



VillageViews

The newsletter of the Village of Libertyville, Illinois

A Message from the Mayor

As we enter the holiday season, we are going into our eighth month of social distancing and wearing masks. The holidays are traditionally a time when families and friends get together to enjoy each other's company. Unfortunately, this year will be different than past years for many of us.

We would like to preserve as many memories for our families as possible this year. We will not be able to hold the in-person annual tree lighting this year due to state restrictions on social distancing and limitations on the size of groups. Instead we will be doing a virtual Tree Lighting and invite you to join us online for the tree lighting this year. Since Santa cannot visit with all of you at the tree lighting, we want to bring Santa to your neighborhood. Santa will be in a motorcade traveling through every street in Libertyville in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can watch for Santa's location on your computer to see where he is on the day that he will be visiting your neighborhood. Visit our Village website for more information.

The Village and MainStreet Libertyville will be hosting "Light Up Libertyville" this year. As a young child growing up in Libertyville, I remember going out on Christmas Eve with the family to look at all the houses decorated with Christmas lights. Every year we have many residents who decorate their homes to bring the Holiday spirit to their neighborhood. This year there will be a contest with a \$100.00 MainStreet gift certificate to the best decorated house in the community. To enter your home, send an email to VOL@libertyville.com. The program is designed to help brighten the season for so many of us who have not been able to spend time with our friends and neighbors for so long.

While doing your Holiday shopping this season remember your Libertyville merchants. They have had a hard time during the pandemic, while Amazon has thrived. Amazon does nothing to support local Scout groups, athletic teams or charities. These groups are all supported by your local merchants. Libertyville merchants have many unique gifts including gift

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Santa Parade

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are bringing Santa to you! Santa will make his appearance on every street in the Village over a four-day period. On the back cover is a map of the sections and dates that Santa will be arriving. The parade will begin for each section at 3:00 p.m. and will continue until Santa has arrived on the last street in the section that day. Dates may be subject to change due to inclement weather. A Santa tracker map will also be available on the Village's website so you can see when he is getting close to your home. Visit www.libertyville.com/santa to watch for him. Grab your blankets, holiday cookies, hot chocolate and chairs to watch as Santa goes by your house!

- Section 1: Northwest Quadrant—November 28th** (Beginning at Lynn Cr. and ending at Woodland Rd.)
- Section 2: Northeast Quadrant—November 29th** (Beginning at Parkview Dr. and ending at Ashbury Ln.)
- Section 3: Southwest Quadrant—December 5th** (Beginning at East Sunnyside Ave. and ending at N. Artavis Pkwy)
- Section 4: Southeast Quadrant—December 6th** (Beginning at Dymond Rd. and ending at Green Tree Pkwy)

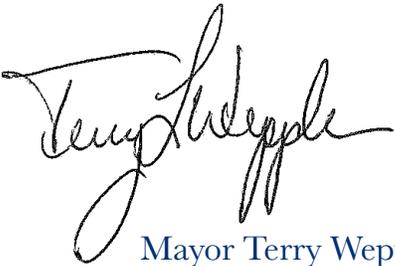
To view the parade sections and dates please see the back of the newsletter. Visit the Village's website for more details regarding Santa's route.

A Message from the Mayor

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certificates for spa treatments, classes and even a visit to a salt cave.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year and greetings for whatever holiday you celebrate. Please take some time to call a nearby resident who may live alone and wish them Happy Holidays.



Mayor Terry Weppeler



VILLAGE HOLIDAY HOURS

VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Friday, November 27, 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020
(closed at noon)

Friday, December 25, 2020

Friday, January 1, 2021



The UPS Store Libertyville



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Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: (847) 918-0181
Fax: (847) 918-0184
store1319@theupsstore.com



LIBERTYVILLE CIVIC CENTER

"The Gathering Place" Room rentals available for all types of gatherings.
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Buy Your Fresh Tree Locally to Support Organizations

If you are purchasing a fresh Christmas tree this holiday season, please consider supporting the **Knights of Columbus** or **Boy Scout Troop 72**. Both organizations use their tree sales as fundraisers and assist the local community in many ways.















Shop local and support our schools and community












12

Dealerships

19

Brands

1

Mile of Cars

Shop local & keep your tax dollars in Libertyville!

Winter is Just Around the Corner!

Follow These Safety Tips and Enjoy a Long Safe and Cozy Winter.

- Test your smoke detectors and change the batteries as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Test your Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector at least once a month and change the batteries as recommended by the manufacturer. You should have a CO alarm within 15 feet of every sleeping room and at least one on every floor. If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location and call 911. Remain in the fresh air location until emergency personnel say it is okay.
- Have your wood burning Chimney professionally cleaned and inspected for proper operation. Only burn clean dry logs in your fireplace, do not burn paper or garbage.
- Have your gutters professionally cleaned to help prevent ice damming.
- Have your furnace inspected for proper operation and replace the filter.
- Shovel your snow and salt icy spots, prevent unnecessary falls.
- Pack your car with winter safety items in case you are stranded or need assistance. (Shovel, blanket, spare phone charger, hat and gloves)
- Monitor the weather for severe winter weather and stay home during major snowstorms if you can.
- Check on your neighbors, particularly the elderly.

'Tis the Season to Shop!

Shop Libertyville this holiday season! You can find custom invitations, hair products, gourmet foods and spices, fine cuts of meat, beautiful flower arrangements, trendy bracelets, Libertyville Wildcat gear, clothing, gift cards, spa certificates, groceries, and so much more. Grab a one-of-a-kind hostess gift from any number of Libertyville stores. It's a win-win: shopping at Libertyville businesses is not only pleasant and convenient, it supports the local businesses, creates jobs for residents, and reinvests local sales taxes into the community.

Most businesses offer gift certificates—an ideal way to say thank you and/or Happy Holidays to a neighbor, teacher, boss, coach, or friend. MainStreet Libertyville gift certificates are also an option. They may be used at more than 70 retail and restaurant locations in the Village. For more information, visit www.mainstreetlibertyville.org.

When you shop Libertyville, you deal with knowledgeable, helpful business owners, and you keep your dollars in the Village. So remember to give the gift of supporting your community this holiday season! You can find hundreds of local businesses listings on the web at www.Libertyville.com/businessdirectory.

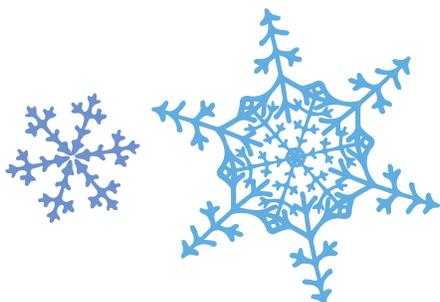


Shop Small Business Saturday

Looking for a great way to kick off the holiday shopping season? Check out **Small Business Saturday on November 28!** Coordinated by MainStreet Libertyville, this Village-wide event features dozens of our own local businesses.

Shoppers will not only find local bargains and gifts, but will have a chance to win great prizes -- all donated by participating stores, and all worth at least \$50. Start by picking up a special Passport at any participating business that lists all participating local stores and prizes, and don't forget to have your Passport stamped at each store you visit.

For more information, visit mainstreetlibertyville.org.



MAINSTREET
 YOU'LL ❤️ OUR SUPPORT OF LOCAL MERCHANTS

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY | NOV 28

 #SHOPSMALL





Hide it, Lock it, or Lose it

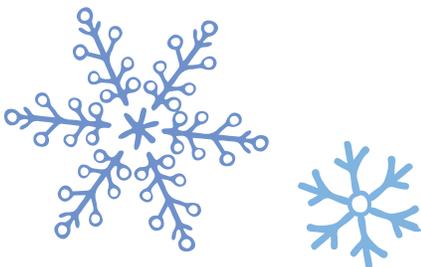
The Police Department is requesting that residents be particularly mindful this holiday season to ensure that homes and vehicles are locked and secured.

Theft and burglary remain a “crime of opportunity” in Libertyville. Criminals generally look for the easiest target. The vast majority of burglaries throughout the community are the result of houses and vehicles being left unlocked and unsecured. These types of crimes can be reduced 75%-80% by simply double checking to ensure homes and vehicles are locked before going to bed.

Important tips to follow:

- Before turning off lights in the evening, take an extra minute to ensure homes and vehicles are locked and secured.
- If vehicles are parked in the driveway, make sure the doors are locked and valuables, including holiday gifts, are not in plain sight, including garage door openers which potentially provide thieves with easy access to homes.
- Remember not to leave key fobs in vehicles.

“By working together with the community on these simple crime prevention measures we can help to provide a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Hide it, Lock it, or Lose it.” -Police Chief Herdegen



Snow and Ice Control Operations

Plowing of Village streets begins when snow becomes more than one inch deep and when freezing temperatures indicate there will be more melting. Salting occurs when weather conditions create hazardous icing.

Plow driver's primary focus is on keeping the main arteries, emergency vehicle routes and collector streets open, followed by snow removal on neighborhood streets and alleys. Sidewalks are cleared along most of Milwaukee Avenue and around the central business district area. In all other areas, the Village requests that citizens and businesses maintain clear walkways. Many state and county roads in and around the Village are cleared by state or county crews. The Village plows and salts some roads in this category, including Milwaukee Avenue from Adler Drive to Hollister Drive, and Park Avenue from Butterfield Road to the Des Plaines River.

Tips for Residents

- When clearing your driveway, shovel or blow the snow onto the parkway to the right side of your driveway as you face the street. Depositing snow on the streets is a violation of Village ordinance and creates a hazard after it freezes.
- **Park your vehicle off the street.** On street parking is prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. during snow events.
- **Mailboxes should be 12 inches from the curb.** Please ensure that the post is secure.
- **Adopt a fire hydrant and keep it clear of snow.** It is there for your protection.
- Be a good neighbor, if there is a public sidewalk in front of your residence or business, please remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. A public sidewalk cleared of snow and ice provides easier access for pedestrians during the winter months.

For more information about snow control during a storm, call the Public Works Department at **847-362-3434**, the non-emergency police at **847-362-8310** or visit www.libertyville.com/snowplowing.



Village Works to Reduce Impact of Salt

As the Village continues to strive to reduce the impact of salt on the environment and reduce costs, we are extending our policy of maintaining bare pavements only on arterial and higher volume roads. Cul-de-sacs and other lower volume roads will not be salted unless conditions warrant it. The Village has applied this policy for several years and appreciates the cooperation we have received from drivers since its inception.

Libertyville Sports Complex Update From Mayor Weppler

As many of you are aware, the Libertyville Sports Complex has been closed since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic started, I have had a number of questions concerning the Sports Complex and our Parks and Recreation programs. I would like to share some information with you so our residents can help make decisions on the Sports Complex and our parks and recreation programs for the future.

The Sports Complex closed in mid-March. The closing affected all portions of the Complex including the fitness center, sports courts and the privately leased sections of the buildings. Due to the layout, costs of operating the facility, and state COVID-19 regulations, it has not been feasible to open portions of the building during the pandemic. In order to reduce losses from the costs of covering the bonds on the facility, the Board has investigated leasing the building to the Greater Libertyville Soccer Association for three months this winter. The Soccer Association is able to use the building during the current pandemic by following specific health guidelines.

The Libertyville Sports Complex consists of three separate entities. The corner property at the intersection of US Highway 45 and Peterson Road is a miniature golf course, the middle property is the golf driving range and the building is the Sports Complex itself. There is currently \$12,945,000 in outstanding debt principal on the properties with bonds that will be paid off in 2030. The Board has been attempting to sell the miniature golf and driving range property for a number of years. The miniature golf course and driving range are currently under contract and we hope to close on that property in the first quarter of 2021.

The Libertyville Sports Complex was constructed in 2001-2002 and has always operated at a loss of over a million dollars a year. The money to subsidize this deficit has come from General Fund sales tax revenues rather than the Sports Complex Fund since the Complex does not generate sufficient revenue to pay the costs of programs and debt. The Village has spent over \$6,500,000 subsidizing the Sports Complex just over the past five years. These costs include the cost of paying down the debt principal and interest on the property. In the next five years approximately \$4,000,000 will be required for capital maintenance of the building due to its age.

The Sports Complex is heavily utilized by our residents and people from the surrounding communities. However, the fees paid for the use do not cover the cost of operating the facility. The Sports Complex is used by many of our local youth sports groups and is an important part of the Libertyville Parks and Recreation Department.

We have recently been approached by a company interested in purchasing the indoor Sports Complex. The company would continue to run the facility as a sports complex on a private basis. In looking at the sale of the property the Village Board is looking at ways to ensure that our residents and local sports groups will continue to have use of the property. The sale of the property would allow the Village to stop subsidizing the property and pay off the debt in the next three years. This would allow the funds currently used to subsidize this debt to be used for roads and other capital needs.

One main difference between Libertyville and our surrounding communities is that we do not have a separate Park District. The Park Districts in the surrounding communities are separate taxing bodies with tax rates that vary from \$0.42 to \$0.68 per \$100.00 assessed valuation. In contrast, the Village of Libertyville rate is \$0.66 per \$100.00 assessed valuation which includes our parks and recreation budget as well as all of the other Village services including police, fire, public works, building and administration. In the event a Park District were formed in Libertyville the property tax costs to Village residents would increase although additional programs and services could be provided.

Based on the closing of the Sports Complex and pools this summer several residents asked me what it would involve to form a Park District in the Village of Libertyville. They noted that pools were open in Vernon Hills and Mundelein this summer while the Libertyville pools were closed. I promised to respond to residents explaining the necessary steps to form a Park District and why there was a difference between Libertyville and the surrounding communities. Mundelein, Vernon Hills

Levy Year 2019 Park District Tax Rates

Park District Name	Park District Tax Rate	Park District Property Tax Paid on a \$500,000 Home
Round Lake Area Park District	0.682170	\$1,137
Deerfield Park District	0.566983	\$945
Park District of Highland Park	0.559649	\$933
Lake Bluff Park District	0.476770	\$795
Grayslake Community Park District	0.473303	\$789
Buffalo Grove Park District	0.464565	\$774
Mundelein Park & Recreation District	0.458187	\$764
Lindenhurst Park District	0.450356	\$751
Vernon Hills Park District	0.420260	\$700
Libertyville All-Inclusive Tax Rate*	0.660877	\$1,101

* Police, fire, Public Works, Community Development, Administration, and Parks/Recreation

and Gurnee all have separate Park Districts while Libertyville's parks and recreation programs are operated by the Village. The Park Districts receive funding through property taxes. They have separate boards running the districts and separate staffs managing and operating the programs. As a result, property taxes are typically higher in communities with Park Districts. The Park Districts were able to maintain services during the COVID pandemic since the majority of their funding comes from property taxes which were not severely impacted during the pandemic.

To form a separate Park District in Libertyville the following steps would be required:

- A group of interested citizens would seek a competent attorney to draft the boundaries of the proposed district and petition.
- Qualified persons would submit a petition with at least 100 signatures to the Circuit Court of Lake County where it would be assigned to a judge.
- A circuit judge would hold a public hearing.
- If there were no objections at the public hearing, the judge would order a question placed on the ballot.
- The ballot contains the organizing question/levy plus at least five candidates for Park Board and five write-in spots.
- Park Board candidates can secure a spot on the ballot with 25 signatures.

The unincorporated areas and the villages of Mettawa and Green Oaks could be included in a new Park District since none of these areas currently have a Park District and their residents often utilize the Village's parks and recreation department. However, it's important to note that the current parks in Libertyville belong to the Village and would not necessarily be transferred to a new Park District since the parks have been paid for by the residents of the Village of Libertyville. In the event the new district wanted to operate the Sports Complex they would have to purchase it from the Village or assume the current debt and obligations on the property.

I am not advocating for a new Park District in Libertyville and I believe the residents are best served by the current operation of our Parks and Recreation Department. While some of our programs and facilities have suffered due to the current pandemic and economic environment, I believe that we offer the best use of your tax dollar. However, it is possible to form a Park District if the voters and residents of Libertyville and/or the surrounding areas decide it's in their best interest.



Mayor Terry Weppeler

Holiday Fire Safety

The holidays are here and that means many Libertyville residents will be decorating their homes. Hanging up decorations is fun, but keep in mind, holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season for you and your family.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, blow out all lit candles. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Help keep the wreath "Red" in Libertyville. The Libertyville Fire Department participates in the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. If there is a fire caused by a holiday decoration in December a red-light bulb in the wreath is changed out with a white bulb. The goal is to keep the wreath red and prevent holiday fires.

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

- Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that burn.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.
- If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
- Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.
- Make sure to clean your oven! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool.
- Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire.

Flooding or Flood Map Questions?

The Village of Libertyville participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has adopted flood hazard area protection standards. As a public service, the Engineering Division offers map information related to flooding. The following are examples of information that can be provided upon request:

- **Basic Flood Map Information**

Offer assistance to residents with determining whether or not a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area, as well as identifying the Zone, base flood elevation, and panel reference information as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

- **Floodways**

Provide information regarding the limits of identified Floodways in relation to the property and the associated regulatory requirements for potential developments.

- **Local Drainage Issues**

Provide information to residents for potential flooding sources beyond flood areas shown on the FIRM.

- **Flood Depth Information**

Provide potential flood depths of properties by identifying the approximate site elevations via Lake County GIS contours in relation to the established base flood elevation.

- **Wetlands/ Open Spaces**

Identify mapped wetlands and open spaces within properties and regulations prohibiting potential developments.

To request flood map information, please contact Jeff Cooper, Village Engineer, at **(847) 918-2105**.



Buckthorn–Eradication Initiative

Buckthorn is an invasive species which has decimated native species and ecosystems since being introduced from Europe in the 1800's. It now comprises 42% of Lake County's tree canopy!

Buckthorn reproduces rapidly; its leaves appear much earlier in the spring and persist longer into winter than native species, this robs sunlight from native species like young oak trees. Buckthorn also changes the nitrogen and pH levels in soil, promotes erosion, and impacts wildlife. Buckthorn fruit makes some animals sick and has a diuretic effect on birds, which further enhances its spread.

Lake County Forest Preserve District LCFPD has completed successful Buckthorn Eradication Projects at Middlefork Savanna and other preserves. The Village encourages you to do your part to help eradicate this invader from our landscape, given that more than 70% of trees are on private land.



LCFPD recommends:

1. Identifying all Buckthorn seedlings and trees.
2. Pull out all small seedlings and cut larger shrubs several inches above the soil.
3. Larger Buckthorn trees may need to be taken down by professionals.
4. Apply herbicide (e.g. Garlon, Tahoe, Element, etc. – herbicides with the active ingredient "Triclopyr") to all cut stumps. Read and follow herbicide product labels for use and applications.
5. In lieu of herbicide, you can also place a black tarp over the cut stumps to prevent re-sprouting.
6. If your eradication project appears overwhelming, consider tackling it in phases, removing the fruit-bearing, female Buckthorn trees first.

For more information on Buckthorn, visit the Lake County Forest Preserve District's (LCFPD) website (<https://www.lcfpd.org/conservation/landscaping/>).



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Village Administrator
Kelly Amidei

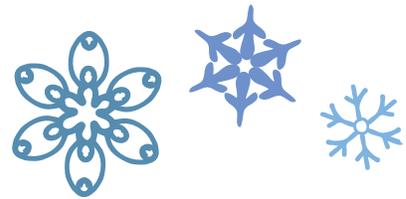
website: libertyville.com

ECRWSS Postal Customer

Explore Libertyville



The **Village Views** is published by the Village of Libertyville, Illinois, in the belief that interested and informed citizens are the safeguard for good government.



Santa Parade Dates

- Section 1 - November 28th
- Section 2 - November 29th
- Section 3 - December 5th
- Section 4 - December 6th

Parade will begin each day at 3:00 p.m.

****Dates are subject to change due to inclement weather.**

GIS Consortium

