

City of Harvard NewsNotes



Community Newsletter, Fall 2006

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jay Nolan

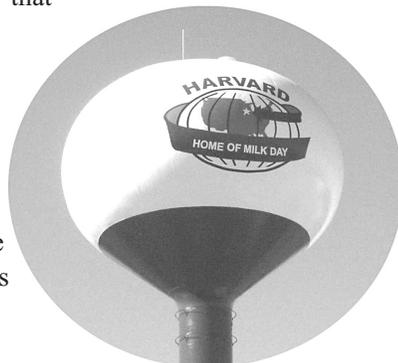


The Harvard Lions Club submitted the winning entry in the City of Harvard's 10th Annual Best Civic Project Award competition. The Lion's Club will receive \$10,000 to be used toward installing a multi-purpose drinking fountain at Lion's Park. The fountain will double as a water source for the park's community garden, which produces about 6,000 pounds of food annually for the Harvard Food Pantry. The Harvard State Bank and the City of Harvard will each provide \$5,000 of the award as co-sponsors of the competition.

The Best Civic Project was created by former mayor Ralph Henning nine years ago as a means to inspire community involvement and partnership. Each year, project submissions are evaluated for their ability to enhance the quality of life in Harvard.

Previous winning projects were awarded to the Harvard EDC to replace the sign at Five Points (2005); the Harvard Boys League to replace the bathroom and storage sheds at Moose Field (2004); the Harvard EDC for the Welcome to Harvard Sign on Route 14 and the Harvard Rotary Club to build a sheltered barbecue at Milk Way Park (2003); Harvard High School's National Honor Society for a 9/11 Memorial (2002); American Legion Post #265 for the Veterans Memorial at Diggins Library (2001); the Jefferson School PTG and Women for Harvard for new playground equipment at Jefferson School (2000); the H.E.R.S. League for softball field improvements (1999); the Harvard Kiwanis for a fitness center at Milk Way Park (1998); and the Lion's Club for playground equipment at Lion's Park (1997).

Harvard has always been a community that works well together. The success of this year's Sesquicentennial Celebration proved that once again, as many organizations, individuals and businesses worked together to make this year one that we will always remember fondly. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and efforts to make Harvard a great place to live.



The City's downtown water tower was painted this summer and has a fresh new look.

New Metra Station Parking System

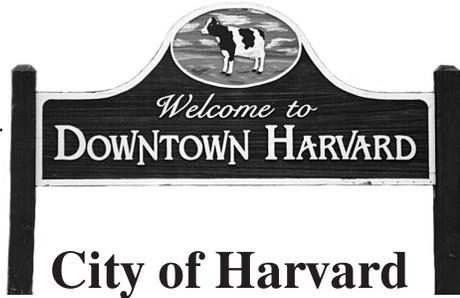
New automated pay boxes have been installed at the downtown Metra parking station. These boxes replace the old honor boxes and will only take cash, coins or rechargeable City of Harvard Parking Debit Cards. They do not take other debit cards or credit cards. A brochure detailing the new system can be found at www.cityofharvard.org or picked up at City Hall. Read it to make sure you understand the new procedures, then be sure to arrive at the station a little earlier in the morning until everyone gets used to the new system.

www.cityofharvard.org

Upcoming City Events

- Oct. 9 Fall Brush Pickup Begins
- Oct. 8-14 National Fire Prevention Week
'Watch What You Heat': Prevent Cooking Fires
- Oct. 9-13 Hydrant Flushing
- Oct. 28 Jr. Hornets Intramural Basketball Sign-Up/Practice
- Oct. 29 Daylight Savings Ends
- Oct. 31 Halloween Trick or Treat 5-8 PM
- Nov. 7 Election Day
- Nov. 25 Sesquicentennial Re-signing of the Plat at Moose Lodge
- Dec. 2 Christmas in Harvard
- Dec. 6, 13 Harvard Jr. Hornets Traveling Team Basketball Tryouts
- Jan. 27 Chamber of Commerce Recognition Dinner





City of Harvard
Municipal Information
www.cityofharvard.org

Mayor.....Jay Nolan
 City Treasurer.....Beverly Meseck
 City ClerkAndy Wells

Aldermen

Ward 1Chuck Marzahl
Brian Leyden
 Ward 2Phillip Ulmer
Joel Berg
 Ward 3Scott Logan
Rick Adams
 Ward 4Tom Hay
Darrell Perkins

Municipal Staff

City Administrator.....Dave Nelson
 Chief of Police.....Andy Oparyk
 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 Hall943-6468
Fax: 943-4556
 Dial-A-Ride943-7700
 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
 Public Works Garage.....943-4161
 Swimming Pool.....943-4300
 WWTP943-6626

City Council Meetings are held at City Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

At the Harvard Diggins Library

Summer at the Harvard Diggins Library literally ended with a bang! The Veteran’s Appreciation Weekend sponsored by the City of Harvard and other civic organizations was held at the library and was an interesting, moving and very exciting event. When the German tank fired from the sled hill besides the library, everyone heard and felt the bang. The library building was open and accessible for 48 hours while the traveling Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Wall was on our grounds. It was a time of special recognition, remembrance and education for all of us.

Looking forward, two special projects are coming up on the library calendar. You may remember reading articles about an ‘around the world’ trip made by photographer Robin Pendergrast and his wife and daughter in 2005. The library will host an exhibition of photographs from that trip beginning in September. The photographs are wonderful and will be on view at the library for several months. A reception will be held for the Pendergrasts on Sunday, October 15 where the family will talk about their experiences. Mr. Pendergrast is also going to present a series on ‘Photography as Art’ at our library. Date and registration details will be available soon.

Another special exhibition will be coming to the library within the coming year. Eastern Illinois University’s library received an LSTA Grant through the Illinois State Library to build a database of art and architecture in Illinois libraries. Ours was one of more than 600 libraries that were visited as part of the project and one of only 68 libraries that were invited to host the traveling exhibition after its initial debut in October. Being one of those 68 favored libraries means that something concerning our library is featured in the exhibition. We’re not sure what it is, so we are waiting with anticipation! Watch for more information to come about what is most ‘noteworthy’ about your library.

Parks & Recreation

Jr. Hornets Intramural Basketball

For boys and girls in 3rd - 6th grade

Cost: In-Town: \$25
 Out of City Limits: \$30

Sign-Up/Practice: Sat., Oct. 28 at Harvard Jr. High
 3rd, 4th Grades 8-9 AM
 5th, 6th Grades: 9-10 AM



Harvard Jr. Hornets Traveling Basketball Team

For 6th - 8th grade boys

Cost: In-Town: \$90 (\$75 if you have last year’s uniform)
 Out of City Limits: \$105 (\$90 if you have last year’s uniform)

Tryouts: Wed., Dec. 6 & 13 at Harvard High School

5th Grade: 6-7:30 PM
 6th Grade: 6-7:30 PM
 7th Grade: 7:30-8:30 PM
 8th Grade: 7:30-8:30 PM

Contact Bob Burkart, Supt. of Parks & Recreation, at 943-6468 (office) or 943-4986 (home), or visit the City of Harvard website at www.cityofharvard.org for more information on either program.

Attention Homeowners!

In accordance with the National Electric Code, holiday decorative lighting shall be permitted to be displayed for a period **not to exceed 90 days**. The types of exterior lighting typically used during the holidays is not intended to be installed permanently and is considered to be an electrical safety hazard when left up for extended periods of time. All exterior holiday lighting should be removed no later than March 1.

NEED TO KNOW ...

Fall Brush Pickup

Fall Brush Pickup begins on Monday, October 9 and will continue until all wards have been picked up. Only one pass will be made through each ward. To ensure pickup, all brush must be placed by the curb prior to Monday October 9th but not more than one week ahead of time. All branches must be at least three feet long with the cut end stacked to the curb. Branches must be free of roots, dirt boards and wire. No commercially generated brush will be picked up. There is a 20-minute time limit for chipping. After 20 minutes, the resident will be billed \$125.00 per hour with a minimum \$50.00 charge. **This will be the last brush pickup until April 10, 2007.**

Tentative Leaf Vacuuming Schedule

Will take place Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, depending on weather conditions and when leaves begin to fall. Watch the sign at Five Points for the start date. Please rake your leaves to the curb, **NOT INTO THE STREET.** Marengo Disposal will vacuum through the end of November, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please contact them at 943-4939.

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The Utilities Department will be flushing dead end lines during the week of October 9-13, 2006. Hydrant flushing may create rust and brown-colored water. The water is safe to drink, but will stain clothes washed in it. If you experience rusty water, run your faucet until clear.

Special Recreation Program

Do you know someone with a disability who would like to go out, have fun and make friends? NISRA (Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association) provides year-round recreation activities and Special Olympics for residents with disabilities of all ages and ability levels. Some programs are located in Harvard. Transportation is available to many programs in nearby communities. Pick up NISRA's fall catalog at City Hall, view it at www.nisra.org or call (815) 459-0737 to have one mailed to you.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Police Chief Andy Oparyk

Greetings from the men and women of the Harvard Police Department! The autumn season is upon us, school is back in session and Halloween will be here soon. Children are out walking to and from school, playing, and will soon be Trick or Treating. No matter how much we teach them, they do not always cross at crosswalks and can dart out from anywhere. Please **DRIVE DEFENSIVELY!**

The city's official Trick or Treating hours will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31. The Police Department encourages you to follow these safety tips to help to make this Halloween a safe one for your children:

- Dress youngsters in light colored clothing and costumes that are short enough to prevent tripping;
- Add reflective tape to the front, back and sides of their costumes to increase visibility to motorists;
- Make sure that masks do not obstruct their vision;
- Avoid using hard plastic, wood or real weapons as props. Substitute with softer and more flexible foam rubber;
- Children should be accompanied by an adult;
- Bring flashlights if you're going to be out after dark;
- Stay within your neighborhood and only visit homes that you know;
- Watch for traffic both ways, always;
- Only hand out and accept wrapped or packaged candy;
- Have an adult examine all candy before allowing children to eat any.

The Police Department urges all drivers to keep a watchful eye out for children and pedestrians who may not be paying full attention, especially in the neighborhoods. Let's make this Halloween a safe one!



Chief Oparyk

From the Public Works Department

Snow Removal

With the winter season fast approaching, the Public Works 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 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 by the Police Department and towed at the owner's expense.** When a snow emergency is declared, WMCW radio (1600 AM) is notified and will announce the emergency. You may also call the Police Department at 943-4431 to see if winter parking restrictions are in effect.

When clearing your own driveway or parking lot, please do not push or blow snow into the street, across the street or on to any other property. Pushing snow into the street can leave wind rows in the street that result in traffic hazards, add to icing problems, and can also cause problems for your neighbor across the street. Each year, the City receives complaints from property owners about neighbors who, while clearing their driveways, push snow across the street and onto the property on the other side. Please respect your neighbors and help keep our streets safer by clearing snow properly.

In order to allow for the normal delivery of mail, it is necessary for the City to clear snow away from the curb line. Some damage to the tree bank and to mail boxes is unavoidable as part of this process and, on occasion, the city's plow truck may hit a mailbox or the snow and ice pushed to the edge of the street by the City's trucks may hit the mailbox. The City will repair damage caused by the City's snow removal. The City is not responsible, however, for damage caused by private contractors or traffic accidents on snow-covered streets. A temporary mail box will be provided until weather conditions permit for final repair or replacement. If the mailbox cannot be repaired, the City will provide a replacement, utilizing a standard post and mailbox. The City is not responsible for the full cost of exact replacements of custom mailboxes.

If a tree bank has been damaged by the City during snow removal, restoration will be completed when weather permits and when material is available. This restoration is generally done in the month of June. Call the Department of Public Works at (815) 943-0301 or contact us at carbonetti@cityofharvard.org to report snow plow damage to mail boxes or to the right of way.

Sesquicentennial Celebration Photo Album!

See Inside

History Worth Celebrating!

On November 25, 1856, Amos Page appeared before McHenry County Judge J.M. Stroede, who signed and sealed the Plat of the Village of Harvard as surveyed by George Tyler, Deputy Surveyor.

As a final tribute to the founding of Harvard, the City will host a Re-Signing of the Plat of the Original Town of Harvard on Saturday, November 25, 2006 at the Harvard Moose Lodge. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with a Swiss Steak dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

The City of Harvard would like you to participate in this historic occasion. Tickets are available at City Hall at a cost of \$25.00 each. Corporate Tables are also available at a cost of \$400.00. Seating is limited. Please respond early.

We are still working out all of the details, but are planning a fun-filled, **NOT TO BE MISSED BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**, with great food, entertainment, time capsule, video and skits. The City Council and former mayors Frank Godo, Robert Iftner, William LeFew Jr. and Ralph Henning will be participating in the re-signing of the plat.

We hope that you will plan on joining us. For more information or tickets, please call City Hall at (815) 943-6468.

