

THE COMMUNICATOR

PURCHASE 2010 VEHICLE STICKERS

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.

Stickers may also be purchased in person at the Village Hall Finance counter during regular business hours and from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following Saturdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10.

The fee for passenger vehicles is \$80 and the fee for trucks is \$95. Vehicles not displaying a 2010 vehicle sticker after April 15th risk receiving a citation from the Police Department. A portion of the revenue generated from the sale of vehicle stickers is used to maintain the Village's infrastructure, including streets, alleys and curbs.

2010 CENSUS- GET COUNTED!

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress and determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of a decade. The 2010 Census data will directly impact how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local and state governments. To ensure that Wilmette gets its fair share of funding, it is critical that all of our residents complete the Census questionnaire.

The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person – name, relationship, gender, age, ethnicity, and whether you own or rent your home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail. The Census Bureau does not release or share information identifying individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

The Village encourages everyone to complete their census form as accurately as possible. For more information, visit www.census.gov/2010census. For information about applying for temporary work with the census, visit www.2010censusjobs.gov or call 866-861-2010.

NEW SOLID WASTE PROGRAM STARTS IN LATE MARCH

Please be sure to review the enclosed insert regarding the Village's new refuse, recycling and yard waste program. The new collection program will begin on March 29th and will include the following changes:

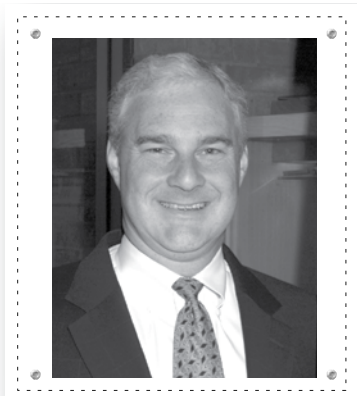
- ★ Curbside refuse, recycling and yard waste pick-up for those customers that currently receive back door service
- ★ A wheeled refuse toter provided to all customers at no cost
- ★ A wheeled recycling toter provided to all customers at no cost

Most residents will see a change in their collection day. On your new collection day, refuse and recycling will be collected on the same day. Yard waste will only be collected on Wednesdays.

If you have any questions regarding solid waste collection, please call the Village's solid waste hotline at 847-853-7640 or visit www.wilmette.com.

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Letter from Village President Christopher S. Canning



VILLAGE CENTER MASTER PLAN

The Village expects to complete two major development related initiatives in 2010:

- Village Center Master Plan
- Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

The Village Center Master Plan will set forth a strategy to revitalize the Village Center so that it continues to develop as a vibrant hub for retail, dining, and entertainment options. When completed, the plan will provide recommendations for allowable building height, building and streetscape design, pedestrian, transit and vehicular improvements, and economic development incentives.

A resident advisory committee is providing oversight of the planning process, while The Lakota Group, a professional planning firm, has been hired to assist in drafting the plan. A majority of the funding for the planning process is provided by a \$100,000 Regional Transportation Authority Community Planning Grant.

The Lakota Group is currently conducting background research and analysis of the study area. Once that task is complete, community meetings will be held to present ideas and obtain the preferences of area residents, businesses, employees and property owners. Since the success of this plan depends in large part on the participation of our residents and businesses, I encourage you to sign-up for the Master Plan e-mail list by visiting the Village's website.

ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE

At the same time we are working on the Master Plan, we will also be updating the Village's Zoning Ordinance which was last updated more than 20 years ago. To

ensure that the zoning process is efficient and easy to navigate for residents and businesses alike, the Village has hired the urban planning firm Camiros to assist with the revision of the ordinance. As with the Village Center Master Plan, your opinions in this process are important and I encourage your participation.

2011 BUDGET

Although it is only February, the Village has already started looking forward to the 2011 Budget. As you will read in this issue, the 2010 Budget included reduced expenses of \$1.4 million and includes the lowest property tax increase since 1999; with the Village's tax levy accounting for only 11% of your total property tax bill. The Village Board is committed to providing the services you expect and deserve and will be working diligently throughout the year to monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure that the Village maintains its solid financial position as we approach 2011.

In 2010, the Village's pension costs increased by \$525,000 and one of the challenges we will face in preparing the 2011 Budget will be the continued costs of public employee pensions. Let me be clear: our public safety employees put their lives on the line for us each day and they earn the pension benefits for which they are entitled. You may not realize that public safety employees are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits from their employment with the Village (and in some cases Medicare). As such, pensions are a critical component of their retirement security. The failure of the General Assembly to create a sustainable pension system puts the retirement benefits of our public safety employees at stake-- this is not acceptable and must be changed.

As I wrote in the last issue of *The Communicator*, the Village has little control of these rapidly increasing pension expenses since the type of

In this issue of *The Communicator*, I would like to highlight some of the Village's major initiatives for 2010. These initiatives include the following:

- New Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Program
- Village Center Master Plan
- Zoning Ordinance Rewrite
- 2011 Budget Planning

NEW REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE PROGRAM

As you will read in this issue of *The Communicator*, the Village's new refuse, recycling and yard waste program will begin in late March. The new collection program will be automated, meaning that Veolia's drivers do not need to exit their trucks to collect waste, thereby reducing the financial impact of solid waste collection to the Village and residents alike.

Beginning March 22nd, more than 17,000 totes will be delivered throughout the community by Veolia. Given the number of totes to be delivered in such a short period of time, it is reasonable to expect some mistakes in terms of totes not delivered or the wrong sized totes delivered. We ask for your patience during this process. If you experience any problems or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Village's solid waste hotline at **847-853-7640**.

Continued on page 4



Community Highlights



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION SPONSORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTEST

As part of the Black History Month Celebration in February, the Wilmette Community Relations Commission is sponsoring a poster contest and an essay/poetry, multimedia, and music contest for students.

Students can choose from the following themes:

- 1) Significant accomplishments in African-American history or
- 2) Accomplishments of recent African-Americans (2008/2009) or
- 3) The African-American experience in the United States.

All poster contestants must be enrolled in K-8 in a Wilmette public or private school. All essay/poetry and multimedia contestants must be enrolled in grades 5-8 in a Wilmette public or private school. For more contest details and rules, visit www.wilmette.com.

All entries must be submitted by February 26, 2010. Send or bring entries to the following location:

Wilmette Village Hall, Attn: Community Relations Commission
Village Manager's Office • 1200 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, IL 60091

Contest winners will receive savings bonds courtesy of North Shore Community Bank. All contestants will be recognized at a Village Board of Trustees meeting.

CELEBRATE BIKE MONTH WITH THE BICYCLE TASK FORCE!

The Wilmette Bicycle Task Force has planned the following activities for residents of all ages to celebrate May as Bike Month:

- ★ Saturday, May 1, 2010 is "Bike to the Library Day" and "Gear Up for Biking" at the Wilmette Public Library. Hosted by the Wilmette Bicycle Task Force, Go Green Wilmette and the Wilmette Public Library, this event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- ★ Friday, May 14, 2010 is "Bike to School Day" for Highcrest and the Wilmette Junior High School.
- ★ Saturday, May 15, 2010 is "Bike to Soccer Day" from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Playfield.
- ★ Wednesday, June 16, 2010 is "Bike to Work" week at the Wilmette Metra Station from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

For more information about these events and to request a copy of Wilmette's bike map, visit the Engineering Department's webpage at www.wilmette.com.

PEST MANAGEMENT TIPS

As Spring approaches, pests and rodents will be seeking food and water sources. Sanitation is the key to eliminating and controlling pests. Eliminating the food and water supply is imperative to eliminating these pests. Please keep these tips in mind to avoid pest problems:

- ★ Avoid feeding/watering pets outdoors
- ★ Store dry pet food and bird seed in rodent-proof containers
- ★ Lease additional garbage toters from Veolia if overflowing garbage is an issue
- ★ Replace damaged garbage toters (As of March 29th, contact Veolia for replacement toters at 847-272-4145)
- ★ Limit feeding of birds and other wildlife- especially any form of ground feeding

WILMETTE GREEN FAIR

The Village of Wilmette and Go Green Wilmette will be co-sponsoring the Wilmette Green Fair. The event will be held at the Woman's Club of Wilmette, 930 Greenleaf Avenue on Sunday, March 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The fair will include information booths, vendor displays and presentations on topics such as home energy conservation, renewable energy sources, green cleaning products, organic food choices, green landscaping, transportation and more. Bring your batteries and electronics for recycling. Refreshments will be available as well as fun activities for all ages. This event has free admission. For more information visit www.goinggreenmatters.org.

WILMETTE FRENCH MARKET

This year's French Market will be here before you know it! The market will run every Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. from May through October in Wilmette's Village Center, just east of the Metra station. The market will feature seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, breads, baked items, cheese, natural meats, flowers, and olive oils from local and regional vendors. Check the Village's website for additional information throughout the spring and summer.



Continued from page 2

pension benefit is mandated by the General Assembly. Despite the contributions of our employees to assist in funding these pensions (public safety employees contribute nearly 10% of their annual salary), the General Assembly has failed to provide municipalities with a means to address these escalating costs other than cutting services or increasing taxes. Until the members of the General Assembly in Springfield hear from you and other taxpayers that you want the General Assembly to reform the pension system, the Village can continue to expect significant cost increases associated with public pensions.

The Village's 2011 Budget projections include \$565,000 in additional pension expenses. I again encourage you to contact your legislators in Springfield and tell them that the current pension system must be reformed in order to provide sustainable retirement benefits for our public safety employees and to ensure that the Village of Wilmette can afford to provide all of the services you expect and deserve as taxpayers.

As always, the Village Board and I welcome your input. Feel free to contact any members of the Village staff or Village Board with your comments or questions.

Very truly yours,

Christopher S. Canning
Village President

2010 ADOPTED BUDGET

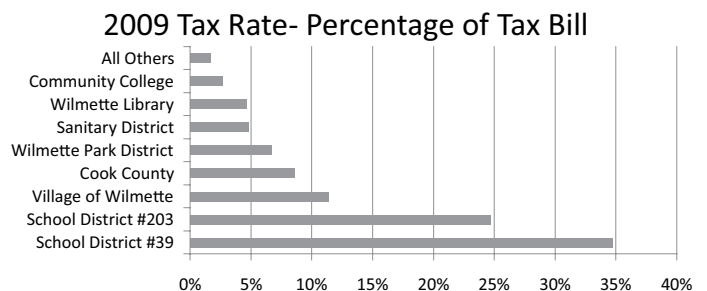
While facing significant declines in revenue, the Village continues to meet its goal of maintaining the high level of service residents in Wilmette have come to expect. The process of developing a balanced 2010 budget that retains all Village services proved to be challenging, and the Village continues to strive to find additional savings on a daily basis.

Despite significant increases in pension expense as discussed in President Canning's message, the Village has been able to reduce general fund operating expenses by \$1.4 million while maintaining services, without drawing on reserves. As the pie chart to the right indicates, 86% of the Village's expenses are for Police, Fire and Public Works Services.

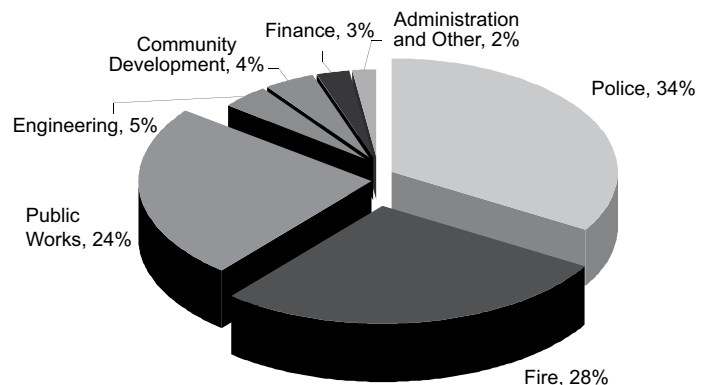
In order to maintain the level of services residents of Wilmette deserve, the Village Board undertook a number of initiatives to reduce expenses, including:

- Eliminating positions through attrition
- Reducing the number of work hours from 40 to 32 hours per week for 15 employees
- Freezing pay for department heads
- Staff reorganization of the Police Department
- Deferring replacement of equipment

Given these expense reductions, the Village's 3.95% tax levy increase is at its lowest level since 1999. The tax levy increase is solely comprised of increased pension expense, debt service related to previous infrastructure improvements, primarily street resurfacing and a small replenishment of the Village's reserve fund.



As the chart above indicates, the Village's portion of the property tax accounts for only 11% of your total property tax bill.





2010 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Visit the 2010 capital improvement map on the Engineering Department's section of the Village website to view the areas where construction work is tentatively scheduled.

In addition to the annual Road Program (\$1,150,000) and Alley Program (\$150,000), the Village is the recipient of two grants for roadwork. 10th Street/Wilmette Avenue from Sheridan Road to Lake Avenue will be resurfaced using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds. Isabella Street from Green Bay Road to 14th Street will be resurfaced with funds from the State's Emergency Repair Program. The scope of work for these projects includes resurfacing the street and curb, as well as sidewalk and sewer repairs as needed.

SPRING TREE PLANTING

The Village's Cooperative Tree Planting Program enables residents to plant a tree on the parkway by sharing the cost with the Village. To reserve a tree, applications for the program must be turned in no later than March 29th. To register, pick up an application at the Village Hall or download one by visiting Public Works on the Village website. Questions regarding the program can be directed to the Public Works Forestry Division at **847-853-7587** or forestry@wilmette.com.

IS YOUR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN COMPLIANCE?

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Plumbing Code, and the Village Code require that cross connection control devices be installed on all lawn sprinkler systems. This device protects the public water supply by preventing potentially contaminated water from flowing back into the Village's water supply. The Village Code applies to all sprinkler systems, including older systems installed before the ordinance was passed.

The ordinance also requires that cross connection valves be tested annually. The tests must be certified by a plumber and the results submitted to the Village's Water Plant Meter Shop at the Wilmette Water Plant, 200 Lake Ave. Wilmette, IL prior to system activation in spring.

For more information on this program and a list of certified testing contractors, please visit the Water Plant webpage on the Village website or call **847-853-7537**.

SEWER SYSTEM STUDY NEARING CONCLUSION

The goal of the sewer system study is to determine how to reduce the frequency and severity of basement sewer backups in the Village's separate sewer area located west of Ridge Road. The study concluded that the following three key areas have to be addressed to improve the overall performance of the sewer system:

- ★ Keep extraneous clean water out of the sanitary sewer system
- ★ Ensure the network of pipes conveying sanitary flows has adequate capacity
- ★ Improve the connection between the Village's sewer system and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's system.

To address these issues the Village is investing more than \$1.3 million in 2010 to repair deteriorated sewers. Visit the Engineering Department webpage on the Village website for a list of streets slated for sewer improvements.

While the Village takes steps to reduce infiltration in the main sewer pipes, residents are encouraged to do the same to their private services. Per the Village Code, the pipe that connects a home to the main line sewer, known as a sewer lateral, is the maintenance responsibility of the homeowner. The open joints and cracks in private service sewer laterals allow a significant amount of clean water to enter the sanitary sewer system, contributing to basement sewer backups. Residents are encouraged to hire a contractor to televise their sewer laterals to ensure that the sewer is functioning properly. Televising can reveal blockages from debris such as roots and show cracks, breaks or deterioration of a pipe. The televising is performed by a robotic camera that is lowered into a sewer line.

For more information on how to select a contractor for sewer televising, visit the Stormwater Management webpage of the Village website.



ADULT HEARING TESTS

Many individuals experience a gradual loss of hearing as they get older. If you are having hearing difficulties, the Village, in cooperation with the Audiology Clinic of Northwestern University, will offer adult hearing screenings on May 14th at Village Hall from 8:30 am - noon. There is an \$8 fee for each person tested. Please visit the Health Department webpage on the Village website for more information or call **847-853-7507**.

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 spring. 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.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

Lipid Profile (cholesterol) and Glucose (diabetes) screening for \$20 is scheduled on Feb. 17th and April 21st from 9:00 – 10:30 am. This screening is by appointment only and requires a 12 hour fast.

CPR Course for \$20 on Monday, Feb.22 and Apr. 26 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Registration required.

Blood Pressure Screenings every Tuesday from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. No appointment necessary.

To register or make an appointment for any of the programs noted above, please contact Health Nurse Dianne Bader at **847-853-7507** or e-mail at baderd@wilmette.com.

VISION & HEARING TESTING

On Saturday, March 6th, School District 39 and the Wilmette Health Department will provide free vision and hearing testing for all Wilmette preschool children (age 3-5) at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road. Advanced registration in person is required and will be held at the Mikaelian Education Center, 8:30 am-noon on Thursday and Friday, March 4 and 5.

NEW RESTAURANTS

No Man's Land Pizza & Grill

1515 Sheridan Road
847-251-5120

Kappo Kamakura Japanese Restaurant (re-opening)

1116 Central Avenue
847-256-6783

NEW RETAILERS

The Silk Road

(Boutique featuring womens accessories)
1150 Central Avenue
847-256-9900

PERSONAL SERVICES

The Rock House

(Music instruction)
545 Green Bay Road
847-256-7625

Healing - Reiki by Ardath

901 Ridge Road
847-251-5776



THE VILLAGE OF
Wilmette



EST. 1872

★
The Small Town
that Delivers
Big Surprises.
★

www.wilmette.com



BLOCK PARTY PERMITS

Planning a block party? Before you block off your street you must obtain a permit (no charge) from the Police Department. You can stop by the Police Department at 710 Ridge Rd. to obtain a permit or submit an application electronically by visiting the Permits section of the Village website. If you have any questions please call the Police Department at **847-853-7553** or email budds@wilmette.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT & HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, May 2, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The entire family will have fun at the Police Department Open House. Take a tour of the Police Department, see the lock-up and have mug shots taken of your children (please bring your own camera). Exhibits include Canine Unit presentations, the Secret Service Presidential Limo, Crime Lab, U.S. Coast Guard, and more!

While you're visiting the Police Department, don't forget to walk across the street to the Historical Museum's Open House. The Museum will provide 30-minute tours of Wilmette history's "Greatest Hits". Docents will be on hand to present engaging, interactive exhibits and activities.

CHANGE IN POLICE DEPARTMENT EMAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

As of January 1, 2010, the Wilmette Police Department discontinued its use of the Silent Partner Alert System to send community crime alerts and will instead use the Village of Wilmette's E-news. Registering for Crime Alerts through E-news is a simple four step process:

- Go to the Village Website at www.wilmette.com
- On the bottom right corner of the home page, click on *Village Mailing List Subscribe to E-News*
- Complete the registration form. Please select *Police Crime Alerts* under the "your interests" section of the registration
- Click on *Save Profile Changes*

FALSE FIRE ALARM FEES

In response to the 489 false alarms responded to by the Wilmette Fire Department in 2009, the Village has implemented false fire alarm fees. False alarms are defined as: The activation of any fire alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the improper operation or negligence of the owner or lessee of any fire alarm system or of his employees or agents.

False alarms are a very serious problem – they not only result in considerable expense to the public, they jeopardize the safety of the Fire Department personnel who must respond to the false alarms.

The new fees are intended to encourage alarm users to repair malfunctioning alarms and as such, a fee is not assessed for the first false alarm at a particular property. Failure to repair the alarm system after the first false alarm within a calendar year will result in fines. For more information, contact the Fire Department at **847-251-1101**.

WILMETTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM EVENTS

February - May 2010

Lecture: No Man's Land

Sunday February 21, 2:00 pm

Free to Museum members

\$5 for non-members

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William Hagenah

Wilmette Historical Society President Joe Hinkel will present the history of a small wedge of land at Wilmette's northern border, once known as No Man's Land. It once featured stylish, private beach clubs, a dance hall, and an elegant movie palace that showed Sunday movies.

Frances Willard House Tour, Evanston

Sunday, March 14, 1:00 pm

\$5 for Museum members

\$10 for non-members

In honor of Women's History Month the Museum has arranged for a private tour of the landmark Frances Willard House in Evanston. Tickets and reservations must be purchased in advance by calling 847-853-7666.

A Talk about Wedding Traditions... with tea & dessert!

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 pm

\$10 for Museum members

\$20 for non-members

Over hot tea and delicious sweets, Jane Textor, our Costume Curator will talk about our newest exhibit, "Wedding Finery: Treasures from Our Collection." Tickets and reservations must be purchased in advance by calling 847-853-7666.

2010 Spring Housewalk

Sunday, May 16, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Advanced tickets: \$40 members

\$45 non-members

\$25 students (HS or college)

Spend the afternoon walking along Central Avenue to several historic homes as well as the beautiful Masonic Temple, learning about Wilmette's architecture and development.



★ FEBRUARY 2010 / APRIL 2010 ★



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

853-7550

Development

853-7660

Engineering

853-7609

Finance

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

1-866-594-1234

AT&T

1-800-244-4444

NICOR Gas

1-888-642-6748

Commonwealth

Edison

1-888-334-7661

Veolia Environmental

Services

272-4145

VILLAGE BOARD

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256-4228

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920-9044

mwbasil@wilmette.com

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Alan Swanson

853-8524

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Mari Terman

251-6383

termanm@wilmette.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 7:30pm.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the first and third Wednesday each month at 7:30pm.

The Plan Commission meets on the first Tuesday each month at 7:00pm.

Web Site:

www.wilmette.com

Business Hours:

7:30 am - 4:30 pm:

Mon, Tues, Thur and Fri

7:30 am - 2 pm:

Wed

Web Site: www.wilmette.com • Business Hours: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday • 7:30 am - 2 pm: Wednesday

ONLINE BILL PAY

The Village accepts the payment of quarterly water, sewer and refuse bills online. There is no additional charge for this payment option, which accepts Visa and MasterCard. Visit the homepage of the Village website to pay your bills.



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois . 60091

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VILLAGE E-MAIL LISTS

Visit the homepage of the Village website to sign-up for one of the many e-mail lists provided by the Village. Lists include Police Crime Alerts, General Village News, Construction Updates, Village Board Meeting Agendas, Village Center Master Planning, Zoning Ordinance Update, and more!

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091