



# Resident Handbook

## A Guide to the Village of Wilmette's Public Services

Village Hall

1200 Wilmette Ave

847-251-2700

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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



@VofWilmette



/VofWilmette



Next Door

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# Frequently Called Numbers

## Village of Wilmette

Animal licenses	847-251-2700
Building Permits	847-853-7550
Emerald Ash Borer	847-853-7587
Engineering (Construction Updates)	847-853-7660
<b>Fire Non-Emergency</b>	<b>847-251-1101</b>
Leaf Collection	847-853-7500
Parking Permits	847-251-2700
<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	<b>847-256-1200</b>
Refuse/Recycling	847-853-7500
Tree Trimming and Care	847-853-7600
Vehicle Stickers	847-251-2700
Volunteer for a Board or Commission	847-853-7511
Voting Information	847-853-7511
Water Bills	847-251-2700

## Other

AT&T	800-244-4444
Chamber of Commerce	847-251-3800
Comcast	866-594-1234
ComEd	800-334-7661
Cook County Highway Department	312-603-1600
Evanston Hospital	847-570-2000
Illinois Department of Transportation	847-272-1246
Library	847-256-5025
Mallinckrodt Community Senior Center	847-256-9623
New Trier Township	847-446-8200
Nicor Gas	888-642-6748
North Shore Senior Center	847-784-6000
Pace Bus	847-364-7223
Park District	847-256-6100
Post Office	847-251-1831
Refuse/Recycling (Advanced Disposal)	847-272-4145
School District 37	847-251-3587
School District 39	847-256-2450
Secretary of State	800-252-8980
Skokie Courthouse	847-470-7250
Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County	847-724-9205



**2019 Vehicle Sticker Information**  
 Vehicle stickers will be available for purchase starting March 1 and must be displayed by April 15. Any vehicle registered in Wilmette with the Illinois Secretary of State not displaying a 2019 sticker after April 15 is subject to receiving a violation. Purchase by May 15 to avoid a late fee. There are three ways to purchase vehicle stickers:  
 • Online at [wilmette.com/finance/vehicle-stickers/](http://wilmette.com/finance/vehicle-stickers/)  
 • In person at Village Hall 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
 • By mail for vehicles currently registered  
 Visit the website for information applicable to new residents, senior citizens, lost or stolen stickers, and transfer stickers.

**Election Information**  
 The Consolidated Election will be held April 2 from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Early voting begins March 18. The Village has three four-year Trustee positions on the ballot. In addition, there is one two-year Trustee position to fill the remainder of Trustee Steve Leonard's term following his resignation in 2018. The following candidates' names will appear on the ballot in the order presented:  
**Village Trustee (4-year term, vote for 3)**  
 Joel I. Feinstein  
 Daniel E. Sullivan, Jr.  
 Senta Plunkett  
 Rylie Pellaton  
 Gina Kennedy



**Village Trustee (2-year term, vote for 2)**  
 Peter H. Barrow  
 Jeff Avelrod  
 The Cook County Clerk's website, [cookcountyclerk.com](http://cookcountyclerk.com), offers information on:  
 • Voter registration  
 • Early voting locations and times  
 • Absentee ballots  
 • Polling locations  
 • Precincts  
 Polling and precinct information is also available from the Village's Deputy Clerk's Office, 847-853-7511 or [hirschb@wilmette.com](mailto:hirschb@wilmette.com).

The Village's newsletter, *The Communicator*, is mailed to residents three times a year.

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



## Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbor:

Welcome to Wilmette! On behalf of your Village officials and staff, we're pleased that you chose Wilmette for your home. Once you get to know Wilmette better, we hope that you'll become an active member of our community.

Wilmette is a vibrant village. Besides our Village Center and neighborhood shopping areas, there are two major shopping centers - Plaza del Lago and Edens Plaza. Commuters are served by Metra and the CTA. Our outstanding public elementary and high schools are supplemented by private schools including St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier School, Baker Demonstration, Loyola Academy and Regina Dominican High School. Our public library is

one of the finest in the state.

Our system of public parks and recreational facilities is also unsurpassed, ranging from the beautiful Gillson Park on the lakefront at the east to the excellent Wilmette Golf Club at the west and a wide range of recreational and leisure-time opportunities in between. With our many cultural, civic and religious organizations, residents can find activities and programs that match their needs and interests.

Village government is overseen by an elected Board of Trustees, consisting of the president and six trustees. Day-to-day operations are under the direction of Village Manager, Michael Braiman. The Village has a staff of approximately 200 employees to serve you. Village services include community development, finance, fire, police, public works, and water management.

There are many boards and commissions staffed by resident-volunteers who make recommendations to the Village Board in areas, such as human relations, housing, environmental, zoning, public safety and transportation. If you're interested in becoming actively involved in Village government, let us know by submitting a Talent Bank Questionnaire. Questionnaires are available at the Village Hall or at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall. You are welcome to attend, or you can watch the proceedings on cable TV, Channel 6 or YouTube. You can also find out about other committee and commission meetings and upcoming Village events by visiting [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

To stay up to date on the latest news throughout the Village please sign-up for the Village's weekly [E-News](#) and follow us on social media, we are on Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor. Again, welcome to the Village. If we can be of service, call us at Village Hall at 847-251-2700. To view the Village's full New Resident Handbook please use the following link: <https://www.wilmette.com/village-services/resident-handbook/>.

Very truly yours,  
Senta Plunkett  
Village President

## Government Overview

### President:

Senta Plunkett

### Trustees:

Peter Barrow  
Kathy Dodd  
Gina Kennedy  
Kate Gjaja  
Justin Sheperd  
Daniel Sullivan, Jr.

### Village Board

The Village Board is the legislative and policy-making body of the Village and includes the village president and six trustees. The President and Trustees are elected at-large and serve staggered four-year terms. Village code prohibits a Village Board member from serving more than two consecutive terms. The Village Board members do not receive compensation for service.

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Ave. Regular Village Board meetings are broadcast live on cable Channel 6, replayed the following day at 1 p.m., and available online at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

### Village Manager

The Village operates under a Council/Manager form of government. Under the direction of the Village Board, the Village Manager's Office oversees, coordinates, and provides leadership to the professional day-to-day administration of all Village departments. The Village Manager's Office is the primary communication liaison between the President and Village Board, the various Village departments, and residents.

### Boards and Commissions

More than 100 Wilmette resident volunteers serve on boards and commissions for the Village of Wilmette. If you're interested in serving the Village in such a position, please complete a Talent Bank Questionnaire, which can be obtained from the Village Manager's Office by calling 847-853-7511 or at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com). The Village President appoints members to these boards and commissions with the approval of the Village Board.

Residents may volunteer to serve on the following Boards or Commissions:

Appearance Review Commission  
Housing Commission  
Board of Fire and Police  
Commissioners  
Human Relations Commission  
Building Code Board of Appeals  
Plan Commission  
Electrical Commission

Police Pension Fund Board  
Environmental and Energy  
Commission  
Transportation Commission  
Fire Pension Fund Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Historic Preservation Commission

For more information on these boards and commissions, including the current meeting schedule, visit the Village's website at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

## Services Overview

The Village's 234 employees are dedicated to providing the very best services to residents.

The Village has several departments that provide a range of services directly to residents, ranging from police and fire to community development, including permitting and code enforcement, as well as engineering and public works. The Village provides utility services including water, sewer collection, and refuse, recycling, and yard waste collection along with street maintenance and snow and ice control.

Wilmette employs about 200 full and part-time workers. The Village of Wilmette is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For employment information, contact 847-853-7509, [humanresources@wilmette.com](mailto:humanresources@wilmette.com), visit the website or follow us on LinkedIn.

**The Village's website at [Wilmette.com](http://Wilmette.com) is the best source of information to learn more about services and connect directly with departments.**

## Taxes & Fees

### Property Tax Rates

Pursuant to Illinois State law, the Village Board adopts an annual budget that funds Village services. The Village finances about 33% of its operations through property taxes and is continually striving to diversify its revenue base in order to reduce reliance on the property tax. Other revenue sources include: water/sewer/stormwater charges (28%), sales tax (9%), utility/income/other taxes (13%), permits and license fees (6%), refuse and other service charges (6%), and other (5%).



The Village's portion of a resident's property tax bill is about 12% of the total tax bill. The rest of the property tax payment goes to other taxing bodies, including: schools, the county, park district, and the library district.

### Real Estate Transfer Tax & Exempt Transfers

The Village assesses a real estate transfer tax (RETT) equal to \$3 for every \$1,000 value or fraction thereof of the sale. Transfer tax stamps must be purchased once the final utility bill for the property is

paid in full. More information regarding RETT and the declaration form can be obtained at <https://www.wilmette.com/finance/tax-information/real-estate-tax/>. Once completed, it must be emailed to [ar@wilmette.com](mailto:ar@wilmette.com). Stamps will be released via email.

If a transaction is an exempt transfer, an exempt stamp must be obtained under Chapter 9-15.6 of the ordinance. Before issuing an exempt stamp, the Village requires a completed declaration form and a copy of the supporting documentation that will be filed with the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. Please call the Finance Department at 847-251-2700 with any questions about this process.

### **Online Bill Pay**

Please visit <https://www.wilmette.com/finance/online-bill-pay/> to pay items online such as:

- Real Estate Transfer Tax Stamps
- Quarterly Utility Bills
- Vehicle Stickers
- Certain Permit Fees
- Business Licenses
- Invoices
- Parking Tickets and Local Ordinance Violations



## Utilities

### Utility Accounts

If you are selling your property and have an established closing date, please contact the Finance Department to schedule a final meter reading. New homeowners should also contact the Finance Department to establish their utility account. Tenants who are responsible for the utility bill should follow similar procedures. All landlords need to notify the Finance Department if a particular property is being leased so that both the landlord and the tenant can be apprised of any issues pertaining to the account. To establish, end or update account information, please contact the Finance Department at 847-251-2700, email [ar@wilmette.com](mailto:ar@wilmette.com) or submit a service request at: <https://wilmetteil.tylerportico.com/TIM/Portal/portal-main>.

### Switch to Paperless Utility Billing

Residents can sign up for an online utility account to manage paperless billing options, sign-up for automatic payments through direct debit from a checking or savings account, and make updates to the name and mailing address for linked accounts. The online paperless billing guide is available on [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

### Water

Wilmette residents' drinking water is treated water from Lake Michigan. Visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) for information on the treatment process and water quality reports.

### Water Meters

Customers are charged a quarterly water meter fee based on the size of the meter. Visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) for information on the current water meter fee schedule information on water services for construction activities.

### Sewer

The Village's sewer system serves a population of approximately 27,500. The area east of Ridge Road is serviced by a combined sewer system, while the area west of Ridge Road is serviced by a separated sanitary and storm sewer system. The entire system collects wastewater from approximately 9,000 residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, and storm water from approximately 2,500 acres of intensely urbanized area. The Village is investing in improvements to improve flooding, including the neighborhood storage project, sewer main replacement and repairs, sewer lining and the installation of relief sewers. Learn more by visiting the Stormwater Management section of the Village website.

### Stormwater

The Village's stormwater utility fee was established to support the Neighborhood Storage Improvement project which will provide much needed flood relief to thousands of Wilmette residents. It is assessed based on the amount of impervious surface area on each customer's property. Please contact [stormwater@wilmette.com](mailto:stormwater@wilmette.com) for questions or visit <https://www.wilmette.com/village-services/stormwater-improvement-project/stormwater-utility/> for more information.

### **Garbage/Refuse**

The Village contracts with Advanced Disposal to provide weekly refuse collection for each residence. Billing for standard services appears on your Wilmette utility bill. See next section for more details on refuse collection.

### **Gas**

Nicor Gas provides natural gas service to Wilmette residents. Visit [nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com) or call 888-Nicor4u (888-642-6748).

### **Electric**

ComEd provides electric service to Wilmette. Call ComEd customer service at 1-800-334-7661 for more information.

### **Utility Locates**

Anyone, including homeowners and excavators, planning to dig or alter surface of the ground must first call J.U.L.I.E. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) at 1-800-892-0123. State law requires that J.U.L.I.E. be notified before work begins.

J.U.L.I.E. is a message handling service for utility companies.

### **Cable Television - Comcast**

The Village has an agreement with Comcast to provide cable television service to Wilmette residents. The agreement requires Comcast to meet certain service standards, including: being available by telephone to answer questions, responding to service interruptions within 24 hours, and rectifying service problems within 48 hours. Additionally, the agreement requires Comcast to provide credits to subscribers for service interruptions greater than four hours, repair any damage in the street or public way as a result of construction, provide parental control devices (as requested by subscribers), and maintain a local office within 10 miles of the Village. Complaints regarding Comcast may be directed to the Village Manager's Office at 847-853-7502.


## Garbage & Recycling

### Refuse, Recycling & Yard Waste Collection

Residents receive weekly collection for garbage and recycling. Each residence will receive two large wheeled toters, one for refuse collection and one for recycling collection. Refuse and recycling collection occur on the same day, but at different times, as separate trucks are used. To learn when your collection date is, please visit [www.wilmette.com](http://www.wilmette.com) and enter your address in the Property Information box.

### Property Information

Learn more about your property and information on community services.

 **FIND**

For more information and the Solid Waste Collection Schedule Map, please visit <https://www.wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/refuse-recycling-and-yard-waste-program/refuse-collection/>.

Residents do not need to separate their recycled materials, but glass, plastic and metal containers should be thoroughly rinsed out before being placed into the recycling bin

Yard waste collection occurs on the same day as refuse pickup and begins the first full week of April and ends the last full week of November. Please contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 for additional information or please visit <https://www.wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/refuse-recycling-and-yard-waste-program/yard-waste-collection/>.



### Leaf Collection

Residents can dispose of their leaves from mid-October through early December and Public Works will collect them curb or street-side. Please visit [www.wilmette.com](http://www.wilmette.com) for a schedule.

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Household hazardous waste, such as pesticides, gasoline, oil-based paint, household cleaners, and solvents cannot be disposed of in your regular refuse. Residents are encouraged to bring any hazardous materials to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site provided by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) for collection locations.

## E-Waste Collection

A permanent drop-off site for electronics recycling is open to Wilmette residents 24/7 at the Public Works Facility, 711 Laramie Ave. A 20-yard dumpster is available to drop off large items. Representatives from Advanced Disposal will also be on site on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon and can assist residents with larger items. A list of acceptable items is available at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

## Medicine Disposal

Residents can dispose of prescription, over-the-counter drugs and medications at the Wilmette Police Department, 710 Ridge Road. The “Save A Star Drug Disposal Program” is free of charge for residents (and not available for commercial use). The goal of the program is to dispose of these drugs in an environmentally safe way and keep them out of the hands of young children and those who might use drugs for recreational purposes.

## Sharps Disposal

The Village has partnered with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to ensure the safe disposal of needles. Sharps may be disposed of at the Wilmette Fire Department Station #26 (1304 Lake Ave.) at no cost between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

# Permits & Licenses

## Residential Permits (General)

If you are planning a home or property improvement, please remember that a building permit is required. With help from the Village’s inspectors, you are ensured that the job is completed safely and in compliance with Village codes.

Permits are required for most home improvement projects and repairs, including but not limited to:

Any new building or addition	Driveways, patios, walks	Tile, drywall
Interior remodeling	Porches, decks	Drain tile, sump pumps
Heating/air conditioning work	Electrical work	Tree removal
Cabinets and counters	Plumbing work	Outdoor kitchens, fire pits
Garages	Roofing	Swimming pools, hot tubs/spas
Sewer Repairs	Lawn sprinklers	Electrical service update
Fireplaces	Fences, walls	
	Water service upgrade	
	Demolition	

If a permit is not obtained, the work will be stopped by the Village until a permit is issued, a surcharge will be added to the cost of the building permit, and any work performed without a permit may be subject to removal at the Village's determination. For more information on permit requirements please visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com).

### **Projects Not Requiring a Permit**

There are a number of improvements that typically do not require a permit, however, are required to meet zoning and/or building codes. Such projects include sheds, playground equipment, tree houses/playhouses, ponds, satellite dishes, and residential tents. For more information, contact Community Development at 847-853-7550.

### **Business License**

Applications for a business license can be submitted to the Business Development Coordinator for review. Certain specialty licenses, such as a food handler's license, are included on the business license application. If applying for a food handler license, please provide proof of your State Food Service Sanitation Certificate along with the application. For more information, contact Community Development at 847-853-7550.

### **Right-of-Way**

Work performed within the public right-of-way requires Village approval. Projects such as driveway, sidewalk, curb and gutter repairs, sewer and water repairs, the placement of a dumpster or scaffolding, or installation of a sprinkler system on the right-of-way require residents and contractors to obtain a permit. Contact the Engineering Department at 847-853-7500 for details.

### **Dumpsters and Portable Storage Containers**

Dumpsters and PODS are not permitted on a Village street and may only be placed on the public right-of-way if there is no space available on private property. Before ordering a dumpster or POD, residents must obtain a permit from the Engineering Department. A surcharge will be added for dumpsters or PODS delivered without permits.

### **Pet Licenses**

All dogs and cats in Wilmette are subject to a one-time registration with the Village. The registration fee is as follows:

- \$40 for a dog or cat without microchip
- \$20 for a spayed/neutered dog or cat without microchip
- \$20 for a dog or cat with microchip
- \$5 for a spayed/neutered dog or cat with microchip

You will be given a tag, which should be placed on the pet's collar. Should a pet become lost, this will allow the Village to identify the pet's owner so that it may be returned home. Cook County also requires pet owners to maintain current rabies inoculations for their dogs and cats. The Animal Licenses Application is available on the Village website at <https://www.wilmette.com/finance/licensing/>.

You can also email questions to [ar@wilmette.com](mailto:ar@wilmette.com), or call the Finance Department at 847-251-2700.

## Vehicle Stickers

All vehicles registered in the State of Illinois with a Wilmette address (regardless of the physical location of the vehicle), must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle license sticker. Visit <https://www.wilmette.com/finance/vehicle-stickers/> for the current costs of stickers. The sale of vehicle stickers begins on March 1 each year and stickers must be displayed by April 15. Stickers can be purchased online from March until May 15 without a late fee. Otherwise, they must be purchased via mail or in person at Village Hall.

For more information about vehicle stickers, visit our website or call the Finance Department at 847-251-2700.

Vehicle stickers purchased after May 15 will be assessed a late fee equal to the original cost of the sticker. Stickers must be displayed on the lower left-hand driver's side of the vehicle. Vehicles not appropriately displaying the current year's vehicle sticker are subject to a citation.

New residents to Wilmette have a 30-day grace period in which a sticker may be purchased without penalty. Stickers which are lost or stolen may be replaced by purchasing a duplicate sticker at a cost of \$1. Residents who purchase a new vehicle and will be transferring their license plates to the new vehicle may purchase a transfer sticker at a cost of \$1.

## Parking Permits

Certain areas in the Village require permits to park. Visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) to view an interactive community map or to see where permitted and public parking is available.

Residents who need to acquire a Residential Parking Permit, to park on their street only may request stickers at <https://wilmetteil.tylerportico.com/TIM/Portal/portal-main>. You may also obtain stickers at the Finance Department. There is no fee for the permit, but residents must have a current vehicle sticker. Please note that these stickers are good for 2-year increments and expire at the end of each even calendar year. Stickers must be displayed on the exterior lower left-hand driver's side of the rear windshield.

Residents who reside on streets with permit parking may also acquire temporary visitor parking permits. Temporary permits are valid for one day at a time and are available in packs of seven at no charge. Proof of residency is required to obtain the temporary passes. Questions about either type of permit may be directed to [ar@wilmette.com](mailto:ar@wilmette.com) or call the Finance Department at 847-251-2700.

## Grading

A grading permit is required for activities that will disturb commercial or residential land to protect properties from adverse consequences caused by digging, excavating, grading and filling, as well as from alteration of existing vegetation. Contact the Community Development Department at (847) 853-7550 or complete the [online form](#) for more information.

## **Alarm User Permits**

The Village Code requires all persons, firms or corporations which use, own, lease or control an alarm at any residence, building or premise in Wilmette to have an alarm permit. A permit application can be completed and returned to the Wilmette Police Department, 710 Ridge Road, along with the initial application fee of \$15, made payable to the Village of Wilmette. There is a renewal fee of \$10 every two years. Permit applications can be found on the Village's website: [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) or at the Police Department.

## **Block Party Permits**

Applications for block party must be submitted to the Wilmette Police Department at least seven days prior to the scheduled event. Once approval is granted by the Chief of Police, a permit will be issued. Permits are only issued during daylight hours for weekends and legal holidays and permits are free. Visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) to download the form.

If you would like the fire department to visit your block party and provide a demonstration and answer questions, contact the fire department at 847-251-1101.

# Home & Garden

## Composting

Food scraps can be composted along with regular yard waste. Residents can obtain a compost toter from Advanced Disposal free of charge for composting food scraps and/or grass clippings, leaves, and twigs. Pickup is on the same day as refuse and recycling, starting the first week in April through the last week in November Email [compost@wilmette.com](mailto:compost@wilmette.com) or call Advanced Disposal directly at 847-272-4145.



Yard waste sticker(s) must be affixed to the lid of your cart for each collection. The 96-gallon carts require three stickers, and the 32-gallon carts require one sticker per collection. Yard waste stickers (\$2.25 each) are available for purchase at Village Hall, Wilmette Jewel Food Stores, Millen Hardware, and Chalet Nursery. See Garbage and Recycling on page eight for collection information.

## Water Restrictions

From May 15 to September 15, lawn watering is restricted to even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. No lawn sprinkling is permitted between noon and 6 p.m. on any day. Hand watering with buckets or cans is permitted during this time.

## Construction Noise Restrictions

Construction is permitted within the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. No construction is permitted on Sundays or holidays except for work undertaken directly by the homeowner between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

## Leaf Blower Restrictions

Gas powered leaf blowers are prohibited from May 15 to September 30. From October 1 to May 14, gas powered leaf blowers are permitted, but may operate for no more than 30 minutes in any three-hour period. Commercial lawn services are allowed to work only between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays and between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

## Refuse, Recycling & Yard Waste Program

See the Utilities section on page seven for more information.

## Historic Preservation

Through the Historic Preservation Commission, several properties have been designated local historic landmarks, helping to preserve their contribution to their neighborhood. Two areas of unique character in the Village have been designated national register historic districts. Public education is central to preserving the character of Wilmette. If you are interested in making historically-appropriate improvements or repairs, designating your home as a local landmark or just curious about your house's history, contact Community Development at 847-853-7550



# Roads, Transportation & Transit

## Biking in Wilmette

Wilmette is an active bicycling community. Residents who are interested in biking may pick up a bike map in the Engineering Department at Village Hall or view a map online. Wilmette has two signed bike routes. The first route is the Green Bay Trail, which starts at Wilmette Ave., just east of the Metra railroad tracks, and continues north connecting many North Shore communities. The second route is an east-west bike route connecting Gillson Park on the east side of the Village to the North Branch Trail on the west side of the Village.



## Overnight Street Parking

Overnight parking is prohibited on streets where posted. Even where overnight parking is not prohibited, the Village encourages residents to find off-street parking for their vehicles and lock the doors. Vehicles left on the street overnight are subject to vandalism. For streets with permit parking only, the Village offers daily temporary parking passes at no charge. Passes may be picked up at Village Hall. See Permits & Licenses Section on page nine for more information on parking permits.

## Sidewalk Maintenance

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the public sidewalk adjacent to their residence. If you see a public sidewalk or curbing which may be a tripping hazard, please report it to the Engineering Department on [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com), calling the Engineering Department at 847-853-7500, or in person. If residents want to have a public sidewalk replaced that is not included in the current Sidewalk Program, they must apply for a right-of-way permit and hire a private contractor to replace the sidewalk at their own cost.

## Snow Plowing/Clearing

Snow plowing operations will commence when two inches of snow has accumulated. Salting operations will continue during plowing until conditions deem it unnecessary or ineffective. The Village Code prohibits street parking during snowstorms and snow removal when accumulation reaches two inches. Parking is prohibited 24 hours after the snowfall stops or until the Village snow removal operations are completed, whichever is sooner.

Sign up for e-news to receive emails when the parking ban is in effect and when it is lifted. Notices are also posted on [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) and the Village's Facebook, Nextdoor, and Twitter

## Flood Management

If you notice water standing over street catch basins, either inform Public Works by calling 847-853-7500 or try to remove the debris so water can enter the storm sewer and prevent street flooding.



### **Street Maintenance (Resurfacing/Reconstruction)**

Each year, roads are selected for resurfacing using a pavement evaluation program. Streets in poor condition are identified and given priority. To find out when your street will be resurfaced, please contact the Engineering Department or visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) for the construction map.

### **Metra, Pace, CTA**

Wilmette is serviced by Metra's Union Pacific North Line (UP-N), which runs from Kenosha, Wisconsin to downtown Chicago. The Wilmette train station is located at 722 Green Bay Road. Parking is available in commuter parking lots which are the Berman lot and Poplar lot.

Wilmette is fortunate to be serviced by the CTA Purple Line, which provides rapid transit train service from the Linden Station in Wilmette, through Evanston, to the Howard Station in Chicago. Additionally, during designated weekday rush periods, express service continues to the downtown Loop. Parking is available in commuter parking lot, CTA West lot.

Wilmette is fortunate to be serviced by four Pace Bus Routes: Route 213 – Green Bay Road; Route 421 – Wilmette Avenue; Route 422 – Linden CTA – Glenview – Northbrook Court; and Route 423 – Linden CTA – The Glen – Harlem CTA

For current parking lot fees and more information regarding public transportation and parking in the Village Center, please visit <https://www.wilmette.com/visitors/parking-transportation/>.

# Forestry

## **Tree Trimming**

Parkway trees are pruned on a seven-year cycle to promote their health, growth, appearance, and to prevent damage to life and property. The spacing and thinning of branches improves crown shape and branch structure, allows more light into the center of the tree and permits wind to pass freely through the canopy, thus limiting the amount of storm damage occurrence.

## **Tree Planting**

Residents can have a tree planted on their parkway as part of the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program. Benefits of participation in the shared-cost, cooperative planting program include selection of tree species and choice of tree size to be planted. For more information, contact the Forestry Division at 847-853-7587.

# Health & Wellness

## **File of Life**

The Wilmette Fire Department offers a free File of Life medical history form that may be completed by residents and be available to first responders during an emergency. Paramedics arrive on the scene with minimal medical history and information about the person in need. The File of Life assists first responders by allowing them to immediately begin the best possible treatment, notify loved ones, and pass this vital data on to awaiting physicians at local emergency departments. Your latest medical information – including allergies, medications, contact persons and more – are all documented and kept in one safe place. Please call 847-251-1101 for a packet.

## **Social Worker**

The Police Social Services Counselor offers assessment, referral and short-term counseling services to residents who are referred by the Police Department. Depending on the individual needs, degree of problem and appropriateness of treatment, the counselor will either facilitate the referral to other agencies or provide counseling services. The Police Social Services Counselor is also available to provide resource or referral information to residents and to assist victims and family members during a crisis such as suicide, domestic violence or child abuse. In addition, the counselor will respond to geriatric concerns by helping to link senior citizens with the appropriate services.

## **CPR/First Aid Classes**

The Village of Wilmette recognizes the importance of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED). Bringing this training to our community members increases awareness, readiness, and plays a vital role in the chain of survival for heart attack victims.

The Village of Wilmette CPR/AED certification program teaches residents how to effectively deliver CPR and how to correctly use an AED in accordance with current American Heart Association guidelines using the American Heart Association Heartsaver instructional course. Check the Village's website for class dates and call the fire

department at 847-251-1101 to register.

### **Pest Management**

The Village contracts with a professional pest management company to address areas of known and suspected rat activity on the public way (primarily alleys). Village residents and businesses can help by removing food and water sources and pursuing abatement efforts on private property. For more information or to report a rat sighting, contact Village staff at [pestabatement@wilmette.com](mailto:pestabatement@wilmette.com) or 847- 920-3708.

# Elections

## **Voter Registration**

With two proofs of identification, one showing the current address, you may register to vote at Village Hall. Absentee and early voting is conducted by the Cook County Clerk. For more information about voting, check [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) or the Cook County Clerk website, [cookcountyclerk.com](http://cookcountyclerk.com).

# Public Safety

## **Fire Department**

The Fire Department provides many services, including fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, underwater and surface water rescue, hazardous materials incident mitigation, fire prevention, public education, and fire investigation.



## **Tours, Fire Truck Requests, Family Safety House, Education**

To schedule a tour of a Wilmette fire station, contact the fire department at 847-251-1101.

The family safety house is a public education trailer designed to look like a standard home and is used to provide instruction in fire safety and fire prevention, as well as

severe weather situations. The mobile family safety house is brought to different schools in the community, group elderly homes and community special events.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for conducting fire prevention and life safety inspections and reviewing construction plans. For more information regarding fire prevention or need to report a fire safety violation, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-251-1101.

The Wilmette Fire Department welcomes opportunities to speak with groups or individuals regarding fire prevention and fire safety. Call 847-251-1101 to inquire.

## **Child Car Safety Seat Installation**

The Wilmette Fire Department has certified child car seat installation technicians. Trained personnel provide free training and assistance to residents on the proper installation of child safety seats in their vehicles. This service is also available for non-residents for a nominal fee. Please call for an appointment 847-251-1101.

## **Juvenile Fire Setting Intervention Program**

The Wilmette Fire Department offers families help in dealing with child firesetters. If the situation involves an accidental fire or a fire set out of curiosity, a Juvenile Fire Setting Intervention class is offered to the family at no cost.

## **Police Department**

The Police department provides a full range of law enforcement services, responding to nearly 20,000 calls each year. The Police Department's web page at [wilmette.com/police-](http://wilmette.com/police-)

department offers a lot of safety and crime prevention information. Residents can also connect with the department on social media. Find them at [facebook.com/WilmettePolice/](https://www.facebook.com/WilmettePolice/) or at [twitter.com/WilmettePolice](https://twitter.com/WilmettePolice). Residents can follow Wilmette Police Department social media accounts for the latest information on road closures and other time sensitive updates.

### **Smart 911**

Residents are encouraged to sign up for Smart911. This is a free, online platform that provides 9-1-1 operators critical medical and household information during an emergency. You may add as much or as little personal information to your profile as you want. Your information will only be shared with 9-1-1 operators when you call 9-1-1 from a registered telephone number. You can download the free Smart911™ application in the iTunes & Google Play stores.

### **Crime Alerts**

You can sign up to receive e-mail alerts about crime in your neighborhood by going to [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) and signing up for the Village's E-news service on the homepage.

### **Animal Control**

The Police Department enforces animal ordinances and investigates animal bite complaints and coordinates the removal of dead animals from public property. The Village does not remove live or dead animals from private property; removal is the responsibility of the property owner. Residents seeking to remove animals from private property must contact a private company.

Please note that dogs are not permitted to run at large in the Village. When off the premises of the owner, a dog must be on a leash and under control of a family member over 12 years of age. Visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) for more information.

# Communications & Community Engagement

## Newsletter and E-News

The Village’s newsletter, *The Communicator*, is mailed to residents three times a year. It provides information about Village programs, services, and community events. The Village’s E-News is distributed weekly to residents who sign-up to receive electronic news. Sign-up is available on the homepage of [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) or texting “Wilmette” to 22828.

## Social Media

Connect with us at:

- Twitter [@VofWilmette](https://twitter.com/VofWilmette)
- Linked In [/company/village-of-wilmette/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/village-of-wilmette/)
- Facebook [/VofWilmette](https://www.facebook.com/VofWilmette)
- [Youtube.com/user/villageofwilmetteonline](https://www.youtube.com/user/villageofwilmetteonline)
- You can also find the Village on NextDoor

## Channel 6

The Village’s Public Education and Government (PEG) channel broadcasts several public meetings, including:

Village Board Meetings	Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings	District 39 School Board Meetings	Park District Board Meetings
Live: Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.  Rebroadcasts: Wednesday at 1 p.m.  Meetings are also streamed live on <a href="http://wilmette.com">wilmette.com</a> and are available on demand.	Live: First and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.  Rebroadcast: Thursday at 1 p.m.	Live: Fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m.  Rebroadcast: Tuesday at 1 p.m.	Live: Second Monday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m.

## Video Production Classes

Wilmette residents who are interested in participating in TV production classes that will ultimately lead to the production of programs on WCTV Channel 6 are encouraged to contact the Village Cable Coordinator at 847-853-9288.

## Freedom of Information Requests

In accordance with state law, individuals wishing to view public records can contact the Village with a detailed request. A sample request form can be found at [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) or at the Village Manager’s Office.

## Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

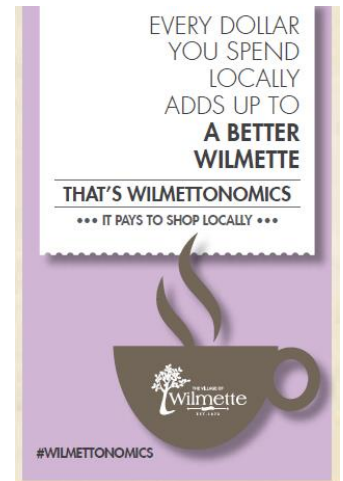
Through a GIS Consortium, the Village is able to geographically map data and utilize it to guide infrastructure improvements and planning. Certain functions of the GIS program are available to residents through the Citizen Portal on the Village’s website.

# Business Development

The department works to maintain the Village's many business districts by assisting commercial property owners to find new tenants and ensure that permitting and licensing is handled. The department assists with permitting and signage requirements. Annual promotions, banners in the commercial districts, and the French Market are some of the projects handled in Community Development.

## Shop Local/Wilmettonomics

Economic vitality in the Village is important as it helps diversify the tax base and fund vital government services, such as street improvements, tree plantings, snow plowing, and special events like our holiday lights and seasonal concerts. Residents play an important role in this effort by shopping locally and keeping dollars in our community. The Village works in partnership with the Wilmette Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce and marketing professionals who live in our community to promote economic development. The Wilmettonomics initiative aims to increase awareness about shopping local because every dollar you spend locally adds up to a better Wilmette.



## Historical Museum

The Historical Museum is funded through a partnership between the Village and Wilmette Historical Society. The Museum is dedicated to exploring, preserving and sharing the lively history of Wilmette and the North Shore.

### Research Center

The Research Center is open during regular museum hours, and an appointment is not necessary. People use the Research Center for many reasons – to discover the history of a house or learn about a local family, to research a topic for a scholarly book or college project, to select a photo to display in your home or business, just to name a few.

### Exhibits

New exhibits are featured every year at the Museum. It's a great way to get to know more about your community.

### Events & Tours

The Museum offers a variety of lectures, walking tours, classes and clubs for both children and adults, and special events, including a May open house, a spring housewalk, and a fall car show. Group tours can be arranged by contacting the Museum. For a calendar of current events, please visit our website: .





## Internships

Summer internships are available each year to a small number of students in high school or college.

## Schools

Public School Districts:

- [New Trier High School District #203](#)
- [Avoca School District #37](#)
- [Wilmette School District #39](#)

Private Schools:

- [St. Joseph and Francis Xavier School](#)
- [Loyola Academy](#)
- [Regina Dominican High School](#)
- [Baker Demonstration School](#)

## Wilmette Park District

- 20 Parks (188.3 acres)
- 63 acres of lakefront parks
- Swimming and Sailing Beaches
- Wilmette Golf Course
- Community Recreation Center (Center Fitness Club, North Shore Theater of Wilmette)
- Centennial Recreation Complex (indoor tennis, ice skating and outdoor pools)

## Wilmette Public Library

1242 Wilmette Avenue

847-256-5025

- Open 76 hours/week
- Collection size: 342,000 physical and downloadable items
- Auditorium and meeting rooms for programs and public rental

# History of Wilmette

The Village of Wilmette is distinct among North Shore communities because it was created by the 1924 merger of two older villages, Wilmette and Gross Point. The origins and development of these two communities differed, and this difference is still visible on the landscape. On the east, Wilmette developed on a wooded tract bordering Lake Michigan. On the west, Gross Point was the center of a German immigrant, farming community that spread across the open fields west of what is now Ridge Road.

## First Residents

Native Americans were the first people to inhabit this region. European contact began with the arrival of French explorers three centuries ago. At that time, Potawatomi people were living in this area.

## Wilmette's Development

Wilmette's road to incorporation began in 1869, a time during which the railroads played a crucial role in development. A group of five men formed a land syndicate to promote residential development on the former Ouilmette Reservation. John G. Westerfield, the man who had originally farmed the land around the old Ouilmette cabin and later the Village's first president, laid out streets and lots in his first survey of the Village. The Village was incorporated in 1872 and named after early settlers Archange and Antoine Ouilmette (although the spelling was later changed).

In 1910, the Northwestern Elevated Electric Railroad made electric train service to Chicago or Milwaukee available for the first time from the east side of the Village.

In 1913, the railroad's architect designed and built a

For more information on the Village's history, visit the Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, or online at [wilmettehistory.org](http://wilmettehistory.org).

Prairie-style station intended to be a "high-grade artistic terminal to attract the better purchasers." This electric line is commonly called the "L" line and still operates.

In 1942, Wilmette's boundaries were further expanded when "No Man's Land"—the triangle of land near Lake Michigan and bordering Kenilworth—was annexed after years of legal and legislative battles. Zoning changes allowed high-rise apartment buildings to be built there beginning in the 1960s.

The Edens Expressway opened in 1951 and the postwar baby boom brought rapid change to west Wilmette. Farmland disappeared as new streets were platted and homes and parks sprang up. The Edens Plaza Shopping Center opened in 1956. Improvements to the highways made it more convenient to drive to the city, bringing about the demise of the North Shore Line in 1955 and the Skokie Valley Line in 1962. In 1953, a prominent Wilmette landmark, the Baha'i House of Worship, was completed 40 years after its construction began.

Wilmette had become a mature suburb, one whose coming challenges would be more of preservation and revitalization than of growth.

