



# Village of Winnebago Newsletter

108 W. Main Street Winnebago, Illinois 61088 (815) 335-2020  
[www.villageofwinnebago.com](http://www.villageofwinnebago.com)



## Winnebago Park District Winter Programs

**INDOOR SOCCER**—COED Program open to boys and girls 3rd grade through High School. Registration Deadline: December 27! Registration Fee: \$45 WPD Residents; \$55 Non-Resident. Games will be played on Sundays at the Winnebago Middle School starting the week of January 9, 2022.  
**BASKETBALL**—Program open to boys and girls in 2nd & 3rd grade to teach the fundamental skills of playing basketball thru drills and games. COED Basketball - Registration Deadline: January 14! Season will run January - mid March. Games and practices will be held at Dorothy Simon School. Registration Fee: \$55 WPD Residents; \$65 Non-Resident For more information contact the [Winnebago Park District](http://www.villageofwinnebago.com). If you are interested in coaching please contact [kreinke@winnebagoparkdistrict.org](mailto:kreinke@winnebagoparkdistrict.org) or call 815-335-3211



## 2022 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING DATES

New Time  
6:00 PM

January 10, 2022  
February 14, 2022  
March 14, 2022  
April 11, 2022  
May 09, 2022  
June 13, 2022  
July 11, 2022  
August 08, 2022  
September 12, 2022  
October 10, 2022  
November 14, 2022  
December 12, 2022



**Soon the snow  
will be flying**

Watch your local news stations for weather alerts regarding snow emergencies and parking restrictions on streets within the village to allow for the snow removal. visit our website [www.villageofwinnebago.com](http://www.villageofwinnebago.com), or like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/villageofwinnebago) for more information

*Old Fashioned Holiday Open House*

*Small Business Saturday November 27th, 2021*

*Winnebago Town Hall 116 S Benton Street*

*~~Come by between 9am and 3pm shop local~~*

*The Bottle Shop, Holiday Creations by Karen Hilliard, Just a Hint of Sass - Sherry Ginger, Loving U Sew Creations, Monkeys By Mary, Winnebago Lions Club, Winnebago Historical Society*

*Door Prizes too!*





**Frank Eubank, Jr.**

# Village Of Winnebago President's Message

## CURRENT AND HISTORICAL LOOK AT CAPITAL CHARGE AND WATER RATES

As we approach the winter season and the possibility of snow, you can't help but think back to this past summer and early fall and remember how dry it was during that time. Whether we watered our lawns, our gardens, or constantly added water to our swimming pools, we were using one of the resources that the Village of Winnebago provides to us – water. The Village of Winnebago Public Works Department personnel work hard year-round to make sure that we have this valuable resource ready at the turn of a handle or flush of a toilet. We recently received the 2020 Water Fluoridation Compliance Award List for all water departments in the State of Illinois and our Village of Winnebago water supply has been in perfect compliance 12 out of 12 months for the past 18 years! Our department monitors our water supply on a daily basis, making sure that the appropriate mix of required chemicals are added with the ground water that is pumped from our wells and then convey the water from our wells and water towers to every end user in the village throughout our vast network of water pipes.

Along with our water usage, we also have a need for transporting the used water from our homes and businesses to a facility that can reclaim it and make it safe to discharge back into our neighboring water resources. Our long-term residents (those that have been here before 2011) may remember the village used to operate and maintain its own sewer plant and all of the sewer lines throughout the village. In 2009 and 2010, our sewer system was incapable of consistently handling the daily sewer flow and we are generally beyond the limits our plant could handle. It limited our ability to grow, as we could not add new users, whether business or residential. We faced having to improve the entire system that would have cost approximately \$10 million to address our sewer facility, plus millions more to upgrade our existing sewer line infrastructure around the village. At the request of our now Public Works Director, Chad Insko, and our now Superintendent of Streets and Fleets, Jim Johnson, I started discussions with the Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD), now known as Four Rivers Sanitation Authority, to see if it might be possible for them to take over the maintenance and operation of our sewer system in the village. We had an engineering firm prepare a water and sewer rate study in 2011 for the village to see if it would be better to upgrade our current system or go with RRWRD and then provide us with what our rates should be for each scenario. The study came back and favored going with RRWRD due to the almost limitless capacity it would provide for the village, the overall rates being less, and the fact that the village would no longer need to be concerned with any major upgrades to the sewer system in the future. With much hard work and effort from our employees and board members at the time, we ultimately negotiated an agreement with RRWRD to have them take over our sewer system, connect it with their system, and upgrade our sewer pipe network in the village. That total cost would be no more than \$11.7 million.

Since the Village of Winnebago did not have \$11.7 million in the bank (our total budget was around \$2.5 to \$3.0 million per year at that time), we needed to find a way to fund this project. We could have looked at various types of bonds and used that revenue to pay RRWRD, but we didn't want to tie up our ability to obtain loans for other much needed projects (water tower rehab, new water tower, upgrade to our water well houses and piping), so we decided not to pursue bonds. RRWRD was seeking various grants and loans to finance the entire project, but still needed to be reimbursed by the village for the village's portion of the project. We looked at the water and sewer rate study and also the rates we were currently charging our residents prior to joining RRWRD to see how we could still fund our water utility and also fund our connection to RRWRD.

The village had the following residential rates (1 inch service or less) in 2010 while the village still operated its own water system and its own sewer system:

### 2010 Water and Sewer Rates - Actual

Gallons used per month	Fixed water rate monthly	Water Rate based on use	Fixed sewer rate monthly	Sewer Rate based on use	Total per month
5,000	\$ 6.57	\$ 4.60	\$ 18.70	\$ 9.65	\$ 39.52
7,500	\$ 6.57	\$ 9.37	\$ 18.70	\$ 18.14	\$ 52.78
10,000	\$ 6.57	\$ 12.55	\$ 18.70	\$ 23.80	\$ 61.62
15,000	\$ 6.57	\$ 20.50	\$ 18.70	\$ 37.95	\$ 83.72

The Water Rate and Sewer Rate that were based on the number of gallons used was set at no additional amount if 1,000 gallons or less per month (just paid the fixed amounts) was used, but then there was an additional rate increase for each 1,000 gallons used.

The water and sewer rate study recommended that we continue to have a fixed water and sewer rate as well as a per thousand (1,000) gallon rate for each to fund our water operation and maintenance costs and also to provide the necessary capital to make our payments to RRWRD. The village adopted Scenario 2B in the 2011 water and sewer rate study and the rates for 2011 were as follows:

# Village Of Winnebago President's Message continued

## 2011 Water and Sewer Rates - Actual

Gallons per month used	FY 2011 Fixed Water Charge \$ 4.02	FY 2011 Fixed Sewer Charge \$ 4.02	FY 2011 Water Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 1.70	FY 2011 Sewer Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 6.16	FY 2011 Total for each user
5,000	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.02	\$ 8.50	\$ 30.80	\$ 47.34
7,500	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.02	\$ 12.75	\$ 46.20	\$ 66.99
10,000	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.02	\$ 17.00	\$ 61.60	\$ 86.64
15,000	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.02	\$ 25.50	\$ 92.40	\$ 125.94

The fixed water and sewer charges, along with the per gallon water and sewer rates were scheduled to increase each year through 2016. The sewer charges were now being used to pay what was owed to RRWRD. If the village board had stuck with the rates as stated in the 2011 water and sewer rate study, everyone's water and sewer rate charges would have more than doubled in by 2016. In 2013, the village board did modify the rates, by lowering them from the rates recommended in the rate study and also modified the term "fixed sewer charge." The board and the Public Works Department personnel felt that since we were not still operating a sewer system that we should not be stating it as a "fixed sewer charge," so we came up with the term "fixed capital charge." The village board continued to review the rates each year between 2013 through 2016 and we continued to keep them lower than the 2011 rate study rates as we were concerned with the ability of residents to pay the higher rates. In 2017, the village board passed an ordinance that set the rates for each year through 2021.

The amounts for 2017 are shown below:

Gallons per month used	FY 2017 Fixed Water Charge \$ 4.70	FY 2017 Capital Charge \$ 4.70	FY 2017 Water Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 2.80	FY 2017 Capital Charge Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 6.20	FY 2017 Total for each user
5,000	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.70	\$ 14.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 54.40
7,500	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.70	\$ 21.00	\$ 46.50	\$ 76.90
10,000	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.70	\$ 28.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 99.40
15,000	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.70	\$ 42.00	\$ 93.00	\$ 144.40

The current amounts for 2021 are:

Gallons per month used	FY 2021 Fixed Water Charge \$ 5.00	FY 2021 Capital Charge \$ 5.00	FY 2021 Water Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 3.30	FY 2021 Capital Charge Rate per 1,000 gallons \$ 6.70	FY 2021 Total for each user
5,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 16.50	\$ 33.50	\$ 60.00
7,500	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 24.75	\$ 50.25	\$ 85.00
10,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 110.00
15,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 49.50	\$ 100.50	\$ 160.00

As you can see, the rates have gradually risen from 2011 through 2021. The rates currently charged in 2021 have been in effect since 2019, so there has been no rate increase for the past 3 years and these rates are still much lower than the recommended rates contained in the 2011 water and sewer rate study.

The board decided this year to have a new water rate study performed by our engineering firm, Fehr-Graham, to see where we should be with our rates. The board was recently presented with this study and will be basing our water rates in 2022 through 2026 based upon the findings and recommendations contained in that study.

# Village Of Winnebago President's Message continued

The original agreement with RRWRD in 2012 stated that the village was to pay a minimum amount of \$10,546,218.25, but with contingencies, it could go as high as \$11,700,000. Fortunately, we now know that the total cost will be \$11,104,141.24 and RRWRD has agreed to let us pay the remaining \$8,372,523 over the next 20 years with an annual interest rate of 1.76%. This is the rate that RRWRD received when it received a loan from the State of Illinois for this project in the amount of \$15 million. Since we know what our annual payments will be to RRWRD, we have decided to set the Capital Charge and the Capital Charge Rate at a specific amount based upon the current amount of usage of water and we do not plan to change that amount, so long as we continue with the same or higher water usage in the village.

As for the Fixed Water Charge and the Water Rate, you will see a larger increase in 2022, but then the percentage will decrease over the next 5 years. I have included the expected rates for 2022 below and then the expected rates for 2026.

## ANTICIPATED WATER AND CAPITAL CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022

Gallons per month used	FY 2022 Fixed Water Charge	FY 2022 Capital Charge	FY 2022 Water Rate per 1,000 gallons	FY 2022 Capital Charge Rate per 1,000 gallons	FY 2022 Total for each user
	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.63	\$ 6.70	
5,000	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 18.15	\$ 33.50	\$ 62.15
7,500	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 27.23	\$ 50.25	\$ 87.98
10,000	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 36.30	\$ 67.00	\$ 113.80
15,000	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 54.46	\$ 100.50	\$ 165.46

## ANTICIPATED WATER AND CAPITAL CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026

Gallons per month used	FY 2026 Fixed Water Charge	FY 2026 Capital Charge	FY 2026 Water Rate per 1,000 gallons	FY 2026 Capital Charge Rate per 1,000 gallons	FY 2026 Total for each user
	\$ 6.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.57	\$ 6.70	
5,000	\$ 6.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 22.85	\$ 33.50	\$ 68.29
7,500	\$ 6.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 34.28	\$ 50.25	\$ 96.47
10,000	\$ 6.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 45.70	\$ 67.00	\$ 124.64
15,000	\$ 6.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 68.55	\$ 100.50	\$ 180.99

You can see that over the next 5 years, the water rates will be steadily increasing to cover our water department costs of operation and maintenance but will not significantly increase the overall monthly payment for each household.

Over the years we have had residents inquire as to why we have a capital charge and if the capital charge is for sewer, why do we pay RRWRD (now known as Four Rivers Sanitation Authority) as well for sewer. Hopefully, through the information provided in this article, it has become apparent as to why we still have a Capital Charge (previously a Fixed Sewer Charge) and Capital Charge Rate per 1,000 gallons (previously a Sewer Rate per 1,000 gallons). This Capital Charge is how the village is paying for the approximately \$11,000,000 cost to have RRWRD take over our facility and provide us with a much more robust sewer system. The cost per user equates to \$9,000, since we had about 1240 users at the time that we entered into the agreement with RRWRD. Instead of having each property be assessed a \$9,000 special assessment, we decided to have that paid over time, since we would be making our payments to RRWRD over time. We also decided to stay with a hybrid of a fixed, minimum amount, so every property owner pays something toward that amount, but then we continued to use the rate per 1,000 gallons, since we felt that a household that uses more water should pay more towards this expense.

When looking at your monthly bill from the village, you see your water consumption with WA after it and then an amount. That includes both the Fixed Water Charge and the per gallon water rate based upon the number of gallons used. Those funds are used to operate and maintain our water system. The next item listed on the bill is the Capital Charge showing the same consumption use with CC after it and then an amount. That amount includes both the Capital Charge and the per gallon Capital Charge Rate and that is used for the pay down of what we owe to Four Rivers Sanitation Authority (f/k/a RRWRD). If we look at an average 5,000 per month user at the 2022 anticipated rates, the user would pay \$23.65 for water and \$38.50 toward the village's annual payment to Four Rivers Sanitation Authority as part of the agreement.

# Village Of Winnebago President's Message continued

I think it would be helpful to see how we compare with other villages and cities in our area with regard to water rates.

## COMPARISON OF AREA 2021 MUNICIPAL WATER RATES

Municipality	Usage Fee per 1000-gallons 2021	Usage Fee per 1000-gallons 2022
Pecatonica	7.90	
Forreston	7.72	
Galena	5.46	
South Beloit – IAW	4.57	
Roscoe – NPW	4.21	
Machesney Park - NPW	4.21	
Stillman Valley	4.20	
Stockton	4.00	
Loves Park	3.87	
Rockford	3.82	
Byron	3.65	
<b>Winnebago</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>3.63</b>
Rockton	2.47	
Lena	2.15	
Freeport	1.96	

Based upon our 2021 Water User Rate Study, the Village of Winnebago's 2021 rate is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 15 area municipalities used in this comparison. Even with our proposed rate increase in 2022, we will have the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of area municipalities compared in this study.

I am hopeful that this information will assist those people that are newer to the village to understand the reason why we charge the rates we charge for water (WA) and capital charge (CC) and also remind those that have been here for much longer as to why these rates need to be reviewed and reassessed periodically. I appreciate your time in reading through this rather long and detailed article, but I felt it was important to provide this information to everyone, especially with looking at revising our current rates. As always, we look forward to your ideas in how we can make this village better for everyone. Please feel free to contact us or to attend a village board meeting. We are still meeting virtually/remotely for our regular board and committee meetings, but we do have the connection information contained on every agenda, if you desire to participate or at least listen to what is being discussed at these meetings

Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees: to attend using computer <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/671034949> or by phone [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)  
Access Code: 671-034-949 meeting schedule is on page one for 2022

**HOMETOWN HERO!** Congratulations to Sergeant Nicholas Haff of the Village of Winnebago Police Department who was nominated "Hometown Hero" by Randy McNeely. Mr. McNeely shared his appreciation for Sergeant Haff in his nomination letter. Sergeant Haff's example as an officer, his dedication to the department and the community he dutifully serves is an inspiration to him. "Every aspect of my life has improved because of the kind gestures he's made to make me a better person" Mr. McNeely said. (full article can be found at the following [Q98.5online](#)).



**TWENTY YEARS!** Officer Randy Smith was presented with a plaque by Village President Eubank for his twenty years of service!!

Thank you - Officer Smith for your dedicated service to the Village of Winnebago.



**Bago JINGLE & MINGLE**

First Annual Jingle & Mingle held in downtown Winnebago. There will be fun activities for the whole family including a tree lighting and Santa! Saturday, December 11th with the lighting of the tree at 5:00 p.m.— More information to come!

**2021 TOYS FOR TOTS** You can drop off your donation at the Village Hall at 108 W. Main Street Monday through Thursday between 8am and 4pm or with any Police Officer.



**Can you stand the heat?** Do you want to help your community? If so, we have an opportunity for you! We are currently accepting applications for firefighter recruits. We are paid on call and get paid for trainings. You also have the opportunity to switch to the medical side of things once the proper license is obtained. If you have ever wanted to pursue firefighting or EMS, now is the perfect time! CONTACT THE [WIN-BUR-SEW](mailto:win-bur-sew@villageofwinnebago.com) Fire Department for more information. 815-335-2651

**Small Business Saturday Holiday Shopping**—the Winnebago Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the Holiday Passport event beginning Nov 27 through Dec 18. Be sure to visit participating businesses—shop local and get your passport stamped to be included in the prize drawing. For more information find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/winnebagoareachamberofcommerce/) or at [winnebagoareachamberofcommerce.com/holiday-passport/](http://winnebagoareachamberofcommerce.com/holiday-passport/)




**Winnebago Area Chamber of Commerce**

*4th of July*  
All Communities



**2021 Christmas Decorating Contest**

**Join in on the neighborhood fun & help support the 4th Of July!**

**What:** Submit your entry & \$25 fee Decorate your house/ yard within Village limits (does not have to be Patriotic themed)

**When:** Entries due to Village Hall by 12/11/2021 for judging on 12/18/2021

**Mail to:** 108 W. Main St. Winnebago IL 61088

## VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

### *Payment Methods*

Water bills, permit fees and police fines can all be paid with a credit or debit card online using the following payment methods:

- Illinois ePay on our website at [www.villageofwinnebago.com](http://www.villageofwinnebago.com).
- You can use our automated phone service— 877-712-3629 (have your account number ready when you call)
- Automatic debit from checking or savings account simply complete the form available at our website – An [ACH Authorization Form](#) (must be on file at the Village Hall for this option)
- Or you may drop off payment at the Village Hall in our drop box slot located on the front of the Village Hall building.

*To avoid late payment penalties please submit your payment on or before the 15th of each month.*

To mail your payment it should be addressed to (allow for mail delivery time)

Village of Winnebago  
108 W Main Street





*From the Desk of the Chief of Police:*

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to all the village residents for their support of the police department throughout the years. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

We all know, and some dread, the snow will be arriving before we know it.

With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone of the Village of Winnebago's **Snow Ordinance 04-21**, which goes into effect after two inches of snow has fallen. This ordinance specifically states, "No person shall park any motor vehicle on any street located within the corporate limits of the Village of Winnebago after snow has fallen to a depth of two inches or more until such time as the snow has been plowed to the side of the street". You can find the ordinance in its entirety at <https://villageofwinnebago.com/uploads/04-21.pdf>

Ordinance violations will be written for vehicles left on village streets after two inches of snowfall. Let's help our Public Works Department by having all vehicles removed from the streets so they do not have to plow any street more than necessary. This will not only help the Public Works Department, but it also helps the Village of Winnebago Police Department, the Win-Bur-Sew Fire Department, and our out-of-town visitors.

Another topic I would like to address is the **Abandoned and Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance #04-06**. Even though the ordinance name suggests it only applies to abandoned and inoperable vehicles, it also applies to vehicles without current registration, which means either a current valid registration plate and/or sticker. The web address to locate the full ordinance on our website is <https://villageofwinnebago.com/uploads/04-06.pdf>

I believe all village residents would like the community to not only be safe but show an aesthetic appeal to those who visit the Village of Winnebago utilizing the area parks, Prairie/bike path and the local businesses.

I hope this message finds everyone safe and sound and please take a moment out of your day to show appreciation to someone you have never met before. One act of kindness by a stranger may turn someone's day around.

*Respectfully,  
Chief White*

### **Contacting Winnebago Police**

We are located inside Village Hall at 108 W. Main Street. A Winnebago police officer may be contacted by calling 815.335.2351 for non-emergencies, or by calling 9-1-1 for any emergency situation. These numbers are answered by a call taker at the Winnebago County 9-1-1 Center. An officer will be dispatched if necessary.

### **Facebook**

Please visit our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/winnebagopd](http://www.facebook.com/winnebagopd), for information about the police department and the Village.

Village of Winnebago  
108 W Main Street  
Winnebago IL 61088

PRSR  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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ROCKFORD IL  
PERMIT 781

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
WINNEBAGO IL 61088



**~VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS~**  
**Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m**  
**To contact us: 815-335-2020**

**CLOSED on FRIDAYS**  
**And in observance of the following Holiday**  
**November 26th—THANKSGIVING DAY**

*Let it snow*