

Established 1869

The Village of Minooka

VILLAGE OF MINOOKA
PRESENTS



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC. 9TH
4:30PM - 7:00PM

Santa will be at the Minooka Community Room to visit with children of all ages. There will be cocoa, cookies, crafts, music, live entertainment and so much more.

BRING A CANNED GOOD FOR 1 FREE RAFFLE TICKET, ADDITIONAL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

If you would like to participate, donate, contribute a raffle basket, or for more details call Dawn Niner at 815-467-2151 Ext. 3185 or email dawn.niner@minooka.com

INSIDE FEATURES

- New Business Spotlight* Pg. 2
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Issue 64
November - December 2023

To Serve You Better Welcome to Your Newsletter

Mayor's Message

There is frost on the pumpkins (if you have a pumpkin). The ducks and geese are on their way south and some of us will follow them. Many stores have their Christmas Wares out (too early again), but let us enjoy fall while we can as we get out the sweaters, boots, and heavy coats.

We at the Village Hall wish you a respectful Veterans Day, a warm and blessed Thanksgiving, and a wonderful Christmas, where we get just what we deserve. Good health is the best present, everything else is a bonus.

Respectfully,

Ric Offerman, *Village President*



The Village Administrator

Dan Duffy, *Village Administrator*

New Business Spotlight

Taco Fixx

Craving some delicious tacos? Come try Taco Fixx! Taco Fixx is a new, family-owned and operated restaurant that opened in June and has already received a number of compliments, from their excellent service to the way the flavors in their street style tacos perfectly combine with each other.



At Taco Fixx there is a taco for every person, no matter the preference. They have crunchy taco shells, which are fried in-house daily and served with lettuce, tomato, cheese, and house salsa on the side. Choices of meat include chicken, ground beef, and steak. They also offer soft flour or corn tortilla shells and avocado tacos. The most popular amongst customers, however, are the street style tacos, available with steak, chicken, pork, or shrimp.

In addition to tacos, Taco Fixx also offers burritos, taco and caesar salads, enchiladas, quesadillas, tostadas, and more. Their desserts are a fan favorite. Funnel cakes are fried to order with various toppings, including the owner's personal favorite of fruity pebbles. They have delicious tres leches cake as well as homemade toffee, which intrigues many customers.

Taco Fixx is located at 453 S. Ridge Road in Minooka, across from Minooka Junior High School and next to Forepaws. Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Thursdays 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 12 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. They offer dine-in, takeout, and DoorDash delivery. Please call them at (815) 828-5155 if you would like to place an order for pickup. Taco Fixx hopes to see you soon!

Dear SANTA

Santa's Mailbox will be at Village Hall
121 E. McEvilly Rd
November 22nd - December 15th 2023

Drop off your letters to Santa in his Magic Mailbox by December 15th and Santa will write you back!!!

Be sure to include a self-addressed envelope with your letter so, Santa knows where to send your letter to!!!

If you would like more information contact Dawn Niner at Dawn.Niner@minooka.com

The Village of Minooka

Final Week!

NOV 27TH - DEC 1ST
2023

Final curbside yard waste collection will be on your regularly scheduled trash day

The Village offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veterans Day - November 10th, 2023

Thanksgiving - November 23rd & 24th, 2023

Christmas - December 25th & December 26th, 2023

New Year's Day - January 1st, 2024

Trash services will be delayed the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Please see Minooka.com for more information.

UGLY Christmas SWEATER PARTY

Featuring Country Band: **Whiskeylist**

Friday, December 1, 2023
6-11pm
176 West Banquet Hall • Joliet, IL

Included: Buffet Dinner, Entertainment, Online Auction, Ugly Sweater Contest, Raffle Prizes, and more!

Buy tickets at www.mchs.net/page/foundation

MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #111 FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

ATTENTION PARENTS
FREE BABYSITTING NIGHT

Sponsored by the Village of Minooka
Staffed by Minooka Summer Camp Counselors

Friday, Dec. 1st 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Village of Minooka Community Room

PARENTS...do you need a Date Night or Time for some Christmas Shopping?

Drop off the kids at the Village Community Room. We will have free play, crafts, snacks and games.

You must pre-register **By Friday Nov. 24**

To Register please log into Community Pass <https://register.communitypass.net/VillageofMinooka>
If you have any questions contact Dawn Niner dawn.niner@minooka.com 815-467-2151 Ext.3185

For ages 3 years old (potty trained) to 12 years old

The MJHS Newspaper Club began in February of 2023, putting out three publications during its formative days. The club is up and running full strength for the 2023-2024 school year, hoping to achieve 12+ publications. MJHS Matters is a fully student-written newspaper featuring local news and information, staff and student spotlights, opinion pieces, and more! While attempting to cover all that happens at the junior high, students also get to choose topics of interest. We strive to highlight sports, clubs, activities, and fantastic individuals in the school and local community. The newspaper club meets every Thursday morning before school and is led by Mrs. Jacquelyn Weiss and Mrs. Stephanie Zabelny.

THE MJHS NEWSPAPER CLUB PRESENTS
MJHS MATTERS
Volume #2 Edition #1 October 10, 2023

Minooka Community High School invites Local Veterans to our

Veterans Day Breakfast & Assembly

Friday, November 10

Breakfast @ South Campus 8 - 8:45 a.m.

South Campus • Central Campus
8:51 - 9:41 a.m. 10:18 - 11:08 a.m.

26655 W. Eames Street 301 S. Wabena Avenue
Channahon, IL 60410 Minooka, IL 60447

RSVP to Anne Seidel at (815) 521-4108 • aseidel@mchs.net

Rawr!

CABIN FEVER BREAK
Please join us for

DINO AND FLAMINGOS FUN

DECEMBER 29, 2023 • 2:00PM- 6:00 PM

121 MCEVILLY RD. MINOOKA IL 60447
Come out and join us for Dinosaur and Flamingo discovery fun! T-Rexpores will provide real dinosaur fossils, the Minooka Library will be there, too!

Come make a craft, dig in the sand to discover some fossils and shark teeth, and much more.
Open to All
Parents must be present (not a drop-off event).

If you would like more information please contact Dawn Niner at Dawn.Niner@minooka.com

GRUNDY COUNTY LAND USE DEPARTMENT

GENTLY USED TOY DRIVE

NOVEMBER 17 TO DECEMBER 8, 2023

Please donate gently used children's toys, games, DVDs, books, and plush animals.

The drop off locations are as follows:

- Morris Library - 604 Liberty Street, Morris
- Channahon Library-25207 W. Channahon Drive
- Minooka Library-109 W. Wabena
- Coal City Library-85 N. Garfield Street
- Fossil Ridge Library-386 W. Kennedy Road
- Grundy County Administration - 1320 Union Street, Morris

All toys will be given to needy children through the Rotary Club in time for the holidays.
Thank you Grundy County for your generosity!

Special Event:

Family Read Month Challenge: All Ages

November 1-30

Click your heels together, because this November, there's no place like Three Rivers Library!

All month long, track your reading and complete challenges to collect Bingos and earn small prizes and chances at bigger prizes. Families of all sizes can follow the yellow brick road to our Family Read Month Challenge starting November 1. Visit www.trpld.org for more details coming soon.



Family and Youth Programs:

The Stone Age in Illinois: Families

Friday, November 3, 1-2pm at Minooka Branch

Peek into the pre-Columbian past of our area! From tools and clothes to medicine and musical instruments, you'll learn about the real items used in daily life and have a chance to try them yourself. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Graphic Novel Club: Youth 7-11 years

Sundays, November 19 & December 17, 2-2:45pm at Minooka Branch

Talk about the month's selection, share your favorites, draw popular characters, and more! November: Bad Guys December: Bug Boys *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Hugo Kringle: Families

Saturday, December 16, 2-3pm at Minooka Branch

Mike Anderson returns to portray Hugo Kringle, Kris Kringle's brother, as he shares holiday songs and hilarious stories about growing up with the boy who would become Santa Claus. Best enjoyed by families with children 8 years and younger. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

STOMP Bus Trip: 14-19 years

Saturday, December 16, 11am-5:30pm,

Bus leaves from Morris Area Public Library, 604 Liberty St, Morris

Teens ages 14-19 and living in Grundy County are invited to join us for this international percussion sensation, which uses everything but conventional percussion instruments to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Tickets are \$10 per person, which includes transportation, lunch at Merichka's, and tickets to STOMP at Broadway Playhouse Theater in Chicago. *Online registration is required for this in-person program.*

Grinchmas Party: Families

Friday, December 22, 4-6pm at Minooka Branch

Your heart will grow three sizes when you join us for a Whoville celebration with the classic cartoon, crafts, snacks, and games. Be on the lookout for that grouchy Grinch who is always out to ruin the holiday fun! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Adult Programs:

Three Rivers Book Club: Adults

Wednesdays, November 1 & December 6, 7-8:30pm at Arrowhead Community Center, 24856 W Eames St, Channahon

Join us for lively discussions of contemporary literature. New members are always welcome. November: The Favorite Sister by Jessica Knoll, December: TBD *No registration is required.*

Pick the Right Medigap Plan: Adults 18+

Thursday, November 2, 1:30-2:30pm at Minooka Branch

Learn about Medicare & Supplement Insurance, plus how to get a free customized Medicare Supplement Insurance Pricing Report with your library card! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Hamilton Bus Trip: Adults & Youth 5 years+

Friday, November 10, 4:30pm-12am, Bus Leaves from Channahon Library

Don't throw away your shot to see the return of Hamilton at the James M. Nederlander Theatre in Chicago! The ticket price of \$125 per person includes lower balcony seating & coach bus transportation. Children 16 years and younger must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. Tickets must be paid for at the time of reservation. *Registration and waiver required for this in-person program.*

Board Game Night: Adults 18+

Thursday, November 16, 5:30-7:30pm at Channahon Library

Try an assortment of games and find a new favorite. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Illinois Libraries Present: Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb: Adults 18+

Wednesday, December 6, 7-8pm via Zoom

Lori Gottlieb, NYT bestselling author of and co-host of the "Dear Therapists" podcast joins us for a thought-provoking conversation about mental health in anticipation of the winter holiday season. *Registration is required for this live virtual program.*

Holiday Music with Professor

Moptop: Adults 18+

Thursday, December 14, 6:30-7:30pm at Minooka Branch





Professor Moptop returns with the lowdown on favorite holiday tunes, including traditional Christmas and winter songs as well as many other less common ones. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

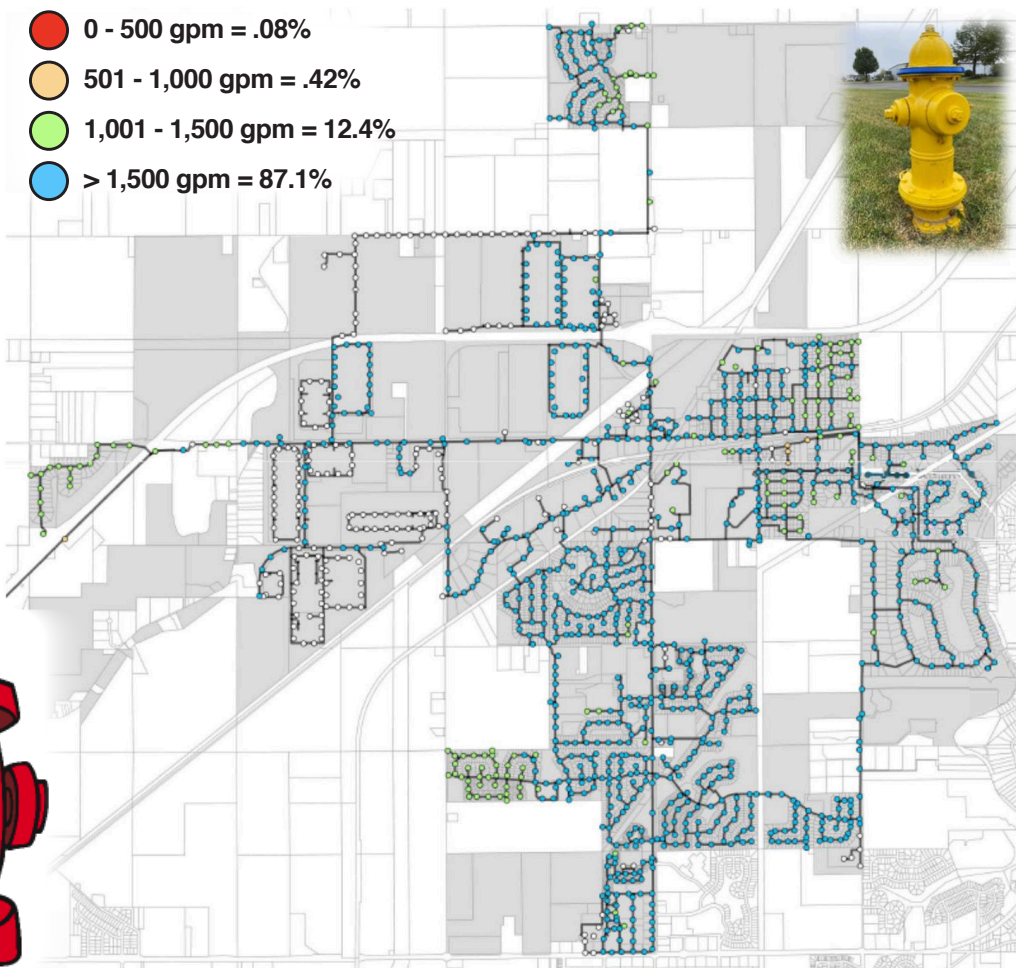
HYDRANT FACTS

If you have ever wondered what the colored stickers around each fire hydrant mean, we have the answer for you. The colors indicate how much water flow they can produce in gallons per minute (gpm).

Most hydrants in town can produce a flow of 1,500 gpm or more, which is considered excellent fire protection flows. Those hydrants are marked with a blue tape, like the one shown to the right. The tape is also reflective to assist firemen with locating the hydrants at night.



-  0 - 500 gpm = .08%
-  501 - 1,000 gpm = .42%
-  1,001 - 1,500 gpm = 12.4%
-  > 1,500 gpm = 87.1%



IMPORTANT COMMUNITY WATER SOURCE UPDATE

The Village of Minooka draws its groundwater supply from four deep wells and one shallow well located throughout the Village. In 2021, the Village held several open houses to show residents the results of a study from the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), stating the sandstone aquifers in Northeastern Illinois have decreasing groundwater levels. Additionally, based on updated modeling completed in 2018, the aquifer supplying Minooka's wells was estimated to be depleted by 2050.

The Village performed an analysis of alternative sources of groundwater in 2021 and determined that participating in the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC) was in the community's best interest in securing a future water supply. The GPWC will build a pipeline from Lake Michigan and will service six communities (Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville & Shorewood).



GRAND PRAIRIE
WATER COMMISSION

The Village implemented steps in 2023 to assist with the capital cost associated with obtaining Lake Michigan water. As we look ahead into 2024:

- The **water rate** per 1,000 gallons will be \$7.00 on January 1, 2024.
- The water rate will **increase annually** on January 1st based on capital and operational needs of the water system.
- The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons will be \$6.24 on January 1, 2024 and will **increase by 3%** every January 1st.

The Village of Minooka has taken these steps to identify a future safe and reliable source of drinking water and to ensure sustainable growth and economic prosperity.

MINOOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chaplain's Corner



About 100 years ago, when I was a young dad, I loved - well, most of the time, I loved - putting my kids to bed. Every parent and child draws battle lines at night, and the "bed time games" officially begin when mom or dad says, "Okay. Time for bed." It was exhausting, but we were in the struggle to the end! **Child:** "I'm still thirsty!" **Me:** "Someone threw a giant sponge in the water tower. There's no more water. Go to bed!" **Child:** "I have to go to the bathroom." **Me:** "No way! You've gone 78 times already! Stay there! I'm bringing the American Standard here to your room. Go to bed!" **Child:** "I'm hungry." **Me:** "That's what breakfast is for! IF you go to bed!"

Not quite sure if I ever won any of those skirmishes, and I have anxiety just writing about them! After reading a book or two, and praying for them, we would get all tucked in and finally, I would turn off the room light.

Darkness. Stillness. Quietness. There is something special about those small, priceless moments in an unlit child's bedroom at the end of the day. It's almost like those moments are a dip into the ocean of time otherwise known as eternity. I would watch my kids begin the journey to say good-bye to the day's last waking moments, when all the tears they cried, and all the laughter and crazy is behind them, and I would get really close to them, and slowly, gently whisper in their ear, "Mom loves you, daddy loves you..." I then would name each of their siblings, grandparents, special friends, etc., telling them that each one of these precious people in their lives loved them. I would finish this by simply saying: "And Jesus loves you most of all."

Thanksgiving and Christmas are upon us. For all of us this brings up a range of thoughts, memories, delights, difficulties and struggles. As I write, evil, unspeakable acts of violence are being committed in the Middle East. As I write, I am reflecting on the relational struggles in my own family that we will need to navigate this Thanksgiving and Christmas. The world "out there" and the world "in here" is struggling. As I write, I find myself thinking about the Christmas Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem. In the hush of my kids darkened bedroom I wanted them to know that they are not alone. That they are loved, not only here on earth, but with an eternal, everlasting love. In the dim silence of those moments, I wanted them to be assured that there is a Light that has come to scatter darkness. The darkness in my heart and yours, and the darkness in the heart of every child.

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!"

The last words I said to my mom, before she passed, were, "And Jesus loves you most of all." Her response: "That's the truth." She was right. As always, if you would like to talk about key strategies to win bedtime battles, or anything else, I would be glad to buy you a cup of coffee and share: carlosgarcia@missionbible.church

Carlos Garcia, Chaplain

NEWS FROM WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEW OFFICER ALERT

We are very excited to introduce the newest member of Minooka Police Department, K9 Kya. Officer Picha and her new partner, Kya, recently graduated from Shallow Creek Kennels 4-week K9 training course in PA. They are now ready to hit the road!!



TOYS FOR TOTS

Be the reason for joy this season. Once again, the Minooka Police Department is proud to be a drop off location for Toys for Tots, starting November 1st until December 20th. Please stop by to drop off toy donations for ages newborn to 17, during our business hours Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.



VACATION HOUSE CHECK

Are you looking to get away from the cold winter weather this year? Or maybe you're going to visit family for the holidays. Whatever is taking you out of town, allow yourself the peace of mind knowing that your house is safe while you are gone. Stop in the police department before you leave, or visit the Village of Minooka website and complete a "vacation house check" form. We can keep an eye on your house for up to 2 weeks while you enjoy your time away.



WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE

As much as we all dread it, winter is right around the corner, and that means it's time to remind everybody of our winter snow ordinance.

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)



NEWS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES

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 pm



stmarysminooka.com



St. Mary's Minooka



StMarysMinooka



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

November 5th - Bunco - Call Parish Office for more details

November 26th 8 - 11am - Knights of Columbus Sponsor breakfast: All are welcome!

December 1st 6:30pm - First Friday Rosary in the Church

December 17th 8am - 1pm - Breakfast with Santa

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 11/5.)

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



Minooka United Methodist Church



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 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 November 15th and December 20th at 11:30am. Make your reservation by calling 815-467-2322.

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. You're welcome to join us for 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 Live service online at 9:00 am or 10:30 am on Sundays 3 different ways:

- The Live Service Website live.thevillagechristianchurch.com/
- YouTube Channel [youtube.com/c/TheVillageChristianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheVillageChristianChurch)
- The Village Christian Church Facebook page.

Winter Wonderland

Get ready for an enchanting evening of holiday fun at our Winter Wonderland Event! Join us on December 8th from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM for an unforgettable experience filled with joy, laughter, and festive activities for the whole family.

Enjoy watching Santa arrive on the Firetruck at 5:30 and then get your photo with him and Mrs. Claus. Get your face painted, listen to the local music groups playing popular Christmas songs and stop by for story time with Mrs. Claus. Make memories with creative crafts and exciting games that will keep the little ones entertained. Our gingerbread café will be serving up piping hot chocolate and cider to warm you up.

Head outside for the petting zoo and sit by the outdoor fire pit and have some s'mores. Don't miss the chance to create lasting memories with your loved ones and celebrate the holiday season in style! Admission is free, and the joy is priceless. See you at our Winter Wonderland Event!

Christmas At The Village

We are so excited to celebrate Christmas with you and your family this year! The Christmas Service Schedule is as follows:

Saturday, December 23, Christmas Eve Eve: 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve: 9:00, 10:30 AM

Online Campus Services will be live for each service

- All services will be the same. (Saturday Services will be by candlelight)
- Kid Village will be closed for Saturday Services and open for Sunday morning Services.
- This is the 1 time of year that we dress up, but we encourage you to do what works best for you and your family and dress comfortably.

We look forward to seeing you for Christmas!

Learn more and sign up for your shift at:
<https://www.thevillagechristianchurch.com>



thevillagechristianchurch.com



TheVillageChristianChurch



The Village Christian Church



8965 South Bell Road, Minooka Illinois 60447

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

Christmas Moments Show & Dessert

December 14th & 15th at 7 pm

Mission Bible Church Minooka Campus - 412 North Wabena Avenue

Please Pre-Register to attend this show here:

missionbiblechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1966458

Christmas Eve Carols in the Park

December 24th at 4 pm

Chapin Park - 216 West Benton Street, Morris

Christmas Services

December 23rd at 3 & 5 pm

December 24th at 9 & 10:30 am

Mission Bible Church Minooka Campus

412 North Wabena Avenue



missionbible.church



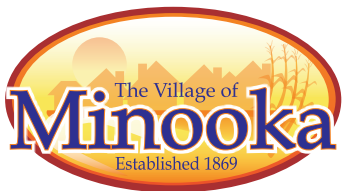
Mission Bible Church



Mission Bible Church



412 N Wabena Ave, Minooka, IL 60447



121 E. McEVILLY ROAD
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS 60447

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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.

Happy Veterans Day!

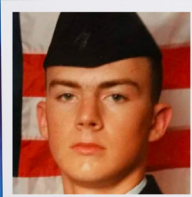
The Village of Minooka is forever thankful and grateful for the dedication and bravery of our great nation's Service Members and Veterans!



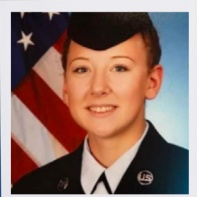
William R. Cote



William Houston Richardson Jr



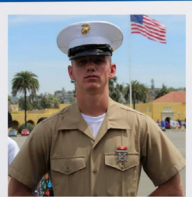
Kevin M. Brooks



Kayla A. Brooks



Dick Miller



Spencer Hauert



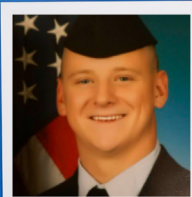
Ryan Paul Davisson



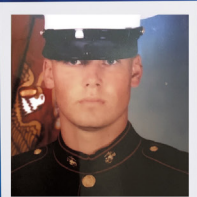
Guy Carlson



Michael J. Fiedler



Jayson M. Brooks



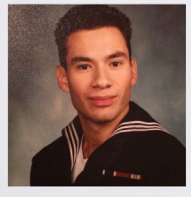
Jason C. Blaauw



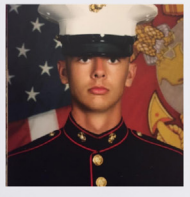
Anthony John Saenz



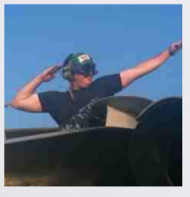
Walter Golec



Javier Martinez



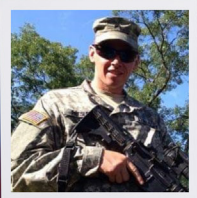
Jason Countryman Jr



David Akers



Dick Parrish



Chris Presler



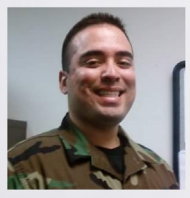
Richard Krause



Justin Meyer



Al Skwarozynski



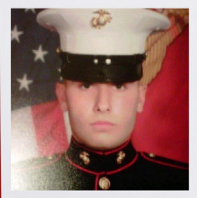
Victor M. Velarde Jr



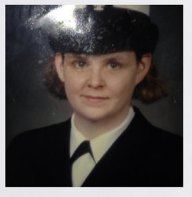
Rotasha L. Davis



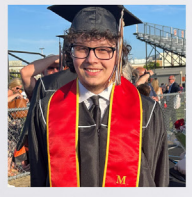
Andrew Sherwood



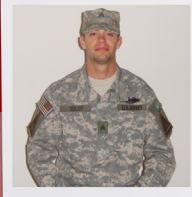
Stephen Sherwood



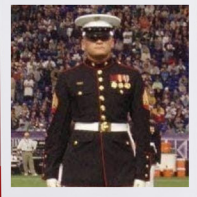
Lisa Evans



Nathan Evans



Brian Soloy



James Sinovich

Honoring All Who Serve

Village Offices will be closed Friday, November 10th 2023 in observance