



The Communicator

Village of Wilmette

www.wilmette.com

November | February 2008



Holiday Events in the Village Center

Another festive holiday season is planned in Wilmette. Mark your calendar for the following events:

- **Village Center Merchants Holiday Open House - Thursday, November 15 from 5 - 9 pm**
- **Tree Lighting - Friday, November 16 at 7 pm**
- **Holiday Parade - Saturday, November 17 at 10:30 am**

The Village Center Merchants Holiday Open House will be held on Thursday, November 15 and will feature special sales, treats, music, and drawings for prizes. The Village Center Merchants will also host the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 16 on the lawn at Village Hall. The event will feature musical performances by local school groups.



Marching bands, bagpipers, clowns, mini-cars, and (of course) Santa comprise just some of the excitement that will take place during the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce's Annual Holiday Parade to be held on Saturday, November 17. The parade will begin at the CTA parking lot on Fourth St. and proceed west on Central Avenue to the Village Center at Wilmette Avenue. After the parade, Santa will step off his sleigh to take free Polaroid pictures with children gathered in front of Village Hall.

Neighborhood groups are encouraged to decorate cars, bicycles, etc. in the appropriate fashion and enter the parade. The Chamber will also sponsor live holiday music and other entertainment in the commercial districts during December. Check the web site calendar at www.wilmettechamber.org for details or contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 847-251-3800.

Seasons Greetings

Village Board Considers 2008 Budget

After a series of public meetings and weeks of review, the Village Board is scheduled to formally vote on the proposed 2008 budget at its November 27 meeting. The proposed budget maintains essential service levels and commits to continued improvements to the Village's infrastructure. The proposed budget is available for review at the Public Library and the Village Hall, and the Village Manager's transmittal letter is available for viewing at www.wilmette.com.

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Letter from Village President Christopher S. Canning

As we start the holiday season this month, I invite you and your family to join friends and neighbors at the Village Center Merchants Holiday Open House on November

15, the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 16 and the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce's Annual Holiday Parade on November 17.

I would like to provide you with a brief update on the Village Block Party, the August 23 storm, business development activities, the 2008 proposed budget and upcoming capital projects taking place in the Village.

Village Block Party. In my summer letter I wrote that "Block parties are another way to enjoy the summer, have fun and build spirit in your neighborhood." One of the highlights of the past summer was the Village Center Block Party to celebrate the Village's 135th Anniversary. The Village has not sponsored a community event for several years, and it was clear that many of you were delighted to attend. Over a thousand residents and guests came out on one of the most beautiful nights of the summer to enjoy fun, food and music. As a result of this warm reception, the Village is planning to hold another Block Party next year.

August 23 Storm. As you know, on August 23, the Village was hit by a severe rain and wind storm. Many long time residents and Village employees told me that this was the worst storm they have ever seen hit Wilmette. The heavy rains and strong winds damaged many homes, knocked down hundreds of trees and interrupted electrical power to approximately half the homes in the Village. Despite this damage, we are fortunate that we had no serious injuries reported in our community that resulted from the storm. Immediately following the storm, I issued a Local Disaster Declaration for the Village. Similarly, Governor Blagojevich issued a state Disaster Declaration for the nine county region struck by the storm. I am pleased to report that the Federal Government has confirmed the disaster declaration. This is important to maintaining the strong financial position of the Village because it allows the Village to seek reimbursement for the more than \$1.1 million in expenses related to the clean-up effort. Without assistance from other government sources, the residents of the Village would have to directly shoulder this expense.

The Village Board is grateful for the extensive efforts of the Village staff for its timely and effective response to this extraordinary event. I would also like to express my appreciation to each of you for your patience and understanding during what were challenging circumstances

for many of our residents. As I surveyed the Village in the days following the storm, I found that many residents demonstrated a commitment to each other by checking on the health and safety of fellow neighbors, helping one another with storm clean-up and allowing neighbors without power to access electrical power from those with power. These acts of kindness and generosity were clearly evident and help make Wilmette such a special place to live.

Many residents contacted the Village with concerns about Commonwealth Edison's response to the storm and its local system maintenance program. Please note that I have represented Wilmette before the Northwest Municipal Conference -- an organization composed of over 40 north and northwest suburbs-- and together we have asked ComEd to provide a comprehensive report outlining its emergency procedures. This report is due in December and we expect to invite ComEd's representatives to the Village to discuss this report in detail.

Business Development. The Village continues to foster business development within the community. The Village has issued a building permit for the rehabilitation of the historic Wilmette Depot. The new restaurant will be called Depot Nuevo featuring Latin-American cuisine and is expected to open next spring. The restaurant will bring yet another wonderful dining option to the Village Center. The Village Center also welcomed Gilson's, a new restaurant which occupies the former home of Charlie's Coffee House.

On the west side of our Village, I look forward to the arrival of a much needed grocery store, the Fresh Market. It is scheduled to open in December. Also, the Village Board approved a permit for Jimmy John's sandwich shop. It will be located in the shopping center on Lake Avenue just east of Manor Drive.

As always, I invite you to "Shop Wilmette" first when looking for gifts for friends and family this holiday season as well as everyday items. We have a strong group of local merchants who are committed to you and appreciate your commitment to them. Remember by supporting our businesses and buying locally, you keep dollars in our community and support those who support you.

2008 Proposed Budget. At the November 27 meeting, the Village Board is scheduled to consider adoption of the proposed 2008 budget. The Village staff spent many hours developing the proposed budget, and the Village Board has discussed it over several meetings.

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At Village Hall



August 23 Storm Summary

The devastating storm that hit Wilmette the afternoon of August 23 is not an event that will soon be forgotten by Village residents

or Village staff. At approximately 3:15 pm, straight-line winds ranging in speeds from 70 to 90 miles per hour hit the Village followed by torrential rains, thunder and lightning.

The storm brought down power poles and lines, street-light poles, and many trees, branches and limbs. Residents lost power and many had to deal with significant flooding issues as well as damage in varying degrees to their private properties.

The Village mobilized immediately after the storm. Public Works Department crews took to the streets clearing all major thoroughfares for Police, Fire, and EMS personnel. Crews worked the entire night and then began a series of 12-hour shifts to expedite clean-up. Contractors from around the Midwest were hired to assist Village personnel with storm damage mitigation. Workers were brought in to remove hazardous trees, prune broken branches, and haul debris from the public rights-of-way. Wilmette and the Village of Glenview combined resources and rented a tub-grinder to dispose of the tree debris generated during this storm event.



Photo shows tub-grinder at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy in Glenview.

On Saturday, September 1, the Village's refuse hauler, Veolia, assisted by bringing in their full contingency of trucks (73) to collect flood debris generated from the storm. Overall, 1,200 tons of flood debris was collected from this effort. By comparison, the Village generates and collects 900 tons of refuse over the span of one month.

To date, the Village has lost 200 plus parkway trees and it is estimated that over 1,000 additional parkway trees sustained damage during the storm. Trees lost during the event will be replaced in upcoming planting sea-

sons. Residents wishing to expedite tree replacement may participate in the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program which begins in the spring of 2008. Contact the Forestry Division at 847-853-7600 for details.

In the three weeks following the storm each of the 18,000 Village parkway trees were inspected by Forestry Division staff. Two-hundred trees were removed and over 27,700 cubic yards of storm-damaged debris was hauled out of the Village. To put this into perspective; the Village normally removes 250 parkway trees annually, and during the eight-week long fall leaf removal season the Village hauls away approximately 9,000 cubic yards of leaf debris.

The intensity of the August storm and the magnitude of damage left in its wake was a shocking experience for the community. Through hard work, and the combined efforts of all Village Departments, clean-up work is close to completion and restoration efforts have begun.

Outdoor Warning Sirens and Back-up Generator at the Storm Water Pump Station. In the aftermath of the storm, some residents questioned why the Village did not activate its outdoor warning sirens and inquired about the need for a back up generator at the Storm Water Pump Station.

Warning sirens are designed to advise people who are outdoors to seek shelter inside. They are not intended to be audible inside houses. There are objective criteria for sounding the warning sirens: the Police Department must have notice that a funnel cloud has been sighted or of conditions that may make it likely a tornado will be present. No such warning was received for Wilmette and there was no tornado activity reported with the approaching storm of August 23. A storm warning was issued for Wilmette, but if sirens were activated for every such warning it would be sounded so often that people would not take it seriously. The high winds associated with the August 23 storm were unexpected and the storm was over by the time sirens could have been activated.

The Storm Water Pump Station (SWPS) is located near the intersection of Lake Avenue and Harms Road. Storm water from most of the Village west of Ridge Road is collected and conveyed to the SWPS where it is pumped to the North Branch of the Chicago River. During the storm, both electrical feeds to the SWPS were damaged because of downed trees, leaving the station without power for approximately five hours.

Prior to the August 23 storm, the SWPS had not lost power during a storm event for over thirty years.

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At Village Hall

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Despite this reliable track record at the SWPS, the Village had initiated an emergency power study at the SWPS in early 2007 and was in the process of reviewing a recommendation from a consultant to fund a \$1.4 million back-up generator at the SWPS, among other improvements.

Funds for a back-up generator are included in the 2008 proposed budget. It is important to note, however, that regardless of the situation at the SWPS storm-related flooding may still occur from time to time depending on storm intensity, existing site conditions and the level of protection in a particular home. During the August 23 storm, basement flooding occurred in Glenview and other municipalities, and in areas in the Village not served by the SWPS.



Election Day - Tuesday, February 5

The polls will be open on Election Day from 6 am to 7 pm. Residents who are unsure of their polling place or precinct may contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at 312-603-0906 or via email at www.cookctyclerk.com, or you may contact the Village Deputy Clerk's Office at 847-853-7511 or email at hirschb@wilmette.com.

Voter Registration. Residents may register to vote at Village Hall Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5 pm. Voter registration will end Tuesday, January 8 for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election. Two forms of ID are required, one must show a current address. Federal law requires first-time voters who register by mail to vote in person the first time they vote.

Early Voting. Early voting will take place at all County designated facilities from Monday, January 14 through Thursday, January 31 for the 2008 Primary Election. The Village Hall has been selected as an Early Voting site. Early voting will be conducted on touch screens that store every ballot style in the county, permitting any voter in suburban Cook County to vote at any location. The hours for the Early Voting sites will be Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm, and on Saturdays (January 19 and January 26) from 9 am to noon. Voters who cannot vote at one of the County's sites can still vote absentee by mail.

Student Absentee Ballots. Students who are registered to vote may sign up for the Cook County Clerk's Student Absentee Ballot Program. Students must register to vote in person to be eligible to absentee vote by mail. The application can be sent to the school address or home address for the parents to forward. For further

information on early voting or absentee ballots contact the County Clerk's Office at 312-603-0906 or www.cookctyclerk.com.

Letter from Village President Christopher S. Canning

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If you haven't yet, please take the time to review the budget document at the Library or at Village Hall, or read the Village Manager's budget transmittal letter which is available on-line at www.wilmette.com. The letter provides a nice, easy to read summary of the Village's budget challenges and spending priorities. If you have questions on the budget, please contact Village Manager Mike Earl (847-853-7501), or any member of the Village Board.

Capital Projects - Sheridan Road and Green Bay Road Improvements. Over the next fifteen months, two major capital projects will be underway. The Sheridan Road project is scheduled to begin early next year (see page 9). The new road reconfiguration will consist of one travel lane in each direction, a two-way left turn center lane and outside bike lanes. The project also includes local utility improvements such as water and sewer main replacement, streetlight rewiring and streetscape enhancements. This project is largely being funded through federal and state grant funds.

The Green Bay Road improvement project is targeted to begin in June 2008 and anticipated to be completed by the end of next year. The project will reduce congestion by allowing simultaneous east-west travel for the side streets (Lake, Central and Wilmette Avenues) and a separate left turn phase lane for vehicles turning onto Green Bay Road. This project is being funded primarily through federal funds.

Thank You. Finally, thank you to all the residents that have contacted the Village Board in the past year to voice their opinion or alert us to issues. Your participation is valued and helps to make Wilmette a better place to live and do business.

On behalf of the Village Board, let me extend my best wishes to each of you for a very safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to serving as your Village President in 2008 and wish you a successful new year.

Very truly yours,
Christopher S. Canning,
Village President



Shop Talk

Status of Key Commercial Development Projects

Several commercial development projects are under construction or on the horizon. These projects present an exciting enhancement to the Village business districts.

611 Green Bay Road. Earlier this year the Village Board approved one of the largest development projects in recent history at 611 Green Bay Road. The five-story building will provide 15,000 square feet of additional retail space in the Village Center and 57 residential condominium units. Parking will be provided on the ground level for the retail space and below ground for the condominium units. The development will include environmentally conscious building design, class A commercial space and eight affordable condominium units. Ground breaking is planned for early next year. The condominium sales office is under construction at 1221 Central.

Former Kohl Children's Museum. The former Kohl Children's Museum site will also be redeveloped. The site will be completely demolished and be replaced with two new commercial buildings. One of the buildings will be a 3,500 square foot bank building and the other will be a 5,000 square foot commercial retail building. Both buildings will be one-story and share a common parking lot. Construction for this project is expected to begin later this year.

Former Dick's Service Station. Further north on Green Bay Road the former Dick's Service Station is currently being redeveloped into a Fifth Third Bank site with drive-thru. The bank's design is largely consistent with the Green Bay Road Corridor design standards and will be an aesthetically pleasing addition to the Village's northern entrance.

Fresh Market at Edens Plaza. Construction of the Fresh Market at Edens Plaza is nearing completion. The new high-end grocer will be the company's third store in the Chicago area with dozens of other stores throughout the East coast and Midwest. The Fresh Market will have an atmosphere of an old world European market and will include a butcher shop, fish market, bakery, produce, floral stands, and delicatessen. The opening is scheduled for December.

Construction Begins at Depot Nuevo. In the Village Center, construction has begun on an addition to the Old Wilmette Depot building located at 1135 Wilmette Avenue. The addition will accommodate a new kitchen facility and restrooms on the first floor. Previously the restrooms took up a large portion of the dining area and

the kitchen was located in the basement. This building improvement will provide a viable space for the new restaurant to thrive. When the addition is completed, a new and much anticipated restaurant called *Depot Nuevo* will serve Latin-American cuisine.

Welcome to New Businesses

The Village welcomes its newest businesses and thanks them for choosing Wilmette. The Village encourages all its residents to keep sales tax dollars in the Village by shopping at these and other local business establishments.

Gilson's, 1126 Central Ave., 847-256-2430

Starbucks, 739 Green Bay Rd., 847-256-1823

Tomato Head, 1162 Wilmette Ave., 847-853-0055

Allure Skin Care & Spa, 1137 Central Ave., Suite 6, 847-256-4444

Metro Cleaners, 3520 Lake Ave.

Simply Flowers, 545 Green Bay Rd.

Diane Hamilton Photography, 1227 Green Bay Rd., 847-853-0675

Kenilworth Press, 1223 Green Bay Rd., 847-256-5210

2007 Home Preservation Awards Announced

The Wilmette Historic Preservation Commission is pleased to announce the winners of the 15th Annual Preservation Awards. The award winners were chosen by an outside panel of judges in the preservation field. Awards were granted in four areas: preservation, restoration, sympathetic addition, and new construction. This year's award winners are as follows:

■ Preservation

503 Central
930 Chestnut

■ Restoration

1210 Greenwood
545 Park

■ Sympathetic Addition

1601 Washington

■ New Construction

1623 Washington
126 Lawndale



Visit the Village's website to view photos of the award winning homes.

Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to our winners!



Board Report

Following are key actions approved by the Village Board during the months of August, September and October:

Approved:

- Temporary Use Permit for Wilmette Village Center LLC Sales Office at 1221 Central Avenue.
- Contract in the amount of \$33,000 with Americaneagle.com Inc., Park Ridge, IL for website enhancement services.
- Construction Engineering Service Agreement with TranSystems Corporation, Schaumburg, IL in the amount of \$1,915,221 for construction engineering services associated with the Sheridan Road Reconstruction Project.
- Contract with Schroeder & Schroeder Inc., Skokie, IL in an amount not to exceed \$353,306 for the 17th Street road resurfacing project.
- Contract extension in the amount of \$33,824 with Temple Display Ltd., Oswego, IL for holiday decorating.
- Contract not to exceed \$61,045 with St. Aubin Nursery, Kirkland, IL; Mike Greco Landscaping Inc., Gurnee, IL; Arthur Weiler Nursery, Zion IL, and Breezy Hill Nursery, Salem WI for tree planting.
- Temporary Use Permit for the display of two live reindeer at Chalet Nursery and Garden Shop, 3132 Lake Avenue from November 16 through December 19.
- Contract in an amount not to exceed \$65,000 with Lenny Hoffman Excavating, Inc., Wilmette, IL for watermain improvements on Cambridge Lane and Columbus Avenue.
- Emergency purchasing contracts approved by the Village Manager to provide necessary assistance in responding to the storm which occurred on August 23, 2007, causing flooding, downed and damaged trees, and power outages throughout the Village.
- Approving a contract in the amount of \$39,312 with Cornerstone Material Recovery Inc., McHenry, IL to haul leaves during the leave collection program.
- Approving a contract in the amount of \$59,150 with Midwest Organics Recycling, Chicago, IL for disposal and composting of leaves.
- Contract in an amount not to exceed \$14,744 with Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Elgin, IL for various traffic studies related to Lake Avenue and traffic calming.

Granted variations to:

- 3501 Lake Avenue to permit the construction of an automobile service station with canopy and convenience food mart.
- 2029 Thornwood Avenue to permit the construction of a second story addition on a legal nonconforming structure.
- 1223 Green Bay Road to operate a printing or photocopying establishment in accordance with the plans submitted.
- 124 16th Street to permit the construction of a new detached two car garage.
- 603 Central Avenue to permit the retention of solar panels on a detached garage.
- 1314-1318 Wilmette Avenue to permit the construction of seven townhomes in two buildings.
- 814 Lavergne Avenue to permit the construction of a two-story addition.
- 523 Greenleaf Avenue to allow the construction of a two-story addition and one dormer.
- 1704 Wilmette Avenue to permit the construction of a one and a half story addition.
- 1615 Washington Avenue to permit the construction of a one-story addition.

Adopted:

- Resolution regarding application for grant monies to fund a joint police computer-aided dispatch system with the Village of Winnetka.
- Ordinance increasing the number of Class H liquor licenses in order to permit issuance of a Class H license to the Fresh Market at Edens Plaza.
- Ordinance amending the Village Code smoking regulations to coordinate Village regulations with the new Smoke Free Illinois Act.
- Resolution authorizing an easement agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for a sanitary sewer service for the Wilmette Harbor utility shed.
- Resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement with the Cook County Assessor to provide access to its geographic information system data to the Village.
- Resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement with the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center to provide fire and emergency medical dispatch services. Red Center is an intergovernmental agency comprised of 12 area communities.



Health Beat

Cholesterol and Glucose Screening

The Health Department is offering a Lipid Profile and Glucose screening for residents on Wednesday, November 28 from 9 - 11 am in the Training Room of the Village Hall. This screening is by appointment only and requires a 12 hour fast. The Lipid Profile includes tests for total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, and HDL/LDL ratio. The glucose screening is for the detection of diabetes. The test requires blood drawn from the arm and the results are sent in the mail within 48 hours. The cost of this test is \$20. To make appointments, please contact Health Nurse Dianne Bader at 847-853-7507 or baderd@wilmette.com.

CPR Course Offered

A CPR course for residents will be offered at the Village Hall on Thursday, November 15 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. There is a fee of \$15 for class materials payable prior to the class. To register, call 847-853-7507 or email baderd@wilmette.com.

High blood pressure can be dangerous. Have your blood pressure checked on Tuesdays from 3-4:30 pm in the Health Department office located on the second floor of the Village Hall. No appointment is necessary.

New Trier Township Offers New Grant Program

The Community Support Grants Program for Persons with Disabilities is a reimbursement program that provides a cash grant up to \$1,500 per person/per fiscal year to cover a range of user-centered services to assist persons with severe disabilities.

Interested individuals or families can fill out a simple application online at www.newtriertownship.com or call 847-446-8202 for more information. The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 30 at 5 pm.

Persons with Disabilities Housing Survey

The Wilmette Commission for Persons with Disabilities is seeking information regarding the need for local housing for persons with a disability who grew up in Wilmette and/or whose families currently live in the Village.

If you or a family member has a disability and an interest in acquiring housing in the Village, the Commission would appreciate your response to the housing survey. For more information call 847-853-7508 or visit the Village's website, www.wilmette.com, to obtain a copy of the survey.

Considering A Home Improvement Project Next Year?

Apply Early for Building Permits

Residents who are considering home improvement work next year are encouraged to submit a building permit application as early as possible. Given the complexities of the building and zoning codes and the various approval processes, a permit for a home addition may take up to 10 weeks to for approval and 12 weeks for a new home permit. Corrections and revisions to plans will add to the expected time to get a permit.

All property within the Village is located in a specific zoning district that determines the density, placement, and type of structures that can be built on the land. Residents with a plat of survey for the property can receive a preliminary zoning review from Village staff that details specific floor area, setback, and other zoning requirements specific to your property. This report, which takes about a week to prepare, is an invaluable tool in planning building projects.

Follow these tips to ensure a speedy building permit process:

- Contact the Village months in advance and request a preliminary zoning review.
- Read, ask questions and understand the various building permit related requirements.
- Verify that the contractor has a Village license (plumbers and electricians have additional licensing requirements); provide full information on each contractor.
- Ensure that two sets of the required architectural drawings are submitted.

Other projects that may require permits from the Village include swimming pool installation, decks, fences, patios, and roofs. Also, some projects that involve electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and fireplaces require building permits.

Early planning before beginning a remodeling or renovation project can help avoid frustration, potential problems and speed up the permit approval process. The Village staff is ready to assist residents to explain the process and help ensure home improvement projects meet all applicable zoning and building safety codes. For more information, please call the Community Development Department at 847-853-7550 between the hours of 7:30 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.



When History Knocks

A Feature from the Wilmette Historical Museum

It usually happens only once, so you need to know what to do when it happens to you. A stranger knocks on your door, or is lingering on your front lawn, and when you go to investigate, he or she blurts out, "I grew up in this house!"

When you hear this, or something like it, you've just been handed a one-of-a-kind opportunity to capture part of the history of your home. That opportunity may never come your way again, so here's a checklist of what you can do to make the most of it:

- ◆ Write everything down. Grabbing a pad and pencil is the essential first step. Without notes, you're finished before you start.
- ◆ Ask the visitor(s) to print out their full name (including maiden name) and all contact information: address, phone, email. Get a business card if they have one. They're visiting from out-of-town, probably from out-of-state, and may never be back this way.
- ◆ Ask if they or anyone else in their family have photos of the house, including family members taken in or around the house and yard. Find out if they may have any other records - blueprints, deeds, etc. - in a closet or attic back home.
- ◆ Don't be shy about asking lots of detailed questions. What year did their parents or grandparents come to Wilmette, and where did they come from? How long did their family live in the house? Do they know who built it, and when? Who were their neighbors? What was the neighborhood like then? When did they leave?

- ◆ If you feel comfortable doing so, invite them to walk around the house with you. Ask them to point out what changes were made in the house while they lived there, and what has changed since. Again, take notes!
- ◆ Within a week or two, follow up with your visitor by letter or email to remind them to look for materials about the Wilmette house, or to check with other family members. Encourage them to donate any original photos or documents about their family's life in Wilmette to the Wilmette Historical Museum, where these often fragile materials can be preserved forever in a secure, climate-controlled environment, and made available to future owners. The Museum can have such materials scanned or copied for both parties at low cost.
- ◆ Contact the Wilmette Historical Museum yourself. The Museum may have information about your house that can expand on what your visitor told you. In any case, the staff will certainly want to add your notes to the Museum's files, as well as any documents or photos (originals, if possible) that your visitor has provided.

When history knocks, it usually knocks only once. By keeping these tips in mind, you'll be better prepared to preserve a vital portion of the history of your house for your own family, and for all the Wilmette families that come after you.

The Wilmette Historical Museum, located at 609 Ridge Road, is open to all visitors at no charge from 1 pm to 4:30 pm, Sunday through Thursday. Contact them by phone at 847-853-7666, or send an email to museum@wilmette.com.

Museum Seeks Wartime Photos and Artifacts

A new exhibit at the Wilmette Historical Museum about Wilmette and the North Shore in wartime - from the Civil War forward - is being planned by the Museum staff. As we put the exhibit together, we'd also like to expand our permanent collection of this kind of material. Residents with photos (originals, not scans), letters, posters, diaries, clothing, or other items that reflect life on the Wilmette home front, or the experience of Wilmette servicemen and servicewomen during wartime are asked to contact the Historical Museum at museum@wilmette.com or 847-853-7666.

We are especially eager to collect items from the Korean War and Vietnam War eras, including ones that reflect local issues and controversies.





Construction to Begin on Sheridan Road

After seven years of careful planning, five public involvement meetings, multiple permits, and hundreds of design hours, the reconstruction of Sheridan Road will finally begin. The Illinois Department of Transportation has awarded the \$20.3 million contract to Di Paolo Company of Glenview, Illinois. More than 70-percent of the project funding is coming from two federal grants and state participation.

The project limits are Sheridan Road from 10th Street to Isabella Street and Isabella Street from the CTA tracks to Sheridan Road. The project goals that guided the design are:

- Reduce accidents and improve safety
- Improve the roadway quality
- Replace the old utilities
- Build a separate drainage system for stormwater
- Improve pedestrian friendliness
- Add bicycle lanes
- Build streetscape enhancements
- Save the trees

Sheridan Road is currently owned and maintained by the State of Illinois. Ownership of the road will be transferred to the Village at the conclusion of the project.

Although some of the utility work will begin this November, the major construction activity will begin in March of 2008 and last through July of 2009. Pre-stage winter activities include installing a new water main and water services, constructing the storm sewer outfalls at the North Shore Channel and building a new retaining wall by the Bahai House of Worship. During this phase of construction, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

The major road reconstruction work will begin next spring and be divided into the following two phases:

Sheridan Road Phase I

Limits: Reconstruction from Lake Avenue to Isabella Street

Time Frame: March (2008) to August (2008)

Traffic Impacts: Traffic will reduce to one lane north bound from Isabella Street to Lake Avenue. Two-way traffic will be maintained from Lake Avenue to 10th Street. Southbound traffic will be detoured from Sheridan Road to 4th Street and Isabella Street.

Sheridan Road Phase II

Limits: Reconstruction from Lake Avenue to 10th Street

Time Frame: August (2008) to May (2009)

Traffic Impacts: Traffic will reduce to one lane north bound from Lake Avenue to 10th Street. Two-way traffic will be maintained from Lake Avenue to Isabella Street. Southbound traffic will be detoured at 10th Street to Wilmette Avenue and Lake Avenue.

In addition to these two phases, the intersection of Lake Avenue with Sheridan Road will be tentatively reconstructed in summer of 2008. Isabella Street will be reconstructed in the spring of 2009.

Every effort will be made to minimize the duration of the detours, but this precaution is necessary to keep Sheridan Road safe during construction. While nobody enjoys the inconveniences related to construction, we can all look forward to the new Sheridan Road corridor that will be inviting, efficient and safe for all who use it.

For regular updates on the Sheridan Road project, residents are invited to sign up for the Wilmette E-newsletter (see below) by visiting the Village website, www.wilmette.com and joining the mailing list found in the upper right hand corner of the homepage. Questions about the road project can be directed to the Engineering Department at 847-853-7660.

Subscribe to the Wilmette E-newsletter & Stay Informed



The e-newsletter provides a convenient way to receive timely information regarding upcoming Village meetings, general Village news, and more via email. To subscribe, visit www.wilmette.com and submit your email address in the space provided in the upper right hand corner of the homepage and complete a brief registration section. Residents can update subscriber information or unsubscribe at any time.

Snowplow Drivers Wanted

The Village is currently seeking qualified, part-time snow plow drivers. Applicants must have experience driving large trucks, and currently possess a valid Class A or B commercial driver's license with air brake endorsement. Call 847- 853-7500 for more details.



Clean and Green News

Build Your Own Rain Garden

Rain gardens are a good way for homeowners and businesses to reduce polluted rain water runoff by simply planting a specialized garden. Rain gardens are a useful infiltration technique in which water is captured in a garden that features native plantings. The rain water has a chance to slowly filter into the ground rather than run off into the storm sewer. It is a popular way to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect our lakes and stream. For more information on rain gardens and a step by step guide on how to build your own, visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/>.

Prescription and Over the Counter Drug Disposal Program

November 13 & December 11
Collection Hours: 7:30 - 4:30 pm



Bring your unused and expired Prescription Medications, including cough syrup and eye drops, and unused and expired Over-the-Counter Medications to the Health Department for recycling. Place liquid medication in a sealed plastic bag. Do not bring institutional or business waste, non-prescription liquids, latex gloves, medication with alcohol in it, or household chemical waste. Medications are to be in the original container with labels to identify contents. However, the patient's name may be blackened out or removed. For your safety and the safety of our environment, it is important to dispose of unused medications in a proper manner. Many pharmaceutical drugs discarded in the garbage or flushed in the commode pass through the treatment process unchanged.

Sign-Up for SWANCC Elist

Do not miss out on enlightening articles, educational materials, timely notifications of upcoming program opportunities and specialized recycling programs sponsored by SWANCC! Residents from SWANCC-member communities are encouraged to sign up for SWANCC's Elist by visiting www.swancc.org or by sending an email to elist@swancc.org to be apprised of SWANCC activities, programs and products.

Waste Reduction Tips

- Avoid over-consumption - think before you spend.
- Take reusable bags to the grocery store.
- Use washable plates, cups, tableware and napkins.

- Pack a waste-free lunch for school or work.
- Use tap water instead of individually bottled water. Use a water filter if desired.
- Think before you throw - can it be reused or recycled?
- Donate gently-used items to a charity.
- Subscribe to on-line newspapers.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper.
- Recycle everything possible at your curb.
- Attend special material recycling events.
- Start a compost bin (visit www.swancc.org).
- Turn off/unplug computers & appliances when not in use.
- Turn off lights - or install timers or light sensors.
- When possible, hang laundry on a line.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth.
- Collect rain water for indoor plants.
- Strive for an energy-efficient home.
- Walk, bike or carpool whenever possible.
- Share these tips with a friend.

Websites for Additional Resources:

www.newdream.org, www.epa.gov,
www.energystar.gov, www.illinoisenergy.org, and
www.earth911.org.

Water Quality Tip - Minimize use of Salt and De-Icing Chemicals



"Storm water runoff" is rain water or melted snow that runs off the land and enters lakes, rivers, streams and ponds. As it moves across the land, it picks up and carries pollutants such as pesticides, yard waste, metals and oil and washes these pollutants into the waterways and lake.

During the winter, homeowners can take two important steps to improve water quality in the region. The first is to minimize the use of salt or other de-icing chemicals that could make its way into waterways as snow and ice melt. Piling snow in the yard rather than in the street or on the sidewalk is the second effort that could cut down on water runoff pollution. Together we can preserve, protect and maintain our quality of water by reducing the amount of pollution that enters our sources of water.



Holiday Season Public Safety Tips

To help provide for a safe Holiday Season, the Fire and Police Departments offer the following safety tips:

Fire Prevention

- Discard any set of lights with cracked or frayed cords, bare wires, loose connections or damaged sockets.
- Keep your tree in a sturdy base filled with water and monitor the water, to assure freshness.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional at least once a year.
- Be careful with candles and keep them away from flammable materials. Never leave a candle burning unattended.
- Have your furnace checked in the fall before the winter heating season begins.



Crime Prevention

When on vacation, follow these simple steps to help prevent a residential burglary:

- Put lights on timers and consider motion detectors on exterior lights. Stop mail and newspapers or have a neighbor collect them.
- Arrange to have snow removed. Call WilWork at 847-853-7608 to hire a Wilmette youth to get the job done.
- If staying home during the holidays, keep an eye on the neighborhood and report suspicious activity around the neighborhood. Each year several burglaries are prevented or the offenders apprehended by alert neighbors who call the Police Department. For a police emergency dial 9-1-1. For non-emergency requests call 847-256-1200.

Prevent Auto Burglaries

In 2006, there were 91 reported auto burglaries in the Village. As is the case every year, most of these were burglaries to unlocked vehicles. The Police Department wants to remind residents that there are simple steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of being a victim of an auto burglary:

- Lock your car doors at all times, even if you are leaving the car for "only a minute".
- Lock your car doors wherever you park, including when parked in your garage.
- Remove items of value from plain view and place them in the trunk or glove compartment. Ipods, GPS

units and laptop computers are very attractive to thieves.

Please be observant for and immediately report suspicious activity such as:

- A person looking into numerous vehicles or garages;
- A person who appears to be trying not to be seen, or who leaves the area after being noticed by you;
- A vehicle you do not otherwise recognize that is driving through or stopping in the same area on multiple occasions.

The Police Department recommends the following actions if you are a victim of a burglary to your automobile:

- Immediately contact the Police Department by calling 9-1-1.
- Do not drive your car and do not handle items that may have been touched by the offender(s) in order to prevent possible evidence destruction.
- If possible, stay at the scene until an officer arrives to take the report and gather potential evidence.

Parkway Tree Pruning Program is Underway

The Village's tree trimming contractor, Winkler's Tree Service, is moving through the eastern section of the community this fall performing scheduled tree pruning between the hours of 7 am and 3 pm. Residents may be asked to move parked cars to allow pruning operations to proceed.

Parkway trees in the Village are pruned at least once every seven years. Trees that are seven (7) inches or greater in diameter are treated during the dormant season, November through April. The risk of insect and disease transmission is greatly reduced at this time of the year. The benefits of pruning parkway trees include health, appearance and decreased risk to pedestrians and property.

Sign up for the Emergency Notification System

The CodeRED Emergency Notification System provides emergency community notification to published telephone numbers within the Village. Residents or businesses with unpublished phone numbers or second phone numbers to add may register by visiting www.wilmette.com/codered and completing the online form. Those without internet access can contact Eric Peterson, Communication Supervisor, at 847-256-9693 or petersone@wilmette.com.

Important Contacts

Fire/Police Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Department

fire@wilmette.com
Administration 251-1101
Fire Prevention Bureau 853-7693

Museum

museum@wilmette.com
853-7666

Police Department

police@wilmette.com
Administration 256-1200
Animal Control Officer 256-1200
Community Relations 853-7555
Records and Citations 853-7548
Social Worker 853-7566
Traffic Coordinator 853-7567

Public Works Department

pubworks@wilmette.com
General 853-7500
Forestry 853-7600
Refuse, Recycling & Yard Waste 853-7626
Sewer and Water 853-7588
Street Signs 853-7586
Snow Storm Hot Line 853-7500
Streets 853-7591
Street Lighting 853-7590
After Hour Emergency 256-1200

Other

Park District 256-6100
Library 256-5025
Comcast 1-866-594-1234
SBC 1-800-244-4444
NICOR Gas 1-888-642-6748
Commonwealth Edison 1-800-334-7661
Veolia Environmental Services (formerly ONYX) 251-8759

Village Hall 251-2700

admin@wilmette.com
Business Licenses 853-7603
Comm. Development 853-7550
Dispute Mediation 853-7502
Engineering 853-7660
Finance 853-7609
vehicle stickers, real estate transfer tax
Health Nurse 853-7507
Health Sanitarian 853-7508
Law 853-7504
Personnel 853-7510
Village Clerk 853-7511
Water Billing 853-7620
Wilwork 853-7608

Water Plant

General 853-7535
Meter Shop 853-7537

Village Board

President
Christopher S. Canning 256-4228
canningc@wilmette.com

Trustees

Mike Basil 920-9044
mwbasil@wilmette.com
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spillersk@wilmette.com
Alan Swanson 853-8524
swansona@wilmette.com
Mari Terman 251-6383
termanm@wilmette.com
Lali Watt 251-0374
trusteelw@gmail.com

Village Manager

Mike Earl 853-7509
earlm@wilmette.com

Village Listening Post

The purpose of the *Listening Post* is to provide residents with an additional way to communicate with the Village. The Village Board and Department Head staff will listen to your advice and suggestions, and respond to your questions. Using the space below, mail your inquiries to: Village Manager's Office, 1200 Wilmette Avenue. 60091.

November through May, the *Listening Post* will be held on the first Saturday of every month at the Park District Community Center, 3000 Old Glenview Road. The next *Listening Post* is December 1, 10 am - noon.

As a resident of the Village, I would like the Village to know that _____

Name _____

Phone _____



Please note that the 7 digit numbers are in 847 area code.

The Village of Wilmette

1200 Wilmette Avenue . Wilmette, Illinois . 60091

Web Site: www.wilmette.com

Business Hours: M - F, 7:30 am - 5 pm

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