



The WINNETKA REPORT

A Message from the Village President



Chris Rintz

Dear Neighbors,

Winnetka in the summer is a beautiful place to be. Between our beaches, parks, tree-lined streets, and downtown business districts, we are fortunate to have so many places to enjoy within our Village.

While COVID-19 still prevents us from celebrating our holidays in completely normal ways, I am pleased that this year we honored Memorial Day in person, and we will hold activities to celebrate the 4th of July, as well. We are making strides toward resuming normal activities, and as state and county guidelines allow, we will continue to inform you of what is permitted. If you are not signed up for the Village's email newsletter, published every Friday, you may sign up at villageofwinnetka.org/communications. There, we continue to publish guidelines and updates as we become aware of them.

Music Fest will take place this year in September on Park District property, which will allow for more space and a reduced crowd. I look forward to a time when our events, celebrations, and festivities are truly normal, and though we are not quite there yet, that day will come.

You may also see friends and neighbors at the Farmers' Market each Saturday morning until the end of October, hosted by the Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce. Their annual Sidewalk Sale will be held on July 16 & 17. More information about both can be found on page 6.

The Village has been working diligently on a number of critical projects to serve our community. Beginning in winter, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3, our local division, led in part by Alan Berkowsky, or former Fire Chief (now retired), developed a plan for a mass vaccination Point of Delivery (POD) site with New Trier High School. The original intention for the site was to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to essential and municipal employees, but once the state moved to vaccinating the general population, the site was used for this purpose.

This was no small undertaking: our staff worked tirelessly to have the site approved, worked to finalize logistics for every POD held, and then contributed significant staff resources on the days that the PODs were in operation. Each POD was allocated either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, and these two-dose protocols required an intricate level of planning and management. Our team worked diligently to make sure that no dose of vaccine was wasted. The outstanding work of Chief Berkowsky, former Deputy Fire Chief and (now current Fire Chief) John Ripka, Village Manager Rob Bahan, and Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas went above and beyond the call of duty to provide this service to our municipal employees, teachers, essential workers, and community members to support the safety and well-being of all.

The third phase of our Streetscape project should be nearly complete by the time you read this. Essential to this project were water and electrical service lines to replace very dated infrastructure, in the interest of long-term vibrancy of our business district east of Green Bay Road. The enhancements made will better enable outdoor gathering and dining, and support our businesses over many years. Read more about this project on page 3.

Our Stormwater Management project continues to move forward, with updates on page 3. We are moving forward with project engineering which will enable the permitting process and then construction. I look forward to updating you about our plans to break ground on this critical solution to our pervasive stormwater issue.

I look forward to seeing you in person this summer.

Sincerely,

Chris Rintz
Village President

4th of July Activities

The Village of Winnetka and the Winnetka Park District will celebrate the 4th of July with:

- The annual parade down Elm Street
- Activities on the Skokie Playfield
- Activities in Village Parks
- A 5k Freedom Run
- Pop-up ice cream at Winnetka beaches



Activities will go forward as planned as long as the State and County are in the Bridge Phase or Phase 5 of the State's Reopening Plan. Details will be posted on winpark.org and villageofwinnetka.org as we approach the holiday.

Council Action Summary

February 2, 2021: The Council elected to extend the Village's Recycling Services Agreement with Lakeshore Recycling to allow time for the Village to formulate a plan for future recycling services, given the current fluctuation of the recycling market. A license agreement was adopted to approve use of the public right-of-way at 844 Spruce Street for a patio.

February 16, 2021: The council moved to extend the Village's President's Emergency Declaration through April 20, 2021. Stormwater engineering design services were discussed and approved: one contract for improvements to the Park District golf course, and one for all stormwater improvements at all project sites. Demolition delay and gross floor area bonuses for historic homes were discussed, with recommendations from the Landmark Preservation Commission to encourage the preservation of historic homes.

March 2, 2021: An intergovernmental agreement to fund repairs to the Fire Department's Training Tower was approved. A public hearing was held to discuss demolition delay and the gross floor area bonus for historic homes was held, which incentivizes homeowners to remodel historic homes rather than tearing them down, resulting in additional provisions added to the ordinance to provide additional clarity. The discussion was continued to a future meeting.

March 9, 2021: Council discussed The Walden planned development, an amended plan for which was presented during the meeting. It had previously been reviewed by the Planned Development Commission and recommended for Council approval. After comment from neighbors, Council introduced the ordinance approving the development.

March 16, 2021: The demolition delay and gross floor area bonus ordinance was adopted. A fee resolution was amended to reflect the adoption of the demolition delay and gross floor area bonus ordinance.

April 8, 2021: Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle presented the county's budget at the meeting, and discussed available vaccination sites, encouraging all residents over the age of 16 to get vaccinated. President Rintz thanked President Preckwinkle for her support of the MABAS 3 vaccination pods held at New Trier High School's Northfield campus. Retiring Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky was honored for his decade of service to Winnetka. A zoning variation for a residential property was discussed.

April 20, 2021: A zoning variation was discussed and approved. Council discussed the Village's sign code and the issue of illuminated signs, which are currently prohibited by the code. The discussion included input from the Design Review Board and allowing flexibility for emerging technology in the future, approving amendments to the sign code to allow for backlit "halo" signs.

Hydrant Flushing this Summer



Over the summer months, the Fire Department will flow-test hydrants in Winnetka. Data obtained from this process ensures the hydrants are in good working order and provides hydraulic information to both the Fire Department and Water & Electric Department. Signs will be placed in testing areas.

During flow testing, sediment accumulations are removed from the water system. You may notice water discoloration for a brief period after a flow test in your area. While the water is safe to drink, it can discolor laundry. If this occurs, run the faucet for several minutes or until the discoloration subsides. If the water does not become clear after this procedure, please contact the Water Department at 847-716-3558.

Historic Preservation Efforts

Given the recent demolition or potential demolition of a number of homes that the Landmark Preservation Commission has determined to be historic or architecturally significant, on March 16, 2021, the Village Council adopted an ordinance amending the Village Code to further encourage the preservation of historic or architecturally significant homes. The amendments include:

- Extending Demolition Delay Time Period. The Landmark Preservation Commission may now order the issuance of a demolition delay of a historic or architecturally significant home for a period up to, but not exceeding, 270 days from the date the Commission determines that an applicant is required to submit a historic and architectural impact study for the home the applicant wishes to demolish. The demolition delay period is intended to afford an opportunity for an owner to explore and find alternatives to the demolition of a historic and architecturally significant homes.



Prior to the adoption of the ordinance, the demolition review process, including the delay period, for a historic or architecturally significant home can typically take between 150 and 180 days from the date a complete application is filed with the Village. With the recent amendment, the typical demolition review process for a historic or architecturally significant home would be between 300 and 330 days from the date of a complete application submittal.

- For those homes not found to be historic or architecturally significant, the demolition review process may typically take between 30 and 120 days depending upon whether a historic and architectural impact study (HAIS) is required. (If an HAIS is not required, typically 30 to 60 days. If an HAIS is required, but the home is not found to be significant, typically 60 to 120 days.)
- Providing a Maximum Building Size Bonus. The adopted amendments provide a 20% maximum building size bonus to any single-family home that the Commission finds to be historic or architecturally significant provided that the home is not demolished or altered in a manner that destroys the home's historic or architectural significance. The goal of the bonus is to encourage property owners and developers to preserve significant homes rather than demolish them.

Former 'One Winnetka' Site Update

The current status of the properties located at the southeast corner of Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue, the site of the previously proposed One Winnetka development, is that they remain privately owned, and any issues relating to their maintenance or sale are matters for the property owner. Since August 2019, the owner's lender has been in foreclosure proceedings to secure ownership of the property. A call for offers soliciting bids for the property was released as part of the foreclosure process in 2020. The Village learned that ten developers submitted bids for the site, and that the lender signed a letter of intent and purchase and sale agreement with Hoffman Commercial Real Estate to purchase the property. However, the Village has since learned that the purchase and sale agreement has been terminated. The lender continues to move through the foreclosure process on the property. That process could take several more months.

While the Village waits for the foreclosure process to be completed, we continue to pursue property maintenance violations with the current property owner through the circuit court system. The court previously ordered the property owner to make public safety improvements for fire detection systems and monitoring to be implemented during the fall of 2019. The circuit court judge has required the remedy of public safety-related items but not aesthetic improvements or broader maintenance items. The lender authorized the court-appointed receiver to address other specific maintenance items. The court has continued consideration of the property maintenance items as the property has moved through the foreclosure process. The Village continues to request that the court enforce the Village's property maintenance codes on the property.

Downtown Streetscape Project on Lincoln Avenue

This spring, the Village began construction on the third phase of the Streetscape Improvements Project, which are being undertaken as part of the Village's Downtown Master Plan, which was adopted in 2016 in support of the vitality of our business districts in the long term. This phase of the project took place on both sides of Lincoln Avenue between Elm Street and the north entrance of the parking lot on Lincoln Avenue. Enhancements to the area include reconstructed sidewalks, replacement of the existing 20-inch water main, installation of new lighting fixtures, parkway trees, storm and sanitary utility work, and streetscape furnishings and amenities. Construction will be substantially complete this June, weather permitting.



Spirit Elephant Receives Green Award

This year's winner of the Winnetka Green Award, presented by the Environmental and Forestry Commission, is Spirit Elephant Restaurant. As the pioneer vegan restaurant in Winnetka, Spirit Elephant leads the way in advocating for plant-based eating, both for its environmental impact and for health reasons.*

Behind the scenes, Spirit Elephant continues its commitment to sustainability by sourcing locally grown food whenever possible, thereby saving transportation energy costs and supporting local farmers. They compost and recycle, keeping as much food and other waste out of landfills as possible. Their take-out containers and bags are also compostable and, instead of adding plastic utensils and napkins to every take-out order, customers are always asked first, so they utensils don't wind up in the trash. Finally, in designing the restaurant, all equipment met energy star standards and lighting is energy efficient.

Each year, the Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission (EFC) invites residents to participate in its Green Awards Program. The purpose of the program is to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. The Commission

encourages residents to nominate their house or property for any project that has been completed within the past five years. The EFC section on the Village's website has more information on the nomination process.



**Spirit Elephant has partnered with the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center to promote plant-based eating as an anti-inflammatory diet aimed at fighting cancer and the recurrence of cancer.*

Update from the Chief of the Fire Department

According to the National Fire Protection Association, over 10,000 residential fires occur annually due to grilling. You can help prevent fires by following these safety tips when grilling this summer.



- Only use your grill outside.
- Keep your grill at least 3 feet away from siding, deck rails, eaves, and tree branches.
- Clean your grill after each use to remove grease that can start fires.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Keep a 3-foot "safety zone" around the grill to keep kids and pets safe.
- Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Keep an eye on your grill and do not walk away from it while in use.
- If your grill has a gas leak, have it serviced by a professional before attempting to use it.

Following these simple safety tips will help keep you, your family, and your house safe this summer.

Paper Shredding Event August 21

On Saturday, August 21, 2021, the Village of Winnetka will host a drive-up Document Destruction Recycling Event at the Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow Road, from 9 AM to noon. Residents from Winnetka and other SWANCC communities are eligible to participate. Materials will not be accepted from non-SWANCC residents, businesses, schools, or institutions. IDs will be checked for verification of residency.

Residents will be limited to six file-sized boxes or paper bags containing sensitive documents with personal information, such as medical history forms, bank statements, personal files, and retired tax forms. Paper documents will be shredded on site, recycled at a paper mill, and made into new paper products. It is important to follow directions below as to not contaminate this material stream:

- Remove all plastic spines/covers/binders and metal clips from documents – small staples are okay.
- Do not bring paper in plastic bags. Use paper bags or small boxes.
- Do not include photos, slides, negatives, books, store receipts.
- Do not include expired plastic credit cards or check cases.
- Do not include anything that is a non-paper item.
- Recycle your magazines, junk mail, and newspapers in your curbside cart.

Update from the Chief of Police



Phishing scams continue to be a prevalent issue that we must remain vigilant to prevent. Emails designed to appear as though they are from a legitimate source will request you change or update personal account information, such as credit card numbers, passwords, or even your social security number. Never respond to an email in which you receive a request to send gift cards or a transfer of funds. There is also a common phone phishing scam that targets the elderly and involves the reported arrest of a grandchild. They caller may claim to be from a law enforcement agency and claim they need bond money to be released from custody, requesting a wire transfer. If you are uncertain as to the legitimacy of someone calling you and demanding money, call the Winnetka Police Department: 847-501-6034.

The use of gasoline powered leaf blowers between June 1st and September 30th is prohibited in the Village. The Winnetka Police Department proactively sent communications to area landscaping companies to inform them of this prohibition. This year, we are taking an enhanced approach to restricting leaf blower use by asking landscaping companies to submit a voluntary pledge that they will comply with the ordinance.

Companies that had taken the pledge to obey the gas-powered leaf blower ban when we published this newsletter are:

- Anthony Scopelliti Landscaping
- Arborsmith
- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Buss Landscape Co.
- Chalet Nursery
- Christy Webber Landscapes
- Countryside Industries
- Craig Bergmann Landscape Design
- Earth Developments, Inc.
- Green Concepts
- Greenwise Organic Lawn Care
- Hogan Urban Forests
- James Martin Associates, Inc.
- Kelly Landscape
- Kinnucan Tree and Landscape Co.
- Landarch Systems
- Lawn Care Plus Inc.
- Mariani Landscaping
- Montoya Tree Service
- Moore Landscapes
- Nature's Perspective Landscaping
- Rosborough Partners, Inc.
- Schmechtig Landscapes
- The Davey Tree Expert Company
- Vole Landscape Company
- Winkler's Tree and Landscaping
- Zimny Landscaping

If you utilize landscaping services, we encourage you to engage with your service provider, and ask them to comply with the ban.

Summer is the most popular time for auto-related crimes. Too many vehicles continue to be left unlocked with valuables and keys/fob left inside. This results in stolen property, stolen vehicles, and the inconvenience of owners having to cancel credit cards, notify insurance companies, and dispute tolls. Individuals committing these crimes have been known to carry weapons and may use your car to commit other crimes. The convenience of leaving valuables and keys/fob is not worth the associated risk. Please remove your valuables and lock your vehicle. If your vehicle is parked in your driveway, illuminate the outside of your home. Do not hesitate to call 911 if you see or hear something suspicious.

Marc Hornstein
Chief of Police

Farmers' Market

The Winnetka Farmers' Market has returned to the Village Hall parking lot at 510 Green Bay Road and is open every Saturday from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM until October 30. Each week the event is host to a variety of local farmers, food vendors, and a rotating cast of guest vendors and local businesses such as **Tocco, Beat Street Toys**, and **Maze Home**. The Farmers' Market is sponsored by the Village of Winnetka and hosted by the Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce. Farmers' Market days are a great time to stop by neighboring businesses in Winnetka's downtown.

First Fridays

First Fridays are back! Many Hubbard Woods businesses stay open till 7 PM and offer unique in-store programming on the first Friday of every month through October. First Fridays are sponsored by the Village of Winnetka and hosted by the Hubbard Woods Design and Dine District. New businesses that are joining First Fridays for the first time include **Alchemy and Cloth**, **Casa Spazio**, **Munder-Skiles**, and **Pedego Winnetka**.

Sidewalk Sale

Save the date for the Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce's Sidewalk Sale on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17. This popular sale event features outdoor sales throughout business districts. Stroll the sidewalks of Winnetka for the best deals on items like men's clothing and women's clothing, home goods, and gifts.



New Businesses

Winnetka has welcomed several new businesses, and more are coming soon. In May, **HeARTS Studio** opened at 964 ½ Green Bay Road in Hubbard Woods, which houses three artists and raises money for epilepsy research. Adelheidi's Gelato reopened as **Mitch's Cookies** at 552 Lincoln Avenue, bringing baked goods and Homer's Ice Cream to Lincoln Avenue. **Hometown Coffee and Juice** will soon open their second location at 749 Elm Street.

Stormwater Update

What work has occurred in 2020 and 2021 on the Village's stormwater management projects?

In the spring of 2020, the Village completed intergovernmental agreements with the Winnetka Park District and Winnetka District 36 that allow the Village to construct stormwater storage and management projects on open spaces including the Skokie Playfield south of the Winnetka Ice Arena, the par-3 and 18-hole golf courses. In September 2020, the Village awarded a contract to Strand Associates to proceed with final detailed design and bidding documents, along with necessary environmental permitting for the Stormwater Management wetland on the Cook County Forest Preserve. Engineering and permitting are anticipated to be complete by early 2022, with construction beginning in the early spring of 2022. Also, in February of 2021, the Village awarded contracts to Strand Associates and Jacobson Golf Course Design to begin design work for the stormwater improvements north of Willow Road, which includes improvements at Duke Child Fields and the Park District's properties. At this time, engineering and permitting are anticipated to be complete during the first quarter of 2022, with construction also beginning in 2022.

This project, combined with the previously negotiated projects at the Cook County Forest Preserve, New Trier High School, and the open area at the south end of Crow Island School, will provide enough stormwater storage to meet the Village's goal of providing significant flood risk reduction for areas of west and southwestern Winnetka.

What is the estimated cost of the improvements and how will the Village finance them?

The Village Council reviewed and confirmed the financing plan for the western and southwestern projects during November 2020. The proposed project budget for these improvements is \$75,721,000. This is roughly \$5.56 million, or 7.35%, above the initial program developed in 2015, as escalated to 2021 dollars, a difference which is entirely related to changes made to the storage facilities to accommodate the needs and plans of New Trier High School, the Winnetka Park District, and Winnetka District 36 for projects that are co-located on their properties.

The Village has developed a financial plan to fund these stormwater improvements over the next 5 years. Key highlights of the proposed financial plan include:

- Project cost assumptions. The total west/southwest Stormwater Improvements Project cost of \$75,721,000 has been vetted by Strand Engineering and by a qualified independent third party (Berger Construction).
- The plan provides funding for 92.7% of the west/southwest Stormwater Improvements Project with several avenues for additional revenue sources (including grants) to be explored and pursued over the next five years.
- No increases to the Stormwater utility fees for the duration of the plan (5 years). The Plan relies on minimal future debt issuance, and future debt service payments are supported by the Village's existing annual debt service capacity created by the recent bond refunding.
- Approximately \$30 million in intergovernmental funding has been awarded from other government agencies (ex. State of Illinois, MFT, MWRD).
- Maintains cash balances greater than policy minimums for the 5 year plan.

Changes to Flood Insurance Rates

On October 1, 2021, new flood insurance rates are scheduled to go into effect for all National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies.

The new rating system is called Risk Rating 2.0. According to FEMA, Risk Rating 2.0 will:

- Reflect an individual property's risk,
- Reflect more types of flood risk in rates,
- Use the latest actuarial practices to set risk-based rates,
- Provide rates that are easier to understand for insurance agents and policyholders, and
- Reduce complexity for agents to generate insurance quotes.

The current NFIP rating structure uses several basic characteristics to classify properties based on flood risk. Structures are evaluated based on their flood zone on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), occupancy type, and the elevation of the structure. According to FEMA, flood zones will no longer be used in calculating a property's flood insurance premium. With Risk Rating 2.0, premiums are calculated based on the structural and geographical characteristics of the individual structure, the height (not elevation) of the lowest floor of the structure, and the replacement cost of the structure.

FEMA has not released information about the number or percentage of properties that will be affected by this new rating system. Risk Rating 2.0 will continue the overall policy of phasing out NFIP subsidies. Since the limitations on annual premium increases are set by statute, Risk



Rating 2.0 will not be able to increase rates faster than the existing limit for primary residences, which is a 5%-18% increase per year.

Although flood zones will no longer be used to calculate a property's

flood insurance premium, flood zones will still be used for floodplain management purposes, and structures within the boundary of the Special Flood Hazard Area (or floodplain) will still be required to purchase flood insurance if there is a mortgage on the property.

The Village of Winnetka does participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) that provides discounts on flood insurance premiums within the Village. Currently, the Village is at a Class 6 rating, which provides a 20% discount on flood insurance policies.

More information can be found at [fema.gov/flood-insurance/work-with-nfip/risk-rating](https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/work-with-nfip/risk-rating). Our Engineering Staff can also answer floodplain questions. Our Certified Floodplain Managers are Emily Grimm, Assistant Village Engineer, who can be reached at 847-716-3532 or egrimm@winnetka.org, and James Bernahl, Director of Engineering, who can be reached at 847-716-3261 or jbernahl@winnetka.org.

Village Styrofoam Recycling Changes



Winnetka provides polystyrene recycling (both block-style and clean food service) offered through a partnership between the Winnetka Public Works

Department, the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission, and Dart Container Corporation.

The program now takes place every Monday from 1-3 PM. The program and is available only to residents of Winnetka. To participate, simply drop off #6 polystyrene at the Winnetka Public Works gate located at 1390 Willow Road.

Other recycling options:

- Highland Park, 180 Half Day Road, 1st Saturday of every month from 7 AM – 1 PM.
- ABT Electronics at 1200 N. Milwaukee Ave in Glenview, during store hours, 7 days/week.

Curbside Refuse Rolls Out

Winnetka residents are now able to save money on refuse collection by participating in the Curbside Refuse Program. If you currently have back door refuse service and you would like to switch to Curbside, please call 847-716-3568 for more information.





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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:	ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org
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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 at "Agendas," or from the Village Manager's Office.

4th of July Refuse Collection

Week of July 5, 2021 - July 9, 2021

- Monday collection will be on Tuesday
- Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday
- Thursday collection will be as usual
- Friday collection will be usual