



# City Limits Newsletter

September 2023

The school year for Wilmington resumes September 5, 2023. Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child travels safely to school:

## **Walkers »**

- Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

## **Bike Riders »**

- Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

## **Bus Riders »**

- Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them
- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other

## **Driving Your Child to School »**

- Stay alert and avoid distracted driving
- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus

## **Teen Drivers »**

- Teens crash because they are inexperienced; practice with new drivers every week, before and after they get their license
- Set a good example; drive the way you want your teen to drive

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Check out some great events planned for Fall 2023...



[September 21](#) from 4 PM to 7PM - Farmers Market  
Hosted by the [Wilmington Park District](#)  
Event Location: N. Water Street Parking Lot

October 8 - [Autumn Festival of Crafts](#)  
Hosted by the [Wilmington Chamber of Commerce](#)  
Event Location: North Island Park

October 15 - [Wilmington Oz Festival](#)  
Hosted by the [Wilmington Lions Club](#)  
Event Location: South Island Park

October 21 from 5 PM to 9:30 PM - [Witches Wine Walk](#)  
Hosted by the [Wilmington Downtown Merchants](#)  
Event Location: N. Water Street

## Happy Workaversary!!

### September

Joie Ziller	16 years
Matt Kiebles	16 years
Kris Hopper	10 years
Hayley Henke	5 years

### Other Important Info

City Hall will closed September 4, 2023 in observance of Labor Day

Electronic Recycling is held each month on the second Thursday from 5pm to 7pm at City Hall in the front parking lot.

2023 Golf Cart Stickers are available for purchase. Applications are available at City Hall or online.

### Meeting Calendar

September 5 - 7:00 PM  
City Council

September 12 - 5:30 PM  
Committee of the Whole

September 19 - 6:30 PM  
Finance, Admin, Land Acq

September 19 - 7:00 PM  
City Council

### Elected Officials Contacts

#### Mayor

Ben Dietz  
bdietz@wilmington-il.com

#### 1st Ward

Kevin Kirwin  
kkirwin@wilmington-il.com  
Ryan Jeffries  
rjeffries@wilmington-il.com

#### 2nd Ward

Dennis Vice  
dvice@wilmington-il.com  
Ryan Knight  
rknight@wilmington-il.com

#### 3rd Ward

Jonathan Mietzner  
jmietzner@wilmington-il.com  
Leslie Allred  
lallred@wilmington-il.com

#### 4th Ward

Thomas Smith  
tsmith@wilmington-il.com  
Todd Holmes  
tholmes@wilmington-il.com

## A Reminder from our Public Works Department

Autumn is upon us; the leaves are starting to turn and soon they'll be covering yards and neighborhoods. It's important that citizens remember, when doing any type of yard work, to keep grass cuttings, leaves and other debris out of the street! Yard debris has the potential to clog the storm drains and other components of our drainage system. Clogged drains are a leading cause of street flooding when it rains.

### What You Can Do...



Recycle leaves at home as mulch or compost. Chop or shred leaves to use as mulch. Combine shredded leaves with other organic matters to create compost.



Now through December 1, place your clippings and leaves in yard waste bags and set them at your regular trash pickup site for pick up on your regular trash pickup day. No leaves in plastic bags will be picked up.



If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the leaves or call the Public Works Department at 815-476-3104.

## Employee Spotlight Kristopher Hopper

What is your role at the City? How long have you been with the City and what position did you start at? ***I am currently Patrol Sergeant and K9 handler with K9 Mao. I have been with the City of Wilmington for 10 years and I started as a patrolman.***

If you could switch your job with anyone else within the City, whose job would you want? ***I would enjoy working for public works plowing snow and mowing grass.***

What is on your wish list for the next 5 years with the City? ***I would want to move into investigations, so I have worked in all aspects of the police department.***

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be? ***Candy or beef jerky.***

What is your favorite aspect of your job? ***I enjoy handling a K9, it is a very difficult yet rewarding position to have within law enforcement.***

What has been your favorite project that you worked on here at the City? ***Working with Deputy Chief Dole on the Warrant team "Wat" and working with Ofc Reyes to remove narcotics from the community.***

Three words that best describe you? ***Loyal, Practical, Witty.***

People would be surprised if they knew what about you or what's your secret talent that no one knows about? ***I am a Theme Park enthusiast and try to visit as many as I can.***

