



Memorandum

To: Mayor Biss and Members of the City Council
From: Luke Stowe, City Manager
Subject: Weekly City Manager's Update
Date: January 26, 2024

STAFF REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

Weekly Report for January 22, 2024 – January 26, 2024

City Manager's Office

No Weekly Bids Advertised

Community Development

Weekly Zoning Report

Weekly Inspection Report

Health Department

Weekly Food Establishment Application Report

Law Department

Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Legislative Reading

NWMC Weekly Briefing

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

Monday, January 29, 2024

6:30 PM: [Special Housing & Community Development Committee](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

No Meetings Scheduled

Thursday, February 1, 2024

9:00 AM: [Reparations Committee Meeting](#)

5:30 PM: [City-School Liaison Committee](#)

Friday, February 2, 2024

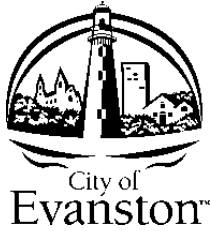
No Meetings Scheduled

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: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Elizabeth Williams, Planning & Zoning Manager
Subject: Weekly Zoning Report
Date: January 26, 2024

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 18, 2024 - January 24, 2024

Backlog (business days received until reviewed): 0

Volume (number of cases pending staff review): 0

Zoning Reviews

| Ward | Property Address | Zoning | Type | Project Description | Received | Status |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 733 Colfax Street | R1 | Building Permit | Patio | 08/29/23 | pending additional information/revisions from the applicant |
| 1 | 2121 Orrington Avenue | R1 | Building Permit | Enlarge lower deck and repair upper deck | 12/08/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 2 | 653 Dodge Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Patio | 06/13/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 2 | 1139 Fowler Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Patio and parking pad (work done without a permit) | 07/10/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 2 | 1553 Dewey Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Remove concrete patio, walks, and pad, install paver patio and walk | 09/19/23 | pending additional information/revisions from the applicant |
| 2 | 1829 Dempster Street | C2 | Zoning Analysis | Modify existing drive-thru to add a 2nd lane, minor site repairs (Burger King) | 09/27/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 2 | 1500 Crain Street | R3 | Zoning Analysis | Convert detached garage to an ADU | 12/06/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 3 | 1245 Chicago Avenue | B1 | Building Permit | Addition to existing commercial building (Space) | 11/20/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 3 | 504 South Boulevard | R5 | Building Permit | New 5-story 62' tall multi-family building with 60 dwelling units (Lot 1) | 12/29/23 | pending additional information/revisions from the applicant |
| 4 | 1552 Wesley Avenue | R1 | Zoning Analysis | Driveway | 06/22/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 4 | 1118 Elmwood Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Awning | 07/31/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 4 | 1113 Sherman Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Accessory structure for storage | 08/02/23 | pending additional information and revisions from the applicant |
| 5 | 1935 Brown Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Concrete slab | 06/20/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 5 | 2020 Dodge Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Replace front steps, construct new landing at side of residence | 07/03/23 | non-compliant, pending revisions and/or minor variation application from the applicant |
| 5 | 1820 Laurel Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Concrete slab | 07/11/23 | non-compliant, pending revisions/minor variation application 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 | 801 Simpson Street | R5 | Zoning Analysis | Make remodeled garden level dwelling unit legal | 09/19/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 5 | 2011 Darrow Avenue | R4 | Zoning Analysis | Remodel existing 3-dwelling unit building and add an ADU to garage | 10/05/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 5 | 2125 Darrow Avenue | R4 | Building Permit | 2-car garage | 12/04/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |

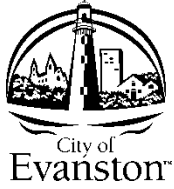
| | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | 2415 McDaniel Avenue | R1 | Zoning Analysis | Detached 2-car garage | 06/05/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 6 | 2767 Crawford Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Driveway and retaining wall extension | 06/26/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 6 | 2421 Crawford Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Remove existing asphalt and concrete, replace with permeable patio and sidewalk | 08/23/23 | non-compliant, pending revisions or major variation application from applicant |
| 6 | 2300 Park Place | R1 | Building Permit | 2nd story addition to a garage for an ADU | 11/01/23 | pending revisions from the applicant |
| 6 | 3233 Central Street | R4/oCSC | Zoning Analysis | New 9 townhomes with detached garages | 12/05/23 | pending revisions and additional information from the applicant |
| 6 | 2820 Thayer Street | R1 | Building Permit | Detached garage | 01/05/24 | non-compliant, pending revisions and/or minor variation application from the applicant |
| 6 | 2400 Hartzell Street | R1 | Building Permit | Detached garage | 01/05/24 | non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant |
| 6 | 2137 Crawford Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Detached garage. | 01/10/24 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 6 | 2604 Isabella Street | R1 | Building Permit | 2nd story addition | 01/19/24 | pending minor variation application by the applicant |
| 6 | 2919 Simpson Street | R1 | Building Permit | Reconfigure driveway | 01/23/24 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 7 | 2636 Green Bay Road | C2/oCSC, R4 | Zoning Analysis | Planned Development, new 5-story multi-family dwelling with 51 dwellings, parking and 3 new 4-story townhomes along Prairie Avenue | 10/18/22 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 7 | 2747 Broadway Avenue | R1 | Building Permit | Remove portion of existing paver patio, install new patio and seatwall | 05/12/23 | non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant |
| 7 | 1126 Grant Street | R1 | Building Permit | Paver walk and landing | 08/22/23 | pending additional information/revisions from the applicant |
| 7 | 824 Ridge Terrace | R1 | Building Permit | In-ground swimming pool | 12/18/23 | pending revisions by the applicant |
| 7 | 2744 Asbury Avenue | R1 | Building Permit | Addition and interior remodel | 12/29/23 | non-compliant, pending revisions from the applicant |
| 7 | 824 Ridge Terrace | R1 | Building Permit | Addition | 01/08/24 | pending revisions by the applicant |
| 7 | 1501 Central Street | U2 | Building Permit | Foundation only for new football stadium (Ryan Field, NU) | 01/08/24 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 7 | 2640 Broadway Avenue | R3 | Building Permit | Mudroom addition | 01/22/24 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 8 | 141 Dodge Avenue | R4 | Building Permit | Detached garage | 11/17/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 9 | 709 Asbury Avenue | R2 | Building Permit | Detached garage | 08/29/23 | non-compliant, pending additional information and minor variation submittal by 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 |
|------|------------------|--------|------|---------------------|----------|--------|
|------|------------------|--------|------|---------------------|----------|--------|

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1630 Orrington Avenue | D3 | Special Use | Special Use for a Resale Establishment | 11/28/23 | pending P&D 02/12/24 |
| 2 | 1611 Church Street | WE1/oWE | Map Amendment and Major variations | Remove zoning lot from oWE Overlay District and rezone from WE1 to R4 and Major Variations for construction of 7 COOP dwellings including townhome orientation and detached accessory structure located between principal building and front property line. | 06/27/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 2 | 1840 Oak Avenue | RP | Fence Variation | Install a fence on vacant property, establishing an accessory use/structure prior to approval of a principal use/structure (NU) | 12/21/23 | pending additional information from the applicant |
| 4 | 1590 Elmwood Avenue/910 Davis Street | d3 | Major Adjustment to a Planned Development | Major Adjustment to an approved Planned Development to increase density to convert ground floor commercial space to 2 dwelling units (one affordable) | 01/23/24 | pending LUC 02/28/24 |
| 6 | 3434 Central Street | R2 | Planned Development | New 2-story, 19,952 sf building for a Daycare center - Child (Kensington School) | 02/10/22 | pending P&D |
| 6 | 2604 Isabella Street | R1 | Minor variation | Interior side yard setbacks to 2nd story addition over existing 1st story | 12/27/23 | Determination after 01/26/24 |
| 7 | 1915-1917 Grant Street | R3 | Special Use & Text Amendment | Special Use for 10 micro homes and 3 micro homes above parking structure | 06/28/23 | pending P&D 02/12/24 |
| 9 | 518-520 Barton Street/1210 South Boulevard | R2 | Major Variation | Zero off-street parking where 3 are required for 2 townhomes for the sale of property and construction of a detached garage to/for 1210 South Blvd | 01/16/24 | pending LUC 02/28/24 |



To: Luke Stowe, City Manager
From: David Wilson, HVAC Building Inspector
Subject: Weekly Field Inspection Report
Date: January, 26 2024

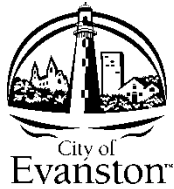
Enclosed is the weekly summary report of field inspections for construction projects under special monitoring. The report includes the ward, property address, type of construction, inspector notes, and date received.

Please contact me at [davidwilson@cityofevanston.org](mailto: davidwilson@cityofevanston.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Weekly Field Inspection Report

Friday, January 26, 2024

| Ward | Property Address | Construction Type | Inspector Notes | Received |
|------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | 1101 Church Street | Multi-Family Building | No changes. Final inspections of building A continue. Interior construction continues on building B. Sidewalk remains closed with proper signage in place. | 1/25/2024 |
| 4 | 1012 Church Street Northlight Theater | Assembly | No changes. Site and Northlight signage are in good condition. No construction fence at this time. | 1/25/2024 |
| * | * | * | * | * |
| 4 | 718 Main Street | Mixed Use Building Residential/Retail | Construction fence on Sherman Avenue has been removed. Sidewalk on Sherman Avenue remains closed with proper signage in place. Alleyway is clear of debris and materials. | 1/25/2024 |
| 2 | 1840 Oak Avenue | Demolition | No changes. Proper cleanup continues with proper signage and traffic control in place. Construction fence is in good condition. | 1/25/2024 |
| 1 | 710 Clark Street | Office Building | No changes. Construction fence remains in place and is in good condition. | 1/25/2024 |
| * | * | * | * | * |



Memorandum

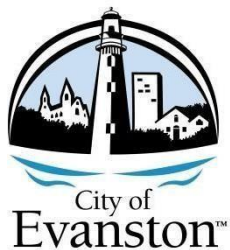
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

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

Subject: Food Establishment License Application Weekly Report

Date: January 26, 2024

| Ward | Property Address | Business Name | Date Received | Current Status |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 3 | 503 Main St | Paragon | 12/27/2023 | Pending Inspections (Change of Ownership) |
| 4 | 618 ½ Church St | Ume Tea | 12/21/2023 | Pending Inspections |
| 3 | 827 Chicago Ave | Lefty's Righteous Bagels | 12/13/2023 | Pending Permit Issuance |
| 4 | 1608 Chicago Ave | Mensch's Deli | 11/29/2023 | Pending Permit Issuance |
| 1 | 726 Clark St | Ran Ran Boba Milk Tea | 11/28/2023 | Pending Inspections (formerly Kung Fu Tea) |
| 5 | 1601 Simpson St | Shanghai Kosher | 11/21/2023 | Pending Inspections |
| 1 | 1611 Sherman Ave | Cold Stone Creamery | 11/20/2023 | Pending Inspections – Change of Ownership |
| 4 | 810 Dempster St | Village Farmstand | 11/20/2023 | Pending Inspections – Change of Ownership |
| 7 | 2614 Green Bay Rd | Jilly's Cafe | 11/7/2023 | Pending Inspections – Change of Ownership |
| 4 | 1629 Orrington Ave | Dos Bros | 10/10/2023 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |
| 1 | 704 Clark St | Etta Evanston | 10/5/2023 | Pending Permit Issuance |
| 1 | 1737 Sherman Ave | Taco Bell | 10/5/2023 | Pending Permit Issuance |
| 4 | 1557 Sherman Ave | Reza's Restaurant | 9/6/2023 | Pending Inspections – Change of Ownership |
| 1 | 521 Davis St | La Cocinita (Relocating) | 7/11/2023 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |
| 2 | 921 Church St | Devil Dawgs | 4/28/2023 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |
| 5 | 831 Foster St | Foster Food & Deli | 4/3/2023 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |
| 8 | 100 Chicago Ave | West Town Bakery – Evanston | 3/27/2023 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |
| 2 | 1808 Dempster St | Windy City Flavors | 8/22/2023 | Pending Fee Payments |
| 1 | 1743 Sherman Ave | Olive Mediterranean Grill | 12/10/2021 | Building Permit Issued – Pending Inspections |



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Brian George, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Date: January 26, 2024

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.

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

Liquor Licensing Weekly Report

Liquor Applications Received and Pending for week of January 26, 2024

| WARD | BUSINESS NAME | BUSINESS ADDRESS | LIQUOR CLASS | CLASS DESCRIPTION | PROCESSED HOURS for LIQUOR SALES | STATUS |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 | Museum Inn & Suites | 1555 Oak Ave. Evanston, IL 60201 | D | Restaurant | 11 a.m. — 1 a.m. (Mon-Thurs); 11 a.m. — 2 a.m. (Fri-Sat); 10 a.m. — 1 a.m. (Sun) | Application pending |



DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY BRIEFING

By NWMC Executive Director Mark L. Fowler



WEEK ENDING JANUARY 26, 2024

Join the Conference in Springfield for NWMC Legislative Days

As a reminder, registration is now open for the Conference's annual Legislative Days in Springfield. This year, members will return to the capitol on Tuesday, February 20 through Thursday, February 22. This week coincides with the Governor JB Pritzker's Budget and State of the State Address, scheduled for Wednesday, February 21. 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 discuss other important issues.

Staff is working on scheduling meetings and events for the week which will begin on Tuesday afternoon with a briefing for attendees, followed by legislator meetings. That evening, the Conference will host an informal reception with 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 State of the State 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.

Please complete the [registration form](#) by Friday, February 9 and staff strongly encourages attendees to reserve [hotel accommodations](#) as soon as possible as it's expected to be a busy week in Springfield. We look forward to seeing you in the Capitol! *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury, Chris Staron*

Superior Road Striping is now High Star Traffic

The Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) has been informed that Lane Marking program vendor Superior Road Striping (Contract #210) has combined forces with High Star Traffic of *Bartlett* and will now be known as High Star. Current program contacts Joan Yario, Paul Chicoine and Mike Traficanti will continue to lead the Illinois business, so the change should be seamless. In addition, the current contract extension for the Thermoplastic and/or Urethane Lane Marking Material and Labor Road Marking program remains in effect through April 11 at the following prices:

Thermoplastic Pavement Marking Line

| <u>Item Description</u> | <u>Unit \$</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 4" Marking Line | \$0.73 |
| 6" Marking Line | \$1.19 |
| 8" Marking Line | \$1.75 |
| 12" Marking Line | \$2.10 |
| 24" Marking Line | \$5.25 |
| Marking Letters & Symbols | \$5.25 |
| Removal | \$0.30 |

Urethane Pavement Marking Line

| <u>Item Description</u> | <u>Unit \$</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 4" Marking Line | \$0.70 |
| 6" Marking Line | \$1.40 |
| 12" Marking Line | \$2.80 |
| 24" Marking Line | \$5.60 |
| Marking Letters & Symbols | \$7.00 |

Note: All unit prices are per foot, except Letters & Symbols and Removal, which are priced per square foot. For questions or additional information, please contact staff or Sandy DeHoyos, 630-293-0026, ext. 3338 or SJDehoyos@highstartraffic.com. *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

Granite Announces New AI Solution - Edgeboot!

SPC Telecommunications Program vendor Granite Government Solutions (Contract #205) is excited to announce a new solution called Edgeboot. Edgeboot is a managed power cycle device that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect if there is an issue with a customer's network router. This device can perform a remote reboot to the device to restore connectivity in minutes instead of hours. 90% of all service issues can be corrected with a reboot of a router. This new service eliminates the need for a costly tech dispatch or relying on remote employees to troubleshoot equipment plus it works on any router whether Granite is providing the service or not.

On Friday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m., Granite Senior Sales Executive Frank Ventrella will host a free, virtual informational session to discuss Edgeboot. A meeting invitation was sent to Assistant Managers, IT Directors, Finance Directors and Purchasing Agents. To learn more about this service, please contact Frank Ventrella, fventrella@granitenet.com or 630-649-0823. *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

North Shore and Northwest Councils Release STP Program for Public Comment

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee and the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on January 18 and 19, respectively, and voted to release each council's draft FFY2025-2029 local Surface Transportation Program (STP-L) for a 30-day public comment period. The [North Shore Council of Mayors](#) and the [Northwest Council of Mayors](#) draft programs are available for review on their respective websites.

Comments on the North Shore Council program should be submitted to Brian Larson, blarson@nwmc-cog.org by Monday, February 19, and comments on the Northwest Council program should be submitted to Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org by Thursday, February 22. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

ISCRA to Host Cyber Security Workshop for Local Governments

As a reminder, on Tuesday, February 13, the Illinois Smart City and Region Association (ISCRA) is hosting a "Cyber Security and Emerging Threats" workshop for municipal governments. From the event information, "The current global climate has exacerbated cybersecurity concerns, creating an urgent need for municipal administrations to fortify their defenses against evolving threats...municipalities must remain vigilant and proactive in safeguarding their digital assets and citizen data."

This free workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road in Rosemont. Speakers from the United States Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will give a non-technical presentation covering impacts to communities, elected officials and municipal staff. For more information and to register for this event, please visit the [workshop registration page](#). *Staff contact: Mark Fowler*

RTA Seeks Access Pilot Program Promotional Assistance

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Metra, and Cook County are extending reduced fares for low-income Metra riders through the newly created Access Pilot Program. The program is now accepting applications from recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) within Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will County through the [GetAccess.org](#) web portal.

To promote the program, RTA is requesting local government assistance by encouraging use of the [Access Pilot Program toolkit](#) which contains sample newsletter articles, social media posts and related imagery. For questions or assistance with communications related to the program, please contact RTA Communications Director Tina Smith, tina.smith@rtachicago.org. For questions about the Access program and how to apply, contact RTA Customer Service, 312-913-3110. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Apply Today for FEMA Technical Assistance Grants

As a reminder, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) program is still open for applications. The DTA program provides non-financial, technical support to communities seeking to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design. Intended for communities that lack capacity to do this work on their own, the program can help plan a large project that will be submitted to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program for funding in a future year's application period. The BRIC application will receive additional points during scoring for having a DTA award. To be considered this application

cycle, please submit the form located on [FEMA's website](#) before Thursday, February 29. *Staff contact: Eric Czarnota*

Last Call to Fund Innovative Transportation

As a final reminder, the [Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation \(ATTAIN\)](#) Program is open for applications. This program provides grants to deploy, install and operate advanced transportation technologies, aiming to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. Additional information, can be found in the NOFO package on [Grants.gov](#). Interested applicants are encouraged to email ATTAIN@dot.gov with their name, state of the project, approximate total project cost, amount of the ATTAIN grant request and a brief project description. The ATTAIN application should be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by Friday, February 2, 2024.

For further details, please refer to the [Circular Letter](#). To request letters of support from IDOT, contact Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs Tim McMahon, Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Interested in RAISE-ing the Bar for Transportation Projects?

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently released a [Circular Letter](#) announcing that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has released a [NOFO for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) Grant Program](#). This grant funds surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact that advance the USDOT priorities of safety, equity, climate, sustainability, workforce development, job quality and wealth creation. Greenhouse gas reduction in the transportation sector and other environmental impact avoiding projects are encouraged. USDOT has additional information, including information on how to apply, frequently asked questions, previously recorded webinars and tools to help identify historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty on the [USDOT RAISE website](#). Interested agencies must apply through [Grants.gov](#) by Wednesday, February 28 at 10:59 p.m.

For further information regarding this notice, please contact the RAISE grant program staff via email at RAISEgrants@dot.gov, or call 202-366-9603. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202-366-3993. To request letters of support from IDOT, please contact Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs Tim McMahon, Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov at least two weeks prior to the application deadline. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Invest in Cook and CBDG Application Workshop is Next Week

As previously reported, Cook County has opened applications for the Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) [Invest in Cook](#) grant program, which aims to assist communities with transportation infrastructure improvements. These grants are available to local governments and agency partners to “prioritize transit and other transportation alternatives, support the region’s role as North America’s freight capital, promote equal access to opportunities, maintain and modernize existing infrastructure, and increase investments in transportation.” For more information and the application for Invest in Cook, please visit the program [website](#).

In addition, the Bureau of Economic Development (BED) is also accepting [Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) applications to support economic development in the county through capital improvement, public service, and Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) programs. For more information and the project application, please click [here](#).

The Cook County DOTH and BED will host a virtual workshop on Wednesday, January 31, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to provide more details about these programs and information on how to apply. Attendees can register for this event [here](#). The schedule is as follows:

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Invest in Cook
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | CDBG – Capital Improvements
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | CDBG – Public Service & Emergency Solution Grant

The application deadline for all grant opportunities is Friday, March 22, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or are interested in finding out if Invest in Cook is a good fit for a potential project or need help applying, please email InvestinCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov with any questions on the Invest in Cook program. For questions about the Community Development Block Grant program, please contact info.edev@cookcountyil.gov. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Last Call to Apply for MWRD Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) recently announced approaching application deadlines for the Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Acquisition and Stormwater Partnership programs.

The [Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program](#) helps local municipalities acquire homes located within the floodplain that sustain repetitive damage from multiple flood events from willing sellers and restore it to open space that can better manage stormwater. More information can be found on the program [website](#). Please note that applications are due by Sunday, January 28.

The [Stormwater Partnership Program](#) provides funding for shovel ready stormwater projects. The MWRD will partner with the community to fund the project, with the partner agency managing the design, construction and long-term maintenance of the project. Program pre-applications are due by Sunday, February 11. More information, including an informational webinar can be found on the program [website](#). *Staff contact: Eric Czarnota*

Newsy Items of the Week

Capitol News Illinois: [State Supreme Court upholds downstate police, firefighter pension consolidation](#)

Daily Herald: [Illinois Supreme Court: Pension fund members' voting power isn't 'benefit' protected by constitution](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Pritzker joins Democratic governors asking Biden, Congress for migrant aid and to fix 'outdated' immigration system](#)

Route 50 via Undark: [The cost of freeing drinking water from 'forever chemicals'](#)

Daily Herald: [Why you may see larger, faster e-bikes on suburban forest preserve trails](#)

Daily Herald: [Buffalo Grove fleet getting its first all-electric vehicle](#)

ABC7: [Here's why Metra workers light fires on tracks during cold weather](#)

Meetings and Events

NWMC Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 8:30 a.m. via videoconference.

NWMC Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC office and via videoconference. **Please note new time.**

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