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Dial 911 for Police, Fire, and After-hours Water and Sewer Emergencies

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

My brother Charles used to spend a lot of time visiting cemeteries. He and Cathy would frequently pack a little lunch and head out for a road trip to what was often some obscure, mostly forgotten, graveyard. Some were close, some not so close, but all were connected by a common theme: family history. Our family on both sides has deep roots in the area. So many of our ancestors were farmers, but sadly for us, while they were no doubt good farmers, they were not so good at balancing the books. The last auction of farm equipment after foreclosure was my Grandpa Peter's, in 1946, the year I was born. A large portion of the acreage, just north of Butterfield Road, is now part of Fermilab, and marked as the "Brummel site". An interesting family history fact uncovered by my family history sleuth brother: Grandpa's brother Chris was the one who put him out of business. Just one of the many juicy tidbits Charles has uncovered over the years that never was talked about. "Why, don't ya know, everybody in our family got along just fine." Uh huh.

At any rate, my brother used these trips to cemeteries to provide the foundation for family research. Names, birth and death dates, family members, and other clues found on gravestones and local cemetery records helped make connections that enabled further research in municipal, county, and court records. There were frustrating times trying to figure out who was who, when two people had been given the exact same name, and it was not always clear who was who. But I still remember the excitement and joy he would share with me when he made a solid connection, a new discovery, or solved a nagging mystery. He was putting together stories, bit by bit, and although they were about people who were many times long gone, were every bit as fascinating as our current lives. The long-gone joys and shenanigans of a bunch of dead people became real and interesting because these were the people who came before us, and they lived their lives just as we are doing now: one day at a time, dealing with whatever had to be handled as best they could.

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Mayor David L. Brummel
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POLICE EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Police Department employees will participate in *No Shave November* and *Double-Down December* to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Each employee will donate \$75 to participate in the charity fundraiser. The hospital in Illinois is the largest of its kind, and specializes in pediatric treatment focused on children's catastrophic diseases, particularly forms of pediatric cancer. Daily hospital expenditures are approximately \$2.8 million, at no cost to the patient's family regardless of illness or treatment needs.

Donations made by check can be made payable to the Warrenville Police Benevolent Fund. Write No Shave November - Warrenville Police in the memo section. Checks may be dropped off at the Police Department during regular business hours, now through Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m. Cash donations will not be accepted. All donations, in full, will be delivered directly to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



VETERANS DAY – HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

When: November 11 at 11 AM

Where: Intersection of Stafford Pl. & Warren Ave.



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, City Hall offices and the Police Department front lobby and Records Division will be closed Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26. All offices will resume currently structured business hours and services on Monday, November 29.

For emergency assistance, use the red phone located in the Police Department vestibule, or call 9-1-1. Emergency response will not be affected by the office closure.

SAVE THE DATE!
Holly Days
 Friday, December 3, 2021
 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Located at the corner of Tracy Place and Warren Avenue

- *Santa's Arrival Parade
- *Mayor Brummel Lighting the City Holiday Tree
- *Free Horse Drawn Carriage Rides
- *Warm up by one of our fire pits
- *Hot chocolate bar and cookies
- *A visit from Santa
- *Entertainment provided by local schools

Visit www.warrenvilleparks.org for information on how to participate in the Warrenville Holiday Tree Showcase.

Holly Days is presented by the City of Warrenville, Warrenville Park District and the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The U.S. Marine Corps 2021 *Toys for Tots Campaign* has begun, and the Police Department is a DuPage County donation drop-off site. Now through noon on Friday, December 10, new unwrapped toys in original packaging may be dropped off at the Police Department for children between the ages of newborn and 12-years old. Donations will be accepted during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., excluding City holidays.

Monetary donations may be made online through the Marine Corps *Toys for Tots* secure website link or by using the QR code provided below, and will be used to purchase toys for children within DuPage County when shortages occur. The Police Department will not be able to accept monetary donations.

All toys collected will be distributed to DuPage County children in need.

Questions regarding this campaign may be directed to Community Service Officer Perry at (630) 393-2131. The DuPage County Marine Corps has provided the following donation guidelines:

- Items accepted: New unwrapped toys and items for older kids like: hand-held electronics, jewelry sets, cosmetics, arts and crafts, model kits, creative or educational toys, and athletic equipment.
- Items to avoid: Gift cards (secure online monetary donations can be made instead); toys that could cause a choking hazard.
- Items not accepted: Food, used stuffed animals, clothing, and realistic-looking weapons.

TOYS FOR TOTS

BRING WHAT?
NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS

FOR WHOM?
KIDS - NEWBORN TO AGE 12

WHERE?
WARRENVILLE POLICE DPT

WHEN?
THRU NOON, FRIDAY
DECEMBER 10TH

OFFICIAL DROP OFF SITE
Thank You for Your Support



Online and QR Code Donations: Enter **IL-Warrenville** as "Your Local Campaign Designation" at: https://marinetoyfortots.salsalabs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun_local_campaign_designation=IL-Warrenville.

QR code: Point your cellphone camera at the scan code square, and click on the pop-up link to go directly to the Toys for Tots donations page to make a donation using your phone.

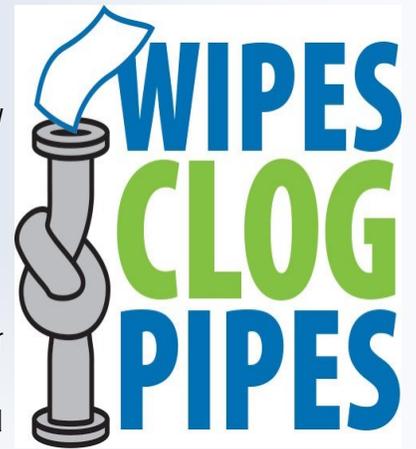
REMINDER: DO NOT FLUSH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

To keep household plumbing and City sewers running efficiently for a long time, do not flush anything other than toilet paper down the toilet. Use this general rule of thumb: if it's not toilet paper, do not flush it.

Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to wastewater utility systems and utility staff. Toilet paper is a material that is made to easily break down in water. Flushing anything other than toilet paper, including 'flushable' or 'disposable' wipes (which do not break down or disintegrate), can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems, and septic systems. Fixing these backups is costly, and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

In addition to wipes, other items commonly found in sewer clogs include: paper towels, tissues, and diapers. These items, along with the following list of items should never be flushed down a toilet or sink.

- **Baby and Other Types of Wipes** do not disintegrate, and can get hung up in plumbing, causing a backup.
- **Paper Towels and Tissues** are not made the same as toilet paper and will not break down the same, and pose a risk of causing a backup later on.
- **Medications** are bad for the environment and end up in public waterways if flushed.
- **Diapers** are too big and should not be flushed.
- **Menstrual Products** are meant to absorb water and will not break down, potentially causing a backup.
- **Condoms** do not break down in water. Flushing them can cause clogs.
- **Dental floss** catches debris and creates a net stuck in the pipes.
- **Hair** never dissolves and catches debris.
- **Kitty Litter** is heavy, and most toilets will not move enough water to flush the litter properly down the line.
- **Cooking Grease** congeals as it cools, eventually reducing the size of pipes and causing a backup.
- **Food** is biodegradable and will break down eventually, but until that happens, it could clog pipes.
- **Chewing Gum** does not breakdown and can adhere to pipes causing a clog.



TIPS TO PREVENT FROZEN WATER LINES

- Remove garden hoses from outside spigots
- Allow warm air to circulate around the water meter
- Tightly seal any vents or access areas in crawl spaces
- If water pipes are on an exterior wall, leave cabinet doors open for better exposure to heat
- Let water run at a trickle on extremely cold nights (about the diameter of a pencil)
- Contact the Water Division to shut off water at vacant properties
- Low water pressure could be an indicator that pipes are starting to freeze

Questions regarding these tips? Call (630) 393-5753.

NO STREET PARKING AFTER 2" SNOW

City Code 5-3-9 states: No vehicle shall be parked on any street, roadway, or roadway shoulder: 1) for a period of twenty four (24) hours after the accumulation of two inches (2") or more of snow; or 2) until the street or roadway has been cleared of snow.

The Police Department assists the Street Division during any snowfall event that produces two inches of snow or more by enforcing the City's parking ban on streets. The City Code is in place to keep the streets clear for snowplows to efficiently and safely remove snow curb to curb. While the Police Department does not have control over when snowfall will be removed from City streets, it is empowered to ticket and tow vehicles in violation. Towing of vehicles is predicated on various factors, which include the length of time the vehicle was illegally parked and the type of hazard it presents.

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Mayor's Column Continued from Front Page

I am grateful for these family stories, as well as some mysteries that remain, because they help me more fully understand, as well as appreciate, who I am in light of my origins. Those stories provide a lot of context, nature, and nurture, to help me understand, and hopefully enrich my own story, which continues to unfold.

I have been having these reflections after participating in the 14th annual “Dead Men Talking – and Some Women” presentation by the volunteers of the Warrenville Historical Society last month. This is a candlelight walk in the Warrenville Cemetery, stopping at seven graves each year to listen to the stories of people who came before us and contributed in some way to our community. How fascinating to listen and learn a little bit about the lives of people, now gone, who had all or most of their stories written here in Warrenville. This year I learned, among other things, about “Strut” Martin Moore; the Pony Barn Press and “The Sign of the Hand”; how Albright Street got its name (not exactly what you may think); the Warrenville General Store (later Petit’s); Alice Renouf, the City’s own opera singer; the origins of the Stresney Piano Store; and “Staffords String Band”. All-in-all, an hour very well spent.

Thank you to those who go out of their way to remind us of the benefits of looking back, to review and remember the stories of those who preceded us, as we continue on our own journeys, as well as for reminding us that there is a richness and texture to Warrenville that is more special the more you know about those who created our town by choosing to “live their stories” here.

So, how is your story going? At some point, we will all have progressed from prologue to epilogue. Make what is in-between interesting. Get going.

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO ADDRESS MAILBOX MAINTENANCE



Before winter comes, now is a good time to check the condition of your mailbox and complete any necessary repairs. Reinforcing a wobbly post or tightening a fastener may help avoid damage from storms and snow. During a snowstorm, the City’s Public Works crew works diligently to remove snow from roadways in a timely manner. Sometimes the snow is so heavy when it comes off the plow, that it can damage free standing mailboxes. While the City considers claims for reimbursement of mailbox damage by a City snowplow, residents are encouraged to address mailbox repairs before winter.

HIGHER HEATING COSTS EXPECTED THIS WINTER

In a Fall 2021 newsletter, the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) provided the following information about winter heating costs: “natural gas pricing has jumped considerably and is expected to continue to do so, causing residents’ home winter heating bills to soar.” Natural gas production in the U.S. has not returned to pre-COVID levels, and is not keeping up with the pace of demand. Natural gas pricing has risen 90% this year, above last year’s multi-year low, and could continue to rise if the winter is colder than normal. Pricing will largely be dictated by the amount of gas U.S. producers can place into storage over the fall and early winter. Electric pricing is somewhat connected to natural gas pricing, however, local residents are not effected by electric price fluctuations as ComEd’s residential rates are mostly fixed through May 2022, according to NIMEC.

Financial assistance to help pay heating bills is available to low-income households through the Nicor Gas Sharing Program, administered by the Salvation Army, and through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Residents in need can call the local Salvation Army office at (630) 897-7265, for more information about the Nicor Gas Sharing Program, or the LIHEAP Hotline at (877) 411-WARM, for information about that program.

WAYS TO ENJOY AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FALL & WINTER

1. **Enjoy the beautiful Fall weather** -- walk or ride a bike to school or work.
2. **Plan Thanksgiving** around plant-based foods -- or consider a pasture-fed turkey.
3. **Help out native birds and insects** by avoiding pruning back your fruiting trees and flower seed heads until early Spring; this is an easy way to provide food for our feathered friends. And avoid leaf blowing or otherwise disrupting leaf litter, as this can provide habitat for native insects, important in their own right and as a source of food for native songbirds.
4. **Get ready to adjust to the cool and cozy weather.** Bring out the cozy sweaters and blankets and set your thermostat a few degrees cooler -- you'll save both money and energy.



Sources: naturecanada.ca

Images from: warrenville.il.us

"It shall be the intent and purpose of the Environmental Advisory Commission to help develop educational and informational programs and materials that promote environmental awareness and behavior, as well as to promote and coordinate the City's beautification efforts and to conduct an annual Arbor Day activity in Warrenville."



Image from: .p3international.com

KILL-A-WATT METERS

Find out how much energy those household appliances really use! The EAC supplied the Warrenville Public Library with Kill-A-Watt meters available for loan for a two-week period.

By using the meter, residents can find out what appliances are actually worth keeping plugged in. Simply connect these appliances to the meter and it will assess how efficient they really are. The display will count consumption by the Kilowatt-hour, the same as on your electric bill. Residents can then calculate electrical expenses by the day, week, month, even an entire year. They can also check the quality of power by monitoring Voltage, Line Frequency, and Power Factor.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Environmental Advisory Commission has a webpage that provides information about its programs and projects, as well as resources on environmental topics.

Topics include:

- ◆ Carbon Emissions Calculator
- ◆ Pollinators and Native Plants
- ◆ Recycling
- ◆ Mosquito Abatement
- ◆ Cool Cities: Climate Action Plan

www.warrenville.il.us/316/Environmental-Advisory-Commission