



Spring 2011

The Winnetka Report

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Village of Winnetka
510 Green Bay Road
villageofwinnetka.org

The Plan Commission's **Affordable Housing Report** and the companion **Study of Housing Conditions and Needs**, will be presented at the Winnetka Village Council Study Session on April 12, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. Village Council meetings are open to the public, and the public is invited to comment at the meeting or in writing.

Both documents are available for download at www.villageofwinnetka.org/affordablehousing

Please direct written comments to Village Manager Robert Bahan - rbahan@winnetka.org

UPDATE:

Winnetka Affordable Housing Plan

This issue focuses on the Winnetka Plan Commission's recent recommendations for customizing Winnetka's 2005 Affordable Housing Plan.

These recommendations were made at the direction of the Village Council. Both the 2005 Affordable Housing Plan, and the Ordinance adopting it, directed the Plan Commission to conduct a study and make recommendations on topics ranging from the Village's demographics to techniques to Code amendments.

The Plan Commission's recommendations are contained in the *Winnetka Affordable Housing Report* (formally titled *Reinvigorating a Tradition of Varied, Moderately Priced and Affordable Housing: A Report to the Village Council*), and in the companion demographic and housing study titled *Study of Housing Conditions and Needs*.

The Winnetka Plan Commission has dedicated a large portion of the last five years to fulfilling the Village Council's directive to update and customize the 2005 Affordable Housing Plan.

One of the primary objectives of this five-year process has been to communicate and engage Village residents in an open dialogue. The Plan Commission held focus groups in August 2007, followed by Workshops in January 2008, publicized with a Village-wide mailing. Workshops included a presentation of the results of the Plan Commission's data collection, preliminary findings and possible alternative Village policies to address Winnetka housing diversity. Seven more public meetings were held since the 2008 workshops to consider findings and strategies and to finalize and approve the Study and the Report.

SUMMARY OF PLAN COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Plan Commission's recent study revealed several findings, among them:

Affordable housing has always existed in Winnetka, but it is shrinking. Trends contributing to this loss include conversions of rental apartments to condominiums, a declining number of coach house units and, more recently, the occasional conversion of residential apartments above downtown storefronts into non-residential offices.

While condominium conversions provide an "entry point" into home ownership in Winnetka, the corresponding loss of rental units has an impact on the most affordable form of housing in the Village.

Conversion of downtown residential apartments to office space has had a similar impact on housing diversity. While office space is a valuable component of the downtown tenant mix, such conversions reduce the availability of rental housing. Downtown residents provide a loyal, dedicated market for local goods and services, and have an overall lower impact on downtown parking than office occupancies.

Winnetka's population is changing. The rapid change in the Village's housing stock from 1990 to 2000 brought a corresponding change in the Village's population. Households became larger as seniors sold homes and left the Village altogether. Winnetka's 2.8% increase in those aged 65 and older was dwarfed by other communities, which saw that age group grow at rates between 20% and 55%. The number of young adults dropped by 56%, while the number of school-age children went up by 26%, and single parent households with children increased 128%.

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Many Winnetkans are struggling, particularly seniors. There is a large gap in the number of housing units available and affordable to lower income groups that live in Winnetka; 591 Winnetka households earned less than \$50,000 (2000 census) but only 402 housing units were available in the Village at a cost affordable to their incomes. Households paying more than 30% of their income to housing expenses are considered “housing cost burdened.” In 2000, there were 943 housing cost burdened Winnetka households, 250 of which were seniors.

Winnetka has become a fairly transient community. Increasingly limited housing choices make it difficult for empty nesters and retirees to stay in the Village. While nationwide data show a trend toward people staying in their homes for shorter periods, Winnetka’s recent increase in mobility rates is noticeably higher than in surrounding North Shore suburbs. Demographics indicate that Winnetka may increasingly be viewed as a community to move to for the high quality schools, and to move from after school-age years.

There are limited opportunities to develop new multiple family housing. Developments such the *Winnetka Mews* (at Green Bay Road and Pine Street, constructed in 1971) took place on land formerly used for the Village’s Public Works operations. Today, such options for redevelopment are comparatively limited.

**PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN
COMMISSION’S AFFORDABLE
HOUSING REPORT**

The Plan Commission Report focuses on creating a customized approach to Winnetka’s housing needs:

“Rather than simply following other affordable housing programs, which can rely overly on new construction and available developable land, we owe our residents a customized

approach to housing needs in Winnetka. This customized approach must provide the flexibility to meet Winnetka’s goals, honor its character and traditions, empower property owners to provide a healthy and diverse housing stock, and recognize a growing national focus on rental housing and housing programs as important solutions to affordable housing needs.”

(Report, p. 3)

This customized approach is made possible by the passage of the Home Rule Referendum in 2005, which gave Winnetka considerable flexibility on local matters, including housing. Without Home Rule authority, Winnetka would be obligated to adopt the regional affordability standards and development goals mandated by the State of Illinois that would be unsuitable for this high-value, built-out community.

While the new affordable housing law was mentioned in the course of the home rule referendum discussions, it was not the focus of that referendum. The report of the Village Presidents that led to the referendum, as well as the educational materials circulated by the Village, focused on financial and local governance issues.

While the Affordable Housing and Planning Act and tax cap legislation were cited as examples of state laws that do not apply to home rule units, Village records indicate that, when affordable housing was discussed in conjunction with home rule, the discussions focused on the flexibility home rule status would provide the Village to develop standards that reflect the Village’s characteristics and needs, and on the additional development tools that would be available to the Village as a home rule unit.

The following principles establish the basis for the Report’s recommendations:

High land values and limited opportunities for new multiple family housing call for a highly customized approach to housing in Winnetka.

No single community – especially one with Winnetka’s high land values and limited buildable land – can effectively take on the burden of addressing housing affordability for the region.

Winnetka’s Home Rule status allows for the adoption of a housing policy that takes Winnetka’s land values and income levels into consideration, and further, allows for a more customized approach which focuses on understanding and serving the housing needs of Winnetka residents and employees.

The Report therefore focuses on retaining and reusing existing multiple family units, a solution that the Report notes is “a faster and less expensive solution than new construction, has a substantially lower environmental impact, and helps preserve community character.”

In addition, the Report recommends establishment of “local preference” standards, which would ensure that any newly created affordable housing units be first made available to eligible long-time Winnetka residents, seniors, business owners and individuals employed in the Village.

Single family neighborhoods are NOT an appropriate location to focus housing affordability efforts.

The Village Council tasked the Plan Commission with updating the Village’s existing 2005 affordable housing plan with *clear direction* – recommendations for addressing housing diversity and affordability should be focused on the Village’s commercial areas and multiple family zoning areas.

High land values, together with little vacant land, make creation of affordable housing impractical and expensive in single-family areas.

Accordingly, the Report does not recommend policies that encourage new affordable single-family dwellings in single family neighborhoods – acquisition and development costs make these options an ineffective method of encouraging housing affordability.



Focus on maintaining and enhancing existing market rate housing units in downtown and multiple family areas.

Starting in the early 1900's Winnetka's development established much of the character of today's Winnetka, with multiple smaller commercial areas which are more "hamlets" than "downtowns." Each of these areas has developed over several decades, concentrated around each of the Village's three rail stations.

These early development patterns provided Winnetka unrivaled access to rail stations, as well as a large number of residential apartments and condominium



Downtown mixed use building

units, often located above first floor retail. A fundamental principle of the Report is to consider policies which focus on retention and enhancement of existing multiple family apartments and condominiums.

Approach housing diversity without reliance on new development

Maintaining Winnetka's existing character is a fundamental value of the proposed Plan. The Report does not promote the redevelopment of the downtown Post Office site or any other Village-owned parcel exclusively for affordable housing.

Recommended tools such as an Inclusionary Zoning component, discussed in more detail on the following pages, are proposed not to encourage new development but rather to respond to it.

As outlined in the Report, an inclusionary zoning ordinance would require 15% of *newly created units* to be sold at a rate affordable to Winnetka's defined Standards of Affordability. Inclusionary Zoning would not apply to existing multiple family housing.

Inclusionary zoning programs do not require a financial contribution from the Village or taxpayers - rather, the units would be required as a condition of zoning approval.

For example, a bonus could be given by the Village to compensate for a required affordable unit, and to offset the developer's cost of providing an affordable unit. Such bonuses may consist of allowing an additional market rate unit (density bonus), or a reduction in parking requirements.

Emphasize incentives versus mandates when possible.

Winnetka is a Village that is fiscally conservative and that values property rights. The Report therefore emphasizes housing solutions that have little to no financial impact on the average Winnetka resident or on Village government, and also give property owners more, not fewer, options.

For example, a recommendation to eliminate zoning rules against renting existing vacant coach house units would increase the rights of property owners to rent or renovate their coach houses, and could add as many as two dozen additional rental units to the Village.

Because property owners would be free to set any rental rate they choose, these coach houses would not be mandated to be "affordable," but would nonetheless increase housing choice at no cost to taxpayers.

In addition, incentives (versus mandates) are recommended to encourage the renovation of a handful of vacant downtown apartments (7 units) which are "long term vacancies." Reintroduction of such units is seen as far more effective than creating the equivalent through a "new development" based strategy.

A TRADITION OF HOUSING DIVERSITY

Winnetka has a long established tradition of diverse housing. Iconic, early 1900's-era downtown buildings provide both a rich character and a variety of convenient retail shopping. Importantly, these buildings also provide a surprisingly large number of rental apartments (262 units) as well as condominium units (67 units).

An additional 366 multi-family units located along Green Bay Road and on the periphery of the Village's business districts (near the Winnetka Public Library for example) provide additional diversity for younger households as well as empty nesters. Unlike downtown apartments, these developments tend to be owner-occupied condominium and townhome units, built after the 1950's.

As a predominantly single-family community, it is revealing to note that the previously described 695 multiple family units are home to approximately 16 % of all Winnetka households.

A smaller, but unique component of Winnetka's housing diversity exists in the form of occupied coach house units located throughout the Village (31 units in 2006).



Winnetka coach house

Coach house units were typically designed to serve as living quarters for household help. Today, they tend to be occupied by renters or by extended family as independent living quarters for aging parents.

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The number of rental units has declined significantly in recent years: Winnetka lost 260 renter-occupied units between 1980 and 2000 - a 37.5% reduction - and losses have continued. Simultaneously, the cost of owned housing has skyrocketed as smaller homes have been replaced with larger more expensive ones. The Report concludes:

“Winnetka’s housing stock increasingly serves only one kind of resident – a family at the peak of its earning years and with school age children. This limited vision of a Winnetka resident excludes too many of our own residents, offers little flexibility for dealing with changes in the economy or in demographics, and does not do justice to the economically diverse history of Winnetka”

Winnetka has a long history of Village policy in support of its housing diversity. The Village’s earliest policy statement on housing diversity arose in 1979 with the adoption of a *Statement of Community Objectives* as an element of the Village’s *Comprehensive Plan*. That document articulated the following goals:

Facilitate housing for “those who contribute to the community’s well being, such as public employees, storekeepers and retirees;”

Encourage and assist in the “provision of moderate cost residences in the Village, especially for those who already live or work in the Village;”

Facilitate the provision of housing for “older, long-term residents of the Village who no longer wish to live in and maintain single family homes;”

Facilitate the provision of housing for senior citizens who live in the Village but no longer need, or can no longer afford single-family residences.”

More recently, the Village adopted Winnetka’s *2020 Comprehensive Plan* in

November 1999. Our primary land use planning tool, the 2020 Plan enunciates the policies and priorities of the Village for a 20-year period. Among them are:

A need for more housing options for senior citizens and young families;

A recognition of the important role multiple family buildings play in providing homes for older residents as well as those with modest incomes;

A recognition of the importance of rental units in housing diversity;

The observation that multiple family housing options in the Village are limited, with older couples often finding few alternatives when seeking more simplified living arrangements.

THE WINNETKA AFFORDABLE HOUSING REPORT’S SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in the Plan Commission’s Report are not regulatory in nature – rather, the Report is a “roadmap” suggesting a course of future actions to achieve housing diversity and affordability goals. All of the recommendations that follow require further consideration of specific Code language to carry out specific policies. As such, the recommendations listed below will require additional discussion and hearings.

Creating Appropriate Affordability Standards

Affordability standards define the maximum income level under which a household may purchase or rent a housing unit under the Village’s affordable housing program. As a first step in creating a customized housing policy, the Plan Commission agreed that Winnetka must define “affordability” at a higher level than would be appropriate in other communities.

Illinois law requires that a sufficient amount of housing in a municipality be “affordable” based on the median income of the greater metropolitan area.

However, the 2010 median home sale price in Winnetka was \$1,172,000, or 540% of the metropolitan area’s \$218,000 median home sales price. The median household income for a family of four in Winnetka was \$192,947, or 250% of the metropolitan area’s median income of \$75,100.

Using the state definition of affordability in Winnetka would be unworkable: creating housing affordable to the metropolitan area median income would be too expensive, and such housing would not address the needs of Winnetka residents. The Winnetka Plan Commission therefore began by proposing a multi-pronged affordability standard that is substantially higher than would be established under state law.

As illustrated in the chart below, Winnetka’s proposed affordability standards would include households with an income level of up to \$135,180.

Comparison of Affordability Standards



Zoning & Related Village Code Amendments

Consider Village Code amendments to encourage and preserve existing downtown residential units. Promote building owner investment in the residential component of downtown mixed-use buildings.

Downtown / commercial areas:

Discourage conversion of existing apartments to non-residential uses;

Relax parking requirements for downtown residential units as an incentive to convert downtown upper floor office space to residential use;

Adopt a property maintenance code to assure that downtown residential buildings



are adequately maintained and comply with sanitation and life safety codes;

Explore building and zoning code amendments which allow creation of “work/live” in downtown areas.

Residential areas:

Current zoning rules prohibit renting out a coach house if it sits vacant for six months, and make improvements and upgrades difficult. Eliminating these rules could return approximately 25 existing vacant coach house units to residential use, and would provide additional flexibility to the owners of existing occupied units to invest in upgrades.

Establish a special use process and standards for evaluation of new accessory housing units such as coach houses or “in-law” apartments.

Inclusionary Zoning

While there are limited options for new multiple-family development, an *Inclusionary Zoning* amendment is nonetheless recommended to provide *affordable* units within such developments when they occur.

Inclusionary Zoning standards would require that a developer proposing new multiple family units provide a portion of those units (15%) at a reduced “affordable” level. A hypothetical 20-unit building would be required under such a program to set aside 3 of the units as affordable units. Required units would be subject to a maximum sale or rental price based on Winnetka’s affordability standards.

Units built under an *Inclusionary Zoning* requirement would be built at the developer’s expense, and would require no financial support from the Village. Inclusionary zoning as conceived by the Plan Commission would incorporate some or all of the following features:

Local Preference for affordable units, where priority for such units is provided to eligible long-time Winnetka residents, seniors, employees and business owners.

Continued long-term affordability of such units through deed restrictions and resale limitations;

Similarity of design requirements, to assure that affordable units maintain basic qualities of market units.

Community Land Trust

The proposed *Community Land Trust* would be a non-profit organization that acts as an ownership mechanism for any affordable units, such as those created under an *Inclusionary Zoning* program. Purchasers of such units own the residence they occupy, with the *Community Land Trust* holding in trust an easement or covenant assuring the continued affordability and compliance with program objectives.

The Community Land Trust plays an important role in completing the affordable housing plan by assuring program goals, such as a “Local Preference” provision to assure that Village residents receive preferential access to units. A Community Land Trust is typically established by and reports to the Village Council.

Housing Trust Fund

The proposed Housing Trust Fund would work in tandem with the Community Land Trust, and serves as the source of funding for programs. The Trust Fund would provide financial support to projects that further the Village’s Affordable Housing goals. The Trust Fund may acquire land or existing housing in furtherance of affordability goals, but its primary strength is the flexibility to fund smaller projects, including those

which are not “construction based” efforts, in exchange for the creation of affordable housing units.

The Report describes the use of Housing Trust Fund resources as a source of small loans or gap financing for improvements to older downtown buildings for general rehabilitation, or targeted to accessibility (elevator) improvements, life safety (alarm / sprinkler) improvements, or weatherization work. This investment would not only yield affordable units, it would improve the condition and attractiveness of the entire building.

NORTH SHORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

As noted in the chart below, neighboring home rule villages along the North Shore such as Lake Forest, Wilmette and Highland Park have instituted affordable housing programs in their communities.

Towns throughout the country have funded their Housing Trust Funds through a variety of sources, including teardown fees, building permit fees, real estate transfer taxes, as well as donations and grants.

The Plan Commission thoroughly evaluated many tools during the course of their affordable housing study. The recommendations above are considered by the Plan Commission to be the instruments most appropriate for the Village of Winnetka.

Affordable Housing Tool	Highland Park	Lake Forest	Wilmette	Glencoe	Winnetka
Established Affordable Housing Trust Fund	yes	yes	no	no	*
Community Land Trust	yes	no	no	no	*
Definition of Affordability Standard for all programs	50-120% of AMI	50-80% of AMI	N/A	N/A	50-180% of AMI (proposed)
Development Incentives	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Inclusionary Zoning	yes	yes		no	*
Amendments to Existing Zoning to encourage affordable housing	yes	yes	yes	no	*



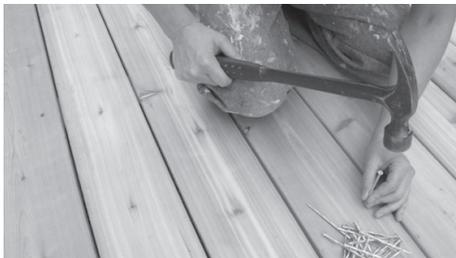
Do I Need a Building Permit?

It's the time of year to start thinking about home improvement projects. When considering a new deck, or replacing an old patio or fence, please be sure to check with the Community Development Department to see if a building permit is necessary.

Following is a list of commonly made improvements and the associated permit requirements. A current plat of survey **must** be submitted with the applications listed below.

Fences – Fence Application. Required fence plans may consist of a marked-up plat of survey showing the location of the proposed fence. Fences to be located in front yards are required to have property corners staked and clearly identified, and post holes must be inspected prior to installation of the fence in order to verify proper location. Permit fee: \$65

Decks – Building Permit Application. Two sets of plans, including a dimensioned site plan showing the proposed deck location in relation to house and property lines. Construction details should include proposed dimensions of deck, framing detail, location, depth and diameter of all piers, guardrails and steps, and type of lumber to be used. Permit fee: \$120



Driveways and Patios – Impermeable Surface/Driveway Application. Two dimensioned site plans showing the proposed location of the driveway, patio or other hard surface. Permit fee: \$65.

Garages – Building Permit Application. Two dimension site plans showing the location of the garage. Six

sets of building plans showing foundation detail, wall framing and roof details. Permit fee based on value of proposed garage.

Sheds – Complete Building Permit Application. Two sets of plans including site plan showing size of shed and proposed location. Construction details provided with prefabricated shed kits may be sufficient to depict construction.



Custom build sheds must indicate wall, floor and roof construction details, including size and spacing of framing. Permit fee: \$120.

Work can only occur during permitted hours of construction which are Monday – Friday 7AM - 7PM and Saturday 9AM – 6PM; work is not permitted on Sundays or holidays.

If you have any questions concerning or building related activities, please contact the Department of Community Development at 847.716.3520. For additional details and/or permit application forms please visit the Village of Winnetka web site, villageofwinnetka.org.

Refuse/Recycling Memorial Day Collection Week of 5/29 – 6/4

Monday's pickups will be on Tuesday
Tuesday's pickups will be on Wednesday
Thursday & Friday will be as usual

Sprinkler Restrictions in Effect May 15 to September 15

During the warm weather months, water restrictions are in effect, as required by the State of Illinois. Sprinkling is allowed only between the hours of 5:00AM - 11:00AM, and 5:00PM - 11:00PM.



Sprinkling during otherwise prohibited hours may be permitted for a limited time with special approval by the Director of the Water & Electric Department, for newly seeded or sodded areas, and for the annual activation or repair of sprinkler systems.

To obtain the special approval, or if you have questions, call 847.716.3558, or email bkeys@winnetka.org

Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

Starting in May and running through September, the Winnetka Fire Department will be flow-testing fire hydrants on weekdays from 8:30AM - 4PM.

Flow testing helps the Winnetka Fire and Water Departments to determine the water system capacities, and is used for pre-planning emergencies. Fire hydrants are also checked for visibility and accessibility.

Sediment accumulations are removed from the system during flow testing. You may notice water discoloration for a brief period of time after the flow test in your area. While the water is safe to drink, it can discolor laundry. If you experience discoloration of your water, run your faucet for several minutes or until the discoloration subsides.

If the water does not become clear after following the procedures described above, please contact the Water Department at 847.716.3558.



Village Unveils a Conservative and Fiscally Sound Budget for FY2011-12 -- Overall Budget Down 2.8%

The Village's General Fund operating expenses of \$18.9 million are down 2.8% for fiscal 2011-12. The General Fund covers typical municipal operations like police, fire, streets, forestry, engineering, drainage, property maintenance, building, and administration. The Village was able to reduce expenses by lowering staffing levels and carefully reducing some expense items, including lowering health care costs.

It is important to look at how the budget will impact the costs paid by a typical resident. The 2011-12 Village budget projects a 2.1% or \$125 increase in the cost of municipal services, principally due to utility rate adjustments in 2012. There is a 1.4% property tax increase in the budget for existing residents, for an additional cost of about \$37 for someone with a \$20,000 total property tax bill.

During the budget process this year, the Village Council took a somewhat longer perspective on some key measures to understand how the Village compares relative to the other taxing districts. For 2011-12, the Village will operate with 154 employees, a reduction of 24 positions, or 13% of the workforce that existed in 1989.

Additionally, real estate property taxes over the past 12 years were examined. Because the Village has limited property tax growth for existing residents to less than the rate of inflation, the Village portion of the property tax bill has declined from 17% in 1998 to 13% in 2009.

Some of the larger capital projects the Village has planned or will evaluate over the next year are:

Review a storm water study that looks at the entire Village, in addition to the two areas identified last year.

Construct \$750,000 of storm water pumping capacity improvements to the south pump station this fall.

Undertake \$1.2m of road repairs starting in June.

Construct \$450,000 of intersection improvements at Green Bay and Winnetka Ave. starting in June

Review bids and consider \$2.6 million of interior and exterior repairs and improvements to Village Hall.

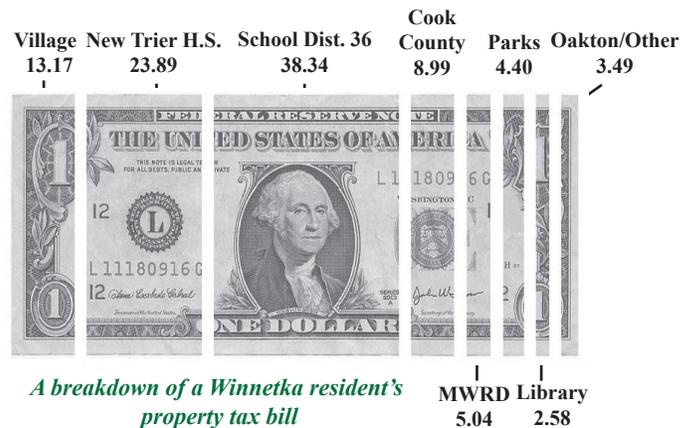
Install a \$300,000 oxidation catalyst system on the diesel engines at the power plant to meet federal emission standards, with work planned to commence in October.

Begin \$552,000 of electric distribution system improvements starting in August. That work will continue until March 2012.

Three additional operational items under Council review and included in the budget are: evaluation of a combined police

dispatch center; completion of a major update of the Village WEB site; and seeking input from Winnetkans on a community survey.

The entire budget is available for review at the Winnetka Library and on the village's website, villageofwinnetka.org, under the Forms/Docs tab.



Winnetka's Landmark Preservation Commission Seeks Applications for its 2011 Preservation Awards Application Deadline is April 21st

The Winnetka Landmark Preservation Commission will sponsor its popular Preservation Awards Program again this year. Nominate your house! Nominate your neighbor's house! Award categories include **Restoration**, **Rehabilitation**, and **New Construction** for projects that have been completed during the last five years.

For nomination forms and contest rules, visit the Department of Community Development at Village Hall, or check the Village website at www.villageofwinnetka.org

Nominations must be submitted by **Thursday, April 21st**. Award winners will likely be announced in June. An awards ceremony will be conducted at Village Hall and award winners will receive custom display tiles and certificates to commemorate their winning projects.



Village Continues to Remove Ash Trees Infested with EAB

A Village contractor will continue removal of selective parkway Ash trees in 2011. The removals are a part of the Village management plan to combat Emerald Ash Borer within Village limits. Ash trees that have symptoms of EAB such as; woodpecker evidence, sprouting, dieback or d-shaped exit holes on branches and trunk areas will be removed along with trees of poor health or structure.



The Village has treated over 300 selected specimen parkway Ash trees with an insecticide (applied by a certified Village tree contractor) in hopes to save some of its native Ash tree population.

Residents can assist the Village Forester by inspecting their own private Ash trees for symptoms of EAB or call the Forester at 847-716-3535 to arrange an inspection.

Battery Recycling Program

The Public Works Department is partnering with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to offer a battery recycling program, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM – 4:30PM at the Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow.



Rechargeable, NiCd, NiMh, lithium ion, lithium polymer or household alkaline batteries will be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: Each rechargeable battery (lithium, NiMh and NiCad) must have masking tape on contact points or be placed in an individual zip-lock plastic bag. If you have any questions, please call 716-3568.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Techniques

To improve water quality for everyone, employ these simple lawn and garden techniques:

Plant shrubs with strong rooting characteristics to stabilize slopes and prevent soil erosion, and group them according to their watering needs. Native species create an environmentally friendly landscape, as they are generally more water-efficient and disease-resistant.

Lawns require more water and maintenance than wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, so when possible, plant non-turf areas. If turf is used, select a type of grass that can withstand drought by becoming dormant in hot, dry seasons.

Use trickle irrigation systems and soaker hoses and water lawns and gardens only during the coolest time of the day



to minimize evaporation. When mowing lawns, grass should not be cut shorter than 3 to 4 inches. Leave mulched clippings

on the lawn to retain water, reduce weeds, prevent erosion, and improve the soil.

Minimize the application of fertilizer and if possible use less toxic alternatives, such as compost. Use pesticides on lawns and gardens only when absolutely necessary, and then only sparingly. Pesticide use can be avoided entirely by selecting hearty plants that are native to the area and by keeping them healthy. Save unused pesticides and dispose of them at a household hazardous waste collection site.



Pesticides and fertilizers must not be poured down the storm sewer drain or into the storm sewer system – please remind landscaping services that doing so is illegal.

Crime Prevention Tip: Ruse Entry Burglaries

One method a burglar may use to enter your home is by using a ruse such as posing as utility workers or contractors. Often one of the individuals will attempt to draw the resident out of their home by telling them they need to show them a problem in the yard. While the resident is distracted and out of the house, the second individual enters the home and searches for valuables.

When someone knocks at your door, don't open it unless you know your visitor. If the person is a legitimate utility worker or contractor, they will have identification. Have the person slip their credentials through the mail slot or view them through the window or door viewer. If you have concerns or questions on the legitimacy of the person at your door or if the person becomes belligerent, call the Winnetka Police Department.

Security Survey

The Winnetka Police Department Crime Prevention Unit offers free security surveys. For more information or to schedule a survey please contact Sergeant Marc Hornstein at 847.716.3409.

Arbor Day - April 29, 2011

The Village invites residents to participate in a free tree raffle during the last week of April 2011. From April 25-29, tree information and raffle will be on display at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road.





Private Tree Planting Program

Once again, the Public Works Department is offering residents the opportunity to participate in the Village's private property tree planting program. Planting will be limited to accessible front and side yards only. Residents will be responsible for the cost of the trees, which includes planting and 1-year guarantee. Below are the tree species available to choose from:

Autumn Blaze Maple – Oval, upright medium growing. Better in full sun locations. Yellow to red fall color. Fifty feet tall when mature.

Hybrid Elm – Upright; fast growing. Best in full sun. Yellow color in fall similar to American Elm; resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. Mature size 50 feet or taller.

Red Oak – Rounded crown; grows to a height of 50 feet or more. Large leaves; will take partial shade. Red color in fall. Medium to fast growing.

Swamp White Oak – Rounded and open crown; grows to 50 feet in height. Medium growth rate. Will grow in moist sites. Leaves change to yellowish-brown color. Bark is interesting and exfoliating.

Japanese Tree Lilac – Upright ornamental tree that grows to 20-30 feet in height. Partial shade tolerant. Large 6 to 12 inch long creamy white flowers in early summer. Six foot clump multi-stem form.

Crabapple – Roundish form with pink or white spring flowers 1 to 1 ½ inch size. Small red fruit with good retention (no mess). Great ornamental with good disease resistance. Many forms to choose from.

Please remember that shade trees should not be planted within 10 feet of a driveway and need to be at least 25 feet from other trees and structures. Trees will be planted in April or May, or as specified. The Forester can assist in proper species selection and placement.

2011 Private Tree Planting Application

Address _____

Date _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Tree Species	Diameter Size	Price per Tree	Qty Ordered	Total Cost
Autumn Blaze Maple	2 inches	\$200.00		
Hybrid Elm	2 inches	\$175.00		
Red Oak	2 inches	\$175.00		
Swamp White Oak	2 inches	\$175.00		
Japanese Tree Lilac	6-ft clump	\$155.00		
Crabapple	2 inches	\$155.00		
			TOTAL DUE:	

Payment must accompany the application. Please call the Village Forester at 847-716-3535 if you have questions. Application deadline is April 19th. Checks made payable to the Village of Winnetka.

Deliver or mail application to: Village Forester, Winnetka Public Works Department,
1390 Willow Road, Winnetka, Illinois, 60093

By signing below....

- I grant the Village of Winnetka, its agents and its contractors, permission to enter upon my property at the above address for the purpose of locating and planting trees as described above.
- I agree to be responsible for follow-up care for the tree(s), and I agree to follow the Village's follow-up care guidelines (to be distributed by the Village with the trees). I understand that the trees are guaranteed for a one-year period.

The Village will provide residents with follow-up care instructions.

Signature _____



The Winnetka Report

Published by the Winnetka Village Council

Village of Winnetka
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

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Village Telephone Numbers

Police/Fire/Paramedics Emergency	911
Police (Non-Emergency)	847.501.6034
Fire (Non-Emergency)	847.501.6029
Electric or Water Outages	847.501.2531
Refuse and Recycling Collection	847.716.3568
Manager/Finance Offices	847.501.6000
Public Works Office	847.716.3568
Water & Electric Office	847.716.3558
Water & Electric Billing Services	847.446.9550
Community Development Department	847.716.3576

Winnetka Village Council

Village President	
Jessica Tucker	847.441.9561
Village Trustees	
Gene Greable	847.446.6356
Bill Johnson	847.784.9177
Linda Pedian	847.446.2291
King Poor	847.441.4011
Chris Rintz	847.441.5718
Jennifer Spinney	847.446.7945

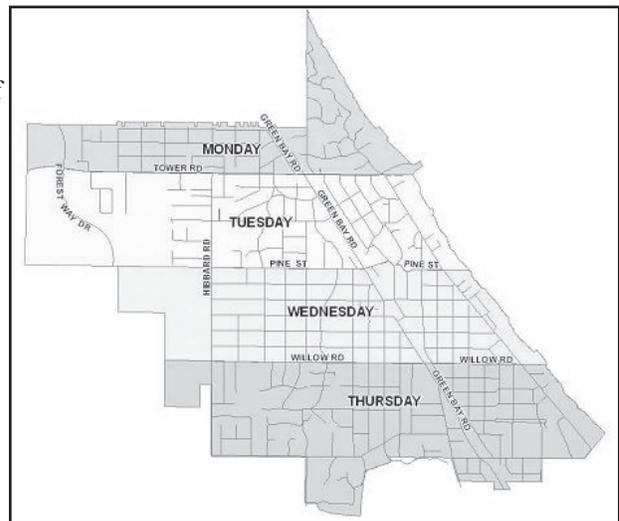
2011 Annual Spring Clean-Up Is May 2 - May 5

Winnetka's Annual Spring Clean-Up week for 2011 will be held the week of May 2 – May 5. Scheduled pickups are:

Monday, May 2: north of Tower
Tuesday, May 3: Tower to Pine
Wednesday, May 4: Pine to Willow
Thursday, May 5: south of Willow

The main purpose of this yearly spring rubbish pickup is to reduce fire hazards in the home. Public Works employees will remove from the parkway anything that two men can reasonably lift into a truck.

Yardwaste, dirt, stone, construction materials/debris, logs, and liquids (NO Paint) will not be picked up. The rubbish should be placed on residential parkways the evening before the scheduled pickup, or by 7:00 A.M. the day of the pickup, in order to minimize littering problems. There will be **no call-backs** if the material is not on the parkway by the scheduled time.



This is an excellent opportunity to clean out your attic, basement, and garage, especially of combustible materials thereby making a significant contribution to community fire safety. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at 716-3568 Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.