



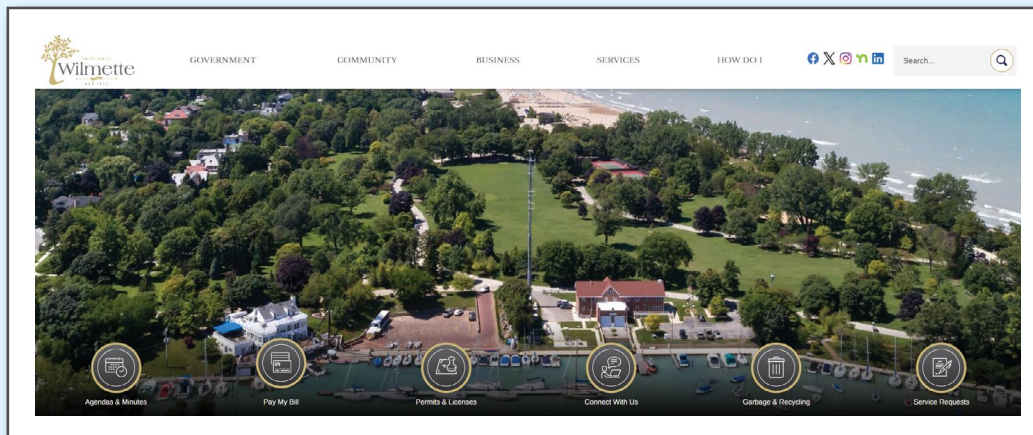
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THE COMMUNICATOR

The Village of Wilmette Newsletter

SPRING
2024

New Website Launch



The Village is excited to announce the upcoming launch of our new website – www.wilmette.gov. Last year, the Village partnered with CivicPlus, a leading government website developer, to redesign the Village website. The website will offer improved navigability and customer service for users and allow for more transparency in Village communication efforts. We can't wait for you to explore the new website and all its features.

2024 Vehicle Stickers

Remember 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 must be displayed by April 15 to avoid a citation and late fee. Stickers purchased after May 15 include a late fee equal to the purchase price of the sticker. There are three ways to purchase vehicle stickers:

- Online (Vehicle ID is near the barcode on the renewal)
- In person at Village Hall
- By mail for vehicles currently registered

The costs range from \$80 for a passenger vehicle to \$95 for other vehicles. Motorcycle tags are \$25. Senior citizens (ages 65 and older) who meet the annual HUD income guidelines are eligible for a \$10 discount (limit one per senior citizen). The revenue generated from the sale of vehicle stickers is used to maintain the Village's infrastructure, including streets, alleys, and curbs.

If you do not receive a renewal form by March 15 and would like to make an online purchase, please contact Finance at 847-251-2700 or ar@wilmette.com.



Message from the Village President

Happy Spring! I love this time of year in Wilmette when everything seems to come to life again and more friends and neighbors can be seen out and about. It's a great time to share some of the exciting things that are happening throughout the Village. Enjoy this issue of the Communicator – there is a lot of important and interesting information!

Welcome New Businesses

I am so pleased to see all the progress being made in Wilmette's shopping districts. I recently was able to tour the build-out of the new Wayfair at Edens Plaza and it looks amazing with a really bright and airy interior. I can't wait to see the finished space at the grand opening later this spring. Updates on Wilmette's cornerstone retail centers, Edens Plaza and Plaza del Lago, can be found on page 3.

It is no exaggeration to say that our downtown is booming. I am thrilled to have more fantastic dining options with the recent openings of EvaDean's Bakery and Café, the expanded new dining room for Pizza by Sal's, and the opening of Ni's Kitchen! Later this summer, we look forward to the opening of Small Cheval, a casual burger restaurant in the historic Depot building. Please make sure to also welcome the great new retail shops including Vibrato that have recently opened or relocated to our downtown—we're happy to have them join our old favorites! A new art gallery, the Patrician, will soon find a home on Central Avenue.

Native Plants, Sustainable Gardening, and More

Let's think sustainably while gardening this spring. The Village will be completing the pollinator garden project along the Edens Expressway corridor, which serves to both beautify this entrance to the Village and offer crucial habitat to the pollinators that support our ecosystem. You can do the same at home! Try planting a native garden to attract bees and other

pollinators and leave the leaves in your garden beds to protect natural habitats. Think about alternatives to pesticides and mosquito sprays which can harm beneficial insects and lead to pesticide-resistant mosquitos. The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District provides many free services to residents. Please contact them before considering the use of sprays for your backyard. While we're on the topic of insects, I've decided to embrace the year of the cicada as a vast emergence is promised in our region this spring! Last but not least, you can apply to the Village to get a free shade tree for your property! See page 6 for details on our Tree Planting Incentive Program.

Our Environmental and Energy Commission has recently completed a greenhouse gas inventory, which provides a baseline of the Village's carbon footprint. Conducting these inventories every few years will allow the Village to measure its progress in reducing emissions. New programs to help reduce our emissions include household hazardous waste and electronic waste collections, offered through LRS, and new gas-powered leaf blower restrictions that took effect January 1. Be on the lookout for more information and tips to protect our environment in a special sustainability-focused edition of the Communicator coming later this year!

Congrats to Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee

For the past several years, elected officials and staff from the Village, Park District, Library, School Districts 39 and 37, New Trier Township, and New Trier High School have come together to discuss and work on topics that are important to our community at large. Over the past year, the Committee has been tackling the very challenging topic of mental health. Their efforts to support mental health and wellbeing throughout our community have earned them the Family Service Center's Heart of the Family Award for 2023. Thank you to all the Committee



Village President Senta Plunkett

members for their service and commitment.

Upcoming Events in 2024

Wilmette is the place to be this spring and summer! On May 4 we look forward to the return of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Festival at the Community Recreation Center. Last year's event was truly amazing and the Village's Human Relations Commission is excited to host another wonderful festival this spring. Mark your calendars for the return of the Wilmette Art Fair on August 3 and 4, and THE Block Party on September 7! I hope to call all of these annual events! More details are coming soon about these fantastic and free events, as well as our summer "Music on the Green" concert series.

Lastly, our Village Board will be evaluating several important initiatives this year including a review for a new police station, a lead service line replacement program, and a water main replacement program. We will make sure to update our residents when these topics come before us.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to sign up for the Village's E-News for weekly community updates. Thank you to all who help make our community a great place to work and live. Please feel free to reach out to me, the Village Board or Village Staff to share your thoughts and ideas.

Plaza del Lago

A Message from WS Development

Plaza del Lago is on the cusp of a renovation that will honor and preserve the property's iconic history and architecture while updating it to meet the demands of modern retail and dining and setting it up to prosper for the next 100 years just as it was designed to do for the last 100. The site will undergo a complete overhaul including the restoration of building facades including masonry, storefronts, and windows; upgrades to building systems and structures including roofs, elevators, flooring, and basements; reimagining the arcade to make it a beloved destination, and the execution of new parking lots, sidewalks, outdoor dining areas, and landscaping meticulously designed to complement the architecture with robust greenery and unique plantings.



All of this work is being done in anticipation of opening best-in-class local and national businesses - in addition to keeping already existing businesses such as the drug store and grocery store - to serve the community. Just as all of Wilmette and much of the North Shore loves Plaza del Lago, we too fell in love with the property, the bones of what's there today and the history of what once was.

We're excited to share that after over a year of design and planning, construction is mobilizing and work will continue for the next year and a half with a "grand reopening" scheduled for early summer 2025.

When we think of Plaza del Lago, one of the first words that comes to mind is "charm" and we are working tirelessly to restore the property to a charming place that people can enjoy for generations to come. We want to acknowledge that the execution of this level of work to bring the center up to the standards that this community deserves; it is not going to be the most fun or beautiful eighteen months for Plaza del Lago. We appreciate your patience while we deliver on our promises. We believe it will be worth the wait.

Wayfair and Edens Plaza



Wayfair is looking forward to welcoming shoppers to its first large-format brick and mortar retail store when it opens this spring. Village representatives had the opportunity to visit the 150,000+ square foot store and are excited by the progress and all that Wayfair will offer our community. Wayfair is poised to become an important economic engine for the Village, providing new sales tax revenue to support critical infrastructure needs, bringing visitors to Wilmette to support our local businesses, adding over 200 new jobs to the local economy, and creating an exciting retail experience for all.

With the opening of Wayfair fast approaching, Edens Plaza has been undergoing a transformation including an update to the building color, which elevated and modernized the appearance. Upcoming improvements include parking lot repaving, landscape beautification, new traffic islands and pedestrian walkways to improve safety and traffic. WS Development has indicated interest from both local and national tenants, including new retail and restaurant options.

New Garbage Program

The Village's new contractor for solid waste collection, LRS (Lakeshore Recycling Services), is offering the following expanded collection services:

- Additional garbage and recycling carts are available to rent for \$3 a cart, per month.
- Organics carts (yard waste and food scrap composting) are available free of charge in 35- and 96-gallon sizes. Organics carts are required for food scrap composting.
- Residents interested in composting over the winter have the option to enroll in the "winter gap" food scrap composting for \$30 per month, from December through March. Yard Waste Stickers are not required for this program.
- Residents will be able to sign up for a once-a-year at-home electronics and household hazardous waste collection. Pre-registration will be required. More information on how to sign up will be available on the Village website.

For service questions, please contact LRS at 844-633-3577 or Service@LRSrecycles.com.



Yard Waste & Composting Program

Yard waste and compost collection begins on Monday, April 1 and runs through the last full week of November. Yard waste and compost is collected on the same day as your regular trash and recycling.

Yard waste bags, bundles, and organics carts must be affixed with Village Yard Waste stickers. Stickers are \$3 each and available for purchase online and at Village Hall, Chalet Nursery, Millen Hardware, and both Wilmette Jewel Food Store locations.

Residents with an organics cart can also compost food scraps like fruits, vegetables, eggshells, and coffee grounds. For residents interested in composting over the winter, the Village in partnership with LRS offers "winter gap" food scrap composting for \$30 per month, December through March.

To request an organics cart or enroll in the Winter Gap Composting Program, please contact LRS at 844-633-3577 or Service@LRSrecycles.com.



Old Glenview Road Resurfacing

The Village received a federal grant to fund the resurfacing of Old Glenview Road from Skokie Boulevard to Wilmette Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in May and be completed in August. The general scope of work includes pavement resurfacing, intermittent concrete curb and sidewalk replacement, minor utility structure repairs, pavement marking, and parkway restoration. Residents impacted by the project will receive notices throughout the construction process.



Water Service Inventory

Delivering safe and high-quality drinking water to over 150,000 customers is core to the Village's operation. In alignment with that mission, the Village adheres to all state and federal regulations including the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act which requires that the Village perform a comprehensive water service line material inventory by April 2024. The inventory has been used in the development of a long-term lead service replacement program.

There are just over 10% of households that have not identified their service line materials and we need your help to identify the lines. The Village has hired Field Data Collectors to go door-to-door to assist residents with identifying their service line material. If residents are not home, a door hanger will be left with information on how to fill out the inventory survey.

Edens Pollinator Corridor Expansion

The Village of Wilmette, in partnership with the Village of Glenview, is excited to announce the expansion of the Edens Pollinator Corridor, which aims to convert large areas of underutilized land along the Edens Expressway into dedicated pollinator habitat.

Two new prairies will be installed at the intersection of Glenview Road & Long Road, with construction beginning in spring. Restoration of these sites will increase biodiversity through the installation of native grasses and flowers that are necessary to support pollinators. These deep-rooted native plantings also filter stormwater runoff and improve water quality while recharging the groundwater and building healthy soil.



Interested in volunteering? The Village will be organizing a planting day in late spring/early summer! Please contact Kate McDonnell at 847-853-7588 or mcdonnellk@wilmette.com for more information.

Master Bike and Active Transportation Plan Implementation Underway

The Master Bike and Active Transportation Plan (MBATP) began development in 2016 with the formation of the Master Bike Plan Advisory Group and concluded with approval of the Plan by the Village Board in February 2021. The MBATP includes comprehensive network recommendations to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility throughout the Village. In July 2023, the Transportation Commission approved an updated implementation schedule that includes the following improvements:

Pedestrian Improvements:

- Ridge Rd./Highland Ave. - Curb extensions and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Construction
- Wilmette Ave./15th St. - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Construction

Bike & Pedestrian Improvements:

- Lake Ave. (Green Bay Rd. to Sheridan Rd.) - Engineering Study
- Green Bay Rd. (Village limits south to north) - Engineering Study
- Hibbard Rd. (North to South Village limits) - Engineering Study
- Wilmette Ave./Glenview Rd. (Village limits to Ridge Rd.) - Engineering Study
- Ridge Rd. (Village limits to Elmwood Ave.) - Engineering Study
- Skokie Blvd. (Lake Ave. to Illinois Rd.) - Shared-Use Path Design
- Skokie Valley Trail (Village limit south to north) - Shared-Use Path Design

For more information on walking and biking in Wilmette, including information on future Transportation Commission meetings, visit the Village's website.



Start Planning Now for Spring Rains!

Does your yard flood during heavy rain? A rain garden may be an effective way to sustainably manage stormwater runoff on your property. Incentives up to \$5,000 are available for residents interested in pursuing green infrastructure projects like rain gardens, and now is the time to plan for spring construction. For more information about the Village's Stormwater Incentive Program visit the Village's website.



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. CCCDs must be tested and certified annually to ensure that they are working properly before they're used each season.

The Village has partnered with BSI Online to assist with the administration of this program and to accept test report submittals from a licensed CCCD testing contractor (directly through the online system).

Visit www.bsonlinetracking.com to access a list of licensed CCCD testing contractors in the area and check backflow test report status. For more information, contact BSI Online at bsionline@backflow.com or 800-414-4990. Residents may also contact Andy Lazar at the Village of Wilmette Water Meter Department at lazara@wilmette.com or 847-853-7537. Visit the Village's website for more information.

Mosquito Spraying Services

While planning landscaping services for the summer, consider calling the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District before contracting for mosquito spraying services. NSMAD services are FREE! Field technicians will assess your property and the surrounding area and eliminate breeding sources or treat them with a larval control product. Visit www.nsmad.org for more information.



New Leaf Blower Restrictions

Last year, the Village Board approved new leaf blower regulations. Starting this past January, gas-powered leaf blowers are only allowed for spring clean-up from April 1 – April 30 and fall clean-up from October 1 – November 30.

While noise is the most common concern with gas powered leaf blowers, did you know this equipment erodes natural habitats and produces harmful levels of air pollution? Leaf blowers blast insects, habitat, and soil at hurricane-force winds (up to 220 mph), affecting birds and beneficial insects like butterflies and pollinators. The use of leaf blowers eliminates habitat, harms soil health, and leads to erosion and stormwater runoff. These gas-powered tools also produce emissions including hazardous pollutants.

But why leaf blow when you can leave the leaves altogether? This spring, wait until later in the season to begin your yard cleanup to give sufficient time for beneficial insects to emerge from winter hibernation.



Tree Planting Incentive Program

Are you considering adding a tree to your landscape to improve the aesthetics, environmental functionality, and value of your property? Check out the Village's Private Tree Planting Incentive Program! Increasing tree canopy cover and species diversity in the Village has many benefits like improving our environment, contributing to our health and welfare, and enhancing the beauty and appeal of the Village for residents, visitors, and the animals who call trees home.

The program will run from March through November and includes up to a \$500 reimbursement, or two trees, for pre-approved trees planted on private property. More information as well as instructions on how to apply is available on the Village's website or by contacting the Village Forester/Tree Preservation Officer Joe Hansen at 847-853-7622 or hansenj@wilmette.com.



Optima PUD Submission



The Village has received an amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) application from Optima to construct 135 condominium units at 721-739 Green Bay Road (former site of Imperial Motors). The zoning review process will include non-binding reviews by the Village's Appearance Review and Housing Commissions. After these reviews, the Plan Commission will hold a public hearing in April, followed by a final vote of the Village Board, most likely in May. Visit the Village's website for information on upcoming meeting dates.

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 the Village. Nomination categories include:

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

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 and information on the categories are available online and at Village Hall. Nominations must be submitted by March 31, 2024. For more information, please contact Kate McManus at 847-853-7522 or mcmansk@wilmette.com.



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. By supporting our businesses and buying locally, your sales tax dollars help pay for things like community events and Village services.

Recently Opened

Dimavera Hair Salon (1150 Wilmette Ave.); Hair salon

EvaDean's Bakery & Café (1115 Central Ave.) evadeans.com; Breakfast, lunch, and bakery

Fajita Pete's (3207 Lake Ave.) fajitapetes.com; Fresh fajitas catered and delivered

Ichi (3217 Lake Ave.) ichi.kitchen; Japanese comfort food on the go

Ni's Kitchen (708 12th St.) niskitchen.net; Vietnamese full-service restaurant



Pizza by Sal (1133 Greenleaf Ave.) pizzabysal.com; Pizzeria, expanding to offer dine-in service

Taverna Naxos (111 Green Bay Rd.) tavernanaxos.com; Greek restaurant

Vibrato Boutique (1152 Wilmette Ave.) vibratoboutique.com; Women's clothing



Coming Soon/Under Development

Chalet Nursey (3132 Lake Ave.) chaletnursey.com; Retail/garden center expansion and remodel planned

Jersey Mike's (3207 Lake Ave.) jerseymikes.com; Sandwiches

Patrician Gallery & Gatherings (1135 Central Ave.); Art gallery

Small Cheval (1139 Wilmette Ave.) smallcheval.com; Burgers, fries, shakes

Torino Ramen (1162 Wilmette Ave.) torinoramen.com; Restaurant expansion planned



Meet WILMETTE

Originally from Woodstock, IL, **Community Development Plumbing Inspector Chris Booker** moved to Chicago to pursue a career as a plumber. He has been working as an inspector since 2009 when he accepted a position in Evanston. In 2019, he joined the Village of Wilmette with a decade's worth of experience. Day to day, Chris reviews residential construction plans to ensure they comply with regulations. He takes pride in upholding the Village Code with the goal of keeping residents safe and ensuring their homes are properly maintained.

Outside of work, Chris is a traveler. He enjoys studying world history and visiting new places all around the globe, including a Baha'i temple in Haifa, Israel. His favorite place in Wilmette is Gillson Beach, where he can spend time with his family and be by the water.

Community Development Inspector:
Chris Booker

Police Department and Historical Museum Open Houses
Sunday, May 5, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 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 get your mug shot taken (please bring your own camera). Exhibits include crime prevention tables, police squad cars and other public safety vehicles, and a free hot dog, bag of chips and water. Don't forget to walk across the street to the Historical Museum's Open House. The Museum will provide short tours of Wilmette's past and there will be interactive exhibits and activities to bring history to life.



1

Vehicle Stickers Available



19

Presidential Primary



31

Historic Preservation Award Nominations Due



1

Yard Waste/Compost Collection Resumes



Wilmette Historical Museum

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.wilmettehistory.org or call 847-853-7666.

Upcoming Events

Lecture: An Unvarnished History of Housing Discrimination in Chicagoland

Sunday, March 10, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free to members, \$5/non-members

Join the Museum in welcoming Dr. Sarah Doherty, Associate Professor of U.S. & Public History at North Park University, to speak about Unvarnished, a digital exhibition for which she was a core researcher, writer, and creator that centers around housing discrimination in the northern and western United States. Doherty's talk will provide context for why Chicago is central to regional and national conversations and scholarship about housing discrimination and exclusionary housing practices.

Lecture: Chicago Beer History

Sunday, April 28, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free to members, \$5/non-members

Liz Garibay of the Beer Culture Center (formerly the Chicago Brewseum) returns to the Wilmette Historical Museum to talk about the beer history of the Chicago area, particularly as it relates to immigration. Laurin Mack will accompany Liz to provide samples of Seipp's beers, resurrected from recipes brewed by her great-great grandfather Conrad Seipp, a German immigrant to Chicago, in the 19th century.



Family Program: Open House

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Free!

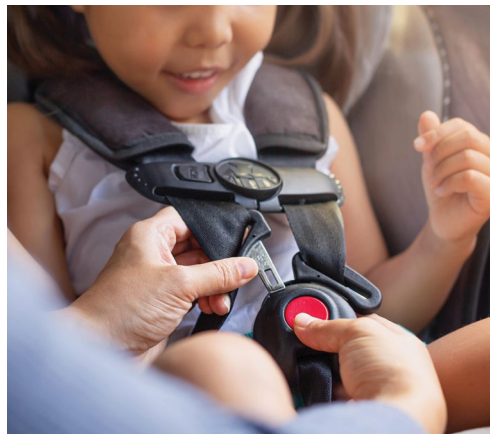


Wilmette residents are invited to step inside the Museum's historic 1896 building for self-guided tours, family-friendly activities, and free treats.

CPR Courses

Interested in learning CPR? 2024 CPR class dates have been finalized. Heartsaver classes cost \$25 and are available once a month on a weeknight or Saturday morning. Sign up early as classes fill up quickly.

Classes will be taught by Wilmette firefighters at Fire Station #26; 1304 Lake Avenue. To register, please call the Fire Department at 847-251-1101. To view upcoming dates and times visit the Village's website.



Child Safety Seats

Did you know by law, children are required to be secured in a child seat until age 8? Did you also know the Fire Department assists Wilmette residents with installing child safety seats? Call 847-251-1101 to schedule an appointment with a certified technician!

Sign Up for Smart911

Smart911 is the Village's emergency communications platform. You can choose to receive emergency alerts and non-emergency notifications from the Village via phone call, text, email, or through the mobile app.

Smart911 also allows families to create a Safety Profile that provides 911 operators with critical medical and household information needed during an emergency.

To register visit the Village's [Smart911](#) page on the website.



Smart911TM



15

Deadline to Display 2024
Vehicle Sticker



5

Police and Museum
Open House



27

Memorial Day
Offices Closed, Refuse Pickup Delayed

Register to Vote in the Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on March 19, with early voting taking place March 4-18. Vote by mail is also available. Visit cookcountyclerk.com for resources on:

- Voter Registration
- Early Voting Locations and Times
- Absentee Ballots
- Polling Locations
- Precincts



Follow the Village!

Want to know what events are coming up in Wilmette this weekend? Curious about new developments? Sign up for the Village's weekly E-News, and follow the Village on Facebook, X, and Nextdoor for regular updates on happenings around Wilmette!

Join Our Team

The Village of Wilmette is always seeking talented and service-oriented people to join our team and assist us in providing the very best service to our community. There are current opportunities for full-time careers, part-time and seasonal work, and internships. To check out open positions visit the Village's website.



LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Line**
(formerly known as the National Suicide Hotline)



- **Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741747 to connect with a volunteer Crisis Counselor**
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Cook County North Suburban**
 - Education, Support, Advocacy
 - Phone: (847) 716-2252
 - Location: 8324 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
 - NAMI IL Non-emergency: (800) 346-4572
 - NAMI National Helpline: (800) 950-NAMI (6264)
 - Website: [Home - NAMI CCNS - NAMI CCNS - Chicagoland Mental Health](#) (www.namiccns.org/)

- **Josselyn Center**

- The Living Room – open to anyone who is experiencing an emotional or mental health crisis.
 - Hours: M-Su 7am - 12am.
 - Location: 1779 Maple Ave., Northfield
- Adult Drop-in Center – peer support for a stigma-free space to connect, socialize, and learn new skills and tools.
 - Hours: M-Th 9am – 8pm; F 9am - 4pm; Sa 9am -2pm
 - Phone: (847) 441-5600
 - Location: 1779 Maple St., Northfield
 - Mental Health Services:
 - Hours: M-F 9am – 5pm
 - Phone: (847) 441-5600
 - Location: 405 Central Ave., Northfield



- **Turning Point**

- Crisis Line: (847) 933-9202 (available 24/7)
- Services include:
 - Crisis Response
 - Therapy
 - Case Management
 - Residential
 - Groups
- The Living Room: crisis intervention services for adults
 - Hours: 12pm – 8pm daily
 - Phone: (847) 933-0051
 - Location: 8324 Skokie Blvd., Skokie



- **Haven Youth and Family**

- Crisis Intervention: 24-hour emergency housing for youth 11-17 years old, in crisis.
 - Hours: 24/7
 - Phone: (847) 251-6630
- Counseling services for youth
 - Phone: (847) 251-6630
 - Location: 825 Green Bay Rd., Ste. 200, Wilmette

- **Family Service Center**

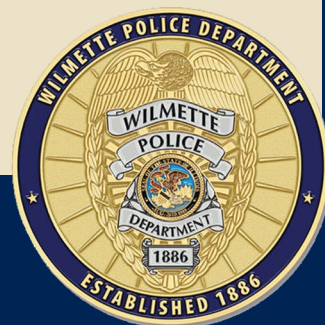
- Counseling Services: all ages
 - Phone: (847) 251-7350
 - Location: 191 Waukegan Rd., Ste. 206, Northfield

- **Evanston Hospital Mental Health Crisis Line**

- Phone: (847) 570-2500 press 0 to page crisis worker

- **Village of Wilmette Police Counselor**

- Nellie Aron, MS, LCPC
847-853-7566
aronn@wilmette.com



What You Need to Know about the 2024 Budget

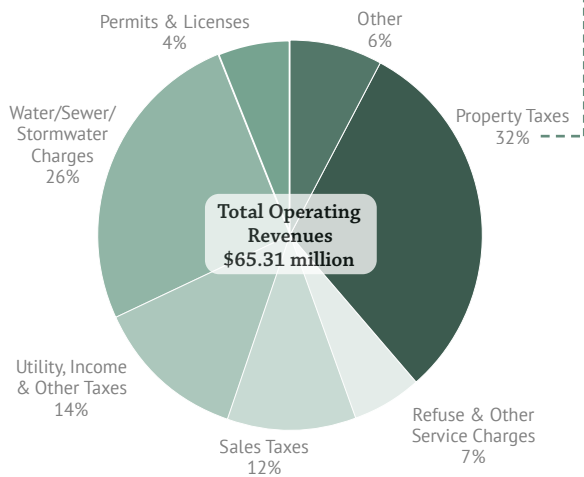
The annual budget is the Village's most important document as it directs spending and investments in alignment with the Village Board's established priorities and policies. Creating the budget is an all-encompassing process that incorporates feedback from residents, business owners, elected officials, staff, and other key stakeholders.

The Village is in a strong financial position heading into 2024. The Village continues to improve and expand services to our residents while minimizing tax and fee increases. A strong financial position enables the Village to mitigate the impact of its operations on taxpayers. For 2024, the Village will have one of the lowest property tax increases in 25 years. The Village's operating budgets are balanced and reserves are being drawn down for facility and technology upgrades, infrastructure improvements, capital equipment, and to reduce pension liabilities.

Your Property Tax Dollar



Where does the Village's revenue come from?



2023 SERVICE STATS



Responded to nearly 24,000 public safety calls for service



3.1 miles of street improvements including road program



Over 202,000 unique website visits



Neighborhood Storage Project stored 9.28 million gallons of water

Top Budget Takeaways:

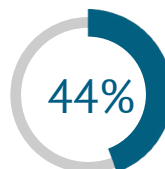
1. Wilmette has a **balanced 2024 budget** of \$100.96 million.
2. One of the **lowest property tax increases** in 25 years.
3. **No increase** to water, sewer, or stormwater rates.
4. The Village practices **fiscal responsibility** by leveraging technology and practicing good governance.
5. The Village receives **revenue from many sources**, including property taxes, sewer and water fees, grants, and the state.
6. 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.
7. The Village continues to **maintain or enhance** all Village services and continues to invest wisely in infrastructure improvements.

The Property Tax Levy

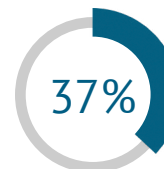
The largest source of General Fund revenue is the real estate property tax. While other revenue sources are subject to the condition of the national and regional economies, property taxes are a stable revenue source for the Village. In 2024, the Village share will increase by 2.94%, which is one of the lowest increases in the last 25 years.

Each year, the Village Board aims to limit the rate of growth in the general operating portion of the tax levy as much as possible. Other portions of the levy, such as required pension contributions and pre-existing debt service, cannot be reduced.

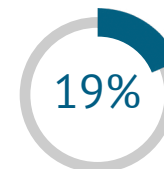
General Fund Expenditure Takeaways



Police & Fire



Engineering & Public Works



Finance, Admin., Community Development, Law, Other

The Village's **strong financial position** has been built over time through the following actions. These actions have demonstrated sound financial administration and planning:

- Fortifying reserve levels by reducing recurring expenses through structural efficiencies and maintaining appropriate staffing levels.
- Maintaining a Aaa bond rating while committing to investment in critical infrastructure.
- Mitigating future pension requirements by meeting or exceeding required contributions and update of pension methodology.

Strategic Budget Priorities



Public Safety



Economic Development



Infrastructure



Service Delivery



Technology



Good Governance

Connect with Us

Village Board

President

Senta Plunkett plunketts@wilmette.com

Trustees

Kathy Dodd doddk@wilmette.com

Kate Gjaja gjajak@wilmette.com

Gina Kennedy kennedyg@wilmette.com

Steve Leonard leonards@wilmette.com

Justin Sheperd sheperdj@wilmette.com

Gerry Smith smithg@wilmette.com



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

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

Local Postal Customer
Wilmette, IL 60091

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Village Board Meetings

7:00 p.m. Village Hall

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

Village Hall Closed

New Year's Day
Presidents' Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans 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

Michael Braiman braimanm@wilmette.com 847-853-7509

Other

Library
847-256-5025

Park District
847-256-6100

New Trier Township
847-446-8202

LRS
844-633-3577

AT&T
800-244-4444

Comcast
866-594-1234

Commonwealth Edison
888-334-7661

Nicor Gas
888-642-6748