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THE COMMUNICATOR

SPRING 2020

The Village of Wilmette Newsletter

Don't Forget to Get Your 2020 Vehicle Stickers

Mark your calendar for March 1 to renew your annual vehicle sticker with the Village! All vehicles registered with the Illinois Secretary of State with a Wilmette address must display an updated sticker. Sale of stickers begins March 1 and stickers must be displayed by April 15 to avoid a citation and late fee. There are three ways to purchase vehicle stickers:

- Online at wilmette.com/finance/vehicle-stickers
- In person at Village Hall 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
- By mail for vehicles currently registered

The costs range from \$80 for a passenger vehicle to \$95 for other vehicles. Senior citizens (ages 65 and older) who meet the annual HUD income guidelines are eligible for a \$10 discount (limit one per senior citizen).

Visit wilmette.com to learn more.

Village Breaks Ground on Major Infrastructure Projects

Stormwater Storage Vault at Community Playfield to Break Ground in April

The Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project is the largest infrastructure investment ever made by the Village and will provide critical flooding relief to thousands of residents. One component of this project is the construction of a stormwater storage vault at Community Playfield, which will break ground in April. The southeastern portion of the park will be under construction through November 2020 and will be reopened for the public to enjoy in the spring of 2021.

For more information on how construction at Community Playfield will impact the surrounding neighborhood, check out the Phase I FAQs on the Village's [stormwater project webpage](#).

Central Reconstruction and Downtown Streetscape Project Beginning Summer 2020

The Village's Downtown Streetscape project will kick off this summer, bringing exciting enhancements to our downtown, including new roadway and sidewalks, streetscape features like lighting and plantings, water and sewer upgrades and renovations to Veteran's Park and the Village Hall Green.

The plan incorporates public input collected through a robust community outreach effort over the past few years. Construction will begin in July 2020 on Central Avenue between Green Bay Road and Sheridan Road and on Wilmette Avenue between Poplar Drive and Lake Avenue. All businesses will be open and accessible during the streetscape work—stay tuned for special business promotions during construction!

Visit wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/current-projects for information on 2020 construction projects and to view an interactive project map.

Want to know how construction will impact you? Sign up for email updates and connect with the Village on social media at wilmette.com/connect.

Message from the Village President

Exciting things are happening in our Village. The downtown restaurant scene continues to thrive, significant infrastructure improvements are underway and the business and real estate communities continue to show interest in investing in Wilmette.

As described on page one, Central Avenue from Sheridan Road to Green Bay Road will be reconstructed in 2020. Given the disruption that will accompany this major construction project in our downtown, local businesses will need your support more than ever this year. Please keep downtown Wilmette, as well as all businesses located throughout the Village, at the top of your list when considering where to dine or shop in 2020.

Village Manager Transition

Long-time Village Manager Tim Frenzer will retire in early 2020 after 27 years of service to the Village. After taking over as Village Manager in 2009, Mr. Frenzer's steady and thoughtful leadership stabilized and then improved the Village's finances, contributed to new economic development and improved resident services. The Village is fortunate to have an incredibly professional and qualified staff, which is a testament to Tim's leadership and his ability to attract and retain top talent. The Village Board and I are all grateful to Tim for his dedicated service to the Village and wish him all the best in retirement.

To ensure that the Village continues to deliver a high level of service to residents, succession planning and retention of top talent have been strategic priorities of the Village Board for many years. As a result of these efforts, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Assistant Village Manager Michael Braiman as Village Manager.

Mr. Braiman has 15 years of local government experience, having worked for the Village for nearly 10 years, the last six as Assistant Village Manager. Mike has proven himself to be an approachable and professional executive who has a strong commitment to resident service and financial stewardship. Given his experience and the extent of his current responsibilities managing Village operations, we expect a seamless transition in the Village Manager's Office.

2020 Budget

The Village's 2020 budget continues to support investments which will help keep Wilmette the wonderful place to live that it is. This year's budget devotes more than \$5 million to road improvements, which is the highest level of funding in at least twenty years.

In addition, construction is now underway on the Neighborhood Stormwater Storage Improvement Project which will provide much needed flood relief to thousands of Wilmette residents. This project will be built in phases over the next several years, and construction of the first underground reservoir under a portion of Community Playfield is expected to begin this spring.

The Village's property tax levy is increasing by 4.99% (which equates to an increase of ~0.6% of your total property tax bill). As a reminder, the Village's portion of your property tax bill is only 12%. The rest goes to other taxing bodies, including schools (which get the largest portion). More than half of the Village tax levy increase is dedicated to increased funding for our annual road resurfacing program. The components of this year's increase in the Village's property tax levy break down in this way:

- Operations: 1.43%
- Pensions: 0.75%
- Debt Service: 0.12%
- Road Funding: 2.69%

The operations portion of the tax levy, which is increasing at a rate less than inflation, funds the critical municipal services which residents rely upon daily, including 24/7 police and fire protection, public works services such as snow removal and urban forest management, and general infrastructure investment.

Economic Development

Economic development remains an important focus for the Village. In January, the Village's Appearance Review Commission and Plan Commission held public meetings regarding a new development along Green Bay Road at Central Avenue on the site of the existing International Bank property. More information on the project can be found on the homepage of the Village's website.



Village President Bob Bielinski

bielinskib@wilmette.com

Additionally, new ownership at Edens Plaza is working to prepare the shopping plaza for new retailers and new uses that will revitalize the area affected by the closing of Carson's department store. The Village has been working closely with the property owners to ensure our vision remains aligned and Edens Plaza is a viable retail center for the Village for years to come.

Economic development is important because it makes Wilmette a more attractive community for both current and future residents and it helps generate additional revenue for the Village which eases residents' overall tax burden.

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and I wish each of you a happy and healthy 2020!

Bob Bielinski

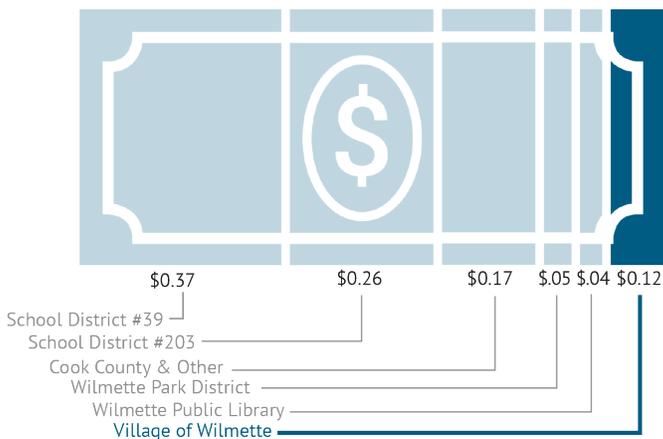
President, Village of Wilmette



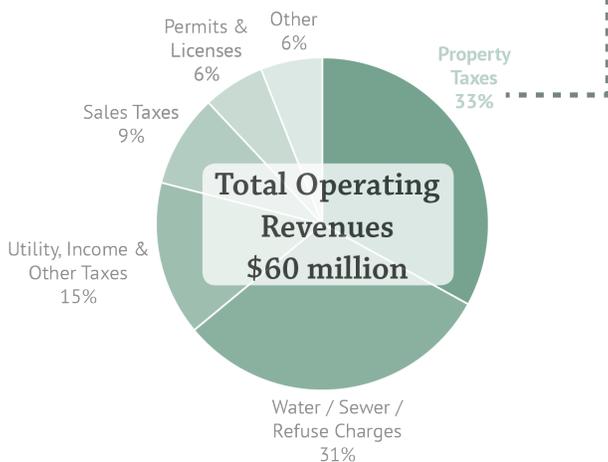
Here's What You Need to Know about the 2020 Budget

The annual budget is the Village's most important document as it directs spending and investments in alignment with the Village Board's established priorities and policies. Creating the budget is an intensive process that incorporates feedback from residents, business owners, elected officials, staff and other key stakeholders. As a testament to this effort, the Village was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association and awarded its 30th consecutive **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**. This recognition shows the Village has met the highest standards in budgeting best practices and demonstrates the Village's commitment to fiscal responsibility and good governance.

Property Tax Bill



- **12%** of your property tax payment goes directly to the Village of Wilmette.
- **\$15,000** annual property tax payment (average)
- **\$1,800** goes directly to the Village (average)



2019 SERVICE STATS



1,350+ residents registered for Smart911 emergency response system



Nearly 65 miles of road maintained through the Village's annual Road Program



Daily engagement with nearly 12,000 social media followers



Nearly 8 miles of sewer maintained through the Village's annual Sewer Lining Program

Top Five Budget Takeaways:

1. Wilmette has a **balanced budget**.
2. We practice **fiscal responsibility** by leveraging technology, practicing good governance and investing wisely in infrastructure improvements.
3. The Village receives **revenue from many sources**, including property taxes, sewer and water fees, grants and the State.
4. The Village maintains a **Aaa bond rating** (the highest rating possible), which allows us to invest in the future and bond for capital investments with lower interest rates.
5. The Village continues to **maintain or enhance** all Village services.

Your Property Tax Dollar

Property taxes account for 33% of the Village's total operating revenues and are a stable revenue source. In 2020, the Village's share of the property tax levy will increase by 4.99% or \$90 for the average home. \$50 of this increase will go directly to our road program.

Capital Improvement Projects

The Village plans to invest \$40.3 million in capital improvements in 2020. The vast majority of this investment—\$33.3 million—will be directed toward water and sewer infrastructure, including the Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project. The Village will also continue to invest in roads and sidewalks, as well as fire and police equipment, including four new hybrid police squad cars.

Expenditures

The Village's General Fund supports the daily operations and maintenance that make Wilmette a safe, clean and vibrant place to live.

Snapshot:



Police & Fire



Engineering & Public Works



Finance, Admin., Community Development, Law, Other

Strategic Budget Priorities



Public Safety



Economic Development



Infrastructure



Service Delivery



Technology



Good Governance

Going Green Matters Community Fair

Join us at the 14th Annual Going Green Matters Community Fair on Sunday, March 8 from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette. The event is free and open to the public.

The theme for this year's fair is "Trees: Back To Our Roots."

Residents looking for ways to live more sustainably will find practical information on the importance of trees and tree maintenance, saving energy,

green landscaping, green home design, community solar, recycling tips and more. Visitors of all ages can enjoy hands-on activities like making your own safe home cleaning products and producing electricity on a bike!

A list of attractions and information is available at goinggreenmatters.org.

The fair is sponsored by Go Green Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette.



Plant a Tree This Spring!

Take advantage of the Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program this spring. In addition to making our community more beautiful, planting parkway trees has many environmental benefits.

This is a cost-share program in which residents can select the species and size of the tree to be planted. Pick up an application at Village Hall or download it from the Village's [Tree Planting web page](#) to review the available tree species, sizes and costs. Applications are due by April 1. 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 847-853-7587 or email forestry@wilmette.com.



1 Vehicle Stickers Available



8 Going Green Matters Community Fair



17 U.S. Presidential Primary Election

Village Places Moratorium on Recreational Cannabis Sales

The Village Board approved a moratorium on the sale of recreational cannabis within Village limits. The Village wants more time to study the impact of such businesses, review the State's rules regarding cannabis sales and determine the appropriate vehicle for public input.

This moratorium does not restrict individuals from purchasing, possessing and using cannabis within the limitations provided by state law. As of Jan. 1, the possession and use of cannabis is legal in Illinois by anyone over the age of 21. Possession is limited to 30 grams in raw form, 500



milligrams of THC infused products and 5 grams of THC concentrate.

The law prohibits use of cannabis in the following locations: school grounds, inside a motor vehicle, any public place, in close proximity to anyone under 21 years and any place where smoking is prohibited. Operating a motor vehicle under the influence of cannabis is also prohibited.

Visit wilmette.com/police-department for more information and parent resources.

CPR/AED courses are filling up fast!

Feb. 26 – 7 p.m.
April 29 – 7 p.m.
June 4 – 7 p.m.
Aug. 6 – 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 – 7 p.m.
Dec. 9 – 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.

Countdown to the Census: Being Counted Matters

Census Day 2020, which is April 1, is just around the corner! It is very important that all residents complete the census because this population count determines the financial resources and political representation allocated to Wilmette. Here's what you need to know:

Households will receive a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau in March inviting residents to respond to the census online. If you have not responded by the end of March, a paper census will be mailed to your residence. If you do not respond to the paper census, a local census taker will contact you at your home.

The census asks for information about the occupants of your household as of April 1, 2020. Be sure to include everyone who lives in your residence, even children and roommates.

If you or someone you know need language assistance, the census is available in 12 languages. Dozens of other language guides are available on the Village website.

If you need help with internet access or using a computer to complete your online census, the Wilmette Public Library will have volunteers available to assist in the computer lab.

The census does not ask for sensitive or financial information such as your social security number, bank accounts, passwords or similar data. If you are requested to provide this information online or in person, refuse any further interaction.

Responses are strictly confidential and not permitted to be accessed by any other entities including other federal agencies.

Have questions? The Village is here to help—call 847-853-7550, email comdev@wilmette.com or visit the Village's 2020 Census website at wilmette.com/government/2020-census.



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U.S. Census Day
Tree Planting
Application Due



6

Curbside Compost
and Yard Waste
Collection Resumes

Get your Yard Waste Stickers and Compost Toters Ready – Collection Resumes in April

Come spring, it will be time to pull out your compost toters and stickers to put on yard waste. The Village will resume collection on Monday, April 6. This will extend through the last week in November.

Yard waste and compost are collected on the same day as your regular trash and recycling.

Yard Waste bags, bundles and toters must be affixed with Village Yard Waste stickers, which are available for purchase (\$2.25 each) at Village Hall, Chalet Nursery, Millen Hardware and both Wilmette Jewel-Osco locations.

Residents with yard waste toters can also compost food scraps like fruits, vegetables, eggshells and coffee grounds! Visit the Village [website](#) for more information or contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 or pubworks@wilmette.com.



Register to Vote in the Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on March 17, with early voting beginning March 2. Still need to register to vote? **The last day to register in person or by mail is Feb. 18. You can register online until March 1.** Visit cookcountyclerk.com for resources on:

- Voter registration
- Absentee ballots
- Early voting
- Polling locations
- locations and times
- Precincts

Polling and precinct information is also available from the Village's Deputy Clerk's Office.

Call 847-853-7511 or email norwoodk@wilmette.com.



Historic Preservation Awards

Do you know a resident who is a leader in advancing stewardship of a historic treasure in Wilmette? Nominate them for the Village of Wilmette Historic Preservation Commission's Annual Historic Preservation Awards! Nominations are open to residential, commercial, public and religious buildings as well as landscapes within Village limits.

Nomination categories are:

- Stewardship
- Restoration
- Rehabilitation
- Landscape Conservation
- Sympathetic Addition
- Streetscape Compatibility

The nominated sites will be judged by a panel of preservation professionals and the winners will be honored at a special award ceremony in May co-sponsored by the Wilmette Historical Museum. Nomination forms – available online and at Village Hall – must be submitted by March 27. For more information, please contact Kate McManus at 847-853-7522 or mcmanusk@wilmette.com.

Summer will be here soon – remember to get your block party permits!

Wintry weather got you dreaming about summer block parties? Get a jump start on planning, and don't forget your permit! Block party permit applications must be submitted to the Wilmette Police Department at least seven days prior to the scheduled event. There is no cost for the permit.

For more information on block parties and to download a permit application, visit wilmette.com/permits/block-party-permits.



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Deadline to display 2020 Vehicle Sticker



25

Memorial Day Offices Closed Refuse Pickup Delayed Parade at 10:30 a.m.



Wilmette Historical Museum

February – May 2020

For more information, visit wilmettehistory.org or call 847-853-7666

Family Program

Fun with the Lincolns

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
Members free, \$5 per family for non-members
Seating is limited. Call or email the Museum for advance tickets.

Film

Benjamin H. Marshall, Architect

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 – 3 p.m.
Members free, \$5 for non-members

Costume Exhibit Opening

Wilmette Women Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Sunday, March 1, 1 – 2 p.m.
Free reception

Lecture

Illinois Women and the Fight for the Vote

Sunday, March 1, 2 – 3 p.m.
Members free, \$5 for non-members

Lecture

Connecting People to the Prairie: Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

Sunday, April 5, 2 – 3 p.m.
Members free, \$5 for non-members

Family Program

Museum and Police Open Houses

Sunday, May 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Free event

Special Event

33rd Annual Spring Housewalk

Sunday, May 17, 1 – 5 p.m.
Discounted advance tickets begin at \$40

The Museum's 33rd Annual Housewalk features four beautiful historic homes in East Wilmette. The Housewalk is the Museum's sole fundraiser and is held annually to support its work in preserving our Village's past.

Keep Bicycle Rides Safe and Fun this Spring

National Bike Month is coming up in May! Be sure to get outside, enjoy the fresh air and celebrate the many benefits of cycling this spring. Remember that you can register your bicycle with the Wilmette Police Department – download a registration form from wilmette.com/wpfb-file/bicycle_registration_form-pdf. Registration may help with recovering your bicycle if it is stolen.

Whenever you hit the trails and roads on your bike, be sure to follow these safety best practices from the National Safety Council:

- Always wear a helmet. Every rider, every time. Make sure that your helmet is certified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Make sure that your bike is equipped with reflectors on the rear, front, pedals and spokes. A horn or bell, rear-view mirror and a bright headlight also are recommended.
- Make certain drivers can see you. Wear neon, fluorescent or bright clothing. At night, wear reflective clothing and use flashing lights.

Is Your Lawn Sprinkler System in Compliance?

The Village requires that cross connection control devices (CCCDs) be installed on all lawn sprinkler systems, swimming pools, spas and fixtures that connect to the water supply. These devices protect our drinking water by preventing contaminated water from flowing back into the Village's water supply.

Residents are responsible for hiring a licensed CCCD testing contractor to test and certify the device every year. This test must be performed and submitted prior to turning any sprinkler system, pool, spa or the like on for the season.

The Village of Wilmette has partnered with BSI Online to assist with test report submittals. Visit BSI Online at bsionlinetracking.com to access a list of licensed CCCD testing contractors in the area, check backflow test report status and learn more about backflow hazards. Contact BSI Online via e-mail (bsionline@backflow.com) or phone 800-414-4990.

Residents may also contact Andy Lazar at the Village of Wilmette Water Meter Department by e-mail (lazara@wilmette.com) or phone 847-853-7537.

Visit wilmette.com/water-management/cross-connection-control for more information.

Welcome New Businesses!

The Village welcomes its newest businesses and thanks them for choosing Wilmette. Please remember to visit these and other Wilmette businesses while shopping this spring. Did you know that 2% of almost every dollar you spend at Wilmette retailers goes directly back to the community? By supporting our businesses and buying locally, your sales tax dollars help pay for things like streetscape improvements, summer concerts and Village services.

SpaDerma

118 Skokie Blvd.
Skin care and medical spa
Coming soon!

Sophia Steak

1146 Wilmette Ave.
Neighborhood Steakhouse
Coming this spring!

Yoga Six

1515 Sheridan Road (Plaza del Lago)
Yoga, stretch, and hot power yoga
yogasix.com

Shack @ Share

1181 Wilmette Ave.
sharewilmette.com
Seasonal retail items from Share located next door

The Wild Child

1114 Central Ave.
Green/organic toys and games
847-728-0775

Kumon Learning Center

3207 Lake Ave.
Math and Reading Center
847-957-1550

Carlos & Carlos

611 Green Bay Road
Northern Italian cuisine
Coming this spring!



Follow the Village!

Are you curious about what's going on with the stormwater project? 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

Shopping local is a fantastic way to support our community!

Share your great experiences with local businesses on social media using #Wilmetteconomics.



Connect with Us

Village Board

President

Bob Bielinski bielinskib@wilmette.com

Trustees

Peter Barrow barrowp@wilmette.com

Kathy Dodd doddk@wilmette.com

Gina Kennedy kennedyg@wilmette.com

Joel Kurzman kurzmanj@wilmette.com

Senta Plunkett plunketts@wilmette.com

Dan Sullivan 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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ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 26

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091



Village Board Meetings

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

January 14, 28	April 14, 28	July 14, 28	October 13, 27
February 11, 25	May 12, 26	August 11, 25	November 10, 24
March 10, 24	June 9, 23	September 8, 22	December 8, 22

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 847-251-1101

Museum

museum@wilmette.com 847-853-7666

Police Department

police@wilmette.com 847-256-1200

Public Works Department

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 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