



Cole's Clipboard

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SANDY COLE

Happy New Year!

New Driving Laws January 1, 2010

Starting January 1, 2010, it will become illegal to compose, send or read text messages, instant messages and email on a cell phone or surf the internet while driving. The ban does NOT include GPS or navigation systems in your car, but it does include personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers.

In addition, new motorist laws for 2010 include a prohibition on talking on hand-held phones while in a highway construction zone or a school zone. Hands-free devices like the Bluetooth are allowed. Also, starting January 1, those found driving without insurance in accidents causing bodily harm will be charged with a Class A Misdemeanor instead of a traffic citation.

Lake County Forest Preserves Christmas Tree Disposal Drop-Off Sites

From December 26 through January 31, 2010, the following Lake County Forest Preserves will accept your *bare trees* (no tinsel, lights, trim, etc.):

[Greenbelt](#) in Waukegan
[Half Day](#) in Vernon Hills
[Lakewood](#) in Wauconda
[Old School](#) in Libertyville
[Ryerson Woods](#) in Deerfield
[Van Patten Woods](#) in Wadsworth.

Only undecorated, real Christmas trees can be accepted. Donated trees are chipped and used for trails and for landscaping at forest preserves throughout Lake County. No commercial drop-offs will be accepted. Drop-off times are from 6:30am until Sunset. Visit www.lcfpd.org for more details.

January 1, 2010 - Increased Transparency to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Starting January 1, 2010, changes to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will go into effect. Illinois FOIA has been substantially amended and strengthened as a result of the combined efforts of the Illinois legislature, outside advocacy groups and the media. Currently, the act grants citizen access to a wide range of public documents and records. New changes to the law close loopholes that made it more difficult for the public to access government records, provide for training of state employees & FOIA officers, make enforcement of the law easier and establish civil penalties for FOIA violations. For details visit: www.ilga.gov.

Need for Gently Used Children's Books

The Bernard P. Floriani Foundation is collecting gently used children's books. If you have children's books that you would like to donate, you can drop them off at my District office (address below) Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 4:30pm. We can also pick-up boxes of books collected at other locations, such as schools, by other service groups or organizations.

The mission of the Floriani Foundation is to collect and redistribute any and all un-utilized children's books to those in need throughout the area and beyond. Starting with the knowledge that reading is the single most important skill a child needs to learn in order to contribute and function competently within our society, the Foundation believes that children's book ownership, starting at a very young age, is imperative to gaining an appreciation for books, developing 'reading readiness' and supporting literacy growth throughout the primary school years. Without book ownership, becoming a skilled reader is not likely and so is functioning and contributing competently to society.

The Floriani Foundation's vision is to develop into the most efficient *Children's Book Bank*, becoming the experts in fully leveraging the value of "recycled" children's books. Through effectively creating awareness and developing valuable relationships, the Foundation hopes to make every child a book owner while creating a children's book bank model that can and will be replicated in other major cities. Learn more about the Bernard P. Floriani Foundation here: www.bernardpflorianifoundation.org.

Recycled Card Program

The St. Jude's Ranch for Children has a recycled greeting card program it uses for fundraising. They are accepting used, all-occasion cards from November 15, 2009 to February 28, 2010. Cards may be donated by sending them to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. St. Jude's Ranch for Children serves all abused, abandoned and neglected children and families, creating new chances, new choices and new hope in a safe, homelike environment. To learn more, visit: www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php.

Sandy Cole
State Representative
62nd District

District Office:
137 Center Street, Unit 2A
Grayslake, IL 60030

www.repcole62.com
RepresentativeSandyCole@comcast.net

District Phone/Fax:
P: (847)543-0062
F: (847)543-8862