

Village of Bloomingdale

Almanac

February 2016

Growth with Pride

3/50 Project Support Our Local Independents

Members

Angelo Caputo's
Fresh Markets
Bentley's Pancake House
and Restaurant
Chicago Pastry
Classic Travel and Tours
Elite Sports Memorabilia
Enopi
Great Wraps
Jack and Jill's Children's
Boutique Ltd
Kammes Auto and Truck
Repair Inc.
La Campana Mexican
Restaurant
Mandarin Bistro
Masterpiece Framing
Rooster's Restaurant
Sportys Catering
Springsoft
Spring Wine & Spirits

Supporters

Bloomingdale Chamber of
Commerce
Burkhardt's Repairs R Us, Inc.
Village of Bloomingdale

Residents Urged to Reduce Use of Salt This Winter

DuPage County recently issued a press release encouraging residents to reduce the use of road salt this winter. In an effort to decrease chloride concentrations in the County's waterways, residents should be mindful of snow removal options. Traditional deicing methods, such as laying down road salts to melt snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways, are linked to increased chloride concentrations in waterways.

Road salts are carried into storm drains and streams via storm water runoff. Once in waterways, these chlorides never fully dissipate and can be harmful for aquatic life.

Residents are encouraged to utilize best management practices for snow and ice removal during the winter



months. Removing snow prior to applying a deicer, applying just enough to reduce hazard, and sweeping up and properly storing road salt after a storm for reuse, are all ways to reduce the levels of chlorides in DuPage County waterways this winter.

For those residents who are not only looking to use less road salt, but are also looking for a greener solution to deicing, there are now such products on the market available to consumers which are both environmentally friendly and pet friendly.



Holiday Season Aglow

This year's stellar Christmas light display on the Village Hall campus, as well as at the wall at Bloomingdale Road and Lake Street, generated loads of smiles, compliments and spirit of the season to all. A big thanks to staff and the employees of the Village Services Department who worked diligently to make our vision a reality this Christmas season.

Stratford Middle School Earth Club Honored

VILLAGE BOARD, COMMISSION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The public is encouraged to attend all Board and Commission meetings

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

2nd and 4th Monday of every month 7:00 p.m. – Village Hall

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3rd Monday of the months January-March, May thru November. 1st and 3rd Monday in April. First Monday in December. 7:00 p.m. – Village Hall

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. – Village Hall

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS

3rd Wednesday of every month 5:00 p.m. – Village Hall

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Quarterly beginning in January 4th Monday 5:00 p.m. – Village Hall

BUSINESS PROMOTION COMMITTEE

1st Friday of the month 9:00 a.m. – Village Hall

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2nd Wednesday of every month 7:30 p.m. – Library

SEPTEMBERFEST COMMISSION

2nd Thursday of the month February through November 6:30 p.m. - Village Hall

BLOOMINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3rd Thursday of the month 4:00 p.m. – Firehouse, 179 S. Bloomingdale Road



DuPage County Board member Tony Michelassi (far left) presented an Earth Flag to members of the Stratford Middle School Earth Club on December 14. Michelassi also read a resolution honoring the entire school for their efforts to make the school more environmentally friendly.

Stay in Touch

Consider signing up for the Village's E-News, which would be delivered weekly to your email address.

This is a good way to keep up with timely information on news, services and events in and around town. And in the case of an unusual event, such as the pre-Thanksgiving record breaking snowfall, the Village is able to get out critical information to all subscribers as it becomes available.

Go to www.villageofbloomingdale.org and sign up for the E-news. It's easy and free!



Village of Bloomingdale Elected Officials

Franco A. Coladipietro
Village President

William Belmonte
Traffic and Streets

Michael D. Hovde
Planning, Zoning & Environmental Concerns

Jane E. Michelotti
Village Clerk

Bill Bolen
Finance and Administration

Vince Ackerman
Intergovernmental and Community Relations

TRUSTEES

Judi Von Huben
Public Safety

Frank Bucaro
Facilities, Infrastructure

Thanks to resident Alexandria Contes for her beautiful photo at Westlake Park, taken on November 21, the day after our pre-Thanksgiving record breaking snowfall.

A Message from Mayor Franco

Before I look into my crystal ball regarding what's in store for 2016, I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and had an opportunity to take part in some of the many activities going on in Bloomingdale, including the Festival of Lights in Old Town. And speaking of lights, how about the Village Hall? A shout out to staff and the dedicated employees of Village Services for making that happen! See the photo on p. 1.



It's been over two years since we discussed a vision and goal for a rebirth and redevelopment in Bloomingdale, such as re-establishing Lake Street and Old Town as a center of commerce and community activity. And look where we are today! We are seeing new development along Lake Street starting at Euclid with Bloomingdale Memory Care which broke ground in October. On the west side of St. Paul's Cemetery, we are in the process of consolidating the old Shell Station site and the adjoining strip center into one parcel for redevelopment. Just north of the old Shell station on North Circle, the Abbott parcel is undergoing a major re-construction as it becomes The Lock Up, an indoor climate controlled storage facility. On the southwest corner of Fairfield and Lake, work continues on the three-tenant building, anchored by Starbucks.

Looking west, we are finalizing the Old Town Streetscape and Infrastructure Project plans as you read this message. We will begin construction in early 2016 with improvements to sidewalks, water and storm system and undergrounding of overhead utilities. In addition to the infrastructure improvements to Old Town, the plan calls for the replacement of street lights, planting beds with seating walls, a promenade area on Franklin and a new entry feature welcoming visitors to the area. The goal of the project is to maintain the character of the area, but provide a fresh feel to enhance Old Town as a center of activity for our community.

Some of the buzz concerning Old Town has led to plans for a sub shop to fill the back space of the vacant restaurant at Third and Franklin, along with a family style restaurant in the front portion of the building. We also have some interest in redeveloping the former Fireplace Shoppe on the corner of Lake and Third Streets. Once the work is completed, Old Town will have a look and feel which we hope will help us with our ongoing marketing of the area to restaurateurs and retailers.

We have been working closely with Mariano's on their building/renovation plans and we are hoping that they will open later this year in Stratford Crossing located at Gary & Schick. The opening of Mariano's will help generate traffic for Stratford Square Mall, which is such a significant asset for our community. The Village has played an active role working with mall management in reaching out to potential tenants and restaurants; as a result management is now finalizing redevelopment plans for the mall and specifically, the area vacated by JC Penney. Our Board will continue to be aggressive in approaching the types of businesses our residents we would like to see in our community. We have made several very good contacts; we now need to close them.

I have to thank the Village Board for their support and enthusiastic cooperation with the projects you are seeing happen in Bloomingdale. We know that we must continue to invest in new ideas to maintain and grow our community. We also agree that our goal as elected officials is to implement ideas and objectives that leave Bloomingdale in a better position than when we took our place on the Village Board. I am excited about the work ahead of us in 2016 and will keep you updated as we move forward.

Mayor Franco



Lake Street Street Light Poles Temporarily Down

If you have been down Lake Street lately you may have noticed that the Village has removed a number of the 83 street lights between Glen Ellyn Road and Maple Avenue (just west of Bloomingdale Road).

The failure of a pole on the corner of Ridge and Lake Street due to corrosion at the base of the pole spurred the Village to conduct a study to the entire stock of poles to ensure the same issue was not affecting the other poles. The analysis found that of the 83 poles - more than 75% of the poles - are experiencing significant corrosion at the base of the pole and are susceptible to falling.

As a safety precaution for motorists and pedestrians, the Village is working to remove the poles identified in the review. The Village concurrently is working to develop a plan to replace the defective lights with new standards that will provide a longer life than the 15-year old poles.

We ask that you please use caution when traveling along Lake Street during this time.

Historical Society Features Presentation on Furniture Refinishing

The Monday, March 4th Bloomingdale Historical Society meeting features a presentation on furniture refinishing by BHS president and longtime resident, Emil Zidek.

The free presentation begins at 7 p.m. and will be held on the lower level of the Bloomingdale Public Library, 101 Fairfield Way. Registration at 630-582-8101 or 630-671-5600 is encouraged to plan for refreshments.

Looking FORE!-ward into the 2016 Golf Season

Important Village & Community Phone Numbers

Main Village Hall Number

630-893-7000

Village Departments

Administration	630-671-5610
Building & Zoning	630-671-5660
Engineering	630-671-5676
Finance	630-893-7000
Mayor's Office	630-671-5600
Police – non-emergency	630-529-9868
Public Works	630-671-5800
Water Billing	630-671-5650
Utilities	630-671-5830

Other Useful Numbers

Fire Department non emergency	630-894-9080
Bloomingtondale Library	630-529-3120
Bloomingtondale Park District	630-529-3650

VILLAGE ALMANAC

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Mary Ellen Johnson,
Editor

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630-671-5600

Articles and information for
the APRIL issue of the
Almanac must be submitted to
Mary Ellen Johnson by
MARCH 5, 2016
email
JOHNSONM@
vil.bloomingtondale.il.us

Although winter is upon us, it won't be long before the 2016 golf season is here! We sure are looking forward to a better weather start to the upcoming season, let's hope it happens! The golf course is currently updating all its programs to be available for viewing on the website by February 1st. In the meantime, here are a couple items and reminders that will interest you in anticipation for the golf season.



This season, the golf course will have NEW golf carts! The previous fleet of carts lasted 10 years, but as we all know, the wear and tear placed on these carts finally took their toll. With these new carts, a USB port will be available that will allow golfers to plug in their smartphones. With the abundance of golf course apps available, golfers can now utilize their phones as GPS units without the worry of draining their battery.

Our Junior Golf program will be revised for this upcoming season, offering a lengthier period of instruction and play on the course for kids between the ages of 8-15.

And, if you have not done so already, please take a minute of your time and visit our website to complete a short survey on our course. In return, you will receive a \$5 coupon off your next round of golf. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, PLEASE remember to re-register for your community card. In case you are unfamiliar with this program - registering in the golf shop allows residents of Bloomingdale and selected communities in the area the opportunity to receive reduced green fee rates. It's a small annual fee, and if you play more than 2-3 times a year, you will definitely save money! For more information on this program and others, please visit our website at www.bloomingtondalegc.com or call the pro shop at 630-529-6232.

Looking for a Summer Job?

The Village of Bloomingdale is accepting applications for seasonal employment only in the Public Works Maintenance and Utilities Divisions.

The type of work involves physical labor. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and must have a valid Illinois driver's license. Starting hourly rates are \$9.00.

Find applications online at www.villageofbloomingtondale.org under Employment Opportunities.

The Village of Bloomingdale is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Thank You Village of Bloomingdale Committee & Commission Volunteers

The Village of Bloomingdale depends on the efforts of certain commissions and committees during the year. Each serves a specific purpose and is made up of volunteers, who contribute a great deal of time to carry out the work of the commission. We extend thanks to the following individuals who have given their time so generously during 2015.

Bloomingdale Mayor's Advisory Committee

Vince Ackerman
Lucien R. Battiato
Robert P. Bucaro
Andre Burke
Ross Caputo
Frank DeCarlo
Lynne Wallis Denmark
Cindy Franceschini
Russel Franceschina
Kelly Gits
Diana Hoke
Ben Hoyle
Julie Jaster
Bo Moon Johnson
Bill Kimball
Joy Klinowski
Terrence Linderman
Sam M. Menton
Lucy Michalec
John B. Mori
Branka Poplonski
Thomas Reboletti
Tammy Saia
Lora Troesken
Michael Vozar
Linda Wojcicki
Barb Wykle

Business Promotion Committee

Carmie Antongiovanni
John Vertnik
Branka Poplonski
Dana Carr
Stacy Kallas

Board of Fire & Police Commissioners

Theodore Cucci
Warren Gnau
Louis Pavone
Frank Letizia

Police Pension Board

Jeff Fritz
Steve Apostolopoulos
Alan Birkley
Vince Bruett
Jackie Slater

Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

Ron Fangusaro
Tim Coleman
Guy Sanalidro
J. Thomas Brice
Len Jaster
Terry Linderman
David Smith
Patrick Shannon

Septemberfest Commission

Bill Wolff
Mitch Frumkin
Vivi Frumkin
Carole Lockhart
Susan Lancaster
Pam Hager
Debbie Pasiewicz
Jeremy Heitkam
Jean Sloboda

Congratulations to These Village of Bloomingdale Employees



The Village of Bloomingdale celebrated 275 years of service when it recognized the 2015 milestone anniversaries of the following employees:

30 Years

Tom Burns
Michael Marchi
Brian Siebrasse

25 Years

Al Bruno

20 Years

Aaron Machek
Juana Stoiser

15 Years

Rose Dalke
Jimmy Janes
Bruce Mason
Brian McCoy
Sandy Raucci
Brian Sisco

10 Years

Kieth Klampert
Michelle Mila
Lauren Moore

Pictured above are Al Bruno, Trustee Mike Hovde, Mayor Franco, Trustee Judi Von Huben, Michael Marchi, Sandy Raucci, Lauren Moore and Michelle Mila at the 2015 Employee Holiday Appreciation Luncheon.



It's the Law: Motorists Must Obey School Zone Speed, Stop for Buses

Neighborhood Watch Calendar of Upcoming Events



NEXT TWO UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GENERAL MEETING DATES

7:00 P.M.

VILLAGE HALL
COUNCIL ROOM

MARCH 9:

Block Captain Registration and
Renewal

MAY 11:

Public Transportation

Save the Date:
National Night Out
Tuesday, August 2
6-9 p.m. Circle Park

WELCOME

Bloomingtondale is
a
CRIME
WATCH
community



We immediately
report all suspicious
activities to our
Police Department

OUR SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY THE SCOPE OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT

Sincerely,
Frank Giammarese,
Chief of Police

Dawn Odoi,
Community Policing
Officer
630-529-9868

The Bloomingdale Police Department has been receiving complaints from parents, school staff and residents about the failure of motorists to use care in school zones and around school buses. The reports include driving too fast and passing school buses loading and unloading children. The Bloomingdale Police Department aggressively enforces traffic laws near school and school crossing areas.

- Drivers must obey the posted **20 mph** reduced speed limit when traveling in a **school zone** during school hours while school children are present.
- On **one-way streets**, all vehicles must stop when the red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- On **two-lane roads**, drivers traveling in **both directions must stop** when the red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- On **four-lane roads**, where traffic moves in two directions, **drivers traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop** when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. Drivers going in the opposite direction of the school bus are **not required** to stop because students are not permitted to cross four-lane roads after discharging from the school bus.



If convicted of passing a stopped school bus in Illinois, you will lose your driving privileges for three months and are fined \$150. Two convictions within five years will result in a one year suspension of driving, as well as a fine of \$500.00 for the second or subsequent conviction.

Drivers should also be aware that school buses stop at all railroad crossings and that residential areas have 25 m.p.h. speed limit, unless otherwise posted.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

1. Keep your car's headlights on low beam. This provides better visibility particularly in fog or snow.
2. Watch the car in front of you for signs of trouble. Anticipate and prepare for slippery roads or other dangers.
3. If you travel below the posted speed limit, please stay in the far right lane to avoid any speeding vehicles.
4. If you need to slow down or stop on a slick road, apply the brakes firmly and steadily, but not so firmly that they lock up. As you begin to slow, gently ease up on the brakes. Do not pump the brakes.
5. If you skid, don't panic. Take your foot off the brake and then steer in the direction of the skid. Once the car regains traction, you can straighten the wheel.
6. Keep an emergency kit in the trunk, including jumper cables, tools, flares, warning triangles, first-aid kit and a flashlight with fresh batteries. You will also want to have an ice scraper, small shovel, blanket and perhaps a bottle of water...just in case.
7. If an emergency occurs and you are not able to fix the problem, please attempt to pull over to the far right lane or shoulder and remain in the vehicle. Ask those offering their assistance to notify the state or local police department.

Thanks, Block Captains: Neighborhood Watch in Action!

The Bloomingdale Police Department wants to publicly recognize and express sincere gratitude to the residents listed below for volunteering their time as Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. These individuals promote the lines of communication between their neighborhoods and emergency agencies to enhance the safety and quality of life for our community. Their dedication has led to the success of the Neighborhood Watch Program and other village-wide community events.

Thanks to all for their contributions throughout the year!

Mary Albert	Kathleen Heinz	Cynthia Rothamer
Richard Baggio	Jacquelyne Hill	Judi Rotondo
Bill Bahr	Francine Howard	Rhonda Schubert
Anna Marie Bergl	Dorothy Jaskey	John Schultz
Joyce Boryla	Gretchen Johnson	Robyn Scurek
Pam Brewer	George & Gloria Kas	Andrea Sherman
Gregg Burgess	Joy Klinowski	Kendra Siegle
Andre Burke	Rita & Frank Letizia	Nilofer Soheli
Brad Butler	Anthony &	Milan Stevanovich
Lee Clarbourn	Theresa Lobraco	Steve Vitez
Steve Clarke	Rozanne Malott	Mary Theresa Wedel
Bart Cohen	John Manos	Bill Wirkus
Carol Cosentino	Judy Martin	Louise Zeitoun
Patricia Cox	Patrick McNamara	Management Offices of:
Josephine Dabrowski	Jane & Gil Michelotti	
Sam D'Amico	Sharyn Murphy	Camden Apartments
Janet Davitt	Carol Neff	One Bloomingdale Place
Roberta DiBasilio	Carol Nies	Stratford Place Apartments
Mary Ann Divenere	Barb Nudo	Wilshire Tower Apartments
Donna Dwyer	Nancy O'Leary	
Mary Sue Fornari	Holly Paoletti	
Mitch & Vivi Frumkin	Dawn Percudani	
Laura Geraci	Albert Presco	
Sally Gill	Dorothy Prohaska	
Patrick Griffin	Jack & Loreta Pytka	
Juanita Hathaway	Patrick Quigley	
	Gail Rohlfing	



Winter Phone Numbers

Village of Bloomingdale Snow Phone (630) 671-5800

Call this number to report a problem. We regret that it is not possible to advise exactly when your particular street will be plowed.

Village of Bloomingdale Police Department - Non-Emergency (630) 529-9868

Call this number for non-emergency general information.

Bloomingdale Fire District - Emergency 911

Information on State Roads Illinois Department of Transportation Information Line 312-DOT-INFO (312-368-4636)

Call the above number for information on State roads (i.e., Lake Street). The District One Communication Center is open 24/7. All hazardous conditions should be reported to them at 847-705-4612 for immediate action. The Illinois Department of Transportation offers weather/road condition information on their web site at www.dot.il.gov.

Information on DuPage County Roads Division of Transportation DuPage County 630-682-7321

Call this number for information on DuPage County Roads (i.e. Army Trail Road, Bloomingdale Road, Gary Avenue, Schmale Road)

Information Tollway Roadway Information Line 800-865-5394 or 800-TOLLFYI

For tollway information including problems with fog, snow, ice, high winds and trailer bans. The information is updated every four hours, or more often if weather conditions warrant.



From the Bloomingdale Park District Springfield Park Wetlands

Parkway Tree Pruning Begins In February



The Village has a comprehensive, systematic tree pruning schedule. This includes in-house and contractual tree pruning (for trees with a diameter at breast height of 6 or more inches).

Powell Tree Care, under the direction of the Village Forester, will begin maintenance tree pruning in February. Pruning improves the health, structure, form and appearance of the trees. Removing diseased or insect-infested wood, thinning the crown to increase airflow and reduce some pest problems, and removing crossing and rubbing branches encourages trees to develop a strong structure and reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather.

Pruning also involves removing branches that could fall and cause injury or property damage, trimming branches that interfere with lines of sight on streets or driveways, and removing branches that grow into utility lines.

If you believe a parkway tree requires pruning, please contact the Forestry Division at 630-671-5800.

No tree pruning on Village parkways is to be done without a permit from the Forestry Division.

Bloomingdale's Springfield Park wetlands were developed in the Stratford planned development subdivision in the mid-1980's. The Springfield Park wetlands serve as retention basins in Bloomingdale's storm water management system. Park District staff and contracted ecological restoration companies have worked to control invasive species, manage the ponds, and encourage growth of native plant species.

Proper management of a wetlands/natural area is costly. Even though the site is divided into smaller sections, the annual resources needed to manage them responsibly is significant. Each year the Bloomingdale Park District devotes \$15,000 to management activities at the Springfield Park wetlands. To reach the maximum ecological potential of our wetlands, the Bloomingdale Park District contracts with specialists in ecological restoration, currently Pizzo and Associates LTD. Pizzo and Associates LTD is a leader in its industry and more information on their work is available at www.pizzo.info.



During March of 2014, Pizzo and Associates conducted a prescribed burn of the entire south pond.

The current plan was initiated in 2014 when the wetlands were divided into 5-6 management areas, with each area to be the major focus in its respective year, and restoration of the entire property to be completed by the end of either the fifth or sixth year. Annual management activities will continue in perpetuity.

Details on the management activities for the South Pond from March 2014 through Spring 2016 and the beginning of the North Pond Management can be found on the Park District website www.bloomingdaleparks.org. Search "management of wetlands."

In the coming years we will carry out the remainder of the current plans. During this time we can expect a transition where the native species in the north pond will begin to out-compete the invasive species. This is the same transition we have seen at the south pond. Annual stewardship will change from the hardcore eradication of invasives that we have observed over the past years to the enrichment of the native plant population.

We are grateful for the patience of our park patrons as we restore the Springfield Park wetlands to its natural state. We look forward to the diversity of wildlife that will call Springfield Park home. We look forward to your calls, questions and concerns and ask that you contact our Parks Department at 630/529-3650, or email joe@bloomingdaleparks.org.

Joe Potts,

Director of Parks and Planning, Bloomingdale Park District

Business News

Chamber Honors Three Members

The Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce honored three of its members at its Holiday Luncheon in December. Stratford Square Mall was named Business of the Year, which was accepted by Stratford Square Mall General Manager, Doug Kiehn. George Jackowiec, Serv Pro of Central Schaumburg/West Bloomingdale was recognized as Ambassador of the Year and Darrin Bacon of First Bank & Trust was presented with the Leadership Award.



Pictured with President/CEO Jane Hove are (l to r) are George Jackowiec, Doug Kiehn and Darrin Bacon.

New Location for Delish Cakes Opens in February

Delish Cakes recently moved from its location in Old Town on Third Street across from the Old School House to the 2400 sq. ft. location at 148 S. Bloomingdale. The doors will be open in February after remodeling in the new location is complete. Phone number remains 630-303-2235.

Change in Chamber Leadership

Jane Hove has been with the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce for the past eight years. She is resigning her position as president and CEO in order to pursue other opportunities. More information about Jane and her contributions to the chamber will appear in the April Almanac.



Chamber Board of Directors

Search Begins for a Chamber Leader

The Bloomingdale Chamber Board of Directors is looking for a President & CEO. Under their direction this position is responsible for the leadership, development, oversight and expansion of all Chamber activities. The job description is available on the chamber's homepage, www.bloomingdalechamber.com at the bottom of column three, under "Jobs." Interested parties should supply the following:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- References (3)

Please submit to Linda Dvorak, Office Manager, linda@bloomingdalechamber.com.

Position open until filled; screening begins immediately.



The Bloomingdale Business Beat

The Business Beat features news about businesses - newly opened ones, those under construction and those who have something special to tell the residents about awards won, charitable fundraisers hosted, recent major remodels, etc. Retail businesses provide a significant part of the village's tax base. Supporting them helps keep the Village portion of your property tax bill low.

Remember -
BUY IN BLOOMINGDALE

Welcome to These New Businesses

Ultimate Comfort
107 Stratford Square

Challenge Accepted
314 Stratford Square

Just a Taste Confections
369 W. Army Trail Road Unit 8



Bloomingtondale VFW Post: Serving Veterans, Serving the Community

VFW Announces Scholarship Winners



Maria Cieslarczyk, this year's winner of Post 7539 Voice of Democracy program is pictured with (l) VOD Chairman John Bryla, and (r) Post Commander Randy Winter.

The Voice of Democracy program is sponsored nationally by the VFW. This year the theme was, "My Vision for America," and **Maria Cieslarczyk**, a Lake Park High School student, won a \$500 dollar scholarship from VFW Post 7539. She will now move on to the District 19 competition.

The Patriot Pen youth essay contest program is similar to the Voice of Democracy, but is open to all students 6th thru 8th grades. This year, eighth grade students **Catie N. Modugno**, St. Isidore School; **Margie R. Troyke**, Trinity Lutheran School; and **Anthony Butera**, St. Walter School, were selected Post 7539's winners for their essays on "What Freedom Means to Me."

Each received a \$100.00 prize and will also move on to the next level of competition.



Bloomingtondale Post VFW 7539 is always visible at the annual Memorial Day Observance, and some of us might know that they mail out care packages monthly to the troops overseas. But many more of us are unaware of what these fine vets do behind the scenes to benefit Bloomingtondale, the surrounding communities and veterans everywhere. Among the continual activities Post 7539 carries out are:

- Ship packages monthly to servicemen overseas
- Provide Christmas gifts to Hines VA Hospital patients
- Participate in color/honor guards and local parades
- Perform memorial services at cemeteries
- Support the WWII Veteran Honor Flight program
- Offer assistance to servicemen on active duty
- Provide Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy student scholarships
- Support Scout of the Year and Teacher of the Year programs
- Organize and participate in Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day programs
- Sponsor an annual Veteran Clinic and Expo to provide information to veterans about benefits, services and programs available to them.

Top photo - Fall 1915, These supplies collected through the joint efforts of Trinity Lutheran School in Roselle and Bloomingtondale VFW Post 7539 were donated to Hines Veterans Hospital for assisting homeless Veterans transitioning from the streets to a safe home environment.

Second photo - Flag Ceremony on Opening Day for the Bloomingtondale Baseball Softball 2014 Season.

3rd photo - 2014 Veteran's Day Observance at the Gazebo.

4th photo - Veteran's Day 2013 – lunch with DuJardin students.



Scholarship Opportunities This Spring

The **Bloomingtondale Chamber of Commerce** will be offering scholarships to graduating seniors and post-secondary students. Candidates must be either a resident of Bloomingtondale or an employee or child of an employee of a Bloomingtondale Chamber member. Applications will be available after February 1 at the Chamber Office, 108 W. Lake Street, or on the website at www.bloomingtondalechamber.com. The deadline for submission is 5:00 pm on Friday, April 15, 2016. For more information call the Chamber office at 630-980-9082.

Bloomingtondale Area Women in Business offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a woman who is looking to improve her professional standing through continuing education or professional development. Women who are at least 21 years old and who either work or live in the Bloomingtondale area are eligible to apply. Applications will be available March 1st in the Bloomingtondale Chamber of Commerce, Bloomingtondale Public Library, the Bloomingtondale Park District, and Bloomingtondale Bank & Trust, as well as at www.bloomingtondalechamber.com. Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 15, 2016. For more information call the chamber office 630-980-9082.

College-bound high school seniors who have attended **District 13 schools** are invited to apply for scholarships available through the district. The Parent-Teacher-Organizations from Bloomingtondale District 13 Schools Erickson & DuJardin Elementary, as well as Westfield, will each be offering a \$750.00 scholarship. Past students of both DuJardin and Erickson may apply to only the school most recently attended. Students who attended one of the elementary schools and Westfield Middle School may apply to the elementary school, as well as to Westfield.

Applications will be available from Lake Park High School counselors' offices, the District 13 school offices and can be downloaded from the district's web page, www.sd13.org. Applications must be submitted by Monday, April 4, 2016. Winners will be selected by a committee evaluating the students' applications, grade point averages, introductory letters, and letters of recommendation. Winners will be notified in early May. For more information, contact the District 13 office at (630) 893-9590.

The **Bloomingtondale Artists Association** is pleased to offer this year's \$1,000 Jack Sartain Memorial Scholarship to local art students pursuing a degree in Visual Fine Arts. Jack began creating art in his 50s, and he shared his love of art with many. A member of the BAA, he taught classes at local park districts and in his Roselle studio. Matt Puchalski, owner of Masterpiece Framing in Bloomingtondale, has again graciously contributed \$500 to the scholarship. Matt, an accomplished artist himself, has been a steadfast BAA supporter. For scholarship details, contact Bev, bpetrosius@gmail.com, or Toni, toeknee3@yahoo.com. Applicants must be at least 18 years old by the application deadline date of April 1, 2016.

The Joe Draghi Septemberfest Scholarship is once again being offered by the **Septemberfest Commission**. The award is funded through private, community and corporate contributions. Applicants must be a resident of Bloomingtondale between the ages of 16 and 20. Other requirements are noted on the application. The application packet will be available on the Village of Bloomingtondale's website at www.villageof-bloomingtondale.org by March 4 and is due April 15, 2016. Winners will be announced at the 43rd annual Septemberfest on September 10, 2016.



Avoid Ruptured Water Pipes This Winter

Here are a few ways to prevent water pipes from freezing during extreme cold snaps in winter:

- Seal cracks in doors, windows and foundations. Small openings can create a concentrated blast of air that can quickly freeze pipes.
- Make sure that all rooms in the house that have plumbing fixtures are heated. Water pipes in unheated rooms can freeze, rupture, and cause extensive water damage.
- Consider installing pipe insulation around the water pipes. Local hardware stores carry the proper type of insulation for this task. Remember to check the insulation to make sure it is not wet. Wet insulation is worse than no insulation.
- Advise all family members where the main water shutoff valve is located (usually near the water meter) in case of emergency.
- Open cabinet and closet doors so that warm air can circulate around the pipes.
- Allow cold water to trickle through the faucets at the highest part of the house to prevent water from freezing in the pipes.

If pipes freeze, NEVER thaw frozen pipes with an open flame. This is a fire hazard.

- Use hot air from a hair dryer, the exhaust from a vacuum cleaner, heat lamps, heat tape, or electric heaters to thaw a frozen pipe.
- Consider using the heat from a light bulb to thaw pipes slowly. Be sure to keep the bulb away from combustible material to avoid starting a fire.

Community Events

Kindergarten Registration Information for School Districts 13, 15 & 93

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2016, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2016-2017 school year.

Parents wishing to register their child for kindergarten in **District 13** schools should contact the elementary school they plan to attend. Registration packets are available online at www.sd13.org or may be picked up at either school beginning February 1. Completed packets must be brought to the appropriate school during Registration Week on the dates and times listed. For more information about what documents you must bring with you, call DuJardin School at 630-894-9200 or Erickson Elementary at 630-529-2223.

Kindergarten registration for students attending **District 93** schools takes place at the individual school at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23. District 93 students living in Bloomingdale attend Cloverdale School at 1182 Merbach Drive. Phone number 630-588-5300. If you have questions, call the school or check the website at www.ccsd93.com to learn what documents you must bring with you.

District 15 Kindergarten Registration is Monday, March 14, 2016 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Marquardt Middle School, 1912 Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights. Residency requirements are available on the website, www.d15.us on the Parent tab/Registration Information. It is strongly recommended that parents print out or pick up and complete the residency requirements before March 14. To see other requirements, check the website or call the district office at 630-469-7615.

Garden Club Programs

February 16 - Spring Wildflowers: Mel Zaloudek presents a full color portrait of the beautiful woodland flora native to Illinois. A complete identification of species, in flowering sequence, provides the visual equivalent of an extended walk through the wilds from late April to early May. Gardening recommendations will be provided.

March 15 - Terrarium Demo: Joannie Rocchi will show us how to create indoor mini-gardens and terrariums using glass containers and artistic additions such as shells, stones, crystals and more. The key is the container -- which decides style and plants.

Programs are held at Bloomingdale Police Department, lower level, 201 S. Bloomingdale Road from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Visit www.bloomingdalegardenclub.org or contact bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com for more information.

2016 Garden Club Plant Sale: It's not too early to think about your summer garden. Save the dates for the Garden Club's annual sale- Friday, May 13 from noon to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the north end of Springfield Park. Gift certificates may be purchased in any denomination. Send a check made payable to Bloomingdale Garden Club, c/o Henrietta Sullivan, 1015 Tiverton Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193-3642.

Community and Giving Garden

While at the plant sale check out the Club's 400 square foot garden plot at the Bloomingdale Park District's Community & Giving Garden. As an ORGANIC garden, the absence of harmful synthetic gardening chemicals will enhance our soil, air, and water quality – and that benefits everyone in the community. Individual garden plots are available. For more information, go to www.bloomingdaleparks.org and search for "Community Gardens."



Lions Hosting Spaghetti Dinner on February 5

The Bloomingdale Lions Club hosts its annual spring Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 5 from 5-8 p.m. at Bloomingdale Golf Club, 181 Glen Ellyn Road. The cost is \$10 per person; children eight and under eat free. Entertainment by Tony Spavone. Proceeds from raffles and dinner will benefit visual and hearing impaired persons in the community, as well as other needs. For more info or tickets, contact Denny Mahoney at mahoneyden@comcast.net.

The Lions annual Easter Egg Hunt begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 at Circle Park. There is no wristband needed to participate in the egg hunt. The Park District's Bunny Bash follows at 9:45.

St Isidore Children's Clothing & Equipment Sale

The event will be held on March 18 from 6:30-9 p.m., and March 19 from 9a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the St. Isidore Ministry Center, 433 W. Army Trail Rd.

Friends of the Bloomingdale Library Host March Book Sale

The Friends of the Bloomingdale Public Library host the March Book Sale in the library's lower level Meeting Room A/B, 101 Fairfield Way.



WHAT: The event will feature gently-used books for adults & children, videos, DVDs, CDs, games & more.

WHEN: Saturday, March 12 • 9:00-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Starting Saturday, March 8th, you can donate hardbacks, paperbacks, best sellers and classics, DVDs, CDs and games to the Library for the Sale. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library for children's reading programs. Ask for details at the main desk or call 630-529-3120.

Bloomingdale Artists Association Events

Garden Art Workshop, February 10: BAA members Bev Petrosius and Helen Price will help participants create beautiful flower plate garden art, one to keep and one to be donated to the spring silent auction to benefit the BAA scholarship fund.

Nature's Mandalas, March 9: Artist Connie Devendorf, a member of the Morton Arboretum Nature Artists' Guild, has always loved drawing from nature, and loves seeing flowers close up. A Mandala is a sacred circle, but far more than a simple shape. Following Connie's presentation, participants will have time to create a Nature Mandala.

Above programs are held at the Bloomingdale Park District Museum, 108 S. Bloomingdale Road 630-339-3570. \$5 guest fee; an additional materials fee may apply. Please contact Bev Petrosius at 630-624-9545 or bpetrosius@gmail.com.

Chamber of Commerce Art Exhibit and Sale: The 4th Annual Chamber of Commerce Art Exhibit and Sale features a variety of works created by members of the Bloomingdale Artists Association. Selected works are offered for sale; negotiation/delivery details will be handled by the artists. The Chamber office is located at 108 W. Lake Street in Bloomingdale. Exhibit schedule: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm, February 23 through May 27. An artists' reception with appetizers/wine and music by Pickle Piano Company will be held at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Thursday, March 10. The public is invited. Contact Jane Hove, Chamber President at 630-980-9082, or Bev Petrosius, BAA President at 630-624-9545.



CHARACTER COUNTS! Recognition Breakfast

Nominations Due March 1, 2016

Every Spring the Bloomingdale CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition sponsors a breakfast to recognize members of the community who live, work or attend school in Bloomingdale who exhibit outstanding character. Honorees are nominated with a description of the pillar of character that they exemplify. The 15th Annual Recognition Program will be held at 9:00AM on April 30, 2016 at the Bloomingdale Golf Club. Nominations for this year's program are due no later than March 1, 2016. Forms are available at www.bloomingdale.org on the CC! homepage, www.character60108.org and on www.bloomingdaleparks.org

Completed forms are to be sent by U.S. mail, fax or email to:

Bloomingdale CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition
201 S. Bloomingdale Road
Bloomingdale, IL 60108
FAX: 630-893-5136
Email: info@character60108.org

Georgene Geils Business Woman of the Year Award Set For February 25



2015 winner - Dr. Aimee Harris-Newen The annual Georgene Geils Business Woman of the Year Award will be presented by the Bloomingdale Area Women in Business on February 25 at Jameson's Charhouse. The annual recognition dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Jane Hove at 630-980-9082.

Around & About Town

Website Makes It Easier to Get Around Illinois in the Winter

The Illinois Department of Transportation reminds motorists to bookmark gettingaroundillinois.com on their computers and smartphones for quick access to the latest winter road conditions. The Getting Around Illinois map is updated 24/7 during winter weather, providing motorists with the latest information on what to expect before heading out on the roads.

"Illinois winters are legendary for their rapidly changing conditions," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blakenhorn. "The winter road conditions map gives you a quick, simple-to-understand view of road conditions throughout Illinois. It's a great tool for knowing what to expect if you are traveling during snow-and-ice season."

Visit IDOT's YouTube channel to watch our new video that shows how the data for the map is collected and passed along in simple red, yellow and green colors to give Illinois drivers the information they need this winter.

The Getting Around Illinois website averages one to two million visits during winter. Widely shared on social media, the page's interactive map is a go-to resource for travelers, forecasters and anyone interested in seeing how the roads are looking during inclement weather.

Users of gettingaroundillinois.com also can find other useful information for their travels, including points of interest, gas stations, restaurants, and hotels.



Holiday Giving the Lions Way!

The Bloomingdale Lions shopped at the Bloomingdale Meijer store for six deserving families. With \$900 in financial support from Meijer, the club provided over \$1000 in groceries and \$1800 in gift cards to these families. The Lions also donated \$500 to the Bloomingdale Food Pantry and another \$500 to Family Shelter Service for the battered women's shelter. In addition, at their last meeting, the Lions collected coats, gloves and other warm apparel for the Chicago Sandwich Run, which distributes between 1,200 and 1,400 sandwiches every weekend to the homeless in Chicago.



Smiles Everywhere!

Members of the World Mission Society Church of God in Bloomingdale visited the West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Edgewater Drive in November. Approximately 30 residents attended, enjoying the music and performances by the church members. Feedback from both residents and staff was extremely positive. Staff mentioned that they hadn't seen the residents smile so much. Both groups are hoping to do it again.

AARP Safe Driving Course March 14 & 15

- Learn Driver Safety Tips
- Learn Defensive Driving Strategies
- Be current with New Driving Laws
- You may qualify for an Auto Insurance Discount.

This 8-hour Driving Safety course will be divided into two sessions of 4 hours each day from Noon-4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 15. All classes will be held at the Bloomingdale Police Department Training Room. Please contact Officer Dawn Odoi at (630) 529-9868 to register.

Finding a Forever Home

People and Animals in Community Together (PACT)

Humane Society is a no-kill, all volunteer, not-for-profit animal rescue and educational organization. PACT rescues homeless dogs and cats at risk of euthanasia and finds them loving, forever homes. PACT also works with local schools, scouts, and other community organizations in order to provide education and volunteer opportunities. PACT has over 200 volunteers who serve in many different capacities including daily animal care providers (cleaning and socialization), adoption counselors, management team members, committee members, foster parents, and program coordinators. Due to PACT'S limited space, some of the animals live in foster homes throughout the community. PACT Humane Society has adopted out over 5500 cats and dogs since opening its doors in April of 2000!



PACT also participates in many off-site events throughout the year including Bloomingdale's Septemberfest, as well as monthly adoption events held at Stratford Square Mall from Noon - 4pm on the 1st Saturday of each month.

PACT's adoption center is located inside Petco in Bloomingdale at 412 W Army Trail Rd. For more information, including details of the adoptable cats and dogs, email operations@pacthumanesociety.org or give them a call at 630-375-7017.

Bloomingdale Bears Cheer Teams Win Awards

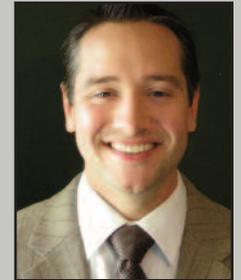
The Bloomingdale Bears 3rd grade Cheer team (top photo) won the Illinois State Cheer championships at the Sears Center in December. Their head coach is Angela Kopolus.

In addition, the 2nd grade girls (bottom photo) won 2nd place, head coached by Jamie Delle Grazie.



Tim Coleman Named Suburban Young Professional

One of Bloomingdale's own was recently recognized by the Daily Herald Business Ledger as a Suburban



Young Professional. Tim Coleman, a five-year resident, was one of 17 business people younger than 35 singled out for their individual contributions to the business community at the annual Suburban Young Professionals program in January.

The honorees, who were nominated by their peers, were celebrated for outstanding work and influence through their business and community service efforts. The winners were selected by a screening process overseen by the editorial staff of the Business Ledger.

Tim is a commercial insurance broker at Webb Financial in Lake Forest. He is very active in the community, as a Bloomingdale Chamber member and Ambassador for the Chamber, as well a judge of the Chamber's Scholarship and a member of 50 Men Who Cook Committee.

In addition, Tim served as a member of the Village's Indian Lakes Open Space Ad Hoc Committee and was also appointed to the Bloomingdale Plan Commission this summer.

Mayor Franco Coladipietro congratulated Tim, noting, it is good for Bloomingdale to have a resident of this caliber serving our community.

The Daily Herald Business Ledger will share detailed profiles of these outstanding young business people in its February 22, 2016 issue.





Administrative Offices
179 S. Bloomington Road
Bloomington, IL 60108
(630) 894-9080
FAX (630) 894-8720

Chief
Jeffrey Janus

District Trustees
Tim Deutschle
Lydia DiBuono
Bill Wolff

Commissioners
Marshall Gray, Jr.
Shawn Flood
Fran Scalafini

Adopt a Fire Hydrant for the Winter

The Bloomington Fire Protection District would like to remind you that you can help firefighters help you.

Snow accumulation or the results of plowing and snow clearing can completely cover or restrict access to fire hydrants. Blocked hydrants mean slower response to extinguishing fires which can result in catastrophic consequences if firefighters have to spend time locating a buried hydrant and/or clear snow away from it, especially if the snow is heavily compacted from snow plowing.

“Adopt” a hydrant and make it part of your shoveling and snow clearing routine. It will only take a few extra minutes and is a quick and easy way to help us to help you and your neighbors.



Portable Space Heaters: Use Them Safely This Winter

As the weather turns colder, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, the Bloomington Fire Protection District and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) remind you to make sure to follow these tips and recommendations.



HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

TYPES OF ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

- Oil or water-filled radiator: Heated oil or water travels through the heater.
- Fan-forced heater: A fan blows warm air over metal coils.
- Ceramic heater: Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.
- Infrared heaters: Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters. For more information about portable space heaters or any other fire safety information, contact Battalion Chief Richard Kurka at the Bloomington Fire Protection District, 630-894-8488.

Welcome!

Rob Spejcher (left) and Jeremy Acosta (right), as well as Kent Rexilius (not pictured) are the newest members of the Bloomington Fire Protection District. They marked their one year anniversary and their completion of probation in January 2016. All three are firefighter/paramedics. Rob was previously a paid-on-call firefighter with the District; Jeremy and Kent came from other departments. For their first year, the firefighters wear an orange shield on their helmet so everyone knows that they are probationary employees and have limited experience. The photo was taken in front of the Everyday Heros statue in Old Town Park where the crew held a ceremony to present the firefighters with their new, black and white shields.



Hover Boards: Lots of Fun, but Linked to Fires

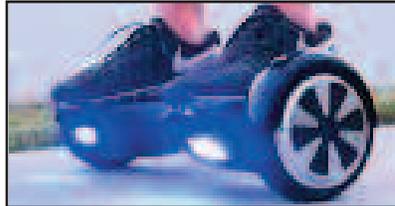
Hover board - part toy, part transportation. These self-balancing scooters have quickly become the latest fad. However, many hover boards have been linked to fires. The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urge you to be fire safe when using these devices.

Signs of a Problem

Some hover board fires have involved the Lithium-Ion battery or charger.

Signs you could have a problem:

- Leaking fluids
- Excessive heat
- Odor
- Sparking
- Smoke



If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away. Call 9-1-1. If safe to do so, move the hover board outside away from anything that can burn.

Safety

If you purchase a hover board:

- Choose a device with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions. If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- An adult should be responsible for charging the hover board.
- Do not leave a charging hover board unattended.
- Never leave the hover board plugged in overnight.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the hover board.
- Stop using your hover board if it overheats.
- Extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.

NEW TO MARKET

Hover boards are fairly new to the mass market. Be on the lookout for updates from manufacturers and safety groups.

Travel Notes

- Many airlines have banned hover boards. If you plan to fly with a hover board, be sure to check with your air carrier.
- When riding in a car, keep the hover board where you can see it in case it shows signs of a problem.

-- Thanks to the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District for providing this information

Save the Date! Senior Fair April 22

Save the date for the annual Senior Day Fair on Friday, April 22, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – noon at the Medinah Shriners Banquet Facility in Addison, located on Swift Road just north of Army Trail Road. More information will be provided in the next edition of the Village Almanac. Please contact Officer Dawn Odoi at 630-529-9868 with any questions about the event.

February Tree Care Tips From the Morton Arboretum

- Don't be fooled by warm, sunny days. It is still too early to remove mulches, screening, and other winter plant protections. Make sure they are still in place.
- Monitor tree health. It is easier to notice dead branches, hollows, and cankers on trees. Cankers are signs that the tree has a disease.
- Prune trees and shrubs. The ideal time to prune is in the dormant season, just prior to new growth. Wait to prune spring-flowering plants to avoid removing this year's flower buds.
- Wait to prune birch, elm, maple, and walnut trees until late fall. Although harmless, these trees "bleed" sap on sunny days when pruned during the winter.
- Re-apply anti-desiccants to evergreens. If temperature is above freezing, a second application can be made.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools. Get ready for the upcoming growing season.
- Check the summer bulbs that are stored in a cool, dry place. Make sure they have not sprouted or dried out.
- Order seeds and garden plants. Add new plants to your landscape.



- Remember to feed the birds.



Village of Bloomingdale
201 S. Bloomingdale Road
Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108

PRESORTED
STANDARD
PAID
Bloomingdale,
IL
60108
Permit No.# 16

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108**

What if a Snowplow Hits My Mailbox?

The Village will replace and/or reimburse a resident up to \$50.00 for a mailbox and post which is damaged as a result of the Village snowplow operations, provided the homeowner notifies the Village of the damage, the Village performs an in-house investigation, and the mailbox is installed per Village setback requirements.

Residents are requested to inspect mailboxes and posts to ensure sturdiness and compliance with the postal service installation requirements, and correct any problem identified.

If you have questions as to whether or not your mailbox is in compliance with Village requirements, you may contact the Village Services Department – Street Maintenance Division at 630-671-5800.

Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops

In December, The Bloomingdale Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #175 celebrated the holiday Spirit of Giving with local families through the annual “Kids Shop with Bloomingdale Cops” event. Families in need were able to have their holidays enhanced through the generous donations of the following: Meijer-Bloomingdale, Old Country Buffet, Joseph Salerno/Salerno Rosedale Chapels, Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization (CIACO), Bloomingdale Township Republican Party, John Dabrowski and other private donors. Sixteen police officers met with the families over breakfast and then went shopping at Meijer’s to purchase Christmas items for the children and other family members. Thank you to the community members who support the efforts of the Bloomingdale F.O.P. #175 and to all the police officers who donated their time to the event! The youngsters and their families were especially grateful for the opportunity to take part.

