



The WINNETKA REPORT

A Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope all of you enjoyed a restful and fun-filled summer. I am pleased to provide you with updates from around the Village.

The Stormwater Improvements project continues to make progress. Three phases of the project are complete, and our Village now has over 53 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity, which is a tremendous milestone. I was pleased to attend the celebration of the re-opening of the Winnetka Park District's golf course in August, which was closed for almost two years. The course was rebuilt to accommodate a new "lake" that serves as a large capacity reservoir for "tree street" stormwater. The celebration was a milestone for the Park District and the Village and a model for inter-governmental cooperation and partnership. We will now focus on the conveyance portion of the project, which will connect residential areas with the stormwater storage facilities we have constructed. There will be more to say on this in future updates, and you can read more about recent work on the project on page 4.

This summer, following several disturbing and unsettling crimes in our area, our Police Department began posting our weekly police blotter to the Village's website: it has traditionally only been circulated to local media. This offers residents an opportunity to become more aware of what is going on in our community and can help remind us to take precautions, such as locking our cars and securing our valuables when we are away from them. A combination of these simple precautions, awareness, and a readiness to call 9-1-1 to report anything that seems out of the ordinary, can help improve safety for everyone in the Village. While I know that the incidents this summer were deeply troubling for us, it's important to understand that our community has not been uniquely targeted: there have been similar incidents along the entirety of the North Shore this summer.

To reduce the perception that our Village is as an easy target, I am asking for your help in securing your vehicles and valuables. Our Police Department works diligently to serve our community, and we remain in pursuit of enhancements to the measures we currently take to keep our residents safe. You can read more about the Police Department's crime information webpage on page 7.

Our tree lighting takes place on December 6 in Dwyer Park. I hope you'll join us for this family-friendly event as I light the tree promptly at 6 PM. It is my favorite occasion of the year and gives us all a chance to celebrate the holidays with our friends and neighbors.

Finally, I would like to thank a group of volunteers who have worked to clean up the Green Bay Trail: the group has worked to improve the aesthetics of the trail between Scott Avenue and Pine Street and made way for beneficial plant life to grow in the area. The Trail is a place all residents continue to enjoy, and I thank them for their efforts to encourage sustainable plant life in this area. You can read more about them on page 3.

Finally, this past Saturday evening I had the chance to stroll by the paddle tennis courts at the Skokie Playfields. Evidently this night featured an annual get-together, complete with good barbecue, courts filled with friendly matches, and a band setting the mood for a great party. As I approached, I heard one of the band members doing his patter between songs: "so happy to be back in this beautiful community, with beautiful friends on this beautiful evening..." I agree: that's why we live here!

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

July 9, 2024: A study session was held to discuss several topics: the current post office site, the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) power supply contract, and terms of office for Village Council members. Architecture firms are being reviewed for consideration by Council to create a future vision for the site. Council decided to continue considering this project and proceed with demolition of the site (after the Post Office's lease ends) as the project develops. The IMEA power supply contract discussion reviewed the new Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement and the complexity of the contracts as the Village considers the future of power supply for residents. Council reviewed and discussed the current two-year terms of office for elected officials, and considered the impacts of potentially extended to a four-year term. The majority of Council members favored keeping the two-year term of office, citing existing term lengths as significant personal commitments.

July 16, 2024: A name change for the Landmark Preservation Commission to the Historical Preservation Commission was discussed and approved. A change to the Village Code regarding the Class P Liquor License was discussed and approved to allow for beverage cart service and revised alcoholic beverage service hours at the Winnetka Park District Golf Club. A purchase of mobile column lifts for the Public Works Department was discussed and approved.

August 6, 2024: Changes to the Village Code were discussed to approve model codes from the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association to safeguard health, safety and welfare of building occupants. The updated codes were introduced and include plumbing, electric, local, property maintenance, and fire prevention and life safety. Approval of the updated codes was planned for the August 20 Council meeting. A contract for a sanitary sewer evaluation study was discussed and approved. The Special Use zoning process was discussed, related to concerns stemming from the Winnetka Park District's Centennial Park project. A closed session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining, Security Procedures, and Pending Litigation was held pursuant to Section 2 (c)(2), 2(c)(8) and 2 (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act.

August 20, 2024: The regular Council Meeting scheduled for August 20, 2024 was cancelled.

September 3, 2024: Changes to the Village Code were approved to adopt model codes from the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. A variation from the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance was approved to allow for the construction of a single-family residence at 473 Sheridan Road.

Curbside Leaf Collection

October 14 - December 2, 2024

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection will begin **October 14 and will run through December 2**. The last day to place leaves on your parkway for collection is by **7 AM on Monday, December 2**. 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. Finally, please do not include pumpkins in your leaf piles as they damage collection equipment.



Pumpkin Composting Event

The Village of hosting a one-day pumpkin collection event on **Wednesday, November 6, from 9 AM - 1 PM** at 1390 Willow Road. Residents are encouraged to bring in pumpkins for composting, 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, Greeley School, Hubbard Woods Elementary School, New Trier High School, Elm Street Station, and Winnetka Congregational Church. Compost must be placed loose or within compostable bags. The use of plastic bags will result in the compost being directed to traditional waste streams. View details at villageofwinnetka.org/composting.



Green Bay Trail History

Bicycling or walking on the Green Bay Trail reveals some interesting history that is still in place. Beginning from Indian Hill, while heading north on the Trail, are the remains of Winnetka's second railroad, The Chicago, North Shore, and Milwaukee Railroad (the "North Shore"). Like the Chicago L, this railroad was electrically powered by an overhead trolley wire and ground-level third rail. In the Winnetka section, it was all trolley wire. Starting at the Winnetka Avenue bridge, the former station platforms and underground passages from the station are still visible from the street below. Heading further north, the round concrete bases for the over-wire supports can still be seen. At Willow Road, the concrete supports for the station platforms are also visible. The station platform bases are visible at the former stations at Elm Street, Eldorado, Hubbard Woods, and Harbor Street in Glencoe. At the height of passenger traffic during World War II, the line carried 140 trains a day through Winnetka. Train traffic dropped rapidly after the war and the competition of the new Edens Expressway. It was abandoned and torn up in 1955. In 1967, the former railroad was reborn as the Green Bay Trail.

Thank You to Green Bay Trail Volunteers

A group of volunteers has been working since early 2023 on cleanup efforts along the Green Bay Trail. Equipped with chainsaws and supported by volunteers from Friends of the Green Bay Trail, the group has cleared logs, debris, and small dead trees from the slope along the east side of the trail between Scott Avenue and Pine Street. The work has helped improve the aesthetics of the trail while clearing the way for more beneficial plants to take root. The group's long-term goal is to create a beautiful, healthy habitat for people and animals by restoring native plants to the landscapes along the trail through the village.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Julian Solotorovsky (JSolotorovsky@KelleyDrye.com) or Steve Huels (huels804@gmail.com)**.

Volunteers

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bryan Lammers | Joel Shoolin |
| Craig Witty | Jim Fielder |
| Elisha Gray | Julian Solotorovsky |
| Mickey Archambault | Steve Huels |
| Jeff Tyson | |

Village Stormwater Management Project Update



Photo: Stormwater will be stored beneath Crow Island Park.

The stormwater construction phase at Crow Island is complete. This project joins the Hibbard Preserve Stormwater Management Wetland project, completed earlier this year, and the North of Willow Stormwater Management project, completed in 2023. These three projects represent about 50% of the Village's planned improvements.

The Crow Island Stormwater Storage and Conveyance project is the result of a partnership between the Village, the Winnetka Park District, and School District 36 to provide stormwater management and flood relief to the neighborhoods south of Willow Road. The Crow Island project features an underground stormwater storage facility beneath Crow Island Park. Stormwater is conveyed out of the facility via a large box storm sewer that runs under Euclid Avenue and Sunset Road to the Hibbard Preserve Stormwater Management Wetland. Before stormwater reaches the Preserve, it's routed through a treatment device to remove pollutants and improve water quality.



Photo: Box storm sewer connects Crow Island storage to the Hibbard Preserve.

The Crow Island project is the third and final stormwater storage project, providing an additional 3 million gallons of storage. Between the three projects, the Village has constructed a total of 53.4 million gallons of stormwater storage, all the while capturing and treating stormwater from the most frequent storm events.

With the onset of vegetation growth throughout the summer, the Hibbard Preserve Stormwater Management Wetland Project has reached final completion. Over the next five years, the Village will monitor growth of the native plantings and work with its contractor and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to nurture the wetland environment. Future stormwater conveyance projects will bring stormwater from Winnetka neighborhoods into the new stormwater management wetland. The preserve alone provides over 24 million gallons of stormwater storage and water quality improvements for west and southwest Winnetka.



The Hibbard Preserve has shown significant vegetation growth through the summer!

The North of Willow Stormwater Management project was completed in October 2023, and restoration throughout the Winnetka Golf Club was monitored and addressed this past summer. A full season of Trevian sports have transpired above the 20-million-gallon underground stormwater storage facility. Golf is also fully underway following the Winnetka Golf Club's Grand Reopening in August.

Design of the stormwater conveyance projects that will collect and convey stormwater from the south and southwest neighborhoods to the newly constructed storage facilities also continues to progress. Stay tuned for additional updates on conveyance projects.



(Left) The renovated Duke Childs Field holds over 20 million gallons of stormwater. (Right) The Winnetka Golf Club held its Grand Reopening on August 12.

Grants Update

Since 2014 the Village has received over \$27 million in grant funding. This funding spans multiple projects including stormwater, bridge refurbishment, pandemic relief and other infrastructure projects. The following is a summary of grants received over the last ten years:

- \$2,000,000: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District grant for stormwater improvements (2015)
- \$5,049,425: Federal Bridge Program (2018-2022)
- \$873,500: Rebuild Illinois Infrastructure Grant (2020-2023)
- \$106,967: Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act federal pandemic relief (2020/2021)
- \$1,674,288: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid Financial Relief Funds - used for stormwater improvements (2021/2022)
- \$195,263: FEMA Public Assistance (COVID reimbursement) (2021/2022)
- \$9,756: FEMA vaccine clinic reimbursement (2021)
- \$500,000: MWRD grant for stormwater (2023)
- \$900,000: MWRD grant for stormwater (2023)
- \$16,000,000: Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan - for stormwater (2023)

In addition to the \$27 million received over the last ten years the Village has also been awarded an additional \$13.7 million in grants expected to be received over the next three years. This includes \$12 million in state capital funds dedicated towards stormwater improvements and additional funding for economic development, trail improvements, and electric vehicle charging.

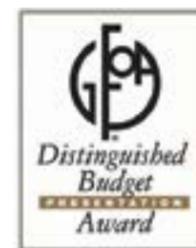
This past June, the Village was awarded \$42,114 in grant funds from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) for the purchase of body-worn cameras for the Police Department.

In total, the Village has secured over \$41 million in grants since 2014 and is currently pursuing an additional \$24.1 million in grants.

2025 Budget Planning is Underway

Village staff has begun preparing the 2025 Annual Budget, which is a policy document that establishes the spending plan and framework for achieving strategic goals and objectives established 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. For 2025 there are a number of key issues affecting the budget including:

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



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 effective budget presentation which assess 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 the Village's long-standing practice of controlling operating costs while investing in capital to repair and enhance the Village's aging infrastructure. The final 2025 budget will be balanced, meaning that routine 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.



Message from the Fire Chief

This year marks 102 years of Fire Prevention Week, the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored public observance of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. Fire Prevention Week is observed 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 Firefighter/Paramedics visit local public, private, and parochial schools during Fire Prevention Week to give safety presentations. The NFPA announced this year's theme is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

When there is a fire, smoke spreads quickly. Smoke alarms detect smoke before you can, alerting you to danger. Roughly 60% of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. The risk of home fire death is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Smoke Alarm Tips:

- Choose an alarm that is listed with a certified testing laboratory to ensure it has met protection standards.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Do not put smoke alarms in your kitchen or bathrooms. Normal activities in these rooms can result in false activation. To reduce false alarms, install smoke alarms at least 10 feet away from the kitchen stove or bathrooms.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested, whichever is first.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all household members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Visit [NFPA.org](https://www.nfpa.org) for more smoke alarm safety and Fire Prevention Week resources.

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 Lakeside 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.
- Yard waste (except pumpkins) can be placed unbagged in leaf piles during leaf collection efforts from October 14 to December 2.
- Pumpkins can be included in yard waste bags, but not in leaf piles, as they break and clog leaf collection mechanisms.
- **The yard waste program will end December 6** and will resume in the spring when weather permits.

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 12 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: 3 - 7 PM on Thursday, 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.

Police Blotter and Crime Information: The Winnetka Police Department communicates with residents via website updates, email alerts (sign up for email alerts using the QR code on the front page of this newsletter), Facebook, and Smart911 alerts. Visit villageofwinnetka.org/420/Police-Blotter-and-Crime-Information to access the most recent police blotters, alerts, and messages to residents. While we cannot share information on active criminal cases, we provide updates when it is appropriate do so and would not compromise the investigation.

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

- Remove key fobs and valuables from your vehicle, and keep it locked, even if you are at home.
- 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.
- Please do not be reluctant to call 9-1-1 if you need an immediate response to a situation that you feel is suspicious. We would rather keep everyone safe.
- As a reminder, if you will be away from your home for an extended period, such as a vacation, contact the police department to add your home to the house watch list. Officers will check your residence to ensure it is secure while you are away. **Call 847-501-6034** for more information.

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.



Sign Up for Smart911

The Village uses Smart911's system to distribute alerts to residents in emergencies. If you haven't signed up for Smart911, please do so today at Smart911.com. Smart911 requires that you keep your profile updated and reminds you with an email every six months to verify that your emergency information remains correct. Your account provides emergency responders with current information about your residence and medical information that would be relevant to your care. The service is kept secure via the highest security standards and your information is only available to emergency responders and the 911 dispatch system.



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
Chris Rintz:	CRintz@Winnetka.org
Kirk Albinson:	KAlbinson@Winnetka.org
Rob Apatoff:	RApatoff@Winnetka.org
Tina Dalman:	TDalman@Winnetka.org
Bob Dearborn:	RDearborn@Winnetka.org
Kim Handler:	KHandler@Winnetka.org
Bridget Orsic:	BOrsic@Winnetka.org

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 25 – November 29

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

Christmas Day (Wednesday Holiday)

December 23 – December 27

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

New Year's Day (Wednesday Holiday)

December 30 – January 3

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

**Small Business Saturday:
Saturday, November 30 from 10 AM – 4 PM**