

Synagogue set to stuff backpacks



Mitch Cohen from Lake Bluff and Tilly Freedman of Highland Park participate in North Shore Congregation Israel's annual Operation Backpack. On Sun. Aug. 31, volunteers will help fill backpacks with school supplies to benefit students from Chicago's Jordan Community School. (Merle A. Branner)

By Donald Liebenson, Special to the Tribune

AUGUST 24, 2014, 12:13 PM

A volunteer from North Shore Congregation Israel thought there had to be a better way than stealing for some students at Jordan Community School in Chicago to have the same supplies at the beginning of the year as their classmates.

Operation Backpack was born 13 years ago and continues Sunday, Aug. 31 at 10 a.m. at the synagogue, 1185 Sheridan Rd., Glencoe, with members of the public invited to collect, pack and deliver school supplies. Items will be accepted until Sunday. See the temple's website, <http://www.ncsi.org> for a list of needed items.

Synagogue member Lois Scheyer, a retired product designer, was inspired to become a tutor by former Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, who gave a sermon about the importance of volunteering and how much children need mentors, she said. She noticed at Jordan, where almost all 620 students come from low-income families, that those without supplies stole from those who had them. She enlisted her husband, Stuart, and together they

collected money and items "so that everyone would have everything they needed on the first day of school," she said. "That way, there would be no reason to steal from one another."

Operation Backpack is a legacy program, Scheyer said. Student recipients sign a pledge that when they grow up and get jobs, they will contribute to the program so a new generation of students can benefit as they did.

She also enlists the students' parents to give even just \$1. "I want them as partners so they felt they are making this possible for their kids, too," Scheyer said.

All of the proceeds raised and school supplies collected for Operation Backpack go directly to the children. Any money not used for supplies goes to the cultural enrichment program that provides students with the opportunity to visit local museums or concerts.

Congregants Chadd Berkun and his wife, Susan, from Highland Park, serve as coordinators of Operation Backpack. The event takes up to two hours, he said.

"(For packers) it's like walking around in a big grocery store. You are given a list for each classroom and you pick those items off a shelf. Then, you seal them in box and put it in a truck that delivers the supplies to the school. It's a very direct way to help make a positive impact on students' upcoming school year."

Scheyer and Berkun note that Sacred Heart Parish in Winnetka has collected donations for Operation Backpack since the beginning.

The program "is a nice way to kick off our school year by allowing our families a chance to give back (to a community) in this way," said NSCI Rabbi Wendi Geffen. "From a Jewish standpoint, there is a stated obligation to provide anything that will equalize how a person is treated in the world . There is a foundational assumption that everyone has the right nourishment, everyone has obligation to mobility in society, and education is a tool to providing those things. (With Operation Backpack), our community is doing what it can to assure that those provisions are made."

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WINNETKA, NORTHFIELD, GLENCOE NEWS

SEP. 19, 2014

North and Northwest suburban events Sept. 18-24

Here's a look at upcoming events in the North and Northwest suburbs. Please call the venue in advance. To submit an event for consideration, please visit

SEP. 17, 2014

Football | Uncommon miscues cost Loyola in loss to conference rival

The difference between winning and losing in the Catholic League Blue often is minuscule.

› **Nominate an outstanding high school athlete**

1:42 PM

Best bets in the north and northwest suburbs, Sept. 18-24

Event highlights for the week of Sept. 18-24 in the north and northwest suburbs. Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance. To submit an event for consideration, please visit <http://triblocal.com/events>.

› **Find more local events**

SEP. 17, 2014

Winnetka OKs \$47,400 for holiday lights downtown

Determined to illuminate the village's business districts to attract shoppers during the upcoming holiday season, the Winnetka Village Council voted unanimously Tuesday to extend its holiday lighting program for 2014.

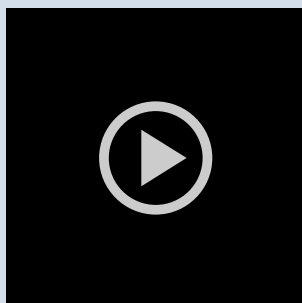
› **Winnetka debuts recycling program near Starbucks**

Local video (16)

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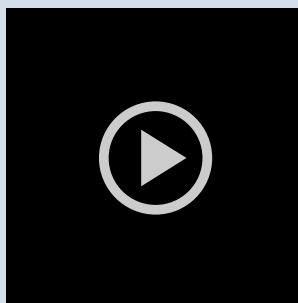


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Winnetka
teacher Phyllis
McMillan listens
as...  VIDEO



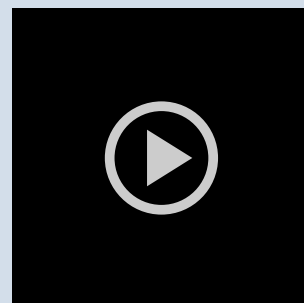
Winnetka
Library begins
growing
vegetables

 VIDEO



Video: New Trier
HS expands ID
theft probe

 VIDEO



Video: Carol
Fessler new
Winnetka Village
Council Trustee

 VIDEO

SEP. 16, 2014

New Trier officials launch push for tax increase

With less than two months remaining before voters cast ballots on New Trier Township High School District 203's request to borrow \$89 million, officials said Monday that they will spend the upcoming weeks educating residents on the importance of raising taxes to fund renovations to the...

SEP. 14, 2014

Blotter: Lexus, iPad mini stolen from driveway in Winnetka

The following items were taken from Winnetka police reports:

SEP. 15, 2014

Crisp weather brings fall fun to Lake County: Sept. 19-21

As fast as summer flew by, fall has unofficially arrived. While the calendar might say otherwise, folks are already gearing up for the seasonal change. Sweatshirts are out of the closet, football inhabits TV screens and even the Pumpkin Spiced Latte at Starbucks is in full brew.

SEP. 11, 2014

Winnetka 9/11 remembrance features 2,977 American flags

The village of Winnetka's 6th Annual Sept. 11 flag-planting ceremony attracted a crowd of volunteers Wednesday who joined forces in planting 2,977 American flags on the Village

Green.

SEP. 10, 2014

Football | Loyola, New Trier home openers exceed their billing

There was a good deal of excitement in the New Trier and Loyola programs heading into last weekend's home openers.

SEP. 10, 2014

Winnetka mailing surveys to residents

Winnetka officials are urging residents to be on the look-out for the village's first community survey in recent history, which is expected to land in local mailboxes in early October.

SEP. 9, 2014

Glencoe parents, businesses protest school lunch change

A group of Glencoe parents and community members displeased with a new policy restricting the delivery of school lunches to one vendor hired by the local PTO gathered at a School District 35 Board of Education meeting Monday night, asking district officials to consider reversing the recent...

SEP. 8, 2014

Winnetka debuts recycling program near Starbucks

Pedestrians passing by the new containers outside the Starbucks on the corner of Chestnut and Spruce streets in Winnetka this month will get a chance to become early participants in the launch of the village's Commercial District Recycling and Trash Receptacle Pilot Program.

SEP. 8, 2014

District 35 parents to protest school lunch changes

A policy change this fall to the Glencoe School District 35 PTO-sponsored school lunch program has prompted some frustrated parents and community members to plan to ask officials at tonight's Board of Education meeting to consider reversing the decision.

SEP. 4, 2014

North Shore organization plays affordable housing matchmaker

Skokie resident Jean Mulqueen says she never imagined she would be a widow at age 45, scrambling to make ends meet and attempting to pay a monthly mortgage with her income as a medical billing clerk.

SEP. 5, 2014

Roth, Casas help lead New Trier past Warren









Caleb Roth sprinted back to New Trier's sideline with 23 seconds left in Friday night's nonconference game against Warren.

SEP. 5, 2014

New Trier Educational Foundation willed \$100,000 gift

Officials with the New Trier Educational Foundation said they recently received the largest single donation in the history of the organization, an estate gift of \$100,000 from an alumnus of the class of 1954.

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SEP. 7, 2014

Blotter: Prescription drugs stolen from residence in Winnetka

The following items were taken from Winnetka police reports.

SEP. 6, 2014

Chicago actress Molly Glynn dies after being struck by falling tree

Longtime Chicago theater actress Molly Glynn died Saturday, a day after she was hit by a falling tree while biking on a north suburban forest preserve trail, officials and Glynn's husband said.

SEP. 3, 2014

Football | New Trier expects "playoff-type atmosphere" for home opener

New Trier and Loyola started their seasons with statement victories on the road.

SEP. 4, 2014

Three not a crowd at New Trier

Scott Hammes was everything his new New Trier coach had hoped he would be.

Death Notices

First name:

Last name:

Keyword:

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SEP. 3, 2014

Winnetka hires administrative hearing officer

The Winnetka Village Council approved on Tuesday the hiring of an administrative hearing officer, a move officials said would allow residents fighting parking tickets and other minor infractions to avoid a trip to the Cook County Circuit Court in Skokie.

AUG. 31, 2014

Blotter: Disorderly conduct, Craigslist fraud and more in Winnetka

The following items were taken from Winnetka police reports.

AUG. 29, 2014

Huge, smelly flower may be coming to Botanic Garden

Already home to rare plant and flower collections, the Chicago Botanic Garden has its sights on growing one of the world's largest — and most foul smelling — blossoms.

SEP. 2, 2014

Special recreation group still searching for new home

The Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association — also known as NSSRA — remains in the hunt for new headquarters after a promising option in Northbrook fell through recently.

AUG. 29, 2014

Students with emotional problems put squeeze on school budget

The number of students needing special education due to emotional disabilities is trending up, which in turn is putting the squeeze on school budgets, said officials at New Trier High School.

AUG. 27, 2014

Football | New Trier, Loyola prepared for grid season

Trevians face Schaumburg, Warren; Ramblers travel to Milwaukee Marquette

AUG. 28, 2014

Writers Theatre building's final act — a sale

With the Women's Library Club of Glencoe-Writers Theatre building slated for a date with the wrecking ball Tuesday, members are holding a demolition sale Friday and Saturday, offering bargain prices on club furnishings and architectural elements, including vintage French doors, windows...

AUG. 26, 2014

Winnetka officials support New Trier High School renovation

The Winnetka Village Council has expressed early support for the preliminary design of a proposed \$100 million renovation of New Trier High School's Winnetka campus, a project that depends upon voters approving in November borrowing \$89 million.

AUG. 24, 2014

Blotter: 16-year-old hosts underage drinking party in Winnetka

The following items were taken from Winnetka police reports.

AUG. 25, 2014

Self-storage gets OK in Northfield

The Northfield Village Board has signed off on construction of a large public storage facility on a high-profile piece of property on Northfield Road despite concerns from some trustees and residents that it isn't the best fit for the area.

AUG. 24, 2014

Synagogue set to stuff backpacks

A volunteer from North Shore Congregation Israel thought there had to be a better way than stealing for some students at Jordan Community School in Chicago to have the same supplies at the beginning of the year as their classmates.

AUG. 24, 2014

Better economy means more homes being razed

For some historic preservationists on the North Shore, the economic downturn in 2008 had a silver lining, bringing a lull in tear-downs and new-home construction that gave scores of vintage properties a reprieve from the wrecking ball.

AUG. 25, 2014

Heirloom tomatoes celebrated at Chicago Botanic Garden

At first glance, the wooden cart laden with an artfully displayed bounty of heirloom tomatoes at the Chicago Botanic Garden resembles a still life collection awaiting the brush of a Dutch master.

AUG. 21, 2014

Winnetka bans coal tar-based sealants

Undeterred by a contingent of pavement industry representatives who argued their product is safe, the Winnetka Village Council voted to ban the use of coal tar-based sealants.

AUG. 20, 2014

Football | New Trier, new coach Doll hope success goes two ways

Doll maintains philosophy of best athletes playing both offense and defense

SEP. 5, 2014

More than 100,000 lose power as storms hit Chicago area

Two waves of powerful storms driven by a cold front downed trees and knocked out power to 113,000 Commonwealth Edison customers across the northern Chicago area Friday

afternoon.

AUG. 18, 2014

Sheridan Road in Glencoe reopens after pavement failure

A swath of Sheridan Road in Glencoe that was shut down this month after an emergency has reopened, and officials said crews have repaired the potentially dangerous "pavement failure" that they said could have led to a street collapse.

AUG. 18, 2014

Winnetka coal tar ban proposal brings lobbying efforts

A proposal to ban coal tar-based driveway sealants in Winnetka has drawn attention from some pavement industry representatives and business owners.

AUG. 16, 2014

Winnetka resident named First Captain at West Point

Following in the distinguished footsteps of Douglas MacArthur, John J. Pershing and William Westmoreland, Austin Welch, 21, of Winnetka, was recently named First Captain of the Corps of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the new academic year.

AUG. 15, 2014

New Trier puts \$89 million tax hike on November ballot

The New Trier Township High School District 203 Board of Education on Thursday unanimously agreed to ask voters for permission to borrow \$89 million to help pay for a proposed \$100 million renovation of the aging Winnetka campus.

AUG. 12, 2014

Winnetka family wants to live in house slated for demolition

Officials in Winnetka supported a homeowner's request Monday night to live in a rental home he owns, but is eventually slated for demolition as part of plan to subdivide three lots into two.

AUG. 15, 2014

Environmentalist lobbies Winnetka over coal tar sealant ban

With the stage set for Winnetka to become what officials are saying would be the second community in Illinois to roll out a ban on coal tar-based pavement sealants, officials recently were visited by a Texas environmentalist who urged them not to back down from their proposal.

AUG. 13, 2014

Winnetka's Skokie pump station upgrade complete

The completion of the \$1 million Skokie Pump Station reconstruction in Winnetka this month is expected to help stem flooding problems in the village, officials said.

AUG. 11, 2014

It's 'fun school,' instead of summer school

Winnetka kids who went to summer school are still talking about what they learned – like how to make pottery, have fun with physics or drum.

AUG. 8, 2014

Hall of Famer Frank Thomas visits Winnetka's Skokie Playfield

Fresh from his induction into Cooperstown royalty, Chicago White Sox Hall of Famer Frank Thomas dropped by Winnetka's Skokie Playfield recently to mingle and share batting tips with the softball team winners of an essay competition.