

Hoffman Estates Citizen

January-February 2024

Mental Health Services Expanding in Hoffman Estates

Grant funding through a Cook County initiative will help the Health and Human Services Department meet community demand for accessible mental health support.

One of the lasting outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health crisis continues to affect people across the nation, including here in Hoffman Estates. Amid a higher demand for mental health services, the Village's Health and Human Services Department was named one of 18 community-based organizations chosen to receive a four-year grant administered through Cook County to support mental health services. Funding awarded from this grant initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of Treasury under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



The Village is using the \$250,000 "Building Healthier Communities: Behavioral Health Initiative" grant to offer accessible and affordable psychological testing programs in English and in Spanish, host bilingual mental health workshops, and add a bilingual post-doctoral resident to the Health and Human Services staff to provide therapy and outreach services in English and in Spanish. Affordable options for these in-demand services are often hard to find, so offering them to the community was submitted as part of the grant application.

continued on page 6

In this issue

Holiday light recycling	2	Health and Human Services news	5	Police Department scam alerts.	8
Historian's notebook	2	Clerk's corner	5	Winter fire safety.	9
A message from Mayor McLeod.	3	Budget in Brief	SPECIAL SECTION	Community briefs	10
Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast	4	New forestry program	7	Events calendar	11
				Winter road problems	12



Growing to Greenness!

Historian's notebook

By Pat Barch, Hoffman Estates Village Historian

Recycle holiday lights

Holiday lights will be accepted for recycling at no cost to residents through a partnership between the Village and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). This year's program runs through Friday, February 2.

All string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off during normal business hours in the drop boxes located in the lobby at Village Hall.

For more information, call Public Works at 847-490-6800.



Each time I write about an important anniversary, such as our Hoffman Estates High School's 50th, I realize how quickly time passes.

My children all graduated from Hoffman Estates High School. I moved to the village in 1965 and I remember how impressed I was as the beautiful building went up.

The sparkling white of the school building seemed so special for a school. The architect for the new school building was Kenneth Unteed, whose architectural firm built mostly schools. He did extensive work on buildings on the campus at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The high school was completed and ready for its first students in October of 1973, built to accommodate a student body of 2,500. When it first opened, only freshman and sophomores attended classes there. In 1975 it became a four-year school.

Over the years, the original building has had several additions and remodeling projects. These included the fine arts facilities, a remodeling of the science labs, additions to the media center and an updated front entrance. The athletic facilities weren't left out. Updates included an artificial turf field, additional gym

spaces and a redesigned swimming pool. The renovations were done by ARCON, a firm that specializes in school construction and upgrades.

Hoffman Estates High School was recognized in 2022 as having the most diverse student population in Illinois, and the 8th most diverse in the U.S. It's not surprising, as our Hoffman Estates community is home to people from all around the world. The 2,061 students attending HEHS speak 52 different languages at home, from English, Urdu, Spanish and Filipino to Ukrainian.

Fifty years is a long time. The accomplishments of the students who have graduated from Hoffman Estates High School can only be known by the families of the students that are out in the world contributing in thousands of different ways – ways that were taught to them by the countless Hoffmen Estates High School teachers who helped shape their lives.

Happy 50th Anniversary Hoffman Estates High School!

Email Pat Barch at eagle2064@comcast.net

Black History Month celebration

Join the Cultural Awareness Commission for a special celebration honoring Black History Month on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m. at Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Rd. This event will celebrate the

tremendous contributions of great black Americans throughout history.

Herb Porter, a Hanover Park resident with a remarkable journey from Chicago's South Side to suburban tranquility, will be the keynote speaker at the event. Herb is not just a local figure, he is an accomplished actor and stage performer, gracing television screens on shows like *Chicago Code*, *ER*, and *Chicago Med*. His talent extends to

the big screen with feature films such as *The Calling* and *Dog Jack*. Herb has been featured in over two dozen television commercials, showcasing his versatility as a performer. The celebration will also feature entertainment provided by the Funkbrotherz and the Hoffman Estates Majorettes. Light refreshments will be served.

Black History Month is an outgrowth of Negro History Week, an event created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, an African-American scholar and historian. In 1976, the annual event was extended to last for one month, during which achievements of African-Americans are honored. Black History Month takes place in February to commemorate the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, a former slave, intellectual and abolitionist.



Herb Porter

The event is free, but reservations are required. Call Hallie Karle at 847-781-2606 or email Hallie.Karle@vohe.org to reserve a seat.

Mayor's Community Update Breakfast

Join the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its annual Mayor's Community Update Breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the NOW Arena.

Registration and the breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by Mayor McLeod recapping 2023 and providing a look ahead at 2024. Village staff will also be available to answer any questions you have on current and future developments.

This event is open to the public. Admission includes a hot breakfast buffet. Register today by calling 847-781-9100, or by visiting the Chamber of Commerce website at hechamber.com.

Host families **needed** for Sister Cities **cultural** exchanges

The Sister Cities Commission of Hoffman Estates is seeking host families for two cultural exchanges in 2024, as they prepare to welcome guests from our Sister City, Angoulême, France.

A host family meeting will be held prior to the exchanges, which will include development of daily itineraries and transportation options for the guests.

Host families are not required to speak French, and do not need to be available each day, as the commission will accompany exchange guests to outings.

Please help continue this tradition of friendship and sharing of cultures by considering becoming a host family!

For more information on becoming a host family, email Jill Wood-Naatz at jill.woodnaatz@gmail.com.



A message from Mayor McLeod



Happy New Year!
Thank you to everyone
who came out to
celebrate the holidays
with us at the Friendship Tree

Lighting and to those who contributed to our collection of toys for students and families within the community. The giving spirit of the holiday season has always been vibrant in Hoffman Estates, and I am grateful to all who participated in our efforts to spread cheer to local children in need.

We kick off 2024 with the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast taking place on Monday, January 15. Hosted by the Cultural Awareness Commission, this event brings together residents, visitors, and representatives from our business community to celebrate and honor Dr. King, a renowned civil rights activist, and a staunch advocate for peaceful race relations. We are honored to have the opportunity to open the Village Hall doors for such a significant event. This event has limited capacity – please register today! Details of the event can be found in this newsletter on page 4.

I welcome you to join me and the Village Board at the Mayor's Community Update Breakfast, hosted by the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, February 21, at the NOW Arena. Enjoy a great breakfast and learn about the Village's plans for the upcoming year. Call the Chamber of Commerce office at 847-781-9100 or visit www.hechamber.org to register.

Finally, the Mayor's Office Valentine Card Collection continues! This annual tradition brings a smile to each recipient, most of whom live in senior housing here in Hoffman Estates, and lets them know they are loved. Cards may be dropped off in the lobby at Village Hall between January 22 and February 8. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For further information, please contact Jennifer at 847-781-2610.

As always, please email me anytime at Bill.Mcleod@vohe.org or 847-781-2604 with your questions or comments. Have a happy and safe 2024!

Bill McLeod



Like us on Facebook!
[@hoffmanestatesil](https://www.facebook.com/hoffmanestatesil)



Follow us on Instagram!
[@villageofhoffmanestates](https://www.instagram.com/villageofhoffmanestates)



Watch videos on YouTube!
[@hoffmanestatesil](https://www.youtube.com/hoffmanestatesil)



Sign up for eNews!
hoffmanestates.org/enews

"Oh Freedom, Songs of the Civil Rights Movement"

ANNUAL SPEAKER SERIES

Singer-Songwriter Chris Vallillo and members of the Hoffman Estates High School Choir will present this show on Thursday, February 1 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates.



In a show created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement, award winning folksinger Chris Vallillo will present "Oh Freedom, Songs of the Civil Rights Movement" along with members of the Hoffman Estates High School Choir.

The Civil Rights Movement has been described as one of the greatest singing movements that this country has experienced. From "We Shall Overcome" to "This Little Light of Mine," music played a vital role in that historic struggle, both as an inspirational rallying point and as a way to spread the message of equality and justice. Intermixed with the music, Vallillo will present first-hand accounts of the historic struggles and discuss the impact of music on our nation's most important social cause.

This program is sponsored by the Hoffman Estates Arts Commission. Admission is free; however, registration is encouraged.

Visit hoffmanestatesarts.com for details.



Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast in January

The Cultural Awareness Commission cordially invites the community to celebrate its 20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 15. This free, joyful event will begin promptly at 8 a.m. with breakfast at Hoffman Estates Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Rd.



This event celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of history's most inspiring and influential civil rights leaders. Dr. King's example of sacrifice, service and conviction in the face of great injustice reminds us that positive change is possible when we all join together in solidarity.

A special keynote address will be given by Chris "Cheb" Blackshear, an accomplished speaker, actor, software test engineer and musician. In addition to being a distinguished Toastmaster and a Six Sigma Green Belt, Blackshear also played the leading role of Martin Luther King in a local production of "Last Night as King." The event also features the incredible music from One Choir.

Seating is very limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, or until the event is full. There is a limit of four persons per reservation. To reserve your spot today, call Hallie Karle at 847-781-2606 or email Hallie.Karle@vohe.org.

Please bring a non-perishable food item or new hats and gloves to help restock our community food pantries for the winter.

We hope you will be able to attend this uplifting celebration!



Guests with Mayor McLeod at the 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Healthy body, healthy mind ...

news from Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services offers affordable physical and mental health services to the community. To schedule health screenings, preventative tests, and tuberculosis testing, call 847-781-4850. Vaccination appointments can be made online at portal.hoffmanestates.org.

Adult services and immunizations

- Blood pressure and pulse check: free!
- Diabetes (blood sugar): \$2
- Hemoglobin (anemia): \$3

Cholesterol screening

This FASTING test measures total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and glucose levels. It requires a small drop of blood. Results are immediate and include a consultation with a nurse. The cost is \$22.

Hemoglobin A1C screening

The hemoglobin A1C test is a simple finger stick to find out if you have diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. The test takes six minutes and the cost is \$15.

Children and Baby Clinics

Health and Human Services offers several vaccination clinics for children and babies. Please visit our website at portal.hoffmanestates.org/HHS to learn about program requirements and our practice and philosophies.

Vaccine Appointment Portal

Visit our new appointment scheduling portal at portal.hoffmanestates.org to schedule vaccinations for adults and children. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 847-781-4850.

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the perfect time to raise awareness about cervical cancer and HPV vaccination. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common sexually transmitted infection that often goes unnoticed and resolves spontaneously. Sometimes when the infection does not resolve, it can lead to cervical cancer in women. The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that most often cause cervical cancers.

HPV can also cause other kinds of cancer, such as mouth and throat cancers, in both men and women. While HPV immunizations prevent new cases, they do not treat existing HPV infections. This is why the HPV vaccine works best when given at a young age before any exposure to HPV. Health and Human Services offers HPV vaccinations to those who qualify. Please visit our new child immunization portal at portal.hoffmanestates.org to make a vaccination appointment. To learn more about HPV infections and the link to cervical cancer, visit cdc.gov/cancer/hpv.



Community Workshop: What is Diet Culture?

The Health and Human Services Department is hosting a “What is Diet Culture?” workshop for adults ages 18 and up on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Rd.

This free interactive workshop will focus on exploring and understanding our own relationships with food, and the different ways “diet culture” may influence us. We will also work to establish new ways of viewing and talking about our bodies and our relationship with food. For more information and to RSVP for the event, please call Peyton Andres at 847-781-4861 by January 26.



By Bev Romanoff
Hoffman Estates Village Clerk

Clerk's corner

I hope that all of you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. The new year often brings new ideas for projects to do around the house. Figuring out how to tackle many of these projects can create questions about permits and requirements, many of which can be answered by searching the Village's Municipal Code. To access the Municipal Code, visit the Village's website at portal.hoffmanestates.org/code. There you can search to locate ordinances that spell out specific project requirements. As always, if you have any questions, contact the Clerk's Office.

Contact the Village Clerk's office at 847-781-2625 or email bev.romanoff@vohe.org.

Stay informed: **Subscribe to Hoffman Estates email lists** for timely updates

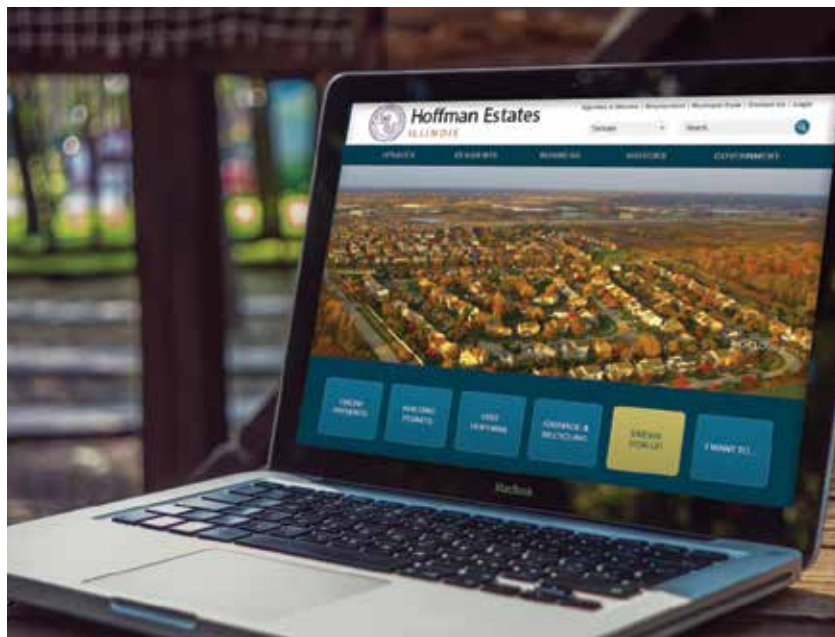
In a continuing effort to keep residents informed about Village services and events, the Village of Hoffman Estates publishes several electronic newsletters. Electronic mailing lists include:

- Citizen Newsletter
- Economic Development
- Employment Opportunities
- eNews

Subscribe to the weekly Hoffman Estates eNews publication to receive timely information about services, special events, meetings, news releases and more.

The Economic Development e-newsletter is issued quarterly and includes updates about development buildouts, new businesses, networking opportunities, and state and local resources for businesses.

Sign up for the Citizen Newsletter and Employment Opportunities lists to receive notifications when the newsletter and jobs are posted to the Village's website.



Visit hoffmanestates.org and click on the ENEWS SIGN UP button on the home page to subscribe.

Mental Health Services **Expanding** in Hoffman Estates

continued from front page

“We are excited and grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of this grant award,” said Director of Health and Human Services Dr. Monica Saavedra. “This funding will provide us the opportunity to offer mental health services that are accessible and needed to better serve our community.”

The Village is entering year two of the four-year grant program. During the past year, the

Health and Human Services Department purchased the necessary psychological testing program materials in English and in Spanish, held a community outreach event and sponsored three bilingual educational workshops. “We are focused on building connections in the community,” said Dr. Saavedra. “The more connected people feel, the better their outcomes, both mentally and physically.”

The biggest goal in year two of the grant program is hiring a bilingual post-doctoral resident to help support the department's expanded programming. In addition to hosting additional workshops addressing mental health topics, Health and Human Services is looking to host fun family events geared toward raising awareness

about positive mental health and to explore community healing circles for mental health and other group therapy options.

“We are focused on building connections in the community. The more connected people feel, the better their outcomes, both mentally and physically.”

Mental health services offered by Health and Human Services are billed on a sliding scale based on income and family size to make them affordable and accessible to all residents. For more information, please visit the Village's website at hoffmanestates.org/hhs.

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Hoffman Estates se dedica a ampliar los servicios de salud mental que ofrece en español. Para más información sobre estos servicios, por favor visite nuestro sitio web al <https://ow.ly/h0KG50QiQwu> o llame al 847-781-4850.



VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL

Budget in Brief

2024

The **Budget in Brief** summarizes the Village's annual budget. To view more information, visit the Village's website at hoffmanestates.org/budget.

Each year, the Village of Hoffman Estates establishes an Operating and Capital Budget to guide spending. The operating budget includes funds for services the Village provides to the community, while the capital budget is a long-term plan for larger purchases, such as upgrades to the Village's infrastructure. Together, these documents establish a firm financial foundation for long-term success.

The budget is created over six months, beginning in June. Departments work closely with the Finance Department and the Village Manager's Office to

estimate how much money will be received and spent in the current and upcoming year. After several rounds of review, a draft budget is shared with community stakeholders, including the Village Board and the Capital Improvements Board. Both are comprised of residents who serve to represent the community in budget discussions and decision-making. The Village Board then holds several meetings to review the budget and, if necessary, request changes. Following a public hearing, the Board votes to approve and adopt the budget. All budget hearings are open to the public, and community members are invited to participate.

The FY2024 Operating and Capital Budget was approved by the Village Board on December 4, 2023. The total budget for all funds is **\$207.8 million**.

VILLAGE BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Village Board has established strategic priorities to guide how the Village allocates resources for the community. During the year, the Village strives to communicate these priorities in a clear, direct and proactive manner that increases understanding of the Village's services, initiatives and programs.

COMMUNICATION



SUSTAINABILITY



TRANSPORTATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



PUBLIC SAFETY



FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



TECHNOLOGY



ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET FAST FACTS



\$207.8 MILLION
TOTAL BUDGET



15 AWARDS
FOR BUDGET
PRESENTATION



S&P BOND RATING
FOR "STABLE OUTLOOK"



\$44.5 MILLION
CAPITAL PROJECTS





REVENUE AT A GLANCE

TOTAL ALL REVENUES

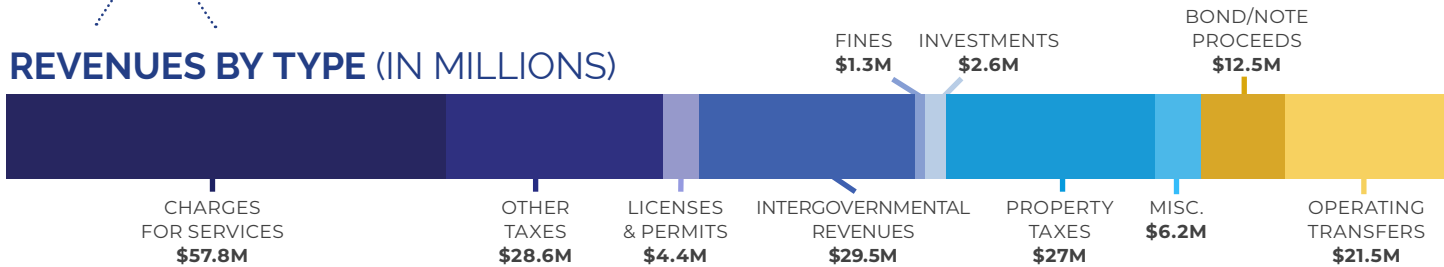
\$191.4

MILLION

▲ 25.3% Increase from 2023

WHERE DOES THE VILLAGE GET ITS MONEY?

There are several sources of revenue for the Village. The largest is “Charges for Services,” like water and sewer charges. Intergovernmental revenues are the second-largest revenue, followed by property taxes and other taxes. Note that taxes paid to the State of Illinois that are redistributed to the Village, such as income tax, are included under intergovernmental revenue rather than other taxes. To plan the annual budget, staff conservatively estimate how much money will be received during the fiscal year. In 2024, **\$191.4 million** in revenue is expected, a **25.3%** increase from the 2023 budget. This can be attributed to increases in sales taxes, income taxes and interest income, and proceeds from a bond sale for the construction of Fire Station 21.



REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

\$27 MILLION

PROPERTY TAXES

Property tax is the Village’s fourth-largest revenue source. The Village’s property tax levy will see a **3.5%** increase for 2024. These funds are specifically used to pay for public safety operations and pensions.

\$28.6 MILLION

OTHER TAXES

Other municipal taxes, such as electricity, natural gas, and home rule sales tax, make up **15%** of all revenues.

\$22 MILLION

WATER & SEWER FEES

Water and sewer charges are the most significant portion of charges for services, making up **38%** of the **\$57.8 million** in revenue in that category.

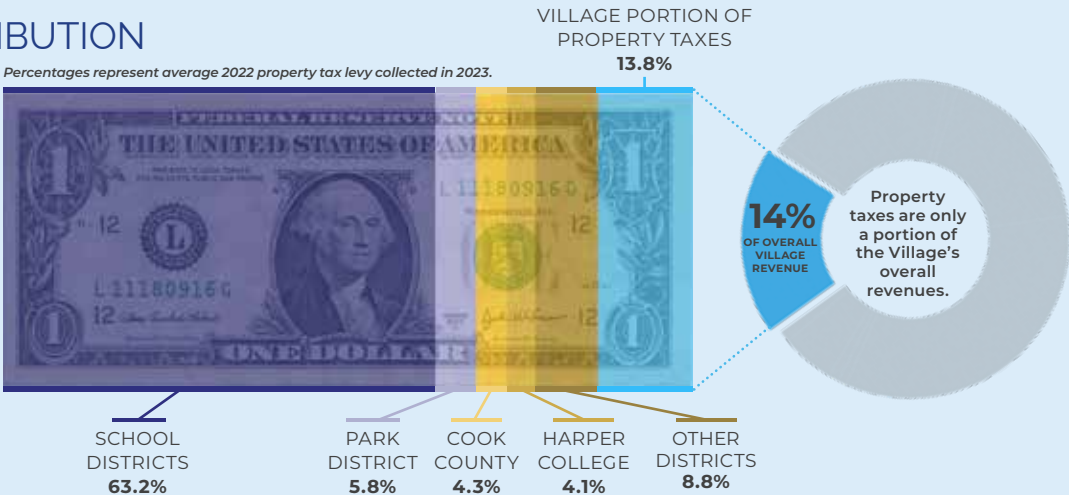
\$21.5 MILLION

OPERATING TRANSFERS

Nearly **\$6.3 million** of General Fund reserves will be used toward the **\$44.5 million** of total capital needs in FY2024. Even with this use of General Fund reserves, the Village is still projected to maintain a **39%** General Fund balance reserve in 2024, exceeding the **25%** reserve required by Village Board policy.

PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION

The Village receives only a portion of the property taxes that Hoffman Estates residents and businesses pay. Approximately **86%** of the average property tax bill can be attributed to other taxing districts, such as school, libraries, forest preserves, townships and county government.





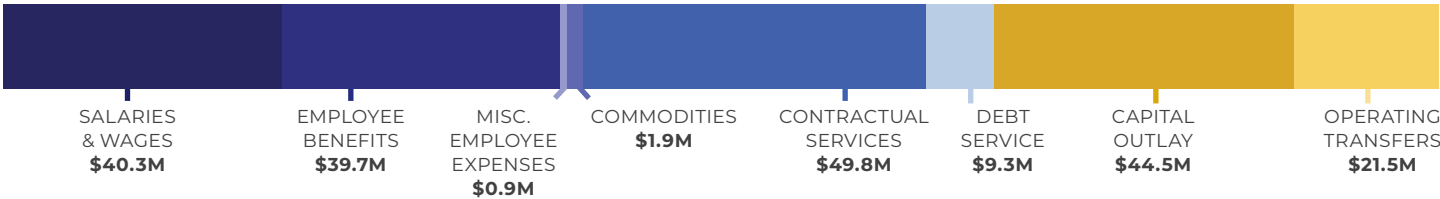
SPENDING AT A GLANCE

HOW IS VILLAGE MONEY SPENT?



The Village always makes an effort to anticipate expenses and plan for them within the annual budget. Overall, the Village’s expenses can be broken down into the categories defined below. Additional detail, such as fund types and how the Village’s accounts are structured, can be found in the full budget document. Budgeted expenditures for 2024 total **\$207.8 million**, a **23.8% increase** from the prior year. Similar to increases in revenues, increases in expenditures can be attributed to costs associated with construction of the new Fire Station 21. Additional capital outlay will also help fund the Village’s expanded Capital Improvement Program.

EXPENDITURES BY TYPE FOR ALL FUNDS (IN MILLIONS)



EMPLOYEES

Employees and the services they provide are the Village’s most valuable investment. Personnel-related costs make up **39%** of the 2024 budget.



COMMODITIES

Commodities include essential goods and everyday items like small tools, office supplies and photocopies. This category only accounts for about **1%** of the Village’s budget.



CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Contractual services most often include expenses related to hiring a third party to complete a service. Examples of contractual services include tree removal and replacement and 911 dispatch for police and fire services.



DEBT SERVICE

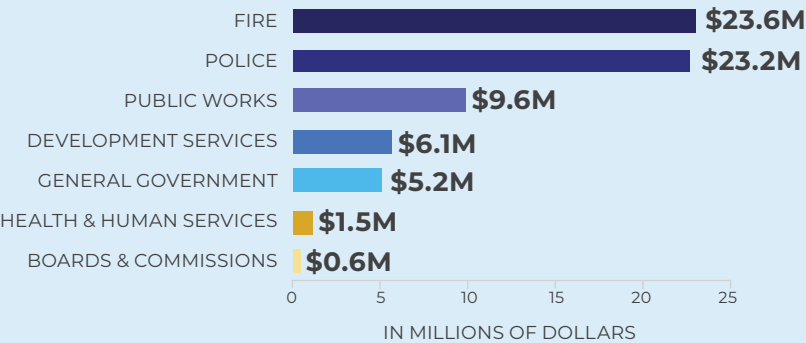
Debt service is the amount of money paid toward principal and interest the Village has incurred from issuing bonds or notes to pay for public projects, like a new building.

GENERAL FUND EXPLAINED

The Village’s General Fund receives money and pays for programs and services not otherwise accounted for in a separate fund, which is most of the day-to-day government operations. Examples of spending types across the departments include employee salaries, commodities like salt used to treat roads during winter events, or contractual services with vendors, such as with the Village’s insurance providers. Costs related to public safety make up the largest share of the General Fund.

In 2024, General Fund revenues are estimated to be **\$73 million**. Expenditures are expected to be approximately **\$79.1 million**, so a transfer of **\$6.3 million** from the fund balance, or savings, is included in the 2024 budget year. This transfer will be used to fund one-time capital projects.

EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT





CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
\$44.5
MILLION
▲ 93% Increase from 2023

The Capital Improvements Program is the Village's multi-year plan for major purchases and improvements to facilities, land, and infrastructure. Capital purchases are considered to be largely one-time costs that are \$25,000 or more and vehicles, which are always considered capital purchases. Following the evaluation of a Fire Station Location Analysis Study conducted in 2022, the Village has elected to replace aging Fire Stations 21 and 22 with newly constructed facilities. The construction of Fire Station 21 is included as part of this year's **\$44.5 million** in budgeted capital expenses. Capital expenditures also include expanded investments in the Village's water system, street program, and sidewalk replacement program; ongoing stormwater improvements; and a new tree removal and replacement program.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS



UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR 2024

REFUSE & RECYCLING	TECHNOLOGY & ERP SYSTEM	WEBSITE REDESIGN
<p>A new residential and commercial refuse and recycling contract will be negotiated this year. The contract with the Village's current vendor expires in May 2025.</p>	<p>Business processes will continue to be analyzed as the Village improves usage of technology to best serve the community. An updated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system will be a specific focus area for implementation.</p>	<p>With a more intuitive interface and better search features in mind, the Village's website will undergo a complete redesign to make information about services, programs and events easy to find.</p>

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Details about the FY2024 Operating and Capital Budget are available online at: hoffmanestates.org/budget.



SCAN ME

FOR MORE FY2024 BUDGET INFORMATION



New Forestry Program to **Address** Declining **Silver Maple, Siberian Elm** Trees

A new tree removal and replacement program is coming to Hoffman Estates this year to address publicly owned Silver Maple and Siberian Elm trees that are in decline. The Silver Maple Program will be coordinated as a multi-year contractual program with an estimated 500 trees scheduled for removal and replacement in 2024, and 400 additional trees anticipated in 2025.

The Public Works Forestry Division estimates that approximately 3,200 public parkway trees will be inspected as part of this program. Certified arborists will be performing the inspections, and only trees that are found in significant decline or poor health will be identified for removal.

Both Silver Maples and Siberian Elms are considered undesirable due to a variety of characteristics including shallow root systems, excessive flower and seed litter and higher susceptibility to storm damage. Approximately 1,000 publicly owned Silver Maples and Siberian Elms are believed to be in or nearing a qualifying state of decline.

Residents will be notified by Public Works if a tree in their parkway is identified for removal as part of this program at least two weeks prior to removal. For more information about the Silver Maple Program, please visit the Village's website at hoffmanestates.org/SilverMaple or call Public Works at 847-490-6800.



Mailbox damage from plows

The Village will replace mailboxes that have been damaged through direct contact with the Village's snow plows if the original mailbox was installed in compliance with Village regulations. If a mailbox is struck, a temporary repair will be made so that mail delivery can continue. Contact the Public Works Department immediately to report mailbox damage by calling 847-490-6800 or email publicworks@vohe.org.



Winter Driving Tips

Driving safely in the winter can be challenging even for the most experienced drivers. The Hoffman Estates Police Department would like to remind residents to slow down in inclement weather.

- Ready your vehicle for the winter. Make sure that your battery and other equipment such as sensors and lights are in good condition. Equip your vehicle with a snow brush and always clear your windows before driving.
- Prepare your vehicle for an emergency by equipping it with blankets, flashlights, and jumper cables in the event of a breakdown.
- Always wear your seatbelt and never drive while distracted with an electronic device regardless of the weather.
- The on-street parking ban goes into effect after two inches of snowfall, based on reports from O'Hare International Airport. Please try to clear the snow around fire hydrants near your home for easy access in the case of an emergency.
- Winter driving requires you to drive slower and increase your following distance to give yourself more time to stop. Remember that ice on the roadway is not always visible.
- Before heading out, know the weather and traffic conditions. If you do not need to go out in inclement weather, stay in.



Police Department Scam Alerts

The Hoffman Estates Police Department would like to make residents aware of common scams to be on the lookout for. These crime trends are occurring nationally, and with a little education, are easily avoidable.



- Scammers create **fake charities** to take advantage of your generosity. This can be something as simple as creating a GoFundMe campaign or selling flowers or candy bars in intersections for a fake organization. By law, we cannot require these “organizations” to obtain a permit, so it is difficult for the police to deter this activity. It is important to research charities before you donate.
- **Gift card scams** are common since they are easy to buy and almost impossible to trace or refund. Many scammers buy or sell fraudulent gift cards. Only purchase gift cards from reputable retailers. If you are contacted with a request to pay a bill or secure a bond with a gift card, it is a scam. Do not provide any personal information or engage with the individual asking you to pay with a gift card.
- Scammers frequently send **phishing emails** posing as companies or agencies that you trust. They may impersonate companies like Amazon or Apple offering “giveaways” or claim to be from your bank and warning you that your account has been compromised. Their goal is to get you to click on a suspicious link or call a phone number to give up sensitive information. Do not click links or call numbers listed in suspicious emails.
- Fake **delivery notification text messages** often contain links to fake websites designed to steal personal information obtain provide account information. Make sure to track deliveries through the retailer's official website.
- Along with deliveries comes **stealing mail and packages**. With so many packages and card deliveries, porch piracy is on the rise. Scammers look for cards containing cash and gift cards, as well as packages that they can steal and resell. Again, make sure to track your package with the retailer, or set up a different delivery method to a secure location like a smart locker.



Join the Citizens Fire Academy

Train like a firefighter: join the 2024 Citizens Fire Academy. Participants will complete search and rescue drills, learn CPR, rappel from height, extricate with the Jaws of Life, and more. Citizens Fire Academy courses will run Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. March 6 through May 8, with a graduation ceremony on May 20. Register today online at hoffmanestates.org/fire. For more information, email Thomas.Zito@vohe.org.



Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



nfpa.org/education

Community briefs

Upcoming programs for seniors

Please join the Commission for Senior Citizens as they start the new year off with two fun luncheon events.

Wednesday, Jan. 17: Welcome in the new year at the January luncheon at noon at Village Hall. Enjoy an afternoon with good food and fun entertainment together. Cost is \$10, registration is required.

Wednesday, Feb. 14: Fall in love with this Valentine's Day Luncheon at noon at Village Hall! Come for the great food and stay for the exciting entertainment. Cost is \$10, registration is required.



To register for senior programs, call Hallie Karle at 847-781-2606 and send a check payable to "Village of Hoffman Estates" to 1900 Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL. Payment must be received before a reservation can be confirmed.

First Friday Event

The Commission for People with Disabilities is hosting an exciting First Friday event for adolescents ages 14 and older and adults with disabilities on Friday, Feb. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Road. Admission is free! Pizza will be served for \$2 a slice. For more information, call 847-781-2606.

Holiday garbage collection reminders

Garbage and recycling collection service will be on the holiday schedule the week of New Year's Day, with collection delayed by a day the week of January 1. Christmas tree collection is scheduled for the first two weeks of January. A yard waste sticker is required and should be attached to the tree trunk or a branch. Please remember that all lights, ornaments and garland must be removed from the tree, and plastic disposal bags are prohibited. Wreaths and garland will also be accepted, provided the wiring has been removed. These items should be placed in a Kraft yard waste bag with a disposal sticker attached. Visit groot.com for more information.

Living Christmas trees and other greenery may also be dropped off for disposal at no charge through Friday, Jan. 12 at the following locations:

- Public Works Fleet Maintenance Facility
2405 Pembroke Avenue
- The field next to Fire Station 23
1300 Westbury Drive
- The field next to Fire Station 24
5775 Beacon Pointe Drive



Coffee with the Board

The Hoffman Estates Village Board will host a Coffee with the Board event on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Road.

This informal meet-and-greet provides a relaxed forum where the community can speak with Mayor McLeod and Trustees. Residents are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee, express opinions, ask questions, and provide input on items of interest in the community.



Residential rental license renewals due by January 17

Residential rental license fees must be received by January 17 to be in compliance with Village Code. Payments can be made by mail, in person, or online by visiting the Village website at hoffmanestates.org and selecting the 'Online Payments' tab. For those who do not pay on time, late payments will be assessed with a penalty equal to 25% of the license fee. Notification will be sent when it is time for the annual inspection to be scheduled. For questions regarding the program, or if you are a tenant renting property and are unsure whether the property has been licensed, email rentalhousing@vohe.org or call 847-781-2650.

Snow removal reminders

It is unlawful to move snow into the street, as this can create traffic hazards and block the flow of water into storm sewers. Businesses must clear their sidewalks for accessibility purposes, and residents are also encouraged to do so. If you have any questions for the Code Enforcement Division, email buildingcodes@vohe.org.



Keep fire hydrants clear of snow

During the winter months, firefighters face many issues when responding to structure fires, including locating fire hydrants buried in snow. It may take firefighters several minutes to dig out a hydrant in order to use it.

Homeowners: please keep the fire hydrant on your parkway clear of snow and other debris year-round. This is a great help to the members of the Fire Department.



January & February calendar

All meetings are at Village Hall unless otherwise noted. For up-to-date information, visit hoffmanestates.org/calendar.

January

*Monday, Jan. 1

- NEW YEAR'S DAY - VILLAGE HALL CLOSED

Tuesday, Jan. 2

- Celtic Fest Commission, 4 p.m.
- Sustainability Commission, 6 p.m.
- Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

*Sunday, Jan. 7

- Veteran's Flag 82: Walter M. Ludke, Army, WWII

Monday, Jan. 8

- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- Senior Citizens Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Cultural Awareness Commission, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- Fourth of July Commission, 4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 12

- Christmas Tree and Wreath Drop off Ends

*Sunday, Jan. 14

- Veteran's Flag 83: William E. Petrella, Army, Vietnam

Monday, Jan. 15

- Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast, 8 a.m.

**The flag-rotation ceremonies are held at the Veterans' Memorial every Sunday at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Those wishing to make a donation for the perpetual maintenance of the Memorial may do so at the Village Hall, or by mailing a check to the Veterans' Memorial c/o the Village of Hoffman Estates, 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. The casket flags of deceased veterans listed on the calendar above will be flying at the Veterans' Memorial in the coming months. The Veterans' Memorial is located outside the Hoffman Estates Police Department at 411 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169.*

- Commission for People with Disabilities, 6 p.m.
- Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday Jan. 16

- Police Pension Board, PD, 1 p.m.
- Fire and Police Commission, PD, 6 p.m.
- Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- Senior Luncheon, 12 p.m.
- Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Sister Cities Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 18

- Youth Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 20

- Coffee with the Board, 10 a.m.

*Sunday, Jan. 21

- Veteran's Flag 84: B.L. Richardson, USMC, WWII & Korea
- Monday, Jan. 22
- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

- Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

*Sunday, Jan. 28

- Veteran's Flag 85: Robert J. Kolp, Army, WWII
- Veterans Memorial Commission, 1 p.m.

February

Thursday, Feb. 1

- ANNUAL SPEAKER SERIES: "Oh Freedom, Songs of the Civil Rights Movement," 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2

- Holiday light recycling drop-off ends
- First Friday, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3

- Community Presentation - "What is Diet Culture?", 10 a.m.

*Sunday, Feb. 4

- Veteran's Flag 86: Donald F. Boyer, Navy

Monday, Feb. 5

- Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- Celtic Fest Commission, 4 p.m.
- Sustainability Commission, 6 p.m.
- Cultural Awareness Commission, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8

- Fourth of July Commission, 4 p.m.

*Sunday, Feb. 11

- Veteran's Flag 87: Charles G. Procter, Army

Monday, Feb. 12

- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

- Senior Citizens Commission, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

- Senior Luncheon, 12 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15

- Youth Commission, 6:30 p.m.

*Sunday, Feb. 18

- Veteran's Flag 88: Frank E. McCauley, Army, WWII

Monday, Feb. 19

- Commission for People with Disabilities, 6 p.m.
- Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

- Mayor's Update Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at NOW Arena
- Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Sister Cities Commission, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24

- Black History Month celebration, 2 p.m.

*Sunday, Feb. 25

- Veteran's Flag 89: Francis J. Gibbons, Army, WWII

Monday, Feb. 26

- Standing Committee Meetings, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

- Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

- Celebrations Commission, 5:30 p.m.

PD: Police Department, 411 W. Higgins Rd.

View Village website calendar for event updates and details!



Various photos courtesy Mona S. Morrison

Warming Center Information

The Village of Hoffman Estates, in cooperation with the Hoffman Estates Park District, opens warming centers when extreme cold weather is predicted.

Triphahn Center, 1685 Higgins Road

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Club at Prairie Stone, 5050 Sedge Blvd.

Monday-Thursday: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday: 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Willow Recreation Center, 3600 Lexington Drive

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Hoffman Estates Police Department, 411 W. Higgins Road

24-hour warming center as needed

Visit the Hoffman Estates Park District website at heparks.org for warming center updates.

Village of Hoffman Estates

1900 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
hoffmanestates.org

Important phone numbers

Main 847-882-9100
Police and Fire 911
Police Administration 847-781-2800
Fire Administration 847-843-4825
Public Works 847-490-6800
Health and
Human Services 847-781-4850
Event Hotline 847-252-5443

Village officials

Mayor

William D. McLeod

Trustees

Karen J. Arnet
Patrick Kinnane
Karen V. Mills
Anna Newell
Gary J. Pilafas
Gary G. Stanton

Village Clerk

Bev Romanoff

Village Manager

Eric J. Palm

Municipal facilities

*Visit our website for
online services.*

Village Hall

1900 Hassell Road

Police Department

411 W. Higgins Road

Fire Administration

1900 Hassell Road

Fire Station 21 — Carl W. Selke

225 Flagstaff Lane

Fire Station 22 — Michael J. O'Malley

1700 Moon Lake Boulevard

Fire Station 23 — Richard G. Cordova

1300 Westbury Drive

Fire Station 24 — Jerome Danowski

5775 Beacon Pointe Drive

Susan H. Kenley-Rupnow

Public Works Center
2305 Pembroke Avenue



ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Hoffman Estates, IL

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 24
Schaumburg, IL



Winter road problems? Know who to call

The Village's Public Works Department maintains and plows certain roads, while others are under the jurisdiction of either the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department. Below is a list of IDOT and Cook County roads, as well as contact information for where to direct questions or concerns.

Plow Routes

The Village's Public Works Department does not plow IDOT or Cook County roads.

IDOT

- Higgins Road (Route 72)
- Golf Road (Route 58)
- Algonquin Road (Route 62)
- Sutton Road (Route 59)
- Barrington Road
- Palatine Road



Cook County Highway Department

- Bartlett Road
- Bode Road (Barrington Road to N. Sutton Road)
- Bradwell Road
- Central Road
- Ela Road
- Mundhank Road
- Freeman Road (between Mundhank Road and Algonquin Road)
- Plum Grove Road
- Schaumburg Road
- Old Sutton Road (north of Higgins Road/Route 72)
- Roselle Road
- Shoe Factory Road



Contact Information

Please see the appropriate contact numbers below related to different roadways in the Village.

- **Hoffman Estates Snow Command: 847-490-6800**

Call this number to report a problem on Village maintained roads. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a specific time when streets will be plowed.

- **IDOT: 800-452-4368**

Call this number for conditions regarding IDOT roads. To report an incident on IDOT roads, call 847-705-4612.

- **Cook County Highway Department: 312-603-1600**

Call this number for conditions regarding county roads.

- **Illinois Tollway Information Line: 800-865-5394**

Call this number for Tollway information, including problems with fog, snow, ice, high winds and trailer bans.

Emergency Car Kit

In case you are stranded, keep an emergency supply kit in your car with these items:

- Jumper cables
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Ice scraper
- Car cell phone charger
- Blanket
- Map
- Cat litter or sand (for better tire traction)