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Community*

THE WHEELING CIRCULAR

March/April 2026
www.wheelingil.gov

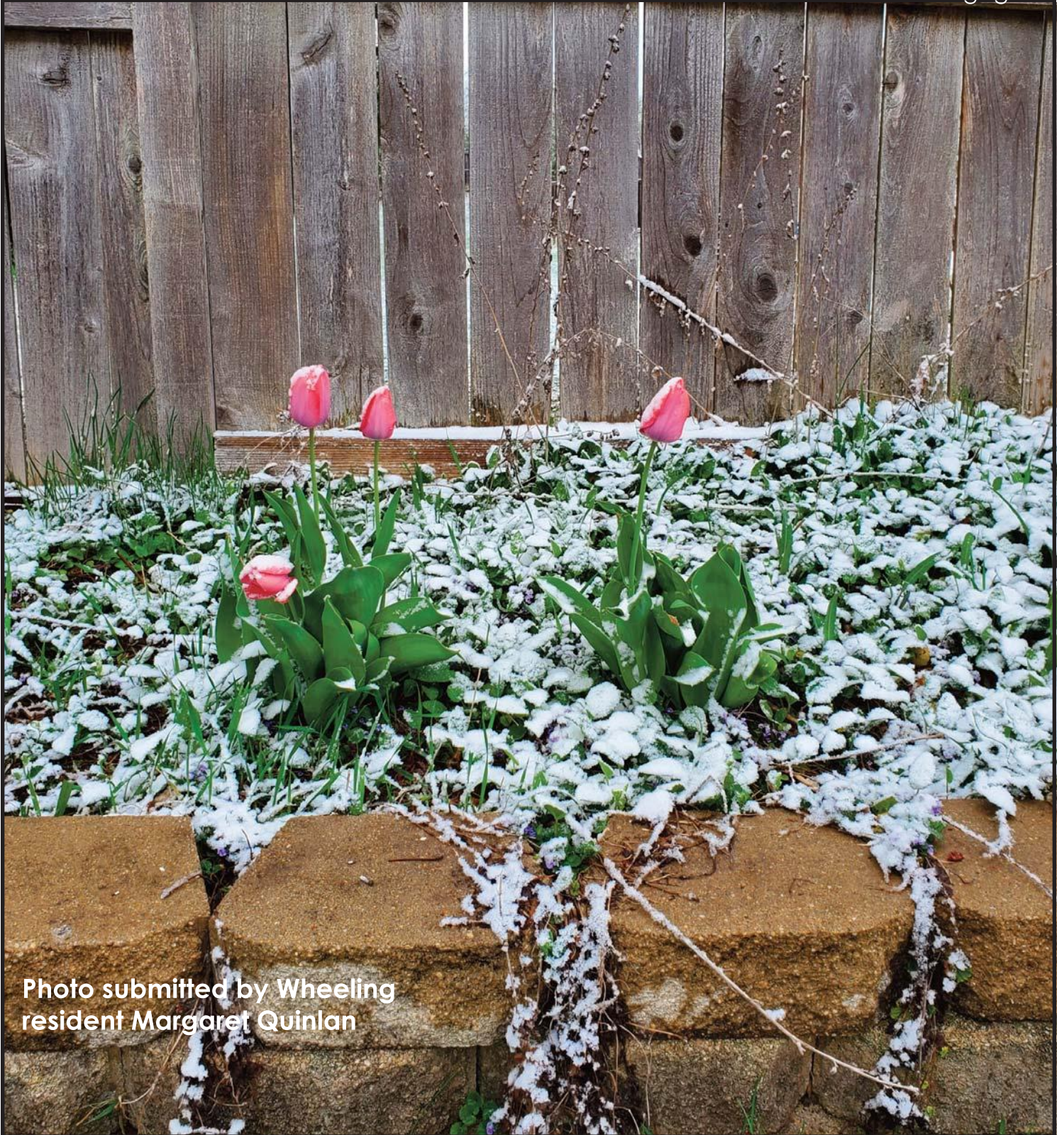


Photo submitted by Wheeling
resident Margaret Quinlan

WELCOME TO WHEELING



*President
Patrick Horcher*

2026 State of the Village of Wheeling

With 2026 now well underway, it's time again for the annual summary of the state of the Village. Thanks to responsible budgeting by the Village Board and effective management by staff, our finances remain stable and healthy, with sales and income tax revenue still beating projections. Given rising operational costs, and with an eye toward steady predictability, we increased the property tax levy by two percent, while also making other adjustments to ensure sustainability, including adopting a four-percent streaming amusement tax to offset diminishing telecommunications tax and cable franchise fee revenue. Whenever possible, our staff aggressively seeks other sources of funding; last year these included a \$2.73 million grant toward this year's Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization Project, a \$500,000 Community Safety Grant to fund the purchase of a vehicle and equipment to be shared with the Village of Northbrook, and a \$100,000 Invest in Cook grant that will fund a safety assessment of roads near schools in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. We appreciate the cooperation of our local and state partners in these initiatives, especially 57th District Illinois State Representative Tracy Katz Muhl for her help with the Community Safety Grant.

An important precondition of getting our fair share of state and federal grants is a full and accurate count of our population. Last year we initiated a Special Census process to reflect the many new Wheeling residents who occupy housing built since the most recent regular Census in 2020. Though slightly delayed by the federal government shutdown, the Special Census is now moving ahead, and residents will begin receiving information in the mail as it becomes available. The data it collects will be strictly confidential, and we strongly encourage everyone to respond. The Special Census is one of several highly visible initiatives we undertook last year, which also included upgrades to the Village website (www.wheelingil.gov), the launch of a new dedicated website for economic development (choosewheeling.com), and the adoption of a new Wheeling flag.

Last year's major infrastructure improvements include watermain replacement ahead of the Illinois Department of Transportation's imminent resurfacing of Dundee Road, the connection of the new Fire Station 42 to the Village's fiber-optic network, street and sidewalk improvements in many locations, and Phase Two of the South Dunhurst stormwater management project, which connected new storm sewer piping to the detention basin constructed last year north of Mark Twain Elementary School. We also made preparations for this year's projects, which will include the installation of a watermain loop and sidewalk on South Milwaukee Avenue, streambank stabilization along Buffalo Creek, and the construction of a bicycle path connecting Northgate Parkway with Wolf Court, among other annual improvements.



Members of the Village Board, Plan Commission, and staff attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Red Bottle Restaurant at 401 E. Dundee Road on January 19.



Members of the Village Board, Plan Commission, and staff attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Jet's Pizza at 1065 E. Lake Cook Road on January 12.

Continued on next page...

Save the date for Rock 'n' Run the Runway - June 27, 2026

WELCOME TO WHEELING

State of the Village continued

In addition to these infrastructure projects, we've used the various tools at our disposal to promote private-sector growth in ways that benefit the community. We've focused particularly on Wheeling Town Center, where we helped the Cinergy movie theater construct a reconfigured entrance, and assisted Ala Carte Entertainment in opening Finn McCool's Irish Sports Pub and a banquet facility adjacent to their successful Moretti's restaurant. The Village also made improvements to traffic flow and business visibility in the Town Center, and we'll be making further enhancements this year. We'll make progress on our Restaurant Row Corridor Plan too, including the construction of a welcoming feature on North Milwaukee Avenue. The hospitality industry is still struggling with post-pandemic challenges, but we anticipate good news on Restaurant Row in the coming year—including the opening of the Âhâra Indian restaurant at the former Tuscan site and a yet-to-be-named Polish restaurant at the former Le Francais site—and we remain committed to support for this sector, which is so closely associated with Wheeling's historic origins.

As always, our community's most valuable resource is the people who constitute it, and that applies to our residents, our businesses, and the talented staff who make the Village run. I'll close with congratulations to Joe Kopecky, who recently took the oath as Wheeling's Police Chief after many years of distinguished service to the Village; I'm confident that Chief Kopecky will maintain the Police Department's established excellence and responsiveness to the community's needs. His promotion is one of several exciting changes to the Village's management team, which include the recruitment of Assistant Village Manager / Human Resources Director Marisol Leyva, who'll join Deputy Village Manager / Public Works Director Dan Kaup and the Village's other department heads in supporting Village Manager Jon Sfondilis's leadership.

This promises to be an eventful year, and we'll keep you updated whenever appropriate. Until then, we're grateful for your good citizenship and we wish you the best in 2026!



Clerk Brady swore in new Police Chief Joe Kopecky at a Board meeting on February 2.

The Clerk's Corner

Vote March 17, 2026

The **Illinois Gubernatorial Primary** will take place on **Tuesday, March 17**. To confirm your voter registration and view a sample ballot using the Your Voter Information tool, visit www.cookcountyclerkil.gov.

In-person voter registration is currently closed until after the election, and will open again on March 18. Grace-period registration is open until March 16 at participating early voting locations. Individuals wishing to vote during early voting must bring two pieces of identification to register, one with a current address. Grace period registrants will cast a ballot immediately after registering. Early voting will take place until March 16 at participating locations.

On Election Day, voters who are not registered to vote can register and vote at their home precinct.



Mail ballot applications are now available. To obtain a mail ballot, visit www.cookcountyclerkil.gov and download an application. Cook County is now offering Permanent Vote By Mail. This option will allow you to vote by mail in all subsequent elections held in Cook County. Voters are encouraged to drop their mail ballots at the post office early or use one of the County's drop boxes.

Residents with questions on voting and voter registration can call Wheeling Deputy Clerk Karen Henneberry at 847.499.9085.



*Village Clerk
Kathryn M. Brady*

POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Celebrating Social Work Month - March 2026

March is Social Work Month, a time to recognize the vital role social workers play in strengthening individuals, families, and communities. Social workers are guided by a core mission to enhance human well-being, meet basic needs, and uplift and empower people who are vulnerable, marginalized, or facing hardship.



Here at the Village of Wheeling, we are proud to have a dedicated Social Services Unit within the Wheeling Police Department that carries out this mission every day. Our social workers provide crisis intervention, mental health support, victim advocacy, community outreach, and assistance with basic needs such as food access and referrals to community resources. They work closely with residents, first responders, and community partners to ensure support is available when it is needed most.

As we recognize Social Work Month, we also want to acknowledge Social Services Manager Shari Matthews-Huizar, who will be retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to the Village of Wheeling. We are grateful for her leadership, compassion, and the lasting impact she has made on our community.



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an annual observance that highlights the importance of victims' rights, services, and support. The Village of Wheeling Social Services Division, working within the Wheeling Police Department, is committed to supporting victims of crime and helping them navigate the healing process.

Over the past year, Victim Services staff assisted individuals impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. Services included crisis counseling in English and Spanish, court advocacy and accompaniment, assistance with protective orders and Victim Impact Statements, and transportation to court. Victims were also supported with short-term counseling, help meeting basic needs such as food and housing, and connections to benefits, legal resources, and financial assistance programs, including the Illinois Crime Victim Compensation Program.

Every victim's experience is different, and services are tailored to meet each person's unique needs. The Village of Wheeling Social Services Division is proud to support victims and be part of their path toward healing and stability.

Spring Safety & Crime Prevention Reminder

As warmer weather arrives, the Wheeling Police Department would like to remind residents to take a few simple steps to help prevent crime this spring. Please remember to lock your vehicles and homes, remove valuables from plain sight, and secure garages, sheds, and bicycles. With more outdoor activities and travel this time of year, these small precautions can make a big difference.

We also encourage residents to be mindful of package deliveries, report suspicious activity, and look out for neighbors—especially those who may be away for spring break or vacations. By staying alert and working together, we can help keep our community safe and welcoming throughout the season.

Village of Wheeling - Social Services Unit

Support is free, confidential, and available to all Wheeling residents.

- Crisis support
- Victim advocacy
- Connections to food, housing, and other resources

☎ 847-459-2640

✉ humanservices@wheelingil.gov

Help is available even if you're not sure where to start. If you're concerned about yourself or someone else, we're here to help. Wheeling's Social Services staff are here to listen, support, and help connect you with the right resources.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

Contact Public Works at 847.279.6900 with questions.

Yard Waste Collections

Yard waste collections occur April 1 through November 30 on your regularly-scheduled collection day. Townhouses and condominiums do not have this service.

- Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or other containers marked with a red X twelve inches or larger.
- Bags and containers must not be larger than 32 gallons or exceed 50 pounds.
- Place at the curb by 6 a.m. the day of collection, but not before 5 p.m. the evening before.
- Brush must be bundled and tied with twine or string. Bundles must not weigh over 50 pounds, exceed four feet in length or two feet in diameter, or contain limbs greater than three inches in diameter.
- Acceptable material includes grass clippings, leaves, short branches, and vegetative plants and brush. Materials do not include fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, dirt, stone, pinecones, sod, flower arrangements, artificial flowers, indoor plants, concrete, rock, or trees and stumps larger than three inches in diameter.

Stormwater Runoff Pollution

Stormwater runoff is generated when precipitation from rain and snowmelt flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground. Stormwater runoff that flows over impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways, concrete areas, and rooftops collects debris, chemicals, sediments, and other pollutants that enter the storm sewer system. Residents and businesses can take measures to prevent stormwater runoff pollution from entering our storm sewer system, such as:

- Repair vehicle leaks and dispose of fluids at designated facilities.
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers only as necessary; use organic mulch and reduce application of outside pest controls whenever possible.
- Compost and/or mulch yard waste, and follow local yard waste programs. Do not deposit or leave yard waste in the street.
- Remove and properly dispose of litter and debris from properties, including sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots.
- Remove and properly dispose of construction debris.
- Clean up after pets as required by Village Municipal Code 7.10.

Storm Drain Grate/Inlet Cleaning

Storm drain grates/inlets—normally located near the edge of streets or in rear yards—can become obstructed with leaves and other debris, denying constant water flow and causing localized flooding. As snow melt occurs in spring, residents are encouraged to safely clear storm sewer grates near their property to avoid local flooding issues. Please rake the debris off of these structure and onto the parkway or into a waste container.

Current Construction Projects

Wheeling Road Watermain: This project will install watermain along Palatine frontage and Wheeling Road to increase its reliability and water quality. The expected timeline is May–October 2026.

Street Resurfacing Program: The Village will resurface roadways in the South Dunhurst, North Avalon Sienna, and Polo Run West subdivisions and on Lexington Drive. The expected timeline is April–July 2026.

Diversionsary Channel Bike Path: As part of its Active Transportation Plan, the Village will construct a bike path from Wolf Court to Northgate Parkway along the Diversionsary Channel. The expected timeline is July–November 2026.

Wheeling Pocket Park: A pocket park, including gathering spaces and an entryway feature for commuters, will be constructed at the southwest corner of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The expected timeline is July–November 2026.

School Safety Study: Working in collaboration with Buffalo Grove, a school safety study for 12 schools within Districts 21 and 214 will be completed. The study aims to understand pedestrian movements and determine where infrastructure improvements can be made to increase safety. The study is underway and is anticipated to be complete by October 2026.

Streambank Stabilization: Construction of stabilization measures is underway to prevent erosion of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch streambank between Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road. This project is anticipated to be complete by November 2026.

Milwaukee Avenue Watermain: This project consists of installation of new watermain to improve flow and water quality and will connect to existing watermain near Sumac Road. Sidewalk installation will fill in gaps along Milwaukee Avenue. The expected timeline is April–September 2026.

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- Fabulous Hair Salon
- Familia Dental
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Mark Drug & Medical Supply
- Northwest Insurance Network
- Swami Grocery
- Stella's
- Wingstop
- Sunberry Orchard *coming soon*

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

Household Hazardous Waste At-Home Collection Program

Wheeling residents can schedule a special collection with Clean Harbors Environmental Services for eligible household hazardous waste from their property's front door, porch, or driveway. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) has partnered with Clean Harbors to provide Wheeling residents with the opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste during the year. For 2026, there are six scheduled collections. The program is for residents with curbside collection only.

The At-Home Collection Program includes automotive fluids, pesticides, cleaning fluids, and hobbyist materials, as well as other home-use chemicals. Visit <https://swancc.org/recycling/chemical-and-paint-disposal> for an expanded list of acceptable and unacceptable materials.

How Does the Program Work?

1. Contact Clean Harbors to request a pickup, either by telephone at 866.466.5060 (Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4 pm) or at <https://form.jotform.com/242978262215158>.
2. Clean Harbors will obtain an inventory of waste types and quantities to confirm that the materials are accepted in the program and will schedule the collection service based on their current workload and routing.
 - Clean Harbors will also assist in locating alternative outlets for wastes that can be readily managed through other drop-off options (e.g., gasoline and motor oil that can be taken to a service station or repair shop) and for wastes that are not accepted through the program.
3. Clean Harbors will provide preparation and set-out instructions and mail a heavy clear plastic bag and tie in advance of the collection day to contain materials. There is a 70 lb. weight limit per collection.

What Does the Program Cost?

The At-Home Collection is free to eligible residents; however, a \$81 charge will be incurred if a cancellation occurs the day of a scheduled collection or if no material is set out at the time the scheduled collection is made.

For further information on this program, please contact SWANCC at 847.724.9205 or Public Works at 847.279.6900.

Recycle Coach

Recycle Coach has partnered with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to provide residents with free access to a comprehensive tool to increase and improve recycling in communities. The free app includes information from both the Village of Wheeling and Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC).

The Recycle Coach provides:

- local recycling and disposal information
- customized curbside collection calendar including collection reminders
- disposal information for common and unique household items
- engaging and educational tools to boost recycling knowledge!

To get started, residents can download the Recycle Coach app through the Apple Store or Google Play.

Annual Hydrant Flushing

Public Works will flush hydrants throughout the Village May 1 through May 16, weather permitting. Hydrant flushing will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and continue until all the portions of the water system are completed. Signs will be posted in affected areas.

Flushing is an important preventative maintenance process undertaken to remove particulate matter and corrosion from the system. Slightly lower water pressure and water discoloration can occur during this program; however, the water will be safe to drink. Check the color of your water before beginning laundry to prevent any staining.

Reporting Potholes

Certain roads in Wheeling are not maintained by the Village. Please contact the correct agency below to report potholes.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) 847-705-4612

Dundee Road, Elmhurst Road, Milwaukee Avenue, McHenry Road, Palatine Road including frontage, or Wolf Road (Manchester north to Milwaukee and south of Marquardt to Camp McDonald Road).

The Cook County Department of Transportation (CCDTH) 312-603-1600

8 Lake Cook, Schoenbeck, Hintz, Camp McDonald, Buffalo Grove, Old Buffalo Grove, or Aptakisic Roads.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Invasive Plant Control & Maintenance

Various woody plants—including certain varieties of buckthorns—are considered to be invasive. These plants typically grow vigorously, produce dense shade to outcompete native plants, and reduce natural animal habitats. This spring, the Village will begin a **new program to manage invasive plant species** on Village-owned properties over the course of the next two years.

The Village Municipal Code requires removal or control of buckthorn as well as the abatement of other nuisance or noxious weeds, grass, bushes, trees and vegetation. The Village contractor will use typical control measures, removing buckthorn trees and weeds by cutting them down and applying herbicides to reduce the likelihood that they will regrow in the area.

In general, each year of the project will contain two phases and address different sites. Phase one, which will include the initial removal of certain plant species and herbicidal treatment of cut plant parts, and will take place in March. Phase two, between May and June, will consist of a follow-up herbicide treatment for any targeted re-sprouted plants.



2026 ROCK THE RUNWAY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

PARTNER: \$7,500

Your organization will receive top billing with Wheeling, Prospect Heights, and Chicago Executive Airport as our partner. Your logo will be prominently featured in all event promotions, on large promotional banners, and you will have the option to provide a community outreach table at the event.

SPONSOR: \$5,000

Your organization will be credited for your significant support of the event through the inclusion of your logo in all flyers, on event signage, and you will have the option to provide a community outreach table at the event.

CONTRIBUTOR: \$1,000

Your organization will be credited for your support by being included on a list of contributors in all event flyers and signage.

For more information, contact rnw@wheelingil.gov
Deadline to sponsor is April 1, 2026.

Welcome New Businesses!

Absolute Health Clinic

360 E. Dundee Road
Health clinic
absolutehealthcliniconline.com

ASAP Fitness Inc.

650 Wheeling Road, Ste. 2
Fitness training
asapfitnessinc.com

Chiro One Wellness Center of Wheeling

39 Huntington Lane
Chiropractic office
chiroone.com

Creative Studio 11

300 Marquardt Drive, Unit 102
Photo/video studio for rent
224.517.7752

DNA Tumbling

636 Wheeling Road
Tumbling training facility
dnatumbling.com

Genetic Dental Lab Inc.

222 Camp McDonald Road, Ste. A
Dental office
224.777.0005

Jet's Pizza

1065 E. Lake Cook Road
Pizza pick up and carry out
jetspizza.com

Men's Sharp Style Corporation

307 S. Milwaukee Ave., Ste. 103
Hair/nail products sales and service
224.275.3664

Otaman Boxing Club

638 Wheeling Road
Boxing club
otamanboxingclub.com

Red Bottle

401 E. Dundee Road
Cocktail bar and restaurant
redbottlebar.com

S&J Visions

199 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Property leasing and management
773.647.4848

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Permits Needed for EV Chargers

Thinking of installing an electric vehicle (EV) charger at your home or place of business? Installation of EV chargers is more than simply plugging in a new appliance, since most EV chargers require changes to the electrical system, such as adding new wiring, installing a dedicated circuit, or upgrading the electrical panel.



A building permit is required before you install any EV chargers to make sure the work is done safely and meets electrical and building code requirements. The permit process also includes inspections to confirm the charger is installed correctly and that your electrical system can handle the added demand, helping reduce the risk of electrical problems or fire hazards. Obtaining a permit helps protect owners by ensuring the installation is safe, reliable, and completed properly.

If you have questions or need help with the permit process, please contact the Community Development Department at 847.459.2620 or permits@wheelingil.gov.



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ALL WATER BILLING CUSTOMERS
NEW ONLINE PAYMENT PLATFORM, BS&A
ONLINE BEGAN NOVEMBER 2025

UTILITY BILLING AUTOPAY USERS MUST
CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT.

Existing Autopay accounts before November 22nd are no longer active due to our transition to a new payment system. To continue using Autopay, you will need to sign up again through the new system.

WHAT CAN I DO ON THE NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM?

- VIEW & PAY BILLS
- MAKE PAYMENTS
- ENROLL IN PAPERLESS BILLING
- ENROLL IN AUTOPAY

HOW TO GET ONTO THE NEW ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

-Go to the Village's website at www.wheelingil.gov

-Click on the "Online Payments" button

-Click "Pay Your Water Utility Bill through our New Online Portal" link to be directed to our Online Payments page or scan the QR code.



Questions? Please call the Finance Dept.



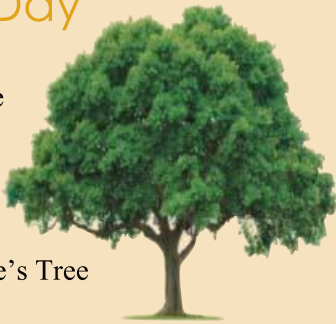
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www.wheelingil.gov

Arbor Day

The Village will celebrate Arbor Day during the last week in April as part of the Village's Tree City USA



program, which affords staff and residents the opportunity to celebrate the many benefits trees provide to the environment by planting a ceremonial tree.

Over the last several years, the grounds surrounding many of the local schools have been the site for planting a wide variety of trees. To join in the celebration, please contact Matt Mashek, Public Works Forester, at 847.279.6900 for more information.

10

2025-2026 Social Work Internships

Village of Wheeling Police Department
Social Services Division



WHY WHEELING?

LCSW Supervision | Flexible Scheduling
Diverse Community | Hands-On Learning
Real Impact | Professional Development

MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE WITH THESE OPPORTUNITIES:

Older Adults Programs - Social Work Intern

One (1) Position | BSW or MSW 1st Year Students

Police Department - Social Work Intern

Two (2) Positions | MSW Advanced/2nd Level Students

REQUIREMENTS

- Enrolled in Accredited Social Work Program
- Field Placement Approval
- Valid Drivers License
- Background Check

DETAILS

- Unpaid (Academic Credit)
- Flexible Hours
- Rolling Admissions

APPLY ONLINE



wheelingil.gov/careers

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Village Manager

Jon A. Sfondilis
jsfondilis@wheelingil.gov

Fire Department

499 S. Milwaukee Avenue
847.459.2662 (non-emergency)

- Fire codes
- CPR classes

Police Department

1 Community Blvd.
847.459.2632 (non-emergency)

- Citizens Police Academy
- Graffiti removal
- Neighborhood watch

Social Services

847.459.2606

- Public aid assistance
- Crime victim services
- Short term counseling
- Crisis intervention

Senior Programs

Wheeling Park District
100 Community Boulevard
847.459.2670

Public Works Department

77 W. Hintz Road
847.279.6900, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. M - F

- Fire hydrant flushing
- Street/pothole repairs
- Streetlight maintenance
- Snow plowing
- Forestry & landscape
- Sanitary sewer service televising
- Water quality concerns
- Flooding
- Capital Improvements Division
- Cable TV
- Waste Management

847.459.CODE

to report code violations

Village Hall Offices

2 Community Boulevard
www.wheelingil.gov
Phone: 847.459.2600
Fax: 847.459.9692
Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M - F

Administration

847.499.9082

- Village Manager's office
- Liquor licenses
- Voter registration
- Employment opportunities
- Freedom of Information requests,
foia@wheelingil.gov
- Photo submissions, fb@wheelingil.gov

Finance Department

847.459.2627

- Water bills
- Real estate transfer stamps
- Metra parking passes
- Pet licenses

Community Development

847.459.2620

- Building, engineering, sign permits
- Business & rental property licenses
- Building codes & zoning information
- Property maintenance
- Flood maps & zone determination
- Health Division
- Planning Division

Economic Development

847.459.2605

- Available buildings
- Demographics
- Development inquiries
- TIF district information
- 6b tax exemption applications

Fire Prevention Bureau

847.459.2669

- Fire alarm & sprinkler permits
- Inspections

Village Board

Village President Pat Horcher
847.499.9095
phorcher@wheelingil.gov

Clerk Kathryn Brady
847.499.9231
kbrady@wheelingil.gov

Trustees

Mary Krueger: 847.499.9232
mkrueger@wheelingil.gov

Ray Lang: 847.499.9236
rlang@wheelingil.gov

Mary Papantos: 847.499.9235
mpapantos@wheelingil.gov

Jim Ruffatto: 847.499.9233
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