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# THE COMMUNICATOR

SUMMER 2020

*The Village of Wilmette Newsletter*

## Stormwater Incentive Program Reimburses Residents for Stormwater Management Installations

Thinking about installing a rain garden or rain barrel this summer? The Village's Stormwater Incentive Program can cover part of the cost! The program is designed to complement the Neighborhood Storage Project and encourage Wilmette property owners to implement improvements that sustainably manage stormwater runoff on their property.

Incentives are one-time disbursements for 50% (up to a maximum value) of the construction cost for eligible stormwater management improvements. Any property owner is eligible to apply for a stormwater incentive, with incentives awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more about the program at: [wilmette.com/village-services/stormwater-improvement-project/stormwater-incentive-program](http://wilmette.com/village-services/stormwater-improvement-project/stormwater-incentive-program).

## Neighborhood Storage Project Underway

The Neighborhood Storage Project is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village and will bring flooding relief to thousands of Wilmette residents while improving access and safety for our whole community.

**Phase 1** of the Project, which includes construction of a large underground stormwater storage vault at Community Playfield, began in April and is expected to wrap up in Nov. 2020, with Community Playfield reopening for the public to enjoy in spring of 2021.

**Phase 1A**, which began in fall of 2019, is moving steadily along with the installation of high-capacity storm sewers and is expected to continue through June 2020.



Stormwater storage vault in Northbrook, IL

The Village is taking measures to minimize disruption during construction and keep residents up to date on weekly progress and any traffic impacts – sign up to receive weekly email updates from the project website: [wilmette.com/connect](http://wilmette.com/connect).

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work together to maintain the high quality of life that makes Wilmette a wonderful place to live!

Visit the project website, [wsnsp.com](http://wsnsp.com), to read weekly construction updates and view real-time and time-lapse video of the Community Playfield vault construction.

Questions? Contact Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works, 847-853-7627, [bergerb@wilmette.com](mailto:bergerb@wilmette.com)

Want to know how construction will impact you? Sign up for email updates and connect with the Village on social media at [wilmette.com/connect](http://wilmette.com/connect).

# Message from the Village President

Over the past several weeks, we have all faced an unexpected and unprecedented challenge, the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

To prevent the spread of the virus from overwhelming Illinois' health care system, Governor Pritzker issued a series of Executive Orders, including his Stay at Home Orders. Schools and non-essential businesses have been closed, and Illinois residents have been encouraged to stay home and practice social distancing. As a result, together we have "flattened the curve" and avoided the tragic situations seen in cities across Europe and New York City.

I have seen our community come together during the crisis to support each other and respond to the challenges we face. I especially want to thank our first responders, health care workers and those who work at essential businesses (including, of course, Village staff) for their unwavering commitment and continued efforts on our behalf.

Throughout the crisis, the Village has continued to provide the critical municipal services which our residents and business owners rely upon every day. The Village has increased the frequency and depth of its communication to help people stay informed of the constantly evolving situation, and the Village has implemented a number of programs

which are designed to help our community through the crisis and be in a position to bounce back during the recovery.

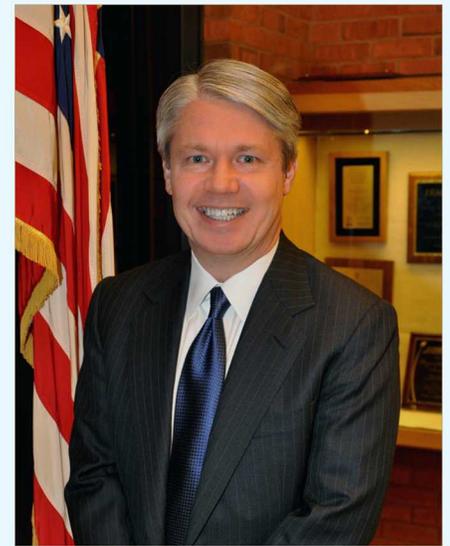
## Coordination Within Wilmette

Very early in March, as concerns about the coronavirus were just beginning to grow, the Village organized a meeting of other units of local government, as well as our public and private schools to discuss the current state of the virus, preventative measures being taken, response plans and the best ways to coordinate efforts. In addition, the Village reached out to our local houses of worship and other institutions to establish lines of communication for future coordination. These early efforts have been invaluable as the evolution of crisis has required these groups to take actions to protect the health and safety of our community. Credit is due to Village Manager Michael Braiman, Police Chief Kyle Murphy and Fire Chief Ben Wozney for their forward-thinking approach.

## Resident Support

Despite the difficulties of living under the Stay at Home Order, our residents have stepped up and taken actions necessary to protect themselves, their families, neighbors and vulnerable members of our community. We've seen residents of Wilmette respond with an increase in volunteerism and donations. In mid-March, the Village launched the Community Caretaker Program, which connects people who need help with people who want to help. This program has helped coordinate the delivery of food and other essential supplies to elderly and disabled residents.

In addition, the Village's website



Village President Bob Bielinski

[bielinskib@wilmette.com](mailto:bielinskib@wilmette.com)

includes a COVID-19 Resident Resources page which provides links to information and services, including health advice and economic assistance. Visit [bit.ly/WilmetteCOVID19Resources](https://bit.ly/WilmetteCOVID19Resources).

## Business Support

Many businesses have been severely impacted by the crisis, and in March and April, the Village Board approved economic relief programs to support our local businesses. As a local government, Wilmette has the ability to move faster than the federal and state governments which are implementing more substantial financial assistance programs for small businesses. The Village's programs put money into the hands of businesses immediately so they can continue to remain in business until they are able to access other programs.

Even more importantly, residents' support of our local businesses and restaurants has been tremendous. You've responsibly shopped at local businesses which have remained open, ordered takeout and delivery from restaurants, and made online purchases from local retailers. Your continued patronage of Wilmette businesses is essential to their survival. I know the business community truly appreciates your support.



*We're in this together! #WilmetteStrong*

## Village Services

The Village has worked hard during the pandemic to deliver essential services while at the same time ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents and the Village staff. Our police, fire, public works, water, community development and administrative staff continue to deliver services, and their management of this crisis is a testament to their commitment to public service and the Village.

While the pandemic will negatively impact the Village's financial position, prudent budgeting and financial management over the past several years have replenished and increased the Village's financial reserves. These reserves provide a "rainy day fund" which the Village can draw upon to cushion the blow of a financial shock, like a recession or the current crisis.

The Village continues to invest in its municipal infrastructure, including roads and sewers. Construction is now underway on Phases 1 and 1A of the Neighborhood Storage Stormwater Improvement Project, and construction will soon be under way on the significant road improvement program which was approved as part of the 2020 Budget.

## Looking Forward

I want to thank all of you for your continued efforts to keep our community healthy and safe. I am inspired by the response I have seen from our residents, business owners and the Village staff.

Just like you, I look forward to the day when life begins to return to normal. Until then, please continue to be a good neighbor. Please continue to protect yourselves, your families and your neighbors in the community by following the State's updated mandates for social distancing, face coverings and staying at home.

Locally collected data confirm that older individuals and individuals with certain medical conditions are most at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. So, if you fall into either of these categories, please take extra care and continue to take all necessary precautions to protect yourself.

I wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer.

## Village COVID-19 Response Highlights



### Economic Relief for Small Businesses

The Village Board unanimously approved two small business **economic relief packages valued at \$531k**. More than 75 businesses and \$250k in assistance have been approved so far.



### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**81 volunteers** have registered and **25 residents** have submitted requests to the Village's Community Caretaker Program, created to connect residents in need with local help and resources during COVID-19.



### Navigating COVID-19 Together

The Village has provided **16 special E-News** issues and daily social media communications about COVID-19. Timely, relevant and accurate information is key to our health and safety.

## Summer Village Events Updates

Some of our favorite times as a community are the summer events that bring us all together – for music, dancing and visiting with our neighbors at Music on the Green; for shopping and family fun at the annual Sidewalk Sale; for Fireworks & Fun at Gillson Park.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic will change the way we celebrate summer this year, and some of the details remain unknown. Please know that the Village is committed to providing opportunities to connect

as a community safely and will keep residents posted through E-News and social media as we know more – sign up here: [Wilmette.com/connect](http://Wilmette.com/connect).

### Here's what we know so far:

- Music on the Green concerts have been canceled.
- Summer Sizzle (formerly Sidewalk Sale) is not scheduled at this point.
- Fireworks & Fun at Gillson Park has been canceled.



## Follow the Village!

Want to know the latest on summer events in Wilmette? Curious about what's going on with the stormwater project? Sign up for the Village's weekly E-News and follow the Village on Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor for regular updates on happenings around Wilmette!

[wilmette.com/connect](http://wilmette.com/connect)

## Drivers' Licenses, Vehicle Registration and REAL ID Extensions

Expiration dates for driver's licenses, ID cards and vehicle registrations have been extended to at least 90 days after Illinois Driver Services facilities reopen after the State's Stay at Home Order is lifted. This is to ensure that licenses, IDs and registrations remain valid during the COVID-19 pandemic and to avoid a rush to renew once facilities reopen. For more information, visit [cyberdriveillinois.com](http://cyberdriveillinois.com). The federal REAL ID enforcement deadline has also been extended from Oct. 1, 2020 to Oct. 1, 2021. Current Illinois drivers' licenses and ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports until the new deadline. Visit [realid.ilsos.gov](http://realid.ilsos.gov) for more information on how to apply for your REAL ID.

## Document Destruction Event Sept. 26

This fall, the Village will partner with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to host the 8<sup>th</sup> annual one-day document destruction event. Wilmette and other SWANCC community residents can bring up to six file-size boxes or paper shopping bags per vehicle – NO PLASTIC BAGS ACCEPTED. Materials from businesses, schools or institutions not accepted. Proof of residency is required.

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### Centennial Park Southwest Parking Lot

2300 Old Glenview Road  
*Enter off Old Glenview Road only.*

For more information, contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 or [pubworks@wilmette.com](mailto:pubworks@wilmette.com).

## 24/7 Electronics Recycling Drop-Off

A permanent drop-off site for electronics recycling remains available to Wilmette residents at the Public Works Facility (711 Laramie Ave.). Residents can drop off items to be recycled Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For a full list of acceptable items, visit [wilmette.com/green-initiatives/recycling/electronics-recycling](http://wilmette.com/green-initiatives/recycling/electronics-recycling).

Because Advanced Disposal representatives are not available to assist with large-item drop-off on the second Saturday of the month due to COVID-19, Public Works will leave the back of the dumpster open to make dropping off large items easier.



**4** Independence Day



**7** Labor Day

## Welcome New Businesses!

The Village welcomes its newest businesses and thanks them for choosing Wilmette. Please remember to visit these and other Wilmette businesses while shopping this summer. Did you know that 2% of almost every dollar you spend at Wilmette retailers goes directly back to the community? By supporting our businesses and buying locally, your sales tax dollars support the services, projects and events that make Wilmette such a special community.

### SpaDerma

118 Skokie Blvd.  
Skin care and medical spa  
[spaderma.com](http://spaderma.com)

### Carlos & Carlos

611 Green Bay Road  
Northern Italian cuisine  
[carlosandcarloswilmette.com](http://carlosandcarloswilmette.com)

### Sophia Steak

1146 Wilmette Ave.  
Neighborhood Steakhouse  
[sophiasteak.com](http://sophiasteak.com)

### North Shore Barber Shop

410 Linden Ave.

### Skunkworks

1111 Central Ave.  
Radically Different Dance Studio  
[skunkworksdance.com](http://skunkworksdance.com)

**Wilmette-onomics:  
Your Support Matters!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our local businesses and their employees.

The Village is proud to be providing direct economic assistance through our relief programs, but your support is still critical to helping our local restaurants and businesses. Here's what you can do:

- Order carry-out and delivery from Wilmette restaurants – or dine in when available! Visit [bit.ly/WilmetteCOVIDBusinessResponse](http://bit.ly/WilmetteCOVIDBusinessResponse).
- Shop online locally! Before you hit “buy now” from a major national retailer, check out a local store in person, online or contact them about curbside pickup.
- Leave a positive review online or share a recommendation on social media.
- Buy gift cards to use later or give as gifts.



# Wilmette Recognized as Tree City USA

For the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Village of Wilmette is proud to be recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA" community!

This recognition is thanks to our dedicated Public Works Forestry Division and the support of our residents through our Cooperative Tree Planting Program, which maximizes the number of trees planted annually and helps keep our community green!



## Plant a Tree this Fall!

Take advantage of the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program this fall. This is a cost-share program in which residents can select the species and size of the tree to be planted.

Beginning in August, residents can pick up an application at Village Hall or download it from the Village's Tree Planting web page ([wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/tree-planting](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/tree-planting)) to review the available tree species, sizes and costs.

Applications are due by Sept. 14. There are a limited number of trees, therefore applications will be considered in the order they are received. For questions regarding the program, call the Forestry Division at 847-853-7587 or email [forestry@wilmette.com](mailto:forestry@wilmette.com).

## Complete Your Census: Everyone Counts!

Do you have 10 minutes? That's all it takes to do your part to make sure our community receives the resources we need for critical services like health care, education, transportation and business investment. The Village is well on its way to passing our 2010 self-response rate of 82.8%.



- Self-response phase has been extended to Oct. 31.
- Census takers will visit homes that have not responded from Aug. 11 - Oct. 31.

**What if I lost my letter with my reporting instructions?** Call the U.S. Census Bureau's customer help line at 1-800-772-7851, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST.



# 14

Tree Planting Application Due



# 26

Document Destruction Event

## Gas Leaf Blower Ban in Effect

To reduce noise and air pollution, homeowners and residential landscapers are prohibited from using gas leaf blowers from May 15 through Sept. 30. Commercial landscapers are also notified of the Village Ordinance; if your landscaper is violating this ordinance, please remind them or speak to the company owner. Please be a good neighbor and help prevent pollution. The Village will enforce violations.



## Compost Your Food Scraps

Egg shells, coffee grounds and vegetable waste can now be placed in your yard waste toter (but NOT in paper lawn bags). Composting creates nutrient-rich soil and reduces greenhouse gas emissions in landfills caused by rotting food.

Since the Village's composting program began last year, over 800 residents have already signed up! To request a free yard waste toter to help keep Wilmette "green," contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 or [compost@wilmette.com](mailto:compost@wilmette.com).

For more information and a list of compostable food scraps, visit [wilmette.com/engineering-public-works](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works).

## Get CPR/AED Certified with the Wilmette Fire Department

Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.  
Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.  
Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.



CPR/AED courses will be held if health and safety guidelines permit gatherings.

To register for one of the Fire Department-hosted CPR/AED certification classes, contact the Fire Department at 847-251-1101 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at least five business days before the class date. The course fee is \$25 per person.

## Sign Up for Smart911 and Wilmette Alerts

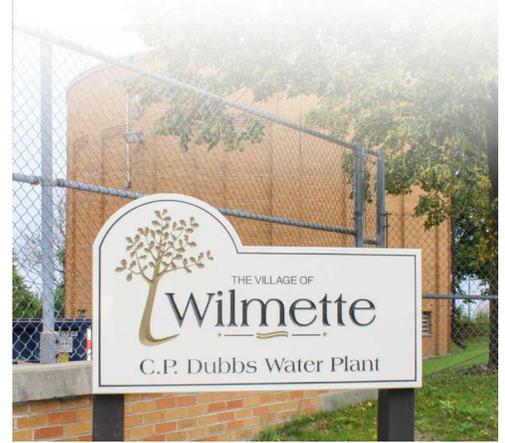
You can help Wilmette's first responders by signing up for Smart911, a free service that provides 911 operators with critical medical and household information needed during an emergency. The Village will also use this system to send emergency notifications.

To register, follow these simple steps:

1. Visit the [wilmette.com/police/smart-911-and-alerts](http://wilmette.com/police/smart-911-and-alerts) or download the Smart911 app on your device.
2. Create a Safety Profile for yourself and your household. Your information will be kept confidential and only accessible when you dial 911.
3. Confirm your account: Smart911 will send you a confirmation email. Upon verification, Smart911 will deliver your Safety Profile to 911 answering centers.

## Submit Permits Online

Permit applications may now be downloaded directly from our website ([wilmette.com/permits](http://wilmette.com/permits)) and submitted via email to [comdev@wilmette.com](mailto:comdev@wilmette.com). Electronic submittal is the preferred format at this time, but paper submittals can be dropped off in a bin in the vestibule of Village Hall during business hours. Once permits are ready to be issued, applicants will be given instructions on how to arrange for online payment, obtaining your permit card and approved permit drawings.



## Annual Water Quality Report Now Available

Please go to [wilmette.com/water-management/water-quality-reports](http://wilmette.com/water-management/water-quality-reports) to view the 2019 Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2019, including that the drinking water supplied by the Wilmette Water Plant meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards. If you would like a paper copy of the report mailed to your home, please call 847-853-7532.

**Take Control,  
Let Us Know**



Share critical medical information for loved ones at risk of coronavirus.



**Fast, free and secure.  
Sign up today!**

**Smart911.com**  



## Wilmette Historical Museum

### Documenting COVID-19

The Wilmette Historical Museum invites people of all ages and from all walks of life to submit photographs, videos, journals and artifacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Museum will share some of the submissions on its website and social media, as well as save them in its permanent collection for future generations to learn about this historic event.

### Self-Guided Walking Tour

Looking for a bit of fresh air, exercise, history and fun? Drop by the Museum entrance to pick up a free, self-guided walking tour. You can explore the history of Ridge Road, St. Joseph Cemetery and Wilmette's historic lakefront.

### Family Event

#### Scavenger Hunt: Pigs on the Loose!

June 15 – Aug. 3

Complete at your own pace.

Kids can help Michael Loutsch, the owner of Wilmette's last working farm, find his pigs hiding in local businesses - and win delicious prizes courtesy of Homer's Ice Cream and Lou Malnati's!

### Walking Tour

#### Old Gross Point Taverns & Shops

Saturday, June 20, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Free for members, \$5 non-members  
Advance tickets required; Call or email to reserve.

## June – September 2020

For more information, visit [wilmettehistory.org](http://wilmettehistory.org) or call 847-853-7666.

### Walking Tour

#### Downtown Wilmette Tour with John Jacoby

Sunday, July 19, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 non-members  
Advance tickets required; Call or email to reserve.

### Annual Event

#### Auto Historica XVI: Rockin' the 60s

Sunday, Sept. 13, 12 – 3 p.m.

Bring the family to see cool American and foreign cars from the 1960s, stroll around at your leisure and chat with the car owners. This event is free to the community thanks to the generous support of members, donors and event sponsor Wilmette Auto Body.

# Village Board Grants Optima Wilmette Preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) Approval

After months of deliberation and public input, the Village Board granted Optima Wilmette Preliminary PUD approval for a mixed-use building on the site of the International Bank, 1210 Central Ave. The proposed development consists of 109 rental apartments, ground floor retail/restaurant space and public underground parking. A plaza with public art has also been proposed at the corner of Central Avenue and Green Bay Road.

In addition to these public amenities and the positive economic impact of the proposed development, other benefits include:

- \$1.6 million contribution from Optima to create approximately 14 permanently affordable homes in Wilmette.
- \$120,000 contribution from Optima toward streetscape beautification as part of the Village's planned downtown streetscape reconstruction.
- Structure will achieve Green Globes® sustainability certification, including bird-friendly glass.

The Village will provide updates through E-News as the project progresses.



## Stormwater Utility Fee

To provide much needed flooding relief to Wilmette residents, the Village is investing an estimated \$68 million into the Neighborhood Storage Project, which is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village. To help fund this critical project, the Village began assessing a new stormwater utility fee in 2020.

Single-family homes saw this new fee on water bills beginning in the first quarter of this year, and multi-family homes and non-residential buildings will be assessed beginning in the third quarter of 2020. For more information, visit [wilmette.com/village-services/stormwater-improvement-project/stormwater-utility](http://wilmette.com/village-services/stormwater-improvement-project/stormwater-utility).



## 2020 Public Works Projects

Each year, the Village undertakes many infrastructure improvement projects to maintain and improve our roads, sewers, sidewalks and alleys. For more details, tentative construction timing, project contact information and an interactive map of project locations, visit [wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/current-projects](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/current-projects).

### Central Avenue Reconstruction and Downtown Streetscape Plan

This project involves water main installation and reconstruction of Central Avenue from Green Bay Road to Sheridan Road, as well as resurfacing the pavement on Wilmette Avenue and downtown streetscape improvements.

*Tentative Construction Period:*  
August 2020 – October 2021

*Downtown Construction Period:*  
August 2020 - June 2021

### Neighborhood Storage Project

This is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village and will bring flooding relief to thousands of Wilmette residents while improving access and safety for our whole community. Visit the project website for more details: [wsnsp.com](http://wsnsp.com).

**Phase 1** involves the installation of storm relief sewers and the construction of an underground stormwater storage vault at Community Playfield.

*Tentative Construction Period:*  
April – November 2020

**Phase 1A** involves the installation of storm relief sewers in west Wilmette neighborhoods.

*Tentative Construction Period:*  
October 2019 – June 2020

### Additional Annual Public Works Programs

Visit the [Wilmette Public Works Projects webpage](#) for details on these additional annual projects:

- Road Program
- Sidewalk and Curb Program
- Alley Reconstruction Program
- Brick Street Reconstruction Program
- Brick Street Maintenance Program
- Water Main Replacement Program
- Sewer Repair and Valve Installation Programs
- Sewer Lining Program – Phase V
- Sewer Cleaning & Televising Program
- Pavement Marking Program
- Asphalt Pavement Patching Program
- Crack Sealing Program
- Street Rejuvenation Program
- Utility Patching Program

# Connect with Us

## Village Board

### President

Bob Bielinski [bielinskib@wilmette.com](mailto:bielinskib@wilmette.com)

### Trustees

Peter Barrow [barrowp@wilmette.com](mailto:barrowp@wilmette.com)

Kathy Dodd [doddk@wilmette.com](mailto:doddk@wilmette.com)

Gina Kennedy [kennedyg@wilmette.com](mailto:kennedyg@wilmette.com)

Joel Kurzman [kurzmanj@wilmette.com](mailto:kurzmanj@wilmette.com)

Senta Plunkett [plunketts@wilmette.com](mailto:plunketts@wilmette.com)

Dan Sullivan [sullivanand@wilmette.com](mailto:sullivanand@wilmette.com)

### Business hours:

Monday – Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



1200 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091

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## Village Board Meetings

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

January 14, 28	April 14, 28	July 14, 28	October 13, 27
February 11, 25	May 12, 26	August 11, 25	November 10, 24
March 10, 24	June 9, 23	September 8, 22	December 8, 22

## Village Hall Closed

New Year's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Thanksgiving  
Day after Thanksgiving  
Christmas Day

### Fire/Police Emergency

911

### Fire Department

[fire@wilmette.com](mailto:fire@wilmette.com) 847-251-1101

### Museum

[museum@wilmette.com](mailto:museum@wilmette.com) 847-853-7666

### Police Department

[police@wilmette.com](mailto:police@wilmette.com) 847-256-1200

### Public Works Department

[pubworks@wilmette.com](mailto:pubworks@wilmette.com)

General 847-853-7500

After Hours Emergency 847-256-1200

### Water Management

847-853-7535

### Village Hall

847-251-2700

Community Development 847-853-7550

Engineering 847-853-7660

Finance 847-853-7609

Clerk 847-853-7511

### Village Manager

Michael Braiman [braimanm@wilmette.com](mailto:braimanm@wilmette.com) 847-853-7506

### Other

Library  
847-256-5025

Park District  
847-256-6100

New Trier Township  
847-446-8202

Advanced Disposal Services  
847-272-4145

AT&T  
800-244-4444

Comcast  
866-594-1234

Commonwealth Edison  
888-334-7661

Nicor Gas  
888-642-6748