

**EMBRACE
OPPORTUNITY**



**HONOR
TRADITION**

MAY/JUNE 2024

Village of Hampshire Approves Rate/Fee Increases to Address Critical Infrastructure Needs

Save the Date: Open House on Village infrastructure needs and rate/fee increases is Thursday, May 9 at the Village of Hampshire Utilities Facility.

On April 18, the Hampshire Village Board approved increases to the community's water and sewer rates, and water and sewer capital improvement fees. This decision was made after a considerable amount of due diligence was performed, which determined much of the Village's water and sewer infrastructure is now at the end of its useful life and in need of repair or replacement. It was also learned that if these critical needs are not addressed, efficient and safe water and sewer service delivery would be jeopardized in the future.

The specific increases are below, and will take effect May 1, 2024. Homeowners will see the increases on the July 1, 2024, bill:

- Water Rate: Increasing from \$5.67 per 1,000 gallons to \$6.24.
- Sewer Rate: Increasing from \$7.07 per 1,000 gallons to \$7.30.
- Water Capital Improvement Fee: Increasing from \$10 bi-monthly to \$30 bi-monthly.
- Sewer Capital Improvement Fee: Increasing from \$10 bi-monthly to \$20 bi-monthly.
- The estimated rate increases for an average home using 11,000 gallons of water bi-monthly is \$19.83 per month/\$237.96 per year.

What will the Village use these additional funds for?

Funds will be used for rehabilitation or replacement of vital infrastructure that delivers water to the community, and safely treats wastewater. This work will help the Village to prevent service disruptions that stem from water main breaks, boil orders and equipment failure. Among the work that will take place are upgrades to aging pipes, improvements/upgrades at water treatment facilities and for sewer/wastewater treatment processes and planning for preventative maintenance that reduces or eliminates emergency replacements – which come at a much higher cost. The Village will also be upgrading 2.652 miles of 4" and 3.977 miles of 6" water mains that will provide consistent water service, including flow, and pressure.

More information on studies and due diligence performed, rates and fees in comparable communities, when and where improvement projects will be made and more can be found on the Village's FAQ page at hampshireil.org/utility-master-plan. Questions or comments can be emailed to utilitmasterplan@hampshireil.org. Residents are encouraged to attend an Open House Thursday, May 9 at the Village of Hampshire Utilities Facility, located at 350 Mill Avenue, to learn more and ask any questions of Village representatives about these infrastructure needs and the rate and fee increases that will make them possible.

Page 3

Local Attractions

IN THIS ISSUE

[A Message from the Village President](#)

[Hydrant Flushing](#)

[Upcoming Opportunities](#)

[New Intern](#)

[Garage Sale](#)

[Police Recruit Sworn In](#)

[Fire Station Open House](#)

[My Hampshire App](#)

Linda Vasquez

Sadly, shortly after her retirement as Village Clerk, Linda Vasquez passed away.

For 22 years Hampshire was blessed with Linda's giving spirit that was evident in everything she did. Over the years she affected the lives of every village employee and countless Hampshire residents.

A memorial service and tree planting ceremony were held in Henpeck Park on April 26th to honor her memory.

In memoriam, the Village of Burlington planted a tree at Henpeck Park dedicated to her memory and her loyal and dedicated service to the Village and residents of Hampshire.





A MESSAGE FROM MIKE REID
President, Village of Hampshire

Stewardship of Hampshire

Dear Residents,

The Village is constantly looking at all the services we provide to our community to ensure we can continually deliver them at optimal levels. After doing the work to complete our Capital Improvement Plan, conduct a Utility Rate Study, and complete our Utilities Master Plan, it became evident that now is the time to address our aging water and sewer infrastructure. A substantial portion of this infrastructure is now at the end of its useful life, and, unfortunately, future planning for these critical systems in our Village has not taken place for years. So, as a Board, we were left with having to come up with a plan to ensure these systems can efficiently and effectively run well into the future, so that Hampshire continues to be a desirable place to live, raise a family, work and enjoy life.

On April 18, the Village Board approved increases for water and sewer rates, and water and sewer capital improvement fees to address these needs. This decision was made only after careful review and the due diligence mentioned above. Through this, it became evident we

must comprehensively fund maintenance and replacement of this critical infrastructure to provide clean drinking water, and ensure our wastewater systems are not only efficient, but also safe for our community for decades to come.

Our job as your elected officials is to be strong and solid stewards of the many systems that serve Hampshire. Please know we do not immediately look at increases that impact our community members as the only way to fund the Village's needs. Instead, we seek out grants whenever we can to assist with costs, and that includes nearly \$2 million in funds that addressed waterline replacement and flood remediation in recent years. In this situation, the Village did not qualify for grant funding and therefore had to seek alternative ways to fund these needed infrastructure improvements. These increases were the only viable option.

Please visit our FAQ page at hampshireil.org/utility-master-plan for a list of frequently asked questions. If you have a question that you don't see there, please

email utilitmasterplan@hampshireil.org and you will receive a response. Additionally, this information will be added to the Village's FAQ page to address and answer all questions from our community.

Open House

I invite you to attend an upcoming Open House to ask questions and learn more about these critical infrastructure needs on Thursday, May 9 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Village of Hampshire Utilities Facility, located at 350 Mill Avenue.

Our job as a Village Board is to ensure that Hampshire remains a strong community that is always planning ahead. I hope that if you have additional questions or feedback, you will join us at our Open House May 9 or reach out through email.

Please remember, we are all in this, together.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Reid
President, Village of Hampshire

Questions? Please visit:
hampshireil.org

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Village Public Works crews will be in your neighborhood this spring to flush the hydrants on your street. This involves flowing fire hydrants to create high water flows that will scour out fine sediments from the water main. This work is being done as a part of our ongoing effort to deliver the safest and highest quality water to you.

What do you need to do?

- Expect temporary discolored water.
- Avoid washing clothes.
- Clean faucet screens if low pressure or if low volume.

Schedule of neighborhoods for fire hydrant flushing:

- Old Mill Manor Subdivision, Hillcrest Ave, Highland Ave, and Panama St. April 29, 30, and May 1 -2024
- White Oak Ponds and Highlands Subdivisions. May 1, 2, 3 - 2024
- Tuscany Woods Subdivision. May 6, 7, 8 - 2024
- Historic Part of Town East of State St. May 8, 9, 10 - 2024
- Historic Part of Town West of State St. May 13, 14, 15 - 2024
- Prairie Ridge Subdivision. May 15, 16, 17 - 2024
- Hampshire Prairie and Meadows, Week of 5-20 to 24
- Lakewood Subdivision, week of 5-20 to 24

Frequently Asked Questions

• Why is hydrant flushing necessary?

Hydrant flushing enhances water quality by flushing sediment from the pipe mains, verifies the proper operation of hydrants and valves, and maintains firefighting capability.

• What should I do when they are flushing hydrants in my area?

If you see a crew flushing hydrants on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or dish washer until the flushing is done.

• What should I do after flushing?

If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out full of sediment that cause discoloration. Shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear, it is OK to use. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, there may be a slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect water quality. There is no health hazards associated with discolored water. Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash a load of dark cloths first. If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

• Why does my water look funny after flushing?

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while fine sediment particles are flushed out. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify if water is clear, run your cold-water tap for a few minutes.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

The Village of Hampshire and the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce are promoting Hampshire as a great local tourism destination - with an array of local businesses, family activities and outdoor recreation. Explore the list below and help spread the word about a charming weekend getaway in Hampshire.

Mark your calendar for these local attractions

**Village Of Hampshire
Open House
Hampshire Utilities Facility
350 Mill Ave
Thurs, May 9th
4 - 7pm**

**Illinois Railway Museum
Nebraska Zephyr Dinner Trips
Memorial Day Weekend
May 25, 26 & 27**

**Chamber of Commerce
Support local businesses**

**Ella Johnson Library
Summer Reading Kickoff
Petting Zoo
June 7th**

**Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Street Dance & Festival
July 12th**

**Century 21
Neighborhood Garage Sale
May 9 - 11**

**Hampshire Historical Society
Sock Hop
JUNE 8TH**

**Ella Johnson Library
Mobile Extreme Gaming
June 19th**

For a full list of activities for Seniors call 224-828-0303 or visit hampshiretownship.org or email Seniors@hampshiretownship.org

NEW INTERN

The Village of Hampshire has a new intern - Allison Hill.

Allison is from Gilberts, and she graduated from Hampshire High School with the class of 2019. Allison holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics with Honors from Catholic University of America and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Policy from DePaul University with a certificate in Community Development.


At DePaul University, Allison is involved in several research and public service organizations, and she hopes to gain experiences that will help lead her to a meaningful career in public service.

Some of her roles here at the village include helping to implement a new municipal records management system and assisting the Village Clerk and Finance Director with their daily tasks. She is excited about the opportunity of making positive contributions to the village, and she feels she has already learned so much about local government and serving the community in her short time here at Hampshire.

GARAGE SALE



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

-  @hampshirevillage
-  @villageofhampshire
-  @HampshireIL

Receive Village E-Newsletters in Your Email Inbox: www.hampshireil.org/newsletter



POLICE RECRUIT SWORN IN

The Village Board welcomed Police Recruit Annie Rohrdantz to the village at the Board Meeting on April 18th.

Ms. Rohrdantz is joining the Hampshire Police Department as a new recruit and will be headed to the Sauk Valley Community College Police Academy on May 5th. She graduated from Dundee-Crown High School and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice at Elgin Community College. She most recently worked as a Records Clerk at the Elgin Police Department. Police Recruit Rohrdantz was sworn in by Police Chief Doug Pann.



Her proud father, Robert, had the honor of pinning on her badge.



FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

EXCITING NEWS FROM HAMPSHIRE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT!

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF STATION 2 OPENING

Saturday, June 1 from 11-2

1449 Gast Rd

Hampshire, IL

Parking available in Tamms Farms Subdivision & Hampshire High School parking lot

Station Tours, Activities and Food Trucks

Did you know about the smoke detector program?

- It's **FREE**, and for **ALL** Residents.
- Get help changing batteries*.
- Check smoke and CO detectors to ensure they are operating properly.
- Remember: smoke and CO detectors need to be replaced every 5 - 10 years, or follow the manufacturer's recommendation.
- Call the Hampshire Fire Protection District at **(847) 683-2629** to schedule a visit.

*Note: Homeowners are required to supply batteries at the time of the appointment.



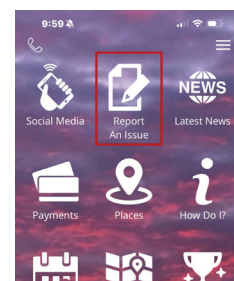
MY HAMPSHIRE APP

Code Enforcement / My Hampshire App

Did you know you can use the My Hampshire app to report code enforcement violations? Just download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, find the Report an Issue button on the home screen, and select one of the many types of issues you see in town to report. The report will be sent directly to the appropriate department for investigation and enforcement.

Issues you can report include:

- Tall grass/weeds
- Illegal parking
- Unkept structures
- Junk vehicles
- Streetlight malfunctions
- Downed trees
- Water main breaks
- And more!



The Village Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month at 7pm at Village Hall, 234 S. State Street in Hampshire. Village Board Meetings are public, and residents are welcome to attend.

Village of Hampshire
234 S. State Street
P.O. Box 457
Hampshire, IL 60140-0457
(847) 683-2181
hampshireil.org

Village Hall (847) 683-2181
Building Department - SAFEbuilt (847) 510-4104
Police Department (847) 683-2240
Hampshire Township (847) 683-9464
Hampshire Fire Protection District (847) 683-2629
Hampshire Township Park District (847) 683-2690