

# Dialogue

Winter  
2023  
& 2024

CITY OF LAKE FOREST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Good things happen when you  
open up *The Dialogue*.



**ON THE COVER**

Members of the Finance Team

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Department Updates



THE CITY OF  
LAKE FOREST  
CHARTERED 1861



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear neighbors,

It was great seeing so many friends and neighbors at the Annual Tree Lighting Holiday Celebration a few weeks ago. This was my first year participating as Mayor and it was heartwarming to see the community gathered to celebrate the start of the holiday season.

Events like this where everyone comes together are part of what makes Lake Forest such a special place to call home. I look forward to seeing many of you out and about at events, shopping and dining local, and enjoying winter in Lake Forest.

Even though the weather is colder, there's a lot happening in Lake Forest this time of year. The City is partnering with the LF/LB Chamber of Commerce to host the Think Local Pop-Up Shop at a new location at 653 Bank Lane, right off the square. Visit the Pop-Up Shop to support our many local non-profit organizations. Read more about the Pop-Up Shop on page 18. Also, the City's Saturday Market – Celebrate the Holidays returns to the West Lake Forest Train Station on Saturday, December 9 and 16.

Inside this edition of the Dialogue Newsletter you'll find a great article that sheds light on the seven-month long process the City, particularly the Finance Department, takes to develop its annual budget (page 3-5). Take time to read about the Community Survey Results (page 6) and plans for the upcoming Strategic Planning Process (page 7). Since winter weather has arrived, find information about the City's snow operations and priorities during winter storms on page 11. Don't miss the chance to cast your vote in the City's first Name a Snow Plow Contest (back page).

Wishing you a happy holiday season!

*- Mayor Stanford "Randy" Tack*

### Lake Forest Now

*Download the App*

Virtually any question you have for the City can be answered in the City's Lake Forest Now App! Report a problem, check the water cam, register for a class with Parks and Rec, and so much more! You can also sign up for push notifications for areas of interest. Download the Lake Forest Now App at [cityoflakeforest.com/LFNow](http://cityoflakeforest.com/LFNow).

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*Thais O'Malley*

# Crafting a Budget Takes Time

*But Results in Lake Forest Have Been Heartening*

BY DAVID A. F. SWEET

What does it take to craft a \$121 million budget? Dozens of meetings, a host of workshops, plenty of debate – all over seven months, leaving little time before the process starts again for the next fiscal year.

Welcome to the world of the Finance Department at the City of Lake Forest. Team members' dedication to working on the budget across all four seasons makes sense, given it's hard to think of a process that has a bigger effect on the daily lives of Lake Foresters, whether it involves garbage collection, the quality of road surfaces, maintenance in parks and more.

"It is safe to say that the budget process impacts all residents of Lake Forest, given that it encompasses both the revenue and expenditure side of all services provided by the City," said Elizabeth Holleb, Finance Director for the City of Lake Forest.

*David A. F. Sweet is the Executive Editor of the City's Lake Forest Love blog.*



Although the Finance Department is responsible for administering the budget development process with guidance from the City Manager, it is a City-wide effort, and staff in all operating departments are engaged and involved in all aspects of the process, which begins each September. After Labor Day, the Finance Department starts to develop the five-year Capital Improvement Program. Revenue projections take place later in the fall, and once those are completed, each department is given a target budget amount based upon forecasted revenues.

The operating budget is discussed from January to March. During this entire process, the City Council Finance Committee holds meetings to review budget components, and a capital budget workshop and an operating budget workshop are held to gather and exchange information.

In the spring, the City Council adopts the annual budget, which must be balanced according to state law and City policy, typically at its second meeting in April. The fiscal year begins each May 1.

The reliable, prudent process is a big reason why the City maintains an Aaa bond rating. And others outside of town have noticed the City's budgeting prowess: the Government Finance Officers Association honored Lake Forest with a Triple Crown Award in 2021. Out of about 85,000 units of government in the United States, fewer than 350 achieved the distinction.

"The City Council has a longstanding tradition of conservative budgeting, which reduces the likelihood of mid-year revenue shortfalls that might require budget cuts or could impact service," said Holleb, adding that

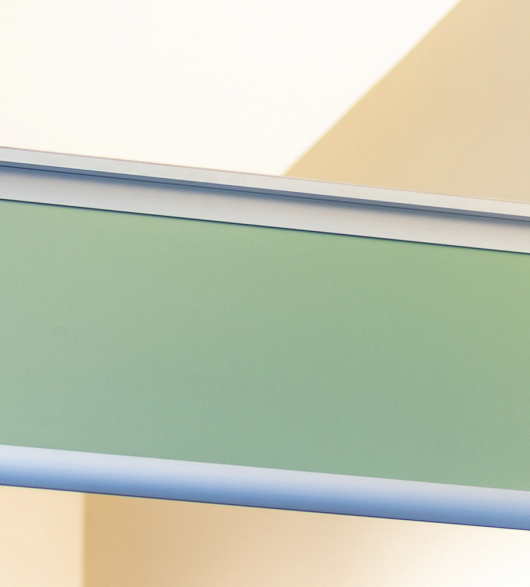


in most years, this philosophy has resulted in a year-end operating surplus, which the City Council directs to a high-priority initiative.

The biggest chunk of revenue generated for the budget typically comes from property taxes, which is expected to bring in \$40 million this fiscal year, or around 34 percent of the entire budget. The biggest expense? Capital outlays, which comprise about 27 percent of spending in fiscal year 2024, or \$33.2 million. These outlays often involve large-scale projects, such as the recently completed Burr Oak Area Storm Improvement Project and the upcoming Waukegan Road and Everett Road Intersection Improvements. The City received grants for both projects – \$2.75 million for Burr Oak and \$3.1 million for Waukegan and Everett – to lower local costs (from 2018-2022, the City secured \$17.5 million in grants to save taxpayers money).

The good news for residents who want to know how tax dollars are being spent is that, over the years, the City has offered ways to discover budget information in an accessible format. The condensed Popular Annual Financial Report is intended to avoid the confusion that a 200-page document may





generate. It looks back at how the City performed financially for a completed fiscal year and is based on independently audited financial data. The Budget in Brief provides important information and is forward looking, displaying the budget or plan for revenues and expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. This year, the City launched the Monthly Flash Report so citizens can see how the City is trending compared to the present budget.

In addition to those tools, important financial details can be found on the City of Lake Forest website. Users can access property tax data and information on pension obligations. Residents can even explore the City’s financial data with drill-down capabilities to the individual account level. An online check register is available, allowing users to view every single vendor check payment made by the City with check date, amount, vendor name and description.

Since she joined the city in 2012, Holleb has witnessed a number of large changes to budget revenue and expenses. A modified strategy to meet police and fire pension obligations, increases in capital budget needs to maintain all asset categories and continued pressure

to balance the budget due to personnel cost increases outpacing revenue growth are the chief ones. She noted the City weathered the COVID pandemic extremely well, as temporary increases in both real estate transfer tax revenue and income tax distributions helped weather budget concerns. On the expense side, though, the City continues to face significant challenges with supply-chain issues impacting purchases and capital-project bids coming in significantly over budget estimates.

Holleb has been working in municipal finance for 35 years. She appreciates how technological enhancements have made the budget process more efficient.

“When I started in Lake Forest, operating departments were still developing their budget submittals in Excel,” she said. “A financial system conversion about five years ago allowed us to move to a much more automated budget development process that has been well received.” She noted that artificial intelligence has not yet impacted the City’s budget process but is on the horizon.

Holleb continues to enjoy the process every year.

“I always learn something, and every budget is different,” she said. “It requires us all to think strategically and creatively to ensure that we are using taxpayer money in the most effective and efficient manner.”

If you want to dig deeper into the budget, find the following at [cityoflakeforest.com/BudgetReports](http://cityoflakeforest.com/BudgetReports):

- Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2024
- Popular Annual Financial Report FY 2023
- Budget in Brief FY 2024
- Monthly Flash Report

**Like this story?  
Find more like it on  
Lake Forest Love.**

Lake Forest Love is the City’s blog where we curate the amazing stories of our community, shine a light on them, and share them back with you. Visit [LakeForestLove.com](http://LakeForestLove.com) today!



# What's Happening

## Community Survey Results

### *Community Survey*

Thanks to everyone who took the Lake Forest Community-Wide Survey - we appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback and we're excited to share what we heard.

Over the summer, ETC Institute administered a community survey for the City of Lake Forest to gather input from residents on service quality, priorities, and overall performance. Nearly 1,500 households completed the survey, which is around a 20% response rate!

Here's what you can do on the Community Survey webpage:

- Dig into the **2023 Community-Wide Survey Findings Report** for an executive summary, charts, benchmarking data, and more.
- Watch a **high-level overview** of the results presented by a representative from ETC Institute at a City Council Meeting in October. You can also view the **presentation slides**.
- Make sure to check out the **survey dashboard** for an interactive way to engage with the survey data through cross tabulations, trends, key

demographics of respondents, investment priorities, as well as mapping results and benchmarking.

Find the items listed above and more at: [cityoflakeforest.com/survey](http://cityoflakeforest.com/survey).

## Stay Connected with the City

### *Follow Along*

Community Survey respondents indicated the top three sources they get news and information from the City are the 1) website, 2) email newsletters, and 3) the Dialogue newsletter. While those are important ways we share information, they aren't the only ones! Here's an overview of all the ways you can stay connected with what's happening in your City.

#### **Website**

The official website for the City of Lake Forest is [cityoflakeforest.com](http://cityoflakeforest.com).

#### **Email Newsletters**

Subscribe to our email newsletters at [cityoflakeforest.com/eNews](http://cityoflakeforest.com/eNews).

#### **Dialogue Newsletter**

You're currently reading this one! The Dialogue is the City's quarterly newsletter that includes

timely information on City services, programs and more. Read the Dialogue at [cityoflakeforest.com/DialogueNewsletter](http://cityoflakeforest.com/DialogueNewsletter).

#### **Social Media**

Follow the City's official pages on social for community news, upcoming events, pics from around town, Your City at Work spotlights and more.

Facebook & Instagram:  
[@CityofLakeForestIL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofLakeForestIL)

YouTube: [@EnjoyLakeForest](https://www.youtube.com/@EnjoyLakeForest)

Some of our departments have their own social media pages, so check out the Lake Forest Fire Department, Lake Forest Police Department, Lake Forest Parks & Recreation, and more on Facebook and Instagram.

#### **Lake Forest Now App**

View the beach water cam, report a problem, and more in the City's Lake Forest Now App! You can also sign up for push notifications, so you don't miss a thing. Download the App at [cityoflakeforest.com/LFNow](http://cityoflakeforest.com/LFNow).

#### **Lake Forest Love**

Lake Forest Love is the City's blog where we share stories about local residents, businesses, organizations, and all things Lake Forest. Read more at [LakeForestLove.com](http://LakeForestLove.com).



# Election and Voting

## City Clerk

The General Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Registered voters can log on to [LakeVoterPower.info](https://LakeVoterPower.info) to find voter-specific districts, elected officials, candidates, sample ballot (when available), and early and Election Day voting sites.

Lake Forest's City Hall (220 E Deerpath) serves as an early voting site from Monday, March 4 through Saturday, March 16, 2024. All Lake County voters can vote early at City Hall.

### Early Voting Hours

Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm

Saturday: 9 am-2 pm

Sunday: Closed

While City Hall is an Early Voting site, you cannot vote at City Hall on Election Day. There are a number of polling sites throughout the City. Find locations on the Office of the Lake County Clerk's Election Day Voting page at [lakecountyil.gov/4323/Election-Day-Voting](https://lakecountyil.gov/4323/Election-Day-Voting).

Find more information at [cityoflakeforest.com/VoterInfo](https://cityoflakeforest.com/VoterInfo).

# Strategic Planning

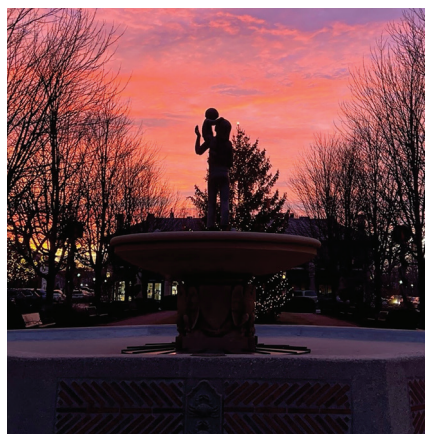
## Get Involved

The City is poised to select a vendor to help facilitate the City's next Strategic Planning Process in the coming weeks. As previously shared, residents, business owners and community partners can expect to see more details about the process beginning early winter with engagement opportunities beginning in the winter and into the spring. The process will include focus groups consisting of key community stakeholders, staff and elected officials, with additional opportunities for public input and engagement. Since the City received a strong response rate from the Community-Wide Survey, which is a key component to this process, we look forward to continuing this momentum for the Strategic Plan. The City's Strategic Plan is a community plan and cannot be successful without the crucial public input required to set goals and objectives for the next five years. Find more information at [cityoflakeforest.com/StrategicPlan](https://cityoflakeforest.com/StrategicPlan).

# Saturday Market Returns

## Celebrate the Holidays

The Third Annual Saturday Market: Celebrate the Holidays is right around the corner. Mark your calendar and stop by the West Lake Forest Train Station on Saturday, December 9 and Saturday, December 16 between 10 am to 2 pm to shop for unique gifts, enjoy specialty foods, and visit with friends and neighbors. Visit [cityoflakeforest.com/SaturdayMarket](https://cityoflakeforest.com/SaturdayMarket) for details.



## Sign up for Weekly eNews

Want weekly updates about upcoming projects and events happening in the City straight to your inbox? Sign up for our Weekly eNews! It's similar to this newsletter but more frequent. Get started at [cityoflakeforest.com/eNews](https://cityoflakeforest.com/eNews).

# Keeping You Safe

## Police Department

### LAKE FOREST POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

For over two decades, the Citizens Police Academy has been a beacon of knowledge and understanding within the Lake Forest community. This cherished program, offered by the Lake Forest Police Department (LFPD), provides an invaluable opportunity for citizens to gain insights into the vital role our police force plays in safeguarding our city. While it doesn't train participants to become police officers, it seeks to foster a deeper appreciation for the multifaceted functions of the LFPD.

#### A Glimpse Through the "Law Enforcement Lens"

The Citizens Police Academy is an 11-week course that is open to anyone residing or working in Lake Forest who is over 21 years old. This enlightening program is entirely free, and it is designed to offer participants a unique perspective of the world from the standpoint of law enforcement.

#### A Comprehensive Curriculum

Participants in the Citizens Police Academy are exposed to a wide array of topics, presented by LFPD officers who specialize in these areas. These include an opportunity to ride along with a patrol officer, engaging in police use of force scenarios, and even experiencing the thrill of firing department weapons at the indoor range. In addition to these hands-on experiences, the curriculum includes in-depth discussions on police legislation, federal actions,

and the future trajectory of law enforcement in our community.

#### Fostering In-Depth Understanding

The course runs on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 pm at the Lake Forest Police Station. This convenient schedule makes it accessible to a broad audience. To ensure optimal interaction and learning, the class size is intentionally limited. This allows participants to engage in discussions and gain deeper insights from the officers who lead the program.

#### Ready to Enroll?

If you're eager to delve into the world of law enforcement, keep an eye out for the dates of our upcoming late winter/spring class. Even better, fill out the application at [cityoflakeforest.com/PoliceAcademy](http://cityoflakeforest.com/PoliceAcademy). Once your application is submitted, you'll be notified when the next class is set to begin.

The Lake Forest Police Department's Citizens Police Academy offers a remarkable

opportunity for community members to step into the shoes of our dedicated law enforcement officers. It is a chance to learn, ask questions, and engage with the professionals who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our city. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the vital role played by the LFPD – enroll in the Citizens Police Academy and see the world through the "law enforcement lens."

#### VACATION HOUSE WATCH

As you head out of town this holiday season, please consider placing your house on the Lake Forest Police Department's Vacation House Watch List. As call volume allows, officers visit properties on the list and check for signs of disturbance. If areas of concern are noticed, officers will notify your emergency contact or keyholder. Submit the Vacation House Watch Request Form at [cityoflakeforest.com/VacationHouseWatch](http://cityoflakeforest.com/VacationHouseWatch) or call Police Records at (847) 810-3845.







after every snowfall. Clear a path approximately 3 feet around the hydrant. These actions will allow the Fire Department to quickly locate the fire hydrant, obtain a water supply for firefighting activities and give the fire department room to work with this hydrant should the need arise.

Please consider helping a neighbor who is elderly or has a medical condition by shoveling out a hydrant in front of their home. This act of kindness will benefit the entire neighborhood.

Water is the principal agent used by the Fire Department to control and extinguish fires. Delays in locating and hooking-up to a fire hydrant can seriously hamper a fire suppression operation, raising the risk of injury and possibly resulting in additional property damage.

The “Adopt a Hydrant” program is an informal program: therefore, it is not necessary to advise the Fire Department about which hydrants you will be keeping clear of snow.

On behalf of the entire Department, thank you for keeping the City of Lake Forest fire hydrants clear of snow and keeping our community safe!



## New e-Scooter Ordinance

### *Walk Your Wheels in the Central Business District*

On Monday, October 2, 2023, Lake Forest City Council approved an ordinance prohibiting the use of recreational powered devices (electric scooters, electric bikes, etc.) on sidewalks in the Central Business District. Riders must dismount and walk their devices on sidewalks within the Central Business District boundaries to avoid a fine of up to \$300 per offense. Licensed motor vehicle operators with a valid motor vehicle operator’s license may operate the device within the street.

Signs have been placed throughout the Central Business District with a reminder of the new regulation. The Lake Forest Police Department is issuing warnings as a courtesy as people adjust to the new regulation and then will begin issuing tickets.

As a reminder, bicycles must also be walked on sidewalks in the Central Business District per a previous ordinance.

While there’s no perfect solution, we hope that this action will help address community concerns regarding e-scooter safety within the Central Business District.

Find more information at [cityoflakeforest.com/eScooterSafety](http://cityoflakeforest.com/eScooterSafety).

## Adopt-A-Hydrant

### *Fire Department*

In the event of a fire emergency during the winter, could firefighters find the hydrant(s) near your home or business?

The Lake Forest Fire Department encourages residents to “adopt a fire hydrant” near their home or business and keep snow shoveled away from them during the winter season. Please make it a point to uncover your fire hydrant(s)

# Working For You

## Public Works

### COMPOST & RECYCLING CENTER OPERATING HOURS CHANGE

Located on the south side of Route 60 west of Waukegan Road, Lake Forest residents can drop off yard waste and various unwanted household items for proper disposal at the Compost & Recycling Center.

How does it work?

- Residents using the site must display a current Lake Forest vehicle sticker on their vehicle windshield. Driver's licenses will not be accepted as proof of residency.
- Acceptable items: yard waste, unwanted household items, electronics (computers, printers, DVDs, etc.), batteries, metal cans, glass, newspapers, magazines, plastics (#1-5 and 7), plastic bags, corrugated cardboard, office paper for recycling.
- Unacceptable items: appliances with CFCs, asbestos, paints/chemicals, tires and food waste.
- Commercial contractor use of this facility is not allowed.

Winter Hours (Dec. 1-Mar. 14)

Saturday: 8 am-3 pm

For more information, please call (847) 615-4264 or visit [cityoflakeforest.com/CompostCenter](http://cityoflakeforest.com/CompostCenter).

### HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULES

#### Christmas Holiday

City offices will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 in



observance of the Christmas Holiday. There will be no refuse, recycling, or yard waste collection on Monday, December 25, 2023. The following schedule will be in effect for holiday week:

- Monday collection on Tuesday
- Tuesday collection on Wednesday
- Thursday and Friday collections remain the same

#### New Year's Holiday

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of the New Year's holiday. There will be no refuse, recycling, or yard waste collection on Monday, January 1. The following schedule will be in effect for the holiday week:

- Monday collection on Tuesday
- Tuesday collection on Wednesday
- Thursday and Friday collections remain the same

For further information on refuse collection services, or to report a missed collection, please call the Sanitation Section automated phone

system at (847) 615-4264 or report it in the Lake Forest Now Mobile App.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Throughout the month of January, Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb on regularly scheduled recycling days. To be collected, trees 1) must be free of all lights and ornamentation, 2) must have the tree stand removed, and 3) cannot be in plastic tree bags. Wreaths and garland are not compostable because they contain plastic and metal wires.

### CITY GIFT POLICY

The City policy prohibits its employees from accepting gifts (including cash). If you would like to thank an employee, please send a card or letter, which can be placed in the personnel file, or make a donation to charity in the name of the employee or department. Acceptable gifts, like cookies or candy, can be delivered to City buildings to share with all who work throughout the year to provide excellent City services.

# Let it Snow

## Snow Operations

### SNOW REMOVAL PRIORITIES

When snow and ice removal need to be prioritized during a big weather event, here's how the City of Lake Forest prioritizes resources:

- 1. City Streets.** All City streets and Route 43 from Route 176 to Route 22 and Route 60 from Route 41 to Field Drive.
- 2. City Parking Lots and Train Station Platforms.**
- 3. Sidewalks.** The first priority is sidewalks along the bike path adjacent to McKinley Road and sidewalks with .25 miles of schools. Second priority is all remaining sidewalks.
- 4. Pedestrian Bridge Sidewalks.**
- 5. Compost & Recycling Center.**
- 6. West Park Ice Rink.**
- 7. Hauling Snow from the Central Business District.** The City hauls snow piles to ensure businesses and shoppers have access to parking lots.

### NAME A SNOW PLOW CONTEST!

There are 20 snow plows in the City of Lake Forest's fleet - and none have a name! Flip to the back page to vote in the City's first ever Name a Snow Plow Contest.

A few other snow-related things to know...

### Do NOT Push Snow Back Into Street

When removing snow from your driveway, please do not shove or plow it onto the public roadway. It creates a slippery and hazardous surface for traffic. It also requires

that snow plow operators return to replow the road, which diverts resources from other priorities.

### Parking After It Snows

After a minimum 2-inch snowfall, parking is not permitted on City maintained roads until snow has been cleared edge to edge. Parked vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense.

### Mailbox Replacement Policy

If you believe a City snow plow caused damage to your mailbox, please report the damage by contacting the Public Works Department at (847) 810-3543 or using the "Report a Problem" feature in the Lake Forest Now App within 48 hours of damage.

Find more information at [cityoflakeforest.com/snow](http://cityoflakeforest.com/snow).

## Park Updates

### Places to Play

#### FOREST PARK BEACH PATHWAY PROJECT

On a hot summer day many of us have walked down the stairs to Forest Park Beach, particularly when the lower parking lot is full. As an alternative, imagine an ADA-accessible, stroller-friendly boardwalk weaving down the bluff and offering beautiful views of Lake Michigan. That is exactly what the Forest Park Beach Pathway Project will make a reality!

The Project will provide funding for the construction of a wooden pathway, which will extend from the upper parking lot to the playground at the beach. The City has committed \$1.3 million, and fundraising is underway to raise an

additional \$1.5 million from private donors. Thanks to a generous lead donation from Diana & David Moore, as well as significant individual contributions, we are more than halfway to our goal!

Please visit the Forest Park Beach Pathway Project webpage at [LFParksandRec.com/forest-park-beach-pathway-project](http://LFParksandRec.com/forest-park-beach-pathway-project) to donate. Donations make a great gift, as well!

#### DEERPATH COMMUNITY PARK

After eight months of construction, the Deerpath Community Park Improvement Project is complete! Stop by to check out the new synthetic turf athletic fields and additional amenities, including two restroom buildings with shaded open-air pavilions, a playground, fitness stations and a paved walking path. The dedicated pickleball courts will open early in 2024.

Please join us for an Opening Day Celebration in April 2024. Stay tuned for details!

#### NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The City of Lake Forest and the Park & Recreation Board has been engaging the community to help develop a Master Plan for Northcroft Park (1365 South Ridge Rd). Thanks to everyone who participated in Community Engagement Sessions and took online surveys to weigh in on options. The final schematic design will be reviewed and approved by the Park & Recreation Board and City Council early next year.



# Winter is Coming!

## Parks & Recreation

2024 is just around the corner, and we are excited about everything we have to offer the community. Our **Winter/Spring Program Guide is out and resident registration opens online and in person at 8:30 am on Tuesday, December 5.** Register early to ensure your spot!

**Stirling Hall's Annual Holiday Art Sale on December 8 & 9 will be in a new location - Dickinson Hall** (adjacent to Stirling Hall). This is a great chance to support local artists and purchase beautiful artisan-made gifts. On December 9, **Winter Dance Spectacular** at the Recreation Center features LFDA's Performance Companies showcasing different styles of dance and delivering holiday cheer to all. Back this year is **Cocoa with the Claus's**, and the Great Room at Dickinson Hall is the magical backdrop for this new tradition! Sip cocoa, listen to a story read by Mrs. Claus, engage in a fun activity, and, of course, the highlight of the evening is a visit by the big man, Santa!

Are you curious about our beloved **Kinderhaven Preschool Academy**? Stop by our **Open House on Saturday, January 13, from 10 am – 12 pm** and learn all about our Reggio-Inspired Preschool, where children learn creativity, individuality, independence, community service, interaction, and exploration.

February brings us the **Daddy-Daughter Dance; this year's theme is 1950s Sock Hop!** Dust off your poodle skirts and greaser jackets, and join us on February 3 for a night of timeless fun in the Rec Center Gym. Twist and jive to the classic tunes of the era while creating cherished memories with your little girl. **The Performance Companies of LFDA** return to the stage in their annual concert, **Passion to Dance**,

**on Sunday, February 25**, as they share their dedication and love of dance with family and friends.

Join us for a sizzling morning of family fun at our **Flapjacks with a Firefighter – Mother & Son Pancake Breakfast on March 9 at CROYA!** Our firehouse-inspired event promises a delightful blend of delicious breakfast treats and interactive activities that will ignite the bond between mothers and sons.

## LAKE FOREST



Register for programs and events at [LFParksandRec.com](http://LFParksandRec.com)  
(847) 234-6700  
FB & Instagram: @lfparksandrec

## WINTER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mark your calendars and visit our website for all the details!

- Dec 8-9: Stirling Hall Art Sale · Dickinson Hall
- Dec 9: Winter Dance Spectacular · Rec Center
- Dec 13: Cocoa with the Claus's · Dickinson Hall
- Jan 13: Kinderhaven Preschool Open House · Rec Center
- Feb 3: Daddy Daughter Dance – 1950s Sock Hop! · Rec Center Gym
- Feb 25: LFDA Company Concert Passion to Dance · Gorton Community Center
- Mar 9: Flapjacks with a Firefighter – Mother & Son Pancake Breakfast · CROYA

# Winter @ CROYA

## CROYA

CROYA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults) is a community-based youth organization welcoming 7th-12th grade students who live or go to school in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Knollwood. Check out the CROYA calendar for fall schedule and activities!

### After School Student Union

#### Drop-In Hours:

Monday, 2:30-5:30 pm  
Tuesday-Friday, 3:30-5:30 pm

### Middle School Youth Meetings

#### (7th-8th grade):

Tuesdays from 4-4:30pm

### High School Youth Meetings

#### (9th-12th grade):

Wednesdays from 7-8 pm

Check CROYA.com for winter break schedule and activities.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service Project

Monday, January 15  
Time and activity TBD

### Middle School Ski Trip

Friday, February 16  
Destination TBD

**Activator Music Academy** is the music school at the CROYA Student Union. Activator offers many affordable music lessons to local youth and adults. Activator also operates the CROYA Recording Studio, CROYA Live Performance Venue, and CROYA's annual music events like Battle of the Bands, Lake Forest Day Jam and Super Jam. For more information, contact Music Manager Nick Christofalos at [activatoracademy@gmail.com](mailto:activatoracademy@gmail.com) or (847) 477-7967.

CROYA.com  
(847) 810-3980  
Sign up for the monthly E-Newsletter at CROYA.com  
Instagram: @CROYALFLB  
Facebook: @CROYALFLB1980

# More than Card Games

## Dickinson Hall

Sure, cards are available (and fun and challenging). But we offer far more than that—everything from trips and special events to fine arts and crafts, music, lifelong learning, and fitness and health programs. Just check out these examples:

- **Special Events.** There is always something happening at Dickinson Hall, monthly parties coming up include our Holiday Party, New Year's Eve Champagne Brunch, and Firefighter Chili.
- **Trips.** Let our bus do the driving. Upcoming trips include The Four C Notes at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet, the Driehaus Museum in Chicago, a tour of Haridham Chicago Hindu Swaminarayan Mandir in Schaumburg and many more.
- **Programs.** Dickinson Hall also offers amazing lectures, music appreciation, fitness, and health programs.
- **Transportation.** There is transportation available for Lake Forest and Lake Bluff residents who need assistance getting to appointments, grocery shopping, and much more within the area.
- **Social Services.** Dickinson Hall has resources to assist you and your aging parents. Connecting with our Senior Advocate, Jennifer Raines, gives you the opportunity to tap into her vast resources to help you maneuver effortlessly through life's many changes.

Call or stop by for more information, to meet the staff, and pick up a Newsbrief to see what else we have to offer or if we can be of assistance to you or someone you know.





## Green Tips

### *Environmental Sustainability*

#### **NEW CURBSIDE COMPOSTING SERVICE**

In the Community-Wide Survey, many respondents indicated interest in a curbside composting service. Good news - the City is partnering with WasteNot Inc. to provide a curbside composting service for all Lake Forest residents! WasteNot provides clean, convenient, and compromise-free composting with an exclusive Lake Forest rate starting at just \$14/month. The service is available for all homes, apartments, and condos, within City boundaries. The residential service is the easiest way to compost in your home, and WasteNot members are provided with a number of perks and benefits.

Composting is one of the most impactful ways to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, a key priority for the City of Lake Forest. By composting, you also are keeping valuable resources from going to the landfill and helping Lake Forest save tax dollars. Learn more about the service and sign up at [cityoflakeforest.com/Composting](http://cityoflakeforest.com/Composting).

#### **RETHINK RECYCLING WITH BART THE CART**

With help from Bart the Cart and the Rethink Recycling campaign, Lake Forest's curbside recycling contamination rates have dropped from 25% in 2020 to 9.8% in 2022!

Follow these four guidelines to help keep numbers trending down:

- 1. Empty and rinsed.** Recyclables should be well-rinsed and empty, lids on.
- 2. No plastic bags.** No plastic bags should be among your recyclables.

- 3. No styrofoam.** Styrofoam and #6 plastics are not recyclable.
- 4. No tangles.** They can damage sorting equipment.

Bart the Cart helps guide residents in a friendly and knowledgeable way as they rethink their recycling habits. Find recycling resources, tips, guidelines and more at [BartTheCart.com](http://BartTheCart.com).

#### **HOLIDAY RECYCLING AT THE COMPOST CENTER**

Utilize the Compost & Recycling Center for all your holiday recycling needs! Drop off broken holiday lights (which aren't recyclable curbside), gift wrapping, and large broken-down boxes at the Compost & Recycling Center this holiday season (see page 10 for additional information).

# A Beautiful Resting Place

## Lake Forest Cemetery

1525 Lake Rd.  
(847) 615-4341  
lakeforestcemetery@  
cityoflakeforest.com  
cityoflakeforest.com/Cemetery

### Space is Available

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lake Forest Cemetery continues to offer a beautiful and dignified resting place for the residents of Lake Forest. Please contact the Cemetery Sexton at (847) 615-4341 to arrange a no-obligation appointment to view available interment options.

# Hit Us With Your Best Shot

## Photography Contest

Our City is known throughout the North Shore for its magnificence and beauty. We want to see your pictures that capture the soul of Lake Forest for our Community Photography Contest.

The contest is open to all residents of Lake Forest (professional and hobbyists). Winners will have their image(s) shared on the City's digital and/or print platforms. The contest is ongoing, so please share pictures from any season!

Email entries to CityHall@cityoflakeforest.com with the photographer's name and category (kid/teen, adult, or professional). To be displayed without being stretched

or distorted, photographs must be submitted in .jpeg, .jpg or .gif format. Learn more at [cityoflakeforest.com/PhotoContest](http://cityoflakeforest.com/PhotoContest).

# Dialogue

## Contest Winner

Congratulations to Marion Cartwright for correctly guessing the location of the towers featured on the back of the Fall Dialogue and winning our "How Well Do You Know Lake Forest Towers" contest! The location of the towers from top to bottom are: City Hall, Settlers' Square/Waukegan Road Business District, and Market Square



Photo by Carlos Cardona

# Lake Forest Library

## Reading in a Winter Wonderland

360 E. Deerpath  
(847) 234-0636  
LakeForestLibrary.com

- Whether you're snowed in and dreaming by the fire or gone away like the bluebird, winter is the perfect time for Lake Foresters of all ages to strengthen good reading habits.
- Keep track of your progress using the Beanstack app or our paper log sheets.
- To complete the program, youth up to grade 6 read or listen to books for 20 days (caregivers decide how much reading counts as a "day" for their youngsters), teens read or listen to 4 books, and adults read or listen to 2 books.
- Along the way you'll earn book prizes and raffle tickets toward a chance to win a grand prize. For details, visit [lakeforestlibrary.org](http://lakeforestlibrary.org).

### Install the Library App

Keep your library card on your phone, browse the catalog and reserve books and items for pick-up, register for events, and more with the new Lake Forest Library App. For details, visit [lakeforestlibrary.org/app](http://lakeforestlibrary.org/app).

### 3D Printing Service

Hobbyists like you can explore "additive manufacturing technology" and develop your computer-aided design (CAD) skills by submitting up to two files per month to the Lake Forest Library 3D Printing service! For details, visit [lakeforestlibrary.org/3d-printing](http://lakeforestlibrary.org/3d-printing).

# Calendar

## DECEMBER

**8-9**  
**Stirling Hall Art Sale**  
Dickinson Hall, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
6-9 pm

**9 & 16**  
**Saturday Market - Celebrate the Holidays**  
West LF Train Station, [cityoflakeforest.com](http://cityoflakeforest.com)  
10 am-2 pm

**9**  
**Winter Dance Spectacular**  
Rec Center Gym, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
4 pm

**13**  
**Cocoa with the Claus's**  
Dickinson Hall, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
4:30 pm & 5:45 pm

## JANUARY

**2-5**  
**Hurray for Winter Mini-Camp**  
Rec Center Everett Annex, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
9 am-1 pm

**13**  
**Kinderhaven Preschool Open House**  
Rec Center, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
10 am-12 pm

**4**  
**"4 Degrees of Difference: From Glaciers to Global Warming" Exhibition Opening**  
History Center of LF-LB, [lfbhistory.org](http://lfbhistory.org)  
6 pm

**16**  
**Genealogy 101**  
Lake Forest Library, [lakeforestlibrary.org](http://lakeforestlibrary.org)  
7 pm

**4 & 8**  
**Our Winter Animals**  
Lake Forest Open Lands, [lfola.org](http://lfola.org)  
9:30-11 am or 1-2:30 pm

**25**  
**Annual Business & Government Breakfast**  
Deer Path Inn, [lfbchamber.com](http://lfbchamber.com)  
7:30-9 am

**12**  
**Conservation Cocktails: The Amazing Eclipse**  
Lake Forest Open Lands, [lfola.org](http://lfola.org)  
6-7:30 pm

**26**  
**Trivia Night at the History Center!**  
History Center of LF-LB, [lfbhistory.org](http://lfbhistory.org)  
6 pm



# *There's a lot happening in Lake Forest this winter!*

VISIT [CITYOFLAKEFOREST.COM/CALENDAR](http://CITYOFLAKEFOREST.COM/CALENDAR) FOR A WHOLE LOT MORE.

## FEBRUARY

**1-3**  
**LFHS Winter Play: Barefoot in the Park**  
Lake Forest High School, [lakeforestschools.org](http://lakeforestschools.org)  
7 pm

**22-24**  
**LFHS Talent Show (Association of Parents and Teachers Annual Fundraiser)**  
Lake Forest High School, [lakeforestschools.org](http://lakeforestschools.org)  
7 pm

**3**  
**Daddy Daughter Dance – 1950s Sock Hop!**  
Rec Center Gym, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
6-7:30 pm

**24**  
**Music for the Whole Family with Wendy and DB**  
Lake Forest Library, [lakeforestlibrary.org](http://lakeforestlibrary.org)  
3 pm

**7**  
**Librarian Book Chat: Romance Reads**  
Lake Forest Library, [lakeforestlibrary.org](http://lakeforestlibrary.org)  
7 pm

**25**  
**LFDA Company Concert "Passion to Dance"**  
Gorton Community Center, [lakeforestdance.com](http://lakeforestdance.com)  
4 pm

**9**  
**Conservation Cocktails: Native Plantings**  
Lake Forest Open Lands, [lfola.org](http://lfola.org)  
6-7:30 pm

**Get ready for Summer & Camp!**  
**Resident Registration Opens March 5**  
Lake Forest Parks & Recreation, [lfparksandrec.com](http://lfparksandrec.com)  
8:30 am

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# Think Local Pop-Up Shop

653 Bank Lane

This holiday season, the City of Lake Forest and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce have once again partnered to open the annual 'Think Local Pop-Up Shop' to benefit local nonprofit organizations.

Moved to a new location right off Market Square at 653 Bank Lane, the Holiday 'Think Local Pop-Up Shop' opened on Friday, November 24 and will be open for shopping Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm throughout the holiday season.

The Pop-Up Shop theme is 'Think Local,' spotlighting all things local. The shop will add to the holiday

buzz in the downtown shopping district and support many local nonprofits by providing a venue to raise their visibility and sell branded items.

When you purchase merchandise from one of the nonprofit organizations, proceeds from the sale will go directly to that organization. Nonprofits will also have volunteers on site on designated days to help spread awareness and information about their organizations.

New this year - the City is selling limited-edition Lake Forest branded merchandise so you can represent your hometown. All proceeds from City merchandise will be given back to the participating non-profits!

Participating organizations confirmed when this newsletter went to print include:

- Artists on the Bluff
- Deerpath Art League
- Elawa Farm
- Equestrian Connection
- Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA)
- Green Minds
- Lake Bluff History Museum
- Lake Forest High School Boosters
- Lake Forest High School Foundation
- Lake Forest Open Lands Association
- Lake Forest Police Foundation
- Lake Forest Preservation Foundation
- McMahon Art Studio
- Midwest Veterans Closet
- Mother's Trust Foundation
- Paws for Patrick
- Reading Power

For more details and a complete list of participating organizations, visit [LFLBChamber.com](http://LFLBChamber.com).



Presented by the City of Lake Forest & the LF/LB Chamber

# City Information



## City Meetings

### CITY COUNCIL

Mondays, 6:30 pm: 12/4, 1/16, 2/5, 2/20, 3/4

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mondays, 6:30 pm: 1/22, 2/26, 3/25

### BUILDING REVIEW BOARD

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm: 12/6, 2/7, 3/6

### PLAN COMMISSION

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm: 12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/13

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm: 1/24, 2/28, 3/20

*Meeting dates subject to change. Find agendas and minutes for all Boards and Commissions at [cityoflakeforest.com/PublicMeetings](http://cityoflakeforest.com/PublicMeetings)*

### Mayor

Dr. Stanford "Randy" Tack  
(847) 810-3675  
[stack@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:stack@cityoflakeforest.com)

### City Manager

Jason C. Wicha  
(847) 810-3676  
[wichaj@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:wichaj@cityoflakeforest.com)

### 1st Ward Aldermen

Nancy P. Novit  
(847) 615-7029  
[novitn@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:novitn@cityoflakeforest.com)

Joseph R. Waldeck

(847) 295-5143  
[waldeckj@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:waldeckj@cityoflakeforest.com)

### 2nd Ward Aldermen

Edward ("Ted") U. Notz, Jr.  
(847) 830-6689  
[notze@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:notze@cityoflakeforest.com)

John Powers

(847) 274-5809  
[powersj@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:powersj@cityoflakeforest.com)

### 3rd Ward Aldermen

Jim Preschlack  
(847) 234-1950  
[preschlack@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:preschlack@cityoflakeforest.com)

Ara Goshgarian

(847) 494-8766  
[goshgariana@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:goshgariana@cityoflakeforest.com)

### 4th Ward Aldermen

Eileen Looby Weber  
(847) 489-9894  
[webere@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:webere@cityoflakeforest.com)

Richard Walther

(847) 306-0510  
[waltherr@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:waltherr@cityoflakeforest.com)

## CITY FACILITIES

### For All City Departments:

(847) 234-2600  
[cityoflakeforest.com](http://cityoflakeforest.com)  
[cityhall@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:cityhall@cityoflakeforest.com)

### City Hall

220 E. Deerpath  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

### Municipal Services Center

800 N. Field Dr.  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

### Public Safety Building

(Police and Fire Departments)  
255 W. Deerpath  
Call 911 for all emergencies  
Non-emergency: (847) 234-2601  
Lobby Hours:  
Monday - Saturday, 8 am - 6 pm

### Recreation Center

400 Hastings Rd.  
(847) 234-6700  
Front Desk Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm  
Saturday, 8:30 am - 2 pm

### CROYA

400 Hastings Rd.  
(847) 810-3980  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

### Stirling Hall Art Center

60 E. Old Mill Rd.  
(847) 810-4688  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

### Dickinson Hall

100 E. Old Mill Rd.  
(847) 234-2209  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4 pm

### Compost & Recycling Center

1381 W. Kennedy Rd.  
Winter Hours (Dec. 1-Mar. 14)  
Saturday: 8 am-3 pm

### Lake Forest Cemetery

1525 N. Lake Rd.  
October - April, 8 am - 4:30 pm

### Cemetery Gatehouse

520 Spruce Ave.  
Call (847) 615-4341 for appointment

### Postage-Free Mail

Postage-free mail to all City departments and City officials can be deposited in the white drop boxes on Bank Lane north of Westminster and in the Telegraph Road Train Station parking lot.



220 E Deerpath  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

LOCAL POSTAL RESIDENT  
LAKE FOREST, IL 60045

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAKE FOREST, IL  
PERMIT NO 64

ECRWSS



## *Name A Snow Plow Contest*

There are 20 snow plows in the City of Lake Forest's fleet - and none have a name! At Meet the Fleet this summer, we asked residents of all ages to submit names for a Snow Plow Naming Contest. The top names were...

**Frosty the Plowman | Marshmallow | Plowasaurus**

Which name is your favorite? Scan the QR code to vote for your favorite name by Friday, January 5, 2024. The winning name will be announced in early January.



## *Let's continue the conversation.*

We've opened up *The Dialogue*. Now let's keep the conversation going. **Here are some places you can connect with us to keep the dialogue going:**



@cityoflakeforestil



@cityoflakeforestil



Lake Forest Now App



LakeForestLove.com



EnjoyLakeForest

**Website** [cityoflakeforest.com](http://cityoflakeforest.com)

**Email** [cityhall@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:cityhall@cityoflakeforest.com)

**Phone** (847) 234-2600