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# THE COMMUNICATOR

FALL/WINTER  
2019 -  
2020

*The Village of Wilmette Newsletter*

## Village to Invest in Major Stormwater Improvement Project Funded by New Utility Fee

To provide much needed flooding relief to Wilmette residents, the Village is investing an estimated \$68 million into the Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project, which is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village. To help fund this critical project, the Village is assessing a new utility fee that will take effect in January.

### *What is a stormwater utility fee?*

A quarterly fee based on a property's impervious surface area—e.g. the building footprint, driveway, patio—will be used to cover the required debt repayments.

### *Why was a stormwater fee selected?*

A stormwater fee has two primary benefits:

1. It is a dependable and stable revenue source
2. It more accurately reflects a property's impact on the storm sewer system

### *How will the fee be assessed?*

Residential properties will be placed into one of three tiers based on the property's impervious surface area. The average residential tier has 3,000 – 4,300 square feet of impervious surface area.

### *When will the fee go into effect?*

The fee will be effective January 1, 2020.

### *How much will the fee cost me?*

Presently, single family households will pay an annual fee ranging from \$118 to \$186 in 2020. This fee will increase over time and the final rates will be based on the actual project costs and the interest rates paid on the debt service.

To check how the fee will impact your utility bill, visit [wilmette.com](http://wilmette.com) and enter your address in the "Property Information" box. From there, click on the "Stormwater Bill Estimate" tab. Multi-family and commercial properties can call 847-853-7509 or email [stormwater@wilmette.com](mailto:stormwater@wilmette.com) to learn more about their fee.

For more information, visit [wilmettestormwater.com](http://wilmettestormwater.com)

# Message from the Village President

Once again, we experienced a wonderful summer here in Wilmette. The Village's downtown continues to be one of the best on the North Shore, and I hope you had a chance to experience some of our many dining options or attend a special event while the weather was warm.

## 2020 Budget

As we do each year at this time, the Village Board has now shifted its focus toward next year's budget. While the Village works hard to manage its expenses, this budget cycle may be more challenging than the past few years due to a slowing local economy and significant infrastructure needs facing a community that is nearly 150 years old.

Coming out of the Great Recession, year-over-year revenue growth brought Village revenue back to pre-recession levels. However, the rate of growth has slowed precipitously and is even declining for some of our more significant revenue sources, such as sales tax, building permits and real estate transfer tax. As such, revenue growth is beginning to lag behind growth in the operating expenses that the Village incurs to provide essential services including 24/7 police and fire protection, snow plowing, and water and sewer service.

In addition to slowing revenue growth, during the last two springs and summers, we have experienced a good amount of rain, which requires less water usage

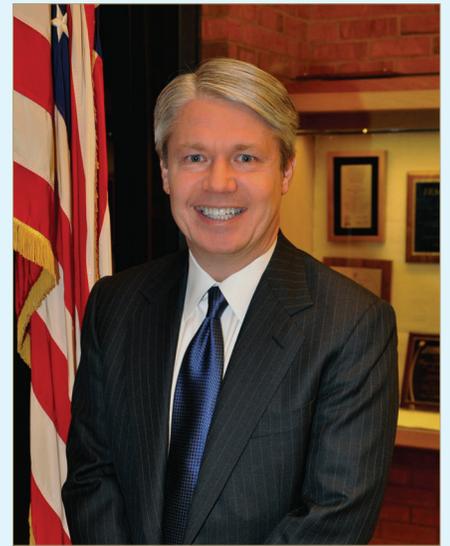
by residents and results in water and sewer revenues not meeting projections. While the Village has tried to limit water and sewer rate increases over the past several years, we may be faced with the need to increase rates in the future due to declining consumption.

Lastly, the Village's aging infrastructure requires more resources than ever. While the Village Board has increased the annual funding level for our roads by \$300,000 in 2015 and an additional \$500,000 in 2017, additional funding will be required to improve the condition of our roads. The Village's share of the State's recent increase in motor fuel taxes is estimated to be an incremental \$450,000 per year, but additional spending beyond that will likely require increased contributions from our residents. Road funding will be a major focus of our budget conversation this year.

During this year's budget process, the Village Board will be tasked with making difficult decisions to ensure a responsible, balanced budget. Throughout the process, the Board will remain always mindful of the impact our decisions have on residents.

## Neighborhood Storage Improvements

The Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project is continuing to move forward on schedule. In August, the Village Board and the Park District Board each approved a memorandum of understanding



Village President Bob Bielinski  
[bielinskib@wilmette.com](mailto:bielinskib@wilmette.com)

which delineates the locations of the proposed underground reservoirs at Thornwood Park, Hibbard Park and Community Playfields. The first phase of the project, which includes installation of large storm sewers in the public rights-of-way, will begin this fall. At the same time, the Village's engineering team will be finalizing design of the underground reservoir at Community Playfields, with construction anticipated to begin in spring of 2020.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Park District Commissioners and Staff for working cooperatively with the Village to ensure that these reservoirs can be installed on schedule so as to not further delay flood relief to the community. Furthermore, I would like to thank all the residents who continue to participate in this process and provide constructive feedback on this collaborative intergovernmental effort.

*continued on page 3*

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy last few months of the year. Don't forget to enjoy all that Wilmette has to offer during this season, including Holiday Happenings and the Tree Lighting ceremony. More information on these events can be found in this Communicator. The Village Board, the Village Staff and I value your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve the quality of life in Wilmette. Thank you to all of you who help make our Village a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.



## Technology Enhances Village Service Delivery

- **My311:** The next time you need to request service from the Village for a pothole or street light issue, just grab your smart device! The Village of Wilmette recently went live with My311, a new service request mobile app. Residents can now submit non-emergency service requests, send pictures and view open incidents in their area through the app. Android or Apple apps can be downloaded from Google Play for Android or the Apple App Store. 
- **Paperless Billing:** Have you signed up for paperless utility billing? Visit [wilmette.com/finance/online-bill-pay](http://wilmette.com/finance/online-bill-pay) for step-by-step instructions on how to register your online account, link your utility account and view bills, pay online or sign up for direct debit. Sign up for streamlined service today and help the environment by reducing paper use! 
- **Smart911:** The Wilmette Fire and Police Departments encourage residents to sign up for Smart911, which can provide first responders valuable information in the event that you call 9-1-1. Smart911 is also the Village's new Emergency Notification System which allows officials to communicate critical information to the public during an emergency. Register today by downloading the Smart911 app or visiting [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com). 

## Economic Development Updates

*The Village will periodically provide updates on several vacant commercial spaces in Wilmette. Please keep in mind that there is some information that the Village can share, some information we are not able to share at the request of the property owner and some information we simply do not know. Most importantly, be assured that the Village is working tirelessly to help facilitate the re-use and redevelopment of vacant commercial space to meet community needs.*

### Former Treasure Island Space

The Village has been working to bring a new grocer to this location, including outreach to numerous grocers, including but not limited to Trader Joe's, Sunset Foods, Grand Food Center and Foodstuffs. Unfortunately, we have been informed that the space is either too small, too poorly maintained, does not have enough parking or lacks sufficient traffic along Ridge Road for these types of grocery uses.

The Village anticipates a zoning application from Goodwill to move from its existing location in the center to the former Treasure Island space. Any new user of 5,000 square feet or more in this zoning district will be required to receive special use zoning approval. This measure will help protect the vitality of the zoning district, which is intended to serve the immediate neighborhoods.

### Former Imperial Motors Site

The Village has been in regular contact with the property owners and interested developers. While there has been interest in the building, no proposals are imminent at this time. Some of this interest was from fitness, medical office, and senior living uses that the Village has discouraged, as well as mixed use concepts that are preferred. Mixed use concepts with first floor retail and residential units above are preferred because they provide population density that supports community amenities and our vital restaurant and entertainment district. Changes at the Cook County Assessor's Office, which have considerably increased the assessed value of commercial properties, and the slowdown in the real estate market may impact the timing of redevelopment at Imperial Motors and other sites throughout the region.

### Edens Plaza

Since the closure of the Carson's department store, Village staff has been working closely with the new owners of Edens Plaza to revitalize the center. The Village's priority, and the priority of the shopping center owners, is to fill the vacant space with a major retailer that will generate substantial sales tax.

### Former Bakers Square Site

The former Bakers Square site is zoned for retail or restaurant use. The Village considers a restaurant to be the ideal use for the property. The property owner wants to take the necessary time to find a tenant with an established track record.

## October – April Tree Pruning

Tree pruning operations are conducted by the Village from late October through April 1 within select zones. Parkway trees are pruned on a cycle to promote their health and growth, while improving appearance and providing adequate clearance for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Residents may submit pruning requests to the Forestry Division for parkway trees that do not fall within the upcoming scheduled areas by calling 847-853-7500. To view the projected pruning zones map, visit [wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/parkway-tree-pruning](http://wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/parkway-tree-pruning).

## Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours and Safety

Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours are from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31. Please follow these tips for a safe and spooky Halloween:

- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Drivers should slow down and be especially alert; children are excited and may move in unpredictable ways
- For residents passing out treats, please leave your porch light on during the Trick-or-Treat hours.

## CPR/AED Class Dates

Oct. 23, 2019 – 7 p.m.  
Nov. 13, 2019 – 7 p.m.  
Dec. 4, 2019 – 7 p.m.  
Feb. 26, 2020 – 7 p.m.  
Apr. 29, 2020 – 7 p.m.



To register for one of the fire department-hosted CPR/AED certification classes, contact the fire department at 847-251-1101 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at least five business days before the class date. The course fee is \$25 per person.



# 31

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



# 28 29

Thanksgiving/  
Day after  
Thanksgiving  
(Offices Closed. No  
Refuse pickup on  
Thursday)



## Wilmette Historical Museum

October 2019 – January 2020

*Exhibit Opening Reception  
(Free Event)*

**Wilmette in Photographs, 1850 – 1950**, Main Gallery exhibit  
Sunday, Oct. 6  
1 – 3 p.m.

*Special Event*

**Wilmette Photo Challenge**

Oct. 1 – 30  
Grab your camera or phone to help us grow our photo collection!

*Lecture*

**Why Illinois was Ground Zero for Innovation**

Sunday, Oct. 20  
2 – 3 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members

*Lecture*

**Picture Postcards: The Happy Invention**

Sunday, Nov. 3  
2 – 3 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members



*Annual Meeting and Lecture*  
**Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots in the Past and Present**  
Sunday, Jan. 26  
2 – 3:30 p.m.

Free program; Seating is limited; Call or email to reserve your seat.

For more information, visit [wilmettehistory.org](http://wilmettehistory.org) or call 847-853-7666

## #Wilmetteonomics: It pays to shop locally

There are a million reasons why people love Wilmette – the people, the schools, the downtown and the beach. If you live here, you love it and you know our village is special.

By supporting Wilmette businesses, you help to support the things you love about Wilmette. When you spend your dollars locally, they are reinvested back into Wilmette through sales taxes that help pay for things like streetscape improvements, summer concerts and village services. Shopping local also helps your favorite local

businesses thrive and it's these local businesses that sponsor your kid's sport team, donate to your charity and provide personalized service you can't get just anywhere.

When you have a great experience at a Wilmette business, be sure to snap a photo and share your story on Facebook, Twitter or Nextdoor with the hashtag **#Wilmetteonomics**. Supporting local businesses supports our community!



**30** Last Day of  
Yard Waste and  
Composting Pickup



**7** Tree Lighting  
Ceremony  
5 p.m.

## 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 fall.

**SpaDerma** - *coming soon!*  
118 Skokie Blvd.  
Skin care and medical spa

**Motive Café**  
Coffee shop inside Metra station

**Carlos & Carlos** - *coming soon!*  
611 Green Bay Road  
Northern Italian cuisine

**Jen Jacobson Home**  
1222 Washington Ct.  
630-561-3244  
Interior and construction design  
consultation

**Wolff Contracting & Development**  
1222 Washington Ct.  
630-885-8093

**The Royal Treatment** - *coming soon!*  
405 Linden Ave.  
Veterinary clinic

**Imperial Nails & Spa**  
165 Green Bay Road  
847-920-5878

**Yoga Six** - *coming soon!*  
1515 Sheridan Road (Plaza del Lago)  
Yoga, stretch and hot power yoga  
classes

**Shack @ Share**  
1181 Wilmette Ave.  
www.sharewilmette.com  
Seasonal retail items from Share  
located next door

**The Wild Child** - *coming soon!*  
1114 Central Ave.  
Green/organic toys and games

**Kumon Learning Center** - *coming soon!*  
3207 Lake Ave.

# U.S. Census

The 2020 Census on April 1 will be here before we know it. It is important for all households in Wilmette to complete the census fully and accurately to ensure that Wilmette and Illinois receive financial resources and congressional representation reflective of our population.

The population data collected by the Census will be used to draw congressional districts that will be in place from 2020 to 2030. Illinois is the sixth most populous state with 12.7 million residents. Our state is currently represented by 18 House members. An undercount may result in the loss of one or two of these 18 seats.

The Census population data is also used to allocate federal funding for a variety of programs and services, including transportation and education. Undercounting of the population will result in losing access to federal dollars, funding that will have to be made up elsewhere.

This is the first time that you can complete the Census online. Look for instructions in the mail on how to complete your household Census online. As the Census approaches, the Village will share information on local organizations that can assist with internet access and getting started with the online Census.

Your Census responses and their connection to individual households are strictly confidential and cannot be accessed by any other entities, including other federal agencies.



The Census Bureau is hiring for temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff and supervisory staff. If interested, please see the 2020 Census job website at: [2020census.gov/en/jobs](https://2020census.gov/en/jobs)

For more information, visit the Village of Wilmette 2020 Census webpage.



25

**Christmas Day  
(Offices Closed.  
No Refuse Pickup)**



01

**New Year's Day  
(Offices Closed.  
No Refuse Pickup)**

## Fall & Winter Sustainability Tips

Going green in the cooler months is all about keeping the heat in and the cold out! Follow these tips to conserve energy and reduce your heating bill.

- Reduce drafts around doors and windows – place a rolled towel at the base of drafty doors and caulk around the frame edge of older windows.
- Cover pet doors with a small, heavy curtain to minimize drafts.
- Heat your home with the sun – leave shades open when the sun is streaming in.
- Reverse your fan blades to draw risen heat down.
- Use a programmable thermostat to lower the heat while you're at work or sleeping and use up to 25% less energy!
- Use a humidifier. Dry air feels colder and turning up the heat without a humidifier actually dries out the air.



# Burglary Prevention

As winter approaches, please be aware that the Wilmette Police Department has historically seen an increase in residential burglaries in the fall and winter months with longer periods of darkness. Be sure that your exterior lights are operational and that doors and windows lock properly. Consider deterrents like lights on timers and, if you are leaving town, asking a neighbor to take in package deliveries and mail so not to advertise that the home is unoccupied.

## Annual Sewer Lining Notice

The Village's annual Sewer Lining Program is underway and is scheduled to wrap up in late November. The project includes the rehabilitation of nearly eight miles of sewer lines which are 60 to 100 years old and have many cracks and root intrusions. Sewer lining is an investment in infrastructure that will help the infrastructure last an additional 50 years and will benefit our residents by reducing sewer back-ups.

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



## Celebrate Fall and Winter with the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce

### Downtown Wilmette Wine Walk

*Saturday, Oct. 12, 4 - 6 p.m.*

\$25 donation benefiting Miseracordia

An upscale FUNdraising event in downtown Wilmette featuring wine tasting and shopping.

### Oktoberfest at Plaza del Lago

*Saturday, Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

Put on your lederhosen, grab the kids and come out to celebrate fall at this family-friendly event featuring lively music by Chicagoland's fun and festive band, The Polkaholics.

### Linden Square Pumpkin Walk

*Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

Show off your costume and enjoy a petting zoo, trick-or-treating and family-friendly treats in the Linden Square business district.

### West Wilmette Boo Bash

*Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Moms and kids will enjoy trick-or-treating and Halloween-themed activities at participating businesses.

### Trick-or-Treating at Downtown Wilmette Businesses

*Thursday, Oct. 31, 12 - 5 p.m.*

### Holiday Sip & Shop

*Thursday, Dec. 5, 5 - 8 p.m.*

Taste delicious wines and nibbles as you shop for holiday gifts at your favorite merchants in Downtown Wilmette and Plaza del Lago.

### Holiday Happenings & Tree Lighting

*Saturday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m.*

Enjoy holiday activities around town, including a special movie at the Wilmette Theatre, a visit from Santa, caroling, cookie decorating, swag bags, and of course, the annual Tree Lighting.



## Follow the Village!

Are you curious about what's going on in a vacant commercial space? Want to know what events are coming up in Wilmette this weekend? Sign up for the Village's weekly e-newsletter and follow the Village on Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor for regular updates on happenings around Wilmette!

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

# Connect with Us

## Village Board

### President

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

### Trustees

Peter Barrow [barrowp@wilmette.com](mailto:barrowp@wilmette.com)

Kathy Dodd [doddk@wilmette.com](mailto:doddk@wilmette.com)

Gina Kennedy [kennedyg@wilmette.com](mailto:kennedyg@wilmette.com)

Joel Kurzman [kurzmanj@wilmette.com](mailto:kurzmanj@wilmette.com)

Senta Plunkett [plunketts@wilmette.com](mailto:plunketts@wilmette.com)

Dan Sullivan [sullivand@wilmette.com](mailto:sullivand@wilmette.com)

### Business hours:

Monday – Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



1200 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091

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Wilmette, IL 60091



## Village Board Meetings

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

January 8, 22	April 9, 23	July 9, 23	October 7, 22
February 12, 26	May 14, 28	August 27	November 12, 26
March 12, 26	June 11, 25	September 10, 24	December 10

## Village Hall Closed

New Year's Day  
 Memorial Day  
 Independence Day  
 Labor Day  
 Thanksgiving  
 Day after Thanksgiving  
 Christmas Day

### Fire/Police Emergency

911

### Fire Department

[fire@wilmette.com](mailto:fire@wilmette.com) 847-251-1101

### Museum

[museum@wilmette.com](mailto:museum@wilmette.com) 847-853-7666

### Police Department

[police@wilmette.com](mailto:police@wilmette.com) 847-256-1200

### Public Works Department

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

General 847-853-7500

After Hours Emergency 847-256-1200

### Water Management

847-853-7535

### Village Hall

847-251-2700

Community Development 847-853-7550

Engineering 847-853-7660

Finance 847-853-7609

Clerk 847-853-7511

### Village Manager

Timothy J. Frenzer [frenzert@wilmette.com](mailto:frenzert@wilmette.com) 847-853-7509

### Other

Library  
847-256-5025

Park District  
847-256-6100

New Trier Township  
847-446-8202

Advanced Disposal Services  
847-272-4145

AT&T  
800-244-4444

Comcast  
866-594-1234

Commonwealth Edison  
888-334-7661

Nicor Gas  
888-642-6748

# Snow & Ice Control



## Plowing and Salting

- Plowing operations commence after **2 inches** of snow accumulation.
- Alleys and residential sidewalks are cleared when snow accumulation is 4+ inches.
- Top priorities for plowing and/or salting are as follows:



### Arterial Streets

Main Priority



### Business/Commuter Sidewalks

Take priority over residential sidewalks

Commuter routes goal: 6 a.m.

Business routes goal: 8 a.m.



### School Sidewalks

High priority after +2" of snow (when school is in session)



### Side Streets/ Cul-de-sacs

Take priority after arterial streets and after +2" of snow



## Street Parking During Snow Removal

### 2 Things to know about Wilmette Street Parking Ban During Winter Weather

1. **No street parking** after +2" of snow for 24 hours after the snowfall stops or snow removal operations are completed (whichever is sooner).
2. **No parking on one side** of the street for 24 hours after snowfall of less than 2 inches, sleet, freezing rain or ice on streets posted as 27 feet wide or less.



## Snow and Ice Control Questions/Problems?

### Public Works Department

Phone: 847-853-7500

(regular business hours 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Email: [pubworks@wilmette.com](mailto:pubworks@wilmette.com).

## Can the Village arrange for someone to shovel snow from my sidewalk and driveway?



Residents who need assistance with shoveling snow from sidewalks or driveways should contact WilWork, the Village's youth employment referral program.

For a list of names, call 847-853-7609 or email [wilwork@wilmette.com](mailto:wilwork@wilmette.com).

For more details and the comprehensive list of plowing/salting priorities, visit [wilmette.com/village-services/snow-ice-control](http://wilmette.com/village-services/snow-ice-control).

# 2019 Leaf Pick-Up Zones and Schedule



## Scheduled Leaf Collection Days

### October

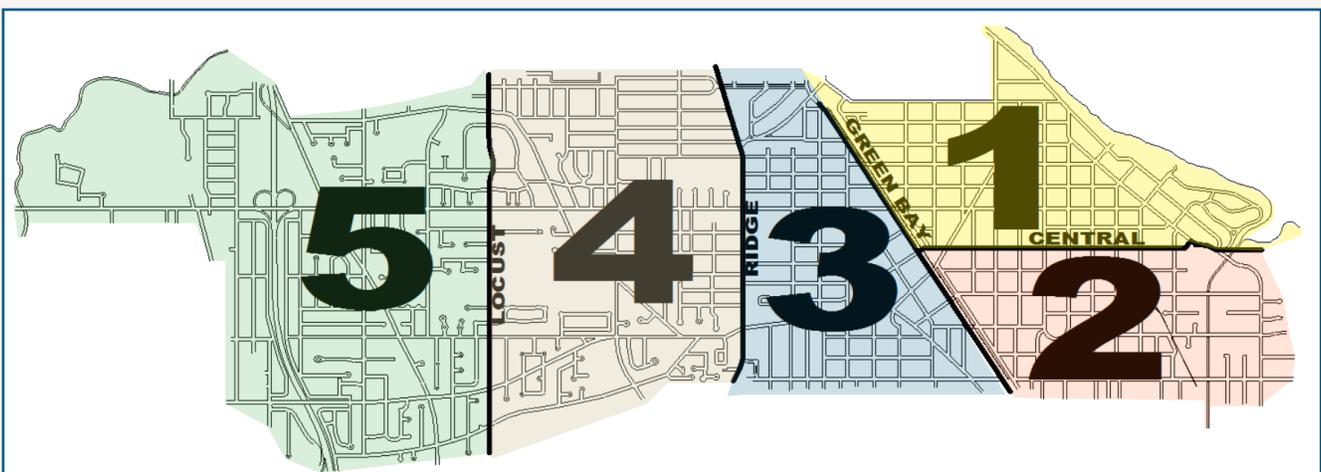
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
13	14 ZONE 4	15 ZONE 5	16 ZONE 1	17 ZONE 2	18 ZONE 3	19
20	21 ZONE 4	22 ZONE 4	23 ZONE 5	24 ZONE 5	25 ZONE 1	26
27	28 ZONE 1	29 ZONE 2	30 ZONE 2	31 ZONE 3		

### November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 ZONE 3	2
3	4 ZONE 4	5 ZONE 4	6 ZONE 5	7 ZONE 5	8 ZONE 1	9
10	11 ZONE 1	12 ZONE 2	13 ZONE 2	14 ZONE 3	15 ZONE 3	16
17	18 ZONE 4	19 ZONE 4	20 ZONE 5	21 ZONE 5	22 ZONE 1	23
24	25 ZONE 1	26 ZONE 2	27 ZONE 2	28 HOLIDAY	29 HOLIDAY	30

### December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 ZONE 3	3 ZONE 3	4 ZONE 4	5 ZONE 5	6 ZONE 1 & 2	7



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** During a two-day collection period, only **one** collection is made for each street and will occur on **either** the first **or** second day of scheduled collection. Residents must have their leaves on the street no later than 7 a.m. on the **first** scheduled collection day.