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# THE COMMUNICATOR

FALL/WINTER  
2020 -  
2021

*The Village of Wilmette Newsletter*



## 2020 Election: Get Ready to Vote!

### Online Resources

Cook County Clerk's Office:  
[cookcountyclerk.com/agency/elections](https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/elections)  
League of Women Voters of Wilmette:  
[lwwilmette.org](http://lwwilmette.org)

The 2020 general election is coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and some key dates are right around the corner. Here's what you need to know as you get ready to vote:

- **Voter Registration:** The in-person registration deadline is Oct. 6 and the online registration deadline is Oct. 18.
- **Early Voting** (in-person) will take place from Oct. 19–Nov. 2. Election officials encourage early voting to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread on Election Day.

### • **Vote by Mail:**

- Any registered Cook County voter may request a mail ballot. The Cook County Clerk's Office encourages voters to apply as early as possible to make sure you receive your ballot in time to vote.
- Mail ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by Nov. 17, though election officials encourage mail-in voters to return their ballots as early as possible.

- Mail ballots can also be returned via secure drop boxes. A secure drop box will be available at Centennial Park (2300 Old Glenview Road) beginning Oct. 19.
- **Poll Workers are Needed!** Traditionally, in-person poll workers tend to be older individuals who may not feel safe working the polls this year. Adults and students can earn \$200-\$365 for working as election judges and polling place technicians.

*Wilmette voters will weigh in on the retail sale of cannabis in Wilmette. Learn more on page 3.*

# Message from the Village President

The spring and summer of 2020 was unlike any time we've ever experienced. I'm proud of how our community has come together as neighbors to support one another during these unprecedented times.

## COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of everyday life, from how we work to how we shop to how we interact with each other.

From the very start of the pandemic, the Village began communicating frequently with residents and businesses to provide vital health and safety information. The Village provided direct financial assistance to small businesses through an economic relief program, and to support our most vulnerable residents, the Village organized the Community Caretakers program which connects residents who need help with residents who want to help.

Thankfully, because of the Village's actions and precautions taken by Wilmette residents, the number of COVID-19 cases in the Village has stabilized. While significant progress has been made, the risk of a resurgence remains, so please continue to be diligent and protect yourselves, your family and your neighbors by practicing social distancing and following public health guidance on wearing a face covering.

The pandemic has been especially challenging for the local businesses that make Wilmette unique and vibrant. Thank you for your strong support of our local businesses. It's important that we continue to patronize our restaurants and shops during the upcoming winter months, which is traditionally a slower time of the year.

## Community Message on Inclusiveness

In response to the tragic and abhorrent death of George Floyd, the Village Board issued a letter to the community denouncing the actions of the police officers involved in his death and rejecting acts of violence and

discrimination in our community. In addition, the Village Board asked Police Chief Murphy to make a presentation to the community regarding the Wilmette Police Department's policies and practices. The Village Board is proud of the high standards which guide how the Village Staff serves our entire community. As a community, it is our responsibility to foster an inclusive environment where people of all racial, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds feel safe and welcomed.

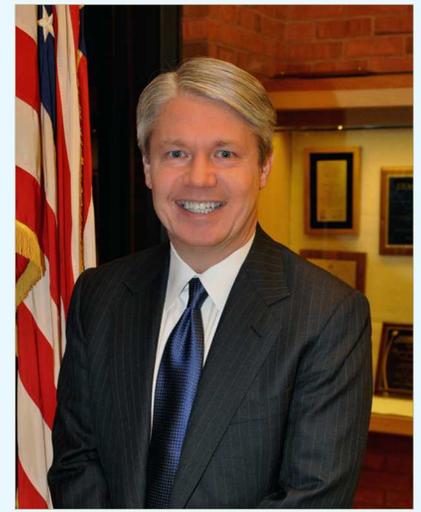
## Construction Update

The Neighborhood Storage Project continues to move forward, and Phase 1 (Community Playfields Reservoir) and Phase 1A (Storm Sewer Improvements) of the project are nearly complete. I would like to again express my gratitude to the Wilmette Park District Commissioners and the District 39 Board of Education Members for working cooperatively with the Village to keep this important project on schedule. On this project and in many other areas, residents benefit from intergovernmental cooperation between Wilmette's different units of government.

Construction is also now underway on the Central Avenue reconstruction and downtown streetscape improvements. Federal and state grants are funding a significant portion of the cost of this project. Work through the end of 2020 will focus on Central Avenue and work next spring will take place on Wilmette Avenue. Completion of this project is expected by June 2021.

## 2021 Budget

As we move into the end of 2020, the Village shifts its focus towards planning for 2021 through our annual budget process. The Village has been able to maintain a strong financial position in spite of the fiscal impact of the pandemic, and the Village's Aaa credit rating, the highest rating possible, was recently reconfirmed. With our strong financial position and stable outlook, the Village plans to continue to invest in municipal infrastructure projects in 2021, including road, sidewalk and



Village President Bob Bielinski

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

alley construction, the downtown streetscape improvements, and Phase 2 of the Neighborhood Storage Project at Hibbard Park. However, given the uncertainty of the economy, the Village Board and Staff will continue to closely monitor revenues and expenses and will take action to modify construction plans as necessary.

## 2020 Census

Over 85% of residents have responded to the 2020 Census, improving on our 2010 response rate and ranking us among the top 1.5% of all communities in the nation. I thank all residents for ensuring that Wilmette is properly counted which allows the Village to receive its fair share of federal and state funding.

## 2020 Election

Also, please remember to vote in the November 3rd election. In addition to elections for federal and state offices, November's ballot will include a non-binding, advisory referendum on permitting the sale of adult use recreational cannabis at a state licensed business inside Wilmette.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy fall and holiday season. Please remember that the Village Board and I, along with the Village Staff, value your thoughts and ideas on ways to enhance quality of life in Wilmette. Thank you to all of you who help make our Village a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

# November Voters to Weigh in on Retail Sale of Cannabis in Wilmette

Wilmette voters will be asked to answer a question on the November ballot indicating whether they are in favor or not in favor of the retail sale of adult-use recreational cannabis within Wilmette. The referendum question will read:

***“Shall the retail sale of adult use recreational cannabis be permitted within the Village of Wilmette at a business licensed by the State of Illinois?”***

This is an advisory (non-binding) referendum that is being used to gauge public opinion for future

policy discussions and decision-making by the Village Board. The public will have continued opportunity to provide input on the final decision to allow retail sales of adult use recreational cannabis, and provide input on other details, including possible locations, zoning districts and other regulations.

The Illinois General Assembly legalized recreational marijuana use and sale in the state for adults age 21 years and older, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. The Wilmette Village Board approved a moratorium prohibiting the retail

sale of adult-use recreational cannabis which is set to expire on June 30, 2021. The Village has created a [dedicated web page at \*\*Wilmette.com\*\*](#) for residents to access more information about the referendum and other resources, including Village Board documents, data from surrounding communities related to this issue and links to [FAQs](#) and State resources.

## Work in Progress! Wilmette Invests in Several Major Infrastructure Projects



*Stormwater vault construction at Community Playfield was completed in August.*

### Neighborhood Storage Project to Provide Flood Relief

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

The Village achieved a major milestone in this multi-year infrastructure project to improve flooding with the completion a 1.25 million cubic foot stormwater storage vault at Community Playfield as part of Phase 1 of the project. Crews continue to work on installing new sewers in the surrounding neighborhoods. Phase 2 will begin in January and includes construction of an underground stormwater vault under Hibbard Park and new storm sewers. The final phase of the

project is tentatively scheduled for 2022, with construction of a third vault at Thornwood Park and additional storm sewers.

### Downtown Streetscape Project

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

Thank you for your patience as the Village works to transform our downtown as part of its \$10 million Downtown Streetscape Project. The downtown improvements (which are substantially funded with state and federal grants) include sidewalks, roadways, plantings, lighting and other amenities on Wilmette and Central Avenues. Please support our downtown businesses during this time of transition and progress. Work on Central Avenue will be completed in December and two-way traffic will be restored through the winter months. In March next year, work will begin on Wilmette Avenue.

### Mater Bike and Active Transportation Plan

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

In keeping with its commitment to making Wilmette a more walkable

and bike-friendly community, the Village has been developing a Master Bike and Active Transportation Plan. The public provided input into the plan earlier this year which shaped the plan's recommendations. The Village Board is expected to discuss the plan later this year.

### Skokie Boulevard and Lake Avenue Intersection Study Update

[wilmette.com/skokie-and-lake](http://wilmette.com/skokie-and-lake)

The Village is exploring ways to improve mobility and safety at the Skokie Boulevard and Lake Avenue intersection, including modernized traffic signals, ADA compliant sidewalks and reduced lane widths to shorten crossing distances. Additionally, the Village is evaluating a multi-use path along Skokie Boulevard from Lake Avenue to Illinois Road. The project is currently programmed for construction in 2022 or 2023.

*View timelines, statuses and an interactive map of all Village infrastructure projects at [wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/current-projects](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/current-projects).*

## Welcome New Businesses!

The Village welcomes its newest businesses and thanks them for choosing Wilmette! 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 help provide services that keep Wilmette clean, safe and vibrant.

**Atlas Upper Cervical Chiropractic**  
402 Linden Ave.  
[atlasucc.com](http://atlasucc.com)  
*Coming soon!*

**Carlos & Carlos**  
615 Green Bay Road  
Northern Italian cuisine  
[carlosandcarloswilmette.com](http://carlosandcarloswilmette.com)

**Carter's Sports and Wellness Therapy**  
1167 Wilmette Ave.  
[carterssportswellnesstherapy.com](http://carterssportswellnesstherapy.com)

**One Magnificent Medspa**  
1100 Central Ave.  
[onemagnificentmedspa.com](http://onemagnificentmedspa.com)  
*Coming soon!*

**North Shore Barber Shop**  
410 Linden Ave.  
847-906-4001

**Skunkworks Dance**  
1111 Central Ave.  
Radically different dance studio  
[skunkworksdance.com](http://skunkworksdance.com)

**Sophia Steak**  
1146 Wilmette Ave.  
Neighborhood steakhouse  
[sophiasteak.com](http://sophiasteak.com)



**Remember to Shop Local this Holiday Season!**

Looking for unique items and experiences to give as holiday gifts? Check out

Wilmette's many locally-owned and operated stores, restaurants and services! Visit the Wilmette-Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce website for local listings: [wilmettekenilworth.com](http://wilmettekenilworth.com). And don't forget about Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28!



OCT 31

**Halloween**  
Trick-or-Treating  
Hours: 4 - 8 p.m.



NOV 3

**Election Day**



NOV 11

**Veterans Day**



## Wilmette Historical Museum

October 2020 – January 2021

*Lecture*

### **Monuments, Memorials and Public Memory**

Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 – 8 p.m.

*Free virtual event; Advance registration required*

Jennifer Scott will discuss the role of monuments and memorials in the Chicagoland area and beyond. Scott is co-chair of Chicago's new citywide monuments project launched in August which "will grapple with the often unacknowledged – or forgotten – history [...] and will provide a vehicle to address the hard truths of Chicago's racial history."

*Lecture*

### **Luxembourgers in Chicago: From North Avenue to Wilmette**

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 – 3 p.m.

*Free virtual event; Advance registration required*

During the second half of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, Chicago and Cook County were home to the largest number of Luxembourg immigrants in America. This lecture by Kevin Wester provides an overview of Luxembourg immigration to, and influence on, the Chicago area.

### **Annual Meeting and Lecture**

Sunday, Jan. 31, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

*Free virtual event; Advance registration required*

All are welcome to the Wilmette Historical Society's annual meeting and lecture. The Historical Society is a volunteer organization supporting the Museum's work in exploring, preserving and sharing the lively history of Wilmette. The meeting speaker will be announced later this year.

[wilmettehistory.org](http://wilmettehistory.org)



## Wilmette Police Share Safety Tips

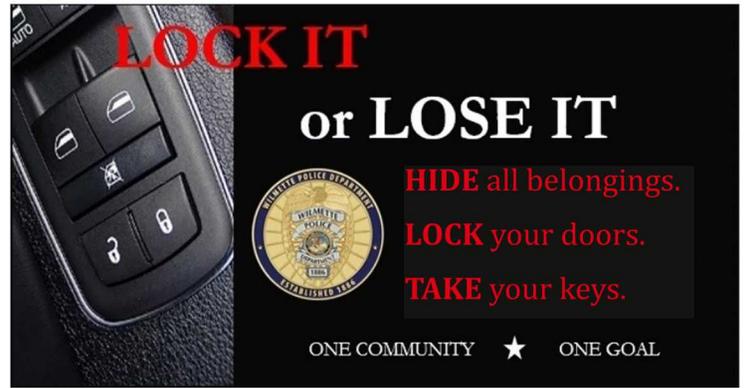
### Look Out for Ruse Burglary Attempts

Ruse burglaries are usually committed in pairs where one offender distracts the victim while the other enters the home to steal items. These offenders frequently target elderly people while they're at home. One common ruse tactic is to pose as a Village employee or utility worker. Village of Wilmette employees will always have a Village-issued ID and uniform and will not show up without an appointment. If you're concerned, don't hesitate to ask to see ID

and call the utility company to confirm, or call the Wilmette Police Department directly at 847-256-1200 if someone claims to be a Village employee. If you were a victim of a ruse burglary or see suspicious vehicles or people approaching elderly neighbors, please call 911 immediately to report these incidents.

### Lock It or Lose It

Many communities, including Wilmette, have been the target of vehicle theft in recent months.



Burglars look to steal items from unlocked cars, and in some cases where keys were left in the unlocked car, vehicles have been stolen. Protect yourself and our community. Make sure removing valuables and locking your car (even in your garage) is part of your routine.



**26** Thanksgiving/  
Day After Thanksgiving  
Offices Closed

**27** No Refuse Pickup  
on Thursday



**28** Last French Market  
Last Day of  
Yard Waste and  
Composting Pickup

**BOO!**



## Celebrate Safely this Halloween!

*Trick-or-Treating from 4 to 8 p.m.*

Wilmette thinks Halloween is a spooktacular time for families and neighborhoods. To keep things fun and safe this year, we encourage you to be smart and do your part!

- Plan a costume that has a fun mask, practice physical distancing and make sure you wash your hands after you get home!
- Neighbors can leave a bowl of treats (and a bottle of hand sanitizer) at the end of your front sidewalk and sit on your porch to wave at the kids walking the neighborhood. This allows kids

to safely walk the neighborhood while maintaining physical distance.

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- Drivers should slow down and be especially alert; children are excited and may move in unpredictable ways.

**Use the enclosed sign to indicate whether you're handing out treats this year.**



## Follow the Village!

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

Want to stay up to date on what the Village is doing to maintain the health and safety of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic? Curious about what's going on with construction projects around town? Sign up for the Village's weekly E-News and follow the Village on Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor for regular updates!

## Parkway Tree Pruning

The Village prunes parkway trees every year from late October through April 1. This year's operations will focus on the area west of Skokie Boulevard. Parkway trees are pruned on a cycle to promote their health and growth, while improving appearance and providing clearance for cars, trucks and pedestrians. Residents can submit pruning requests to the Forestry Division for parkway trees that do not fall within the upcoming scheduled areas by calling 847-853-7500. To view the pruning zones map, visit [wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/parkway-tree-pruning](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/parkway-tree-pruning).

## Annual Sewer Lining Notice

*The Village Invests in the Longevity of Wilmette's Sewer System*

The Village's annual Sewer Lining program is underway and work is scheduled to begin this winter. The project includes the rehabilitation of nearly four miles of sewer lines which are 60 to 100 years old and have many cracks and root intrusions. Sewer lining is an investment in our sewer system that will help it last an additional 50 years and will benefit our residents by reducing sewer backups.

This project is financed by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The Village chose this cost-effective method of repair to reduce the disruption caused by typical sewer excavation and replacement techniques.



**Christmas Day**  
**Offices Closed**  
**No Refuse Pickup**



**New Year's Day**  
**Offices Closed**  
**No Refuse Pickup**



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
**Offices Open**

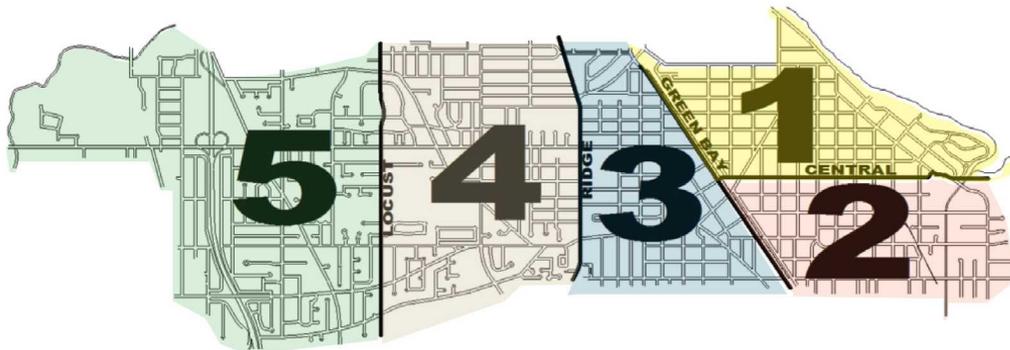
## We're Serving You In-Person and Online

The Village has implemented measures to keep employees and residents safe while resuming certain in-person services. While we miss seeing you, please know that the Village continues to provide the high-quality services that you expect. We offer many online service options – like online bill pay and service requests – and Village employees are available to help by phone or email. Visit [Wilmette.com](http://Wilmette.com) to connect!

- Village Hall is open with limited hours and safety guidelines in place:
  - Monday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

- Face masks will be required unless a medical condition prevents wearing one.
- Physical distancing will be required at all times, and spacing requirements for the public waiting in line will be clearly marked.
- Any member of the public that exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave.
- Plexiglass barriers have been installed at the front counters.





The Village's leaf collection service will begin Oct. 12. Here are some tips and reminders to ensure smooth collection:

- During a two-day collection period, residents must have their leaves raked out no later than **7 a.m. on the first** scheduled collection day. **Only one** collection is made for each street and will occur on either the first or second day of scheduled collection.
- Street parking is prohibited on leaf collection days.
- If your regular trash/recycling/yard waste pickup falls on the same day as leaf collection, place totes two to three feet behind the curb.
- Leaves must be loose, not in bags or containers.
- Avoid raking leaves onto the street until two days prior to your scheduled collection day to prevent storm drains clogs.
- In the event of inclement winter weather that delays collection, residents will receive an email notification. Sign up for Village E-News at [wilmette.com/connect](http://wilmette.com/connect).

## October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
11	12 Zone 3	13 Zone 4	14 Zone 5	15 Zone 1	16 Zone 2	17
18	19 Zone 3	20 Zone 3	21 Zone 4	22 Zone 4	23 Zone 5	24
25	26 Zone 5	27 Zone 1	28 Zone 1	29 Zone 2	30 Zone 2	31

## November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Zone 3	3 Zone 3	4 Zone 4	5 Zone 4	6 Zone 5	7
8	9 Zone 5	10 Zone 1	11 Zone 1	12 Zone 2	13 Zone 2	14
15	16 Zone 3	17 Zone 3	18 Zone 4	19 Zone 4	20 Zone 5	21
22	23 Zone 5	24 Zone 1	25 Zone 1	26	27	28

## December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29	30 Zone 2	1 Zone 2	2 Zone 3&4	3 Zone 5&1	4 Zone 2	5

# Snow & Ice Removal

More information available at [wilmette.com/village-services/snow-ice-control](http://wilmette.com/village-services/snow-ice-control)

**Plowing and Salting Priorities:** The Village will begin plowing and salting streets after 2 inches of snow. Alleys and residential sidewalks will be cleared when there are 4+ inches of snow.



### 1. Arterial Streets



*2 Things to Know About Wilmette Street Parking Bans During Winter Weather*

**1. No street parking** after 2+ inches of snow for 24 hours after the snowfall stops or snow removal is completed (whichever is sooner).

**2. No parking on one side** of the street (on streets posted as 27 feet wide or less) for 24 hours after snowfall of less than 2 inches, sleet, freezing rain or ice.



### 2. Business/Commuter Sidewalks

*Take priority over residential sidewalks*



### 3. School Sidewalks

*High priority after 2+ inches of snow*



### 4. Side Streets and Cul-de-sacs



Connect with the Village on social media for real-time snow parking updates!

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



### Need help shoveling your driveway or sidewalk?

Contact WilWork, the Village's youth employment referral program. Call 847-853-7609 or email [wilwork@wilmette.com](mailto:wilwork@wilmette.com).

# 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 [sullivand@wilmette.com](mailto:sullivand@wilmette.com)

### Business Hours:

Monday – Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



1200 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091

PRESORT STD.  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WILMETTE, IL 60091  
PERMIT NO. 26

Local Postal Customer  
Wilmette, IL 60091



## 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

<b>Fire/Police Emergency</b>	911	
<b>Fire Department</b>	<a href="mailto:fire@wilmette.com">fire@wilmette.com</a>	847-251-1101
<b>Museum</b>	<a href="mailto:museum@wilmette.com">museum@wilmette.com</a>	847-853-7666
<b>Police Department</b>	<a href="mailto:police@wilmette.com">police@wilmette.com</a>	847-256-1200
<b>Public Works Department</b>	<a href="mailto:pubworks@wilmette.com">pubworks@wilmette.com</a>	
General		847-853-7500
After Hours Emergency		847-256-1200
<b>Water Management</b>		847-853-7535
<b>Village Hall</b>		847-251-2700
Community Development		847-853-7550
Engineering		847-853-7660
Finance		847-853-7609
Clerk		847-853-7511
<b>Village Manager</b>		
Michael Braiman	<a href="mailto:braimanm@wilmette.com">braimanm@wilmette.com</a>	847-853-7509

### 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