

December 2024

Dear Village Property Taxpayer,

Your property tax bill includes contributions to four jurisdictions: the Village, the school district, Dane County, and Madison College (MATC). The Village portion of your bill will increase by approximately **2.58%** from 2023—lower than the **3.2% Consumer Price Index (CPI)**. Additionally, the Village expects to end 2024 with a **\$113,000 surplus**, thanks to general fund revenues exceeding the budget by \$114,000 while expenditures were only \$1,000 over budget.

The Village's share of your property taxes directly supports essential services and projects, including **Police, Fire/EMS Services, Public Works, Parks and Forestry, Recreation**, Village debt service, and the Small Capital Fund.

As we reflect on 2024 and look ahead to 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster a **safe, sustainable, and resilient community** through high-quality, cost-effective services. Below, we share the year's highlights and upcoming projects that embody our values of sustainability, accessibility, and community engagement.

2024 Highlights

This year, we undertook several impactful initiatives to enhance our community:

- **Strategic Governance Framework:** Launched a governance project to clarify Village Board priorities, emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and accountability.
- **Extensive Community Engagement:** Conducted surveys, town hall meetings, and forums to involve residents in key discussions on McKenna Park, Village planning, budgeting, and more.
- **Environmental Stewardship:**
 - Adopted a **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)** to guide park improvements and secure DNR grant eligibility.
 - Acquired a **new street sweeper** to improve water quality and exceed stormwater runoff requirements.
- **Celebrating History:** Gained national attention for the discovery of **ancient dugout canoes** in Lake Mendota, one potentially 4,500 years old. A Town Hall with the State Archaeologist highlighted our commitment to preserving Indigenous history.
- **Community Events:**
 - Hosted over **2,000 swimmers and 6,000 spectators** at the All-City Swim Meet.
 - **Shorewood Summer Nites** food carts and live music and the **Green Market** provided fun, sustainable community experiences.
 - The 4th Annual **SWAP & Donation Pick-Up** promoted recycling, reusing, and charitable giving.

- **Energy Efficiency Education:** Partnered with MG&E to host a workshop on energy savings, rebates, and renewable energy options.
 - **Infrastructure Improvements:**
 - Completed the **University Avenue reconstruction** and launched the **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** system with three new stations in Shorewood Hills.
 - Secured federal funding through the **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)** program to enhance safety for all.
 - **Climate Action:** Joined the **Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC)** to support sustainability initiatives regionally and locally.
-

Looking Ahead: 2025 Projects

We are excited about upcoming initiatives that align with our commitment to sustainability, quality service, and inclusivity:

1. **McKenna Park Master Plan:** Develop a comprehensive plan with design improvements for one of our most cherished green spaces.
 2. **Pool Building Renovations Planning:** Begin planning upgrades to ensure the pool remains safe and enjoyable for all residents.
 3. **Village Strategic Plan:** Create our first-ever strategic plan with significant community input to guide priorities for the next 3–5 years.
 4. **Website Overhaul:** Redesign the Village website to improve transparency, accessibility, and usability.
 5. **Facilities Planning:** Initiate design for new or rehabilitated Village facilities to meet current and future needs.
 6. **Governance Structure Streamlining:** Align our governance structure with the strategic plan to enhance service delivery and community engagement.
 7. **Native Plantings:** Replant native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers along the bike trail and behind the pool, improving biodiversity, climate resilience, and pollinator habitats.
-

We are proud of our shared accomplishments and excited for the opportunities ahead in 2025. Thank you for your continued support and engagement, which makes Shorewood Hills a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community.



John Imes, Village President



Brian Mooney, Village Administrator