

Shop local...
and shop

safe!...this

holiday season

When planning your holiday shopping, there's no reason to stray far from home! Hoffman Estates offers many unique gift options.

From national chains to independent shops, to restaurants and entertainment, there's a Hoffman Estates gift for every taste! Local businesses create local jobs, shopping local saves gas and time, and a portion of your sales tax comes directly back to the community. Get out and explore the area to discover how many wonderful gifts can be found just minutes from your house.

If you opt to shop online this holiday season, the Hoffman Estates Police Department offers these tips to stay safe and make sure your packages reach you:

 Pick a specific delivery time when someone can be home to accept the package.

- - Have packages delivered to a location where someone can immediately retrieve them, such as a trusted neighbor or your workplace.
 - Opt in for text message delivery alerts so you know when packages arrive and can have someone secure them.
 - Take advantage of your delivery service's secure locker locations and retrieve packages at your convenience.
 - Consider installing a security camera or video doorbell. Cameras are a great deterrent and can also provide valuable details if your package is taken.

The lobby of the Hoffman Estates Police Department at 411 W. Higgins Road is also a designated internet exchange location for online transactions. Shop local, shop smart, shop safe!

In this issue

Growing to Greenness! 2 Historian's notebook 2	A message from Mayor McLeod	
Home repair loan assistance2	•	December calendar
Christmas tree and wreath disposal3	Clerk's corner 5	Citizen Police Academy returns





Growing to Greenness!

Historian's notebook

By Pat Barch, Hoffman Estates Village Historian

Free holiday light recycling

Holiday lights will be accepted for recycling at no cost to residents through a partnership between the Village and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). This year's program runs from Monday, December 6, 2021, through Friday, February 4, 2022.

All string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off during normal business hours in the drop boxes in the Village Hall lobby.

For more information, call Public Works at 847-490-6800.



In December of 1956, the Christmas holiday was extremely cold and snowy when early pioneer families in Hoffman Estates were moving into their homes in Parcel A. It must have been quite the challenge to be moving and unpacking at Christmastime in this severe weather. Remembering this time in our Village's history got me thinking of the changes over the years to how we celebrate the Christmas holiday. For many of the families, getting a Christmas tree up in their new homes would have been a number one priority.

In the 1950s, many families purchased aluminum trees, which were very popular back then. No lights to string, just the color wheel rotating on the floor at the base of the tree. The history of this artificial tree is quite interesting.

I was surprised to discover that the first of its kind came from Germany circa 1880 and was part of an effort to prevent deforestation. Of all things, it was made of feathers – yes, feathers! These came from ducks, geese or any other type of bird that was available. The feathers were split, dyed green and wired to tree branches, and then inserted into a wooden dowel. The popularity of this tree spread across Europe, and many early settlers to the United States copied the essence of the design and created a similar tree of their own.

The first artificial trees were sold in 1883 in our country by Sears, Roebuck & Co. They advertised the sale of 33 limbs for \$0.50, or 55 limbs for \$1.00.

Later came another popular artificial tree option, a bottle brush tree. At least that's what most people called them. They were not made by a bottle brush company, but rather by a toilet bowl brush manufacturer. The Addis Brush Company created the first artificial brush tree in the 1930s in the U.S. and in London using the same equipment that produced their toilet bowl brushes!

The 1980s brought trees that looked more "real" and were made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic. My first plastic tree came with branches

that you had to insert into the center pole of the tree in a certain order. Sometimes when I would finish putting it together, it didn't look like a Christmas tree at all! Keeping the lettered branches in order was the trick, but this was not always the priority when taking it down and storing it in its box for the next season. Patience was needed!

These days, we have trees that come in a very slim box, prelit, in three sections that open like an umbrella. Simply stack them together, and you're ready for the holiday! No more pine needles in the carpet, no more worry about keeping the tree watered, and it can be up until Valentine's Day if you wish. The only problem is getting it into the box again.

Goose feather trees are still made, and you can see what they look like by searching 'goose feather tree' online. Maybe you will even want to consider purchasing one, for old time's sake.

Happy holidays!

Email Pat Barch at eagle2064@comcast.net.

Home repair loan assistance

The Village offers a Single-Family Home Repair program through Northwest Housing Partnership (NWHP) for qualified homeowners to help complete repairs that address code violations, safety issues and weatherization. A deferred loan for up to \$25,000 with 0% interest and no monthly payments is available to help residents. This loan is financed through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Typical repairs include those related to roofs, doors, windows, plumbing, electrical wiring, heating and/or basic structural repairs. All work is inspected by the Village.

To qualify for a loan, you must:

- Reside in Hoffman Estates
- Own, live in and have equity in the home you wish to repair
- Be current on property taxes and your mortgage
- Meet income requirements found at www.hoffmanestates.org/cdbg

This program is administered through NWHP, a non-profit agency that works to preserve cost-effective, quality diverse housing for low to moderate income residents. If you qualify, NWHP will assist you with the entire process from beginning to end. For more information or to apply, contact NWHP at 847-969-0561, or view their website at www.nwhp.net and click 'Programs' at the top of the page.



Christmas tree and wreath disposal

Once the holiday festivities are over this year, there are two options for recycling your living Christmas trees and wreaths:

Curbside pickup

Living Christmas trees (including flocked trees) will be picked up on your regular Groot service day for the first two weeks in January. Remember that all lights, ornaments, garland, and artificial decorations must be removed from the tree; plastic bags are prohibited, and one disposal sticker must be visibly wrapped around the tree trunk or branch. Wreaths and garland made of pine boughs or other organic materials will also be accepted, provided the wiring and plastic have been removed. These items should be placed in a yard waste bag with a disposal sticker attached.

During the two first two weeks of January, Groot will also accept any remaining yard waste bags of leaves/twigs with a disposal sticker attached. Yard waste stickers are available at local retailers, Village Hall and on the Village's website by visiting www.hoffmanestates.org and searching 'yard waste stickers'.



Drop-off sites

Christmas trees and greenery can also be dropped off at no charge anytime between Sunday, December 26, 2021, and Friday, January 7, 2022, at the following locations:

- · Public Works Fleet Maintenance Facility, 2405 Pembroke Ave.
- The field next to Fire Station 23, 1300 Westbury Drive
- The field next to Fire Station 24, 5775 Beacon Pointe Drive

For more information, call Public Works at 847-490-6800.



A message from Mayor McLeod

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Friendship Tree Lighting event last month! This festive event, planned and hosted by our Celebrations Commission, always includes a spectacular fireworks show. It never disappoints! Special thanks to the Scouts for continuing to support this event by coming out to help light the tree. Our Veterans' Memorial Commission also hosted a moving ceremony on Nov. 11 at the Hoffman Estates Police Department. The wet weather did not dampen the spirts of those who came out to pay tribute to our veterans. Thank you to all involved! As a reminder, the commission hosts a flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial outside the Police Department each Sunday at 1 p.m.



In this season of thanksgiving, I also want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of local Carpenters Union 58 to help residents living at the SHARE program in Hoffman Estates. SHARE is a comprehensive alcohol, drug and gambling rehabilitation program serving adults 18 and over. The Carpenters Union recently removed a dilapidated outdoor deck and designed and built a new deck for residents and staff to enjoy. This space will no doubt bring peace and joy to all of them as the weather gets better next year. For more information about the SHARE program and how you can help, visit www.leydenfamilyservice.org/ share.

Happy holidays to you and your families as we enter into December! May your homes be filled with joy and happiness as we look forward to a New Year! As always, don't hesitate to contact me with questions via email or phone at bill.mcleod@hoffmanestates.org or 847-781-2604.

Bul me Lead





Community briefs

Village Hall closed for holidays

The Village Hall will be closed on Christmas Eve (Friday, Dec. 24), and New Year's Eve (Friday, Dec. 31). Enjoy the holiday season!



Yard waste collection extended to Dec. 15

The yard waste collection program with Groot has been extended. The last day of 2021 yard waste collection will be Monday, Dec. 13, for residents north of the Tollway, and Wednesday, Dec. 15, for residents south of the Tollway (including households west of Bartlett Road).

Holiday garbage collection schedule

Garbage collection for Monday, December 20, and Wednesday, December 22, will be unaffected by the Christmas holiday. Pickup will take place on residents' regularly scheduled days.



Keep fire hydrants visible

Public Works repaints fire hydrants around the Village every three to five years to help maintain good visibility. Team members power washed and repainted 1,014 hydrants in the summer of 2021. To assist our first responders, residents are asked to try to keep hydrants clear of snow for easier accessibility, in case they are needed in an emergency. If you see a damaged or leaking hydrant, call Public Works at 847-490-6800.

Exciting building permit changes in 2022!

During the past several months, the Village has been working to provide a new electronic and online option for permitting, plan reviews and code enforcement. Soon residents and contractors will be able to apply for permits, schedule inspections and perform other development-related business online. Watch for an announcement early in 2022!



Rental license renewals due mid-January

Renewal letters for the January 1 to December 31, 2022, Residential Rental License Program year have been mailed, and license fees must be received by January 17, 2022, in order to remain in compliance with Village Code. Payments can be made by mail, in person, or online by visiting the Village website at www.hoffmanestates.org and selecting the 'Online Payments' tab. For those who do not pay on time, late payments will be assessed with a penalty equal to 25% of the license fee. Notification will be sent when it is time for the annual inspection to be scheduled. For questions regarding the program, or if you are a tenant renting property and are unsure whether the property has been licensed, call 847-781-2650 or email rentalhousing@ hoffmanestates.org.

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinic (Ages 5 to 11 years)

The Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for children 5 to 11 years old. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccinating children to prevent COVID-19 and to decrease their risk of severe disease, hospitalizations or developing long-term COVID-19 complications.

Children in this age group should receive two pediatric vaccinations, three weeks apart. The Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is 91% effective in preventing the virus among children in this age category. Side effects have been mild, and a sore arm has been the most common.

The Village will be hosting a Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinic during the month of December. Appointments are required. For more information, please visit www.hoffmanestates.org or call Health and Human Services at 847-781-4850.



Recreational storage regulations

As cooler weather arrives and residents begin to store their boats, campers, trailers and other recreational equipment, there are several regulations that must be observed. Recreational equipment stored in a front yard or side yard adjacent to a street must be parked on a permitted concrete or asphalt driveway surface. Recreational equipment stored in a side yard or back yard must be parked on crushed stone, gravel, brick pavers or on a driveway surface. At no time can any boat, trailer, camper or other recreational vehicle be parked on the grass or block the sidewalk. If you have any questions on recreational equipment storage regulations, call the Code Enforcement Division at 847-781-2631.

Leash your pets!

The Village's Municipal Code states that animals, including dogs and cats, need to be under proper control. When animals are not on their owner's property, they must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under the control of a responsible person. No animal is allowed to run at large in the Village at any time, and the owner is responsible for removal and sanitary disposal of any waste from the animal(s) anywhere in the Village. Prevent your pet from becoming a public nuisance!

Welcome new businesses!

BA Title Transfers & Registration 1059 W. Golf Rd. #A

Dairy Queen 949 N. Roselle Rd.



Healthy body, healthy mind ... news from Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services offers health screenings, vaccines and preventative tests for both adults and children. Call 847-781-4850 to schedule!



Adult services and immunizations

- Blood pressure and pulse check: free!
- Diabetes (blood sugar): \$2
- Hemoglobin (anemia): \$3

To schedule health screenings, preventative tests, or affordable vaccines and tuberculosis testing, call 847-781-4850.



Cholesterol Screening

This <u>FASTING</u> test measures total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and glucose levels. It requires a small drop of blood. Results are immediate and include a consultation with a nurse. The cost is \$22.



The hemoglobin A1C test is a simple finger stick to find out if you have diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. The test takes six minutes and the cost is \$15.

Children and Baby Clinics

The clinic has always used outstanding infection control policies and has instituted additional guidelines according to the Centers for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Added safety measures help to ensure the health of patients, as well as to protect employees.



Health and Human Services is offering individual appointment times for each child and uses the following precautions:

- Appointments will be staggered to promote social distancing.
- A COVID-19 questionnaire will be answered by each individual.
- Temperature checks are performed prior to appointment time.
- Face coverings/masks are required for anyone over the age of 2.

- Only one parent per child while inside the office is encouraged.
- Additional hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the office for client use.
- All immunizations are discussed with families by nurses during a phone call before appointments.
- Credit card payments (if necessary) will be completed over the phone.
- Staff members are required to wear additional PPE.



Flu Shots are still available for adults and children 6 months and older by appointment. Quadrivalent (4 strains) vaccines and high dose flu vaccines are available for seniors 65 and older. To access the adult or child vaccine forms, please visit www.hoffmanestates.org/HHS or call 847-781-4850 for more information.

For questions or to schedule an appointment for any of the services provided through Health and Human Services, call 847-781-4850.



If you are planning a spring break getaway, the passport processing time has become rather lengthy. If you need a new passport for travel, or if your current one is about to expire, make an appointment with us today so that your plans won't be disrupted. We take appointments Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Contact the Village Clerk's office at 847-781-2625 or email the Clerk at bev.romanoff@hoffmanestates.org.



By Bev Romanoff Hoffman Estates Village Clerk

Fire & Police join Neighbors

The Hoffman Estates Police and Fire Departments recently joined Neighbors, a free app for residents to connect and share local safety updates and information. Doorbell manufacturer Ring provides Neighbors as a free tool for communities to share valuable safety information. No Ring device is required to participate, and users have access to real-time, hyper-local safety updates.



Neighbors by Ring

The Neighbors Public Safety Service allows Fire and Police to post local safety alerts and updates relevant to the Hoffman Estates community. Residents can also post, share and comment. Participants select neighborhoods of interest and can adjust the settings to customize the type and frequency of the updates they will see.

The HEPD or HEFD may occasionally send a video request on Neighbors to request assistance with an incident or investigation in the community; residents can volunteer to share their video footage. However, Police and Fire do not have access to users' Ring devices, live streams or personal information. Police and Fire can only view public posts or information that residents share in response to a video request.

Residents can download the free Neighbors app on iOS, Android and FireOS devices. You do not need to own a Ring device or any home security system in order to participate.

To learn more about Neighbors, visit ring.com/neighbors.

Questions can be directed to HEFD Lieutenant Thomas J. Zito at thomas.zito@hoffmanestates.org.

Know who to call when winter weather rolls in

Public Works is gearing up for another winter season! The Village maintains and plows certain roads, and others are under the jurisdiction of either the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department. Below is a list of IDOT and Cook County roads, as well as contact information for where to direct questions or concerns.

Plow Routes

The Village's Public Works Department does **not** plow IDOT or Cook County roads.

IDOT

- Higgins Road (Route 72)
- Golf Road (Route 58)
- Algonquin Road (Route 62)
- Sutton Road (Route 59)
- Barrington Road
- Palatine Road

Cook County Highway Department:

- Bartlett Road
- Bode Road (Barrington Road and N. Sutton Road)
- Bradwell Road
- Central Road
- Ela Road
- Mundhank Road
- Freeman Road (between Mundhank Road and Algonquin Road)
- Plum Grove Road

- Schaumburg Road
- Old Sutton Road (north of Higgins Road/Route 72)
- Roselle Road
- Shoe Factory Road

Please see the appropriate contact numbers below related to different roadways in the Village.

Hoffman Estates Snow Command: 847-490-6800

Call this number to report a problem. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a specific time when streets will be plowed.

IDOT: 800-452-4368

Call this number for conditions regarding IDOT roads. To report an incident on IDOT roads, call 847-705-4612.

Cook County Highway Department: 312-603-1600

Call this number for conditions regarding county roads.

Illinois Tollway Information Line: 800-865-5394

Call this number for Tollway information, including problems with fog, snow, ice, high winds and trailer bans.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving

Prevention Month

The holiday season is a time to celebrate and spend special time with friends and family. It's also an important time to be responsible and make sure everyone stays safe. Drunk driving crashes traditionally increase in the month of December as more people travel and attend events where alcohol is served. According to the National Safety Council, more than 40,000 people died in alcohol-related traffic accidents last year in the U.S. Below are some ways you can plan ahead to stay safe while celebrating:

 Take a cab or use a ride-sharing app if you've had too much to drink

- Assign or be the designated sober driver
- If you are hosting a party, provide alcohol-free beverage options
- Do not mix alcohol with drugs, including over-thecounter drugs and prescriptions
- If possible, stay over at the place where you were celebrating
- Seek professional help for alcohol or substance abuse

If you or someone you know is struggling with alcohol or substance abuse, please contact Health and Human Services at 847-781-4850 for resources for services in the community.

December calendar







All meetings are at Village Hall unless otherwise noted. For up-to-date information, visit www.hoffmanestates.org/calendar.

Wednesday, Dec. 1

- Economic Development Commission, 2 p.m.
- Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 3

First Friday, 6:30 p.m.

*Sunday, Dec. 5

Veteran's Flag 63: Tony Provenzano, Army, WWII

Monday, Dec. 6

Holiday Light Recycling Begins

Tuesday, Dec. 7

- Sustainability Commission, 6 p.m.
- Cultural Awareness Commission, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Fourth of July Commission, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

• Village Hall Open, 9 a.m.

*Sunday, Dec. 12

Veteran's Flag 64: Preston Evers, Army

Monday, Dec. 13

- Commission for People with Disabilities, 6 p.m.
- Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Historical Sites Commission, 3 p.m. at Sunderlage House

Wednesday, Dec. 15

• Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.

*Sunday, Dec. 19

Veteran's Flag 65: Robert J. Panek Sr., USAF, Vietnam

Monday, Dec. 20

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE, VH CLOSED

*Sunday, Dec. 26

Veteran's Flag 66: Donald C. Jones, Army, WWII

Friday, Dec. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE, VH CLOSED

Village Board meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

The General Administration and Personnel; Planning, Building and Zoning; and Transportation and Road Improvement committee meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

The Finance; Public Health and Safety; and Public Works and Utilities committee meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

Seasonal Affective Disorder

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression related to the change in seasons. SAD begins and ends at about the same time every year. If you are like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. In most cases, SAD symptoms go away during the sunnier days of spring and summer. Less commonly, people with the opposite pattern have symptoms that begin in spring or summer. In either case, symptoms may start as mild and become more severe as the season progresses.



Signs and symptoms of SAD may include:

- Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having low energy
- Having problems with sleeping
- Experiencing changes in your appetite or weight
- Feeling sluggish or agitated
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty
- Having frequent thoughts of death or suicide

Symptoms specific to winter-onset SAD, sometimes called winter depression, may include:

- Oversleeping
- Appetite changes, especially a craving for foods high in carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Tiredness or low energy

It is normal to have some days when you feel down. However, if this happens for days at a time and you cannot get motivated to participate in activities you normally enjoy, it may be time to see your physician or a mental health professional. This is especially important if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed, if you turn to alcohol for comfort or relaxation, or if you feel hopeless or think about suicide. Treatment for SAD may include light therapy (phototherapy), medications and psychotherapy.

Health and Human Services provides affordable and accessible mental health services. To schedule an intake appointment, call 847-781-4850

^{*} The flag-rotation ceremony is held at the Veterans' Memorial every Sunday at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Those wishing to make a donation for the perpetual maintenance of the Memorial may do so at the Village Hall, or by mailing a check to the Veterans' Memorial clo the Village of Hoffman Estates, 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, II. 60169. The casket flags of deceased veterans listed on the calendar above will be flying at the Veterans' Memorial in the coming month. The Veterans' Memorial is located outside the Hoffman Estates Police Department at 411 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, II. 60169.

Village of Hoffman Estates

1900 Hassell Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 www.hoffmanestates.org

Important phone numbers

Main
Police and Fire
Police Administration847-781-2800
Fire Administration 847-843-4825
Public Works
Health and
Human Services 847-781-4850
Event Hotline

Village officials

Mayor

William D. McLeod

Trustees

Karen V. Mills Anna Newell Gary J. Pilafas Gary G. Stanton Michael Gaeta Karen J. Arnet

Village Clerk

Bev Romanoff

Village Manager Eric J. Palm

Municipal facilities

Visit our website for online services.

Village Hall

1900 Hassell Road

Police Department 411 W. Higgins Road

Fire Administration 1900 Hassell Road

Fire Station 21 — Carl W. Selke 225 Flagstaff Lane

Fire Station 22 — Michael J. O'Malley 1700 Moon Lake Boulevard

Fire Station 23 — **Richard G. Cordova** 1300 Westbury Drive

Fire Station 24 — Jerome Danowski 5775 Beacon Pointe Drive

Susan H. Kenley-Rupnow Public Works Center 2305 Pembroke Avenue



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Citizen Police Academy

to return in early 2022

The Hoffman Estates Police Department will be accepting applications for the Citizen Police Academy, which is set to return in February 2022! This is an opportunity to see firsthand what police officers do every day and gain insights into police practices and services. Topics for this hands-on experience include traffic crash investigations, testing and hiring practices, crime scene processing, crime prevention, K-9 functions, investigations, SWAT team and a homicide case study. The 12-week class will take place on Tuesday evenings

from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 pm at the Police Department. (The exact start date will be provided to applicants.) Applications will be available starting in December on the Village's website. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and reside, attend school or work in Hoffman Estates. Contact Sergeant John Bending directly at 847-781-2866 or john.bending@vohe.org with any questions. Class size is limited, and spots fill up quickly. COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed.

