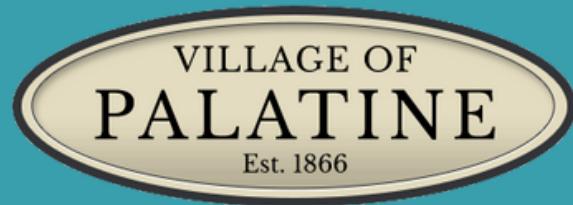


VILLAGE OF PALATINE

# ANNUAL REPORT



# 2024



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Located just 30 miles from Chicago's Loop and 14 miles from O'Hare International Airport, Palatine puts metropolitan cultural and business advantages within easy reach, while providing an away-from-it-all home town feeling for its residents. A pleasant mix of residential, commercial, light industrial and office space, surrounded by parks and open space, provide Palatine with a solid tax base and a tranquil atmosphere. Recreation and leisure activities abound in Palatine. Civic, religious and community groups of nearly every description welcome new and old residents alike. Dozens of homeowners associations foster a sense of old fashioned neighborliness. Award winning schools are a source of tremendous pride in Palatine.

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# A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR & MANAGER



Welcome to the first Village of Palatine Annual Report. We are very proud of what has been accomplished over the past year and the exemplary services provided to our residents, businesses and visitors. This is all the outcome of a forward thinking Village Council, 330 dedicated employees, and engaged residents. We are proud to call Palatine home and hope you are as well.

As we reflect on 2024 in this report, we are very pleased to share that the Village is in sound financial shape. In fact, the 2025 property tax levy will reflect the first time in over 100 years that the Village will not be collecting property tax dollars for debt service. Over the past 15 years the Village has successfully paid off over \$120 million in outstanding debt, putting us in a position to be debt-free. This has been accomplished with no property tax increase for six years, the elimination of vehicle stickers, and record investment in our infrastructure.

As you will see, our departments and employees are committed to serving the entire community. We are there for you 24 hours a day keeping you safe and secure. Whether it is turning on the faucet, calling 911 for an emergency response or simply driving on our roads, what our employees do on a daily basis always has you, our residents, in mind.

As Mayor and Village Manager, we are truly grateful to serve such a supportive community and work with committed elected officials and staff. Palatine exemplifies a commitment to public service.

Please take the time to read the highlights of what has been done in the past year. With this being a new publication for the Village, we welcome your comments. If there are areas you would like to see covered in future years, please let us know.

**JIM SCHWANTZ**  
MAYOR

**REID OTTESEN**  
VILLAGE MANAGER

# MAYOR & VILLAGE COUNCIL



Back Row, from left: Joe Falkenberg (District 4), Brad Helms (District 6),  
Kollin Kozlowski (District 5), Scott Lamerand (District 2), Doug Myslinski (District 3)  
Front Row, from left: Tim Millar (District 1), Mayor Jim Schwantz, Village Clerk Marg Duer

## MISSION STATEMENT

To be a financially sound, responsive, and responsible Village government recognized for excellence in municipal services delivered by a workforce dedicated to the Palatine community.

**26,582** **\$337,200**  
HOUSEHOLDS MEDIAN HOME VALUE

**67,908** **\$93,383**  
POPULATION MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

**14.25** **39.5**  
SQUARE MILES MEDIAN AGE

### SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

**24**

Electric or Hybrid Village Vehicles

**49**

Community Solar Subscribers  
with 165 on the waitlist

**100**

Tons of Waste Diverted via Textile  
Recycling

**2,632**

Tons of Yard Waste Composting  
Collected

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Palatine Fire Department was established in 1887 and was originally operated by 45 Palatine residents serving as volunteer Firefighters. Since that time, our Fire Department has grown to operate from five fire stations staffed by 91 career firefighters supported by five administrative civilians. While our staffing, equipment, and challenges have evolved, we have remained resolute in our commitment to provide the finest all-hazard emergency response possible.



## Annual Emergency Calls

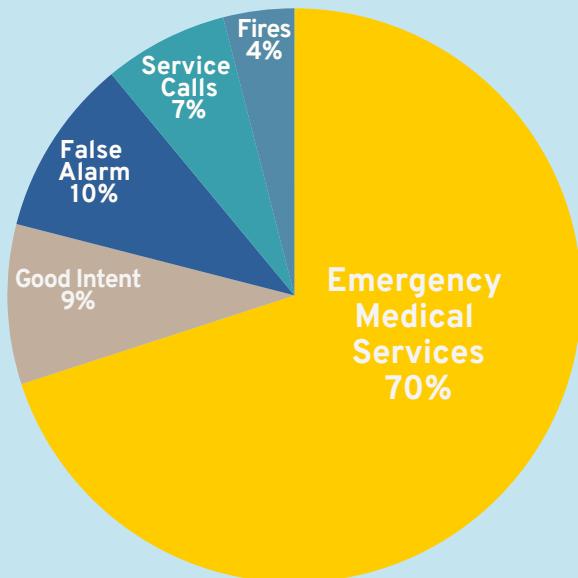
Emerging from the global pandemic, the Palatine Fire Department has continued to see a steady rise in emergency service requests. Since 2020, our call volume has risen over 26%.



## Fire Department Call Data



## Calls for Service



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Palatine Fire Explorers

The new Palatine Fire Explorer program was designed for high-school students interested in a firefighting career. This fun, interactive, and hands-on program provides participants with opportunities to learn entry-level fire and EMS skills to enhance their self-confidence and develop leadership skills through community-related activities.



Over 70% of our emergency service calls were EMS

4,471 patients transported to Northwest Community Hospital

We responded to over 320 vehicle crashes

Tuesday was our busiest day

August was our busiest month with calls

## Fire Prevention Division Stats & Facts

- The Fire Prevention Division is staffed with 2 full-time and 4 part-time fire inspectors.
- 1,736 commercial properties were inspected which included 4,198 initial and re-inspections.
- 303 building permit inspections completed.
- Inspectors participated in 47 exit drills.
- 143 fire hydrants were flow-tested.



## New Fire Administrative Offices

Using approximately \$3 million of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Village is adding an addition to Station 82 (Hicks Road) to house the Fire Department's administrative offices. Construction is expected to be completed in Fall of 2025. Once complete, the old offices at Station 85 (Colfax Street) will be repurposed to include a training/conference room and to relocate the fitness equipment from the bay floor into a temperature controlled area, away from vehicle exhaust fumes.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT



Firefighter Joe Jacober

## Special Team Response

Beyond traditional Fire and EMS services provided by most Fire Departments, we also provide “Special Team” responses to the following situations:

- Hazardous material releases;
- Underwater rescue and swift water rescues;
- Urban search and rescue, confined space rescues, building collapses, above and below grade rescues; and
- Fire investigations.

## Hurricane Helene Rescue Mission

Palatine Firefighter Joe Duer was one of 24 local rescue personnel deployed to North Carolina to provide emergency swiftwater flood assistance following the damage caused by Hurricane Helene last September. During their 14-day deployment, members of IL Urban Search & Rescue team, Task Force 1, successfully made over 30 rescues.

## Free Smoke Alarm Program

Since the inception of the FD’s community-based safety program in 2022, Palatine Firefighters have installed over 200 smoke alarms and 50 carbon monoxide detectors. The program is free for residents thanks to generous support from the Village, Palatine Firefighters Local 4588 and Home Depot. For more information, please call 847-202-6310 or email [smokealarms@palatine.il.us](mailto:smokealarms@palatine.il.us).

## CPR/AED Classes

The Palatine Fire Department delivers American Heart Association Certified CPR/AED and BLS Training designed to equip participants to recognize life-threatening emergencies and when appropriate, deliver high-quality chest compressions, efficient ventilations, and early use of an AED. Classes are scheduled this year for March 12, May 14, September 10, and November 12. If you are interested, email [smckillip@palatine.il.us](mailto:smckillip@palatine.il.us).

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Palatine Police Department is to ensure a safe community in which to live and work and to improve the quality of life in the Village of Palatine by working cooperatively with the public to protect life and property, to preserve law and order and to respect the rights and dignity of all people.

## Neighborhood Based Policing

The Palatine Police Department's Neighborhood Based Policing Program is based upon the philosophy of community policing and the strategies of problem oriented policing. In order to provide the best services possible, we are driven to be proactive in our effort to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the residents of Palatine.

## Staffing

The Palatine Police Department has 110 sworn officers and 37 non-sworn personnel.

Category	2023 Totals	2024 Totals
Calls for Service	58,495	57,382
Traffic Stops	19,908	18,795



# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Pictured from left to right: Councilman Millar, Deputy Chief Calanca, Deputy Chief Grawny, Mayor Schwantz, Congressman Krishnamoorthi and Police Chief Nord.

## Addition of a Second Electric Motorcycle to the Police Department Fleet

In 2024, the Palatine Police Department added a second electric motorcycle to its fleet, funded through a federal grant sponsored by Congressman Krishnamoorthi. This expansion builds on the department's 2022 achievement as the 1st in Illinois to integrate an all-electric motorcycle into law enforcement. The new motorcycle enhances sustainability, cost efficiency, community engagement, and offers operational benefits like low energy costs, reduced maintenance, and access to areas traditional patrol vehicles cannot reach. This addition demonstrates the department's commitment to innovative policing.

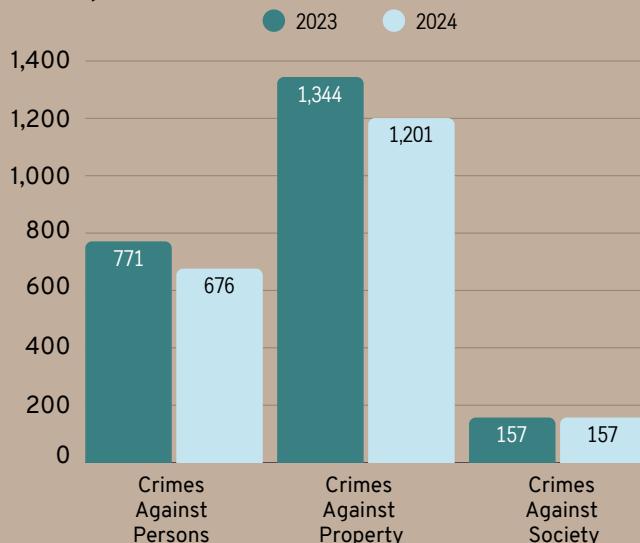
## 2024 IDOT STEP Grant Campaign

The IDOT STEP Grant (Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program) funds high-visibility law enforcement efforts aimed at reducing traffic crashes and fatalities by focusing on dangerous driving behaviors like speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving, and non-use of seatbelts. FFY 2024 vs. FFY 2023 IDOT STEP Grant achievements listed below:

- Enforcement Hours: 1,938 (+82.38%)
- DUI Arrests: 24 (+140%)
- Seatbelt Enforcement Contacts: 816 (+25.54%)
- Distracted Driving Enforcement Contacts: 1,154 (+106.81%)
- Speeding Enforcement Contacts: 635 (+113.8%)
- Revoked & Suspended Driver License Violations: 88 (+72.55%)
- Felony/Misdemeanor/Warrant Arrests: 42 (+250%)
- Stops: 3,318 (+72.01%)
- Enforcement Contacts: 3,710 (+83.85%)

## Group A Offenses

Group A offenses are serious crimes that are reported to the National Incident-Based Reporting System and for which crime data is collected. This data, sourced from the Illinois State Police, provides an overview of Group A offenses reported by the Palatine Police Department.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Palatine Police Detective Bureau Awarded the Mark Parr Champion for Children Award

On April 18, 2024, the Palatine Police Department Investigations Bureau was honored with the Mark Parr Champion for Children Award by the Child Advocacy Center of North & Northwest Cook County. This prestigious award recognizes the department's significant contributions to the welfare of children and its vital role in supporting the work of advocacy centers. The Palatine Police Department's Investigations Bureau has consistently shown a commitment to these values, providing critical support and expertise in cases involving child abuse and neglect.



Pictured from left to right: Officer Raul Contreras & K-9 Hondo; Officer Alec Wagner & K-9 Jax; K-9s Hondo & Jax

## K-9 Unit

In 2024, the Palatine Police K-9 Unit completed approximately 141 deployments, significantly contributing to the department's law enforcement efforts. These deployments led to the discovery of numerous items of evidentiary value, including proceeds from crimes, illegal firearms, currency, and narcotics.

## Social Services Unit

The Palatine Police Department's Social Services Unit is staffed by two full-time Social Workers. Both social workers are dedicated to providing guidance, support, and resources to the residents of Palatine.

### Services Provided:

- Court Advocacy: Supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through the civil and criminal court process.
- Crisis Intervention: Immediate assistance for individuals in acute distress or emergency situations.
- Short-Term Counseling: Providing individual, couple, and family counseling for a range of emotional and psychological issues
- Consultation to Local Professionals: Offering expert advice to community professionals dealing with individuals in crisis.
- Information and Referrals: Connecting individuals to relevant community resources for various concerns such as, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health, grief, and geriatric issues.

## Social Services Unit Summary

Type of Referral	2024
Domestic	169
(Other) Crime Victims	35
Mental Health	117
Geriatric	74
Substance Abuse	16
Miscellaneous (Other)	34

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Mike Murphy  
@ Palatine Park  
District "Big Trucks"



Officer Troy Suarez @ "D15 High Five Friday" Event



Palatine Police Officers at "Shop with a Cop" Event at  
Target (679 E. Dundee Rd)

## Community Engagement Events

The Palatine Police Department remains committed to fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. In 2024, officers participated in over 30 community engagement events, providing opportunities for residents to interact with and learn more about their local police department. These events included Coffee with a Cop, Cop on a Rooftop (Special Olympics fundraiser), Palatine Township Block Party, Better Together School Resource Fair, the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony and Shop with a Cop.

These events included a wide range of activities, from neighborhood meetings and safety fairs to local parades and school events. Officers took the time to engage with residents of all ages, answer questions, share safety tips, and participate in fun, interactive activities. These events not only strengthened the bond between the department and the community, but also helped to build trust, address concerns, and provide valuable resources to residents.

## Additional Foot Patrols

From May through October 2024, Palatine Police Officers dedicated over 550 hours to additional foot patrols, reinforcing their commitment to community engagement and proactive policing. These patrols allowed officers to make direct contact with residents and business owners, fostering stronger relationships and increasing visibility within the community. Additional foot patrols reflect the department's proactive approach to law enforcement, working closely with the community to prevent crime and enhance public trust.



Det. Pacheco at "Palatine Park District's iCompete Falcon Park Late Night Lock-In" Event



Officer Erica Amezcua at Falcon Park's "Better Together" School Supply Event



Sgt. Mike Cohen at the "Brightpoint Summer Block Party" at Palatine Township

# PUBLIC WORKS

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Palatine's Public Works Department oversees a number of important functions that impact your every day life such as road construction, snow removal, water distribution, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems, sidewalks and bicycle lanes, trees and parkways and streetlights. In 2024, the Public Works Department had 55 personnel across the following areas: Engineering Division, Forestry Division, Utilities Division, Fleet Division, Streets Division, Facilities Division and Administration.

## GRANTS

**\$12.43 Million in Grants Secured**

- Illinois Avenue Resurfacing & Bike Path (\$1.155 million)
- Palatine/Quentin Intersection Improvement (\$2.874 million)
- Salt Creek Stabilization (\$350k)
- Baldwin Road Box Culvert (\$1.861 million)
- Palatine and Rohlwing Intersection Improvement (\$2.379 million)
- Dundee and Hicks Intersection Improvement (\$2.531 million)
- Michigan Avenue Rehabilitation (\$550k)
- Tree Planting (\$30k)
- Water System Standpipe (\$600k)
- Lead Service Line Replacement (\$50k)
- Electric Motorcycle for Police (\$50k)

**171,495**

Feet of Sanitary Sewers flushed

**4,410**

Trees Trimmed

**2,240**

Cubic Yards of Mulch Delivered

**1,620**

Street Signs Fabricated

**949**

Street Signs Replaced

**486**

Hydrants Painted

**436**

Number of Lane Miles Plowed

**340**

Trees Planted

# PUBLIC WORKS

## PCI RATING - ALL PALATINE ROADS



The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is a rating system that measures the condition of a road's pavement. On an annual basis, half the streets are physically evaluated/inspected and assigned a numeric rating (1 to 100) utilizing a computer model. When streets fall below 60, they generally begin to enter the five-year capital plan for resurfacing. Street maintenance has been funded historically and presently in order for the Village to carry an average street rating in the lower "very good" range (70-75 PCI). The projected PCI value for 2025 is 79.09, which represents the highest rating in 20 years. This is a result of the 10 Year Street Improvement Plan approved by the Village Council in 2020.

## 2024 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- 14.60 Miles of Streets Resurfaced
- 8.35 Miles of Curb Replaced
- 2.35 Miles of Water Main Replaced
- .32 Miles of Water Main Installed
- 1.42 Miles of Sewer Rehabilitation
- 7,500 Sidewalk Squares Replaced



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The primary purpose of the Village's Community Development Department is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the enforcement of the applicable building, health, property maintenance, and zoning codes. The department is also responsible for promoting economic development within the community.

The Community Development Department consists of the Building Permits and Inspections Division, Neighborhood Services Division, Environmental Health Division, and Planning and Zoning Division.



**791**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH  
INSPECTIONS

Environmental Health inspections include inspections of all restaurants, grocery stores, & other food establishments as well as special events.

**2,265**  
EXPRESS BUILDING  
PERMITS ISSUED

Express building permits are used for common home improvement projects such as driveways, patios, decks, fences, shed, water heaters and AC/furnace replacements.

**25,498**  
TONS OF REFUSE  
COLLECTED

**722**  
COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING PERMITS  
ISSUED

**\$122M**  
VALUE OF  
COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING PERMITS

**5,312**  
TONS OF RECYCLING  
COLLECTED

**448**  
RESIDENTIAL  
BUILDING PERMITS  
ISSUED

**\$20M**  
VALUE OF  
RESIDENTIAL  
BUILDING PERMITS

# DOWNTOWN UPDATES



## What is a TIF?

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is an economic development tool that the Village can use to help promote reinvestment or redevelopment in qualifying properties. Eligible expenses for which TIF funds can be used include things such as property acquisition, the renovation of existing buildings, infrastructure improvements, and demolition and site preparation costs.



## Approximate TIF Surplus Total Payout CY 2010 - 2024

Taxing District	Approximate Amount
District 15	\$ 14,414,377
District 211	\$ 11,638,913
Village of Palatine	\$ 4,976,978
Palatine Park District	\$ 2,615,578
Harper	\$ 1,693,156
Palatine Library	\$ 1,098,707
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 36,437,709</b>

## Downtown Public Enhancements

The Village engaged consultants to develop concepts for streetscape, parking, public gathering, and wayfinding signage improvements throughout the downtown. The conceptual improvements included enhanced downtown entry features, streetscape and outdoor dining improvements, parking and wayfinding signage, an extension of the downtown railwalk system, and public gathering and event spaces. The downtown TIF will allow the Village to complete the needed public infrastructure to make these concepts a reality.

## Façade Grant Program

The Village's Downtown TIF District Façade & Interior Building Improvement Grant Program was created to assist with interior and façade renovations to existing buildings within Palatine's downtown area. To be eligible for the program, the building must be located within the Village's Downtown TIF District and the majority of the building's first floor must be dedicated to a non-residential use(s). To date, over \$215,000 has been granted. These projects have included the American Legion, 2 Libras Café, Little Broken Things Salon, Pizza Bella, and The Cork at Cook, Cork & Fork.

**Over \$36 million reinvested in the community from 2010 - 2024**

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

17,252

Residential  
Utility  
Accounts

2,028

Commercial  
Utility  
Accounts

632

Non-  
Resident  
Rate Utility  
Accounts

## Performance Data

The Finance Department is responsible for the annual Budget and Financial Reports as well as local tax and utility payment collection.



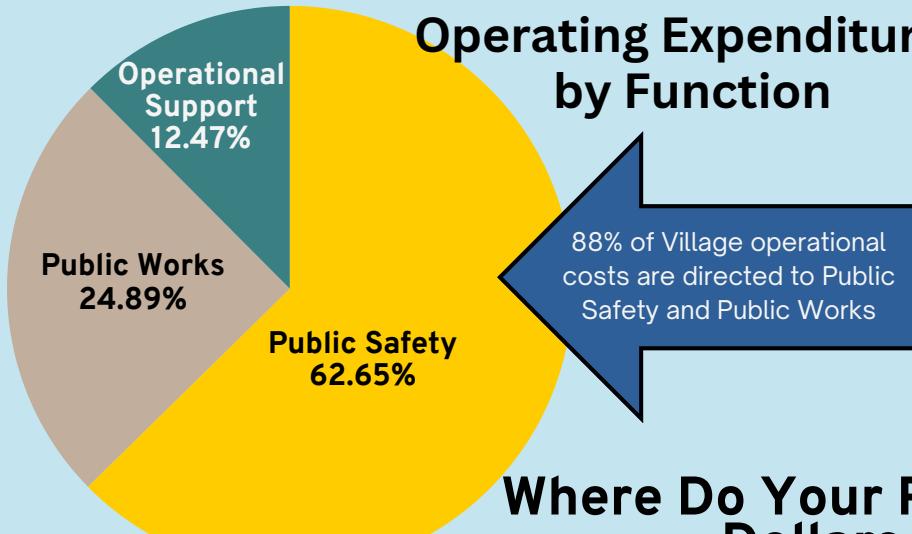
The Village of Palatine received the GFOA "Excellence in Financial Reporting Award" for the 37th consecutive year.



\$142,735,843

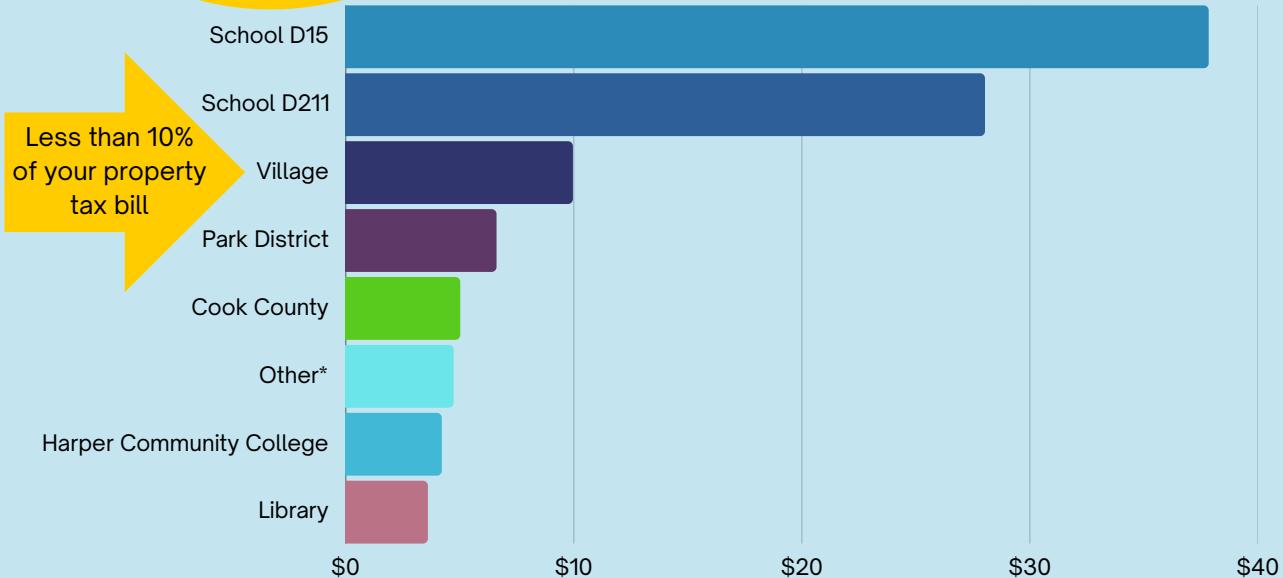
Total 2024 Adopted Budget  
Expenditures

## Operating Expenditures by Function



The Village maintains its mission to provide the best core services of Police, Fire & Public Works to Palatine

## Where Do Your Property Tax Dollars Go?

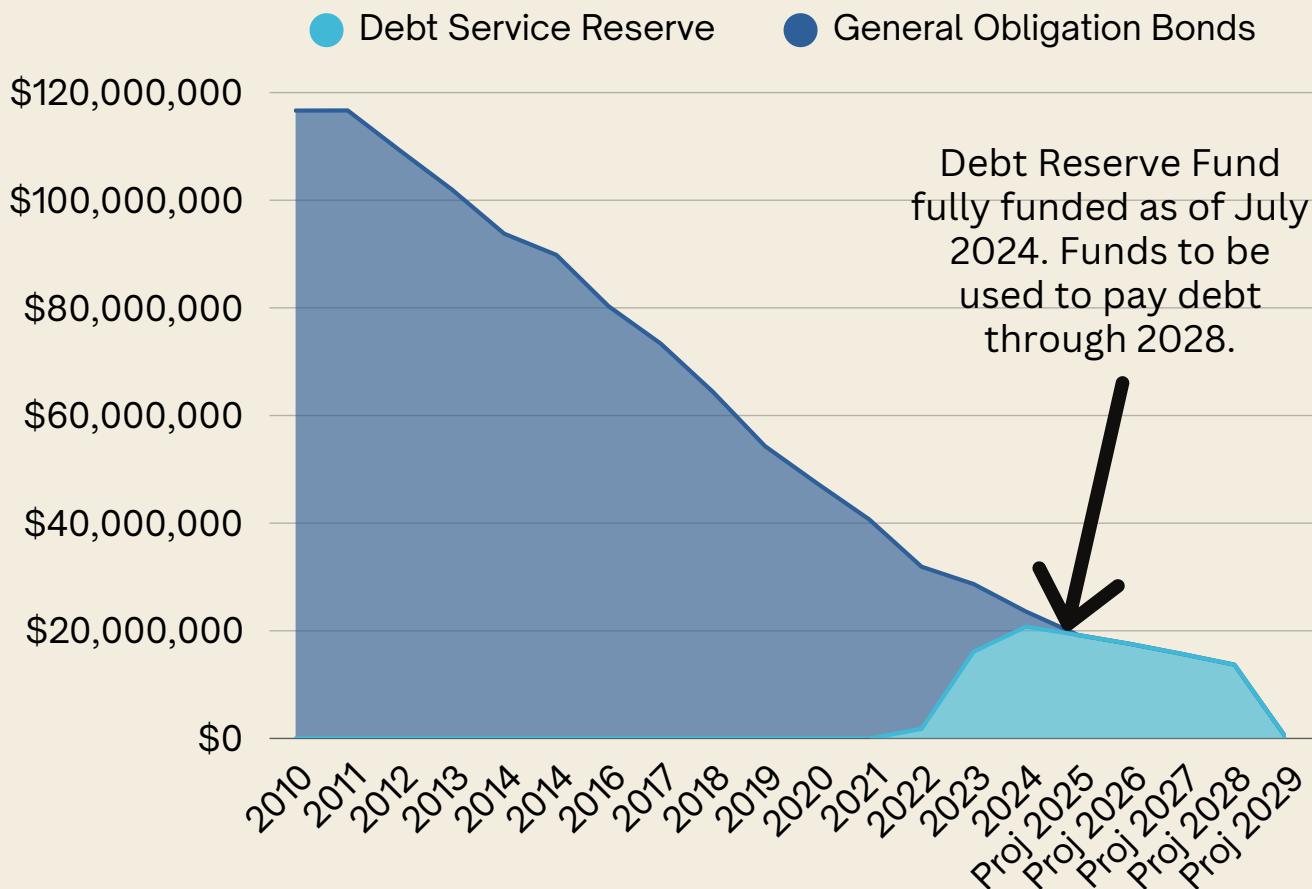


# VILLAGE GOES DEBT FREE IN 2025

The 2025 Budget is a milestone for the Village as it is the first budget in over 100 years that does not include any property tax levy for debt service. Through the leadership and commitment of the Village Council and staff over the past 15 years, we lived within our means and maintained a focus on not only eliminating the debt that has impacted our financial flexibility, but continued to deliver on our core services.

The Village has shed nearly \$100 million of outstanding debt since 2011. The remaining bonds will come due between this year and 2029. 100% of the funds necessary to meet these obligations are already set-a-side in a Debt Service Reserve Fund. No additional collection from the public is needed.

While the focus on retiring our debt has been a priority, it has not been at the expense of the taxpayer. 2025 will mark the sixth consecutive year of a stable or decreasing property tax levy. In fact, during the same 15 year period of debt reduction, our property tax levy only grew by a total of 2.45%. This is the same timeframe that has seen a record investment in our infrastructure, the elimination of the vehicle stickers and animal licenses, and the modernization of Village facilities to meet the needs of the community well into the future. The Village understands and respects the pressures facing our taxpayers and continues to do everything possible to reduce and limit the tax burden.



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

## IT Department

The Information Technology Department oversees all technology used throughout the Village, including over 480 laptops, desktops, and mobile devices. Staff implemented new and upgraded applications for Rental Licensing, Payments, and Electronic Document Management, along with new Cyber Security controls and monitoring applications.

The Village's network connects 23 Village facilities using fiber and radio networks to provide reliable connectivity and monitoring. In 2024, the Village extended our fiber connectivity to anchor institutions, providing communications for Palatine Township, District 15, and Palatine Park District to the Illinois Century Network at Harper College.

## Administration

The Village Manager's Office guides community relations and coordination of special events, as well as communication, information requests and economic development.

**2,824**

POLICE FOIA'S  
FULFILLED

**531**

NON-POLICE  
FOIA'S FULFILLED

**571**

PASSPORT  
APPOINTMENTS

**33**

SPECIAL EVENT  
APPLICATIONS  
APPROVED

**51**

BLOCK  
PARTIES

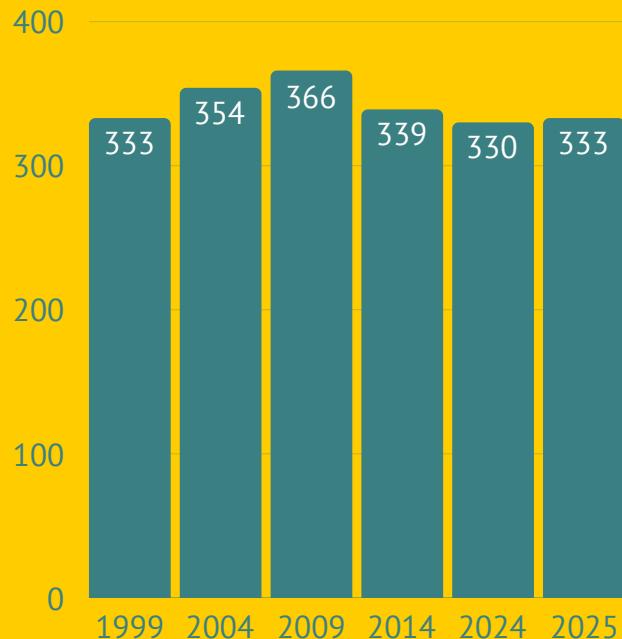


## HR Department

In today's competitive job market, it can be difficult to recruit and retain employees. However, Palatine has a strong work culture that values employees and puts an emphasis on teamwork.

- The Village of Palatine offers employees tuition assistance.
- 94.7% of our employees participated in our annual wellness screening.
- In 2024, the Village of Palatine welcomed a new Finance Director, HR Director, Police Chief, and new Council member.
- This year 32 employees were hired, 20 full-time positions, seven interns/seasonal positions, and five part-time positions.

● Historical Number of Employees



## Doing More with Less

The Village has the same budgeted full time positions as 1999, despite growing 13,820 in population and adding 35 lane miles of road, 23 miles of water main, 21 miles of storm sewer, and 15 miles of sanitary sewer. Since 1999, the Village has added 12 sworn police officers, 9 sworn firefighters and two new fire stations, reaffirming its commitment to public safety.

# COMMUNICATIONS

The Village Manager's Office handles Village-wide communication, from newsletters to social media to Cable Channel 6 content.

## Social Media Performance in 2024

270K

Website Views

12K

Facebook Followers

1,822

Instagram Followers

196

X Followers

1,484

LinkedIn Followers

3,266

YouTube Video Views

Scan this QR Code to subscribe to our e-news:



## E-News Subscribers

Email

14,582

Text

138

Number of E-News Sent

62

Sign up for our newsletter online at [palatine.il.us/eneews](http://palatine.il.us/eneews)

## Top Web Pages

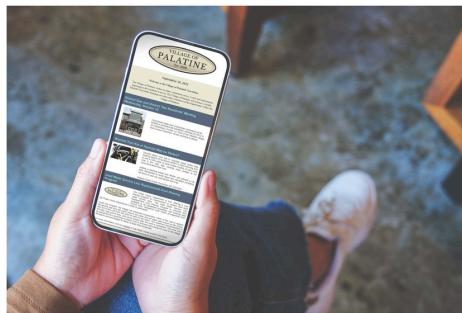
1	Calendar
2	Online Payments
3	Overnight Parking
4	Building Permits & Inspections

440,796

Users who visited the Village website

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PALATINE?

Sign up for the Village of Palatine's Weekly E-Newsletter



Get access to up-to-date news from around the community delivered to your email or mobile phone every Friday. Our e-newsletter features information on Village services, upcoming events and activities, public safety and traffic alerts, programs and much more.



FIND US ONLINE [www.palatine.il.us](http://www.palatine.il.us)



# 2025 SPECIAL EVENTS



Downtown Palatine

## **FARMER'S MARKET**

Palatine Sister Cities

Saturdays throughout the year



Downtown Palatine

## **HOMETOWN FEST**

Palatine Jaycees

July 2 - 6, 2025



Falcon Park, Palatine

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Village of Palatine Police Department

August 6, 2025



Downtown Palatine

## **STREET FEST**

Village of Palatine

August 22 - 24, 2025



Downtown Palatine

## **OKTOBERFEST**

Palatine Rotary Club

September 19 - 21, 2025