



IN THE WORKS

Westfield Department of Public Works

2024 SUMMER Newsletter

CONTACT US

The Village of Westfield DPW has a 24-hr. emergency line, 792-7919, so that residents can report electric, water, sewer, and street emergencies that occur outside our normal business hours. The normal business hours for the DPW office staff are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If assistance is needed during business hours the numbers to call are:

VILLAGE OFFICE - EASON HALL 326-4961

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT 326-2145

STREET DEPARTMENT 326-3477

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT 326-2832

24-HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER 792-7919

WWW.WESTFIELDNY.COM

All account and billing questions can be addressed by calling 326-4961 ext. 22 or ext. 14. This is also the telephone number to set up a service turn on, final reading, name change, etc.

WESTFIELD ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS: SAVE ENERGY & GET A REBATE!



Village of Westfield
42 English Street
Westfield, NY 14787
716-326-2145



IEEP
P.O. Box 2489
Syracuse NY 13220
(315) 463-7208
IEEPRebates@gmail.com

Get rebates when you purchase and install ENERGY STAR® appliances, high-efficiency cold climate heat pumps, and battery powered yard care equipment.

For more information, visit the Westfield Electric Dept. at 42 English Street, or download our rebate forms at westfieldny.com/living-here/ieep-rebate-forms

Rebates available for purchases of the following items:

- Clothes Washers and Dryers • Dehumidifiers • Smart Thermostats
- Refrigerators • Windows • Dishwashers • Room Air Conditioners • Freezers
- Cold Climate Heat Pumps • Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps • Ground Source Heat Pumps • Heat Pump Water Heaters • Electric Battery Powered Lawn Mowers, Trimmers, Snowblowers, Leaf Blowers and Chain Saws



NYCRR TITLE 16A PUBLIC SERVICE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please find below a summary of your rights and obligations under HEFPA (Home Energy Fair Practices Act). More detailed information may be accessed at: www.dps.state.ny.us/hefpa.htm.

We have the responsibility to supply electricity in a reliable manner, and you have a responsibility to pay utility bills promptly. Contact our office at 716- 326-4961 as soon as possible if you have any complaints, questions or problems about your service. Office hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday thru Friday. After business hours, we have an automatic messaging system to leave a message for our office staff. They will return a call during normal business hours. For electrical emergencies, please call 716-326-2145. After business hours, please call 716-792-7919. **For consumer complaints that cannot be resolved by the Village of Westfield, you may contact the New York Department of Public Service (DPS). DPS complaints may be directed as follows: Website: www.dps.ny.gov/complaints phone: DPS Helpline at 1-800-342-3377 (M-F 8:30a - 4:00p); or Mail: Office of Consumer Services, NYS Department of Public Service, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223**

Bills paid 23 days after mailing will be considered overdue and will be assessed a 1 1 /2 % late fee. Bills may be paid in person at 23 Elm Street, Westfield, NY 14787. Payments may be mailed, deposited in the drop box at the office entrance, charged by phone or on our website www.westfieldny.com.

If a deposit is required when you open a residential account, it is based on two times the average monthly winter billing. Deposits are held for one year and with 12 consecutive on time payments, refunded with interest. If your payments are not on time, we will hold the deposit until 12 consecutive monthly on time payments are made.

We may disconnect service for nonpayment. We must send you a Final Termination Notice which will provide you with 15 more days to pay the bill or complete a deferred payment arrangement. We will reconnect service within 24 hours if the amount is paid and any customer may designate a third party to receive copies of a billing, terminations, disconnection and suspension of service. There are Cold Weather Protections (November 1st - April 15th) and Special Protections for certain customers such as the elderly, blind and disabled. You must voluntarily inform us and are required to provide us the appropriate medical documentation.

If you rely on electrically operated medical devices or have other special medical needs, it is especially important for you to be personally prepared for a power outage. Please inform us if you rely on electrically operated life-sustaining medical devices and you may be in immediate danger if your electric service is interrupted or you are a person with disabilities or blind. Although we inform customers about planned power outages and regularly review equipment requirements, restorations do take time, so you personally need to be prepared. Always call 911 in the case of an emergency.

Customers who sign up for budget billing will have your monthly budget amount calculated based on your yearly bill based on last year's usage for electric, water and/or sewer per location. Payments must be made on time to remain on budget billing. Customers that are eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) cannot count this benefit as payment towards your budget billing. We do apologize for this inconvenience.

We continually work to improve the level of service and communication we have with our customers. To assist us with this effort, we ask that you immediately inform us of any changes in your mailing address or phone number.

For more information please visit our website: www.westfieldny.com



THE VILLAGE'S WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

A Path to Future Improvement

The Village is taking a significant step forward in ensuring the reliability and sustainability of its water system with the recent completion of the Water System Master Plan. Developed in collaboration with consulting engineer, the MRB Group, this comprehensive document represents a meticulous evaluation of the entire treatment and distribution system. Taking into account factors such as age, condition, criticality of each component, pressure and flow issues, as well as projected system growth, the plan provides a roadmap for necessary improvements over the next 10 to 20 years.

The significance of this master plan cannot be overstated, especially considering the essential role of a reliable water system in the everyday lives of community members.

By conducting a thorough assessment, the Village is demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing potential challenges and ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality water services to residents.

One of the most important aspects of the Water System Master Plan is the detailed and prioritized list of necessary improvements. This list provides a clear understanding of the critical areas that require attention, allowing for strategic allocation of resources and funding to address those needs and ensuring money and effort is spent on the right areas. Moreover, the inclusion of high-level budgets for each project offers transparency and accountability, ensuring that community members are informed about the financial considerations associated with the proposed improvements.

The forward-looking nature of the master plan is evident in its focus on projected system growth. By taking into account the anticipated changes in demand and usage patterns, the Village is not just addressing current needs but also preparing for the future requirements of an evolving community. This proactive approach is crucial for maintaining the long-term functionality and effectiveness of the water system, ultimately benefiting all residents.

THE VILLAGE'S WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN CONT.

Furthermore, the collaborative effort involving the Village and the MRB Group underscores the commitment to leveraging specialized expertise in the development of the master plan. The involvement of a consulting engineer brings valuable technical insights and industry best practices to the table, ensuring that the plan is founded on solid engineering principles and in line with regulatory standards.

As the Village embarks on the path of system improvement outlined in the master plan, community members can expect to witness tangible enhancements in the reliability, efficiency, and safety of the water system. The Master Plan serves as a proactive blueprint for progress that benefits the entire community.

VILLAGE CONTINUES LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

As many of you know, the EPA has put forward a requirement for every water utility to submit an inventory of the pipe material used on all their water service lines. The reason is to identify any lead service lines in your service territory. This has to be completed by October 2024. We expect that once that is completed, there will be further regulations to remove all lead service lines. The Village has begun the process of inspecting services inside homes. If you haven't been contacted yet to schedule an appointment, you will be soon. The good news is that so far, we have found no lead lines in any home! We are also required to verify pipe material from the point that the service tap on the water main is to the home. In many cases, we have records to show what that is. In many other areas, this will require digging to verify the pipe material. At this point, we have no reason to think there are any lead lines, but we have to verify that.

Fortunately, we applied for, and were successfully awarded, a grant for this purpose in the amount of \$1.1 million. This will be used to cover costs for all in-home inspections, costs incurred for digging up services and costs for restoration of yards or repairing road cuts from this work.

It also covers the costs for preparing the inspection reports and inputting this information into our GIS maps and records. We are very happy that we don't have to burden our residents with the cost of complying with this mandate!

If you would like to schedule your in-home inspection, or have any questions or concerns, please call 716-326-2832.

VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD RECOGNIZED AS A RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER

The Village of Westfield Electric Department has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) ® designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.



American Public Power Association

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. The Village of Westfield Electric Department joins more than 250 public power utilities nationwide that hold the RP3 designation.

"Receiving an RP3 designation is a great honor signifying a utility has demonstrated commitment to industry best practices,"

said Jeremy Ash, Chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel and Chief Operating Officer at Kansas City Board of Public Utilities, Kansas. "And ultimately, the culture developed from this pursuit of excellence and continued improvement through the RP3 program results in measurable value delivered to the local community."

"We couldn't be prouder to be honored with this designation," said Andrew Thompson, Director of Public Works of The Village of Westfield. "This is the culmination of a lot of work from a lot of people who really care about powering our community. But this designation is not a final destination. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our operations and service to our customers."

The American Public Power Association has offered the RP 3 designation for 19 years now. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 49 million people in nearly 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. APPA advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. More information on the RP 3 program is available at www.PublicPower.org/RP3.

For more information: Tobias Sellier, American Public Power Association, 202-467-2927, MediaRelations@PublicPower.org

NYS MANDATE

Transitioning to Electric School Buses by 2027

New York's recent announcement regarding the mandate for public schools to switch to electric buses starting in 2027 will undoubtedly impact our local educational institutions. As part of this directive, WACS will be required to initiate the transition to electric buses within the stipulated timeframe. This change brings with it a notable shift in the power distribution system, particularly concerning the significant increase in power consumption as every school bus garage is converted to accommodate electric buses.

In anticipation of this transition, the Electric Department has proactively undertaken measures to assess and prepare the power distribution system to meet the upcoming demand. The assessment revealed the necessity to extend a more lightly loaded residential circuit to serve as the new feed for the bus garage. Additionally, larger conductors have been installed to effectively manage the augmented load resulting from the electrification of the school buses.

This strategic project not only enables the new circuit to power the bus garage but also extends its reach to support Westfield Memorial Hospital, thereby reducing the load on a previously heavily burdened circuit.



Moreover, the implemented changes include the creation of a tie point, facilitating the interconnection between the circuits serving the bus garage and the hospital with the circuits serving the WACS building and surrounding area. This interconnection allows for the potential use of either circuit as a backup for the other in specific conditions, ensuring continuity and reliability in power supply for all facilities.

It is evident that the impending transition to electric buses necessitates meticulous planning and proactive infrastructure adjustments to accommodate the increased power demand. The Electric Department's proactive measures, such as extending the residential circuit, installing larger conductors, and establishing a tie point between critical circuits, underscore its commitment to ensuring a seamless and efficient transition to electric buses while maintaining reliability and resilience in the power distribution system.

The Village of Westfield Powers Up for the Future

The Village of Westfield is gearing up for a major improvement project. In an effort to enhance the reliability and capacity of the electric system, the Village has unveiled plans to replace two aging substation transformers at the Bourne St. Substation.

These transformers, which have been in operation since the 1970s, have served the community well but are now due for an upgrade due to age and to meet the projected increases in demand for power. The new units will boast an impressive 50% increase in capacity, ensuring that the electric system can effectively handle the future needs of the growing community.

In addition to the replacement of the transformers, the project will also see the installation of new circuit switchers on the high voltage side of both transformers. These circuit switchers, which are original to the construction of the station in the early 70s, will be upgraded to further bolster the reliability and efficiency of the electric system and provide protection of the new transformers.

The Village of Westfield has already initiated the design phase for this project, with construction set to commence in the Spring of 2025.

The replacement of the substation transformers and circuit switchers represents a crucial investment in the infrastructure that powers the daily lives of the residents of the Village of Westfield. By proactively addressing the aging components of the electric system, the Village is taking steps to safeguard against potential disruptions and ensure a reliable and resilient power supply for the community.

By upgrading the electric infrastructure to accommodate projected increases in power demand, the Village of Westfield is positioning itself to support economic development while maintaining the high quality of life that its residents enjoy.

In conclusion, the upcoming replacement of the substation transformers and circuit switchers at the Bourne St. Substation signals a significant stride toward a more robust and efficient electric system for the Village of Westfield.

VILLAGE BUILDS NEW SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE

In an exciting development that promises enhanced reliability and power for residents, a new 34.5 kV sub-transmission line is taking shape between Bourne St. and Portage St. Substations. Since these Substations were built in the 1970s, there has only been one line connecting the two stations. The new line runs along the North side of Bourne St.

With technology advancing rapidly and the demand for electricity increasing, our village needs to keep pace with these changes. This new sub-transmission line will allow us to do just that, providing us with the flexibility and capacity to meet the growing power needs, meeting the growing energy demands of our community. The new 34.5 kV line will support current needs and provide room for future growth and development.

The replacement of old equipment with modern technology, including vacuum breakers, ensures that residents will benefit from improved redundancy in their power supply. The new line not only strengthens the existing network but also paves the way for future growth and development in the community. The additional line will allow the replacement of a 1970s era oil circuit breaker, which was responsible for the outage to the entire Portage Substation in June. Fortunately, this project was well under way at that time. If it had been two weeks down the road, the failure of that oil circuit breaker would have been a non-issue.

With the completion of the new sub-transmission line between Bourne St. and Portage St. substations, the village has taken a significant step towards enhancing its power infrastructure's redundancy and reliability. This project showcases the village's commitment to providing a reliable power supply while embracing technological advancements in the field.



THE GROWTH OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM LOAD AND THE FUTURE OF WESTFIELD

As the trend towards electric vehicles (EVs) and building electrification continues to gain momentum, Westfield has recognized the need to assess the impact on its electric system load. A comprehensive study was conducted to forecast the load growth and identify the necessary system improvements to cater to this expected increase in demand. The results of this study provide valuable insights into the future of Westfield's electric system.

To complete this study, a consulting engineering firm, Power Systems Engineers, was hired. They developed a working system model using their WindMil software. Several years of historical information on power usage in the Westfield system went into this model. Every customer in the system was input into the model along with their historical and current electric usage patterns. The electric system load growth forecast study took into consideration the increasing penetration of electric vehicles and the various building electrification initiatives within the community. The peak system demand is projected to increase by approximately 50% in 10 years. These factors are poised to significantly alter the landscape of energy consumption in Westfield, prompting the need for a proactive approach to ensure a reliable and sustainable electric system. Each distribution circuit was analyzed to find any potential shortcomings as the load increases.

One of the key outcomes of the study is the development of a list of necessary system improvements. These improvements are aimed at enhancing the capacity and resilience of the electric system to accommodate the projected increase in load. Additionally, cost estimates were provided for the identified system improvements. It has been estimated that Westfield will require approximately \$10,000,000 in investments to implement the necessary upgrades.



The implications of the study's findings are substantial, as they shed light on the anticipated changes in energy demand and consumption patterns within Westfield. The rise in electric vehicle adoption and the shift towards building electrification are expected to drive a notable surge in electricity usage. This necessitates proactive measures to modernize and fortify the electric system infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of the community.

VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD TO SEEK FIRST ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE IN 25 YEARS

After 25 years without an increase, the Village of Westfield Electric Department has submitted to the NYS Department of Public Service to request an increase in their rates. The Village has delayed this as long as possible, but after careful consideration, on December 18 th , 2023, the Village Board voted to proceed with the submission of a rate case. The most recent increase in base rates was 1999. There are considerable capital needs required to replace aged equipment and to upgrade the system to the level it needs to be so we can serve the increasing electric load brought on by electric vehicle and building electrification initiatives from New York State. We are also starting a rehabilitation project to refurbish one of our aging substations. Finally, the Village must keep up with inflation and accommodate increases in all our materials, equipment and fuel. Transformer costs have skyrocketed nationwide over the past few years. Our electric system is an invaluable asset for our community. We must invest in it to ensure that it continues serving our residents for generations to come. This has been delayed to the degree possible, as we recognize that our customers are paying slightly more for power than they were 25 years ago, not due to Village rates, but because of clean energy surcharges imposed by NY State.

DPS will review the financial statements and the operation of the Department and make a final determination on an allowable rate based on their review. Westfield residents will continue to benefit from some of the lowest electric rates in the Country. The proposed rate increase requested will bring the residential rate from 3.7 cents per kwh currently, to 5.0 cents per kwh. This will amount to an increase of about \$11 per month to a customer with average usage. The rate residents will pay after the increase goes into effect, when combined with clean energy surcharges and purchase power adjustment charges (PPAC) will average around 6.9 cents per kwh, up from an average of 5.6 cents. In comparison, the NYS average rate is 18 cents per kwh and the National average is 16.7 cents. Westfield still has one of the lowest rates even among NY Municipal Utilities. Customers of Investor-Owned Utilities in the region are paying approximately 17 cents per kwh. We always strive to provide the best possible service at the lowest cost.

Safety and reliability of the system are our top priority, followed by keeping rates low. A decision to raise rates is never taken lightly. The proposed rates, as approved by the Village Board of Trustees, were determined to be the minimum required to continue providing the level of service you deserve. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

The proposed Tariff and supporting documentation is available via the internet on the Department of Public Service's Document and Matter Management ("DMM") system under Case 24-E-0379. <https://dps.ny.gov/electric>

For more information, contact Rebecca Betts-Paternosh, Village Treasurer at 716-326-4961 or Andrew Thompson, DPW Director at 716-326-2145.

Sign up for Village Text Messages

Sign up to receive texts regarding Village of
Westfield services and information

Text
"dpw"
to 866-594-0550

*Or SCAN this
to join!*



Normal text messaging rates apply.
Text "STOP" to opt out. Text "HELP" for help.
Receive up to 4 messages per month.

Village of Westfield