

City of Harvard NewsNotes



Community Newsletter, October 2003

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Ralph Henning

It's been a very busy season in Harvard.

As we await further progress on the sale of the former Motorola facility to developer Joe Buralli, we are busy working on a number of projects that will keep our city moving forward in the years ahead. At the top of our list is the city's financial situation, which has been suffered from sharp decreases in income and sales tax revenues. The slow economy has reduced everyone's income and ability to spend and the city is no different. The state's latest budget has also caused hardship due to reduced government funding. When states cut their budgets, local cities and towns are often the first to feel the blow.

We must keep Harvard's economy healthy and growing to keep our city strong. To do that, we are working with the Harvard Economic Development Corporation to actively recruit new companies and jobs to town. The City Council is considering creating a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) for the 180 remaining acres in Arrowhead Park. Creating such a district would enable the developer to prepare an inventory of ready sites that potential employers could consider when they visit Harvard. Having a variety of desirable sites available is important to successfully attracting new businesses. The city is looking at creating other new commercial areas as well.

The City has tightened its belt and is working hard to weather the storm until the economy turns around and new projects commence.

There are many good things on the horizon for Harvard. Recent publicity has helped generate a lot of interest in our community and companies have been requesting information on Harvard. We will work with these companies and others that call to help provide the jobs and services our residents want and need.



2003 Road Program A Success!

The City of Harvard recently completed the largest road project in our city's history. Over eight miles of roads were repaved and capital improvements were completed on many local streets. Thank you for your patience while the work was being done. We can all be very proud of the result!

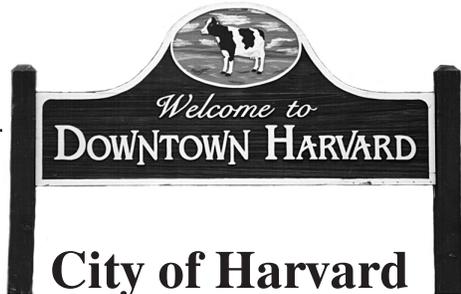
**SAY YES!
to
HARVARD**

Upcoming City Events

- Oct. 5-11 National Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 6 Fall Brush Pick Up Begins
- Oct. 15-17 Hydrant Flushing
- Oct. 25 Make A Difference Day

Oct. 26
Daylight Savings
Time Ends





**City of Harvard
Municipal Information
www.cityofharvard.org**

Mayor.....Ralph Henning
City Treasurer.....Beverly Meseck
City Clerk.....Andy Wells

Aldermen

Ward 1 Jay Nolan
.....Chuck Marzahl
Ward 2Mel Hinterlong
.....Joel Berg
Ward 3Terry Bellon
.....Scott Dikun
Ward 4.....Darrell Perkins
.....Tom Hay

Municipal Staff

City Administrator.....Dave Nelson
Chief of Police.....Kenneth Mrozek
Administrative Assistant.....Lori Moller
Building Inspector.....Jim Kruckenberg
Building Inspector.....Steve Santeler
Supt. Public Works.....Jim Carbonetti
Supt. Utilities.....Keith Gibson
Supt. Parks & Recreation..... Bob Burkart

City Phone Numbers

City Hall.....943-6468
.....Fax: 943-4556
Dial-A-Ride.....943-7700
EMERGENCY.....Dial 9-1-1
Police Dept. (non-emergency).....943-4431
Fire/Rescue (non-emergency).....943-6927
Harvard Diggins Library.....943-4671
Public Works Dept.....943-0301
Swimming Pool.....943-4300
WWTP.....943-6626

City Council meetings are held at City Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Meet This Local Club

The Harvard Lions Club

This busy volunteer organization has been active in Harvard for 62 years, raising money for important community projects. The club currently has 52 members, including charter member Phil Ferris. The Lions recently donated \$10,000 to the city to improve Lions Park (for the second year) and is working to upgrade the grills and the equipment at the facility. The club originally purchased the land for the park in 1968 and donated it to the city, which manages it through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Other club projects have included building the playground next to the new library, and raising money to help provide glasses, hearing aids and diabetes information to the needy. Lions members also donate to the food pantry, the McHenry County Dental Clinic, HERS softball, the Boy Scouts and 4-H. The annual Lions Candy Day will be held in Harvard on October 17-18. Tickets for the club's Bucks For Christmas raffle cost \$20 each and can be purchased from any club member or at the Trophy Store.

Club officers include Vice President Dick Maguire, Membership Chair Brad Jackson and Tail Twisters Gene and Joanne Boppart. The Lions meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Town & Country Restaurant at 7 p.m. A special membership night will be held on November 5. Contact Carol Larson at 648-2316 for more information on how you can get involved.

Fall Events At The Library

September is 'Get Carded at the Library' month. Watch for a prize drawing coupon in the Northwest Herald or pick one up at the Harvard Diggins Library.

The library's Community Enrichment Series will hold a program entitled 'Do You Live in a Sears Home?' at 7 p.m. on October 2, 2003. Rebecca Hunter has researched mail order houses extensively and has found a number of them in Harvard. She is a 'Road Scholar' with the Illinois Humanities Council, which is sponsoring this presentation. There is no charge for this presentation about a very unusual way of homebuilding! Materials about the Sears houses are also on display at the library.

The library has a large number of e-books available in its catalog. These are works that do not come to

the patron in the traditional, physical format, but as digital books. They are not audio books, but actual 'readable' works that have been transferred to digital files. They can be read online from a computer, either at the library or from your home, once an account has been established. This collection of titles increases the number of works in the library's collection by nearly half. It can be accessed 24 hours a day, which can provide a great advantage for students doing assignments late at night or early in the morning.

There will be several evening programs for families this fall, including a movie night, a story night for dads and kids, and a Family Reading Night on November 20. Call the library for details at 943-4671.



NEED TO KNOW ...

Hydrant Flushing

The Utilities Department will be flushing dead-end lines on October 15, 16 and 17. Hydrant flushing may create rust and brown-colored water. The water is safe to drink, but will stain clothes that are washed in it. If you experience rusty water, let your faucet run until clear. Questions? Call City Hall at 943-6468.

Fall Brush Pick Up

Curbside pick up will begin on Monday, October 6 and will continue until all wards have been picked up. To ensure pickup, all brush must be placed by the curb prior to October 6, but do not place it out more than one week ahead of time. All branches must be at least 3-feet long with the cut end stacked to the curb. Branches are to be free of roots and dirt. The crew will not accept boards or wire, vines, evergreens or fir trees.

Tentative Leaf Vacuuming Schedule

Leaf vacuuming will take place October 13 through November 30, depending on when leaves begin to fall. Please rake your leaves to the curb, NOT the street. Harvard Waste Hauling will vacuum through the end of November, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please contact Harvard Waste Hauling at 943-4939.

Need Help Paying Energy Bills?

Know someone who's having difficulty stretching a limited budget to meet every day needs? Help is available for paying for energy bills. Administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides qualifying applicants with financial energy assistance.

For eligibility information, contact DCEO's Energy Information Line, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The phone numbers are:

- Callers outside the city of Chicago: 1-800-252-8643
- Chicago residents: 1-312-456-4100
- For the hearing impaired: 1-800-785-6055

Priority enrollment for seniors and those with disabilities began on September 1 and runs through October 31. The program opens to all other eligible persons on November 1.

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA):

School has started, but are you wondering what to do after school or on the weekend? Make a friend or try something new in a recreation program! Harvard is one of nine communities that make up the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association, which provides year-round activities for children and adults with disabilities. NISRA's fall catalog is available at City Hall or call (815) 459-0737 for information.

Parks & Recreation

By Bob Burkart, Superintendent

Basketball season is here!

Jr. Hornets Intramural Basketball

For all (boys and girls) 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders

Cost: In-Town \$20.00

Out of City Limits: \$25.00

(\$10 for each additional family member)

Sign-up/Practice: Saturday, November 1st

Harvard Junior High School

3rd & 4th Graders from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

5th & 6th Graders from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.



Harvard Jr. Hornets Traveling Team Basketball

For 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys

Cost: In-Town: \$50 (\$30 if you have last year's uniform)

Out of City Limits: \$65 (\$45 if you have last year's uniform)

Tryouts: Wednesday, December 17 at Harvard High School

6th Grade from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

7th Grade from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

8th Grade from 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.



For more information on either program, contact Bob Burkart, Supt. of Parks & Recreation, at 943-6468 (office) or 943-4986 (home).



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Harvard's Halloween Trick or Treating hours will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 31. The Police Dept. would like to remind parents and children to follow these guidelines to ensure a fun and safe event: Choose costumes that are flame retardant, short enough to prevent your child from tripping, and light-colored for better visibility to motorists. If a light costume is not possible, add reflective tape or material to the costume. The use of face paint instead of masks is encouraged because masks limit the scope of vision. To avoid injuries, costume props such as wands, swords, etc., should be made of cardboard rather than metal or wood. Parents are encouraged to accompany small and elementary-aged children at all times. Older children should Trick or Treat in groups. Always carry a flashlight and never run across a street from house to house without looking. If possible, Trick or Treat in your own neighborhood and only visit homes you know. Wrapped and packaged candy are the only items that should be given or accepted and, as always, treats should be inspected by an adult before they are eaten. Should you have questions concerning Halloween, or

come across questionable and/or tampered candy or treats, contact the Harvard Police Department at 943-4431.

With the winter season fast approaching, the Police Department would like to remind residents of the Snow Removal Ordinance. Whenever two or more inches of snow has fallen, or whenever the Public Works Department Director declares a snow emergency, it is unlawful for any vehicle to be parked on a public street. Any vehicle that is in violation will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. When a snow emergency is declared, WMCW radio (1600 AM) will be notified to announce the emergency. If you are unable to tune in to the radio, feel free to call the Police Department at 943-4431 to inquire. Please note that it is also unlawful, per Harvard City Ordinance, to deposit or cause to be deposited any snow upon any street or alley in the City or on that portion of any street or alley cleared or scheduled to be cleared of any snow accumulation. Copies of City Ordinances are available in the City Clerk's office during normal working hours.

More businesses are



... see inside



Winners of Best Civic Project Announced

The Harvard Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) and the Harvard Rotary Club submitted the winning entries in the city's annual Best Civic Project Award competition.

Each local organization will receive \$5,000 to be used toward the realization of their projects. The Harvard State Bank and the City of Harvard, as co-sponsors of the program, will each provide \$5,000 toward the awards.

The HEDC plans to use its award to replace an existing painted sign welcoming visitors to Harvard at the south Route 14 entrance to the city with an upscale masonry monument sign. The balance of the project's expected \$20,000 cost will be paid by the HEDC and through donated services and materials.

"The new sign will provide a positive first impression to everyone entering town," said Mayor Ralph Henning.

The Harvard Rotary Club plans to construct an 18' by 24' sheltered barbecue pit at Milky Way Park, near the park's existing picnic pavilion. "It will become a valuable addition to Milky Way Park, which has become a focal point for many city events," noted Henning.

Five projects were submitted to this year's competition, which normally

provides a \$10,000 grant to the organization with the best overall concept. For the first time, two winners were chosen to share the top prize.

"Each of the projects submitted would have been an asset to our community," said the Mayor.

The program, which was originally created by Mayor Henning seven years ago to inspire community involvement, evaluates proposed projects for their ability to enhance the quality of life in Harvard.

Past winners of the Best Civic Project award have included the Harvard Lions Club, the Harvard Kiwanis, Harvard Educational & Recreational Softball, the Jefferson School Parent/Teacher Group and the Women of Harvard, American Legion Post #265, and the Harvard High School National Honor Society.

"We are proud to co-sponsor a program that encourages residents to work together for the benefit of the entire community," said The Harvard State Bank President Roger Lehmann. "Many good projects have been funded by this program and we would expect many more to come."

