



> City of Evanston

City Council

Judy Fiske
1st Ward



Peter Braithwaite
2nd Ward



Melissa A. Wynne
3rd Ward



Donald N. Wilson
4th Ward



Delores A. Holmes
5th Ward



Mark Tendam
6th Ward



Jane Grover
7th Ward



Ann Rainey
8th Ward



Coleen Burrus
9th Ward



“Creating the most livable city in America.”

THE CITY OF EVANSTON IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING **FISCALLY SOUND, RESPONSIVE MUNICIPAL SERVICES** AND DELIVERING THOSE SERVICES EQUITABLY, PROFESSIONALLY, AND **WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF INTEGRITY.**



Mayor Elizabeth B. Tisdahl

Evanston made great strides in 2011 as we focused on increasing economic activity, bringing greater opportunity and activities to our youth, and keeping Evanston residents safe and healthy, all while managing our finances responsibly. My thanks to the members of the City Council, City staff and our residents for working together to make all of these accomplishments possible.

Values

- Excellent Customer Service
- Continuous Improvement
- Integrity
- Accountability



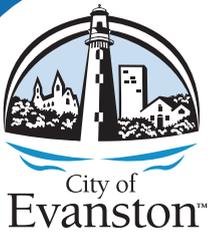
City Council Goals 2011

- Affordable Housing
- Budget Planning
- Capital Improvement Program Planning
- Climate Action Plan
- Economic Development
- Efficiency and Effectiveness of Services
- Federal/State/Regional Government Affairs Agenda
- Lakefront Development
- Northwestern University
- Police and Fire Pension Funding Issues
- Robert Crown Center Improvements
- Safety Issues
- Youth Engagement



City of Evanston™

www.cityofevanston.org



> Awards & Recognitions

The City of Evanston's Water Quality Laboratory at the water treatment facility received a **third consecutive zero deviation rating from the Illinois Department of Public Health**. Over 200 different criteria must be met in order to be in perfect compliance with zero deviations. Ours is one of a select few water quality labs in Illinois that has received this high ranking for three audits in a row.

The Law Department continued to aggressively defend and prevail in litigation brought against the City. These efforts involved close coordination with City departments. In-house defense of litigation has garnered substantial financial savings from lowered fees for outside counsel to reductions in liability payouts.

The Public Works Department was awarded a **\$792,000 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Grant** for traffic signal modernization along Dempster Street. The new signals will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety while reducing car emissions and energy consumption.

The City of Evanston will receive a **\$50,000 Our Town grant** from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), one of only 51 grants awarded nationwide. The funds will go towards developing a concise plan of action to help realize the vision of a performing arts center in the heart of Evanston. The center also will provide space for the community at large.

The City of Evanston Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department was **awarded over \$40,000 in funding for a senior congregate lunch program**. The grant is administered through Age Options, the regional agency that distributes federal funding under the Older Americans Act. The grant offsets the cost of each meal and no eligible senior is denied participation due to an inability to contribute.

In March, the City of Evanston was awarded a **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) technical assistance grant** through the agency's new initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the federal interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The grant will assist the City in developing an implementable water conservation program to be used by the City's Utilities Department and residents.

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl was selected as **one of two of the nation's top winners in the 2011 Mayors' Climate Protection Awards**, an initiative sponsored by The United States Conference of Mayors and Walmart. The annual awards program recognizes mayors for innovative practices in their cities that increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Evanston Health Department **successfully obtained a 5-year recertification from the Illinois Department of Public Health**. The Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) is a community health assessment and planning process that is conducted every five years by local health jurisdictions in Illinois. Evanston's EPLAN selected three priority issues to address: Access to Health Care, Chronic Health Conditions and Obesity.

The Health Department also received **\$100,000 (\$70,000 in year one and \$30,000 in year two) for a project to expand existing dental services to include families, pregnant women and adults with diabetes**. The Health Department currently provides pediatric dentistry in the Morton Civic Center and a mobile dental pediatric clinic in the middle and elementary schools.

For the past 25 years, the City has received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budgeting Award, as well as the Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting.



Samuel McKinley, Jr. of Best Taxi donated \$9,000 towards the purchase roller skates for the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center to continue the roller skating program that began in 2011.



In October 2011, the Evanston Police Department's Traffic Management Bureau received national recognition from the International Association of Chiefs of Police for their traffic safety and enforcement initiatives. Evanston's first place finish in the Law Enforcement Challenge earned them a new police-equipped 2012 Ford Expedition EL.



The Public Works Department hosted its first annual Recycling and Equipment Fair in July. Residents recycled a variety of items including electronics, CFL bulbs, and batteries.





> Infrastructure

The City of Evanston's three downtown parking garages received \$2.5 million in repairs in July as part of the 2011 **Comprehensive Parking Garage Repair Project**. The work included structural concrete repair; waterproofing; upgrades to the mechanicals, including exhaust fans and dampers; electrical; plumbing; and fire protection. The garages remained open during the repairs and permit parking was not affected.

In July 2011, the **Chicago Transit Authority Board approved a \$10.3 million contract** to replace the Purple Line viaducts at Grove, Dempster and Greenleaf Streets in Evanston, as well as repair the retaining wall along Chicago Avenue from Greenleaf to Hamilton Streets. The CTA plans to replace the almost 100-year-old existing viaducts with modern, new steel bridges at the three sites. These new viaducts will be more visually appealing, will change the flow of customers to business on both sides of the viaducts and create greater opportunities for economic development.

City of Evanston staff has worked with the CTA to ensure local business and resident interests are respected. Finally, the City successfully brokered an agreement between CTA and Jewel/Osco to allow the CTA to build the new Greenleaf viaduct in the Jewel/Osco parking lot at Chicago and Greenleaf. This agreement keeps Greenleaf open to east - west traffic throughout 99% of the construction project, thereby preserving access to schools and neighborhoods.

The Evanston Utilities Department pumped 14.2 billion gallons of safe drinking water without interruption and with no violations to over 360,000 people throughout the year. This was accomplished even though a fire in the electrical switchgear equipment required the water treatment facility to be run on emergency generator power for over 22 days.

Six sections of water main totaling 1.3 miles in length with an average age of 93 years were replaced in 2011. Three of the sections replaced were in areas of chronic water main breaks, and the other three were replaced with a larger diameter water main to improve fire flow availability in the area.

Using only in-house personnel, the department successfully repaired 28 water main breaks with an average water service interruption of only 2.13 hours and installed over 650 feet of relief sewer main to resolve street flooding issues at four locations.

The City approved a new 2.25 year term contract for the purchase of natural gas to 16 city-owned facilities. The new contract price is anticipated to realize an annual savings of over \$96,000.

The Public Works Department completed over \$10.3 million in street, water main, traffic, alley and sidewalk improvement projects last year including the resurfacing of three major thoroughfares; Sheridan Road (Burnham to Emerson), Emerson Avenue (Leland to Asbury) and Dodge Avenue (Oakton to Lee). The projects were completed well under the \$12 million budgeted and \$5.2 million of the projects were funded by local, state and federal grants.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department completed construction of over one mile of new multi-use trails along the lakefront from Lee Street to the Clark Street Beach. The project was partially funded by Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants.



Many public trees were lost in 2011 due to several severe summer storms and the Emerald Ash Borer. The Forestry Division received a \$30,000 grant to replace ash trees.

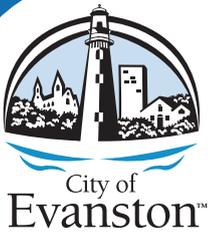


The Public Works Department coordinated a multi-department effort to successfully clear the city of 21 inches of snow in early February, the third largest blizzard recorded in Evanston's history.



Library staff and volunteers raised over \$251,000 in FY 2011 to provide much needed financial support for library services and collections.





> Sustainability

In 2011, departments across the City worked together to promote sustainability by focusing on applying the latest technology, efficiently managing natural resources and achieving financial savings.

The Public Works Department introduced green technology in its resurfacing project on Sheridan Road by constructing permeable pavement in the parking lanes.

Get Caught Thinking G.R.E.E.N. (Greater Recycling in Every Evanston Neighborhood) recycling appreciation program was initiated and recycling was expanded to business districts and athletic fields. Over 9,000 tons of recycling was collected across Evanston in 2011.

The City contracted with Exelon Corporation for the purchase of electrical power to 23 city-owned facilities for a three-year term. The electrical power includes a 25% renewable energy component, which reduces greenhouse emissions equivalent to removing approximately 680 cars from the road annually. Based on the new contract price, the City expects to realize an annual savings of over \$350,000.

Climate Action Plan

The City continued implementing the Evanston Climate Action Plan and incorporated sustainability into City operations, practices and policies. In these tough economic times, staff focused on leveraging grants and working with community partners to deliver cost-effective projects and programs.

A great example of successful partnerships for sustainability was the "Big 7 Savers" contest. To date, the contest has spurred 1,689 new households to join the CUB Energy Saver online program, thanks to the great work of staff at Evanston/Skokie School District 65, Evanston Township High School, Northwestern University, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Rotary International, St. Francis Hospital and the City. In total, Evanston residents have saved more than \$40,000 and 400,000 kWh of electricity using CUB Energy Saver's online tool. This is the equivalent of removing approximately 50 cars from the road each year.

The City has also achieved energy savings from energy-efficient lighting projects completed at the Ecology Center, Chandler-Newberger Center, and the upgrading of 277 street lights. Renewable energy was generated from the City's 25 kW rooftop solar PV project at the water treatment plant, which produced 30.5 mega-watt hours of electricity in 2011 and offset emissions equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 540 tree seedlings growing for 10 years. All of these projects were made possible by grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Citizen involvement in implementing the Climate Action Plan has been essential and has included efforts by the Environment Board, Utilities Commission, Mayor's Wind Farm Committee and dozens of other grass-roots citizen and student groups.

Our outstanding work has been recognized by state and national organizations, earning Evanston several prestigious awards. In Illinois, Evanston was one of only five local governments that received the 2011 Governors' Sustainability Award for our significant achievements in protecting the environment, helping sustain the future, and improving the economy.

The National Environmental Hall of Fame Award was presented to Evanston for our work in creating and implementing projects in our community that address social, environmental and financial aspects of sustainability.

The United States Conference of Mayors selected Evanston from the pool of 130 applicants for the 2011 Climate Protection Award for the City's efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Award sponsor Walmart provided a \$15,000 check, which was donated to the not-for-profit organization Citizens' Greener Evanston to continue support for Climate Action Plan implementation.

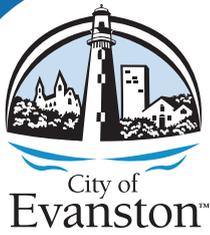


The City of Evanston held a volunteer day in support of National Public Lands Day on September 24 at the Community Gardens located at James Park. Volunteers improved the exterior of the community gardens by collecting garbage, pulling weeds and laying mulch.



For the 2011 Chicagoland Car-Free Day, the City of Evanston partnered with the Active Transportation Alliance, CTA, Metra, Pace, RTA and communities around the region to shine a spotlight on ways of getting around without driving.





> A Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

The national economy remains an area of concern for the City of Evanston, as it impacts the local economy in numerous ways, including employment, housing and economic development. As a result, staff has been diligent about monitoring expenses and revenues to ensure that the City remains fiscally stable in these challenging economic times, while still providing core services in the most responsible ways possible.

2011 Budget Performance

The City ended the ten-month transitional 2011 fiscal year in stable financial condition. The City's financial performance is the result of revenues remaining relatively consistent with budget targets and expenditures being held below budgeted levels. Staff anticipates the City will close FY 2011 with a General Fund surplus of approximately \$1.8 million.

Purchasing Policy

The Administrative Services Department worked extensively with Law Department staff to revise the City's Purchasing Manual. As part of the Purchasing Manual update, staff developed standardized contracts and agreements which are currently being used for City purchases.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Process

The FY 2012 budget was the culmination of months of effort by the entire City staff and community members to balance available resources and services required or desired by residents, businesses and visitors. The FY 2012 budget marks the City's return to a normal twelve-month fiscal year budget structure for the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. This contrasts with the ten-month transitional 2011 budget which allowed the City to shift to a calendar budget in 2012.

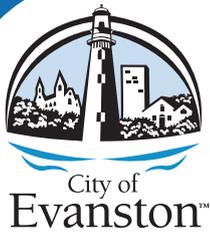
The FY 2012 budget is the third consecutive budget year in which the City has facilitated a community budget process. This year's process, called Engage Evanston, enabled residents to discuss community priorities and budgetary challenges, help shape budget priorities, and generate service change ideas that either reduced costs or enhanced revenues to decrease the projected budget deficit. Residents were encouraged to participate in a budget survey (online, hard copy, or via 311) and provide live feedback at two budget workshops. In total, the City received over 1,000 responses to the budget survey and 45 residents attended the budget workshops. This engagement was all accomplished before a proposed budget was presented to the City Council for public review and discussion. The input of residents during this process was highly valuable and was incorporated into the development of the 2012 budget, as has been done in previous years.

In addition to the Engage Evanston process, staff conducted an extensive internal review of City services. This review process included the identification, evaluation and prioritization of 96 City service areas. As part of this process, City services and programs were rated according to several criteria. These included cost recovery, reliance on the City for service provision, economic viability and service demand. Services also were scored based on relevance to City Council goals and the Strategic Plan. At the conclusion of the service prioritization exercise, staff reviewed lower priority items and formulated recommendations for reducing costs associated with providing these services.

The City Council review process for the FY 2012 Budget began on October 7, 2011 with the publishing of the FY 2012 Proposed Budget. The FY 2012 Proposed Budget contained an operating deficit in the General Fund of approximately \$2.4 million and staff recommendations for addressing this budget gap. After publishing the proposed budget, the City Council held three budget discussion meetings in an effort to address the General Fund operating deficit and other budgetary issues. These budget discussion meetings were held in addition to the Budget Public Hearing and the Truth in Taxation Hearing. Through these budget discussion meetings, the City Council developed a plan to balance the General Fund budget in 2012. The FY 2012 budget was adopted by the City Council on November 28, 2011 and was published on January 19, 2012.

 EngageEvanston





> Economic Development

In 2011, the Community & Economic Development Department's three divisions worked together on a variety of development and business activity programs.

Economic Development Division

The Economic Development staff took the lead with existing businesses interested in rehabilitating their buildings and/or expanding their facilities, as well as new businesses that were considering locating in Evanston. A team effort from all City departments enabled the following new businesses, retention, and expansion projects:

Ward Manufacturing Expansion 2230 Main Street

City Council approved financial assistance for Ward Manufacturing Company, a metal stamping company that employed 43 people. As a direct result of City-supported Economic Development assistance, Ward Manufacturing Company has been able to remain and grow in their Evanston location. Due to the company's rehabilitation and expansion, seven new jobs have been added to their workforce with additional jobs to be added in 2012.

GFS Marketplace 2424 Oakton Street

Staff and Gordon Foods worked together to develop an economic development package that would help alleviate the financial burden of the site preparation costs and contamination remediation for the GFS Marketplace at 2424 Oakton Street. This accomplishment supports the City's Economic Viability goal, and will offer a greater diversity of grocery options for Evanston residents and visitors. Additionally, the store will create 30-35 new jobs.

Converged Communication Systems/ Stratosphere Networks, 1732 Central Street

The Economic Development Division facilitated Converged Communication Systems/Stratosphere Networks' expansion by awarding them approximately \$8,000 in Façade Improvement Program funds, conducting research and analysis of the environmental conditions on their expansion site, and solving potential parking challenges at their new location. With assistance from the Building & Inspection Services Division to help expedite interior permits, Converged Communication Systems/Stratosphere Networks have expanded their business significantly, hiring 15 new employees and increasing their revenues by 70% from 2010.

Planning & Zoning Division

The Planning & Zoning Division served as a resource for improving and maintaining neighborhoods, historic districts, downtown, and the industrial and commercial areas of the City. Examples include:

Demolition and Construction of AMLI Development, 737 Chicago Avenue

This transit-oriented planned development includes 214 rental housing units and revitalizes four parcels that were occupied by two vacant buildings, a vacant lot, and an underutilized commercial building that had to be closed for structural reasons.

Sienna (now Focus) and 1700 Central Street Amendment Entitlements

City Council approved amended entitlements for Sienna (now Focus) and 1700 Central Street. These entitlements are for two vacant parcels which will generate 250 units of rental housing during 2012. These were previously approved as condominium developments before the economy collapsed in 2007.

NSP 2 Grant Funds

Through the efforts of Planning & Zoning Division staff, the City acquired 77 units of foreclosed housing using Neighborhood Stabilization 2 grant funds. Per the NSP 2 guidelines, these units are located in the two census tracts experiencing the most significant housing foreclosure problems. Once rehabbed, these units will become owner occupied or rental housing and will stabilize the targeted neighborhoods.

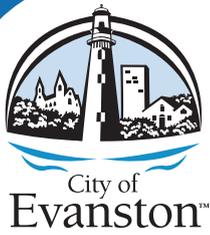
Relocation of Roycemore School

In 2011, staff worked with Roycemore School officials to relocate the facility to the former Methodist Pension Board Office Building on Davis Street. This provided an opportunity for the expansion of the school and revitalized a vacant building in a prominent corridor.

Building & Inspection Services Division

In 2011, the division continued its objective to ensure safe, clean, and attractive neighborhoods to the Evanston community. The Building & Inspection Services Division provides ongoing assistance to the Economic & Development Division staff and customers, through their expertise on matters concerning building and permits. Initiatives such as these enable the Building & Inspection Services staff to develop positive working relationships with the business community. The division performed the following code compliance inspections in 2011:

- 4,269 dwelling units;
- 831 sign inspections;
- 7,266 graffiti inspections;
- 6,058 graffiti tag removals;
- 12 single family home rehab projects



> Public Safety

In 2011, **Evanston Fire and Life Safety Services** responded to 9,063 calls for service, resulting in 19,543 apparatus responses. This was the second highest total call volume in Department history. The 5,467 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responses were 60.3% of the call volume and the highest ever call total. The average response times for both fire and emergency calls were again below the four-minute standard set by the National Fire Protection Administration.

A total of 3,596 of the calls were related to Fire response. Last year, Evanston Fire responded to and mitigated 157 fires, which resulted in an estimated loss of \$3,275,058 in property value. Due to our firefighters' outstanding efforts, tactics and response times, they were able to save over 94% of the properties involved in structure fires, for a total of \$557,121,168 in saved property value.

Twelve new members were hired in 2011 and three community outreach programs were initiated: citizen CPR instruction, the File of L.I.F.E. program and a Fire Chaplain program. All paramedics were offered the opportunity to obtain certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and a mandatory wellness and fitness program was implemented.

Thanks to a grant and the cooperation of the City's Fleet Services Division, a new aerial ladder truck was placed into service. This is the City's first new aerial truck ladder in over 20 years. In addition, Northwestern University donated \$253,000 to purchase a new ambulance, which is expected to be in service in the spring of 2012.

The **Evanston Police Department** had another award-winning and crime-reducing year in 2011.

Thanks to strong community policing, undercover operations, surveillance cameras and a new police outpost, there was an overall minor reduction in crime of .3 percent. There were 2,331 part I crimes reported in 2011 compared to 2,324 in 2010. However, the most significant reductions occurred in the area of violent crime. Murder was reduced by 40% (5 in 2010 to 3 in 2011), Aggravated Battery & Assaults were reduced by 23.8% (126 in 2010 to 96 in 2011) and police response to calls of shots fired had a reduction of 28.3 percent.

During 2011, the Evanston Police Department concluded two major undercover narcotics operations that were initiated with the goal of reducing violent crime. They were Operation Bloodhound, which specifically targeted the "Belizean Bloods" and Street Gang and Operation Reply, which focused on narcotics sales at street and mid-level dealers in Evanston and surrounding communities. These two operations netted a total of 54 individuals arrested.

Illegal drug dealing has a direct link to violent crime within criminal organizations. These extended undercover operations directly disrupted criminal organizations which sell illegal drugs and use firearms to conduct their criminal enterprises. Evanston is a safer place because of these cooperative efforts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Cook County Sheriff working with Evanston Police.



The average response times for both fire and emergency calls were again below the four-minute standard set by the National Fire Protection Administration.



The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department distributed 33,000 free meals to kids age 1-18 during the summer of 2011. The Summer Food Program was made possible by a \$109,000 grant from the Illinois State Board of Education. In total, the Department received \$273,000 in grants and \$130,000 in donations for the year.



The City's 311 center opened on March 1, 2011 and by the end of the year had received over 100,000 phone calls. Data collection from operations yielded efficiencies in several areas of city service, including faster response to broken parking meters and a simplified scheduling of building permit inspections.





Photo by Silvio Ribeiro

> 2012 & Beyond

“*The City will connect with our residents any way and any time that is convenient for them.*”

Economic Development

Efforts continue citywide on a wide range of economic development projects. The City will adopt a revised economic development plan, which will target industries to attract to Evanston as well as support our existing businesses. Efforts for revitalization will be focused on the west side, Chicago Avenue corridor and Howard Street.

The Arts

A new focus on the arts in Evanston is an important project for 2012. The City will develop ways to enhance the use of the Noyes Cultural Arts Center to better serve existing artists and the community, develop long-range plans for the future of the Harley Clarke Mansion, continue to plan arts facilities for the Downtown and Howard Street areas, and initiate arts programs to serve the entire community.

Youth and Young Adults

The City has refocused its efforts on these areas with a renewed effort on job training and skills development for youth 16 to 25 years of age. The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program will be expanded to serve youth year-round, while the 2012 Super Summer Recreation Program will provide an increased number of activities.

Robert Crown Center

The City will finalize plans for the construction of a new Robert Crown Center to offer expanded ice-skating and recreation opportunities for all Evanston residents. The new Center will be built adjacent to the existing center and accomplished by a public-private partnership.

Community Safety

The Evanston Police Department will continue its close partnership with the community in all aspects of public safety. Special focus will continue on pedestrian and school safety issues, as well as working with neighborhoods to prevent crimes of all kinds.

Citizen Engagement

The City will continue to leverage the success of its 3-1-1 operations to better engage with the community on all levels and in various ways. The City will connect with our residents any way and any time that is convenient for them. New uses of social media will continue to be explored, as well as additional ways for residents to meet in person to discuss City issues.



The Evanston Public Library increased circulation of digital books (e-books) by 125% in 2011. EPL has the second highest circulation of e-books in a consortium of 64 libraries throughout the state. Library users are able to download library e-books from home to their Kindle, Nook or other e-readers.



The City of Evanston's first Food Truck Fest was held at Brummel Park in conjunction with a free Starlight Concert. Food trucks are set to return to additional free concerts in the park this summer.



The Evanston Police Department embarked on an eight hour virtual ride-along for Twitter followers of the City of Evanston. Almost all emergency calls were tweeted directly from the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center on Friday, November 4, 2011 from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Copyright 2012 – City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston IL 60201
info@cityofevanston.org
City Information: 311 or 847-448-4311 outside Evanston
Facebook.com/CityofEvanston
Twitter.com/CityofEvanston

