



Fall 2006

The Winnetka Report

Published by the Winnetka Village Council

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

Home Rule Property Tax Levy LESS Than Tax Caps

In December 2005, the Winnetka Village Council authorized its first tax levy under the Village's new home rule authority, and the increase in the levy was less than the amount authorized by tax caps!

Tax cap legislation mandates that non-home rule communities can increase their property tax levy by the rate of inflation plus any gains in assessed valuation from new development.

Tax caps would have allowed the Village to increase its tax levy by 5.1% , due to an inflation rate of 3.3% and a 1.8% increase in assessed value from new development.

However, the Winnetka Village Council authorized a levy increase of 4.5%, which is about 12% less than the 5.1% increase authorized by tax caps.

The impact of this year's Village levy on typical Winnetkans who have not made any major changes to their homes during the last year is an increase of 2.7% (4.5% - 1.8%) in the amount of property taxes paid to the Village.

The following table summarizes Village property tax levies for the last four years. The second column shows the Village's property tax increase for a typical resident who made no improvements to their home; the third column is the increase in the consumer price index; the fourth column is the property tax revenue generated by new development; the fifth column is the total tax increase as authorized by tax caps, and the last one is the total property tax revenue increase for the Village.

Tax Levy Year	Resident Increase	CPI Increase	New Development	Tax Caps Authorized (CPI + New)	Village Levy
2002	1.6%	1.6%	1/3%	2.9%	2.9%
2003	2.4%	2.4%	1.2%	3.6%	3.6%
2004	2.5%	2.5%	2.0%	4.5%	4.5%
2005	2.7%	3.3%	1.8%	5.1%	4.5%
4-Yr. Avg.	2.3%	2.5%	1.6%	4.0%	3.9%

VILLAGE CONSIDERS AMENDING TREE PRESERVATION CODE PUBLIC HEARING: SEPT. 5 - 7:30 PM

In a continuing effort to ensure that the Village's beautiful urban forest is maintained, protected, and enhanced for future generations, the Village Forestry Commission has recommended several modifications to the Village's Tree Preservation Code.

The Forestry Commission is made up of Village residents appointed by the Village Council to advise the Council on a wide variety of Forestry matters.

Duties that fall under the Forestry Commission's jurisdiction include recommending Code revisions and hearing appeals in cases where Village staff denies permission to remove trees. The Forestry Commission is recommending the following Code changes:

Heritage Trees

The Forestry Commission recommends



that healthy trees of certain desirable species (Oak, Elm, Maple, Hickory, etc.) with a diameter of 24" or greater be designated as Heritage Trees.

Any person seeking permission to remove a Heritage Tree would be required to appear before the Forestry Commission

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PUBLIC HEARING ON CELL PHONE BAN SEPT. 19 - 7:30 PM

Based on the results of its annual Village questionnaire, the Winnetka Caucus adopted a platform in January 2006 recommending that the Village enact its own regulations to limit cell phone use while driving.

Thus, the Winnetka Village Council will consider an ordinance similar to the one enacted by the City of Chicago in 2005 that would prohibit the use of handheld cell phones while driving.

Before considering such an ordinance, the Winnetka Village Council will hold a Public Hearing on **September 19, 2006, at 7:30 PM in the Village Council Chambers, 510 Green**

Bay Road. You are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting and share your thoughts on this important public policy question.





Tree Preservation Code

Continued from page 1...

to explain and justify the purpose for which permission to remove the tree is being sought. If permission is granted, the Forestry Commission recommends



that double the standard number of required replacement trees be planted on the site, and that penalties and fines for violations of the Heritage Tree provisions

of the Village's Tree Preservation Ordinance be significantly increased, to \$250 per diameter inch of the tree.

Notification to Neighbors

The Forestry Commission recommends that the Village Code be amended to require that prior to any construction project for additions or new buildings, the permit applicant notify all adjacent property owners with trees greater than 8" diameter that are within 15 feet of the lot line to inform them of the impending project and of the tree protection plan associated with the work.

Post-Construction Tree Protection

The Forestry Commission recommends that certain post-construction tree protection measures be taken, such as trimming, fertilization, root aeration, and other steps, to maximize the long-term survivability of Protected Trees on the construction site.

The Village Council will consider these amendments at a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers at Village Hall. All residents are encouraged to participate in the discussion of these recommendations.

Use Caution When Driving Near Schools

As children return to school, watch out for youngsters, especially those walking or biking to school. Motorists have a responsibility to operate their vehicles in a safe and prudent manner, and to obey school speed zones.

Be prepared to stop at the direction of crossing guards, and watch for school buses. When a school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils and its "stop signal arm" is extended, **the law requires that motorists traveling in both directions stop and wait.**



School speed zones and stop sign violations are strictly enforced by the Winnetka Police.

Cook County Radon Awareness Program

The Surgeon General warns that prolonged exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium in rocks and soil breaks down.

Radon can be found practically everywhere, and although colorless and odorless, the gas can cause lung cell damage.

To find out the radon level in your home, buy a test kit at a hardware store. Call the Cook County Radon Awareness hotline at 708-865-6177 for information.

Autumn Art Walk

The Winnetka Chamber of Commerce is harvesting talented artists to produce an art piece reflecting their impressions of autumn.

Since this year's theme is "branching out," artists will incorporate tree branches in their works, which will range from sculptures, floral displays and other home accessory items to abstract art forms.

During the entire month of October these art creations will be on display in each of the business districts. When you visit stores, banks, restaurants in Winnetka, you'll have an opportunity to experience a unique autumn interpretation, and to bid on owning it!

Enhance your enjoyment of the season and learn about the wide variety of offerings from our local businesses. Yellow keys in the windows make it easy to find the art each week:

East Elm:	10/1 - 10/7
Hubbard Woods:	10/9 - 10/14
West Elm:	10/16 - 10/21
Indian Hill:	10/23 - 10/28

"Autumn Art Walk" will culminate with open house festivities and Halloween treats on October 31st!





FIRE PREVENTION WEEK October 8 -14

The Winnetka Fire Department is reminding residents that Fire Prevention Week starts October 8.

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Campaign is "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat."

During this year's campaign, safety advocates and firefighters are raising awareness of the dangers of kitchen fires, most of which result from unattended cooking.

According to National Fire Protection Association research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing for this year's safety campaign:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you to turn off the heat.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Carbon Monoxide Detector Act Takes Effect January 1, 2007

The State of Illinois will soon require every house, apartment, or condominium to be equipped with at least one approved carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes.

The owner of a housing unit is responsible for supplying and installing

all required CO alarms. Once installed, the tenant is responsible for testing and providing general maintenance for alarms located in their dwelling unit and to notify the owner or authorized agent in writing of any deficiencies that they cannot correct.

If you have any questions regarding the Carbon Monoxide Act, call the Winnetka Fire Department at 501-6029.

Fire Department Open House Saturday, October 14 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Winnetka Fire Department invites all Winnetka and Kenilworth residents to attend its Fire Prevention Week 2006 Open House. Visitors



will have an opportunity to learn about this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Prevent Cooking Fires:

Watch What you Heat!"

Members of the Winnetka Fire Department will be on hand to display fire apparatus and equipment, answer questions, and to help youngsters make fire safety pin-on buttons.



Change Your Clock Change Your Battery

When you change your clock back to standard time on October 29, remember to change the batteries on your smoke detector at the same time.

A National Fire Protection Association study released last August estimated that 3,675 people died in fires in 2005. 82% of these fatalities occurred in home fires.

More than half of all fatal home fires happen at night. The smell of smoke may not wake a sleeping person because the poisonous gases and smoke produced by a fire can numb the senses and put one into a deeper sleep.

Taking your smoke detector for granted can be a deadly mistake. Fire experts see increasing evidence that smoke detectors more than ten years old may start to lose their effectiveness. If your smoke detectors are more than ten years old, play it safe and replace them.

Don't forget to test your smoke detectors every month. Smoke detectors cut the risk of death in a home fire nearly in half.

Protect your loved ones by making certain that you have smoke alarms on every floor of your home and that they are working properly.



Emerald Ash Borer Found



Adult Emerald Ash Borer
Emeraldashborer.info

On July 13, Illinois Department of Agriculture officials confirmed an infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in an area of west-central Wilmette. One week later, officials confirmed that the EAB has also infested Ash trees in northwest Evanston, near its border with Wilmette.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, the lead agency in dealing with these infestations, is currently performing Ash tree surveys of Wilmette, Evanston, and surrounding municipalities, including Winnetka, to try to determine how far the EAB infestation has spread.

Once the limits of the infestation are known, a control and mitigation strategy can be implemented.

As of this writing, EAB has not been found in Winnetka, and there is no requirement to remove Ash trees.

What Is Emerald Ash Borer?

EAB is a non-native beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability

to transport water and nutrients and ultimately killing the tree.

The EAB probably arrived in the United States from its native Asia on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes. EAB is also established in southwest Ontario, and was found in Ohio in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, and northern Illinois in 2006.

Since its discovery, EAB has killed more than **20 million** ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and southern Ontario. Most of the devastation is in southeastern Michigan.

How Can I Tell if an Ash is Infested?

Usually EAB infestations go undetected until the trees begin to show symptoms of infestation. It may take at least one year before symptoms first appear. The following symptoms indicate the possible presence of emerald ash borer:



D-shaped exit hole
Emeraldashborer.info



Crown dieback in infested Ash
Emeralsashborer.info

- Jagged holes produced by woodpeckers working to extract larvae from the tree
- D-shaped exit holes (approximately 1/8 inch in diameter) on the branches and trunk
- Vertically split or cracked bark above the larval feeding galleries
- Wilting and yellowing foliage throughout the tree or limited to certain branches
- Canopy thinning and branch dieback occurring initially in the upper third of the tree
- A large number of shoots that arise below the dead portions of the tree, particularly at the tree base
- Distinct serpentine shaped galleries packed with excrement under bark

What Should You Do About EAB?

Homeowners should take the following steps to combat the spread of EAB:

- Do not transport firewood. Campers



in Wilmette and Evanston



Serpentine larval tracks under bark
Emeraldashborer.info

or vacationers should purchase firewood from a source local to their destination, and should not bring firewood home from summer homes or vacations. Firewood transport is the primary way EAB has spread from state to state.

- Familiarize yourself with Ash trees, the appearance of the EAB, and the signs of an infestation. Excellent information is available on the Village's website, www.villageofwinnetka.org or on the website of the Morton Arboretum, <http://www.mortonarb.org/planinfo/plantclinic/EAB.htm>.
- If you believe that you have spotted a borer, or signs of an infestation, please contact the Village Forester at 847-716-3535 or 847-716-3568.

This is a very serious potential problem in Illinois. This invasive pest is so aggressive that virtually all native ash trees are at risk, and trees may die within two to four years after they become infested. If EAB is not contained, the devastation to our ash trees may be similar

to that of our American elms, which were decimated by Dutch Elm Disease.

The potential impact from EAB in Illinois is significant. Ash trees account for six percent of forests state-wide and 20 percent of urban forests in communities in the northeastern part of the state, or approximately 130 million ash trees.

Ash Tree Identification

Every tree species has a unique combination of defining characteristics. Variations in leaf size, shape, and arrangement can assist in identification. Use the photo below to help in determining if your tree is an ash.

Ash leaves are arranged oppositely,



meaning leaves and branches are located across from each other. The leaves of many other species are arranged alternately.

EAB adult beetles emerge from infested trees beginning

in mid-May, peaking in late June, and continue emerging until late July. Beetles feed on ash foliage causing irregularly shaped patches along leaf margins and minor feeding damage. Females lay approximately 75 eggs on the bark of branches and trunks from late-May through July with hatch occurring in about one week. Larvae tunnel into the cambium area between the inner bark and outer ring of wood, feed on phloem and outer sapwood, and produce galleries (tunnels) that disrupt the flow of water and nutrients within the tree. Feeding is completed in autumn and larvae overwinter in shallow



EAB shown on a penny
Mortonarb.org

chambers excavated in outer sapwood or bark of thick-barked trees. Pupation begins in late April.

For further information, including a link to a video about EAB, please visit www.villageofwinnetka.org or contact the Village Forester at 847-716-3535.



Basal shoot growth in infected tree
Emeraldashborer.info



VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post Office Committee Meeting September 11th

Since the Post Office Committee's regularly scheduled meeting night falls on Labor Day, its September meeting will be held on Monday, September 11th at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall in the Council Chambers. Thereafter, the Committee will resume its regular meeting schedule of the first Monday of each month.



GET YOUR DOCUMENTS SHREDDED SEPTEMBER 23

Village Yards – 1390 Willow Road
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is providing a free one-day document destruction event for residentially-generated paper. Paper clips and staples need not be removed, but please remove binders.

This event will be open to all residents of SWANCC communities, which includes Winnetka. SWANCC Staff will be checking each vehicle, so bring an ID with you.

Workers will be on hand to help take paper out of vehicles and place it in totes. No materials from businesses, schools or institutions will be accepted.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD – COMPLETE YOUR CAUCUS SURVEY



All Winnetka households should soon be receiving their 2006 Caucus survey. Some issues that residents can comment on this year are:

- Should sprinkler systems be required in new and renovated Winnetka residences?
- Should dogs be on leashes whenever they are on public property?
- Should the Park District build any recreational facilities on unused open space southwest of the Ice Arena?
- What, if anything, should be done with the deteriorating and underused Maple Street beach house?
- Why are parents engaging tutors for their children and what should be done to address the need for more space at Greeley and Washburne Schools?

Residents will also be asked to nominate themselves or fellow residents for positions on the Village Council and School, Park, and Library Boards. The Caucus Council will begin interviews in October.

If you do not receive your survey by September 15, please contact Caucus Council co-chairs Ed Harney (446-7294) or Joni Johnson (446-0141).



Village of Winnetka

"... a village in a natural setting
committed to its tradition of
residential neighborhoods, citizen
involvement, local shops and
educational excellence..."
A 2020 Vision for Winnetka



View Council Meetings on the Web

Beginning in mid-September, residents with high-speed internet connections can watch Winnetka Council meetings in streaming video at the Village of Winnetka web site:

www.villageofwinnetka.org

Each month's calendar of meetings is also available on the Village web site by clicking on the "Quick Links" tab.



The elected officials and appointed committee members who donate their time and energy to making Winnetka a great place to live and work deserve a special

“THANK YOU!”

By serving on Village boards, commissions and committees, your fellow Winnetkans help to ensure that our community’s charm and beauty are preserved. We owe them a debt of

gratitude for their willingness to give so generously of their time and energy. Below is a list of Winnetka residents who volunteer to serve the Village.

Winnetka Boards & Committees:

Village President

Edmund C. Woodbury

Board of Trustees

David Abell
Sandy Berger
Jessica Tucker
Tom Eilers
Herb Ritchell
Ken Behles

Design Review Board

John McLinden, Chair
Gary Frank
Scott Freres
Thomas Kerwin
Lynn Osmond
Janet Shen
John Weber

Building Review Committee

Keith Groebe, Chair
Jeff Cohen
Carter Howard
George Pappas

Forestry Commission

Mary Hill, Chair
Bernard Hammer
Susie Shabica
Katie Stevens
Anne Wilder
Linda Pedian, Plan Comm. Rep.
John Weber, Design Review Bd. Rep.

Landmark Preservation Commission

Posey Fisher, Chair
John Cook
Louise Holland
Charles Hoffman
Stacy Tabachnik
Julie Windsor

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark Crane, Chair
Joe Adams
Jane Dowding
Gene Greable
Tom Hermanson
Molly Lien
Suzanne Timble

Plan Commission

Maureen Mitchel, Chair
Richard Chesley
William Johnson
Mark Kurensky
Linda Pedian
Midge Powell
Scott Freres, Design Review Bd. Rep.
Molly Lien, ZBA Rep.
John Jansson, Library Bd. Rep.
Mary Garrison, Pk. District Rep.
Becky Hurley, School Bd. Rep.
Jessica Tucker, Village Council Rep.

Fire Pension Board

Mark Fuller, President
Richard Taft

Police Pension Board

Richard Glenn, President
Malcolm Caskey
John O’Malley

Bd. of Fire & Police Commissioners

Susan Connor, Chair
Bill Meurer
Stephen Presser

Business Community Development Commission

Bill Shiel, Chair
Bob Horne
Steve Kardel
Robert Ruben
Betty Skalski
Peggy Swartchild
William Johnson, Plan Comm. Rep.
Cicely Michalak, Ch. of Comm. Rep.
Tom Eilers, Village Council Rep.

Ad Hoc Post Office Committee

Julian D’Esposito, Jr., Chair
Paul Dunn
Nan Greenough
Pete Henderson
Louise Holland
Maureen Mitchel
Christopher Rintz
Robert Ruben



Annual Leaf Collection Program -- October 16 Thru November 27

LAST day to place leaves on the parkway for pickup is 11/27

Winnetka's annual leaf collection program begins on October 16 and continues through November 27. Leaves must be on the parkway by 7 a.m.

There will be no callbacks if leaves are not on the parkway when collection crews pass through.

Collections begin on Scott Avenue west of Green Bay Road and continue south in a counterclockwise direction, ending at Whitebridge Hill Road east of Green Bay Road.

After November 27, leaves must be bagged in Village yard waste bags or bags with Village stickers attached to them in order to be picked. Yard waste bags can be purchased at the Cashier's Counter at Village Hall for \$2 each. Stickers for non-Village bags can also

be purchased at the Cashier's Counter at the same price.

Please rake leaves back one foot from the curb. Leaf piles on the street are a **hazard** not only to small children, who could be tempted to play in them and may not be seen by motorists, but cars that park on them can catch fire due to heat from exhaust pipes; and vehicles driving over them may lose traction due to the slippery condition that leaves create.

Drivers should be alert to these concerns during the autumn leaf collection period.

In addition, leaves raked back one foot onto the parkway will not clog sewer drains or reduce the width of traffic lanes.

The Public Works Department asks that you --

Avoid putting branches, plants or material other than leaves in the piles;

Avoid piling leaves around boulders, mailbox posts, trees, and other obstacles;

Avoid parking on top of or adjacent to piles of leaves. Vehicles can ignite dry leaves.

Call the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.



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Winnetka, Illinois 60093

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