

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

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Police, Fire, and after hours Water & Sewer Emergency Dial911
City Hall Hours
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

FEEDBACK:

Please send your feedback to:
 Ana Vainisi, Editor
 City Clerk's Office
 28 W 701 Stafford Place
 Warrenville, IL 60555 or
 avainisi@warrenville.il.us

MAYOR'S COLUMN

2 Shortly after the start of the new year, it is the tradition in Warrenville, as well as for most of our neighbors, for the Mayor to put together and deliver a "State of the City" address. This year was my sixth such effort, and was delivered at a Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce luncheon on February 10th at the Courtyard Restaurant. The speech generally takes about a half hour to deliver, but about two full days to compose -- and edit, and edit, and edit. I swear, no matter how many times I re-read something I have written, I keep finding things to change. I love language, and precision, craft, clarity, and conciseness are tools I enjoy employing. So usually, I edit up to the very last minute then have to rush out the door to arrive on time. Generally, in the end, I'm satisfied with the result, at least until I dig up last year's effort for background for this year's, and start editing it again. And so it goes.

3 While the process for creating my yearly check-in with you makes me a little crazy, I have yet to not be encouraged and pleased at the content of the message. Warrenville is simply a great little town with a lot of dedicated folks who work very hard to insure it stays that way. I always have good things to report. The full text of this year's effort can be accessed at http://www.warrenville.il.us/c_dept_mayor_state.aspx. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read my executive summary of the community's progress through 2010 as well as our prospects, at least from my perspective, for the coming year and beyond. If you have the time and are so inclined, you could even e-mail me your editing suggestions, thus giving me a leg up on next year's effort.

4 For those of you who are thinking "Mayor, just be thankful I'm reading this. Have you seen the length of my to-do list?" let me pass along some principles on which we rely that I think you should know. Most everyone's financial situation has been, and continues to be, difficult and uncertain. Many communities have had to deal with cutbacks in services, employee layoffs or furloughs, and other unpleasantness. Although we have had to significantly tighten our belt, we have not had to, nor do I foresee the need to, cut services or let employees go. We are holding our own through some very tough times. There are many reasons why the negative impact of the financial downturn has been muted in Warrenville, and I would like to highlight three.

First, your town pays cash for everything. We have no debt against the general fund, and thus no debt service to divert tax dollars from providing services. Very few communities have no debt. Second, we maintain healthy reserves. These funds were augmented before the downturn because of anticipated effects of the end of TIF I in December 2009. We have used some of these rainy day funds to help us get through the past two years, and anticipate using them again in the coming year, but they are far from being depleted. Third, we only promise what we are required to and can afford to deliver. We are a small town and we have always respected the limitations of our resources. Especially these days, we concentrate on delivery of our core services at the highest level we can afford to provide. Case in point: during the recent blizzard, I received dozens of comments on the great job our people did on snow removal and police response.

So, there's Warrenville's prescription for economic health: Pay cash. Avoid Debt. Put money aside for rainy days. Don't promise things you can't afford. I see that the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently listed Illinois with the second highest 2012 projected budget shortfall (\$15 billion, 44.9% of 2011 budget) of all the states. Maybe you should clip this column and send it to our leaders in Springfield. On second thought, never mind. I'm pretty sure they speak an entirely different fiscal language down there.



Mayor David L. Brummel

All exterior holiday decorative lighting should be removed by March 1

Online Edition—Sign Up Today!

Due to budget constraints, the *Hometown Happenings* will only be mailed every other month. The next paper edition will be in May 2011. On the months it is not mailed, the *Hometown Happenings* will be available in electronic format online at www.warrenville.il.us.

The editor of *Hometown Happenings* is taking requests from residents who would like to receive notice via e-mail with a link to connect to the bi-monthly online edition of the newsletter.

Please contact Ana Vainisi at 630-393-9427 or at avainisi@warrenville.il.us and request to be added to the e-mail list.

GOOD NEWS: Residents may now view past issues of *Hometown Happenings* on the City's Laserfiche system. Simply go to www.warrenville.il.us under News, Living or Business, and choose the Newsletter page. There is a link on that page to Laserfiche with a folder titled City Newsletter. Issues go back to 1997.

Tourism and Arts Grants Awarded

The City Council has approved the Tourism and Arts Commission's (TAC) recommendation for Hotel/Motel Grant awards for the FY 2012 cycle. Each year, TAC reviews applications requesting money to help fund local events and projects that promote tourism and overnight stays. This year, TAC received 23 applications for a total amount requested of \$191,349. Applicants awarded grants use funds to help underwrite the cost of an event or program, pay for capital expenses, or fund promotional materials for the event.

As in previous years, the largest grants went to the Warrenville Athletic Association and Warrenville Girls Softball Association who host summer tournaments. The America in Bloom (AIB) (now Warrenville in Bloom) beautification program is the third highest grant awarded followed by the Library's weekly Concerts in the Commons. Grants were also awarded for the AIB Garden Contest, Clay Space's pottery art show and exhibition, the Park District's Fall Family Fun Fest, Art on the Prairie, and Farmers Market as well as the Historical Society's Summer Tea and Warrenville Inspire program. The Warrenville Arts Council submitted eight grants and seven were awarded. They include Art Works, Intro to Clay, Picture This, Two For Brazil, website development, Waubonsie Steel Drum, Chicago Afro Jazz, and a writers workshop. Other new projects this year include Arts and Crafts of Coffee, and the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

TAC is always open to reviewing new applications from individuals and organizations. The application cycle will begin again the second Monday of September, with fiscal year 2013 applications available in July. Please contact Jennifer McMahon, Assistant City Administrator, at 393-9427 or jmcmahon@warrenville.il.us for further information as it becomes available.

Please take time this year to attend and enjoy these fun, low cost community events!

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

City of Warrenville: www.warrenville.il.us
 School District #200: .CUSD200.org
 Warrenville Park District: www.warrenvilleparks.org
 DuPage Forest Preserve District: www.dupageforest.org

Check out these local organization websites:

Warrenville Public Library District: www.warrenville.com
 Warrenville Fire District: www.warrenvillefire.com
 Warrenville Historical Society: www.warrenvillehistorical.org

Daylight Savings Time

DST begins at 2:00 a.m. on
 Sunday, March 13.

Turn clocks forward one hour.

Spring ahead,
 Fall behind



Mailbox Claims

Mailboxes damaged due to the amount of snow and/or snow plow activities are eligible for reimbursement or replacement. Please visit warrenville.il.us, click on "Forms and Documents," scroll down to the heading, "Living General Information," click on "Mailbox Claim Form," print it out, complete it, and return it to Assistant City Administrator Jennifer McMahon for processing.

Earth Hour 2011

Earth Hour 2010 became the biggest Earth Hour ever. A record 128 countries and territories joined the global display of climate action. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Asia Pacific to Europe and Africa to the Americas switched off. People across the world from all walks of life turned off their lights and came together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common – our planet.



Earth Hour is all about the small changes that everyone is capable of making in their lives and building the Earth Hour ethos into each day's living. Turning the lights off, represents turning the lights on in your mind, to the benefit of emissions reduction. Imagine the result, if everyone around the globe switched off their lights for one hour?

Earth Hour 2011: Saturday, March 26, 8:30 p.m.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week (March 1-7)

Although there is still ice and snow on the ground, now is the time to start thinking about the severe storm season. Typically spring and summer are the times of greatest concern for severe weather in northern Illinois, although strong storms, including tornados, have occurred in every month of the year. This is the time to put a family plan together, including a stockpile of non-perishable food, water, medications, and personal papers, such as account numbers and insurance policies.

One of the most important things to help protect loved ones is to purchase a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) Weather Radio with SAME (Specific Area Message Encryption), which are widely available in stores and on the Internet. The radio stays silent until a warning or watch is issued by the local weather office. For more information on weather warning radios go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm> or contact Warrenville ESDA at esda@warrenville.il.us or by calling 630-918-5119. ESDA provides free booklets and other publications to help plan for weather emergencies.

Occasionally, residents comment that they did not hear the tornado siren from inside their home or business. The outdoor warning sirens are intended as a first line of defense for people who are outside their home and not near any other warning device such as a radio or TV. The sirens are strategically located throughout the community to provide optimum coverage for anyone working or playing outdoors. When the sirens sound, seek shelter immediately. The sirens are tested at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) website at <http://www.state.il.us/iema/index.asp> for information and more preparedness tips.



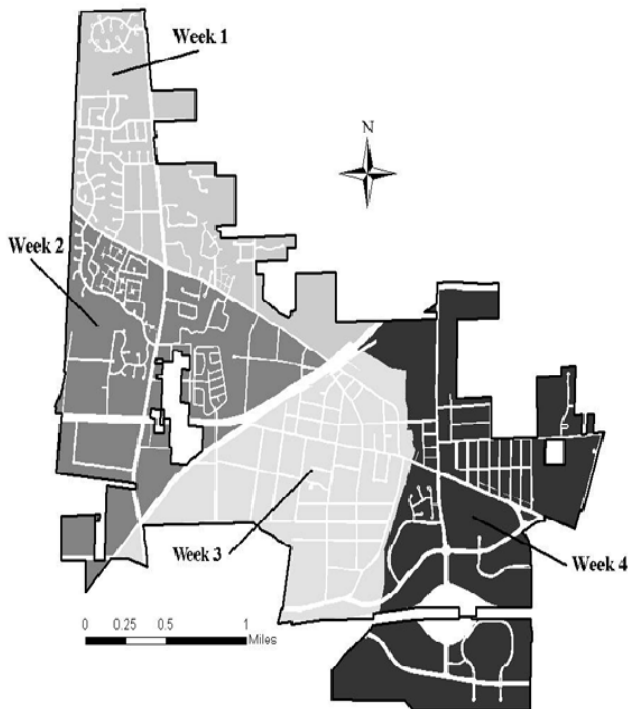
Brush Pickup Begins April 1

The Public Works Department will continue the once a month brush pickup program starting on April 1. Brush must be out on Monday by 7:00 a.m. for the week scheduled according to areas outlined in the map to the left. For example, Week 1 area must have brush out by 7:00 a.m. the first Monday of the month. Week 2 area must have brush out by 7:00 a.m. of the second Monday of the month, and so on.

Brush pickup is limited to trimmings from bushes or shrubs, as well as branches from trimming and/or pruning trees. Other items such as logs, root balls, stumps, grass clippings, flowers, weeds, plants, leaves, lumber, or anything in plastic bags or other such containers will NOT be picked up.

All brush must be cut in lengths no longer than eight (8') feet and no larger than eight (8") inches in diameter.

All brush must be placed on the parkway with the larger cut end towards the street and the brush pile should not be more than three (3') feet high. Brush piles not conforming to these standards will not be picked up and a notice will be left on the front door knob.



Voter Registration Reminder

City Clerk Emily Larson reminds those who are not registered to vote, that March 8, 2011, is the last day to register or transfer registration to be eligible to vote in the Tuesday, April 5, 2011, General Election. Municipal offices to be elected are as follows: One (1) Alderman for Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, and Ward 4, each to serve a four (4) year term to expire on April 30, 2015.

Early voting begins on March 14, 2011, and ends on March 31, 2011. Early voting sites are posted on the City's website. Please visit http://www.warrenville.il.us/c_dept_c-clerk.aspx for details and additional information on voter registration requirements as well as early voting locations and times.

Homebound individuals may contact City Hall at 630-393-9427 for assistance in registering to vote. Questions should be directed to Deputy City Clerk Ana Vainisi, 630-836-3027.

City of Warrenville

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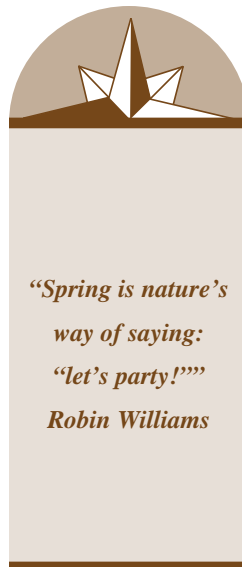
Think Spring!!

Did You Know the State is Giving Away Prizes for Money-saving Ideas?

Residents of Illinois could win from \$50 to \$5,000 for successful money-saving suggestions submitted to the State Government Suggestion Award Board. Each feasible, original, and cost-saving suggestion may be eligible for an award. Awards are based on the savings each idea generates. For more information about this initiative visit www.state.il.us/cms/2_servicese_oth/sesabrd.htm or call (217) 558-0964.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY:

Congratulations to
Kevin Dahlstrand, Finance Director
for celebrating 5 years
of employment in March



*"Spring is nature's
way of saying:
'let's party!'"*
Robin Williams

Need a Building Permit?

A building permit is required for all new construction, including buildings, fences, sheds, decks, or any above-ground structure. Permits are also needed for concrete or paver patios, all driveways, and for most remodeling projects. Examples of remodeling projects include any changes or replacement of water or gas piping, wiring, and heating; or work that affects the structure of any walls, door and window openings, roof elements, and replacement of permanent exterior coverings such as roofing, brick or stone siding, and window frames (where the opening is altered).

A permit is not required for work that is not controlled by the building codes, such as painting and floor coverings, or installing appliances that are not permanently attached to the wiring or plumbing systems, such as washing machines or room air conditioners.

Please direct questions about permits to the Community Development at (630)393-9050. The permit process tends to ensure that the work is inspected appropriately and complies with applicable codes.

New Recreational Facilities in Progress

The DuPage Forest Preserve District is in the process of constructing a new Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on the former Cenacle property. It will be directly adjacent to Blackwell's multipurpose recreation and archery complex, making use of the existing road, trail access, parking facilities, and electrical service, as well as the nearby pond and lake habitats. The goal of the new Center is to facilitate re-introduction and augmentation of native freshwater mussels and fish species that were historically abundant in the Des Plaines River watershed.

"Open House Days" will allow the public to learn about urban streams, explore aquatic and floodplain restoration programs and demonstrate the influence residents have on their local watersheds and water quality. Rain barrels, permeable paving, rain gardens, bioswales, vegetated swales and wetland detention will help illustrate relevant and functioning best management practices for homeowners. Construction of the Center began May 2010 and the Center is expected to open this summer.

A second project under construction by the DuPage Forest Preserve District is the expansion of the existing Blackwell Archery Range Complex. The project scope includes a redevelopment and expansion of the existing facilities to include a beginners range, an Olympic style range, and an interactive range, as well as the construction of a picnic shelter and associated stormwater management and landscaping improvements. When completed, the new archery complex at Blackwell will include two static ranges over open turf and an interactive range in a natural setting, a total of over 40 targets at shooting lengths from 10 to 100 yards. It will be next to a three-acre picnic area with a 50-person picnic shelter, a trailhead, a 100-car parking lot, and be near a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier at Sand Pond. The Forest Preserve District expects the area to open in spring 2011.