



Spring 2009

The Winnetka Report

Published by the Winnetka Village Council

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Village of Winnetka
510 Green Bay Road
www.villageofwinnetka.org

Elm Street Train Station Rehabilitation to Begin by Late Spring

The long-awaited rehabilitation of the Elm Street passenger station is expected to begin this spring, perhaps as early as mid-May. Winnetka's *Hubbard Woods* and *Indian Hill* Stations will be unaffected by the work at Elm Street.

The scope of work at the station includes the renovation of the station building interior at street-level. The boarding platforms will be reconstructed, and new semi-enclosed heated platform shelters will be installed. The elevators will be upgraded to improve reliability, and new protective vestibules will be built. Existing stairways will be reconfigured and reconstructed.

Passenger services will be maintained at the Elm Street station throughout the construction project. A temporary trailer will be set up to provide ticketing services during the remodeling of the station building.

While passenger boarding and ticketing services will be maintained, construction activities may pose an occasional, minor disruption to commuter routines, such as with the rerouting of access through temporary

stairway closures, or with temporary closure of the existing pedestrian bridge.

Elevator access to be impacted

Metra riders relying on elevators platforms will see temporary periods of disruption to elevator service at times during the project. Those riders may wish to evaluate nearby accessible stations at *Kenilworth*, *Wilmette* or *Glencoe* as an option during such periods.

Finally, it is anticipated that there will be diminished commuter parking available at the Elm Street station due to placement of a construction trailer adjacent to the station building. During this construction period, commuters are encouraged to evaluate whether the *Indian Hill* or *Hubbard Woods* stations accommodate their needs.

Metra schedule information is available at www.metrail.com

Periodic updates on the status of this project will be posted to the Village of Winnetka website, at www.villageofwinnetka.org.

THE 2009 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK IS APRIL 27 – APRIL 30

Winnetka's Annual Spring Clean-Up week will be held the week of April 27th. Scheduled pickups are:

Mon. 4/27: north of Tower

Tues. 4/28: Tower to Pine

Wed., 4/29: Pine to Willow

Thurs., 4/30: 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.

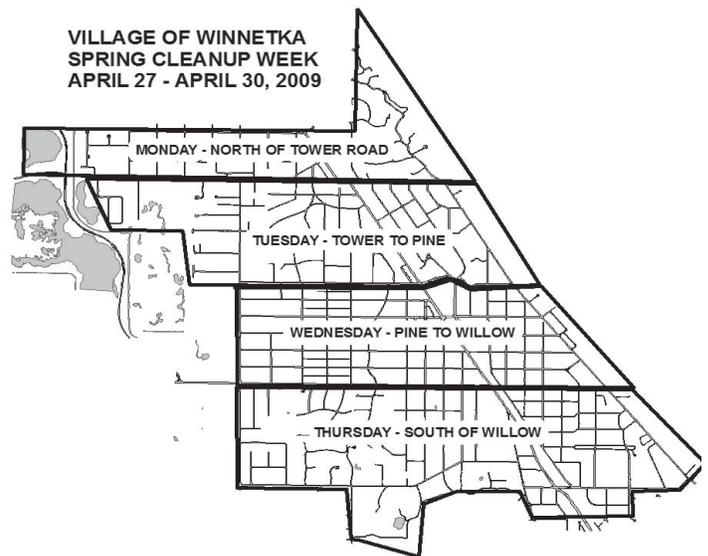
Yard waste, dirt, stone, construction materials & debris, logs, paint or paint thinner, stains, chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, herbicides, and other liquids will not be collected.

The rubbish should be placed on residential parkways the evening before the scheduled pickup, or no later than 7:00 AM 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 materials that can easily catch fire such as paper, cardboard, and carpeting, which makes 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 AM to 5:00 P.M.





Village Council Adopts FY 2009-2010 Budget

The Village Council recently approved the 2009-2010 budget, which projects \$58.8 million of income and \$50.2 million of cash operating expenses. Revenues left over after cash operating expenses, along with some cash reserves, are used to pay for capital improvements to the electric system, water system, roads, facilities, vehicles, and equipment.

The Village continues to control labor costs within our capabilities. Your Illinois legislators continue to approve public safety benefit enhancements, even in this difficult economic environment. The legislature creates these new benefits, but does not fund them, leaving local governments to pay them with local property tax dollars.

Major policy items in the new budget include:

- A 3.4% increase in property taxes (an \$86 increase for a homeowner with a \$19,760 property tax bill).
- A 1.9% electric cost increase for a typical electric customer. The Village's wholesale power cost is projected to increase about 5%. This will cost a typical homeowner that currently uses \$2,142 per year of electricity \$41 more.
- A 0% sewer rate increase (\$216 annual cost for a typical household).
- An 8% water rate increase (a \$619 annual cost for a typical household, up \$46). One-half of water rate increase is targeted for capital improvements at the water plant.
- No increase in the vehicle sticker cost (\$40) or dog license fee (\$10).
- There remains no separate charge for once per week residential refuse and recycling service.

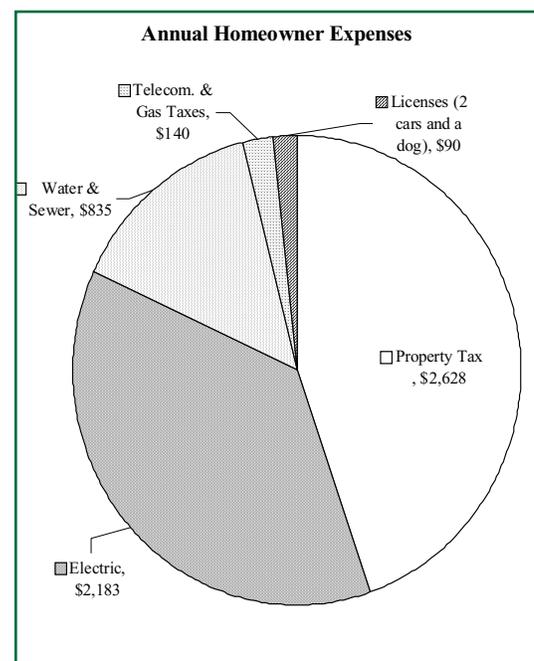
The impact of all these budget changes is that a typical resident will pay an extra \$173 (3.0%) over the current year, for a total of \$5,876 in taxes and fees paid to the Village in 2009/2010.

The graph summarizes annual homeowner expenses for Village services, and is based on a Cook County property tax bill of \$19,760 Cook (\$2,628 is the Village portion).

The new budget continues the policy of rebuilding the Village's decaying infrastructure and includes the following capital investments / improvements:

- Electrical system \$3.06 million.
- Streets and traffic signal improvements \$1.79 million.
- Facilities: \$1.84 million, including Village Hall roof repairs and design, Streetscape, Cenotaph, sidewalks, etc.
- Water plant and water main improvements: \$1.55 million.
- Drainage: \$200,000 in engineering for the Alles / Birch / Sunset drainage improvements.
- Vehicles (including an \$800,000 fire truck) and equipment.

The budget is available for review at Village Hall and the Winnetka Public Library.



The Village receives a \$2,628 portion of a property tax bill of \$19,760 paid to Cook County, which is used to pay for Village services.



VILLAGE GREEN WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

The Winnetka Village Green, bounded by Elm, Oak, Cedar, and Maple Streets, is the site of the Winnetka War Memorial, or Cenotaph. In 1926 the Winnetka Memorial Trustees, a group of Winnetka citizens, commissioned Winnetka architect Samuel Otis to design a War Memorial on the Maple Street side of the property. The Village Council approved the request on January 18, 1927, and the Cenotaph was completed in 1928.

Over the years, the monument has been occasionally tuck-pointed, the bronze plaques were treated to address oxidation and deterioration, there has been some maintenance to the flag pole, and a brick paver surround was installed in 1991. No other significant work has been performed since the initial construction, and the Cenotaph is currently in need of major repairs. Many of the granite blocks have shifted and need to be re-set, the mortar needs re-pointing, and the bronze commemorative plaques need restoration.

The Village has contracted with Sebastian Contracting Corporation, of Brookfield, IL, to complete the needed repairs. Construction is underway, and should be complete in June.

Questions can be directed to Steve Saunders, Director of Public Works, at 847-716-3534.



Winnetka Landmark Preservation Awards Nominations Due by May 1st

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**, **Rehab**, and **New Construction** for projects that have been completed during the last five years. For nomination forms and contest rules, visit the Community Development Department at Village Hall, or check the village website at www.villageofwinnetka.org.

Nominations must be received by Friday May 1st. 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.

Sprinkler Regulations Start May 15 -- In Effect Until September 15

During the warm weather months, water restrictions are imposed by the Village as required by the State of Illinois. Sprinkling is allowed only between the hours of 5 AM to 11 AM, and 5 PM to 11 PM.

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 sod 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.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR HOME VACANT -- PUT IT ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HOUSEWATCH PROGRAM

An unoccupied or vacant house that is not monitored can become the scene of all sorts of unexpected and unanticipated activities.



While the most obvious problems that come to mind are burglaries, thefts or vandalism, it is also common for teens to see a vacant house as an open invitation to party. These parties more often than not involve the underage use of alcohol, which is not only illegal, but extremely dangerous as well.

You can help the police prevent a potential tragedy. If you are going away on vacation, if your house is being sold and is vacant, or if there will be an extended absence from home for other reasons, call the Winnetka Police Department at 847-501-6034 and request that your home be placed on Housewatch.

If possible, leave a key with a trusted neighbor, friend or relative and provide the contact information to the Police Department for emergency purposes.



Summer Street Construction Planned

The Village will be undertaking a number of construction projects during 2009, including:

<u>Street</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Work</u>
Chestnut Street	Hill Road	Willow Road	Reconstruction
Alles Road	Chestnut Street	Birch Street	Reconstruction
Fairview Avenue	Elder Lane	Ash Street	Reconstruction
Higginson Lane	Winnetka Avenue	Ash Street	Rehabilitation
Scott Avenue	Vernon Avenue	UPRR Bridge	Rehabilitation
Gordon Terrace	Tower Road	Chatfield Road	Rehabilitation
Ridge Avenue	Willow Road	Cherry Street	Rehabilitation
Asbury Avenue	Vernon Avenue	Gordon Terrace	Rehabilitation
Pine Street	Green Bay Road	Birch Street	Rehabilitation
Tower Road	Hibbard Road	Sheridan Road	Rehabilitation

Reconstruction - Replacement or new installation of concrete curbs, pavement excavation and replacement where necessary, asphalt surfacing, and restoration.

Rehabilitation – Milling the existing surface, repairing curbs where needed, and resurfacing.

Residents of streets affected by this work will receive more detailed information, including scheduling, once the contracts have been awarded. Questions can be directed to the Public Works Department at 716-3568.

March through June is Tornado Season

Although tornadoes are a relatively rare weather phenomenon weather conditions in the Midwest between March and June may cause these deadly storms to form. By learning a few simple facts and taking proper preventative measures, you can keep disaster from catching you unprepared.

“**Tornado Watch**” means that conditions are right for a tornado. Plan your actions and stay alert. Always stay tuned to a radio (battery operated) or television for further developments during the “**Watch**” period.

“**Tornado Warning**” means a tornado has been sighted or detected on radar. Take shelter, as tornadoes strike fast, often leaving only minutes to act. When Village staff become aware that the National Weather Service has issued a “**Tornado Warning**” for our area, the audible “Outdoor Warning Siren System” (OWSS) will be activated. This system uses three emergency sirens, one located east of the Public Safety Building at 428 Green Bay Road, one at the northeast corner of Tower and Green Bay Roads and the third at the Winnetka Golf course on Hibbard



Road. The emergency sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

If there is a “**Tornado Warning**” do not call the Winnetka Fire or Police Departments. Instead, take cover in your predetermined shelter (the basement or the lowest level of the building). Stay there until the danger has passed. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or small inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Stay away from corners because they attract debris. Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table and hold on to it. Use cushions or pillows when available to protect head and neck. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself as small a “target” as possible by squatting low to the ground and placing your hands on your knees with your head between them.

After the OWSS has stopped, monitor the radio and local television channels for emergency information or instructions. If a touchdown has occurred, check for injured victims. Do not attempt to move severely injured victims unless absolutely necessary. Call 911 and wait for emergency medical assistance to arrive.

For further information, call the Winnetka Fire Department at 501-6029.



OUTGOING VILLAGE TRUSTEE IS CHAMBER'S MAN OF THE YEAR

On April 29th at 11:30 a.m., join the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce at its 33rd annual luncheon honoring community leaders and employees in Winnetka. This year's Man of The Year is Ken Behles, who has served as a Village Trustee for the last four years, where he served on the Business Community Development Committee, chaired the Streetscape Committee, and served as the Village liaison to the MLK Memorial and the Cenotaph restoration project. In addition, he worked tirelessly to promote plans for renovation of the Elm Street train station, re-designed the *Winnetka Report*, and represented the Village on the Willow Road Improvement Committee.



Ken was also instrumental in helping to move and restore the Log House and renovate the Historical Society's current museum at 411 Linden, and he not only served on the Historical Society's Board, but donated his time as their architect for many years.

Other honorees at this year's luncheon include:

Business Leader - *Kevin Salus*; Woman of the Year - *Judy Archambault*; Educator - *Susan Sullivan*; Public Safety - *Police Detective Miroslaw Kiec*; Winnetka/Northfield Library District Employee - *Judy Wright*

Each attendee to the recognition luncheon will receive a personalized gift bag and be treated to a fashion show moderated by Heather Scoby from Neapolitan, featuring spring fashions from Crème de la Crème, Davis Miller, the Winnetka Thrift Shop, and more.

Tickets to the Luncheon are \$30 each and \$275 for a table of ten. For reservations, contact the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce at 446-4451, or email wcc@winnetkachamber.com. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Unlock the Secret of "Tiny Treasures" on the Chamber's Spring Art Walk - May 11-30

The 4th annual Winnetka Chamber of Commerce Spring Art Walk features special miniature canvas art works created by the North Shore Art League's students, faculty, board members, and professionals, ranging in age from 4 to 40!

Look for locations in Winnetka's business districts that have a yellow key hanging in the door. There you will find a treasure map and the art treasures that provide clues to solving the puzzle.

Drop your "map" in any of the entry boxes found in all "key" Winnetka stores, banks, offices, and restaurants.

Every contestant who enters will receive a small prize – and be eligible to enter the Grand Prize drawing, too!

For more information, contact the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce at 446-4451 or email wcc@winnetkachamber.com.



Document Destruction Event Village Yards, 1590 Willow Rd. Saturday, May 16 9 – 11 AM

On Saturday, May 16th the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), will host a document destruction event for residentially-generated paper. **No materials from businesses, schools or institutions will be accepted.**

Have your ID ready to show to SWANCC staff, who will be checking each vehicle to ensure only member participation. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove binders, and place the paper in a bag or box for easy handling.

Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

The Winnetka Fire Department will be flow-testing fire hydrants during the months of May through September. Flow testing will be conducted Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Flow testing of fire hydrants aids the Winnetka Fire and Water departments in determining the water system capacities, and is used for pre-planning emergencies. Fire hydrants are also checked for visibility and accessibility to fire personnel in the event of a fire.

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 sink for approximately twenty 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 716-3558.



Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers are prohibited in Winnetka from June 1 to September 30



Beneficial Landscaping is a Beautiful Way to Care for your Garden and Protect the Environment

Traditional landscaping and its maintenance practices often have harmful impacts. Clearing native woodlands and natural habitats for urban/suburban growth and planting with vast lawns places a heavy toll on the environment, because it requires extensive use of mechanical equipment, consumption of water and fossil fuels, frequent application of fertilizers and pesticides, and the generation of significant quantities of solid waste.

As a result, surface and ground waters are being polluted; destructive flooding is more commonplace, our tranquility and air quality are compromised by noisy, polluting landscape equipment; and landfills are being consumed by yard waste.

A lawn has less than 10% of the water absorption capacity of a natural woodland – a reason for suburban flooding.

Beneficial landscaping, sometimes

referred to as natural or native landscaping, contains a number of principles that revolve around balancing our needs and sense of beauty with those of nature, because they are interrelated. Some of these principles are:

Protect existing natural areas to the greatest extent possible.

Select regionally native plants to form the backbone of the landscape. Native plants have evolved to local conditions over millions of years and form an integral part in the life cycles of the local wildlife; they also give an area its unique sense of place.

Reduce use of turf. Instead, install woodland, meadow or other natural plantings. Where lawns are needed (such as play areas), follow best management practices available from your county's cooperative extension agent to reduce harmful impacts, and use composting mowers.

Reduce use of pesticides, by practicing integrated pest management. Cooperative extension agents can help with natural alternatives to pesticides.

Practice soil and water conservation. Stabilize slopes with natural plantings, mulch around plants, and install drought-tolerant species. Collect rain water to water plants.



A rain garden is a beautiful way to help to control flooding

For Additional Information, visit the Cook County Extension's website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/cook/urbanhort.html>.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Winnetka recently completed an inspection of public Ash trees and found increasing evidence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. EAB causes



decline and eventual death by attacking the cambium layer underneath the bark of Ash trees.

EAB evidence includes woodpecker damage, canopy dieback, basal and trunk suckering and feeding galleries underneath bark areas. The Village recommends careful inspection of private Ash trees.

The Village is removing public Ash trees that have evidence of EAB. Treatment options are available but do not guarantee control. Call the Village Forester at 716-3535 with questions.

Celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24th

The Village is helping residents celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, with free tree seedlings, which will be available in the lobby at Village Hall on Arbor Day, along with tree care literature which will be available in the lobby all week.

Residents are invited to register for a free tree raffle during Arbor Day Week at the Public Works Department, 1390 Willow Road or at the Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road.



Spring Tree Planting Request Deadline is May 8th

The Village is currently taking requests for the Spring Parkway and Private Tree-Planting Program. Various tree species are available.

The deadline for planting requests is May 8, 2009. The 2 ½" trunk diameter parkway trees are planted at no cost to residents.

Larger diameter sizes are available but residents are responsible for the cost difference. For more information call the Village Forester at 716-3535.





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. Seven tree species will be available to choose from including:

Autumn Blaze Maple – Oval, upright fast growing. Best in full sun locations. Orange to red color in fall. 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 flowers 1"-1/2" size. Good fruit (no mess) of 1/4" diameter red in color. Many forms to choose from.

Corneliancherry Dogwood - Oval, upright growing form to 20 feet tall. Late March yellow spring flowers 1/4" in size. Some reddish leaf fall color.

Please remember that shade trees should not be planted within 10 feet of a driveway and 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.

2009 Private Tree Planting Application

Address _____

Date _____

Name _____

Phone _____

<u>Tree Species</u>	<u>Diameter Size</u>	<u>Price Per Tree</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Autumn Blaze Maple	2 inches	\$185.00		
Hybrid Elm	2 Inches	\$185.00		
Red Oak	2 Inches	\$200.00		
Swamp White Oak	2 Inches	\$220.00		
Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	6' clump	\$155.00		
Japanese Tree Lilac	6' Clump	\$155.00		
Crabapple	2 inches or clump	\$155.00		
			Total Due:	

Payment must accompany the application. Please call the Village Forester at 847-716-3535 if you have questions. Application deadline May 8, 2009. 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** _____



Caucus Spring Town Meeting
Wednesday, -May 20 – 7:30 PM
Village Hall Council Chambers
510 Green Bay Road

At the Caucus Spring Town Meeting on May 20th retiring Village President Ed Woodbury will give an address looking back on his tenure at the helm of the Village Council, and President-elect Jessica Tucker will articulate her vision for the future of Winnetka.

The meeting will also feature platform status reports from representatives of the Village, School, Library and Park District Boards.

To learn more about the Caucus, your current leaders, and how to volunteer to serve, please visit www.winnetkacaucus.org.

Refuse Collection Schedule
Memorial Day Holiday
Week of May 25 - 29

Monday refuse collection will be Tuesday

Tuesday refuse collection will be Wednesday

NO CHANGES to the Thursday & Friday refuse collection schedule

Recycling collection will be on THURSDAY



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 510 Green Bay Road
 Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Standard Presort
 ECRWSS
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 7
 60093

Postal Customer
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

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

<i>Village President</i>	
Edmund C. Woodbury	847.501.3525
<i>Village Trustees</i>	
Kenneth L. Behles	847.441.6676
Sandra A. Berger	847.441.9248
Gene Greable	847.446.6356
Bill Johnson	847.784.9177
King Poor	847.441.4011
Chris Rintz	847.441.5718