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VILLAGE NEWS

News from the Board of Directors

Directors met twice in February, once for their regular monthly meeting and a second time for an all-day facilitated retreat to begin work on a plan for the next few years. Here are some of the key conversations and decisions they made:

- There will be a general membership meeting in April and another in the fall. These will provide an opportunity for healthy discussion about the organization and for members to share their thoughts and learn in greater detail what their board of directors is thinking about.
- A part-time volunteer coordinator will be hired to manage volunteer services.
- Four areas of focus have been selected as part of NSV's strategic plan. They are:
 - Expanding and improving communications with and among our members
 - Defining the membership model, its benefits and value, and reviewing the fee structure
 - Reinvigorating the request for and use of volunteers
 - Expanding NSV volunteerism in the larger community to reduce social isolation



A standing committee with a special task force of board members has been assigned to each of these initiatives.

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Various Board members at recent Board Retreat



March

- 1 William Friedlander
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- 13 William Gifford
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VILLAGE NEWS

Committee News: Focus on Programs

The NSV Program Committee plans social, cultural and educational activities for NSV members. The members are: *Nancy Bashook (Chairperson), Marilyn Bloch, Carol Liner, Nina Raskin, Toby Sawislak, Ami Silvestre, Elizabeth Ury, Cheryl Wollin.*

Program ideas come from many sources. The committee asks members, brainstorms ideas, checks with organizations for speakers and, reviews other senior organizations' offerings.



The Facts & Snacks programs, held on Tuesdays at The Merion, offer speakers with special expertise. The Merion offers NSV a nice space and also provides snacks (more like lunch).

Social events like potluck dinners in members' homes are very popular. Most potlucks can accommodate around 30 people. Not many members still live in homes large enough for this size event so it's become harder to arrange dinners. If your home is large enough and you're interested, please let us know. Everyone brings something and everyone helps clean up to make it easy on the host.



POTLUCK DINNER

Transportation to events is a challenge for some and using carpooling and buses to cultural events could ease this concern. Day outings, such as to the Milwaukee Art Museum or a tour of Wrigleyville, have been discussed.



As nicer weather approaches, wouldn't a walk in the forest preserve be perfect for spring?

Most members live in Evanston, but a sizeable number live in other North Shore suburbs, particularly Glenview. The plan is to offer more programs beyond Evanston's borders.

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VILLAGE NEWS

The committee wants your feedback as to what you like about NSV programming and what can be improved. Suggest programs you would like NSV to provide. And most of all attend as many as you can, but be sure to register in advance. To make suggestions or join this committee, contact Nancy Bashook (nbashook@gmail.com) or Carol Liner (onelineer@sbcglobal.net).

- A Review of Game Day -

Those of us who attended Game Day had a lovely afternoon. It was a time for playing games, conversation, enjoying really good food, and having some laughs. The Merion treated us to mini chicken sliders, fresh fruit, assorted cheese and crackers, coffee, tea and delicious cookies. A few of The Merion residents joined us.

The Merion game room is amazing. Besides games like billiards, darts, foosball, pin ball and table bowling, we can play board games and cards. Rummi-Q and scrabble are popular.



All in all, we made some new friends, had a few laughs and spent a couple of hours enjoying the friendly atmosphere. Come join us for the next Game Day - we'll make room for you at the table.

Marilyn Bloch
NSV member and volunteer
Program Committee member

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Events and Activities

A link to our calendar will be found [here](#) so you can plan your NSV activities for the month. Look at the possibilities! **Click on each one for a description!**

- ◆ Setting Health/Wellness Goals
- ◆ Using Windows 10 Effectively: What's New In The Updates?
- ◆ Glenview Drop In Lunch
- ◆ Using Apps On Your iPhone Or iPad
- ◆ Great Decisions
- ◆ Current Events Discussions
- ◆ Glenview Walkers
- ◆ Croakers Singing Group
- ◆ Facts & Snacks - Finding The Right Doctor For You! *new*
- ◆ Finance Committee Meeting
- ◆ Windows 10,8,8.1: Using The Windows Store For Great Apps
- ◆ Using GPS/Maps On Your iPhone Or iPad
- ◆ Board Meeting
- ◆ Thursday Dinners
- ◆ Short Stories On Tuesday
- ◆ Growth Committee Meeting
- ◆ Program Committee Meeting
- ◆ Volunteer Committee Meeting
- ◆ Individual Tech Help For Cell Phones/Tablets/Laptops
- ◆ Thursday Afternoon Stories
- ◆ Using The Camera On Your iPhone Or iPad
- ◆ Sunday Afternoon Movie Group
- ◆ Organizing Photos On A Windows 10 Computer
- ◆ iPhone/iPad Texting Tips To Send/Receive Photos/Videos
- ◆ Current Events At Evanston Public Library



Play Reading Special - Join seasoned actress Kathy Ruhl for this premiere reading! On Monday, March 13 from 1 - 3 pm we will read parts of the play "For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday," written by Kathy's daughter, Sarah Ruhl. The play opens in April at the Shattered Globe Theatre. Join us! Get the details [here](#).

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Events and Activities

Come for Dinner – Meet a Friend

Most members joined NSV to enhance their lives as seniors living in their own homes. A very popular weekly event is Thursday dinner at a local restaurant! Members gather at 6:00 pm at a restaurant chosen by that week's host. The dinners occur in Evanston, Skokie, Wilmette and Glenview. In the summertime, we try to visit restaurants with outdoor patios. During the winter months, on the first Thursday, we meet for lunch (instead of dinner) at a Glenview location.



Several poignant stories characterize our experiences. Five years ago, Roxane Fox and Molly Lazar met at a Thursday Dinner. They gradually became lifelong friends. Their lives are closely intertwined. Many close friendships have begun over Thursday dinner.



Bernadette Krol, Ralph Segel & Jessie Feldman

Ralph Segel and his wife, Esther, were regulars at Thursday dinners. Recently, Esther passed away. Ralph commented that now the worst time of day is eating supper alone. So, for Ralph, the companionship enjoyed at the Thursday dinners is a gift!

As reported in the February newsletter, Bonnie Jackson and Vince Brumfiel got to know each other at a Thursday dinner. Eventually, they became close friends and joined each other in marriage!

So, come join us! We welcome you! We promise you a warm, nurturing experience that will enhance your life.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNERS CAN BE LIFE CHANGING!



AROUND OUR TOWNS

How to Find Out What's Goin' On In Your Town

Those of us who rely on print media for news are finding fewer reliable sources these days, as it seems the whole world is going digital. That includes local governments—every city and village has a website, and some are doing away with printed community guides and directories. If you are not already linked in to your municipal website, it's a good idea to sign on. Some communities offer residents the option of getting weather and other emergency alerts by email. You can also access minutes of village board and commission meetings.

Where to get information If you don't have computer access? Your community's 311 service is a good place to start. And don't forget that librarians are some of the friendliest people in the world. Here are some "what's goin' on" items in NSV communities. We welcome submissions from NSV members about events and issues of interest in your communities. Contact us at newsletter@northshore-village.org.



What's Goin' On

for ALL of US. . .

Timely Topic: Get a refresher course on the US Constitution when the Leagues of Women Voters of Glenview/Glencoe and Wilmette host a forum with Mark Rosen of IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. His topic: ***Know Our Constitution: Executive Branch Powers and Constitutional Limits.***

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Wilmette Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Rd.

Free and open to the public. More information at: lwvglens@gmail.com

In honor of International Women's Day, the **YWCA Evanston/North Shore** presents "[Be Bold: Let's Move the Needle.](#)" The event will include discussions with women entrepreneurs, artists and law enforcement on the economic progress for women and the journey ahead. It is set for Wednesday, March 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Theater at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Avenue.

Poets from "Louder Than a Bomb," are due to perform, and the keynote speaker is Evelyn Diaz, president of Heartland Alliance. She has been responsible for directing the Alliance's five nonprofit corporate entities, with 1,400 employees in 12 countries and an operating budget of over \$120M.

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AROUND OUR TOWNS

The event is free but [reservations](#) are required. Founding partners for the event include Northwestern University Women's Center, The Woman's Club of Evanston, and Evanston Women's History Project.

in GLENVIEW . . .

The public library's **Glenegy** series for older adults presents a 2-part series on "How Can I Protect Myself?"

PART 1: Safety Tips for Older Adults Friday, March 3, 1-2 PM • Community Room

Crime is a frightening problem, especially for older adults. You may be concerned about your safety when at home or in the community, but you do NOT need to feel helpless. Learn how to reduce your risk of becoming a crime victim with instruction by Glenview Police Department experts.

PART 2: Fire Safety Tips Friday, May 5, 1-2 PM • Community Room

Americans over the age of 65 have a fire death rate of nearly twice the national average. For those over 75, it is three times the national average. Learn the steps you can take to remain safe from fire and be prepared if there is one with instruction by Glenview Fire Department experts.

in SKOKIE. . .

Online Payment Now Available for Village Fees

From Village of Skokie News: Skokie residents can now pay water bills and other village-related payments at AccessMyGov.com, the Village's new online portal. If you have not yet received your new water bill, or would like to make other (non-utility) payments, please [click here](#) to access the portal. This hyperlink is very long needs clean up

Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Downtown Skokie will mark the holiday with a parade on Saturday, March 12. Stepping off point at 2:00 pm is the Nixie Gallery, 7925 Lincoln Ave. You don't have to be a marcher to enjoy the St. Pat's Day party at The Curragh, 8266 Lincoln Ave. More info at: <http://downtownskokie.org>

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AROUND OUR TOWNS

in EVANSTON . . .

The North Shore Memory Café launches this Friday, March 3, at the Levy Senior Center in **Evanston**. A monthly social gathering for individuals in early stage memory loss, [the Café](#) will meet the first Friday of every month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in the Levy Center Library. Care partners and loved ones are also welcome to attend. The Café is a grassroots collaboration of local citizens, the City of Evanston, and community partners, including CJE SeniorLife, Renewal Care, and the Chicago Center for Cognitive Wellness. The Café is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call 312-273-9000 ext. 8.

The **Indoor Farmers' Market** is open for business every Saturday from 8am to noon at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. (plenty of free parking). Fresh produce from summer farmers' market vendors, as well as specialty artisan products.

Useful Online Tools: Want to know the street cleaning or refuse pickup schedule in your neighborhood? Go to 311/About My Place <https://apps.cityofevanston.org/gis/311AboutMyPlace/>. Plug in your address and get a neighborhood map and links to city services schedules. Want to find out about air quality in Evanston? Restaurant inspections? Check out Evanston Open Data, a web portal that "offers a means of increasing public access to data managed by the City which supports transparency in government." Advisory: click on "user's guide" before trying to navigate the site. <https://data.cityofevanston.org/>

in WILMETTE . . .

Spring 2017 Tree Planting Applications Now Available--This program allows residents to select a tree from a list of five different species (which may vary from year-to-year) with the option to upgrade to a larger size. Participation in the shared-cost Cooperative Tree Planting Program allows the Village to maximize the number of trees planted annually, which helps keep our community green! wilmette.com [back to top](#)



AROUND OUR TOWNS

The Village of Wilmette has launched new features of its **Citizen/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System**. The new features include a mobile app (available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices) and a [citizen portal](#) on the Village's website. These features will give customers even more methods of interacting with the Village and requesting service. After requests are entered into the app or citizen portal, residents will receive an incident number that they can use for tracking purposes or to follow-up with staff. Customers may also view existing incidents on a map to see what issues are being reported by other residents.

To provide more information on the proposed **Stormwater Improvement Project**, the Village has published new web pages, including: FAQs, a detailed summary of the value engineering study, links to all related sewer studies, a detailed historical project timeline, links to all meeting minutes and presentations, archived email blasts, and emails from residents in support or opposition of the project. The webpage can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

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SWANK

Our SWANK theme this month is civic engagement as we look ahead to April 4th election in our communities.

Whether you are involved in social or civic activities, voting, volunteering, donating to causes, or all of the above, you are contributing to your community and reaping the benefits of civic engagement. More than 50 years ago John F. Kennedy said to his fellow Americans, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

SWANK

Millions responded, especially young people who joined the newly established Peace Corps. Now those young people are retired or soon to be retired and they are seeking new ways to contribute to their communities.

In 2012 AARP conducted a study, "Civic Engagement Among Mid-Life and Older Adults" to understand how mid-life and older adults are connecting with and contributing to their communities, identify generational and other factors that influence civic engagement, and examine how civic engagement has changed over time. They used earlier AARP studies (1997, 2003 and 2009) to identify trends.



Findings included:

- Civic engagement declined in 2009 but appears to be rebounding
- Voting is the top civic engagement activity among mid-life and older adults
- Having an impact is a strong motivator for volunteering, with more and more older adults serving both through organizations and on their own
- Charitable giving has declined slightly but still is a common occurrence

The top reasons given for volunteering were (1) *a way of giving back*, (2) *personal responsibility to help those in need*, (3) *helps own neighborhood*, (4) *the organization has a good track record*, and (5) *it's a way to make a difference*.

While civic engagement is good for the community, social and civic activities are also good for the volunteer. Research has shown that volunteering:

- Connects you to others and helps you find friends
- Is good for your mental and physical health
- Brings fun and fulfillment to your life

The full AARP Study can be viewed here:

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/general/2012/Civic-Engagement-Among-Mid-Life-and-Older-Adults-Findings-from-the-2012-Survey-on-Civic-Engagement-AARP.pdf

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GOOD STUFF TO
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NSV Members Giving Back to the Community

Many of the people drawn to membership in North Shore Village bring with them a longtime commitment to volunteer community service. NSV's goal to serve the community at large as well as serving NSV members is fortified by having so many NSV members who devote their time and energy to community affairs.

Here is just a sketch of several of these civic-minded NSV members:

Carol Goldbaum is a retired social worker who now is vice chair of the local Age Options chapter. She is giving much energy to working with state and federal legislators throughout Illinois to get them to forego partisan politics and do what's right for their constituencies. Carol is making a similar thrust through the National Association of Social Workers, where she is a past president of the Illinois chapter.

Carol seeks to counter the rising tide of enmity and hatred that is evident in national politics. She urges NSV members to take up the cause by writing to politicians "with reasonableness, not rant, so they will take you seriously."

Nina Raskin was a housewife in Winnetka in 1965 when she and her neighbor, Helen Widen (also an NSV member), organized a charter bus filled with mostly fellow area housewives, and traveled down to Montgomery, Alabama to join Martin Luther King's famous civil rights march. Fifty years later, Nina, as part of the Open Communities organization, organized a memorial gathering on the Winnetka Green to reemphasize civil rights issues on the North Shore.

Nina has advocated for civil rights causes throughout her life. Currently she is one of the driving forces behind the Evanston Justice Team, a recently formed group of citizens focused on equity and social justice in Evanston, including issues such as affordable housing, economic development, and dealing with violence.

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GOOD STUFF TO
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Gerri Sizemore is the 2015 winner of Evanston's Aging Well Award, among many other civic awards. She has been a prominent figure in the Evanston North Shore Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. for many years, as well as a board member of a number of area social agencies, including the Evanston Youth Job Center, Family Focus, and a favorite, the Foster Senior Club, 30 to 40 mostly black women who meet weekly at Fleetwood-Jourdain in Evanston. Gerri is a "junior senior" in this gathering of women, a number of whom are in their 90s. Of her many civic activities, Gerri says she "just wants to contribute." Her numerous awards testify to the contribution she has made.

Joel Wineberg comes from a family "that wants to help people that can't help themselves." Says Joel, "I have a strong feeling for people being able to eat every day." Currently, and for the past 12 years, Joel has helped run a weekly soup kitchen at Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston. He does the shopping to pick up \$500 worth of food each week that serves 100 people dinner and a sack lunch for the next day. Joel makes the sandwiches for that lunch bag.

This brief article can name only a small fraction of the many activities these four people are involved in for their community. Maybe you are one of those, and if not, maybe you will find a civic cause that needs your help.

Seniors and Civic Engagement: An Interview with Skokie Mayor

George Van Dusen has been a trustee of the Village of Skokie since 1984, and Mayor since 1999. He also teaches as an adjunct faculty member in U.S. History and Government at Oakton Community College. This interview by Cheryl Wollin (NSV member) occurred on February 17, 2017.

CW: What is the best way for senior citizens to stay involved in the civic life of their community?

Mayor: Seniors can make a substantial contribution to their community in a number of ways. Their life experience is so vital, and they can bring their expertise to a board or commission that matches their interests. In Skokie, there are over 15 boards that run the gamut from health, human relations, recreation, etc.

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GOOD STUFF TO
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Older adults may now have the time to volunteer in an area that they always wanted to pursue. There is a very active volunteer corps in Skokie. One retired accountant volunteers with preparing tax returns (from January to April). One volunteers three days a week at the wonderful Skokie Public Library. Since 25-30% of Skokie's residents are first or second generation Americans, the Human Relations Commission is looking for diverse ethnicities to bring their perspectives to its work.

CW: Do rallies or demonstrations affect policy?

Mayor: Well, it has this effect. It shows that there is a level of concern that people care deeply about an issue. It gives elected officials an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the public. They have a passionate aim and it's our duty to listen to that goal. It may open the door to a real chance to communicate.

CW: How can seniors help involve younger citizens to become engaged in government?

Mayor: That is the big challenge! Again, boards and commissions can use new blood and fresh ideas! Anyone over the age of 18 can serve on a board or commission. For example, the chair of the Performing Arts Board urged a young person to join it. The new younger member enriched the board with new ideas about comedy and dance. His suggestions were warmly welcomed. A young woman in her early 30's, worked on sustainability issues to enhance the environmental concerns. Sometimes we need to encourage young people to join--there is no age limit (other than over 18). If they have a genuine interest, we can find a place for them to serve! The park and school districts also are open to younger people, and you don't need a large amount of money to run a campaign for those posts. Get involved!

CW: Thank you, Mayor, for sharing your ideas with our readers!

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Here is information about Volunteer Opportunities for North Shore Village and for links to volunteer opportunities in your community below.

This is how Bonnie Jackson (NSV member) summed up a recent experience she had with a NSV volunteer driver, Beata Suchodolska-Klis.

“Last Tuesday dawned foggy and gloomy. Not exactly an auspicious beginning for a day that was to include a trip to the Secretary of State's office in Deerfield to get state IDs. But when our volunteer driver "B" (Beata) arrived, her enthusiasm and energy completely changed our outlook. A chore we'd dreaded became an excursion. There were only a few people in line ahead of us. When I couldn't find a paper I needed, she interceded and the clerk found a way around that detail. And by the way, she was a great driver! Thanks to everyone for a great experience.”

What NSV volunteer opportunities are available?

There are many things members do to help each other. If you are interested in volunteering, think about what skills you have and what you like to do. Your fellow members sometimes need a ride to an appointment, help with meal preparation, someone to run errands, help with a computer problem, someone to change lightbulbs or smoke detector batteries, a friendly visit or phone call.

If you'd like to help the Village consider contributing to the newsletter, helping with website maintenance and updates, offering a social, enrichment or educational program, welcoming new members or joining a committee or task force.

Volunteering for North Shore Village is easy. Just tell us what you'd like to do. You can access a volunteer application [here](#).

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How can I make a donation to North Shore Village?

North Shore Village provides connections and experiences to help older adults navigate the “staying in place road.” Most of us want to stay in familiar places or communities as we age, but may find our supportive circle of family and friends shrinking, leading to isolation.

North Shore Village promotes the importance for members to participate in social, cultural and educational activities to stay connected in a meaningful way to each other. It provides opportunities for members to develop new friendships and have new experiences. ***Member dues do not cover all expenses so donations are an important source of funding for the organization.***

OPTIONS FOR DONATING

- 1) northshore-village.org website- credit card charge for *General Operations*
- 2) Automatic regular withdrawal from bank account - [ACH form](#)
- 3) Mail check made out to *North Shore Village*

Where can I find out about volunteer opportunities in my community?

Your public library is a good resource for volunteer opportunities as is your school system, church, temple, synagogue or mosque. Here are some links for other volunteer resources:

Evanston

<http://volunteerevanston.galaxydigital.com/>

Glenview

<http://www.americantowns.com/il/glenview-make-a-difference>

Wilmette

info@thekindnessconnection.org

<http://www.volunteercenterhelps.org/nonprofits/new-trier-township/>

Skokie

<http://mealsathome.org/volunteer/>

Chicago

<https://www.chicagocares.org/>

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SWANK

Be an Informed Voter for the April Elections



Glenview and Northbrook

The League of Women Voters of Glenview/Glencoe is sponsoring candidate forums in anticipation of the Consolidated General Election on April 4, 2017. Forums will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL in the Lakeview Room.

Forums include candidates running in contested elections for

- Glenview Public Library Board of Trustees 12:30 – 1:45 pm
- Village of Glenview Board of Trustees 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners 3:15 – 4:15 pm

In addition, the LWV of Glenview/Glencoe is sponsoring a candidate forum for the candidates running for Northbrook Village Board of Trustees. The event will be held on Monday, March 20th at 7 P.M. at the Northbrook Village Library.

Evanston/Skokie

District 202 Candidates Forum
Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 PM
Evanston Township High School Auditorium
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL

District 65 Candidates Forum
Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 PM
Joseph E. Hill Center
1500 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, IL

Both forums co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Evanston, Evanston/Skokie PTA Council, Evanston Community Foundation, and ETHS Parents Engaged.

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Evanston

Environmental Issues Forum for Mayoral Candidates

Saturday, March 11, 2pm – 3pm

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston – Parasol Room

Sponsored by Citizens Greener Evanston (CGE)

Evanston City Clerk Forum

Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 PM

Joseph E. Hill Center

1500 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, IL

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Evanston

Mayoral, Aldermanic, City Clerk Forums

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Evanston

March 18 at Morton Civic Center, Council Chambers

10 am - Mayor Candidates (if needed)

12:30 pm - 1st and 3rd Ward Alderman Candidates

1:45 pm - 5th and 6th Ward Alderman Candidates

3:00 pm - 8th and 9th Ward Alderman Candidates

Watch for LWVE/ Evanston RoundTable Voter Guide March 9th!

Wilmette

Candidate Forums

Saturday, March 18

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Wilmette Village Hall

1200 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette

Forums will include candidates for Village Board President, Village Board of Trustees, Library Board, Park District Board, District 39 and District 37 School Boards.

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March Newsletter Contributors:

Jane Ballengee

Helen Gagel

Marie O'Connor

Lenore Weissmann

Nancy Bashook

Lorelei Goldman

Jennifer O'Neil

Cheryl Wollin

Jessica Feldman

Bernadette Krol

Howard Voeks