

THE COMMUNICATOR

2016 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 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 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 2016 sticker after April 15th is subject to receiving a violation. **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.

COMED SMART METER INSTALLATIONS SCHEDULED FOR WILMETTE

ComEd crews plan to be in Wilmette this spring to install smart meters at local homes and small businesses. Installations will be performed by a uniformed meter installer with appropriate identification from ComEd or a ComEd-authorized contractor, Corix or MZI Group.

A smart meter is a digital electric meter that securely sends energy-usage information to ComEd. ComEd will be installing smart meters that are certified by Underwriters Laboratories, further demonstrating the meters are safe and reliable. Smart meters help eliminate estimated bills and reduce operating costs that become savings on your electric bills. Residential customers with smart meters have access to energy-management tools, high-usage alerts and weekly reports summarizing daily electricity usage to help them manage their electric bills. They can also enroll in Peak Time Savings and Hourly Pricing and save money by voluntarily shifting electricity use to times where there is less demand. Additional money-saving programs that use smart meter information may be available through other electric suppliers.

Smart meters are important building blocks of the smart grid that, when complete, will provide customers with faster restoration times by notifying ComEd when an outage occurs and when power has been restored. Smart meters will be installed in all homes and businesses across northern Illinois by the end of 2018. Homes and businesses scheduled for smart meter installations will receive information from ComEd explaining how the installation process will work and how customers can use smart meters to manage their energy use. For more information, visit ComEd.com/SmartMeter.

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Letter from Village President Bob Bielinski



Downtown Wilmette remains an exciting place to be with crowded restaurants, unique retail shops, entertainment venues and special events. In 2015, new restaurants, as well as several new retail businesses, opened in our Village Center further increasing dining and shopping options.

Business is normally slow for restaurants and retail stores during the first few months of the year. So, please patronize our local merchants this winter. Remember, you can shop, eat and be entertained in Wilmette!

My colleagues on the Village Board and I are often asked by residents where they can find information about Village government. The Village's website, wilmette.com, has a great deal of easily accessible information about your local government.

The Village of Wilmette was the 5th municipality to earn a perfect score on the Illinois Policy Institute's (IPI) online transparency checklist which is used to determine its "Sunshine Awards". IPI stated, "Wilmette is a fantastic example of a community going above and beyond to promote online transparency for citizens."

Our website's Transparency page includes links to the Village's most important and frequently requested documents. From the village's homepage, the link to this page is found under the Government heading. The Transparency page include links to:

- ★ Financial information including budgets, annual financial statements and reports, monthly disbursements, state and local taxes, and financial policies,
- ★ Village employee compensation data which exceeds the disclosure requirements of State law,
- ★ Village Board meeting agendas and associated information packets, meeting minutes, as well as streaming and recorded video,
- ★ Requests for Proposals, and open and recently closed bids,
- ★ Active contracts with a cost greater than \$20,000,
- ★ Collective bargaining agreements, and
- ★ Lobbying disclosures.

In addition, the Village's website includes a Resident's Handbook, the Village's Code of Ordinances including the Zoning Ordinance and Map, a list of local businesses, and timely news and events.

This commitment to transparency and openness extends into all activities of the Village Board, including its annual budget process and land use deliberations.

The Village's annual budget process spans six months and includes at least six public meetings each year. The process kicks off with a public meeting held in June or July, followed by a public meeting to review the capital improvement program in August or September.

The Village Staff presents the draft budget at the first regularly scheduled Village Board meeting in October. At that time, the entire budget, including all Village employee salaries, is made available on the Village's website, as well as at the Wilmette Public Library

and Village Hall. The Village Board then meets at least once for a budget workshop, which is also open to the public, to review and discuss the details of the proposed budget.

Finally, a budget ordinance and property tax levy are introduced and adopted by the Village Board at three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings in November and December. Residents are welcome to address the Board with comments on the proposed budget at any of these six public meetings.

For the past 17 years, the Village has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award, recognizing the commitment of the Board and Staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

For land use deliberations, the Village follows specific processes which provide multiple opportunities for input from residents and other interested parties, as well as predictability and fairness to property owners and developers.

When a property owner wishes to utilize property in a manner not permitted under the Zoning Ordinance, there is a process through which the owner can apply for relief from the restrictions. The process begins with a public meeting in front of one of two advisory bodies, the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Plan Commission.

During this initial public hearing, the relevant body hears testimony from the applicant and interested parties, reviews plans and other materials presented, and evaluates the request against the applicable standards of review as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance.

All materials submitted by the applicant or any interested party, including letters, emails, photographs and drawings, are made available to the public and included in the case materials reviewed by the Zoning Board or Plan Commission. Prior to the public hearing, a staff report is prepared which is available on the Village's website, at Village Hall and at the hearing. At the public hearing, all interested parties are afforded the opportunity to address the Zoning Board or Plan Commission.

Both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Plan Commission act solely as advisory bodies with no final regulatory approval authority. After review of a proposed project, the relevant body presents a recommendation in the form of a written report to the Village Board. The Village Board evaluates each application based upon the evidence presented at earlier public meetings, as well as any additional comments from the applicant or interested parties during its deliberations which take place at a regularly scheduled Village Board meeting. The Village Board is the decision making body for all land use matters.

I encourage all residents to sign up for our weekly e-news by visiting wilmette.com or texting "WILMETTE" to 22828, to attend (or watch on Channel 6) Village Board meetings, and to contact the Village Staff or members of the Village Board with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have.

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and I wish each of you a happy and healthy 2016!

Bob Bielinski, Village President



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

Voter Registration for the March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary Election ends on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Village Hall is open for registration Monday through Friday, 7:30-4:30. You may also access <https://ova.elections.il.gov> to register online in Illinois.

Illinois voters may vote early – before the March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary Election – without needing a reason or excuse to do so. Registered voters can vote early from February 29 through March 14, 2016. The times and locations will be determined by the Cook County Clerk and posted on their website, www.cookcountyclerk.com.

By law, individuals who vote early must display a government-issued photo identification (driver's license, state identification card or passport) before receiving a ballot.

Any registered suburban Cook County voter may request a mail ballot using the Cook County Clerk's online application found on their website, www.cookcountyclerk.com.

IS YOUR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN COMPLIANCE?

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Code, Illinois Plumbing Code, and Wilmette Village Code have long required that cross connection control devices (C.C.C.D.'s) be installed on all lawn sprinkler systems, swimming pools, spas, and other potentially hazardous cross connection locations. This in an effort to keep the public water supply safe. These C.C.C.D.'s protect the public water supply by preventing potentially contaminated water from flowing back into the Village's water supply. The Codes also require that the C.C.C.D.'s be tested and certified **annually** to ensure that they are working properly.

All Village of Wilmette residents who have a lawn sprinkler system, swimming pool, spa, and the like are required to have a C.C.C.D. installed and are responsible for hiring a licensed C.C.C.D. testing contractor to perform an **annual** test and certification of the backflow assembly. This test is to be performed and submitted **prior** to any system activation in the Spring. (Prior to turning sprinkler system, pool, spa on for the season.)

The Village of Wilmette has partnered with BSI Online to assist with the administration of the backflow prevention program and, in particular, with accepting test report submittals. Test reports are to be submitted by the licensed C.C.C.D. testing contractor directly via BSI Online.

Village residents may also visit the **BSI Online** website at www.bsonlinetracking.com to verify when their backflow test report has been filed, access a list of licensed C.C.C.D testing contractors in the area, or to simply learn more about backflow hazards.

BSI Online can also be contacted via e-mail bsionline@backflow.com or phone (800) 414-4990 should residents have any questions.

Residents may also contact Andy Lazar at the Village of Wilmette Water Meter Dept. should they have any questions via e-mail lazara@wilmette.com or phone. (847) 853-7537.

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 website 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. Check the Village's website for additional information throughout the spring and summer.

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 11th.

DONATE TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED

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. To continue this important community program, the Village has created Housing Our Own- Wilmette, a not-for-profit dedicated to raising private funds to support residents in need.

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.housingwilmette.com to donate via credit card or direct debit, or detach the form on page seven of *The Communicator* and mail it to 1189 Wilmette Ave. #248. You may also make a donation while purchasing your 2016 vehicle sticker online.



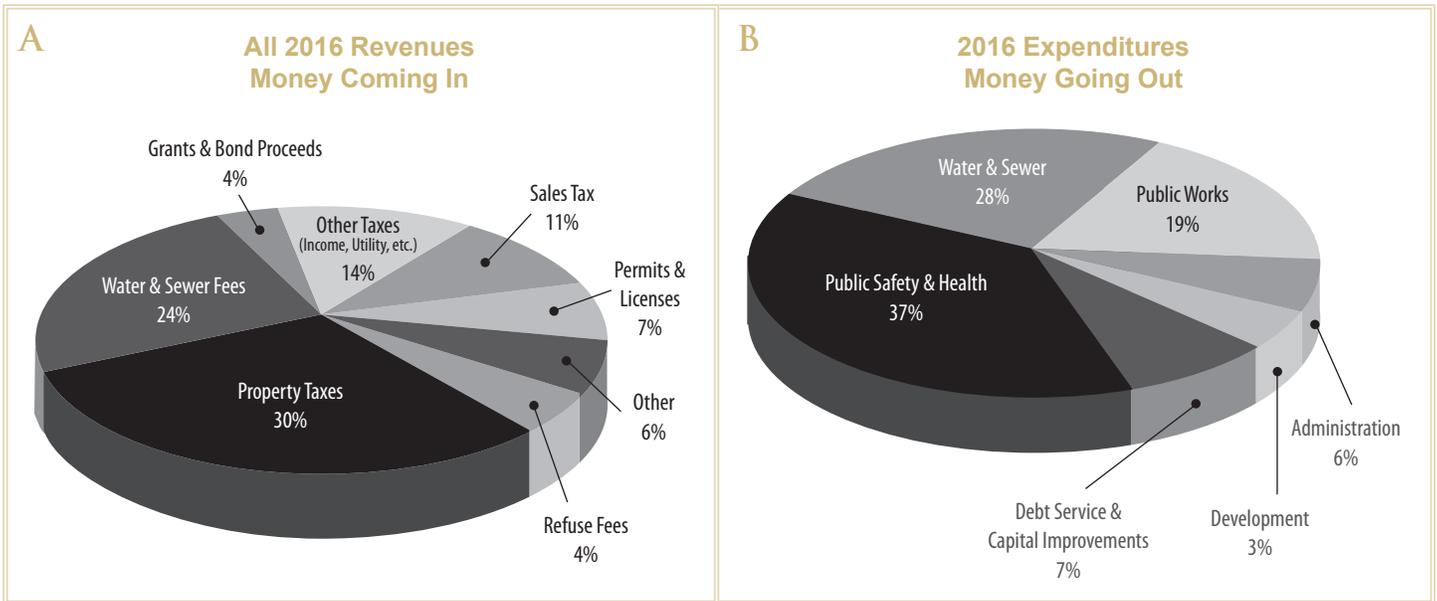
2016 Adopted Budget



The 2016 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 \$64 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 30% of the revenues. While water and sewer fees are the second largest source of revenue, over 1/3 of these fees are generated by customers outside of Wilmette.

As shown in chart B, 83% 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 2016 Budget provides for the smallest property tax increase since 1997 – 3.34%. This increase equates to approximately \$52 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 \$52 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.

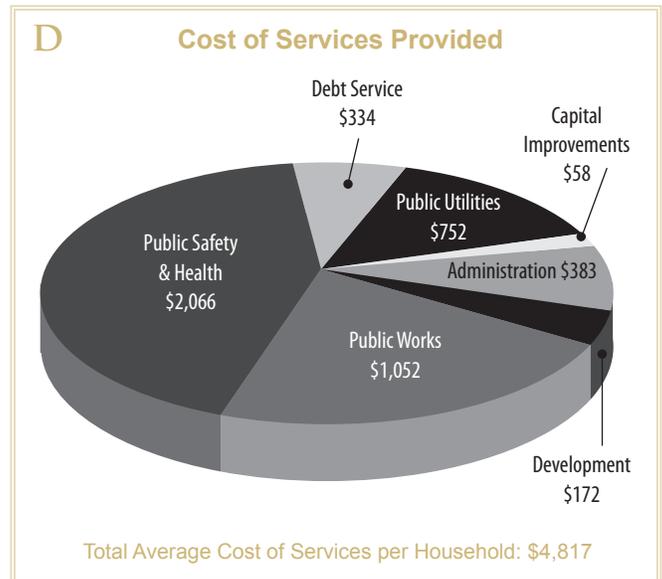
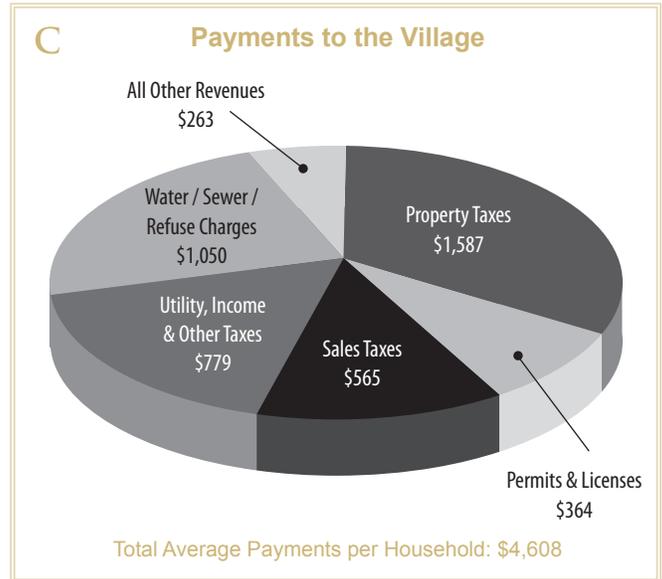
WHAT SERVICES DO RESIDENTS RECEIVE?

While the average household contributes \$4,608 annually, it receives approximately \$4,817 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, 82% of your dollars go towards police, fire, public works, and water/sewer (public utilities) service.

WATER / SEWER AND SOLID WASTE RATES

After four consecutive years of no increases to the residential water rate, in 2016 Wilmette residents will see a \$0.12 per 100 cubic feet increase in the combined water/sewer rate. This rate increase is needed to adequately maintain the Village's Water Plant and distribution system. Additionally, a new water meter replacement fee will be implemented to provide a reliable source of revenue to replace meters as they reach the end of their useful life. The meter fee is based on the size of your water meter and for 80% of customers, the fee will be \$4.32 per year or less. For the first time in over a decade, the solid waste collection rate will not increase. This was made possible by renegotiating the current contract with Advanced Disposal.

Below are the combined water/sewer and solid waste rates for 2016.



★ YEAR ★	★ WATER / SEWER RATE ★	★ SOLID WASTE RATE ★
2015	\$6.73 / 100 cu. ft.	\$23.17 / month
2016	\$6.85 / 100 cu. ft. + Water Meter Fee	\$23.17 / month
Average Impact to Homeowner	\$5.16 additional per bill	\$0





SPRING 2016 TREE PLANTING

Residents are invited to enhance the beauty and health of Wilmette's parkways by participating in the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program. This is a cost share program in which residents can select the species and size of the tree to be planted. 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 (www.wilmette.com.) Applications are due April 1, 2016. There are a limited number of trees, therefore applications will be considered in the order they are received. For questions regarding the program, contact the Forestry Division at (847) 853-7587 or forestry@wilmette.com.

YARD WASTE PROGRAM

The 2016 Yard Waste Collection Program begins on Wednesday, April 6th 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, Chalet Nursery, Linden Hardware, Millen Hardware, and both Wilmette Jewel Food Stores.

10TH ANNUAL GOING GREEN MATTERS COMMUNITY FAIR

Sunday, March 13th, noon to 5:00 p.m.
Michigan Shores Club

If you're looking for simple ways to live more sustainably, this fun fair for all ages can help you make great choices for your home, garden, recreation and transportation needs. Find out about locally sourced food, the latest green cars, and nature preserves near you. Bring your questions about home energy savings, green initiatives in your community, and green personal care and cleaning products. Get a free LED bulb for your home and calculate the electricity savings on the energy bike. Buy native plants; learn about pollinators and much more.

Bring your old electronics, bicycles and Styrofoam for recycling. Sponsored by Go Green Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette. For details go to www.goinggreenmatters.org.

HOME-BASED BUSINESS? THE CHAMBER IS HERE FOR YOU

Do you have a home-based business? There are many benefits, for certain. However, there are also some challenges that face home-based businesses:

- ★ **Work life encroaches on home life.** While being able to move between the office and the laundry room in the blink of an eye has enormous benefits, the problem with a home-based business is that you are always at work.
- ★ **Isolation.** Avoiding office politics is great, but sometimes home-based entrepreneurs can start to miss the camaraderie of an office environment, particularly when work gets tough.
- ★ **Procrastination.** The temptation to spend 10 more minutes on the couch or working in the garden can lead to the great enemy of the home-based entrepreneur – procrastination.

Networking events provide a great solution to all of these problems! You will benefit by promoting your business, socializing with other professionals, finding strategic partners and referral sources, building a peer support group, and budgeting your time.

The Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber invites you to take advantage of our many networking and educational opportunities. For a list of upcoming events, visit www.wilmettechamber.org.

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 winter. 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

St. Roger Abbey Bakery,
1101 Central Ave. • Coming Soon
Craig Scott Opticians, New Location
1146 Central Ave. • (847) 256-8206
Mona Lisa, 601 Green Bay Rd. • Coming Soon

NEW RESTAURANTS

Napolita, 1126 Central Ave. • (224) 215-0305
Gigi's Cupcakes, 3217 Lake Ave. • (847) 728-0848
Trendy Taco, 1195 Wilmette Ave. • Coming Soon
Taco Lago, 1515 Sheridan Rd. • Coming Soon

PERSONAL SERVICES

Fonseca Martial Arts, 1100 Central Ave. • (847) 866-0200
North Shore Associates in Gynecology, (847) 475-1224
Soapies Cleaners, 3520 Lake Ave. • Coming Soon



Cholesterol and Glucose Screening

The Health Department is offering a Lipid Profile and Glucose screening for residents on Wednesdays, March 2nd and May 18th 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 Wednesdays, February 17th and April 20th 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.

Blood Pressure Screenings are held on Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Health Department office located on the second floor of the Village Hall. No appointment is necessary.

WILMETTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM PROGRAMS

- Family Program:**
Presidents' Day Monday, Feb. 15th 2:00 p.m.
- Family Program:**
Screen Break Sunday, March 6th 1:30 p.m.
- Lecture:**
Lost Airports of Chicago Sunday, March 20th 2:00 p.m.
- Kids' Program:**
Renaissance Superheroes Sunday, April 3rd 2:00 p.m.
- Lecture:**
Jens Jensen, Visionary Sunday, April 10th 2:00 p.m.
- Family Open House** Sunday afternoon, May 1st
- Annual Spring Housewalk** Sunday afternoon, May 15th

For additional details including registration requirements and fees, visit www.wilmettehistory.org or call (847) 853-7666.



★ 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.housingwilmette.com. See page three for more information. ★
Donors will be recognized in a future issue of *The Communicator*.

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
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

Bob Bielinski 227-7272
bielinskib@wilmette.com

Trustees

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ducommunc@wilmette.com
Cameron Krueger 922-2009
kruegerc@wilmette.com
Ted McKenna 256-3328
mckennat@wilmette.com
Senta Plunkett 853-7509
plunketts@wilmette.com
Dan Sullivan 853-7509
sullivand@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. 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 30th in observance of Memorial Day. Additionally, refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of May 30th. For questions, please call Public Works at (847) 853-7500.



Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091