

# WINDSOR WELCOMES YOU

## A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS GUIDE TO LOCAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES



# WELCOME TO WINDSOR!



We're glad you're part of our school community.

*This guide was put together by Every Wildcat Counts (EWC), a sub-committee of the Windsor PTA.*

## WHAT IS "PTA"?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. There are national, statewide, and local PTA groups.

PTA offers all parents and caregivers the opportunity to be engaged in their child's potential. Being a member of PTA means that you are part of a powerful association and action plan that is focused on programs and initiatives that strengthen your child's education.

PTA membership and dues support your child by funding essential educational and curriculum needs; advocating on behalf of children and educators at the local, state and national levels; and building an inclusive school community for all families. Join PTA for your child because increasing our membership, even by one, makes it possible to provide important educational resources, speak up on important issues and create a stronger school community.

If the Windsor PTA dues are prohibitive, do not hesitate to reach out to the PTA President or school principal.



## ABOUT THIS PACKET



This packet is full of information to help you more easily identify free and low-cost local resources. From free neighborhood goods-exchanges to resale shops to classes and community resources, we hope this will make Arlington Heights even more accessible for everyone in our community!

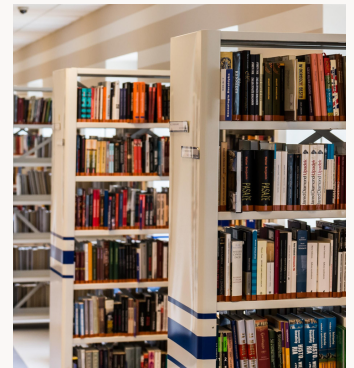
## SOME GREAT PLACES TO START

### ***ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY***

We are fortunate to have a wonderful public library that not only loans out books, but also has a Library of Things that loans out items like sewing machines and cameras! The library organizes programs and classes for adults and children of all ages, social opportunities, resume reviews and job fairs, and more.

The library has compiled a very comprehensive list of community resources, from housing assistance to mental health services and more, which can be found at:

[www.ahml.info/content/community-and-social-services-resources](http://www.ahml.info/content/community-and-social-services-resources)



## SOME GREAT PLACES TO START

### WINDSOR CARES AND WILDCAT PARENTS

We are also lucky to be a part of a very active, caring, and involved school community. Some resources that might help your family are local to our very own school!

**Windsor Cares** is a PTA initiative that provides assistance to families for a variety of needs; contact the school principal for Windsor Cares support.

**Wildcat Parents** is a Facebook page for Windsor parents. Families are often looking to pass down winter gear, bikes, roller skates, and other items that their children have outgrown. The link to the group is:

[www.facebook.com/groups/204731229665415/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/204731229665415/)



### WHEELING TOWNSHIP WEBSITE: WWW.WHEELINGTOWNSHIP.COM

Arlington Heights is located within Wheeling Township, and the Township itself has many resources to help residents and connect them with the programs and services they need. Their motto is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!" Their General Assistance Program is tremendous:

[www.wheelingtowship.com/General-Assistance](http://www.wheelingtowship.com/General-Assistance)

There is also a Food Pantry at the Township office for residents in need of food. Food Pantry shopping appointments are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00-12:00 or 1:00-4:00.



# FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

## BUY NOTHING ARLINGTON HEIGHTS (FACEBOOK GROUP)

**How it works:** The Buy Nothing Project is a global collection of community-based groups that focus on neighbors giving away goods and services. The main rule is that everything is free! From outgrown winter coats to kitchen appliances to extra garden vegetables, you can offer, accept, and request all sorts of free things from friendly neighbors. There are two Buy Nothing Arlington Heights groups—one for the South side of town, one for the North side. You simply request to join the Facebook group; you may be asked to provide your address so group administrators know you are in the right area.

Here are the links to each group:

- Buy Nothing Arlington Heights North—  
[www.facebook.com/groups/  
BNAHNorth](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BNAHNorth)
- Buy Nothing Arlington Heights South—  
[www.facebook.com/  
groups/999115816921927](http://www.facebook.com/groups/999115816921927)



# FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

## FREECYCLE/TRASH NOTHING ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

**How it works:** Very similar to Buy Nothing Arlington Heights, the Trash Nothing group is a space where people can offer and claim free items, from clothing to lawn furniture and more.

**Website:** <https://trashnothing.com/beta/arlington-heights-freecycle>



## NEXTDOR FREE SECTION

**How it works:** The national network of neighborhood groups called “Nextdoor” have online marketplace listings for goods, mostly furniture.

**Website:**

<https://nextdoor.com/marketplace/arlington-heights--il/free/furniture/>



## VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FARMERS MARKET

**How it works:** On Saturdays May-October, farmers and vendors set up shop in the parking lot across from the library. Most items are available for purchase, but there is free entertainment and events often taking place, too.

**Website:** [www.ahfarmersmarket.org](http://www.ahfarmersmarket.org)



# FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

## VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

**How it works:** From the weekly outdoor concert series in the summer to Harmony Fest in the fall and more, Arlington Heights has plenty of free family-friendly fun. The village website lists all upcoming events.

**Website:** [www.vah.com/explore/events](http://www.vah.com/explore/events)



## VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT

**How it works:** The Arlington Heights Parks District has a range of programs and services, including free community events such as Fall Festival and Swing into Spring. There are also community classes, low-cost options, and grants to support participation. The village website lists all upcoming events.

**Website:** Here are links to the main Parks District page as well as to their seasonal program guide with class listings.

- Main AHPD page: [www.ahpd.org/](http://www.ahpd.org/)
- AHPD Program Guide: [www.ahpd.org/programs/view-current-season-program-guide/](http://www.ahpd.org/programs/view-current-season-program-guide/)



## AND THERE'S MORE...

### MORE RESOURCES

At Windsor School and in our surrounding community, there are lots of ways to help and be helped. Volunteer opportunities abound, as do support organizations.

Families who need assistance getting back on their feet should know about Family Forward, whose mission is strengthening northwest suburban families to achieve financial stability and independence through mentoring, rental assistance and support services. ([www.family-forward.org/](http://www.family-forward.org/))

There are many resale shops in the area, such as Community Threads, WINGS, Goodwill, Salvation Army, The Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and more.

The school, library and village offices all have many referrals and resource roundups to offer. And, of course, our neighbors are great sources of information; we encourage everyone to share new resources as they find them, and get involved to make this community even more welcoming and supportive.

This guidebook is a resource compiled by Every Wildcat Counts, a committee of the Windsor Parent Teacher Association (PTA). To learn more about the PTA at Windsor, visit: <https://windsorpta.org/>

