

THE COMMUNICATOR

PURCHASE YOUR 2014 VEHICLE STICKER ONLINE

Vehicle stickers will be available for purchase as of March 1st and must be displayed by April 15th. Residents who currently have a Village vehicle sticker will be mailed an application, and upon receipt of a completed application along with proper payment, will receive a vehicle sticker by mail.

New for 2014, Wilmette residents will have the option to pay for their vehicle sticker(s) online with a credit card. The online payment portal will be available from the Village's website, www.wilmette.com. A link to the site will also be included with the vehicle sticker application, along with easy to follow instructions on how to complete the purchase online. Residents will still have the option of mailing in their payment or paying in person at the Village Hall.

Residents who would like to make their purchase at Village Hall may do so from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Village Hall will not be open on Saturdays.

The fees are \$80 for passenger vehicles, \$95 for trucks, and \$25 for motorcycles. Senior citizens (ages 65 and older) who meet the annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income guidelines are eligible for a \$10 discount (limit one per person). Any vehicle registered in the Village with the Illinois Secretary of State not displaying a 2014 sticker after April 15th is subject to receiving a violation. **Vehicle stickers purchased after May 15th include an \$80 late fee.** The revenue generated from the sale of vehicle stickers is used to maintain the Village's infrastructure, including streets, alleys and curbs.

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 \$1.00. 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 \$1.00.

Village Holiday

Village offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Additionally, refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of May 26th. For questions, please call Public Works at (847) 853-7500.

DONATE TO THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND

Since the early 1980s, the Village has provided financial housing assistance for low income seniors and long-term Wilmette residents with permanent disabilities to enable them to remain residents of the Village. This assistance has been primarily funded by an affordable housing escrow. Unfortunately, this escrow will be depleted shortly and the Village is looking to private donations to help continue this important community program.

For each \$200 raised, we can help keep one more long-time Village resident in their home as a contributing member of our community.

To make an instant tax deductible donation to the housing assistance program, visit www.wilmette.com/hap.aspx to donate via credit card or direct debit, or detach the form on page seven of The Communicator and deliver it to Village Hall at 1200 Wilmette Avenue.

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Letter from Village President Bob Bielinski



It is so exciting that our friends in neighboring suburbs are talking about what's going on in Wilmette. In 2013, downtown Wilmette experienced a restaurant renaissance, and new businesses opened in all of Wilmette's business districts including Linden Square, Plaza del Lago, Edens Plaza, Westlake Plaza, Wilmette Commons and the Ridge Road corridor.

Last year, four new restaurants opened near the intersection of Wilmette Ave and Central Ave in the heart of the Village Center, and this past summer, evening activity far exceeded anything previously seen downtown. Both new and well-established restaurants were crowded on the weekends, and even some weekdays, as people took advantage of warm summer nights to gather with friends and family.

Downtown Wilmette also hosted a number of special events in 2013, and we look forward to similar and new events in 2014.

In June, the Wilmette Theatre hosted the Chicago premiere of "The Bling Ring" which stars Katie Chang, an alum of New Trier High School and Wilmette's Actors Training Center. The red carpet evening included a fundraiser for the not-for-profit Theatre at a neighboring restaurant. This year is the Wilmette Theatre's 100th anniversary, so be on the lookout for special events commemorating the occasion.

In July, the Chamber of Commerce's 3rd annual Summerfest was another huge success. People gathered downtown for a sidewalk sale, classic car show, kids activities, live bands, as well as plenty of great food and drink. The streets were blocked off, and the music extended well into the evening on Saturday night. If you haven't been to Summerfest yet, please be sure to join us in July of 2014.

In September, more than 400 people participated in a charity pub crawl, the proceeds of which benefited the Warming House Youth Center. Supported by downtown's restaurants and shops, this first time event was a huge success bringing people out on a Thursday night for a great cause and a little fun. Expect more fun next year from the organizers of this event.

To kick off the Holiday season, hundreds of people gathered on the Friday evening before Thanksgiving for the annual tree lighting ceremony in front of Village Hall. The following day, crowds lined the streets and braved a cold and windy day to watch the annual holiday parade which was headlined, as always, by Santa but this year also included American Idol 10th season finalist Haley Reinhart.

Please continue to patronize the restaurants and retailers in all areas of the Village. For sustained success, our local businesses need your continued support throughout the year.

Looking forward, the Village of Wilmette begins 2014 on solid ground.

In October 2013, the Village's Aaa credit rating (highest rating possible) was reaffirmed by Moody's. A strong credit rating is important because it allows the Village to borrow money to finance capital improvements at a lower interest rate. The Village's Aaa-

rating is also a testament to the management of the Village – its solid balance sheet, history of responsible decision making and positive outlook for the future. The Village Staff deserves much credit for this achievement during a time when all Illinois municipalities are under additional scrutiny because of the State's financial issues.

The 2014 Budget is again balanced and projects no draw down on the Village's financial reserves. Core services provided by the Village, including police, fire and public works, remain intact with no change to the levels of service which residents currently enjoy. Despite still feeling the impact of the recent recession, the Village's property tax levy increase was only 3.39%, the smallest increase since 1997.

In 2014, the Village will continue to invest in its municipal infrastructure, especially the sewer system. Major capital projects planned for 2014 include:

- Over \$13 million of improvements to the sewer system (with an additional \$11 million more planned in 2015)
- \$1.7 million of streets, sidewalks, and alleys improvements
- \$390,000 for improvements to the water system and its facilities
- Replacement of two Police squad cars
- Replacement of a Public Works aerial lift truck
- Automation of the parking meter system at the Metra station

Over the next few years, the Village plans to spend approximately \$24 million for sewer improvements, all in the area west of Ridge Road. These improvements primarily address flooding caused by sanitary sewer backups in basements, which cause property damage and significant hardship to residents. An engineering study of the storm sewer system is also included in 2014's sewer projects. All of this work will be financed with money borrowed by the Village through a series of bond offerings. Repayment of these bonds will be funded by increased sewer fees, with an initial \$0.40 increase in residents' rate scheduled for 2014.

A more detailed discussion of the 2014 Budget can be found on pages four and five. Managing the budget is a never ending process, and the Village Staff has done an excellent job over the past several years controlling expenses while continuing to deliver the critical municipal services that residents rely upon every day. As always, if you have any questions or comments about the budget, please feel free to contact any member of the Village Board or staff.

In closing, please remember to shop Wilmette and eat in Wilmette in 2014!

Please consider dining out on a weekday evening this winter when our restaurants aren't so crowded, and if you haven't shopped locally lately, please take time to visit one of the many unique and interesting retail shops that call Wilmette home.

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and I wish each of you a happy and healthy 2014!

Bob Bielinski, Village President



ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

The Gubernatorial Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Polls will be open on Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To verify your voter registration, find your polling place, provide a sample ballot when available, and list your elected officials and their contact information, please go to www.cookctyclerk.com.

Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote in the Gubernatorial Primary Election, residents must be registered by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Residents who are not already registered or have moved or changed their name may register to vote at the Village Hall, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Early Voting

Prior to Election Day, early voting will take place Monday, March 3 through Saturday, March 15, 2014 at sites designated by the Cook County Clerk. State law requires early voters to present a government-issued photo ID such as a passport, driver's license, or military ID. All Early Voting is conducted on touch screens. Please check the Cook County Clerk's website (www.cookctyclerk.com) for early voting sites.

WILMETTE FRENCH MARKET

This year's French Market will be here before you know it! The market will run every Saturday morning (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) beginning April 26th in Wilmette's Village Center, just east of the Metra station. The market will feature abundant seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, breads, baked items, cheese, all natural meat, flowers, and olive oils from local and regional vendors. Check the Village's website for additional information throughout the spring and summer.

GOING GREEN MATTERS 2014 SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WILMETTE



Go Green Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette present an all ages community fair. Examine the latest eco-friendly cars, paints, light bulbs and home energy efficiencies. Enjoy cooking demonstrations or a snack at the Go Green Café. Get easy tips for water conservation and reducing your carbon footprint at interesting, interactive exhibits. Electronics recycling and volunteer opportunities available. For details see: www.goinggreenmatters.org.

2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Village has tentatively scheduled the following projects in 2014 to maintain the Village's critical infrastructure:

Road Rehabilitation Program

STREET	FROM	TO
7th Street	Maple Avenue	Central Avenue
15th Street	Forest Avenue	Walnut Avenue
Birchwood Avenue	Harvard Street	Ridge Road
Maple Avenue	North Shore Channel	Sheridan Road
Timber Lane	Iroquois Road	Elmwood Avenue

Sanitary Sewer Local Storage / Capacity Improvements

STREET	FROM	TO
Wilmette Avenue	Beverly Drive	Meadow Drive
Gregory Avenue	Hibbard Road	Kilpatrick Avenue
Kilpatrick Avenue	Glenview Road	Gregory Avenue

Manhole Rehabilitation Project

Village-wide rehabilitation of sanitary manholes exhibiting signs of structural deterioration and water infiltration.

Kenilworth Gardens / Princeton Place System Review

The goals of this project are to determine regional and local pipe storage options, identify and remove sources of stormwater inflow and infiltration from the sanitary sewer system and review the efficiency of the Princeton Place outfall.

Harms Road Storage Reservoir and Pump Station Project

Preliminary design is underway for the Harms Road Storage and Pump Station Project which was identified as an important component to address sanitary backups in the area west of Romona Road. The project consists of building a 5.5 million gallon storage reservoir to store peak sanitary flows, a check valve on the Village's sanitary connection to the regional interceptor pipe at Harms Road and a pump station.

Separate Storm System GIS Development and Hydraulic Modeling

Similar to the hydraulic modeling of the sanitary sewer system in 2012, this study will determine where there are bottlenecks in the separate storm sewer system located west of Ridge Road. The goal is to identify and prioritize projects that will improve the performance of the storm system during heavy rain events and reduce the potential for detrimental overland flooding.

For more information about these projects, contact the Engineering Department at (847) 853-7660 or visit www.wilmette.com to view a map of all of the projects planned for 2014.

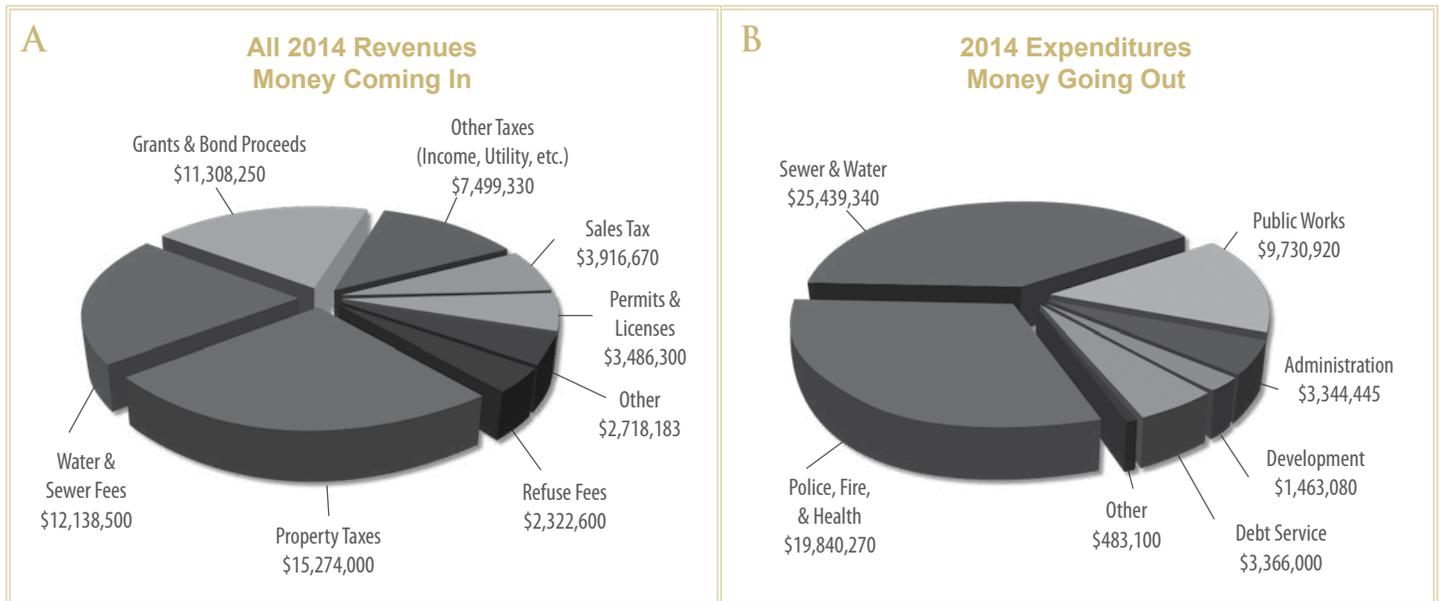
2014 Adopted Budget



The 2014 Adopted Budget maintains and enhances the municipal services that makes Wilmette one of the best places to live and raise a family. The Budget totals more than \$63 million and outlines money coming in and going out between January 1st and December 31st. Below are several charts displaying how the Village receives and spends money.

As shown in chart A, property taxes are the single largest source of revenue for the Village accounting for nearly a quarter of all revenues. While water and sewer fees are the second largest source of revenue, over a third of these fees are generated by customers outside of Wilmette.

As shown in chart B, 86% of the Village's expenditures are related to critical services such as Police, Fire, Health, Sewer and Water, and Public Works.



WHERE ALL OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO...

The 2014 Budget provides for the smallest increase in the Village's share of your property tax bill since 1997 – 3.39%. This increase equates to approximately \$51 for the average homeowner – less than \$1 per week and less than 0.5% of the average total property tax bill. The property tax revenue collected by the Village is only a portion of your property tax bill. There are a total of eleven taxing districts that collect property tax and the Village consistently accounts for approximately 11% of the total bill.

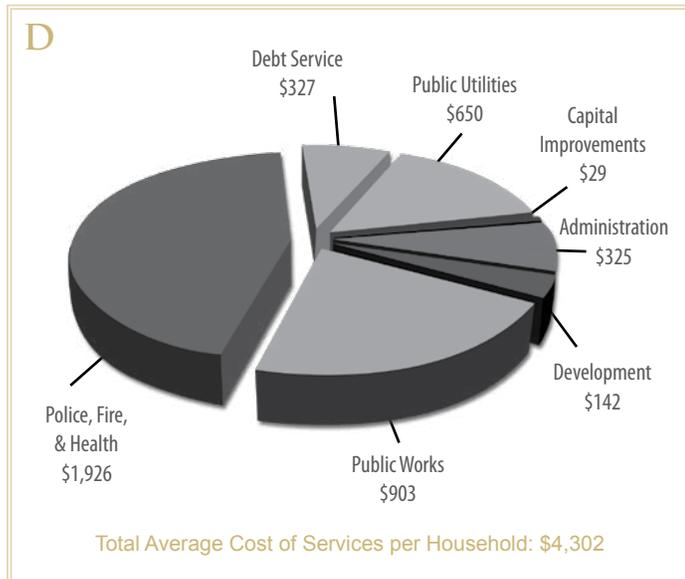
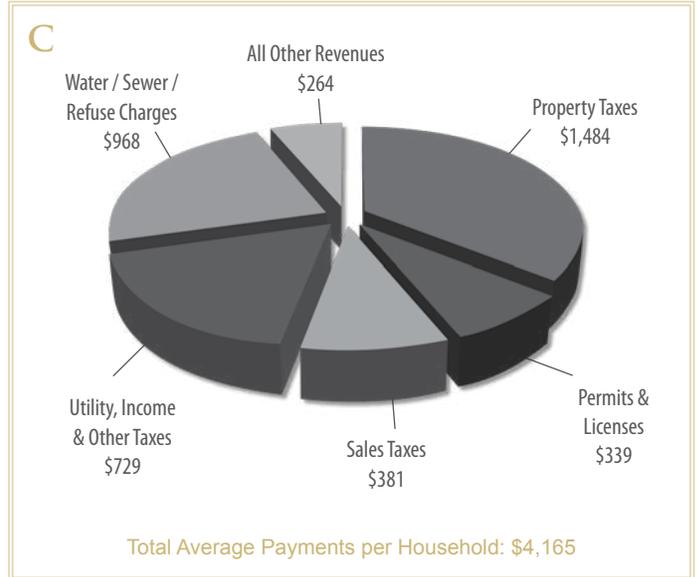




HOW DO RESIDENTS PAY FOR VILLAGE SERVICES?

To pay for Village services, the Village generates revenue through various means. To keep property taxes as low as possible, the Village also generates revenues from other sources, such as sales tax and user fees. Chart C is an illustration of what, and how, an average household contributes annually to the Village through taxes, permits, fees, licenses, and other charges.

These sources of revenue generate approximately \$47 million. To generate the additional revenue needed to pay all expenditures outlined in chart A, the Village receives funds from grants, wholesale water sales, intergovernmental agreements, bond proceeds, and other miscellaneous sources.



WHAT SERVICES DO RESIDENTS RECEIVE?

While the average household contributes \$4,165 annually, it receives approximately \$4,302 worth of services such as 24/7 police and fire protection, public works services such as leaf collection, snow and ice removal, sidewalk snowplowing, street improvements, water and sewer service, tree plantings and maintenance, and more. As chart D illustrates, 83% of your dollars go towards police, fire, public works and water/sewer (public utilities) service.

WATER / SEWER AND SOLID WASTE RATES

After no increases in the water and sewer rate since 2011, Wilmette residents will see a \$0.40 per 100 cubic feet increase in the combined water/sewer rate to fund the first \$9 million of the \$24 million sewer improvement program.

To the right are the combined water/sewer and solid waste rates for 2014.

Year	Water / Sewer Rate	Solid Waste Rate
2013	\$5.93 / 100 cu. ft.	\$21.63 / month
2014	\$6.33 / 100 cu. ft.	\$22.39 / month
Average Impact to Homeowner	\$11.60 additional per bill	\$2.28 additional per bill



HEALTH BEAT

The Health Department is offering the following programs for its residents:

Cholesterol and Glucose Screening

The Health Department is offering a Lipid Profile and Glucose screening for residents on Wednesday, March 19th and May 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room of the Village Hall. This screening is by appointment only and requires a 12 hour fast. The Lipid Profile includes tests for total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, Triglycerides, and HDL/LDL ratio. The glucose screening is for the detection of diabetes. The test requires blood drawn from the arm and the results are sent in the mail within 48 hours. The cost of this test is \$20. To make an appointment for the screening, please contact Health Nurse Dianne Bader at (847) 853-7507 or email at baderd@wilmette.com.

CPR Course Offered

A CPR course for residents will be offered on Thursday, March 20th and Thursday, May 22nd from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There is a fee of \$20 for class materials payable prior to the class. To register for the course, please call the Health Nurse Dianne Bader at (847) 853-7507 or email baderd@wilmette.com.

Adult Hearing Test

In cooperation with the Audiology Clinic of Northwestern University, the Health Department will offer free hearing screening tests for adults on Wednesday, May 14th. Many people experience a gradual loss of hearing as they get older. There is no fee for the service. Appointments are required and can be made by contacting the Village Nurse at (847) 853-7507, or baderd@wilmette.com.

IS YOUR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN COMPLIANCE?

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Plumbing Code, and the Village Code have long required that cross connection control devices be installed on all lawn sprinkler systems. This device protects the public water supply by preventing potentially contaminated water from flowing back into the Village's water supply. The ordinance also requires that cross connection valves be tested **annually**. The tests must be certified and the results submitted to the Village's Water Plant Meter Shop at the Wilmette Water Plant, 200 Lake Ave. Wilmette, IL prior to system activation in spring. For more information on this program and a list of certified testing contractors, please visit the Water Plant on the Village website or call (847) 853-7537.

SPRING 2014 TREE PLANTING

In the spring of 2014, residents can have a tree planted on their parkway by participating in the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program. In this program, residents share the cost of a new tree with the Village, maximizing the number of parkway trees planted annually. Participants will be able to select the tree species and size from an approved list generated by the Village. The application, including species availability, sizes and costs will be published in February and made available on the Village website (www.wilmette.com). If interested, submit applications to the Village Foresters by Friday, April 4th for review. There are a limited number of trees, therefore applications will be considered in the order they are received. For any questions, please contact the Village Foresters at forestry@wilmette.com or (847) 853-7587.

Yard Waste Program

The 2014 Yard Waste Collection Program begins on Wednesday, April 2nd and extends through the last week in November. The Village's refuse hauler, Advanced Disposal, will collect yard waste materials on Wednesdays. Residents are reminded of the following provisions to ensure timely collection:

- Place yard waste out in same location as recycling totes for collection.
- Please ensure materials are placed out at the proper location no later than 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday.
- Materials must be contained in either a bundle tied with biodegradable twine or a 30-gallon biodegradable paper bag, not to exceed 50 pounds.
- Bundles cannot exceed 4 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter, and may not contain individual branches exceeding 3 inches in diameter.
- Each bundle/bag must be affixed with a Village sticker; totes require 3 stickers.
- 96-gallon totes are available for lease from Advanced Disposal at (847) 272-4145.
- Village stickers are available for purchase (\$2.25 each) at the Village Hall, Linden Hardware, Millen Hardware and both Wilmette Jewel Food Stores.

WILMETTE / KENILWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It's another busy year for the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, whose mission is to support and promote a thriving business environment. The Chamber fosters a strong commercial base, generating sales tax dollars that contribute to public services and generating jobs. Shopping locally adds to the vitality and economy of Wilmette. Are you a new business owner, service provider, home-based business or considering opening a business in Wilmette? If so, visit www.wilmettechamber.org or call (847) 251-3800 to learn more about upcoming Chamber programs, networking events, benefits and opportunities to interact with the community and other businesses.



WELCOME TO 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 Spring. We have a strong group of local merchants who are committed to you and appreciate your commitment to them. By supporting our businesses and buying locally, your sales tax dollars help pay for public services.

NEW RETAILERS

John Plunkett Interiors

Plaza del Lago • (847) 906-1000

Rouzati Rugs • 1209 Wilmette Ave.

(847) 328-0000

Chicago Brass

1100 Central Ave. Unit D
(312) 245-0200

NEW RESTAURANTS

Couture Cupcake Café

1157 Wilmette Ave. • Coming Soon!

Valley Lodge Tavern

1141 Central Ave. • Coming Soon!

Kappo Kamakura**Japanese Restaurant**

1116 Central Ave. • (847) 256-6783

PERSONAL SERVICES

Elite Wellness Center

Plaza del Lago Arcade
(847) 920-4544

Northshore Piano Service

297 Green Bay Rd. • (847) 256-6783

Goodwill Donation Center

923 Ridge Rd. • (847) 920-5303

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SPONSORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTEST

In commemorating Black History Month, the Village of Wilmette Human Relations Commission is sponsoring poster, essay/poetry, multimedia and music contests. Students can submit entries based on significant accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history or the African-American experience in the United States.

All poster contestants must be enrolled in K-8 in a Wilmette public or private school. All essay/poetry and multimedia contestants must be enrolled in grades 5-8 in a Wilmette public or private school. Please see the Village of Wilmette website (www.wilmette.com) for the complete list of rules.

All entries must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on February 28, 2014. Send or bring entries to Wilmette Village Hall, Attn: Human Relations Commission, Village Manager's Office, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.

The Human Relations Commission will review all entries and contest winners will receive monetary awards.

★ Detach and complete the form below to make a tax deductible contribution to help long-time Wilmette residents stay in their homes or donate directly at www.wilmette.com/hap.aspx. See the front page for more information. ★



Housing Assistance Donation

Yes! I want to help long-time residents stay in their homes.

Donor Name _____

Donor Address _____

Check Credit Card

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

Name as it appears on credit card _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Signature _____

Date _____

Mail to: Village of Wilmette, Attn: Housing Assistance Program, 1200 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091



Fire/Police Emergency 9-1-1

FIRE DEPARTMENT

fire@wilmette.com 251-1101

MUSEUM

museum@wilmette.com 853-7666

POLICE DEPARTMENT

police@wilmette.com 256-1200

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT

pubworks@wilmette.com 853-7500
After Hour Emergency 256-1200

WATER PLANT

853-7535

VILLAGE HALL 251-2700

Community 853-7550
Development 853-7660
Engineering 853-7609
Finance 853-7507
Health 853-7511
Clerk

VILLAGE MANAGER

Timothy J. Frenzer 853-7509
frenzert@wilmette.com

OTHER

Park District 256-6100
Library 256-5025
Comcast (866) 594-1234
AT&T (800) 244-4444
NICOR Gas (888) 642-6748
Commonwealth
Edison (888) 334-7661
Advanced Disposal
Services (847) 272-4145

VILLAGE BOARD

President

Bob Bielinski 227-7272
bielinskib@wilmette.com

Trustees

Mike Basil 920-9044
mwbasil@wilmette.com
Carol Ducommun 256-5418
ducommunc@wilmette.com
Cameron Krueger 922-2009
kruegerc@wilmette.com
Ted McKenna 256-3328
mckennat@wilmette.com
Alan Swanson 853-8524
swansona@wilmette.com
Julie Wolf 251-7104
wolfj@wilmette.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the first and third Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Plan Commission meets on the first Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m.

Web Site:
www.wilmette.com

Business Hours:
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed: 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.wilmette.com • Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ONLINE BILL PAY

The Village of Wilmette accepts the payment of vehicle stickers, parking tickets, quarterly water and sewer and refuse bills, and certain permit fees online. There is no additional charge for this payment option, which accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Visit www.wilmette.com to pay your bills.



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois. 60091

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

VILLAGE HOLIDAY

Village offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Additionally, refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of May 26th. For questions, please call Public Works at (847) 853-7500.

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091