








VILLAGE MATTERS

Newsletter of the Village of Villa Park

WINTER 2025

20 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois 60181 | 630-834-8500 | TDD 630-834-8589 | invillapark.com     



Villa Park Recreation Center

We're thrilled to announce the grand opening of the new Villa Park Recreation Center this January! Turn to pages 6 and 7 for membership details and visit our website to learn more about all the exciting offerings.

Community Calendar



Follow us on Social Media!

Do you want to stay informed on all the happenings around town between issues of Village Matters? Be sure to follow all of our social media accounts for up-to-date information on events, news, and all things Villa Park!



 [Facebook.com/villaparkgovernment](https://www.facebook.com/villaparkgovernment)

 X (formerly known as Twitter)
[X.com/villapark_il](https://twitter.com/villapark_il)

 [Instagram.com/villageofvillapark](https://www.instagram.com/villageofvillapark)

 [LinkedIn.com/company/village-of-villa-park](https://www.linkedin.com/company/village-of-villa-park)

 [Youtube.com/@villageofvillapark3578](https://www.youtube.com/@villageofvillapark3578)

Board Meetings & Village Holidays Observed

Village of Villa Park Board Meeting
Dec 9, Dec 16, Dec 23, Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 10, Feb 24, Mar 10, Mar 24
7:00 pm, *Village Hall, Second Floor*

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10
6:00 pm, *Village Hall, Second Floor*

Coffee with the Village Board
Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1
9:00 am, *Village Hall, Second Floor*

Village Winter Holidays Observed
Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 2024
New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2025
President's Day: Monday, February 17, 2025



Community Events

Electronics Recycling
Every third Saturday of the month
9:00 am–12:00 pm
Public Works Garage, 20 W. Home Ave.
Saturday December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15

Pictures with Santa Paws
Wednesday, December 4
The Depot at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park

Joyful Traditions (Chamber of Commerce)
Saturday, December 7
Ruggard Gazebo on the Illinois Prairie Path

St. Nick's Mart (Library)
Saturday, December 7
Villa Park Library

Holiday Train Ride
Saturday, December 7
Villa Park Metra Train Station

Visit from Santa
Saturday, December 14

3rd Annual Cocoa Crawl (Library)
Saturday, February 8

Princess Ball
Friday, March 21
Villa Park Recreation Center

Village President's Message

Fellow Residents of Villa Park,

Where did this year go? Weren't the kids just getting out of school and we were all going on vacation? As the trees have been losing their leaves and the weather is becoming colder, Villa Park can look back on a year full of fun activities, public works projects, and new commercial developments. Our concerts in the parks at the Gazebo and Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park were successes with large crowds who enjoyed the good music and tasty food. The Villa Park Fire Department hosted a 9-11 ceremony at Fire Station 81 honoring the many heroes who emerged on that tragic day. The second annual Autumn Jubilee sponsored by the F.U.N. Commission was well attended, and the food vendors fed a lot of hungry residents. The Villa Avenue Business Owners had a successful Trick-or-Treating event and children, adults, and families came out for the Halloween costume contest. Thanks to Chief Rivas and Chief Stapleton for helping judge the costume contest, it gets harder and harder each year to pick the winners! Our local businesses continue to thrive, please keep supporting them. If you are considering opening a business, you can find more information at www.invillapark.com/Economic-Development.



Lufkin Park reopened with a ribbon cutting in August and it has seen much activity in the few months since opening. Our Parks & Recreation Department, along with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, should be commended for their hard work in designing and constructing the park. The long-anticipated Villa Park Recreation Center grand opening is planned for January; the VPRC will be an addition that our residents will be impressed with and proud to call our own.

Thanks go to the Villa Park VFW Post 2801 for again hosting 50 recruits from Great Lakes Naval Station on Thanksgiving Day, the recruits are treated to good food and can contact their friends and relatives all day. The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce will again hold the Joyful Traditions on Saturday, December 7 along the Prairie Path at the Ruggard Gazebo. This is always a fun evening, and Santa Claus is looking forward to seeing our children and hopefully granting their Christmas wishes! Bring the entire family out for festivities, food, and holiday spirit.

I would like to thank all our Village Staff, Directors, Police, and Fire personnel for their hard work this year. It was a busy year with all the ongoing street and construction projects and as usual, everyone worked together and stepped up to ensure our residents received the best service possible.

Please take the time to read through this issue of Village Matters to see all the upcoming activities and have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Cuzzone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nick Cuzzone
Village President

PresidentCuzzone@invillapark.com

630.601.8113

Village Mission Statement

The Village of Villa Park is committed to providing superior municipal services in a responsive, effective, and fiscally responsible manner while maintaining a good quality of life for our residents and businesses alike.

#invillapark

Village Manager's Message

Villa Park Residents, Business Owners, and Visitors,

A year ago in this newsletter I was talking about how we had recently celebrated the groundbreaking for the Vila Park Recreation Center, commonly called the VPRC. Now we are looking forward to an anticipated grand opening on January 3, 2025. We have information in this newsletter about several VPRC memberships, which can give access to the fitness center, gym, track, locker rooms, and discounts on programs. We also have information about the hours and the programs we will offer. This building is the first building built for the express purpose of recreation for the community to enjoy together in decades, and the only modern recreation center Villa Park has ever had. A lot of people overcame skeptics and made tough choices starting well before my arrival here to make this a reality. The community has every right to feel pride in that. More details about the date and time of the ceremony will follow.



The development of the Lion's Park property will continue through 2025 into the summer. A second consecutive Open Space and Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant will pay for almost half of the \$1.5 million upgrade of the park on the land originally donated by the Villa Park IL Lions Club. The project includes a new playground (some of which will be fully accessible), a shade structure for the playground, a basketball court, a pickleball court, a pavilion, and a pollinator garden.

The opening of the VPRC, the Lions Park project, the redevelopment of Lufkin Park, and the lining of Jefferson Pool ends a period of rapid improvement and large spending for parks. We received \$11,000,000 in grants, plus some NEDSRA funds, \$7.4 million in bond proceeds, and used over \$5 million in General Fund dollars to get these projects accomplished. This facelift of our Parks & Recreation system will serve our community for many years, and serve as a reason for people to move their families to Villa Park.

I noticed that last year I mentioned The Union in the Fall edition also. Looking at the ground where the project will be built, it is hard to see any progress. However, since last fall we officially established the new TIF district and the developers (Marquette Company) have submitted a detailed pro form and bond proposal. We are writing the RDA (Redevelopment Agreement) and we have fleshed out the basics for the sale of bonds to help support the project that will be repaid by new property taxes on the building paid into the TIF account. The project could generate over \$10 million in excess revenue, beyond what is needed to pay off the bonds for the Village to use in other projects in the TIF District that includes all of St. Charles Avenue.

As the staff and Board of Trustees work together to adopt the budget for 2025, we face some tough choices. There were seven new full-time positions requested, plus we added one full-time Police Officer and a Deputy Fire Chief since the budget was adopted for 2024. We have to pay for the operation of the VPRC and we have over \$2 million in General Fund requests for capital improvements. Revenues are up slightly, but not enough to cover all of that. We will be deciding what to cut over the next few weeks and your input is always welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Harline".

Matt Harline
Village Manager
mharline@invillapark.com
630-592-6052

Green Initiatives

Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission Accepting Nominations for the 2024 Green Champion Award

The Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission advises the Village President and Board of Trustees on matters relating to the preservation, protection, and improvement of the environment, including the quality of land, air, and water.

In 2016, the commission created its Green Champion award program to recognize any outstanding environmental achievements of individuals, groups, organizations, or companies in Villa Park.

The annual certificate will be presented in one of the following nine categories.

1. Energy efficiency
2. Renewable energy
3. Conservation of natural resources
4. Recycling programs and use of recycled content products
5. Green produce use and use of recycled content materials
6. Water conservation
7. Transportation
8. Outreach and education
9. Other innovation projects and programs

How do I nominate a deserving candidate?

You can submit an online nomination form by accessing the Village of Villa Park website and searching for Green Champion Award or using the link on the Commission's web page. When accessing the online form please use the username public@villaparkvillage.com and password "public". A print version nomination form is also available at www.invillapark.com/Green-Champion-Nomination and may be submitted to the Village of Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission by email at EnvironmentalConcerns@invillapark.com or to the Village of Villa Park (Attn: Environmental Concerns Commission) 20 S. Ardmore, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Nominations are accepted for residential and nonresidential properties in Villa Park and may be submitted by property owners, business owners, and by others who feel a project or site deserves recognition.

Nomination forms will be kept on file for future consideration for a period of no more than two years from the date of submission.



Nominations are due by March 22, 2025 this year for consideration by the Environmental Concerns Commission for the previous year's award. In most instances, the award will be presented by the commission at a Village Board meeting that is closest to Earth Day, April 22. For any questions, please contact Commission Chair Bob Wagner at 630-484-8856.

NEW

Villa Park Recreation Center 320 E. Wildwood



We are thrilled for the opening of the new Villa Park Recreation Center (VPRC)! The new recreation center offers a wide range of amenities, including indoor and outdoor senior program spaces, early childhood classrooms, dance and fitness rooms, and a full-size teaching kitchen.

- State-of-the-art fitness center with the latest cardio and strength equipment
- Regulation high school basketball court
- Elevated indoor track for walking or running
- A gym accommodating two volleyball courts, three pickleball courts, and three basketball courts for youth play
- Locker and shower rooms
- Stretching area
- A large multi-purpose room that can be divided into two smaller rooms
- Rooftop terrace (weather permitting)

We are committed to providing an environment that fosters fitness, learning, and community activities!

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 5:30 am–9:00 pm
Saturday-Sunday: 7:00 am–6:00 pm

Memberships and Fees

Fitness Center Memberships include:

Access to the state-of-the-art fitness center, elevated indoor track, open gym, stretching area, full-service locker rooms, rooftop terrace (weather permitting), and 10% discount on designated fitness and athletic programs.

Youth (3-17 years) Memberships include: Use of the elevated indoor track, stretching area, open gym, full-service locker rooms, and 10% discount on designated fitness & athletic programs. **Excludes the fitness center as you must be 12 years old to use fitness center equipment.*

Track Only Memberships include: Use of the elevated indoor track, stretching area, and locker room.



**Scan to
purchase
online**

VPRC Memberships

Annual Fitness Center Membership Fees (Paid in Full)

Resident	Early bird discounted rate for annual membership until Jan 15, 2025	Regular Rate for annual membership Beginning Jan 16, 2025
Adult (18-59 years)	\$250	\$275
Couple (2 adults)	\$450	\$495
Family of 3 or more <i>Two adults & one or more 12-23 years old, unmarried children residing at the same address</i>	\$575	\$638
Youth (12-17 years)	\$175	\$200
Senior (60 years & up)	\$175	\$200

Non-Resident (No Early Bird Discount)	Rate for Annual Membership
Adult (18-59 years)	\$375
Couple (2 adults)	\$595
Family of 3 <i>Two adults & one or more 12-23 years old, unmarried children residing at the same address</i>	\$738
Family of 4* <i>Two adults & one or more 12-23 years old, unmarried children residing at the same address</i>	\$860
Youth (12-17 years)	\$300
Senior (60 years & up)	\$300



*Non-resident families that have more than four family members residing at the same address will pay \$50 for each additional family member. Subsequent family members must be 12-23 years of age, unmarried, and residing at the same address.

Monthly Fee (when a 12-month contract is signed)

Resident	Rate
Adult (18-59 years)	\$25
Couple (2 adults)	\$48
Family of 3 or more	\$62
Youth (12-17 years)	\$20
Senior (60 years & up)	\$20
Non-Resident	Rate
Adult (18-59 years)	\$35
Couple (2 adults)	\$58
Family of 3	\$77
Family of 4*	\$88
Youth (12-17 years)	\$30
Senior (60 years & up)	\$30

*Non-resident families that have more than four family members residing at the same address will pay \$10 per month for each additional family member. Subsequent family members must be 12-23 years of age, unmarried, and residing at the same address

Fitness Center

Daily Admission Fees*

Resident Adult (18-59 yrs)	\$9
Resident Youth (12-17 years) . . .	\$7
Resident Senior (60 yrs & up) . . .	\$7

*Non-residents: additional \$2 will be added to the daily fees listed above.

Open Gym, Elevated Track, Pickleball

Daily Admission Fees*

Resident Adult (18-59 yrs)	\$6
Resident Youth (3-17 years)	\$5
Resident Senior (60 yrs & up) . . .	\$5

6 Month and Quarterly Individual

Resident	Rate
6 months	\$175
Quarterly	\$100
Non-Resident	Rate
6 months	\$239
Quarterly	\$136

Youth Annual Membership

(3-17 years)	Rate
Resident	\$50
Non-Resident	\$60

Annual Track Only Membership

Resident	Rate
Adult	\$40
Youth	\$35
Senior	\$35
Non-Resident	Rate
Adult	\$85
Youth	\$80
Senior	\$80

Community Development

Historic Preservation Award

Each year, the Historical Preservation Commission presents Historic Preservation Awards to recognize owners of structures that hold historical significance and contribute to the Village's heritage. Villa Park is fortunate to have a wealth of diverse and historic architecture that gives our community its unique character.

To be eligible for the Historic Preservation Award, a structure must be at least 50 years old and meet one of the following criteria: it must have historical significance (such as a prominent owner, architect, or event), exhibit a defined architectural style, or be a kit home (like those from Sears or Aladdin).

Anyone can nominate a home or structure for this award; however, owner consent is required to receive it. Award recipients will receive a plaque, which should be displayed prominently on the exterior of the structure. Help us honor Villa Park's rich architectural heritage by submitting your nominations!

Applications are available online or at the Community & Economic Development Department located at 11 W Home Ave. Applications are accepted annually until December 31.

Historic Preservation Applications



Applications available at the Community & Economic Development Department located at 11 W. Home Ave., or scan the QR code.



**Scan for
Historic
Preservation
Application**

Economic Development

TIF Grant Programs

The Village Board recently authorized the creation of three new TIF grant programs beginning in 2025 for facade, tenant, and site improvements. These grants are eligible for properties within TIF districts and operate as a grant reimbursement program with the Village with TIF funds matching up to a 50% of eligible expenses with applications being submitted by either the property owner or lessee of the commercial property. Reimbursements would be awarded in amounts from \$2,500 to \$25,000 for a total project totaling \$5,000 to \$50,000. Permit fees would also be 100% reimbursable in addition to the \$25,000 maximum refund allowance. Applicants would be permitted to apply and receive all 3 grants. An applicant would be permitted to receive up to \$25,000 for each grant type within a 5-year period. Applicants would be required to submit 3 bids for the proposed work. The Village would reimburse based on the lowest bid but that does not require that an applicant go with the lowest bid received. Eligible costs for each grant would include architectural and engineering fees, permits and fees, materials, and construction labor.

For more information contact the Community & Economic Development Department at (630) 433-4300.

Facade Improvement Program

- Eligible improvements would include: masonry restoration, exterior painting, wall façade construction, repair and treatment, historic renovation or architectural feature restoration or replacement, exterior demolition associated with new improvements, new or replacement storefront systems, doors, windows, parapets, coping and trim, awnings and shutters, steps, porches, and railings, roof replacements, exterior lighting (excluding fixtures in parking areas), permanent outdoor dining enclosures (including permanent fencing, patio, pergola, bollards, etc.), signage
- Ineligible improvements would include: routine maintenance (touch-up paint, etc.), site improvements, such as parking lots, landscaping, sidewalks, and parking lot lighting (see site improvement program), interior improvements (see tenant improvement program), security systems, fire alarms, mechanical equipment, seasonal outdoor dining improvements, improvements not visible from the public or private roadway right-of-way, improvements not consistent with current Code
- Review of proposals would be done based on a grading scale considering: need, scale, building materials, building prominence, use, and relocation.

Site Improvement

- Eligible improvement would include: parking lot replacement not

including sealcoating and striping, landscaping including the addition of parking lot islands, parking lot screening, foundation plantings, landscaping surrounding ground mounted signage, and removal and replacement of invasive and diseased plant material, trash enclosures compliant with current municipal code regulations, ADA accessibility including ramps, sidewalks, guardrails, and accessible routes, and sidewalk replacement

- Ineligible improvements would include: routine maintenance of above listed items, interior improvements (see Tenant Improvement Program), exterior building improvements (see Façade Improvement Program), and replacement of dead or dying existing landscaping onsite
- Review of proposals would be done based on grading scale considering: need, scale, code compliance, use, and relocation

Tenant Improvement

- Business types that would be eligible for funding include: restaurants, breweries, and bars with indoor dining rooms, retail (e.g. boutiques, apparel, jewelry, grocery, gift shops, cosmetics, books, hardware, specialty shops, etc.), creative arts and entertainment uses (e.g. performing arts theater, club, movie theater, paint n' sip, ceramic studios, indoor amusement, etc.), auto dealership – TIF 3 only, and hotels
- Business types that would be ineligible for funding include: delivery/carry-out, or drive-thru only restaurants, service uses (e.g. spas, beauty salons, massage studios, dry cleaners, day care facilities, martial art/dance studios, gyms/yoga studios, etc.), automotive body work, paint, repair centers, and fueling station, design showrooms, professional/medical office spaces, banks/ financial institutions, funeral homes, and tobacco and alternative tobacco sales
- Eligible improvements would include: interior demolition/shell reconstruction, drywall, permanent plumbing fixtures, permanent electrical improvements, HCAC/mechanical, flooring, permanent lighting, permanent equipment (e.g. kitchen), interior doors, improvements which achieve compliance with the Illinois Accessibility Code, and water and sewer service upgrade and/or replacement
- Ineligible improvements would include: routine maintenance, painting/wall coverings, artwork, furniture, removable fixtures, non-fixed equipment
- Review of proposals would be done based on a grading scale considering: need, location, scale, activation of vacant space, and use

Public Works

Snow and Ice Control Plan

First Signs of Snow

- Be prepared and stay informed
- No parking on arterial streets when there is a need for snow removal. No parking from 2:00 am–6:00 am still applies
- Drive slow and use caution
- Do NOT drive too close or attempt to pass snow plows
- Salting will be applied as necessary for ice

2 Inches or More of Snow

- Public Works is responsible for snow and ice removal within Village limits except North Avenue, Roosevelt Road, IL. Route 83, and Villa Avenue north of North Avenue
- Snow plowing begins after the accumulation of two inches of snow
- No parking or overnight parking on streets until all snow is removed
- Public Works does not routinely salt secondary streets unless warranted due to icy conditions

Snow Emergency

- Vehicles may be towed at owners expense
- Tickets may be issued for each violated offense
- Follow Villa Park news on social media or local news
- Sign up for [Code Red](#) for immediate notifications

Remember

- Snow removal from driveways and sidewalks are resident's responsibility
- Snow removal from commercial parking lots and sidewalks are owner's responsibility
- Do not place, shovel, push, plow, or otherwise cause snow onto public streets or public sidewalks



Construction Projects

Iowa and Vermont

Improvement Project: The Village has completed the Iowa and Vermont Improvement Project, which involved upgrading the water main along Vermont and Iowa, replacing sections prone to breaks. The project also included curb, gutter, road, and sidewalk improvements. Total cost: approximately \$1.4 million.



North Wisconsin Ave. Improvement Project: Improvements to the northern section of Wisconsin Ave. included new curb and gutter, asphalt pavement, and sidewalk upgrades. Total cost: \$700,000.

Annual Sidewalk Program: This year's program improved sidewalks at over 100 locations, removing trip hazards and installing ADA curb ramps, with an anticipated cost of \$260,000.

Upcoming 2025 Projects:

Jackson Area Improvement Project: This project will install new storm sewers and improve water and sanitary systems. It is partially funded by a FEMA grant to alleviate flooding. Contract awards are expected this winter, with construction starting early next year.

DCEO Stormwater Project: Improvements include regrading a stormwater drainage ditch and installing a storm sewer along Ridge Road, funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Plymouth Tower Painting Project: This project will repaint the elevated water tower at Plymouth Street and Princeton Ave. to preserve its condition and enhance its appearance.

For more details on these and other projects, visit www.invillapark.com/constructionprojects. Scan the QR code for a map of projects. Thank you to the residents, businesses, and commuters of Villa Park for a successful construction season in 2024. We look forward to new projects in 2025!



Fire Department

Staff Acknowledgement

Our Fire Department has experienced numerous retirements and promotions this year. Lieutenant Ken Charapata retired after 28 years of service. Firefighter/Paramedic Blaise Clairardin was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Blaise has been with the department since 2012 and demonstrates dedication to his craft every time he puts on his uniform. Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Richardson was promoted to Lieutenant on October 22, 2024. Dave has been with the department since 2007 and has proven himself to be a great asset to the department. This year also saw an addition to our administrative staff. Lieutenant Frank Reposh was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of Administration. Frank's 19 years of knowledge and unmatched work ethic will help guide our department toward the future.

Winter Fire Hydrant Care

Do you have a fire hydrant in front of your home or business? Help the Fire Department this winter by keeping it clear of snow and accessible in the event of a fire. Precious time can be lost if a fire hydrant is not easily seen which can increase the possibility of a life loss and greater property loss.

Here are several things that you can do to help keep the fire hydrant near your home in working order and ready for emergency use. Remember, we may need that fire hydrant for your home.

- Throw snow in a direction away from the fire hydrant.
- If the snow accumulates around the hydrant, shovel a path around the hydrant.
- For visibility, keep the snow level below the top of the hydrant.



Winter Safety Tips

Follow these tips when purchasing your Christmas tree this year:

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the "Fire Resistant Label". When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Fresh trees are green, and the needles are hard to pull out of the branch. Tap the trunk on the ground to check for loose needles; the tree should not lose any needles.

Holiday Decorations

Be safe this holiday season. Don't overload extension cords and power strips. Always look for the marking of a recognized testing lab. Be sure to heed warnings on ladders. Tens of thousands of people are treated for injuries related to ladder falls in November and December while putting up lights and decorations. Prevent fires and shocks by throwing out damaged or frayed light sets. Avoid sharp, breakable decorations in homes with young children.

Keep the Wreath Red Campaign

"Keep the Wreath Red" program is an annual event aimed at increasing awareness of safety during the holiday season. Outside both of our fire stations in Villa Park, there is a wreath with red lights. The wreaths remain lit 24 hours a day during the holiday season, from December 1 through January 1. If a fire occurs that is determined to be the result of a holiday decoration, a white bulb replaces a red bulb on the wreath. The hope is that the wreath will serve as a constant reminder to practice safety while displaying holiday decorations.



Let's Keep the Wreath Red

Police Department

Welcome New Officers

We are excited to welcome our new Community Service Officers to the department and the community! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to CSO Giana Raitano and CSO Peter DeBartolo. They are eager to serve and support our community, bringing their dedication and enthusiasm to our team. We look forward to their contributions and the positive impact they will have!



Villa Park Police Participates in Virtual Reality Training

Recently, a suburban hotel ballroom transformed into a high-tech police training ground as officers engaged in virtual reality simulations of active shooter scenarios and mass

casualty situations. Among the attendees were Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Rivas and several Villa Park Police Officers. Retired NYPD training leader Ray McPartland emphasized the benefits of VR, noting that this modern approach allows for realistic training without the need for physical setups. Officers faced chaotic scenarios, including a simulated shooting in a shopping center, honing their reflexes and decision-making skills in stressful environments. With support from the International Council of Shopping Centers, 80 officers from 18 departments participated, showcasing how innovative training methods are evolving to better prepare law enforcement for real-world challenges. Scan the QR code to watch the video!



Stay Safe This Holiday Season: Tips to Protect Against Scams and Package Theft

As the holiday season approaches, the Police Department wants to remind residents to stay vigilant against scams and package theft. Here are some tips to help protect yourself:

- **Be Cautious with Online Purchases:** Only shop from trusted websites and be wary of deals that seem too good to be true.
- **Track Your Package:** Use tracking features to monitor the delivery status of your packages.
- **Secure Delivery Locations:** Consider having packages delivered to a secure location, like your workplace, or use package lockers if available.
- **Watch for Suspicious Activity:** Keep an eye out for unfamiliar vehicles or individuals in your neighborhood, and report any suspicious activity to the police.
- **Don't Share Personal Info:** Be cautious about sharing personal information over the phone or online, especially with unsolicited contacts.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays! If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to the Police Department at 630-834-7447. Call 911 for emergencies.

Parks, Buildings, & Grounds

Parks, Buildings & Grounds

Jefferson Pool

This fall, the Village worked with contractors on the installation of a new PVC Membrane Pool Liner System in the main pool. This new liner gives the pool a brand-new look as well as protects the concrete pool shell and seal any cracks. Its strong membrane is very resistant to punctures and tears, making it the perfect option for Jefferson Pool. The seams in the liner are heat welded together to make the liner watertight, eliminating leaks in the shell. The membrane is also textured to provide slip resistance for safety. This new liner will help protect the concrete shell of the pool, minimize needed maintenance, and preserve the life of the pool. The pool liner and liner installation are both warranted against leakage for ten years.



Lions Park OSLAD Improvements

This new grant project will provide outdoor amenities at Lions Park around the new Villa Park Recreation Center. These outdoor amenities will include a basketball court, pickle ball courts, playground, shade structure, passive recreation space, senior area, accessible playground surface, and story walk. The project went to bid, and the contractor was awarded in fall. The project began in fall of 2024 and is expected to be completed in late spring to summer of 2025.

Important Sledding Reminder

As winter approaches, we want to remind residents that the Village of Villa Park does not have designated sledding hills. While Jackson Hill and North Hill are frequently used for sledding, please do not sled on these hills as they are not officially permitted for that purpose. Sledding in unauthorized areas can pose safety risks, including potential injuries and property damage. For a safe and enjoyable sledding experience, we encourage you to seek out designated sledding locations in nearby communities or parks that allow this winter activity. Always prioritize safety and be aware of your surroundings while enjoying the season. Thank you for your cooperation!

For more information on any of these projects, please visit www.invillapark.com/Parks-Recreation-Updates.

All Parks

We are always working to improve our buildings, parks, and playgrounds. Routine inspections of parks, sports fields, playgrounds, buildings, and other amenities help us identify and address any issues in a timely manner. We value the assistance of Village staff and residents in notifying us of any concerns as soon as they arise. For your convenience, you can also submit requests through the MyVillaPark app, where you can attach photos or videos and track the status of your request. To learn more, visit www.invillapark.com/myvillapark. Thank you for helping us keep our community spaces safe and enjoyable!

Recreation

Family Events & Free Programs

Winter Camp

Keep the kids busy on break from school at Winter Camp at the Iowa Community Center. Camp is held 9:00 am-4:00 pm daily with before and after camps available for additional fees. Kids will be busy with fun crafts, activities, games and field trips.

Winter Camp: Dec 23, 26, 27, 30, Jan 2, 3.

Register early because camps fill up quickly!

Pictures with Santa Paws



Wednesday, December 4 • 4:30-5:30 pm
The Depot at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park
318 E. Kenilworth

Bring your favorite cat or dog for a picture-perfect moment with Santa Paws. Each pet will meet Santa and take a photo with him. Santa will have a special treat for all pets. Photos will be emailed by December 8. You'll select your photo time slot when you register. The registration deadline is December 1.

\$10 per photo

Youth Culinary Classes **NEW**

We'll be cooking up a storm in the VPRC's new state-of-the-art kitchen. Professional Chef Joe Hart will teach classes for adults and children ages 3-12. You'll get hands-on with adult classes like "You Want a Pizza Me?" and "Baking 101". Children will have fun with "(Do) Play with your Food" and "Around the World in 80 Plates". Culinary classes will start in February!



As of press time programming is scheduled as shown on this page. Please call the Recreation Department at 630-834-8970 for updates as needed.

Early Childhood Preschool 2025-2026 school year

2025-2026 school year Open Registration: February 24, 2025
Classes begin the week of September 8.

2½-Year Old Program 9:00-11:00 am M/W
(Must be 2½ by 9/1/25)

3-Year Old Program 9:00-11:30 am Tu/Th
(Must be 3 and bathroom independent by 9/1/25)

4-Year Old Program 9:00-11:30 am M/W/F
(Must be 4 and bathroom independent by 9/1/25)

Preschool Prep 2-Year-Old Program 2025-2026 school year

2-Year Old Program 9:00-10:30 am F
(Must be 2 by 9/1/25, Sep 12-Dec 12)



Scan to register online



PRINCESS BALL

Friday, March 21 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Villa Park Recreation Center

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Young ladies and their favorite date are invited to the Princess Ball. You'll be treated like royalty as you dance the night away at the new Villa Park Recreation Center. The night includes a photo keepsake, snacks, desserts and soft drinks. Corsage/boutonniere packages available at time of registration.

All ages • \$45 per couple/\$20 for each additional princess

St. Nick's Mart

Saturday, December 7 • 4:00-7:00 pm

Join the Friends of the Villa Park Library and local businesses for a night of fun! Shop from a variety of vendors who will have great holiday gifts for sale.



Winter Reading Program 2025

This winter, *Paws to Read*, with our Winter Reading Program. The program begins on Thursday, January 2. Our Adult and Youth programs offers something fun for all ages. Both programs are free, easy, and open to everyone!



Welcome Baby! Resource Fair

Saturday, January 18 • 12:00-3:00 pm

This free community expo will feature representatives from the library, local daycares, and other organizations from the community that focus on young families' health and well-being. There will be giveaways, refreshments, and more! A free early literacy gift bag will be given to the first 100 families to attend this event.

To reach the library

For more information on these and other library events and services, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.



3rd Annual Cocoa Crawl!

Saturday, February 8 • 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Ticket Sales will begin: Monday, Jan. 13 at 9:30 am
Ages 15 & under: Free with a participating adult (a ticket is required for each child participating and will include a map). Co-Sponsored by the Friends of the Villa Park Library, Villa Park Chamber of Commerce, and the Villa Park Public Library.

Join a fun-filled day of supporting local businesses and sampling cocoa beverages – some hot, some cold, and even some for those 21 years and older. Get your \$10 tickets today—receive a souvenir mug, or hot cocoa treat for each paying adult (while supplies last*), and map to the participating vendor locations. Drop off your map at the last location visited or bring it back to the library for a chance to win fun raffle prizes donated by participating businesses.



Library Closings

Tuesday, December 24, 2024: Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25, 2024: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29, 2024: Closed Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day

Tuesday, December 31, 2024: New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1, 2025: New Year's Day

Schools

SCHOOL DISTRICT 88

You're invited to support work-based learning at DuPage High School District 88/Willowbrook High School

Willowbrook High School (part of DuPage High School District 88) is excited to offer various options for local businesses/companies/organizations to collaborate and partner with the school/district to support students through work-based learning experiences. At right are all the ways you can connect and get involved!

We are committed to providing multiple and flexible pathways for students to ensure they are college and career ready, and we continue to partner with colleges/universities and local businesses to expand these opportunities.

Option 1
SHARE INFO
ABOUT YOUR
CAREER/FIELD

Option 2
HOST A
WORKSITE VISIT/
FIELD TRIP

Option 3
ALLOW
STUDENTS TO
JOB SHADOW

Option 4
OFFER AN
INTERNSHIP/
APPRENTICESHIP

Option 5
SUPPORT
STUDENTS WITH
A VARIETY OF
ABILITIES

Option 6
ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS/
COMPANY/
AGENCY

For more information, and to partner with District 88, go to www.dupage88.net/BusinessPartnerships. Questions? E-mail dbrink@dupage88.net, or call 630-530-3989.



We offer students credentialed career-based curricular tracks, more than 30 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and more than 50 Dual-Credit/Collegiate-Credit courses in 17 career pathway areas, along with award-winning fine arts programming.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 48

Salt Creek School District 48 is a small but vital part of the Villa Park Community. Albright Middle School is located in Villa Park, but serves the district's four municipalities (Villa Park, Oakbrook Terrace, Oak Brook, and Elmhurst). We are incredibly proud and excited about our many academic achievements and we offer many opportunities for our students beyond the classroom! District 48 fosters strong parent and community partnerships in our new strategic plan. This year, we've launched a community book study centered around the book, "The Anxious Generation." This initiative, a cornerstone of our partnership efforts,



explores the profound impact of social media on children and provides practical strategies for parents, teachers, and community members. Together, we aim to create a supportive environment where our children can put away social media distractions and thrive by prioritizing play, curiosity, and connection.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45

Early Childhood Center earns Gold Circle of Quality

ExceleRate Illinois has recognized the District 45 Early Childhood Center with a Gold Circle of Quality for its Preschool for All (PFA) program. ExceleRate uses a set of standards that focus on early learning and development and prioritize instructional excellence, family services, staff qualifications, professional development, and program administration. Evidence is obtained through monitoring visits, where assessors collect evidence using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Third Edition (ECERS-3) and the ISBE Compliance Checklist. The Early Childhood Center achieved the Gold Circle of Quality based on its most recent monitoring results. District 45 Early Childhood Center Principal Kelly Nettleton was proud and excited to learn about the Gold rating following their recent monitoring visit. "This recognition reflects the hard work and commitment that our staff provides to our students and families every day," said Nettleton. "Our staff is quite dedicated to our youngest learners, and we always seek to improve our skill set." Nettleton hopes the recognition "helps families feel even more confident that their child is receiving a high-quality education in an accepting



environment from a dedicated staff." ExceleRate Illinois is administered through INCCRRA under the joint direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Stay Connected



The Village Roundup Biweekly E-Newsletter

www.invillapark.com/villageroundup

Our bi-weekly e-mail newsletter will keep you informed about the latest updates and upcoming events in our community. Stay in the loop about village-sponsored activities, local initiatives, and important news that affects our residents. Scan the QR code to sign up today!



Follow us on Social Media!

Do you want to stay informed on all the happenings around town between issues of Village Matters? Be sure to follow all of our social media accounts for up-to-date information on events, news, and all things Villa Park!



 [Facebook.com/villaparkgovernment](https://www.facebook.com/villaparkgovernment)

 X (formerly known as Twitter)
[X.com/villapark_il](https://www.x.com/villapark_il)

 [Instagram.com/villageofvillapark](https://www.instagram.com/villageofvillapark)

 [Linkedin.com/company/village-of-villa-park](https://www.linkedin.com/company/village-of-villa-park)

 [Youtube.com/@villageofvillapark3578](https://www.youtube.com/@villageofvillapark3578)

Receive public safety alerts



Join a Commission

If you want to see changes around town or are happy with the way things are and want to keep them that way, you should consider joining one of our commissions! Some of our commissions include Environmental Concerns, Historical Preservation, Video Production, and Traffic and Safety. Be the voice for what you believe in! You must be a Villa Park resident. To learn more about each commission and apply, visit www.invillapark.com/committees-boards-commissions.



Elected Officials

Nick Cuzzone

Village President • presidentcuzzone@invillapark.com

Carine "Cari" Alfano

Village Trustee • trusteealfano@invillapark.com

Jorge Cordova

Village Trustee • trusteecordova@invillapark.com

Jack Corkery

Village Trustee • trusteecorkery@invillapark.com

Hosanna Korynecky

Village Clerk • clerkkorynecky@invillapark.com

John "Jack" Kozar

Village Trustee • trusteekozar@invillapark.com

Deepasriya Kumar

Village Trustee • trusteekumar@invillapark.com

Kevin Patrick

Village Trustee • trusteepatrick@invillapark.com

Village Hall

20 S. Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181-2696
630-834-8500
TDD 630-834-8589
invillapark.com



Village Hours

Hours may vary

Village Hall:

Mon-Fri: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
630-834-8500

Fire Department:

Mon-Fri: 8:00 am–4:30 pm
630-833-5350

Finance Department:

Mon-Fri: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
630-834-8500

Public Works:

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am–4:00 pm
630-834-8505

Community & Economic Development:

Mon-Fri: 9:00 am–4:00 pm
630-433-4300

Police Department:

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am–7:00 pm
Weekends & Holidays Closed
Non-Emergency Phone Number:
630-834-7447

Villa Park Recreation Center:

Mon-Fri: 5:30 am–9:00 pm
Sat-Sun: 7:00 am–6:00 pm

Iowa Community Center:

Mon-Thu: 9:00 am–7:00 pm
Fri: 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Sun: Closed
630-834-8970

Villa Park Public Library:

Mon-Thu: 9:30 am–9:00 pm
Fri & Sat: 9:30 am–5:00 pm
Sun (Oct-Apr): 1:00 pm–5:00 pm
630-834-1164

My Villa Park App

Are you tired of having to call or visit City Hall to report issues in your community? There's an easier way! With the My Villa Park mobile app, you can submit service requests with just a few taps on your phone.

To get started, simply download the My Villa Park app from the App Store or Google Play. Once you open the app, select the "Submit a Service Request" button. From there, choose the type of request you want to submit, whether it's a pothole, a broken streetlight, or a missed trash pickup.

You'll be prompted to take a photo of the issue and provide a brief description. Plus, you can track the status of your request and receive updates on when it will be addressed.

The app also offers links to the website, village news, job opportunities, community events, and more!

So why wait? Download the My Villa Park app today to stay connected with the community and easily report any issues. Learn more at www.invillapark.com/myvillapark.

Extreme Heat-Cooling Centers

You can find a full list of heating and cooling centers by distance at www.dupagecris.org. The Villa Park Public Library is a registered cooling center, during their normal business hours. Heat-related illnesses are preventable. Learn the symptoms and what to do if you or a loved one shows signs of having a heat-related illness at www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html.

