



# The WINNETKA REPORT

## A Message from the Village President

By the time you read this, COVID-19 will have been a reality in our lives for more than a year, bringing with it challenges, limitations, and preventing us from gathering in person as a community. Vaccines give us light on the horizon, but it will still be some time before we can safely be together in large groups to celebrate our holidays, our history, and our Winnetka traditions. While the pandemic has been frustrating on many levels, it looks like we are close to turning a corner that so many of us are looking forward to. We have learned much from this experience and will apply the knowledge of what worked well for our community throughout this pandemic. I remain proud of the support Village employees have provided to our business community and thankful for their hard work to provide core services during this difficult year.

We continue to move forward on major projects in the Village, despite the challenges of the pandemic. This spring, the third phase of the Streetscape project will place Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue on the east side of Green Bay Road under construction. Though temporarily inconvenient, the end results of the project are clearly visible on the west side of Green Bay Road, where gathering spaces were created for residents and visitors and sorely needed utility service upgrades were completed to adequately support the future of our business districts. The same is planned for this next phase of the project. We will do our best to make parking available to customers visiting businesses under construction, and we encourage you to continue to patronize your favorite Winnetka businesses as much as possible, as it could not be more important to support them at this time. We also have a thoughtful plan in place to preserve and maintain as many trees as possible during construction. Read more about the project on page 3.

Our Stormwater projects are moving forward, and we are working on engineering plans for the Forest Preserves wetlands detention project with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Cook County Forest Preserve. Engineering has also been approved for projects at Duke Childs Field, the Skokie Playfields, and the Winnetka golf course. Once engineering is in place and permits are approved for the wetlands project, you will hear news from us about our construction plans. Planning for significant flood relief in western Winnetka has been in process for many years, with unprecedented intergovernmental agreements between the Village and District 36, New Trier, and the Winnetka Park District to mitigate the flooding that impacts so many of our residents.

While we do not yet have an update to share on the One Winnetka site, it is in the process of being sold and we remain in conversation with the prospective buyer about its future. I hope to be able to update you soon on the plans for the site, as it is a topic of great importance for all of us.



Chris Rintz

It is my hope that we will be able to gather as a community in the near future. Once it is safe to do so, we will begin planning for and approving special events. In the meantime, I ask that:

- You engage with us: council meetings are held virtually on Tuesdays at 7 PM. Meeting agendas are posted on Fridays, and you can submit comments to [contactcouncil@winnetka.org](mailto:contactcouncil@winnetka.org) or attend meetings on Zoom to make public comment.
- You shop local. It has never been easier to do so:
  - We have a text loyalty program, Distinctly Winnetka, that will inform you of promotions at your favorite Winnetka shops and restaurants. Joining is easy: it's free, it's just a few texts a month, and you're likely to find deals at your favorite shops, restaurants, or service providers. Text WINN to 55678 to join.
  - Our Take Out Challenge promotion runs until April 15: by spending \$150 or more at Winnetka restaurants and providing receipts, you can enter to win prizes. Visit the Village's website for more information: [villageofwinnetka.org/takeout](http://villageofwinnetka.org/takeout)
- You continue to do what we know prevents the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask and maintaining social distance from one another, even if you have been vaccinated. We do not yet know when this will happen, but please remember that wearing a mask protects you AND your neighbors, and in Winnetka, we do our best to be kind to one another. Practicing what we know works to prevent the spread means that we will all be able to gather together sooner as the regional COVID-19 caseloads fall.

I wish you good health and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Chris Rintz  
Village President

## Council Action Summary

**November 10, 17, 19, 2020:** The Council met on these dates to discuss and finalize the 2021 Annual Budget.

**November 23, 2020:** Due to rapidly rising COVID-19 numbers, the Village President issued another Emergency Declaration. The Declaration is primarily needed for any emergency staffing or purchasing needs that may arise due to the pandemic. Also at this meeting, the Council heard a thorough staff presentation on stormwater project financing and approved a Five Year Stormwater Financial Plan. After five years of planning and negotiating with the Cook County Forest Preserves, New Trier School District 203, Winnetka School District 36, and the Winnetka Park District, the Village is ready to move ahead with significant flood relief projects in western and southwestern Winnetka. The Village will fund the estimated \$75.7 million in stormwater projects from a combination of Capital funding from the State, reserves from the Village's General Fund, revenue from the Stormwater Fund, MFT funds, grants from the State and MWRD, and bond capacity gained from 2020's bond refunding initiative, which saved the Village significantly on interest payments for the 2013 and 2014 Stormwater bond initiatives. For more information on stormwater projects in Winnetka, visit [villageofwinnetka.org](http://villageofwinnetka.org).

**December 1, 2020:** The Council held a public hearing and introduced the 2021 Village Budget. For the seventh consecutive year, there will be no Winnetka property tax increase for existing residents; new development will be captured at 0.76%. The Budget is balanced, and operating expenses are fully funded by operating revenues; there is no reliance on fund balance proceeds or any other one-time revenue source.

**December 15, 2020:** The Village honored retiring Public Works Director Steve Saunders for his 35 years of service

to Winnetka. A program to provide economic relief to local restaurants was adopted, using excess funds from the Sales Tax Rebate Economic Relief Program administered earlier in the year. The Village has been working diligently to assist Winnetka's businesses, which have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Village Budget was formally adopted.

**January 5, 2021:** The Council approved a contract to purchase a spare low-lift pump for the Water Plant – the low-lift pumps bring water from Lake Michigan into the plant for treatment. The Council also adopted Ordinances approving zoning variations, two special use permits, and a subdivision request.

**January 12, 2021:** The Council discussed the issue of historic preservation of significant homes in Winnetka. After hearing from the public and thoroughly deliberating on methods to encourage renovation over demolition, it was agreed that providing incentives to renovate homes is a more effective means to achieve the desired outcome. Village Staff was directed to prepare an Ordinance extending the demolition delay period and providing a gross floor area bonus to those homeowners who choose renovation over demolition.

**January 19, 2021:** The Liquor Code was amended to allow holders of an E-2 Liquor License to sell spirits in addition to fine wine and premium beer. The amendment was requested by the owner of Good Grapes so the business can expand to sell a limited amount of spirits. A special use permit request was approved, and after the Council discussed the Phase III Streetscape project in detail, staff was directed to develop the necessary construction contracts and documents. The contractor who completed Phase I and II will also complete the Phase III Streetscape project.

## Electronics Recycling Resumes in April

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the Village of Winnetka will **resume electronics recycling on Thursday, April 8, 2021**. The program takes place at the Winnetka Public Works facility **every Thursday from 1 – 3 PM**.

The Village continues its other year-round recycling programs, include recycling of items such as Styrofoam, CFL bulbs, batteries, handheld electronics, holiday lights and gym shoes. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with questions.

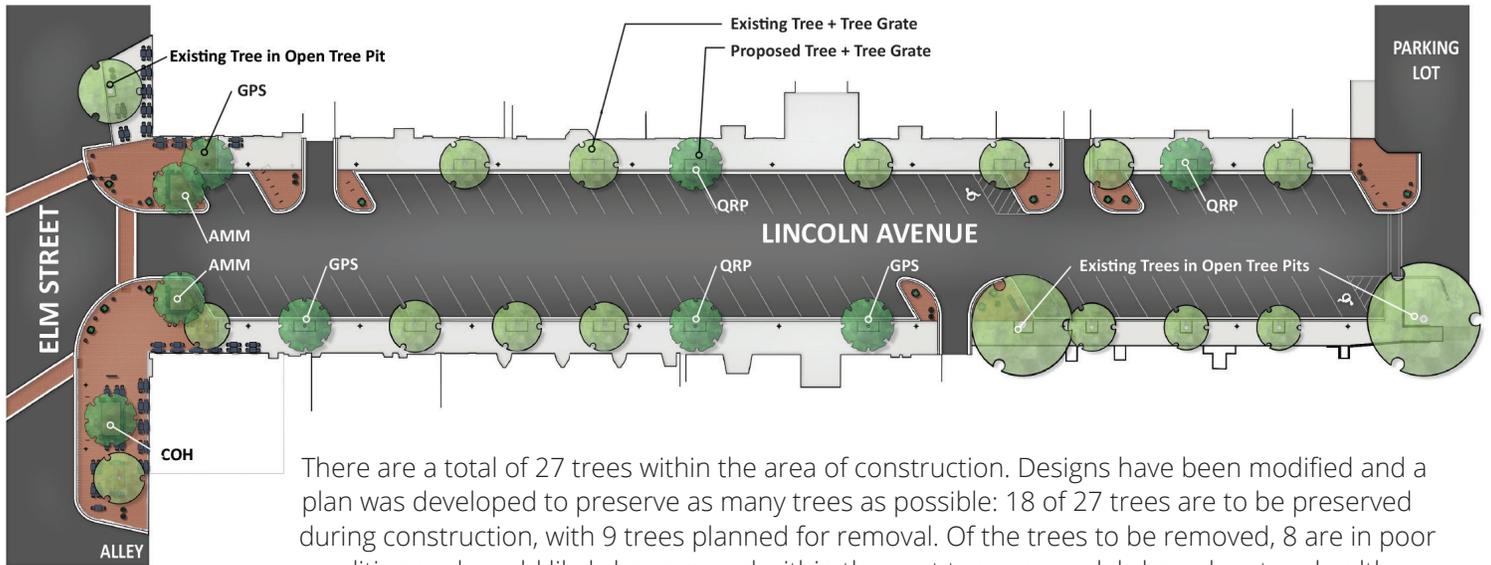
## New Residential Curbside Refuse Service Beginning in May 2021

The Village is excited to announce that beginning this May, the Village will be offering a once-a-week curbside refuse collection options at a reduced monthly fee. The goal of the program is to provide residents more flexibility to meet their refuse collection needs, and to have more control over their monthly costs. This change will help the Village continue to provide this service in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Please note that the current back door refuse pick-up will still be available as one of the collection options for current residents who wish to keep their current service level.

As a part of the new program, the Village is providing residents who select a curbside collection option with a new wheeled container similar to the current curbside recycling containers. Residents were asked to select their refuse container size option by March 1, 2021. If you need to confirm your service selection, please call 847-716-3568.

## Spring 2021 Construction on Lincoln Avenue

The third phase of the Village's Streetscape Improvements project will take place on both sides of Lincoln Avenue between Elm Street and the entrance to the Lincoln Avenue parking lot. The project will provide essential utility upgrades to enable the business district to thrive in the long-term: reconstruct sidewalks, install new light fixtures, streetscape furnishings, and enhance natural gathering spaces. The results of previous Streetscape projects are visible on Elm, west of Green Bay Road, and Chestnut Street between Elm and Spruce Streets.



There are a total of 27 trees within the area of construction. Designs have been modified and a plan was developed to preserve as many trees as possible: 18 of 27 trees are to be preserved during construction, with 9 trees planned for removal. Of the trees to be removed, 8 are in poor condition and would likely be removed within the next two years solely based on tree health. Trees to remain will be protected as much as possible during construction. Nine new trees will be planted following the substantial completion of construction.

The contractor is expected to begin construction activities on Monday, March 15, weather permitting, and the project is expected to be substantially completed by mid-June.

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## 2021 Spring Clean-Up: April 12 – April 15

Winnetka's Annual Spring Clean-Up Week will be held from April 12-15. Scheduled pickups are:

**Monday, April 12:**

North of Tower Road

**Tuesday, April 13:**

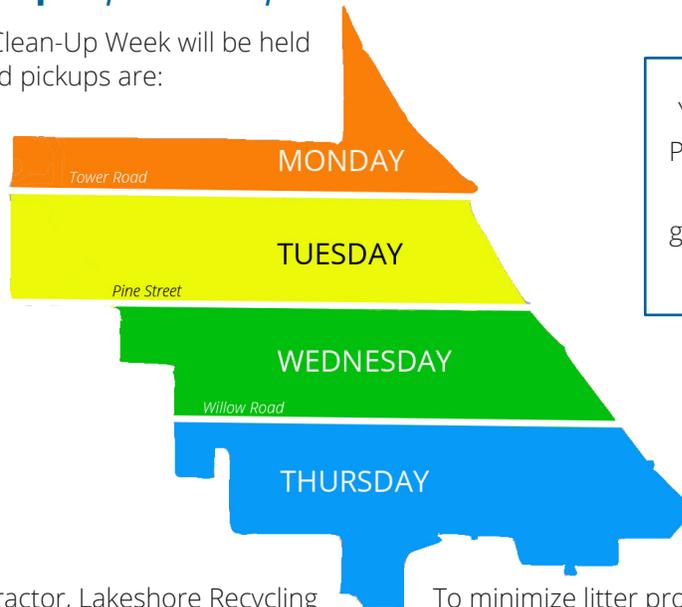
Tower Road to Pine Street

**Wednesday, April 14:**

Pine Street to Willow Road

**Thursday, April 15:**

South of Willow Road



### Did you know?

You can recycle Styrofoam at Public Works Yards and plastic bags in receptacles at many grocery stores (but not in your Village recycling container).

The Village's recycling contractor, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, will remove from the parkway anything that two people can reasonably lift into a truck, except for electronics, yard waste, dirt, stone, logs, construction materials/debris, batteries, paint, and other liquids.

To minimize litter problems, all items should be placed on residential parkways no earlier than the evening before the scheduled pickup. There will be no call-backs if the material is not on the parkway by 7 AM the day of your scheduled pick-up. Call 847-716-3568 with questions.

## Economic Development Update

### BUSINESS UPDATE

Business is bustling in Winnetka! Four new businesses opened in Winnetka this winter, and one business is expanding to a newly renovated, larger space. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses are adjusting quickly to changing mitigation measures from the State of Illinois and Cook County. The Village is providing up-to-date information about financing and resources on its website and offering assistance to all business owners to help them navigate the complexities of the pandemic.

### NEW BUSINESS OPENINGS

#### ELM



*Perspective Eyes ribbon cutting in January.*

**Perspective Eyes** opened in January at 548 Chestnut Street in West Elm. A ribbon cutting to celebrate their grand opening was hosted by the Winnetka-Northfield

Chamber of Commerce. Perspective Eyes is a medical office with retail optical offerings for the whole family. Optometrist Dr. Daisy Mendez opened in Winnetka to serve the North Shore and be close to her family who are long-time Village residents.

**Delos Therapy**, a muscular therapy clinic that relieves chronic pain and stiffness, opened in February at 547 Lincoln Avenue. Owners Mimi Bosika and Eric Owens chose Winnetka for the company's seventh location to serve their clients on the North Shore.

**The Jewelbox Dress Co.**, a women's clothing store owned by life-long Winnetka resident Christy Vegosen, opened at 725 Elm Street this winter. They are open Fridays and Saturdays and by appointment. Christy is planning trunk shows this spring.

**BlowDry Boutique** relocated to a larger space at 717 Elm Street this winter. Their renovated store offers expanded seating and additional stations. They offer quick blowdry services in a comfortable setting. Owners Caroline Shamoun and Vikki Kokuzian are celebrating their fifth year in Winnetka.

**Outdoor dining season** is nearly here! The wait is almost over to enjoy spring weather on outdoor patios in Winnetka. The Village streamlined the Outdoor Seating Permit process in 2021 to ensure businesses can open

additional seating quickly and easily. The Village installed designated curbside parking spaces in front of La Taquiza Mexican Restaurant and Guanajuato Mexican Restaurant and Tequila Bar for easy carry-out and curbside service. The Village announced a supplemental order temporarily allowing restaurants with certain liquor licenses to serve cocktails for carry out and delivery.

#### HUBBARD WOODS Byrne Dempsey State Farm Agency

opened in February at 890 Green Bay Road in Hubbard Woods. "Bo" took over the office previously

run by Russ Newlin. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening was hosted by the Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce. Bo is a third-generation State Farm agent and is excited to bring his services to Winnetka.

**Village's Take Out Challenge** has leveraged thousands of dollars of business at local restaurants since it began in December 2020. The Village gives away prizes every other week to winners who submit receipts for \$150 or more spent at local restaurants. Prizes have included gift cards to Mino's and 501 Local, a Valentine's Day dinner for two from Aboyer/George Trois and a gift box from Tocco Italian Restaurant. The program runs through April 15, 2021.

**"Distinctly Winnetka"** text loyalty program offers biweekly promotions at local businesses that are texted directly to your mobile phone! Hundreds of coupons are redeemed every month for great deals including free desserts at Fred's Garage, free appetizers at Kyoto Sushi Restaurant, 30% off items at Maze Home, and more! Text WINN to 55678 to get promotions and hot deals about Winnetka businesses.



*Byrne Dempsey State Farm Agency ribbon cutting in February.*



*Bruno Abate with February's Take Out Challenge Prize.*

## Winnetka Landmark Preservation Commission Preservation Award Nominations Accepted

The Village of Winnetka Landmark Preservation Commission is now accepting nominations for its annual Preservation Awards program. The award seeks to honor exterior construction projects in the Village that have helped preserve the history and character of the community. Nominate your home, your neighbor's house, or a Winnetka structure that inspires you. Award categories include Restoration, Rehabilitation, and New Construction for projects that have been completed during the last five years. Single-family residential, commercial/multi-family residential, and public/institutional properties are eligible. Nomination forms are available on the Village's website or at Village Hall.



*The Hadley Institute received a Landmark Preservation Commission award in 2020 recognizing its renovation.*

Nominations for this year's program are due by May 28, 2021. Award winners will be announced at a Village Council meeting later this year. Entries, inquiries, or questions can

be sent to Christopher Marx, Associate Planner: [cmarx@winnetka.org](mailto:cmarx@winnetka.org) or 847-716-3587.

## Building Permits Needed Before Home Projects

With spring just around the corner, you may have some construction projects in mind to do around your home and in your yard. Whether it is as big as building an addition onto your home or as small as expanding your patio, installing a shed, or building a playhouse for your children, please remember to check out the Village webpage – [villageofwinnetka.org/buildingpermits](http://villageofwinnetka.org/buildingpermits) – to determine whether or not your project requires a permit. If you have questions, please contact the Village's permit coordinator at 847-716-3520 or [buildingpermit@winnetka.org](mailto:buildingpermit@winnetka.org), and we will be happy to assist you.



## Update from the Chief of Police

COVID-19 helped many people to rediscover outdoor activities. As the weather warms up, more people will be out walking, jogging, and biking. Please be attentive while driving. The importance of yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks and stopping at stop signs cannot be overstated. Refrain from texting while driving and ensure that you and your passengers wear a properly-adjusted seat belt.

Warm weather means home repair and construction. Be mindful of uninvited contractors or individuals who purport to be utility workers. Scam artists have been known to pose as utility workers who attempt to lure you outside of your home to show you a problem in the back yard. This could be something related to tree trimming, phone/cable lines, etc. Once you are outside of the house, a second individual will attempt to enter the home through an unlocked door and search for valuables. If you are suspicious of the individual's intent or legitimacy, call 911 immediately.

Please remember to stay vigilant when it comes to the security of your vehicles. Auto burglary and theft remains a prevalent challenge in the Chicago suburban area. Deterring such crimes is as simple as removing your keys from your car, making certain it is locked, and refraining from leaving valuables inside. Unlocked vehicles can result in myriad inconveniences, including stolen wallets, red-light camera citations, unpaid tolls, cancelling of credit cards, and calling your insurance company.

In 2019, the Winnetka Police Department partnered with a platform called Smart911. Smart 911 allows 911 dispatchers to receive a detailed profile of the caller when calling 911. For example, if you are calling to report an emergency at your home your profile could include information on the number of people in your household, any children or adults with special needs, pets, and additional emergency contact information. Smart 911 is a national service that travels with you if your profile is associated with your mobile device, and they work to make sure your personal information remains secure. Visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) to establish a profile. The platform also allows the police to notify subscribers about public safety emergencies that are occurring close to your home. We strongly encourage you to create a user profile.

Marc Hornstein  
Chief of Police

## Upcoming Construction Projects

As part of the Village's commitment to maintaining its infrastructure, the Public Works Department will complete repairs to various streets within the Village this year. Work activities for this year's program are expected to begin in April and be substantially completed by September. Residents living on affected streets will receive additional notices from the Village with construction and scheduling details before construction starts. This year, the Village will be undertaking several large construction projects, which will be completed under one contract. Village Council awarded this year's contract to A Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. The program includes street rehabilitation, pavement striping, replacement of damaged sidewalks, water main replacement and pavement patching and resurfacing throughout various locations in the Village.

The Village is also completing a bluff restoration project at the east end of Willow Road that includes storm sewer replacement, fencing repair, and landscaping to restore the bluff. Residents affected by the installation of new water mains and water services will be notified prior to the work taking place and with a minimum of 48 hours before a water service interruption.

STREET	FROM	TO	TYPE
Abbotsford	South End	Winnetka	Resurfacing
Birch	Willow	Elm	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Elm	Locust	Birch	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Essex	Warwick	Winnetka	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Gage	Gordon Terrace	Green Bay	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Merrill	Gordon Terrace	Green Bay	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Lincoln	Elm	Prospect	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation
Warwick	Winnetka	Essex	Water Main/ Street Rehabilitation

## Call JULIE Before You Dig

To avoid damaging underground utilities, residents are encouraged to call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) number prior to digging. JULIE provides callers with a continuously improving, one-call message handling and delivery service committed to protecting underground utilities and the safety of people working or living near them.

You may be surprised by what's buried in your yard. That's because most electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies are delivering utility services underground. State law requires you to notify JULIE at least two business days before any digging project regardless of the project size or depth. Even if you are digging in the same location as a previous project, notify JULIE. This is a free service.

You can prevent injury and avoid damage by following these five important steps:

- Pre-mark or outline the proposed dig area using white paint or flags
- Call JULIE at 811 or 1-800-892-0123, or visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com)
- Wait two business days
- Adhere to the marks
- Dig with care

Examples of common projects requiring a call to JULIE include planting trees and shrubs; building decks patios, or room additions; installing swing sets, signs, sheds, fountains, tents, fencing, mailbox posts, or swimming pools.



## Spring Tree Planting Deadline is April 15

Each year, the Village of Winnetka plants about 200 trees in parkway areas. Trees are vital to Winnetka's aesthetic and provide many important benefits. The Village is currently taking requests from residents who would like a tree planted in front of their homes in the spring.

Trees up to 2 ½" trunk diameter size are planted at no cost to residents. Trees will be planted within the Village-owned parkway. For a listing and description of all tree species available from the Village, please call the Village Forester at 847-716-3289. The deadline for spring tree requests is April 15.

## Coal Tar Sealant Ban Reminder

The Village of Winnetka bans the use of coal tar-based sealing agents on all public and private driveways, parking lots, and other roadway surfaces within Village limits. Coal tar is a waste material generated during coal processing that contains high levels of chemical compounds shown to be harmful to aquatic life and pose a potential risk to humans.

As required by this ban, all contractors and multi-family property owners must obtain a Pavement Sealant Applicators License through the Public Works department. Property owners of single family lots applying sealant themselves do not need a Pavement Sealant Applicators License.

As an alternative to coal tar-based sealants, the Village recommends using asphalt-based sealants (sold in most home improvement stores), replacing asphalt with concrete driveways, or leaving driveways unsealed. For more information, please call the Public Works department at 847-716-3568.

## Celebrating Arbor Day

The Village of Winnetka invites residents to participate in Arbor Day on April 30 at our Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow Road. Seasonal tree information displays, along with free tree seedlings, will be available.



Arbor Day is internationally celebrated around the world as a way to recognize the many social, ecological and economic benefits trees provide. If you have any questions or need an inspection of your trees, please contact Andrew Lueck, Village Forester: [alueck@winnetka.org](mailto:alueck@winnetka.org) or 847-716-3289.

## Test Backflow Assemblies Before Starting Lawn Sprinkler Systems

State Statute and the Village Code require backflow prevention assemblies on all in-ground lawn sprinkler systems; and the system must be tested annually. Backflow devices protect the public water supply in the event of a reversal of the flow of water from irrigation lines. Lawn chemicals and other materials can seep into lawn sprinkler lines through sprinkler heads and other openings – potentially contaminating water in the irrigation lines. Without a properly operating backflow prevention assembly in place, the water could be siphoned into your home and the public water supply.



Since many backflow prevention assemblies are located outdoors, they are susceptible to freezing and bursting over the winter, so the backflow prevention assembly needs to be tested each year when starting up a lawn irrigation system. The tester should forward the results to the Village's Water & Electric Department email: [rpz@winnetka.org](mailto:rpz@winnetka.org). The Village appreciates your cooperation. Please direct any questions to the Water & Electric Department's non-emergency line at 847-716-3558.

## Sprinkler Restrictions Start May 15 No Sprinkling Permitted on Consecutive Days or Between 12 PM - 6 PM

Winnetka is required to observe Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) lawn sprinkling restrictions, which go into effect on May 15 each year.

Sprinkling is prohibited between the hours of 12 PM and 6 PM, and lawn sprinkling is not allowed on consecutive days. The restricted sprinkling hours are effective until September 15.

Special approval to water during prohibited hours may be requested from the Director of the Water & Electric Department for special cases such as newly seeded or sodded areas, and for the annual activation or repair of sprinkler systems. To request the special approval, or if you have questions, call 847-716-3558, or email [bkeys@winnetka.org](mailto:bkeys@winnetka.org).



## The Winnetka Report

Village of Winnetka  
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 Department	847-501-6000
Public Works Department	847-716-3568
Utility Department	847-716-3558
Utility Billing Services	847-446-9550
Community Development Department	847-716-3576

### Village Council Emails

Contact Village Council:	<a href="mailto:ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org"><b>ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Chris Rintz:	<a href="mailto:CRintz@Winnetka.org"><b>CRintz@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Rob Apatoff:	<a href="mailto:RApatoff@Winnetka.org"><b>RApatoff@Winnetka.org</b></a>
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Bob Dearborn:	<a href="mailto:RDearborn@Winnetka.org"><b>RDearborn@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Penny Lanphier:	<a href="mailto:PLanphier@Winnetka.org"><b>PLanphier@Winnetka.org</b></a>
John Swierk:	<a href="mailto:JSwierk@Winnetka.org"><b>JSwierk@Winnetka.org</b></a>

### Village Council Meetings

Virtual meetings are held via Zoom at 7 PM on Tuesdays. Agenda materials and videos of previous meetings are available at [villageofwinnetka.org](http://villageofwinnetka.org) at "Agendas," or from the Village Manager's Office.

## Memorial Day Refuse Collection

### For the week of May 31 – June 4, 2021:

Monday collection will be on Tuesday.

Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.

Thursday collection will be as usual.

Friday collection will be usual.