

# Village of Bloomingdale

## Almanac

December 2025

Growth with Pride

### Show Your Bloomingdale Pride with a Cozy Winter Hat!

Stay warm and stylish this winter with our Bloomingdale pom-pom beanies, available in limited quantities. Choose from green or red, each featuring bold lettering that reads Bloomingdale, est. 1833, perfect for showing hometown pride or gifting to someone special this season.



Designed for comfort and warmth, these are practical, cozy, and a fun way to celebrate Bloomingdale. Hats are \$25, all proceeds support future community events.

Get yours at Village Hall, 201 S. Bloomingdale Road.

*Note: Credit card purchases include a 3% fee (minimum \$2.50).*

## Remembering Don Helmig



For over six decades, Don Helmig shared his passion for hospitality, good food, and community with Bloomingdale and beyond. As Founder and President of Catering with Elegance, he built a family-run business that became a cherished part of local life, known for its warm service, personal touch, and quality.

Don's journey in food service began as a young man with a creative idea and strong work ethic. At 19, he outfitted a truck with an oven and refrigerator to deliver freshly baked pizzas,

long before "food trucks" existed. A few years with a \$5,000 loan from his aunt, he opened his first Gossage Grill at Diversey and Pulaski in Chicago. That location grew into ten more locations, laying the foundation for a life-long career built on innovation and integrity.

By 1970, Don expanded into catering and found his true calling. After catering a friend's wedding at the former Glendale Golf Club in 1976, he began a partnership that lasted nearly five decades. Under his leadership, Catering with Elegance became the exclusive caterer for Bloomingdale Golf Club and major venues like the Medinah Shrine Center and the Scottish Rite. He served as General Manager of Bloomingdale Golf Club, helping make it a true community gathering place.

A proud Shriner and Freemason, Don served as Past Commander in Chief of the Medinah Motor Corp, Past President of the DuPage Shrine Club, and earned recognition as a 33rd Degree Mason and CIACO Man of the Year. His generosity benefited countless charitable efforts, including Shriners Hospitals for Children.

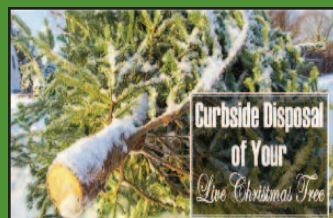
Known for his kindness, humor, and love of people, Don built lasting friendships through his work and service. A devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he found his greatest joy in family.

While Bloomingdale will greatly miss Don Helmig, his legacy of hospitality and generosity helped shape the heart of Bloomingdale.

## Learn More About . . .



Entry Level Officer  
Application Info page 2



Christmas Tree Disposal  
See page 5



Wintertime FAQs  
See page 7



Season of Giving  
See Back page

# Cub Scout Pack 196 Visits Village Hall To Learn About Local Government

## VILLAGE BOARD, COMMISSION &

The public is encouraged to attend all Board and Commission meetings

## REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month January - November

2nd & 3rd Monday in December  
7 p.m. – Village Hall

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month January - November

2nd & 3rd Monday in December  
6 p.m. – Village Hall

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. – Village Hall

## BOARD OF 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

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2nd Wednesday of every month  
7:00 p.m. – Library

## SEPTEMBERFEST COMMISSION

2nd Thursday of the month  
February through November  
7:00 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



On Monday, October 27, 11 Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 196, including Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts, as well as one Scout earning his Communications Merit Badge, visited Village Hall to learn about local government as part of their Duty to Country requirements. The group was accompanied by their Den Leaders and several parents.

Before the meeting, the Scouts met with Mayor Franco and Trustees to ask questions about what elected officials do and how local elections work. The Scouts then proudly led the Pledge of Allegiance and stayed to observe the Village Board meeting.

To commemorate their visit, Mayor Franco presented each Scout with a Village Challenge Coin, which they were excited to receive.

We were happy to welcome these future leaders and thank them for their enthusiasm and interest in civic engagement.

## Applications Being Accepted for Entry-Level Police Officers

Applications will be available online at [www.villageofbloomingdale.org](http://www.villageofbloomingdale.org) and in person at the Bloomingdale Police Department from December 8, 2025, through January 5, 2026.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026.

For additional information, please contact Nancy Sullivan at [sullivan@vil.bloomingdale.il.us](mailto:sullivan@vil.bloomingdale.il.us) or call (630) 671-5701.



## Village of Bloomingdale Elected Officials

**Franco A. Coladipietro**  
Village President

**William Belmonte**  
Traffic and Streets

**Patrick Shannon**  
Facilities, Infrastructure

**Pamela S. Hager**  
Village Clerk

**Dan Vitacco**  
Intergovernmental &  
Community Relations

**Frank Bucaro**  
Planning, Zoning  
& Environmental  
Concerns

### TRUSTEES

**Judi Von Huben**  
Public Safety

**Vince Ackerman**  
Finance and  
Administration

## A Message from Mayor Franco

This year has flown by, and we're again entering my favorite time of year, the holiday season! (Oh, those Christmas lights!) Although Thanksgiving is behind us, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Village Board, residents, business community, and staff for their continued support throughout the past year. The Village Board and I remain dedicated to revitalizing, redeveloping, and renewing excitement in Bloomingdale while maintaining strong financial discipline to secure our future.

Work on the Village's Open Space is now complete, with final tree plantings scheduled for spring 2026. This major initiative underscores Bloomingdale's commitment to preserving open space for the community. In 2020, after the community opposed a proposed 525-unit residential development on the former Indian Lakes golf course, the Village stepped in to purchase the remaining property to ensure it would remain a community asset.

The stormwater improvements tied to this project will significantly reduce flooding in the Cardinal, Meadowlark, and southern Bloomfield Club neighborhoods. Key elements include a new pond in the southern portion of the open space, additional basins with native wetland plantings, dredging and expansion of the existing pond to prevent overflow, installation of more than 8,000 feet of new storm sewer, rerouting of a problematic water main in the Meadowlark area, and construction of over three miles of an eight-foot-wide multi-use path. The path is now open; I encourage everyone to enjoy this beautiful new amenity!

Regarding the hotel property, the Village has pursued every possible avenue to attract a new hotel operator but has not been successful. In November, the Village Plan Commission recommended, and the Village Board approved, an amendment to the zoning code to allow additional permitted and special uses. While we continue to seek potential investors for a hotel, this change provides flexibility to market the site for other low-density uses.

Looking ahead, the Village Board and I will be focusing on the development of The Grove, now that demolition of the former mall is complete. We have been meeting with potential tenants and are excited to announce that a new website dedicated to The Grove will launch soon, providing updates on plans and new tenants. Beginning in 2026, construction will start on public spaces, including a large lake and lawn area, that will bring this vibrant new district to life. Infrastructure work to support restaurants, entertainment, retail, and residential uses is already underway and expected to be completed by early spring. There is much to look forward to in Bloomingdale!

The holiday glow has returned to Old Town, brighter and more breathtaking than ever! This year's light display and enhanced drone show will make our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony truly unforgettable. The celebration ushers in a month-long Festival of Lights in Old Town, capturing the warmth, wonder, and togetherness of the season.

As you make your holiday gift lists, remember to shop close to home and Keep the Cheer Here in Bloomingdale. Every local purchase strengthens our economy and supports the people who make our community special. Sales tax revenue is essential to Village services, nearly 48% (or \$11.2 million) of the Village's General Fund revenue for Fiscal Year 2025 came from sales tax. When you shop locally, you're giving back to Bloomingdale while finding something special for everyone on your list. And if you're looking for ways to Share the Cheer, take a moment to check the back page of this Almanac for opportunities to brighten the holidays for those in need.

From the Coladipietro family to yours, warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season!

Mayor Franco



## The Village Christmas Tree Standing Proudly At Old Town Piazza!

The 2025 Village Christmas Tree now proudly stands in the Old Town piazza, a beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce, approximately 35 feet tall. Sourced from behind the Hole 2 tee box at the Bloomingdale Golf Club, this impressive spruce was carefully selected to serve as the centerpiece of Bloomingdale's holiday celebrations.



In mid-November, the tree made its journey to Old Town, where it was placed and decorated to bring holiday cheer to the community. Each year, residents gather in Old Town for the Tree Lighting and Kris Kringle Market, held in conjunction with the Park District's opening night of the Festival of Lights. This year's festivities, held on November 29, officially kicked off the holiday season in grand fashion.

Installing and decorating such a magnificent tree is no small feat, but our dedicated Public Works team once again brought it to life. With lights, ornaments, and holiday spirit, they've created a tree that shines brightly for the community that makes Bloomingdale so special.

# Congratulations to the 2025 American Youth Character Award Recipients

## 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 630-671-5630

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

Bloomington Library  
630-529-3120

Bloomington Park District  
630-529-3650

## VILLAGE ALMANAC

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Articles and information for the  
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Jennifer Sassano by  
January 5, 2026  
email  
[sassanoj@vil.bloomington.il.us](mailto:sassanoj@vil.bloomington.il.us)



The CHARACTER COUNTS! Celebration Night, held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at Old Town Park, was a wonderful success. Families enjoyed pre-program activities before an evening of student performances honoring the Six Pillars of Character. The highlight of the night was the presentation of American Youth Character Awards to students who exemplified outstanding character, with this year's pillar of Responsibility taking center stage.

- Audrey Nosek with Sandy Aichele, Gymnastics Coach
- Elijah Sison with Corie Alimento, Principal of St. Isidore School, and Matt Benrus, Teacher at St. Isidore School
- Jonah Meister with Patrick Haugens, Principal of DuJardin Elementary
- Cameron Jezek with Stacy Johnston, Principal of Erickson Elementary
- Chase Gravina with Stefan Larsson, Principal of Westfield Middle School
- Angel Galvan with Cody Battaglia, Principal of Winnebago Elementary

Village Trustee Frank Bucaro read the Character Counts Proclamation on behalf of Mayor Franco.

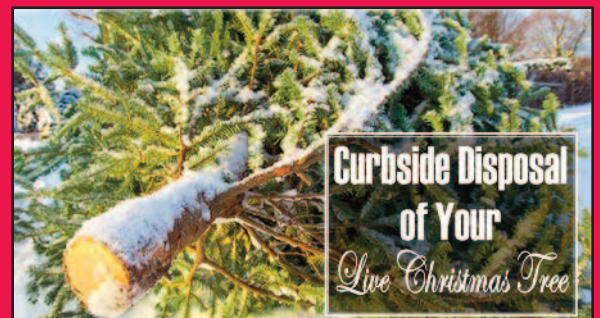
For more information, visit [www.character60108.org](http://www.character60108.org).

## Curbside Christmas Tree Disposal Begins Week of January 5

SBC Waste Solutions, the Village's refuse hauler, will collect live Christmas trees on your regular refuse collection day during the weeks of January 5, January 12, and January 19.

Trees set out for collection on or after January 23, 2026, will require three (3) yard waste stickers.

Please ensure all decorations are removed and do not place trees in plastic bags. Trees should be placed at the curb with the cut end facing the street for easy pickup.



## Westfield Teacher Spins the Wheel of Fortune

Westfield Middle School's sixth-grade teacher, Greg Rzemieniecki, brought Bloomingdale pride to the national stage when he appeared as a contestant on Wheel of Fortune, which aired Thursday, November 7, 2025, on ABC (Channel 7).

Mr. Rzemieniecki, who teaches math, science, and social studies, filmed his episode earlier this year in April. Throughout the competition, he showcased quick thinking and steady composure, taking the lead after correctly solving the puzzle "Three-Hole & Sucker Punch." He also solved two of the three Triple Toss-Up puzzles, securing an impressive second-place finish.



Bloomingdale was cheering him on every step of the way. Congratulations to Mr. Rzemieniecki for representing Westfield and our community with enthusiasm and school spirit!

## Winter Coat Drive for Homeless Veterans

Bloomingdale once again showed incredible kindness during October's Winter Coat Drive for Homeless Veterans. Residents generously donated roughly 600 coats and sweaters, along with hats, gloves, scarves, and other warm accessories to help those who served our country stay comfortable through the cold months ahead.

A warm thank-you goes out to everyone who contributed, including 30-year resident Martha Forman, who hand-knit 45 matching hat and scarf sets (90 pieces total). Her time and generosity were truly appreciated.

Thanks to the compassion of our community, many Veterans will feel the gift of warmth this winter.



*Special thanks to Bloomingdale resident Martha Forman who hand-knit 45 hat and scarf sets*

## Celebrate the Holiday With CFCC

On Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 AM, enjoy a festive performance of "The Incredible Christmas Treasure," featuring local children presenting an uplifting program through story and song. Then, on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 PM, join neighbors for a Community Candlelight Gathering, including dinner and a carol sing-along. All are welcome to attend.

Cornerstone Church is located at 118 First Street, Bloomingdale. For more information, visit [www.cfccbloomingtondale.org](http://www.cfccbloomingtondale.org).

## Lake Park Educational Foundation Offers Scholarships

The Lake Park Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of over 40 scholarships totaling over \$65,000 available for Lake Park High School graduating students in the class of 2025. There are over 20 unique scholarships offered with varied criteria based on activities, athletics, academics, career-focus, financial need and more.

The scholarship applications will be available on the Going Merry website by December 19. Don't miss your opportunity! Scholarship applications are due by Friday, March 6, 2026. Please visit [www.lphs.org/Foundation](http://www.lphs.org/Foundation) to view all the scholarship information.

## Wishing You the Merriest of Holidays

### Bloomingdale Village Hall Holiday Hours

The Village Hall will be closed on the following dates:

#### Christmas:

Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, 2025

#### New Year's:

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026

### Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

SBC Waste Solutions will continue normal operations on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Since both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Thursday this year, only Thursday collection routes will be affected.

- **Thursday pickups** will occur on Friday
- All other collection days will remain on their regular schedule
- *These adjustments apply to both holiday weeks, the weeks of December 22 and December 29.*

Warm holiday wishes for a safe and joyful season from the elected officials and staff of the Village of Bloomingdale!



# Here's What To Know About Bloomingdale's 2025-2026 Salting Operations

## Tips to Avoid Ruptured Water Pipes This Winter

As temperatures drop, frozen pipes can lead to costly damage. Here are several ways to protect your home during extreme cold:

### Preventing Frozen Pipes

- **Seal cracks around doors, windows, and foundations.** Even small gaps can let in cold air and freeze pipes.
- **Heat all rooms with plumbing.** Pipes in unheated areas can freeze, rupture, and cause significant water damage.
- **Insulate exposed pipes.** Local hardware stores carry the proper type of insulation for this task, and ensure the insulation is dry. Wet insulation is less effective than none at all.
- **Know where your main water shutoff valve is.** Make sure all family members can locate it quickly in case of emergency.
- **Open cabinet and closet doors that contain plumbing or pipes behind them.** This helps warm air circulate around pipes.
- **Let cold water trickle from faucets.** Running a small stream from the highest faucet can help prevent freezing.

### If Your Pipes Freeze

**NEVER use an open flame to thaw pipes.** This is a serious fire hazard.

Safer options include using a **hair dryer, vacuum exhaust, heat lamp, heat tape, or electric heater.** A **light bulb** can also thaw pipes slowly but keep it away from combustible materials to avoid starting a fire.

Taking a few simple precautions can help protect your home from winter water damage.



As winter settles in, snow and ice are bound to cover our roads. Below are some key reminders about Bloomingdale's salting procedures. Keep in mind that each storm's unique conditions determine the amount of material applied to the roadways.

**Main Village Roads:** The following roads will be treated with salt mixed with liquid calcium chloride to enhance effectiveness: Brighton Dr, Butterfield Dr, Byron Ave, Camden Dr, Cardinal Dr, N. Circle Ave, Covington Dr, Edgewater Dr, Euclid Ave, Fairfield Way, Fox Court, Glen Ellyn Rd, Greenway Dr, Knollwood Dr, Madsen Dr, Schick Rd, Scott Dr, and Springfield Dr.

**State and County Roads:** Lake Street (State-owned), as well as Bloomingdale Road, Army Trail, Medinah Road, and Gary Avenue (DuPage County roads), are managed by their respective agencies for snow and ice control.

**Intersections:** To enhance safety, intersections will be treated up to 100 feet from each approach using a salt and liquid calcium chloride mixture.

**Hills and Curves:** Hazardous areas on hills and curves will be treated up to 50 feet from each approach using the same salt and calcium chloride mixture.

**Other Village Streets and Cul-De-Sacs:** These areas will remain untreated unless conditions warrant spot salting, using the same salt and liquid calcium chloride treatment.

Please note that the above policies serve as general guidelines and may be adjusted based on weather, pavement conditions, and other factors to ensure motorist safety.

## What If a Snowplow Damages My Mailbox?



Mailboxes and parkways may occasionally be damaged by snowplows. Homeowners should report any such damage to the Public Works Department at 630-671-5800. After a report is filed, Public Works will inspect the site.

Residents have two options for mailbox repair: the Village can replace the damaged mailbox, or homeowners may choose to replace it themselves and receive up to \$50 in reimbursement. To ensure uninterrupted mail delivery, a temporary mailbox will be put in place until weather conditions allow for a full replacement.

## Wintertime FAQs: Snow Operations in the Village

As winter approaches, the Village's Public Works Division is fully prepared to clear snow and ice from our 172 miles of streets and keep our roads safe. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked wintertime questions.

### What are the Village's parking regulations when it snows?

After a snowfall of 2 inches or more, the Village's winter parking ban goes into effect. This applies to any vehicle parked on Village-owned streets and remains in place for 24 hours or until streets have been fully plowed. To help with snow removal efforts, residents are encouraged to park in driveways or other off-street areas.

### When will the Village roads be cleared?

During a snow event, plowing operations focus first on main roads, then move to side streets, with cul-de-sacs and dead ends cleared last. Snow removal timing depends on factors such as total accumulation, snow type (wet or powdery), temperature, and traffic volume during plowing. All Village-owned streets will be cleared, but timing will vary based on these conditions.

### Why does snow end up in my driveway after plowing?

Snowplows are designed to push snow to the side of the road, which can result in snow being deposited in driveways, along curbs, and on parkways. To avoid shoveling twice, it's best to clear your driveway after plowing is complete.



Please remember that Village Ordinance prohibits blowing or pushing snow onto Village streets, as it can create hazardous frozen patches. Snow removal from private driveways and sidewalks is the responsibility of property owners. Shoveling can be strenuous, so please take appropriate precautions.

### Why should I do if my parkway is damaged by a plow?

The Public Works Division is aware that parkway damage can occasionally occur during snow plowing. Parkway repairs, including dirt and seed restoration, are scheduled for spring, when conditions are ideal for grass seed germination. If your parkway has been damaged, please call Public Works at 630-671-5800 so your location can be added to the repair list.

### Why is it important to keep fire hydrants clear of snow?

During the winter months, home fires increase, and keeping nearby hydrants cleared ensures firefighters have quick access in an emergency. Taking only a few minutes to dig out a hydrant can save valuable time and potentially save lives.

### Who can I contact with questions about snow removal operations?

For any questions about snow removal, please contact the Public Works Division at 630-671-5800. Thank you for helping keep our Village safe and accessible this winter!



## Winter Phone Numbers

### Village of Bloomingdale Snow Phone (630) 671-5800

Call to report a snow-related issue. Please note that we are unable to provide exact times for when individual streets will be plowed.

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

For non-emergency matters and general information

### Bloomingdale Fire District - Emergency Dial 911

### Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Informa- tion Line

312-DOT-INFO  
(312-368-4636)

For information on State roads such as Lake Street. The District One Communication Center is open 24/7. Hazardous conditions can be reported to 847-705-4612 for immediate action. Visit [www.dot.il.gov](http://www.dot.il.gov) for weather and road condition updates.

### Division of Transportation DuPage County 630-682-7321

For information on DuPage County roads, including Army Trail Road, Bloomingdale Road, Gary Avenue, Medinah Road, and Schmale Road.

### Illinois Tollway Roadway Information Line

800-865-5394

Provides tollway updates, including fog, snow, ice, high winds, and trailer bans. Information is updated every four hours or more frequently during severe weather.



# Six New Flags Raised in Honor Of All Veterans Who Have Served

## Bloomingtondale Garden Club Wraps Up the Season

The Bloomingtondale Garden Club wrapped up fall season after harvesting its community garden and donating everything to the food pantry. Members had a potluck, learned about Bonsai, made Christmas centerpieces for a nursing home, and enjoyed a holiday "make and take".



The 2026 programs begin February 17 with the annual business meeting, followed by Gail Sanders on March 17 with tips for container and small-space gardening. Preparations are underway for the Annual Plant Sale on May 8-9.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at Cornerstone Church, 118 First Street, with 6:30 PM social time and 7:00 PM program. Visit [www.bloomingtondale-gardenclub.org](http://www.bloomingtondale-gardenclub.org).

## Time to Disconnect Hoses & Shut Off Water To Exterior Spigots

With December's freezing temperatures, now is the time to disconnect garden hoses and shut off interior water supply valves to exterior spigots.

Leaving a hose connected, even with the spigot turned off, can cause the hose bib to crack, often unnoticed until spring. A few minutes of prevention now can help you avoid costly repairs later.

It was a blustery morning on Veterans Day as the Bloomingtondale community gathered at the Founders Gazebo to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Hosted by Bloomingtondale VFW Post 7539, the annual Veterans Day Remembrance included a gun salute and remarks of gratitude from Mayor Franco, who recognized the courage and dedication of all who have served our nation.



This year's remembrance held special significance, as six new flagpoles representing each branch of the United States Armed Forces were celebrated and raised for the first time alongside the existing American and POW/MIA flags.

The project originated in April 2025, when Bloomingtondale VFW Post 7539 proposed adding service branch flags to complement the stone monument installed in 2023, a tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces, past and present. With support from DuPage County Commissioner Sam Tornatore, the Village of Bloomingtondale secured a \$25,000 grant through DuPage County to help fund the initiative. Following Village Board authorization and approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County, the project was completed by the Public Works Department this fall.

Thank you to all who attended the ceremony and joined in honoring our Veterans. The new display at the Gazebo now enhances the site's role as a place of remembrance and reflection, a visible symbol of Bloomingtondale's gratitude to all who have served.

## St. Isidore School Named a Microsoft Showcase School - Again



St. Isidore Catholic School is proud to be recognized as a Microsoft Showcase School for the third year in a row, one of only 32 schools in North America to receive this honor. This designation highlights the school's ongoing commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and 21st-century learning. Thanks to strong parish support and recent Fund-A-Cause initiatives, the school has enhanced its technology and learning spaces, helping students and staff grow through collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

The school also celebrates four faculty members who earned the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert designation: Mrs. Rita Carter, Mr. Larry Johnson, Mrs. Caitlyn Mascari, and Mrs. Sue Stafford, a distinction shared by only 708 educators across North America this year.

As a Microsoft Showcase School, St. Isidore remains dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and preparing students for the future with advanced educational technology.

For more information about events, campus tours, or supporting St. Isidore School, contact: Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement – [glorusso@sicatholic.org](mailto:glorusso@sicatholic.org)

# Business News

## Tropical Smoothie Café

Tropical Smoothie Café opened in Bloomingdale in February 2021, in the heart of COVID. Now with more than 50 locations across Chicagoland, the brand continues to grow, offering a wide variety of delicious smoothies and fresh menu options, including sandwiches, wraps, quesadillas, and salads.

Tropical Smoothie Café, located at 383 W. Army Trail Road, is open 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. on weekdays and 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. on weekends, and can be reached at 630-283-0933. Proud to be part of the community, the cafe remains committed to providing great service and quality products.



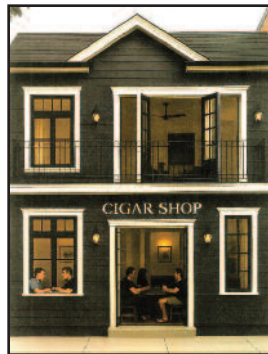
## 7 Brew 130 Lake Street



The buzz from 7 Brew's first location at 68 Stratford Drive is spilling over and brewing up a second spot in Bloomingdale! As demand for their unique signature drinks and bold flavor combinations continues to grow, 7 Brew is expanding to 130 Lake Street. Known for its fast, friendly drive-thru experience, 7 Brew will bring the same energetic team and specialty beverages to even more members of the community.

## Cigar House

Old Town's classic charm has drawn The Cigar House to the heart of the district. Designed with intention, The Cigar House complements Old Town's historic character with a timeless feel. Introducing tobacco purchasing and on-site consumption, the establishment plans to create a refined lounge where patrons can enjoy premium tobacco products in a relaxed setting. Preliminary construction begins this fall at 102 Third Street, and soon The Cigar House will offer both cigar enthusiasts and newcomers a comfortable space to unwind and appreciate the tradition and community built around cigars.

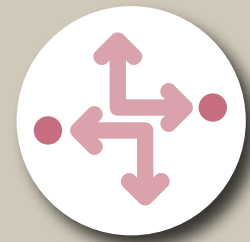


## Andy's Frozen Custard



Andy's Frozen Custard is coming to 136 E. Lake Street, redeveloping the former Chase Bank site. As the nation's largest frozen-custard-only chain, Andy's will bring a sweet new energy to the area, enhancing the Springbrook Shopping Center corridor and offering a family-friendly destination for residents and visitors alike. The

new location will feature both a drive-through and walk-up service windows. Known for using only the freshest ingredients and providing unmatched customer service, Andy's offers a frozen custard experience you can't get anywhere else.



## The Bloomingdale Business Beat

The Business Beat spotlights new and expanding businesses. Supporting local retailers helps strengthen the Village's tax base and keeps the Village portion of your property tax bill low.

Remember to -  
**BUY IN BLOOMINGDALE**

### Chamber Events Spread Holiday Cheer!

The holiday season is approaching, and the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce is celebrating with activities in Old Town.

**Gingerbread Village & Open House - November 29, 3–6 PM:** Stop by the Chamber office to view the Gingerbread Village and enjoy refreshments.

**Parade of Gingerbread Houses:** Follow the map to visit gingerbread houses decorated by local businesses. Collect stamps, enter a \$200 drawing sponsored by NOW Foods and SBC Waste Solutions. Vote for your favorite with a donation. Benefits St. Isidore's program for the homeless.

**Holiday Trees in Old Town Park:** Enjoy holiday trees donated by Platt Hill & decorated by local businesses. Find the hidden pickle ornament, re-hidden after each win.

**Mulled Wine & Commemorative Mugs at the Tree Lighting:** Enjoy mulled wine from Mahan Family Wines, served in a limited-edition mug featuring artwork by Rich Lo. Visit the Lions booth early, mugs are limited.

Learn more at  
**BloomingdaleHolidays.com.**

## Mayor Franco Shares Updates on Upcoming Projects



Mayor Franco delivered his Annual State of the Village address at the Bloomingdale Golf Club on Wednesday, October 22. The presentation highlighted the past year's accomplishments across Village departments and offered a promising look at upcoming projects and events, including exciting updates on The Grove redevelopment.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage with Village Administrator Peter Scalera and connect with elected officials, including Village Clerk Hager and Trustees Ackerman, Shannon, and Vitacco.

Thank you to Mayor Franco, the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce for hosting, and all who attended this engaging community event.

## Halloween Party Brings the Community Together

Bloomingdale families turned out in record numbers for this year's Halloween Party on Saturday, October 26, enjoying costumes, games, treats, and spooky fun. More than 1,300 guests took part in activities and giveaways throughout the event area.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to the Bloomingdale Public Library, Police



Department, Public Works, Fire Protection District, and Park District, along with the volunteers, and the Friends of the Bloomingdale Public Library, whose creativity and teamwork made this annual Halloween tradition such a special day in Bloomingdale!

## Honoring Veterans of All Conflicts

On November 1, 2025, members of Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539 attended the dedication ceremony of the Ukrainian American Veterans Monument at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale.



The new monument stands in tribute to all men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in the United States Armed Forces, including those of Ukrainian

heritage. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago, veterans, and community members, honoring the shared commitment to freedom and sacrifice across generations.



## Bloomingdale Artists Association Honored as The 'Best of the Best'

The Bloomingdale Artists Association (BAA) was honored with the Illinois Association of Park Districts' "Best of the Best" Arts in the Park Award, recognizing over 31 years of partnership with the Bloomingdale Park District and its commitment to art education and community engagement. Janice Henry and Bev Petrosius accepted the award at the October 25 Gala, joined by Park District representatives and curator John Tuleweit. The BAA thanks its leaders, members, the Park District, Mayor Franco, and Matt Puchalski of Masterpiece Framing for their support. A recognition was held at the Park District Board Meeting on November 17.

The Association invites all to its next workshop, "Illuminating the Night with Acrylics," on January 14 at 6:30 PM at the Park District Museum (108 S. Bloomingdale Road). Member artist Connie Christopher will demonstrate painting glowing lights and rain. Space is limited, supplies provided. Visitors welcome; contact Bev at (630) 624-9545 to register. Drop-in fee is \$10, and annual membership (September–May) is \$30.

## A Greener Bloomingdale!

The Village of Bloomingdale and SBC Waste Solutions, Inc. held another successful recycling event in November, collecting 1,680 lbs of paper, 2,240 lbs of paint, and 20 cubic yards of pumpkins, giving residents a safe and convenient way to dispose of these items. SBC also reports increased curbside paint collection year-round. Thanks to everyone who helped support a greener Bloomingdale!





## Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



### PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



### PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



### LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ❗ Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ❗ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ❗ A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.

## Adopt a Hydrant — Protect Your Neighborhood



After a heavy snowfall, please take a few minutes to clear the snow around nearby fire hydrants. Keeping hydrants visible and accessible allows firefighters to respond quickly in an emergency, saving precious time when it matters most.

Your small effort can make a big difference in protecting homes, neighbors, and lives. A few minutes of shoveling could truly help save a life!



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

Chief Matthew Beyer

Deputy Chief Alan Emody

District Trustees  
Tim Deutschle  
Joseph Alexander  
-Bob Rawski

Commissioners  
Brandt Leischner  
Edward Aubin  
Tom Czajka

## Winter Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season brings warmth, gatherings, and festive décor, but it also brings an increased risk of home fires.

The National Fire Protection Association reminds families to choose flame-resistant decorations, keep candles away from anything that can burn, and replace worn light strands before decorating. Use clips instead of nails when hanging lights and keep décor clear of windows and doors. Test smoke alarms and share your home escape plan with overnight guests. And before turning in for the night, blow out candles and switch off all light strings to keep the season merry and safe.

## Welcome to Our Newest Firefighter/Paramedic

The Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District is pleased to welcome **Firefighter/Paramedic Nicholas Paveza** to the department. FF/PM Paveza has begun a year-long probationary period, during which he will continue training and developing his skills in fire suppression and emergency medical services.



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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
**PAID**  
Bloomingdale,  
ILA  
60108  
Permit No.# 16

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL  
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108**

## Spreading Christmas Cheer: Local Couple Brings Santa And Mrs. Claus to Life

Matt and Kelly Tripp have made it their mission to bring holiday magic to families across the western suburbs of Chicagoland. Since 2021, the couple has joyfully taken on the roles of Santa and Mrs. Claus, visiting with hundreds of children each year.



What began during the COVID lockdowns, when many families struggled to see Santa, has grown into a cherished tradition. The Tripps now appear at home visits, community breakfasts, and local events, spreading joy wherever they go.

Their appearances are always free of charge. "We wanted to make sure every child, no matter their circumstances, could feel the warmth and wonder of Christmas," Matt shared.

Residents can also catch Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Community Tree Lighting event on Saturday, November 29, 2025, in Old Town Bloomingdale.

Appointments fill quickly, but they are still accepting visits through December 24. To schedule, call 224-501-1373 or email [santa.bookings@outlook.com](mailto:santa.bookings@outlook.com).

## Season of Giving

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded just how many individuals and families could use a helping hand. Whether through financial contributions or simple acts of kindness, there are countless ways to brighten someone's day and lift a weary spirit. For residents hoping to give back, here are several local opportunities to make a meaningful impact and share the true spirit of the season.



**Salvation Army Angel Tree:** Join the Village of Bloomingdale employees in supporting the Salvation Army's Angel Tree, which provides gifts for infants and young children in need in the Red Shield Head Start program. Each tag on the tree represents a child's holiday wish, specifying their gender, age, and desired gift. Tags will be available after Thanksgiving. If you would like to participate, email Kate Buggy at [buggyk@vil.bloomington.il.us](mailto:buggyk@vil.bloomington.il.us) with your gender and age preference, if any, to receive a tag.

**Bloomington Township** will host a Toy Shop on December 23rd from 9 AM-3 PM, where parents can select toys for their children with a current utility bill, ID, and their children's birth certificates. Donations of new, unwrapped toys for children up to age 18 are accepted until December 16, with the greatest need for gifts for older children. The Township will also distribute Christmas Food Baskets on December 19th from 9 AM-3 PM. For questions, call 630-529-9993.

**Bloomington Park District: Presents for Pets and People** In the spirit of holiday giving, the Park District participates in the Marklund Giving Tree program and extends support to four-legged friends through a Giving Tree benefiting the Almost Home Foundation. Visit the "Giving Trees" at the Johnston Recreation Center, 172 S. Circle Ave., to pick up a wish list. The JRC is also a Toys for Tots collection site through December 10th.

**Bloomington VFW Post 7539** regularly delivers needed items to VA facilities and provides essentials for Veterans moving out of homelessness. To donate toward these purchases, please make checks payable to VFW Post 7539 and mail them to: VFW Post 7539, c/o Bloomingdale Public Library, 101 Fairfield Way, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

**Lake Park High School Educational Foundation:** The Lancer Emergency Support Fund helps students and families with essential school expenses such as AP exam fees, extracurricular fees, field trip costs, class materials, and food. Donations support students in need throughout the school year and can be made on the Lake Park Educational Foundation website at [lphs.org/foundation](http://lphs.org/foundation)

**American Legion Unit 1084 Giving Tree 2025:** Drop off unwrapped gifts at any of the designated locations. Your donations will benefit local organizations, including Bloomingdale's Alden Village, Bloomingdale Township, and Marklund Home. For more information, call 630-894-8524. The deadline to donate is December 7th.

Whether through gifts, donations, or small acts of kindness, each gesture can help make the season brighter for those in need in our community.



# get wrapped up in a good book!



BLOOMINGDALE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

December  
2025 &  
January  
2026

## Winter Reading 2025-2026

December 8, 2025 through January 31, 2026

Registration opens December 8 for all ages. Four ways to register:

online: [mybpl.beanstack.org](https://mybpl.beanstack.org)

by phone: Adults/Teens: 630-924-2730 • Youth: 630-924-2740

by email: Adults/Teens: [bdref@mybpl.org](mailto:bdref@mybpl.org) • Youth: [bdys@mybpl.org](mailto:bdys@mybpl.org)

in person: Adults/Teens: Adult Reference Desk • Youth: Youth Services Desk



## Prizes:

### Adult & Teen Program (7th grade to adult)

For every 180 minutes logged, earn an entry into our grand prize drawing.

#### Grand Prizes:

\$25 Amazon gift card (2 winners)

#### Youth

### (Infants through 6th grade):

For 180 minutes logged, readers receive a free book!

#### Grand Prizes:

Wolves Reading Prize Packs



**Beanstack App:** Download the optional app for Apple or Android to easily track minutes and stats like reading streaks. The app makes participating fun and easy!

*The Winter Reading Program is open to Bloomingdale residents only.*

## exam cram

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 16 & 17 | 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Open to all high school students, grades 9-12 (Drop-In)

Get ready for finals at Exam Cram! We have group and quiet study areas, Wi-Fi, de-stressing activities, and computers. The Teen Librarian will also be available for reference help.

**FREE snacks and drinks provided,  
with pizza served at 6:00 p.m.**

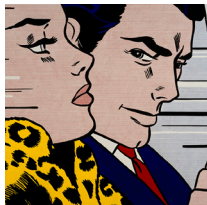
## bpl makerspace

### Limited Holiday Hours

Be sure to visit the Makerspace by Thursday, December 18 to get in your last minute holiday crafts and gifts!

The Makerspace will be closed for the holidays starting Saturday, December 20 and will reopen for Bloomingdale cardholders on Thursday, January 8.

## DECEMBER PROGRAMS



### **VIRTUAL: WHAAAM!! The Art of Roy Lichtenstein**

Monday, December 1 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Join Jeff Mishur as he takes us on a journey to better understand Roy Lichtenstein, the pop artist known for his bright colors and comic book style.

### **Make Your Own Holiday Snow Globe Terrarium!**

Monday, December 8 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (limit 25 people)

BPL's own Samantha Totten instructs you on how to craft your own snow globe! All materials will be provided. All you will need to bring is your imagination!

### **The South Side-My South Side: A Love Letter to Home**

Tuesday, December 9 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy this visual journey into the heart of Chicago's South Side—a region bursting with history, culture, flavor, and pride. From the iconic Museum Campus to legendary sports teams and local landmarks like Jackson Park and Bridgeport, uncover the stories behind the places that make the South Side unforgettable. Presented by Letra Bledsoe.

### **A Novelist's Christmas Carol: The Life of Charles Dickens**

Monday, December 15 | 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Travel through time on a theatrical journey with The Ghost of Christmas Past, portrayed by historical presenter Michelle Gibbons. The Ghost will awaken Charles Dickens to a lifetime of accomplishment, showing him all that was and all that could be. Dickens will learn of the bright and merry future he may have if he believes in the magic of the holiday season.



## JANUARY PROGRAMS

### **Make Your Own Cut and Fold Book Craft!**

Monday, January 12 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (limit 25 people)

Don't get rid of your old hardcover books; turn them into bookshelf art! Join us in the BPL Makerspace for a hands-on crafting experience and learn the "cut and fold" method of book folding. All materials provided.



### **Resumé Workshop**

Tuesday, January 13 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Learn how to craft an eye-catching and informative resumé that'll help land the job you want. Discover how to create a document unique to your skills, experience, and goals, as well as how to avoid common mistakes and overcome issues like work gaps or age discrimination. Hosted by Jez Layman.

### **VIRTUAL: Everything You Know About the Movies is Wrong!**



Tuesday, January 20 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Tackle the biggest myths about movies ever told: Is the book always better than the movie? Are sequels and remakes always a cash grab? Were movies really better in the old days? With fun clips, careful analysis, and fascinating behind-the-scenes stories, retired teacher and film expert Steven Frenzel will confront these and many other classic myths believed about film.


### **VIRTUAL: Armchair Tour of the Solar System**

Monday, January 26 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Astroeducator Michelle Nichols from the Adler Planetarium as we explore our Solar System without leaving our seats! See some of the latest NASA spacecraft images of our Solar System, including our Sun, planets, and much more. We continue our journey in this series with **Armchair Tour of the Universe** on February 23 (attendance at both is not required).



# Adult

Registration required for some adult programs (noted with ).

Register **online**, by phone at **(630) 924-2730**, or by email at [bdref@mybpl.org](mailto:bdref@mybpl.org).

For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions.

## Looking for some new books for a cozy winter read?

Use BookBrowse to find book reviews, recommendations, read-alikes, author bios and interviews, resources for book clubs, and more.

Visit [mybpl.org/findanewbooktoread](http://mybpl.org/findanewbooktoread)



## ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

### **Genealogy Club (Drop-In)**

Wednesday, January 21  
6:30 – 8:45 p.m.

Join us to learn about internet and archival genealogy and research support. Members share strategies and explore library resources with guidance from genealogy librarian Leslie Drewitz.

### **Great Decisions**

Wednesday, January 21  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The Great Decisions discussion program is a civic education program administered and produced by the Foreign Policy Association. Contact Julie Deeke at [jdeeke@mybpl.org](mailto:jdeeke@mybpl.org) for more information.

# Programs



# book discussion groups

Selections are available at the Circulation Desk one month in advance of the discussion. If you have any questions, please call the Reference Desk at (630) 924-2730.

## HISTORICAL BOOK DISCUSSION

To register, email Julie Deeke at [jdeeke@mybpl.org](mailto:jdeeke@mybpl.org).

**Gossip Men: J. Edgar Hoover, Joe McCarthy, Roy Cohn, and the Politics of Insinuation**

by Christopher M. Elias

Tuesday, December 2  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



**DEFCON-2: Standing on the Brink of Nuclear War During the Cuban Missile Crisis**

by Norman Polmar & John D. Gresham

Tuesday, January 6  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



## bpl makerspace crafts

Learn how to use BPL Makerspace equipment to make creative crafts.

### Registration Information:

Ages 12 to adult, BPL card and computer experience required.

*Please sign up for one session only.*

### 3D Printed Luggage Tag

Design a custom 3D printed luggage tag. Since 3D printing takes approximately 1 hour per luggage tag, staff will contact participants when items are ready for pickup.

### Registration opens

**Monday, December 15**

*at 9:00 a.m. (limit 6 per session)*

Monday, January 5 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



### Beginner Machine Embroidery

Learn the basics of machine embroidery and create a small embroidered project.

### Registration opens

**Monday, January 19**

*at 9:00 a.m. (limit 4 per session)*

Monday, February 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 19 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

## MONDAY NIGHT PAGE TURNERS

To register, email Jessica Frazier at [jfrazier@mybpl.org](mailto:jfrazier@mybpl.org).

### Our Favorite Picks Party

Monday, December 8  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

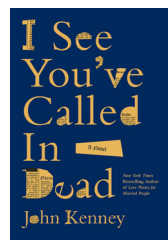
Register for our end of year party! There's no book discussion this month. Instead, we'll be sharing our favorite picks of the year. A list of all shared titles will be available after the party, so you're sure to find some great book, movie, and TV show recommendations.



### I See You've Called In Dead

by John Kenney

Monday, January 19  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



## Drop-In Movies

Enjoy our **Drop-In Movie** and enter for a chance to win a copy of that day's movie on DVD. Movie giveaway will be held following the conclusion of the movie and you must be present to win.



**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** (PG-13)

Wednesday, December 10  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.




**Superman (2025)** (PG-13)

Wednesday, January 14  
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

# Computer Programs

Registration is encouraged for in-person computer classes to receive program updates.

Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at [bdref@mybpl.org](mailto:bdref@mybpl.org).

Virtual classes are noted with  and will be posted on our YouTube channel.



## Using Android Phones

Monday, January 5 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Sean

Have a new phone to explore? Learn how to install and manage your apps, customize your phone using settings changes and widget installations, take advantage of expandable storage, use Google tools, and much more!

## Digitize Everything

Thursday, January 8 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Salvador

Do you have old photos either printed or in 35mm? How about movies on VHS, DVD, or other formats? Audio on cassette? Learn how to convert them all for free at the library! Demos and time for questions will be included.

## Google Docs & Cloud Backup

Monday, January 12 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Sean

Cloud tools offer more and more opportunities for computer users, one of the most versatile being cloud storage. Learn about the many options available to either work collaboratively with other people, keep resources available to access anywhere in the world, and/or provide a safety net in case of computer failure. Google's free applications will be used in class but alternatives will also be discussed.

## Introduction to LibreOffice: Calc

Thursday, January 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Charlie

Take a look at a free solution to creating and editing spreadsheets. LibreOffice Calc is both Excel compatible and feature rich, with tools for charts and pivot tables.

## Cutting the Cord

Monday, January 19 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Sean

Explore entertainment options beyond paying for cable. Discuss how to connect your TV or other devices to streaming services, what options are out there to replace or improve on current service, and how to determine what's right for you.

## AI Tools 101

Thursday, January 22 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Salvador

Learn the basics of working with free generative AI tools. Use these tools to rewrite a paragraph, convert text to lifelike speech, create simple infographics, or transcribe audio to text.

## Computer Shopping 101

Monday, December 8 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Charlie

Learn the basics of purchasing a computer and common computer peripherals. We will discuss trends, specs, gift ideas, and more.

## VIRTUAL: Holiday Cards Using Publisher & Word

Thursday, December 11 | 7:00 p.m.  
Instructor: Charlie

Use Microsoft programs Publisher and Word to quickly create fun and distinctive greetings cards and print mailing labels for them. Different card sizes, inserting pictures, creative font tricks, and much more will go into designing your own unique holiday card. Use the built-in tools in Word to quickly print peel-and-stick labels to make sending your cards much more efficient. Complete your whole project with the help of this video!

## Organizing and Backing Up Your Computer Files

Monday, December 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Christian

Organize your computer files for ease of access. Discussions will include file naming conventions, structures, image tagging, and common backup methods.

## NEW! winter coding camp

### Winter Coding Camp

Mondays, December 22 & 29  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Grades 3-6  
Instructor: Sean

Are you interested in computer programming? Kids grades 3-6 will use Scratch to make basic animations and a playable game in just two sessions. Whether you've never programmed before or already know some basics, you're welcome to join in!

*Register for each date separately.*



# exam cram

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 16 & 17 | 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Open to all high school students, grades 9-12 (Drop-In)

Get ready for finals at Exam Cram! We have group and quiet study areas, Wi-Fi, de-stressing activities, and computers. The Teen Librarian will also be available for reference help. **FREE snacks and drinks provided, with pizza served at 6:00 p.m.**

## Take & Make Crafts

For Take and Make crafts, you will be contacted via email when your craft kit is ready to be picked up at the Adult Reference Desk.

### 📦 Friendship Bracelets

Kit Pickup begins Monday, December 8 (limit 14 teens)

This fun and colorful miniature kit includes everything you need to create your own beaded friendship bracelets!

### 📦 Kitty Zen Garden

Kit Pickup begins Monday, January 5 (limit 12 teens)

Zen meets cats in this calming Zen garden miniature kit that includes everything you need to reach ultimate kitty enlightenment.

## Teen Craft Extra!

### 📦 Crochet for Beginners

Mondays, January 19 & 26 | 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (ages 14+)

Come ready to learn the basics of crochet with step-by-step instruction. This is a 2-session program. Materials are provided.

## Meetup In Teen Territory

While supplies last. Registration guarantees a craft, but drop-ins are welcome. Must be present to claim.

### Let's Celebrate: End of Semester

Thursday, December 18 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the end of the semester with a grab-n-go holiday craft and games in the Teen Territory!

### School's Back, Stop By

Friday, January 16 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Got the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester blues? Create a kit to motivate you for this second half of the school year. Feel free to stay and play games with friends in the Teen Territory!

## Teen Craft Club

The Teen Craft Club is on the 2nd Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

### 📦 No-Sew Fleece Blanket

Wednesday, December 10  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (limit 10 teens)

Your cozy no-sew fleece blanket will be the perfect hand-crafted addition to any winter night. Join us for crafting, cozy hot cocoa, and holiday music.

### 📦 Altered Art

Wednesday, January 14 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
(limit 12 teens)

Take a piece of old thrifted art and completely transform it, adding your own creative twists to your painting.

## Mindful Skills

Mindful Skills are the 1st Monday of every month, unless otherwise noted.

### 📦 Let's Wrap Together

Monday, December 22 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
(limit 8 teens)

Who said wrapping presents had to be stressful? We have the tools, paper, and ribbons you need to wrap the perfect present. All tools will be provided, just bring some boxes and gifts to wrap.

### 📦 Vision Boards

Monday, January 5 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
(limit 12 teens)

What is your vision for 2026? Create a vision board using scrapbook paper, magazines, pictures, and more! All materials will be provided to plan the perfect 2026.

# Teen Programs

Registration required for some teen programs (noted with 📦). Registration begins Monday, November 24.

Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at [bdref@mybpl.org](mailto:bdref@mybpl.org).

Teen programs are open to 7th-12th graders unless otherwise noted.



## Teen Territory Fun!

Drop-in activity all month in the Teen Territory space. Supplies available throughout the month specified, while supplies last.

### Popsicle Stick Mural (December)

Decorate a craft stick; once enough are collected, the Teen Librarian will turn them into a cool art mural that will be displayed in the Teen Territory!

### Scavenger Hunt (January)

To give you a taste of what you can find at BPL, try out the scavenger hunt in the Teen Territory. Take a journey through the stacks and claim a prize upon completion!

### Teen Book Reviews

Teens who enjoy reading, audiobooks, or writing can write book reviews for **volunteer service hours!** The reviews may appear in whole or part on the library's website, the Teen Territory, social media, or in print resources at the library.

Check out the details at [mybpl.org/teenbookreviews](http://mybpl.org/teenbookreviews).

### Teen Bookish Boxes

Sign up to receive a teen subscription box full of specially curated books and goodies each month! After filling out a registration form, the Teen Librarian will select titles based on your preference. And guess what? You get to keep everything in your box, including the book! Register anytime at [mybpl.org/teenbookishboxes](http://mybpl.org/teenbookishboxes).

# Preschool Programs

Ages 0-5

## **Come Together (Drop-In)**

0-24 months

Every Wednesday | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meet and chat with other parents and caregivers while your child socializes and explores with hands-on toys. Weekly drop-in event for ages 0-24 months. *Will be offered simultaneously with Baby Tales and Tunes when in session.*

## **📅 Happy Books, Happy Cooks**

Ages 3-5

Thursdays, December 4 & January 8 | 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

A storytime for all budding chefs! Read a food-filled story and create a tasty treat. *Please let us know of any allergies at the time of registration.*

## **📅 Playing with STEM**

Ages 2-5

Tuesdays, December 16 & January 13 | 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are important learning areas for kids of all ages. Start your child early with our fun play to learn program. Session topics: December | STEM all year • January | winter animals

## **Preschool Process Art (Drop-In)**

Ages 3-5

Saturday, December 20 | 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Little hands, but big creativity! Pop in to the Makerspace to try this month's artsy activity.

## **Toddler Dance Party (Drop-In)**

18-36 months

Friday, December 26 | 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Does your toddler love to move, groove, and wiggle? Join us for a morning of music and movement.

## **📅 Messy Fingers**

Ages 2-4

Tuesday, January 6 | 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Your little ones will have the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills through this hands-on messy art class. Join us for a messy and fun time!

## **📅 If You Give a Pig a Pancake**

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, January 20 | 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Find out what happens when you give a pig a pancake in this fun program.

## **Explore with Your Senses (Drop-In)**

Under 3 years old with caregivers

Tuesday, January 27 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Come participate in different activities designed to develop sensory processing skills. Explore texture, sound, smell, colors, and patterns.



# Youth

Registration required for some youth programs (noted with 📅).

Registration for **December** programs begins **Monday, November 17**.

Registration for **January** programs begins **Monday, December 22**.

## Family

### **📅 Polar Express**

Families

Sunday, December 14 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

All aboard! Join us for a reading of this holiday classic, plus crafts and activities. Pajamas are optional.



### **📅 Homeschool Hangout**

Families

Wednesdays, December 10 & January 14  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join us to explore a new topic each month with books, crafts, and activities specially designed for each grade level.

### **📅 Verandah Santa: An Aussie Holiday**

Families

Wednesday, December 17 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Christmas is a little different in Australia. Come learn about Australia and celebrate in the Aussie way. Stories and crafts from a blue dog will be part of the program.

### **Winter Solstice Storytime (Drop-In)**

Families

Friday, December 19 | 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Enjoy stories, rhymes, and a craft all about the longest night of the year.



### **Paw Patrol Pup Bookmarks (Drop-In)**

Families

Friday, January 2  
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Create *Paw Patrol* bookmarks!

# Programs

Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2740, or by email at [bdys@mybpl.org](mailto:bdys@mybpl.org).



# School Age Programs

Grades K-6

## Fun

### Interactive Movie: **DOG MAN (Drop-In)**

Families

Friday, January 2  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Half dog, half man, Dog Man is sworn to protect and serve as he doggedly pursues his arch-nemesis: The feline supervillain Petey the Cat. Come watch at the library and experience interactive effects and activities during the show.



### Firefly Family Theatre Presents **Spark's Snow Day (Drop-In)**

Families

Monday, January 19  
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

Watch **Firefly Family Theatre** bring **Spark's Snow Day** to life in this show featuring music, puppets, and winter family fun for the whole family!

### **Crocheted Winter Beanie**

Grades 4-8

Sunday, December 7 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We will be building on beginner skills by teaching double crochet, magic circle, and increases. You'll start your beanie in class and finish it on your own.

### **Middle Grade Makers (Drop-In)**

Grades 4-8

Tuesdays, December 9 & January 6  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Explore as we create all sorts of fun and useful items like keychains, coasters, custom buttons, or jewelry. Crafts will take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour—drop by and see what's new each month!

### **Makerspace Club: STEM Time**

Grades 3-6

Thursdays, December 11 & January 8  
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Libraries are a great place to learn about science and technology while making cool stuff. Come join the fun! December | 3D ornaments • January | popping boba

### **Beginning Crochet**

Grades 3-8

Mondays, December 15 & 22 | 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

This is a two session program. Session 1: learn the basics – how to hold your yarn and hook and the single crochet stitch. Session 2: learn how to start a project and read a pattern.

### **Reindeer Painting**

Grades 3-6

Thursday, December 18 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Join us for a fun holiday paint night.

### **D.I.Y. Winter Crafts**

Grades K-2

Monday, December 22 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Come in over break to make some winter themed crafts and play winter bingo.

### **winter coding camp**

Grades 3-6

Mondays, December 22 & 29  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

see page 4 for details

### **Miniatures Workshop**

Grades 3-6

Tuesday, December 23 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Use all sorts of crafts materials and learn techniques for making realistic miniature items.

### **LEGO® Club (Drop-In)**

Grades 1-6

Tuesday, December 23 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Design and build with the library's LEGO® supply to complete the challenge.

### **Writer's Workshop**

Grades 3-6

Tuesday, December 30 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Express yourself through writing. Prompts, snacks, and journals will be provided.

### **Draw Me a Story**

Grades K-2

Wednesday, January 7 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Listen to a story that will inspire your creativity and then make your own work of art.

### **Baby-sitter's Club Book Party**

Grades 3-6

Monday, January 12 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Fans of the **Baby-sitter's Club** book series will enjoy trivia, crafts, and starting their own babysitting kit.

### **Culture Connections Club (Drop-In)**

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 13 | 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

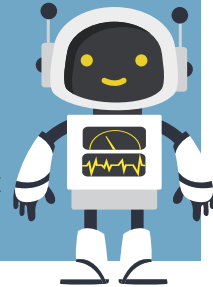
Visit faraway countries through stories, songs, snacks, and activities!

### **Robot Time (Drop-In)**

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 20  
5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Enjoy robot stories and then make a craft with moving parts.



### **Cozy Door Hanger**

Grades 3-6

Thursday, January 22 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Using mittens, we will create a fun winter themed door hanger.

### **Junk Journal**

Grades 3-6

Tuesday, January 27 | 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Visualize your imagination this New Year.

### **Snowflake Art (Drop-In)**

Grades 1-6

Wednesday, January 28 | 4:00 – 4:45 a.m.

Drop in to make a beaded or paper snowflake.



## BLOOMINGDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday:  
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday:  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday:  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Library Closings:

Wednesday & Thursday,  
December 24 & 25 for  
Christmas Eve & Day

Wednesday & Thursday,  
December 31 & January 1 for  
New Year's Eve & Day

### Social Media

Follow us on social media for  
the latest information, virtual  
classes, and random fun!



### Library Photos

Photos or videos taken at  
the library may be used for  
promotional purposes.  
If you do not want your  
image taken, please inform  
library staff.

### ADA Accommodations

Persons with disabilities  
requiring reasonable  
accommodation to  
participate in a program  
should contact Bloomington  
Public Library at least 7 days  
prior to the program.  
Call **(630) 924-2730** or  
email requests  
to **ADA@mybpl.org**.



### eNewsletters

Sign up to get programming  
and materials information  
right in your inbox! Visit  
**mybpl.info/enews-signup**  
and/or **mybpl.org/nextreads**  
to select which information  
you'd like to receive!

# Winter Storytimes

**Winter Mini Session: December 1 through 13**

**New Year Session: January 5 through February 13**

Children of all ages can join us for a storytime in the Youth Services department!  
We provide children with age-appropriate interactive fun with stories, sign language, music, and more.  
Storytimes are limited to the first 20 children to arrive.

### Preschool Storytime

*Ages 3-5*  
Mondays, 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

### Evening Storytime

*All ages with caregiver*  
Wednesdays, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
**In January:** Mondays, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

### Toddler Time

*Ages 2-3 with caregiver*  
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

### Family Storytime

*All ages with caregiver*  
Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

### Baby Tales

*Ages 0-24 months with caregiver*  
Wednesdays  
10:00 – 10:20 a.m. OR  
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Introduce your baby to music, movement,  
rhymes, and books that will aid in the  
development of early literacy skills.

**Out of consideration for baby safety  
and to encourage child/caregiver  
bonding, older siblings cannot be  
accommodated in this program.**

*\*Check out Come Together,  
our playtime program done in  
conjunction with this program  
Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
See our Preschool Programs  
section for details.*



## Valentines for Veterans 2026

*for all ages*

Monday, January 5 – Monday, February 9

The BPL Youth Services department will again sponsor their annual Valentines for Veterans program! We invite children, adults, schools, and community members to make Valentine cards for veterans.  
All Valentine cards will be delivered to veterans who have served our country and are currently hospitalized at **Hines VA Hospital** in Hines, Illinois and **Jesse Brown Hospital** in Chicago.

Valentine craft supplies will be available at the Youth Services desk to create cards while visiting the library. Everyone is also welcome to bring in cards made at home from personal craft materials. Please do not glue decorations onto the card that might easily break off, and glitter is discouraged.

You do not need to include an envelope.

**Please turn in all cards to the Youth Services desk at the library.**

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2025

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS HOURS: THURSDAYS 5:30-8PM FRIDAYS 5:30-8PM SATURDAYS 12-2:30PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Holiday Puzzle Palooza 6:30-8PM Code: 104626-A1 (registration only)	<b>3</b> Carriage Rides 6-8PM Code: 104609 (registration only)	<b>4</b> Storytime and Crafts 5:30-8PM Free	<b>5</b> Visits With Santa 5:30-8PM Free Holiday Appetizers 6:30-8:30PM Code: 103407-A1 (registration only)	<b>6</b> Holiday Games 12-2:30PM Free
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Let It Flow Yoga 7-8PM Code: 103501-A1 (registration only)  Elf on the Shelf 6-7:30PM Code: 101116-A1 (registration only)	<b>10</b> Santa Paws 6-9PM Code: 104701-A1 (registration only)	<b>11</b> Holiday Crafts & Reindeer Food 5:30-8PM Free	<b>12</b> Storytime and Crafts with Mrs. Claus 5:30-8PM Free	<b>13</b> Cindy Lou Who & Grinch Meet and Greet 12-2:30PM Free
<b>14</b> Santa's Workshop Help 2-3PM Code: 104633-A1 (registration only)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Family Caroling 6-7:30PM Code: 104631-A1 (registration only)	<b>17</b> Carriage Rides 6-8PM Code: 104610 (registration only)	<b>18</b> Holiday Canvas Painting 5:30-8PM Free Pool Santa Ornaments 6-7:30PM Code: 104632-A1 (registration only)	<b>19</b> Trent James Holiday Magic Show 6-7PM Free Holiday Crafts 5:30-8PM Free	<b>20</b> Bingo with Santa 12-2:30PM Free Holiday Cookie Bake & Exchange 9AM-12PM Code: 103606-A1 (registration only)

For more details, go to [www.bloomingdaleparks.org](http://www.bloomingdaleparks.org).

**Activities take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Museum unless otherwise noted.**



**Festival of Lights activities are  
scheduled throughout December.**

**The Bloomingdale Park District Museum is located at  
108 South Bloomingdale Road, Bloomingdale.**

## Visits with Santa

FREE

Friday, December 5, 5:30-8PM

Location:

Bloomington Park District Museum

All Ages

Stop by the Bloomington Park District Museum between the hours of 5:30-8PM to visit Santa and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Please bring your own camera for pictures.



## Holiday Games

FREE

Saturday, December 6, 12-2:30PM

Location:

Bloomington Park District Museum

All Ages

Love games? Stop by anytime between the hours of 12-2:30PM and play games such as a snowball bowling game, Santa's cookies bean bag toss, Christmas tree cone toss game and much more!

## Cindy Lou Who and Grinch Meet and Greet

FREE

Saturday, December 13, 12-2:30PM

Location:

Bloomington Park District Museum

All Ages

Stop by between 12-2:30PM for a meet and greet with Cindy Lou Who and The Grinch. Please bring your own camera for pictures; hot chocolate and cookies provided.

## Let it Flow Holiday Yoga

Tuesday, December 9, 7-8PM

Location: Johnston Recreation Center GROUP X

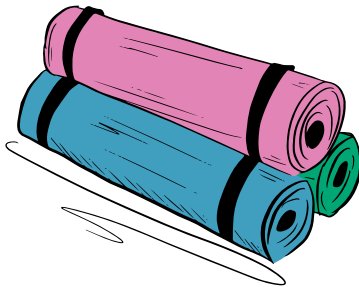
Ages: 18-99

Instructor: Julie Gentile, RYT 500

The holidays move fast—this class is your chance to slow down. Step away from the hustle, breathe a little deeper and reconnect with yourself through a gentle flow and grounding breathwork. Recharge, refocus and rediscover what truly matters.

Code #: 103501-A1

Fee: \$15R/\$20NR



## Klub Friday Night

KFN

Friday, December 19, 7:30-9:30PM

Location: JRC

Code #: 502903-05

Every KFN Features:

- Open Gym
- A Ticket for a Piece of Pizza & Bottled Water
- Other Concession Available for Purchase from Chef's Corner
- Raffles
- DJ
- Meet New Friends
- PlayStation
- Nintendo Switch

Grades  
4th & 5th

Registration available online or in person at the Johnston Recreation Center or at KFN. ALL participants must be signed out by a parent/guardian at the end of the evening.

Admission:

\$10 Early Bird

\$15 Day Of

## CARRIAGE RIDES

**LOCATION: OLD TOWN PAVILLION**

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC 3**

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC 17**

Cruise the lights and sights of Old Town Park's Festival of Lights on an old-fashioned carriage ride. Rides seat a maximum of four adults or two adults and three children. Make your group or family's reservation ahead of time. Register one individual to reserve a spot for the entire group or family. Times are approximate. Registration is required for both dates. No drop-ins please. Registration for residents begins **November 1. Non-residents may register beginning December 1.** Carriage rides begin at 6PM. Choose your reservation time when you register. Ages: 1-99.



### Wednesday, December 3

Instructor: Staff

Min/Max: 2/2

Day	Time	Date	Code #	R/NR Fee
Wed	6-6:10PM	December 3	104609-A1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:10-6:20PM	December 3	104609-B1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:20-6:30PM	December 3	104609-C1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:30-6:40PM	December 3	104609-D1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:40-6:50PM	December 3	104609-E1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:50-7PM	December 3	104609-F1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7-7:10PM	December 3	104609-G1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:10-7:20PM	December 3	104609-H1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:20-7:30PM	December 3	104609-I1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:30-7:40PM	December 3	104609-J1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:40-7:50PM	December 3	104609-K1	\$10/\$15

### Wednesday, December 17

Instructor: Staff

Min/Max: 2/2

Day	Time	Date	Code #	R/NR Fee
Wed	6-6:10PM	December 17	104610-A1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:10-6:20PM	December 17	104610-B1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:20-6:30PM	December 17	104610-C1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:30-6:40PM	December 17	104610-D1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:40-6:50PM	December 17	104610-E1	\$10/\$15
Wed	6:50-7PM	December 17	104610-F1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7-7:10PM	December 17	104610-G1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:10-7:20PM	December 17	104610-H1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:20-7:30PM	December 17	104610-I1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:30-7:40PM	December 17	104610-J1	\$10/\$15
Wed	7:40-7:50PM	December 17	104610-K1	\$10/\$15

# TRIPS & OUTINGS



## CHRISTKINDLMARKET

Get your holiday shopping done at the Christkindlmarket in Aurora. This German-style outdoor holiday market provides a unique shopping experience with a variety of different entertainment, food and crafts. Trip departs and returns from the Clauss Recreation Center, 555W Bryn Mawr Ave., Roselle. **The registration deadline is December 1.**

**Ages: 18-99**

**Instructor: Staff**

**Min/Max: 4/4**

**Location: Roselle Park District**

Day	Time	Date	R/NR Fee	Code #
Thursday	11AM-4PM	December 4	\$10/\$15	103296-A1

# The GRINCH-MESS Experience

## THE "GRINCH-MESS" EXPERIENCE

**THURSDAY  
DEC 18**

### LOCATION: YOUR HOME

Get ready for a holiday twist with our festive and fun program: The "Grinch-mess" Experience! This unique and mischievous program is designed to add an extra dash of Christmas cheer with a hint of Grinchy charm. Our jolly Grinch will make a surprise visit to each house between the hours of 12-3PM, spreading holiday cheer with a grin and a wink. The Grinch will find delight in scattering two dozen candy canes around your property, adding a festive touch to your holiday decor. He will add his own shimmering tinsel, transforming your space into a sparkling wonderland. To complete the surprise, a whimsical "You've Been Grinched" sign will be left on your door, ensuring everyone knows that a little Grinchy fun has been had! Perfect for families, friends, and anyone who loves a playful twist on holiday traditions, The "Grinch-mess" Experience promises to bring laughter and festive spirit. Register now and let the Grinch work his merry magic this Christmas season! This program is for Bloomingdale residents only! May only register your own residence.

**Instructor: Staff**

**Min/Max: 6/10**

Age	Day	Time	Date	Resident	Code #
All	Thur	12-3PM	December 18	\$15 Resident Only	201342-A1

## Spreading Kindness: Buddy Benches Honor Retired Recreation Director Sandy Vangundy



This past October included special Buddy Bench story readings at Erickson Elementary and Winnebago School, where the Bloomingdale Park District installed new Buddy Benches in recognition of retired Recreation Director Sandy Vangundy's more than 30 years of service to the Bloomingdale community. Sandy first read to children in our after-school program at Erickson Elementary School, sharing meaningful messages of kindness, friendship, and inclusion. She then visited Winnebago School to read in Teacher Laura Reese's classroom, continuing to encourage students to look out for one another. A third Buddy Bench was placed at Circle Park, serving as a quiet reminder to connect and include others. A special unveiling and dedication for the Circle Park Buddy Bench was held in the summer of 2025.

These meaningful activities highlight our strong partnership with local schools and reaffirm the Park District's commitment to creating welcoming, caring environments for all children – values that are central to Bloomingdale's CHARACTER COUNTS! community initiatives.