

## HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Winter Tips from ESDA</i>	2
<i>Winter Parking Restrictions</i>	2
<i>Sidewalk Snow Removal</i>	2
<i>Shop Warrenville</i>	2
<i>Telecommunications Tax Rebate</i>	3
<i>Energy Saving Ideas</i>	3
<i>Electronics Ban</i>	3
<i>Refuse Collection Schedule</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Opportunity</i>	4
<i>Contact Information for City Officials</i>	4
 <b>Police, Fire, and after hours Water &amp; Sewer Emergency</b> <b>Dial .....911</b>	
 <b>City Hall Hours</b> <b>8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Monday - Friday</b>	

### MAYOR'S COLUMN

Sometimes, when I'm not thinking too clearly, I wish that I had as much power as many people seem to think I have. I get calls and emails more frequently than you might expect suggesting that, as Mayor, I should be able to reverse direction given by Staff that is clearly based on our ordinances, or to bypass the process required for approval of a request or event. It has been suggested that I can shake loose late child support payments because the father lives in Warrenville, bend zoning regulations for projects that don't quite work as desired, secure jobs for someone who wants to work for the city, get a neighbor punished for annoying behavior that is not illegal, provide a glowing recommendation for someone I hardly know or do not know, secure contracts for vendors to the City, prohibit any number of activities that the correspondent finds problematic, allow any number of activities that are clearly prohibited, and the old standby, make traffic tickets "disappear". And, of course, if anything is not moving along as fast as an observer believes it should, a call to the Mayor and his subsequent intervention will set that right!



**Mayor David L. Brummel**

After a nanosecond, my head thankfully clears, and I remind myself to be thankful that my powers are far more modest and Warrenville is not the kind of community where a call from or to the Mayor, or anyone, circumvents policies, undermines Staff or promotes favoritism. We try to follow the rules and do things according to Hoyle. I believe that this is how our representative democracy is meant to work. Citizens elect some of their own to formulate reasonable rules for the community and to make sure those agreed-upon constraints are fairly applied. What seems like a restriction to one acts like a protection for another. There is a balance, as all of us give up some of our ability to do whatever we please in order to maintain the benefits we gain from living together in community. I know you don't have to look far to find examples of how the system can be, and is perverted, where rules are for some but not for others, and supposed leaders assume power that is not legitimately theirs and wield it in an arbitrary fashion. I am proud, and frankly quite relieved, to assure you that we do our best to ensure that this is not and will never be the case in Warrenville.

All that having been said, please do not interpret any of the above to be a discouragement to your contacting me, the other elected officials or Staff if you have a problem, suggestion or question. We do our best to be responsive, and there are many times that we can help you, get something done that needs to be done, correct a situation that needs to be corrected that perhaps we were unaware of, or at least clarify what the City can and cannot do. All I ask is that you keep in mind a couple of things. Be respectful, and assume that the person to whom you are speaking wants to help you. I'm sure you can understand how discouraging it is to answer the phone and be chewed out for something you may not be aware of, or that you have no control of. Let us know about your issue and give us time to make an appropriate response. If you feel you were not treated with respect or got the "run-around" do call me, and we'll do our best to correct any deficiencies we can identify. If you want to vent, that's fine, just do it to me or your Aldermen, not Staff. Listening to spirited vents from citizens is part of our job description, not theirs. We'll respond to you if you wish, and at the very least carry your concern to Staff to see if there is something we can act upon.

Also, do keep in mind that lots of things happen within Warrenville's corporate city limits that the City has no or limited control over. We have County, State and Federal statutes and laws that we are required to adhere to. There are other taxing bodies in Warrenville that have their own responsibilities and rules: School District 200, Warrenville Park District, Warrenville Library District, Warrenville Fire Protection District, and others. The City has no control over decisions made by these bodies concerning their operation. We also have utilities in town (notably ComEd and Nicor) over which the City has limited control, especially when they are dealing with an emergency situation. We can do our best to help and encourage them, but they follow their own timetables and rules, no matter how frustrating that can sometimes be to the rest of us.

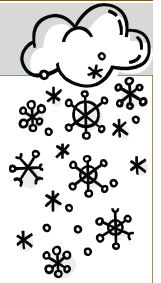
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### FEEDBACK:

Please send your feedback to:  
 Ana Vainisi, Editor  
 City Clerk's Office  
 28W701 Stafford Place  
 Warrenville, IL 60555 or  
[avainisi@warrenville.il.us](mailto:avainisi@warrenville.il.us)  
 (630) 836-3027

2012 City calendars are  
 available FREE at City Hall

## WINTER TIPS FROM ESDA



The Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) offers this advice during extremely cold weather or a winter storm:

- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- Help the firefighters by keeping fire hydrants free and clear of snow and ice.
- Ensure proper ventilation when using alternative heat from a fireplace, stove, heater, etc.
- Eat to supply heat to your body, and drink water to avoid dehydration.
- Avoid overexertion when outside.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- When shoveling sidewalks or driveways: Take your time, don't over extend yourself, if you feel discomfort – STOP.
- Avoid travel. If a trip cannot be delayed, consider using public transportation.
- Travel during daylight hours and don't travel alone if driving.
- Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit in your vehicle, including:

Blankets/sleeping bags, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit, knife, high calorie/non-perishable food, extra clothing, large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes, a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water, a sack of sand (or cat litter), shovel, windshield scraper/brush, tool kit, tow rope, booster cables, water container, compass, and road maps.

## PARKING RESTRICTIONS AFTER 2" SNOWFALL

The Warrenville City Code prohibits parking on residential streets after two or more inches of accumulated snowfall during the 24-hour period immediately following a two inch snowfall, or until the street is cleared. The following conditions must be present before Police issue tickets for a violation of the snowfall parking prohibition:

- A snowfall of two or more inches must be predicted.
- The snow must be measured at over two inches. The area measured must not be subjected to drifting or other conditions that may alter the measurement. Measurements will be taken from two separate areas within the City limits.
- The City snowplows must be out clearing streets and roadways.

Police do not control when City plows will begin removing snow from specific residential streets. The role of the Police Department is to ticket violators when the snowplows are out in order to clear the streets of parked vehicles, and allow snowplows an unobstructed roadway for complete snow removal.

Additionally, the Police Department is authorized to tow vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance. Towing of vehicles is predicated upon the length of time the vehicle was parked illegally and the type of hazard it presents. Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Police Department, by calling 393-2131.



### **Make us Your "Favorite"!**

Make the City of Warrenville's website a "Favorite" on your computer. Simply log on to [warrenville.il.us](http://warrenville.il.us) and click on the "Add to Favorites" icon, so all pertinent information regarding your town and its services, including meetings, news events, and a business directory, can be at your fingertips. We are here to serve you!

## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

The City does not have the resources, (equipment, workers, or money) to remove snow and ice from all the public sidewalks, and limits this service to the shared pedestrian and bicyclist pathway along Batavia Road and the sidewalks around municipal buildings.

Property owners are encouraged to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of their homes as a neighborly gesture. There are numerous areas throughout the City where the sidewalk is located in front of common property where there are no homes. In these instances, the City encourages the property owners abutting these sections of sidewalk to remove the snow and ice. Shoveling or sweeping of snow onto the street is prohibited and subject to ticketing and/or fines.

Questions regarding this practice may be directed to Public Works Superintendent Mike Smith at 630-393-9050.

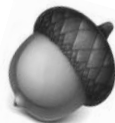


**City of  
Warrenville**

**SHOP  
WARRENVILLE**

FOR A DIRECTORY OF WARRENVILLE  
BUSINESSES AND MERCHANTS VISIT

[http://mygovhelp.info/warrenvilleil/\\_cs/supporhome.aspx](http://mygovhelp.info/warrenvilleil/_cs/supporhome.aspx)



## Senior Citizen Telecommunications Tax Rebate

Senior citizens (65 years or older) with a total household income of \$40,000 or less may receive a rebate of the City portion of the Telecommunications Tax. Reimbursements will be made for the 2011 calendar year payments only. Those who qualify must complete an application form.

The application form and instructions are available on the City website at [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us) under Forms and Documents then Living Community, or may be picked up at City Hall. All completed applications must be submitted by April 29, 2012. Please call (630) 393-9427 for further information.

## Energy Savings Ideas for the Home

FIVE Simple Actions to save energy now:

- Adjust the refrigerator setting between 35-38 degrees so it is not "over cooling" food
- Use programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature inside the house
- Replace working incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones. Replacing a 60-watt bulb with a comparable CFL now could save up to \$43 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. CFLs, on average, last about 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. For participating retailers offering discounts on ENERGY STAR lighting products, visit ComEd.com, then look for the "Switch & Save" sticker at the store.
- Use a power strip to power off unused electronics and chargers
- Change or clean the filter on the heating/cooling system regularly



## Electronics Ban Goes Into Effect January 1

A statewide electronics landfill ban will go into effect January 1, 2012. This means that residents will no longer be allowed to dispose of computers, monitors, printers, televisions, fax machines, recorders, mp3 players/iPods, video consoles, DVD players, computer accessories, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, or DVRs by placing them at the curb. The waste hauler will not be allowed to take them without incurring fines from the EPA.

Consumers have several options for disposing of this type of equipment: Retailers such as Best Buy and Target are now accepting electronics for recycling; however they may charge a fee. There are several free drop-off locations as part of DuPage County's Electronics Recycling Program. A list of the locations can be found on the County's website at: [www.dupageco.org/recycling](http://www.dupageco.org/recycling)



Please note that the City's Code Enforcement Officer will be monitoring for electronics that are left at the curb or dumped on other properties. Anyone violating the property maintenance code with respect to electronic refuse will be ticketed accordingly. Questions about this new state law or where to dispose of electronic equipment can be directed to Assistant City Administrator Jennifer McMahon at (630) 393-9427 or [jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us](mailto:jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us).

## Refuse Collection Schedule

New Year's Day falls on Sunday this year, and City offices will be closed on January 2. Waste Management will also observe New Year's on January 2 and refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day that week. Christmas trees may be placed at the curb from January 2 to January 13. Please follow these simple steps to ready Christmas trees for collection:

- Cut trees over 6' tall in half;
- Do not put trees in plastic bags;
- Make sure tree is not buried in snow.

Christmas tree collection after January 13 will require a sticker. For more information, call Waste Management at (800) 796-9696.



## Hometown Happenings Online

The editor of *Hometown Happenings* is taking requests from residents who would like to receive notice via email with a link to connect to the bi-monthly online only edition of the newsletter. The February issue will be an online publication and the March 2012 issue will be published in hard-copy and mailed. Please contact Ana Vainisi at 630-(630) 393-9427 or [avainisi@warrenville.il.us](mailto:avainisi@warrenville.il.us) and request to be added to the e-mail list.

**HISTORICAL COPIES:** Residents may also view current and past issues of *Hometown Happenings* on the City's Laserfiche system. Simply go to [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us) under News, Living, or Business, and choose the Newsletter page from the General Information tab. There is a link on the bottom of that page to Laserfiche in a folder titled City Newsletter. Issues date back to 1997.

City of Warrenville

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**City Administrator**  
John M. Coakley

**Police Chief**  
Raymond Turano

**Community Development Director**  
Ronald Mentzer

**Director of Finance**  
Kevin Dahlstrand

**Public Works Superintendent**  
Michael Smith

**Hometown Happenings** recognizes employees celebrating milestone 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of employment.

**EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY:**

Congratulations to the City employee celebrating an anniversary in January:

Police Chief Ray Turano—5 Years

## Volunteer Opportunity

If you want to give back to the community, the City of Warrenville currently has a volunteer opening in the Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. The Commission meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was established in 2006 as an advisory board to the City Council to support, encourage, and promote safe bicycling and walking throughout the City. Their goal is to recommend capital improvements and amenities, as well as conduct events, and programs to further their mission. The commissioners work with local agencies, businesses owners, and citizens of Warrenville, in identifying needs, desires, and opportunities as well as to coordinate efforts to provide for bicyclist and pedestrian amenities.

If you are interested, send a letter of intent and resume to Mayor David Brummel at [davidbrummel@warrenville.il.us](mailto:davidbrummel@warrenville.il.us) or 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL 60555.

### THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO in WARRENVILLE:

Check out these local organization websites or give them a call:  
City of Warrenville: [www.warrenville.il.us](http://www.warrenville.il.us) (630) 393-9427  
Warrenville Public Library District: [www.warrenville.com](http://www.warrenville.com) (630) 393-1171  
School District #200: [www.CUSD200.org](http://www.CUSD200.org) (630) 682-2000  
Warrenville Fire District: [www.warrenvillefire.com](http://www.warrenvillefire.com) (630) 393-1381  
Warrenville Park District: [www.warrenvilleparks.org](http://www.warrenvilleparks.org) (630) 393-7279  
Warrenville Historical Society: [www.warrenvillehistorical.org](http://www.warrenvillehistorical.org) (630)393-4215  
DuPage Forest Preserve District: [www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org) (630) 933-7200

### For more current events, also check out the

Continued from page 1....

When it comes to roads in town, some of them are ours, but some we do not control. The State, County and Winfield Township also have roads in Warrenville. In the case of roads as well as other taxing districts and utilities, the City has to be careful not to cross lines that infringe on their prerogatives or put the City at risk legally, so please try to get reliable information about who is responsible for an issue before you decide the City is at fault and heads must to roll. My experience is that, very often, things are not what they appear to be. Sometimes there are legitimate reasons to be upset, but frequently the responsible party is not who you think, and there isn't a lot to be done other than understanding what is going on and persevering.

Finally, thank you to all of you who made the effort and took the time to share a concern or offer your appreciation, whatever your perspective. One way or another, contact with you, the folks we are working for, reminds us that while we are already doing many things well, there are always opportunities to tweak the operation and smooth out more rough spots. We'll continue to do our best for you. May 2012 bring good things to you and to the little town we all love!