



Village of Round Lake Beach

Bulletin

Vol. 12 No. 1
January-February 2008

Property tax relief for seniors, homeowners & veterans

House Bill 664 provided property tax relief for homeowners, seniors, veterans, the disabled and the spouses of fallen police officers or rescue workers. Highlights include:

- A \$500 increase in General Homestead Exemption from \$5,000 to \$5,500 in 2008, another \$500 in 2009 from \$5,500 to \$6,000.
- A \$500 increase in the Senior Homestead Exemption from \$3,500 to \$4,000 in 2008.
- An increase in the income threshold for Circuit Breaker eligibility by \$1,000. This income threshold applies solely to the property tax grant and license plate fee portion of the Circuit Breaker program.
- A Full Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption benefits for seniors with a household income of \$50,000 or less for tax year 2007. It also increases the income eligibility limit to \$55,000 for 2008.
- A Returning Veteran Homestead Exemption which allows a \$5,000 homestead exemption for the year in which the veteran returns from active duty, and a Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption between \$2,500 and \$5,000.
- A \$2,000 Disabled Homestead Exemption and allows property tax abatements to the surviving spouse of fallen police officers and emergency workers.

The bill also required tax bills to include all information about tax exemptions, abatements or any other assistance program designed to offer property tax relief.

Holiday trees decorated by students



Mayors panel to be hosted by Chamber

Mayor Rich Hill will join the other Round Lake Area mayors at the annual Chamber of Commerce Mayors Panel on January 17, at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center. The event gives members of the business community an opportunity to hear what has happened in the area and what is being planned.

Joining Mayor Hill will be Round Lake Mayor Bill Gentes, Round Lake Heights Mayor Terry Lumpkins, Round Lake Park Mayor Jean McCue and Hainesville Mayor Ted Mueller.

Registration is required. Contact the Chamber at (847) 546-2002 or at www.rlchamber.org by January 11 to reserve. Cost is \$15 for this luncheon event.

Students from Round Lake Area schools made the front of the Village Hall look festive with trees decorated for the holiday season.

From the Mayor

2007 . . . The Year in Review

Happy New Year Round Lake Beach! We continue to have several new businesses move into town with more on the way. We are working hard to fill the few vacancies we have in town. As you have probably noticed the old 84 Lumber building has been torn down and a new strip mall is being constructed. It will house Jimmy John's (sandwich shop), Starbucks Coffee and several others. A second building on the same site will house a tire dealer. This makes your shopping and dining trips a lot shorter and brings more revenue to the village, schools, park district, fire department, etc., helping to keep taxes lower and services higher.

Let's take a moment to review 2007. The Village invested more than \$2.5 million in our water, sewer and street projects in each of the last five years. To preserve our environment and enhance the recreational qualities of our namesake lake, Round Lake, we have

begun a dredging project that is 20 years in the making. The two channels at the north end of the lake will be dredged. The channel ending at Clarendon was completed in the spring of 2007 and we are awaiting the permit from the Corps of Engineers before beginning on the channel that goes toward Cedar Lake Road.

Round Lake Beach bought the seven acres just north of the Village Hall from the Round Lake School District. It will be used to deposit

some of the dredging materials. The silt has been tested and has no environmental concerns. Eventually this area will become more fields for the kids. Without the dredging, the silt would continue to back up into the lake and eventually make our high quality lake into a swamp. Dredging will enhance the fishing, boating and other recreational uses of the lake for all our residents.

Our new Cultural & Civic Center is now open. It has an indoor



**Richard H. Hill
Mayor**

stage and an outdoor stage for many family events, a room large enough to hold 250-300 people for all sorts of gatherings both business and personal and is the new home of the Round Lake Area Chamber of Commerce as well as the Improv Theater and Peartree Catering.

I hope your new year is looking as good as the village's!

From the Round Lake Beach Police Department



Community Action Team Help us fight crime and improve your neighborhood!

We are proud to announce the creation and expansion of our new Neighborhood Watch program. This program will be implemented in every neighborhood in Round Lake Beach. Community Action Team is designed to team up citizens with the Police Department to identify community problems and find solutions for those problems.

Under this program, neighborhoods are placed into teams and each team has a monthly meeting on a predetermined day each month. One hour a month is all that is needed from citizens. At each meeting, a Calls of Service Report is given outlining the calls and arrests made in the neighborhood.

Each C.A.T. team conducts quarterly community events ranging from recruitment drives, community clean-ups, to block parties. This program has proven to be successful in the neighborhoods in which it has been implemented. We are confident it will work in your neighborhood as well **but we need your help!**

To sign up, send us this form, call Ofc. Paul Grace at (847) 546-2127 Ext:106 or email at pgrace@rlbeach.org.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Chief Douglas R. Larsson, Round Lake Beach Police Department
1947 N. Municipal Way, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073 (847) 546-2127

The Staff

Village Administrator
David Kilbane

Police Chief
Douglas R. Larsson

Finance Director
Patrice Sutton Burger

Public Works Director
Keith Neitzke

From the Department of Public Works

Parking rules during snowfall

In the winter months parking on Village streets can create a problem when there is snow. Here are some rules to follow:

- When there is a snowfall of more than two inches, do not park on the streets. This gives the public works department the opportunity to plow.
- If the snow has not been removed, please continue the no parking restrictions until snow removal has been completed.
- Please do not throw snow from your property into the streets since this can create a hazardous condition.
- When shoveling or plowing snow from your driveway, pile the snow to the left side of your driveway (when facing your house). This will help prevent snow from accumulating again on your driveway when snow plows come through your neighborhoods.
- There is no parking on Village streets from 2:00 am to 6:00 am.

Recycling Christmas trees

Waste Management will pick up discarded Christmas trees when they are placed curbside on January 9. Please remove all decorations and tinsel and do not place the tree in a plastic bag.

Moving?

Just a reminder: If you are moving, please contact Public Works at (847) 546-8752 three weeks before you move, so public works can inspect your meter. After the meter inspection is completed and passes, then please make an appointment for your occupancy inspection by calling (847) 546-8919.

Did you know . . .

- ✓ An idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling 32 miles per hour.
- ✓ Idling a medium-duty gasoline vehicle for five minutes each day can emit as much as 30 lbs. of harmful pollutants and 300 lbs. of carbon dioxide a year.

Turn off your car engine while you are waiting for the train or to pick up children from school.

Smoke Free Illinois

As of January 1, 2008 the Smoke Free Illinois Act applies to all business. The act prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment and government vehicles and includes restaurants and bars.

The state law prohibits smoking within 15 feet of a door, window or vent of an entryway of any workplace or public building. For more information go to www.SmokeFreeIllinois.org.

Compassionate solution for homeless cats

Whether or not you realize it, stray cats are living in your community and are probably having an impact on you. You may be feeding some of them, or you may live next to someone who is.

Spay and Stay is a Lake County-based nonprofit organization offering low-cost spay/neuter surgery for people caring for feral and stray cats. For more information visit their website at www.spayandstay.org or call 847-289-4557.

Dates to Remember

- January 17:** Mayors Panel hosted by the Chamber
- January 31** Round Lake Management Annual Meeting at the Cultural & Civic Center
- February 16:** Valentine's Day Murder Mystery and Dinner

Phone numbers

Police, fire, emergency	9-1-1
Village Hall	(847) 546-2351
Police non-emergency	(847) 270-9111
Police Records	(847) 546-2127
Public Works	(847) 546-8752
Economic Development	(847) 546-2351
J.U.L.I.E. (before you dig)	811
Waste Management	(800) 796-9696
Email	inquiries@rlbeach.org

From the Center



Godspell Junior

Registration is taking place for the Improv Playhouse RLB Showstoppers (12 to 17 yrs) production of "Godspell Junior". This best loved musical by three-time Academy Award-winner Stephen Schwartz draws from various theatrical traditions, such as clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics and vaudeville. Godspell Junior offers a message of kindness, tolerance and love. Godspell Junior boasts a string of recognizable songs, including the international hit, "Day By Day". No auditions are necessary.

Performances are at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center main stage. Training and rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons, 1:00-3:00 pm and Mondays, 7:00-9:00 pm beginning January 13. Shows March 14-17. Call Improv Playhouse at (847) 968-4529 for more info or go to their website at improvplayhouse.com.

Interactive Murder Mystery Valentine's Day Party & Dinner

Creative & Fun Valentine's Date

Be part of the mystery as Improv Playhouse presents, "Bye Bye, Bucca." It's the continuing saga of the Bucca Family during the roaring 20's at its most nostalgic! Enjoy the authentic gangster ambience.

Appetizers, romantic fireside dinner, champagne, cash bar and an interactive play for \$150 per couple. Saturday, February 16, 7:00-10:00 pm.

Improv Theatre programs

Improv Playhouse is offering a wonderful variety of theater programs for first grade through adults. Check out the Cultural & Civic Center website at www.rlbeachciviccenter.org under Community Events for programs, times and fees.

From the Community

A Taste of the Grape

Even if you can't tell a Merlot from grape juice, join the Friends of the Round Lake Parks Foundation for a wine and beer tasting on March 8. You'll be treated to a light supper and a most interesting and unique experience.

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the Rolek Center or the Sports Center. The event will be held in the Rolek Center, 814 Hart Road, from 6:30-9:00 pm. Tickets must be purchased by March 5.

Proceeds benefit the Hart's Wood playground renovation. For more information, please call (847) 546-8558.

Frosty Footrace

Throw on some layers of warm clothes and join the fun. Walk or run at the 5K Frosty Footrace, February 24. The race begins at 11:00 am at the Round Lake Area Park District Sports Center, 2004 Municipal Way.

Pick up a race packet on Friday, February 22, from noon to 7:00 pm or Saturday, February 23, from 9:00 am to noon at the Sports Center. Proceeds benefit senior fitness programs.

After the race, warm up your tummy and toes with the complimentary "Soup's On" lunch.

Meeting Schedule

Public Works Committee, first Monday of the month, 6:00 pm

Public Safety Committee, first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm

Finance Committee, third Monday of the month, 6:00 pm

Economic Development Committee, third Monday of the month, 6:30 pm

Council Meeting, second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 pm



Village Officials



Mayor
Richard H. Hill



Village Clerk
Sylvia Valadez

Trustees



Jerry Mattingly
(senior trustee)



Gina Miosi



Larry Mount



Susan Butler



Judy Armstrong



Nemesio Villa