



THE COMMUNICATOR

★ FEBRUARY / MAY 2018 ★



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

Voter Registration for the March 20, 2018 Gubernatorial Primary Election ends on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. 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 20, 2018 Gubernatorial Primary Election – without needing a reason or excuse to do so. Registered voters can vote early from March 5 through March 19, 2018. 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.

COOK COUNTY MINIMUM WAGE & PAID SICK LEAVE SURVEYS

The Village has formed a working group of residents and business owners to assist in a study of the impacts of the Cook County Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Ordinances in Wilmette.

To help in this effort, anonymous surveys will be distributed to Wilmette employers. We encourage all employers to fill out the survey as your input is important in developing a final report to the Village Board. If you did not receive the survey, please email countystudy@wilmette.com or call (847) 853-7502.

A phone survey of Village residents will be conducted later this spring. If you receive a call from the Village's survey firm, we hope you will participate.

2018 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 2018 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.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LETTER FROM VILLAGE PRESIDENT BOB BIELINSKI

STORMWATER ACTION PLAN

You are likely aware of the challenges many Wilmette homeowners face when rain storms overwhelm our community. When existing sewers reach full capacity, stormwater floods streets, parks, yards, and homes.



- ★ As many as 1,300 homes in west Wilmette are susceptible to flooding during the most intense rain events.
- ★ Rain storms, or even threats of major storms, become a source of significant anxiety and stress for homeowners.
- ★ The worst storms leave as much as three feet of standing water on streets for as long as 17 hours which present challenges to motorists, school buses and first responder vehicles.
- ★ According to local rainfall data, storms have become more frequent and intense over the last several years.

The Village takes seriously its task of addressing infrastructure challenges that impact the quality of life of Wilmette residents. We are also ever-mindful that making these improvements will require a financial commitment from both the Village and residents and that any investment that does occur needs to be done prudently and responsibly.

The Village Board and Village staff have been working with engineering firms since 2013 to identify the best solutions that can deliver relief to residents in the most effective and affordable way. Now, we need your input, ideas and participation as we prepare to make a final decision on a path forward.

The Village of Wilmette is committed to transparency, professionalism, and citizen engagement. These values guide our conduct as we embark on the final phase of the decision-making process for storm sewer improvements west of Ridge Road.



THE OPTIONS WE ARE CONSIDERING

The Village partnered with two independent engineering firms to identify ways to address our flooding problem. The first firm, Christopher Burke Engineering, advised that storm sewer expansion is the most effective engineering solution. Given the significant financial investment such an expansion would entail, the Village sought a second opinion. It hired another firm, Stantec, to verify and validate the proposed project's costs and benefits.

Stantec agreed that storm sewer expansion is the most effective solution to provide flood relief west of Ridge Road. However, given the significant cost of this project (estimated at \$80-\$95 million in 2017 dollars), the Village Board continued to explore additional alternatives and lower cost options to deliver relief to residents. Stantec identified two additional projects which would provide varying levels of protection.

With the help of these consulting engineers over the past four years, the Village Board has reviewed the costs and benefits of nine different alternatives and narrowed the list to three potential projects, ranging in cost from \$55-95 million (in 2017 dollars).

More detailed information about these options and costs can be found at www.wilmettestormwater.com.

DETERMINING A PATH FORWARD

The Village Board anticipates that it will make a final decision regarding storm sewer improvements at its April 17th meeting. In the meantime, the Village understands that any decision to move forward on a major infrastructure project needs to be well-informed by public feedback. That's why we are embarking on an intensive public education and listening initiative to inform you of the problems our community faces and the solutions under consideration, answer your questions, and solicit your input and ideas.

Thank you very much for taking the time to learn more about our efforts to date and for your future participation.

Very truly yours,

Bob Bielinski,
Village President





WILMETTE POLICE IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Wilmette Police Department is now officially on social media. We will be utilizing Nextdoor, Facebook, and Twitter so we can better communicate and connect with you about safety tips, crime alerts, etc. While the community can expect updates from the Police Department using these platforms, it is important to understand that we can only see comments and replies to our discussions. REMEMBER: Do not use social media to request emergency services. If you need help, please call 911!

We look forward to engaging with you on Nextdoor. Also, please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @WilmettePolice.

HELP PREVENT BURGLARIES

In 2017, the Police Department arrested multiple individuals responsible for numerous burglary related offenses. However, we still need help in deterring this easily preventable crime. We will be communicating a friendly reminder to “Lock it or Lose it” and to follow the “9PM routine” of locking your home and car doors. The simple act of locking your car will greatly decrease the odds of becoming a victim.

Since 2014, less than 2% of motor vehicles burglarized in Wilmette were due to forced entry. Almost all of the auto thefts occurred because a car was left unlocked. Taking an extra moment to lock your car, home, or garage might save you days of inconvenience following a burglary.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Village of Wilmette Historic Preservation Commission is requesting nominations for its 24th Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program. Nominations are open to residential, commercial, public and religious buildings as well as landscapes within the village limits.

Nomination categories are:

Stewardship Awards acknowledge property owners of five years or longer who have retained the historic appearance of their property.

Restoration Awards acknowledge projects in which a building, garden or landscape has been returned to its historic appearance. The restoration of an interior space will also be eligible.

Sympathetic Addition Awards acknowledge alterations or additions to existing structures which are sensitive to their historic character.

Streetscape Compatibility Awards acknowledge exceptional examples of new construction which are sympathetic to the historic character of their neighborhoods or settings.

The nominated sites will be judged by a panel of preservation professionals and the winners will be honored at a special award ceremony co-sponsored by the Wilmette Historical Museum in May. Nomination forms are available at www.wilmette.com and at Village Hall. Completed nominations must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2018. For more information, please contact Kate McManus at (847) 853-7522 or email mcmansk@wilmette.com.



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.

Actor's Training Center, 1157 Wilmette Ave, www.actorstrainingcenter.com, New Location Coming Soon

Andrew Kohn Optometry, 1125 Greenleaf Ave, Coming Soon, full service optometry and retail eyewear boutique.

Chantilly Lace, 1515 Sheridan Rd, www.c-lace.com, recently moved their lingerie store to Plaza del Lago

Coco Nails & Spa, 1217 Washington Ave, coconailswilmette.com, manicure, pedicure and the latest nail care services

Color Code Nail Salon, 1141 Greenleaf Ave, Spa manicures and pedicures, gel nail polishes, waxing and massage services.

Little Steps, 1123 Greenleaf Ave, littlestepspt.com, Coming Soon, Pediatric physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

React Physical Therapy, 1215 Washington Ave, www.bereact.com, whole body approach to physical therapy.

Share Wilmette, 1177 Wilmette Ave, www.sharewilmette.com, a boutique specializing in always current, carefully curated home decor, apparel, personal accessories and gifts.

The Well North Shore, 1222 Washington Ct, www.thewellnorthshore.com, a meeting and event space for health, well-being, spirituality, and career professionals to work and offer their services to the community

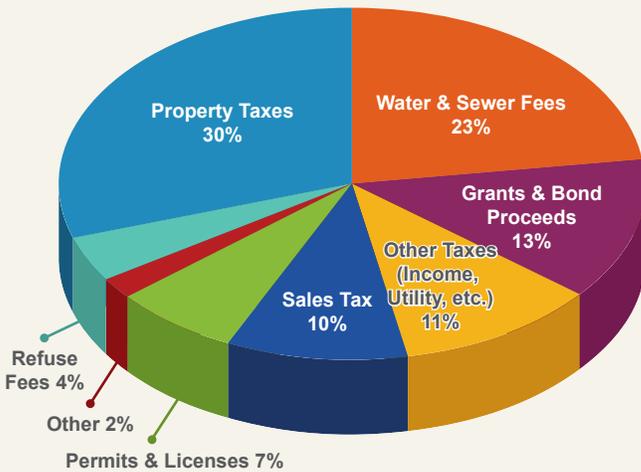
2018 ADOPTED BUDGET

The 2018 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 \$76 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.

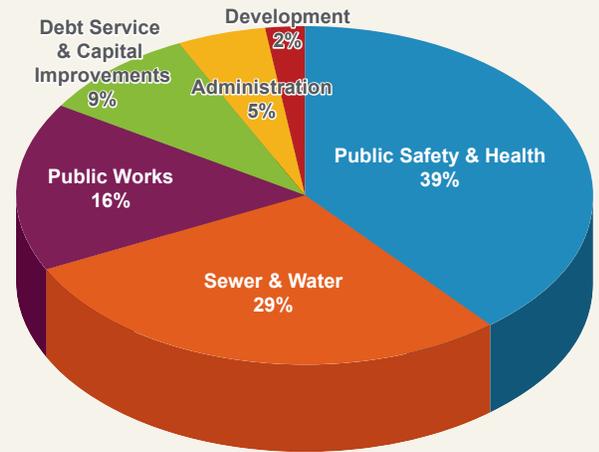
As shown in chart A, property taxes are the single largest revenue source for the Village accounting for 30% of revenues. While water and sewer fees are the second largest source of revenue, almost 40% of these fees are generated by customers outside of Wilmette.

As shown in chart B, 84% of the Village's expenditures are related to critical services such as Police, Fire, Health, Sewer and Water, and Public Works.

A ALL 2018 REVENUES
MONEY COMING IN

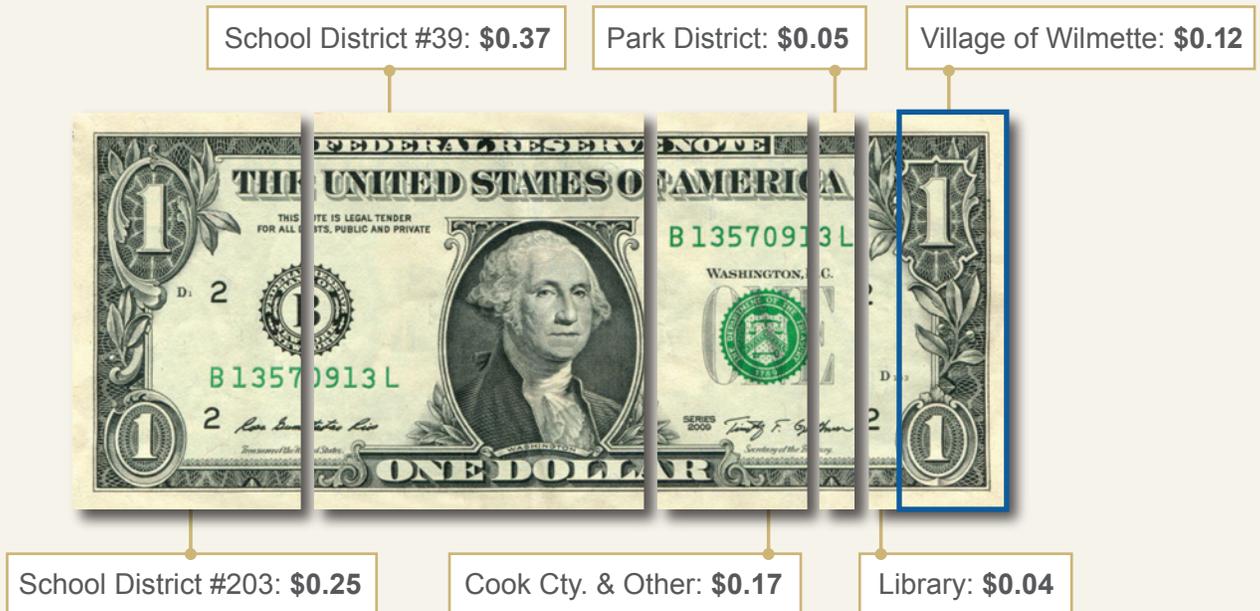


B 2018 EXPENDITURES
MONEY GOING OUT



WHERE ALL OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO...

The 2018 Budget provides for a property tax increase of 3.95%. This increase equates to less than \$70 for the average homeowner 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 12% of the total bill.





HOW DO RESIDENTS PAY FOR VILLAGE SERVICES?

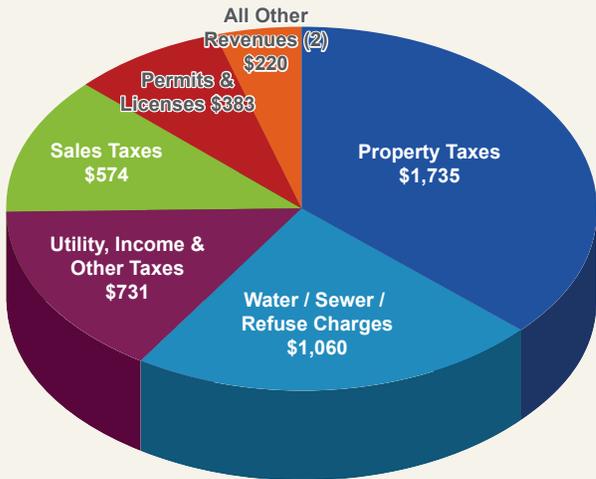
To keep property taxes as low as possible while maintaining important services, the Village also generates revenues from other sources, such as sales tax and user fees. Chart C is an illustration of what, and how, an average household contributes annually to the Village through taxes, permits, fees,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

These sources of revenue generate approximately \$54 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.

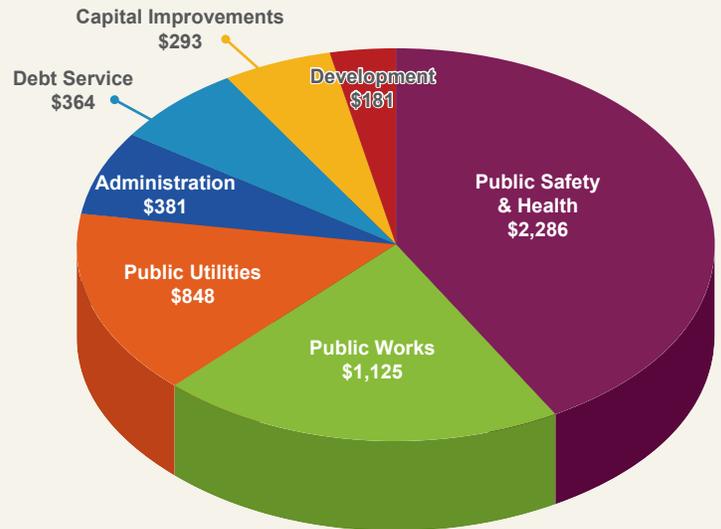
WHAT SERVICES DO RESIDENTS RECEIVE?

While the average household contributes \$4,703 annually, it receives approximately \$5,478 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, 80% of your dollars go towards police, fire, public works, and water/sewer (public utilities) service.

C PAYMENTS TO THE VILLAGE



D COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED

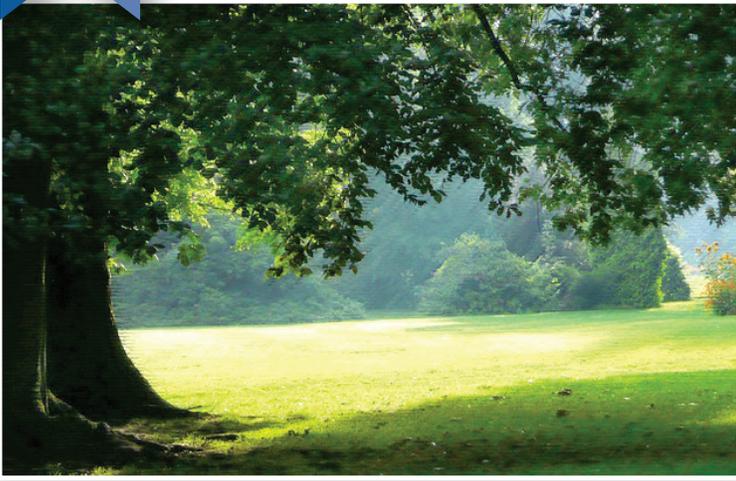


WATER/SEWER AND SOLID WASTE RATES

After avoiding water rate increases for six of the last seven years, the Village Board approved a modest 7 cent increase to the water rate. This will increase the average annual residential water bill by \$7. For the third year in a row, the sewer rate will not increase. After two years of no increases, the Village will be passing through a 2.5% solid waste collection fee increase as provided in the contract with Advanced Disposal.

Below are the combined water/sewer and solid waste rates for 2018.

★ WATER / SEWER RATE ★	★ SOLID WASTE RATE ★
\$6.92 / 100 cu. ft.	\$23.75 / month



SPRING 2018 TREE PLANTING

Residents can have a tree planted on the parkway this spring through the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program. This is a cost share program in which residents can select the species and the 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. Applications are due by Friday, March 30th. There are a limited number of trees, therefore applications will be considered in the order they are received. For questions regarding the program, call the Forestry Division at (847) 853-7600 or email forestry@wilmette.com.

YARD WASTE PROGRAM

The 2018 Yard Waste Collection Program begins on Wednesday, April 4th and extends through the last week in November. The Village's refuse hauler, Advanced Disposal, will collect yard waste materials on Wednesdays throughout the Village. 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 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, Millen Hardware, and both Wilmette Jewel Food Stores.

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.bsionlinetracking.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 at (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 at (847) 853-7537.





DON'T FORGET YOUR GRADING PERMIT!

If you are planning home or landscaping improvements this spring, please keep in mind that any work involving land disturbing activity on your property requires a permit. Some examples of common projects requiring a grading permit are:

- A Construction of a new home**
- B Construction of a new garage or auxiliary structure that increases the existing structure's footprint by 10%;**
- C Installation of underground swimming pools;**
- D Landscaping that changes the existing drainage patterns;**
- E Demolition of any building or structure.**

Projects that do not require a grading permit include installation of raised decks, at-grade patios, fences and planting trees. Building permits may still be necessary. For more information visit the Village's website at www.wilmette.com and search for grading permits or call the Engineering Department at (847) 853-7660.



GOING GREEN MATTERS

The 12th Annual Going Green Matters Community Fair will take place on Sunday, March 11, 2018, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette. Attendance at the event is free.

Residents looking for ways to live more sustainably will find practical choices for their home, garden, recreation and transportation needs at this fun fair for all ages. New highlights include an opportunity to record individual green experiences for GGW's "What's Your Story?" podcast, the latest electric and hybrid cars, Community Solar programs, Trees that Feed, and snacks at the solar food truck. Updated favorites include the interactive Eco-Zone, hands-on nature exhibits, booths from national and regional environmental organizations and an auction. Visitors can generate electricity with the Energy Bike, get a free LED bulb or donate an LED for low-income Chicagoland households.

This is an opportunity to find out how local schools, park districts, libraries, congregations and village governments are all working together to make our communities and the world a more sustainable place to live.

Household batteries and bicycles, working or not, will be accepted for recycling.

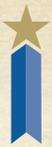
The fair is sponsored by Go Green Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette. For details see: www.goinggreenmatters.org.

PLANNING WORK IN THE VILLAGE'S RIGHT-OF-WAY?

Don't Forget Your Permit

Right-of-way permits are required for any work performed on public property. Sewer and water repairs, sprinkler systems, new driveway aprons and service walks through the parkway are just some of the projects that require a separate right-of-way permit before the work begins.

In order to apply for a right-of-way permit, submit a completed permit application, application fee of \$62.00 and refundable deposit of \$1,000. Allow approximately 10 days for the permit to be approved. Once the work is completed, applicants should call the Engineering Department at (847) 853-7660 for a final inspection. The \$1,000 deposit will be returned to the applicant within four to six weeks of the project passing final inspection.



TIPS TO PREVENT WATER IN YOUR BASEMENT

The following tips will help keep your basement dry this spring:

- ★ Downspouts and sump pump lines that splash on-grade near the foundation should be redirected to the front yard or backyard and away from neighboring properties.
- ★ The existing grade around homes should be below the foundation and slope away from the building.
- ★ Check to make sure your foundation floor and walls do not have any cracks which can be a source of seepage.
- ★ Purchase a rain barrel at www.mwrd.org to manage water runoff from your roof.
- ★ Maintain your sewer lines by cleaning and televising them on a regular basis to ensure they are not allowing infiltration through open joints or existing cracks.
- ★ Install a battery backup on your sump pump.
- ★ To combat sanitary sewer backups, consider installing a flood control system or overhead sewer to minimize future backups.
- ★ For more storm water management tips, please visit the Village of Wilmette website at www.wilmette.com where you can find the "Guide to Flood Protection in Northern Illinois."



★ FEBRUARY / MAY 2018 ★

Fire/Police Emergency 9-1-1

FIRE DEPARTMENT

fire@wilmette.com251-1101

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 MANAGEMENT 853-7535

VILLAGE HALL **251-2700**

Community

Development 853-7550

Engineering 853-7660

Finance 853-7609

Health 853-7507

Clerk853-7511

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



1200 WILMETTE AVENUE
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091

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

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091

OTHER

Commonwealth Edison(888) 334-7661

Advanced Disposal Services(847) 272-4145

VILLAGE BOARD

President

Bob Bielinskibielinskib@wilmette.com

Trustees

Kathy Dodddoddk@wilmette.com

Joel Kurzmankurzmanj@wilmette.com

Stephen Leonardleonards@wilmette.com

Senta Plunkettplunketts@wilmette.com

Dan Sullivansullivanand@wilmette.com

Julie Wolfwolfj@wilmette.com

WWW.WILMETTE.COM • BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY: 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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.

Village offices will be closed on Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day. Additionally, refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of May 28th.

For questions, please call Public Works at (847) 853-7500.