

WILMETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



September 11, 2020

Mr. Michael Braiman, Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Dear Mr. Braiman:

It is with great pride that I present the Wilmette Fire Department's 2019 Annual Report.

In May 2017, the department went through its Insurance Service Office (ISO) audit in addition to recently obtaining accredited status for the fourth time. The Wilmette Fire Department received high praise from both ISO and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The details on each of these processes are listed in the annual report. In 2019 we have committed to pursuing our 5th accreditation which should be complete sometime in the summer of 2021. Our goal for the next 3 years is to be one of a handful of fire departments nationwide to complete its 5th accreditation process and move from an ISO Class 2 department to an ISO Class 1 department. Each day, year, and decade, we build on the success of those that have come before us. Without them, we could not be who and where we are today.

Our participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) continues to address our needs on a regional level and reduce costs through joint training and equipment purchasing. We also continue our partnership with 14 other departments in utilizing the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center's dispatch services. This partnership allows us to be cost-effective and enhance service levels as it relates to dispatching. New and emerging technology will provide our community with faster response times and lifesaving pre-arrival instruction through RED Center. In 2018, the department took advantage of an opportunity to reduce our fleet size. The removal of an aging tower ladder and fire engine allowed for the purchase of a new state of the art fire engine that will allow for safer response and enhanced firefighting capabilities. This initiative was only possible through a collaborative effort between the Fire Department, Public Works, and Village Administration. In 2019 we began work on a second phase of our fleet reduction plan. This plan will incorporate the sale of a heavy rescue squad and an aging fire engine and replace them with a combination rescue pumper. In addition, a new pickup truck will be purchased to replace the current aging pickup, and will act as a backup to the light-duty rescue squad and battalion chief vehicles. The idea of utilizing a single vehicle for multiple roles is attractive as it reduces cost in acquisition as well as maintenance. Our goal is to reduce overall operational cost without impacting level of service to the community. Utilizing state and federal grants remains a top priority in our efforts to provide our community with the most up-to-date emergency response equipment at a fraction of the cost. We continue to research available local, state, and federal grant opportunities that correspond with our current equipment and operational needs.

In 2019, we were able to take possession of our new portable radios that were purchased through a joint MABAS Division 3 AFG grant. The acquisition of these radios will allow us to provide better communication and enhanced safety and accountability to our firefighters. We will continue to maintain the highest standards of public service to the residents of Wilmette. By leveraging technology, implementation of innovative programming, and investment in education and training, we will continue to build on our accomplishments. The men and women of the Wilmette Fire Department are committed to providing a level of service to a community that strives for excellence. I want to thank you, your staff, and our elected officials for the continued confidence and support of the Fire Department.

Benjamin M. Wozney

Benjamin M. Wozney
Fire Chief

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	4
Objectives and Accomplishments	5
Organizational Chart	6
Personnel Changes	6
Shift Personnel	7-9
Stations and Apparatus	10
Allocation of Funds	11
Grant-Funded Initiatives	12
Annual Statistics	13-14
Accreditation	15
Fire and EMS Training	16
Special Operations Teams	17
Underwater Rescue	18
Technical Rescue	19
Hazardous Materials	20
Fire Investigation	21
Community Risk Reduction	22-23
Open House	24
Frequently Asked Questions	25-26



THE MISSION

Since 1893, The Wilmette Fire Department has prided itself on providing a selfless group of highly trained professionals who are committed to honorably serving the community. Today, our mission continues to adhere to the principals and values established by those who came before us.

“The members of the Wilmette Fire Department are dedicated to the preservation of life, while displaying the utmost pride in our profession through an unwavering commitment to our community and each other.”

We accomplish this by providing advanced emergency medical care, modern fire suppression tactics, and effective fire prevention programs.

OUR VALUES

Honesty ...in both our leadership and our employees, leading to the highest level of trustworthiness.

Integrity ...in our dealings with each other and those we serve, always adhering to a sound code of moral and ethical conduct.

Teamwork ...as we believe that availing ourselves of each person's talents enhances the services we deliver and that cooperation improves our relationships.

Commitment to Excellence ...demonstrating itself through consistent professionalism, pride, and a positive attitude.

Knowledge ...as it forms the foundation for effective decisions, actions, and increased safety.

Respect ...for each person as an individual, an attitude that recognizes the worth of others and exhibits compassion for those in need.

THE VISION

The Members of the Wilmette Fire Department...

- ♦ strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession.
- ♦ will be accountable to those we serve, each other and any fire service organizations we interact with.
- ♦ are committed to providing the best public service through innovative training, education and equipment.
- ♦ will take the fire department into the future through productive teamwork, open and honest communications, and participative decision-making throughout the organization.
- ♦ are committed to our values, mission, and dedicated to our fire service profession.

Our organization is driven to provide a cost-effective and efficient fire department while honoring our values, accomplishing our mission and achieving our goals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the annual budget and planning processes, the Wilmette Fire Department refines its goals and objectives for each upcoming year. In 2019, the WFD identified the following action items to address during the calendar year:

- ♦ **Identify opportunities to work closely with other Village departments through training, purchasing opportunities, and increasing overall service levels.**

We continued work with the Wilmette Police Department in pre-dispatching emergency calls. This initiative has been successful, as turnout times have decreased and residents are seeing faster overall response times. We have worked with the Police and Administrative Services Departments to reduce phone line costs and to purchase a new mobile command center and enhanced communication equipment. We are working with the Engineering/Public Works Department on the Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will help further identify risks in our community.

- ♦ **Continue to apply for grant funding of new equipment and researching new grant opportunities.**

The Wilmette Fire Department has applied for three separate grants during 2019 through the Office of the State Marshal, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The fire department was unsuccessful in obtaining government funding, but expanded its pursuit of funding to local organizations. The WFD secured \$17,000 for extrication equipment for one of its fire engines in 2019.

- ♦ **Collaborate with the Engineering/Public Works Department to insure a smooth transition to a revised Fire Department Fleet Maintenance Program.**

The mechanic assigned to the fire department fleet moved into a revamped workspace at the Public Works Yard. Using existing technology, a new maintenance request process was developed in-house that incorporates streamlined two-way feedback on completed and in-progress repairs. The Village continued succession planning by training all vehicle mechanics on fire apparatus.

- ♦ **Develop current line firefighters in program management and expand their ability to conduct in-house training to reduce reliance on outside instruction.**

Firefighters have been integrated into all of the department programs, with some taking a significant management role, including the budget process, for specific programs. The WFD trained some of its skilled instructors and paramedics to deliver monthly paramedic continuing education; this reduced our reliance on the parent EMS system, reduced expenses, and provided flexibility and increased live attendance to lectures. The WFD is building on this success and using this model for other areas of instruction including SCUBA and other water rescue specialties.

- ♦ **Increase firefighter safety and lower cancer risks by procuring new personal protective gear cleaning equipment at each station. Based on recommendations of the WFD's Hearing Conservation Program, relocate existing equipment outside of workspaces to help reduce noise exposure to employees.**

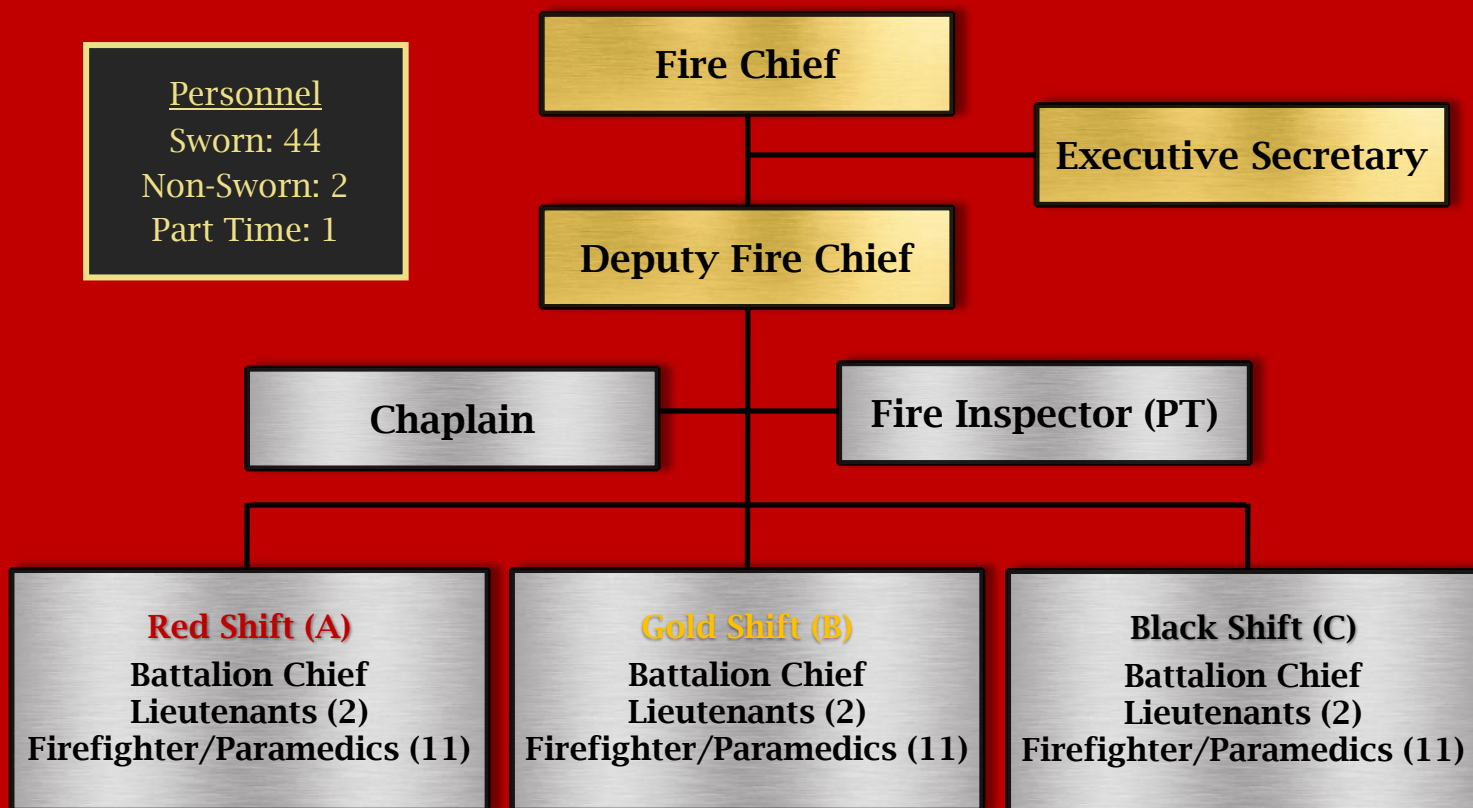
New gear dryer/extractors were purchased and installed utilizing the skills and expertise of Water Management staff; this saved the Village over \$6,000 in contractual expense. The facilities staff secured a contractor to relocate the vehicle exhaust removal system motor outside Fire Station #26.

- ♦ **Install and begin operating new station alerting equipment to allow for a faster response time to emergency calls.**

New state-of-the-art station alerting equipment was installed and is working as expected. Dispatching of calls is now automated and uses new communication technologies. This change has allowed the Village to save thousands of dollars each month that was previously spent on legacy phone lines and equipment running an antiquated alerting system.

WILMETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



— PERSONNEL CHANGES —

Retired	Completed Probationary Period	Hired
Lou Klausing Firefighter/Paramedic 30 Years of Service	Bradley Markovich Firefighter/Paramedic Benjamin Fisher Firefighter/Paramedic	Jeremy Caffie Probationary FF/PM Edward Garard Probationary FF/PM

RED SHIFT (A)



Michael Isaacson
Lieutenant/Paramedic



Anthony Bucci
Battalion Chief



Jennifer Rodgers
Lieutenant/Paramedic



Frank Mager
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Gary Wokurka
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Dave Grajewski
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Ryan Schmidt
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Ken Barton
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Dan Walters
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Kevin Schuman
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Guillermo Bonilla
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Ryan Kolze
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Bill Durband
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Brad Markovich
Firefighter/
Paramedic

GOLD SHIFT (B)



Rob Hughes
Lieutenant/Paramedic



James Bentz
Battalion Chief



Michael Scheetz
Lieutenant/Paramedic



Lou Klausing
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Tom Simon
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Mike Halterman
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Blake Eastman
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Scott Paczosa
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Mike Wessel
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Cody Riggan
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Tim Neurauter
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Colin Murray
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Ben Fisher
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Bobby Richards
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Edward Garard
Firefighter/
Paramedic

BLACK SHIFT (C)



Jason Wilk
Lieutenant/Paramedic



Ryan Menzies
Battalion Chief



Mike Minogue
Lieutenant/Paramedic



John Blomquist
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Pat Harrington
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Robert Jost
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Jason Weglarz
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Ed Kofoed
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Tom Kopczyk
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Tom Cirone
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Mike Lettieri
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Matt Guth
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Jose Aguirre-Garcia
Firefighter/
Paramedic



Jay Caffie
Firefighter/
Paramedic

STATIONS AND APPARATUS



In January 2018, the fire department entered into an agreement with Pierce Manufacturing to build a state-of-the-art fire engine for the WFD. After more than one year of specification development, a functional design process, and construction, the WFD took delivery of its first new Pierce fire apparatus in May 2019. Firefighters spent the next several months training on all of its systems before it went into front-line service later that summer.

The Wilmette Fire Department responds to all emergencies and requests for service from two strategically-located fire stations in the Village. Firefighter/Paramedics are on-duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, protecting the Village and its residents and guests.

Fire Station #26 1304 Lake Avenue

Tower 26
2009 E-ONE 1500 GPM Aerial Tower

Rescue 26
2013 Ford F-550 Rescue Truck

Ambulance 26
2017 Ford F-550 AEV Ambulance

Battalion 26
2017 Chevrolet Tahoe

Fire Chief 2600
2015 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor

Deputy Chief 2601
2015 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor

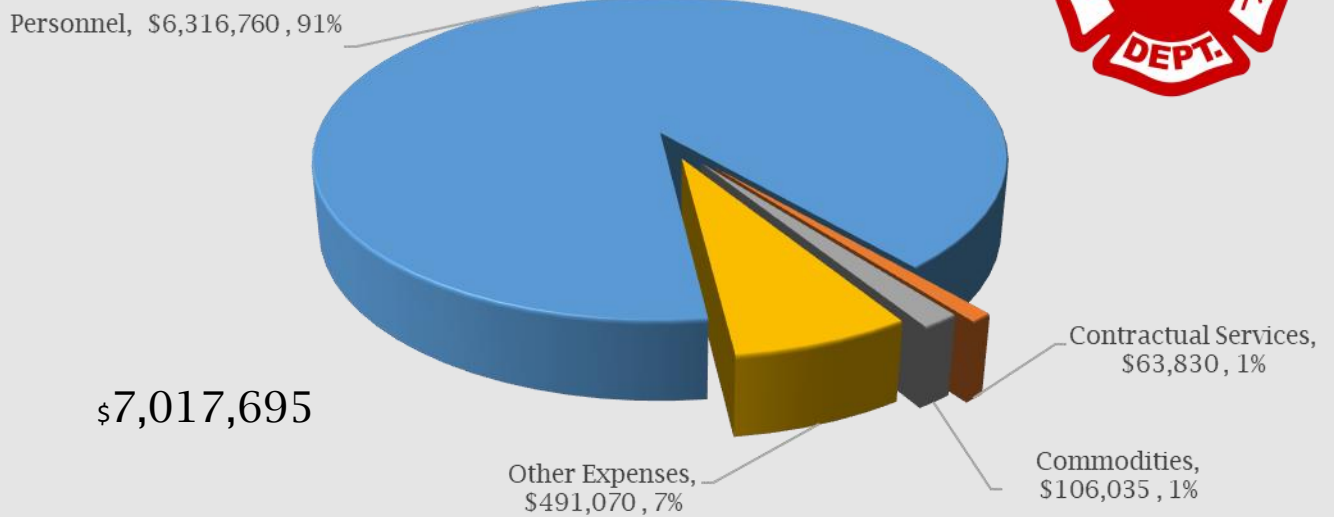
Fire Station #27 747 Illinois Road

Engine 27
2019 Pierce Dash^{CF} PUC 1500 GPM Pumper

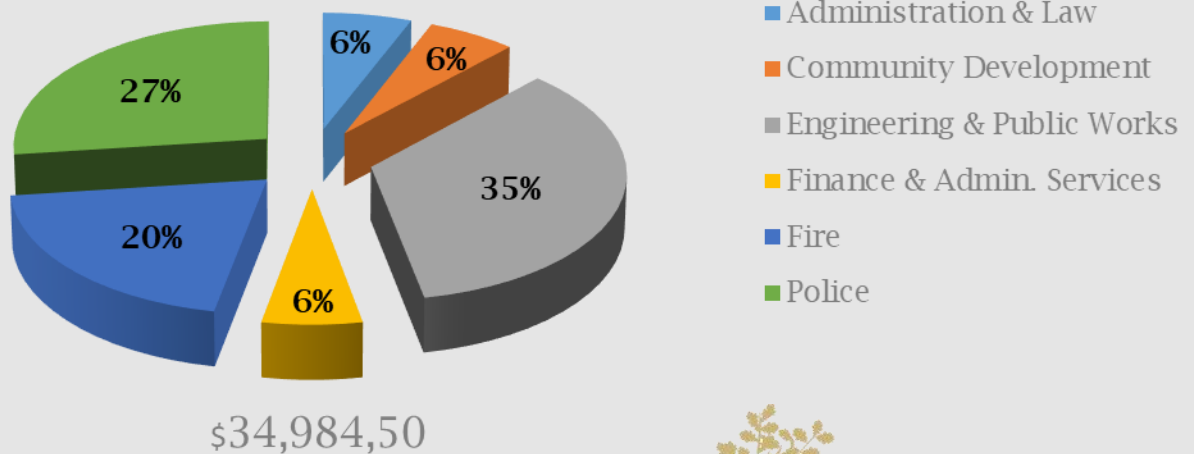
Ambulance 27
2015 Ford F-550 AEV Ambulance

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

2019 Fire Department Budget



2019 General Fund Expenditures by Department



GRANT-FUNDED INITIATIVES

The Wilmette Fire Department regularly applies for grant funding for planned projects and new initiatives. In the past, the WFD was awarded grant funding from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Village's risk management/insurance provider to help reduce the burden on taxpayers.

In 2019, the department was unsuccessful in obtaining grant funds from previous solicited sources, but was successful working with local organizations to help procure needed equipment. The American Legion Huerter-Wilmette Post 46 purchased \$17,000 worth of vehicle extrication equipment for the fire department, again helping the WFD obtain necessary tools and lessening the expense on the Village residents.



CAPITALIZATION ON GRANTS AND FUNDING

Fire Department Ballistic Vests (2018)	Insurance Grant	\$1,400
Accreditation (2006, 2011, 2016)	Insurance Grant	\$2,250
Computer Equipment (2011)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$4,050
Vehicle Extrication Equipment (2019)	American Legion	\$17,000
Generator (2009)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$36,650
SCBA Air Compressor (2015)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$48,000
Fire House Safety Trailer (2013)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$60,000
3 EKG Zoll EMS Monitors (2011)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$72,000
Vehicle Exhaust System (2013)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$118,800
Fire Marshal Training Reimbursement (2002- 2018)	Illinois State Fire Marshal	\$130,000
Motorola Radios and Accountability System (2018)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$125,600
E-ONE 95' Tower Ladder Truck (2007)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$750,000



**The total grant funds received
is now over
\$1.35 million dollars.**

Incident Type	Count
Structure and Vehicle Fires	37
Emergency Medical Services	1,664
Motor Vehicle Accidents	135
Rescues	36
Hazardous Conditions	164
False Alarms	453
Service Calls / Other	863
TOTAL - INCIDENT RESPONSES	3,352

Response Types Defined

Structure and Vehicle Fires:

- Any confirmed fire in or adjacent to a structure, mobile property, roadway vehicle, or watercraft.

Emergency Medical Services:

- This includes all EMS responses except for motor vehicle accidents and non-emergency lift assist-type incidents.

Motor Vehicle Accidents:

- Any type of motor vehicle accident, including those incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. This category also includes joint responses with Northfield FD and Skokie FD to the Edens Expressway.

Rescues:

- Lock-ins, elevator rescues, water rescues, and other entrapments.

Hazardous Conditions:

- Carbon monoxide incidents, natural gas odors and leaks, electrical hazards and downed power/utility lines, and material spills.

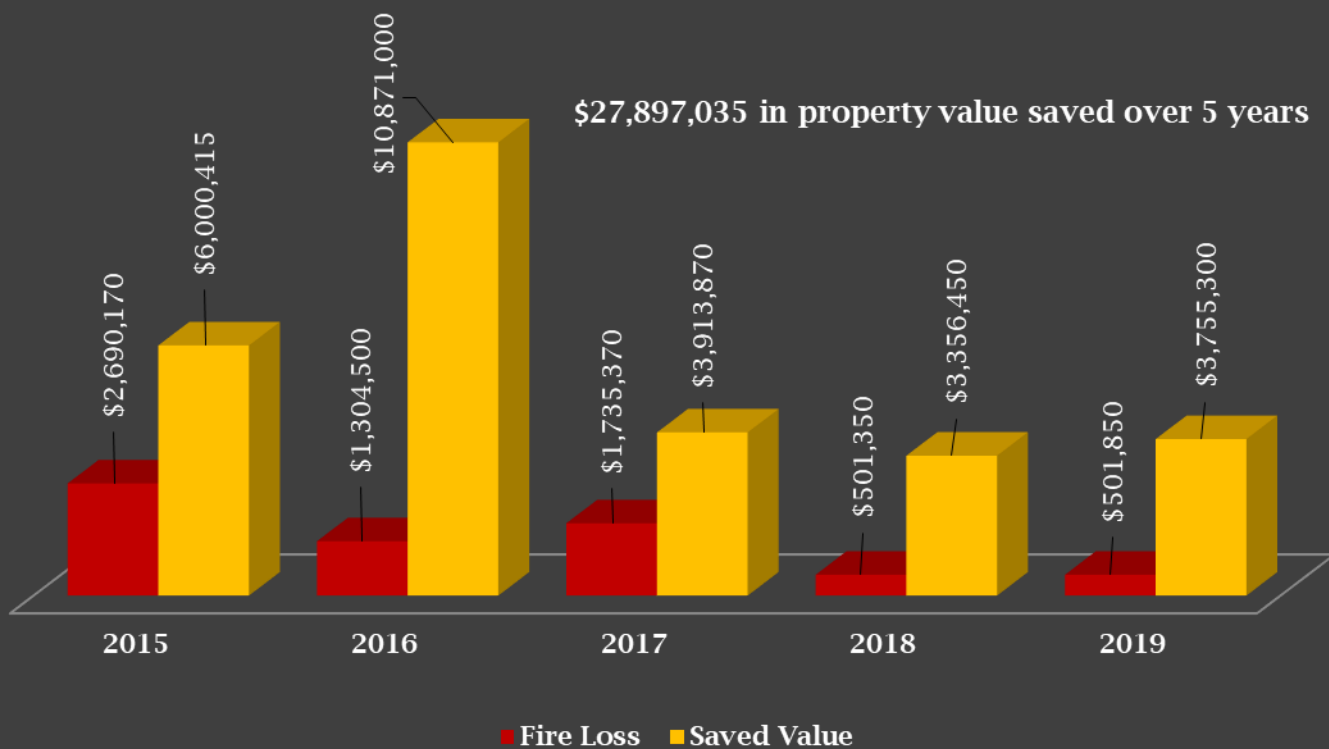
False Alarms:

- This category contains all responses where an automated alarm system generated a fire department response, but no hazard or incident found on arrival.

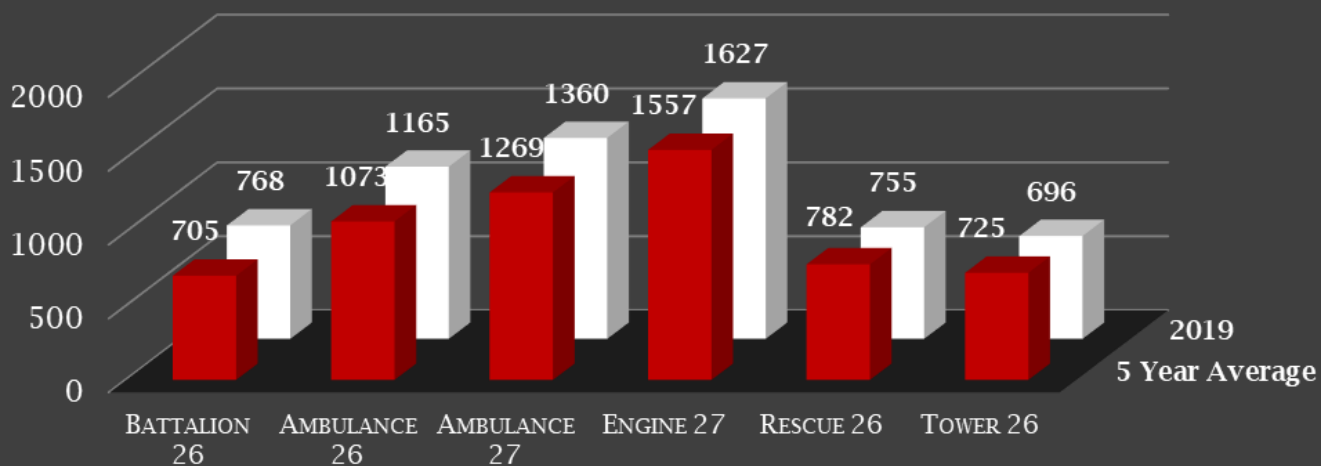
Service Calls / Other:

- All other responses, predominantly non-emergency, where public assistance was provided. This category also includes invalid assist incidents.

5 YEAR FIRE LOSS / SAVE COMPARISON



INDIVIDUAL COMPANY RESPONSE BREAKDOWN



ACCREDITATION AND ISO

The Wilmette Fire Department first achieved accredited status in 2001 through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The department successfully re-accredited in 2006, 2011, and 2016. Today the department is one of 266 accredited agencies world-



Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International

-wide, only 14 of which are in Illinois. The accredited agency status is valid for five years, at which point the agency must re-apply and complete the formal process again. Of note is that Wilmette is one of only six communities in the state of Illinois that has both CFAI and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accredited fire and police agencies. The department is presently working on developing a new strategic plan, a revised Standards of Cover/Community Risk Assessment, and revisions to its self-assessment manual to comply with the 9th edition of the accreditation standards.

In 2017, the fire department underwent an evaluation by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to analyze the WFD's public fire protection capabilities. This assessment evaluates the Village's water distribution system, fire department resource deployment, response times, training compliance, and apparatus/equipment. A rating of 1 is the best; 10 is the worst. Insurance companies use this rating to determine proper insurance rates for structures in the fire district. Residents living in a fire district with a rating of 3 should have lower fire insurance rates than residents living in a district with a rating of 8. The ISO rating is directly correlated to the insurance company's level of risk to insure property.



During the 2017 assessment, the department received an ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 2. Under the "Fire Department" category, The Wilmette Fire Department scored 48.11 points out of 50 possible points. Over 46,000 fire departments participate in this process. With our current score, the Wilmette Fire Department ranks in the **top 3% nationwide**.

FIRE AND EMS TRAINING



During 2019, fire department personnel completed all required training that included live fire evolutions, auto extrication, and multi-company drills with other MABAS Division 3 fire departments. This training also included various administrative, compliance, and skills-based training courses. Officers and firefighters that participated in the acting company officer program completed additional leadership and supervisory training sessions.

To maintain competency and licensure status with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), all paramedics completed a minimum of 36 hours of continuing education which included reviews of standard operating procedures, new medical equipment, CPR, and advanced cardiac and respiratory care.

Physical fitness, cognitive, and practical training sessions are an integral part of the firefighter's daily activities when not responding to calls for service.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS



The Wilmette Fire Department is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3, a group of local communities that provide resources and personnel in the event that an incident exceeds the normal capabilities of any one member department.

Additionally, MABAS Division 3 provides Fire Investigation, Technical Rescue, Dive Rescue, and Hazardous Materials teams comprised of trained individuals from all of the division's departments.

The Wilmette Fire Department contributes to these teams by supplying multiple members to each team. Each member undergoes additional training to become certified in advanced rescue techniques and specialized technical skill areas.

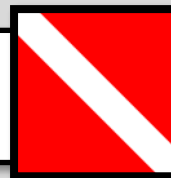


2019 was a busy year for some fire department special operations personnel. FF/PMs Dan Walters and Cody Riggan, members of the MABAS Division 3 Water Rescue Team, were deployed for several weeks to Calhoun County in southern Illinois to support local residents and relief efforts due to unprecedented flooding of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.



These two pictures attempt to show the amount of flooding sustained near Hardin, Illinois, during the summer of 2019 after the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers crested.

UNDERWATER RESCUE



The goal of the Underwater Rescue Team is to provide trained certified divers, boat operators, and sonar technicians to be able to respond to incidents and other hazards in the Village of Wilmette and surrounding communities. Members of the WFD Underwater Rescue Team are also part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3 Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team, a joint response force that serves the 16 North Shore and near north communities of MABAS Division 3.



2019 TEAM MEMBERS

DIVERS

Ryan Menzies
Dave Grajewski
Ed Kofoed
Dan Walters
Cody Riggan
Colin Murray

SONAR TECHNICIANS/BOAT OPERATORS

Robert Hughes
Jennifer Rodgers
Tom Kopczyk

BOAT OPERATORS

Blake Eastman
Ken Barton

2019 ACTIVITY

- ◆ Wilmette FD Dive Team responded to four water rescue or recovery incidents, of which one occurred in Wilmette, one in Winnetka, one in Glencoe, and one in Evanston.
- ◆ Team members provided on-scene protection for Triathlon athletes during the lakefront swim portion of the event using a boat and multiple divers.
- ◆ FF/PM Cody Riggan and Dan Walters deployed with MABAS Division 3 to Calhoun County (Hardin, Illinois) to support local rescuers and relief efforts due to widespread flooding from the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.
- ◆ All divers passed annual training requirements to included endurance swim testing.
- ◆ Fire Chief Ben Wozney continued to serve as Dive Team Chief Liaison.
- ◆ Battalion Chief Ryan Menzies and FF/PM Dave Grajewski continued to act as co-team leaders.
- ◆ All active members completed their required training, which included ice dives, night dives, swift water, and a dive hosted by the Wilmette Fire Department.
- ◆ Team members performed the annual required inspections and service of all dive equipment.
- ◆ Boat and sonar operators completed required training for each discipline.



TECHNICAL RESCUE



Technical Rescue Specialists are trained in multiple disciplines including rescuing workers from their own rope systems.

2019 TEAM MEMBERS

Michael Scheetz
Jason Weglarz
Scott Paczosa

2019 ACTIVITY

- ◆ There were no incident responses in the Village of Wilmette. The MABAS Division 3 team was called out to an explosion incident that occurred in Waukegan, where the team performed various recon assignments.
- ◆ Deputy Chief Rob Brill continued to serve as the MABAS Division 3 TRT Chief Liaison.
- ◆ All three team members completed required training hours and skills to maintain good standing on the division team.



The fire department is routinely called upon to effect rescues in a multitude of situations and environments. The technical rescue specialist is trained and equipped to mitigate emergencies involving vertical rescue, trench, confined space, and structural collapse incidents.

The program is designed to provide training and equipment to ensure preparedness for any type of emergency. Team members are part of the MABAS Division 3 Technical Rescue Team (TRT), a specialized response team, that when called upon will bring up to 70 technical rescue specialists to an incident scene. The MABAS Division 3 TRT responds within the division (16 local municipalities) and state-wide when requested.

The technical rescue program provides continuing education to team members in the form of monthly drills and outside classes. Team members share their knowledge with other department members and routinely lead training classes to help prepare other firefighters and other initial responders.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



2019 TEAM MEMBERS

Mike Isaacson
John Blomquist
Robert Jost
Guillermo Bonilla

This program provides for regular training of department personnel in aspects of hazardous materials response and control, which includes testing and maintenance of equipment. All firefighters are certified to the Hazardous Materials First Responder—Operations level. Several firefighters are further trained to the technician level.

Wilmette has four hazardous materials technicians ready to deploy with the MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Materials Team to mitigate poison, radiological, and chemical emergencies within the division's borders. The department maintains and tests carbon monoxide and natural gas detection equipment for each front line apparatus.

2019 ACTIVITY

- ◆ The MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Materials team was called out to help mitigate four large incidents in 2019.
- ◆ The WFD responded to and mitigated 165 potential hazardous material situations, including 65 natural gas leaks, 18 carbon monoxide incidents and 82 “other” hazardous materials incidents.
- ◆ WFD Hazardous Materials team members assisted in the delivery of 8 hours of operational training to all department members.
- ◆ WFD team members received over 80 hours of continuing education training with the MABAS Division 3 team by way of monthly drills and other training opportunities.





FIRE INVESTIGATION

2019 TEAM MEMBERS

FIRE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Jim Bentz
Mike Scheetz
Frank Mager
Pat Harrington
Ken Barton
Ed Kofoed
Mike Wessel

The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25) in 1909. This required all Fire Chiefs, or their designee, to investigate and report all fires in their legally organized municipal fire departments and fire protection districts within the state of Illinois. The goal of the Fire Investigation Program is to provide an adequate, effective, and efficient program directed toward identification of the cause and origin of fires and explosions, and to continue to train a sufficient number of members to serve the needs of the Wilmette Fire Department and the community effectively.

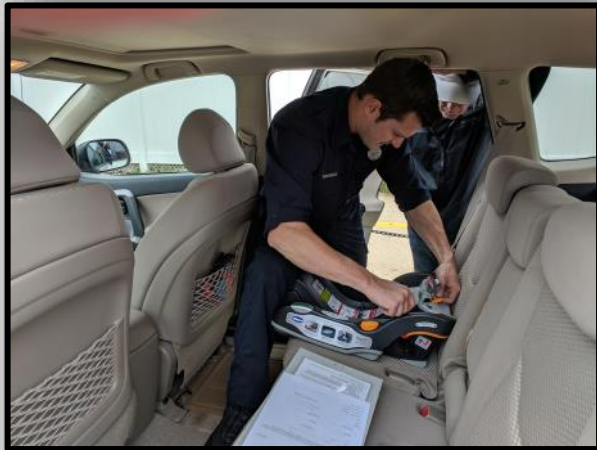
Additionally, the Fire Investigation team works proactively to prevent the reoccurrence of fires with similar causes and origins; this is accomplished using public education and inter-agency cooperation with Underwriters Lab (UL) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

2019 ACTIVITY

- ◆ Seventeen (17) fire investigations were completed during 2019. Thirteen (13) investigations were for fires in the Village, while four (4) investigations were assisting other municipalities. The Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), a web-based case management system, was used to document each one of these investigations that originated in the Village.
- ◆ Team members attended over 250 hours of training through the Investigators Strike Force.
- ◆ Team members conducted cause and origin training and evidence preservation awareness for individual shifts.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The most effective method of fire prevention is through education.



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a term relatively new to the fire service. CRR encompasses public education and fire prevention, but uses data-driven analyses to discover and manage all types of risks to the community.

The Wilmette Fire Department works diligently to improve the health and safety of the Village residents, their guests, and the community overall. In addition to delivering education programs to target audiences, the fire department works with other Village departments to ensure all building renovations and new construction meet current life safety codes through fire prevention plan reviews, occupancy inspections, and other initiatives.

Throughout the year you can find the fire department engaged with the community at the French Market, Wilmette Sidewalk Sale, Gillson Park July 3rd Festival, and many other events promoting safety, education, and awareness.

Community Risk Reduction Activities

Students reached through education programs:	3,227
Block parties and fire vehicle demonstrations:	35
Station tours	15
Child-safety seat installations	92
Smoke alarm installations	84

Public Education Team

LT/PM Jennifer Bazan
 LT/PM Michael Minogue
 FF/PM Guillermo Bonilla
 FF/PM Thomas Cirone
 FF/PM William Durband
 FF/PM David Grajewski
 FF/PM Edward Kofoed
 FF/PM Scott Paczosa
 FF/PM Ryan Schmidt

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The fire department also provides the following services to the community:

Open House

The fire department's annual open house showcases the personnel, equipment, and services provided to the Village residents and guests - a fun and educational event for the entire family!

CPR Classes

Classes are held four times per year or as needed. The fee is \$25 per person.



Blood Pressure Screenings

The fire department visits the French Market each Saturday to check blood pressures. Residents can also stop by Fire Station #26 for a blood pressure check Monday through Friday 8am-5pm.

School Fire and Life Safety Education

The WFD Public Education Team conducts fire safety instruction to all elementary and middle school classrooms in Wilmette public and private schools on an annual basis.

Car Seat Installation and Education

This service is available at no cost to residents by our state-certified technicians. Call (847) 251-1101 for an appointment.

File of Life Program

This kit allows for first responders to quickly obtain vital information such as medical history, allergies, prescription medication, and emergency contact information.



Smoke Alarm Program

The WFD Public Education Team conducts fire safety instruction to all elementary and middle school classrooms in Wilmette public and private schools on an annual basis.



Home Fire Safety Inspections

Home safety inspections are available to help answer questions regarding smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, evacuation plans, and general safety.

Block Parties

The WFD is available to visit block parties and provide a 25-minute fire engine demonstration program. Contact us to schedule your visit! Don't wait too long to call, as time slots are limited.

2019 OPEN HOUSE

“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!”

The largest public education event of the year is the Fire Department's annual Open House. This event is held each October to kick off Fire Prevention Week. At this event, all fire department vehicles are on display and special team members demonstrate the tools and equipment used in rescue operations. Children can bring their teddy bears for a checkup by the paramedics, perform a firefighter obstacle course, and tour the Fire Safety House. In recent history, this event has drawn over 2000 people each year.

In 2019, the Wilmette Fire Department encouraged school children and their families to focus on increased fire safety and awareness in the home. Prior to the Open House event, members of the public education team visited schools in the Village presenting a fire safety education program to all grade levels. During these programs, students were asked to work with their parents to perform a fire safety inspection in their home.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there different strategies firefighters use to extinguish a fire?

Yes. The type of structure, the amount of fire present, and life-safety risk all factor into the strategies used on the fire ground.

An **offensive fire attack** occurs when fire suppression personnel actively fight a fire within a structure utilizing water or another type of extinguishing agent. This strategy is used when the fire has not compromised the integrity of the structure and when there is a life-safety risk to occupants within.

A **defensive fire attack** is a fireground strategy based on firefighter safety and the protection of surrounding properties (exposures). This strategy is employed when a fire has advanced to the point where interior attack operations are too dangerous and there is no life-safety risk. The goal is to simply confine the fire to the building/area of origin. All fire streams are operated onto the fire from the outside.

What is a backdraft and a flashover?

These terms describe specific, observable behaviors that occur when a fire grows unchecked.

A **backdraft** is an explosion caused by the sudden inward rush of oxygen when all of the super-heated gases, (heated above the ignition temperature) in a room or structure, ignite at the same time. If the gases are pressurized in a relatively closed room, an explosion is likely to be the result. While the likelihood of such an occurrence is low, a backdraft is often fatal to anyone caught in it.

A **flashover** is similar to a backdraft, with the exception that the room is not closed or pressurized to the point of explosion. All of the contents of the room have given off flammable gases that have been heated to their ignition point and a fire suddenly engulfs the room. From the outside you will often see the exiting smoke appear to instantly ignite.

What is MABAS Division 3?

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a conglomerate of fire service organizations that provide mutual aid response in the event of an emergency that exceeds the capabilities of the local fire department. MABAS organizations exist primarily in Illinois and Wisconsin, but also include members in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. The Wilmette Fire Department is part of MABAS Division 3, an area spanning the entire North Shore and comprising 17 fire departments or fire protection districts.

I called 911 for a medical problem and a fire truck showed up at my house. Why?

All Wilmette Fire Department firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics. The additional crew members on a fire engine often assist ambulance crews in providing critical, life-saving care. Other times, these firefighter/paramedics assist in carrying equipment and moving non-ambulatory patients.

When I call for an ambulance, why do I sometimes see an ambulance from another town?

The Wilmette Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with our neighboring towns so that the continuous advanced life support (ALS) care is always available to our residents and guests. If all the Wilmette ambulances are busy on other calls, you may see a Winnetka or Northfield ambulance respond in place of a Wilmette vehicle. In these instances, a Wilmette fire suppression company will respond to the scene first and begin ALS care until the ambulance arrives.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a fire engine and a fire truck?

A **fire engine** is an apparatus designed for fire attack. It is the most common vehicle in fire departments. This apparatus is equipped with a fire pump, carries hose, and has a minimum 500 gallon capacity water tank. Modern fire engines can pump over 1500 GPM (gallons per minute). These apparatus usually carry 3-4 personnel in addition to a large cache of tools and equipment.

A **fire truck** is also known as a ladder truck, aerial ladder, tower ladder, or truck. Fire trucks are equipped with a hydraulically-powered ladder and articulating platform mounted on a vehicle; fire trucks also carry several different length extension ladders, extrication gear, ventilation equipment, and lighting.

Other types of fire apparatus common to this area are squad trucks, light rescue vehicles, and incident commander vehicles. A squad company responds to fires, auto accidents with entrapment, and other technical rescue incidents. Light rescue vehicles are built for a quick response to emergency medical and service-type calls. The shift commander, responsible for taking command of an incident scene, can usually be found in a van or SUV; a green, flashing light is a fire service standard designating a vehicle as the incident command post.

Does the Wilmette Fire Department teach CPR classes for residents and other community members?

Yes. **The Wilmette Fire Department** offers American Heart Association *Heartsaver* CPR courses several times each year. Course dates and related information can be found on the [Wilmette Fire Department website](#) or you may contact the fire department at 847.251.1101.

Can a firefighter explain how to properly install a child safety seat in my vehicle?

Yes. On most shift days, the department staffs trained personnel to teach residents and non-residents how to install child safety seats in their vehicles. To schedule an appointment with a car seat technician, please contact the fire department at 847.251.1101. There is a \$25 fee per vehicle for non-residents.

What do firefighters do when they are not responding to fire or emergency medical calls?

Firefighters train daily in the various aspects of their jobs. They are required to train an average of 20 hours in fire-related training and three hours of emergency medical continuing education each month. Firefighters also perform building walk-throughs, pre-planning, and commercial fire inspections. Firefighters spend considerable time cleaning and maintaining equipment and the fire stations.

Occasionally, during non-emergency periods, firefighters conduct driver training throughout the Village to maintain familiarity of streets, neighborhoods, and business districts. This saves valuable time when actually responding to emergencies. The remainder of their time is spent working administratively on fire department programs, preparing meals, reading, studying, physical fitness training. Firefighters remain on duty for a 24-hour period. Regardless of what they are doing, they are ready to respond at any moment to a call for service or emergency.



Sharon C. Mahoney

January 22, 1939 — August 12, 2019

Sharon was the beloved secretary of the Wilmette Fire Department for over 25 years. Serving under four different fire chiefs, Sharon assisted with the administration of the fire department and was the backbone of our fire department family. Always there with a smile for the firefighters, she made the firehouse a warm and welcoming second family to all who passed through its doors. Sharon left us all too soon after a brave fight with a debilitating illness.

We will miss you Sharon. Rest in peace.

- Have a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area, in every bedroom, and on every level of your home.
- Always check electrical cords for cracking and fraying.
- Create and practice a home fire escape plan for family members to use in the event of an emergency.
- Every home should have a working carbon monoxide detector.
- Do not hesitate to call 911. If something feels like an emergency, treat it like an emergency!
- When using candles in the home, keep them away from combustible materials and be sure to fully extinguish them before going to bed.
- Never leave cooking operations unattended.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Fire/ Police Emergency: **911**

Fire Non-Emergency: **(847) 251-1101**

Police Non-Emergency: **(847) 256-1200**

Wilmette Village Hall: **(847) 251-2700**

Wilmette Public Works: **(847) 853-7500**

Poison Control Center: **(800) 222-1222**