

Established 1869

The Village of
Minooka

www.minooka.com

HAPPY
New Year
2023

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Issue 59
January - February 2023

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

Mayors Message

Welcome to the new year. A lot of folks start out with “Happy New Year,” but after being around a few decades (7), I like to wish you a “Healthy New Year” because happy comes about much easier when you are healthy. With that said, bundle up, be careful on the ice, drive a mite slower, and hug anybody you can catch. We here at the Village Hall, the Police Department, and our Public Works do wish you a Healthy New Year.

Respectfully,
Ric Offerman, Village President



The Village Administrator

Dan Duffy, Village Administrator

Welcome to Minooka! New Business Spotlight

Little Learner Children's Academy breaks ground in Minooka

Little Learner Children's Academy recently celebrated a groundbreaking for their new childcare facility with officials from the Channahon Minooka Chamber and the Village of Minooka.

Little Learner Children's Academy's groundbreaking was held in September at the corner of Prairie View Drive and Ridge Road in Minooka, where Little Learner's will eventually move its location: 400 West Prairie View Drive Minooka, IL. This new state-of-the-art childcare center is expected to be completed in Summer 2023, serving families with children between 6 weeks and 12 years old, and giving every child an experience of a lifetime. It includes an exclusive in-house RISE curriculum, STEAM activities, literacy skills, and so much more. The childcare/preschool program focuses on preparing children to be kindergarten ready. This childcare center will also have an outdoor splash pad area and a vast indoor dramatic play area/multipurpose room for gross motor skills.

Little Learner Children's Academy is owned by Zarvan and Melissa, with over 20 years of experience. They welcome walk-in tours, or you can schedule an appointment online at littlelearnerchildrensacademy.com. For more information you can also call 888-623-3726.





Minooka Intermediate and Minooka Jr. High Upcoming Spring Concerts to be Streamed Online

Minooka Intermediate will have two upcoming concerts that will be live-streamed and available on Youtube:

March 16, 2023 • 5th Grade at 5:00 p.m. and 6th Grade at 6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2023 • 5th Grade at 5:00 p.m. and 6th Grade at 6:30 p.m.

The Minooka Junior High School Band will also be live-streamed:

Spring Concert, March 23, 2023 • all band members
Pops Concert, May 9, 2023 • all band members

AroundTOWN

Grundy County Land Use Department THANK YOU!

We would just like to thank all of the Grundy County residents who donated gently used toys, books, and games to the Gently Used Toy Drive this year. It was truly an act of love towards children in need.

HAPPY
New Year
2023
Village Offices will be
CLOSED
Monday, January 2nd

Village Offices will be
CLOSED
Monday, January 16th
in observance of
Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Day

Village offices will be
CLOSED
in observance of
President's Day
Monday, February 20th

Save the Date!

CHAMBER & GEDC
Annual Dinner
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 8 2023
Morris Country Club
2615 WEST ROUTE 6
MORRIS IL 60450

Minooka Community High School
Presents

Incoming Freshmen NIGHT

January 12, 2023

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), TJHS, Private School

Please join Minooka Community High School as we invite you to our **Incoming Freshmen Night 2023!** 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!

The new Kiwanis Club of Channahon-Minooka was chartered on September 27, 2022 to give community members the opportunity to volunteer specifically in the service of our children.

The Kiwanis Club of Channahon-Minooka meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays on the month at the Minooka Village Hall Community Room (121 E McEvilly Rd.) from 5-6pm.

Those interested in membership or with questions can email KiwanisChannahonMinnoka@gmail.com, find us on Facebook, or attend a meeting.

Save the Dates!

Unlimited Trash
Pick Up Week
May 15th - 19th

Community Garage Sale!

Community Garage Sale
Spring - May 11th, 12th & 13th
Fall - Sept. 7th, 8th, & 9th
\$3 to have your address on the map Sign up at Village Hall

Parent and Tot
Ages 3 to 5

Come on over to the community room for some play time fun with open gym play, crafts and snack, this is a FREE family class.

We will have 2 play dates:

Wednesday January 18th
10:30 am to 12:30pm

Friday February 10th
5:00pm to 7:00 pm

If you have any questions please contact Dawn Niner at 815-467-2151 EXT. 3185 or e-mail at dawn.niner@minooka.com



Baseball Fields now open for booking including Minooka's Aux Sable Park

MINOOKA SUMMER CAMP

Registration opens for Residents April 15th and Non-Residents April 22nd Summer Camp is Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00pm June 13th thru July 27th

Family and Youth Programs:

Read with Fin: All Ages

Saturdays, January 7 & February 4, 10:15-11:15am at Minooka Branch
Sign up for a 15 minute session to read to Frog the Dog's great-nephew, Fin! Fin loves to hear you read, no matter how old you are. Children 0-3 years must be accompanied by an adult. *Registration is required to reserve a 15 minute, in-person session with Fin.*

The Craft Art Club: 12-17 Years

Fridays, January 20, February 17, & March 17, 4:30-5:30pm at Channahon Library
Get your craft on at this new club for teens! Each month, we'll provide the supplies for you to create a new one-of-a-kind masterpiece. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Perler Bead Art: 7-12 Years

Saturday, January 28, 1-2pm at Minooka Branch
Design your own fusion bead piece using provided beads! Library staff will fuse your creation, ready for you to take home. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Retro 80s Movie Matinee: All Ages

Sunday, January 29, 2pm at Minooka Branch
Travel through time to the movie matinees of the 80s with the cinematic classic, Labyrinth. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Children 10 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult during the movie. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Virtual Visit with Shannon Hale & LeUyen Pham: All Ages

Saturday, February 11, 3-4pm via Zoom OR Join the in-person Watch Party from 3-4pm at Minooka Branch
Love the graphic novel series Real Friends? Join us for a virtual author visit with writer Shannon Hale and illustrator LeUyen Pham. They will talk about their books, answer your questions, and share an engaging activity. *Registration is required to receive the link for the live virtual program OR register to attend the in-person Watch Party.*

Tabletop Games Day: All Ages

Saturday, February 25, 12-4pm at Minooka Branch
Board game fun for everyone! A variety of tabletop games will be available for friends and families to play and enjoy. *No registration is required for this drop-in, in-person program.*

Drum Circle: K-2nd grades

Tuesday, February 28, 4:30-5:30pm at Minooka Branch
Did you know that everyone has at least two rhythms? Share some happy drumming with Miss Dawn and find your own rhythm using provided drums and instruments. You can even play the rhythm on your own body! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Adult Programs:

Three Rivers Book Club: Adults

Wednesdays, January 4 & February 1, 7-8:30pm at Arrowhead Community Center, 24856 W Eames St, Channahon
Join us for lively discussions of adult contemporary literature! New members are always welcome. **January:** *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman, **February:** TBD. *No registration is required for this in-person club.*

Mahjong Club: Adults

Sundays, January 15 & February 12, 1:30-4:30pm at Minooka Branch
Mahjong returns to Three Rivers Library! Beginners and experienced players are invited to play this skill-based tile game as we meet monthly to learn and play together. If you have your own tiles, please bring them. *Registration is required for this in-person program*

Identity Theft Scams & Tips: Adults

Monday, January 23, 6-7pm via Zoom
Partnering with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, we'll present tips to prevent identity theft and ways to restore your financial profile if it happens to you. Learn how to recognize common scams and the many variations, set up fraud alerts, security freezes, and opt-outs, plus how to report scams. *Registration is required for this live virtual program.*

Genealogy Basics: Adults

Tuesday, January 24, 6-7:30pm at Minooka Branch
Learn how to get started with your family history and genealogy, including advice for searching U.S. census and vital records and how to stay organized as you research. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Pints & Pages Book Club: Adults

Wednesday, January 25, 7-8:30pm at Iron & Glass, 104 Ridge Rd, Minooka
Enjoy a pint while we discuss the current selection, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. New members are always welcome. *No registration is required for this in-person club.*

Capote: A Pints & Pages Movie Discussion: Adults

Friday, February 3, 6-8:30pm at Minooka Branch
Enjoy an after-hours viewing of the biopic *Capote*, starring Phillip Seymour Hoffman as author Truman Capote during the six years he researched his masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*. Afterward, we'll discuss the movie itself and the relationship to the book. This program is not limited to members of Pints & Pages. All are welcome to attend. *No registration is required for this in-person program.*

Storm Chasing 101: Adults

Monday, February 13, 6-7pm at Village of Minooka Community Room, 121 McEvelly Rd
Nick Bartholomew of Illinois Storm Chasers will share a flurry of weather-related information, including storm chasing, local climatology, past tornadic events, and severe weather safety and preparedness. Be sure to bring your weather related questions for the Q&A! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Genealogy Resources Online: Adults

Tuesday, February 21, 6-7:30pm at Minooka Branch
Intimidated by online resources like Ancestry and Family Search? Louise Svehla, Adult Services Manager, will demonstrate strategies for searching online resources and share her top 10 favorite free resources to help you build your family tree. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Drum Circle: Adults

Tuesday, February 28, 6-7pm at Minooka Branch
Learn to enjoy rhythm as a way to relax and unwind. Dawn Wrobel, certified in Healing Rhythms™, will have drums and other instruments for you to use, or you are welcome to bring your own, as she leads the circle. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

The change of seasons is upon us. Please read this useful information regarding snow removal and ice control.

Snow Plowing Policies:

All streets and alleys are plowed within eight hours or less of a snowfall. The main streets are the first plowed, followed by salting intersections, and hills. Secondary streets are always plowed, followed by salting at a lesser application rate. This is all dependent on weather conditions.

Parking Restrictions:

Residents are reminded that the Village has an ordinance requiring all vehicles to be parked off the street during and immediately following a snowfall of 2-inches or more. Any vehicle in violation of this ordinance shall be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense by the police department.

Portable Basketball Standards:

Please remove any of the portable basketball standards that are left curbside or sometimes even on the street. Basketball backboards and hoops often protrude into the traffic lanes and have caused damages to snow plow trucks or other large vehicles that need to follow the curb line.

Depositing Snow in Roadways:

Residents clearing their own drives should avoid blowing or pushing snow into the streets. This creates a traffic hazard to motorists who may be unable to distinguish between freshly piled snow and the roadway potentially may cause an accident.

Mailbox Damage Prevention:

Please make sure your mailbox is secured to the post and in good condition. We receive a few calls during the winter about damaged mailboxes due to snow plowing operations. The force of the snow discharged off the plow creates a wave of snow that may knock mailboxes over if they have weak post or are not fastened properly to the post.

Child Safety:

Discourage your children from playing in piles of snow that may exist along the roadways or parkways, especially near driveway entrances.

Private Drives:

Subdivision residents living on private streets should be aware that the homeowners associations may be responsible for snow removal for all private streets and driveways.

Public Works Crew

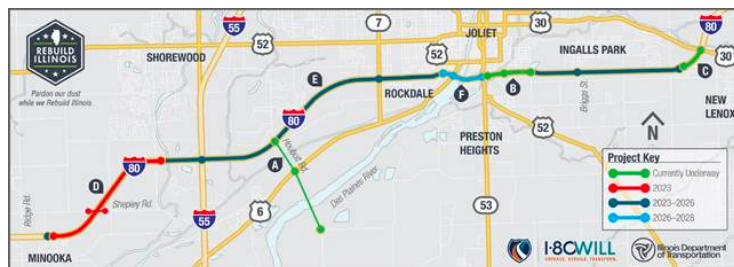
Our priority is to clear the streets in a timely manner, providing the emergency response vehicles access to each residence and each building. Next we focus on clearing the streets for the residents providing a way to get to school, work, etc. Please help out by reviewing this list of reminders to help us make this winter a safe one.

I-80 Rebuild and Renewal Underway

The work to rebuild sixteen miles of I-80 in Will and Grundy Counties has begun and includes:

- The **\$1.2 billion project** includes the **extension of Houbolt Road** across the Des Plaines River, rehabilitation or replacement of over **thirty bridges** including the **I-80 Des Plaines River bridges**, as well as interchange and mainline reconstructions.
- The project will proceed in phases, with Minooka and Grundy County's section of the roadway slated for work in 2023. The rebuild is planned to be **completed by 2028**.

Visit www.i-80will.com or IDOT for more information.



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

2015 International Fire Code 505.1 – Address Identification

It is important to have a visible address on your home or business to ensure that Police/Fire/Ambulance services can quickly come to aid in an emergency. International Fire Code 505.1 requires all new and existing buildings to display address identification.

For more information, please call the Village of Minooka Building Department at 815-467-2151.

The identification must:

- Be legible.
- Be placed in a position visible from the street/road fronting the property.
- Contrast with their background.
- Shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters, numbers shall not be spelled out.
- Shall not be less than four (4) inches high.



Chaplain's Corner

I am a New Yorker at heart. I grew up on Long Island in a town that was as far away from downtown Manhattan as Minooka is from the Loop. My mom is the youngest of 9, and in the 1930's and 1940's many in her family moved from Puerto Rico to New York to find work. I had aunts and uncles in the Bronx and Spanish Harlem, and we spent Christmas and New Year's Eve enjoying family in the city.

We were a large, extended family that would gather in an impossibly small apartment, sit on plastic covered furniture, and welcome the New Year watching the ball of light fall on a small black and white TV. It was our family tradition. It was our family culture. It was wonderful.

I graduated from my family with some wonderful traditions. I also left my home with some not so wonderful (translate: helpful) traditions. Now that I am slightly north of 60, I find I am still celebrating the beauty and love that I experienced in my family, while at the same time, being open to understanding and healing from some of the liabilities that I carry from my family. Most of these liabilities show up in my relationships: my tendency to be a people pleaser; my avoidance of conflict; my judgementalism... to name a few.

This new year, let's make a choice to be real with ourselves and celebrate the positive, helpful traditions that we want to pass along to our families, and that we want to live out, where appropriate, in our professional lives. Let's also be real with ourselves and understand and name our liabilities, be open to healing and finding help, and in so doing, become the best version of ourselves for our families, our workplace, and our community.

Carlos Garcia, Chaplain

NEWS FROM WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prohibited Parking Ordinance Reminder:

As much as we all dread it or love it, winter is right around the corner, which means it's time to remind you of our ordinance of no parking on Village streets during snowfall.



9-1-24: PROHIBITED PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS:

It shall be unlawful for any person to park any motor vehicle on any highway, street, or alley within the village when snow shall have accumulated to a depth of two inches (2") or more on such highway, street, or alley. It shall be unlawful to so park from the time of such accumulation until the snow has been removed. In addition to all other remedies, every person who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with this section shall be sentenced as provided in section 1-4-1 of this code for each offense. Each occurrence shall constitute a separate offense. Members of the police department are hereby authorized to cause any vehicle parked in violation of this section to be removed from the highway, street, or alley, at the expense of the owner of the vehicle, pursuant to applicable statutes. (Ord. 2011-29, 12-20-2011)

Become Part of Our Department

INTERESTED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT?
ARE YOU BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-21? COME EXPERIENCE OUR INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM PROVIDING FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN A FUTURE CAREER!

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Arrest & Use of Force
- Crash Investigation
- Evidence Collection
- Basic Life Support
- Honor Guard Drill
- Traffic Stops

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

- Community Involvement
- Leadership Skills
- Physical Fitness
- Mental Fitness
- Dependability
- Knowledge

Minooka POLICE

CALL US AT 815-467-2298 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

POST #447

EARN YOUR SPOT AS A MINOOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT EXPLORER TODAY!

The Minooka Police Department is continually looking for applicants 14-21 years of age for our Explorer Program. If you are interested in working with the police department or are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, this program is for you! For questions regarding the Explorer Program contact Detective Parrish or Sergeant Macdonald at (815) 467-2298.

NEWS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES

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.



missionbible.church



Mission Bible Church



Mission Bible Church



412 N Wabena Ave, Minooka, IL 60447

Mission Minooka

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

Mission Morris (meeting at Saratoga School)

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

ST. MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Mass

Saturdays: 5.00 PM • Sundays : 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM



stmarysminooka.com



St. Mary's Minooka



StMarysMinooka



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

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 at **9:00** and **10:30 am**.

Kid Village Classes will be open for both services, **infant-grade 3**.

Pulse 45 (grades 4-5) and **Pulse Jr.** (grades 6-8) meet during Sunday morning services.

Online 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** www.thevillagechristianchurch.com/the-village-live-online-campus, **YouTube Channel** 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 for more information.

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 11 from 6:30-7:30 PM at the Minooka Campus.

Pulse Jr. (grades 6-8) will begin meeting Sunday, January 8 from 6:30-8 PM at the Minooka Campus.

Pulse Sr. (high school) will begin meeting Sunday, January 8 from 6:30-8 PM at the Minooka Campus.



thevillagechristianchurch.com



TheVillageChristianChurch



The Village Christian Church



8965 South Bell Road, Minooka Illinois 60447

MINOOKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship *Our building on Church St. has sold and we have moved! Join us at our temporary location at 24751 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL 60410

Saturday in-person at 3 PM

Sunday in-person & online at 11:30 A

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School has merged with Channahon UMC's. Children meet at 10:30 AM in the education wing room 140.

SERMONS

January Sermon Series: New Chapter: Health & Wellness

February Sermon Series: Friends Forever: Love & Marriage

PRAYER PARTNERS

Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Open prayer time in room 145.

NEW YEARS SERVICES

Saturday, December 31st at 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st at 11:30 a.m. - Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Worship

SENIOR LUNCHEON "Forever Young"

On the third Wednesday of the month, we will hold a free luncheon for ages 55 and better! We will not meet in January. Join us on February 15th at noon. Invite friends and neighbors (55 years and older) and plan to have fun! Make your reservation by calling the church office at 815-467-2322 no later than February 8th. **PLEASE NOTE: This event has temporarily moved to St Mary's Church Parish Hall in Minooka.*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.

LENT BEGINS

Saturday, February 25th & Sunday, February 26th

Join us our 40 Day Challenge "The Love Dare" Bible study and sermon series



minookaumc.com



Minooka United Methodist Church



205 W. Church Street, Minooka, IL 60447



121 E. McEVILLY ROAD
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS 60447

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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	Barry Thompson (815) 353-9188
Dennis Martin (815) 693-6596	Gabriela Martinez (815) 216-7000
Dick Parrish (815) 531-5337	Robin White (815) 671-6008

Speak out! Suggestions! Volunteer!

Communicate with Minooka elected officials and administrators. Your advice, suggestions, volunteering, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive a response. Please complete this form, detach, and return to: Village Administrator, Village of Minooka, 121 E. McEvilly, Minooka, IL 60447.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Comment: _____



WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?



SIGN UP AT

www.Minooka.com

