



This Is Evanston

A Guide to
History, Government,
Education,
and Community Resources

League of Women Voters of Evanston

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Foreword

Like all League projects, this eighth edition of *This Is Evanston* required the time, talent, and efforts of many members. We were awed by the hard work of an impressive committee that included three former aldermen, four former school board members, and two city clerks (past and present). The contributions of all the women listed below went well beyond the “call of duty.” We also deeply appreciate the unfailing encouragement by Evanston League presidents Sue Brenner, Donna McDonald, and Jeanne Zimmer.

To our delight, a long list of Evanstonians not on the committee cheerfully responded to League requests for photographs, data, and a myriad of minute details. Many city employees patiently endured interviews and repeated requests for information. Special thanks go to Norma Lara for researching Latino history, to Patrick Keegan for producing city maps, and to Bill Stafford for reviewing and updating budget and tax information.

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Finally, words cannot express how grateful we are to Al Cubbage and Northwestern University’s Department of University Relations for the generous donation of graphic design and editorial services. Patty Dowd Schmitz, Ken Pagni, and Marianne Goss are responsible for the book’s beautiful design and production. Working with them was an absolute pleasure.

Nicki Pearson and Amy Seidman
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Contents

iii	Foreword
vii	List of Charts
vii	List of Maps
1	Yesterday and Today
2	Evanston Today— <i>A Place to Work, A Place to Shop and Dine, A Place to Live, A Place to Learn, A Place to Grow, A Place to Play, Evanston Year-Round</i>
8	Evanston Yesterday— <i>The Founding of Northwestern University and a New City, Transformation from Village to City, Bring on the 20th Century</i>
30	A City of Homes
32	Preservation and Change
35	Government
36	City Government— <i>Background; The City Manager, the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Clerk</i>
39	City Administration— <i>Boards, Commissions, and Special Committees, Public Safety, Public Works, Parks / Forestry and Recreation Department, Arts Council, Health and Human Services Department, Community Development Department, Finance Department, Corporation Counsel Law Department, Human Resources Department, Human Relations Department, Facilities Management Department, Public Library, Animal Shelter</i>
59	Home Rule
59	Management and Budget— <i>City Budget, Property Tax, Other Revenue Sources</i>
64	Township Government
65	Voting and Elections
66	Current Evanston Issues— <i>Affordable Housing, Town and Gown Issues</i>

68	Evanston and the Metropolitan Region
70	Looking Ahead: Economic Development— <i>Church Street Plaza, Dempster-Dodge Shopping Center, Sherman Plaza, Technopolis Evanston</i>
73	Education
74	Preprimary Services
74	Public School Districts— <i>School Boards, School Funding, School Desegregation, Elementary and Middle Schools, Evanston Township High School</i>
84	Private and Parochial Schools
85	Colleges and Universities
87	Continuing Education
89	Community Services
90	Recreational Opportunities— <i>City of Evanston Community Centers, Sports and Recreation Activities, Gardening Activities</i>
91	Arts Organizations and Activities— <i>Museums and Art Exhibitors, Other Notable Sites, Performing Arts</i>
95	Media
96	Health Services— <i>Home Care, Hospice Care, and Long-Term Care Facilities</i>
96	Human Services— <i>Services for People in Need, Legal Assistance, Mental Health Services, Youth and Family Services, Services for Older Adults, Services for Women, Services for People with Disabilities</i>
103	Business, Civic, and Service Organizations
106	Religious-Based Associations
107	Selected Bibliography
108	Index
112	The League of Women Voters

Charts

- 2 Population Diversity of Evanston
- 3 Evanston's Top 10 Employers
- 37 City of Evanston Organization
- 61 How to Calculate Your Tax Bill
- 62 Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go
- 67 Housing Types
- 77 School District 65 1998–99 Operating Revenues
- 77 School District 65 1998–99 Operating Expenditures
- 78 Evanston Township High School 1998–99 Operating Revenues
- 78 Evanston Township High School 1998–99 Operating Expenditures
- 80 Demographics: District 65 Elementary and Middle Schools
- 81 District 65 Schools
- 82 Demographics: Evanston Township High School

Maps

- 50 Parks
- 66 Wards
- 76 Elementary School Attendance Areas



This Is Evanston

Yesterday and Today



“For a full half-century Evanston has had a character. People have thought of it as a place distinct, somehow, from the other suburbs of Chicago,” observed noted city planner Daniel Burnham in 1917. Almost any present-day Evanstonian would echo that statement, amending it only to emphasize that since 1917 Evanston has remained a special place. Evanston’s size and diversity make it a community unique on Chicago’s North Shore. With a population of more than 70,000, Evanston is the 13th largest city in Illinois.

Evanston Today

To many observers Evanston is synonymous with diversity, and to others it is synonymous with lakefront beaches, bike paths, trees, and parks. For some, Evanston means Northwestern University and excellence in education at all levels; for others, it means theater, fine dining, and specialty shops. Evanston is even more. It is a community in which residents come together to identify and solve problems, to celebrate achievements and holidays, and to improve their homes and neighborhoods.

Population Diversity of Evanston

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

White	70.7%
African American	22.7%
Asian and Pacific Islander	4.8%
Hispanic	3.3%

Evanstonians are passionate about changes that could affect the ambiance, culture, and values of their community. Every suggested change sparks public debate—whether the subject is commercial development, trees, parking, or park renovations.

When asked their reasons for choosing to live in Evanston, residents most frequently mention the quality of housing, closeness to Lake Michigan, excellent public schools, access to public transportation, population diversity, Northwestern University, proximity to Chicago, cultural activities, and the friendliness of the community.

A Place to Work

Home to Northwestern University, two hospitals, and the national headquarters of Rotary International, Evanston is more than a bedroom community. Approximately 45 percent of local residents who are employed work in Evanston.

Employment in Evanston has been rising steadily. The greatest gains have been in the service sector. The number of businesses in Evanston grew significantly during the 1990s, as manufacturing, which had been declining, stabilized.

More than 2,200 Evanston businesses and institutions employ 38,000 people. Northwestern University is the largest employer, followed by Evanston Northwestern Healthcare and St. Francis/Resurrection Hospital.

Among the other large employers are the elementary and high school districts and the city government itself. Shure Brothers, Inc., is the largest of many commercial employers.

Evanston's Top 10 Employers

Source: Evanston Chamber of Commerce, May 1998

Employer	Business/Service	Employees
Northwestern University	education	5,325
Evanston Northwestern Healthcare	medical	4,239
St. Francis/Resurrection Hospital	medical	2,200
Evanston School District 65	education	986
City of Evanston	government	850
Presbyterian Homes	retirement center	610
Shure Brothers	light manufacturing	510
Evanston Township High School District 202	education	503
Jewel Food Stores	retail	455
Dominick's Finer Foods	retail	410

Those who do not work in Evanston sometimes choose to live here because of the many transportation options available. A Metra commuter rail line and a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) elevated train line (the "L") offer frequent service to Chicago. PACE suburban bus service and CTA bus routes provide transportation to Chicago as well as to other area suburbs.

Evanston's economic development strategy focuses on retaining and expanding existing businesses, attracting new businesses, sustaining and enhancing Evanston's attractive environment and the resources that will stimulate new business formation, and promoting and encouraging new housing development.

The partnership between Evanston and Northwestern University, which began in the early days of both, continues today in the Northwestern University/Evanston Research Park. Established in 1984, the research park is home to an award-winning small business incubator, a small business development center, and a minority/women business enterprise center, all of which provide resources for entrepreneurs. More than 90 companies are located in the research park's five buildings.

A Place to Shop and Dine

Retail stores in Evanston reflect the diverse nature of the community. One-of-a-kind specialty and craft shops and boutiques are the norm. Evanston has

several shopping districts. Downtown Evanston, near the Northwestern campus, is a friendly environment sporting decorative brick sidewalks, kiosks, and art posts. It combines student-oriented stores with a broad array of restaurants, coffeehouses, and apparel and specialty stores. Central Street, Dempster Street, and Main Street all have thriving shopping districts, and smaller neighborhood business districts dot the city. The south and west borders of Evanston are home to warehouses, stores, and large discount retailers.

Evanston has more than 100 restaurants, enticing people from Chicago and suburbs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Thai, Chinese, Mediterranean, Greek, Mexican, Italian, Japanese, vegetarian, and other cuisines are represented. Evanston's eateries range from small cafés and coffee shops to upscale restaurants.

The city's restaurant renaissance had its roots in a landmark 1972 city ordinance that ended local prohibition. As the home of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), Evanston had long prohibited the sale of liquor, and it did not easily make the decision to allow local restaurants to serve beer, wine, and liquor with meals. Evanston's first retail liquor store opened in 1984.

A Place to Live

Back in 1924, the Kiwanis Club of Evanston declared that Evanston would always be the "City of Homes." This description is still apt. Approximately 44 percent of Evanston's land use is residential. The preservation of historic homes and sites has long been a priority. The Evanston Preservation Commission develops local preservation policy and reviews proposed exterior alterations to Evanston landmarks and to properties within the city's historic districts. The Preservation League of Evanston, a private not-for-profit organization open to all who are interested in joining, has been serving Evanston since 1981.

Evanston's two historic districts—the Evanston Lakeshore Historic District and the Evanston Ridge Historic District—are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Frederick B. Carter Jr. House, the George B. Dryden House, and Roycemore School are among the many sites individually listed in the register. Evanston also has three national historic landmarks: the Frances E. Willard House (home of the WCTU founder), the Charles Gates Dawes House (residence of the U.S. vice president under Calvin Coolidge and now the home of the Evanston Historical Society), and the Grosse Point Lighthouse.

Historic homes are not the only housing priority. Evanston recently had a resurgence in construction of condominiums and apartment buildings, particularly in areas near transportation and commercial developments. A number of retirement homes and assisted-living facilities serve older residents.

Evanston is one of the few North Shore communities to have an overnight shelter for homeless adults and a transitional shelter for homeless families. Both are sponsored by the CPM Connections for the Homeless. Housing Options for the Mentally Ill enables its clients to live independently in residential neighborhoods throughout Evanston. Habitat for Humanity has been actively building homes for low-income families in Evanston.

A Place to Learn

Evanston has long been known for excellent education at all levels. Within its 8.5 square miles, the city has five colleges and universities, 17 public schools, and nine private schools. Northwestern University is acknowledged as one of the nation's premier institutions of higher learning. Evanston Township High School, nationally recognized for its outstanding advanced placement curriculum, offers innovative community service and career internship programs; traditional academic, fine art, and career education classes; and extensive clubs, extracurricular activities, and sports. Approximately 90 percent of adult Evanston residents have high school diplomas, more than 60 percent have college degrees, and nearly 30 percent have graduate degrees.

Evanston is a community of readers, as its many bookstores attest. In addition to the giants, Barnes & Noble and Borders, a variety of niche and used bookstores meet the needs of readers with specific interests. A new central public library, opened in 1994, is supplemented by north and south branch libraries. Evanston is also home to one of the country's largest publishers of secondary school textbooks, McDougal Littell, Inc., as well as to a major publisher of sports magazines, Century Publishing, which produces *Inside Sports*, *Football Digest*, and *Baseball Digest*.

A Place to Grow

Evanston has a thriving arts community. The Evanston Art Center offers classes, exhibits, and scholarships. The Evanston Arts Council sponsors several popular summer activities, including the Lakeshore Arts Festival, the Ethnic Arts Festival, summer Starlight Concerts, and an arts camp. It also assists artists in career management. The council's Noyes Cultural Arts Center provides space for artists' workshops and for theater and dance performances. The Piven Theatre Workshop, housed in the Noyes Center, was the starting point for the careers of nationally recognized actors John and Joan Cusack, Jeremy Piven, and Aidan Quinn.

Not to be overlooked is Evanston's impressive public art collection. Contemporary sculptural pieces include *Bookends*, by Richard Hunt, high on the west facade of the library; *Duna*, by Deborah Butterfield, at Oldberg Park; *Aqua Vita*, by Donna Zarbin-Byrne, at Fire Station 1; and *Slide*, by Richard Hunt, at Cartwright Park.

A number of sculptures and murals remain from the Works Progress Administration era of the 1930s and early 1940s. Notable examples can be found at the Evanston Post Office and at Nichols, Oakton, and Haven Schools.

The Mary and Leigh Block Museum and the Dittmar Memorial Gallery on Northwestern University's campus are open to the public and feature special exhibits.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra, made up of musicians from Evanston and surrounding areas, has provided the area with classical music seasons for more than 50 years, and Light Opera Works offers four productions each year.

A Place to Play

Spring, summer, and fall bring families and friends out to enjoy Evanston's parks. The city's 91 parks, occupying 300 acres of land, include a 54-acre public golf course, three large playfields for sports, neighborhood parks, lakefront parks and beaches, ornamental parks, and tot lots. Public facilities also include four recreation centers, an ecology center, the two art centers, and several field and beach houses.

Ladd Arboretum along McCormick Boulevard provides paths for walking, biking, and cross-country skiing. Merrick Rose Garden at Lake Street and Oak Avenue features more than 100 varieties of roses. The Garden Club of Evanston maintains the Shakespeare Garden on the Northwestern University campus, a wildflower garden at Grosse Point Lighthouse, and a new perennial garden at the high school. The ecology center at the arboretum and the nature center at the lighthouse contribute to widespread community awareness of natural resources and conservation measures. In the summer many residents rent space to raise vegetables and flowers in one of Evanston's four popular community gardens.

Evanston Year-Round

The year in Evanston begins with Evanston First Night, a New Year's Eve celebration for families. The evening features music from jazz to bluegrass to rock to Klezmer, dancing from waltzes to swing to Irish jigs, puppet shows, face painting, jugglers, clowns, and midnight fireworks. When snow falls, the James Park sledding hill—popularly known as Mt. Trashmore—becomes a favorite destination. Several Evanston parks have skating rinks and warming houses, and the Robert Crown Center's indoor ice rink is available for hockey, figure skating, and recreational skating.

Spring brings the annual Evanston Garden Fair, the Young Evanston Artists outdoor street display, and Strut for Strays—a dog walk-a-thon to raise money to care for the dogs and cats at the Evanston Animal Shelter. The lakefront and arboretum paths fill with walkers, bicyclists, and skaters. Kites, Frisbees, and footballs are in the air. From late spring through fall, Evanston

is home to one of the area's busiest farmers' markets. Saturday mornings bring people from throughout the area to an open-air market downtown featuring fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, plants, and flowers from Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.



The Evanston farmers' market. Photo by Cynthia Schwartz.

When summer comes, many college students leave, the beaches and boat launching dock open, and the pace seems more relaxed. While the beaches provide relief from the heat, a steady parade of arts festivals and events provides a different type of recreational experience. The festival season opens with Custer's Last Stand in June; it's followed by arts-and-craft festivals at Fountain Square and on Central Street, the Ethnic Arts Festival, and the Lakeshore Arts Festival. Starlight concerts are a venue for picnic dinners, and weekly street dances let residents kick up their heels. For those looking for a bargain, the World's Largest Garage Sale, held in Evanston's downtown parking garage, is not to be missed.

Summer's highlight is the Independence Day parade. Clubs, church groups, neighborhood organizations, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, along with precision lawnmower drill teams, antique bicycle riders, kazoo bands, and government officials, all turn out to march along the Central Street parade route.

From Flag Day (June 14) up to the parade day, the route is decked with American flags. Lawnchairs begin to fill the parkway as residents stake out prime viewing areas. When the time comes, it seems as though every citizen of Evanston is on hand, either to march in the parade or to cheer from the sidelines.

Fall brings the college students back to town. Wildcat football attracts crowds to Northwestern University's Ryan Field; at the high school, Wildkit football and the other fall sports resume. Purple pennants hang from the windows of houses and stores as Northwestern fans hope for a winning season.

Evanston Yesterday

The Jesuit explorer Jacques Marquette was one of the first Europeans to record his impressions of the area that would become Evanston. He wrote in his diary, "The land bordering the lake is of no value, except along the prairies." Dense with oak, ash, and other trees, the land was flooded and impassable during most of the year. From the lake, the land was notable only for the low bluffs that showed the voyageur he was approaching the mouth of the Chicago River.

Water shaped the land. Ancient tropical oceans covered the area, depositing the remains of sea creatures that would become limestone, the region's bedrock. Then successive glaciers scoured the land, depositing a layer of impermeable clay as they retreated. The accumulated glacial melt water formed a huge lake geologists called Lake Chicago. When the water found outlets to the Mississippi, the lake receded. The successive beaches of the receding lake became the ridges that today parallel Lake Michigan's shore.

Because they are dry year-round, these ridges became the primary trails used first by native peoples and then by European settlers. Gross Point Road, Ridge Avenue, and Chicago Avenue follow these ancient routes. The native people whom the French explorers, missionaries, and traders first encountered were the Algonquian-speaking Potawatomi, who had built permanent villages near the lakeshore and lived by raising crops, hunting, fishing, and gathering other foods. The Potawatomi established fur-trading relationships with the French and benefited from the relative peace the French settlers brought to the area.

The Potawatomi's dealings with the young United States government were less beneficial to them. In the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, the Potawatomi had already ceded six square miles of land at the mouth of the Chicago River. After the War of 1812, the virtually bankrupt federal government hit upon the Indian treaty as a fund-raising device. Four treaties between 1816 and 1833 divested the Potawatomi of millions of acres, which the government resold at a great profit. In exchange, the Potawatomi were

promised 5 million acres of land west of the Mississippi River. They were removed first to the Platte Purchase in Missouri, then to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and finally to Kansas, where some of their descendants live today.

When Illinois joined the Union in 1818, its population was concentrated in the southern portion of the state along the fertile river valleys. Chicago was a trading post and military garrison where a handful of people lived a muddy frontier existence. Pioneers heading west stopped at this little outpost as briefly as possible before heading on to the more promising prairie for homesteading.

But the 1825 opening of the Erie Canal and the authorization of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1827 turned Chicago into a strategic location. Land speculation proceeded at a feverish pace. Parcels of muddy land were auctioned and reauctioned. When the canal finally opened in 1848, it connected the Great Lakes with the Mississippi River, making Chicago a hub for commerce flowing east and west. Busy shipping lines carried immigrant settlers west and carried back cargoes of golden grains.



An Indian marker tree. Native Americans marked the Green Bay Trail by training branches to grow into pointers. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

Grosse Pointe Territory, identified in early records as Grosse Pointe Voting District (the final *e* was dropped about 1846), was the name applied to land extending from today's Graceland Cemetery in Chicago indefinitely to the north. One of the earliest European residents of the Grosse Pointe Territory, Abraham Hathaway, built a log cabin at what later became the northeast corner of Raymond Park. He ran a tavern and counterfeited money, squatting on land to which he had no legal claim.

The first permanent European settlers of the area that became Evanston were Major Edward H. Mulford and his wife, Rebecca. When Edward Mulford came west from New York in 1833 to establish a jewelry business with his sons in Chicago, the government was selling land for \$1.25 an acre, with the stipulation that the buyer improve and cultivate part of the land for at least three years.

In 1836 Major Mulford bought 160 acres in Grosse Pointe Territory and built a board cabin on the west side of the ridge, across from the future site of St. Francis Hospital. On the east side of the ridge, he later built a large log house. It served as his home and as a tavern, the Ten-Mile House, where travelers on the Green Bay Trail could stop overnight. Mulford, the "gentleman pioneer of Evanston," was appointed the first justice of the peace. The first court in Cook County was held in his tavern.

Mulford's home, which he named Oakton, survived until 1963, when it was torn down to make way for a condominium. Another early settler entertained Abraham Lincoln on April 5, 1860, at his house on the northwest corner of Ridge Avenue and Church Street. The house, which has survived several moves and remodelings, still stands at 2009 Dodge Avenue.

According to the 1840 U.S. Census, of the 330 people living in the Grosse Pointe Territory, 154 were children under the age of 15. About 1842 Henry W. Clarke deeded a half-acre on the ridge at Greenleaf Street for the first school. The pupils living east of the ridge had to negotiate the swamp on foot or horseback or, sometimes in the spring, by boat or raft. The log schoolhouse doubled as a meetinghouse where circuit-riding preachers held religious services and funerals.

North along what became Central Street was the Ouilmette Reservation. This land had been ceded in the Treaty of Prairie du Chien to Archange Ouilmette, the Potawatomi wife of Antoine Ouilmette. Ouilmette, who was born near Montreal in 1760 and came to Chicago for the American Fur Company in 1790, had lived in Chicago and rescued some of the white settlers during the 1812 Fort Dearborn Massacre. In 1796 or 1797 he married Archange, daughter of a Potawatomi woman and the French fur trader Francois Chevallier. After Archange and Antoine died, the Ouilmette children, who in 1844 were living on the Potawatomi Reservation at Council Bluffs, Iowa, petitioned President John Tyler for permission to sell or lease the land.

Henry W. Clarke was appointed special Indian agent to represent the Ouilmette family. The south half of the property, including all the land now in Evanston, went to real estate speculators for \$1,000 (slightly more than \$1.56 an acre); the north half was sold in separate parcels.

Names and the boundaries changed constantly, first by legislation and later by annexation. Under the Illinois Township Act of February 12, 1849, people were allowed to organize themselves and choose a name for their township. The loosely organized tract of land known as Gross Point District became Ridgeville in 1850, extending from Central Street south to Irving Park Road in Chicago. The 1850 U.S. Census reported that Ridgeville had 441 people and 93 families in 91 dwellings. The township population was made up of English, Scottish, Irish, and German immigrants and included pioneer merchants, coopers, shoemakers, and sailors.

In Chicago, events were under way that would affect development, boundaries, and Ridgeville's name.

The Founding of Northwestern University and a New City

On May 31, 1850, nine men gathered to found a university in Chicago, a city that did not even have a public high school. The founding of Northwestern University was a typically American gesture of the time. In contrast to most European universities, which were located in ancient centers, the new American colleges being founded were located in towns whose population and prosperity lay in the future.

Missionary enthusiasm combined with land speculation. Julian Sturtevant, who founded Illinois College at Jacksonville in 1830 with nine other Yale theology students, observed that “the mania for college building . . . was the combined result of the prevalent speculation in land and the zeal for denominational aggrandizement. It was generally believed that one of the surest ways to promote the growth of a young city was to make it the seat of a College.”

Northwestern's founders shared this visionary pragmatism. John Evans, a physician who had made a fortune speculating in real estate and investing in railroads, believed in the future of Chicago. Evans had been a Chicago alderman, and, as chair of the committee on public schools, had stood alone against the prevailing trend to sell valuable school properties, using the same argument with the city council that he later used with the other founders of Northwestern: Chicago was going to become a great city, and men should be willing to sacrifice something now in exchange for the tribute of future generations.

The group that met in May 1850—ministers, attorneys, merchants, and a physician—had two things in common: their devout Methodism and their civic zeal. Several were to figure prominently in Evanston's later history.

Besides John Evans, there were the lawyers Grant Goodrich, Henry W. Clarke, and Andrew J. Brown and the businessman Orrington Lunt. The group resolved: “The interests of sanctified learning require the immediate establishment of a university in the Northwest, under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church.” They divided themselves into two committees—one to prepare a charter, the other to enlist the cooperation of the Methodist Conference, which was subsidizing colleges.

Northwestern University was granted a charter on January 28, 1851, by the Illinois legislature. Under the terms of the charter, the various Methodist Episcopal conferences of the Northwest Territory were to be represented on the board of trustees. The school itself, however, was to be liberal and nonsectarian, with no particular religious faith required of faculty or students.

Evans’s next step was to raise funds for the purchase of 16 lots at LaSalle and Jackson Streets in Chicago, where a preparatory school would be built. One member of the Northwestern Board, Clark T. Hinman, bluntly objected that the trustees were losing track of their original purpose, which was to establish a university for the Northwest, not a secondary school for the city of Chicago. Hinman proposed they explore farmlands and wooded areas outside Chicago, where they might build a village as well as an institution.

The story of the discovery of the site has been repeated often since Frances Willard told it in *A Classic Town*. One day in August 1852, Orrington Lunt drove with a friend to Lake Forest. On the way home, they stopped to see a farmer who lived east of

Did you know

Native American Indians marked the Green Bay Trail by pinning the branches of saplings to the ground, thus training them to grow into pointers. The largest surviving Evanston marker tree still stands on the 2400 block of Hartrey Avenue, but it lost its main pointing branch during a 1998 windstorm.

the ridge in Ridgeville. As Lunt strolled over the wet land toward the lake, he noticed to the north a stand of oak trees, which can indicate the presence of high, dry land. On a high bluff, Lunt found a site that gave him “fairy visions.” He insisted that the executive committee return with him to the area, following an old cow path over the morass at what is now Davis Street and Sherman Avenue. Committee members were so delighted with the oak grove near the shore that some of them threw up their hats and shouted, “This is the place!”

Building soon began in earnest. Within three years the first university building was erected at the northwest corner of Davis Street and Hinman Avenue. Old College was a three-story frame building with three classrooms, a museum, and a chapel. It was later moved to just north of present-day Fisk Hall and in 1973 was demolished following a serious fire. The university

founders also devoted their attention to creating a town, acquiring and improving the land, and acting as real estate agents. On July 24, 1854, John Evans, Philo Judson, and Andrew J. Brown submitted to the county judge a plat for the town they expected would grow around the university. Theirs was an almost-utopian project to create an ideal place with parks, wide streets, and spacious house lots, removed from and superior to the physically and morally corrupt atmosphere of Chicago.

Orrington Lunt was asked if his name might be given to the new town. But for his preference to live in Chicago, Evanston might now be known as Orrington or Luntsville. When Lunt declined, the trustees agreed to name the town after physician, businessman, philanthropist, and devout Methodist John Evans.

Although Evans and his colleagues had lofty visions of the moral and intellectual environment their work would foster, a major occupation in the early years was the fundamental task of making the swampland habitable. Their efforts merged with those of the Ridgeville pioneers, helping to fuse the two communities. The drainage committee consisted of both university agents and original settlers. Along with this civic work, the two communities also shared church services in the log schoolhouse on the ridge at Greenleaf Street, outside the town plat.

The location of the depot for the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad determined that Davis Street would develop into the town's commercial center. University trustees donated the right-of-way and one acre for a depot. In exchange, the railroad guaranteed it would build the depot where the trustees desired and would permit no liquor or gambling on the right-of-way or depot grounds. Philo Judson's building at the northeast corner of Davis Street and Orrington Avenue served as a general store, church, meeting place, and post office. (This structure later was moved to 1417 Ashland Avenue and survives today as a residence.) James B. Colvin, Evanston's first town clerk, built a 1½-story house where the North Shore Hotel is now located. In 1857 Albert Danks turned the house into Danks Hotel.

In 1853 the university's original charter was amended by the Illinois legislature in ways that would have a profound effect on Evanston's character and on the relationship between the town and the university. One amendment to the charter prohibited the sale of liquor within four miles of the university. Prohibition not only eliminated saloons, it attracted new residents—as did the university's practice (uncommon at the time) of leasing land for 99 years to those who could not afford to purchase land. The other amendment allowed the university to own as many as 2,000 acres of land free of the obligation to pay tax, regardless of the land's use.

The university opened its doors to 10 students on November 5, 1855. Sufficient funds had been raised through the sale and lease of land, through donations, and through the sale of perpetual scholarships, which for \$100 entitled the purchaser to full-tuition scholarships for three generations. These scholarship funds simultaneously provided an endowment and students for the fledgling institution.

Garrett Biblical Institute also opened in 1855. It was founded in 1853 by Eliza Clarke Garrett, widow of Chicago mayor Augustus Garrett, who had consulted her attorney, Grant Goodrich, a Northwestern founder and trustee, on how best to use her estate for religious purposes. Goodrich and other Northwestern officials quickly sought her cooperation in establishing a school that offered religious instruction. Garrett was built on land leased in perpetuity from the university and shared most of its original trustees with Northwestern. Its students were greatly valued in the surrounding area because they braved storms and difficult roads to preach to settlers who were without regular ministers.

The presence of two Methodist-sponsored institutions gave a religious tone to life in Evanston. One visitor found the town sanctimonious, “like entering the holy precincts of a cloister.” But Evanston was not exclusively



*Calvin's general store at the northeast corner of Davis and Orrington Streets.
Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.*

Methodist. Circuit-riding preachers conducted other Protestant services at the ridge schoolhouse. Catholics had to travel south to Chicago to attend mass. When First Methodist Church was built at Orrington Avenue and Church Street in 1856, the building served as a community church. Northwestern soon donated parcels of land to groups of Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Episcopalians for construction of church buildings. Catholics purchased property at Oak Avenue and Lake Street in 1864.

As Northwestern and Garrett opened their doors to male students, Northwestern Female College began construction of its first building on Chicago Avenue between Greenwood and Lake Streets. Its founder was 23-year-old Rev. William P. Jones, whose brother, Colonel J. Wesley Jones, raised funds to build the college for women by exhibiting daguerreotypes of the Far West, where he had mined for gold. Through their efforts the cornerstone of Northwestern Female College was laid the same day as that of Old College, and classes began in fall 1855.

Northwestern Female College initially seemed to be more successful than either Northwestern University or Garrett Biblical Institute. Enrollment for 1855 was 4 students at Garrett, 10 at Northwestern, and 84 at Jones's school. The success of Northwestern University was by no means assured; it struggled to avoid the fate of more than 700 other American colleges that failed before 1860.

Adding to the uncertainty of these early years was the national tension caused by the impending Civil War. Evanston was an intensely abolitionist town in which students and residents were following the distressing political events of the late 1850s. First Methodist Church, which over the years provided a forum for many famous speakers, was a leader in the antislavery movement. Methodist Bishop Matthew Simpson, who lived in Evanston for several years, delivered a fiery sermon against human bondage.

The town post office, located in James B. Colvin's store on Davis Street, was often the scene of ardent discussion that might revolve around a recent newspaper account of a Henry Ward Beecher sermon or the latest installment of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. When Judge Harvey B. Hurd, an Evanstonian, learned that John Brown was in Chicago dressed in rags and with a price on his head for aiding fugitive slaves, Hurd went to a tailor and ordered a suit made for Brown. Evanston women were circulating an antislavery petition when Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862.

At the Civil War's outbreak, Evanston citizens responded with fervor to Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the Union. Northwestern's graduating class of 1863 was reduced to two students, and subscriptions were started to support the families of needy men who were enlisting. Evanston contributed many officers and enlisted men to the Union cause, and long after the war continued to be known as a Republican town.

Transformation from Village to City

The post–Civil War era was a period of growth and change that helped to shape the Evanston of today. Evanston evolved from a village that was a byproduct of Northwestern University into a city in its own right. In the aftermath of the Chicago Fire and the northern migration of former slaves, the diversity for which Evanston would become widely known was being cultivated. The expanding population, combined with residents' high cultural, educational, and social expectations, led to the establishment of many of the public and social structures of Evanston's rich community life.

Population Growth and Change

In 1860 the population of Evanston was 831. By 1880 it had grown to 4,400, and by 1890 to 13,059. The Chicago Fire of 1871 sent many newly homeless people northward looking for places to live. In addition, a number of wealthier Chicagoans moved north to Evanston seeking respite from the militant, turbulent environment that characterized industrializing Chicago. Evanston was viewed as the Athens of the Northwest.



John Evans. Photo from Northwestern University files.

John Evans

John Evans (1814–97) came to Chicago in 1844 to join the faculty of the new Rush Medical College. The young physician was instrumental in founding Mercy Hospital, and he became a leading obstetrician and the editor of a pioneer medical journal. He used the journal to advocate humane treatment of mentally ill people and to publish his studies on cholera. He had closely observed the 1849 cholera epidemic in Chicago and was convinced of the validity of the then unpopular and unproved doctrine of contagion.

Evans's investments in Chicago real estate and railroads made him wealthy, and his close association with fellow Methodists and politicians made him influential.

He was a staunch enemy of slavery and an active propagandist for abolition. If he was not an actual conductor on the underground railway, he was known to have assisted runaway slaves in their attempts to reach Canada. In 1856 he helped to organize the Republican Party of Illinois, and he campaigned throughout the state for Abraham Lincoln.

As governor of the Territory of Colorado from 1862 to 1865, Evans helped found Denver University. He remained in Colorado until his death, investing in railroad development and supporting Methodist churches and schools.

The African American population grew from 2 in 1860 to 43 in 1870 to 129 by 1880. Among newly freed slaves moving north, Evanston was an attractive destination because of its abolitionist traditions and the availability of jobs, although most employment was as domestics or laborers. The first well-documented African American resident of Evanston was Maria Murray, a live-in domestic. In 1864 Daniel Garnett, a shoemaker, became the first African American to move his family to Evanston. Other African Americans soon found employment or started their own businesses in Evanston. Most notable among the entrepreneurs were Madame H. M. Taylor, who started a hair salon in 1880 and then went into catering; Henry Butler, who started a cab business that at one time had more than 200 vehicles and 50 drivers; and William H. Twigg, who opened a printing shop that published Evanston's first black periodical, the *Afro-American Budget*. By the turn of the 20th century, Evanston had a small but increasing number of African American residents who were earning middle-class incomes, purchasing property, and sending their children to college.

European immigrants also found their way to Evanston. Swedes and Germans dominated migration in the 1870s. People also came from Ireland and Norway, and immigrants from Italy, Greece, and Poland followed. They found employment in a range of jobs from grocers and carpenters to plasterers, marble cutters, and masons to painters, laborers, and teamsters.

The history of Evanston churches tells the story of the city's transformation away from its white, Protestant, East Coast roots into a diverse community. The first Evanston churches were founded in the 1850s and 1860s: First Methodist (1856), First Baptist (1858), Episcopal (1864), and Presbyterian-Congregational (1866). St. Mary's, the first Roman Catholic Church, was completed in 1866. The Scandinavians built their first church, Norwegian-Danish Methodist Episcopal, in 1870. Two years later, the Swedes left that church because the services were not being held in their language. By 1898 there were Swedish Baptist, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, and Swedish Methodist churches. The first African American congregations were Second Baptist Church and Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church. Both were organized around 1880 and met in the homes of their members. By 1882 both groups began holding formal meetings in their respective churches. Dissenting members of Second Baptist organized Mt. Zion Baptist Church in 1894.

By 1887 the German Catholic population had increased enough for creation of a second Catholic church, St. Nicholas, at Ridge Avenue and Washington Street. The Germans, many of them truck farmers, settled in South Evanston or in the unannexed southwest section. By the 1880s Germans had also established Bethlehem Lutheran, St. John's German Evangelical, and German Baptist Churches.

As members of each new immigrant group arrived, they worshiped at other ethnic churches until they could establish their own houses of worship. Poles worshiped at St. Nicholas, where the pastor arranged for a Polish-speaking priest to come every other Sunday. By 1912 the Polish population had grown large enough to establish its own parish, Ascension of Our Lord.

This pattern continued well into the 20th century with the arrival and growth of the Latino population. When Latino families first arrived in Evanston, many attended mass at St. Francisco Church (located near 26th Street in Chicago), where the mass was offered in Spanish. Soon they worshiped with members of the Polish community at Ascension of Our Lord Church on Ashland Avenue. When that church closed in 1989, St. Nicholas Church opened its doors to the Latino community. St. Nicholas was originally attended by German-speaking parishioners who had emigrated from Luxembourg. To bring together the diverse church population, St. Nicholas

Did you know

Evanston Alderman Edwin B. Jourdain Jr. cast the deciding vote for integration of Evanston movie theaters in 1933. During his term of office he was instrumental in integrating Evanston beaches and Northwestern University's student housing. In the 1940s he fought for desegregation of schools statewide as the first African American assistant state superintendent for public education in Illinois.

began offering a single mass in English and Spanish. Soon the Latino population was so large that the church began offering a mass in Spanish only.

A significant Jewish population also contributed to Evanston's growing diversity. The reform congregation of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue was established in 1950, at first meeting in people's homes and at Nichols School and eventually building its own house of worship in 1954. Similarly, the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation first met in Chute School in the mid-1960s and used several churches before settling in a permanent home in 1985.

New City

Evanston's population was boosted by the annexation of the town directly to its south. South Evanston, whose borders were approximately Greenleaf, Howard, and Florence Streets and Lake Michigan, had been organized in 1873 and had a significantly lower tax rate than its neighbor immediately to the north. With a population of 3,000, it had its own commercial district and civic character. The makeup of its residents also differed from that of Evanston; the proportion of working-class people in South Evanston was larger. The two were merged in 1892 through referenda, but not without some ambivalence. South Evanstonians worried about the impact of the higher taxes, and Evanstonians worried about losing the buffer separating their

more genteel community from the rough-and-tumble city of Chicago. Several months later the year-old village of North Evanston, which extended from Church Street to Isabella Street between Asbury Avenue and Lincolnwood Drive, also was annexed to Evanston.

Annexation was not the only question on Evanston's ballot in 1892. Voters were asked whether Evanston should officially change its status from that of a village to a city. Many Evanstonians cherished the rural qualities of Evanston and resisted the changes implied by the city form of government. One advocate of change acknowledged the arguments and then countered them with humor: "Calling a city of 10 or 15,000 a village don't make it any more rural. It simply combines the worst elements of both. A city organization does not necessarily imply ward strikers and bummers. . . . I admit that calling a man an alderman may be pretty hard on him, but self-sacrificing men will be found in Evanston who will shoulder this odium for the public good."

Two years later, another referendum asked whether Evanston should be annexed to Chicago. It was defeated 2,055 to 642, with more people voting in the referendum than in any prior Evanston election.

Growth of Evanston Business and Social Institutions

During the mid- to late 1800s, Evanston was a busy lake port, and piers at Davis and Dempster Streets handled excursion and cargo boats. It was also near the site of a major maritime disaster. The *Lady Elgin*, an excursion boat, foundered off the Evanston coast in 1860, and more than 300 people perished. In 1872 Northwestern students formed a lake rescue squad, and



A Grosse Point Lighthouse keeper and his dog. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

Evanston residents petitioned the government to build a lighthouse. The result was Grosse Point Lighthouse. In 1916 the U.S. Coast Guard replaced the student squad.

The Evanston business community was broad enough to supply most of the needs of residents and local businesses. But social services, utilities, public works, and cultural institutions needed to expand to meet the needs of the growing community. The town responded with police, library, health, fire, and water services that were often among the first of their kind. Although the primary police duties were to keep track of stray animals and to close down establishments that sold liquor, the police force was doubled, to two officers. In response to safety concerns following the Chicago Fire and several fires in Evanston's own business district, the town also created a volunteer fire department. The Evanston Public Library opened in February 1871 on a \$5-a-year-subscription basis; approval of a tax referendum in 1873 made it possible to eliminate library fees.

In 1874, three years before the Illinois Board of Health was created, Evanston physicians formed the Evanston Board of Health. Eighteen years later, in 1892, the Visiting Nurse Association began providing health services for the poor and working to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. A six-bed hospital was established in a house on Emerson Street. The first Evanston Hospital building opened on the current site of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare in 1898, with Miss Anna Locke as its superintendent.

The most hotly contested local political issue of the 1870s was the proposal to build a waterworks for Evanston. This was the most expensive and, therefore, most controversial of all the public works proposals. Prominent physician Dr. Nathan Davis, for whom Davis Street is named, wrote a long and eloquent editorial in the *Evanston Index* about the hazards of contaminated water. At the urging of the first village president, Charles J. Gilbert, Evanston voted to build a waterworks to supply residents with water from Lake Michigan, thus eliminating reliance on wells and cisterns. Northwestern University donated land for the new waterworks at Lincoln Street on the lake. A Holly pumping engine was installed in 1873 at a cost of \$24,000. This was the first water treatment plant to be constructed along Lake Michigan. Its operation resulted in a rapid decline in the typhoid rate in Evanston. Chicagoans, by contrast, were still drinking sewage-fouled water, and in 1881 Chicago's typhoid rate was second highest among the nation's 20 largest cities. Evanston's water system was reportedly the most influential factor in South Evanston's decision to approve annexation to its neighbor to the north.

In 1882 Evanston voted to establish a public high school. The first Evanston Township High School class had 80 students, 25 of whom graduated. In 1892 Evanston got its first kindergarten and began to build more modern elementary schools under the leadership of Homer Kingsley and Frederick Nichols.

Social Activism and Leadership

Politically active and educated women have been a part of Evanston since its beginning. Temperance advocate, suffragist, and educator Frances Willard left an indelible mark on the community. Willard was president of the Evanston College for Ladies, which had been formed in 1869 and four years later merged with Northwestern Female College. To save the financially imperiled college, Willard was forced to work with her former fiancée, Northwestern University President Charles H. Fowler. The uneasy relationship ruptured when Evanston College became the Woman's College of Northwestern University; Willard's authority was undermined, and she finally resigned.



Frances Willard. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

Willard's political activism began with the women's suffrage issue. In 1870 she traveled to Springfield to lobby (unsuccessfully) the Illinois Constitutional Convention to include universal suffrage in the state's constitution. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was founded in 1874 with Willard as its corresponding secretary. As president of the Illinois WCTU chapter, she was the first woman to address the Illinois General Assembly when she urged passage of a bill to authorize local communities to restrict liquor sales and to allow women to vote on these issues. In 1879 she was elected national WCTU president, a position she held until her death in 1898.

Under her leadership, the WCTU became involved in prominent social causes of the day, including temperance, suffrage, prostitution, labor and prison reform, and tobacco and drug addiction. Willard believed that all social problems are interrelated. Her credo was "Do Everything." In 1883, she formed the international WCTU, which at one time had branches in 50 countries.

It would be difficult to overestimate the extent to which Willard shaped national and international opinion. Called "St. Francis" by the press and "Frank" by her friends, Willard was hailed at her death as "the most influential woman of the age" next to Queen Victoria. In the Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C., Illinois is represented in Statuary Hall by Frances Willard. Despite her international renown, she remained an Evanstonian and often was quoted as saying, "When I reach heaven, I want to register as from Evanston."

African American women, who were invited to join the WCTU but preferred to have their own organization, established the Willard Women's Christian Temperance Union in Evanston in 1886.

Elizabeth Boynton Harbert was another prominent Evanston voice for women's suffrage. As president of the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association,

she testified in 1878 before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Harbert was also founder and first president of the Evanston Woman's Club.

Attorney Catharine Waugh McCulloch, who served as legislative superintendent of the association, in 1907 became the first woman to be elected justice of the peace in Evanston. Once the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution took effect, allowing women's suffrage (Illinois was the first state to ratify the amendment), McCulloch was present in Chicago for the founding of a new organization, the League of Women Voters. McCulloch went on to testify before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in 1923 in favor of the Equal Rights Amendments.

Culture and Recreation

Slowly but surely Evanston began to become a stable, active, and enlightened community. In 1872 the first local newspaper, the *Evanston Index*, began publication and provided news and announcements on a weekly basis. To celebrate the nation's centennial in 1876, a private group erected Centennial Fountain as a gift to the city.

In the 1880s Evanston followed a national trend to establish clubs to promote literature, discussion of social issues, and cultural events. The Evanston Country Club, the Evanston Club (for men), the Woman's Club of Evanston, the Evanston Amateur Musical Club, the Thomas Concert Class (made up of subscribers to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra), and other groups were established. The sculptor Lorado Taft, who lived in Evanston from 1889 to 1898, actively promoted interest in the arts.

Evanston, which had been dry since its inception, was proud of its tradition of temperance and temperance leaders and, not surprisingly, withstood attacks by the Chicago Liquor League. On one occasion, Harvey Hurd, arguing before the Illinois Supreme Court, presented not only Evanston's side of the case but, because the attorney for the opposition was drunk, the other side's as well! Evanston was dry long before Prohibition and remained dry long after its repeal. The first liquor license was not granted until 1972.

The community also had a less serious side. Evanston is credited with the invention of the ice cream sundae. Legend has it that William "Deacon" Garwood, who offered ice cream sodas at his drugstore on Fountain Square, created the sundae so that God-fearing people could avoid drinking soda water on Sunday. Garwood also anticipated today's drive-through lanes by offering curbside service for carriages.

In 1895 Evanston was the destination of purportedly the first automobile race in the United States. Six cars began at Midway Plaisance in Chicago; two made it all the way to Davis Street. The first permanent car in Evanston arrived in 1897 when Dr. Edward Webster purchased a one-cylinder Cadillac.

Bring on the 20th Century

The turn of the century brought great change to Evanston. The young city found itself facing big-city issues including segregation and race relations, city planning, and commercial development.

Early Race Relations

During the first part of the century, African Americans from the South continued to move to Evanston. Only a minority came by way of Chicago. Most came directly to Evanston, which was regularly and favorably featured in the *Chicago Defender*, a widely distributed black newspaper. Emigration from the South intensified during World War I, which cut off the flow of cheap labor from Europe. Race riots in Chicago in 1919 spurred additional African American migration to Evanston, where an established black community offered churches, educational opportunities, and jobs.

The sharp increase in the African American population, coupled with a war-caused housing shortage, strained race relations. Many of the newcomers were rural Southern blacks, poorly educated and ill equipped to deal with the social customs of a sophisticated northern city-suburb. To “improve living conditions in the homes of colored people and to promote good citizenship and community effort,” the Evanston Community Union was formed in 1923.

Until 1910 the black community had been dispersed throughout Evanston—near the lake, downtown, and in the west. By 1930 African



Dr. Isabella Garnett. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

Dr. Isabella Garnett

Dr. Isabella Garnett (1872–1948), an Evanston native, was one of the first female African American physicians in Illinois. She was initially trained as a nurse at Provident Hospital in Chicago and worked as a school nurse in Evanston before deciding to enter medical school. When she received her medical degree in 1901, she was one of only three African Americans in her class at the Physicians and Surgeons College (now the University of Illinois College of Medicine). She championed the causes of women’s suffrage and educational opportunities for women. In 1914 Dr. Garnett and her husband, Dr. Arthur Butler, converted their home to a 14-bed hospital. The Evanston Sanitarium was the

doctors’ response to the need for a facility for African American patients, who were denied access to Evanston Hospital. From 1930 to 1945 Dr. Garnett served as superintendent of Community Hospital.

Americans constituted 8 percent of Evanston's population of 63,338. As racial codes increasingly affected housing in the early 20th century, segregation increased in Evanston. Although Evanston High School was integrated from the start, other Evanston institutions were segregated. Neither Evanston Hospital nor St. Francis Hospital admitted African Americans as patients or practitioners. In 1914 two pioneering physicians, Dr. Isabella Garnett, daughter of Daniel Garnett and the first female African American physician in Illinois, and Dr. Arthur Butler (not related to Henry Butler) opened the Evanston Sanitarium in their house at 1918 Asbury Avenue to serve Evanston's African American population. It was the only hospital between Milwaukee and Chicago serving African Americans. Both African American and white community leaders cooperated to establish the sanitarium's successor, the Community Hospital, which in 1930 opened its doors at 2026 Brown Avenue to people of any race, religion, or nationality. That hospital survived into the 1970s.

Discrimination in housing through zoning restrictions, race-restrictive clauses in deeds, and the policies of realtors and banks systematically pushed African Americans to the west part of Evanston. Neighborhood schools developed a de facto segregation. Foster School, once predominately white, became a school for African Americans.

In 1912 the nation's first African American Boy Scout troop was formed in Evanston to supplement the city's already established white Boy Scout troops. The Emerson Street Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) opened in 1914 in response to growing concern about the lack of recreational opportunities for African American boys. In accordance with the racial codes of the time, it served only blacks. It also provided housing for a number of Northwestern University's African American students, who were accepted as students but not permitted to live in the dormitories. The Emerson Street YMCA also hosted the Negro Senior Proms because Evanston High School's prom was "whites only." Before he achieved national fame, Nat King Cole was one of the performers at the Emerson Street YMCA's proms. The facility was expanded in 1929 to serve a wider population, including blacks in nearby suburbs and Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Desegregation of the schools in 1969 meant that two YMCAs were no longer needed, and the Emerson Street facility closed; the building was later demolished to make way for the Northwestern University/Evanston Research Park.

"Make No Small Plans"

Evanston expanded in 1913 and 1916 by annexing the neighborhood south of Crain Street and west of Florence Avenue and then the area just west of the city limits on either side of Central Street. As Evanston grew, the need became apparent for a comprehensive plan to address the city's major challenges. Having laid out plans for Chicago and Washington, D.C., Evanston resident

Daniel Burnham turned his attention to his hometown. Together with Dwight Perkins, Thomas Tallmadge, and Hubert Burnham, he developed a plan to address park space, traffic, and business district development. The plan was accepted by the city council in 1919. It set forth the idea of zoning to separate areas for retail businesses, factories, houses, and apartment buildings. The plan called for a central business district, parks along the lakeshore, a municipal golf course, and smaller parks and community centers throughout Evanston. Some stories attribute the winding path of Sheridan Road to the desire of Burnham and other prominent Evanston residents to route the new street around their homes.

In 1921 Evanston became the first city in Illinois to take advantage of a state law allowing municipalities to regulate land use. Projecting a population of 400,000, the Evanston plan zoned areas for home, apartment building, commercial, and industrial uses, with requirements for the size of lots, the building heights, and the siting of buildings on their lots. Zoning helped address the hostile relationship between homeowners and those who were constructing apartment buildings and houses.

Construction boomed in the 1920s. The Orrington Hotel, the Carlson Building, the Georgian Hotel, and the Homestead Hotel were erected. Evanston merchants expanded business centers to reap the economic benefits



Emerson Street YMCA. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

of population growth. Chicago stores began establishing suburban outlets in Evanston. Lytton's moved to downtown Evanston in 1926, followed by Marshall Field's in 1928. Evanston became a retail center for the neighboring suburbs, which were also enjoying prosperity and rapid growth. Manufacturing also increased. A branch of Youngstown Steel and Tube Company employed 800 workers to turn out 100,000 tons of steel and tube-work per year. The popular Tinker Toys were manufactured in Evanston, and there were several garment factories employing some 300 workers.

The automobile was creating a whole new suburban world. It was now possible for people to live miles away from a railroad depot. By 1920 there were an estimated 3,500 cars in Evanston, one for every two families. The automobile's ultimate impact on Evanston's retail center would not become fully apparent until after World War II. Outlying shopping centers such as Old Orchard, built in Skokie in the 1960s, offered free parking and drew shoppers from wide areas.

Evanston also undertook a number of public improvement projects. Among them were bridges spanning the canal at Dempster and Church Streets and lakefront improvements, including a breakwater.

Institutionalized Segregation

In its policy adopted in 1924, the National Association of Real Estate Boards explicitly stated: "A Realtor should never be instrumental in introducing into a neighborhood a character of property or occupancy, members of any race or nationality, or any individual whose presence will be detrimental to property values in that neighborhood." As a result, in Evanston, as across the country, restrictions limiting the residential choices of African Americans became institutionalized. The process of segregation locally was described by Morris (Dino) E. Robinson Jr. in *A Place We Call Our Home*:

Zoning boards restricted the number of apartment dwellings that could be built in Black areas. Underdeveloped properties owned by Blacks by the lake were refused loans to build on their properties and were eventually forced to sell them. Inspectors often condemned Black-owned buildings or island blocks that were located in the heart of white neighborhoods, and race restrictive clauses began appearing on the deeds of homes so that Blacks were systematically eliminated from certain areas of Evanston.

The combined effect of these measures was to bring 80 percent of African American residents into the fifth ward by 1930. Restrictive covenants, which also excluded Jews, remained until protests and street demonstrations during the early 1960s resulted in establishment of an open housing policy.

When the United States entered World War I, many of Evanston's young men and some women went into the service. The first Evanston fatality in World War I occurred soon after war was declared; Helen Burnett Wood was a nurse who had been assistant superintendent of the contagious disease section at Evanston Hospital.

The Evanston community supported the war effort and mourned and commemorated the young people who had given their lives. The family of Oliver Barry Cunningham established the Cunningham Award to be given to a male Evanston Township High School graduate. The family of Edward Hines Jr., of Hines Lumber Company, donated money to build a Catholic school and Hines Veterans' Hospital in Chicago. The Evanston City Council changed the name of Ayars Place to Garnett Place in memory of Thomas Garnett, an African American soldier.

Evanston banker and resident Charles Gates Dawes played an important role in World War I. He was chief procurement officer for the United States. He went on to be the first director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget and chair of the Committee of Experts of the Allied Reparations Commission. The commission developed the Dawes Plan to restore and stabilize the German economy and to allow the gradual payment of reparations by Germany to former enemies. Dawes and Sir Austen Chamberlain shared the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize for this work. Dawes served as Calvin Coolidge's vice president from 1925 to 1929 and then was appointed ambassador to Great Britain. He



Tinker Toys truck. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

died in Evanston in 1951, and his family home now houses the Evanston Historical Society.

By the end of the 1920s, Evanston was in debt from its major capital expenditures and the impact of the general economic depression. The schools and the city both issued tax anticipation warrants—\$925,000 for the schools and \$600,000 for the city. A number of stores went out of business. The Salvation Army shelter for the unemployed opened in January 1932 but had to close less than six months later due to lack of funds. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided employment for artists along with a wide spectrum of other jobs. In addition to architecture (Davis Street post office) and engineering projects, the WPA produced dozens of works of art, many still visible today in Evanston schools.

In 1931 Edwin Bush Jourdain Jr. became the first African American Evanston alderman. A Harvard Business School graduate, a journalist for the *Chicago Bee*, and managing editor of the *Chicago Defender*, Jourdain attracted both white and African American supporters. Briefly unseated in 1931 due to unproved allegations of voter fraud, he later defeated conservative alderman Peter N. Jans in a campaign in which Clarence Darrow came to Evanston to promote Jourdain. Jourdain continued on the city council until 1947.



*Edwin Bush Jourdain Jr.
Photo courtesy of Rose
Jourdain.*

During World War II, a Navy College Training Program, which trained almost 50,000 people, was located at Northwestern University. Residents planted victory gardens, and Evanston participated vigorously in Salvage for Victory drives. The war took a major toll on Evanston; 227 residents and 300 Northwestern University students gave their lives.

Little housing had been built during the Depression and the war years, and returning veterans and their families needed homes. Another building boom followed World War II. Evanston was allotted 37 buildings by the Federal Public Housing Authority. Temporary housing was built along the banks of the sanitary canal (on the present location of the Ladd Arboretum); of the 111 four-room units, only 12 were reserved for black families. Most of the vacant land was on Evanston's west and south sides. Many Jews and other minority newcomers settled in this southwest area, not only because of the availability of land but also because of restrictive housing covenants elsewhere. The largest zoned industrial area was and still is in the southwest region.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the population of Evanston increased 12 percent, and Evanston expanded again, this time eastward into Lake Michigan when Northwestern built a 74-acre landfill.

The good job market in the late 1940s and early 1950s brought the first Latinos to Evanston. Men usually arrived first, followed by their wives and families. Despite the language barrier and the difficulty of finding affordable housing, Evanston evidently proved a congenial place for Latinos to establish new roots and raise children.

The first Latinos to come to Evanston traveled from poor villages and cities of Guanajuato, Mexico—Ojo Seco, Celaya, and St. Tomas. These men risked everything they had to come to the United States. Chicago was their port of entry, and its near neighbor, Evanston, was known as a place where work was plentiful.

The immigrants were ready and willing to work in Evanston's industry. Factories such as Freeman Bishop Co. at 1500 Foster Street and Mark Clayton & Co. at Dempster Street and Dodge Avenue provided opportunities for hard-working young men. Some immigrants described that time in Evanston as having been difficult, mainly because the resources they needed were not easily available.

Soon after these men were established in Evanston, others from Guanajuato followed. Families and friends helped one another adapt in the new environment. It was not uncommon then, as today, for several families to live together in one apartment. Housing conditions were poor and apartments overcrowded. At the corner of Crain Street and Dodge Avenue, where today new townhouses stand, there were two-flat buildings that had been converted into multifamily apartments. One attic apartment was referred to as La Capilla ("the chapel").



*WPA sculpture on the Evanston post office.
Photo by Cynthia Schwartz.*

Not until the early 1960s did most women and children come to join their husbands and fathers. The women also worked in the factories. In the early 1970s the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services sometimes raided factories, deporting many people to Mexico. Nonetheless, work was relatively plentiful, and Latinos continued to settle in Evanston in the Washington School attendance area, particularly along Dodge and Dewey Avenues between Lake and Main Streets.

Today Latino students and parents have a strong presence in the school. Two bilingual teachers were hired in 1971. Since Nicholas Maldonado, the first Latino principal, left in 1997, administrators have continued to enhance

Washington School as a community center for Latinos and others by offering after-school and evening family programs, including instruction in English as a second language. With a population now about 32 percent Latino, Washington School celebrates important Hispanic holidays.

Did you know

On April 5, 1860, Abraham Lincoln stayed at the home of Julius White (later a Union general in the Civil War) at the northwest corner of Ridge Avenue and Church Streets. The house survived remodeling and several moves and still stands at 2009 Dodge Avenue.

Among the most important effects in Evanston of the social movements of the 1960s was a concerted effort to voluntarily eliminate segregation in Evanston elementary and middle schools and to establish a busing program that would make integrated schools a reality by 1967.

In the 1964 presidential election Evanston voted Democratic for the first time in its history, starting a pattern that has continued to the end of the century. Evanston's strong social conscience has been continually demonstrated through the years, with landmark legislation on issues from handgun control (1982) to transgender rights (1998).

Zoning changed in the late 1960s to allow buildings of up to 225 feet. The result was a skyline with several skyscrapers. The Evanston Preservation Commission was established in 1975 to ensure that historic and architecturally significant buildings would be protected.

A City of Homes

Evanston's fine collection of houses illustrates American domestic architecture by world-famous architects. City planner and architect Daniel Burnham described his hometown as "the most beautiful city in the world . . . As a place of residence, there is none to equal it."

Evanston's first rude log cabins gave way to clapboard houses and then to houses made of grout (a cement-like mixture of sand, slaked lime, and lake gravel). The invention of balloon framing in 1832 sped up construction;

standard-length boards and machine-cut nails replaced heavy timber framing and mortise-and-tenon joints. The oldest authenticated homes are at 2236 Ridge Avenue (1854), 1232 Simpson Street (1855), and 2418 Park Place (1865).

The Luxembourg farmhouses of the mid-1800s, a number of which survive, were built without a basement to minimize the effect of spring floods; they have an outside stairway from the street to the second story. Other architectural styles popular at midcentury and later included the picturesque cottages of the 1860s, with symmetrical massing and high gables sporting decorative bargeboards; 1870s' Italianates, with bracketed eaves and hipped roofs that often included a widow's walk, cupola, or belvedere; and high Victorian Gothics dating from the 1880s.

During the 1880s and 1890s many houses were built in the Queen Anne style with gables, high dormers, corner towers, and turrets with conical roofs. After the 1893 World Columbian Exposition revival-style houses (e.g., Georgian, Federal, Tudor, Elizabethan, Spanish Colonial) were constructed along Sheridan Road and Forest Avenue. Asa Lyon was the first architect to design homes for Evanston residents and organizations following the 1871 Chicago Fire. Lyon was joined by many other architects and architectural firms, including Jennings, Mayo, Perkins (father and son), Burnham, Tallmadge and Watson (whose street lights continue to grace residential neighborhoods to this day), Holabird and Roche, and Hunt and Maher.



The historic Dawes House seen from the air. Photo by Mike Kelly.

Apartment houses also transformed the landscape. More than 7,000 units were built between 1893 and 1920, most densely along transit lines, and almost one-half of Evanston's present-day 29,000 residential units are in multi-family buildings. The 1921 Evanston zoning ordinance, the first such ordinance in Illinois, established restricted residential districts in part to uphold the city's reputation as a city of homes. The ordinance limited the location of businesses and industries to prevent their encroachment into residential areas. As the number of businesses increased, houses were moved away from business areas such as Chicago Avenue and, when the sanitary district exercised its right-of-way, away from the banks of the North Shore Channel.

Preservation and Change

Evanstonians have struggled to preserve tradition while welcoming change. The Illinois Historic Structures Survey, conducted statewide from 1972 to 1975, designated 276 "significant structures" in Evanston. The creation of the Evanston Preservation Commission coincided with the identification of 10 intensive study areas having high concentrations of noteworthy structures. This study led to the creation of the Lakeshore and Ridge Historic Districts,



Dwight Perkins House. Photo from Evanston Historical Society files.

which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Also listed are several individual structures: the Frances Willard House (1730 Chicago Avenue), the Charles Dawes House (225 Greenwood Street), the Grosse Point Lighthouse (2603 Sheridan Road), the Frederick Carter Jr. House (1024 Judson Avenue), the George Dryden House (currently used as School District 65 offices at 1314 Ridge Avenue), the Ridgewood Apartments (1703–1713 Ridge Avenue), the Dwight Heald Perkins House (2319 Lincoln Street), the Edward Kirk Warren House and Garage (2829–2831 Sheridan Place), Roycemore School (640 Lincoln Street), and the Shakespeare Garden on the Northwestern University campus.

The preservation commission's full-time staff is available to all homeowners who wish to rehabilitate homes. Landmark owners can take advantage of the tax-freeze program of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The Evanston Historical Society at 225 Greenwood Avenue aids the research efforts of rehabilitation-minded homeowners through its extensive collection of books, documents, manuscripts, photographs, and newspaper clippings chronicling Evanston's history. Its files contain building permits, real estate listings, photographs, and, often, the names of previous owners.



Frederick Carter Jr. House. Photo from City of Evanston Planning Division files.





This Is Evanston

Government

2

The quality of a local government often is determined by the effectiveness of its functioning parts. Evanston's system of government has three major components: the citizens, who elect representatives and serve on advisory boards and committees; the mayor and the city council, who constitute the legislative arm; and the city staff, headed by a city manager, who heads the administrative arm.

City Government

Background

Evanston adopted the council-manager form of government in 1952, and the story of that process is a good example of citizen action. The Revised Cities and Villages Act of 1941 limited the kinds of governments available to Illinois municipalities. The law restricted Evanston to the mayor-council form of government. Many Evanstonians felt that this system was not adequate to handle the problems of city government in the post-World War II years. Evanston's increasing population was creating demands for better traffic control, more parks and recreation areas, and better water and sewer facilities.

The first edition of *This Is Evanston*, published in 1949, called attention to some of the administrative problems facing city government: a lack of financial controls and adequate reporting; the need for a job classification plan and a personnel director; a zoning ordinance that needed revision; an

out-of-date building code; and neighborhood deterioration. Citizens had little access to the annual reports published by the city. The city was not equipped to deal with the more than 200 new functions it had taken on since

Did you know

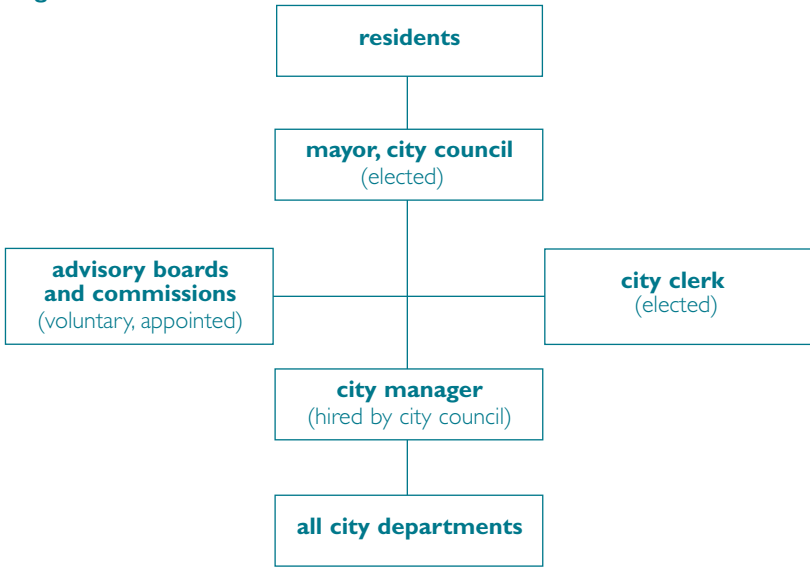
In 1920 Evanston became the first town in the United States to use a mobile lending library outside of a rural community. The bookmobile was discontinued in 1997 because of high operating costs.

1900, much less to plan for the future. Policy making and planning were being given short shrift in the effort to keep up with day-to-day operations.

In 1951 the state legislature allowed cities and villages with populations of less than 500,000 to adopt the council-manager form of government. The change had to take place when a mayor's term of office was expiring, as would be the case in Evanston in 1952. Immediate action was needed, or the city would have to wait four more years. Under the leadership of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters, a successful campaign to get the proposition on the November 1951 ballot was undertaken. The voters adopted the council-manager form of government by a two-to-one margin.

The council-manager form of government attempts to balance representative government via popularly elected officials, who must answer to the voters, and a competent administration via a professional staff, who carry out their duties apart from partisan politics.

**City of Evanston
Organization**



The City Manager, the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Clerk

The city council appoints a city manager to execute its policies and objectives. The city manager is chief executive officer of the city and is empowered to administer and enforce all laws and ordinances. He or she is in charge of personnel, budget preparation, and supervision of the city's day-to-day operations. The city-manager role is politically neutral. The manager attends all city council meetings and can take part in discussions but does not have a vote. He or she can be removed from office at any time by a majority of all council members.

The mayor, who is elected on a citywide basis for a four-year term, represents the city at official functions. The mayor presides at city council meetings and votes in case of a tie or when a vote greater than a majority is required. The mayor can veto any ordinance or resolution passed by the council, although the council can override a mayoral veto by a two-thirds vote. The mayor is an ex officio member of all council committees and, with the approval of the council, makes appointments to city boards, commissions, and committees.

The city council had 18 elected aldermen (two from each of the city's nine wards) until 1991, when Evanston citizens voted to reduce the number of aldermen to nine (one from each ward). Aldermanic elections are held every other odd-numbered year in April, and the entire council is up for election or

reelection to a four-year term at the same time. The council adopts legislation, sets policy, gives advice and consent to mayoral appointments, hires and fires the city manager, and approves the annual budget.

The city council meets twice monthly, usually on the second and fourth Mondays, in the civic center council chambers. Since June 1984 the council meetings have been broadcast live on cable television. Special city council meetings are held to consider the proposed budget, to hear presentations, or to deal with issues that cannot be considered during regularly scheduled council meetings.

The aldermen are organized into four standing committees:

- **The administration and public works committee** considers matters relating to bills and purchases, finance, fire protection, legal matters, licensing, personnel, public works (including streets and alleys, lighting, refuse disposal, water and sewers, traffic control, and parking), public buildings, public transportation, public utilities, the cable television franchise, safety (including civil defense), police and fire pension board liaison, budget policy, and capital improvements.

Did you know

Evanston has enjoyed a Aaa bond rating continuously since 1973. Evanston was the only Illinois community that year to receive the highest possible rating.

- **The planning and development committee** considers matters relating to planning, physical development, zoning, building, conservation, preservation, and parks.
- **The human services committee** considers matters relating to the Evanston Department of Health and Human Services, including public health, mental health, aging, emergency assistance and purchased human services; is the liaison with human services–related boards and commissions, school districts, and private and public organizations that fund or provide human services to the city, as well as the liaison for matters relating to the arts, recreation, the library, the environment, unemployment, and the township.
- **The rules committee** is a committee of the whole (i.e., all the aldermen). It meets monthly to assign aldermen to standing and special council committees (except those appointed by the mayor), to resolve jurisdictional disputes between committees, to revise council rules, to prepare and maintain a list of mayors pro tem, and to attend to other matters referred by the council or mayor. Standing committee assignments are made after the April elections, based on aldermanic requests. A balance is maintained between incumbents and freshmen aldermen. Committee chairmanships rotate, and thus no alderman can exercise prolonged control over a committee agenda. An alderman may chair only one committee at a time.

All meetings of the council and its committees, boards, and commissions are open to the public and the media except for those to discuss personnel, litigation, or real property transactions. As required by federal, state, or local mandate, public hearings are frequently held by the council and the standing committees on public interest issues.

The city council adopts its own rules of procedure within state limits. A quorum consists of six members of the city council, including the mayor. Action may be taken by a majority vote of a quorum except where a specified number of votes is required by state or local statute. For example, seven votes, a three-fourths majority, are required for vacating streets and alleys.

The council may by majority vote resolve itself into a committee of the whole for informal discussion. No votes are taken in these sessions.

The aldermen, in addition to formulating overall policies and ordinances to guide the administration and development of the city, maintain communication with their constituents and respond on municipal matters to the people in their wards. Though the aldermanic salary—\$6,500 a year since 1992—dictates that the office is a part-time job, council members must devote considerable time to their duties.

The city clerk, the only full-time elected official, is elected at large to a four-year term. The city clerk is secretary to the city council and is the official custodian of the city code, public records, and the city seal. Deputized by the Cook County clerk to register voters, the city clerk is also the local election authority for municipal elections. The clerk serves without additional compensation as the Evanston Township clerk.

The office of the city clerk maintains the municipal library and the minutes of all meetings of city-related boards, commissions, and committees. It also serves as a general information and referral center; maps, transportation schedules, and city publications on a wide variety of subjects are available there.

City Administration

Every function of local government has a direct effect on the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens. Some functions, such as police and fire protection, are highly visible, while others, such as planning and personnel, are less apparent though no less important. This section provides a brief summary of the functions of the major city departments, as well as the citizen boards and commissions having a direct relationship to a city department.

The city manager is at the head of the city's workforce. He or she is responsible for executing the policies, objectives, and levels of service set by the city council.

Public Safety

Fire Department

The Evanston Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression and prevention and for emergency medical services to victims of accident or sudden illness. Firefighters and paramedics are extensively trained in techniques of fire suppression and emergency medical care. The department inspects buildings to enforce life-safety standards and remove fire hazards. It reviews plans for new construction, tests fire-protection and fire-alarm systems, and responds to reports of downed power lines and suspicious odors. The department also conducts education programs in elementary and middle schools and in Evanston businesses.

The department has 106 sworn firefighters based at five stations throughout the city. On an average day 45 vehicles respond to emergencies at more than 20 locations; about half of these are medical emergencies. All firefighters are emergency medical technicians, and two-thirds are certified paramedics.

The fire department receives calls via radio, automatic detection systems, and the enhanced 911 emergency telephone communication system, which automatically provides the name and address of the caller. This and other information is relayed to the mobile data terminal on each fire department vehicle. The average response time for emergency calls is 3.4 minutes.

Boards, Commissions, and Special Committees

In addition to the elected officials and professional staff, Evanston has more than 30 boards, commissions, and special committees comprised of citizens and aldermen. Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. Membership is voluntary, and citizens serve without pay. These boards and commissions are important to the city in many ways:

- They expand the pool of expertise available to decision makers.
- They focus intensely on particular issues to help achieve a community consensus.
- They provide a training ground for citizen involvement in government and often serve as a springboard to candidacy for public office.

The boards, commissions, and committees can be classified in three general ways:

- Administrative (e.g., library board, mental health board, recreation board, and human relations commission): These semiautonomous boards and commissions prepare and administer their own budgets and develop programs. Their budgets are part of the city tax levy and therefore must be approved by the city council.

In addition to firefighting duties, firefighters maintain and service all equipment and conduct fire prevention activities including plan review, code enforcement, and fire and carbon monoxide protection system inspection and testing.

Police Department

The Evanston Police Department is the largest single department in the city, with 229 full-time employees, 162 of whom are sworn officers. The department's services to the community include 24-hour preventive patrols and emergency response using the enhanced 911 system. The police department is also responsible for traffic and parking enforcement, criminal investigations, victim services, youth outreach, drug and gang enforcement, crime prevention, and animal control.

The police department carries out its responsibilities through a partnership with citizens based on the community-oriented policing and problem-solving (COPPS) model. A relatively new concept in law enforcement, COPPS increasingly is recognized as an effective approach that goes beyond traditional reactive methods of responding to calls. COPPS programs work with citizens to attack basic causes and supporting conditions of crime and disorder. Among the components of the COPPS programs in Evanston are neighborhood

- **Advisory** (e.g., plan commission): They study problems assigned to them by the council and recommend courses of action.
- **Quasijudicial** (e.g., zoning board of appeals): They hear evidence on various matters and present findings and recommendations to the city council for approval.

Each board has a specific area of responsibility. The city clerk's office maintains up-to-date information on each group, its function, meeting schedule, terms, staff, and members. Any citizen interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee may request a resume form from the city clerk's office.

The following is a list of all current boards and commissions and their purposes:

- **Arts council** (9 members): Encourages the involvement of citizens in the arts and helps coordinate private and public cultural activities; administers and develops Noyes Cultural Arts Center.
- **Board of ethics** (5 members): Secures and maintains financial disclosure statements from people required to file them; develops and recommends to the city council a code of conduct applicable to public officials; deliberates on questions of possible unethical conduct or conflict of interest. *(continued)*

watch programs, in which citizens are trained in crime prevention; a community police advisory board; a police-clergy team; a citizen police academy; and a program in youth mentoring.

The police department offers assistance to citizens wishing to establish neighborhood clubs and gives programs in retail crime prevention, home security, and residential crime prevention.

The police department also works with other agencies including Northwestern University Police, the Chicago Police Department 24th District, and the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force, a 13-member, multijurisdictional, investigative task force for homicide and kidnapping investigations.

Public Works

The public works department oversees five divisions: water and sewers, streets and sanitation, traffic engineering, engineering, and fleet services. The city works with the Northwest Municipal Conference, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, and the state recycling agency to meet local goals while coordinating regional needs.

- **Board of examiners of stationary engineers, boiler or water tenders** (2 members): Tests applicants for a license as engineers and boiler and water tenders.
- **Board of local improvements** (6 members): As required by state statute, makes public works infrastructure improvements through the special assessment process and receives petitions for any local improvements.
- **Citizen's advisory committee on public place names** (4 members plus, usually, a fifth member appointed from the Evanston Historical Society): Recommends appropriate names for public places.
- **City-chamber committee** (11 members): Acts as liaison between the city council and the Evanston Chamber of Commerce; considers matters on which the chamber wishes city action and makes recommendations to the council; reports to the chamber on matters in which the city desires chamber cooperation.
- **City-school liaison committee** (2 aldermen, city staff representatives, and representatives from both school districts' boards and administrative staffs): Considers problems that affect the city and the schools.

Water and Sewers Department

The water and sewers department is responsible for distributing clean water to more than 300,000 people in Evanston, Skokie, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, and Wheeling. Water from Lake Michigan is filtered and treated to remove biological and chemical impurities at the treatment plant on Lincoln Street at the lakefront. The water also is treated to prevent leaching of lead from old pipes, to minimize seasonal differences in water taste, and to promote dental health. Water quality is monitored in the department laboratory and by state and federal authorities.

The department maintains the water distribution system, including hydrants and meters. Residential meter reading has been privately contracted, and a program to install remote reading devices will completely eliminate the need to enter homes.

Much of the sewer system in Evanston is 80 or more years old. The sewers carry both sanitary sewage and storm water runoff. It has long been recognized that the sewer system is inadequate and deteriorating. In the early 1990s the city embarked on a multiyear project to renovate the system. When the system is completed, the water will flow into a system of sewers and catch basins that increase in capacity the closer they are to the treatment facility at Howard Street and McCormick Boulevard in Skokie. These modifications and

- **Civil service commission** (3 members): Oversees the operation of the civil service system, including administering examinations to determine the fitness of applicants for positions in the city's classified service (the exams can be conducted by the director of human resources) and establishing and publishing an approved list of hearing officers to perform various duties.
- **Commission on aging** (15 members): Provides advocacy and ombudsman services to aging citizens; studies and evaluates needs of older adults; encourages reduction of duplication in services and filling of service gaps; coordinates services provided by federal, state, and local agencies; oversees the long-term care committee.
- **Economic development committee** (9 members): Advises the city council on matters of business district redevelopment, using resource persons for assistance and advice on specific proposals, and gathers and disseminates appropriate information regarding the economic vitality of the city. It reviews and makes recommendations concerning all redevelopment proposals (sponsors of rejected proposals can petition the city council directly).
- **Electrical commission** (6 members): Recommends safe and practical standards and specifications designed to meet the needs and conditions of the city for the installation, alteration, and use of electrical equipment. *(continued)*

improvements will eventually connect Evanston's sewers to the massive regional Tunnel and Reservoir Project (Deep Tunnel) system, undertaken by the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Streets and Sanitation Department

The streets and sanitation department is responsible for keeping the city's streets and alleys in safe condition. It repairs and cleans 155 miles of road surfaces and maintains unpaved alleys. It is also responsible for snow and ice removal and for leaf sweeping. Homeowners must bag or mulch leaves from their lawns.

Evanston's streets and sanitation department is responsible for removing refuse from dwellings of one to four units and from townhouse or rowhouse complexes that are at least 75 percent owner occupied. The city provides wheeled receptacles to be used for weekly collection from alleys or curbsides where there is no alley access. An assistance program aids residents who are physically unable to take receptacles to the alley. Yard waste, which is not permitted in refuse containers, is collected between April and December and is then composted by the city. Paper yard-waste bags or rollout carts (available for purchase from the city) must be used.

Illinois requires counties having a population of more than 200,000 to provide curbside or drop-off recycling. No landfills remain open in northern

- **Emergency telephone system board** (7 members): Coordinates and supervises the implementation, upgrading, and maintenance of the system, including the establishment of equipment specifications and a coding system.
- **Energy commission** (11 members): Participates in planning and improvement to ensure reliable and competitive electrical service.
- **Environment board** (13 members): Investigates all activities that affect the environment; deals with air pollution, litter, water, noise pollution, solid waste pollution, and pesticides; and develops policy recommendations on environmental issues for submission to the city council.
- **Firefighters' pension board** (7 members): Provides and distributes pension funds for firefighters and the widows and minor children of deceased firefighters.
- **Flood and pollution control commission** (6 members): Evaluates the solutions suggested in the Evanston Combined Sewer System Report (1975), reports on available funding, prepares plans to implement the findings of the report, and makes recommendations on immediate action to alleviate flooding problems.

Cook County, and the cost of transportation and tipping fees is increasing. Recycling can provide some income to offset these costs while reducing the volume of solid waste going to a landfill. Recyclables are collected with weekly refuse collection. In 1999 the city privatized its combination curbside and alley pickup recycling program.

Traffic Engineering Department

The traffic engineering department is responsible for providing safe, convenient, and efficient movement for vehicles and pedestrians. Traffic engineering supervises and maintains a traffic control system involving traffic counts, signal timings, intersection control, signs, pavement markings, and traffic signal maintenance and improvement.

This department also administers the public parking system, including revenue collection from the metered spaces and the rental of spaces for permit parking. The department maintains the two large downtown parking garages as well as 40 surface lots. Parking is a volatile issue in Evanston, and traffic engineering tries to balance residential, business, commuter, and student parking needs. The number of special-permit parking areas has doubled since 1986, and there are now 25 such zones. Modernization of traffic signals, necessary but expensive, is planned on an ongoing basis. Parking meters are now digitized and a computerized billing system has increased efficiency.

- **Housing commission** (9 members): Provides for the planning, expansion, maintenance, conservation, and rehabilitation of Evanston's housing stock; responds to needs for change in housing-related matters to maintain a diverse residential environment and to conserve property values within the community.
- **Housing and community development act committee** (9 members): Provides advice and recommendations to the city council on the goals, objectives, and overall policy direction of the U.S. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; makes recommendations to the city council on the use and appropriation of CDBG funds; monitors the progress of all CDBG-funded programs; initiates studies and reports as necessary for the effective operation of the CDBG program; and conducts public hearings as required and deemed necessary to gather information and ideas related to the CDBG program.
- **Human relations commission** (9 members): Fosters the improvement of human relations in Evanston among citizens of all races, colors, creeds, and national origins.

(continued)

Traffic calming, a method of slowing down neighborhood traffic by using barriers, is a new program for traffic engineers.

If new traffic ordinances are needed, the traffic engineer drafts them. The department also runs banner programs to publicize special events, regulates valet parking, and plans detour routes for construction projects.

Engineering Department

The engineering department provides professional design and engineering services for public works and transportation projects throughout the city. It designs sewer and water mains; provides engineering services for street resurfacing, slurry seal, and alley resurfacing projects; and administers the sidewalk and curb replacement programs as well as the maintenance contract for the street lights.

Fleet Services Department

The fleet services department is responsible for maintaining the fleet of municipal vehicles. It also operates a vehicle-testing station for trucks and taxicabs.

- **Ladd Arboretum committee** (7 members): Advises and consults with the city council and the director of parks/forestry and recreation on development, maintenance, and programs of the arboretum and the ecology center; raises funds and seeks gifts for development and maintenance; approves disbursement of money raised by the committee; publicizes the arboretum and its attractions and promotes its use; serves as the governing board of the Evanston Environmental Association.
- **Library board** (9 members appointed in accordance with state statutes): Supervises and manages the services of the Evanston Public Library with powers granted under state statutes.
- **Lighthouse Landing complex committee**: Shares information and facilitates cooperation and coordination among all groups with activities and responsibilities surrounding Grosse Point Lighthouse.
- **Liquor control review board** (3 members): Investigates and reviews all applications and makes recommendations about licensing and renewing licenses.

Parks/Forestry and Recreation Department

Parks

The department of parks/forestry and recreation oversees the maintenance of Evanston parks and is in charge of recreation and ecology programs and arts and waterfront activities. Evanston has about 300 acres of parks ranging from small neighborhood parks and tot lots to large parks having facilities for softball, baseball, soccer, or tennis; beaches; and boat launching.

In 1965 the city signed a long-term lease with the Metropolitan Sanitary District for the development of more than 50 acres of parkland along the sanitary district canal banks. Some of this land has been developed as Ladd Arboretum. Lovelace Park, in Evanston's far northwest corner, is on land that was the city dump. A protective breakwater at the Church Street boat ramp, reforestation along the lakefront, and a dramatically improved lagoon area were completed during the 1980s. More recent improvements in the parks include new furniture, play equipment, curbs, gutters, and bike and pedestrian paths.

Ladd Ecology Center, part of the city's park system, is located in Ladd Arboretum along the sanitary district canal at 2024 McCormick Boulevard. The arboretum, named for Edward Rixon Ladd, former owner and publisher of the *Evanston Review*, was developed in stages with public and private

- **Mental health board** (9 members): Aids individuals in the enhancement, maintenance, and restoration of their mental health within the context of their environment; reviews and evaluates community mental health services and facilities, including those for treatment of mental disorders, alcoholism, drug addiction, and developmental disabilities.
- **Minority, women, and Evanston business enterprise (M/W/EBE) development committee** (9 members): Regularly identifies and assesses needs and develops a program to address established needs.
- **Parking committee** (6 members): Studies the intermediate and long-term parking needs of the city and provides the city council with recommendations on parking problems.
- **Plan commission** (9 members): Formulates basic policies for a comprehensive general plan; initiates studies concerning present and future development and redevelopment of the city; makes recommendations for the annual revision of the capital improvement program; and prepares an annual report on the adequacy of the comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance, and the capital improvement plan as instruments of long-term development policy. *(continued)*



Grosse Pointe Lighthouse. From Evanston Historical Society files.

funds. It covers 15.6 acres and includes a bird sanctuary, a bicycle path, and trees and other plants suited to the climate. All plants were supplied through private funds and were labeled. The ecology center opened in 1974 as a meeting center and indoor teaching laboratory for lectures, exhibits, and scientific experimentation. A staff of nature specialists and a cadre of volunteers are in charge of the center and its programs.

The Lighthouse Park District works cooperatively with Ladd Arboretum in restoration and environmental education at Grosse Pointe Lighthouse. Restoration of the lighthouse's 113-foot tall tower, keeper's quarters, and storeroom began in 1973, 100 years after the tower was completed. In 1981 the two fog-signal houses east of the tower were converted into a nature center and a maritime museum that interprets the Great Lakes heritage. The Grosse Pointe Lighthouse is one of only eight such structures in the nation to receive National Historic Landmark designation.

- **Playground and recreation board** (9 members): Provides for, maintains, supervises, and directs all playground and recreation activities.
- **Police pension board** (5 members): As the board of trustees of the police pension fund, administers the fund and designates beneficiaries; controls and manages the pension fund, its investments, and all money paid, assessed, donated, or provided by law for the pensioning of retired and disabled police officers, their surviving spouses, minor children, and dependent parents.
- **Preservation commission** (11 members): Develops a preservation plan as part of the comprehensive general plan; performs a field inventory and creates a database; sets up preservation programs and tools; educates the public.
- **Property services board** (7 members): Performs the duties and responsibilities of the Building Officials Code Administration (BOCA) property maintenance code appeals board, the BOCA national code appeals board, and the burglary prevention appeals board.
- **Public art committee** (9 members): Provides a process for the city to acquire and maintain works of art; commissions works of art; administers a public art

Land belonging to two independent park districts is included in the city's park acreage. Ridgeville and Lighthouse Park (formerly North East Park) Districts have a total of nine parks. These independent park districts are administered by commissioners elected by the voters who reside in each district. The districts add their own levies to the real estate tax bills of the property owners in each district.

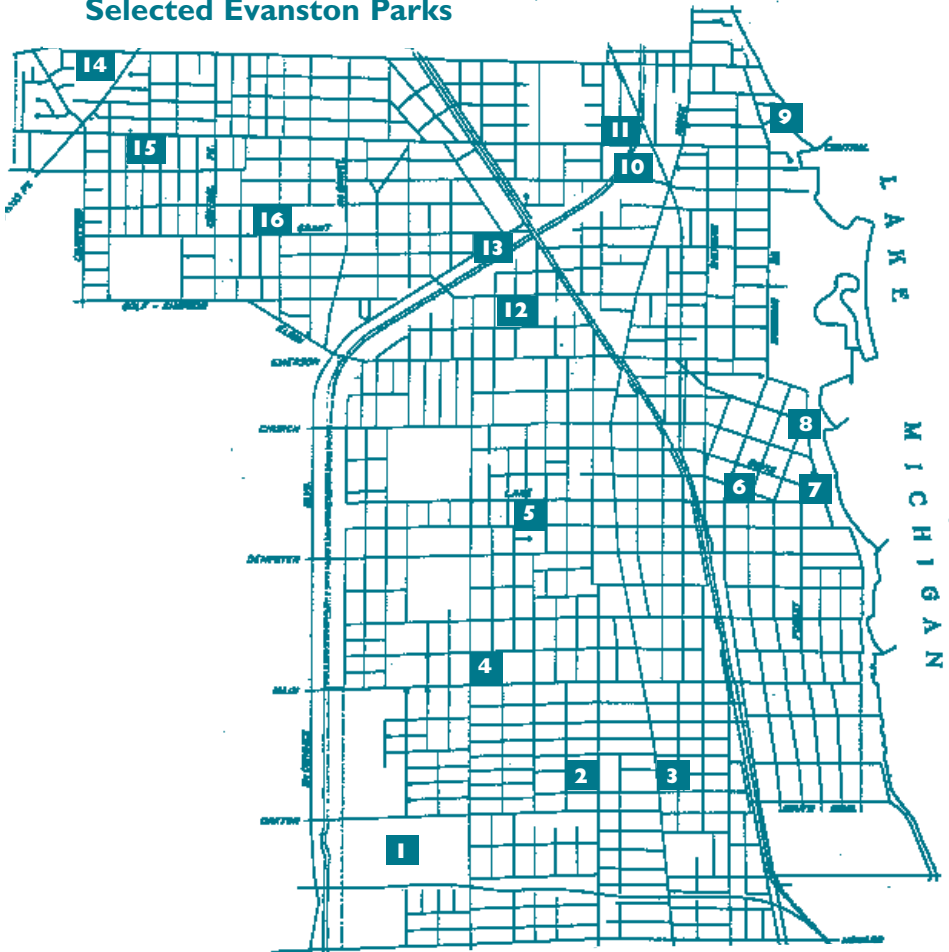
The Lighthouse Park District extends from Noyes Street north to the city limits and from the lake to the canal. It has about 3½ acres of parkland. The Ridgeville Park District extends from Howard Street north to Greenleaf Street, and from the Metra tracks to the canal. It has about 14 acres of parkland. Residents in a small area of northwest Evanston are part of the Skokie Park District. There have been numerous recommendations to consolidate the independent park districts and the city park system to achieve greater efficiency of operation, tax savings, and elimination of administrative expense.

Also within Evanston's boundaries is a small parcel that is part of the 23,000-acre Cook County Forest Preserve District. The 6½-acre Perkins Woods, named for the noted architect Dwight Perkins, is located at Grant Street and Ewing Avenue.

fund for acquisition, maintenance, and disposition of works of art; establishes and administers a public art plan and program; and disposes of works of art.

- **Sign review and appeals board** (5 members): Hears appeals and grants variations concerning the sign ordinance; hears requests for establishment of unified business centers; hears proposals for special sign districts; makes recommendations for approval, modification, or denial of requests.
- **Site plan appearance and review board** (13 members, 12 of whom are city staff): Brings together staff from various departments to help developers identify applicable codes and ordinances, to avoid adverse impact, and to promote harmony of new development with its surroundings.
- **Taxicab advisory board** (7 members): Advises the city manager on taxicab regulation matters and recommends action regarding complaints.
- **Zoning board of appeals** (7 members): Hears appeals of the decision of an enforcing officer about zoning ordinance variations and makes decisions; hears applications for variations and special use permits and makes recommendations to the city council.

Selected Evanston Parks



- 1. James Park**, Oakton Street and Grey Avenue
- 2. Kamen Park**, Asbury Avenue and South Boulevard
- 3. Ridgeville Park**, Ridge Avenue and South Boulevard
- 4. Crown Park**, Main Street and Dodge Avenue
- 5. Penny Park**, Lake Street and Ashland Avenue
- 6. Raymond Park**, Lake Street and Chicago Avenue
- 7. Dawes Park**, Lake Street and the lakefront
- 8. Centennial Park**, Church Street and the lakefront
- 9. Lighthouse Park**, Central Street and the lakefront
- 10. Chandler Park**, Lincoln Street and Ridge Avenue
- 11. Peter Jans Community Golf Course**, Central Street and the canal
- 12. Foster Park**, Foster Street and Dewey Avenue
- 13. Ladd Arboretum**, McCormick Boulevard and Bridge Street
- 14. Lovelace Park**, Gross Point Road and Isabella Street
- 15. Bent Park**, Central Street and Cowper Avenue
- 16. Perkins Woods**, Grant Street and Ewing Avenue

Forestry

The forestry department is responsible for maintaining the city's parkway trees. Forestry plants new trees and prunes existing trees for appearance and disease prevention. The department also helps care for large trees in the city parks.

Recreation

The recreation department supervises the activities and programs offered in the city's parks, beaches, and community centers. Some of the facilities and programs the department oversees are

- **Beaches:** The city operates five beaches during the summer months. Approximately 250,000 people use the beaches each summer season.
- **Community recreation centers:** Chandler-Newberger, Fleetwood-Jourdain, Robert Crown, and Levy Centers offer a variety of scheduled and drop-in recreational activities.
- **Youth programs:** After-school activities are conducted in cooperation with School District 65. Other programs include organized sports, e.g., football, baseball, and volleyball; mother/father/tot leisure hours; preschool play centers featuring physical activity and creative play; and summer programs.
- **Tennis:** The city has 34 outdoor tennis courts, which are supplemented by the outdoor courts at Evanston Township High School. Tournaments, league play, and an instructional program are conducted at these facilities.
- **Senior programs:** Programs for older residents are in a state of flux because of the redevelopment of the area in which Levy Community Center was located. The cultural, educational, and recreational activities formerly offered at Levy Center will be relocated.
- **Ice skating:** Robert Crown Community Center houses an ice rink with seating for 1,000 spectators and a studio rink for instruction and parties. It is the headquarters of the Evanston Youth Hockey Association, a not-for-profit organization for school-age children that is financed by players' fees, donations, sponsors' fees, and the recreation department. The Evanston Speed Skating Club and the Evanston Figure Skating Club also use the facility. The center is open for several hours each day; admission fees are charged.
- **Open membership clubs:** These are developed around special interests such as archery, badminton, camping, and photography. Meetings are held at community centers.

With about one acre of recreational space per 300 people, Evanston falls short of an industry standard that stipulates one acre for every 100 people. However, that standard does not take into account two factors particular to Evanston. The first is the broad expanse of open space along the lakefront, which can be considered a more effective use of land than smaller parcels

spread throughout the city. The second factor is the large amount of open space surrounding most Evanston school buildings. While not included in the city's park acreage, they do function as community playgrounds.

Arts and Recreation is the quarterly publication of the city's parks/forestry and recreation department. It is delivered door to door to houses and apartments in the city. Copies are also available at the Civic Center and recreation facilities. The magazine details the programs and events sponsored by parks/forestry and recreation in addition to related programs provided by other groups. The center pages of *Arts and Recreation* contain "Highlights," news of Evanston city government.

Arts Council

The arts council, a division of parks/forestry and recreation, runs the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, administers an arts grants program, and sponsors summer festivals and concerts. The Noyes Cultural Arts Center is a unique facility housing 37 tenants in 29 studio spaces. Artists are expected to give public service or to offer reasonably priced classes to the public in exchange for the economical rent. There is a waiting list for space.

The city's public art ordinance, passed in 1991, mandates that 1 percent of the cost of construction of new public buildings be reserved for public art. The first project that fell under the ordinance was the new central library. A



Tree grate designed by Chicago artist David Lee Csicsko. Photo courtesy of James C. Gamble, Land Design Collaborative, Inc.

new fire station and the downtown streetscape project also included public art. The public art ordinance enabled the developers of the downtown streetscape project, completed in 1998, to hire Chicago artist David Csicsko to design graphic images reflecting the community and to translate those graphics into banners, tree grates, brick paving, and manhole covers.

The city has gained a national reputation for respecting the arts in its buildings and grounds, and other cities have requested information on its programs. In Illinois, only Chicago, Evanston, and Aurora have public art legislation.

Health and Human Services Department

The department of health and human services, created in 1978, is responsible for coordination and overall management of the health department, mental health board, commission on aging, and direct services. In addition, the department maintains a liaison with the social service agencies with which the city contracts for services. Its formal mission is to provide access to a full array of social services to citizens in need. The department offers programs to the entire community as well.

Health Department

Health is one of the city's oldest departments and was the first city health department in the state when it was established more than 100 years ago. With an advisory committee of citizens who have no fiscal or personnel powers, the department provides advocacy and public information and conducts research into community health needs.

The department also operates a number of direct services, many on its premises at the Civic Center: a dental clinic, sexually transmitted disease information and referral, immunization, family planning assistance, testing and counseling, laboratory services, in-home visits to high-risk babies, communicable disease investigation, AIDS testing, and cooperation with the Evanston Township High School Health Center (including the services of a public health nurse). Routine checkups for low-income children up to school age are provided. Childhood immunizations are provided regardless of family income; comprehensive dental care is provided for low-income children through high school; and vision and hearing screening is provided for preschoolers regardless of family income.

The health department also conducts inspections of food stores and restaurants and oversees ordinances related to health matters. Since 1978 the health department and School District 65 have sponsored the "Know Your Body" program to educate young children about good health habits. The program includes a health screening and a health education curriculum taught

by District 65 teachers. The department also serves as the official registrar of all births and deaths in the city and maintains statistics on birth rates, death rates, and causes of death.

Mental Health Board

The mental health board provides information, advocacy, and oversight of contracts with private agencies providing services to the following target populations: people with mental illness, people with developmental disabilities, and people who are addicted to and/or abusing alcohol or other drugs.

The board was created following a successful referendum in 1969 that established a tax levy fund to coordinate and purchase mental health services for the community. As mandated by local ordinance and state law, the board is responsible for local planning, funding, coordination, and evaluation of community-based services for the target populations.

By state law, the mental health board cannot provide direct mental health services for more than two years but can contract with local agencies to provide services ranging from hospital-based mental health service to non-traditional services.

The mental health board allocates a minimum of 75 percent of its budget annually to community agencies. The board and staff monitor and evaluate all agencies receiving board money. The board also advocates for its four target populations to ensure that needed services are available and accessible. It contracts for programs, community education, crisis intervention, and long-term treatment.

Commission on Aging

Through the commission on aging, the department of health and human services is responsible for inspecting local nursing homes in accordance with the Evanston Long-Term Care Ordinance. A long-term care ombudsman monitors all long-term care facilities, investigates complaints, and mediates disputes. The staff visits the 13 nursing homes (containing more than 2,000 beds) in the community at least quarterly to review all aspects of care, including medical and nursing care, rehabilitation and activity programs, staffing, food service and sanitation, environmental health, and building facilities. Nursing homes that do not meet standards are required to correct problems or face financial sanctions and possible loss of license.

Among the division's other services are subsidized taxi coupons, which are sold in various locations to seniors and others considered to be in need, and the handyman program, which is currently contracted to Neighbors at Work, a private not-for-profit agency.

Direct Services

The Latino outreach and ombudsman program, started in 1997, provides services to the growing Latino population in Evanston, including information, counseling, and referrals.

Emergency assistance serves low-income individuals and families. Short-term assistance with housing (including rent payment), food (vouchers to local grocery stores), and referrals are made mostly in cases of interrupted income. In 1997 this department served 2,000 people (800 unduplicated families).

Community Development Department

During the general reorganization and downsizing of city government in 1994, the zoning, property standards and housing rehabilitation, and building permits and inspections departments merged to form the community development department. It is responsible for city planning functions, i.e., land use, transportation, economic development, architectural preservation, and use of federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Zoning Division

The zoning division examines all building plans and permits for conformity with the zoning ordinance. It also provides staff support to the zoning board of appeals, a state-required seven-member citizen board that considers requests for a special use or variation from the zoning ordinance and make recommendations to the city council. In some instances, the zoning board has final authority. In others, such as planned development or special uses, the board's recommendations go to the city council through the planning and development committee, which can agree, deny, or attach additional conditions to the board's findings. A petitioner whose request is denied can challenge the decision in court.

In considering requests for variances from the zoning ordinance, the zoning board must assess both the immediate impact and the future implications of zoning changes. The board provides a public forum for citizens to register objection to or support for a zoning change. Legal notices of requests for amendments and variations are published in the local newspapers, giving neighborhood groups and local watchdog organizations time to prepare their arguments.

Did you know

Until 1985 every mayor in Evanston was white, male, and Republican. In the 1985 campaign, every candidate (an African American, a female, and a Democrat) guaranteed a break in the mold.

Property Standards/Housing Rehabilitation Division

The property standards/housing rehabilitation division is primarily responsible for monitoring the rehabilitation and safety of all buildings in Evanston. This division administers an extensive housing rehabilitation program, funded primarily from the Community Development Block Grant, which enables low- and moderate-income residents to obtain subsidized loans for property rehabilitation. This division also enforces the housing code, the zoning ordinance, and other city codes applicable to property maintenance. It conducts property inspections to ensure compliance with minimum health and safety standards. When violations are found, property owners are cited and may be taken to court if the violations are not corrected.

Building Code Compliance Division

The building code compliance division reviews all proposed building plans for compliance with the city-adopted Building Officials Code Administration (BOCA) codes, the Illinois Accessibility Code, the National Electric Code, and the State Plumbing Code. The division inspects all new construction to ensure that construction follows approved plans and also monitors condominium conversions.

Planning Division

The planning division oversees general community planning, administration of the federally funded Community Development Block Grant program, economic development, and housing planning (both to increase affordable housing in Evanston and to preserve the city's exceptional architectural heritage). The division has five primary functions:

- **Planning:** The comprehensive general plan is adopted by the city council as a set of community objectives and policies to guide the orderly development of the city. The comprehensive plan is available to the public through the city clerk's office. Approval by the city council of the most recent revision, in 1998, is pending. The plan covers all aspects of land-use planning, including housing, parks, transportation, and public buildings. In addition to preparing the comprehensive plan, the citizen-member plan commission is the official custodian of the zoning ordinance, a comprehensive and sophisticated document that has been revised through the years to keep up with changing times and conditions. Unlike the zoning board of appeals, which hears requests for variances to the existing ordinance, the plan commission considers requests for changes to the ordinance itself.
- **Community Development Block Grant administration:** Evanston receives approximately \$2.5 million annually in the form of a block grant from the federal government. These funds, which Evanston has received since 1976, are targeted for low-income areas. They have been used for housing rehabilitation loans, park enrichment, code enforcement, and public works projects. They

have also been used by not-for-profit organizations that apply to the city for funding.

- **Economic development:** The staff provide technical assistance to the economic development committee and prepares proposals and activities designed to increase the city's tax base.
- **Housing:** The housing division staffs the housing commission to ensure the conservation and rehabilitation of Evanston's housing stock in the interest of maintaining a diverse residential environment.
- **Historic preservation:** The staff serves the preservation commission, maintaining an inventory of the architectural resources of the community, establishing and implementing a preservation program, and educating the public about Evanston's remarkable architectural heritage.

Finance Department

The finance department is charged with ensuring sound financial management of the city's assets, liabilities, and transactions. Its duties include budgetary oversight, bond administration, accounting, collection, auditing, purchasing, and data processing. State law requires that an independent certified public accountant appointed by the city council complete an annual audit of the city's books.

Corporation Counsel Law Department

The formal mission of the law department is to assist the city council, city manager, city boards and commissions, and city staff when legal questions arise and to advise, give considered legal opinions, and act as a watchdog. Day-to-day activities include reviews of purchases, service contracts, professional computer services, and the competitive bidding process for awarding contracts.

The law department is also involved in risk management for the city. The city became self-insured for general liability claims (e.g., auto accidents, sidewalk falls, traffic) 18 years ago. With other city employees, the department adjusts claims and authorizes proposed settlements. One city attorney specializes in contracts, another in zoning matters, and another in police matters.

Human Resources Department

The human resources department handles all personnel matters from processing job applications to keeping accurate and comprehensive personnel records. Some of its other functions include developing and monitoring the city's affirmative action program, complying with federal and state equal opportunity guidelines, and providing employee training in computer skills and technical and management development. The department also administers the employee assistance program and other benefit programs including pensions and health, dental, and life insurance.

Human Relations Department

Human relations is the city's administrative department serving the human relations commission. The goal of the department is to foster good relations among the diverse citizenry of Evanston. Activities include administering and enforcing the fair housing and landlord-tenant ordinances and providing free training for property owners and realtors to encourage compliance with those ordinances. Department staff provides mediation services between neighbors, between consumers and merchants, and between landlords and tenants. They also conduct hearings whenever issues of class, race, or culture become a problem in the community. The staff has the power to investigate charges of discrimination and/or hate crimes.

In conjunction with the Evanston police department, the department cosponsors an annual community picnic to promote unity and respect among residents. Opportunities for discussion about race relations, ranging from community forums to small discussion groups, are periodically organized with the same goal in mind.

Facilities Management Department

The facilities management department is responsible for maintaining the city's 45 municipal structures. It also provides other departments with ancillary services such as picking up equipment and transferring documents. The department has a preventive maintenance program to streamline building maintenance. The facilities management staff also maintains parks, recreation centers, and bus shelters and operates the civic center switchboard and mailroom. The city's cable television system and emergency services also are under this department.

Evanston Public Library

The mission of the Evanston Public Library is to provide and promote open access to cultural, intellectual, and informational resources that will enrich and enlighten all segments of the community. The new library building opened its doors in 1994 to enthusiastic users. The knowledgeable staff and the strength of the collection make the library a wonderful resource for Evanston's citizens. The library staff works in cooperation with School Districts 65 and 202 and the Foster Reading Center on literacy projects and grant writing.

In 1998 the library celebrated its 125th anniversary. While its resources have been updated to include the Internet, self-checkout terminals, sophisticated electronic resources, and circulating multimedia software, it continues to emphasize readers' services, outreach, and an extensive collection.

Evanston Animal Shelter

The shelter facility opened in 1987. It operates as a cooperative effort of the city and the volunteer organization Community Animal Rescue Effort (CARE). The city owns and maintains the shelter facility and employs two animal wardens and a kennel attendant. City employees pick up stray animals and provide basic care. CARE, through its more than 100 trained volunteers, provides on-site animal care, school education programs, and the pet adoption program. The adoption program places 95 percent of animals after immunization and offers health services and temperament testing for dogs. Fund-raising events and adoption fees help pay for center health services and CARE programs.

Home Rule

The Illinois Constitution adopted in 1970 granted home rule powers to municipalities having a population of more than 25,000. This grant of self-government gave Evanston broad authority over local legislation and fiscal policy, “including, but not limited to, the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; to license, to tax; and to incur debt.” Evanston has made use of its home-rule authority to deal directly with a broad range of local issues, passing such legislation as the landlord-tenant ordinance, the condominium ordinance, the long-term-care ordinance, the liquor-licensing ordinance, and the weapons-control ordinance.

Under home rule, Evanston is not subject to the tax rate ceilings imposed by the state on individual budget items. It is able to incur more debt than is allowed by state law for nonhome rule communities and can do so without a referendum. Evanston has used its home rule authority to impose taxes such as a hotel tax, an increased athletic attendance tax, increased vehicle license fees, an admission and entertainment tax, and a cigarette tax.

Management and Budget

City Budget

The annual budget is the document that translates the city council’s policies—the city’s plans and programs—into a financial blueprint. The budget-making process begins when the city council establishes budget-policy guidelines and options. The individual budgets submitted to the city manager by the department heads, boards, and commissions must conform to these guidelines. The city manager then prepares the annual budget and submits it to the city council by December 31. During January and February the city council reviews and modifies the proposed budget, debating policy issues. These special city council meetings, usually held on Saturday mornings, are open to the public, with time allotted for citizen comment. There is also a formal public hearing on the budget.

The budget is adopted by the end of February to be in place for the fiscal year beginning March 1. The last step is the adoption of a tax-levy ordinance, which sets the amount of money to be raised by property taxes to meet the property tax–supported portion of the city budget.

Property Tax

Revenues to fund the operation of Evanston city government come from a variety of sources. The chief source of revenue is the property tax. The city of Evanston is only one of the taxing bodies that receive revenues from the property tax. Others include the school districts, Cook County, Metropolitan Sanitary District, Cook County Forest Preserve District, North Shore Mosquito Abatement District, Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Evanston Township, and Evanston’s two independent park districts.

Evanston’s two school districts together account for the largest percentage of the property tax levy.

The amount of tax paid by property owners in any community is determined by the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of all taxable property in the community. The EAV is

Did you know

Mary B. Lindsay was the city’s beloved librarian from 1894 until 1916. Among her many innovations were the adoption of the Dewey decimal system of book classification, an open shelf system, and Sunday hours for the library. Her January 1917 funeral, which included a police honor guard and a display of her casket, was held inside the public library.

the community’s tax base. All taxable property is assessed every three years by the Cook County assessor, using a market value system of assessment. Property is assessed at a percentage of market value (16 percent for single-family dwellings and condominiums and 36–39 percent for commercial property). The total assessed valuation of the property is then multiplied by the equalization factor or multiplier, set by the state department of revenue, to get the EAV. Because different counties in the state assess property according to different formulas, the multiplier is set on a county-by-county basis and is supposed to bring the EAV of all counties up to 33¹/₃ percent of market value.

Each taxing body, after preparing its annual budget, sends its tax levy (i.e., the amount to be raised from property taxes) to the county clerk, who sets the tax rate for the year by adding all the levies to be collected in the community and dividing the total by the EAV. The rate is expressed in dollars per \$100 of assessed valuation. The final step in the process is the tax bill mailed to each property owner. It shows the tax rate and amount for each taxing body as well as the total rate and the total amount due. For example, if a home with a market value of approximately \$200,000 has an EAV of \$32,000, and the combined tax rate is 10.642 (Evanston’s 1998 rate), the total tax bill for that home is \$6,949.22, including homeowner exemption.

How to Calculate Your Tax Bill

Source: Cook County Clerk's Office

To calculate your property tax bill, use the following example for a home with an estimated market value of \$200,000.

\$200,000	Market value
x .16	Assessment
\$32,000	Assessed valuation
x 2.1799	State equalization factor (1998 multiplier)
\$69,757	Equalized assessed value (EAV)
- 4,500	Average homeowner's exemption
\$65,257	Adjusted EAV
\$653	Divide by 100
x 10.642	1998 Evanston tax rate
\$6,949.22	Tax bill in dollars

Any change in the multiplier alters the tax base available to all taxing bodies. The multiplier increased from 1.74 in 1980 to 2.1799 in 1998. Changes made by the state legislature regarding the tax base do not greatly affect the city's tax rate because Evanston is a home-rule municipality permitted by the Illinois constitution to operate without a tax rate limit for its general corporate fund. If the EAV goes down, the city can increase its tax levy accordingly. But the tax rates of most taxing bodies, including the school districts, are limited by state law, and any reduction in the tax base directly decreases their revenue.

Cook County tax bills are paid in two installments, usually due March 1 and August 1. Because taxing bodies have not yet set their levies and the multiplier has not been set, the bill for the first installment is an estimate based on 50 percent of the previous year's taxes. The estimate system began in 1973 to get money to taxing bodies earlier in the year.

Did you know

Tax-exempt acreage in Evanston accounts for 44.5 percent of all land. Specifically, 10.5 percent of Evanston's acreage is owned by universities, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations, and 34 percent is devoted to public uses (municipal buildings, streets, alleys, and parks).

Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go

Note: Figures are from 1997. Source: Cook County Clerk's Office.

School District 65	38.50%
School District 202	27.46%
City of Evanston	18.29%
Cook County	8.36%
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	3.99%
Community Colleges	1.91%
Evanston Township	0.68%
Cook County Forest Preserve District	0.65%
Suburban tuberculosis sanitarium	0.07%

Approximately 44.5 percent of Evanston's total acreage is tax-exempt property. Most (34 percent) is land used for purposes essential for public use, such as streets, alleys, parks, schools, and municipal buildings. The remainder (10.5 percent) is owned by educational institutions, churches, hospitals, homes for the aged, and other such institutions, all of which Evanston has in greater number than most communities. Although one major owner of tax-exempt property, Northwestern University, has sold many of its non-educational use holdings in recent years, tax-exempt properties continue to have a negative impact on the city's tax base. The city lessens the impact by increasing other local fees such as sewer and water charges, which are paid by all regardless of property tax status. While it is possible to compute tax dollars lost because of the status of tax-exempt property, the loss has to be balanced against the nonmonetary value of these institutions to Evanston.

Other tax exemptions also affect the city's tax base. Senior citizens and homeowners who live in their own homes are allowed to reduce their assessed valuation by a specific amount set by the legislature. Although these exemptions directly reduce tax revenues, they are an increasingly popular form of tax relief for homeowners.

In communities with no business tax base, residential taxpayers must pay the full cost of the services. Evanston is more fortunate in this regard than some suburbs, but the tax burden on residential taxpayers remains high. In 1997 residential properties were responsible for 59.7 percent of Evanston's assessed valuation, commercial properties 33.6 percent, and industrial properties only 6.7 percent.

To prevent higher taxation of residential landowners, the city works hard to attract major commercial development. An economic development strategy document for 1997–2002 approved by the city council addresses the enhancement of the tax base, the creation of new jobs, the strengthening

of existing businesses, the attraction and creation of new businesses, and area revitalization and redevelopment throughout the city. These goals are beginning to be realized through a variety of economic development activities such as Church Street Plaza, Dodge and Dempster Shopping Center, and Sherman Plaza.

Other Revenue Sources

Although property taxes are the largest single source of revenue available to meet the city's needs, nearly 80 percent of the city's revenue comes from other sources:

- Sales tax, accounting for 8 percent of all revenue, is a one-cent tax on every dollar of retail sales by Evanston businesses. Home-rule sales tax is .75 percent on every dollar. Sales taxes are collected by the state along with the state's five-cent sales tax and the 1 percent Regional Transportation Authority tax, and then returned to the city.
- Utility tax, providing 5 percent, is paid at the rate of 5 percent by all users of gas, telephone, and electricity utilities and is collected for the city by the utility companies.
- Motor fuel tax funds account for 2.3 percent. They are based on the gasoline tax paid to the state by consumers, a portion of which is remitted to local governments based on population. The use of motor-fuel tax funds is restricted to transportation-related activities such as street maintenance.
- State income tax is a portion of state income tax receipts rebated to cities on a per-capita basis. In Evanston the annual amount of approximately \$5 million accounts for about 4 percent of city revenues.
- Other revenue, providing about 5 percent, comes from taxes on cigarettes, hotels and motels, personal property, and events.
- Water sales to Evanston residents and to the village of Skokie yield about 7.6 percent of the city's revenue. In 1984 water sales expanded to the communities in the Northwest Water Commission area, creating additional annual revenues of \$3 million.
- Revenue from other agencies is expected to yield approximately \$819,000 in 1999–2000; this includes grants for police and fire department training, crime prevention, and health-related programs (e.g., family planning, hearing and vision screening, and maternal and child health care).
- License and permit fees, which include vehicle, business, liquor, and pet licenses and building, elevator, plumbing, electrical, and sign permits, are expected to yield approximately \$4.2 million in 1999–2000. Fines, including traffic ticket fines and penalties, should amount to \$2.7 million in 1999–2000.
- Service charges are paid for services related to health clinic programs, birth and death certificates, weights and measures examinations, and zoning fees.

The capital improvements program is a five-year plan supplementing the city budget document. The plan, developed by the plan commission and city council, attempts to anticipate the city's need for major capital investments in public buildings, sewer renovation, acquisition and development of parks and other public facilities, and major street improvements. For each project, the cost and method of financing for each of the five years are estimated, and projects are undertaken as funds are obtained.

Debt service is another budget consideration. It includes interest and principal payments on general obligation bonds and contract purchases. The city council has a policy stating that the principal amount of general obligation debt (the debt to be paid through real property taxes) must not at any one time exceed \$75 million. The city's 1998 bonded debt was \$62.7 million, or 5.44 percent of the assessed valuation of \$1,148,604,617.

Evanston's fiscal soundness has been recognized by the nation's foremost bond-rating service, which assigned Evanston an Aaa bond rating. Only a handful of cities in the nation have this highest rating. An Aaa rating means that when Evanston sells bonds, the interest rate Evanston must pay to borrow is lower than it would be for a less highly rated city. Lower interest rates translate into lower taxes for the property owners. In addition to the Aaa bond rating, Evanston consistently wins awards from the Government Finance Officers Association for the excellence of its audits and budgets.

Township Government

The area that is now Evanston originally was a part of Grosse Pointe Voting District and then Ridgeville Township. Evanston's incorporation as a village and later as a city eliminated the need for most of the township's governmental functions. The fact that the township and city boundaries are coterminous—a condition peculiar to Evanston and a few other townships in the Chicago area—has made the absorption of township functions by the city almost inevitable. State law assigns the administration of general assistance for food, shelter, and medical needs (a public welfare program) to township government. Through the town-fund levy, the township also supports a number of community action programs that provide direct services to welfare recipients.

The township government levies a town-fund tax and a general assistance tax on property owners. The township also receives approximately \$200,000 a year in federal general revenue-sharing funds. The city council acts as the township board of trustees and is responsible for adopting the township budget.

The township has only two elected officials, the supervisor and the assessor, both of whom serve part-time. Each is elected for a four-year term. The supervisor is responsible for township funds and for the administration

of general assistance. The assessor does not actually assess property (the county assessor does that) but serves as a taxpayer's advocate, helping citizens with tax-related questions. The assessor also works to ensure the equity of assessments and maintains records of building and demolition permits and of all tax-exempt properties.

Voting and Elections

The most basic act of citizen participation in government takes place at the polls, where citizens cast their votes on candidates and issues. In Illinois, voters go to the polls once or twice each year: in even-numbered years, for the primary in March and the general election in November; in odd-numbered years, for the consolidated municipal, school, township, and park elections in April. Voting information is always available through the city clerk's office and the League of Women Voters of Evanston. Contact the city clerk's office for absentee ballot information and an application.

In addition to state and national officials such as governor, senator, and president, Evanston voters elect representatives to several other governmental districts. The county clerk is responsible for the administration of all elections in Evanston and the rest of suburban Cook County. (The city of Chicago is under the jurisdiction of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.)

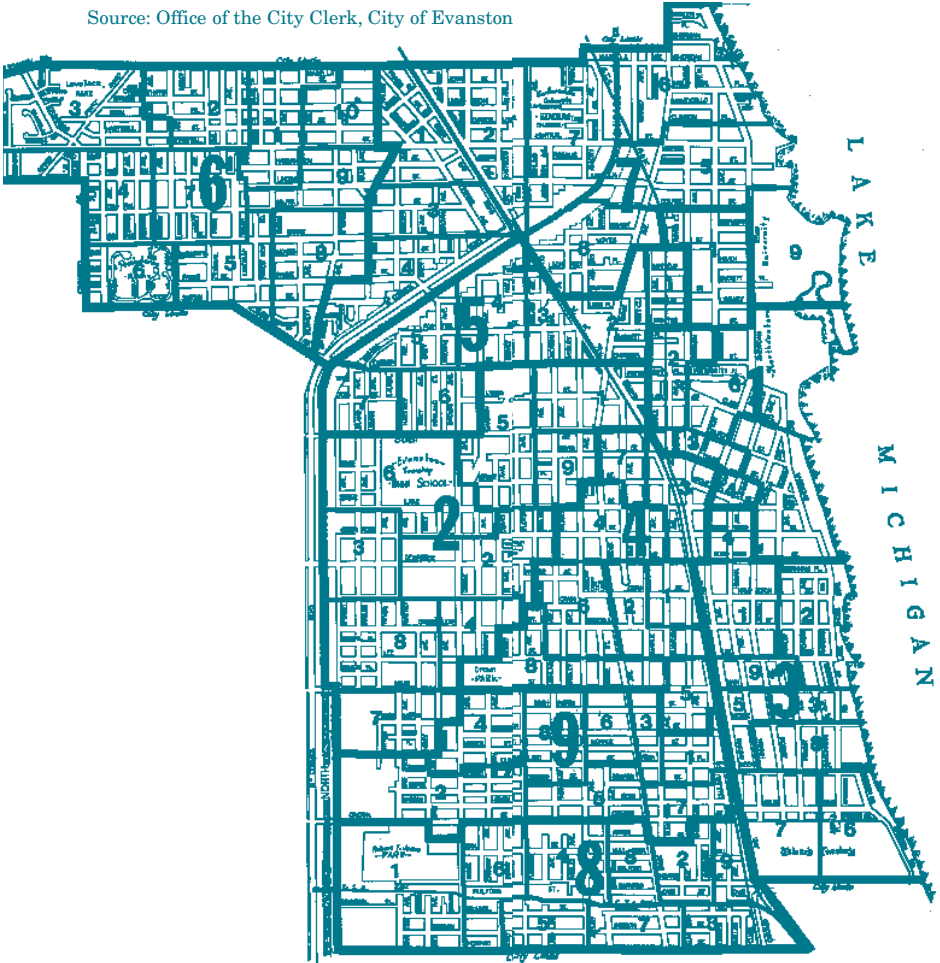
A citizen must be registered to vote at his or her current address. To register, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older by the date of the next election, and a resident of the precinct for 30 days before the election. Two proofs of identification must be furnished. In Illinois, registration is done in person at the office of the county or city clerk or at any of the Illinois secretary of state's facilities. Volunteer registrars are often available at schools, nursing homes, libraries, and public venues during the months preceding an election. Voters who move within Evanston or suburban Cook County can transfer their registration to their new address by filling out and signing the form on the reverse side of their voter verification card and mail it to the Cook County clerk. By law, registration closes approximately one month prior to each election.

In Illinois, one does not declare a political party affiliation when registering to vote. At the primary election in March of even-numbered years, the voter must declare a party affiliation to nominate the party's candidate for federal, state, and county offices. The voter, however, may vote for candidates of any party in the November general election and may switch party affiliation in subsequent primaries.

Primary candidates for county offices are slated or endorsed by the county central committee, which is made up of the township committeemen elected by the voters in the party's primary. The vote of each committeeman is weighted according to the township's total party vote in the primary. The state

Evanston Wards

Source: Office of the City Clerk, City of Evanston



central committee follows the same procedure for slating statewide candidates. The township and state central committeemen are both party officers, and their election takes place during the party's primary.

Current Evanston Issues

Affordable Housing

The 1990 U.S. Census reported a total of 29,164 housing units in Evanston, with an almost even split between rental and nonrental units. The figures from the city of Evanston in 1998 show that total housing units had increased to 30,886. Also according to the 1990 census, 85 percent of the housing units

in Evanston were built before 1960. The large number of older housing units indicates the existence of issues of property maintenance and rehabilitation. A number of rental units are considered substandard.

Housing Types

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Buildings with 10 or more units	36%
Detached single-family houses	33%
Buildings with 2–4 units	15%
Buildings with 5–9 units	10%
Attached single-family houses	5%

The 1990 housing vacancy rate was 4.2 percent. The median value for single-family homes and condominiums increased more than 100 percent between 1980 and 1990, with the cost of rental units also increasing. The continuing conversion of apartment buildings to condominiums is further reducing the supply of rental units.

There is a need in Evanston to increase the supply and improve the condition of housing affordable to renters and owners with low to moderate incomes. Households with incomes less than 80 percent of the median income face a rent burden that is greater than 30 percent of their income. With a tight rental market and increasing rents, renters continue to need rental assistance. Some rental property owners need rehabilitation financing to maintain their property and keep it available as affordable rental housing.

Some homeowners, particularly elderly people who purchased their homes many years ago, find they can no longer afford the high cost of home maintenance and repair and need rehabilitation assistance. As single-family home prices continue to rise, first-time homeowners with incomes up to 100 percent of the median income continue to need down payment assistance and low-income mortgages.

One identified barrier to affordability of housing in Evanston is the definition of occupancy limitation in the BOCA National Property Maintenance Code, which has the effect of preventing larger families from obtaining affordable housing. With few vacant lots available and high land costs, new construction of large rental buildings for low- and moderate-income people is not a viable option. The property tax rate may force some people to relocate or deter others from entering the Evanston housing market; tax increases also affect renters through increased rents. In addition, despite Evanston's Fair Housing Ordinance, some landlords are reluctant to rent to Section 8 clients or to single parents and their children.

The Cook County Housing Authority operates 245 public-housing units in Evanston, including 45 scattered-site units and 200 units for elderly people. Currently 894 Section 8 certificates and vouchers are being used in Evanston. The federal HOME Investment Partnership program is being used in Evanston. Funds from the Illinois Housing Development Authority are used for housing development that benefits low-income families. Private resources include the Community Homebuyer's Program, the Community Investment Corporation, and Habitat for Humanity. Local resources include the Evanston housing corporation first-time homebuyers program, code loan program, and the families-in-transition program.

Town and Gown Issues

Evanston reaps many benefits from being the home of a large university. Northwestern University provides cultural, recreational, and academic resources as well as employment. As in many university towns across the country, however, the city's relations with the university are periodically strained due to the university's tax-exempt status. As the city struggles to hold down its property tax rate, it faces the reality of Northwestern's large holding of untaxed land. Northwestern's tax-exempt status has been challenged in court a number of times but has been upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.

The city provides police and fire protection to the university and has requested Northwestern to pay for these services. The university uses the city police when needed but has its own campus police. Northwestern also collects its own refuse and pays water, sales, utility, and entertainment taxes. Northwestern is the largest employer in town, and its faculty, staff, and students make a considerable impact on the local sales tax through retail purchases. In addition, Northwestern provides scholarship and training programs to individuals in the community.

Over the years these town-gown issues have surfaced and been hotly debated. Whether Northwestern will make a financial commitment to the city remains in doubt. The relationship between Northwestern and the city seems to be symbiotic, with each entity deriving benefits from the other. The Evanston League of Women Voters conducted an in-depth study of town-gown issues in 1991; a copy of its report is available on request.

Evanston and the Metropolitan Region

Evanston's interrelationships with Chicago and other suburbs are complex and extensive. Numerous governmental, quasigovernmental, and nongovernmental agencies focus on issues affecting the six counties in the Chicago metropolitan area (i.e., Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will). Some agencies are extending their scope beyond the six counties as the region

grows. Others focus on common interests in a portion of the region. Evanston's relationships with these agencies range from formal to informal, depending on the nature of the agency.

An overview of agency functions, powers, and actions offers a glimpse of the nature and breadth of regional issues:

- **Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS)** is designated by the state as the region's official transportation planning organization. CATS has a regional transportation plan for northeastern Illinois called "Destination 2020." The federal government requires that such a plan be in place for the region to qualify for federal funding. The plan recommends major projects, systems, and policies to maintain existing transportation investments and serve future travel needs.
- **The Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission (NIPC)** provides additional planning for the six-county metropolitan area. NIPC is concerned primarily with land-use studies, population projections, environmental impact analysis, and natural resource management.
- **The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago** treats sewage from the region. Deep Tunnel, a vast project to be completed in 2015, is aimed at reducing the frequency of flooding and basement backups through a relief-sewer system and a massive system of tunnels, reservoirs, and flow restrictors.
- **The Solid Waste Agency of Cook County** is concerned with solid-waste disposal, including landfill management.
- Additional agencies with regional responsibilities or perspectives include the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District, the North Suburban Library System, the Northwest Municipal Conference, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and the North Shore Council of Mayors.

Evanston's economic vitality is affected by factors that are not under the control of existing regional organizations. The expansion of shopping malls in neighboring suburbs, business consolidations, and the state of the economy in general all affect Evanston. The city has responded to these factors by supporting targeted redevelopment in the downtown and by focusing on Evanston's high-technology potential.

A growing interest in enhancing collaboration among towns, particularly with regard to land-use planning and economic development issues, has occurred in recent years. Two organizations at the forefront of this trend are the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Commercial Club of Chicago. These are private organizations made up of business and civic leaders. In 1999 the commercial club completed a regional planning study, "Chicago Metropolis 2020," which recommends a series of initiatives to strengthen the region's economy and enhance the quality of life for all citizens. The plan focuses on education, economic development, governance, land use and housing, transportation, and taxation.

Looking Ahead: Economic Development

Church Street Plaza

The original plan for the development of the Northwestern University/Evanston Research Park was to develop the entire area as a scientific research park. While the northern third of the research park is occupied by buildings housing more than 90 technology companies, some of which have become locally, nationally, or internationally successful, the southern area was not developed. It contained the Levy Center, a parking lot, and the farmers' market on Saturdays during the summer.

After two years of debate, the city council chose Arthur Hill & Co. to try to make a commercial success of the southern 4.5 acres. Most of the land was jointly owned by Northwestern and the city, so a cash-and-land swap had to be executed before the city could sell the land to the developer. At the same time, the city acquired land on the south side of Church Street for inclusion in the development.

Plans for Church Street Plaza originally called for a mixed-use development anchored by an 18-screen cinema complex. There was also to be a new senior center, a performing arts center, a hotel and conference center, a 24-

story residential tower, 120,000 square feet of retail space, and a parking garage. Difficulty in securing tenants forced a change in plans and timetable. The senior center and performing arts center components were dropped; the land desig-

nated for the hotel was sold to a real estate investment trust, which is to build the hotel; and the developer, with city approval, instituted a phase-in program for the remainder of the development. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in September 1999.

From its unveiling, the project drew protests. The Coalition for Appropriate Development of the Research Park, an ad hoc group that believed the size and content of the project was not in keeping with Evanston's economic needs or retail character, distributed the red-and-yellow bumper stickers and posters bearing the slogan "Stop the MALLing of Evanston" that were seen around town in the summer 1998.

Because of related zoning relief to Northwestern that permitted construction of a parking garage at Maple Street and Foster Avenue, residents in the area protested the land swap. At the same time, the Evanston Small Businesspersons' Association was formed. Their motto, "Shop Evanston," was designed to help preserve the unique character of Evanston's small shops.

Did you know

The Evanston Civic Center originally housed Marywood Academy, a Catholic girls' high school. Twenty-eight nuns lived on the fourth floor.

Dempster-Dodge Shopping Center

The nearly abandoned shopping center at the southwest corner of Dempster Street and Dodge Avenue was sold in 1998. The new owners renamed it Evanston Plaza and presented plans to the city for building space to be leased to Dominick's food store and several other local and national retail and food companies. In return, the owners are seeking a revenue-sharing option from the city to defray the cost of environmental cleanup.

Sherman Plaza

In June 1999 developers presented the city with a proposal to develop nearly the entire Sherman Avenue/Davis Street/Benson Avenue/Church Street block. The development is to be anchored by a full-service Sears store; the 30,000-square-foot Sears would be flanked by a three-story building having 20,000 square feet of retail space on each floor. Market-price senior housing along Davis Street, specialty retail space along Church Street, and a group of convenience stores in the Benson Avenue/Davis Street corner are also planned. The Sherman Avenue public parking garage in the center of downtown Evanston was promised a facelift. The renovated garage will have 1,300 spaces.

Technopolis Evanston

Technopolis Evanston is an ambitious new plan to wire the entire city—residences, businesses, and government offices—as an “electronic village.” The proposal has the following features:

- Local and long-distance telephone service, cable television, and an Internet provider would be accessible throughout Evanston via a fiberoptic ring to residents, businesses, and schools.
- A new not-for-profit company would negotiate wholesale telecommunications services on behalf of individual consumers.
- A community network, the Intranet, would be the crown jewel of Technopolis. A user could log on to pay a parking ticket, purchase local retail goods, join a chat room on an issue of local importance, or obtain local government information.

Technopolis Evanston is a collaboration among Evanston Inventure (a private economic development organization), the Northwestern University/Evanston Research Park, and several major technology companies who hope to take this business model to other communities around the United States.





This Is Evanston

Education

3

A long tradition of community support for outstanding schools is reflected in Evanston's commitment to excellence in education. Five colleges and universities are located here. Both the public elementary schools (District 65) and the high school (District 202) are recognized for providing fine comprehensive educational programs that feature innovative teaching methods geared to the needs of the city's diverse population. In addition, students come to the nine private or parochial schools from throughout greater Chicago. Drawing on a tradition of leadership in early childhood education, Evanston also offers a varied array of preschool and day care options.

*Joseph Hill (left) and Oscar Chute, two key figures in the desegregation of Evanston schools.
Photo courtesy of Carmelia Hill.*

Preprimary Services

Childcare Network of Evanston
1416 Lake Street
475-2661

Services for Pre-Primary Age Children (SPPAC)
415-2661

Evanston has a progressive and comprehensive child-care system. Parents can choose from more than 35 early-childhood programs coordinated by the Childcare Network of Evanston (CNE), which provides assistance and referral for all families. CNE acts as a clearinghouse for full- and part-day early childhood care and educational programs for children from infancy through school age in centers, family care homes, and District 65 elementary schools. Applications are available for government-funded child care (Title XX) for income-eligible families.

There are more than 20 private preschools operating in Evanston. Several have sliding-scale fees. In addition, the number of private day-care options and early childhood classes is growing.

Services for Pre-Primary Age Children (SPPAC) is District 65's screening and referral agency for children from birth to age five. Parents with questions or concerns about their child's development or about readiness for kindergarten are urged to arrange for screening.

Public School Districts

The boundaries of the two public school districts (Districts 65 and 202) are identical, encompassing the city of Evanston and a section of Skokie. Since its inception, the Evanston public school system has been a great source of pride for the community. Accredited by the North Central Association, the schools have outstanding faculty, staff, curricula, and parental involvement.

The boards of District 65 and District 202 communicate and cooperate on matters of mutual interest, such as curriculum coordination and population studies. In 1997 teachers, students, parents, and community members met in a series of forums to develop a set of standards to publicly state expectations across the curriculum for Evanston students in all grades (kindergarten through 12). Both school boards adopted the K–12 standards in 1999. Both districts support the joint district legislative task force that keeps abreast of pending state legislation affecting schools, and they maintain close contact with the city by means of a city-school liaison committee.

The school superintendents are hired on a contractual basis by the school boards. They serve as chief executives of their respective districts and are responsible for implementing board policy and administering all aspects

of school operation. They make recommendations regarding curriculum, personnel, community relations, plant operations, budgets, and long-term planning.

School Boards

A school board's primary responsibility is to set policy for the school district. The most significant action the board takes is to select the superintendent of schools, who is responsible for the implementation of these policies. School boards are responsible for adopting and overseeing the district budget, levying taxes to support the budget, and entering into contracts for professional personnel and services to the schools.

Each of the district school boards has seven members elected citywide who serve four-year terms. Elections take place in April of odd-numbered years, with three or four members of each board elected in each election. The District 202 board has a nonvoting student representative elected by the student body.

A candidate for a school board must be a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older, a resident of the state and the school district for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and a registered voter. A candidate must submit a nominating petition with at least 50 signatures to the secretary of the board 71 to 78 days before the election. School board members serve without pay.

The Candidate Nominating Committee (CNC) is a voluntary citizens' group that holds public meetings to interview candidates for seats on both the high school and the elementary school boards. CNC was formed by a community group that felt the need for an organized, ongoing effort to encourage qualified school board candidates. CNC findings receive wide publicity. Candidates are deemed either qualified or not qualified by secret vote of a majority of delegates. Any registered voter may come to CNC's organizational meeting, held in the fall of each even-numbered year, to seek selection as a CNC delegate from the school attendance area in which he or she lives.

School Funding

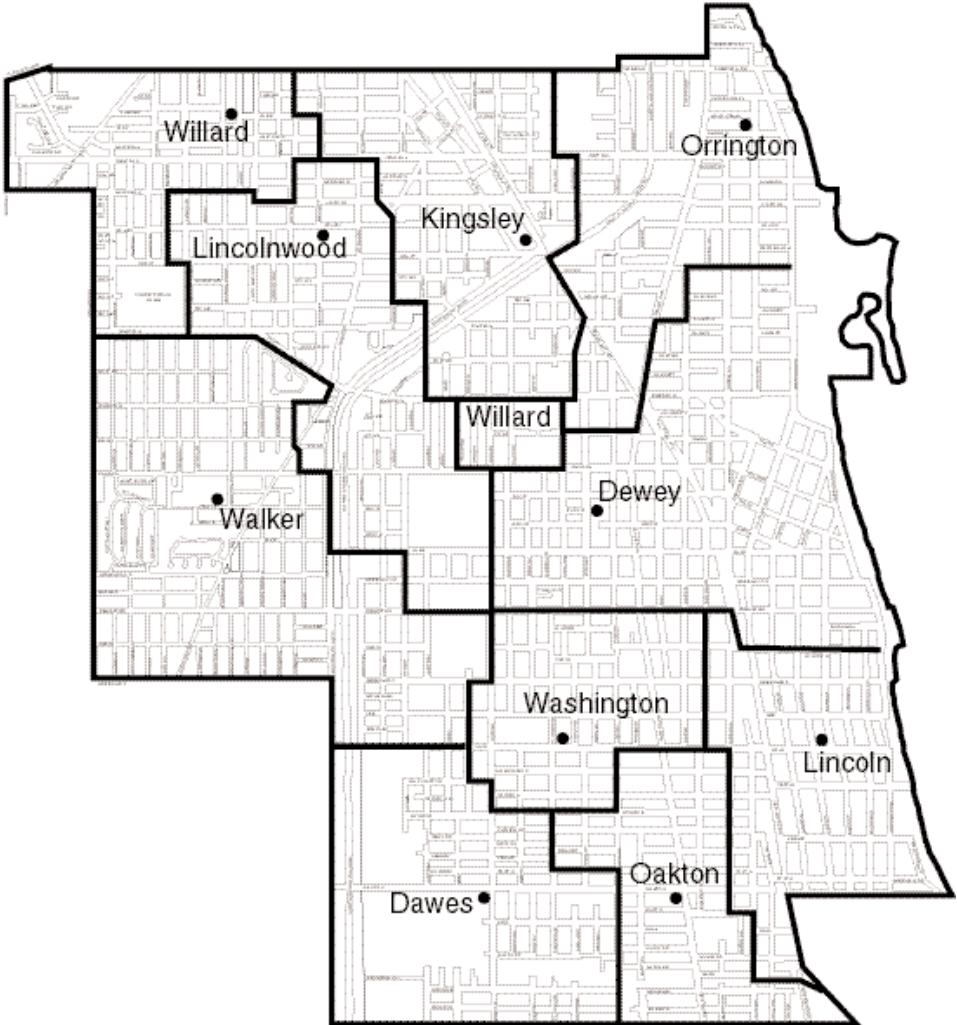
Funding for the public schools comes primarily from local property taxes. District 65's operating budget for 1998–1999 was \$70 million; District 202's was \$51.1 million. The 1998–1999 operating cost per pupil was \$8,685 in District 65 and \$13,400 in District 202. The cost per pupil is used to determine tuition for students residing outside Districts 65 and 202 who wish to attend Evanston public schools.

Did you know

Students representing approximately 35 different language groups, from Amharic to Vietnamese, attend Evanston Township High School each year. ETHS offers bilingual education, English as a second language, and Caribbean academic programs.

Elementary School Attendance Areas

Source: Evanston-Skokie School District 65



*Evanston-Skokie School District 65
Cook County, Illinois
Effective September 1995*

Most of the Evanston Township High School budget is funded by local property taxes. Federal and state resources amount to less than 10 percent of the total income. For the 1998–1999 school year, the revenue sources were as follows: federal, 3.5 percent; state, 5 percent; local taxes, 78 percent; and local other, 13.5 percent (this category represents corporate property taxes, tuition income, transportation fees, investment earnings, food service income, pupil activities, textbook income, rentals, bond sales, and other income).

Similarly, most of the District 65 revenues come from local property taxes. For the 1998–1999 school year, its revenue sources were as follows: federal, 7 percent; state, 11 percent; local taxes, 75 percent; and local other, 7 percent.

School District 65 1998–99 Operating Revenues

Source: Evanston-Skokie School District 65

Local property taxes	75.0%	\$50,684,412
State-funded grants	8.0%	5,256,838
Federal aid	7.0%	4,362,629
Other local revenue	5.0%	3,470,261
General state aid	3.0%	2,030,181
Corporate property replacement tax	2.0%	1,444,957
TOTAL		\$67,249,278

School District 65 1998–99 Operating Expenditures

Source: Evanston-Skokie School District 65

Salaries	65.0%	\$45,444,973
Purchased services	14.5%	10,130,636
Employee benefits	11.0%	7,602,896
Supplies and materials	5.0%	3,779,576
Capital outlay	3.0%	1,984,219
Tuition	1.0%	657,000
Other objects	.5%	389,874
TOTAL		\$69,998,174

Evanston Township High School 1998–99 Operating Revenues

Source: School District 202

Local taxes	78.05%	\$39,349,118
Local other	13.45%	6,782,472
State	4.92%	2,479,273
Federal	3.57%	1,801,400
TOTAL		\$50,412,263

Evanston Township High School 1998–99 Operating Expenditures

Source: School District 202

Instruction	47.50%	\$24,284,428
Building and grounds services	14.57%	7,448,196
Administrative support	14.30%	7,310,345
Pupil support services	9.24%	4,725,891
Life safety and energy management	5.85%	2,990,000
Bond repayment	4.44%	2,272,063
Instructional support	4.11%	2,099,178
TOTAL		\$51,130,101

School Desegregation

Evanston gained national attention and recognition for its voluntary integration efforts under the leadership of Oscar Chute, superintendent of schools. In 1967 Chute asked the District 65 School Board to appoint a citizen's advisory commission on integration (CACI). CACI's final recommendation was that District 65 end de facto segregation. The school board voted to integrate the schools by establishing a laboratory school in Foster School and busing only kindergarten students from all parts of the district to the school for the first year of the program. Eventually, the innovative curriculum would attract permissive-transfer white students from across the district. While one-third of the Foster School students would remain there, the other two-thirds would be bused to other schools in the district.

Upon Chute's retirement, implementation of the voluntary desegregation plan was carried out by his successor, Gregory Coffin. One of Coffin's earliest acts was to hire the district's first African American to serve in an administrative capacity—Joseph E. Hill, an educator with lifetime ties to the community, who would later become superintendent of schools.

Martin Luther King Jr. Experimental Laboratory School opened in 1967 as a kindergarten–grade 5 magnet school with 650 children. The curriculum was designed to be innovative to attract permanent-transfer white students from across the district. As the school focused on “quality integrated education,” Evanstonians adjusted to the challenges and changes this energetic effort brought about.

Since 1968 the District 65 board has adhered to a guideline that no racial group is to exceed 60 percent of the population of a school. When declining enrollment resulted in the closing of seven elementary schools between 1976 and 1979, new attendance areas were drawn in an effort to maintain integrated schools and to minimize busing. Through the years shifts in population have dictated the reopening of two schools and the reworking of attendance areas to adjust racial balance.

While desegregation has generally been considered successful, there is ongoing concern about the academic achievement gap between minority and majority students. Both districts have concentrated on developing new programs to address this issue. In June 1999 the District 202 superintendent convened the inaugural session of a national network of 14 school districts, including District 65, organized to focus on improving minority student achievement.

Elementary and Middle Schools

District 65
Administration Center
1314 Ridge Avenue
492-5986

Superintendent
(Dr. Hardy Murphy)
492-5870

Public Information
492-5861

Did you know

Frederick Nichols served as superintendent of schools of then District 76 for almost 50 years. After his retirement in 1933, he set up a workshop in the basement of Nichols School, where he built benches, tables, and wall panels using colorful ceramic tiles from his worldwide collection.

School District 65 served 6,988 students during the 1998–1999 school year in 10 kindergarten–grade 5 schools; two kindergarten–grade 8 schools; three middle schools (grades 6–8); and, in cooperation with District 202, one special education center (Park School, for children with multiple physical and mental disabilities). With the exception of Martin Luther King Jr. Experimental Laboratory Schools and Timber Ridge School, which accept applicants district-wide to reflect the total school population, and Park School, all of the schools enroll students from their local attendance areas.

Demographics: District 65 Elementary and Middle Schools

Source: 1998 School Report Card

White	45.3%
African American	37.8%
Hispanic	13.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.9%

District 65 is justifiably proud of its comprehensive curriculum, special programs, and pioneering reputation. More than 60 percent of District 65's certified staff members have degrees beyond the bachelor's degree, and they average more than 14 years of teaching experience. Staff development programs offered throughout the year inform teachers of new educational research and teaching methods. District 65 maintains a solid tradition of strong staff, parent, student, and community involvement through Parent Teacher Associations, booster clubs, school improvement teams, and many other school-related services and activities.

The core curriculum at the elementary and middle school levels consists of reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, and health. Art, music, and drama are taught year-round. Eighth-graders who have completed the

Charter Schools

The nationally popular charter school movement came to Evanston in 1998–99. Two groups applied for and were denied charters to operate in Evanston as District 65 schools. Advantage Evanston wanted to open a school following the direct-instruction model, and Sin Fronteras wanted to follow a dual-language or language-immersion format. Both were turned down by the District 65 School Board, and by the State Board of Education on appeal, because of the financial hardship charter schools would impose on the district.

Under Illinois law, a local school district must finance a charter school by paying a per-pupil rate computed as 75–125 percent of the districtwide cost per pupil. However, under legislation introduced in Springfield in 1999, the state, rather than the local school districts, would be responsible for the cost of a charter school. Should the financing of charter schools change, it is possible that another charter school may seek approval to operate in Evanston.

middle school curriculum in foreign language or math may take the next level at the high school during the school day and receive high school credit.

The school districts have three types of programs for Latino students who need help with language: a bilingual English/Spanish program; an English As a Second Language program in English; and a Caribbean ESL program, which includes reading and writing. These programs are designed to enable Latino students to take English-only classes and to succeed in their new culture. At the same time, the programs help students retain and take pride in their native culture.

Evanston/Skokie Council of PTAs is the umbrella association of all public school PTAs in the area served by Districts 65 and 202. School PTAs provide programs, lobbying efforts, and communication to help parents become effective partners in education. For information, contact the individual school.

District 65 Schools

Elementary schools (indented) feed into middle school listed above them.

Chute Middle School, 1400 Oakton Street, 492-7892

Dawes School, 440 Dodge Avenue, 492-7951

Oakton School, 436 Ridge Avenue, 492-7981

Walker School, 3601 Church Street, Skokie, 492-7970

Haven Middle School, 2417 Prairie Avenue, 492-7886

Kingsley School, 2300 Green Bay Road, 492-5969

Lincolnwood School, 2600 Colfax Street, 492-7965

Orrington School, 2636 Orrington Avenue, 492-7986

Willard School, 2700 Hurd Avenue, 492-5991

Nichols Middle School, 800 Greenleaf Street, 492-7881

Dewey School, 1551 Wesley Avenue, 492-7857

Lincoln School, 910 Forest Avenue, 492-7854

Washington School, 914 Ashland Avenue, 492-7974

Martin Luther King Jr. Experimental Laboratory Schools, 2424 Lake Street, 492-7876

Timber Ridge Magnet School, 3701 Davis Street, Skokie, 492-5965

Park School, 828 Main Street, 492-5958

Park School is a special education facility serving students ages 3–21 who function within the moderate-to-severe range of retardation and may have multiple disabilities. The school is jointly funded and operated by Districts 65 and 202.

Evanston Township High School District 202

Evanston Township High School

1600 Dodge Avenue

424-7000

Office of the Superintendent (Dr. Allan Alson)

424-7220

Public/Alumni Relations Office

424-7515

Evanston Township High School District 202 was founded in 1883. The school was first located at Elmwood Avenue and Dempster Street. It moved to its present location at Church Street and Dodge Avenue in 1924. During its more than 100-year history, ETHS has enjoyed an enviable reputation for its ability to meet the needs of students from widely varied backgrounds, for the high caliber of its faculty, and for the number of its graduates who go on to higher education (usually more than 80 percent). ETHS is a four-year comprehensive high school occupying a 65-acre campus. Enrollment, which peaked at 5,157 in 1969–70, hovered around 2,700 in the early- to mid–1990s and is projected to climb to more than 3,100 students in the early years of the 21st century.

Demographics: Evanston Township High School

Source: 1998 School Report Card

White	47.9%
African American	42.4%
Hispanic	7.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6%

ETHS offers more than 250 courses, ranging from basic academic subjects and enrichment electives in the core academic areas to a broad range of courses in the fine arts and the applied sciences and technologies. The Career Pathways program of study prepares students for career opportunities in five broad career strands through course work and on-site work experience.

Each year, more than 300 students participate in advanced placement courses for college credit in 20 subjects. High school students who have completed all courses in a subject area at ETHS can take advanced courses tuition-free at Northwestern University through a cooperative program. A similar program has been established with Oakton Community College for students in certain Career Pathways strands.

Of the full-time certified staff, more than 75 percent of the teachers have advanced degrees, well above the state average of 46 percent. The average ETHS teacher has more than 16 years of teaching experience.

Campus facilities are extraordinary. The automated library system, which is networked to all Illinois libraries, has a 90,000-volume collection and extensive audiovisual resources. Performance facilities include a 1,500-seat auditorium, two theaters, and cable television and radio broadcasting studios. Science facilities include a supercomputer lab, a planetarium, and a greenhouse. An on-site daycare center serves as a laboratory for child-study classes. There are 15 gymnasiums, including a dance studio and Nautilus center; two swimming pools; a fieldhouse with an indoor track; indoor and outdoor tennis courts; an asphalt track; a stadium; and baseball and soccer fields.

ETHS facilities are used throughout the year by community organizations not part of the undergraduate or adult programs. More than 10,000 people come to the campus to participate in programs offered by nonprofit organizations in ETHS classrooms, gyms, playing fields, the auditorium, the pool, and the fieldhouse. The Evanston Symphony Orchestra gives four concerts a year in the auditorium.

In the technologically advanced building, all classrooms are wired for computer access; the Bacon Computer Center houses more than 200 microcomputers and peripheral equipment in seven networked laboratories, many with Internet access; and software is available for every course in the curriculum. Students explore careers in computer-based SMART Labs and learn engineering applications in computer-aided design, lasers, and robotics using state-of-the-art equipment. Electronic music students have their own computerized laboratory.



Evanston Township High School. Photo by Lawrence Ware.

Private and Parochial Schools

Baker Demonstration School
2840 Sheridan Road
256-5150

Baker Demonstration School, the demonstration school for National-Louis University, serves 325 children, preschool through grade 8.

Chiaravalle Montessori School
425 Dempster Street
864-2190

Chiaravalle Montessori School serves 350 children, preschool through grade 8.

The Children's School
2010 Dewey Avenue
424-0748

The Children's School serves 14 children, ages 6 to 14.

Midwest Montessori School
2408 Orrington Avenue
328-6630

Midwest Montessori School serves 80 children ages 3 to 9.

Pope John XXIII School
1120 Washington Street
475-5678

Pope John XXIII School serves 332 children, preschool through grade 8.

Roycemore School
640 Lincoln Street
866-6055

Roycemore School serves 230 children, preschool through grade 12.

St. Athanasius School
2510 Ashland Avenue
864-2650

St. Athanasius School serves 360 children, kindergarten through grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc
9248 North Lawndale Avenue
Skokie
679-0660

St. Joan of Arc serves 240 children, preschool through grade 8.

Shore School
2525 Church Street
869-6610

Shore School serves 20 children with mental disabilities, ages 3-21.

Colleges and Universities

Northwestern University
Department of University Relations
555 Clark Street
491-4885

Northwestern University, one of the nation's leading private research universities, was established in 1851 to serve the people of the Northwest Territory. In 1853 the founders purchased a 379-acre tract of land on the shore of Lake Michigan, 12 miles north of Chicago. Today Northwestern University occupies 240 acres in Evanston, 84 of which were created in the late 1960s as a land-fill project.

Approximately 11,700 undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students study full-time on the Evanston campus. There are six undergraduate schools (the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Medill School of Journalism, and the Schools of Education and Social Policy, Music, and Speech), the Graduate School, the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, and University College (the continuing education division). On Northwestern's Chicago campus are the School of Law, the Medical School, and the McGaw Medical Center. Enrollment on the Chicago campus is approximately 2,300 full-time and 3,200 part-time students.

Many of Northwestern's buildings were designed by notable architects. The campus is enhanced with monuments, abundant trees and flowers, and a view to the south of Chicago's dramatic skyline. A host of cultural activities and sporting events is sponsored by the university and open to the public. Information on Evanston campus events is available from Norris University Center (847/491-3741).



Northwestern University's Evanston campus. Photo by Mike Kelly.

National-Louis University
2840 Sheridan Road
475-1100

National-Louis University is a private institution providing more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. It is well-known for its curricula in education, applied health, human services, and management and business. Founded in 1886 and known until 1990 as National College of Education, the university has campuses in Evanston, Chicago, Elgin, Wheaton, and Wheeling as well as affiliations with educational institutions in many other major U.S. cities. The main campus in Evanston serves approximately 1,000 students.

Kendall College
2408 Orrington Avenue
866-1300

Kendall College offers a career-oriented curriculum. It grants two- and four-year degrees in liberal studies, professional studies, and culinary arts. All majors feature extensive internships. The student-run Dining Room at Kendall College is considered one of Chicago's finest gourmet restaurants. Sixty percent of Kendall's 400 students study culinary arts.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
2121 Sheridan Road
866-3900

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is a graduate professional school of theology affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Located at the center of Northwestern University's Evanston campus, Garrett is an autonomous institution whose students have access to the life and resources of the university.

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
2122 Sheridan Road
328-9300

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary offers theological study on a graduate professional level to prepare its students for service in the Episcopal Church. Like Garrett, it is an independent school that cooperates with Northwestern University and is located on Northwestern's campus.

Oakton Community College
1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines
635-1600
7701 North Lincoln Avenue
Skokie
635-1435

Oakton Community College, with campuses in Des Plaines and Skokie, is the two-year community college serving Evanston. Oakton offers degree and general education courses of study and occupational and career training programs.

Did you know

After President Lincoln called for volunteers to serve in the Union army, so many Northwestern University students enlisted that it graduated only two students in the class of 1863.

Continuing Education

Approximately 4,000 adults from Evanston and surrounding communities register for noncredit courses at Evanston Township High School each year. The catalogues mailed four times a year to district residents list as many as 300 courses ranging from art to yoga and include classes in automotive repair, business, computers, fitness, foreign language, recreation, and sports. The Adult Literacy Project (GED, ESL, and adult basic education), which is funded by the state, attracts approximately 300 students each year.

Kendall College, National-Louis University, Oakton Community College, and Northwestern University have adult divisions. The Evanston Recreation Department also offers programs and courses for adults.





This Is Evanston

Community Services

4

A wide range of social, recreational, health, and human services programs are provided in Evanston by governmental, private not-for-profit, and for-profit agencies. The wealth of available resources reflects a commitment by Evanston's citizens to meet the needs of the entire community. For those looking for a volunteer commitment, there is a wide range of opportunities to meet any interest.

Recreational Opportunities

Evanston's parks and community centers offer activities ranging from swimming to bicycling to indoor ice skating. Five beaches are open to the public from mid-June through Labor Day. Evanston's two boat launch sites are located at Dempster Street and Church Street. There are bicycle and jogging trails as well as picnic areas along the lakefront. Summer programs for young people are held at designated parks and playgrounds, and tennis instruction is available at several locations. Evanston offers sports and recreation on individual and team levels. Details are available in *Arts and Recreation* from the parks/forestry and recreation department (866-2910). The Evanston recreation board's policy is to provide free programs to Evanston residents whenever possible.

City of Evanston Community Centers

The following community centers offer programs:

Chandler Newberger Community Center (1028 Central Street, 866-8490) offers a variety of scheduled and drop-in recreational activities for all ages, including basketball, racquetball, and exercise classes.

Robert Crown Community Center and Ice Complex (1701 Main Street, 328-9400) offers a variety of recreational programs for all ages, including basketball, softball, ballet, and ice skating.

Evanston Ecology Center (2024 McCormick Boulevard, 864-5181) offers classes focusing on environmental education, natural history, and conservation.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center (1655 Foster Street. 328-4540) offers programs in sports, performing arts, fine and applied arts and skilled crafts, social development, and nutrition, after-school programs, and literacy programs for ages 4½ to adult. Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre and Evanston Children's Theatre are subgroups of Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center.

Levy Senior Center (City of Evanston, 866-2900)

Noyes Cultural Arts Center (927 Noyes Street, 491-0266, 328-4650 [24-hour Artsline], 328-2100 ext. 2470 [Arts Council])

Ladd Arboretum (2024 McCormick Boulevard (864-5181) offers bicycle and jogging paths, a nature trail, and many different specimens of trees.

Peter N. Jans Community Golf Course (1030 Central Street, 475-9173) is an 18-hole, par-60 municipal golf course.

Evanston has two independent park districts:

Ridgeville Park District (908 Seward Street, 869-5640)

Lighthouse Park District (2601 Sheridan Road, 328-6961)

Sports and Recreation Activities

Dozens of independent recreation groups sponsor programs, some of which are affiliated with the Evanston Recreation Department. They include American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Evanston Youth Baseball Association (EYBA), Council of Elders (COE-POPS and COE-MOMs), Fellowship of Afro-American Men (FAAM), and the Evanston Youth Hockey Association (EYHA). *Arts and Recreation* publishes current contact persons and phone numbers.

Did you know

Raymond Park is nicknamed “Holy Ghost Square” because of the four churches on its perimeter: First Congregational Church; First Church of Christ, Scientist; Lake Street Church; and First Presbyterian Church.

Gardening Activities

The Evanston Garden Council, located at the Evanston Ecology Center, works with the city to beautify and maintain the city through civic and private projects. In cooperation with the Garden Council, five garden clubs (i.e., Green Gardeners of Evanston, Little Garden Club of Evanston, Four Seasons Garden Club of Evanston, Garden Club of Evanston, and Travelers’ Garden Club of Evanston) foster interest in gardening, horticulture, and conservation and encourage the beautification of Evanston.

There are four community rental garden areas in Evanston—at James Park, Twiggs Park, McCormick Boulevard at Simpson Street, and Lawson Park. The Ecology Center handles plot rental.

Arts Organizations and Activities

Evanston offers a full range of arts organizations and activities, including theaters, symphonies, dance companies, art galleries, museums, and instructional classes in all of the arts. The growth and vitality of Evanston’s cultural institutions reflect civic leadership and a commitment to fostering a rich cultural environment that brings economic and aesthetic benefits to the city. Few suburbs of Chicago can claim as much arts activity as Evanston.

The City of Evanston sponsors several special arts-related events each year. The Fountain Square Art Festival is held in downtown Evanston in June. The Lakeshore Arts Festival in August and the Ethnic Arts Festival in July are held at the lakefront. The city also sponsors outdoor Starlight Concerts in the summer. The Young Evanston Artists (YEA) Festival, an extensive children's artwork exhibit, is organized each year in collaboration with Evanston's public schools. *Arts and Recreation* publishes details on all of these events.

Museums and Art Exhibitors

Evanston Art Center (2603 Sheridan Road, 475-5300) offers a comprehensive program of classes in fine arts and crafts to students of all ages. It also offers a dynamic program of special exhibitions of contemporary art by emerging and established Midwestern artists.

Evanston Historical Society and Charles Gates Dawes House Museum (225 Greenwood Street, 475-3410) conducts research on topics related to Evanston and offers tours of Dawes House.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian (2600 Central Park Avenue, 475-1030) has exhibits on the life and art of American Indians from the Northwest Coast, Plains, Southwest, and Eastern Woodlands. The museum offers tours for adult and school groups, a yearly antique Indian art show and lecture series, and programs for young people and adults. Teachers can participate in the loan-box program. The museum has a gift shop, a video library, a reading room for research, and hands-on activities for young people.

Dittmar Memorial Gallery at Northwestern University (1999 South Campus Drive, 491-2350) is dedicated to presenting the works of emerging, ethnic minority, and women artists, as well as artwork by Northwestern University undergraduate and graduate art students.

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University (1967 South Campus Drive, 491-4000) offers diverse exhibitions, a sculpture garden and tours, lectures, symposia, publications, special events, readings, music, dance, and performance art.

Frances Willard Historical Association, Women's Christian Temperance Union (1730 Chicago Avenue, 864-1396) offers guided tours of the historic house museum and a slide presentation.

Grosse Point Lighthouse (2601 Sheridan Road, 328-6961) is a maritime museum, nature center, and wildflower garden. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center (927 Noyes Street, 328-4650 [24-hour Artsline], 328-2100 ext. 2470 [Arts Council]) is housed in a former District 65 school building that has been converted to studio and theater spaces for artists. Artists are expected to provide some public service or provide reasonably priced classes to the public. It is administered by the Evanston Arts Council.

Other Notable Sites

Avenue of the Righteous (2100 Ridge Avenue) is a garden memorial behind the Civic Center built to honor righteous behavior by non-Jews during the World War II Holocaust. It seeks to bring lessons from that time to life.

Merrick Rose Garden (Oak Avenue and Lake Street) features more than 100 varieties of roses and is available to rent for special occasions.

Proposed Black American Heritage House

In summer 1999 the city council approved the sale for \$1 of the building at 1817 Church Street to the Westside Citizen District Council, Inc., for use as the Black American Heritage House and Technology Resource Center. The completed Black American Heritage House will have historical and cultural exhibits about Evanston and surrounding suburbs as well as a computer laboratory and a research library.

The houses of Dr. Isabella Garnett and Dr. Elizabeth Butler, the house on Dodge Avenue where Abraham Lincoln spent a night, and the Mount Moriah Temple building designed by African American architect Walter T. Bailey are among the buildings that could become part of a conservation district in the Fifth Ward. Preserving Integrity through Culture and History (PITCH) has completed a study of historic buildings in the fifth ward that are notable for their architecture or history. PITCH will soon have a complete report to present to the preservation commission.

Performing Arts

Theater

Evanston Children's Theatre (2010 Dewey Avenue [Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre], 328-5740) produces three performances a year featuring actors age 8 to 14.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre (2010 Dewey Avenue, 328-5740) specializes in African American theater and produces four performances a year. It has served as a training ground for some of the area's best actors and crews.

Next Theater Company (927 Noyes Street, 475-1875) presents five plays per year, contemporary or classical.

Organic Theater Company (1420 Maple Avenue, 475-0600) presents three productions per year and emphasizes contemporary work and new playwrights.

Piven Theater Workshop (927 Noyes Street, 866-6597) offers theatrical training from fourth grade through the professional level. It presents three to four productions a year,

Music

Evanston Symphony Orchestra (P.O. Box 778, 864-8804), which has both amateur and professional members, presents five classical music concerts a year at Evanston Township High School.

Light Opera Works (927 Noyes Street, 869-6300) performs four musicals a year.

North Shore Choral Society (P.O. Box 103, 328-5158) is comprised of professional and nonprofessional singers who perform three major concerts yearly.

Savoy-Aires (P.O. Box 126, 328-7655) performs one Gilbert and Sullivan operetta a year, usually in the fall. It is currently assisted by members of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra.

Dance

Evanston Dance Ensemble (610 Davis Street, 475-7323) is a performing company of young people (ages 10–17) specializing in classical ballet or modern dance.

Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago (614 Davis Street, 866-6779) is a professional dance company that tours nationally and internationally and offers lessons to the public.

Kids Can Dance (927 Noyes Street, 328-6477) is a private not-for-profit arts organization offering classes to the public and an intense, tuition-free dance experience for 12- to 18-year-olds from Evanston and Skokie.

Media

Evanston Community Media Center (1285 Hartrey Avenue, 869-2510) manages public and municipal access to local cable television. Its mission is to provide Evanston residents with the opportunity to have their voices heard through cable television. School Districts 65 and 202 have their own local cable television stations.

There are three local newspapers:

Evanston Review (1601 Sherman Avenue, 866-6501)

Evanston RoundTable (1124 Florence Avenue, 864-7741)

The Daily Northwestern (1999 South Campus Drive, 491-7206)



A boy enjoys the lagoon during the August lakeshore arts festival. Photo by Cynthia Schwartz.

Health Services

Evanston Northwestern Healthcare (2650 Ridge Avenue, 570-2000) and **St. Francis/Resurrection Hospital** (355 Ridge Avenue, 492-4000), as well as **Rush North Shore Medical Center** (9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie 60076, 677-9600), have made consistent efforts to be responsive to community needs and to cooperate in offering services with the Evanston Health Department.

The large number of private practitioners in Evanston represent all medical specialties.

City of Evanston Health Department (2100 Ridge Avenue, 866-2952) offers a range of public health services to its citizens.

Evanston Township High School Health Center (1600 Dodge Avenue, 424-7265) is an in-school medical facility available to students whose parents or guardians have signed a consent form. Staffed by a medical director, two nurse practitioners, a public health nurse, and a social worker, the center provides primary care by appointment and referrals to other local medical facilities. Students may schedule appointments themselves. The center offers preventive care such as physical examinations, immunizations, wellness and health education, gynecological care, diagnosis and treatment of acute illness and injury, management of chronic illness, laboratory testing, and psychological support services. Services are provided in partnership with the city of Evanston and Evanston Northwestern Healthcare.

Home Care, Hospice Care, and Long-Term Care Facilities

Palliative Care Center of the North Shore (2821 Central Street, Evanston 60201, 467-7423) provides home health care (i.e., physician-directed, skilled care provided in the home by health professionals for patients recovering from surgery or illness or living with chronic conditions). Hospice care (i.e., pain control and symptom management for terminally ill patients by health professionals) is provided primarily in the home or in an assisted-living facility, long-term care facility, hospital, or inpatient hospice unit.

Many long-term care facilities are available. The health department (866-2947) licenses these facilities and can be contacted for further information about them.

Human Services

Evanston's network of social service agencies provides a comprehensive range of human services for its residents. These agencies are supported by a mix of public and private financing. Public sources include those provided by the city

of Evanston, Evanston Township, the mental health board, and the federal Community Development Block Grant program. Private sources include the Evanston United Way and Evanston Community Foundation, local service organizations and businesses, and private donors who contribute directly to human service agencies.

Services for People in Need

CEDA/Neighbors at Work (1231 Emerson Street, 328-5166) is a community development agency that provides services to address factors contributing to poverty. These services include administering the WIC program, home repairs and painting, a handyman program for senior citizens, energy assistance, home winterization, job placement and counseling, and access to the Care Insurance Program.

CPM Connections for the Homeless (607 Lake Street, 475-7070) seeks to encourage self-reliance of homeless people through emergency shelter (adults), transitional housing (families), homeless prevention assistance, supportive services, research, policy development, and education.

Evanston Department of Health and Human Services (2100 Ridge Avenue, 866-2969) provides direct services and information to the community and access to a full array of social services for those in need. The department oversees the following:

- Latino outreach/ombudsman program
- Emergency assistance
- Health department
- Commission on aging
- Mental health board

Evanston Ecumenical Action Council (EEAC) (P.O. Box 1414, 475-1150) provides a hospitality center for the homeless and three soup kitchens a week.

Evanston Township General Assistance (1910 Main Street, 475-4481) serves Evanston residents who receive general assistance and live within the boundaries of Evanston Township. Services include financial assistance in obtaining GED diplomas, clerical training, job club (preemployment work skills), and referrals for assistance to other agencies. A work-site program in cooperation with general assistance offers hands-on training for job experience.

Food Aid Center of Evanston (P.O. Box 526, 328-0764) provides food for low-income families and elderly people.

Latino outreach/ombudsman (2100 Ridge Avenue, 866-2959) provides information, counseling, and referrals to Spanish-speaking residents.

McGaw YMCA (1000 Grove Street, 475-7400) provides housing for low-income men.

The Salvation Army (1403 Sherman Avenue, 866-9770) provides financial assistance for food, clothing, utilities, and rent and offers an after-school program and summer day camp for children ages 6–12.

Social Security Administration (2116 Green Bay Road, 1-800/772-1213) is a federal agency office for retirement, survivors', and disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income, and Social Security cards.

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Domestic Violence Shelter (864-8445) provides a domestic violence shelter for women and children and has an outreach office in the Skokie courthouse.

Legal Assistance

Evanston Community Defender Office Inc. (828 Davis Street, Suite 304, 492-1410) provides legal and social-work services outside the court setting to low-income juveniles and young adults who are or may be involved in the court system. It also provides referrals to other agencies for long- and short-term counseling and assistance.

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (828 Davis Street, Room 201, 475-3703) provides free civil legal services to low-income people, elderly, victims of domestic violence, and people with AIDS.

Mental Health Services

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) (P.O. Box 5171, 475-2115) provides comprehensive care and support to individuals and families living with HIV (i.e., individual and family counseling, support groups, case management and advocacy, housing assistance, and volunteer services). BEHIV also provides a range of prevention programs (i.e., presentations to schools, health care facilities, community organizations, and businesses; street outreach; risk-reduction workshops; prevention case management; and drop-in services).

Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Crisis Intervention and Referral Program (2650 Ridge Avenue, 570-2500) provides emergency room evaluation, crisis phone treatment, short-term crisis counseling, crisis consultations for community agencies and organizations, and referrals to appropriate medical or social resources.

Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Mental Health Referral Center (2650 Ridge Avenue, Room 5223, 570-1222) provides full-service psychiatric and counseling services to all age groups and makes referrals to staff doctors, psychologists, and social workers based on clinical needs.

Family Institute at Northwestern University (618 Library Place, 733-4300) is an independent affiliate of Northwestern University. It provides marital, couple, family, and individual therapy and offers clinical training, research, community outreach programs, and a speaker's bureau.

First Step (Thresholds/NTSW) (2010 Dewey Avenue, 864-2590) offers pre-vocational skill training, counseling, support to provide stabilization, prevention of rehospitalization, and an increased level of functioning and independence to those with diagnosed mental illness.

Housing Options for the Mentally Ill in Evanston, Inc. (2916 Central Street, 866-6144) develops housing opportunities for adults coping with mental illness; provides support services so each resident can live as independently as possible; and works to foster understanding of mental illness and the importance of supportive housing. Housing Options operates five residential programs.

Mental Health Association of the North Shore (2120 Lincoln Street, 328-6198) promotes mental health and helps people affected by mental illness by offering education, advocacy, and community programs.

Metropolitan Family Services Evanston/Skokie Valley (820 Davis Street, Suite 450, 328-2404) provides family, couple, and individual counseling and group services in the schools; family support services for the prevention of child abuse; mental health services for children in Evanston and Maine Township; senior services, elder-abuse investigations, information and referrals, and counseling; and consumer-credit counseling for budget planning and debt management.

PEER Services (906 Davis Street, 492-1778) provides substance abuse prevention, early intervention, and outpatient treatment services. It has a satellite office at Evanston Township High School and has speakers available to provide community education on substance abuse-related issues.

Simpson Street Lighthouse (1607 Simpson Street, 328-0764) provides substance abuse programs for youth.

St. Francis/Resurrection Hospital Behavioral Health Services (355 Ridge Avenue, 316-7171) provides inpatient and outpatient services to people with mental, emotional, or chemical-dependency difficulties, with a special emphasis on attention deficit disorder services.

Youth and Family Services

Childcare Network of Evanston (CNE) (1416 Lake Street, 475-2661) is the umbrella organization for child care in Evanston. It provides information and referral for families seeking care options, administers state subsidies for eligible families, provides consultation and social services in child-care programs, and advocates for increased knowledge and resources relating to child care.

The Cradle (2049 Ridge Avenue, 475-5800) provides counseling for birth parents and adoptive parents; financial assistance for birth parents who want to place their children for adoption; matches of suitable adoptive parents with children who have been placed for adoption; and lifelong support and guidance to the adopting family, the adopted person, and the birth parents.

Evanston School Children's Clothing Association (ESCCA) (1314 Ridge Avenue, 492-7233, ext. 618) provides new shoes, boots, and used clothing for school children in District 65. Parents can apply for the service through the school health clerks.

Family Focus/Our Place (2010 Dewey Avenue, 475-7570) provides drop-in times, discussion groups, social events, referrals to outside resources, planned activities for parents and children, and programs that address the needs of various groups, including teen parents, single-parent families, grandparents, dual-income families, preteens, and teenagers.

Foster Reading Center (2010 Dewey Avenue, 864-3360) provides tutoring and a safe environment for children to read.

Illinois Crossroads Council, Girl Scouts of America (650 N. Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills 60061, 573-0500) sponsors Girl Scout troops; activity groups: Double Dutch, Making Choices, and Summer Park drop-in programs.

Literature for All of Us (2010 Dewey Avenue, 869-7323) brings the rewards of reading and writing to young low-income mothers through book group discussions.

McGaw YMCA (1000 Grove Street, 475-7400) provides child-care programs (infant through sixth grade), community outreach to young people and families, and Camp Echo, a residence summer camp for boys and girls.

Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America (2745 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park 60035, 433-1813) provides educational programs for boys and young adults to build character, train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

Youth Organizations Umbrella, Inc. (YOU) (1027 Sherman Avenue, 866-7025) is a youth-service agency sponsoring drop-in and homework centers for Nichols and Chute Middle Schools students, emergency housing, crisis intervention, and youth outreach.

Did you know

Evanston provided the scenery for several Hollywood movies, including *Sixteen Candles*, *Curly Sue*, *Uncle Buck*, *Home Alone II*, and *Dennis the Menace*.

Youth Job Center (1114 Church Street, 864-5627; outpost at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Avenue) provides employment assistance and related counseling leading to stable, progressive employment for Evanston youth and young adults ages 14–25.

Youth Services Bureau, Evanston Police Department (1454 Elmwood Avenue, 866-5017 or 866-5057) provides counseling and prevention programs for youths and their families designed to improve levels of functioning in areas of family relations, school, and the community.

Services for Older Adults

Evanston/Skokie Valley Senior Services (827 Foster Street, 864-3721) provides counseling, case management, home-delivered meals, homemakers, housekeepers, and grandparents' support groups to older people and their families in their own homes. Nearly all services are provided on a donation-only basis.

Levy Senior Center (City of Evanston, 866-2900)

Meals at Home (2525 Greenwood Avenue, Wilmette 60091, 251-6827) delivers meals to older people who have difficulty shopping or cooking for themselves.

Seniors Action Service, Inc. (SASI) (1608 Maple Avenue, 864-7274) maximizes the independence of older people by providing assistance in their homes. It also trains home-care professionals.

Services for Women

Lilac Tree, Women in Transition (P.O. Box 1659, 328-0313) provides services to women who are in the process of divorce (i.e., a lawyer referral program, educational seminars and workshops, support groups, drop-in groups, and referrals to financial planners and career counselors).

YWCA Evanston/North Shore (1215 Church Street, 864-8445) is a multi-service agency committed to empowering women and girls and to eliminating racism. Its two key programs are a domestic violence shelter with an outreach office in the Skokie courthouse and a large aquatics program featuring a warm-water pool with hydraulic chair, swim classes, a swim team, and aqua-aerobics for seniors.

Services for People with Disabilities

National Lekotek Center/Lekotek of Evanston (2100 Ridge Avenue, 328-0001) provides play-centered programs, toy-lending libraries, and computer programs to children with disabilities and their families.

Natural Ties (1015 Davis Street, 475-5501) works to involve people with disabilities in community activities by pairing them in peer relationships with community members.

Over the Rainbow Association (2040 Brown Avenue, 328-6633) helps people with physical disabilities to live independently in accessible housing and to support themselves through meaningful employment.

Rimland Services for Autistic Citizens (616A Hartrey Avenue, 328-4090) offers educational, vocational, residential, and respite programs to adults and children with autism.

SHORE Community Services, Inc. (4232 Dempster Street, Skokie 60076, 982-2030) offers community-based education and training, residential, vocational, and related services to improve the quality of life for citizens with developmental disabilities.

Business, Civic, and Service Organizations

Evanston community life is greatly enriched by its civic organizations. These voluntary, not-for-profit community-based organizations help beautify the city, contribute financial resources, train leaders, support neighborhoods, and provide political advocacy. The volunteers on whom they all depend are essential to the health and vitality of our city.

Business Organizations

A number of organizations have been established to promote and support Evanston's retail and industrial community:

Evanston Chamber of Commerce (1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 860, 328-1500) strives to create an environment that promotes and enables businesses in the Evanston area to compete and grow, while enhancing civic leadership through advocacy, programs, services, events, and marketing strategies. The chamber publishes the annual *Chamber Community Guide*, a directory of businesses, organizations, arts and entertainment, education, sports and recreation, and transportation. The chamber also sponsors summer events such as the World's Largest Garage Sale and the Fountain Square Arts Festival.

Evanston Convention and Visitors' Bureau (ECVB) (1560 Sherman Avenue, 328-1500) is an arm of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce. ECVB works to bring economic benefits to the community by enhancing and promoting the Evanston tourism industry (i.e., lodging, cultural and entertainment attractions, restaurants, retail, and sports and recreation).

Evanston Inventure (820 Church Street, Suite 300, 864-9334) is a private economic-development organization composed of the city's largest employers and institutions whose mission is the long-term economic health of Evanston.

Evmark (1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 860, 570-4724) promotes downtown Evanston as an attractive place to shop; works closely with existing businesses to enhance their chances of success; recruits new businesses to the area; and maintains and improves the physical environment of the downtown.

There are also three neighborhood merchants' associations in Evanston:

Central Street Merchants Association

Chicago Dempster Merchants Association

Main Street Merchants Association

Civic Organizations

Democratic Party of Evanston (826 Custer Avenue, 491-0865) provides forums on political topics, supports voter registration, and works for the election of Democratic candidates.

Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) (828 Davis Street, 475-2402) strives to enhance Evanston's quality of life and preserve its character and diversity through an endowment for grants to organizations serving Evanston. It also coordinates Leadership Evanston (492-0992), a 10-month community leadership-development project with the goals of developing leadership skills; teaching about the Evanston community, its institutions, and their interrelationships; and networking with other participants in the Leadership Evanston program.

Evanston Library Friends (ELF) (c/o Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, 866-0312) provides support for the library through membership, special projects, and programming.

Evanston Neighborhood Conference (ENC) (1129 Florence Avenue, 475-0858) is a grassroots organization of more than 100 organizations, neighborhood groups, congregations, institutions, and businesses. ENC is committed to promoting racial, ethnic, and economic diversity and justice throughout the Evanston community.

Evanston/North Shore Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (1229 Emerson Street, 864-0038) was founded in 1915 and follows the aims of the national NAACP to eliminate injustice against people of color.

Evanston Republican Organization (1111 Davis Street, 491-9190) works to keep voters informed about candidates, voter registration, voting locations, absentee voting, and Evanston issues and works for the election of Republican candidates.

Evanston United Way/Community Services (828 Davis Street, 475-2400) supports 30 member agencies. Its goals are to assist social services; to raise funds for member agencies; to continuously appraise the human needs of Evanston; and to inform the public regarding the work of member agencies.

INVEST (1600 Dodge Avenue, 492-5990 [District 65], 492-5817 [District 202]) recruits volunteers and develops community resources in order to enrich the educational opportunities of the students in School Districts 65 and 202.

Keep Evanston Beautiful, Inc. (2100 Ridge Avenue, Suite 4612, 328-1500, ext. 2419) is dedicated to environmental education and action to support the responsible handling of solid waste, including litter and waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

League of Women Voters of Evanston (2100 Ridge Avenue, Suite 2650, 866-7844) promotes citizen education and participation in government. Among other projects, the organization sponsors community forums on topics of current and often controversial interest and periodically publishes *This Is Evanston*, a compendium of information, past and present, on Evanston.

Shanti Foundation for Peace (917 Fowler Avenue, 492-0955) strives to foster greater peace between cultures through education, the arts, and grassroots community development. It promotes educational peace initiatives through the arts to demonstrate how individual efforts can help forge lasting peace.

Service Organizations

Junior League of Evanston/North Shore (614 Lincoln Street, Winnetka 60093, 441-0995) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Kiwanis Club of Evanston (570-6238) provides service to the community with an emphasis on young people and good fellowship.

Lions Club of Evanston (P.O. Box 1882, 251-8200) is a service organization that raises money to benefit the blind and seeing-impaired, the deaf and hearing-impaired, and other disability groups.

North End Mothers' Club (866-8486) gives two scholarships annually, one to a graduating high school senior girl selected by her peers for outstanding all-around qualities and service, and the other to a student interested in pursuing a nursing career. The club also sponsors dancing classes six times a year for boys and girls in grades 6 to 8.

Optimist Club of Evanston (2115 Lincolnwood Drive, 475-2674) provides financial aid to various youth groups for sports programs, learning-to-read programs, and YMCA projects.

Rotary International (1560 Sherman Avenue, 866-3000) focuses on the community, the workplace, and the world. Evanston is the international headquarters of the organization.

Woman's Club of Evanston (1702 Chicago Avenue, 475-3800) since 1889

has advanced philanthropic, educational, and cultural principles and activities. It assists organizations dedicated to such purposes.

Zonta Club of Evanston (2011 Seward Street, 864-6147) supports local and international organizations and causes.

Religious-Based Associations

The almost 100 religious institutions located in Evanston reflect the diversity of the population. They perform many services for their members and the community and are active in social-action endeavors individually and cooperatively. Three umbrella associations exist to facilitate communication among religious organizations:

African American Ministerial Alliance (First Church of God, 1524 Simpson Street, 866-7050) strives to uphold the spiritual and moral fiber of the community through Christian principles, to maintain a fellowship within the community (social, economic, and political), to aggressively address key issues that will improve the quality of life for all citizens, and to have a moral impact upon actions taken or decisions made by those in authority.

Evanston Clergy Association (First Congregational Church, 1417 Hinman Avenue, 864-8332) was formed to foster communication and fellowship among the professional clergy of Evanston. Membership is open to all priests, ministers, and rabbis working or living in Evanston either in association with a congregation or in a chaplaincy. The leadership of the organization rotates among its membership. The association sponsors an annual Good Friday service for the community and is one of the sponsors of the annual community Thanksgiving service.

Evanston Ecumenical Action Council (EEAC) (P.O. Box 1414, 475-1150) is made up of members of Evanston churches and the community at large. EEAC provides a hospitality center for the homeless and three weekly soup kitchens, and takes on ecumenical action projects on racism, violence, prison ministry, and more.

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Index

- Absentee ballot, 65, 104
- African American history, 17, 18, 21, 23–24, 26–28, 78, 93
- Aldermen, 37–40, 42
- Alleys, 38–39, 44, 61–62
- Animal shelter, 6, 59
- Art museums, 92–93
- Art, public, 5, 48, 52–53
- Arts council, 5, 41, 52, 90, 93
- Arts organizations, 91
- Arts, performing, 94–95
- Assessments, 60–61, 65

- Beaches, 6, 18, 47, 51, 90
- Bilingual programs, 30, 75, 81
- Black American Heritage House, 93
- Black history (see African American history)
- Boards and commissions, 37, 39
 - listings, 40–49
- Bond rating, 38, 64
- Budget, city, 59–60, 64
- Budget, schools, 60, 75, 77–78
- Building code, 56
- Burnham, Daniel, 1, 25, 30–31
- Business organizations, 103
- Butler, Arthur, 23–24
- Butler, Elizabeth, 93

- Candidate Nominating Committee (CNC), 75
- Chamber of Commerce, 36, 103
- Chandler Newberger Community Center, 90
- Charter schools, 80
- Child care, 74, 100
- Childcare Network of Evanston, 100
- Church Street Plaza, 63, 70
- Churches and synagogues, 17, 18, 62, 91, 106
- Chute, Oscar, 73, 78
- City clerk, 37, 39, 41, 65
- City council, 35, 37–40, 55–56, 59, 64

- City government (see Government, city)
- Civic organizations, 103–05
- Civil War, 15–16, 30
- Colleges and universities 5, 85–87
 - (see Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Kendall College, National-Louis University, Northwestern University, Oakton Community College, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary)
- Committees, city council, 38
- Community centers, 51, 90
- Community development
 - department, 55–57
- Community Hospital, 23–24
- Community services, 89–106
- Comprehensive General Plan, 47, 56
- Continuing education, 87
- Corporation counsel law department, 57
- Csicsko, David Lee, 52–53

- Dance, 5, 91, 94–95
- Dawes, Charles Gates, 27–28
- Dawes, Charles Gates—home, 4, 31, 33, 92
- Democratic Party, 104
- Dempster-Dodge Shopping Center, 63, 71
- Depression, the, 28
- Desegregation, 18, 24, 78–79
- Disabilities, services for people with, 54, 79, 81, 85, 102
- District 65 (see Schools, public)
- District 202 (see Schools, public)

- Ecology Center, 6, 47–48, 90
- Ecumenical Action Council, 97, 106
- Education—demographics, desegregation, higher, school listings, special needs (see also preprimary services, schools—public and private), 73–87
- Elections, 37–39, 65–66, 75

- Emergency services, 38, 40–41, 55, 58, 97–98, 101
- Emerson Street YMCA, 24–25
- Employment, 2–3, 57, 68
- Engineering department, 42, 46
- English As a Second Language (ESL), 81, 87
- Equalized assessed valuation (EAV), 60–61
- Evans, John, 11–13, 16
- Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, 2–3, 20, 96, 98–99
- Evanston Public Library (see Library)
- Evanston Township High School (see Schools)
- Facilities management department, 58
- Finance department, 57
- Fire department, 20, 40–41, 68
- Fleet services department, 42, 46
- Fleetwood–Jourdain Community Center, 51, 90, 94
- Forestry, department of, 47, 51, 90
- Foster School, 24, 78
- Gardens, garden clubs, 6, 33, 91, 93
- Garnett, Isabella, 23–24, 93
- Garrett Theological Seminary, 87
- General assistance, 64–65, 97
- Golf course, 50, 91
- Government, city, 35–71
- Grosse Pointe Territory, 10
- Health and human services department, 38, 53–55, 97
- Health Center, ETHS, 53, 96
- Health, public, 20, 38, 53–54, 59, 63, 96
- Health services, 96
- Hill, Joseph, 73, 78
- Historic districts, 4, 32–33
- Historic landmarks, 4, 48, 93
- Historical Society, 4, 28, 33, 92
- History, African American (see African American history)
- History, Evanston, 1–33
- History, Latino (see Latino history)
- Home rule, 59
- Hospitals, 2–3, 20, 23–24, 96
- Housing, 4–5, 24, 26, 28–29, 55–57, 66–69, 97–99, 101–02
- Housing, affordable, 66–68
- Housing, historic, 30–33
- Human relations department, 58
- Human resources department, 57
- Hurd, Harvey, 15, 22
- Independence Day parade, 7
- Integration, 78–79
- Jourdain, Edwin Bush Jr., 18, 28
- Kendall College, 86–87
- King, Dr. Martin Luther Jr. School, 79
- Ladd Arboretum, 6, 47–48, 90
- Lady Elgin, 19
- Lakefront, 47, 51, 90, 92
- Land use, 4, 25, 55, 62, 69
- Latino history, 18, 29–30
- Law department, 57
- League of Women Voters, 22, 36, 65, 68, 105, 112
- Legal assistance, 98
- Levy Center, 51, 90, 101
- Library, Evanston Public, 5, 20, 35–36, 52, 58, 60
- Lighthouse, Grosse Point, 6, 19–20, 33, 48, 93
- Lighthouse Park District, 48–49, 91
- Lincoln, Abraham, 10, 15–16, 30, 87, 93
- Liquor, 4, 13, 21–22
- Lunt, Orrington, 12–13
- Manager, city, 37–39, 59
- Marker trees, 9, 12
- Mayor, 36–40, 55
- McGaw YMCA, 89, 98, 101
- Media, 95

- Mental health services, 38, 54, 98–100
- Metropolitan region, 68–69
- Metropolitan Sanitary District, 47, 60
- Mexico (see Latino history)
- Mulford, Major Edward, 10
- Museums, 92–93
- Music, 6, 80, 83, 94

- National-Louis University, 86–87
- Newspapers, 95
- Nichols, Frederick, 20, 79
- Nichols Middle School, 6, 79
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, 69
- Northwestern University, 2–3, 11–15, 20–21, 28, 62, 68, 82, 85–87
- Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 5, 41, 52, 90, 93

- Oakton Community College, 82, 87
- Ordinances, 37, 39
- Outreach—Latino, 55, 97–98

- Park School, 79, 81
- Parks—map, 50
- Parks/forestry and recreation department, 47–52, 90–91
- Perkins, Dwight, 25, 31–33, 49
- Police department, 20, 41–42, 68, 101
- Population, 1–2, 16–18, 23–25, 29
- Post Office, U.S., 6, 13, 15, 29
- Potawatomi, 8–11
- Preprimary services, 74
- Preservation, historic, 4, 30, 32–33, 55–57
- Primaries, 65–66
- Prohibition, 4, 13, 22
- Property taxes, 60–64, 68, 75, 77–78
- Public safety, 40–42

- Public schools (see Schools)
- Public utilities, 38
- Public works department, 42–46

- Recreation, department of, 47, 51–52, 90–91
- Refuse, 38, 44–45
- Regional planning, 68–69
- Religious organizations, 106
- Republican Party, 16, 104
- Research park, 3, 24, 70–71
- Retail business, 3–4, 25–26, 63, 68, 70–71, 103
- Revenues, tax, 60, 62–63, 77–78
- Ridge Avenue, formation of, 8
- Ridgeville, 11–13, 64
- Ridgeville Park District, 49, 91
- Robert Crown Community Center, 51, 90
- Robinson, Morris (Dino) Jr., 26, 107
- Roycemore School, 4, 33

- School boards, 74–75
- Schools, elementary and middle—demographics, 80
listings, 81
- Schools, secondary—demographics, 82
listing, 82
- Schools, private and parochial—listings, 84–85
- Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, 87
- Segregation, institutionalized, 18, 24, 26, 30
- Senior citizen services, 101–02
- Service organizations, 105–06
- Sewage treatment, 20, 43, 69
- Sewers, 38, 42–44
- Sherman Plaza, 63, 71
- Shopping districts, 4
- Sports (see Recreation)
- St. Francis/Resurrection Hospital, 2–3, 10, 24, 96, 100
- Streets and sanitation department, 44–45
- Suffrage, 21–23

Tallmadge, Thomas, 25, 31
Tax-exempt property, 61–62, 65, 68
Taxes—charts, 61–62
Technopolis Evanston, 71
Theaters, 94
Tinker toys, 26–27
Town and gown issues, 68
Township government, 64–65
Traffic, 26, 41–42, 45–46
Traffic engineering department, 45–46
Transportation, public, 2–3, 38–39, 69
Trees, 8, 51, 90

Voter registration, 65, 104

Wards, 37; map, 66
Washington School, 30
Water, 20, 42–43, 46, 62–63, 68–69
Water and sewer department, 38, 42–44
Welfare, 64
Willard, Frances E., 12, 21
Willard, Frances E.—home, 33, 92
Women’s Christian Temperance
 Union (WCTU), 4, 21, 92
Women’s services, 102
Works Progress Administration
 (WPA), 28–29
World War I, 23, 27
World War II, 26, 28, 36, 93

Youth services, 100–01

Zoning, 25–26, 30, 32, 36, 38, 55–57

The League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded in 1920 to help American women exercise their newly won right to vote. League organizations at all levels of government work to increase citizen understanding of public policy issues and to promote citizen participation in government. The League never supports or opposes candidates but does work to influence government through citizen education and advocacy. Through its voters service programs, the League provides information on election issues, candidates' positions, and election procedures.

The League of Women Voters of Evanston was founded in 1922. The League worked for passage of the city's first zoning ordinance, for adoption of the council-manager form of government, for the development of a comprehensive general plan, and for an open housing ordinance. Although the issues change from year to year, the overriding goal of the League continues to be the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government. This eighth edition of *This Is Evanston* is an example of the League's dedication to that goal. Perhaps this book will be a resource for those who choose to actively participate in our community.

League membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

