

Food Taxi seeing higher number of volunteers

by Elizabeth Byrne and William Kupets

Food Taxi, a New Trier sponsored food donation service, has started another year of giving back to the community with an increase of student volunteers.

Unlike most clubs at New Trier, Food Taxi meets every Friday (in room 25) during the school year, and periodically during the summer.

In 2012, the club applied and received a grant of almost \$2,000 from the school to provide the collection bins seen on every floor at the Winnetka Campus.

Also included in the grant was the creation of the Food Taxi logo on a large car topper, similar to that of a cab, and two magnets to go on the side of the car while delivering donations.

Wendy Parks, special education



Food Taxi collects bagels in "taxis" like this one in the basement | Minturn

teacher at New Trier, the first and only faculty sponsor for five years said, "last year [2013] was our first year collecting bagels, so maybe that's why no one knows about it,

especially if they're coming over from the Northfield campus because we don't have it over there."

Although Food Taxi is popular among freshmen with nearly 100

perspective names and emails collected at the club fair this fall, the club doesn't see a future at the Northfield campus. According to Parks, the cost of the collection bins around the campus would be about the same, but the "take" of the bagels would be much smaller than on the Winnetka campus.

In addition, Food Taxi collects bread and other baked goods from Three Tarts in Northfield and Heavenly Hearth in Wilmette. After receiving the donations, kids and Parks drive to shelters and soup kitchens in the area to deliver the food.

"The kids like to say we are like the 'middle man' or 'middle person' in abating hunger by redistributing to shelters in the area," said Parks. Food Taxi donates to shelters and soup kitchens such as the YWCA,

Second Baptist Soup Kitchen, and A Just Harvest.

During the Thanksgiving break, volunteers participate in a canned food drive, creating Thanksgiving baskets to give to families who are struggling in our community.

In the spring, the club does a day of service at the Winnetka Community House as part of the Kids Against Hunger event, boxing up food and sending it to high poverty areas.

Looking to the future for the club, Parks said she would love to see the club grow even more. "We started off really struggling with getting our mission across to people, but we have grown in every way. The student leadership is amazing and it continues to impress me daily."

Polar Vortex projected to return

by Charlie Clarke and Blake Sammann

The winter of 2013-2014 was one of the coldest winters in the history of Chicago.

The "polar vortex" caused the breaking of numerous snowfall records in the Northeast, and record low temperatures all over the country.

It even brought snow to states such as Tennessee and Texas, which usually do not see cold weather.

It was reported to have caused a \$5 billion impact across America, and it was linked to over a dozen deaths nationwide.

It also caused school closings, power outages, flight delays, and public transportation problems.

The worst part is that it may be back this winter.

According to the Weather Channel, there is always a "polar vortex." A "polar vortex is cold air that circles the Arctic region of the Northern Hemisphere. However, sometime early in January 2013, two wind patterns combined and forced part of the vortex to extend down

into the United States. This caused the unusually frigid conditions that dominated early 2014.

According to the "Old Farmers Almanac," the conditions for Chicago will be "colder than normal, with the coldest periods in late December, throughout January, and in early February. Snowfall will be above normal in most of the region, with the snowiest periods in mid-December, early and mid-January, and early February."

On a local level, conditions for the North Shore will be above average snow and colder than regular temperatures, according to the "Old Farmer Almanac."

This is bad for students such as New Trier Senior Evan Gruchot, who said that the brutal chill not only burst a pipe, but also killed his car battery. "It turned out that the pipe had broken in half," said Gruchot, "We were lucky, it only cost about \$200 to replace, it could have been thousands of dollars," he said.

Evan's story is not unique. Senior Fuzz Coan found that his diesel truck couldn't hold up in the

cold and it kept him from getting to work that day.

According to New Trier senior Thomas Burt, he was prevented from driving at all, and he was forced to take public transportation.

The cold did not only affect New Trier students, though, it also was a major obstacle for the school, specifically PPS. Director of PPS, Steven Linke, said "the extreme cold caused many problems for the school. While New Trier has annually ordered 60 tons of salt paying \$75 per ton, last year PPS bought 130 tons of salt paying \$210 for each ton over the original 60."

They faced many other problems, including flooding in the locker rooms, and frozen heating coils.

Although this winter may not be as intense as the last, PPS is still ordering a larger portion of their total salt.

They are also keeping more of the salt on site at New Trier instead of at the Winnetka village yard where it is usually kept, said Linke.

North Shore preps for Black Friday

by Emma Willcocks

After a day of giving thanks, thousands rush to the stores at midnight for the best holiday deals. Black Friday is known for bringing out the worst in people, and the North Shore is no stranger to this phenomenon.

Black Friday is a day of major sales on the Friday following Thanksgiving. Stores open their doors anywhere from midnight to 6 am, and there are always people waiting out front to be the first ones in. As a result of this pressure to get the best deal, Black Friday shoppers are not afraid to push others or get a little aggressive in order to get the stuff that they want.

Each Black Friday, somewhere in the country people are injured during Black Friday shopping. Sometimes people are killed in the madness. No newsworthy events have ever happened on the North Shore, though surely some people come out with a couple scrapes or bruises.

Nationwide, the most popular places for Black Friday shopping are chains such as Walmart, Target, and Best Buy. Products are significantly cheaper when bought on Black Friday, such as Cuisinarts, Xboxs, or TVs. The biggest competition is for high end electronics that are normally expensive. Black Friday shoppers

average a discount of 23%, which makes them much more affordable.

Some chain stores have started opening on Thanksgiving evening instead of Black Friday morning to better accommodate all the shoppers that will be coming through their doors. Best Buy in Northbrook will reportedly be opening at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving.

These chains are also where the most significant riots have taken place, especially Walmart, where it is not uncommon for someone to be pushed to the ground and trampled as the crowd rushes towards discounted products.

Old Orchard and Northbrook Court attract a lot of people on Black Friday, where the Apple Store, Forever 21, Nordstrom's, and Victoria's Secret all have good deals. "I've never gone Black Friday shopping, but if I did, I would definitely go to Old Orchard," said Junior Sam Leib.

But not all people go to malls or chain stores. Some, like Junior Anders Aschkenase, go to more local shops. "Last year I went to Half Price Books. The first one hundred through the door got a nice bag and a coupon," said Aschkenase.

With the further expansion of technology, Black Friday is becoming an online event. The National Retail Federation reports that the average American shopper spends \$804.42

during the holiday season, and half of that is often from online shopping on Black Friday or Cyber Monday, the Monday following Thanksgiving.

Amazon has been widely advertising their Black Friday 2014 deals online, even featuring Countdown to Black Friday discounts. This online shopping provides the best of the deals without the hassle of having to leave the house, making it an easy option for North Shore families who want to spend their Black Friday together.

Junior Sarah Rosenthal said, "My mom and dad don't think it is safe to go Black Friday shopping because some people get insane, and we might end up buying stuff that we don't actually need just because it's cheap. So if we need to buy anything, we'll just do it online."

A large aspect of the Black Friday event is simply the atmosphere. Junior Katie Duquette said, "My mom and I always go Black Friday shopping at Bloomingdales. We usually buy some cute clothes for really cheap, but it's more for tradition and being a part of the Black Friday craziness."

Overall, the North Shore tends to Black Friday shop most at chain stores like Target or Best Buy, local malls like Old Orchard and Northbrook Court, or online. So after a great Thanksgiving dinner, head out and start shopping for some great deals.

"Mockingjay Part 1" crushes its competitors



Cast of The Hunger Games newest sequel: "Mockingjay Part 1" | AP Images

by Grace Paul

District 12 may be poor, but Katniss Everdeen knows how to make millions.

The "girl on fire" has raked in \$1.5 billion worldwide and intends to keep the money flowing according to Tyler McCarthy of ibtimes.com. A few more movies, and Katniss might find herself setting down the bow for a seat in The Capitol.

"Mockingjay Part 1" will be coming out in theaters Nov. 21. Similar to the latest film in the series, "Catching Fire," which enstarz.com stated made about \$158.2 million, McCarthy says that "Mockingjay" stands to make anywhere between \$130 million and \$150 million.

This outcome predicts "Mockingjay" to crush its competitor, "Transformers: Age of Extinction," which has made about \$100 million, according to McCarthy.

"One thing that could cut into sales is that the picture will not be released in Imax — the wide screen format contributed 8% market share or \$12.6 million to the last film's opening weekend," stated Brent Lang, from variety.com.

Lang also suggests that the projected loss in sales might be due to cutting the final novel into two parts, similar to the "Twilight" and Harry Potter series, which also lost sales when they split their last book into two movies.

However, even though the movie will experience a few setbacks, it is sure to bring its' production company, Lionsgate, plenty of revenue.

An AMC Northbrook Court theater employee believes that the premiere is well timed, "Anytime we have a premiere, the crowd is going

to be larger, but this time it should be bigger the second week because people have family in town for Thanksgiving."

In addition to the excitement of opening night, it is a family friendly movie that people will enjoy seeing over the holidays, in the theater employee's opinion.

Regal Garden Cinema's manager at Old Orchard Mall is worried that the sale won't be as successful, "We have sold seven pre-order tickets and the movie is in eleven days," said the manager.

Both theaters, AMC and Regal Gardens, are planning to bring in extra staff members for the first week of the film to make sure there are enough employees present for all of the kids.

"One thing that could cut into sales is that the picture will not be released in Imax"

-Brent Lang

The second installment of the novel, "Mockingjay Part 2", is set to open in 2015. Critics think that the film will have a similar outcome to part one, and believe that it will continue on course to make \$130 million.

Students who read the series or who have only seen the movies are both anticipating the premieres for both Mockingjay films, "Even though I haven't read the books, the movies are really good and it's fun to go see the midnight premiere with friends," junior Julia Wilcox said.