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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

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SUBJECT: Rat Mitigation

Dear Wilmette Resident,

The Village is aware of multiple rat infestations in the community. The following areas have been specifically identified based on resident reports:

- Lake Ave to Elmwood between 6th and 16th
- Isabella to Maple between Park and 18th
- Isabella to Linden between 4th and Broadway/7th

The Village's rodent control contractor, Envirosafe, is actively treating and inspecting public streets and alleys, as are many residents on their own property. Despite these efforts, rat activity persists in the community. Even if you do not live in the above impacted areas, we need you to do your part to help prevent the spread of rats so please review the rest of this letter.

The Village has a successful history of eradicating rat infestations in the community, and we are committed to working with you and your neighbors until the matter is satisfactorily resolved. In order to eliminate the rat infestation, we need the help of every household in the community.

Why is this important?

Rats reproduce quickly and are difficult to control once established. Their presence poses a public health problem: they can contaminate food, spread disease, and reduce quality of life for residents.

Identifying rat activity:

Even if you have not seen rats on your property, they may be present. Below are common signs of rat activity:

- **Rodent droppings** – often pointed at one end and often contain hair
- **Gnaw marks** – distinct teeth marks, often found in the same area as droppings
- **Underground burrows** – the entrance and exit holes are approximately 2-4" in diameter and have smooth walls of hard-packed dirt; it will also be free of debris with loose dirt fanning out
- **Runways** – dark, greasy track marks along walls and worn down paths in grass

Why rats may be on my property and/or how can I prevent them?

Rats seek food, water, and shelter to survive. Eliminating their sources on private property is crucial to this effort. Listed on the next page are common attractants that may be contributing to the rat population:

Attractant	Examples	Mitigation Method
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet droppings • Garbage • Birdfeeders • Outside pet food dishes 	<p><u>Promptly</u> remove pet droppings.</p> <p>Keep all garbage in <u>sealed</u> containers; do not allow it to overflow. Cover compost containers. Repair/replace* damaged garbage containers.</p> <p><u>Remove</u> birdfeeders and outdoor pet dishes and keep ground free of fallen husks, seeds, or pet food.</p> <p>Do <u>not</u> leave food out for stray animals or other wildlife.</p>
Water	Any objects that collect rainwater or hold standing water	<u>Remove</u> objects and/or keep them dry.
Shelter	Piles of wood and other debris on the ground, overgrown grass/vegetation, accessible structures (rats can squeeze through holes the size of a quarter or ½")	<p><u>Remove</u> wood or other debris from the ground (this can provide cover for burrows).</p> <p><u>Control</u> grass/vegetation overgrowth, especially along foundation lines.</p> <p><u>Seal</u> holes or openings to structures, including doors, (such as garage, shed, foundation, underneath deck, etc.) with ¼" mesh metal screen or hardware cloth, metal "wool" products, or concrete mixes or other durable sealants</p>

*To order a new cart, call 844-633-3577, or email service@lrsrecycles.com

What is the Village doing to eradicate the rodents in your neighborhood?

The Village, in partnership with Envirosafe, is proactively inspecting all the public rights of way in the impacted areas twice a week. Bait stations have been strategically placed in areas that have increased activity in an effort to assist residents with the treatment of their private properties.

The Village is offering the following services:

- Complimentary inspections of private property to identify rat activity and provide advice.
- A new financial assistance program to facilitate private property remediation through frequent baiting and collapsing of burrows.
- Tracking of rat activity to ensure all known areas are identified and treated.

Please contact rodents@wilmette.com for any of the above services and to report rat activity in your neighborhood.

Thank you in advance for your help, understanding and cooperation. This is a community problem which requires a community solution so we appreciate everyone's assistance in this endeavor. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Ted Blumenthal, Code Enforcement Officer, at 847-853-7521 or blumenthalt@wilmette.com.