



# The WINNETKA REPORT

## A Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you each enjoyed a restful and restorative holiday season and are as excited as I am to begin 2025.

Thank you to everyone who supported our local merchants during the holiday season. As the Village continues to invest in the long-term well-being of our business districts, I appreciate the support that residents give to our local businesses to help maintain the thriving business community that we've worked hard to create. In terms of downtown infrastructure, Village Council recently approved an engineering study for the Hubbard Woods business district portion of the Village's Streetscape plan, which will assist with the finalization of the plans for the project with the Illinois Department of Transportation. More on this project will come in the future, and our commitment to continuing to invest in our business districts remains strong.

It's important to note that the Village has also committed to securing grant funding to offset the cost of our infrastructure investments, stormwater improvements, and business district revitalization efforts, reducing the burden on residents: in the past ten years, the Village has applied for and received \$35.2 million for various projects, and we have been awarded an additional \$27.1 million that should be received in the next few years. We have also submitted applications for \$7.1 million to fund ongoing projects.

You have no doubt noticed that many projects are underway in the Village, and more are to come in 2025. We look forward to the completion of the Engel & Volkers Real Estate development at 564 Green Bay Road, the completion of the Walden residential development at 688 Green Bay Road, the construction of the residential condominium project at 808 Oak Street that is anticipated to start in the spring, and the construction of the new Chase Bank building at Elm Street and Green Bay Road.

We are optimistic that the One Winnetka site on Elm Street at Lincoln Avenue will begin construction this year (an update can be found on One Winnetka on page 2). Between these projects, approximately 70 new residential units will be developed for our community: the most we have seen in quite some time.

With several months remaining on my term as Village President, it's important to note that the Village has some important decisions to make in the near future, one of which is about the future of our electric utility and membership in the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA). Some residents may not realize that the Village owns its own electrical utility, which provides the Village control over the quality of electric service delivery and maintenance. Loss of this treasure will leave us vulnerable to the whims of Exelon. While the specifics of energy purchasing and power supply contracts are complicated, this is an important issue that concerns us all, and making the right choice for Winnetka's future is critical. I encourage you to learn more about this issue, which you can do by visiting [villageofwinnetka.org/imea](http://villageofwinnetka.org/imea) and reading the update on Council discussions on the topic on page 3.

I look forward to seeing you around town.

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**

**September 10, 2024:** A study session was held regarding stormwater management on the east side of the Village: Council was provided information about a project studying the existing conditions of the area and their stormwater management implications. Council also discussed matters related to the proposed Park District projects at Elder and Centennial beaches.

**September 17, 2024:** The North Shore Art League’s 100th Anniversary was recognized by proclamation. The disposal of surplus Village property was discussed and approved.

**October 1, 2024:** During this study session, a review of the Green Bay Trail restoration initiative was presented by the Village Forester and the Friends of the Green Bay Trail, detailing work done to date, and proposed landscaping improvements. These improvements are not in conflict with the improvements proposed by The Lakota Group on October 10, 2023.

**October 15, 2024:** An agreement for a Phase 1 study for the Hubbard Woods Streetscape Project with Gewalt Hamilton Associates was discussed and approved. A grant agreement between the Village and the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity was discussed and approved, allowing the Village to receive \$12 million in grants toward the stormwater management improvements project. A closed session was held for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes and specific personnel pursuant to sections 2(c)(21) and 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

**November 1, 2024:** The Village’s all day budget review meeting was held, where Council discussed the 2025 tax levy, capital improvement plan, and departmental budget reports and requests. The strategic priorities for the 2025 budget year are a focus on public safety investments and infrastructure improvements. An overview of the 2025 budget can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

**One Winnetka – Elm Street & Lincoln Avenue**

The Murphy Development Group, the developer of the proposed One Winnetka project at the corner of Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue, continues to work on finalizing its plans for the development. In early 2025, the development team will be before the Village Council for final planned development approval, and the development team has submitted a building permit application for staff review. The developer currently plans to start construction in spring 2025.

**November 12, 2024:** The 100th Anniversary of Hlavacek Florist was recognized, and a presentation from Eagle Scout candidate Jack Rosenthal was given, providing an overview of his work memorializing 94 Winnetka veterans at the Cenotaph on Village Green. A zoning variation was discussed and approved for 595 Elm Street. A final approval of the planned development with zoning modifications and exceptions was discussed and approved for 791 Elm Street (Chase Bank). Follow-up items from the November 1 budget meeting were discussed ahead of the public hearing for the 2025 budget.

**November 19, 2024:** A public hearing for the 2025 budget was held ahead of its adoption on December 3 and resolutions regarding the adoption of the budget were introduced. A lease agreement was discussed and approved for Hofherr Meat Depot at 754 Elm Street.

**December 3, 2024:** The 2025 budget and 2024 property tax levy and abatement ordinances were approved by Council. A zoning variation for 402 Hawthorn Lane was discussed and approved to allow for home additions, and a zoning variation to allow for construction of an attached garage addition was discussed at 270 Birch Street. A closed session was held for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes pursuant to section 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

**December 10, 2024:** A study session was held to discuss the power sales contract and capacity purchase agreement with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, which has asked the Village and its other thirty-one members to consider an extension of their contracts with the agency to 2055 to help plan and transition from a carbon-based portfolio to a net-zero generation portfolio by 2050. A presentation by consultant Mark Pruitt on power supply management and power purchasing and Pruitt took questions from Council and members of the public.

The development includes a four-story mixed use building consisting of:

- 59 residential rental units with 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units,
- Approximately 20,000 square feet of first floor commercial space, and
- Ground-level parking spaces for the commercial uses and lower level parking for the residential uses.

**Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) Power Sales Contract Renewal**

The Village’s wholesale power supplier is the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA). The current Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement are set to expire on September 30, 2035. To properly plan for and transition from a carbon-based portfolio to a net-zero generation portfolio by 2050 while also ensuring generation resources are in place to meet the agency’s future power needs, IMEA is requesting that the Village, and its other thirty-one members, consider an extension of their contracts with the agency. The contract terms for the new Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement are for the period of October 1, 2035 through May 31, 2055. The Village Council has until April 30, 2025 to consider the terms and conditions of the proposed contracts.

The Village Council continues to examine and have conversations regarding the Village’s options for wholesale power when the current contract expires in September 2035. At the December 10, 2024 Village Council Session, an energy consultant provided an overview of the wholesale electric market and alternative options, other than IMEA, for the supply of the Village’s wholesale power requirements.

At the February 11, 2025 Village Council Study Session, representatives from IMEA will be present to provide additional information on the agency’s future power portfolio and Sustainability Plan. Residents are encouraged to review the agenda materials and videos of previous meetings on the Village’s website: [villageofwinnetka.org/imea](http://villageofwinnetka.org/imea). As the Village Council considers the Power Sales Contract renewal, your engagement in the process is encouraged.



**Spring Tree Planting Deadline is March 25**

Each year, the Village of Winnetka plants about 200 trees in parkway areas. The Village is currently taking requests from residents who would like a tree planted in front of their home in the spring. Trees up to 2 ½” trunk diameter size are planted at no cost to residents and will be planted within the Village-owned parkway. Visit [villageofwinnetka.org/tree-planting](http://villageofwinnetka.org/tree-planting) to complete your request. For a listing and description of all tree species available from the Village, please call the Village Forester at **847-716-3289**. The deadline for spring tree requests is **March 25**.

**2025 Green Award Nominations**

The Environmental and Forestry Commission invites residents and local businesses to participate in its annual Green Awards Program, which recognizes properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable or environmentally-friendly practices. The Commission encourages residents to nominate any residence or business for projects that were completed within the past five years and deserve recognition for advancing sustainability in Winnetka.

Submit nominations online by **March 14** at [villageofwinnetka.org/green](http://villageofwinnetka.org/green). Winners will be announced in April in celebration of Earth Month.

**Composting Drop-Off Sites**

Lakeshore Recycling Systems offers 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 the blue 65 or 95-gallon totes at these locations. For a list of accepted materials and locations, visit [villageofwinnetka.org/composting](http://villageofwinnetka.org/composting).



### 2025 Budget: Strategic Community Investment

Winnetka’s Budget, adopted each year by the Village Council, is the official financial plan for the Village’s operating departments. The Budget also presents information related to Winnetka’s debt positions, pensions, and planned capital improvements. The Village follows a calendar-based fiscal year.

On November 1, the Council held an all-day public Budget Review Meeting, where Village staff presented a formal review of the 2025 Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan, with each department presenting on their functional areas of operation.

Below is a snapshot of the key metrics related to the 2025 Annual Budget:

- The 2025 Annual Budget totals \$94,251,924, of which \$22,983,807 is dedicated towards capital infrastructure.
- The General Fund operating budget, the Village’s main operating fund, totals \$27,972,014; a proposed increase of 4.8% compared to 2024.
- The 2024 tax levy will generate \$16,223,043 for village operations. The average increase to existing residents is an inflationary adjustment of 2.95%.
- The proposed 2024 tax levy is less than the tax cap limit (PTELL). Since 2005, the Village has been cumulatively \$23.4 million under the tax cap.
- The 2025 Budget’s impact to a typical Winnetka household is \$468 a year or \$39 monthly, driven by increases in the utility funds as follows:
  - Electric increase: 7.25%
  - Water increase: 10.00%
  - Refuse increase: 3.5%
  - Sanitary sewer increase: 4.95%
- **The rate increases will support capital improvements and unfunded mandates for lead service line replacements passed on to the Village from the State of Illinois.**

The 2025 Village Capital Plan totals \$22,983,807, with significant funding dedicated towards stormwater improvements, downtown revitalization, roads, water mains (including lead service replacement) and improvements to the Village’s electric system. On November 19, the Village Council held a Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget and introduced the Budget, 2024 Property Tax Levy, and 2025 Rate Resolutions. Then, at the December 3 Council Meeting, the 2025 Budget package was formally adopted. To see the current Budget, visit the Fiscal Transparency page on the Village’s website.

### Sidewalk Shoveling

After larger snows, typically beyond 3 to 4 inches, the Village plows snow from residential sidewalks. In order to prevent ice buildup on the sidewalks, residents should remove snow from the sidewalks in front of their homes after slushy events or smaller snowstorms. This will go a long way towards helping keep our sidewalks free from ice and easier for pedestrians to navigate.

If you have questions, please call **847-716-3568**.



### Snow & Ice Control Operations

The Village is committed to keeping streets clear of snow and ice to maintain safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic on publicly-maintained streets and sidewalks throughout the winter months. To ensure streets and sidewalks are free from snow and ice and to maximize department snow and ice control resources, routes have been established and priorities given to main streets such as Forestway, Hibbard Road, Tower Road, Willow Road, Green Bay Road, Elm Street, etc. Business districts fall within these mains. These streets receive much of the traffic within the Village and must be kept clear as primary emergency access routes. The next priorities are secondary streets, especially around schools and churches. Alleys, public parking lots and sidewalks are plowed toward the end of snow events.



Air temperature, type of precipitation, and road surfaces influence the method for applying salt and other snow fighting applications. The Village’s policy is to minimize salt use to control costs, by applying salt at intersections and on street surfaces that may pose a traffic hazard. In addition, a non-corrosive liquid known as Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) is used on bridges and the Hubbard Woods Parking Deck. CMA enables the Village to control ice buildup in an environmentally friendly manner, while preventing premature deterioration of the bridges and the parking deck surface.

The Village’s snow and ice team is comprised of highly skilled and well-trained individuals determined to provide motorists and pedestrians the highest level of snow and ice control services possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable winter season. The Village will work around the clock, when necessary, to provide exceptional service. Learn more at [villageofwinnetka.org/snow](http://villageofwinnetka.org/snow).

### Flood Protection Assistance

The Village of Winnetka is a designated National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) community. The Engineering Department and Sewer Division of the Public Works Department provide the community with one-on-one advice about property protection, with respect to drainage issues, flooding, sanitary sewer back-up, sewer management and maintenance issues, and any available funding for making necessary repairs.

If you have any questions regarding drainage issues, flooding, floodplain, sanitary sewer back-up, sewer management or sewer maintenance, or would like to schedule an on-site visit, please contact Village staff for assistance:

#### Engineering, Drainage and Flooding Issues, Floodplain Questions:

James Bernahl, P.E., CFM, Dir. Of Engineering and Village Engineer; [jbernahl@winnetka.org](mailto:jbernahl@winnetka.org), 847-716-3261

Obaid Khalid, P.E., CFM, Assistant Village Engineer and Stormwater Manager; [okhalid@winnetka.org](mailto:okhalid@winnetka.org), 847-716-3532

#### Sewer Maintenance, Sanitary Sewer Back-Up, Sewer Management:

Erik Jensen, Assistant Director of Public Works; [ejensen@winnetka.org](mailto:ejensen@winnetka.org), 847-716-3534

#### To Protect Your Property from Flood Damage:

Different measures are appropriate for different flood hazards, building types, and building conditions. All methods must comply with the Village’s Flood Hazard Protection Ordinance and applicable Building Codes. Please always check to see what permits are necessary from the Village.

The protection of your home and property could include the following methods:

- Elevate the building above the Flood Protection Elevation, which is 2’ above the Base Flood Elevation.
- Elevate damage-prone components, such as the furnace, air conditioning units, or other attendant utilities.
- Raise window wells and exterior stair wells to provide a barrier from overland flooding and keep well drains free of debris.
- Dry flood-proof the building so that water cannot enter into it.
- Wet flood-proof portions of the building so that water won’t cause damage.
- Construct a berm or redirect drainage away from the building.
- Notify the Village of any observed maintenance issues relating to streams, ditches, and public storm drains; and maintain all privately owned storm drains so that debris does not obstruct them.
- Install a sanitary sewer back-up protection system.



**Message from the Police Chief**  
**Winter Snow Emergencies and Village Parking Restrictions**

When a Snow Emergency (defined as two or more inches of snow within a 24-hour period) is declared by the Village, all parking on residential streets is prohibited until the declaration is lifted. Typically, the Snow Emergency will be lifted once the streets and parking lots are cleared. These notifications and updates can be found on the Village's home page during and after snow events.

Snow Emergency parking restrictions are enforceable throughout the Village even without signage posted in a specific area. There will be no overnight street parking permission granted by the Police Department during a Snow Emergency. Vehicles in violation of snow parking restrictions may be subject to parking enforcement to include ticketing and/or relocation via tow (\$150.00 fine). Obeying parking restrictions helps the Village plow and remove snow as quickly and efficiently as possible, and we appreciate your cooperation when Snow Emergencies occur.

**Keep Your Property Safe While You are Away**

The Police Department offers a Vacation Watch Program for residents who travel or are away from their homes for extended periods of time. When registered in this program, police officers check the exterior of your home while you are away. To be added to this list, please call **847-501-6034**.

We highly recommend taking additional proactive measures to deter criminals:

- Confirm your home has a functioning security alarm system.
- Keep doors and windows properly locked.
- Make sure security cameras are properly operating.
- Place interior lights are on timers.
- Ask family or neighbors to periodically check the house until you return.

**Avoid Crimes of Opportunity**

Lower your risk of being a victim of a crime by keeping the following in mind:

- Remain wary of unknown phone calls, people you may not recognize, or people impersonating a friend, family member, person in need, or even law enforcement, soliciting for money, gift cards, cryptocurrency, etc.
- Remove packages, gifts, or deliveries from your front steps, as criminals are looking for a quick theft of your valuables.
- Always remove fobs and valuables from vehicles and lock car doors.



**A Message from the Fire Chief**  
**Fire Safety**

The Winnetka Fire Department wants you to 'keep safe while you keep warm' this winter season. More home fires occur in the winter than any other season, with heating equipment being one of the leading causes of home fire deaths.

Here are some tips from the Winnetka Fire Department to stay safe while you stay warm:

- Keep a three-foot safety zone around heating equipment. Ensure children, pets, and anything that can burn remain outside the safety zone.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary heating equipment, like water heaters or central heating equipment, according to code and manufacturer instructions. Have the equipment regularly inspected and serviced by qualified professionals.
- When selecting a portable heater, purchase one that has a seal from a qualified testing laboratory, is equipped with a thermostat, and has tip-over/overheat protection.
- Always plug space heaters directly into an outlet and check to ensure the cord isn't damaged.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic and never block an exit.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Never use a gas range or oven to heat your home. This can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide inside your residence.

Visit **Ready.gov** for more tips on staying safe and ready this winter season.

**EMS Safety**

Hypothermia is a dangerous condition of abnormally low body temperature. Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures causes your body to lose heat faster than it is produced. Lengthy exposure will use up your body's stored energy and lower your body temperature. A body temperature that is too low affects brain function, inhibiting movement and clear thought. This makes hypothermia especially dangerous because victims may not recognize what is happening and are unable to take corrective action or seek help.

The following are warning signs of hypothermia:

- Shivering
- Exhaustion or feeling lethargic
- Confusion
- Memory loss
- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness

Frostbite is a type of injury caused by freezing. It leads to a loss of feeling and color in the areas it affects. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and in severe cases can lead to the need for amputation. The nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, and toes are the body parts most often affected by frostbite. Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite. Additional signs include:

- A white or grayish-yellow skin area
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness

**CPR**

Taking a first aid or CPR course is a great way to prepare for problems related to cold weather. Knowing what to do is an important part of protecting your health and the health of others.

Visit [villageofwinnetka.org/CPR](http://villageofwinnetka.org/CPR) or contact Lt. Katie Bublitz at [kbublitz@winnetka.org](mailto:kbublitz@winnetka.org) for more information on Winnetka Fire Department's CPR or Stop-the-Bleed training classes.





## The Winnetka Report

Village of Winnetka  
510 Green Bay Road  
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Standard Presort  
ECRWSS  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 7  
60093

Postal Customer

Winnetka, Illinois 60093

### Village Telephone Numbers

Police/Fire/Paramedics Emergency	911
Police (Non-Emergency)	847-501-6034
Fire (Non-Emergency)	847-501-6029
Electric or Water Outages	847-501-2531
Refuse and Recycling Collection	847-716-3568
Manager/Finance Department	847-501-6000
Public Works Department	847-716-3568
Utility Department	847-716-3558
Utility Billing Services	847-446-9550
Community Development Department	847-716-3576

### Village Council Emails

Contact Village Council:	<a href="mailto:ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org"><b>ContactCouncil@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Chris Rintz:	<a href="mailto:CRintz@Winnetka.org"><b>CRintz@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Kirk Albinson:	<a href="mailto:KAlbinson@Winnetka.org"><b>KAlbinson@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Rob Apatoff:	<a href="mailto:RApatoff@Winnetka.org"><b>RApatoff@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Tina Dalman:	<a href="mailto:TDalman@Winnetka.org"><b>TDalman@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Bob Dearborn:	<a href="mailto:RDearborn@Winnetka.org"><b>RDearborn@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Kim Handler:	<a href="mailto:KHandler@Winnetka.org"><b>KHandler@Winnetka.org</b></a>
Bridget Orsic:	<a href="mailto:BOrsic@Winnetka.org"><b>BOrsic@Winnetka.org</b></a>

### Village Council Meetings

Meetings are held at 7 PM on Tuesdays. Agenda materials and videos of previous meetings are available at [\*\*villageofwinnetka.org\*\*](http://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.

### Save the Dates for Spring Clean-Up:

#### April 28 – May 2

During the week of April 28, the Village's recycling contractor, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, will remove from the parkway anything that two people can reasonably lift into a truck. More details will be available this spring at [\*\*villageofwinnetka.org\*\*](http://villageofwinnetka.org).

