

# City of Harvard NewsNotes



Community Newsletter, Fall 2007

## From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jay Nolan



Many of you may have noticed new activity in downtown Harvard recently, as the City gears up for a major streetscape program and local building owners are getting involved.

You will find a rendering of the approved streetscape plan for downtown Harvard on page four of this newsletter. Landscaping, new lighting and planters are just part of the project that the City plans to complete during 2008.

In keeping with the spirit of that effort, the City of Harvard is offering interest-free loans to downtown building owners who are planning exterior facade renovation projects that are designed to enhance the historic look and feel of the central downtown district. These projects could include tuckpointing or refinishing of exterior surfaces, including paint and brick and other 'facelift' projects. Building owners who qualify for the project can borrow up to \$50,000 per project, repayable in equal installments over five years. Eligible costs include site development and renovation of existing buildings or leasehold improvements only. One such loan has already been approved for the building at 101 W. Front Street.

Funding for these loans comes from the City's former revolving loan fund. Contact City Hall for details on loan program eligibility.

The changing of the seasons means that school is back in session and that Trick or Treaters will soon be out. Be careful while driving, especially as we near the darker winter months. Watch the Community Sign for information on city events and programs, including notifications of snow emergencies and other need to know resident information.

Enjoy the cooler weather!



THE ILLINOIS FUNDS



Check the City's website at [www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org) to e-pay water bills and parking tickets.

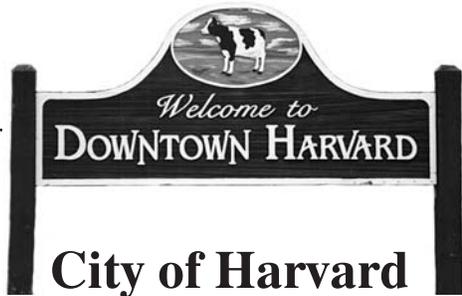
There is also a drop box in the Police Dept. lobby to pay water bills.

[www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org)

## Upcoming City Events

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Oct. 8     | Fall Brush Pickup Begins                                    |
| Oct. 7-13  | National Fire Prevention Week: 'Practice Your Escape Plan!' |
| Oct. 15-19 | Hydrant Flushing  |
| Oct. 27    | Jr. Hornets Intramural Basketball Sign-Up/Practice          |
| Oct. 31    | Halloween Trick or Treating Hours 5-8 p.m.                  |
| Nov. 4     | Daylight Savings Time Begins                                |
| Nov. 6     | Election Day  |
| Dec. 1     | Christmas in Harvard  |
| Jan. 26    | Chamber of Commerce Recognition Dinner                      |





**City of Harvard  
Municipal Information**  
www.cityofharvard.org

Mayor.....Jay Nolan  
City Treasurer.....Beverly Meseck  
City Clerk .....Andy Wells

**Aldermen**

Ward 1 .....Chuck Marzahl  
.....Brian Leyden  
Ward 2 .....Phillip Ulmer  
.....Debra Szczap  
Ward 3 .....Scott Logan  
.....Rick Adams  
Ward 4 .....Tom Hay  
.....Darrell Perkins

**Municipal Staff**

City Administrator .....Dave Nelson  
Chief of Police .....Dan Kazy-Garey  
Administrative Assistant .....Lori Moller  
Supt. Public Works .....Jim Kruckenberg  
Supt. Utilities .....Keith Gibson  
Supt. Parks & Recreation .....Bob Burkart

**Building Department**

Community Development Dir. ...Steve Santeler  
Code Enforcement Officer..Clayton Brennecka  
Building Inspector .....Tim Perkins

**City Phone Numbers**

City Hall .....943-6468  
Fax: 943-4556  
Dial-A-Ride .....943-7700  
EMERGENCY .....Dial 9-1-1  
Police Dept. (non-emergency).....943-4431  
Fire/Rescue (non-emergency).....943-6927  
Harvard Diggins Library.....943-4671  
Public Works Dept .....943-0301  
Public Works Garage.....943-4161  
Swimming Pool.....943-4300  
WWTP .....943-6626

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

**From Your City Library ...**

*By Harriet Roll, Harvard Diggins Library*

The start of the school year always begins a new round of library activities. Class visits, pre-school story time, school assignments and requested teacher resources all produce a real increase in activity. Visit us and check out the action!

Harvard Diggins Library has a new permanent resident. Suzy, a 20-year-old African lungfish, was donated to the library this summer. This is a rare fish and an ancient species usually seen only in large public aquariums. She lives in her own tank and eats worms and beef heart. The children are entranced. Adults seem to have mixed reactions to our newest live acquisition. Come say hello to Suzy and see what you think. The library



tries to expand knowledge and experience whenever possible.

A number of community presentations are planned for upcoming weeks:

• **Oct. 6, 10 AM - 12 PM:** Celebrate **World Card Making Day**. Make four cards to share with family or friends. No cost program for adults.

• **Oct. 8, 1 PM:** The movie **Firehouse Dog** will be shown on this NO School Day!

• **Oct. 16, 7 PM:** Folk singer **Amy Beth** will share her music and her stories. An event for the whole family!

• **Nov. 15:** Illinois Statewide **Family Reading Night**. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Library staff are currently sharing some of their favorite books on the display table in the lobby. See if any of their favorites are also yours!

**Harvard Diggins Library**

900 East McKinley Street  
815-943-4671  
www.harvard-diggins.org

**Did You Know?** *By Keith Gibson, Utilities Superintendent*

Please be considerate of our environment in regards to chemical disposal. The City of Harvard Wastewater Treatment Facility is not capable of breaking down toxins in chemicals and paints and these products can disrupt the treatment process. Please be aware that it is illegal to:

- Dump chemicals down sinks or toilets;
- Dump chemicals in City storm drains;
- Dump chemicals in yards. One gallon of gas can contaminate 10,000 gallons of ground water with benzene.



Illegal waste disposal pollutes the environment and can also trigger an explosive atmosphere in your home!

The City of Harvard meters water supplied to the residents and businesses. Industry standards accept a loss of 19% of the water that we pump, due to firefighting, hydrant flushing, street sweeping, etc. The City is currently realizing a loss of approximately 23%. If you know of any illegal water usage, which could include tampering with fire hydrants or known un-metered water usage, call the Utility Department at 943-6626. Thank you for your cooperation!

# NEED TO KNOW ...

## Leaf Vacuuming Schedule

Leaf vacuuming will tentatively occur from Oct. 1 through Nov. 31, depending on weather conditions and when leaves begin to fall. Please rake your leaves to the curb, NOT INTO THE STREET. Marengo Disposal will vacuum through the end of November, weather permitting. Contact them at 943-4939 with any questions.

## Snow Removal

Winter is just around the corner. Remember: All vehicles must be off city streets following a two-inch snowfall. This enables city workers to plow and salt the roads quickly. If a snow emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from the streets immediately. A snow emergency can be declared before an expected two-inch snowfall and will be posted on the Community Sign as soon as possible. If there is any question as to whether an emergency has been called or terminated, call the Public Works Dept. at 943-4161 or the Police Dept. at 943-4431.

## Fall Brush Pick-Up

Fall brush pickup will begin on Monday, Oct. 8 and continue until all wards have been picked up. THIS WILL BE THE LAST BRUSH PICKUP UNTIL APRIL. Please place brush at the curb of the street by that Monday. Brush must be at least three feet long. This is a safety measure for our employees. Shorter branches pose a hazard when feeding them into the chipper. When placing branches at the curb, stack the brush in a manner that is easily picked up from the street, with the large ends at the curb. This makes it easier, faster and more efficient to remove. A 20-minute time limit for each stop is City policy. Arrangements can be made to remove the rest of the pile at a cost to the owner of \$125.00 an hour. A minimum charge of \$50.00 will apply. For branches that come down as a result of a storm, please place them at the curb and notify Public Works at 943-4161.

## Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The Utilities Dept. will be flushing dead end lines during the week of Oct. 15-19. Hydrant flushing may create rust and brown-colored water. The water is safe to drink but will stain clothes that are washed in it. If you experience rusty water, let your faucet run until clear.

## Special Recreation Program

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

## Faith in Action

Faith in Action is a local not-for-profit organization that provides volunteer services to help support independent living for residents of McHenry County who are 60+ years of age and live in their own homes or with loved ones. Services are provided at no charge and include transportation, shopping, friendly visits, respite for caretakers, light housekeeping and light yard clean up.

Call the Faith in Action office at (815) 455-3120 if you or a loved one are in need of services. Faith in Action has been providing services in our county for ten years. Contact them to learn how you can make a difference in your community by providing volunteer services to your senior neighbors. Information is also available at [www.fiamchenrycounty.org](http://www.fiamchenrycounty.org).

## From the Building Department

### Beware of Illegal Connections!

We know that it is tempting for a homeowner to connect the output from sump pumps or roof downspouts directly into the sanitary sewer system. Unfortunately, this results in huge problems at the sewer plants. When it rains, even a single downspout or sump pump can add a very large amount of excess flow to the system. This increases the cost of plant operation (electricity and chemicals to pump and process the extra water), and has the potential to result in costly damage to the sewer treatment plant during heavy rainfalls. Damage drives up sewer rates and creates the potential for backups into homes due to an over-capacitated system.

Hookups like these are illegal. Those of you who know that you have an illegal hookup should disconnect it immediately. If you are unsure of the status of your hookups, contact the City of Harvard at 943-6468 and we will help you identify existing issues. In the future, the City will implement a door-to-door program to determine if structures have illegal connections. We will not impose fines on those who cooperate with us to solve this problem. This is a very important part of controlling sewer costs and problems that are associated with a supercharged sanitary sewer system.

## Jr. Hornets Intramural Basketball

For all 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Graders (girls and boys)

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

Sign-Up/Practice:  
Saturday, October 27 at  
Harvard Junior High School  
3rd & 4th Grade: 8 - 9 AM  
5th & 6th Grade: 9 - 10 AM

For more information, contact Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Bob Burkart at (815) 405-6712 or (815) 943-4986 (home). Information is also posted on the City's website at [www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org).

## Need To Know Community Information

See Inside ....



# CHRISTMAS IN HARVARD

## Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, December 1

Are you looking for a great way to kick off the holiday season? Look no further than the Christmas in Harvard Celebration on December 1. This fun, family-oriented event offers something for everyone and will show off historic downtown Harvard in all of its holiday splendor!

This year's festivities will include:

- A Craft Fair at Central School from 9 AM - 3 PM
- The Harvard Christmas Parade (now with a longer route!) at 12:30 PM
- Story Time with Mrs. Claus

- A Decorating Contest for homes and Harvard businesses (with prizes!)
- Entertainment and Specials at area businesses and especially on Ayer Street
- Lighting of the Harvard Christmas Tree at 4:30 PM
- Trolley Rides on Ayer Street
- ... AND
- A visit from the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus! Have your photo taken with Santa and tell him what's on your wish list. He may even give you a treat!

For more information on any of these events, contact the City of Harvard Events Committee by calling Cathy at 943-3431 or Laura at 943-7870.

*It's a Great Place to Live,  
Work and Shop!*

**SAY YES!  
to  
HARVARD!**



TYPICAL SITE FURNISHINGS

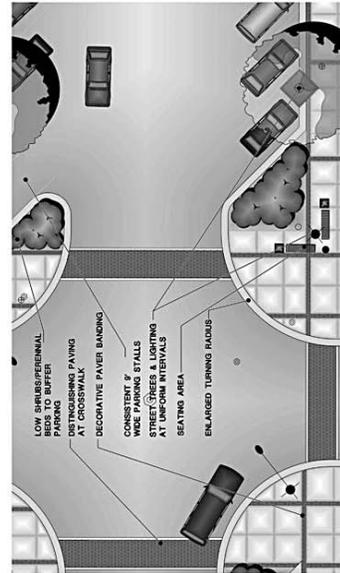
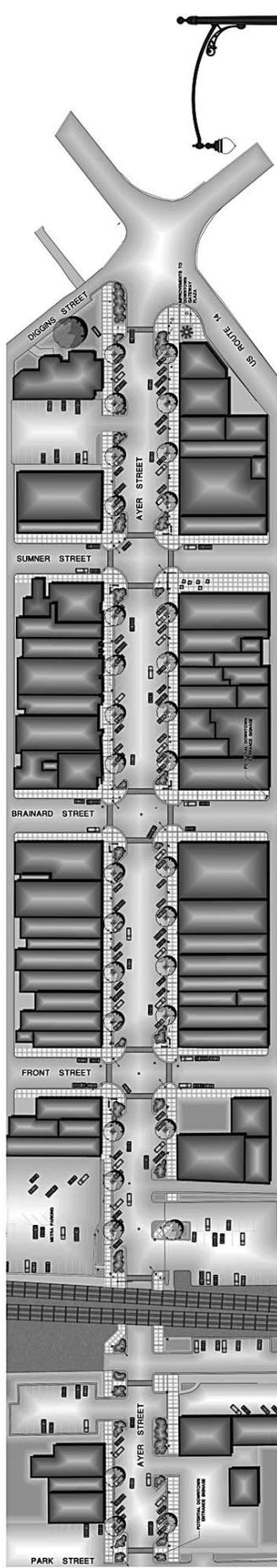
TYPICAL SITE PAVING



TYPICAL PLANTS - STREET TREES

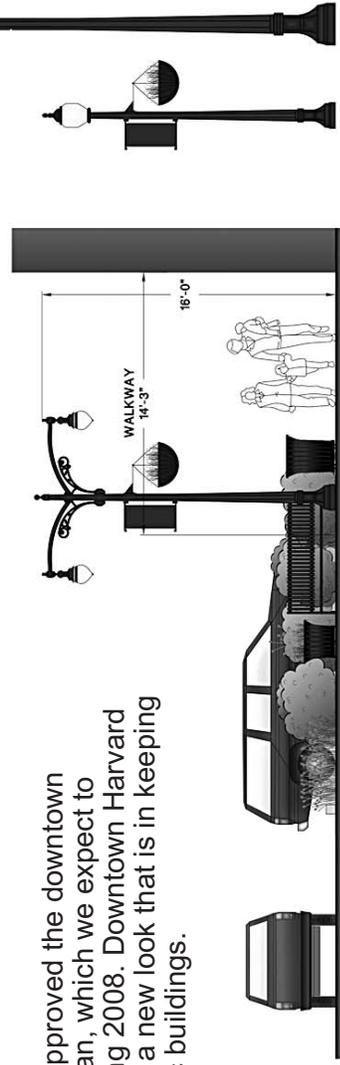


TYPICAL PLANTS - SHRUBS / PERENNIALS / GRASSES



INTERSECTION DETAIL

The City has approved the downtown streetscape plan, which we expect to complete during 2008. Downtown Harvard will soon have a new look that is in keeping with its historic buildings.



SIDEWALK SECTION

CONCEPT PLAN

HARVARD DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE  
HARVARD, ILLINOIS

Scale: 1" = 50'  
Date: May 2, 2007

SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE DOWNTOWN HARVARD STREETScape  
This plan is conceptual in nature and does not represent any regulatory approval. Plan is subject to change.

SEC Planning Consultants

Planning Landscape Architecture Community Branding

TEXAS • ILLINOIS  
www.secplanning.com • info@secplanning.com



# From the POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Police Chief Dan Kazy-Garey



*Police Chief  
Dan Kazy-Garey*

I would like to introduce myself to those who do not know me. I was appointed Harvard's new Chief of Police on April 10, 2007. I have been a member of the Harvard Police Department since April of 1984 and have held assignments in every function of the department. It has been a personal goal of mine to serve as your Police Chief since the day that I was hired. I look forward to serving and working with the community to help make Harvard an even better place to live and work. If there is anything that you would like to ask or report, I am normally in the office Monday through Friday from 7 AM until 3 PM. I can be reached at 943-4431 or emailed at [kazy-garey@cityofharvard.org](mailto:kazy-garey@cityofharvard.org).

Fall officially begins on September 23. During this season, Harvard residents enjoy many traditions, including football, fall colors, hunting and Halloween. The Police Department would like to take this opportunity to offer these safety suggestions to everyone in the community, especially during Halloween:

## Children

- Always carry a flashlight while Trick or Treating.
- Only Trick or Treat with an adult or older sibling.
- Never talk or go anywhere with a stranger.
- Costumes should be a bright color and have reflective material.
- Avoid using ill-fitting masks. Instead, use make-up or face paint that is hypoallergenic and non-toxic to provide unobstructed vision.
- Costumes and shoes should be fitted to avoid tripping.
- Do not carry fake swords, guns, knives or similar accessories that look real. Make sure that they are flexible and cannot harm anyone.
- Do not run.
- Do not cross the street between parked cars. Always cross at an intersection and look BOTH ways.
- Walk on sidewalks. Do not run between homes or on lawns.
- Respect everyone's property.
- Trick or Treat on a designated route that your parents are aware of.
- Carry an extra Trick or Treat bag in case you fill your bag or break it.
- Never eat any treats until your parent or guardian checks them under bright lighting for signs of tampering. Do not eat fruit, homemade items or any unwrapped candy.
- Say Thank You and have fun!



## Parents

- Remind your children of the above safety tips.
- Plan a designated Trick or Treat route and times for your children.
- Always inspect your children's treats for signs of tampering.
- Accompany your children while they Trick or Treat.
- Consider hosting a Halloween party rather than Trick or Treating.
- If you are driving, be cautious of other children who may not be paying attention.
- Review 'Stop, Drop and Roll' with your children in the event that a costume catches fire.
- Report any suspicious activities to the Harvard Police at 943-4431 or by calling 9-1-1.

## Homeowners

- If you welcome Trick or Treaters to your home, please turn your porch light on.
- Do not invite children into your home.
- Only distribute pre-packaged treats.
- Please secure your dogs in your home to avoid contact with Trick or Treaters.
- Remove any hazards from your yard or porch that could cause a child to trip and fall.
- Do not use candles to illuminate any decoration.
- Report any suspicious activities to the Harvard Police at 943-4431 or by calling 9-1-1.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind residents of several Harvard City Ordinances that are applicable all year long, but most timely during the fall and winter seasons:

- Open burning with the City of Harvard is prohibited.
- Blowing grass and leaves into the street is prohibited.
- Parking on any City of Harvard street between 1 AM and 5 AM is prohibited.
- Parking is not allowed on any City street during or after a significant snowstorm. You may call the Police Department or see the community sign for information on snow emergencies.
- Depositing snow into the street is prohibited.
- Do not park across a sidewalk.
- Loud music that can be heard from distances greater than 50 feet is most often prohibited.

Thank you for your cooperation. Be safe and have fun!