



The WINNETKA REPORT

A Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbors,

On May 10, Village Council reviewed a concept for the site that the post office currently occupies: a multipurpose town square that would facilitate the performance and spoken word arts in an outdoor venue. Such a concept is not new to the Village: it was part of the Bennett Plan, the first comprehensive plan for the development of the Village, published in 1921, as part of the proposed Village Center. Village Council will be reviewing iterations of this plan for this gathering space, and I will also assemble a group of volunteer residents to guide the planning and development of a final vision. If you're interested to learn more, watch the presentation, found on the Village's Agenda Center (villageofwinnetka.org/agendas), and provide us with comments at contactcouncil@winnetka.org. Please join the conversation at future Council meetings when this topic appears on our agenda. We publicize our meeting agenda topics in our weekly email to residents: use the QR code below to sign up for these weekly emails.

The Stormwater project continues to move forward: we are working to finalize pricing and agreements with contractors to move forward on the large-scale storage components on Duke Childs Field, Little Duke Field, the par-3 golf course and the 18-hole golf course. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress as we work to alleviate stormwater concerns in our Village.

There is plenty to do in the Village this summer: the Farmers' Market, First Fridays in Hubbard Woods, the 4th of July celebrations, the Sidewalk Sale, and a re-opening celebration for the West Elm Business District to mark the end of Streetscape construction in this area on July 14. We are keeping our community calendar updated with other events and opportunities on our website, so please check villageofwinnetka.org for more information.



The response to our renovated downtowns has been very positive, with more and more residents coming to enjoy the enhanced spaces for gathering. We ask that everyone who visits the business district on bicycles walk bikes while on the sidewalk and park them in appropriate locations.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new businesses to Winnetka, which you can learn more about in our Economic Development update on page 5. The Village is working with our newest partner, Tala Coffee, on the redevelopment of 93 Green Bay Road, which will include a substantial public component, acting as a much-needed visual gateway to our community.

Finally, a special thank you to the residents who are committed to clearing dead or dying underbrush on the Green Bay Trail last month: Elisha Gray, Mickey Archambault, Craig Witte, Julian Solotorovski and Steve Huels. Thank you for your dedication and use of your personal time to make things more beautiful in the Village.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Chris Rintz
Village President



Chris Rintz

Sign up for the weekly newsletter to residents



It only takes seconds and will keep you in-the-know about Village events and updates.

Council Action Summary

March 1, 2022: Zoning variations and a certificate of appropriateness were discussed for a multi-unit residential building at 455 Linden Street. Zoning variations to 108 Fuller Lane were discussed and approved.

March 8, 2022: A policy discussion was held regarding seasonal street closures for outdoor dining in the Village. After considering input from restaurant owners and community members, Council chose to explore the creation of a street closure approval process via a license agreement, and that all license agreements will be considered by Council.

March 10, 2022: A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing probable or imminent litigation pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act.

March 15, 2022: A presentation regarding the Winnetka Music Festival was made by Festival organizers. A School District 36 Community Outreach presentation was given regarding a proposed referendum. The Annual Street Rehabilitation Program was discussed.

April 5, 2022: The 2021 Landmark Preservation Awards were presented to awardees and recognized for their efforts to maintain the unique historical character of the Village. The disposal of surplus property was discussed and approved. A contract to update the Council Chambers audio/visual system was discussed and approved.

April 12, 2022: An update on the Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blower Working Group was provided to Council, and a discussion was held about the impact of public education on leaf blower use, the use of electronic leaf blowers, and the enforcement of gasoline-powered leaf blower citations by the Police Department. A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing the sale or lease and related compensation of Village property pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) of the Open Meetings Act.

April 19, 2022: The annual Arbor Day Proclamation was made, as was the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and Proclamation. The Environmental and Forestry Commission 2022 Green Awards were presented to The Hadley Institute for the Visually Impaired and the Winnetka Public Works Department. The amendment to a special use permit and variations for playground improvements at Hubbard Woods Elementary School was discussed and approved. An amendment to a special use permit and variations for Greely Elementary School was discussed and approved. A request to obtain approval to vacate portions of an easement at 653, 655, 657, and 661 Sheridan Road was discussed and approved.



May 3, 2022: Annexation and rezoning at 1183 Scott Avenue was discussed, as part of the property lies in Glencoe. Council deliberated previous matters related to annexing properties along the borders of Winnetka and Glencoe, and voted to approve the annexation. An extension of the Recycling Services Agreement with Lakeshore Recycling Systems was discussed and approved.

May 10, 2022: A discussion of the site currently housing the Post Office was discussed, and a concept was presented that utilizes the space as a public gathering place and outdoor performance area. Council recommended further exploration of the concept.

May 17, 2022: A special use permit was discussed and approved for Sarah Dippold Interior Design Studio at 906 Green Bay Road. The Annual Street Rehabilitation Program was discussed and approved. An intergovernmental agreement was discussed and approved for the sale/lease of a Fire Rescue Boat to the Fire Department.

Post Office to Relocate

The Village has been notified by the United States Postal Service that it intends to relocate to a yet-to-be-determined location as close as possible to its existing location at 512 Chestnut Street. The Postal Service seeks to inhabit a space that it will be more efficient from a cost and mail volume perspective as it relies on postage, products, and services to support itself and mail volume has declined significantly in recent decades due to increases in electronic communication. They are looking to move no more than 1.25 miles from their current location, and will solicit and consider input from the community and local officials as they consider future locations. They plan to send an official notification of their intention to relocate to all Winnetka residents in the near future, and will provide a mechanism for input and feedback in that communication. A similar notice will also be posted at their facility. The Village will continue to notify residents as this situation evolves.

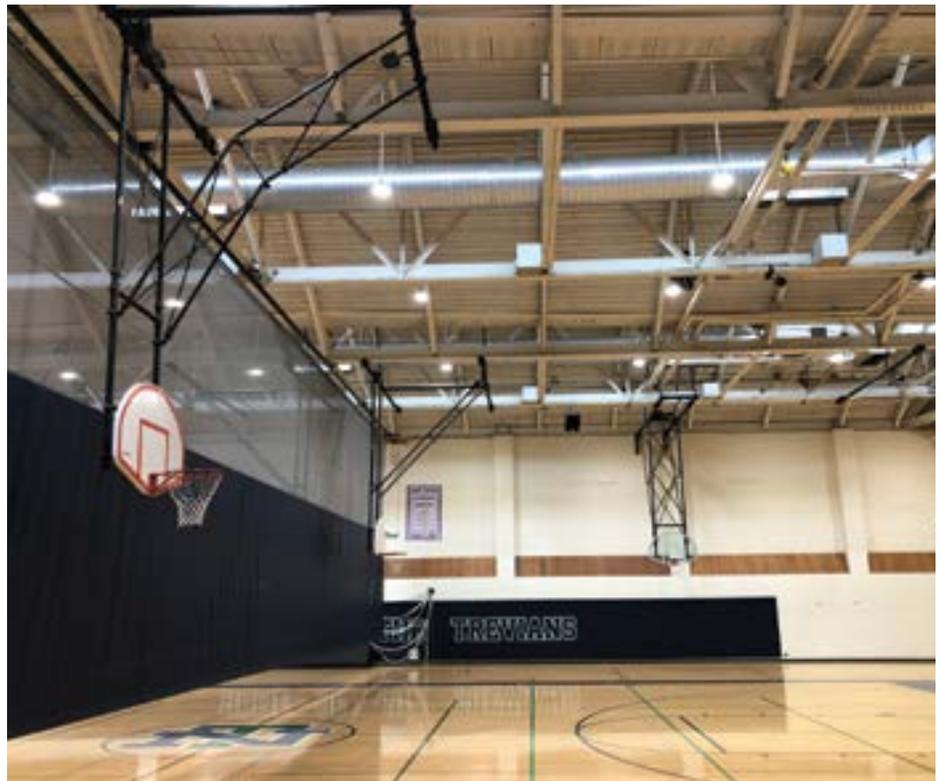


New Trier Receives Grant-Funded Lighting Upgrade

New Trier High School recently completed an energy efficiency upgrade project utilizing a \$20,000 incentive rebate from the Village of Winnetka and the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's (IMEA) Electric Efficiency Program. The Electric Efficiency Program is managed and funded by the Village's wholesale electric provider, IMEA.

The project included replacing 114 metal halide gym lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures in Bickert Gymnasiums. The improvements are estimated to reduce annual energy consumption and save New Trier 108,685 kilowatt-hours annually.

IMEA's Electric Efficiency Program was created to provide an incentive for projects that result in energy savings, reducing the Village's electrical demand. Eligible projects must be located in and receive electric service from the Village of Winnetka and must produce electricity savings through efficiency improvements in commercial buildings, equipment, or processes. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, subject to funding availability. Learn more about this program by calling the Water & Electric Department at 847-716-3558.



2022 Green Awards Recipients

Each year, the Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission (EFC) invites residents to participate in its Green Awards Program, the purpose of which is to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. This year's winners of the Winnetka Green Award are the **Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired** and the **Winnetka Public Works Department**.

Hadley was selected for its efforts in the category of Land, Leadership and Water/Stormwater. In 2021, Hadley redesigned their gardens with native plant species which replicated environments from across Illinois including woodlands, bluffs, prairies and others. Additionally, the space includes new sensory elements which allow all staff and visitors to have an independent, wayfinding experience. Finally, a crushed granite walkway was installed to guide rainwater away from the building and aid in alleviating the historical stormwater issues the facility has faced.



Winnetka's Public Works Department.



The Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The Winnetka Public Works Department was selected for its efforts in the category of Energy and Municipal Operations. In 2022, the Public Works Department converted a total of 149 compact fluorescent light (CFL) fixtures to LED at the Public Works Maintenance Yards Facility. The 140 larger fixtures reduced the wattage from 128 to 29 watts, while the nine smaller remaining fixtures reduced the wattage from 64 to 29 watts. The switch from CFL fixtures to LED fixtures reduced expended total wattage by 14,715 watts.

Sidewalk Sale

The Winnetka Sidewalk Sale will take place on **Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16** in business districts around the Village from 9 AM – 5 PM. The Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event. Enjoy some of the biggest sales of the year at this open-air shopping and services spree.



Paper Shredding Event: August 20, 2022

Winnetka's Document Destruction Event will be held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022**, from **9 AM to 12 PM** at the Public Works Yards at 1390 Willow Road. The goal of the program is to assist residents with recycling outdated or sensitive documents.

As a continuing program, the Solid Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is providing a one-day document destruction event for residentially generated paper, such as medical forms, bank statements, personal files, old tax forms, etc. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove paper from binders.

There is no cost to participate, but residents must live in one of SWANCC's member communities and IDs will be checked for proof of residency. Residents will be limited to six file-size boxes or paper shopping bags per vehicle. Please do not bring documents in plastic bags as SWANCC cannot accept them. As residents drive up in their vehicles, workers will unload the paper documents into large carts. When full, the carts of paper are emptied into the truck's cross-shredding machine.



New Businesses Open

Many new businesses have opened this year in Winnetka, and more are planning to open soon. Interest remains high from perspective businesses, including retailers and restaurants.

In Hubbard Woods, four new businesses opened or are planning to open and two businesses are planning expansions. **Serena and Lily** is opening this summer in the former Jos. A Banks building at 1070 Gage Street. **Florist The Shy Flower** opened at 1046 Gage Street in February, **North Shore Fine Gardening / Plant Perfect Design** opened at 994 Green Bay Road in April, and **Robin Thomas Design** opened at 897 ½ Green Bay Road in May. Mathnasium is expanding their space into 1054 Gage Street, and **Bella Bleu Bridal** is expanding across the street at 907 Green Bay Road.

In West Elm, five new businesses opened or are planning to open this year. **Delos Strength** opened at 546 Lincoln Avenue in January, expanding the services of **Delos Therapy**. In the Laundry Mall at 566 Chestnut Street, soda and candy store **Fizz and Pop** opened in February, and Swaby, a couture women's clothing store opened in May. Jimoto sushi restaurant will open this summer at 813 Oak Street, adjacent to 501 Local. **Skyline Window Coverings** will open at 571 Lincoln Avenue this summer.



Enjoy Events in our Business Districts

First Fridays in Hubbard Woods are underway on the **first Friday of every month** along Green Bay Road from Tower Road to Scott Street from **5 – 7 PM** through October. Visit participating local businesses for in store activities and bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy this annual tradition featuring art, shopping, and music. The event is hosted by the Hubbard Woods Design District.

The Village is hosting a Grand Reopening of West Elm Celebration on Thursday, **July 14 from 4 – 7 PM** to celebrate the completion of the streetscape project. Businesses will stay open late and offer drinks, snacks, and specials.



Farmers' Market

The Winnetka Farmers' Market is open for the season at a new location in the Elm Street Station Parking Lot and Station Park at 754 Elm Street. The Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce is co-hosting the market, with the Village of Winnetka and the Winnetka Park District, which will take place **every Saturday at 7:30 AM - 12:30PM from June 4 - October 29**. As in previous years, the market will feature many local farmers, vendors, and local businesses. Weekly programs at the market include music, yoga, composting, and chef demonstrations. Last year, 63 vendors participated.



Message from the Fire Chief: Rechargeable Lithium Batteries and Fire Safety

Many popular portable power and gardening tools, toys, and devices run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, including portable drills, leaf blowers, lawn or hedge trimmers, e-bikes, scooters, or laptops. Please check your rechargeable devices for damage before using them. While they are largely considered to be safe, they are a serious fire hazard if damaged or used incorrectly. The following are tips about lithium-ion battery powered devices to help keep you and your family safe:



- Before taking rechargeable items out of storage for the summer, make sure to inspect the batteries for damage. Be sure to check for water damage, punctures, or general wear and tear that would necessitate disposal of the battery.
- If there is any significant damage, or the battery is holding little to no charge, properly dispose of the battery and purchase a new one.
- Never tamper with or attempt to repair a battery you believe to be defective, as this can start a fire or explosion.
- If a battery feels especially hot, emits smoke or a burning smell, or is noticeably leaking, stop using the device immediately and dispose of the battery.
- Regularly charging devices overnight can potentially overheat your battery or damage its charging capabilities.
- Never store a lithium-ion battery near a source of heat, in direct sunlight, or near other incendiary devices.
- Avoid overheating your devices and regularly charging devices overnight.
- Never store a lithium-ion battery near a source of heat, in direct sunlight, or near other incendiary devices. If heated or damaged, these batteries can cause a fire or explosion which could easily spread to other items nearby.

Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal

When it is time to replace your lithium-ion battery, it's important to do so correctly. Damaged lithium-ion batteries should be placed in absorbent, non-flammable material (like cat litter), and kept in a cool, dry area until they can be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste facility. All batteries can be properly disposed of by bringing them to a Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) location. More information on battery disposal can be found on SWANCC's "Reuse and Recycle Directory" at [SWANCC.org](https://www.swancc.org). Additionally, [Call2Recycle.org](https://www.call2recycle.org) has an online resource that can show the nearest battery drop-off recycling location to you.

Update from the Police Chief

The Winnetka Police Department would like to share a few tips to help promote your safety this summer:



Traffic safety is always a priority for us. We ask that both motorists and bicyclists respect each other and share the road: traffic laws apply to bicyclists and vehicles alike. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, bicyclist deaths occurred most often in urban areas (79%) compared to rural areas (21%) in 2020. Please allow enough space in the road when approaching or overtaking a bicyclist, and only pass when it is safe to do so.

Please remain vigilant when it comes to the security of your vehicles. If you are in a hurry to pick up coffee at a local establishment, please do not leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running. This is both dangerous and against the law. When leaving vehicles parked in your driveway, please remove any valuables, keys/fobs, and make sure to lock your vehicle. Illuminate the outside of your home and keep the overhead garage door closed. If you hear suspicious activity at night, please call 911 immediately and do not wait until morning.

In past years, we have received complaints about pets left in parked vehicles. On an 80-degree day, the temperature inside a vehicle will reach almost 100 degrees in just ten minutes. Consider alternatives to leaving your pet inside your vehicle: use a drive-thru when available, frequent businesses that allow pets inside, or consider running errands with a friend or relative who can stay outside with your pet.

Phase 4 of the Winnetka Streetscape Project

This spring, the Village undertook Phase 4 of its Downtown Streetscape Plan, consisting of improvements to Chestnut Street between Elm Street and Oak Street; Oak Street between Chestnut Street and Green Bay Road; sections of Elm Street and Spruce Street; Chestnut Court; and the Village Hall Parking Lot. Construction began on March 15. Work included water main improvements; wider sidewalks; expanded corner planting and gathering areas; new pedestrian and roadway lighting; new electrical connections for holiday lighting; tree boxes and replacement trees; larger flowerpots; and new benches. Construction will be substantially complete in the coming weeks.

Village Council adopted the Downtown Streetscape and Signage Master Plan in 2018, which informs all Downtown Streetscape Projects. Phase 4 is an important step toward providing improved places to stroll, gather, and dine while modernizing Winnetka's business districts with improved infrastructure, lighting, signage, and parking. For additional questions about the Streetscape project please contact Emily Grimm, Assistant Village Engineer, at 847-716-3532, or email egrimm@winnetka.org.



Chestnut Street and Elm were part of a previous Streetscape project.



Spotlight On: Cynthia Plazas, Police Social Worker

Cynthia Plazas, the Winnetka Police Department's social worker, reports she has no such thing as a typical day. She responds to cases that require a social service component: whether on the scene for a crisis or following up on cases. Plazas' part-time position is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and her workload shifts based on the cases she is assigned to provide her assistance and expertise.

Plazas had a passion for criminal justice and psychology from a young age. She attended DePaul University and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, where she studied psychology, forensic psychology, and public safety counseling with a concentration in criminal justice, earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in the field. She began working as a police

social worker in Highland Park in 2014, joining Winnetka as a police social worker in 2015: in both roles, she assists community members during very difficult times in their lives. For her, the ability to provide guidance and direction when people need it most is rewarding. She also currently serves as an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Sciences Department at Triton College.

Asked what she wishes more residents knew about working with the police, Plazas shared the following: "People are reluctant to call 911 for a variety of reasons. They don't want to bother the police, or feel their problem might be a burden, or think their situation is not bad enough to warrant police attention. If you or a loved one feel unsafe, please call 911."



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:	ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org
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Village Council Meetings

Meetings are held 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. Agendas will include the meeting's location and/or meeting access instructions.

**Fourth of July Refuse & Recycling Collection
Schedule For the week of July 4 - July 8, 2022:**
Monday collection will be on Tuesday.
Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.
Thursday & Friday collection will be as usual.