

THE COMMUNICATOR

2015 VEHICLE STICKER INFORMATION

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.

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 web site, 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 through Friday.

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 2015 sticker after April 15th is subject to receiving a citation. **Vehicle stickers purchased after May 15th include a late fee equal to the purchase price of the sticker.** 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.

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 historically been 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 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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★ New this year, you will be able to make a donation to the Housing Assistance Fund when purchasing a vehicle sticker online. ★



Letter from Village President Bob Bielinski



In 2014, activity in the Village's downtown area continued at a very high level with crowded restaurants, special events and new business openings. If you haven't yet joined your neighbors shopping, dining and being entertained in downtown Wilmette, you are missing out on the fun!

Please continue to patronize the restaurants and retailers in all business districts of the Village.

For sustained success, our local businesses need your continued support throughout the year.

611 Green Bay Road Update

Implementation of the Village Center Master Plan took a major step forward last year when the Village reached a tentative agreement to sell 611 Green Bay Road (the former Ford dealership site) to M&R Development. M&R plans to construct a new, luxury mixed use apartment and retail development, which is the type of project that was envisioned by the Master Plan. The proposed redevelopment will be reviewed by the Plan Commission in March and the Village Board thereafter. This process will include multiple public hearings and opportunities for residents and business owners to provide feedback. Visit the Village's website for dates and times of upcoming meetings.

2015 Budget and Capital Improvements

The Village's finances remain strong, and the 2015 budget is again balanced. In November, the Village's Aaa credit rating (highest rating possible) was again reaffirmed by Moody's Investors Service. This rating reflects the Village's strong financial footing, past responsible decision making and positive outlook for the future. The Village staff deserves much credit for its continued management of our finances and its careful attention to controlling expenses.

The 2015 budget fully funds core services provided by the Village, such as police, fire and public works. In addition, this year's budget provides for increased capital spending on roads, alleys and sidewalks. The Village is committed to maintaining its core infrastructure and catching up on deferred capital projects. A more detailed explanation of the budget can be found on pages four and five as well as a schedule of capital improvements on page three.

In 2014, construction began on several important sewer projects in the area west of Ridge Road including a number of local sanitary sewer storage projects, sewer lining and manhole rehabilitation, and the West Park Sanitary Storage Project. Additionally, the storm sewer system study, which provides a thorough assessment of the system including a range of improvements to consider, was presented to the community in January. Brief updates on the West Park project and storm sewer system study can be found on page six, and more detailed information is on the Village's website at www.wilmette.com.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about the budget or capital improvement plan, please feel free to contact any member of the Village Board or staff.

Wholesale Water Sales

You may not realize that 70% of the water produced by Wilmette's water plant is sold to nearby communities. These wholesale water sales play an important role in offsetting the Village's water production costs and helping to keep both water rates and property taxes low. In 2014, we extended our water supply contract with the Village of Glenview and added North Maine Utilities as a new wholesale customer beginning in 2020. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that we are close to finalizing an agreement to begin supplying water to the Village of Kenilworth. We expect to approve an intergovernmental agreement with Kenilworth this spring, and construction should begin in the summer.

Housing Assistance Fund

Over the past year, the Village has been working to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Private Funding of the Housing Assistance Program. The Village has filed the necessary paperwork to establish a new charity which will provide financial assistance to seniors in need and adults with disabilities to help them remain residents of Wilmette. Volunteers will begin working this year on new fundraising programs. You can find more information on the housing assistance fund and a contribution form on page seven. Please consider making a contribution to help your neighbors in need.

Thank You Trustees Swanson and Basil

With their current terms expiring, Trustees Alan Swanson and Mike Basil will be stepping down from the Village Board this year. As you know, we have term limits in Wilmette, and both are prohibited from running again for election to the Board. Alan Swanson has served Wilmette as a Trustee for the past ten years and previously served eight years on the Village's Transportation Commission. During this time, Alan's engineering background has been an invaluable asset to the Village. Mike Basil has served on the Village Board for the past eight years. Mike's legal acumen and public policy expertise have served the Village and its residents well. Please join me in thanking Alan and Mike for their service to our community.

Finally, please remember to shop, eat and be entertained in Wilmette in 2015!

Please consider dining out on a weekday evening 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 2015!

Bob Bielinski, Village President



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH

Three Village Board Offices on Ballot

The Consolidated Election will be held April 7, 2015. The Village has three Village Board offices on the ballot. The following candidate's names will appear on the ballot in the order presented:

★ Village Trustee (4 year term) (vote for 3)

1. Senta Plunkett
2. Julie Wolf
3. Daniel E. Sullivan, Jr.

The polls will be open on Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Residents who are unsure of their polling place or precinct may contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at (312) 603-0906 or www.cookctyclerk.com or contact the Village Deputy Clerk's Office at (847) 853-7511 or hirschb@wilmette.com.

Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote in the Consolidated Election, residents must be registered by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Registration is closed 27 days prior to Election Day. 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 through Friday.

Early Voting

Residents who wish to vote early may do so March 23 – April 4 at sites selected by the County Clerk. Early voting sites will be published by the Cook County Clerk's Office at a later date. Voters who cannot vote at one of the County's sites can still vote absentee by mail.

Students who are registered to vote may sign up for the Cook County Clerk's Student Absentee Ballot Program. The application can be sent to the school address or home address for the parents to forward. For further information on early voting or absentee ballots contact the County Clerk's Office at (312) 603-0906 or www.cookctyclerk.com.

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.) in Wilmette's Village Center, just east of the Metra station. Stay tuned to the Village's web site for the opening date. 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.

2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The goal of the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to maintain the Village's critical infrastructure. In 2015, the Village will be conducting the annual road program and other roadway-related maintenance projects that address curb, sidewalk, brick, alley, and sewer deficiencies. The following projects are tentatively scheduled for improvements in 2015:

Road Rehabilitation Program

| STREET | FROM | TO |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 6th Street | Isabella Street | Maple Avenue |
| 7th Street | Greenleaf Avenue | Lake Avenue |
| DuPee Place | Gregory Avenue | Maple Avenue |
| Elmwood Avenue | Ridge Road | Hunter Road |
| Hill Lane | Hibbard Road | cul de sac |
| Melrose Court | Hibbard Road | cul de sac |
| Walden Lane | Hibbard Road | cul de sac |

Brick Street Rehabilitation Program

| STREET | FROM | TO |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 15th Street | Walnut Avenue | Green Bay Road |
| Central Avenue | Prairie Avenue | Park Avenue |

Alley Rehabilitation Program

| BLOCK | BETWEEN |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 900 | 12th and 13th Street |
| 700 | Crescent Place |
| 1500 | Central and Highland |
| 1300 | Elmwood and Greenwood |
| 500 | Laurel and Linden |

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 2015 projects.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SEEKING PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who devotes his or her time to helping others? Do you know someone who is committed to promoting respect, tolerance, or volunteering in Wilmette? The Wilmette HRC wants to know!

The Wilmette Human Relations Commission is sponsoring an award to be presented to a person who has made a significant contribution to the Wilmette community. The award is designed to promote the purpose of the Commission by honoring an individual who initiates, implements, participates in, or otherwise engages in an activity or lifestyle which reflects the values of the Commission to an extent that is exemplary. Application materials can be found at www.wilmette.com and nominations are due by March 13th.

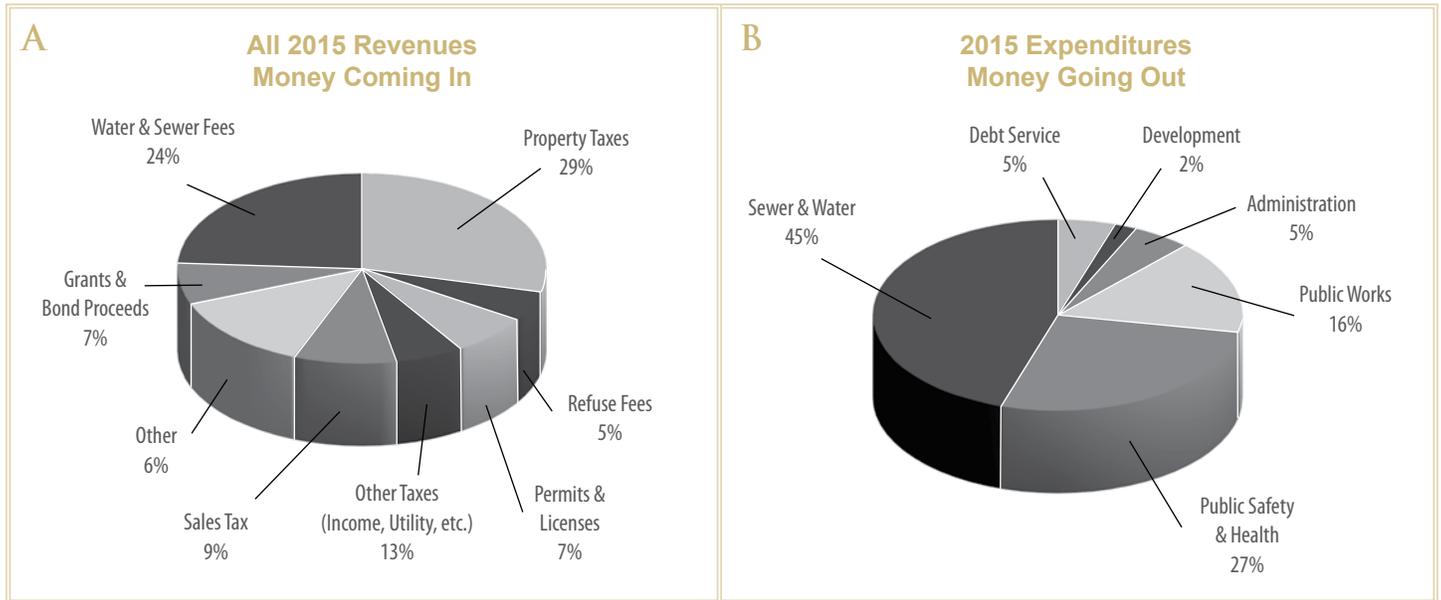
2015 Adopted Budget



The 2015 Adopted Budget maintains and enhances the municipal services that makes Wilmette one of the best places to live and raise a family. The Budget is a planning document totaling more than \$78 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 29% of the 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 through the Village's wholesale water supply agreements.

As shown in chart B, 88% 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 2015 Budget provides for the smallest property tax increase since 1997 – 3.35%. 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.

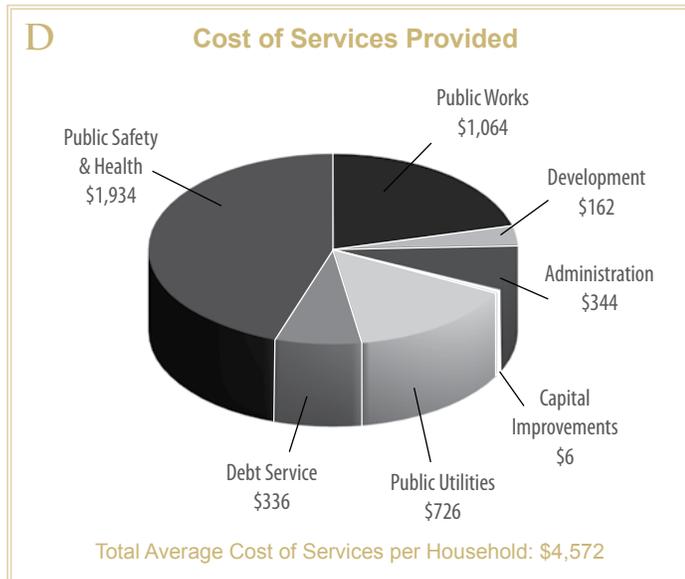
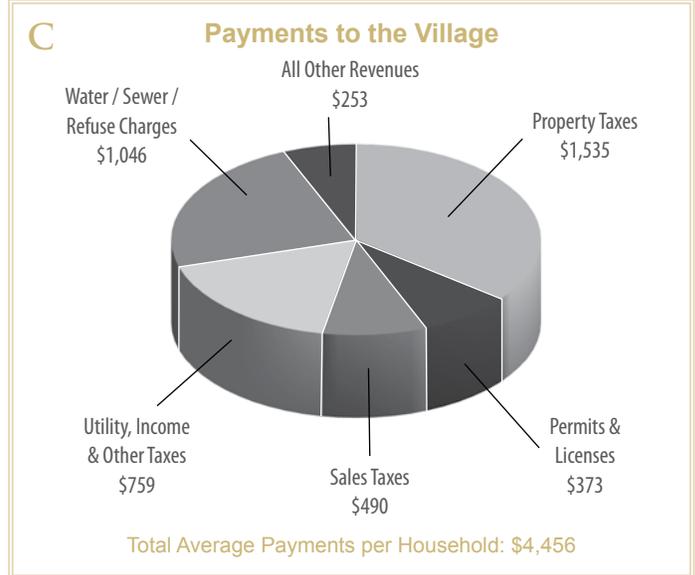




HOW DO RESIDENTS PAY FOR VILLAGE SERVICES?

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 \$50 million. To generate the additional revenue needed to pay for all expenditures outlined in chart B, 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 \$4,456 annually, it receives approximately \$4,572 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, 81% of your dollars go towards police, fire, public works, and water/sewer (public utilities) service.

WATER / SEWER AND SOLID WASTE RATES

In 2015, Wilmette residents will see a \$0.40 per 100 cu. ft. fee increase in the combined water/sewer rate to fund the completion of the \$26 million sewer improvement program. For the 4th consecutive year, there will be no increase in the water rate.

To the right are the combined water/sewer and solid waste rates for 2015.

| Year | Water / Sewer Rate | Solid Waste Rate |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2014 | \$6.33 / 100 cu. ft. | \$22.39 / month |
| 2015 | \$6.73 / 100 cu. ft. | \$23.17 / month |
| Average Impact to Homeowner | \$13.60 additional per bill | \$7.02 per bill |



WEST PARK SANITARY STORAGE PROJECT OFF TO A GOOD START

Excavation of the West Park Sanitary Storage Project is complete. The below ground storage tank will reduce sewer backups for over 1,300 homes west of Romona Road by holding excess sanitary sewer flows during rain events. The project's three components include the storage reservoir, backflow valve that will prevent sewerage from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) from backing up into the sanitary sewer system and a pump station that will pump sewer flows downstream during heavy rain events.

The tank is scheduled to be in place by September of 2015. West Park field will be out of commission for a year, but when it reopens in the spring of 2016 it will be better than before with new artificial turf.

SPRING 2015 TREE PLANTING

Residents can have a tree planted on the parkway as part of the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program by sharing the cost of a new tree. The cost of the trees, species, and sizes will be available by picking up an application at the Village Hall or downloading it from the Village's web site. Applications are due by Friday, April 3rd. There are a limited number of trees, therefore applications will be considered as they are received. For questions regarding the program, call the Forestry Division at (847) 853-7587 or forestry@wilmette.com.

SEPARATE STORM SEWER STUDY COMPLETED

In January, the Village completed a study of the storm sewer system located west of Ridge Road. The goal of the study is to determine locations in the system that have inadequate capacity and are subject to chronic overflows during extreme weather events. The results showed that the limiting factor in the system is the capacity of the existing storm sewers to convey stormwater to the pump station on Lake Avenue in an efficient manner.

Three projects were identified to relieve flooding in West Wilmette:

- ★ **Alternative 1** includes building a relief storm sewer system to collect and convey excess storm flows to the stormwater pump station. This alternative includes installing 42,000 feet of new trunk and lateral sewers at a cost of \$75 million.
- ★ **Alternative 2** includes building an 18 million gallon underground storage tank under Community Playfield as well as 35,000 feet of new trunk and lateral sewers to route the stormwater to the storage facility for \$70 million.
- ★ **Alternative 3** identifies specific neighborhood underground storage projects on Park District property. The cost is \$44 million. Alternative 3 does not provide 10-year level of protection for all homes.

Visit www.wilmette.com for more information on the study, view the full stormwater report and presentation, and to watch the Municipal Services Committee meeting regarding the study. The Village Board plans to discuss the storm study results in conjunction with the annual review of the Capital Improvement Program held in late summer.



WELCOME TO NEW BUSINESSES

The Village welcomes its newest businesses and thanks them for choosing Wilmette.

NEW RETAILERS

Exhibit

1148 Wilmette Ave. • (312) 316-3975

Grey Gardenia Atelier

1177 Wilmette Ave. • Opening Soon

Persimmon

1167 Wilmette Ave. • (847) 606-5167

Wilmette Wine Cellar

1100 Central Ave. • (847) 920-5883

NEW RESTAURANTS

Firefly Kitchen

111 Green Bay Rd. • Coming Soon

PERSONAL SERVICES

Digital Education Adventures

406 Linden Ave. • Coming Soon

Supercuts • 3217 Lake Ave.

(224) 408-2399

GOING GREEN MATTERS 2015

Sunday, March 8th, 12 – 5 PM,
at the Woman’s Club of Wilmette



Go Green Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette present an all ages community environmental fair with fun, interactive exhibits, featuring Skidmore, Owings & Merrill’s “Great Cities, Great Lakes, Great Basin,” inspired by the 2009 centennial of Burnham’s Plan of Chicago.

Find out what you can do to live more sustainably. For recycling and exhibit details, see www.goinggreenmatters.org.

Yard Waste Program

The 2015 Yard Waste Collection Program begins on Wednesday, April 1st 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. 96-gallon totes are also available for lease from Advanced Disposal at (847) 272-4145.
- ★ Bundles and bags are 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.
- ★ Village stickers are available for purchase (\$2.25 each) at the Village Hall, Linden Hardware, Millen Hardware, and both Wilmette Jewel Food Stores.

★ 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

Name as it appears on credit card

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

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
General 853-7500
After Hour Emergency 256-1200

WATER PLANT

853-7535

VILLAGE HALL 251-2700

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

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

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mckennat@wilmette.com
Dan Sullivan 853-7509
sullivand@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:
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

www.wilmette.com • Business Hours: Monday through Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 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. Visit www.wilmette.com to pay your bills.



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois. 60091

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

VILLAGE HOLIDAY

Village offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. Refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during this week.

HEALTH AND MUSEUM

For information on adult hearing tests, cholesterol & glucose screening, CPR courses, and other events visit www.wilmette.com.

For upcoming museum exhibits and events, visit www.wilmettehistory.org.

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091