

Village of Bloomingdale *Almanac*

December 2024

Growth with Pride

Library Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration December 3, 6:45-8:45 p.m.

Join us as we light the Library's Snowman Crossing Holiday Trees at 6:45 p.m. with a special guest! Then, come inside for a variety of entertainment and activities for all ages.

Enjoy musical entertainment and let the soothing sounds of a harpist fill the first floor. Capture the magic of the season with photos with Santa and receive a free gift while supplies last. Strolling



carolers and a talented juggler will bring additional holiday cheer, while children can enjoy a craft activity in the BPL Makerspace and visit with a face painter. Refreshments and snacks will be available to keep everyone warm and spirited.

Co-sponsored by the Bloomingdale Public Library and the Village of Bloomingdale, with thanks to the Bloomingdale Police, Fire Department, and Public Works. Celebrate the season with us!

Season of Giving Arrives In Bloomingdale

As the holiday season approaches, it becomes more evident how many people are in need. From financial donations to heartfelt gestures, there are many ways to spread joy to those whose spirits might need an extra lift. For residents looking to give back, here are some local opportunities to make a difference and share the spirit of the season.

Holiday Diaper Drive

The cost of diapers has been rising, leaving many families in critical need. At the Kris Kringle Market in Old Town on November 30th, from 2-7 PM, you can help by donating to the Holiday Diaper Drive tent. All diaper donations—newborn through adult sizes—will support local families through the Bloomingdale Township, with a special need for size 5 diapers. If receiving this publication after the event, you can still donate to this cause; for more details, contact

Jennifer at sassanoj@vil.bloomingdale.il.us.

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 attending Salvation Army's 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.bloomingdale.il.us with your gender and age preference, if any, to receive a tag.

Bloomingdale Township will host a Toy Shop on December 23rd from 9AM-3PM, 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 20th, from 9AM-3PM. For questions, call 630-529-9993.

Bloomingdale 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., (continued on back page)

Mayor for a Day: Anthony Marsico Joins Village Board Meeting

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 September 23rd, Mayor Franco had the pleasure of welcoming Anthony Marsico, a 5th grader from St. Isidore School, as "Mayor for a Day." Anthony actively participated in the meeting, assisting with the roll call and announcing agenda items. His enthusiasm and engagement made him a fantastic addition to the Village Board.

Anthony earned this special experience when his parents, Michelle and Anthony Marsico, won the "Mayor for a Day" auction item at St. Isidore Catholic School's Gala event, A Night in Morocco, earlier this year.

Anthony has expressed an interest in becoming president one day, and based on his performance at the meeting, we believe he has what it takes to be an outstanding leader in the future.

Wrapping Our Veterans in Warmth

The Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539 held a Winter Clothing Drive for Homeless Veterans throughout October, with collection sites at the Village Hall, Public Library, Park District, and Fire District 1. The community was invited to donate new or gently used (but clean) winter coats in all sizes for both men and women. Additionally, donations of new winter accessories, including gloves, scarves, sweaters, and hats, were welcomed.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, VFW members delivered a substantial collection of coats, sweaters, and other winter essentials to the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, where they will be distributed to veterans in need.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this important cause, helping to keep our veterans warm this winter!

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

While Thanksgiving has passed, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Village Board, residents, business community, and staff for all your support throughout the past year. Thanks to all of you, we've experienced another year of fiscal growth, commercial expansion, infrastructure improvements, and most importantly, a continued spirit of community. The Village Board and I are committed to staying the course—revitalizing, redeveloping, and renewing excitement in Bloomingdale, all while exercising financial discipline to secure our future.

Looking ahead, the Village will focus on two key community projects in the coming year. First, our commitment to open space. In early 2020, we acquired the former Indian Lakes golf course and conference center to address stormwater concerns and preserve 235 acres of open space at the heart of our community. This remains a top priority for the Village Board. We're moving forward with a stormwater project to alleviate flooding along Cardinal and Meadowlark, providing relief to those residents. While we explored the possibility of bringing back the golf course, an agreement with the possible operators that would be beneficial to the Village could not be reached, so the area will continue to serve as open space, available for the community's enjoyment.

Regarding the adjacent privately owned hotel property, our team continues to work with the owners who are hopeful they can find a financing solution to advance development. However, it's becoming increasingly likely that the original hotel plans may not come to fruition. If the original plans do not materialize, the Village Board is committed to maintaining a use that aligns with the surrounding neighborhood.

In September, I introduced our plans to transform the former Stratford Square Mall into The Grove at Bloomingdale Commons. If you haven't seen the designs, I encourage you to visit our Village website. Demolition of the mall is underway and should take around six months, while we actively meet with potential new tenants. Starting in 2025, we'll begin constructing the public spaces that will bring this exciting new district to life. This next phase promises a vibrant destination tailored to meet the needs of our residents and visitors.

And now...Bloomingdale's Christmas lights are brighter than ever! This year, we've expanded the lights display with more lights and added a spectacular drone show to our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, kicking off a month-long Festival of Lights in Old Town. It's like a Hallmark movie come to life—full of holiday joy, smiles, and laughter.

As you begin your holiday shopping, I encourage you to Keep the Cheer Here by shopping locally in Bloomingdale. When you support our local businesses, you strengthen our economy. Did you know nearly 46%—or \$10.5 million—of the Village's General Fund revenue for Fiscal Year 2024 came from sales taxes? Supporting local businesses is truly a win-win for our community.

For those looking to Share the Cheer, check the front page of this almanac for ideas to brighten the season for others in need.

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

Sincerely,
Mayor Franco



The Village Christmas Tree Standing Proudly At Old Town Piazza!

The 2024 Village Christmas Tree now proudly stands in the Old Town piazza, a stunning 42-foot Norway Spruce with a 28-foot spread. Originally from the Village mulch site at Carriage Way and Glen Ellyn Road, this tree has been transformed into a cherished



holiday tradition for Bloomingdale. On November 14th, it made its journey to Old Town, bringing holiday cheer in a BIG way.

Each year, our community gathers for the Tree Lighting and Kris Kringle Market, held alongside the Park District's opening night of the Festival of Lights. This year, the holiday season kicked off on November 30 with a spectacular drone show and the lighting of the tree and park.

Installing and decorating such a magnificent tree has its challenges, but our dedicated Public Works team brings it to life each year. With lights, ornaments, and festive spirit, they create a tree that shines with the hope and joy the holidays bring to Bloomingdale.

Congratulations to the 2024 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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Jennifer Sassano,
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Jennifer Sassano by
January 6, 2025
email
sassanoj@vil.bloomington.il.us



The CHARACTER COUNTS! Celebration Night on October 1st at Old Town Park was a wonderful success. Families enjoyed pre-program activities on the Piazza before an evening of performances by children, honoring the Six Pillars of Character. The highlight of the night was the presentation of American Youth Character Awards to students and a youth athlete who exemplified outstanding character, with this year's theme of Citizenship taking center stage. Pictured above is a photo of the award winners alongside their presenters:

- Oliver Johnson (Swim Team Youth Athlete) with Nancy Duxbury, Bloomingdale Barracuda Swim & Dive Team President
- Madison Majewski (student) with Patrick Haugens, Principal of DuJardin School
- Jillian Lehman (student) with Stacy Johnston, Principal of Erickson School
- Eva Williams (student) with Matt Benrus, 8th Grade Teacher at St. Isidore School
- Jacob (Jake) Kane (student) with Stefan Larsson, Principal of Westfield School
- Liam Young (student) with Cody Battaglia, Principal of Winnebago School

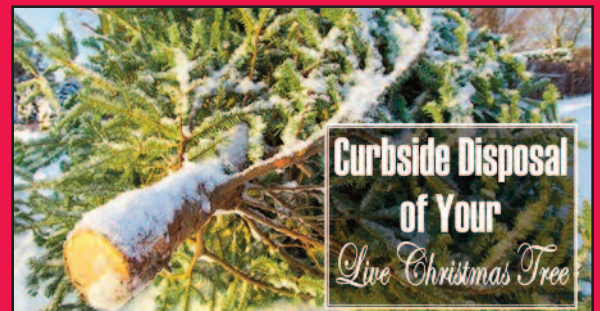
Village of Bloomingdale Trustee Frank Bucaro was also in attendance.

For more information, visit www.character60108.org.

Curbside Christmas Tree Disposal Begins Week of January 6

SBC Waste Solutions, the Village's refuse hauler, will collect live Christmas trees on your regular refuse day during the weeks of January 6, January 13, and January 20. Trees set out for collection on or after January 27, 2024, 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.





Join Us for the Last Bloomingdale Maker's Market of 2024

Don't miss your final chance this year to shop and support local makers and small businesses on Sunday, December 8th, from 10 AM to 2 PM! The market is free to attend and will be held at the Old Town Parking Lot, across from the post office. Enjoy a variety of unique vendors, live entertainment, and delicious food, with on-site restrooms and parking available. The market is dog friendly.

Santa will be making an appearance, so be sure to stop by for a free photo and celebrate the season. This event is sponsored by Delish Cakes and the Village of Bloomingdale. For a full list of vendors, visit the Bloomingdale Maker's Market Facebook page.

Mark your calendar and come shop the season with us!

Lake Park Educational Foundation Offers Scholarships

The Lake Park Educational Foundation is offering over 40 scholarships, totaling \$75,000, for Lake Park High School seniors graduating in 2025. With 20+ unique awards available, students can qualify based on academics, athletics, activities, career interests, financial need, and more. Scholarship applications will be available on the Going Merry website, <https://app.goingmerry.com/edu/lake-park-high-school-roselle-il> by December 18, 2024, and are due by March 7, 2025.

For details, visit www.lphs.org/Foundation.

Wishing You the Merriest of Holidays

The Bloomingdale Village Hall will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas:

Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, 2024

New Year's:

Tuesday, December 31, 2024, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Refuse and Recycling Collection Delays:

During both holiday weeks (week of December 23 & December 30), SBC Waste Solutions curbside residential refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day:

- **Wednesday pickups** will occur on Thursday
- **Thursday pickups** will occur on Friday
- *Please note: Tuesday routes will not be impacted*

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



Bloomingdale Artist Association Workshop: Painting on Glass

Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 PM
 Bloomingdale Park District
 Museum, 108 South
 Bloomingdale Road,
 Bloomingdale

Join the BAA for our January meeting and a hands-on workshop led by Connie Christopher. Participants will select an image to trace onto the glass of a picture frame, then follow a demonstration to paint in details like pine branches.



There is a \$10 material fee for members; a \$20 visitor/material fee for visitors (\$10 visitor fee plus \$10 material fee, visitors spots are limited). Registration is required.

Reserve your spot by December 10 by contacting Bev Petrosius at 630-624-9545 or bpetrosius@gmail.com.

Stay in Touch

Consider signing up for the Village's E-News, which gets delivered weekly to subscribing emails.



This is a good way to keep up with timely information in and around town and critical information to all subscribers as it becomes available.

Go to <http://www.villageof-bloomingdale.org> to sign up.

Here's What You Need to Know About Bloomingdale's 2024-2025 Salting Operations

Village of Bloomingdale And SBC Waste Solutions Host Another Successful Recycling Event

The Village of Bloomingdale recently teamed up with SBC Waste Solutions, Inc. for another successful community recycling event! Thanks to this partnership, residents had the opportunity to safely and securely dispose of confidential documents, electronics, paint, and even pumpkins.

The event saw impressive participation, with a significant number of materials collected and recycled:

- **Paper: 1,020 pounds**
- **Electronics: 2,118 pounds**
- **Paint: 1.92 tons**
- **Pumpkins: 20 cubic yards**

These recycling events reflect the community's commitment to a cleaner, greener Bloomingdale.

Thank you to all who came out to recycle and support this impactful community initiative. We look forward to more events that promote sustainable practices in Bloomingdale!



As winter settles in, snow and ice are bound to cover our roads. Here are some key reminders about Bloomingdale's salting procedures. Note that each storm's unique conditions will determine the specific 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 salt mixed with liquid calcium chloride.

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 mix.

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

Please note that these procedures serve as a general guideline and may be

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. Once a report is made, Public Works will inspect the damage.

Residents have two options for mailbox repair: the Village can replace the 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 complete replacement.

Wintertime FAQs: Snow Operations in the Village

With the winter season fast approaching, the Public Works Division is ready to clear snow and ice on our 172 miles of streets, keeping roads safe for motorists. Here are answers to commonly 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 takes effect. This applies to any vehicle parked on Village-owned streets and lasts for 24 hours or until the streets have been fully plowed. To assist snow removal efforts, residents are encouraged to park in driveways or other off-street parking areas.

When will the Village roads be cleared?

During a snow event, plowing efforts focus first on main roads, then move to side streets, with cul-de-sacs and dead ends being the final areas cleared. Snow clearing is influenced by factors such as total accumulation, snow type (wet or powdery), temperature, and traffic volume on streets during plowing operations. While all Village-owned streets will be cleared, timing will vary depending on conditions.

Why does snow end up in my driveway after plowing?

Plows are designed to push snow to the side of the road, which may lead to some snow being deposited in driveways, along curbs, and on parkways. It's recommended to clear your driveway after plowing is complete to avoid having to shovel



twice. Village Ordinance prohibits blowing or pushing snow onto Village streets, as this can create frozen patches hazardous for drivers. Snow removal from private driveways and sidewalks remains the responsibility of property owners. Shoveling can be strenuous, so remember to take precautions.

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

The Public Works Division is aware that parkway damage can sometimes occur during snow plowing. Parkway repairs, including dirt and seed restoration, are scheduled for spring, as this timing is ideal for grass seed germination. If your parkway has been damaged, please call Public Works at 630-671-5800 to report it so we can add your location to the repair list.

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

Winter months see an increase in home fires, so clearing snow from nearby hydrants ensures firefighters have quick access in an emergency. Taking a few minutes to dig out a hydrant could save time—and potentially lives.

Who can I contact with questions about snow removal operations?

For any questions regarding snow removal, please contact the Public Works Division at 630-671-5800.

Thank you for helping us keep our Village safe and accessible this winter!



Winter Phone Numbers

Village of Bloomingdale Snow Phone (630) 671-5800

Call 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

Non-emergency & general information

Bloomingdale Fire District - Emergency 911

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

For information on State Roads, for example, Lake Street. The District One Communication Center is open 24/7. All hazardous conditions should be reported to 847-705-4612 for immediate action. IDOT offers weather/road condition information on their website. www.dot.il.gov.

Division of Transportation DuPage County 630-682-7321

For information on DuPage County roads: For information on DuPage County roads: Army Trail Road, Bloomingdale Road, Gary Avenue, Medinah Road, Schmale Road

Illinois Tollway Roadway Information Line 800-865-5394

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.



Water Main Pipe Replacement Scheduled to Begin in Early 2025

Beware of Holiday Season Scams

The Bloomingdale Police Department has seen an increase in scams aimed at seniors. Criminals use tactics like phishing, fake investments, lottery and tech support scams, IRS impersonations, and false charities to trick people into giving up personal information or money.

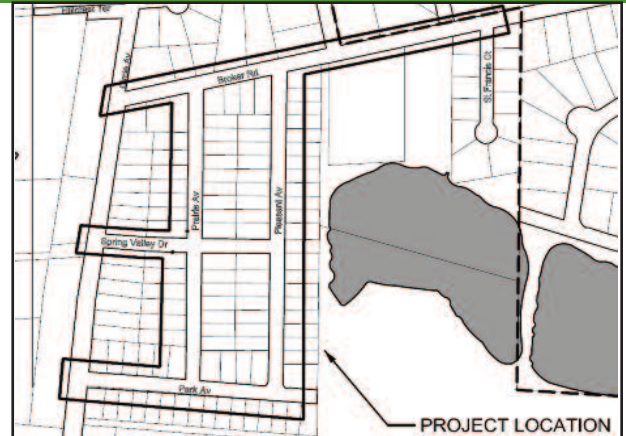
Common Scams:

- Phishing: Fake emails or calls asking for sensitive information.
- Investment Scams: Promises of high returns on fake investments.
- Lottery/Prize Scams: Claims of winnings with upfront fees.
- Tech Support Scams: Phony help for non-existent issues.
- Romance Scams: Fake relationships to request money.
- IRS/Tax Scams: Fake IRS agents demanding payment.
- Home Repair Scams: Overpriced or fake repairs.
- Charity Scams: High-pressure donations to fake causes.
- Medicare Scams: Unnecessary services or products.
- Inheritance Scams: Claims of inheritance with fees.

Safety Tips for Seniors:

- Be Skeptical: Question unexpected requests for information.
- Verify Sources: Contact companies directly using official details.
- Don't Rush: Scammers often create urgency.
- Protect Personal Info: Share sensitive information only with verified contacts.

The Village will be replacing all existing water main pipes along Broker Road, Prairie Avenue, Pleasant Avenue, Spring Valley Drive, and Park Avenue within the North Suncrest subdivision (see image). As part of this project, water service lines to all homes on these streets will also be replaced.



Following the water main and service replacements, curbs, driveway aprons, sidewalks, and streets will be removed and replaced to complete the project. Work is scheduled to begin early 2025, with anticipated completion by summer. Additional details will be sent out prior to construction.

For questions, please contact the Engineering Department at 630-671-5716.

Best Wishes to These Recent Retirees



Congratulations to **Detective Watch Commander Brian McCoy** on his retirement after nearly 25 years of dedicated service with the Bloomingdale Police Department. Throughout his career, he has held numerous roles, including Warrant Service Team member, TRT, ATAC, Problem-Oriented Policing Officer/Supervisor, Field Training Officer, and Certified Gang Officer. Known for his passion for training, Watch Commander McCoy has mentored nearly half the department and served as the Field Training Coordinator. His leadership has left a lasting impact on both officers and supervisors.

Congratulations to **Tim Finnander** on his retirement! A building inspector for the Village of Bloomingdale, Tim is retiring after 36 years. He began as a residential inspector for 20 years before transitioning to commercial inspections. Tim reflects on his career with gratitude, noting that working alongside his talented and hardworking colleagues has been a privilege. In retirement, he looks forward to spending time with family and friends at his lake house in Wisconsin and traveling to new destinations. We wish him all the best in this next chapter!



Congratulations to **Marianne McKeown** on her retirement after 12 years as an invaluable asset to the Building Department! She has enjoyed working alongside dedicated colleagues, the residents, and local businesses. Marianne is grateful to the Village, her supervisor Mike Gricus, and her team for fostering such a positive work environment. In retirement, Marianne looks forward to babysitting her 1-year-old granddaughter and 2-month-old grandson and traveling with her husband as they work toward visiting all 50 states. We extend our warmest wishes to her in this exciting milestone!

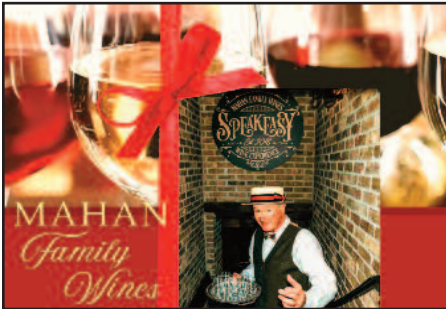
Business News

GMC Realty

Congratulations to the Carr Family and GMC Realty on their new office location on Bloomingdale Road! Michael and Gia Carr, longtime Bloomingdale residents and strong community supporters, have created a beautiful space for their team. GMC Realty now operates three locations, with the Carrs calling Bloomingdale home since 2007. Thanks to local businesses like GMC Realty that are dedicated to Bloomingdale's growth and success. Pictured here: Mayor Franco with Michael and Gia Carr.



Sip, Celebrate and Gift Local with Mahan Family Wines



Mahan Family Wines & Speakeasy would like to thank everyone who joined their Beaujolais Nouveau celebration and Kris Kringle Market, making these evenings truly memorable.

This holiday season, Mahan Family Wines invites you to share a taste of Bloomingdale's only winery. Their award-winning wines are

perfect for holiday gatherings or gift-giving. For wine enthusiasts, their Wine Club membership offers exclusive selections and year-round perks. Gift certificates are also available for their speakeasy.

Have you visited the speakeasy-inspired wine and piano bar at Mahan Family Wines? Open on select evenings with live music, it's a unique experience right in Bloomingdale. Once you reserve, you'll receive instructions to find the secret entrance. Book a festive evening with friends this holiday season for a night to remember!

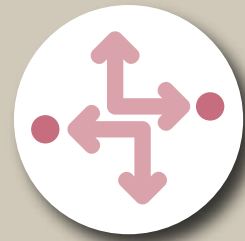
Visit MahanFamilyWines.com to support a Bloomingdale small business this holiday season—and keep the celebration going all year long!

Chamber Holiday Festivities Bring Family Fun and Community Spirit

Celebrate the season with two free holiday events from the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce! Enjoy the Gingerbread House Parade: stroll through local businesses displaying decorated gingerbread houses, vote for your favorite with a donation (benefiting St. Isidore's PADS program), and collect stamps for a chance to win \$200. Maps available at BloomingdaleHolidays.com starting November 30. Thanks to NOW Foods and SBC Waste Solutions for sponsoring!

The Holiday Trees are back, now in Old Town Park! Discover decorated trees by local businesses and search for a hidden pickle ornament to win a gift card. Trees will be up from November 30 to January 6, in time for the Village's Tree Lighting and Festival of Lights.

For details and a list of participating businesses, visit BloomingdaleHolidays.com. Celebrate and support the local businesses that give back!



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

Nothing Bundt Cakes® Opens On Army Trail Road

The Nothing Bundt Cakes® bakery at 398 West Army Trail Road in Bloomingdale officially opened on Saturday, October 12, and celebrated its Grand Opening Week in mid-November.



The celebrations included special appreciation days honoring healthcare workers, teachers, first responders, and military personnel, as well as a Cal's Angels Benefit Day to support pediatric cancer research and awareness. Known for a fresh, modern take on the classic Bundt cake, Nothing Bundt Cakes uses high-quality ingredients and bakes fresh daily. The chain has grown to over 600 locations nationwide.

Bloomington Celebrates Hunger Action Month



In a show of community spirit, Mariano's donated \$2,000 worth of groceries to the Bloomington Township Food Pantry in support of Hunger Action Month. Bloomington Township Supervisor Mike Hovde, Mayor Franco Coladipietro, Village Administrator

Peter Scalera, and Director of Highway/Facilities Bob Nogan were on hand to accept the generous donation.

The donation follows a successful Bloomington Hunger Action Food Drive during September, with drop-off sites at Village Hall, the Park District, Library, and Fire Department. Local schools, including Westfield, DuJardin, and Erickson, joined the initiative as well. A big thank you to everyone in Bloomington who contributed to the Food Drive. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on families in need.

Thank you to Mariano's for their generosity and to Bloomington Township Supervisor Mike Hovde and the Township for their tireless efforts in supporting families and individuals facing food insecurity. Their commitment to combating hunger makes a lasting impact, and their dedication to serving the community extends beyond this effort. Together, we are making a real difference!

Bloomington Ceremony Honors All Veterans

On November 11, the community gathered at the Founders Gazebo (Bloomington Rd. & Fairfield Way) with Bloomington VFW Post 7539 to commemorate Veterans Day and honor the military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Halloween Fun in BOO!mingdale!

We had a fantastic Halloween event on October 19, with perfect weather and an incredible turnout! This annual community celebration, co-sponsored by the Village of Bloomington, Library, Park District, and the Police, Public Works, and Fire Departments, brought together over 1,200 guests. Attendees enjoyed a wide range of activities, making it a memorable day for everyone.



We're grateful to all who contributed to the success of this wonderful community event!



From the Building and Zoning Department: Fall & Winter Home Maintenance Tips

Prepare your home for a safe and hazard-free season with these simple maintenance tips:

- **Safety Devices & Fire Escape Plan:** Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, replacing batteries annually and dusting them off. Review and practice your fire escape plan with family members and ensure a fire extinguisher is easily accessible.
- **Chimneys, Flues, & Exhausts:** Schedule an annual inspection for chimneys, flues (for fireplaces, water heaters, and furnaces), and appliance exhausts (bathroom and kitchen fans, clothes dryer vents). Clear blockages and grease buildup to prevent fires and ensure safe venting.
- **Electrical Safety:** Test all ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets monthly and inspect holiday decorations for secure connections, using GFCI-protected outlets outdoors. Avoid bundling cords or placing them under rugs and replace any damaged bulbs or fixtures.
- **Gutters, Sump Pumps, & Water Valves:** Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves to prevent ice dams. Test your sump pump by filling the pit with water and check for any debris. Know the locations of the main water and gas valves and show family members how to turn them off in case of an emergency.
- **Appliance & Hose Maintenance:** Inspect water hoses on major appliances (washing machine, refrigerator, dishwasher) and replace any showing signs of wear. Run gas-powered equipment until empty or drain fuel to reduce flammable materials, and avoid piling up oily rags, which can ignite.

Taking these proactive steps will help keep your home safe and comfortable throughout the winter months.

Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District #1



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- 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.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Welcome To the Newest Fire Protection District Members

Please join the Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District in welcoming their newest members: Maurice Sandifer, Stephen Kavanaugh, and Tyler Ribandt! Over the next year, they'll be honing their skills in fire suppression and emergency medical services.

We're excited to have them on board and look forward to their future success!



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
Robert Gaseor

Joseph Alexander

Commissioners
Marshall Gray, Jr.
Edward Aubin
Brandt Leischner

Warm Wishes to FF/EMT Gary Anderson On His Retirement

The Bloomingtondale Fire Protection District extends heartfelt appreciation and warm wishes to FF/EMT



Gary Anderson on his retirement. Gary dedicated over 20 years to our community, serving as a fire investigator and as our vehicle maintenance coordinator, ensuring our fleet was always ready. He will be greatly missed, and we thank him for his outstanding service. Best wishes in retirement, Gary!

Be a Friend to a Fire Hydrant

Residents are encouraged to clear snow from around fire hydrants after significant snowfall.

This simple act helps emergency services access hydrants quickly in case of a fire, protecting your property, your neighbors, & your family. A few extra shovelfuls of snow can make a big difference.



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**

Season of Giving

(continued from front page)

to pick up a wish list and spread holiday cheer to children, canines, and kittens. The JRC is also a Toys for Tots collection site through December 14.

Bloomingdale 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.

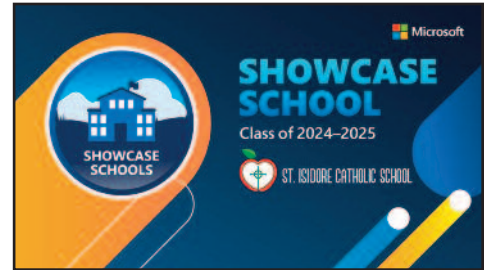
Lake Park High School Educational Foundation: Lake Park High School Educational Foundation: Lancer Emergency Support Fund helps students and families with essential school expenses such as AP exam fees, extracurricular fees, field trip costs, class materials, and food. Donations to this fund support students in need throughout the school year. Donations can be made on the foundation website: <https://www.lphs.org/Page/264>

American Legion Unit 1084 Giving Tree 2024 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.

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

St. Isidore Celebrates Second Year as a Microsoft Showcase School

St. Isidore Catholic School is excited to announce that it has been named a Microsoft Showcase School for the second year in a row—a prestigious global recognition! St. Isidore is proud to be part of an elite group of schools leading the way in teaching, learning, and innovation.



As a Microsoft Showcase School, St. Isidore is committed to digital transformation, fostering a culture of innovation, and empowering students and staff with 21st-century skills like critical thinking, collaboration, and computational thinking. Thanks to parish support and recent Fund-a-Cause efforts, the school has not only enhanced its technology but also transformed learning spaces and its overall culture.

The dedicated staff has fully embraced this journey, and St. Isidore looks forward to building on its success in preparing students for the future. Would you like to learn more or support the school's mission? Contact Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement, at glorusso@sicatholic.org for inquiries or to make a tax-deductible donation.

Thank you for helping St. Isidore continue to thrive!

In Memory of Marv Roehlke



It is with great sadness that the Village of Bloomingdale and the Bloomingdale Police Department announce the passing of long-time resident and beloved "Village Icon" Marv Roehlke on October 24, 2024. Marv was involved in a traffic accident in Glendale Heights, and despite receiving immediate medical attention, he succumbed to his injuries.

A proud Korean War veteran who served as a Military Police Officer, Marv remained deeply connected to the Bloomingdale Police Department. He first served as a part-time officer in the 1960s before returning in 1999 as the Senior Volunteer Program Coordinator, contributing to the community in invaluable ways.

Marv was an integral part of Bloomingdale, with over 55 years in the American Legion, time on the School District 13 Board, and recognition for his volunteer work, including the Illinois State TRIAD Senior Citizen Volunteer Award. His dedication led to the 2017 dedication of "Honorary Marv Roehlke Lane" in his name, and he was a three-time recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the Lions Club.

The Village of Bloomingdale and the Police Department extend our deepest condolences to Marv's family. We are immensely grateful for his decades of service and the lasting impact he leaves on our community. Marv will forever be remembered for his remarkable contributions and spirit of service.



BLOOMINGDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY



December 2024
through January 2025

there's **SNOW** place like **BPL!**

Winter
Reading
2024-2025

December 9, 2024 through
January 31, 2025

Registration opens December 9 for all ages.
Four ways to register:

1. online: mybpl.beanstack.org
2. by phone: Adults/Teens: 630-924-2730
Youth: 630-924-2740
3. by email: Adults/Teens: bdref@mybpl.org
Youth: bdys@mybpl.org
4. in person: Adults/Teens: Adult Reference Desk
Youth: Youth Services Desk

Using Previous Registrations: If you previously registered for any recent library reading programs, your login information is also valid for Winter Reading and all future reading programs.

Family Registration: New registrants can register all family members under one account. Start your family registration at the Adult Services Desk.

Logging Minutes: Kids, teens, and adults all log minutes. Reading to your child or sibling? Those minutes count for you, too!

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 Bloomington residents only.

Adult & Teen Program (7th grade to adult)

Cozy up with a warm drink and read!
For every 120 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

bpl
makerspace

**Limited
Holiday Hours**

Be sure to visit the Makerspace by Saturday, December 21
to get in your last minute holiday crafts and gifts!

The Makerspace will be closed for the holidays starting
Thursday, December 26 and will reopen for Bloomington cardholders
on Thursday, January 9.

**exam
cram**

Wednesday & Thursday, December 18 & 19 | 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Open to all high school students, grades 9-12 (Drop-In)

Get ready for finals at the library's Exam Cram! We have group and quiet study areas, Wi-Fi, de-stressing activities, and computers. The Teen Librarian will also be available for any reference help needed. FREE snacks and drinks provided, with pizza served at 7:00 p.m.

Adult Programs



Registration required for some adult programs (noted with 🗳️). Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org. For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

🗳️ VIRTUAL: *Gone with the Wind* – The Story Behind the Story

Monday, December 9 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Zoom Webinar*

Hear the true stories behind this classic movie's troubled production as we step back in time to experience this sweeping cinematic masterpiece, hosted by film expert Steven Frenzel.

🗳️ VIRTUAL: *Christmas on State Street*

Tuesday, December 10 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. *Zoom Webinar*

For decades, Christmas in Chicago meant a trip or two to State Street to see the big department stores. This illustrated talk traces the history of Christmas celebrations on State Street – from the animated window displays and the Christmas parade to beloved characters like Uncle Mistletoe, the Cinnamon Bear, and of course, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Presented by pop culture historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.



🗳️ *The Battle of the Bulge*

Monday, December 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. *In-Person Event*

History entertainer Jim Gibbons will discuss the events that took place before, during, and after The Battle of the Bulge and the major commanders, strategies, and turning points in the battle. Learn why the battle was significant to American history, and why it is still seen as one of the most brutal battles and second deadliest.

ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

Genealogy Club (Drop-In)

Wednesday, January 15 | 6:30 – 8:45 p.m.
no meeting in December

🗳️ Great Decisions

Wednesday, January 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
no meeting in December

JANUARY PROGRAMS

🗳️ VIRTUAL: *The Life of Betty White*

Monday, January 13 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. *Zoom Webinar*

On December 31, 2021, beloved actress and TV star Betty White passed suddenly, only weeks away from her 100th birthday. Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of this charming Golden Girl, whose popularity kept increasing with age. Presented by historical entertainer Michelle Gibbons.

🗳️ VIRTUAL: *Mayhem in the National Parks*

Tuesday, January 21 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Zoom Webinar*

Enjoy the scenery, adventure, and general chaos during a 600-mile mountain bike ride and camping trip covering Jackson Hole, Wyoming; West Glacier, Montana; Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks; and Big Sky Country. Hosted by outdoor enthusiast John Lynn.

🗳️ VIRTUAL: *Images of "Honest Abe" in Art History*

Monday, January 27 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Zoom Webinar*

Often associated with 19th century photography, Abraham Lincoln inspired artists across a range of media. Images of the sixteenth President evolved over the course of his political career and he remained a popular subject well after his death. Hosted by art historian Jeff Mishur.

bpl makerspace crafts

Learn how to use the library's Makerspace equipment to make creative craft projects.

Registration Information:

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

Please sign up for one session only.

🗳️ 3D Printed Keychain

Registration opens Monday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. (limit 6 per session)

Monday, January 6 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Design a custom 3D printed keychain. 3D printing will take approximately 1-2 hours per keychain; items will be available for pickup at a later date.



🗳️ Paper Butterfly Heart Art

Registration opens Monday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. (limit 8 per session)

Monday, February 3 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.





Adult Programs

Registration required for some adult programs (noted with 📅). Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org. For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions.



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.



A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them

by Timothy Egan
Tuesday, December 3 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Gangsters vs. Nazis: How Jewish Mobsters Battled Nazis in Wartime America

by Michael Benson
Tuesday, January 7 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MONDAY NIGHT PAGE TURNERS

To register, email Jessica Frazier at jfrazier@mybpl.org.



📅 **Our Favorite Picks Party**

Monday, December 9 | 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.



The Scarlet Pimpernel

by Baroness Orczy
Monday, January 20 | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



DROP-IN MOVIES

Come enjoy a movie with us at BPL's Drop-In Movie and enter for a chance to win a copy of that day's movie on DVD.

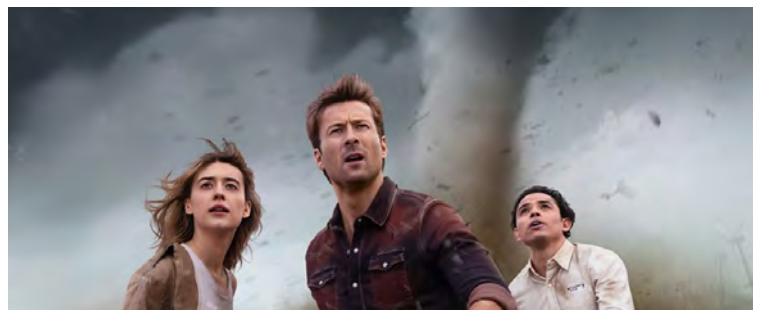
Movie giveaway will be held following the conclusion of the movie and you must be present to win.



The Holdovers (R)

Wednesday, December 11 | 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

A cranky history teacher at a remote prep school is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a troubled student who has no place to go and a grieving cook.



Twisters (PG-13)

Wednesday, January 15 | 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Kate Carter, a retired tornado-chaser and meteorologist, is persuaded to return to Oklahoma to work with a new team and new technologies.

Computer Classes



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. Virtual classes will be posted on our **YouTube channel**.



Video Calls: Zoom, FaceTime & More

Thursday, December 5 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Christian

Whether you are connecting with friends and family, learning from video conferences, or participating in a remote medical appointment, video calls have become an important tool over the past several years. We will work with examples in popular applications like Zoom and FaceTime to build our skills in class and discuss situations students might encounter on their own.

PowerPoint: Crash Course!

Thursday, December 12 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Create a slideshow with the basics of building, presenting, saving, and printing with Microsoft PowerPoint.

Cutting the Cord

Monday, January 6 | 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, how to determine what's right for you, and more.

PowerPoint: Makeover!

Thursday, January 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Take your PowerPoint slideshows to the next level by customizing them with templates, transitions, animations, and more.

Google Docs & Cloud Backup

Monday, January 20 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Sean

Learn about the many cloud storage options available to work collaboratively with other people, access saved items anywhere in the world, and provide a safety net in case of computer failure.

Organizing and Backing Up Your Computer Files

Monday, January 27 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Christian

Discover ways to organize your files for easy accessibility, including file naming conventions, folder structures, and common backup methods.

VIRTUAL: Introduction to Photopea

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

Photopea is a free image editor with a similar look and functionality to Photoshop with no installs or accounts necessary. Learn to use Photopea while performing some basic image edits.

SMARTPHONES

Using Android Phones

Monday, December 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Sean

Learn how to install and manage your apps, customize your phone by changing settings and installing widgets, take advantage of expandable storage, and much more!

iPhone Settings

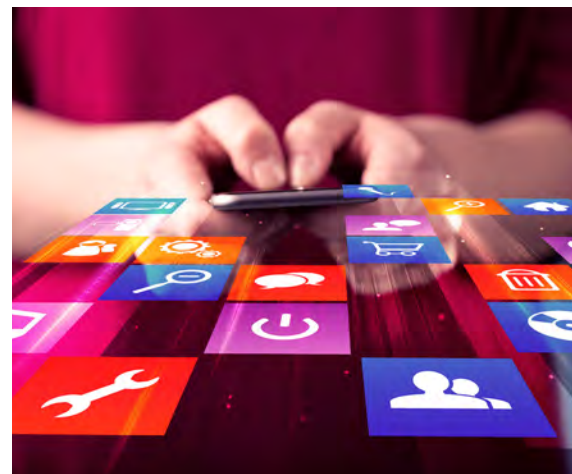
Thursday, January 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Salvador

From optimizing battery life to enhancing privacy, settings adjustments can help make the most out of your iPhone. Discover appearance customization, app permissions, accessibility features, and more.

iPhone Shortcuts

Thursday, January 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Salvador

A shortcut is a quick way to get one or more tasks done with apps on your iPhone. Explore shortcut possibilities available in the Shortcuts app gallery. Learn to create your own shortcuts like scheduling a text message or making a collage from the photos on your phone.



master MICROSOFT WORD

Introduction to Word

Wednesday, January 8 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Get a beginner-level look at the basics of word processing with Microsoft Word, including typing, editing, printing, and saving.

Intermediate Word

Wednesday, January 22 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Instructor: Charlie

Expanding on the basics, we look at working with page layouts, outlines, images, and more.



Teen Programs

Registration required for some teen programs (noted with 📅). Register **online**, by phone at (630) 924-2730, or by email at bdref@mybpl.org. For programs with special registration requirements, please follow those instructions. Teen programs are open to 7-12 graders unless otherwise noted.

exam cram

Wednesday & Thursday, December 18 & 19 | 4:00 – 8:00 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 any reference help needed. FREE snacks and drinks provided, with pizza served at 7:00 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.

📅 **Nightmare Before Christmas Paint with Water**

Kit Pickup begins Monday, December 16

registration begins Monday, December 2 (limit 10 teens)

Create your own colorful world in Halloween Town with 36 watercolor scenes that come to life with the stroke of a paintbrush!

📅 **Cottagecore Cross-Stitch Kit**

Kit Pickup begins Monday, January 6

registration begins Monday, December 23 (limit 12 teens)

Includes everything you need to cross-stitch three cottagecore masterpieces.

Teen Craft Night

📅 **Gingerbread Houses**

Wednesday, December 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

registration begins Monday, November 25 (limit 10 teens)

Assemble and decorate a super sweet gingerbread house for the holidays.

📅 **Marble Art Painting**

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

registration begins Monday, December 23 (limit 10 teens)

Using the “paint pour” method, create a marble painting that is entirely unique. A relaxing, slightly messy, and fun craft to take home!



Teen Territory Fun!

New Year Vision Board

Drop in to the Teen Territory area to create a vision board to represent your aspirations and inspire you to achieve them in the new year! Or come up with a New Year’s resolution list for 2025! Available through January, while supplies last.

📅 **ACT Practice Test**

Saturday, February 1 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Stressing about the new ACT high school requirement? Take a full-length practice test to ward off test day jitters and see how you may score on the big test. Experience firsthand what test day will be like! A representative from C2 Education will provide a practice test and contact you with scores and analyzed results.

Game Night (Drop-In)

Thursday, January 30 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Relax and enjoy some fun games with friends or meet new people at **Game Night!** Check out the Nintendo Switch, race in Mario Kart 8, brawl in Super Smash Bros., or discover your new favorite tabletop or board game! We provide the space and games, you bring the fun!



Teen Bookish Boxes

Sign up to receive a teen subscription box full of specially curated books and goodies each month! Fill out the registration form and you’ll receive books based on your preferences. Get new books and special surprises each month, and all are yours to keep!

Visit mybpl.org/teenbookishboxes for details.



Teen Book Reviews

Teens, write a review of your latest read – fiction, non-fiction, comics/graphic novels/manga, or audiobooks – and receive 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.



Youth Programs



Registration required for some youth programs (noted with 📅). Registration for **December** programs begins **Monday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

Registration for **January** programs begins **Monday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Register **online**, by phone at **(630) 924-2740**, or by email at **bdys@mybpl.org**. Please have your library card when you register.

School Age Programs

📅 Custom Cards

Grades 4-8

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

Use stamps, embossing, and templates to create fun coordinating cards and envelopes.

📅 Makerspace Club: STEM Time

Grades 3-6

Thursdays, December 12 & January 9

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Libraries are a great place to learn about science and technology while making cool stuff. December: 3D printed snowflakes
January: candy DNA

📅 Beginning Crochet

Grades 3-8

Mondays, December 16 & 23

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.

📅 Candy Gingerbread Pot

Grades 3-6

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

Celebrate the holiday season by decorating a flowerpot into a gingerbread person.

📅 Holiday Wreath

Grades 3-6

Thursday, December 19 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Join us in the Makerspace to make a holiday wreath.

BINGO Blast (Drop-In)

Grades 1-6

Monday, December 23 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a twist to an old favorite as we play BINGO with holiday flair. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you like. Collect tokens for each game you win. Once you have three tokens, you can trade them in for a prize.

📅 Writers' Workshop

Grades 3-6

Thursday, December 26 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

📅 Dog Man Diversion

Grades K-2

Saturday, December 28 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Come enjoy some *Dog Man* crafts and games while you wait for the movie to come to theaters.

📅 Donut Pillows

Grades 3-6

Sunday, December 29 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

You do-not need sewing skills to make this fun pillow covered in sprinkles!

📅 Snow Much Fun Party

Grades K-2

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

Celebrate winter break with snowman crafts, winter BINGO, and cozy book suggestions.



Middle Grade Makers (Drop-In)

Grades 4-8

Thursday, January 2 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Explore our Makerspace 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!

📅 Collage Self Portrait

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 7 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Get creative and explore different materials as you make your face into art.

📅 Winter Wonderland Glee

Grades K-6

Saturday, January 11 | 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Make three crafts to celebrate the season.

📅 Crochet Skills Development

Grades 4-8

Monday, January 13 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Come join us for the next step in the crochet journey. Learn the half-double crochet, double crochet, and the increase and decrease. Bring your hook, yarn, and enthusiasm.

Crochet Along with Miss Carol (Virtual)

Grades 3-8

Wednesday, January 15

Learn to crochet along with Miss Carol on our YouTube page. A supply list and written instructions can be picked up at the library. New projects will be posted quarterly. January skills – reading a pattern and finishing a piece

📅 Paint Night: Snowman Painting

Grades K-2

Thursday, January 16 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Join us for a step-by-step seasonal paint night.

📅 DIY Penguin Crafts

Grades 3-6

Monday, January 20 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Let's celebrate Penguin Awareness Day with penguin-themed crafts!

LEGO® Club (Drop-In)

Grades 1-6

Tuesday, January 21 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

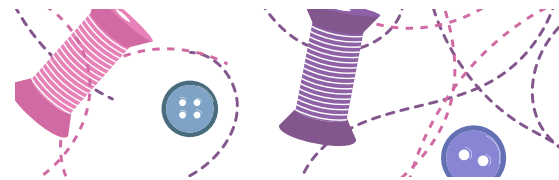
Design and build with the library's LEGO® supply to complete the challenge.

📅 Button, Button

Grades 4-8

Wednesday, January 22 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Learn basic hand sewing techniques and create a picture on a bookmark with buttons and thread.



📅 Wildflower Watercolors

Grades 3-6

Monday, January 27 | 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Learn basic watercolor techniques and brighten up winter through art.

Pipe Cleaner Finger Puppets (Drop-In)

Grades K-2

Tuesday, January 28 | 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Make a buddy puppet for your finger.



Youth Programs

Registration required for some youth programs (noted with 📅). Registration for **December** programs begins **Monday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

Registration for **January** programs begins **Monday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Register **online**, by phone at **(630) 924-2740**, or by email at **bdys@mybpl.org**. Please have your library card when you register.

Preschool Programs

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. *

📅 Playing with STEM

Ages 2-5

Tuesdays, December 10 & January 14
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.

December: talk about STEM all year
January: ice and snow.

📅 Happy Books, Happy Cooks

Ages 3-5

Thursdays, December 12 & January 9
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

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

📅 I Don't Want to Go to Sleep

Ages 3-5

Friday, December 20 | 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Did you know some frogs hibernate? Learn about hibernation through stories, crafts, and more.

Explore with Your Senses (Drop-In)

Under 3 years old with caregivers

Saturday, December 21 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Preschool Process Art (Drop-In)

Ages 3-5

Saturday, January 18 | 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

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

📅 If You Give a Moose a Muffin

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, January 21 | 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

If you give a moose a muffin, chaos might ensue. Join us for fun and activities!

📅 Messy Fingers

Ages 2-4

Tuesday, January 28 | 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 all the mess and lots of fun!

For Families

Homeschool Hangout Series

Families

Wednesdays, December 4 & January 8
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

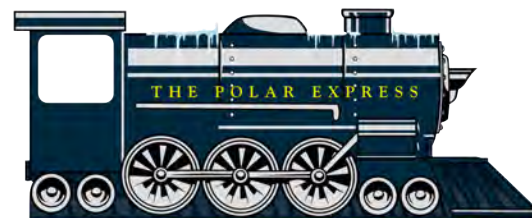
Join us to explore a new topic each month with books, crafts, and activities specially designed for each grade level.

Polar Express

Families

Thursday, December 5 | 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

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



Arctic Animals (Drop-In)

Families

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

Enjoy stories and rhymes about animals, and then make an arctic craft.

Craft Time (Drop-In)

Families

Friday, January 3 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Stop by Youth Services to make a penguin craft. While supplies last.

Watch and Play with The Lion Guard Series (Drop-In)

Families

Friday, January 3 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

For *Lion King* fans, join us for an interactive experience making music, dancing, and using puppets while watching Kion, son of Simba, protect the pride.

National Puzzle Day (Drop-In)

Families

Saturday, January 25 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Come to the library to do all types of puzzles, from traditional puzzles to cubes and brain teasers.

Dave Herzog's Marionettes (Drop-In)

Families

Monday, January 20
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

Watch this snow show on this school day off. Dave will bring a scene to life with his marionette puppets.



Winter Storytimes

Winter Mini Session: December 2 through 13

Winter Full Session: January 6 through February 14

The Youth Services department provides 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.

Toddler Storytime

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 books, songs, rhymes, and movement 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

for all ages

Monday, January 6 – Monday, February 3, 2025

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 Veterans Hospital in Hines, IL and **Jesse Brown Hospital** in Chicago.

Art and card 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 anything onto the card that may break off easily, and glitter is discouraged). Envelopes for cards are not required.

Please turn in all cards to the Youth Services desk at the 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:

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1

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.

Social Media

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



**BLOOMINGDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY** 
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ADA Accommodations

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in a program should contact Bloomingdale Public Library at least 7 days prior to the program.

Call **(630) 924-2730** or email requests to **ADA@mybpl.org**.



Bloomington Park District



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Santa Paws 6-9PM Code: 104701-A1 (registration only)	5 Storytime and Crafts 6-8:30PM Free	6 Holiday Canvas Painting 6-8:30PM Free	7 Holiday Games 2-4:30PM Free
8 Ornament Decorating 10:30-11:45AM Code: 104203-A1 (registration only)	9 Yoga Flow Into Christmas 6-6:45PM Code: 103501-A1 (registration only)	10 Holiday Appetizers 6:30-8:30PM Code: 103407-A1 (registration only) Elf on the Shelf 6-7:30PM Code: 101116-A1 (registration only)	11 Holiday Puzzle Palooza 6-8PM Code: 104626-A1 (registration only)	12 Carriage Rides 6-8PM Code: 104609 (registration only) Holiday Crafts and Make Reindeer Food 6-8:30PM Free	13 Storytime and Crafts with Ms. Claus 6-8:30PM Free	14 Holiday Cookie Bake & Exchange 9AM-12PM Code: 103606-A1 (registration only) The Grinch Meet and Greet 2:30 to 4:30PM Free
15	16	17	18 Do you want to Build a Gingerbread Man? 6-7:30PM Code: 104631-A1 (registration only)	19 Carriage Rides 6-8PM Code: 104610 (registration only) Letters to Santa 6-8:30PM Free	20 Decorate a cookie 6-8:30PM Free Visits with Santa 6-8:30PM Free	21 Bingo with Santa 2-4:30PM Free
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Sponsor:

Edward Jones ® Matt Quinn AAMS®
Financial Advisor



Festival of Lights activities are scheduled throughout December.

For additional details, go to www.bloomingtonparks.org.

Sandy Vangundy Retires After 30 Years

After three decades of dedicated service, Sandy Vangundy retired on October 16, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of community impact. Sandy began as a Recreation Supervisor and later became Director of Recreation, creating programs and partnerships that enriched the lives of residents. Notably, she co-founded the Festival of Lights, attracting over 3,000 participants annually, and developed the Super Pass partnership with Roselle Park District. Sandy's leadership extended beyond the Park District, contributing to the Character Counts! board and securing grants for projects like the Story Walk. She was instrumental in opening The Oasis Water Park, seeing a record 42,874 visitors in its first season, and was key in launching the BOOMingdale Halloween event and the Paint the Parks project.



In honor of her service, Buddy Benches will be placed at Circle Park, Erickson Elementary School and DuJardin Elementary School. Executive Director Joe Potts remarked, "Sandy's leadership created lasting memories. We will miss her dearly."

Elf on the Shelf

Tuesday, December 10

6-7:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff

Elf on the Shelf is taking over the museum for some mischief and fun! Elf on the Shelf theme crafts, activities, snacks, and more! Register early and come join us in a fun-filled night!

\$20R/\$25 Ages: 5-7

Min/Max: 6/10

Registration Code: #101116-A1

Registration Required



COMING SOON!

BLOOMINGDALE PARK DISTRICT

MOBILE APP

Exciting news! The Bloomington Park District is launching a brand-new app! You will be able to register for programs with just a tap, stay logged in for faster access, and receive real-time updates on cancellations, changes, and new classes directly to your phone. Look for more details coming soon!

- Convenience at Your Fingertips:** Browse, register, and pay for programs directly from the app.
- Customized Alerts:** Get updates and notifications that matter most to you, making your app experience unique.
- Immediate Notifications:** Receive real-time updates on program availability, deadlines, and cancellations.

Lights & Sights

December 16 - 20

Your Home

Instructor: Sparkle Squad

Registration Deadline: December 13



Bling out your house for the holidays! Bloomingdale Park District residents are encouraged to brighten the town and share in the holiday spirit by competing in our Lights & Sights Challenge. Be creative and have fun! The Bloomingdale Park District Sparkle Squad (Park District Staff and Board of Commissioners) is the official judging panel that picks the winner.

Please note:

- Entrants must be a Bloomingdale Park District resident household.
- Decorations must be visible from the street.
- Use your imagination (please refrain from hiring decorators).
- Register one member from your family so we know what house to judge.
- Lights must be illuminated December 16-20 for the Sparkle Squad to view for judging.
- Winner will be contacted by phone and announced via social media.
- Winner will receive a trophy to proudly display with their lights.
- By registering for Lights & Sights, participants agree to have their house and light display used for social media purposes.

Min/Max: 10/25



Holiday Appetizers

Chef's Corner

Johnston Recreation Center

172 S. Circle Avenue

Instructor: Chef Pina

Join Chef Pina for a hands-on cooking experience that teaches you how to prepare holiday appetizers without having to turn on your oven. Be sure to come hungry as you will taste test everything you prepare. Copies of all recipes are provided.

\$35R/\$40NR Ages: 21+ Registration Required
Min/Max: 6/12 Registration Code: #103407-A1

Ornament Decorating

Sunday, December 8

10:30-11:45AM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff

The holidays are approaching. Time to get your tree ready with some freshly made ornaments! Each child will leave with ornaments they made themselves to bring the holidays home!

\$15R/\$20NR Ages: 3-5 Registration Required
Min/Max: 6/10 Registration Code: #104203-A1

Storytime & Crafts

Thursday, December 5

6-8:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff



Listen to holiday stories and make a fun holiday craft. Hot chocolate and cookies provided. Stop in anytime between the hours of 6 to 8:30PM.

Ages: All Ages

Holiday Games

Saturday, December 7

2-4:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff



Loves games? Stop by anytime between the hours of 2 to 4:30PM and play games such as a snowball bowling game, Santa's cookies bean bag toss, Christmas tree cone toss game and much more!

Ages: All Ages

Holiday Canvas Painting

Friday, December 6

6-8:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Not Instructor Led



Stop in between the hours of 6 to 8:30PM and paint a canvas. Be as creative as you want to be. This program is not led by an instructor.

Ages: All Ages

Visits With Santa & Decorate A Cookie

Friday, December 20

6-8:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff



Stop by the Bloomington Park District Museum between the hours of 6 to 8:30PM to visit with Santa and decorate a cookie. Kids can make a holiday craft and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Please bring your own camera for pictures.

Ages: All Ages

Storytime & Crafts With Mrs. Claus

Friday, December 13

6-8:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff



Stop by the Bloomington Park District Museum between the hours of 6 to 8:30PM to meet Mrs. Claus and listen to holiday stories and crafts. Hot chocolate and cookies provided.

Ages: All

The Grinch Meet & Greet

Saturday, December 14

2:30-4:30PM

Bloomington Park District Museum

108 S. Bloomington Road

Instructor: Staff



Visit the Bloomington Park District Museum during open hours of 2:30 to 4:30PM for a Meet and Greet with The Grinch. Crafts and coloring sheets are available during the meet and greet. Hot chocolate and cookies provided.

Ages: All Ages

