor. The Citizens Police Advisory Committee will advise the Police Chief on disciplinary matters.

Besides the new feedback receptacle in back of the Civic Center, community members may submit comments, complaints, or commendations by visiting the Police Department at 1454 Elmwood Ave. and talking to a supervisor; calling the department's OPS at 847-866-5009; mailing a letter to the OPS; or e-mailing the department with the online form at www.cityofevanston.org/policefeedback.

What's new in Evanston?

1. **Dame Couture,** custom-fit and designed wedding dresses; www.damecouture.com. 1927 Central St.
2. **Happy Husky Bakery,** gift baskets for dogs, treats; www.happyhuskybakery.com. 2601 Prairie Ave.
3. **McDonald's (reopening),** fast food; coffee; 1117 Howard St.
4. **Off Deck Media,** builds, hosts and manages custom mobile device Web sites; marketing 820 Davis St.
5. **Old Neighborhood Grill,** burgers, fish & chips and more; 2902 Central St.
6. **Organic Station,** coffee, tea, smoothies and pastries; 901 Davis St. (Metra station)
7. **Subway,** fresh-toasted subs and beverages; 900 Chicago Ave.

Get Block Party Applications from Transportation Division

Applications for block parties are available from the Evanston Division of Transportation (EDOT) office at the Civic Center, or at the City's Web site: www.cityofevanston.org/departments/publicworks/transportation.

Application forms must be filed not less than 10 business days before the date of the proposed block party. Proof of residency on the block is required. EDOT will deliver barricades to close off the street.

Evanston's Police and Fire departments will visit your block party to discuss crime and fire prevention if the appropriate information on the form has been completed.

NEW FOR 2009: Block party permits will be accepted only for dates between May 1 through September 30, 2009. In addition, only one block party will be allowed per block per year.

Parking Division's name emphasizes "service"

During the past year, the Parking Systems Division has been transitioning to its new name, Parking Services.

"The new name reflects the fact that we do so much more than parking enforcement," said Rickey Voss, Parking Services Manager.

You might find Parking Services employees performing some of these tasks:

* Direct traffic at football games
* Sell parking permits for numbered lots or residential parking district permits
* Handle crowd containment on 4th of July
* Assist with school crossing safety
* Help with public safety at international bike race and other events
* Give directions.

Approved FY 2009-10 Budget has no property tax hike

from page 1

- A new pavement degradation fee was created, resulting in approximately $50,000 in additional revenue
- The citywide training budget was reduced by $40,000.
- A $300,000 contribution from Evanston Township to fund Mental Health Programs.

Overall, the adopted General Fund FY 2009-10 Budget was an increase of less than 0.2% or $136,700 over the FY 2008-09 Budget, excluding the one-time transfer from reserves to fund pensions in FY 2008-09. The total budget for FY 2009-10, including all funds, is $233,822,830; an increase of 1.3% over the FY 2008-09 budget.

The FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget is available on the City's Web site at www.cityofevanston.org, and at the City Clerk's office and library facilities. The final adopted budget detail will be available at those same locations once it is completed. Questions regarding the City Budget may be directed to Finance Director, Martin Lyons, at 847-328-2100; or send an e-mail to mlyons@cityofevanston.org.

City's Housing Rehab program helps senior get home repairs

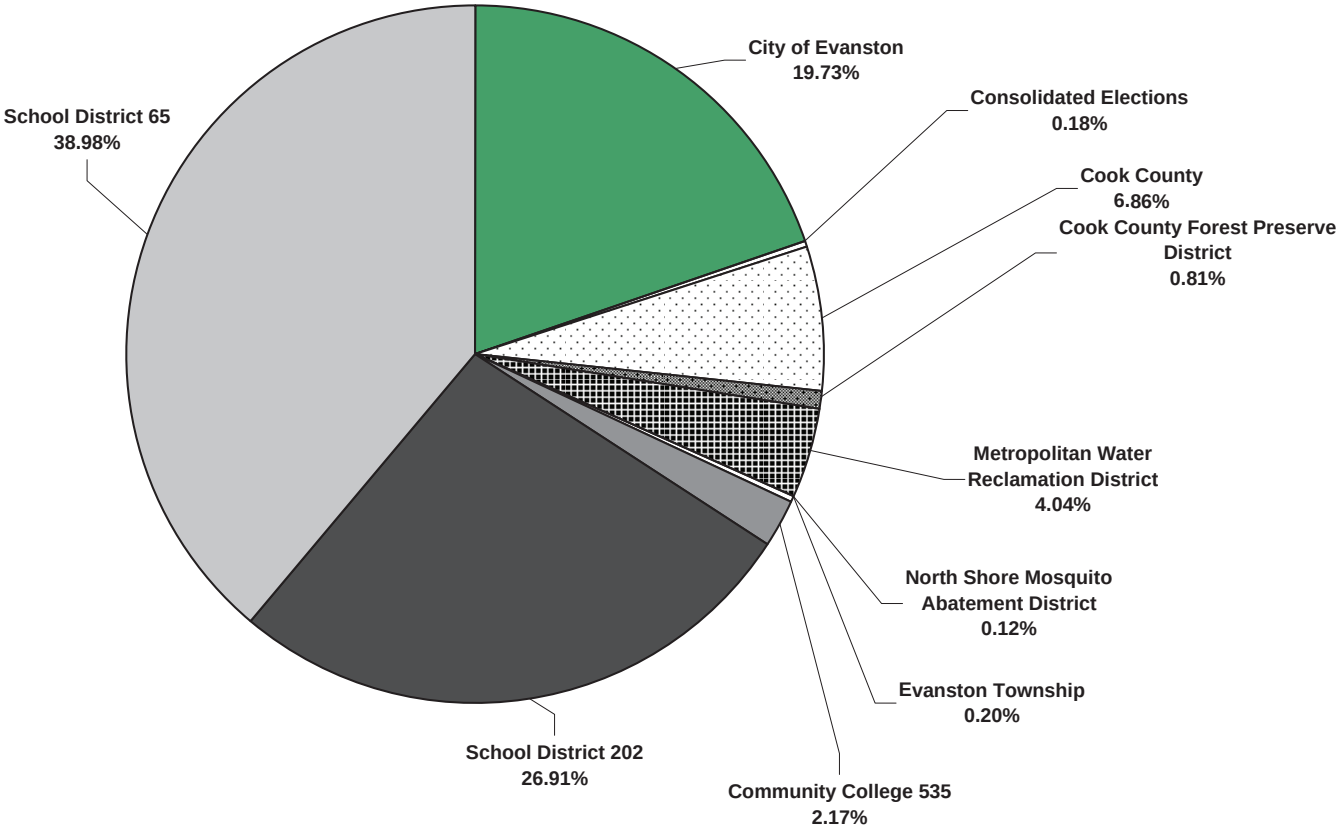
An elderly homeowner in Evanston knew that her home needed significant repairs that she couldn't afford. Plus, she worried about being victimized by predatory lenders or unscrupulous contractors. Fortunately, Alderman Ann Rainey referred the woman's daughter to Ted Partika, the City's Housing Rehabilitation Specialist. It was then determined that the woman qualified for a $50,000 zero-interest loan that will be paid off when the property's title is transferred, so she will have no additional monthly payments.

However, the homeowner got more than a loan – she got Ted Partika! She says that she couldn't have undertaken the project without him. Ted wrote the scope of work, bid the project out to licensed general contractors, and managed the construction and scheduling.

Work completed included a new furnace and water heater, new windows (including glass block in the basement for safety) and new exterior doors and storm doors – all Energy Star rated to help reduce utility bills. Her electrical service was upgraded to current code, with additional outlets in the kitchen, new kitchen cabinets, countertops and flooring as installed, the bathroom was redone with all new fixtures (including a low-flow toilet to conserve water), the exterior was tuck pointed and exterior trim was covered in aluminum to reduce maintenance costs. Important health and safety work included lead paint abatement, prepping and a fresh coat of paint for all interior rooms, and installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Usually if a deal sounds too good to be true, it is – but not with the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program! This program is funded by the federal government's Community Development Block Grant program in order to help low- and moderate-income homeowners make needed repairs and improvements. To find out if ***you*** qualify, contact the Housing Rehabilitation Office at 847-866-2929.

Your Real Estate Tax Bill



Expanded evening hours at Children's Dental Clinic

The Children's Dental Clinic, located on the ground floor of the Evanston Civic Center, is now open one evening per week. The dental clinic accepts appointments Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5 p.m., as well as Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3-6:30 p.m. Children are treated by appointment only.

The Children's Dental Clinic was established in 1967 to provide low-cost dental care for pre-school through high school-aged children. Services provided include: dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, dental sealant, restorations, minor surgical procedures, dental x-rays, root canal therapy, dental health education and emergency care.

Eligible children must be enrolled in District 65 or District 202 schools with fees based on the family's income. All Kids/Medicaid is accepted.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Children's Dental Clinic at 847-866-2953 or send an e-mail to dental@cityofevanston.org.

Graffiti?

Notice a problem with a building or property?

Call 847-448-8021.

Learn to spot severe weather

Become a part of Evanston's early warning system.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness will sponsor two free Spotter Training classes to teach community members how to detect the approach of severe weather.

Interested parties can attend a two-hour session taught by the National Weather Service on Wednesday, April 8, at either 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. in the Parasol Room of the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave. Registration is not necessary.

Learn why we need spotters, severe weather terminology and safety, and what to report. Attendees will also learn about supercells, landspouts, night spotting and more. For more information, call 847-866-2999 or e-mail ema@cityofevanston.org.

Evanston residents now have access to easy-to-use Prescription Drug Discount Card

The City of Evanston has launched a program to provide residents with some relief from the high cost of prescription drugs.

Through a program sponsored by the National League of Cities (NLC), the City is offering free prescription drug discount cards to all Evanston residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. The discount cards offer an average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly-prescribed drugs.

Now available, all Evanston residents may use the discount cards when purchasing prescription drugs at pharmacies citywide. Additionally, the cards are accepted at more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies across the country.

The discount cards are available at the Civic Center and at sites throughout the community. Evanston residents do not need to complete an enrollment form or pay a fee to obtain a discount on medications. To get the discount, residents simply present the card at participating pharmacies. The medication discount is available any time that prescriptions are not covered by other insurance or medication programs.

In the current economic climate, when people are watching their spending, a discount card can offer average savings of 20 percent off drug retail prices.

For more information on where to obtain the discount card or how to use the program, contact the Commission on Aging at aging@cityofevanston.org or call 847-866-2919. Details about the program, as well as a list of participating pharmacies, are also available online at www.cityofevanston.org/departments/health/aging.

Stop smoking clinic

People who live or work in Evanston and Skokie are eligible to participate in a free six-session Stop Smoking Clinic that starts April 7. Register at www.evanstonssc.com or call 847-866-2949 for more information.

60th Annual Garden Fair scheduled

The 60th annual Evanston Garden Fair, sponsored by the Garden Council of Evanston, will be held May 16-17. The Fair offers a great selection of perennials and annuals. Many of these plants, including shade-loving plants, native wildflowers and plants that provide food or habitat for local wildlife, come directly from members' gardens, ensuring that these plants grow very well in Evanston. Council members will also be available to answer your plant and landscape questions.

Proceeds from the Garden Fair are used to support the civic landscape and beautification projects that member garden clubs undertake throughout Evanston.

This year, the Fair will be held at two locations, depending on the day. On Saturday, May 16, the Fair will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both Independence Park on Central St. (west of Green Bay Rd.) and the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. On Sunday, May 17, events take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Independence Park only.

Questions about the Garden Fair? Please call the Evanston Ecology Center at 847-448-8256.

Matricula Card event hosted at Civic Center

The City of Evanston, in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate, held a three-day event at the Civic Center at which qualifying individuals could obtain a Matricula Card and/or a Mexican passport. The event, which took place February 26-28, served 751 people.

The State of Illinois now recognizes the Matricula Card, issued by the Mexican Consulate, as a single-source document when obtaining a vital record.

In June 2004, the City of Evanston adopted a resolution to recognize the Matricula Card as a valid form of identification. The Card is issued to nationals of Mexico who live in the United States.

It has a unique identification number, optically variable features, ultraviolet image, encoded information, machine readable technology, micro printing, secure lamination and an integrated photograph and signature.

Additionally, the name, address, date of issuance, date of expiration and the name of the consulate are found on the card with an English translation of the data fields.

Interested in having a bonfire?

The Cement Fire Ring is located at the lakefront area east of the Evanston Art Center, 2603 Sheridan Rd. It's a great spot to roast s'mores, tell ghost stories, or just enjoy nature near the lake.

In order to request a permit for the use of the bonfire ring, you must first call the Evanston Ecology Center at 847-448-8256 to schedule an available date for the use of the ring. Only one fire permit is issued for each date.

There is a $35 fee for Evanston residents ($70, nonresident). Proof of residency must be provided to receive the resident rate. For more information about obtaining a permit, please call the Ecology Center or visit **www.cityofevanston.org** and select the "I want to" drop-down section, then choose "get a bonfire permit."

Farmers' Market opens May 16

Spring is nearly here and the Evanston Farmers' Market opens soon. Shop for fresh produce of the Midwest from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, May 16 through November 7. The Market features more than 30 vendors of fruit, vegetables, flowers, meat, cheeses and bread. Enjoy homemade baked goods from local churches and unique artwork and costume jewelry by Home Grown Artists.

A new permanent feature at the Farmers' Market is healthy food demonstrations that feature market products and recipes. For details, please call Alisa Dean, Community Relations Division Manager, at 847-866-2958.

E-News

Are you a long-time resident, but still "in the dark" when it comes to neighborhood news?

Receive City news at least twice a month.

Sign up today by visiting www.cityofevanston.org/newsletter

Holiday reminders

Easter Sunday, April 12
Evanston Public Library closed.

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

- Government offices closed.
- All locations of the Evanston Public Library closed Sunday and Monday, May 24 and 25.
- No refuse, yard waste and recycling collections will occur on May 25 due to the holiday. All collections will occur one day later that week.

Attention: new residents

Need help getting comfortable in your new home and City? Find the rules, regulations and policies you'll need to adjust to the first few months of living in your new surroundings at

www.cityofevanston.org/welcome

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HIGHLIGHTS
News of Evanston City Government – Spring 2009

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EVANSTON, IL

AT YOUR DISPOSAL

Coming to your mailbox in March!