



Winter 2007

# The Winnetka Report

Published by the Winnetka Village Council

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

## TWO MORE MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF POST OFFICE SITE

The Winnetka Village Council has scheduled the following two meetings to continue its discussion and analysis of the future of the Post Office site:

**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

Both meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road. These meetings are open to the public and all interested Winnetkans are invited to attend.

The Council will review the Report from the Post Office Committee, public comments that were gathered at the September and November Council meetings, and staff reports.

All agenda materials for these meetings can be downloaded from the Village's web site, [www.villageofwinnetkal.org](http://www.villageofwinnetkal.org), on the Friday afternoon before the scheduled meeting.



*Plan on attending one of two upcoming meetings dealing with the Post Office site.*

## VILLAGE HOLDS 2007 TAX LEVY BELOW TAX CAPS

Last December, 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 may increase their property tax levy by the rate of inflation plus any gains in assessed valuation from new development.

In 2006, the Village could have increased its tax levy a total of 5.3% under tax caps. However, the Winnetka Village Council wanted to keep property taxes below the tax cap limit and authorized a total levy increase of 4.25%, which is about 20% less than the 5.3% increase allowed 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 a 2.35% increase in property tax revenue paid to the Village (the 4.25% total property tax increase less the 1.90% paid by new development).

Since the Village has become Home Rule, it has kept its property tax increase well below the tax cap limit for non-home rule municipalities, as the following table illustrates.

The second column shows the increase in the consumer price index; the third column is the Village's property tax increase for a typical resident who made no improvements to his/her home; 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	CPI Increase	Resident Increase	New Development	Tax Cap Limit	Total
2002	1.60%	1.60%	1.30%	2.90%	2.90%
2003	2.40%	2.40%	1.20%	3.60%	3.60%
2004	2.50%	2.50%	2.00%	4.50%	4.50%
2005	3.30%	2.70%	1.80%	5.10%	4.50%
2006	3.40%	2.35%	1.90%	5.30%	4.25%
Average	2.64%	2.31%	1.64%	4.28%	3.95%



## Political Signs Restricted to Residents' Own Property

Now that campaign season is almost upon us, the Village would like to put out a reminder about political signs in the Village.

Winnetka's sign ordinance allows individuals to display



political campaign signs on their own property, without any sign permit required, staying within the following parameters:

No individual sign may exceed eight square feet in area.

All signs should be located behind public sidewalk; they should not be located on public property between the sidewalk and curb.

Signs may not be placed on other public property such as parks, schools or other institutions.

Signs shall be removed within seven (7) days following the election.

Signs which are inadvertently displayed by residents between the curb and sidewalk may be relocated by Village staff to a conforming location behind the sidewalk (we do NOT confiscate such signs inadvertently displayed by residents on the parkway).

## Polling Places Open From 6 AM to 7 PM on February 5th

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on February 5, 2008.

Although the last day to register to vote is January 8, A new program called *grace-period registration and voting* extends the regular registration deadline by 14 days, allowing voters to register to vote until two weeks before an election. There are new guidelines that determine when and where you can vote if you sign up during the grace period.

There is only one way and one place to register during the 14-day grace period. Voters must register in person at the Cook County Clerk's downtown Chicago office at 69 W. Washington St., Room 500. Be prepared to show two pieces of identification.

Grace-period registrants must vote absentee, either in person at the Clerk's downtown office immediately after signing up to vote; or they can request an absentee ballot by mail that can be completed at home and return to the Clerk's office before Election Day.

Grace-period registrants are not allowed to vote at the polls on Election Day or vote at any Early Voting site



### Early Voting

Illinois voters can cast their ballots before Election Day at designated locations

without having to provide a reason or excuse.

Casting your ballot before Election Day makes voting more convenient, especially for the elderly and voters with busy schedules.

### Dates and Hours

Early voting will take place Monday, January 14, through Thursday, January 31, from 8:30 AM to 5 PM, weekdays, and 9 AM to noon on Saturdays.

Early voting will also be held from 9 AM to noon on Sundays at the Skokie Courthouse, 5600 Old Orchard, Rm. 149, and at the Cook County Clerk's office, 69 W. Washington St., Chicago

For information on early voting locations, call Village Hall at 716-3541, or visit the Cook County Clerk's website at: [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com)

## Village Licenses and Commuter Parking Permits Expire December 31

Village licenses and commuter parking permits for 2008 are on sale at the Cashier's counter at Village Hall. The six-month "C" parking permit rate is \$100 for residents and \$220 for non-residents. Village Hall is open from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 8:30 AM - Noon.

Vehicles are required to have the Village license affixed to the lower right-hand corner (passenger's side) of the windshield, where it is easily read from the outside.

All dogs over the age of six months are required to be licensed, with a current Village license attached to their collars or harnesses. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be provided to the Cashier's office along with the license application before a dog license can be issued. The actual certificate must be presented, after which it will be returned.

Dog license fees are \$10 for males and spayed females and \$15 for unsponsored females. Documentation that the dog has been spayed is required.



## Support Winnetka's Lighting Fund

### Purchase a commemorative ornament or plate



### Hubbard Woods Gazebo Featured on Commemorative Plate

The Winnetka Chamber of Commerce proudly presents its addition to the Village Commemorative Plate collection. The 2007 plate, like the 2005 Moffat Mall scene and the 2006 Schmidt-Burnham Log House scene, was illustrated by local artist Kaylyn Shelby. The 6" lead-free porcelain plate comes boxed and is available for a donation of \$25 to the Village of Winnetka Lighting Fund.

This plate is available at the following Winnetka locations: All She Wrote, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, Crème de la Crème, Designs Of The Interior (DOTI), Harris Bank (both on Elm Street and in Hubbard Woods), J. McLaughlin, Marian Michael, Material Possessions, North Shore Art League, Phototronics, S'Agaro, Song O'Sixpence, Sunday Afternoon Gallery, T. J. Cullen Jewelry, The Village Toy Shop, and Village of Winnetka and Winnetka Travel.

### Preview of 2008 New Trier High School commemorative plate

In addition, the Winnetka Chamber is very excited to announce the preview of the 2008 New Trier High School plate which is ONLY available with the set of four plates: 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The full set is available at the Chamber office, 841 Spruce Street.

For more information, please contact the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce at 446-4451 or email [wcc@winnetkachamber.com](mailto:wcc@winnetkachamber.com).

### Christ Church Depicted on 2007 Ornament

Since 1992, a special handcrafted Christmas tree ornament has been created each year to help fund the festive holiday tree lighting in Winnetka. Over the years, thousands of dollars have been donated by generous residents in order to brighten the Village throughout the holiday season.

The 2007 ornament, now on sale, depicts Christ Church on the Hill, founded in 1876. This is the first in a series of churches in Winnetka to be chosen.

There are a limited number of previous ornaments. The 2006 Lloyd House was Winnetka's first building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the second Winnetka home to be honored with an ornament, following the 1992 "Home Alone House," released the same year as the movie that made the house the most photographed home in Winnetka. In addition, a few of the second version of New Trier High School are again available. A full collection of the ornaments is on view at Multiple Choices, 841 Elm Street.

For a \$40 donation, \$25 of which is tax-deductible, the ornaments are available at Phototronics, 740 Elm Street, and Multiple Choices.



*Add Christ Church to your Winnetka ornament Collection*

## Holiday Shopping is Convenient and Fun in Winnetka

The Winnetka Chamber of Commerce invites you to come to WINNETKA! Bring friends and family to our four business districts: East Elm, West Elm, Indian Hill and Hubbard Woods.

Enjoy our appealing shops, clustered along tree-lined streets and filled with a wonderland of unique gifts for the holidays!

Treat yourself to unparalleled customer service from friendly, helpful salespeople. Many shops will not only gift-wrap packages but deliver them too!

Enhance your shopping experience. Make it convenient, easy, and fun without the hassle of crowded malls!

Winnetka, where beauty, taste and joyous festivities kindle the spirits, is the perfect destination for the holidays!

Parking is free and shopping is easy. Throughout the holiday season, many merchants extend store hours while offering refreshments, unique products, and unparalleled customer service.

For more information, call the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce at 446-4451 or visit us at [www.winnetkachamber.com](http://www.winnetkachamber.com).

From all of us who serve you throughout the year, may this season be bright and filled with joy and good wishes. Happy Holidays to all!





## CLEAN UP AFTER STORMS SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY



One of the joys of living in Winnetka is the beauty and quiet that settles over the area after a snowstorm. Trees take on myriad forms as their branches become draped with snow or ice, and the Village snuggles in under its downy white blanket. Noises are softened, and an air of peace and quiet prevails. As wonderful as this time can be, the enjoyment eventually turns to work as



we begin to clean up after the snow. Here are several things that you can do to help make the process of cleaning up after a snowstorm easier, safer, and more efficient.

We've all experienced the frustration that occurs when the snowplow comes by just as we've cleared the last of the snow from our driveway. One thing you can do to minimize the amount of snow that may be plowed across your driveway is to pile shoveled snow on the "downstream" side of the driveway. That way, when the snow is plowed the pile will be plowed to the parkway, rather than back into your driveway.

Frequently the Village is called to send a plow back to a previously cleaned street to remove snow deposited in the street by a private plowing service. Remember, Village Code prohibits removal of snow from private property in such a way that

it results in decreasing the driveable width of a street. If you use a private service to remove snow, please inform them of this requirement.

When placing objects such as Christmas trees and recyclable items at the curb for pick-up, please do not deposit them in the roadway after a snowfall. Items so placed can be struck by plow trucks as they clean the street, which may damage the equipment, or they may create safety hazards for motorists.

After heavy snows, the Village first works to clear the streets, then returns to relocate or remove piles of plowed snow.

**Please make sure that children know that they should not play in piles of snow adjacent to roads and parking lots, because these piles are subject to removal.**

When shoveling snow, wear appropriate clothing to guard against exposure or frostbite, wear appropriate boots with non-slip soles, and do not over-exert yourself. Shoveling wet, heavy snow is a very strenuous activity. Be sure to assess your physical capabilities and limitations before attempting to clear large snow accumulations.



## Winter Parking Restrictions

Winter storms can pose serious hazards to motorists navigating through Winnetka. It is Village policy to respond to winter storms in a manner that protects life and property, and ensures the quick return to normal daily activities for our residents.



A snow emergency exists whenever two or more inches of snow falls within a 24-hour period or when two or more inches of snow remains on any roadway in the Village. A snow emergency in any of the Village's business districts will be indicated by snow emergency signs temporarily posted in the district. Vehicles parked on roadways will be fined \$200 and may be relocated or towed at the owner's expense.

The snow emergency remains in effect on residential streets until snow has been cleared from the streets, and remains in effect in the business districts until the removal of the snow emergency signs by Village personnel.

During a declared snow emergency, residential parking permission will normally not be authorized until the location has been cleared of snow, or the emergency has ended.



# New Teen Driving Law Takes Effect

Legislation to strengthen teen driving laws with the aim of reducing traffic crashes and fatalities involving young drivers was signed into law last August, and takes effect January 1, 2008. The legislation is based on recommendations made by the Illinois Secretary of State's Teen Driver Safety Task Force, composed of legislators, traffic safety experts, law



enforcement officials, educators, judges and victim advocates.

Leading national traffic safety experts have lauded the legislation as one that will save lives. According to a study conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, this new law could reduce fatal traffic crashes involving 16-year-old drivers by 38%.

The law includes the following nine provisions:

**Extends** the permit phase from three months to nine months. This proposal will give the new driver more time to learn under the watchful eye of parents through a variety of weather conditions.

**Changes** the nighttime driving restriction from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from Midnight to 11 p.m. on weekends for all drivers under the age of 18. The nighttime driving restriction includes exemptions for teens that are traveling to and from school activities and work.

*The risk of fatal crashes involving 16 and 17-year-old drivers is three times higher from 10:00 p.m. to midnight than from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., according*

*to a study by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.*

**Doubles** the time period restricting a new driver to a maximum of one unrelated teen passenger from six months to 12 months.

*The Johns Hopkins Study also concluded that the driver death rate for 16-year-old drivers rose sharply for each additional passenger in the vehicle. Based on studies and testimony, the task force concluded that distractions from other teen passengers are one of the leading causes of traffic crashes involving 16-year-old drivers.*

**Requires** drivers under age 18 who are ticketed for traffic violations to appear before a judge with a parent or guardian. This ensures that the parent or guardian is fully aware of the minor's traffic violation and understands the requirements and ramifications of court supervision. This legislation also requires the attendance of traffic school as a requisite for court supervision for drivers under the age of 21.

**Tickets** the passengers who violate the passenger restriction law, in addition to the drivers. The task force felt that a teenager's actions are often motivated by consequences or lack thereof. This proposal places responsibility on both the passengers and the driver to abide by the passenger limitation provision.

**Requires** student drivers to complete a minimum six hours of on-the-street driving with a certified driver education instructor. This proposal eliminates the provision that allows students in high school driver education classes to take a proficiency exam after completing just three hours of practice driving. In addition, it removes current exemptions that allow the use of driving simulators and driving ranges as a substitute for street driving with a certified driver education instructor. This provision takes effect July

1, 2008.

**Implements** a true Graduated Driver Licensing system that requires new drivers to earn their way from one stage to the next. Under this proposal, once issued a learner's permit, a teen would be required to drive conviction-free for nine months before he or she would be eligible for a driver's license. The teen would then also have to drive conviction-free for six months, and reach the age of 18 before moving from the initial licensing phase to the full licensing phase.

**Implements** a stricter law in which the drivers' licenses of those under age 21 would be suspended for each additional conviction following a driver's initial suspension for two moving violations in a 24-month period. This provision puts young drivers on notice that once their drivers' licenses have been suspended, each additional conviction until they turn 21 will result in another suspension of their driving privileges.

**Establishes** tough, new penalties – including license revocation and vehicle impoundment – for drivers who are involved in street racing. Street racing has become a deadly phenomenon that encourages drivers to race on city streets, highways and interstates. Harsh, no-nonsense penalties are needed to combat and punish this deadly, thrill-seeking behavior.

For more information, visit the Secretary of State's website at: [www.sos.state.il.us](http://www.sos.state.il.us).





## WINNETKA'S FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU TO HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Christmas Day holds the record for the highest number of reported home candle fires. When using candles, place them away from things that can burn. It is also important to keep candles away from children and pets to avoid the risk of having them accidentally tipped over.

Candles caused an estimated 15,600 home structure fires reported to local fire departments in just one year. These fires caused an estimated 150 deaths, 1,270 injuries and \$539 million in direct property damage.

Because of this high risk, The Winnetka Fire Department urges people to practice a few safety precautions before, during and after their celebrations.



Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks burn faster than fresh, well-watered trees. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times.

Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children, and don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.

Look for the holographic UL Mark on light strings and electrical decorations. The UL Mark means that UL engineers have tested samples of the product for safety hazards. A green holographic UL Mark = Indoor-only use. A red holographic UL Mark = Indoor **and** outdoor use

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration - new or old - before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL-Listed decorations.

Take down holiday lights after 90 days of use to prevent damage from weather conditions and neighborhood animals.

Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials. Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

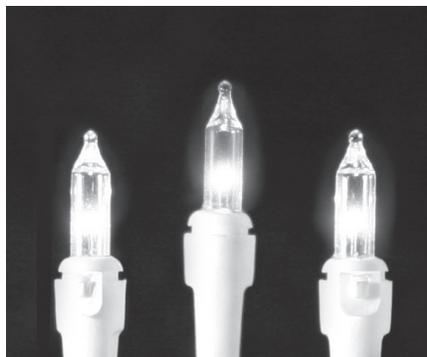
Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.

Check your strands of lights to determine the number of strands that may be connected. Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses. Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation (i.e., using clips, not nails).

Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.



When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes.

Keep or maintain a 36-inch (1-meter) clearance between space heaters and anything that can burn.

Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room or go to bed.

Have any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation.

Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors and all other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected annually by a professional, and cleaned as often as inspections suggest. Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.

Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarms within 15 feet of all sleeping areas.



## Illinois to go Smoke-Free as of January 1, 2008



On January 1, 2008, the Smoke Free Illinois Act will take effect. Winnetka Police will be required to enforce the new act, which replaces the Illinois Clean Indoor Act.

Under the new legislation, smoking will be prohibited in public places, places of employment and within 15 feet of an entrance to a public place or place of employment, unless exempted by the act. No person may smoke in any vehicle owned, leased, or operated by the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

Smoking will be allowed in private residences, except when that residence is used as a child-care, adult day-care, or health care facility, or any other home-based business open to the public.

Smoking will also be allowed in retail tobacco stores in operation prior to January 1, 2008.

People who violate the act will be fined, with fines escalating for each subsequent violation.

For more information, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at: [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)

## Protect Yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless gas created when wood, kerosene, coal or natural gas is improperly or incompletely burned. When CO levels build up indoors, it can be dangerous and potentially deadly.

**Take the following steps to protect your family from the dangers of CO poisoning:**

Have your heating system and all household gas appliances inspected by a qualified service technician every year.

Check chimneys, flue pipes and vents for rust, cracks or blockage.

Make sure gas appliance burner flames are blue (not yellow) and are properly adjusted.

Recognize the flu-like symptoms associated with CO poisoning, such as dizziness, headaches, nausea and drowsiness.

Install and properly maintain an Underwriters Laboratory-listed or Factory Mutual- tested CO detector for added protection.

Illinois State law requires that you protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide by installing at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. For more information and/or a brochure on carbon monoxide poisoning, contact the Winnetka Fire Department at 501-6029.



*Illinois law requires CO detectors  
within 15 feet of all bedrooms*



Many commercial household cleaners and stain removers contain hazardous ingredients that are corrosive, flammable, dangerously reactive, or can cause health problems such as respiratory irritation. Only 30% of the 17,000 products currently used in household cleaners have been tested for their effect on people's health.

There are alternative homemade cleaning methods that provide less toxic or non-toxic substitutes. Homemade cleaning solutions work best when you prepare them fresh each time you need them. If you want to make up a small quantity for use a few days in a row, store it in a tightly sealed glass jar out of the reach of children and pets. Use a dark glass jar or store the jar in a closed cabinet.

To replace the cleaning power of the stronger chemical you choose not to use, you will probably need to use a little "elbow grease" or be willing to wait longer for cleaners to act, or both. The benefits in terms of improved indoor air quality, decreased exposure to chemicals, fewer waste disposal concerns, convenience, and lower costs should make the switch an easy one.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) has an Alternative Cleaning Methods guide that can be downloaded by visiting their website at: [swancc.org](http://swancc.org), then clicking on the box that says "Household Chemical Waste," and finding the link to the Alternative Cleaning Methods guide.



## HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS

Week of December 24 - 28, 2007

Monday Refuse Collection will be as usual.  
Tuesday Refuse Collection will be on Wednesday.  
Thursday and Friday Refuse Collection will be as usual.  
**Recycling Collection will be on Thursday this week.**

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Week of December 31 – January 4, 2008

Monday Refuse Collection will be as usual.  
Tuesday Refuse Collection will be on Wednesday.  
Thursday and Friday Refuse Collection will be as usual.  
**Recycling Collection will be on Thursday this week.**

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP BEGINS DECEMBER 27

Christmas trees will be picked up from the curbside for shredding, chipping, and composting from December 26, 2007, through January 18, 2008. After January 18, 2008, a \$2 refuse sticker will be required to ensure pickup.

Please remove everything from trees, including plastic bags or wraps, ornaments, tinsel, wires, and the stand, as these will clog and damage the shredder.



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*Published by the Winnetka Village Council*

Village of Winnetka  
510 Green Bay Road  
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

**Postal Customer**  
**Winnetka, Illinois 60093**

### Village Telephone Numbers

<b>Police/Fire/Paramedics Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
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

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