

December 2024/January 2025

Merry Christmas



NORTHFIELD HILLS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

the View from the Hills

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The View from the Hills Staff

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Editorial Policy

The View from the Hills is a publication for the residents of Northfield Hills Condominium Association compiled and published by its staff, which serves on a voluntary basis. The *View* is published monthly except January and August. Any resident of Northfield Hills is eligible to join the *View* staff in the variety of tasks related to publishing a newspaper.

The View from the Hills welcomes comments, suggestions and articles from its readers. All materials submitted for publication in the *View* must be true, factual and newsworthy. The staff reserves the right to hold items from publication pending validation of facts; and also reserves the right to decline advertising copy.

Where items are of a critical or controversial nature, the editors reserve the right to solicit comments from those with opposing viewpoints.

Opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the *View* staff, Board of Directors, Committees, Association Management employees or our advertisers.

Materials submitted for publication must be given to the receptionist in the Clubhouse and must include his/her signature and name in print.

No material will be accepted for publication in the upcoming issue after the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Phone Numbers

Clubhouse.....248-641-9070
Clubhouse Fax.....248-641-8214
AMI586-739-6001
AMI Fax586-739-6006
Troy Emergency.....911
Police & Fire
Non-Emergency..... 248-524-3477

Clubhouse Address:
Northfield Hills Condo Assoc
Clubhouse East
1750 Brentwood Drive
Troy, MI 48098

Clubhouse Hours:
Mon-Fri 9 AM--10 PM
Saturday 11 AM--10 PM
Sunday 11 AM--5 PM
Sunday 11 AM--10 PM from
Memorial Day weekend
through Labor Day

NHCA Website:
Amicondos.com/northfieldhills/

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Condo Corner

Dec 24/Jan 25

**Salt is now available
in the Vestibule of
the Clubhouse 24/7.
Bring a container
and
remember to use it
sparingly, a little
goes a long way!!**



The NFH Clubhouse will be closed for Christmas and New Year Holidays on the following dates:

December 23, 2024
December 24, 2024
December 25, 2024
December 31, 2024
January 01, 2025

NOTICE TO ALL PET OWNERS

It is **YOUR** responsibility to pick up after your pets.

Important Reminder

Report vacations to the Clubhouse Staff in case any emergency might arise with your unit.
Thank You

Water Shut Off

If you are a senior and need your water turned off for winter, please call the Clubhouse to make an Appointment @
248-641-9070



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

↳ **SNOW REMOVAL:** It is extremely important to review the NHCA Rules & Regulations in this December/January *View* issue.

↳ **KEY & EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:** During this holiday season, some residents may be planning trips away from their homes to visit family or friends. Several times during the year there have been circumstances (natural gas issues, water problems, etc.) when Northfield Hills units needed to be accessed unexpectedly due to an urgent situation.



We are reminding you again how important it is for residents **to leave a key** to their unit at the Northfield Hills Clubhouse, which will only be used in case of an emergency. As previously written in *the View*, there is a secured lock-box for this purpose with only designated NH staff having access to it. Just as imperative is to **make sure your emergency contact** information has been updated. Your neighbors will thank you!



↳ **SCAMS:** Please refer to your November *View* regarding various reported scams. During the holidays, there are more charity scams than at other times of the year. Once again, an **alert to families:** If you know someone who is living alone, remind them not to respond to unsolicited phone calls, texts or emails.

↳ **WALKING AFTER DARK:** When walking after sunset, please carry a flashlight and if possible, wear light colored clothing. Motorists will see you better when you are crossing the street or walking through the courts. Some outerwear, as well as canine collars, leashes and coats, are available with reflective parts on them, making walkers and pets more clearly visible.

↳ **REMINDER:** Check out December & January events on *the View* calendar or in flyers received during these months!

↳ **LOST & FOUND:** NHCA has a box at the Clubhouse where these items will be kept. Anyone who has lost or found hats or gloves or any other item, may turn them in to staff. Smaller found items are kept at the front desk.





FYI, continued

↳ WINTERIZING YOUR WATER PIPES:

TO PREVENT FREEZING OF WATER PIPES, EACH RESIDENT IS TO TAKE THESE STEPS:

1. In the basement of each unit there are two shut off valves for the outside water spigots. Turn both inside valves off completely.
2. Turn on the outside spigots in the front and back of your unit. LEAVE THEM ON. The water will eventually stop running. DO NOT SHUT THEM OFF.
3. Return to your basement and unscrew the drain plug (do not remove) to your shut-off valve, drain plug is located just beneath or on the side of each valve.

Suggestion – you may want to put a small pan under both drain plugs as a small amount will drip until pipes are emptied.



***For our SENIOR CITIZENS ONLY who may be unable to winterize water pipes, please feel free to call the clubhouse (248-641-9070) to arrange to have this service performed by your Northfield Hills Maintenance Staff.

Your Northfield Hills Medicare Advocates

Gayle M. Zech
248.802.4290

gayle.zech@gmail.com



Gwen M. Smith
248.320.8369

gwensmith79@yahoo.com

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DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025 OUT & ABOUT



As previously published in winter issues, here are some places within driving distance where you can celebrate an “old fashioned” family outing, then choose and cut down your special tree. Or, you may choose your tree and have someone on site cut it down for you.

- ✦ Addison-Oaks Christmas Tree Farm, 355 Lake George Road, Oakland, MI Call: 248-814-0583
- ✦ Stanczyk Tree Farm, 7355 Fish Lake Road, Holly, MI Call: 248-634-8102
- ✦ Trim Pines Farm, 4357 E. Baldwin Road, Holly, MI Call: 810-694-9958

Most website listings offer living wreaths, garlands, tied trees, while some even provide saws for cutting. Yes, there are porta-potties. It is recommended to call ahead to make sure they are open and able to provide you with what you need.

www.pickyourownchristmastree.org



Family Outdoor Activities

Sledding, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice fishing are great winter activities available at Oakland County and Macomb County Parks and golf courses. Addition Oaks County Park also offers groomed trails for “fat tire biking.” Visit: www.destinationoakland.com or www.metroparks.com for details on winter activities.



The following three events are also featured under local news:



“Wild Lights at the Zoo,” The Detroit Zoo, West 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak
Weekdays and weekends now through January. Tickets available on line.

Visit www.detroitzoo.org/events

42nd Annual Plymouth Ice Festival 2025, Kellogg Park & Downtown Plymouth
1/31st, 2/1st, 2/2nd Free Visit: www.plymouthicefestival.com



19th Annual Fire and Ice Winter Festival 2024-25, Downtown Rochester – a free family event with activities and shows! Now through 1/21st Downtown is brightly lit up with all its buildings shining brightly in the winter sky! Free shuttle service from various sites.

www.downtownrochestermi.com





Gary, Ellen, Jason & Lisa

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WINTER PARKING INFORMATION

Due to the importance of the information listed below, we felt it necessary to repeat this message and insist the following parking rules be observed. The Northfield Hills Condominium Association has 646 units and it takes much time, and big money to keep our parking areas, sidewalks and streets free of snow. Your cooperation and extra effort during the winter months is essential and very much appreciated.

PARKING

With parking at such a premium, we must remind everyone that if you have a garage you **MUST** park your vehicle in it. Curbside parking is also illegal as they are Fire Lanes.

If you have company, please remind them they cannot park in someone's reserved parking spot. Let everyone know that if there is a number on the parking spot then it belongs to someone and that they **CANNOT** park there. Thank you.

WINTER PARKING

Vehicles must be moved out of the court parking spaces when the plows arrive in each area. The snowplow drivers will perform an initial clean-up and then return a second time to allow Co-owners extra time if necessary.

Exercise caution when plow trucks are present – the drivers' vision is limited.

Salt your porch and sidewalk before a light snow. Spreading salt will help prevent ice buildup and slippery conditions. Salt is effective only for temperatures above 20 degrees.

Co-owners should not leave dog leashes, children's toys, and newspapers on sidewalks and porches. These items can become buried beneath the snow and cause injury to workers or damage to the blowers.

Vehicles should not be parked in or around the traffic circles at the end of Breeze Hill Place and Buckingham Place as this may prevent the snowplows from turning efficiently and prevent moving snow from the street. Also, large emergency vehicles use these traffic circles and parked vehicles impede their movement, slowing their response time.

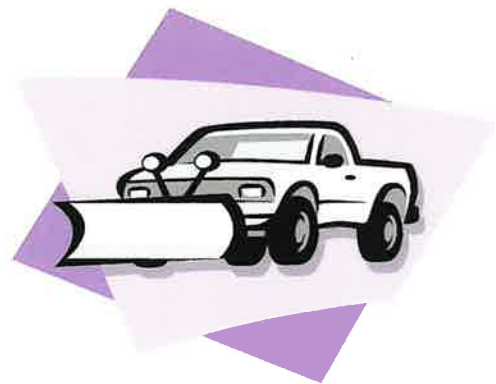
Co-owners must remove cars parked in the driveway of their condo. Snowplow drivers are instructed not to plow adjoining driveways if a vehicle is parked in one of them. This pertains to all driveways, however long or short.

The City of Troy prohibits sidewalks from being obstructed. Cars parked in short driveways, where they cross the sidewalk, prevents the staff from effectively clearing your sidewalks. If the snow blower cannot be driven straight down the sidewalk to your condo's walkway, your sidewalks will not be shoveled.

Snowplows will **not** return to plow parking spaces after the day we sweep through the courts.

Do not leave decorative items on your front porch which may be damaged and will slow the shoveling process.

Thank you for your cooperation.



NEW CLIENTS

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1835 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$244,000
1662 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$286,000

PENDING:

5238 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$299,000
5331 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$272,000
5238 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$299,000

SOLD:

5753 Northfield	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$220,000
5812 Northfield	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$235,000
1702 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$245,000
5394 Breeze Hill	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$260,000
5709 Whitfield Dr	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$260,000
1448 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$251,000
1815 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$255,000
5335 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$265,000
1764 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$265,000
1622 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$270,000
5240 Breeze Hill	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$280,000
1829 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$280,000
1618 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$280,000
5183 Buckingham	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$285,000
5363 Breeze Hill	2 Bed	2.1 Bath	No Garage	\$287,500
1773 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$292,000
5395 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$320,000
1598 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$320,000
1550 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$330,000
5109 Buckingham	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$345,000
1514 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$247,000
5161 Buckingham	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$365,000
1534 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$380,000

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank all my neighbors who placed their trust in my service. I am committed to helping you experience a smooth and successful transition! I will always negotiate the best price and terms for you!

Call your neighbor Realtor!

ELENA



IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION

Northfield Hills Snow Removal Rules – Including Fine Schedule

Vehicles **MUST** be moved out of the court parking spaces when the plows arrive in each area. The snowplow drivers will perform an initial clean-up and then return a second time to allow co-owners extra time if necessary. Vehicles that have not moved after the second sweep will result in a **fine being levied**. Fine are fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first fine, seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for the second fine and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the third and each subsequent fine. Buckingham, Breeze Hill and Brentwood are always plowed first so you can park your car there and move it back after the plows have left. **FOR ANYONE WHO HAS QUESTIONS ON PARKING YOU CAN CALL THE CLUBHOUSE AND ASK FOR SEAN, 248-641-9070.**

Exercise caution when plow trucks are present – the drivers' vision is limited.

Salt your porch and sidewalk before a light snow. Spreading salt will help prevent ice buildup and slippery conditions. Salt is effective only for temperatures above 20 degrees.

Co-owners should **NOT** leave dog leashes, children's toys, and newspapers on sidewalks and porches. These items can become buried beneath the snow and cause injury or damage to the snow blower.

Vehicles should not be parked in or around the traffic circles at the end of Breeze Hill and Buckingham Place as this may prevent the snowplows from turning efficiently and prevent moving snow from the street. Also, large emergency vehicles use these traffic circles and parked vehicles impede their movement, slowing their response time.

Co-owners must remove cars parked in the driveway of their condo. Snowplow drivers are instructed not to plow adjoining driveways if a vehicle is parked in one of them. This pertains to all driveways, however long or short. Cars parked in driveways are subject to ticket and/or towing.

The City of Troy prohibits sidewalks from being obstructed. Cars parked in short driveways, where they cross the sidewalk, prevents the staff from effectively clearing your sidewalk. If the snow blower cannot be driven straight down the sidewalk to your condo's walkway, your sidewalks will not be shoveled. Snowplows will **not** return to plow parking spaces after the day we sweep through the courts.

These rules were approved by the Board of Directors December 15, 2002.

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U.S. MISSION TRIP

Hi Folks,

Al Sloan here. Hope you are all doing well and getting ready for the holidays!

This November I took part in a new mission trip. I was supposed to travel with a church team to Nepal in October, but the trip had been cancelled. Soon after the cancellation, I learned of a short trip to Port Charlotte, Florida. Sadly, it was a disaster relief mission.

You may have heard that on September 26th, Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida. A week later, on October 9th, Hurricane Milton also hit Florida. Both Englewood and Manasota Key were hit by the two hurricanes.

Woodside Church in Warren was in the process of the possibility of sending teams to join with Samaritan's Purse to aid in the hurricane disaster relief. Samaritan's Purse began in 1970, by Bob Pierce. After his death in 1979, Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, took over as president of the organization. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational Christian organization. Volunteers travel around the world helping people affected by war, poverty, disease, famine and natural disasters.

Woodside sent two teams to Florida with the first going the last week in October and the second team the following week. Although the waters had receded by that time, the devastation was horrific! The storm surge near Englewood Beach forced sand swells up to nine feet high, lifting homes off foundations and destroying them. The luckier homes wound up with four to five feet of water throughout. Our job was to prepare these homes for contractors to come in and do the finish work. In addition to home preparation all the debris had to be removed from inside and outside of the homes.

Samaritan's Purse functions like a finely oiled machine. They find a local church which will serve as the base camp where the volunteers eat and sleep - usually in a gymnasium and /or classrooms. Volunteers bring cots or air mattresses, with each given two orange Samaritan's Purse t-shirts, a hat and bandana which helps identify the groups. A fully loaded box truck containing every item and tool needed to complete the tasks is also provided.

Our job included mud-outs, removing one to two feet of mud from some of homes. We also removed all appliances that had been underwater i.e. washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves and water tanks. In addition, removal of all lower cabinets, sinks, tubs and showers. All of this then had to be hauled to the side of the road.

All the drywall was cut at the waterline and removed down to the floor. All the wet insulation also had to be removed. After removing the drywall and insulation the studs were washed down, then sprayed with "Shockwave" antifungal.

As a Christian based organization, two chaplains visited each home to talk with the homeowners. They counseled and gave emotional support while sharing the gospel. At the time of our departure, we learned eighty people had accepted Jesus into their lives.

Looking out over the Gulf and feeling the warm ocean breeze, the devastation around us was surreal; yet it brought out the best in people. We saw neighbor helping neighbor. Those on the streets or in the stores

recognized our orange shirts with the logo and stopped to thank us for the work we were doing. We truly felt as appreciated as we had been for the mission trips taken around the world.

In closing, I would ask anyone who is interested to go online to learn more about Samaritan's Purse, an extremely helpful organization. If you are able to volunteer for a trip or make a donation, please do so. We all should be reminded that the next disaster could be a tornado or flood here in Michigan.

Happy Holiday to all! Al Sloan





Fun, Facts & Trivia

The name for December comes from the Latin word decem meaning ten. Although it was originally the tenth month of the year on the Roman calendar; when January and February were added, December became the twelfth month on the Gregorian calendar.

- Turquoise, blue topaz, and ruby are the birthstones.
- The Paper White Narcissus is the birth flower symbolizing self-esteem. Holly and Poinsettia are also popular.

The **Winter Solstice** (or first day of winter,) is on December 21st this year in the northern hemisphere. This is the shortest day and longest night of the year, due to the sun's lowest positioning.

In addition to the religious celebrations this month, in the U.S. there is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on 12/7th and the Bill of Rights Day on 12/15th, when the first ten amendments to the constitution were ratified.

December is Fruit Cake month, Egg Nog month and Bingo month. Some others are: Earmuff day, International Ninja day and there's even an "Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf" day.



Here are some interesting, little known December facts:

- 1674: In what is now Chicago, Father Jacques Marquette founded a mission on the shores of Lake Michigan to minister to the Illiniwek Indians.
- 1843: Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was published. Could be why December has its "Don't be a Scrooge day" and a "Humbug" day.
- 1907: Christmas seals (American Lung Association sponsored,) went on sale for the first time at the Wilmington, Delaware post office.
- 1945: The Senate approved the United States' participation in the United Nations.



Whatever your celebrations are this month, **the View** staff wishes you the happiest of holidays



There are five things that you cannot recover in life:

- (1) The Stone.....after it's thrown,
- (2) The Word.....after it's said,
- (3) The Occasion.....after it's missed,
- (4) The Time.....after it's gone, and
- (5) A person.....after they die.



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day is always observed on December 25th to commemorate the birth of Jesus – the heart of Christianity.

The word Christmas originated from “Christ’s Mass,” and is central to the time of year as it also marks the beginning of the season of Christmastide, which lasts twelve days.

Christians around the world celebrate Christmas in various ways. Each country has its own religious traditions which are unique to its culture.

Most will participate in a religious service celebrating Christ’s birth. Many will



share the celebration by setting up a nativity scene, singing hymns, decorating homes and churches with

garland, wreaths, trees and symbols of the Christ child.

Christmas traditions for displaying of Christmas lights and small family gatherings with gift giving are accepted.

In addition to the popular Santa Claus, other countries have Father Christmas and St. Nicholas associated with gift giving.

Merging the divine nature of Christmas with regional cultures of each country has led to this season being celebrated by many people all over the world.

Christmas Symbols

-The Holly plant has become well known as the symbol for Christmas. Its sharp leaves representing the crown of thorns placed on Jesus, the red berries for the blood shed and the evergreen quality of the plant symbolizing eternal life.



-The old English Christmas Carol, “The Holly and the Ivy,” uses holly to symbolize the birth of Christ.





A CELEBRATION OF JOY

-edited from various sites

This year, Hanukkah or Chanukah begins at sundown on December 25th lasting through January 2, 2025. Known as the Jewish festival of rededication, it is also known as the ***Festival of Lights*** which runs for eight days. The religious observance related to this holiday is the lighting of candles, arranged in a chanukiah, holding nine candles; one lighted for each night, plus a shamus at a different height. Blessings are given when each candle is lighted, and they are allowed to burn out on their own.

Historically, at the time of rededication, there was no oil left to light the candelabrum in the Temple, and to burn throughout the night every night of the rededication. There was only enough oil to burn for one day.

By a miracle, it burned for eight days – the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil. Chanukah commemorates the “miracle of the oil.”

Traditionally fried foods are served during Chanukah due to the significance of oil to the holiday. This would include “latkes,” or potato pancakes as some of us know them. Latkes were originally a way to thank laborers.

Another favorite is Sufganiyot, a fluffy jam-filled donut also deep fried to honor oil in ancient times.

Gift giving is not a traditional part of the holiday, but giving gifts to young children has become popular. A traditional gift would be “gelt” (small amounts of money,) or coins made from chocolate.



During this Jewish holiday “dreidel” is often played – a game using a squared top game piece. A dreidel is marked with four Hebrew letters. If you had played this game in Jerusalem, the letters on the dreidel spelled out, “A great miracle happened here” referring to the miracle of the oil.



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Fun, Facts & Trivia

The month of January is named for the Roman god Janus. He is pictured as having two heads - one looking back to the past year and one looking forward to the new one. A new year equals new opportunities!

The Anglo Saxons referred to January as Wolf Month, as during the winter wolves came into the villages to search for food.



-The birthstone is the Garnet, representing constancy

- The birth flower is the Snowdrop or Carnation (Dianthus)

This month is Baking month, Oatmeal month and Hot Tea month. Due to holiday feasts, it is also Weight Loss month. How can that be?

It is also March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention month. Since we are in the holiday season, January is also Blood Drive month - so important throughout the year.

Here are some interesting January items:

- 1815: Andrew Jackson won the "Battle of New Orleans."
- 1818: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein was first published (anonymously) in London, with only 500 copies being made.
- 1901: The first major discovery of oil in Texas was made at Spindletop, near Beaumont.
- 1914: The Ford Motor Company announced an eight-hour workday and that it would pay a "living wage" of at least \$5. per day.

- 1947: Mahatma Gandhi's march for peace began in East-Bengalhi.
- 1990: The Hubble telescope was launched.

Had you known the song, "Auld Lang Syne", is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world?

Places to visit in the New Year (or not)!



I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You must be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you must be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, so I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

New Year's Resolutions

-edited from various sources

Traditionally, many people make New Year's resolutions on the first day of each new year, when one pledges to either start doing something good or stop doing something bad during the coming year. At the end of the Great Depression, about a quarter of American adults made New Year's resolutions. Now during the 21st century, about 40-50% admit they do.



Evidently, the idea for making resolutions came from religious backgrounds? In ancient Babylonia, the people made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making various promises to the god Janus; and the medieval knights took a vow each year to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry.

During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur, one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. Similarly, during the Christian fasting period of Lent, some may act similarly though the motive behind this holiday is more of sacrifice than of responsibility. In fact the practice of New Year's resolutions partially came from Lenten sacrifices.

The concept is to annually reflect upon self-improvement. Resolutions vary among individuals depending on what one perceives needs "fixing or adjustment." The list is lengthy.

- Eat healthier meals, exercise more, lose weight - basically get rid of bad habits.
- Make more time with family and friends
- Improve grades, education, career, finances
- Reduce stress, manage time
- Volunteer, make new friends, discover new cultures
- Become more spiritual
- Think positively, let go of grievances
- Laugh/sing/dance more often, notice the good around you - enjoy life!

According to a Pew Research Center report, in a 2024 U.S. survey of 5,140 participants, six in ten adults had a 59% success rate in keeping one resolution, 28% in keeping some, while 13% kept none. Regarding success, the study also showed the higher rate was due to setting specific, measurable goals and sharing them with others. Details: www.pewresearch.org



EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

Many Orthodox Christians annually celebrate Christmas Day on January 7th to remember Jesus Christ's birth, as described in the Christian Bible.



Orthodox Christians in the U.S. and some Eastern Orthodox national churches, including those of Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and the Greek Patriarchate of Jerusalem, mark Christmas and feasts using the older Julian calendar. December 25th on the Julian calendar currently corresponds to January 7th on the internationally used Gregorian calendar.

The day is a time for reflection and healing in eastern European countries. Many follow a Nativity Fast for forty-day periods before the celebration, while others fast the day before.



Saint Nicholas, who is the patron saint of Russia, sailors and children, represents the kind, good, and giving spirit of Christmas. Little importance is given to gift exchanges and the commercialized Christmas.

White cloth is used on dinner tables in some countries to symbolize purity and the cloth baby Jesus was wrapped in.

Candles may be lighted to represent the light of Christ and the festive Christmas meal brings the end of forty days of fasting.



The feasting and sharing the company of friends and family begins January 7th for our Eastern Orthodox friends.

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MARCH OF DIMES

-various sites



Although fundraising for the March of Dimes is ongoing, January is the month for a yearly sponsored mission in continuing efforts to

educate and aid the public on available health care.

This non-profit organization was originally founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a response to America's epidemic of polio disease.

Comedian and entertainer, Eddie Cantor, "coined" the phrase "March of Dimes," noting that nearly everyone could send in one dime to support the cause and ten dimes would be a dollar!

On July 22, 1958 the March of Dimes, under the leadership of Basil O'Connor, announced a new mission: **Birth Defects Prevention**, with a continued focus on



disabilities and disorders appearing in infancy and childhood.

Since then, the group has added different missions,

which have evolved from fighting polio, to funding genetic research which has led to improved medical treatment and diagnosis.

This continuing research has improved prenatal diagnosis of sickle cell anemia and the development of surfactant therapy to treat respiratory distress syndrome.

With over eighty years of service, the organization is building on that legacy.

The March of Dimes focus and theme for 2025 is: "Every Life: Why We March," a pro-life core message of encouragement, joy and the importance of every life. The walk will be held on January 24th at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

The March of Dimes has always been the leader in the fight for babies and mothers, offering a variety of programs.

Please visit: www.marchofdimes.org for information on both national and local opportunities for support, to volunteer or to donate.



View Winter Word Search Solution



Solution: In the Northern Hemisphere Winter Solstice occurs December twenty first or twenty second it is the day with the least amount of daylight



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

This day is a U.S. federal holiday recognizing the birthday of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** It is always observed on the third Monday In January – this year on January 20th.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King was an American Baptist minister, as well as a prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. He is well known for his advancement of civil rights, always advising on the use of non-violent methods in keeping with the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Due to his work, in 1964 he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



Sadly, Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

Although the campaign for a federal holiday in his honor began soon after his death, it was in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan signed this national holiday into law. By 1986 it was observed by many states as a holiday; but it was in the year 2000 when all 50 states observed it as an official legal holiday.



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WINTER STORM TIPS



The following winter tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). www.aap.org for more information

Preparing for and Actions to take during Winter Storms

- Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperature on exposed skin.
- Keep your car's gas tank full. This keeps the fuel line from freezing.
- Listen to an NOAA Weather Radio, or a portable battery-powered radio (or television) for updated emergency information.
- Move animals to sheltered areas.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Eat regularly. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.
- Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

Dressing Children for winter

- Newborn babies need to be protected from the elements. Dress them in several layers of light clothing to keep them warm. Avoid overheating.
- The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same situation.

Hypothermia

- Hypothermia develops when a child's temperature falls below normal due to exposure to cold. It often happens when a youngster is playing outdoors in extremely cold weather without wearing proper clothing.
- As hypothermia sets in, the child may shiver and become lethargic and clumsy. His speech may become slurred and his body temperature will decline.
- If you suspect your child is hypothermic, call 911 at once. Until help arrives, take the child indoors, remove any wet clothing, and wrap him in blankets or warm clothes.

Frostbite

- Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen.
- This condition tends to happen on extremities like the fingers, toes, ears, and nose. They may become pale, gray and blistered. At the same time, the child may complain that her skin burns or has become numb.
- Bring the child indoors, where you should place the frostbitten parts of her body in warm (not hot) water. Warm washcloths may be applied to frostbitten nose, ears and lips.
- Do not rub the frozen areas.
- After a few minutes, dry and cover her with clothing or blankets. Give her something warm to drink.
- If the numbness continues for more than a few minutes, call your doctor.

Winter Health

- If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds, try using a cold air humidifier in the child's room at night. Saline nose drops may help to keep tissues moist. If bleeding is severe or recurrent, consult your pediatrician.
- Many pediatricians feel that bathing two or three times a week is enough for an infant. More frequent baths may dry out the skin, especially during the winter.
- Cold weather does not cause colds or flu. But the viruses that cause colds and flu tend to be more prevalent in the winter, when children are in school and are in closer contact with each other. Frequent hand-washing and teaching your child to sneeze or cough into their elbow and away from others may help reduce the risk of colds and flu.
- Children between the ages of 6 and 23 months are encouraged to get an influenza vaccine to reduce their risk of getting the flu.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

New Year's Eve is celebrated in China in much the same way as it is here in the United States. It is the last day of the last month of the traditional Chinese calendar. In 2025 the celebration begins on Wednesday, January 29th. Other celebrations, such as the Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Spring Festival also are held.



The Chinese attach one of their 12 zodiac icons to each year. This year is the year of the "Earth" Snake. Although many might not think of the snake as being of good fortune, it represents introspection, intuition, and adaptability. A period for re-evaluating objectives and navigating personal growth. The snake has characteristics of being mysterious, smart, wise, determined and caring.

The Chinese New Year has been celebrated for 5,000 years, with the Chinese calendar being based on the phases of the moon. The New Year can range traditionally from January 22nd to February 19th. The end of the festival is called the Lantern Festival which traditionally comes 14 or 15 days after the start of the New Year.

The Chinese people celebrate the good fortunes of the last year and hope for health and prosperity in the coming year. The eve of the New Year is just the start of the celebration. Although the traditional holiday festival can last up to two weeks, most modern-day Chinese citizens only recognize the first few of days, depending whether or not it falls on a weekend.



Families frequently travel to meet with other family members, especially the elders of the family. Festival meals consist of Chinese dumplings and fish. Leading up to midnight; Dragon Dances, parades, and local festivities are common. Fireworks after sunset are widespread and plentiful nationwide.

In modern day China a variety TV show is aired for family members and includes dancing, singing, magic, comedy skits and interviews with celebrities and movie stars. This tradition is similar to the television performances on the New Year's eve broadcast with the "ball drop" in New York City at midnight.

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NORTHFIELD HILLS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Board Members Present:

Josh West, Chair; Kristy Watkins, Vice Chair; Kent Cathcart, Treasurer; Gary Newville, Director; Kathy Katz, Director; John Ballantine, Director; Kathleen Deburghgraeve, Community Manager; Sean O'Brien by Zoom.

Absent – Mike Malley

1. Chairman's Comments

- AMI has a new software that allows for great reporting. K. Deburghgraeve generated a YTD work order report. So far this year, two guys, have handled 754 work orders. The report breaks down the type of work it is. The guys are doing a great job.
- Slowdown in courts.
- We will discuss two issues tonight. HOA fee increase and the electrical system in the basement needs to be replaced. The system will not pass for our insurance renewal.

2. Resident Forum

- A resident asked, with the new software, are we able to check work orders online and see where we are at? S. Quintana answered no, just the employees can see this.
- A resident said that homeowners are still putting garbage in front of the fire hydrant. People are still parking too close to the hydrant.
- A resident is concerned about the geese. They may attack people. Can we do a geese round up? There are so many here and a lot of droppings on the path. K. Katz who is on the "CANH Board answered that the path is owned by the CANH and we have done roundups in the past and it only works for a short time and then they come back.
- A homeowner said, where they work they put up something that chase the geese away. It works great.
- A homeowner said that when sprinklers run, which is early in the morning, there is a lot of run off in the southern part of the court. The asphalt stays wet for a long time. S. O'Brien answered that it may be something other than the sprinkler system since they haven't been on since early summer. In the asphalt by their island, there is a deep gap.

3. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

4. Agenda

- Approved as amended.
- Add to New Business 1) HOA fee \$20.00 increase. Clubhouse electrical system.



Apple Breakfast Bread

"Warm sweet apple bread is perfect for breakfast or for a yummy snack."

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 apples - peeled, cored and chopped

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease an 8x4 inch loaf pan.
2. In a bowl, mix the butter and sugar until smooth and creamy. Beat in the eggs.
3. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and cloves. Mix into the butter mixture until moistened. Fold in the apples. Transfer to the prepared loaf pan.
4. Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 15 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



Fudgy Healthy Brownies

You will love these gluten and lactose free brownies. They are so good you won't believe

they are made from avocados.

Submitted by: Carrie Roberts

Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 2 Avocados
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup sweetener (I use pure maple syrup)
- 4 Tbsp melted butter
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 tsp baking powder

Optional: Chocolate chips and pecans/walnuts

1. Preheat oven to 350F
2. Combine all wet ingredients in a blender or food processor.
3. Mix wet and dry ingredients together. If you choose to add chocolate chips and/or nuts mix into brownie batter
4. Pour all ingredients into a baking dish lined with greased parchment paper.
5. Top with more chocolate chips and bake for 30-35 minutes. Test with toothpick to see if baked through.



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5. Approval of Minutes

- Approved as written.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report included.
- Asphalt will begin on Monday.
- The last roofing of buildings will be done as well.

7. Management Report

- Report Included.

8. Committee Reports

Activities Report

- Trivia night was great.

Clubhouse

- Vinyl floor will be replaced.

Grounds

- N/A

City Liaison

- N/A

CANH

- Done for the season. Finished big projects. Annual Meeting is 11/11/24.

9. Correspondence

- N/A

10. Unfinished Business

- N/A

11. New Business

- A) Association fee increase – Motion to raise fee an average of \$20, seconded and motion passes at \$20.
- B) Electrical System at The Clubhouse – Because of having Pushmatics we will not pass our insurance inspection. It's a bad environment down in the basement with all the chemicals. The bulk of the cost is a very large distribution panel, which can be re-engineered. We received three bids and went with the \$32,000 bid. Motion by J. Ballantine to accept the bid for EZ Electric, 2nd by K. Katz. Motion carries. Treasurer abstains.

- C) Grubs – We received a proposal from Great Oaks. We are noticing areas where the grass looks dead and it's not dead, it's grubs. To treat 91 units, it would cost \$1793. Motion by K. Katz to approve bid, 2nd by J. Ballantine. Motion carries.

12. Residents Comments

- A homeowner asked what he meant by mentioning paying us back, does someone owe us money? K. Cathcart answered no, we are talking about paying our Reserve Account back.
- A homeowner asked if we could do fundraisers to build up an account? No, we are not for profit association, we can't do that.
- A homeowner said that here was a fake DTE worker in Rochester that killed someone. Maybe put in flyer to not let anyone in your home.

13. Announcements

- N/A

15. Next Meeting

- 11/20/24 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by S. Quintana

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Find the words from the bottom of the page in the winter word search grid. The words can be forwards or backwards, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Circle each letter separately, but keep in mind that letters may be used in more than one word. When the winter word search puzzle is complete, read the remaining letters of the word search puzzle left to right, top to bottom, to learn an interesting fact about winter.

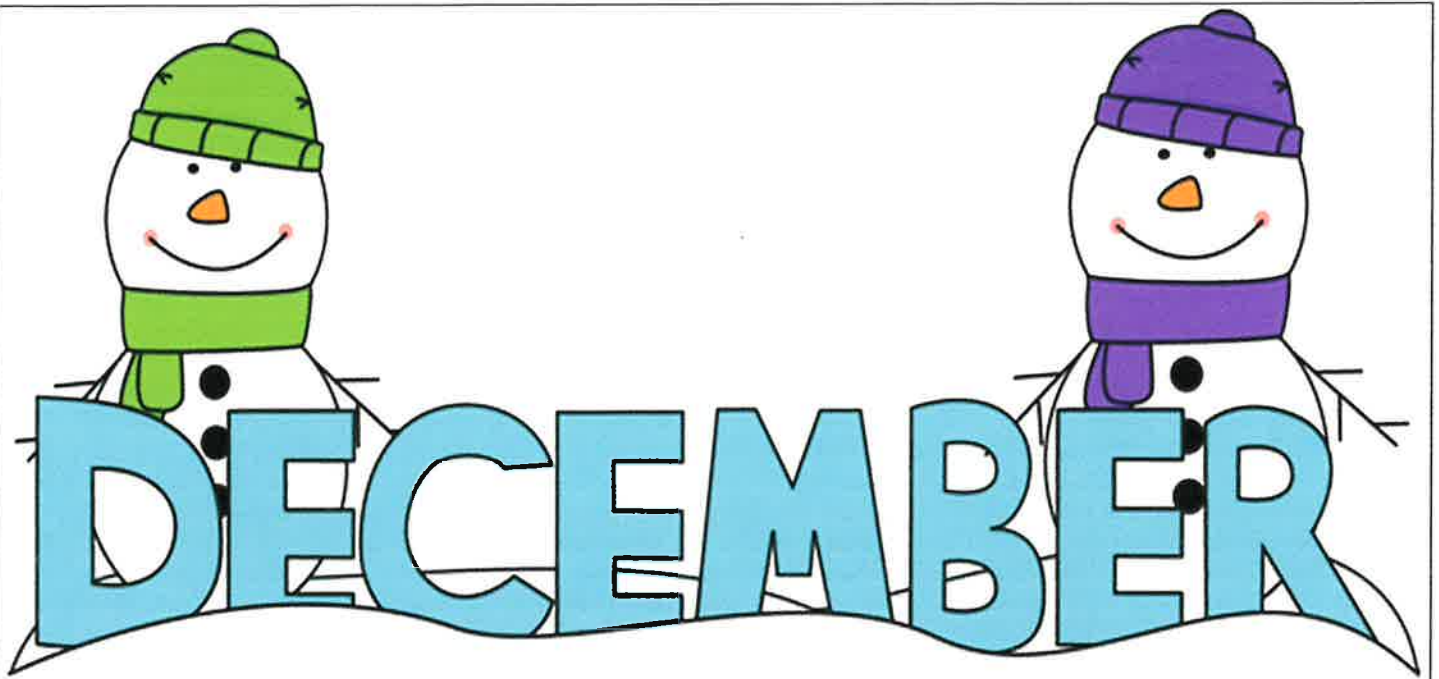
I W I N D C H I L L B N T H E
N E O R T H E C R N L H E M I
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A Y L I G I C I C L E S H T S

BLIZZARD
COLD
DECEMBER
DRIFTS
FEBRUARY

FREEZING
FROST
HOCKY
ICE
ICICLES

JANUARY
MARCH
SHOVEL
SKATE
SKIING

SLUSH
SNOWMAN
SNOWSTORM
TOBBOGAN
WIND CHILL



MONTH of December 2024

Northfield Hills Condominium Association

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dinner with Santa at the Clubhouse 	2 Clubhouse Committee Meeting 6:30PM	3	4 Knitting Club 7PM 	5	6	7 Eastern Orthodox Christmas 
8	9	10	11 Ladies Accessory and Cookie Exchange Party 6:30PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice 
22	23 Clubhouse Closed	24 Clubhouse Closed	25 Clubhouse Closed Merry Christmas 	26 	27	28
29	30	31 Clubhouse Closed Happy New Year				

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For further information, please call

Carrie Roberts - 248-641-9070

Happy New Year!

MONTH OF January 2025 Northfield Hills Condominium Association

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Clubhouse Closed 	2	3	4
5	6 Clubhouse Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	7	8	9	10 Community Breakfast 10AM	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22 Board of Directors Meeting 7PM 	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 	30	31	