



# The WINNETKA REPORT



## A Message from the Village President

Dear Neighbors,

As this is my first letter to the community, please accept my sincere appreciation for the honor to serve as your Village President. Winnetka is an extraordinary town, and it is a privilege to be involved in

its governance alongside my colleagues on the Village Council. The village has thrived over many decades in part because past Councils have strived to “do the right thing,” by considering present conditions while also looking well into the future. Be assured, that perspective will guide this Village Council going forward.

In the coming year, our focus will be on a broad array of issues, including long-term infrastructure, stormwater mitigation, and water and electric utility services. We will also be prioritizing current issues such as public safety, welcoming commercial districts, maintaining the town’s historic and beautiful neighborhoods, and responsible budgeting. In these efforts, our goal is to work collaboratively with our sister government bodies (District 36, New Trier High School District 203, the Library, and the Park District), as having positive relations amongst these organizations is central to the community’s success.

The new Village Council was sworn in on May 6th and hit the ground running. We concluded a fourteen-month deliberation on Winnetka’s electric power supply and extended the village’s contract with IMEA, the organization from which the village has purchased power since 1991. With that decision made, the focus has turned to initiating projects and policies that will advance sustainability locally, reduce energy demand, and transition to renewable electrification where possible. Updates to this high-priority initiative will be forthcoming.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Chase Bank and One Winnetka projects are well underway in the Elm Street commercial district. These are significant investments by the property owners, which reflects confidence in the village’s long-term vibrancy. We are keenly aware of the inconveniences that come with construction projects of this magnitude and ask for your understanding and patience. Most importantly, please support nearby businesses as much as possible during this busy time. Now more than ever, they will appreciate your patronage!

I would like to note that the Village Council relies heavily on several boards and commissions, made up of over 50 volunteers, that vet and make recommendations on many issues. These resident volunteers, whose names and roles are listed on page 2 of this report, deserve enormous credit for their civic commitment. They are our friends and neighbors, and their service to the community is impactful and greatly appreciated. If you are interested in contributing to Winnetka’s future by joining a village board or commission, please apply by visiting [villageofwinnetka.org/interested](https://villageofwinnetka.org/interested). There are many opportunities to volunteer, and your participation is welcomed.

Finally, Village Council has a booth at the Farmers’ Market each Saturday this summer and we would be delighted to answer your questions, listen to feedback, or just say hello.

Thank you again for trusting the Village Council to carefully and thoughtfully guide our wonderful community. As someone who has been a Winnetka resident for several decades, with three children who grew up here, I am deeply invested in doing what is right for current and future residents. We all look forward to seeing Winnetka thrive for years to come.

Sincerely,

Robert Dearborn  
Village President

**Sign up for the weekly  
newsletter to residents**



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

**SUMMER 2025**

## Boards and Commissions



### Village Council President

Bob Dearborn

### Trustees

Kirk Albinson  
Rob Apatoff  
Tina Dalman  
Kim Handler  
Scott Myers  
Bridget Orsic

### Design Review Board

Katie Moor (Chair)  
Chris Baggett  
Wes Barker  
Fritz L. Duda, Jr.  
Peter Evanich  
Colin Kennedy  
Heather Niehoff

### Environmental, Forestry, and Sustainability Commission

Peter Eck (Chair)  
Brendan Andrew  
Greg Frezados  
Liz Kunkle  
King Poor  
Tim Ring  
David Varca  
Scarlett Harper (Student Rep.)  
Louisa Hernandez (Student Rep.)  
Kim Handler (Council Rep.)

### Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Meg Benson (Chair)  
Julian Solotorovsky  
George Walper, Jr.

### Firefighters Pension Board

Chris Kopecky (President)  
Megan Bauman  
Andrew MacArthur  
John Ripka  
Tom Thibeault

### Foreign Fire Insurance Board

Chris Kroeger (Chair)  
Katie Bublitz  
Zach Fudalej  
Chris Moreno  
Tim McCloskey  
Jack Poplawski  
John Ripka

### Historic Preservation Commission

Jack Coladarci (Chair)  
Christopher Enck  
Beth Ann Papoutsis  
Joe Stuart  
Patti Van Cleave  
Paul Weaver  
Anna Wisniewski  
Louis Zaransky (Student Rep.)  
Scott Myers (Council Rep.)

### Plan Commission

Layla Danley (Chair)  
Jonathan Alt  
Chris Blum  
Matt Bradley  
Mamie Case  
Christopher Enck  
Liz Kunkle  
Cyrus Subawalla  
Kate Van Vlack  
Bridget Orsic (Council Rep.)

### Planned Development Commission

Layla Danley (Chair)  
Matt Bradley (Vice Chair)  
Jonathan Alt  
Mamie Case  
Lynn Hanley  
Liz Kunkle  
Mike Nielsen  
Todd Vender

### Police Pension Board

Stephen Dewart  
Fuad Khadder  
Dylan Majcher  
John Manella  
Josue Perez

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Matt Bradley (Chair)  
Mark Haller  
Lynn Hanley  
Kathryn Leister  
Mike Nielsen  
Michael Ritter  
Todd Vender

## Council Action Summary

**April 8, 2025:** A redevelopment concept for the parking lot at the Indian Hill train station was discussed during this study session, including zoning, project scope, parking, and floor plans. Public comment was heard on this concept plan.

**April 15, 2025:** An ordinance to amend Title 9 of the Winnetka Village Code to prohibit the sale of THC and Kratom products in the Village was discussed and public comment was heard. Council opted to defer discussion of this matter to a later date. An ordinance to amend the Winnetka Village Code regarding limited public off-leash dog areas on Lake Michigan was also deferred to a later meeting. A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and discussing municipal utility contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act.

**May 6, 2025:** Election results were read. President Dearborn and Trustees Kirk Albinson, Scott Myers, and Bridget Orsic were sworn in. A commendation for former Village President Chris Rintz was read. Council board and commission assignments were approved. Appointments were made to Village boards and committees. A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing municipal utility contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas pursuant to 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act.

**May 13, 2025:** A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing specific personnel pursuant to 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. The IMEA contract extension and future energy supply considerations for the Village were discussed. Mark Pruitt, Principal at the Power Bureau, discussed the energy market, the possibility of alternate energy providers, and staffing expectations and requirements should the Village elect to work with an alternate energy provider. Public comment was heard on the matter.

**May 20, 2025:** A plat of subdivision and a special use permit and variation from the Winnetka Subdivision Code was discussed and approved for 473 and 499 Sheridan. A special use permit, variation, and certificate of appropriateness were discussed for construction of a playground at Crow Island School and a public hearing was held on the matter. A certificate of appropriateness was discussed and granted for exterior building alterations at 510 Winnetka Avenue. Appointments to boards and commissions were made.

**June 3, 2025:** A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and discussing municipal utility contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act. A plat of subdivision, special use permit, amendment to a special use permit, variations from the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance, and certificate of appropriateness for construction of additions to an existing church were approved for 440 Ridge Avenue and 760 Cherry Street. The IMEA power sales contract extension and new capacity purchase agreement for 2035 – 2055 was introduced. Public comment was heard on the matter. A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing probable or imminent litigation, response to danger to employees, and criminal investigations, pursuant to sections 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11), and 2(c)(14) of the Open Meetings Act.

**June 10, 2025:** A study session was held in which policy matters for future agendas were discussed, including ongoing projects and future council priorities, including sustainability, stormwater, and future development/redevelopment projects.

**June 17, 2025:** A final plat of subdivision and a variation from the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance was discussed and approved for 557 and 561 Orchard Lane. A Sustainability and Climate Action strategic planning process was approved. The IMEA power sales contract extension and new capacity purchase agreement for 2035 – 2055 was approved. Public comments were heard. A closed session was held for the purpose of discussing municipal utility contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas pursuant to 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act.

## Village Council Approves Contract Extension with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA)

On June 17, the Village Council adopted the proposed extension of the Village's power supply contracts with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) through 2055. IMEA has committed to transition its generation sources to zero carbon emission by 2050. In order to do this, IMEA needs to make significant investments. Contract extensions with member communities help IMEA to identify its power demand requirements far enough in advance that it can invest appropriately in solutions that meet the anticipated future power needs.

We understand that this is a contentious issue, due in part to IMEA's use of coal in its current power generation portfolio. The Village Council is not a fan of coal, and we are deeply concerned about the environment. This year, the Village hired a Sustainability Coordinator, who is working to develop a Climate Action Plan to identify energy efficiency and clean energy measures we can take at a local level to reduce greenhouse gasses, including exploring the development of a solar field on our decommissioned landfill and 'cleaner' generation at our electric plant. We also intend on holding IMEA to its pledge to transition to zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The decision to extend the contract with IMEA was not taken lightly at all. We reviewed the issue for 14 months, including 5 study sessions on the topic where extensive public comment was heard. We participated in the Winnetka Future Energy



Coalition Forum, spoke with businesspeople directly involved with supplying equipment to the power grid, and met with an energy consultant on multiple occasions, who investigated the Village's options with power marketers that supply power to municipalities, and reported back his findings. It was an exhaustive effort undertaken to understand an extremely complex issue and make a decision in the best interest of the Village's ability to supply predictable, reliable, and affordable power with limited risk of interruption.

To make the choice to pursue a different electric supplier option in a rapidly-changing electric market would have been a significant risk that Council was unwilling to take. We understand that on the surface it looks like we are supporting electricity from coal generation. This is not the case: we are maintaining our existing outstanding, reliable, and affordable delivery of electricity to Winnetka's homes and businesses and supporting our energy supplier in its plans to move toward carbon-neutral generation.

## One Winnetka Project Underway

Construction activity on the long-anticipated One Winnetka mixed-use development at the southeast corner of Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue is underway. General contractor Walsh Construction began site mobilization the week of May 27 and demolition of the six existing buildings commenced the following week. Since then, the demolition contractor has been removing the structures and hauling off the remnants.

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on June 18 with Village President Robert Dearborn and Village Manager Rob Bahan expressing gratitude and excitement about the project. Representatives from developer Murphy Real Estate, architect OKW, and Walsh Construction also participated in the ceremony.



Once finished, the 195,933 square-foot four-story mixed-use building will contain 59 rental apartments on floors two through four and 19,600 square feet of commercial space on the ground level. A restaurant from Ballyhoo Hospitality is planned within the corner commercial tenant space and Charles Schwab has requested a special use permit to locate in a tenant space along the Elm Avenue frontage. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2026.

Please be aware of parking signage as there have been changes in the West Elm Business District as a result of the construction.

## 2025 Green Awards

The Environmental, Forestry, and Sustainability Commission recognized three Winnetka residents for their exceptional commitment to sustainable or environmentally-friendly practices. These Green Award winners exemplify local citizens contributing to the health, beauty, and resilience of the community

**Christina and Michael Collins of 807 Burr Avenue are the winners of the Sustainable Residential Yard category.**

They started by adding native varieties along the driveway and then created an additional native plant area designed to provide wildlife with shelter and native food sources throughout the year.



*(Photo of Collins property provided by Christina Collins)*

**Erik Kaplan of 870 Locust Street is the winner of the Sustainable Residential Home category.** The new construction home incorporated many energy-saving and sustainable features: multiple heat pumps, LED lighting throughout, an electric induction stove, smart controls to automatically dim lights when not needed, and motion activation both inside and out, dual EV charging stations, and much more.

**April Potterfield is the winner of the Sustainable Non-Residential category for her Backyard Flower Lab:** a space devoted to the growing of an abundance of flowers, which are given away to deserving organizations and individuals. The gardens provide habitat for myriad animals and insects, including pollinators, and the produce she grows with the help of volunteers from the community is donated to local food pantries.

If you or someone you know has made sustainable improvements that deserve recognition, please consider submitting a nomination next year. Email [sustainability@winnetka.org](mailto:sustainability@winnetka.org) for more information.

## Document Destruction Event August 16

Winnetka's Document Destruction Event will be held on **Saturday, August 16 from 9 AM to 12 PM** at the Public Works Yards at 1390 Willow Road, for residentially-generated paper, such as medical forms, bank statements, personal files, retired tax forms, etc. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove binders and any plastic covers.

There is no cost to participate, but residents must live in one of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County'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 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.





## Message from the Police Chief

The summer months are upon us and the Winnetka Police Department would like our residents to enjoy a fun and relaxing summer break. Below are a few tips to help ensure everyone stays safe during the summer:

During warmer months, law enforcement often observes an increase in vehicle-related crimes of opportunity. This includes burglaries to vehicles, especially in public parking spaces, like parks or beaches. We encourage residents to always remove keys and fobs, always lock vehicle doors and never leave unattended parked vehicles running. Whenever possible, it is best to remove all valuables from the vehicle. Purses, cash, or electronics should never be left in plain sight if they must be left in a vehicle. Taking a few minutes to place these items under seats or in the trunk can further reduce the chances of becoming a victim of a crime.

Children should never be left unattended in a parked vehicle for even a short period of time: it is unlawful to do so. We also recommend not leaving pets inside a parked vehicle while running errands. Even on relatively cool summer days, the internal temperature inside a vehicle can quickly reach dangerous levels.

Two additional crimes of opportunity that increase in the summer are thefts of bicycles and residential burglaries. Bicycles should always be secured with a reputable bike lock when left unattended. We recommend storing bicycles in garages overnight and discourage leaving them in yards where they can be easily removed. We also recommend locking the doors of your residence and turning on any installed alarm systems when out of your home, even for quick errands. Many residential burglaries occur in a short period: sometimes less than ten minutes, and often shortly after a homeowner has left their residence.

If you plan to be away from your home for any extended period, residents are encouraged to make use of the Police Department's House Watch program ([call 847-501-6034](tel:847-501-6034) for more information).

Finally, a few tips to keep in mind while cycling around the Village:

- Follow all traffic laws
- Never travel more than double-file on any roadway
- Use trails when possible
- Remain aware of your surroundings and take extra care when crossing intersections (at appropriate designated locations)
- Walk bicycles in business districts





## A Message from the Fire Chief

### Fire Safety

Backyard barbecues, roasting marshmallows, and conversations around an outdoor fire are popular summertime activities, however, unattended fires can be very dangerous. Keep these safety tips in mind as you use your outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and barbecue grills this summer season.

#### Grilling Safety:

- Only use barbecue grills outside.
- Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from structures and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
- Be sure to clean your grill after each use.
- Do not leave grills unattended when in use.
- Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony.
- Always ensure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Place coals from your charcoal grill outside in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.

#### Outdoor Fireplace & Fire Pit Safety:

- Only use portable fire pits outdoors and at least 15 feet away from your home or anything that can burn.
- Closely watch kids and pets when in use. Store matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Use a metal screen over wood-burning fires to prevent sparks from floating out.
- Fully extinguish all fires before leaving the area. Never leave them unattended when in use and fires should always be under constant competent supervision.

As a reminder, per Section 8.16.090 of the Village Code, "open burning is prohibited anywhere in the Village, whether on public or private property, unless such burning is in connection with outdoor grills, barbecues, small recreational fires or fireplaces and such burning is not otherwise prohibited by law; provided, however, that no garbage (other than logs or untreated wood products) shall be burned in such cases."





## 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>
Bob Dearborn:	<a href="mailto:RDearborn@Winnetka.org"><b>RDearborn@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>
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>
Scott Myers:	<a href="mailto:SMyers@Winnetka.org"><b>SMyers@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.

### Labor Day Week Refuse Collection

#### September 1 – 5:

- 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.

### Thanksgiving Day Week Refuse Collection

#### November 24 – 28:

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