

Established 1869

# The Village of Minooka

HAPPY  
New Year!

FROM THE VILLAGE OF MINOOKA

2024

## INSIDE FEATURES

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Issue 65  
January - February 2024

To Serve You Better  
**Welcome to  
Your Newsletter**

**Mayor's Message**

Hi Folks!

Now that the holidays are over for a while, and we hope yours was restful, joyous, and rewarding with family and friends, we can try to return to a somewhat regular routine.

But first, have you cleaned up all the cookies, cakes, and pies? No, us either. You know you just don't want to rush back into this regular routine stuff. Just ease into it is my first (and only) New Year's Resolution. Good luck with your routines and resolutions because Easter will be here before we know it.

Respectfully,

**Ric Offerman**, *Village President*



**The Village Administrator**

**Dan Duffy**, *Village Administrator*

*New Business Spotlight*

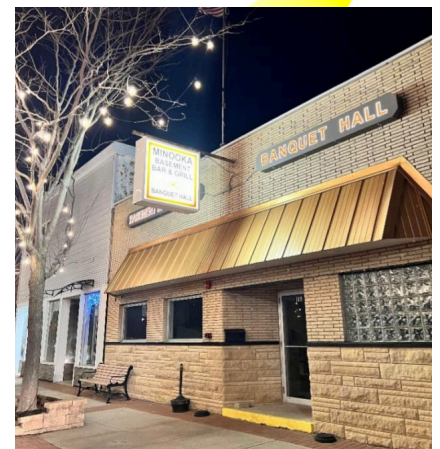
**Minooka Basement Bar & Grill**

Minooka Basement Bar & Grill is a family owned and operated restaurant located in downtown Minooka at 109 W. Mondamin Street.

Joaquin Castro is the owner of Minooka Basement Bar & Grill and currently has 23 employees. Joaquin has worked in banquets and events for 20+ years, with his most recent position being banquet manager. He has always dreamed of running his own business. It has shown to be a lot of work, but he is determined to make his restaurant and banquet space a staple in the Minooka community.

The restaurant opened its doors for the first time on June 17th, offering an array of dishes ranging from burgers and wings to crowd favorites, such as steak bites, pot roast, and mile high meatloaf. The banquet hall can accommodate up to 80 guests, making it a great space for small events and gatherings. Event booking is expected to start in early 2024.

If you have not done so already, come check out Minooka Basement Bar & Grill. Hours are Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday 12pm-9pm and Friday-Saturday 12pm-10pm. For more information, visit [www.minookabasementbar.com](http://www.minookabasementbar.com) or call (815)290-5055.



HAPPY  
*New Year*  
**2024**

Village Offices will be  
**CLOSED**  
Monday, January 1st

Trash services will be delayed one day this week.




*Martin Luther King Jr.*  
*Day*

Village Offices will be  
*Closed*  
Monday, January 15, 2024  
in observance of the holiday

*Village offices will be*  
**CLOSED**  
in observance of



*President's Day*  
Monday, February 19th



## Getting You Where You Need to Go!



**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ANYWHERE IN GRUNDY COUNTY AND PORTIONS OF JOLIET**

Service Available

Monday—Friday, 6:00 AM—6:00 PM

\*\*Rides must be scheduled 2—3 business day in advance\*\*

Bus service is for **ALL** Grundy County residents of **ALL** ages.  
All buses are ADA compliant and equipped with wheelchair lifts.  
Children under the age of 5 ride for **FREE**.  
GTS travels to Joliet **3** times daily.  
Fares are \$4.00 each way in-county and \$6.00 each way to or from Joliet.

To schedule your ride, give us a call at (888) 786-0862



**Coming Soon:**

### Village of Minooka Citizen of the Year Award!

The Village of Minooka will present its inaugural "Citizen of the Year" Award at the 2024 State of the Village Address in order to begin honoring individuals who have, through their selfless giving of time and talent, positively affected Minooka and the lives of its residents. More details, including important dates, award guidelines, and nomination forms, will be posted on the Village's website and available at Village Hall in the coming weeks.

Minooka Community High School  
Presents

# Incoming Freshmen NIGHT

**January 18, 2024**

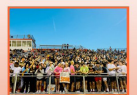
Session 1 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. • Session 2 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Session 1: MJHS (A-F), CJHS, Private School  
Session 2: MJHS (G-Z), TMS, Private School

Please join Minooka Community High School as we invite you to our **Incoming Freshmen Night 2024!** This is your chance to get a sneak peek at South Campus and prepare for your next steps.

**Learn About:**

- Administration & Department Chairs
- Athletics & Activities
- School Counselors
- Registration
- School Hours & Class Schedules
- Course Selections
- Honors Information
- Special Education
- Student Services
- And more!



[mchs.net](http://mchs.net)

## Congratulations!

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**

**DECEMBER**



*Lauren McPhillips  
Newcomb*



*Molly Jacobson*



*Mia Larson*



*Rylee Anderson*



Rotary Club of Channahon-Minooka

**ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**



## Special Event:

### The Great North American Eclipse: Adults & Children 10 years+

Tuesday, January 23, 6-7pm at Village of Minooka Community Room, 121 McEvilly Rd

There is an impressive solar eclipse coming April 8, 2024! Learn what eclipses are, where to see it, and when and how to look safely. Attendees will receive a pair of solar eclipse glasses. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

## Family and Youth Programs:

### Homeschool Families Meet & Greet: All Ages

Monday, January 8, 2-3pm at Minooka Branch

Meet other homeschool families, learn about the resources offered by the library, and suggest new ideas for how the library can help in your schooling needs. Crafts for kids and coffee, juice, and cookies for all are provided.

*Registration is required for this in-person program.*

### Drawing Club: 6-11 years

Fridays, January 12, 26, February 9 & 23,  
4-5pm at Minooka Branch

Complete a drawing challenge, engage in free drawing, and show off your own artwork. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### Graphic Novel Club: Youth 7-11 years

Sundays, January 21 & February 11,  
2-2:45pm at Minooka Branch

Talk about the month's selection, share your favorites, draw popular characters, and more. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### Yoga Kids: Youth 9 years+

Wednesdays, January 24 & February 21,  
4:30-5:15pm at Minooka Branch

Learn basic yoga poses to help you stretch, breathe, and relax with Ms. Brenda. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### Family Mini Golf: Families

Saturday, February 24, 11am-4pm at Minooka Branch

Drop in during the program hours to play a game of mini golf in the library. *No registration is required.*

## Adult Programs:

### Three Rivers Book Club: Adults 18+

Wednesdays, January 3 & February 7, 7-8:30pm at Arrowhead Community Center, 24856 W Eames St, Channahon

Join us for lively discussions of contemporary literature. New members are welcome. January- *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore, February- *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict. *No registration is required.*

### Tiny Art Show: All Ages

Kit pickup begins January 2 at both library locations

Starting January 2, pick up a Tiny Art Kit from either location, then use the provided canvas to paint, draw, sew, and glue to create your art. Return your masterpiece by January 16 to be included in the show. Kits are available on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. *No registration is required.*

### Speculating about Our AI Future: Adults 18+

Thursday, January 11, 7-8pm via Zoom

Bestselling science fiction writers, Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells, discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that AI will have on our future, plus AI in contemporary and future science fiction writing. *Registration is required for this live virtual program.*

### Genealogy Basics: Adults 18+

Thursdays, January 18 & February 15, 6-7:30pm at Minooka Branch

Librarian and Genealogist, Louise Svehla, demonstrates tools and resources to help you grow your family tree. January 18- Start Climbing Your Family Tree, February 15- Using Ancestry.com. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### Barbie®- America's Most Famous Doll: Adults 18+

Monday, January 22, 6-7pm via Zoom

Historian Leslie Goddard returns to delve into the history of America's most famous doll. *Registration is required for this live virtual program.*

### Basics of Social Media: Adults 18+

Thursday, February 22, 6-7pm at Minooka Branch

What is a hashtag? What is a handle? How do you tag someone? What is a DM? Learn the answers to all these questions and more. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

## HOW DOES SALT MELT SNOW AND ICE?

### Use Salt, But Be Salt Smart

Salt can play a key role in removing snow and ice to clear roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and driveways. However, using salt is not without consequence. Each year our local rivers and lakes are getting saltier and saltier. When rain falls on streets and other salted surfaces, it picks up the salt and brings it into storm drains that connect directly to rivers.

Winter road salt affects the water quality of these rivers and can even hurt the fish and aquatic insects that live there. That's why it's important to not use any more salt than is necessary to melt snow and ice.

### Our Public Works optimizes the use of salt by performing the following:

- Clean snow from streets entirely before applying salt
- Wet the salt with liquid brine (or a stronger chemical if needed) as it comes out of the truck
- Pre-applies anti-icing liquid to high-risk routes and hills throughout the Village
- Monitors pavement temperature on when to apply salt and which chemical solution we should mix with salt as it leaves the truck.

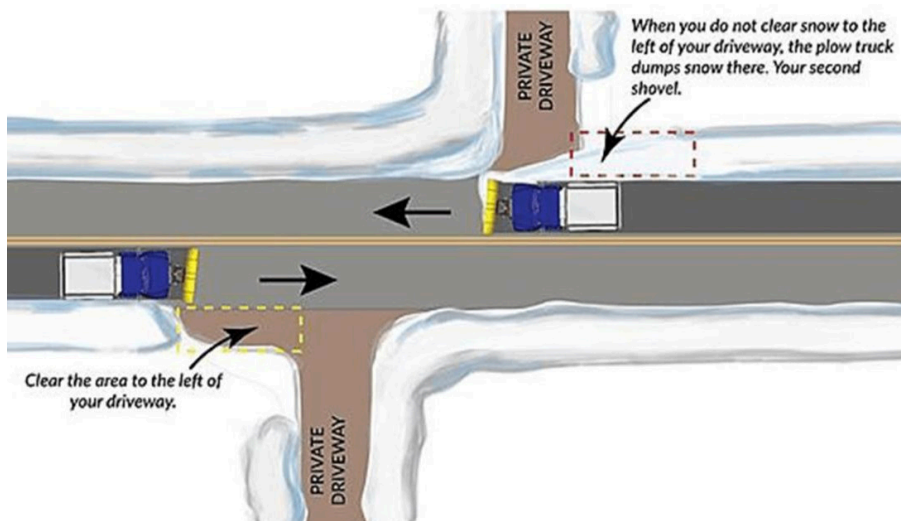
### Key Takeaways:

- Salt works by lowering the freezing point of water.
- Sodium chloride becomes much less effective below 15 degrees. At low temperatures, it's best to switch to a deicer that contains magnesium chloride or calcium chloride.
- Be Salt Smart to limit your environmental impact. Use the amount of salt necessary to melt snow and ice. Don't go overboard — after a certain point, more salt doesn't mean more melting power.

## Winter Driving Tips



## How to Prevent the "Second Shovel"



# MINOOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Chaplain's Corner



### Happy Being Year!

For the past few years I have been thinking about the difference between a human being and a human doing. What if, for 2024, we didn't look at the crossroads of a new year as an opportunity to make "resolutions," or to manage a list of changes that we are determined to do in 2024, but instead simply decided to become more of a human being and less of a human doing.

You know you are a human doing when you always say "yes" to... everything. Even if your "yes" is from a place of authentic care and helpfulness, you always say yes. In other words, a human doing does not embrace limits. The result: a near constant low level of anxiety or anger. You know you are a human-doing if you are short and impatient with people over little things. You have a limited capacity for grace and kindness because you have so much to do. For you, relationships can often get in the way, or be a nuisance.

Where do you take time to just... stop? To rest? To - quite literally - smell the roses? When are you quiet with yourself? I think the world can use some human beings right now. People who are at peace with their Creator and with themselves. The child whose birth we just finished celebrating once said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." In other words, "I know you are busy, tired and irritable. Why don't you seek me out? I can truly help you to be at peace."

Always willing to treat you to a cup of coffee to discuss this, or anything else on your mind: [carlosgarcia@missionbible.church](mailto:carlosgarcia@missionbible.church)

**Carlos Garcia, Chaplain**

## NEWS FROM WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### SCAM ALERTS

As we close out 2023 and look toward a productive, positive safe 2024. I want to inform you of some recent scams that our agency has been receiving that involves individuals claiming to be a member of the Minooka Police Department, Sheriff's Deputy or an FBI agent saying you must pay money via pre-paid/gift card because you or someone you know have an arrest warrant, DO NOT PAY! Hang up and immediately report the scam to [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) and the Minooka Police Dept. The bottom line is this, ANYONE who wants you to pay money via pre-paid/gift card DO NOT PAY!!



### AVOIDING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

STOP! If you are thinking about leaving the roadway and traveling across a parking lot or other private property to avoid a red light or stop sign because you are in a hurry or impatient... Don't! This action is a moving violation of the Illinois vehicle code that could result in fines.



### Winter Parking Notice

As the colder temperatures approach, so will the snow... I want to remind you of a Village ordinance of not parking your vehicle on the street during snowfall of 2" inches or more. A violation of this ordinance can result in a \$50.00 fine and the possibility of your vehicle being towed. Information on Village ordinances can be found on the Village of Minooka web page at [www.minooka.com](http://www.minooka.com).



## MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### 2024 FIRST AID, CPR, AND AED CLASS DATES



February 3  
April 6  
June 1  
September 7  
December 14

Classes are on Saturdays,  
8am-12pm. Online registration is  
open for the February class at  
[www.minookafire.com/cpr/](http://www.minookafire.com/cpr/)  
or scan the QR code



# NEWS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES

## THE VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### Sundays at The Village Christian Church

You're welcome to join us for In-Person church at 8965 South Bell Road in Minooka. Service times are 9 and 10:30 am. Kid Village and Pulse classes are open during both services.

If you're not able to meet in person, you can view the Live service online at 9 and 10:30 am on Sundays 3 different ways: the Live Service Website <https://www.thevillagechristianchurch.com/the-village-live-online-campus>, YouTube Channel [youtube.com/c/TheVillageChristianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheVillageChristianChurch) or The Village Christian Church Facebook page. We encourage you to participate in the Live chats that are a part of service just as if you were there in person. If you can't watch live you can view at your convenience on any of these platforms. Check out [thevillagechristianchurch.com](https://www.thevillagechristianchurch.com) for more information.

 [thevillagechristianchurch.com](https://www.thevillagechristianchurch.com)  [TheVillageChristianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheVillageChristianChurch)

 [The Village Christian Church](https://www.facebook.com/TheVillageChristianChurch)

 8965 South Bell Road, Minooka Illinois 60447

## Students - Check Out Pulse Evenings At The Village Christian Church - No Boring Here

We love our students at The Village. Pulse is our student youth group - a place where students meet Jesus, know Jesus, and share Jesus!

Pulse is a fun place, a place where students want to be, a place where students can connect, feel valued, and supported. Leaders and students support each other, encourage each other, and love each other because community is important.

**Pulse 45** (grades 4 & 5) will begin meeting Wednesday, January 10 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Minooka Campus.

**Pulse Jr.** (grades 6-8) and **Pulse Sr.** (high school) will begin meeting Sunday, January 7 from 6:30-8 pm at the Minooka Campus.

Check out [thevillagechristianchurch.com/students](https://www.thevillagechristianchurch.com/students) for more information.

## ST. MARY'S PARISH

### Weekly Mass

Saturdays: 5:00 pm • Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

### Confession

Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 pm

 [stmarysminooka.com](https://www.stmarysminooka.com)

 [St. Mary's Minooka](https://www.facebook.com/St.Marys.Minooka)

 [StMarysMinooka](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysMinooka)

 303 W. St Mary's Street, Po Box 456, Minooka IL 60447

## February 14th - Ash Wednesday

Mass with Ash distribution: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 4:45 pm, 6:30 pm

## February 25th 8:00-11:00 am

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast: All are Welcome!

## MINOOKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Worship** \*We have moved! Join us at our temporary location at 24751 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL 60410 (CUMC)

### Sunday in-person & online at 11:30 am

*(Please note worship will be at held at 9 AM on 1/7)*

*Please visit our website or Facebook page for future worship times and plans after we move to our new location on Ridge Road.*

 [minookaumc.com](https://www.minookaumc.com)

 [Minooka United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MinookaUnitedMethodistChurch)

 **Future Home:** 1210 S. Ridge Rd., Minooka, 60447

## FUTURE HOME

We will move to our permanent home on Ridge Road soon! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates. Worship times will change when we move. Our permanent address will be 1210 S. Ridge Road, Minooka.

## SENIOR LUNCHEON "Forever Young"

On the third Wednesday of the month, we will hold a free luncheon at St. Mary's Minooka for ages 55 and better! Join us on February 21st at 11:30am. Make your reservation by calling 815-467-2322.

## MISSION BIBLE CHURCH

We are excited to invite you to Mission Bible Church where we believe in being Real with God, Real with Each Other and Real in the World.

## Mission Minooka

Saturday 5:00 pm • Sunday 9:00/10:30 am • 412 N. Wabena in Minooka

## Mission Morris (meeting at Saratoga School)

Sunday 9:30 am • 4040 N. Division St, Morris - Door #16

 [missionbible.church](https://www.missionbible.church)

 [Mission Bible Church](https://www.facebook.com/MissionBibleChurch)

 [Mission Bible Church](https://www.youtube.com/MissionBibleChurch)

 412 N Wabena Ave, Minooka, IL 60447

# GRUNDY COUNTY LAND USE

The Grundy County Land Use Department would like to thank all the residents, schools, and groups who donated gently used toys, books, games, stuffed animals, and other fun items to children in need this holiday season.

We were able to collect over 100 boxes of toys etc., 25 bags of stuffed animals, 6 bikes, and many large kitchen sets and baby equipment.

This year the toys were received and distributed by **Church of Hope, Gardner, St. Francis of Christ the King Monastery in Lemont, Arcadia Nursing Home, Morris, and to multiple churches distributed by Rotary International Chicago Branch.** We were all very fortunate to have **Park Pointe** clean and sanitize the stuffed animals that we received as well.

Finally, thanks to **Elf Beth** and **Santa Bob** from the Land Use Department who, without their care and dedication, this event would not have occurred.



The collection of items would not have occurred if we didn't have great partners in the libraries that collected:

**Coal City Public Library** - 85 N. Garfield, Coal City

**Morris Public Library** - 604 Liberty, Morris

**Minooka Three Rivers Library** - 109 N. Wabena, Minooka

**Channahon Three Rivers Library** - 25207 W. Channahon Drive, Channahon

**Fossil Ridge Library** - 386 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood

Special thanks go to **River's Edge Academy** for all their help from the dedicated students on the day that **Rotary International** picked up the toys.



121 E. McEVILLY ROAD  
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS 60447

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COAL CITY IL  
Permit #5

ECRWSS

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper using soybean ink.

This newsletter is being delivered to you as a postal patron of zip code 60447. Although much of the information included in this publication may be of interest, some of it directly affects only those who live inside the corporate limits of the Village of Minooka.

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

The Village of Minooka encourages all residents to visit and participate in the Village Board and Committee meetings. Regular meetings of the Village Board are held the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Committee of the Whole meetings also take place at the Village Hall on the Wednesday before the Village Board Meeting. To verify a meeting date, please call the Village Hall at (815) 467-2151.

### Village President

Ric Offerman (815) 258-5270

### Village Administrator

Dan Duffy (815) 467-2151

### Village Trustees

Terry Houchens (815) 467-4605  
Dennis Martin (815) 693-6596  
Ray Mason (815) 954-0762  
Barry Thompson (815) 353-9188  
Gabriela Martinez (815) 216-7000  
Robin White (815) 671-6008



EVERBRIDGE  
MOBILE APP

### A New Way to Receive FREE Village of Minooka Alerts!

Aim your camera at this QR code to download the Mobile App from Google Play or iOS App Store →



**\*ONE DELIVERY METHOD MUST BE PROVIDED (PHONE OR EMAIL) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ALERTS\***

By downloading the Everbridge Mobile App, you can select to receive notifications concerning community events, time-sensitive alerts and/or emergency information that may impact your area.

- Allow Everbridge to send Push Notifications
- Select "Find an Organization or Subscription"
- Search "Minooka"
- Select "Village of Minooka"
- Log in with your Everbridge username and password. If you don't have credentials, create them now.

## February is American Heart Month



**KIDS HEART CHALLENGE™**



During the month of February, the elementary schools will be participating in the Kids Heart Challenge. This challenge is fun and exciting for our students as they learn about keeping their hearts healthy while raising money for the American Heart Association. The challenge starts with an epic fundraiser, so stay tuned and follow Minooka CCSD 201 on social media for more details.

