



The WINNETKA REPORT

A Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying the fall season after a restful summer. I'm pleased to update you on Village projects and priorities that are in progress.

This report contains an update on the work done to date and the work still to come on the Stormwater Improvements Project taking place on the west side of the Village, which, once fully constructed, will provide substantial alleviation of flooding issues to many of our residents. You can find that on page 6 of this report. In addition to this project, we are planning to undertake a study of stormwater impacts on the east side of the Village, and, this fall, will issue a request for proposals for an engineering analysis to determine what enhancements can be made to storm drainage, possibilities for water quality improvements in our stormwater system, and green infrastructure that may be created in the future. Our goal is to address standing water and flooding issues that occur after large storms on the east side as a complement to the project currently underway. The project on the west side is the result of almost a decade of study, discussion, and collaboration between the Winnetka Park District, School District 36, New Trier Township High School, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Any work we ultimately undertake on the east side will be the result of similar thoughtful study and discourse.

This fall, our committee to discuss the site currently occupied by the post office will begin in earnest. The vision is to create a town square that can be enjoyed by generations of residents, will add to the vibrancy of our West Elm business district, and will set our Village apart for our investment into a space for our community to gather to enjoy the arts and care for the recreational and civic needs of the village. Thank you to the individuals who have volunteered to work on this visioning project.



Annual September 11 Memorial Flag Planting, organized by Andrew Cripe and family.

We will share updates as our work progresses and as the committee's vision solidifies into something that we can discuss as a community.

On a personal note, I would like to extend thanks to the Cripe family for arranging the 9/11 memorial, as they have in previous years. The annual flag planting is a notable and moving community event and temporary installation which so many residents visit to honor the lives that were lost on that day.

I look forward to seeing you at the holiday tree lighting on December 1, which is one of my favorite events each year. Details on that and other fall events can be found on page 7.

Sincerely,

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

May 16, 2023: President Rintz made a statement regarding future stormwater mitigations for the east side of the Village, adding plans for this work will be thoroughly discussed at Council meetings in the future. A special use permit was discussed for 564 Green Bay Road.

June 6, 2023: A special use permit was approved for 564 Green Bay Road. Village code amendments were discussed limiting the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers to 9 months, allowing usage in April, October, and November. This robust discussion included input from the Winnetka Park District and local Go Green group members. A resolution approving the purchase of body-worn cameras for police officers was approved. An appointment to the Environmental & Forestry Commission was made.

June 20, 2023: A concept plan for Chase Bank at 791 Elm Street was discussed, and Council members weighed in on design components and historic matters regarding the site. Plans for the site will continue to be discussed at future meetings. Appointments were made to the Design Review Board and the Plan Commission.

July 6, 2023: Regulations regarding zoning at the lakefront were discussed and public comments were heard. Ordinances were introduced to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance to establish a Lakefront Preservation Overlay District, to amend the official zoning map of the Village to place certain properties along Lake Michigan in the Lake Preservation Overlay District, to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance regarding special use permits, and to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance to create a study and permit abeyance period for construction in the steep slope area along Lake Michigan that will be in effect until April 2024.

July 11, 2023: During this study session, the Water & Electric system and plant were discussed, providing an overview of the Village's contract with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency through 2035, the Village's electricity generation practices, and current Village equipment. A closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation pursuant to Section 2(c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act and for the purpose of discussion of minutes of closed session meetings pursuant to Section 2 (c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act was held.

July 18, 2023: A presentation on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the Popular Annual Financial Report was made by the Village's Finance Director. Policy direction was sought regarding the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, and an additional \$300,000 was allocated by Council toward this program due to overwhelming residential interest. A plat of subdivision and variations was granted for 1415 and 1423 Asbury Avenue. Ordinances were approved after public comment was made to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance to establish a Lakefront Preservation Overlay District, to amend the official zoning map of the Village to place certain properties along Lake Michigan in the Lake Preservation Overlay District, to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance regarding special use permits, and to amend the text of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance to create a study and permit abeyance period for construction in the steep slope area along Lake Michigan that will be in effect until April 2024. An appointment to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was made.

August 1, 2023: A resolution of appreciation to the Crone Family was adopted, expressing gratitude for their cooperation and collaboration regarding the 1205 Sunset property, the purchase of which will allow the Village to complete the Crow Island phase of the Stormwater Improvements Project. A zoning variation was approved for 258 Ridge Avenue. A reimbursement to the Village of Kenilworth was approved for design services for the Green Bay Road Streetscape concept plan. A text amendment to the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance was discussed to allow new multi-family buildings in the C-2 General Retail District.

August 15, 2023: A Village Code amendment was adopted amending chapter 3.40 to allow a student member of the Landmark Preservation Commission. A special use permit for Compass Reality at 564 Lincoln Avenue was discussed. An appointment to the Environmental and Forestry Commission was made.

Curbside Leaf Collection

October 16 – November 24, 2023

The Village’s annual curbside leaf collection will begin **October 16 and will run through November 24.**

The last day to place leaves on your parkway for collection is by 7 AM on Monday, November 27. Any resident who places leaves on the parkway after that time may not have their leaves collected.

Residents are reminded to rake leaves into the parkway, just inside the edge of the curb. **Please do not rake leaves into the street near storm drains or utility covers. If you use a landscaping company, please ask them to create leaf piles on the parkway.** Residents are asked to avoid parking in front of leaf piles or creating any obstructions that may prohibit staff from collecting leaves.



Pumpkin Composting Event

The Village of hosting a one-day pumpkin collection event on **Wednesday, November 1, from 9 AM – 1 PM** at 1390 Willow Road. Residents are encouraged to bring in pumpkins for the Village to properly dispose of, limiting the amount sent to landfills. Please remove any solid waste (candles, bags, etc.). Garbage, food scraps or other landscape waste will not be accepted.

Residential Composting Drop-Off Available

Lakeshore Recycling Systems and the Village of Winnetka are pleased to offer drop-off sites where residents may discard food scraps and organics collected at home in carts located throughout the Village. Residents may drop off food scraps and organics in containers located at Carleton Washburne School, Greely School, Hubbard Woods Elementary School, New Trier High School, Elm Street Station, and Winnetka Congregational Church. View details at villageofwinnetka.org/composting.



Yard Waste Reminders

During the spring, summer, and fall, the Public Works Department provides collection of residential yard waste through a curbside program. Please keep the following in mind when disposing of yard waste:

- All yard waste must be disposed of in either a yard waste bag or, in the case of branches, bundled with rope. Bundles may not exceed 4' in length or 2' in width.
- Each bag or bundle must have a yard waste collection sticker affixed. Stickers can be purchased at Village Hall, Grand Foods, or Lakeshore Foods for \$2.50 each.
- All bags and bundles must be placed curbside on designated collection days to ensure pickup.
- Yard waste cannot include any dirt or soil.

Please contact the **Public Works Department at 847-716-3568** with questions.



Message from the Police Chief

Our Public Safety Open House will take place on **Saturday, October 14 from 10 AM to 1 PM** at 410 Green Bay Road. This year, on the Police side of the house, we will offer station tours, where you will be able to see police vehicles,

emergency equipment, drones, our firing range, our holding facility, and more. On the Fire side of the house, you will be able to explore the fire engine and ambulance, watch a vehicle extrication, and use a fire extinguisher simulator. A child car seat installation service will be available on this day in the parking lot on the south side of the building. We look forward to seeing you at this all-ages event.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours will be from 3 - 7 PM on Tuesday, October 31. Please remind Trick-or-Treaters in your home to stay on sidewalks and within marked crosswalks, and to remain aware of traffic. Running across streets or out from between vehicles can create a dangerous situation, and our priority is that everyone safely enjoys their holiday.

There are several simple steps you can take to lower your risk of being the victim of a crime:

1. Remove key fobs and valuables from your vehicle, and keep it locked, even if you are at home. This sounds simple, but each year we are witness to horror stories when vehicles and valuables are left unlocked and unattended—even for just a moment.
2. Be aware that ruse burglaries take place when an offender impersonates a utility service or the Village and lures you outside your home to look at something, as a distraction, while a second offender enters your home to remove valuables. If you have an unannounced utility or Village visit, or someone asking you to leave your home to look at something, or a similar situation you feel is suspicious, you can always call 911. Please also remember to engage alarm systems when you leave your home, even for a short time, and perform routine checks to make sure security cameras are functioning.
3. Please do not be reluctant to call 911 if you need an immediate response to a situation that you feel is suspicious. We would rather verify identification and keep everyone safe.

Traveling through the Village Safely

Please remind children who bike to school of the following:

- Use sidewalks and be courteous when passing pedestrians. Walk bikes in business districts.
- Always wear helmets.
- Be aware of oncoming traffic when approaching intersections, and use marked crosswalks, when possible.

For people driving in the Village, especially around school zones:

- Travel at safe and slow speeds, as posted.
- Remain alert for children running onto the roadway.
- Do not use your mobile phone while driving.



Message from the Fire Chief

This year marks 101 years of Fire Prevention Week, the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week since 1922, which occurs during the week of October 8, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. Each year, Winnetka Firemedics visit local public, private, and parochial schools during Fire Prevention Week to give safety presentations. The NFPA announced this year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention."



Cooking Safety

For many people, cooking can be relaxing and a great outlet for creativity. It often brings family and friends together. However, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries, and the leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove. It's important to cook with caution and follow safety tips to prevent home fires and injuries.

Cook with Caution:

- Remain in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Stay home and check regularly when you are simmering, baking, or roasting food. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, etc. – away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink are prepared and carried.

If you experience a small cooking fire and are comfortable attempting to extinguish the fire:

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- Call 911 to have the Fire Department check the stove and surrounding area.

If you have any doubt about fighting the small cooking fire:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 from outside the home.

The First Stage of Stormwater Management Nears Completion

The following are updates about the various Stormwater Management Project phases that are underway or planned throughout the Village. This project is the result of many years of discussion to identify feasible, cost-effective solutions to pervasive flooding issues, and it is made possible by the work to secure intragovernmental agreements with New Trier, School District 36, and the Winnetka Park District, and it is made possible by the work to secure intergovernmental agreements with New Trier Township High School, School District 36, the Winnetka Park District, the Cook Country Forest Preserve, and approval from the Army Corps of Engineers

In the **North of Willow project**, the underground storage facilities at Duke Childs and Little Duke Fields were completed in June and the stormwater ponds on the Par-3 and the 18-Hole golf courses were completed in August. Final grading of the golf courses, as well as new cart paths, drainage, and irrigation systems were completed in September. Golf course restoration was completed October 1, and grass is already growing. The Village now has over 25 million gallons of stormwater storage, serving the neighborhoods north of Willow Road and providing stormwater quality improvements to the Skokie River.



Photos: (Left) Stormwater storage ponds on the golf courses have been completed with new cart paths and bridges. (Right) Grass is already growing and being maintained.



Photos: Construction of the new stormwater management wetland at Hibbard Preserve is nearly complete and restoration has started for project completion in summer 2024.

The Hibbard Preserve Stormwater Management Wetland project

began in March. Heavy excavation and fine grading for the new wetland is nearly complete, and seeding of the finished areas began in September. Modifications to the existing pumping systems are being completed, and new box storm sewer and water main improvements on Willow Road, Hibbard Road, and Sunset Road are anticipated to begin in November. The project is on schedule to meet its anticipated completion in the summer of 2024, providing another 24 million gallons of stormwater storage and water quality improvements for the west and southwest areas of the Village.

Design of the Crow Island Stormwater Management project

is progressing, in partnership with the Winnetka Park District and School District 36. The Village anticipates construction of this project will take place in spring and early summer 2024, and will provide over 3.5 million gallons of stormwater storage and water quality improvements for neighborhoods south of Willow Road.

Design is also progressing for two significant stormwater conveyance projects in the “tree streets” neighborhood and on Hibbard Road north of Oak Street. These new box storm sewers will collect and convey stormwater to the newly constructed storage facilities north of Willow Road.

The total Stormwater Management Project’s budget is \$81.9 million. The Village has developed a financial plan to fund these stormwater improvements over the next five years. Key highlights of the proposed financial plan include:

- Funding has been secured for almost 90% of the west/southwest Winnetka stormwater improvements, with several avenues for additional revenue sources (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants) are currently being pursued.
- Relying on minimal future debt issuance: future debt service payments will be supported by the Village’s existing annual debt service capacity, created by a recent bond refunding.
- Approximately \$35 million in intergovernmental funding awarded from other government agencies (including the State of Illinois, the Motor Fuel Tax, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District).

2024 Budget Planning Underway

Village staff has begun preparing the 2024 annual budget, which is a policy document that establishes the spending plan and framework for achieving strategic goals and objectives set by the Village Council. Each year, departments prepare fiscally responsible budgets in which all expenses, including recurring expenses, must be justified for each new year. This helps to ensure the efficient allocation of resources based on the needs of the Village. In 2024, there are a number of key issues affecting the budget, including:

- Stormwater management / flooding initiatives
- Improvements to the electric grid
- Downtown redevelopment
- Roadway sidewalk and other infrastructure improvements
- Water main and lead service line replacements



The Village has previously been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and will continue to prepare the budget document in accordance with the GFOA standards. These standards provide for a more user-friendly budget document of the highest quality, that reflects guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting. To win the budget award, the Village has to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation, which assesses how well the Village's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The Village is committed to proposing a budget that continues our long-standing practice of controlling operating costs while investing in capital to repair and enhance the Village's aging infrastructure. The final 2024 budget will be balanced, meaning that annual operating expenditures will be fully funded by annual operating revenues and will not rely on debt service or any one-time revenue sources.

The Village Council will hold a public hearing and conduct a full review of the proposed annual budget later this fall.

Holiday Events in the Village

Explore and shop at the unique businesses in Winnetka during **Small Business Saturday on Saturday, November 25 from 10 AM – 4 PM**. Support local businesses throughout Winnetka by participating in a family-friendly Scavenger Hunt, which is co-hosted by the Village and the Winnetka Park District. Participants will be entered into drawings to win prizes.

Gather with your neighbors at the annual **Holiday Tree Lighting in Dwyer Park on Friday, December 1 from 5 – 6:30 PM**.

Santa will arrive on a fire engine, escorted by the Winnetka Fire Department, and will be available for photos. The Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce, the Winnetka Park District, and the Village co-host this annual holiday tradition.

Find the best sales of the holiday season during the **Chamber of Commerce's 47th Annual Red Invitation Holiday Sale on Sunday, December 3**. Many Winnetka retailers participate in this annual shopping event.

Vote for your favorite decorated storefront during the **Business Window Decorating Contest from November 22 through January 4**, organized by the Chamber of Commerce.





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

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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," at the reference desk at the Winnetka Public Library, or from the Village Manager's Office. Agendas will include the meeting's location and/or meeting access instructions.

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Schedules

Thanksgiving Day (Thursday Holiday) November 20 - November 24, 2023

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday collection will be as usual.
Thursday and Friday collection will be on Friday.

Christmas Day (Monday Holiday) December 25 - December 29, 2023

Monday collection will be on Tuesday.
Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.
Wednesday collection will be on Thursday.
Thursday and Friday collection will be on Friday.

New Year's Day (Monday Holiday) January 1 - January 5, 2024

Monday collection will be on Tuesday.
Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.
Wednesday collection will be on Thursday.
Thursday and Friday collection will be on Friday.