

The Village of Minooka

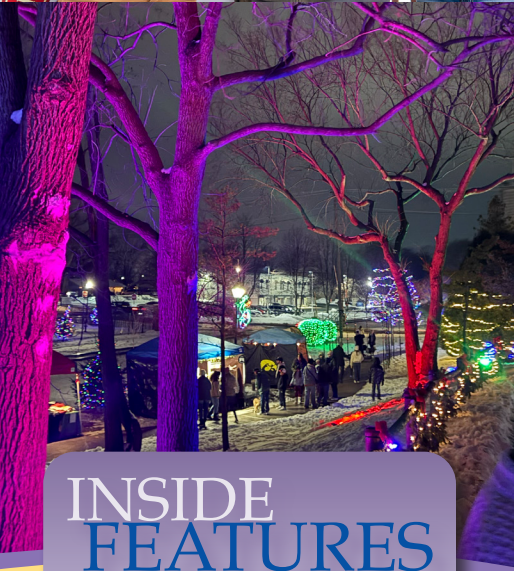
Established 1869



SEASON'S



GREETINGS



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To Serve You Better Welcome to Your Newsletter

Mayor's Message

Hi Folks,

Are we done with the snow yet? Probably not. A big thank you to our Public Works staff for keeping our streets cleared while being short-staffed. This is the time to check the garden seed catalogues, plan the spring and summer schedules, clean the golf clubs (if you golf), and put on fishing line (if you fish). It is also a good time to rest up and read those books you have by the bedpost. From January 1st until the first day of spring there are 78 days. Hang in there and be careful on the ice.

Respectfully,
Ric Offerman



Business Spotlight: **WADDELL LURES**



For this Business Spotlight recognition is due to a few local entrepreneurs who you may have seen at Minooka's Christmas Market in December. Waddell Lures started a year ago as a garage hobby rooted in a shared love of fishing right here in Minooka. The business began by hand making hard baits, later expanded into custom rubber baits, and now designs and builds custom fishing rods. Every lure and pole is tested, tweaked, and refined through real fishing experience, with a focus on performance as much as appearance.

The Minooka Christmas Market holds a special place for Waddell Lures, as it is where the business began and because Minooka is home. One

of the owners' favorite parts of the market is seeing teachers, coaches, and neighbors stop by to check out the lures and rods. Waddell Lures remains a small business and enjoys taking custom orders and working directly with anglers to create baits and poles that fit individual fishing styles. Waddell Lures can be found at the market, and custom orders can be placed by contacting waddelllures@gmail.com

COMMUNITY HAPPENS HERE Coffee with the YMCA



Make your plans to join us for an informative and engaging discussion to learn more about the new Village of Shorewood YMCA, which is scheduled to open in spring 2026. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the new facility, future programming, membership opportunities, and grand opening festivities.

BE OUR GUEST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
10:30-11:30 a.m.

MINOOKA VILLAGE HALL
121 McEvilly Road
Minooka, IL 60447



LEARN MORE

To learn more about the new Village of Shorewood YMCA, please visit www.jolietymca.org, contact Executive Director Trisha Dust at (815) 744-3939, or scan the QR code.

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD YMCA

1801 W. Jefferson Street | Shorewood, Illinois 60404
www.jolietymca.org



MEMORIAL — DAY — PARADE

Date: Monday, May 25, 2026

Time: Parade starts at 10:00am with
Memorial Service immediately following

ANY BUSINESS, CLUB OR GROUP
INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE
PARADE PLEASE CALL (815) 822-5171 OR
VISIT WWW.MINOOKALEGION1188.ORG

VENDORS SIGN UP NOW!



Sponsored by:
The American Legion
Post #1188

We need



**...TO TAKE A WATER
SURVEY**

<https://forms.minooka.com/Cross-Connection-Control-Survey>



Holiday Light Recycling

A-Team Recycling

December 2025 through
January 2026

304 Gregory Court, Shorewood, IL 60404
815-630-4308



Holiday lights not working?

Give a gift to our planet by recycling
these strings of lights or lite
decorations to the A-Team Recyclers!

A-Team will take both the plastic and copper
from these lights and allow these materials to be
remanufactured into other products.

Hours for drop off are as follows:

Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 PM;
Friday 8:00-Noon

Thank you for helping our planet!!

Trivia Night is Back!

After a 6-year hiatus, the Minooka Police Department
is finally bringing Trivia Night back! February 28th at Ace's
Classic Car Bar & Grill. Make sure you sign your team
up by February 12th so we are able to save your table.
Spots are limited so sign up soon!

All proceeds go to Special Olympics Illinois. You must be 21+
to join. Visit us at www.minooka.com to sign up today!



TRIVIA NIGHT



Dust off those "Thinking Caps" and get your
friends together. **Trivia Night is BACK!!**
Must be 21 or older to participate

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELP SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 2026

DOORS OPEN @ 6 PM



Ace's Classic Car
502 Twin Rail Dr.
Minooka, IL 60447



8 Person Teams - \$280/Table (Price includes T-shirt & food)

Scan the QR Code to Register your Team or visit us at:
www.minooka.com & click on "Police Department" to fill out the
form

Play:

Raffles,
50/50

Silent Auction

10 rounds of questions
Prize for Best TEAM THEME
Dress up & decorate your table



Sponsor:

A Table for \$280.00
Judges Table for \$280.00
A Round for \$100.00

Donate:

Raffle Items
Silent Auction Items
Door Prize Items

All Registration forms and money must be turned in at the Police Dept. by February 12
For questions, or to become a sponsor, please reach out to Mandy Bowden at
mandy.bowden@minooka.com

Visit the library's events calendar at trpld.org/events to view the full range of events and to register for library programs. Both libraries are closed January 1 & February 16 for the holidays. 2026 is the 50th Anniversary of the Library District! The library is celebrating all year long with special events, programs, and giveaways.



All Ages Programs:



LIBRARY STORE: ALL AGES

Open all year online

Love the library? Wear it! Shop the rotating collection of TRPLD gear and gifts. Proceeds go directly to the Library Foundation to support future library initiatives. <https://bit.ly/trpldshop>

Book It Around Channooka!: All Ages

January 1-December 31, All day in the Goosechase App

Hosted by Three Rivers Public Library District, with support from Channahon Park District, and the Villages of Channahon & Minooka: We are so egg-cited to celebrate Three Rivers Library's 50th Anniversary with a yearlong, interactive experience! Gather your flock or go solo to take a gander at hot spots across Channahon & Minooka, completing missions and trivia to collect points and win prizes. The first mission will appear on January 1—scan the QR code to download the app for Android or iOS and join the experience. Allow notifications be the first to know when the experience begins! *Registration is required in the Goosechase App.*



"Read with Benny" Winter Reading Challenge: All Ages

January 1-January 31, All day in Beanstack

Winter Reading is back! Join the challenge in Beanstack to earn badges, prizes, & raffle tickets for logging your reading and completing cozy activities! *Registration is required in Beanstack.*

Your Story is Our History: All Ages

Open all year at both libraries

For five decades, Three Rivers Library has shared stories—now we want to hear yours! Help us celebrate by sharing your favorite library moments, big or small. Ready to share? Fill out the online form at <https://bit.ly/librarystory26> for more information and to share your story!



Children's Clothing & Toy Swap: All Ages

Sunday, February 1, 1-5pm at Minooka Branch

Bring clean, gently-used children's clothes and toys to swap with others! Items can be donated in advance or brought to the swap where you'll pick out some free, new-to-you finds! Be sure to stop by the t-shirt decorating station to customize your new items. *No registration is required.*

Youth Programs:

Senior Citizen Valentine Collection: All Ages

January 10-February 10, All day at both libraries

Spread the love by dropping off handmade or store-bought valentines to be distributed to local senior citizens. *No registration is required.*

Fin's Birthday Bash: Ages 0+

Tuesday, January 13, 5:30-6:30pm at Minooka Branch

Fin loves the library and he wants you to help him celebrate his birthday by signing up for a session to read with him! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Graphic Novel Club: Ages 7-11

Sundays, January 4, February 8, & March 22, 2pm at Minooka Branch

Discuss the current selection, draw characters, and more! January: Cloud Puppy, February: The Coldfire Curse, March: Space Case *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Jeopardy!

Thursdays, January 15, February 19 at Minooka Branch

Ages 7-11: 4:30pm Ages 12+: 5:15pm

Got a big brain? Prove it! We're serving up trivia with a fresh theme every month. *Registration is required for these in-person program.*

Adult Programs:

Movie Mondays: Adults 18+

Mondays, January 5, February 2, 1pm at Minooka Branch

Enjoy a movie matinee and free popcorn! January: Wolfs, February: Sinners. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Silent Book Club: Adults 18+

Thursdays, January 29, February 26, 4-5pm at Channahon Library

There's no assigned reading; bring your own book or audiobook with headphones to read in the company of others! *No registration required.*

Crafting with Creativebug: Adults 18+

Fridays, January 9, 23, February 13, 27, 2pm at Minooka Branch

Try fun projects, learn new techniques, & more! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

Technology Drop-In: Adults 18+

Thursday, January 8, 11am-1pm at Minooka Branch &

Thursday, January 15, 11am-1pm at Channahon Library
Drop in for a one-on-one session to help you with a tough tech question, help you set up a new device, and more! *No registration is required.*

Library of Things Extravaganza: Adults 18+

Wednesday, February 25, 6pm at Minooka Branch

Discover the items available to you as a Three Rivers cardholder as you explore the collection and get hands-on experience with some of the newest items! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

OPENGOV NOW AVAILABLE

The Village of Minooka is now using OpenGov, a new online portal that makes it easier than ever to take care of things like building permits, inspections, and business registrations. Just scan the QR code to visit our OpenGov Portal and get started right from your phone or computer!

<https://minookail.portal.opengov.com/>

Discover Online Services

Choose below to browse services by department



Community Development
Building Permit, Contractor Registration



Clerk / Licensing
Business Registration, Food Vendor Permit + 5 more



MINOOKA SCHOOLS

SAVE THE DATE!

For more information, visit
www.mchs.net



*4th Annual
Community Leaders Breakfast*

Hosted by: Dr. Robert Schiffbauer, Superintendent

Minooka Community High School South Campus

Friday, February 27, 2026 • 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

MCHS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MINOOKA AND BEYOND



The Minooka Community High School Interact Club is a student-led service organization affiliated with Minooka's Rotary Club that connects students to meaningful volunteer opportunities. With 178 active members, Interact has made a significant impact during 2025 through several service efforts. Their biggest projects included providing Thanksgiving meals to 15 MCHS families through the sale of Nook Nation T-shirts, sending 48 shoeboxes to Malawi and Zambia through Operation Christmas Child, writing 1,244 letters to veterans as part of Operation Gratitude, creating dog toys for the Will County Humane Society and Hopeful Tails, donating pumpkins and ornaments to Timbers of Shorewood, and actively supporting the organization Color A Smile.

Looking ahead to 2026, Interact plans to continue its commitment to service by supporting Joliet Hospice through a blanket drive, Silver Cross Hospital with a stuffed animal toss at the boys Basketball Halftime on Jan 16, Meals on Wheels by creating placemats for clients, and Susie's Caring Place through a supplies drive for women in need.



Minooka Community High School
Presents

**Incoming
Freshmen
NIGHT**

January 14, 2026

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

Session 1: MJHS (A-F), CJHS, Private School

**All band students must attend Session 1 that follows a mandatory band meeting.*

Session 2: MJHS (G-Z), TMS, Private School

Please join us at Incoming Freshmen Night 2026!

This is your chance to get a sneak peek at South Campus and learn about important information to help prepare for your transition into high school.

Visit with student clubs and athletic teams at the Activity Fair.

Spirit wear will be available for purchase.



March 21, 2026
6-11 PM

\$125/Ticket

\$1,000/Table of 8

Appetizers 6-7 PM

Family Style Dinner 7-8 PM

Live Auction 8-8:30 PM

Raffles & Auction 6-10 PM

(Cash & Credit Cards Accepted)

Entertainment & Open Bar 6-11 PM

Music by: Southtown Entertainment

Learn more at mchsdist111foundation.org

MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
**DISTRICT #111
FOUNDATION**
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



MINOOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chaplain's Corner

What's Not So Obvious

I am writing for a January/February newsletter on December 16. Our home is warmly lit by the glow of our Christmas tree. There is still some stubborn, day after Thanksgiving snow clinging to the ground. Our Spotify Christmas playlist (337 songs, 19 hours 36 minutes) is happily filling the living room with beautiful Christmas carols and songs. But, what I find myself pondering is a movie that my wife and I saw a few nights ago about an aging actor, named Jay Kelly, who is trying to reconnect with his two daughters after a lifetime of pursuing his career and ambitions. The title character is played by George Clooney. It is a bittersweet, often very funny, but also tragic study of a man who is famous for playing roles, but who has chosen not to fulfill his role as a father. Throughout the movie Jay Kelly is on his way to Italy to attend a tribute that will honor his illustrious career. On the way we see flashbacks of his tumultuous relationship with his two daughters. In the closing scene (this is not a spoiler...it is still worth watching) he watches the tribute as scenes from a lifetime of his movies are projected on the screen. When the tribute is over the audience rises to its feet and enthusiastically applauds the great star. What happens next is what stuck with me. George Clooney, as Jay Kelley, tearfully looks at the camera and says, "Can I go again? I'd like another one."

What's obvious for you and me, is that 2026 is here. What is equally obvious is 2025 is gone. (I know, I have a keen sense of the obvious!) But what is often not so obvious to me, and perhaps to you as well, is that we can't go again. We don't get another one. You and I are building a lifetime during each minute that God gives to us to live here on the earth. If your life were put on a screen, if my life were put on a screen for all to see, would we be able to see, not perfection, but a life invested in love, family, giving, understanding and benevolence? Psalm 90:12 says, Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. Let's commit, together, to lean into the brevity of life so that we can wisely use our lives to build each other up and allow God to lead and guide us. If you want to talk about this, or anything else on your mind, I would be glad to buy you a cup of coffee: carlosgarcia@missionbible.church.

Carlos Garcia, Chaplain

NEWS FROM WITHIN THE PD

Winter Parking Notice

This is your reminder 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.



Safety Reminder:

Please remember that frozen ponds and retention basins can be dangerous. Ice thickness can vary and is often thinner than it appears. For your safety, residents are asked to stay off all frozen ponds this winter. Help us keep everyone safe by spreading the word.



MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



SIGN UP NOW FOR OUR 2026 CPR AND BABYSITTING CLASSES!



PROVIDER / 1ST AID / CPR / AED CLASSES

Available classes are on
Saturdays at 8am. Register at
www.minookafire.com/cpr/
or scan the QR code

BABYSITTING CLASSES

Available classes are on
Mondays at 4pm. Register at
www.minookafire.com/babysitting/
or scan the QR code



NEWS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES

MINOOKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Minooka United Methodist Church Is On Ridge Road

Our new building is at 1210 S. Ridge Road, next to the water tower. Worship experiences are Sunday mornings at 9:30AM. All are welcome! Learn more about our welcoming and affirming congregation at www.minookaumc.com

Online maps still don't always get our new address correct, so your GPS may take you slightly off-course. Our church is on the east side of Ridge Road, next door to the Minooka water tower, south of Prairie Ridge Drive and north of Misty Creek Drive (in-between the Lakewood Trails and Prairie Ridge subdivisions).

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children in PreK-5th grade meets at 10:45AM following our worship service. All our Sunday School teachers complete Safe Gathering training and a background check.

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for students in 6th-12th grades meets Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:00PM. Youth Group is a place to belong where students can show up just as they are, build friendships, and grow in their faith. All our Youth Group leaders complete Safe Gathering training and a background check.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

February 18th 7:00pm. "From stardust we are created and to stardust we shall return." This youth-planned-and-led worship experience includes contemplative music, time for reflective silent prayer, and imposition of ashes. All are welcome.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Sunday, February 22nd 9:30am. Author Cynthia Changyit Levin shares from her experiences as a non-partisan activist working across a variety of issues. Levin advocated side-by-side with her two children from their toddler to teen years and crafted a new approach to advocacy based upon her strengths as a mother. Levin is the author of two books: 2022's "From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started" and "Advocacy Made Easy: How to Turn Civic Frustration Into Powerful Action" released in 2025.

MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Our Grief Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 12:00Noon. It is open to anyone grieving a death. There is no cost and a light lunch is provided. Join us January 8th and February 12th.

MONTHLY SKEPTIC'S CIRCLE

Questions about faith and the meaning of life can sometimes feel overwhelming. The Skeptic's Circle offers a welcoming space for open, honest conversation about the emotions, doubts, and ideas about faith, God, and life you might have been taught not to question. Meets at Brick & Ivy Coffee Company (27754 Bluegrass Dr, Channahon, IL 60410) on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. See you January 13th and February 10th.

MONTHLY SENIOR LUNCHEON

"Forever Young" Senior Luncheon is a free lunch for those 55 years old and older. This delightful joint venture between our two congregations is held at St. Mary's Parish Center. Senior Luncheon is off for January. For February, we have made some much needed changes to our reservation process because we are continually at capacity. We hope to help new people have the opportunity to enjoy the luncheon. Senior Luncheon returns Wednesday, February 11th. To reserve your spot for February 11th, you may call our church office at 815-467-2322 between 9:30am - 2:00pm from January 26th - February 5th.

 1210 S. Ridge Rd., Minooka, 60447

 minookaumc.com

 Minooka United Methodist Church

CHRIST FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship: 8:30am Morning Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Main Worship Service

AWANA Clubs:

Sundays January 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 15, 22 @ 4:30 - 6:00 pm

AWANA Clubs offer a fun, exciting environment where kids, 4 years old through 12th grade, are disciplined using a proven Scripture-based program. Our awesome team of workers keep the children engaged through games and music while promoting spiritual growth through biblical teaching. Our goal is to lead children and families to Christ and develop a lifelong faith in God. Register online at christfirst.church/awana

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, January 10 & February 14 @ 7:30 am

Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a free breakfast, fellowship, and a Bible Study.

 4295 Van Dyke Rd., Minooka, IL 60447  christfirst.church     Christ First Baptist Church

THE VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sundays at The Village Christian Church

You're welcome to join us for church at 8965 South Bell Road in Minooka. Service times are at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30 am. Kid Village classes will be open for 9:00 & 10:30 services, infant-grade 3. Pulse (grades 4-8) meet during Sunday morning services at 9:00 & 10:30 as well.

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 8 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 5 from 6:30-8 PM at the Minooka Campus.

Check out thevillagechristianchurch.com/students for more information.

 8965 South Bell Road, Minooka Illinois 60447

 TheVillageChristianChurch

 thevillagechristianchurch.com

 The Village Christian Church

Come to The Village Christian Church For Game Day Sunday, February 8!

It's the biggest day in football and the biggest day in TV advertising. Can we learn something meaningful from those commercial breaks? Definitely. Services at 8, 9 and 10:30 AM - don't miss it! The big game is coming, and that means the biggest ads of the year are almost here. During Game Day, we'll break down popular commercials in church, and the Pastors will use lessons from those ads to teach us more about God and the life He wants for us. No boring here because we are a church that likes to have fun! Enjoy the nacho bar, root beer floats, play some games and wear your favorite team jersey! We'll have fun photo spots for you to take a family photo or maybe a selfie of you and your friend!

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 412 N. Wabena in Minooka

Saturday - 5:00pm Sunday - 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am (Spanish translation available at this service)

Mission Morris (meets at Saratoga School) 4040 N. Division St, Morris - Door #16 Sunday 9:30am

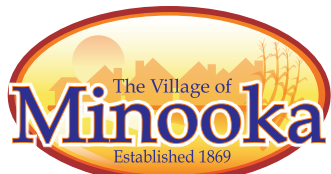
Our Re | Engage marriage ministry is launching a new course on January 13, and we'd love for you to be part of it! Whether your marriage is new or seasoned, struggling or thriving, this is a great place to grow together. Register today at missionbible.church.

 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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POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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

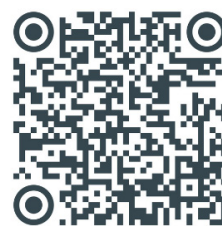
Josh Stell (630) 644-2335

Are you a business owner
or manager in Minooka?



Help us plan for the year ahead!

Share your feedback to guide the future
of Minooka's business community.



Take our 5 minute survey!

Scan or Visit:
<https://forms.minooka.com/Minooka-2026-Business-Survey>

Paper copies
available at
Village Hall

YOUR BLOOD
IS A *Lifeline*



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Saturday
January

24

7:00AM – 12:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.



1-800-7TO-GIVE

**St. Ann Catholic Church Knights
of Columbus 12863 Blood Drive**

Location: St Ann Catholic Church

24500 S. Navajo Drive
Channahon, IL 60410

Appointments appreciated; Walk-Ins welcome!
To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL, load the
Versiti Donor app, call (800) 7TO-GIVE,
or scan the QR code

Photo ID Required



versiti
Blood Center of Illinois

Getting You Where You Need to Go!

GTS
Grundy Transit System



**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****

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

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.

**We are now a Non-Emergency Medicaid
Transportation Provider, call us today
for more information!**