



Quincy Park News



Winter

2008

Campaign to Fight Higher Water Bills

If you have not yet signed and returned a letter protesting the proposed increase in rates by Illinois American Water Company, please stop in at the office and sign one. We have already mailed two large envelopes full of protest letters to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Some residents attached their bills and the much lower bills of friends in nearby municipalities. We provided copies of the letter to four neighboring condominium complexes, too. This time we won't go down without a fight.

Looking for Scholarship Funds?

Whether you are considering college or technical school, financing is always a big concern. Having helped other seniors, our staff is very familiar with the scholarship application process and documents you need to complete your application. We know many children who have grown up here in Quincy Park and we are always glad to supply a character reference for students who need one more.

If you plan to attend a university affiliated with the State of Illinois you may apply for a full scholarship. State representatives and senators award many full scholarships yearly, based on financial need, academic standing and community involvement.

Prospect Heights Dollars for Scholars provides as many as six annual scholarships. Though smaller, they provide enough funds for books and/or meals. There is also a four-year scholarship and one grant for a student interested in technical school. If you have a special skill or interest, you may qualify, regardless of your GPA. That's good news!

If you have no community involvement record, you can serve the community in many ways and we are glad to help you find volunteer activities you might enjoy. Scholarship deadlines are coming up soon!

Staff will also notarize or witness documents for Quincy Park owners and residents with current accounts and census forms on file. Please call in advance to make certain qualified staff is available to perform any of these services.

Annual Meeting Election Results

We are pleased to announce the names of the members of your 2008 Board of Directors:

- George Nixon, President
- Joseph Szyk, Vice-President
- Valerie Mlejnek, Treasurer
- Carrie Dawson, Secretary
- Tami Trudell, Director
- Lori Gosstrom, Director
- Mary O'Connor, Director
- Kathleen Donahue, Director
- Michael Jordan, Director

New members bring added skills to the Board and we should all welcome them and appreciate their donated time and talents. Condominiums require help in many different fields of expertise, including accounting, construction, landscape design, computer skills, human resources, insurance, engineering, mediation and many more.

In addition to the Board of Directors, our active Social Events Committee and our newly formed Financial Planning Committee welcome volunteers. If you have a special skill and can spare two or more evening hours each month, come to the office to join a committee or file an application for a seat on the Board of Directors. Committees are open to all residents. Owners who apply for Board seats may be called upon to serve when a seat becomes vacant due to a resignation or unit sale.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police or Fire Emergency	911
Quincy Park Office	1 847 459-0350
QP After-Hours Emergency	1 847 459-0000
SBC/AT&T	1 800 346-3988
Illinois American Water	1 800 942-2481
Commonwealth Edison	1 800 334-7661
Nicor Gas	1 888 642-6748
Comcast Cable Service	1 866 594-1234
WOW! Cable Service	1 800 848-2278
Prospect Heights City Hall	1 847 398-6070



Karen's Winter Check-List



Please look over this quick checklist to make sure you aren't left out in the cold this winter!

- *Do I always remember to pull my car out of the garage, to warm it up safely outside?*
- *Are all of my holiday decorations removed and properly stored?*
- *Did I attach decorations only with gutter clips or string to avoid damaging exterior components?*
- *Did I remove all gutter clips from the building?*
- *Does my storm door have a hydraulic closer and safety chain, to close automatically and protect it from strong winter winds?*
- *Are all my lawn tables and chairs stored?*
- *Are any plastic insulation sheets installed only on the inside of my windows?*
- *Did I make sure my stored items don't block the dryer vent or meter room door?*
- *Did I remember never to store items in the meter room, so they won't block work space?*
- *Do I pick up all papers, phone books and debris around my unit and garage, even in winter?*
- *Are all my hoses properly stored and my water spigot completely shut off, so they won't cause my pipes to freeze?*
- *Do I move my cars regularly, so Public Works, Quincy Park maintenance and snow removal crews can plow with no obstructions?*
- *Do I refrain from washing my car during snow removal season, November 15th to April 15th?*
- *Did I pick up salt at the office, to melt ice in any problem areas near my home?*
- *Do I faithfully pick up after my pet and bring the tied bag to the dumpster immediately?*
- *Do I bag and tie all my trash and put it inside the dumpster and recycle eligible items?*

Thank you for your kindness and cooperation!

- Karen Nordstrom

Let's Make Quincy Park Count!

First and foremost, I'd like to thank all of the residents who took the time to go to the polls last April to vote for me. Being a write-in candidate made it a little more difficult and I want you to know I greatly appreciate all of your support.

So far, my freshman term as Ward 5 Alderman has been a trial by fire. Within months of taking office, I've had to decide a highly controversial subject of eminent domain, choose whether or not to close a runway at Chicago Executive Airport and accept the resignations of the Airport Board Chairman, Vice-Chairman and finally Mayor Rodney Pace. Needless to say I'm keeping the pain reliever companies in business. It has definitely been a learning experience and I love every minute of it.

Acting Mayor Patrick Ludvigsen was chosen by the Council to replace former Mayor Pace. He has done a fantastic job filling the position. There will be a citywide special Mayoral election in April 2009.

With this being an election year for Presidential and Congressional candidates I wanted to throw a couple of numbers at you that frightened me. There are more than 400 registered voters living in Quincy Park; in the last election only 70 people cast their votes.

If you are not registered to vote please stop by the office and fill out a registration application or, when visiting City Hall to purchase your Prospect Heights city sticker, ask to register right away. Quincy Park office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM. City Hall is open from 8:30AM to 4:30PM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and until 1:00PM on Saturdays, through the month of March.

If you are already registered to vote, please take the time to exercise your right to vote in all elections, whether nationwide or just citywide.

Our polling place is Robert Frost Elementary School on Aspen in Mount Prospect, only two blocks from Quincy Park.

We need to show the City of Prospect Heights that when push comes to shove the people on the East are as civic-minded as the people on the West. Please take the time to vote and let everyone know Quincy Park can and will be heard.

- Bree Higgins
Ward 5 Alderman

**Buy your City vehicle sticker by March 31st,
to avoid a \$30 penalty - double the cost!
Save sticker and pet tag receipts to submit
with your 2008 Quincy Park census,
no later than April 1st!**

Recipes from Our Readers....

It seems everyone is trying to eat healthier these days. Whole grains add fiber to the diet and red meat substitutes cut the fat we consume. This recipe uses low-fat cheese and pepperoni, a whole grain crust and fresh vegetables. Experiment by adding any other favorite fresh veggies.



Whole Wheat Pita Pizza

8-oz. tomato sauce
2 cloves fresh garlic, minced or pressed
1 tablespoon ground dried basil
1 tablespoon ground dried oregano
4 loaves Thomas's 100% Whole Wheat Pita
68 slices of Hormel Turkey Pepperoni
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
1 cup sliced red or green bell pepper
1 cup sliced onion (optional)
1 cup Kraft 2% Shredded Mozzarella
1 Cup Kraft Free Mozzarella

Blend garlic, herbs and oregano with tomato sauce and set aside, while you slice mushrooms, peppers and onions. Spread $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tomato sauce mixture on each pita. Put 17 slices of pepperoni on each. Sprinkle with peppers, onions and mushrooms. Mix low-fat and fat-free cheeses together; sprinkle each pita pizza with a half cup of cheese mixture.

Bake on a large cookie sheet at 350 degrees until cheese is melted and golden. Do not substitute, using only fat-free cheese, as it does not melt well.



Box Tops for Education

We recently visited the web site for Box Tops for Education, to see whether our local school, Robert Frost Elementary, makes use of the program to obtain free school supplies. We were pleased to see that they do, but disappointed to find that the total number of box tops contributed by households served by the school was somewhat low.

It occurred to us that it benefits everyone, when our schools are able to obtain materials at little or no cost, because that means less tax money is spent. Since we all pay taxes, whether or not we have family members enrolled, we all save by helping in this worthy cause.

Effective immediately, we will have a marked box at the Quincy Park office, where we will collect box tops for Robert Frost School. One of our residents, Pam DeBusk, is in charge of box top collection for the school and we will let her know when we have accumulated box tops for the cause. If you can't get to the office during regular office hours, feel free to put your box tops in an envelope and throw them into the mail slot on the office door.

The actual box top looks like that shown above, but has a value printed on it (usually 10 cents). While grocery shopping, look for box top symbols. You will find them on many favorite products, like:

Pillsbury Refrigerated Cookie Dough and Pie Crust
Betty Crocker Potato Side Dish Mixes
Betty Crocker Cookie and Dessert Mixes
Betty Crocker Ready-to-Spread Frosting
Ziploc Bags and Saran Wrap
Country Hearth Bread
Old El Paso Products
Viva Paper Towels
Kleenex Tissues
Cottonelle Wipes and Toilet Tissue

**Women's Beginner Bible Study
Non-Denominational - Quincy Park Office
2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00PM
Newcomers welcome!**

**Bring your Box Tops to
Quincy Park Office!
Help Robert Frost Elementary School
Earn Free Supplies!**

Pet Talk

My first dog, Alma, was a lab/shepherd princess dog who shared my home and life for many years. That was my preparation, when I started to foster Squeeks, a rescued dog. Squeeks looks like a lab, but the vet thinks she has some hound in her. She is different from Alma and, after an “alpha” incident, it was time to educate myself about dog culture. I’d like to share what I’ve learned, so far.

- Dogs are not people. Dog culture is not that of humans, but dogs must learn to live in a human world.
- Dogs are hierarchal, meaning that an “alpha” must be established in the pack. People who adopt dogs must take that alpha role.
- Establishing yourself as the alpha need not be extreme; set simple boundaries. Squeeks isn’t allowed to sleep on the bed and must sit before being fed.
- Be consistent in communicating that you are the alpha. Any hesitancy will result in the dog taking the alpha role or becoming afraid. Calm is ideal.

Squeeks, a strong 67 pounds, can get out of a leather collar or break a quick-release prong collar. I use a basic prong collar and leather leash. I tie a knot in the leash, for more control. For even more control, double the leash.

Due to her prey instinct, I keep Squeeks away from little dogs. She’s getting better with large dogs, but I’m not anxious for socialization yet.

I enjoy other dogs when outside without Squeeks. I usually ask the owner if it’s okay, then allow the dog to approach me first and give him or her time to smell, before petting the dog.

I encourage other residents to share stories about their pets. Do you have a story to share?

- Lois Strzyzewski

***Please don’t forget!
No parking on Cove Drive or Quaker Lane
Thursdays from 10 AM and 4 PM or
after 2 inches of snowfall (until plowed).
Thank you for your cooperation!***



Charlie’s Workshop

We’ve been busy salting and plowing cul de sacs in another unpredictable Quincy Park winter. We also purchased a jump starter, to help residents who are forced to park outdoors and need help to get their engines up and running. If you experience trouble, just flag us down or call the office. We’re here at 7:00AM and don’t leave until at least 2:30PM.

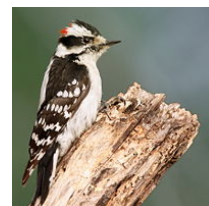
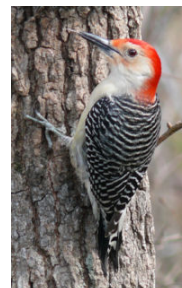
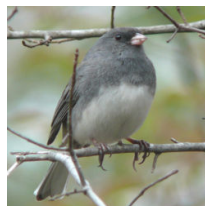
Residents should not shovel driveways. If you are unable to get your car out of your garage or into your driveway, please call the office and they will call us to help, from 9:00AM to 2:30PM.

Our snow removal contract calls for shoveling after any accumulation of one inch or more and plowing after an accumulation of two inches or more. Often the contractor will wait until snowfall ends before beginning removal operations. Please be patient. We have 592 entrances and driveways and 22 cul de sacs in Quincy Park. If it appears that the plow or snow shovels missed just your area, call the office and let us know you need our help.

- Chuck Lome

Birds of Quincy Park

Prospect Heights is home to a great many snow birds. No, we don’t mean the Rob Roy seniors who leave for the south in winter. We mean those little black and white Juncos that spend summers in the northernmost part of Canada, where “going south” means coming here. These little guys only feed on the ground, so you’ll find them under bird feeders, eating seeds dropped by other birds.



Inexpensive Wal-Mart suet feeders and suet cakes will attract both the large Red-Bellied Woodpecker and the small Downy Woodpecker. To protect the suet from squirrels, buy a squirrel baffle or hang the feeder from a tall shepherd’s hook.

Dollars and Sense

I regret to inform those of you who don't already know that the housing crisis has adversely affected Quincy Park Condominium Association.

Those who are trying to sell a unit now are keenly aware of declining numbers of prospective buyers. Mortgage companies are in trouble, due to the number of creditors defaulting on adjustable rate mortgages. These banks are forced to "buy back" these units at foreclosure sales. In the past, many investors were lined up to bid, hoping to remodel a unit and turn a quick profit at resale. They have disappeared with falling property values. Units sell for \$10-\$20 thousand dollars less than a year ago.

With so many delinquencies, banks are reluctant to offer conventional, fixed-rate mortgages, since no one can predict whether interest rates will rise or fall in our current, uncertain economy. The usual first-time buyers, with small down payments will now be turned away, eliminating a second source of prospective buyers.

Those of us who do not plan to sell at this time are nonetheless affected by these conditions. When one purchases a condominium, he or she becomes a "member", with an equal share in the costs of running the property. When our neighbors go into foreclosure, they default on their share of regular monthly assessments, leaving fewer of us to pay the bills. Increasing foreclosures and bankruptcies mean more delinquent accounts and bad debt and less money available for expenses.

Snow continues to fall, grass will continue to grow, and all the usual invoices still arrive every month. In fact, we are so far over budget for removal of snow and ice, two maintenance men are forced to salt miles of sidewalk, to reduce costs. We will no doubt need to cancel planned property upgrades in 2008, including replacement of garage doors and removal and replacement of trees and shrubs.

This will also mean fewer social activities, so our committee will focus on low-cost activities that build community, like the sidewalk rummage sale. We do plan to hold a block party, since residents have so generously contributed side dishes recently.

We apologize for these cutbacks, but trust you understand our position. Thanks to able-bodied neighbors who pick up or call for delivery of salt and throw some on icy walks, to help us out.

- Darlene Ahlstedt

***Please make an effort to recycle
all plastic, glass, metal,
cardboard and paper!
No sorting needed;
use any available bin!
The recycling area is open 24/7
Inside the Maintenance shop fence
located at the end of Cove Drive.***

Advertising in the Quincy Park News

Beginning with the next issue, we will attempt to sell outside advertising in the newsletter, in order to reduce costs to the association.

If you know of a business that offers services our readers would like to know about, please pass your newsletter along to the business owner, when you finish reading it. Businesses can arrange ads by calling the Quincy Park office at 847-459-0350.

Residents may continue to place personal ads and ads for their small businesses at no cost. We do ask that you now place a new ad after receipt of each quarterly issue, for the next Market Place. Some staff work reduced hours and it is no longer convenient to call residents to determine whether or not they wish to continue to advertise. The same will be true of the community bulletin board. All items posted will be dated and will be removed after three months, to make room for new posters. Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.



***Divide and conquer!
The Social Events Committee will
hold a Perennial Plant Exchange on
May 3rd at 10:00AM in the Picnic Area!
Divide your crowded perennials and bring
them to the exchange, where you can trade
them for something new and exciting!***



Quincy Park Market Place

Services available:

Child Care: Mother of 4-year-old girl and baby boy will care for your child in my home full or part time, including ride to/from school. Please contact Marta at 773-557-8064

Tutor: Patient, dedicated, enthusiastic substitute teacher will tutor adults or children in math skills, computer skills, language, social studies, history, geography, ACT/SAT/GED test preparation. ESL and ADD welcome. Hours available after school, evenings & weekends. References upon request. Call Dina at 847-459-0746.

Handyman: Experienced handyman can help with various home repairs. Call Erick at 312-246-0544.

Wanted:

Original windows for penthouse "D" unit needed. If you are replacing yours, let me have the old ones. Immediate pickup when your contractor removes them. Call Phil at 847-459-5837.

For Sale:

Never used Shappell DX3000 ice fishing shelter. Two person; 4'x6' folds to 3'x4'. \$269.99 list; asking \$150. Call Gil at 847-345-5312.

Bunk bed, A/C units for sale. Call 630-213-5999.

Oak finish entertainment ctr. w/glass doors holds 27" analog/26" HDTV; four-door bottom storage. \$50/best offer. Call 847-541-1937 1:00-5:00 PM.

Quincy Park Condominium Association
1592 Quaker Lane
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Community Bulletin Board

Between our newsletter issues, you can find ads, bulletins and Board meeting agendas posted on the community bulletin board at the end of the sidewalk between the office and the pool house.

Personal and small business ads are free to all owners and residents with current accounts and census forms on file. Limit one ad per unit per issue. Ads are published in the order received, as space allows. **Please place a new ad each time you receive a newsletter, as the application is for one issue and must be renewed quarterly.** To place an ad, clip, complete and return this form.

2008 SPRING ISSUE AD REQUEST			
PLEASE CIRCLE AD CATEGORY:			
FOR SALE	WANTED	NEWS ITEM	OTHER
NAME _____			
UNIT	#	_____	PHONE
ITEM: _____			

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