



Memorandum

To: Mayor Biss and Members of the City Council
From: Luke Stowe, City Manager
Subject: Weekly City Manager's Update
Date: January 17, 2024

STAFF REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

Weekly Report for January 13, 2024 – January 17, 2024

City Manager's Office

Weekly Bids Advertised

Community Development

Weekly Zoning Report

Weekly Field Inspection Report

Health Department

Weekly Food Establishment Application Report

Law Department

Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Clerk's Office

None

Legislative Reading

NWMC Weekly Briefing

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL &
MAYORAL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Monday, January 20, 2024

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday – City Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 21, 2024

6:30 PM: [Evanston Arts Council Meeting](#)

7:00 PM: [Housing & Community Development Committee – CANCELED](#)

7:00 PM: [Preservation Commission](#)

Wednesday, January 22, 2024

6:00 PM: [Special Land Use Commission Meeting](#)

6:00 PM: [Economic Development Committee - CANCELED](#)

Thursday, January 23, 2024

No Meetings

Friday, January 24, 2024

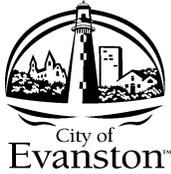
No Meetings

Check the City's Calendar for updates:

[City of Evanston - Calendar](#)

City of Evanston Committee Webpage:

[City of Evanston – Boards, Commissions and Committees](#)



Memorandum

To: Luke Stowe, City Manager

From: Hitesh Desai, CFO/ City Treasurer
Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager

Subject: Bids/RFPs/RFQs Advertised during the Week of January 13, 2025

Date: January 17, 2025

The following is a list of advertised projects and the anticipated date each will be presented to the Council or Library Board.

Bids/RFPs/RFQs sent during the Week of January 13, 2025

Bid/RFP/RFQ Name	Requesting Dept.	Description of Project	Budgeted Amount	Bid/RFP/RFQ Opening Date	Anticipated Council/ Library Board Date
Community Engagement - Visioning City Owned Property	CMO	The City of Evanston's City Manager's Office is seeking proposals from experienced firms to assist the City of Evanston in engaging the community in a meaningful process to understand key concepts related to affordable housing, develop a shared vision for a City-owned vacant lot, and create a housing proposal that will guide a future developer selection process.	TBD	2/25	3/10



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Elizabeth Williams, Planning & Zoning Manager
Subject: Weekly Zoning Report
Date: January 17, 2025

Enclosed is the weekly report of zoning applications received and pending. The report, organized by ward, includes the property address, zoning district, the type of application submitted, a description of the project, date received, and current status.

Please contact me at (224) 296-4489 or ewilliams@cityofevanston.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Cases Received and Pending, January 9, 2025 - January 15, 2025

Backlog (business days received until reviewed): 13

Volume (number of cases pending initial staff review): 10

Zoning Reviews

Ward	Property Address	Zoning	Type	Project Description	Received	Status
1	144 Greenwood Street	R1	Building Permit	Install a modular ramp with handrails	04/29/24	pending additional information from the applicant
1	1404 Forest Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Interior renovation of existing coach house (ADU)	10/09/24	non-compliant, pending revision by the applicant
1	1710 Sherman Avenue	D2	Building Permit	Interior build-out of commercial tenant space, Tropical Smoothie Cafe	12/31/24	pending Administrative Review Use application submittal from applicant
1	605 Davis Street	D3	Zoning Analysis	Planned Development for a new 31-story 330' tall mixed-use building with ground floor retail and 447 dwelling units	12/26/24	pending staff review
1	2331 Orrington Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Remove and replace front stairs and walk	01/03/25	pending staff review
1	732 Judson Avenue	R1	Zoning Analysis	Interior and exterior renovations	01/10/25	pending staff review
1	816 Church Street	D3	Building Permit	Interior alteration (Hops & Grapes)	01/15/25	pending staff review
2	2118 Lake Street	R2	Building Permit	Patio and retaining wall	05/01/24	pending additional information from the applicant
2	1812 Lake Street	R3	Building Permit	Garage	06/25/24	non-compliant, pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
2	900 Clark Street	RP	Zoning Analysis	Demolish north end of Church Street Plaza movie theater building, construct new 27-story multi-family dwelling building with 358 dwelling units and 20% Inclusionary Housing dwelling units	07/03/24	non-compliant, pending additional information from the applicant
2	1620 Darrow Avenue	R3	Building Permit	Addition	10/02/24	pending additional information and revision from the applicant
2	1820 Crain Street	R4	Building Permit	Interior remodel and resurface driveway	12/13/24	pending additional information from the applicant
2	807 Asbury Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Deck, window and door replacement and installation	01/15/25	pending staff review
3	819 Judson Avenue	R5	Building Permit	New 4-story multi-family dwelling building with 4 dwelling units and detached garage for 8 vehicles	04/16/24	non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant
3	1300 Chicago Avenue (1300-1306 Chicago Avenue), 601-615 Dempster Street, 1307 Sherman Place	B1/oDM	Zoning Analysis	Planned Development for a new 7-story mixed-use building with ground floor retail, enclosed parking on ground floor, 65 dwelling units, and modification of the existing 2-story retail building with 2 dwelling units above	06/24/24	non-compliant, pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
3	1115 Hinman Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Walk between residence and garage	10/30/24	pending additional information from the applicant
3	149 Burnham Place	R1	Building Permit	Reconfigure deck	11/19/24	pending additional information from the applicant
3	1036 Forest Avenue	R1	Building Permit	New single-family detached dwelling and detached garage	01/13/25	pending staff review
3	735 Michigan Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Brick replacement and spot tuckpoint	01/16/25	pending staff review

3	1115 Hinman Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Garage, 24 x 20	01/15/25	pending staff review
4	990 Grove Street	D1	Zoning Analysis	Convert office space to work/live units on 1st floor and dwellings on floors 2-5	09/13/24	pending additional information from the applicant
4	1012 Church Street	D3	Building Permit	New 2-story theatre (Northlight Theatre)	10/10/24	pending additional information from the applicant
4	1009 Wesley Avenue	R3	Building Permit	Carport	10/11/24	pending revisions from the applicant
5	1811 Church Street	B2/oWE	Building Permit	New 4-story mixed-use building with ground floor retail and 33 dwelling units (HODC)	08/18/23	pending revisions and additional information from the applicant
5	2209 Emerson Street	R3	Building Permit	Deck	03/25/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	2027 Brown Avenue	R3	Building Permit	Concrete parking pad behind garage	05/09/24	non-compliant, pending revisions and/or variation application from the applicant
5	2112 Asbury Avenue	R3	Building Permit	Remove deck, replace with paver patio	05/16/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	1420 Leonard Place	R3	Zoning Analysis	New efficiency home	07/23/24	pending revisions and additional information from the applicant
5	2311 Emerson Street	R3	Building Permit	3-season room addition and rear porch	08/09/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	2115 Wesley Avenue	R3	Building Permit	Replace front porch deck, steps, and rails	09/16/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	1836 Lemar Avenue	R2	Building Permit	Deck	10/01/24	non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant
5	830 Hamlin Street	R4a	Building Permit	Paver patio	10/09/24	non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant
5	2206 Maple Avenue	R4a	Zoning Analysis	Redevelopment existing surface parking lot for a new 5-story building with 30 dwellings and 29 parking spaces	10/11/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	1655 Foster Street	OS	Building Permit	Antennas and related equipment	11/12/24	pending additional information from the applicant
5	1026 Garnett Place	R4a	Building Permit	Interior renovation of garage	12/11/24	revisions submitted, pending staff review
6	2703 Hartzell Street	R1	Building Permit	Carport and concrete slab	05/01/24	pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
6	2306 Central Park Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Front portico, deck, and replace exterior stairs	09/20/24	pending additional information from the applicant
6	2429 Cowper Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Paver patio	10/28/24	non-compliant, pending revision from the applicant
6	3238 Harrison Street	R1	Building Permit	Portico	11/08/24	pending additional information from the applicant
6	2430 Ridgeway Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Addition	11/13/24	pending additional information from the applicant
6	3313 Grant Street	R1	Building Permit	2nd story addition and renovation	01/15/25	pending staff review
7	1806 Chancellor Street	R1	Building Permit	Remove patio, re-install patio, stepping stones, grill pad, and patio maintenance	06/20/24	pending additional information from the applicant

7	2518 Jackson Avenue	R1	Building Permit	Garage with ADU	06/27/24	pending additional information from the applicant
7	625 Clinton Place	R1	Building Permit	Remove and replace brick paver parking pad	07/01/24	pending additional information from the applicant
7	1501 Central Street	U2	Building Permit	Parking lots, plaza, and landscaping for Ryan Stadium (NU)	07/08/24	pending additional information from the applicant
7	2000 Grant Street	R1	Building Permit	Replace front steps and portion of walk	11/04/24	pending additional information from the applicant
7	1501 Central Street	U2	Zoning Analysis	Demolish softball field bleachers and press box, construct new bleachers, pressbox, lighting, speakers, and associated improvements (NU - Sharon J. Drysdale Field)	12/26/24	pending staff review
7	2149 Pioneer Road	R1	Building Permit	Mudroom replacement and exterior remodel	01/06/25	pending additional information from the applicant
7	2010 Hawthorne Lane	R1	Building Permit	Pave driveway	01/09/25	pending additional information from the applicant
8	1901 Howard Street	C1	Building Permit	Interior tenant improvement, expansion of A Step By Step Learning Academy, daycare center	11/06/24	pending special use application submittal from applicant to amend ordinance granting special use for daycare center
8	1003 Dobson Street	R2	Zoning Analysis	Garage	11/15/24	additional information needed from the applicant
9	2131 Keeney Street	R2	Building Permit	Driveway and walk	06/25/24	pending additional information from the applicant
9	611 Wesley Avenue	R3	Zoning Analysis	ADU	09/03/24	pending additional information from the applicant
9	1621 Monroe Street	R3	Building Permit	Interior remodel, basement kitchen	01/13/25	pending additional information from the applicant

Pending building permit and zoning analysis reviews older than 6 months where there has not been activity are periodically removed from the zoning report.

Miscellaneous Zoning Cases

Ward	Property Address	Zoning	Type	Project Description	Received	Status
------	------------------	--------	------	---------------------	----------	--------



To: Luke Stowe, City Manager
From: David Wilson, HVAC Building Inspector
Subject: Weekly Field Inspection Report
Date: January, 17 2025

Enclosed is the weekly summary report of field inspections for construction projects under special monitoring. The report includes the ward, property address, type of construction, inspector notes, and date received.

Please contact me at davidwilson@cityofevanston.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Weekly Field Inspection Report

Friday, January 17, 2025

Ward	Property Address	Construction Type	Inspector Notes	Received
4	909 Davis	Interior Remodel	Final inspections have begun on the first floor.	1/16/2025
4	1012 Church Street Northlight Theater	Assembly	No changes. Building plans have been submitted and are currently in review. Site and Northlight signage are in good condition. No construction fence at this time.	1/16/2025
*	*	*	*	*
*	Truck Route	*	No changes. Truck route continues to be monitored for speed and debris.	1/16/2025
7	1501 Central Street	Demolition	No changes. Street sweepers continue to address roadway dust and debris. All trucks continue to pass through truck washing station with manual washing of trucks and street. Construction fence is in place and in good condition.	1/16/2025
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ike Ogbo, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

Subject: Food Establishment License Application Weekly Report

Date: January 16, 2025

Ward	Property Address	Business Name	Date Received	Current Status
8	750 Howard St	Sabrosura Coffee Bar	1/09/2025	Pending Review & Inspections
1	1710 Sherman Ave	Tropical Smoothie Café	1/02/2025	Pending Permit Issuance
2	2223 Washington St	Chicky's Kitchen Creations (in the Aux)	1/02/2025	Pending Building Permit Revisions
4	1549 Sherman Ave	Mr. Cachito	12/26/2024	Pending Building Permit
1	720 Clark St	New Koco Table (change of owner)	12/09/2024	Pending Inspections
4	804 Davis St	Paris Baguette	10/30/2024	Permit Issued – Pending Inspections
4	1633 Orrington Ave	Mira Sushi Restaurant & Bar	9/11/2024	Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections
2	1741 Maple Ave	Cozy Thai Cuisine (Relocating)	9/10/2024	Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections
8	1717 Howard St	Showkey African Cuisine	8/26/2024	Pending Permit Application
8	565 Howard St	T & E Productions	8/22/2024	Pending Permit Issuance
1	1710 Sherman Ave	Guzman y Gomez	8/16/2024	Permit Issued – Pending Inspections
3	1310 ½ Chicago Ave	Peeled Juice Bar	5/9/2024	Pending Permit Issuance
2	2223 Washington St	The Laundry Café (in The Aux)	4/23/2024	Building Permit Issued - Pending Inspections
7	1995 Campus Dr	NU Center East Lawn Redevelopment	4/5/2024	Building Permit Issued - Pending Inspections
5	1623 Simpson St	Free Flow Kitchen	3/21/2024	Building Permit Issued - Pending Inspections
1	1618 Sherman Ave	Life Time (Smoothie Bar)	3/19/2024	Building Permit Issued - Pending Inspections
1	521 Davis St	La Cocinita (Relocating)	7/11/2023	Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections
1	1743 Sherman Ave	Olive Mediterranean Grill	12/10/2021	Pending License Issuance



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Brian George, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Date: January 17, 2025

Enclosed is the weekly report of liquor applications received and pending. The report, organized by ward, includes the business address, the type and description of license requested, and current status.

Liquor Licensing Weekly Report

Liquor Applications Received and Pending for week of January 17, 2025

WARD	BUSINESS NAME	BUSINESS ADDRESS	LIQUOR CLASS	CLASS DESCRIPTION	PROCESSED HOURS for LIQUOR SALES	STATUS
1	Guzman Y Gomez	1701 N. Sherman Ave. Evanston, IL 60201	D	Restaurant	7 a.m. — 1 a.m. (Mon-Thurs); 7 a.m. — 2 a.m. (Fri- Sat); 7 a.m. — 1 a.m. (Sun)	Application will be voted on at the Liquor Review Board on 2.7.25
7	Sharon J. Drysdale Field at Northwestern University	1501 N. Central St. Evanston IL 60201	R1	Entertainment venue	Alcohol may be served only on days on which there is a sporting event, recreational activity, or other entertainment event which occurs in the qualifying facility.	Application will be voted on at the Liquor Review Board on 2.7.25
7	Rocky and Berenice Miller Park at Northwestern University	2750 N. Ashland Ave. Evanston, IL 60201	R1	Entertainment venue	Alcohol may be served only on days on which there is a sporting event, recreational activity, or other entertainment event which occurs in the qualifying facility.	Application will be voted on at the Liquor Review Board on 2.7.25



DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY BRIEFING

By NWMC Executive Director Mark L. Fowler



WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17, 2025

Editor's Note:

The NWMC office will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

NWMC Board Approves 2025 Legislative Program, Financial Policies

Thank you to the twenty-five members represented at Wednesday's NWMC Board meeting. The membership unanimously approved the 2025 NWMC Legislative Program, which focuses on three primary areas: preserving public safety pension stability; ensuring that local revenues meet the needs of our shared constituents; and, addressing the transit crisis. The legislative program will be presented to NWMC area legislators over the next few weeks via virtual presentations and will serve as the basis for the annual NWMC Legislative Days in Springfield (see next article).

In other Board action, the membership received an update on the FY2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan, highlighting accomplishments from the second quarter. Staff also presented an update of the activities of the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition, including development of the coalition's portion of the Invest in Communities web platform, <https://investincommunities.org/>. Finally, the Board unanimously approved amendments to the NWMC Financial and Investment policies as well as the Financial Procedures and Controls document. These documents will help guide development of the FY2025-2026 NWMC Budget. *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury*

Join the NWMC in Springfield for Legislative Days

Registration is now open for the Conference's annual Legislative Days in Springfield. This year, members will return to the capitol on Tuesday, February 18 through Thursday, February 20. This week coincides with the Governor JB Pritzker's Budget and State of the State Address, scheduled for Wednesday, February 19. The governor's unveiling of his administration's priorities presents an ideal opportunity for Conference members to engage with lawmakers to share municipal perspectives and other critical issues.

Staff is working to schedule meetings and events for the week which will begin on Tuesday mid-afternoon with a briefing for attendees at the offices of Anderson Legislative Consulting, followed by legislator meetings and committee hearings. That evening, the Conference will host a reception with members and legislators.

Wednesday will focus on meetings with caucus leaders and key legislators combined with reaction to the Governor's budget address. Staff encourages members who wish to attend the address to contact their legislators to secure tickets. For those not attending the address, staff will host a watch party and lunch at the offices of Anderson Legislative Consulting. For those staying through Thursday, staff will schedule additional meetings.

Once the details of the schedule are finalized, we will provide updated information to the membership. In the interim, please complete the [registration form](#) by Friday, February 7 and staff strongly encourages attendees to reserve [hotel accommodations](#) as soon as possible as it's expected to be a busy week. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield! *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury, Chris Staron*

Highlighting Bannockburn's Approach to Cycling Citations

The *Village of Bannockburn* offers a novel approach to address individuals who commit traffic violations while cycling on village roadways. Instead of a formal traffic citation and its attendant fines, eligible individuals can participate in the village's Bicyclist Traffic Citation Diversion Program. By achieving a Bronze Level on [Ride Illinois' Bike Safety Quiz](#), individuals can avoid issuance of a formal traffic citation. For questions about the diversion program, please contact the Bannockburn Police Department, 847-945-8490. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

FEMA BRIC Grant Ensures a Disaster-Resilient Community

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a [NOFO for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) grant program](#). BRIC grants are designed to assist communities in developing disaster risk planning, analyzing hazards and implementing projects to increase resiliency and safety. FEMA will make \$750 million available for the BRIC program. To learn more, including a list of prior applicants and the application process, please visit [FEMA's announcement page](#). Applications must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18. *Staff contact: Eric Czarnota*

Apply Today for FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Flood Mitigation Assistance program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, Indian tribal governments, and local communities to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

All sub applicants must be participating in the NFIP, and not be withdrawn, on probation or suspended. Structures identified in the sub application must have an NFIP policy in effect at the application start date and must maintain it through completion of the mitigation activity and for the life of the structure. Projects must be complete within 36 months with some extensions available. A 25% match is required, but the federal share can cover up to 100% of severe repetitive loss properties.

Applications are due on Friday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m. via the FEMA GO Portal. For more information, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/notice-funding-opportunities/bric-fma>. *Staff contact: Eric Czarnota*

FEMA Opens Swift Current Funding Applications

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current ([Swift Current](#)) program provides \$500 million in funding to reduce flood risk for [NFIP](#)-insured properties with repetitive or substantial flood damage. Funding is available for eligible projects including property acquisition, structure elevation, floodproofing, retrofitting and mitigation reconstruction. Local governments can submit subapplications on behalf of property owners.

Applications are accepted for flood-related disasters declared between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025. Deadlines vary by disaster date. Submit applications via FEMA Grants Outcomes, [FEMA GO](#). For support, contact the [FEMA GO Help Desk](#) or Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Helpline, 877-585-3242. *Staff contact: Eric Czarnota*

Pace ReVision Survey Closing Next Week

As previously reported, the Pace Suburban Bus [ReVision project](#) “seeks to reimagine Pace’s transit network, informed by shifts in travel patterns and rider feedback.” As part of the project, Pace is seeking input from frequent riders and elected officials through an [online survey](#) and series of [open houses](#). Please note that the survey closes on Friday, January 24. Pace is also requesting help to spread the word about ReVision via a [toolkit](#) that features shareable content, graphics, text and links to use in newsletters and on social media. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Apply Today for Invest in Cook Grants

The 2025 Invest in Cook grant program is now open for applications, offering \$8.5 million to local governments and agencies with transportation or recreational trail authority in Cook County. This funding resource supports planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction for municipal projects that follow [Connecting Cook County](#), the county’s long-range transportation plan. Cook County will host a [virtual workshop](#) for interested applicants on Wednesday, February 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, including a list of previously funded projects, please visit the [Invest in Cook website](#), or email InvestinCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Mayors Caucus To Host Recycle Coach Webinar

From the desk of Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Director of Environmental Initiatives Edith Makra:

Please join us at this upcoming webinar to find out more about Recycle Coach, a platform that helps residents understand how to properly recycle or dispose of household materials. The [Illinois EPA has fully funded this](#) for all communities in the state, with the goal of increasing and improving recycling.

Topic: Introducing Recycle Coach

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 29th

Time: 10-11 a.m.

Register: Please [register in advance](#) for the Zoom webinar.

Speakers:

- Jeff J. Galad, President, Recycle Coach
- Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- A municipality will provide insight into onboarding and incorporating Recycle Coach into their community's website.

This extended partnership, led by the Illinois EPA, gives every community, town, municipality, and county access to robust digital tools to help with pick-up schedule reminders, material search tools, collection event details, and other hyper-local education to empower residents to find information fast and efficiently. The information is deployed via a simple web app that codes directly into your website (Two webpage examples of this include the [Village of Mount Prospect](#) and the [City of Chicago](#).) or through the Recycle Coach mobile app.

Many counties and solid waste agencies in our region have already started their onboarding and have been working to set up much of the content for the “What Goes Where” portion of the tool on behalf of all municipalities. Some of the municipalities in our area have also begun onboarding, so don't miss out on the next round of available implementation spots.

Get started with Recycle Coach in your community to reduce contamination, reduce call volumes, and increase recycling rates. No contracts or expenses are required. *Staff contact: Mark Fowler*

Mayors Caucus Opens 2025 Homes for a Changing Region Applications

From the desk of Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Director Neil James:

We are proud to announce that slots are available for assistance in the Mayors Caucus 2025 *Homes for a Changing Region* program. *Homes* helps municipalities identify solutions to their most pressing housing challenges, create a balanced mix of housing types, and serve the needs of multiple generations of residents and workers. *Homes* is a partnership between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and BRicK Partners and is supported by the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Since 2005, *Homes* has helped over 60 municipalities, or one in five of our region's communities, understand and respond to changes in their local housing markets. The *Homes* team will help you understand the current state of your market. We use data, regional expertise, and case studies from peer communities to identify solutions to your community's challenges, which may include:

- Community affordability amid sudden increases in local home prices;
- Ensuring maintenance and preservation of the existing housing stock;
- The need to support seniors aging-in-place and potentially isolated in their homes; and/or
- Increasing the supply of housing options, such as starter homes or the “missing middle”.

Homes will provide fast and highly targeted technical assistance through a housing needs assessment, discussions with local stakeholders, a panel of housing experts, and a final action plan. *Homes* also utilizes a community survey, which will help municipalities identify emerging housing issues and community needs. At the end of the process, the team will identify best practice actions and resources to fund implementation.

Assistance is free. However, our slots for 2025 are very limited. Please fill out the application at [this link](#) by Friday, February 28th to be considered for this free assistance. For more information, please contact Ben Schnelle at bschnelle@mayorscaucus.org. *Staff contact: Mark Fowler*

Wintrust to Host Public Sector Coffee Talks

Wintrust Government Funds has announced two upcoming “Coffee Talks” exploring issues of importance to local government.

The first, entitled "Navigating the Future: Key Topics Shaping Public Entities in 2025 and Beyond", will be held on Wednesday, January 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster Street in *Skokie*. This

event will “explore five critical topics poised to impact public entities in the coming years. The panel will delve into the challenges, opportunities, and strategies needed to drive innovation, resilience, and sustainability within the public sector.” For more information and to register, please visit the [Eventbrite page](#).

The second Coffee Talk will focus on “Strengthening Your Organization’s Brand” and will be held on Wednesday, February 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Wintrust’s Chicago office, 231 S. LaSalle Street. Presenters will discuss: “how to assess your organization’s brand; create messaging to strengthen and differentiate your organization’s brand; and, the rebranding journey of One Family Illinois (formerly SOS Children’s Villages Illinois).” For more information and to register, please visit the [Eventbrite page](#). *Staff contact: Mark Fowler*

Newsy Items of the Week

Bloomberg: [Illinois House Adds Pension Panel With Budget Shortfalls Growing](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Debate of the future of CTA, Metra, Pace, RTA to heat up in Springfield this year](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [CTA President Dorval Carter to retire](#)

Daily Herald: [Bell Works 'Metroburb' leads renaissance of repurposing abandoned corporate HQ sites](#)

Daily Herald: [Suburban school districts slowly rolling out electric school buses](#)

Chicago Tribune: [RTA proposes more bus and train service, fare hikes and stronger central agency as lawmakers prepare to debate future of transit](#)

Daily Herald: [Making its move: RTA proposes universal fares, more trains, cost cuts to counter merger plan](#)

Daily Herald: [Schaumburg has big plans for parcel at Algonquin, Meacham roads](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [“It Was Magnificent”: Illinois legislators take a learning tour of Berlin and Munich transit systems](#)

Meetings and Events

NWMC Transportation Committee will meet on Thursday, January 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC office and via videoconference.

Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Friday, January 24 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*.

NWMC Staff

Mark Fowler	Executive Director	mfowler@nwmc-cog.org
Larry Bury	Deputy Director	lbury@nwmc-cog.org
Eric Czarnota	Program Associate for Transportation	eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org
Ellen Dayan, CPPB	Purchasing Director	edayan@nwmc-cog.org
Marina Durso	Executive Assistant	mdurso@nwmc-cog.org
Brian Larson	Program Associate for Transportation	blarson@nwmc-cog.org
Chris Staron	Policy Analyst	cstaron@nwmc-cog.org

Phone: 847-296-9200 www.nwmc-cog.org