

VILLAGE OF
LINCOLNWOOD
ILLINOIS



2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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Mayor and Village Board



**Village President
(Mayor) Jesal Patel**

The Village of Lincolnwood is served by an elected Village President (Mayor), six Trustees and a Village Clerk. The Mayor, Trustees and Clerk are elected at large for four-year terms. The Board of Trustees meets semi-monthly, generally on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The Mayor and Board of Trustees pass legislation and set policy in furtherance of the Village's mission and goals. They are supported by an elected Village Clerk.

Lincolnwood is governed as a home rule community under Illinois Law. By Ordinance, it is operated under the Council-Manager form of government with a full-time Village Manager appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Under home rule powers, the Village is permitted to carry its own governing procedures where it is strictly prohibited by the State legislature.



**Trustee
Grace Diaz Herrera**



**Trustee
Jean Ikezoe-Halevi**



**Trustee
Craig Klatzco**



**Trustee
Chris Martel**



**Trustee
Mohammed Saleem**



**Trustee
Atour Sargon**

The Village Clerk is responsible for keeping the full record of Board of Trustee Meeting minutes, including Closed Sessions and Special Board Meetings. Additionally, the Clerk maintains updated ordinances and resolutions for the Village and registers voters.



Clerk Beryl Herman



Purpose, Priorities & Team

Purpose

The 2024 Annual Report aims to highlight the Village's key achievements that improve the quality of life for residents, businesses and the community at large. The goal is to explain positive changes taking place through the efforts of the Village's seven operating departments. All that has been accomplished is a combined team effort of elected officials, volunteers who serve on the various boards and commissions and Village staff.



Village Manager
Anne Marie Gaura

Strategic Priorities

As part of the Village's adopted Strategic Plan process, the Village Board identified five key strategic priorities. These priorities highlight projects and initiatives the Village is focusing on in both the short term and the long term.

- Ensure Financial Stability through thoughtful and sustainable budgeting and planning.
- Facilitate vibrant and inclusive growth through Economic and Community Development.
- Promote a culture of "Service First" to enhance the customer service experience.
- Develop a shared sense of Community Identity by featuring what makes the Village unique.
- Maintain a Business-Friendly Environment to enhance and retain the Village's 500+ established businesses.

Senior Management Team

The Village Manager is the chief administrative officer who oversees the day-to-day operations of the Village. The Village currently has seven departments led by Department Directors who report directly to the Village Manager. The Senior Management Team is comprised of Police Chief Jason Parrott, Public Works Director John Welch, Parks and Recreation Director Karen Hawk, Community Development Director Scott Mangum, Finance Director John Risko, Fire Chief Barry Liss, Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura and Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell.



Community Development

Youth Center

A special use permit and variations were approved to relocate Upward Community Chicago's youth interventions, enrichment and prevention services to a renovated building. The approval allows for the social service provider to bring youth services to the Village.



2,990 building inspections performed.

New Businesses



Over 30 businesses opened in 2024. New businesses include FatPour Tap works, Mia Francesca, Burger Bite and Asna Yoga Studio.

Theological College

Consideration of special use permits and variations to redevelop the long-vacant Whistler's restaurant site at 3420 W. Devon Avenue into a three-story college with dormitories for the Sarah Hartman Women's College is ongoing. The petitioner's development team is exploring ways to revise the project based on feedback provided by the Village Board. The redevelopment would improve the long-vacant and dilapidated property.



Over \$34 million value of construction permits issued.

Marriott Hotel

Construction of the dual-branded Marriott hotel on the northern portion of the District 1860 development is under construction. The five story 152-room building will host the Residence Inn and SpringHill Suites hotels and is the third and final building in the development.



Electric Vehicle

The sustainability of the Village's fleet was improved by purchasing the second electric vehicle used for code compliance inspections. The vehicles have a range of up to 149 miles and achieve the equivalent of up to 123 miles per gallon on Village streets.

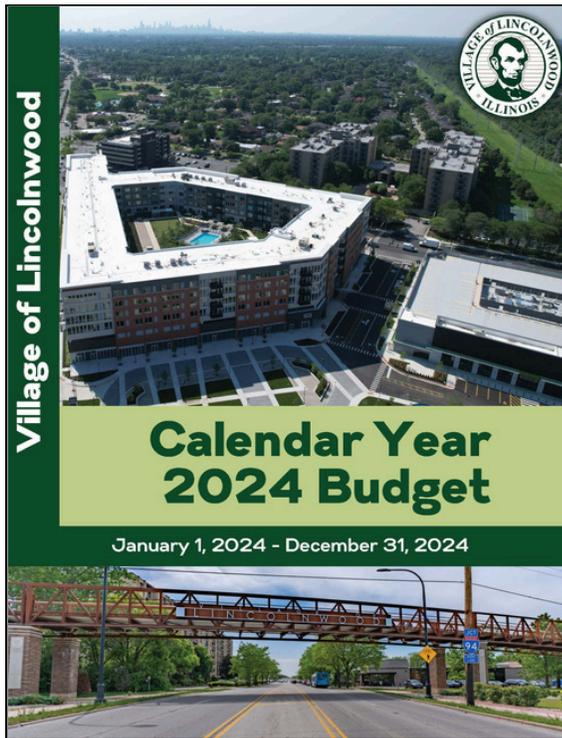
690 violations were opened, of which, 672 were resolved.

Text Amendments

The Village reviewed several types of residential property regulations, including the location of air conditioning and generator units, fences on corner properties and parking areas. In addition, the Village approved Text Amendments to the Zoning Code, allowing homeowners greater flexibility to locate these elements on their property. Text Amendments are necessary to keep up with development trends and to match the policy direction from the Village Board to the regulations that govern development.

Finance

CY 2024 Budget



The Village transitioned to a calendar year (CY) budget in 2024. The move to a calendar year allows the Village Board to consider the property tax levy concurrently with the annual budget discussion during the budget cycle. More accurate discussion can take place regarding the amount of tax levy to allocate to the upcoming budget. The move to a calendar year cycle will also align with many of our expenditures and ease some of the financial planning as it relates to capital projects.

Bond Issuance

A total of \$6.5 million in municipal bonds were issued to fund the 2024 Infrastructure Program. Municipal bonds are debt securities issued by municipalities to fund large and expensive projects and pay back the cost over time. The bonds were issued as a direct placement versus a public offering, saving the Village \$57,500 in issuance costs.

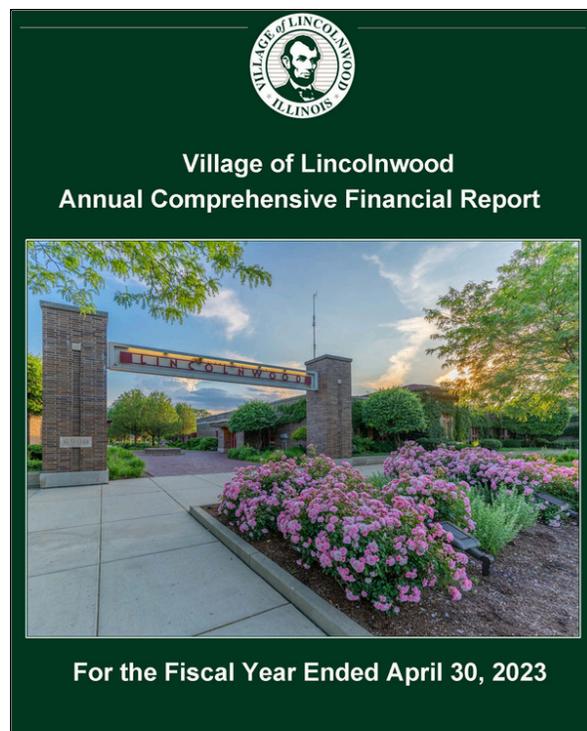
Over
7,223 vehicle
stickers were
issued in 2024.

Financial Forecasting

A Financial Forecast to guide the Village for the next 10 years to meet the community's capital needs was completed. The model will assist Village leadership in determining the impact of these capital plans on the Village's finances. The three main outcomes from this model are 1) Incorporate the capital plans over the next 10 years and determine the impact on the ending fund balance; 2) Determine how much debt the Village may need to issue to address its capital plans and how much revenue needs to be allocated to the repayment of that debt; and 3) Project the Village's levy over the same 10-year period.

Financial Report

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2023 was completed. The report provides information on the Village's accounts and funds, financial condition and policies that govern the use of funds appropriated by the Village Board. The Report exceeds the legal requirements of state law and provides additional information to assist readers in understanding the Village's fiscal condition.



Fire

Annual Open House

An Open House was held that offered the community the opportunity to interact with Fire personnel and witness life-saving demonstrations, extinguishment and rescue capabilities.

Responded to
1,281 Fire
calls.

Defibrillator and AED

The Village transitioned to leasing cardiac monitors/defibrillators used by Paramedics due to the high cost of purchasing the devices. This is the first year of the leasing program, which provides a complete change out of existing equipment with the newest generation over 10 years. Leasing the equipment is a fiscally responsible method that eliminates annual cost increases and the high cost of routine repairs and preventative maintenance.

Electric Vehicle Fires

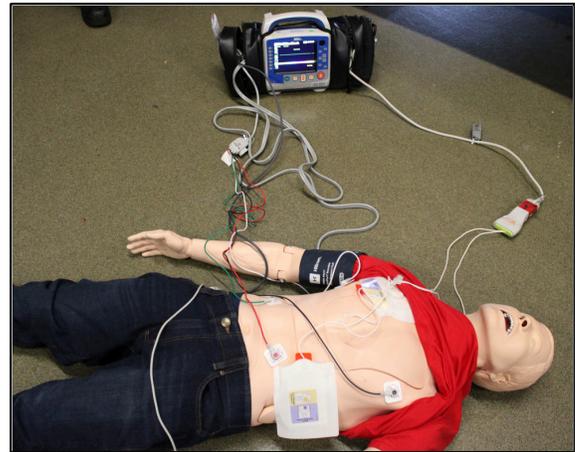
Two new pieces of equipment to assist Firefighters in controlling electric car fires were purchased. The first purchase is a specially designed and manufactured fire resistive blanket that reduces further damage emanating from an electric vehicle.

The second is a uniquely designed water nozzle that is placed under the burning electric vehicle near the battery compartment. This reduces the spread of flames and further damage to potentially adjacent cars and property.

Responded to
2,061 EMS
calls.

Breathing Apparatuses

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) were purchased. A SCBA is a portable respirator worn on the back by Firefighters to provide an autonomous supply of breathable air when faced with operating within a toxic atmosphere that is immediately dangerous. SCBA's ensure Firefighters can safely function.



New Fire Engine

The new fire engine arrived, replacing the fire engine purchased in 2002. The new engine can deliver 1,500 gallons of water per minute and carry 750 gallons of portable water. The vehicle is equipped with state-of-the-art emergency lighting, effective audio warning devices, 360-degree scene lighting, improved interior space and a telecommunications system that allows instant vehicle operating system analysis. The fire engine was purchased at a cost of nearly \$915,000 through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.



Parks and Recreation

Park Improvements

Many park improvement projects were coordinated throughout the year. Projects included Goebelt Park fence replacement, Proesel Park pavilion garbage can replacement, a double batting cage installation (paid for by Lincolnwood Baseball Association), Proesel Park bleacher installation and Flowers Park and Rossi Park stone retaining walls removal.



Feasibility Study

A Feasibility Study to assess the practicality and viability of constructing a new Recreation Center and renovating or rebuilding the Aquatic Center was initiated. The study commenced in October and is expected to be complete in May of 2025. The 2023 Comprehensive Master Plan showed that a new Recreation Center was the number one priority for residents with more than 60% of those surveyed supporting it.

Flowers Park



Flowers Park opened in August 2024. The park renovation project was partially funded by a \$400,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant. The newly renovated park includes a playground, tennis and basketball courts, pollinator garden, gaga pit, game area and restroom facility. Additionally, the entrance to the park was updated to remove the stone planters, which will be replaced with ground-level trees and shrubs.

ADA Transition Plan

The Village updated the ADA Transition Plan for all parks. The plan outlines steps to be taken by the Village and a timeline for plan implementation to remove barriers, prioritize improvements and budget for items necessary to improve Village assets for accessibility improvements.



Parks and Recreation

Cultural Events/Programs

The results from the Comprehensive Master Plan showed a service gap due to the absence of programs and events that were culturally relevant to residents. The Village developed and implemented several new cultural events that included a celebration of the Lunar New Year, Eid al-Fitr, Holi, Hannukah and Christmas. In addition, the Village planned performances and culturally relevant activities at Lincolnwood Fest that included Southeast Asian performers and Mexican Folklore performers.



Aquatic Improvements

The user experience at the Proesel Park Aquatic Center was improved. The pool received many upgrades that included diving boards, ADA lift chairs, chlorine feeders, lifeguard chairs, front desk upgrades, lighting upgrades, a new HVAC system at the concession building and timing equipment for the swim team.

Berger Family Donations



Barry and Taffy Berger have committed to donating \$100,000 per year over ten years for a total of \$1,000,000 for park improvements and to enhance the summer camp experience. In 2024, the Village received the third \$100,000 donation. These funds have been utilized to provide scholarships for summer camp, experiential field trips, an inclusive spinner and pour-in-place surfacing on the playground at Flowers Park. This surfacing promotes accessibility and provides an area where children of all abilities can play together.

The Berger's made two additional \$25,000 donations to provide programming for seniors. The first was in early 2024, and the second was on Giving Tuesday. This funding is being used to provide low to no-cost programs for those ages 55 and up.



Police

Officer Recruitment

Three new Police Officers were hired and sworn in. Filling existing vacancies is imperative to maintaining adequate service levels to the community. Vacancies create scheduling issues that impact training, staffing and potential fatigue for personnel.

The Village has been progressive in staying ahead of anticipated vacancies by aggressively advertising and holding two Police exams in 2024. This allows for vacancies to be filled within acceptable timelines.

Responded to over 16,588 calls for service.

Theft Enforcement

As a two-part approach to addressing retail theft within the Village, funds were used towards organized task force missions by department personnel. The purpose was to locate and arrest retail theft offenders at select locations in the Village that have a high rate of reported retail theft incidents.



Community Engagement

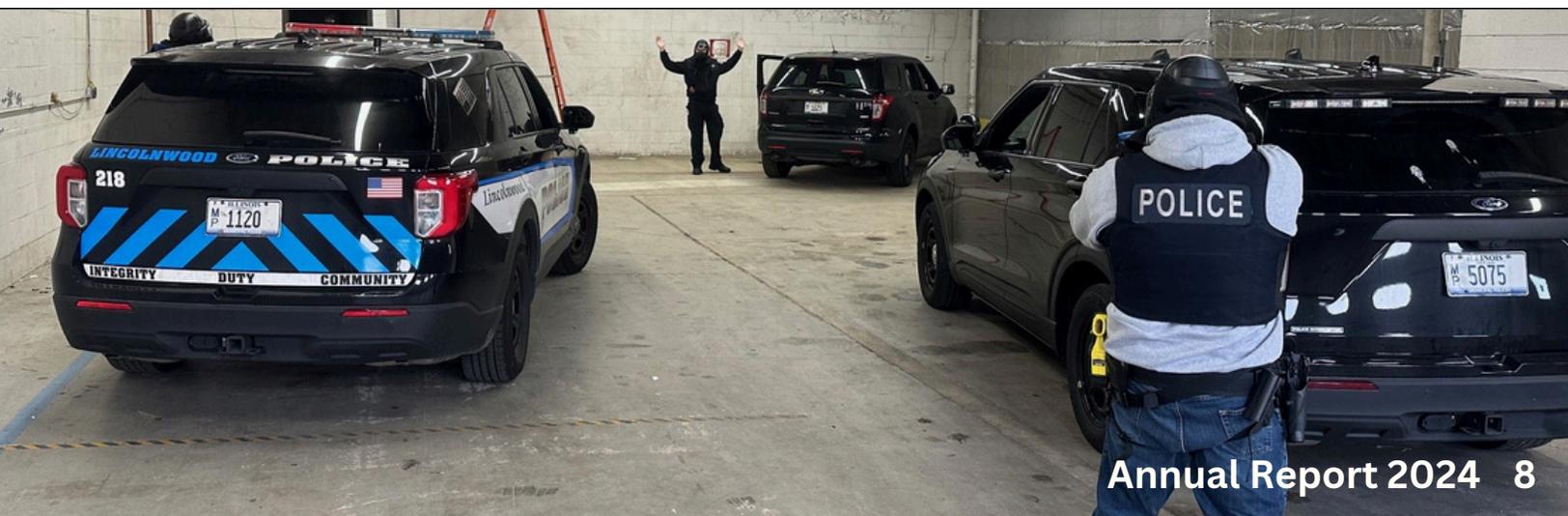


Police Officers participated in several community engagement events, including National Night Out Against Crime, Touch-a-Truck, Trunk-or-Treat, the Memorial Day parade and Village summer camp programs. Community engagement strengthens the relationship between police officers and the community.



Scenario Training

Scenario-based training for high-risk traffic stops were conducted as a part of the SAFE-T Act mandate. This training is geared toward high risk stops for felonious related stops. The more Police Officers are trained, the benefit to the community is a higher level of professionalism by its Officers. It further lessens the risk of using force.



Police

Command School



Police supervisors underwent a 10-week leadership training and a three-week executive management program at the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. The extensive training teaches supervisory staff leadership, mentoring subordinates, evaluating liability, ethics, resource allocation and professionalism in administering supervision of Police personnel.

The training ensures that the community receives the highest level of service and that Police personnel operate within the law and policies of the department.

Each Police Officer trained an average of 50 hours in 2024.

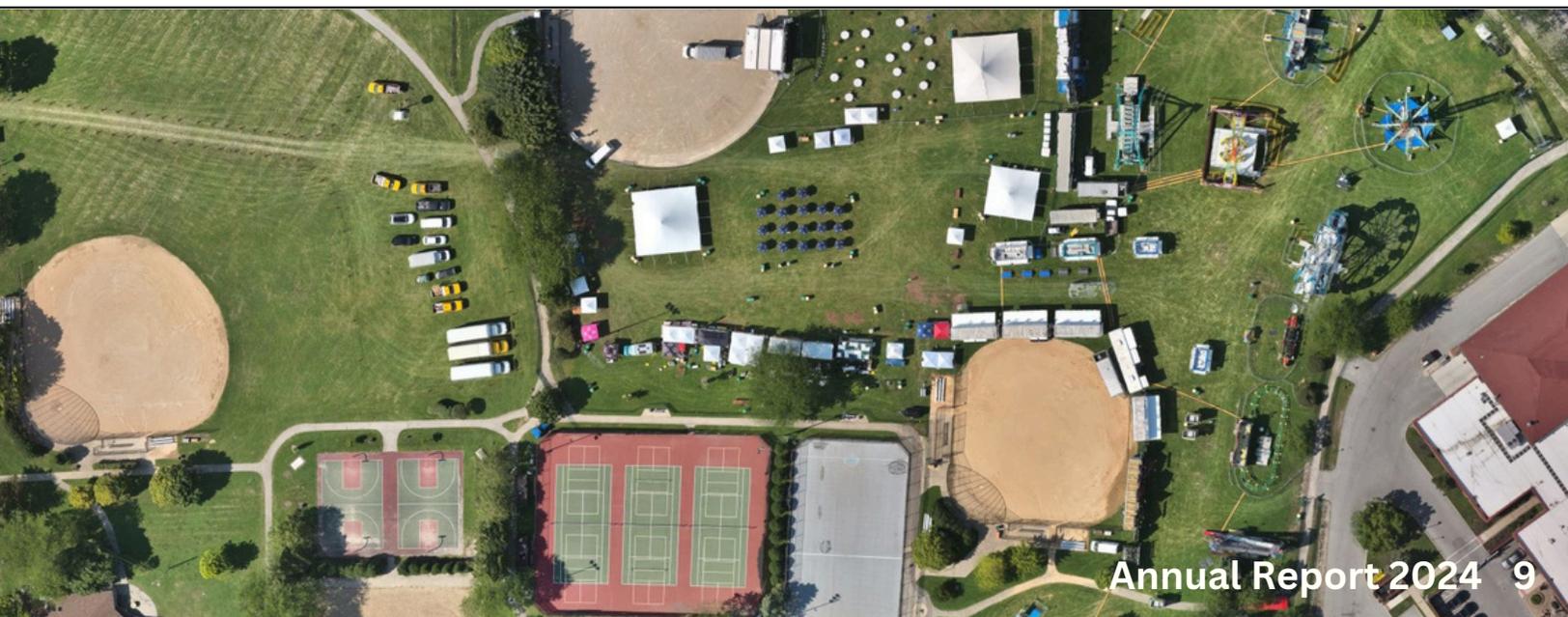
License Plate Readers

Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) were installed in the Village. They are successful in preventing and solving criminal behavior through the use of a motor vehicle. The Village successfully obtained funding to add four ALPR cameras to the Village roadways and the Lincolnwood Town Center in an attempt to reduce retail theft, which is one of the highest crimes reported within the Village.



Drone

The Village acquired a drone for law enforcement use in response to emergency situations and for monitoring events that have a risk factor for safety. Events in which the drone was utilized include the Memorial Day Parade, Lincolnwood Fest and the annual Turkey Trot run. Additional uses, as allowed by law, include finding missing or lost persons, tracking criminal activity that just occurred and crime scene examination. All uses benefit the community by creating a high-level approach of observation.



Public Works

Sewer Lining

As part of the Infrastructure Program, approximately 700 linear feet of sewer was lined with a cured-in-place pipe liner. Compromised sewer pipes with cracks or other age-related failures are lined as a cost-effective method to extend the pipe's lifespan.



2.82 miles of watermain replaced.

2.94 miles of roadway resurfaced.

Pump House Pump

To guarantee consistent water distribution, Pump 2 has been replaced, enhancing the Village's infrastructure reliability. The Village maintains five pumps to keep the water running to homes.



Lead Line Inventory

The Village has made significant strides in inventorying and replacing lead service lines. In 2024, the Village inventoried 4,256 service lines and replaced 34 lead service lines.



Street Storage

The Street Storage Stage III program started in 2023, and surface work for the street storage berms was completed the same year. The Village received \$900,000 from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Installation of the restrictors resumed in 2024, and the project was completed. The restrictors slow the storm water inflow into the combined sewer system to alleviate system surcharges, while the storage berms on the street allow for temporary storm water ponding on the surface. The Program is designed to provide a level of protection to homeowners during intense storms and reduce the frequency of basement backups.



Leak Detection

The Village underwent extensive leak detection and repairs during 2024. The proactive approach to discovering sub-surface leaks resulted in an estimated 1.4 million gallons of water being saved.

GPS/Telematics

The Village implemented GPS and telematics in the Village's fleet. The equipment provides real-time insight into each vehicle's location, status and maintenance needs. The Village is currently in the process of utilizing this equipment to provide a view to residents of the Village's street sweeper during the sweeping season and snow plow vehicles during a snow event.



Village Manager's Office

Employee Investment

The Village believes in promoting internally when possible. In keeping with that philosophy, Julie Glowacki was promoted to Recreation Supervisor, Ramiro Silva to Water Foreman, Gregory Mojek to Water Systems Operator, Adriana Flores to Marketing Coordinator and Monique Rivera to Public Works Clerk/Receptionist. Probationary Police Officers Bujak, Regal, DiFilippo and Youkhanna joined the Police Department this year.



Flag Programs



In celebrating the community's diversity, the Village annually flies flags along Lincoln Avenue of nations that represent the varying cultures of the residents. New in 2024 is the flying of the Pride Flags during Pride Month in June.

Refuse Agreement

A new seven year refuse agreement with Groot to continue providing services to Lincolnwood residents was reached. New with this agreement is the provision of composting of food scraps as part of the annual yard waste collection. This addition is the first step in addressing the composting component of the Village's long-term Sustainability Plan.



Public Works Agreement

The Village and Teamsters, who represent front-line Public Works employees, negotiated a successor agreement for the 18 covered positions within the Village. The new agreement ties to the Village's new fiscal year of January 1 to December 31 and includes wage adjustments that will keep wages competitive for recruitment and retention.

Leadership Training

Eight Village employees participated in leadership training through the Charmm'd Foundation, which is focused on providing the skills to new and soon-to-be leaders. The training program provided a comprehensive view of engaging employees through keynote speakers, panel discussions, mentorships and peer advisory groups. Employees met regularly to assess their skillsets and work with others in the region to understand weaknesses and become stronger leaders.



Grants Funding

Police Grants

The Village received the following Police grants:

- \$10,000 in grant funding from the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) Body Worn Camera Program;
- \$125,000 COPS grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to go towards the costs of hiring Police Officers;
- \$20,000 Recruitment and Retention grant to offset costs to address recruitment and retention efforts;
- \$11,460 Illinois State Police Violent Crime Task Force Grant for FOID card enforcement;
- \$27,550 for retail theft enforcement missions; and
- \$28,000 Organized Crime Grant from the State Attorney General's Office, of which \$15,000 was used to purchase four additional automatic license plate readers and \$13,000 covered overtime costs.

\$1.5 million received in grant funding in 2024.

Parks Renovation Grants

The Village was awarded the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant totaling \$400,000 for the renovation of Flowers Park in 2024. The total cost of the renovation was \$1,189,399.

Additionally, the Village will receive a \$600,000 OSLAD grant that will go towards the \$1.3 million renovation of Proesel Park. Funding will go towards the construction of a universally accessible playground, renovation of the basketball, tennis, and inline skate courts, pedestrian path renovations, and renovation of the sand volley court. The renovation is expected to begin in 2025.

Energy Efficiency Grant

The Village applied for and expects to be awarded a \$240,000 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency grant, which will fund the development of a strategic energy plan to enhance energy efficiency across Village facilities. Half of the grant amount will be used for energy planning (\$120,000), and the second half (\$120,000) will be for energy efficiency updating.

Infrastructure Funding

The Village received a 0% interest \$6.2 million loan with a 20-year payback from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to finance lead service line replacements. In 2024, the Village received \$240,000. In 2025, the Village expects to receive \$1.7 million and \$1.42 million in 2026- 2028.

The estimated savings to the Village is \$3,087,813 over the 20 years. Additionally, \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was received from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. \$900,000 will be spent on completing the Street Storage III project, and \$100,000 will be spent on the design of the proposed pedestrian bridge over the North Shore Channel.

ComEd Grants

The Village received \$42,833 worth of new LED lights and fixtures through the ComEd Incentive Program. The upgrades will result in an annual reduction of 14 metric tons of CO2 and lower the pool's energy use by approximately 30,000 kWh/year. A total of \$7,500 was awarded for purchasing the Village's first electric vehicle, and \$2,500 was awarded for the Lincolnwood Lights program. The Village was awarded a \$10,000 grant from ComEd and the Mayors Caucus to purchase two Police electric-assisted bicycles.



Boards and Commissions

Overview

Lincolnwood has 54 volunteer Commissioners who serve across nine Village boards and commissions. They serve as advisory bodies to the Village Board of Trustees by making policy recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Thank you to all the members of the boards and commissions for your time and dedication in serving the community!

Boards and commissions held 54 meetings in 2024.



2024 Highlights

Resident participation is important in developing Lincolnwood's programs and policies and providing quality services to the community. In 2024, several highlights include:

- Facilitating community events such as Oaktobfest and the "Lincolnwood in Bloom" contest;
- Fostering public engagement for the Recreation and Aquatic Center Feasibility Study;
- Establishing eligibility lists and interviewing Police Officer candidates;
- Reviewing and recommending significant development projects in the community;
- Developing sustainable policies impacting the local environment; and
- Recommending the approval of an amendment to allow for a new auto dealership in Lincolnwood;
- Granting recommendations approving special use permits, adding flexibility for business.

Boards and Commissions

- Board of Fire and Police Commission
- Economic Development Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Telecommunications Advisory Commission
- Park and Recreation Board
- Plan Commission
- Police Pension Board
- Traffic Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals



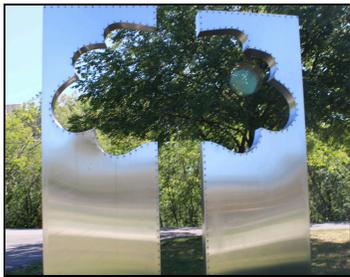
What's Coming in 2025

New Commission

In 2025, the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals will begin meeting. One commission instead of two increases efficiency, and improves associated administrative tasks to notice, staff and prepare minutes for meetings.

Dog Park

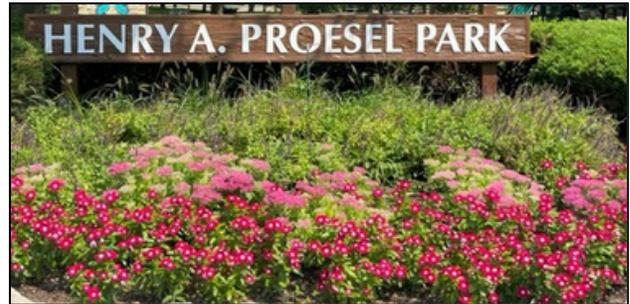
The Village is working with a consultant to develop a dog park in the ComEd Right-of-Way (ROW) east of the pedestrian path and Goebelt Park. ComEd is currently considering allowing the Village to install a dog park in their ROW. If ComEd declines, the Village will continue with a redesign of Goebelt Park to include a small dog park. It is anticipated that Goebelt Park will begin construction in the fall of 2025. The dog park construction will be determined once a decision is made by ComEd.



New Ambulance

The Village will receive a new ambulance in 2025. The ambulance will include enhanced features such as built-in ultraviolet disinfecting lamps, a purification system, four-wheel drive, liquid ride suspension for patient comfort and a virtual 360-degree vehicular safety camera system.

Proesel Park Accessibility



Improved accessibility amenities will be constructed in Proesel Park in 2025. Accessible improvements will include a universally accessible playground, pour-in-place surfacing and renovated paths around the park's south and north side.

Hotel Construction

Construction is underway on the five-story, 152-room, dual-branded Marriott Hotel. The hotel will be located on Lincoln Avenue, north of the Village Green. The L-shaped building will feature an indoor pool, fitness center, dining area and outdoor lounge. Construction activities have progressed with the completion of the foundation and pier system, the construction of above-ground steelwork, the framing of wood panel walls above the fourth floor and underground electrical and plumbing. The building is anticipated to be fully enclosed, with the bulk of the interior buildout completed in 2025. The local developer plans to open the Residence Inn and SpringHill Suites hotel in early 2026.





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