



VILLAGE OF  
LAKE ZURICH  
ILLINOIS



# State of the Village

## Strategic Update 2024



*At the Heart  
of Community*

# State of the Village Annual Report 2024



## Mayor's Message

### We do it together, Lake Zurich!

Another year of successfully meeting the challenges in our mutual quest to make Lake Zurich better.

Families are continuing to move to our community for our excellent quality of life. We welcomed around 310 new households into the Village in 2023. We are proud to be the primary economic hub for southwest Lake County with a booming retail corridor and thriving industrial park.

● Lake Zurich's Industrial Redevelopment Area was created by the Village Board in 2023 in order to provide a long-term infrastructure funding mechanism and to support industrial business expansion and modernization efforts. In its first year, this redevelopment area has kickstarted the development of three manufacturing expansions on Enterprise Parkway, Oakwood Road, and Rose Road.

● Showing how strong the market is for more assorted housing opportunities, **Canterbury Townes** on Route 22 has sold all 34 townhome units in nine buildings. We welcome our new residents!

● Construction on the 23 luxury townhomes at the **Sanctuary of Lake Zurich** on the northwest corner of the lake has been completed and offers sweeping views of the village namesake. The Sanctuary of Lake Zurich also welcomes a new high-end dining restaurant by celebrity Chef Fabio Viviani to the community. **This dining experience will be worth the wait!**

● **Chase Bank** decided to invest millions into a new modern banking facility at the corner of Rand Road and Route 22, which was completed in October 2023. **It's a positive sign** when big banks are investing millions into our community!

Lake Zurich represents a small slice of the suburban ideal in the American Midwest. It has no shortage of community events that gather family and friends. With our community special events from Rock the Block, Independence Day celebrations, Alpine Fest, Bushel of Apples Fest, Jack O' Lantern World and Miracle on Main Street, Lake Zurich families always have something circled on the calendar to look forward to.

Lake Zurich kicked off its **Comprehensive Plan** update in 2023 with several engagement sessions with Village officials, the business community, students from Lake Zurich schools, and resident groups. Moving into 2024, we will continue to engage Village residents as we identify opportunities to enhance and shape our community's vision for the next decade. Visioning and goal setting will unfold into Spring 2024, with focus areas and priorities being identified over Summer with a new Plan being finalized in Fall 2024. Visit [LakeZurichTogether.org](http://LakeZurichTogether.org) to get involved!

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## Mayor's Message (cont.)

### We Want To Hear From You!

**We're slowly but surely improving our Main Street area.** After celebrating the new home of the Lake Zurich Florist, the new high-end Vault 232, and the long-awaited Korean Barbeque on the Lake, we see the added vibrancy of our Main Street District. **We're not done.** In 2023, Lake Zurich started its large \$5 million+ investment project into the Main Street District, replacing water mains, sanitary sewer mains, storm water mains, and pavement resurfacing. In 2024, we plan on relocating electric overhead utilities and adding pedestrian streetscape elements.

The Village also has undertaken many of the important steps required to move towards a **Lake Michigan water supply decision**. Those steps include analyses to identify improvements needed to connect to the new water supply, proposed project phasing, estimated costs and funding options, and a Village Board adopted resolution expressing the intent of Lake Zurich to work towards full membership into the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency. We're currently working on the detailed engineering plans required for such a multi-million-dollar capital investment connection to become reality.

**The village ended the year in a positive financial position**, with a balanced operating budget and over \$21 million targeted at local infrastructure enhancement projects in 2024. This past year the village invested \$2.4 million in road resurfacing on Old Mill Grove Road, Brush Hill Lane, Browning Lane, Pebble Creek Drive, and several other streets. Plus \$4 million in water main replacements and lining sanitary sewers to efficiently extend their lifespans.

A first in Lake Zurich's history, in 2023 the Village launched a **100% Green Power option** for our municipal electricity aggregation program, which relies on Midwest-generated wind, solar and hydroelectric sources. Lake Zurich has joined several nearby communities addressing climate change at the local level and has been designated an EPA Green Power Community. I am extremely proud of this decision!

In an effort to more quickly wrap up our multi-year tree replacement program after the devastation of the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle infestation, we doubled funding for three years in a row to accelerate and finalize tree plantings. We invested \$100,000 in 2023 to enhance the suburban tree canopy with 381 new parkway trees planted in Chestnut Corners, Hunters Creek, and Millers Grove.

**We remain committed to financial sustainability and maintaining a solid local government financial position.** We take seriously our responsibility to be stewards of your hard-earned tax dollars. We remain focused on our five primary goals: **1) financial sustainability; 2) infrastructure investment; 3) economic development; 4) service sustainability; and 5) civic engagement.**

Running a full-service municipal operation for 20,000 residents and over 600 businesses continues to be challenging. We have invested in our top-notch public safety teams, expanded recycling options for eco-minded residents, and invested heavily in aging local infrastructure in order to get ahead of the curve. **A strong and resilient Village infrastructure benefits every single resident and business in Lake Zurich.**

Yet, each new year presents new challenges and we will continue to deal with a tight labor market, aging infrastructure, and inflationary pressures that will continue to throw punches into 2024. The solid footing we've achieved together will help us through these times.

Lake Zurich's team of elected individuals and professional staff seeks constant improvement, is resourceful, **adaptable** and resilient – we will adapt to whatever the new year brings, while remaining focused on what we can continue to do next to make Lake Zurich even better.

**Stay Safe -Stay Healthy**

**Tom Poynton**

Mayor, Village of Lake Zurich



# Village Trustees. Department Directors



**MAYOR**  
TOM POYNTON



**VILLAGE CLERK**  
KATHLEEN JOHNSON



**TRUSTEE**  
MARC SPACOME



**TRUSTEE**  
DAN BOBROWSKI



**TRUSTEE**  
ROGER SUGRUE



**TRUSTEE**  
MARY-BETH EUKER



**TRUSTEE**  
GREG WEIDER



**TRUSTEE**  
WILLIAM RILEY



**VILLAGE MANAGER**  
RAY KELLER



**ASSISTANT VILLAGE  
MANAGER**  
MICHAEL DUEBNER



**FINANCE DIRECTOR**  
AMY SPARKOWSKI



**POLICE CHIEF**  
STEVE HUSAK



**FIRE CHIEF**  
DAVID PILGARD



**MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
KYLE KORDELL



**PARKS & RECREATION  
DIRECTOR**  
BONNIE CAPUTO



**HUMAN RESOURCES  
DIRECTOR**  
DOUG GIBSON



**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
SAROSH SAHER



**PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR**  
MIKE BROWN

## Mission

The mission of the Village of Lake Zurich is to provide our residents and businesses with exceptional quality municipal services. We will achieve this through strategic planning, fiscal responsibility, and transparent, accessible, and responsive municipal leadership and staff. This will result in continually improving quality of life and return on investment for all stakeholders in the community.

## Vision

Lake Zurich – The PREMIER community in Lake County offering a high quality of life, thriving economic opportunity, exceptional services, and fiscally responsible local government.

## Guiding Principles

- Trust & Integrity
- Teamwork
- High Performance, Quality Services
- Caring and Respectful Leadership
- Transparency and Accountability
- Dedicated Professionals

# Fiscal Sustainability.

Lake Zurich maintains a long-term perspective when managing public finances. While maintaining a balanced budget each year and diligently using revenues, the Village continues to maintain its top-notch status AAA bond rating while investing in aging underground infrastructure and public safety pensions.

**Balanced Budget.** Created balanced 2024 budget with an eye on sustaining multi-year progress towards strategic goals with over \$21 million in infrastructure improvements and more than \$1.2 million in vehicle and major equipment replacements for public safety and public works services. The 2024 budget totals \$78 million to fund a full-service municipality with 164 full-time employees.

**Village Reserves.** The Village's official fund balance policy is to maintain a minimum of 25% for the General Fund, with a target of 40%. This reserve is maintained for use in emergency situations. The projected 2023 year-end General Fund Reserve is 37%. This is a significant accomplishment that allows for AAA bond ratings and low interest rates for tax payers.

**Maintaining Top Status.** Lake Zurich has managed to maintain for another year a AAA stable outlook bond rating status from Standard & Poor's, partly based on a strong local economy and overall budgetary flexibility and performance.

**Audit Results - Budget Surplus Achieved.** In August 2023, independent auditors with Baker Tilly presented the Village's FY 2022 audit results. Long-term bonded debt *decreased \$1.9 million in 2022*, for a total of \$19.3 million outstanding. 10 years ago, in 2013, this bonded debt was at \$34 million. AAA bond rating performance. Impressive turnaround!

**Public Pension Funding.** The **Fire Pension Fund** is now 70.4% funded and the **Police Pension Fund** is now 58.4% funded.

**Solid Financial Footing.** The long-term financial planning of the Village, coupled with the strength of the local economy and private-sector investment, mean finances remain on solid footing for the foreseeable future.

Fire Pension Fund is now  
**70.4% Funded!**

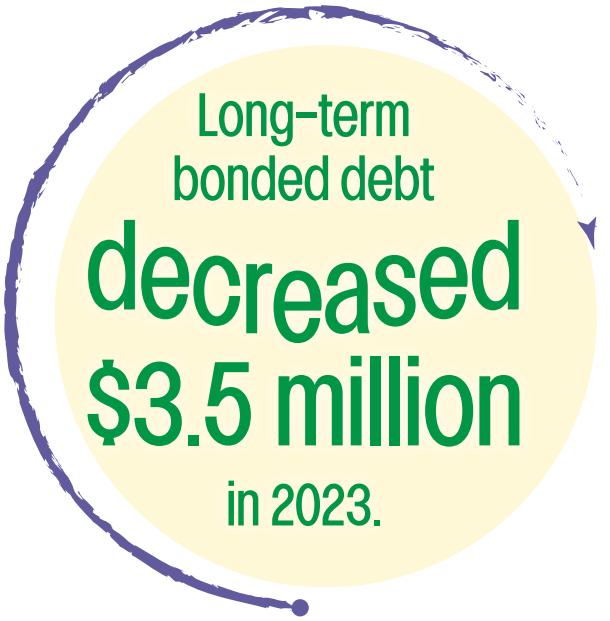
Police Pension Fund is now  
**58.4% Funded!**

**20-Year Community Investment Plan - The stuff financial sustainability is made of.** Lake Zurich has a 20-Year Outlook with its *Community Investment Plan*, a two-decade forecast of all municipal capital demands including infrastructure, land improvements, equipment, tech and the municipal fleet.

Replacing these big-ticket capital items as they age are a huge hit on the financial resources of the Village, especially when they compete for limited resources against more immediate service needs. Emergency repairs and replacement costs are significantly more expensive than planned purchases, proving a fiscally prudent necessity to maintain financial stability.

**Industrial TIF District Has Busy First Year.** Lake Zurich's Industrial tax increment financing district was created in January 2023 by the Village Board for the purpose of providing a long-term funding mechanism for infrastructure improvements and supporting industrial business expansion / modernization efforts. In its first year, this TIF has spurred the development of three manufacturing expansions on Enterprise Parkway, Oakwood Road, and Rose Road.

**Chase Bank Building.** JP Morgan Chase knows a good deal when it sees one, so it decided to invest millions into a new modern banking facility at the corner of Rand Road and Route 22. After demolishing the long-vacant restaurant, the new 6,300 square foot retail banking center was completed in October 2023. This property lies within TIF District #3 and is expected to generate a significant amount of incremental taxes once completed.



Long-term bonded debt  
**decreased \$3.5 million in 2023.**

# Economic Development.

Lake Zurich is the primary economic hub for southwest Lake County with a booming Rand Road corridor and thriving industrial park. The Village seeks to expand the economic base of the community with a focus on the Main Street District in order to further establish and expand Lake Zurich as a regional economic hub.



Canterbury Townes, Route 22

**Welcoming New Families.** Lake Zurich welcomed around 310 new households into town in 2023, with the largest influx in July 2023.

- **Canterbury Townes Sold Out.** Ryan Homes, the builder of Canterbury Townes located on Route 22, has completed construction of its nine buildings in this new 34-unit townhome subdivision. All of the units have sold.
- **Sanctuary of Lake Zurich Completed.** This luxury residential development located at the corner of Rand Road and North Old Rand Road has wrapped up its residential site work and has sold most of the 23 townhome units with sweeping views of the lake. The commercial restaurant construction is completed as Lake Zurich welcomes a new high-end dining restaurant by Chef Viviani to the community.



**Welcoming New Business.** Lake Zurich economic development efforts continue to attract private sector investment. New businesses in 2023 include: Planet Fitness, Tropical Smoothie Café, Scent Hound Dog Grooming and Animal Wellness, Mint Memorabilia, Via Vici Salon and Boutique, Ryn Salon, Infinity and Beyond Pediatric Therapy, PT Solutions Physical Therapy, Tree of Life Counseling, 50/50 Barber Shop, Tako Chido, Avanti Body, and Lake Liquors.

#### Growing Local Manufacturing Base.

Lake Zurich's Industrial TIF District was busy planting seeds of future growth in 2023. Where?

Here ↗

► **Gere Marie** has been operating in Lake Zurich for over 20 years manufacturing high-precision aluminum components for the boating and medical industries. With TIF support, this company decided to build a new \$8.5 million 33,000 square-foot facility and new manufacturing line on Enterprise Parkway.

► **CM Industries** is a manufacturer of robotic welding torches, nozzle cleaning stations, and other industrial welding products. The company has been located on Oakwood Road since 2003 but is now investing \$6.1 million in a new 43,000 square-foot manufacturing facility on Telser Road.

► **NorthStar Pickle** has been producing a wide variety of pickle flavors in Lake Zurich since 2014, tapping into TIF support in 2023 to turn their plans for expansion into reality. The company is now investing \$15.2 million into a new 80,000 square foot pickle processing facility on Rose Road.



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# Infrastructure Investment.

With much of Lake Zurich built in the 1960's – 1980's, there are miles of aging underground infrastructure that are 50+ years old. The Village is seeking to fund its 20-year Community Investment Plan of replacing \$145 million in capital assets while also enhancing the suburban tree canopy and transitioning to a Lake Michigan water source.



## \$5 Million Invested into Main Street District.

In 2023, Lake Zurich started its large \$5 million+ investment project in the Main Street District, replacing water mains, sanitary sewer mains, storm water mains, pavement resurfacing, and relocating electric overhead utilities. Areas impacted include Main Street, South Old Rand Road, Mionske Drive, and Lake Street.



**\$2.4 Million Street Resurfacing Investment.** Trustees unanimously approved a large road resurfacing program in 2023, directing a years' worth of the local 0.5% Non-Home Rule Sales tax directly into Lake Zurich neighborhood streets on Old Mill Grove Road, Brush Hill Lane, Browning Lane, Millbrook Drive, Kingwood Lane, Heartwood Lane, Pebble Creek Drive, and Ridgewood Court.

**Alternative Water Source.** The decision to transition to Lake Michigan water vs. staying on the current deep well system is extremely complex and has been studied in Lake Zurich for 20+ years. With a Lake Michigan Water Allocation permit secured from the Illinois EPA and an agreement approved with the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLC JAWA), Lake Zurich is as close as ever to securing an alternative water source.

Several important steps were taken in 2023, including engineering studies to identify improvements needed to connect to a new water supply, proposed project phasing, estimated costs and funding options, and a Village Board adopted resolution expressing the intent of Lake Zurich to work towards full membership into CLC JAWA.

**Parking Lot Investments.** The Village spent nearly \$500,000 on parking lot resurfacing at Braemar Park, Zurites Park, Countryside West Park, Chestnut Corners Park, and the South Old Rand municipal lot.

**Sanitary Sewer Lining.** The Village spent \$900,000 in 2023 to reinforce a portion of the primary transmission main down Aptakisic Road from Route 83 to Buffalo Grove Road. Reinforcing old sewer pipes provides a significant increase in the useful life of the municipal system.

**2023 Pavement Crack Sealing Program.** The Village spent \$60,000 in 2023 to seal curb lines and radial cracks on North Old Rand, Stanton Road, and the Quail Run neighborhood. Crack sealing protects community pavement structure from moisture damage, extending the pavement life.

**Curb and Sidewalk Investments.** The 2023 sidewalk and curb concrete replacement program focused on areas of Mohawk Trail, Interlaken Drive, O'Malley Drive, and Pheasant Ridge Road cul-de-sacs. Improvements were also made at the pedestrian crossing at North Old Rand Road and Forest Drive, such as culvert replacement under the intersection and new ADA landings added for the public crossing.

**Crosswalk Safety Enhancements.** Two locations in Lake Zurich where frequent complaints of speeding vehicles have both received crosswalk art treatment in 2023. North Old Rand Road at Forest Avenue where the crosswalk aligns with a path to the Breezewald Park playground and Old Mill Grove Road at Brittany Road in front of Sarah Adams Elementary School.



# Service Sustainability.

For years, Lake Zurich has embraced

innovation in how we provide core municipal services the public depends on. We are focused on being a sustainable municipality that is both adaptable and responsive in delivering the high-quality services the people of Lake Zurich expect.

- **Lake County Dispatch Consolidation.** The Lake County 911 consolidation project continues to move ahead. A general contractor to build the Regional Operations Center in Libertyville has been selected and the new 37,000+ square-foot state-of-the-art facility will house a consolidated dispatch center, supporting emergency telephone system technology and staff, as well as Lake County's Emergency Management Agency.

This facility is a major milestone in the multifaceted consolidation efforts and regional emergency management. It will bring together highly trained experts and state-of-the-art technology to coordinate resources, information, and emergency communications under one roof. For more than a decade, many public safety entities providing service in Lake County have been exploring the possibility of consolidating public safety answering points (PSAPs) to enhance 9-1-1 service in the area.

- **Comprehensive Plan Update.** Lake Zurich kicked off a Comp Plan update in June 2023 with an initial stakeholder interview meeting of Village officials, the business community, and small resident groups. Moving into 2024, the Village will be engaging the town as we identify opportunities to enhance and shape our community's vision for the next decade. Visioning and goal setting will unfold into Spring 2024, with focus areas and priorities being identified over Summer 2024 and a new Plan being finalized in Fall 2024.

- **Special Events are At the Heart of Community.** As a small slice of the suburban ideal in the American Midwest, Lake Zurich has no shortage of community events that gather family and friends. From Rock the Block, Independence Day celebrations, Alpine Fest, Bushel of Apples Fest, Jack O' Lantern World, Miracle on Main, and others, Lake Zurich families always have something circled on the calendar.

- **Parks and Rec Giving Enjoyment to Families.** Lake Zurich parks and rec had another solid year in 2023, with a beach season that saw 870 season passes sold, over 17,000 visits (pass holders and daily visits) total at both beaches throughout the Summer season, 1,028 dancers in our Academy of Performing Arts program, a summer day camp that saw 579 kids in attendance, and a farmer's market season that was at its capacity with farmers offering fresh produce, live entertainment, and local artisans.

- **Increased Access to the Lake.** The Village provided more public access to the lake through non-motorized boat storage at Paulus Park for Lake Zurich resident permit holders. The department also purchased and maintained ten watercraft which were available for rentals during the regular beach season to allow for the community to further use and enjoy the lake during their visit to the park.

- **Playground at Jonquil.** The Village invested in a new playground to replace the 29-year old set at Jonquil Park. The Village replaces one playground per year in most years and the old Jonquil set was the oldest in the community installed in 1994. The community was encouraged to vote for their favorite design proposal and the winning set was installed.

- **New Ambulance and Dump Truck.** The Fire Department received a new ambulance in 2023 after waiting 19 months for the order to be fulfilled. Public Works also received a new replacement dump truck in 2023 after waiting 22 months for the order to be fulfilled. The high levels of demand and low levels of inventory are creating tremendous back-logs for municipal fleet replacement around the country.



# Civic Engagement.

Village leadership strives to meet you where you are.

By attending neighborhood block parties, large special events, regular Coffee with the Mayor sit-downs, and public safety personnel having a community-oriented mindset, Lake Zurich officials are leaning forward to hear from you.



**National Community Survey.** Over the summer of 2023, the Village partnered with the National Research Center to launch its 5th National Community Survey in order to gauge residents' views on the livability, desirability and quality of services offered. Since 2015, the Village has conducted the NCS every-other year to gather this input, as we monitor the consistent high marks that the Village has received to date.

## Promoting Transparent Government.

The Village continued to promote the availability of live broadcasts of Village public meetings and information available through the Village website, Benchmarks e-news, and social media. The Village's website served content to over 380,000 visitors as of early November. The most viewed pages of the year are "Beaches" and "Independence Day event."



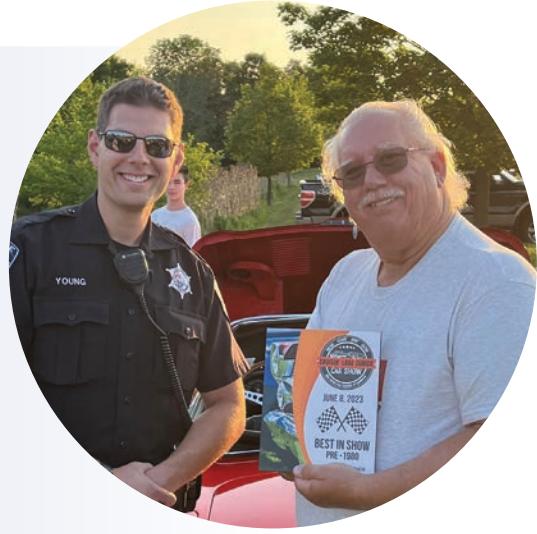
**Mayor Poynton Monthly Sit-Downs.** Mayor Tom continues his monthly Coffee with the Mayor series at the Koffee Kup in the Main Street District. Meeting most months on the third Wednesday, these sit-downs are the perfect opportunity to bring any concerns, ideas, or just pleasant conversations to Mayor Poynton.

## Lake Zurich on the Radio.

WGN Radio featured Lake Zurich on its "Your Hometown" series in May 2023 with 9 prime-time interviews of local leaders and small businesses, 60 pre-recorded thirty-second radio segments, and social media campaigns on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram. WGN data analytics report that over 2.5 million people either listened or clicked on at least one ad or interview during this month-long Lake Zurich marketing blitz.



**Village Thinks Long-Term with Schools.** Village leadership was engaged in a School District 95 strategic planning initiative to develop a roadmap for the next five years. A strategic planning team was formed with about 40 people, including Mayor Poynton, Police Chief Husak, and Fire Chief Pilgard. The focus of this team was to review and define the school's mission, vision, values, goals, and strategies, providing a strategic planning framework under which action plans will be created annually.



# Civic Engagement (cont.)



## Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement

Teska Associates, the consultant selected to update the Lake Zurich Comprehensive Plan is engaging residents and business to obtain feedback on their views, opinions and experiences in Lake Zurich.

- The website “LakeZurichTogether.org” was created as the official project website address, and went live on August 28. It contains an interactive “Comment Map” that allows users to provide feedback on places they love, ideas/opportunities, issues or challenges and bike/pedestrian needs.
- On September 8, Teska held a “Community Pop-up” event at the Lake Zurich Farmers Market which was visited by a number of residents who provided their feedback.
- On October 25, Teska conducted a Community Open House and Visioning Workshop for residents at the Ela Area Public Library. The feedback from these events is posted on the project website.



**Park Enhancement Open Houses.** The Village hosted two community open house events in 2023 to encourage feedback into Paulus Park **Phase 2** improvements as the Village prepared for another large application for a State OSLAD grant. The first open house was at Village Hall on August 8th and the second was at the August 11th farmers market.

**Phase 1** park improvements were funded in part by a previous OSLAD grant that resulted in two new piers, expanded trails, and shoreline restorations. **Phase 2** improvements include a new band shell, a renovated splash pad, a new community gathering space with game tables, baggo courts, and additional shoreline restoration and landscaping.



**Arbor Day Outreach.** Over 60 community volunteers showed up to clean litter for the annual Arbor Day celebration at Paulus Park. After a tree planting ceremony, park scavenger hunt, and tree sapling giveaway, volunteers were then sent to 1 of 5 assigned parks to cleanup.



# Public Safety.

Lake Zurich is routinely below the national, state, and county averages in all reported categories for crime statistics. Village crime rates are 43% lower than the national average and violent crimes in Lake Zurich are 85% lower than the national average. Said another way, Lake Zurich is safer than 77% of the cities in the United States.

**Joined County Public Safety Records System.** Lake Zurich agreed to join a Lake County computer aided dispatch police records management and e-ticketing system in 2023 to gain operational efficiencies and to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies to aid in criminal suspect arrest and investigations.

**Paramedics Teaching CPR to Lake Zurich.** In February, the Fire Department hosted a community American Heart Association CPR training event. A Lake Zurich resident and cardiac arrest survivor was the brain child of this community event, which was attended by about 130 people.



**Radar Speed Signs.** The Village installed new speed radar signs on North Old Rand and Old Mill Grove roads to enhance pedestrian safety. This program is focused on roadways that experience higher pedestrian traffic such as the Main Street District, and those near schools.

**Fire Safety for Preschoolers.** Lake Zurich firefighter-paramedics are often showing up at local schools to teach our youth the importance of fire safety. The kids are always excited and pay attention to these important lessors. In 2023, 30 trips to area schools were conducted.

**Securing Vehicles.** The police traffic division initiated a partnership in 2023 with Hyundai Motor America to distribute free steering wheel locks to residents of certain Hyundai models. These efforts were in response to increasing thefts, targeting Hyundai vehicles without push-button ignitions and immobilizing anti-theft devices.

**Prescription Drug Drop Off Event.** In April, the Police Department partnered with the DEA for a community Drug Take Back Day. This was an opportunity for residents to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication. Over 300 pounds of unwanted drugs were collected.

**Car Seat Safety.** LZPD's certified child passenger safety technicians assisted the Illinois Department of Transportation and Safe Kids Chicago by manning its booth at the 2023 Chicago Auto Show. The officers provided attendees with traffic safety information, answered questions, and performed hands-on demonstrations of the latest child restraints. LZ officers also assisted with the inspection and proper installation of child safety seats during a September safety event in the Kohl's parking lot.



# Green Initiatives.

Local governments have an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions and ensuring future generations inherit a sustainable ecosystem and livable environment. Some small things Lake Zurich is doing to help the planet include:

**Natural Area Maintenance.** The Village owns 120 acres of natural areas throughout the community and is proactively assessing and planning for the short-term and long-term needs of our many natural areas, which are inspected and evaluated during the autumn months. The Village has partnered with Integrated Lakes Management for the maintenance and restoration of these critical natural spaces. These natural areas, consisting of woodlands, wetlands and prairies, provide a variety of benefits, including storm water management and recreational amenities for the public. The goal of Lake Zurich's natural area maintenance efforts is to create healthy, sustainable ecosystems.

**100% Green Power Aggregation.** In July 2023, the Village aggregation program was renewed for 13-months using 100% green electricity generation, which relies on Midwest-generated wind, solar and hydroelectric sources. Lake Zurich has now joined several nearby communities addressing climate change at the local level and will be designated an EPA Green Power Community. The new lower rates for the 100% Green Power program are locked-in at 7.95 cents per kWh for 13 months (*21% less expensive compared to the rate over the previous year*).

**Curbside E-Waste Event.** Lake Zurich's curbside e-waste collection event with LRS occurred in July 2023. A total of 20 pallets full of old electronics were collected. That's about 23,000 pounds of electronics that will be responsibly disassembled and kept out of landfills.

**Suburban Forest Canopy.** The Village spent \$100,000 in 2023 to enhance the suburban forest canopy with 381 new parkway trees planted in Chestnut Corners, Hunters Creek, and Millers Grove subdivisions. These are split with roughly half planted in spring and half planted in fall.

**Reducing Phosphate Runoff.** The Village adds anti-icing and pre-wet controls to all snow plow vehicles to reduce road salt usage and phosphate deposits that runoffs into surface water.

**Clothing and Textile Recycling.** Lake Zurich offers clothing and textile recycling, which redirects gently used items from landfills towards reuse in developing countries around the world.

**Styrofoam Recycling Here to Stay.** Lake Zurich offers styrofoam recycling thanks to amazing resident volunteers. This opportunity to recycle material that typically ends up in nearby landfills for thousands of years has been embraced by Village residents.



# Priorities for 2024 and Beyond!

**Maintain Fund Balances and Protect Bond Rating.** Since June 2023, Lake Zurich has been gathering feedback from the community on what the future should look like. Visioning and goal setting will continue into Spring 2024, with focus areas and priorities identified over Summer 2024 and a new Plan being finalized in Fall 2024.

**Support Groundbreaking of Massive Manufacturing Expansion.** The Village has been working with a large manufacturing company in the Industrial Park that has been considering a significant investment to grow its operations in a multi-phase and multi-year effort that would cost more than \$50 million. Plans are to finalize details of this massive economic development investment in 2024.

**Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization.** For this project, the scope includes a mixture of structural and vegetative stabilization practices. Enhancement of the streambanks will increase the hydraulics of the stream. The grading, laying back of steep slopes, and excavation of material will enhance the areas potential to reduce the risk of flooding and overtopping of Stanton Road.

**ADA Transition Plan.** Create an ADA transition plan that identifies existing programs, services, facilities, policies, and procedures that require changes and outline the steps necessary to become a more accessible community.

**Lake Michigan Water Funding.** Establish a revenue source to fund Lake Zurich's transition to Lake Michigan as its source of potable water via the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency.

**Prepare for Potential 911 Dispatch Consolidation.** Continue to partner with Lake County dispatch agencies to develop an efficient and effective consolidated public safety answering center.

**Water Main Replacements.** Enable Consume Main Street Redevelopment. The Village has been working with local restaurateurs at Consume to redevelopment the "Block A" property into a two-story 11,500 square-foot building with Consume occupying the upper floor and three tenant spaces on the ground floor.

**Investing in Parks.** In 2024, the Village is proposing to do a full renovation of the Paulus Park Spray Ground, the resurfacing of the Staples and Sonoma Park tennis courts, and the continued construction of the Breezewald Operations facility.

**Maximize Special Rec Association Levy.** In order to invest more in community based therapeutic rec programs to people of all ages and disabilities, Lake Zurich will implement a higher tax cap to provide additional funding for local handicap-accessible equipment and materials.

**Water Main Replacements.** As the Village continues to reinvest in critical infrastructure with the replacement of aged or problematic water mains, the focus for 2024 is replacement of approximately 7,100 feet of water main in the following locations: Route 12 to Deerpath Road, Route 22 from Knox Park to Cedar Creek Drive, and areas within the Cedar Creek subdivision totaling over \$3 million.



VILLAGE OF  
**LAKE ZURICH**  
ILLINOIS



At the heart of  
community!