

Hi-Lighter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026



Hanover Park^{USA}
America's Global Village

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Editor in Chief - Sue Krauser
skrauser@hpil.org

Holiday Closure

Village Hall will be closed
Thursday, January 1st for New
Year's Day.

Police & Fire will remain open
24/7.



Select the "Notify Me" icon on
the Home page of our website
to stay informed of current
events and happenings in the
Village by signing up for our
eNews.

Mayor Craig's

STATE OF THE VILLAGE



February 11, 2026

9:00 am

2121 W. Lake Street
Room 214
Hanover Park



Hanover Park^{USA}

Calendar of Events

Sonya Crawshaw Branch Library

4300 Audrey Lane
Hanover Park
630-837-6800

Winter Reading Challenge December 7 – January 31

All aboard the Poplar Express! Join Poplar Creek Public Library's Winter Reading Challenge and win awesome prizes for reading just 700 minutes.

Annual Book Sale January 10-11 • Library Hours

Buy gently used and discarded Library books for your personal bookshelf at heavily discounted prices. Stop by to browse through fiction and nonfiction titles, graphic novels, CDs, DVDs, and more. This event will take place at the Main Library, located at 1405 S. Park Avenue in Streamwood.

Married at the Movies February 3 • 7 p.m.

Join Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek as she combines photos, video clips, and captivating stories about memorable classic film wedding moments, both on screen and off. This event will take place at the Main Library, located at 1405 S. Park Avenue in Streamwood.

Family Concert Series:

Clarence Goodman: African American Music Through the Decades February 15 • 2 p.m.

All ages welcome to attend our free Sunday concerts. To register, visit pclub.org/events or call 331-808-3515. Concerts take place at the Main Library, located at 1405 S. Park Avenue in Streamwood.

Hanover Park Branch Library

1266 Irving Park Road
Hanover Park
630-372-7800

Visit www.schaumburglibrary.org for the latest updates.

Crafternoon (5-12 years) - Drop in; while supplies last:

3D Penguin Pattern Art -
Wednesday, January 14 2026,
3:30pm - 4:15pm
Make an adorable pattern filled penguin that pops off the page.
3D Love Bug - Wednesday,

February 11 2026, 3:30pm -
4:15pm

Make 3D butterfly that you can give to someone as a valentine or keep for yourself.

Documentary Screening and Discussion: Alice's Ordinary People February 21 • 1:30–3:00 PM

Watch a documentary with an in-person introduction by Director Crag Dudnick about Alice Tregay's story: Ordinary people effecting extraordinary change for human rights. Five decades of fearless activism

and the continuing relevance of Dr. Martin Luther King to the ongoing fight for justice. A Q&A session will follow the movie screening.

Introduction to Amateur Radio - Presented by The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club

Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7 & 14, 2026, 9:30am - 11:30am (10 weeks)

The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club offers a free entry-level amateur radio class. If you are new to ham radio, or just thinking about getting your first license, the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club can help you get started. This spring, the club is offering an entry level amateur radio course to prepare you for the Amateur Radio Technician Class license which allows you to operate on the UHF/VHF bands and a small portion of HF bands. In 10, two-hour classes, you'll learn everything you need to successfully pass the Federal Communications Commission Technician license test.



Streamwood and Hanover Park Stories:
A Community Oral History Project

To learn more, please visit pclub.org/localhistory

Your Story.mp3

January

- 1** New Year's Day - Village Hall Closed
- 3** Veterans Committee..... 9:00 am / PD Comm Rm
- 8** Development Commission..... 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 13** Economic Dev. Committee.... 12:30 pm / Room 214
- 15** Village Board Meeting 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 20** CIDC Committee..... 6:15 pm / Room 123
- 21** Water Bills Due
- 22** Sister Cities Committee..... 7:00 pm / PD Comm Rm
- 27** Historical Committee..... 6:00 pm / Room 214
- 27** Environmental Committee... 7:00 pm / Room 214

February

- 5** Village Board Meeting..... 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 7** Veterans Committee. 9:00 am / PD Comm Rm
- 10** Economic Dev. Committee.. 12:30 pm / Room 214
- 12** Development Commission... 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 16** President's Day - Village Hall Closed
- 17** CIDC Committee..... 6:15 pm / Room 214
- 19** Village Board Meeting..... 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 21** Water Bills Due
- 24** Historical Committee..... 6:00 pm / Room 214
- 24** Environmental Committee... 7:00 pm / Room 214
- 26** Sister Cities Committee..... 7:00 pm / PD Comm Rm



SAVE THE DATE:

**Hanover Park Lions Club
Breakfast with the Bunny**

March 28, 2026

Bring your friends and family for a morning filled with fun, creativity, yummy treats, and games that will warm your hearts this season!

Subscribe to the Hanover Park eNews! Don't miss the latest news, events, and headlines in the Village. Sign up TODAY and stay connected. The eNews is published every Friday afternoon with the local happenings for the upcoming week. Visit our website at www.hpil.org, click on the Notify Me icon and sign-up.

MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR



Happy New Year! As we look back on 2025, I'm proud of the progress our Village has made together. This year brought meaningful improvements in infrastructure and thoughtful financial planning that kept us moving forward responsibly. We navigated challenges with collaboration and strengthened our commitment to public safety, economic vitality, and quality-of-life initiatives. Most of all, 2025 underscored the resilience and spirit of our residents, volunteers, businesses, and staff—reminding us that when we work together, our community continues to thrive. Here's to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

As we go into 2026, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Village Manager, Juliana Maller, who is retiring after 13 years of dedicated service to our community. Her steady leadership, deep commitment to public service, and unwavering focus on improving the quality of life for our residents have left a lasting impact on our Village. On behalf of the Village Board, our staff, and the entire community, thank you Juliana for your professionalism, vision, and countless contributions. We wish you the very best in this next chapter and extend our sincere appreciation for a job exceptionally well done.

In December, the Village successfully adopted a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year—once again without a property tax increase. This reflects our careful stewardship of public funds, strategic long-term planning, and the hard work of our dedicated staff. By prioritizing essential services and investing wisely in our infrastructure,

we've maintained financial stability while easing the burden on our residents. This responsible approach positions us well for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

I am very proud of the fact our Village has not asked for additional homeowner dollars to sustain our Village operations in the past 10 years. I don't know how we continue this initiative given the growing demands of our State Legislators pushing unfunded mandates upon the Village, without supporting those costs. Our Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) is not covering the costs of new mandates upon our Municipality. We will continue to address this shortfall with our legislators.

This year, the Village will proudly celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Our team is actively exploring opportunities to honor this milestone. I am also proud that our

Village Board reflects the diversity of our community, including three Veteran members who have served our country with honor. As a municipality, we remain committed to supporting and hiring veterans. As you will see on the back cover, we once again received the HIRE Vets Medallion Award.

Finally, it continues to be my pleasure to represent the people of Hanover Park, our hometown. We cannot do it without you! Take the time to volunteer and give back to our wonderful town, at the schools, churches, or assisting on the playing field. We are a Village that believes that all youth will have hope and achieve success without exception. Together, we are finding ways to believe in our youth and together we can make a difference in Hanover Park!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney A. Craig".

Mayor Rodney Craig

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Troy Albuck



Yasmeen Bankole



Jenni Broccolino



Liza Gutierrez



Jon Kunkel



Herb Porter

Clerk's Corner:



Kristy Merrill
Village Clerk

Community Shines Bright at Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

Thank you to all the families—and to Santa Claus—who joined us for our Tree Lighting Ceremony at Ontarioville Plaza. This was my fourth year coordinating the event, and I truly enjoy planning this free, family-friendly celebration each year.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Lions Club for providing hot cocoa and cookies, our talented face painters, AMJ for the train rides, "Zoo to You" for bringing the live reindeer, and our incredible Public Works Department for their work on the décor, tree, and lights. This event wouldn't be possible without their support.

The Tree Lighting has become a cherished holiday tradition for my own family, and I'm honored to share it with yours. It was a wonderful way to welcome the magic of the season and bring a bit of much-needed joy to our community. I wish you all blessings and a very Happy New Year!

Our Special Events team is already looking forward to an exciting 2026 as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. We can't wait to bring even more family fun to you in the year ahead!

2025 Tree Lighting



Hi-Lighter

January/February 2026 Issue

The Hi-Lighter is published bi-monthly by the Village of Hanover Park
2121 W. Lake Street
Hanover Park, IL 60133

Important Telephone Numbers:
Police, Fire & Ambulance: 9-1-1

Main Number 630.823.5600
Police Information 630.823.5500
Public Works Dept..... 630.823.5700
Comm. Development.... 630.823.5780
Finance Department..... 630.823.5790
Water Billing 630.823.5799
Fire Department..... 630.823.5800
Inspectional Services..... 630.823.5860
Police Department fax .. 630.823.5499
Public Works fax 630.823.5704
Municipal Building fax ... 630.823.5786

Code Enforcement Hotline
630.823.5572

Village Board Meetings:
Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2121 W. Lake Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

Call the Village Clerk's Office at 630-823-5601 or visit our website for dates, times and locations of the following regularly scheduled meetings:

- Cultural Inclusion & Diversity Comm.
- Development Commission
- Economic Development Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Historical Committee
- Sister Cities Committee
- Special Events Committee
- Veteran's Committee

Are you interested in serving on one?
Call 630-823-5609.

Curfew hours:
For those under 17 years of age -
10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Neighborhood Watch:
Interested in becoming a Neighborhood Watch block captain? Contact 630.823.5635 for more information.

For questions or concerns regarding Village services, call 630.823.5600.

www.hpil.org



Thank You & Farewell Village Manager Maller!



After 13 years of dedicated service to our community, Village Manager Juliana Maller is retiring. Since joining the Village in 2012, she has played a pivotal role in guiding our community through growth, challenges, and countless achievements, leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit residents for years to come.

Thank you

Throughout her tenure, Juliana has been instrumental in overseeing key initiatives, from improving local infrastructure and expanding village programs and services to ensuring the Village operates efficiently and transparently. Her leadership has strengthened the Village's financial stability, fostered positive relationships with residents and businesses, and supported our staff in delivering exceptional services.

Beyond professional accomplishments, Juliana has been a visible and approachable presence in the community—attending events, engaging with residents, and demonstrating a genuine commitment to making our Village a better place for everyone. Her dedication, vision, and steady guidance have earned the respect and admiration of colleagues, elected officials, and citizens alike.



As Juliana prepares to begin this new chapter, the Village expresses heartfelt gratitude for her years of service, leadership, and friendship. She leaves behind a stronger, more vibrant community, and her contributions will be remembered and appreciated for generations.

Winter Ready: How to Maintain Sidewalks and Protect Yourself While Shoveling

Sidewalk Maintenance

The winter season presents many weather-related challenges for residents. The Hanover Park Code Enforcement Unit would like to remind residents that owners or occupants of premises that abut sidewalks are required to remove snow from sidewalks after two inches of snowfall. The ordinance further requires that all sidewalks must be reasonably clear of ice as well. Sand or salt can be spread on sidewalks to treat icing. Please help us make winter safe for all residents.

Snow Shoveling Safety Tips

- Warm Up Before You Start- Take 5-10 minutes to warm muscles and stretch.
- Dress Appropriately- Layered clothing, waterproof gloves, boots with traction and headwear are recommended.
- Use the Right Equipment- Ergonomic and light weight shovels reduce back strain.
- Use Proper Technique- Lift with your legs. Push snow instead of lift (if possible). Avoid twisting when shoveling.
- Take Breaks and Stay Hydrated.
- Be Heart Conscious- If you have heart problems, consult your healthcare provider before shoveling.

If you have any questions about snow responsibilities, please contact Code Enforcement at 630-823-5570.

Village Board Adopts 2026 Annual Budget

On December 4, 2025, the Hanover Park Village Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget, which establishes authorized expenditures and sources of revenues from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. For the tenth year in a row, the Budget was approved with a zero percent (0%) property tax increase.

This budget maintains Village services the citizens and business community of Hanover Park have come to expect. The budget is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the Village's financial activities during the next twelve months. It is a balanced budget that meets the Village's fund balance policies. The Fiscal Year 2026 budget also reflects the Village's efforts to diversify revenues.

Included in the Budget is an increase to the water and sewer rate of 4.50% per year for the next two (2) years, along with changing the infrastructure service charge based on meter size, with an 8.00% increase per year for the next two (2) years. The increase will take effect January 1, 2026 billing. The increase will help fund water and sewer infrastructure replacement. Our current infrastructure has already exceeded its useful life of 50 years.

The budget includes the continuation of the Road Resurfacing/Reconstruction Project and continuation of watermain replacement project of \$25M over five (5) years which started in 2024. It is a significant investment in the replacement of water main in the Village and utilizes the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP).

With the supports of grants and other additional funding, the Village will construct the Country Farm Road trail and two multi-use paths, one along Lake Street and one along Irving Park Road. Additionally, Phase 2 improvements to the Village Center will be constructed, which includes a trail connecting the Metra Station to Ontarioville Park, a fireplace, outdoor seating, and other interactive features.

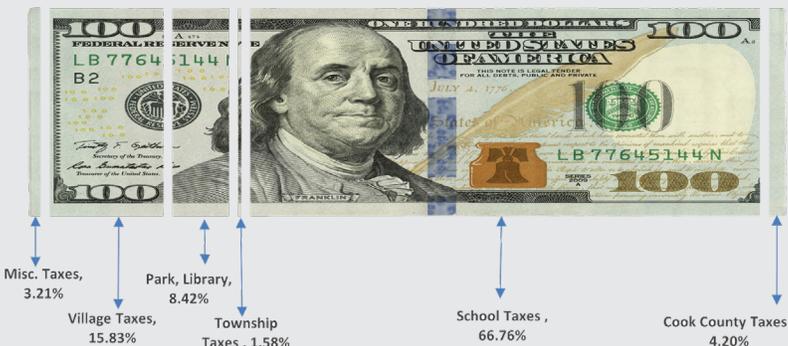
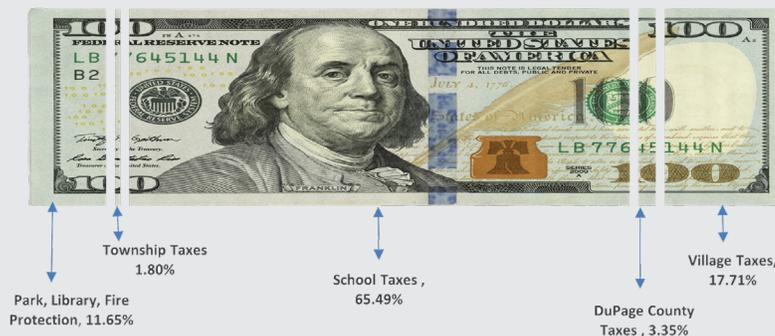
The complete budget book can be viewed on the Village's website at www.hpil.org.

Where do your Property Taxes Go?

The Village of Hanover Park is located within two counties: Cook and DuPage. Property taxes paid by Hanover Park residents go to multiple taxing bodies. A property owner's tax bill includes taxes that are paid to numerous taxing jurisdictions that support various public functions.

The DuPage County 2024 tax bill (paid in 2025) which is representative of an average bill for a property owner in Bloomingdale, and Wayne Township, includes taxes with different jurisdictions. Property taxes paid by Hanover Park residents in DuPage County go to multiple taxing bodies. For every dollar of property tax paid by a resident of Hanover Park, 17.71% (Bloomingdale Township) goes to the Village.

The Cook County 2024 tax bill (paid in 2025) which is representative of an average bill for a property owner in Schaumburg, and Hanover Township, includes taxes with different jurisdictions. Property taxes paid by Hanover Park residents in Cook County go to multiple taxing bodies. For every dollar of property tax paid by a resident of Hanover Park, 15.83% (Schaumburg Township) goes to the Village.



Planning for the Village's Future – 2026-2029 Strategic Plan Approved

After an extensive 11-month process, the Village Board of Trustees approved the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan on December 4th. In January, the Village partnered with Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies (NIU-CGS) to facilitate an update to the Village's multi-year strategic plan.

NIU-CGS conducted a statistically significant, random-sample community survey. This survey gathered input from residents to assess quality of life, satisfaction with Village services, and resident priorities. These findings offered a valuable snapshot of resident perspectives and assisted in goal-setting discussions during the strategic planning process.

This Strategic Plan outlines five strategic priority goal areas: Financial Health, Focused Economic Development and Redevelopment, Maintain and Enhance Infrastructure, Community Image & Identity, and Effective Governance. Within these priority areas, specific objectives and action items have been crafted to guide the Village in achieving its overarching goals.

The approved Strategic Plan reaffirms the Village's mission to be recognized as a great community to live, visit, work, and do business. It will serve as a roadmap for future planning and decision-making within the Village. To view the full plan, visit our website.

2025 New Businesses

We are excited to share that Hanover Park welcomed 27 new businesses—including 12 new restaurants that add even more flavor and variety to our community. These new establishments reflect the continued strength and diversity of America's Global Village.

Our small businesses are vital to our community. As we head into the new year, we encourage everyone to shop & dine local. Every purchase—big or small—helps our community stay strong. Here's to continued growth in 2026!

BEAUTY & HEALTH

Brow Art Salon & Spa – 1230 Lake
Jin Spa – 1260 Bamberg

OFFICE/WAREHOUSE

BorgWarner Transmission Products
– 5800 Turnberry
Meineke Car Care Center – 1655 Irving
Park Rd.
Midas Administrative Office – 1300
Greenbrook #206

RESTAURANTS & SWEETS

Alfredo's Pizza & Pasta – 2426 Army Trail
Backstreet BBQ & Sushi – 1555 Irving
Park Rd.
BBQ Land – 1234 Lake
Chicago Pros – 7310 Barrington

Chipotle – 1720 Lake
Crave Café & Restaurant – 1053 Lake
Ke Chido – 1509 Irving Park Rd.
La Michoacana Premium – 1300 Irving
Park Rd.
Raki Restaurant – 5678 Arlington
Real La Michoacana – 2103 Irving Park
Rd.
Rich Paan House – 2442 Army Trail
The Halal Steakhouse – 2020 Army Trail

RETAIL

Fleet Pro Parts & Tires – 6250 Church
Florena & Co. Flower Boutique – 7201
Olde Salem
Unique Beauty Queen Fashion – 7215
Olde Salem

SERVICES

20Twenty Design – 4525 Turnberry
Acapun Institute – 1645 Irving Park #106
DHL Express – 2160 Lake
Lopez & Sanchez – 1300 Greenbrook
#200
Megenta Home Care – 1300 Greenbrook
#B9
Next Level Insurance Agency – 1300
Greenbrook #100

small business
SPOTLIGHT 



Los 2 Brothers Mexican Restaurant
2011 Irving Park Rd.
Hanover Park
630-372-9462

Los 2 Brothers is a family-owned restaurant from San Francisco de Asis Municipio de Atotonilco, Jalisco. With their fresh, handmade tortillas, cherished old family recipes, and authentic ambiance, every bite is a celebration of Mexican tradition and excellence.

Indulge in the rich, authentic flavors of Jalisco with our handcrafted dishes. Their menu includes generous sized dinners with carne asada, steak, pork, shrimp, served with rice and beans. Want some sizzle from your meal? Try their fantastic fajitas – steak, chicken, shrimp, and combos! If seafood is your favorite, Los 2 Brothers offers dishes with shrimp, tilapia, red snapper, and even Aguachile! Yes...they also have burritos (14 to choose from) and tortas (15 to choose from) – wow! There are even several flavorful Birria (goat) items on the menu! Salads are also an option or warm up with one of their hearty soups during the cold weather. Top off your meal with a margarita, a mojito, sangria, or a pina colada from their full-service bar!

Los 2 Brothers is open EVERYDAY!

Delivery and catering services are offered for your next party or event.





2026 Area Response Team (ART) Meetings

The Hanover Park Police Department is working to strengthen community relations to improve policing. This strategy is called Area Response Teams (ART).

ART involves assigning officers as area representatives throughout the year. Each area also has an assigned supervisor who is responsible for the crime that occurs and the officers assigned to the respective area.

Each area has a total of four officers assigned, two day shift and two night shift officers. Residents are encouraged to call your Area Sergeants with any problems or concerns occurring in your neighborhood. This does not replace the 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System. If you have an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

The department will host quarterly ART meetings, welcoming participation from all ART areas. Residents will have the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns in their area, while staying informed about happenings in the Village and the police department. Meeting details will be shared in advance on the Hanover Park Police Facebook page. Each ART Area Sergeant will lead one meeting throughout the year. These presentations will be broadcasted live on the Police Department's Facebook page for those who wish to watch from home. Viewers are encouraged to submit questions or comments, which will be monitored by a supervisor. Additionally, the following day, a Spanish ART meeting will take place at the same time and location for our Spanish speaking community.

The dates for the 2026 ART meetings are as follows:

January 14 @ 7:30 p.m. (Sgt. Cortese)

January 15 @ 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

April 15 @ 7:30 p.m. (Sgt. Lawler)

April 16 @ 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

July 15 @ 7:30 p.m. (Sgt. Palace)

July 16 @ 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

October 14 @ 7:30 p.m. (Sgt. Hosea)

October 15 @ 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Remember, community policing means all of us working together to improve your neighborhood. Come join us!

News from the Couch: New Year, Stronger Community, Healthier You

As the calendar turns, many of us reflect on the past year and set intentions for the year ahead. The Village encourages residents to use this time as an opportunity to focus on personal growth, community engagement, and overall well-being.

Prioritize Health and Wellness

A healthy community starts with healthy individuals. Whether it's taking advantage of local parks, walking trails, recreation programs, or village-sponsored fitness classes, small steps can make a big difference in both physical and mental health. Consider making a commitment to move more, eat well, or simply spend time outdoors in nature.

Get Involved in the Community

A "new you" can also mean becoming more connected. Volunteering, attending village events, or joining neighborhood groups strengthens both personal connections and the community as a whole. There are countless ways to contribute—whether it's helping at a local cleanup, participating in a seasonal event, or supporting local businesses.

Learn Something New

Growth often comes from exploration and learning. Many municipal programs offer opportunities for skill-building and enrichment—arts and crafts, educational workshops, or community classes. Trying something new can spark creativity,

boost confidence, and even introduce you to new friends.

Set Intentions for Civic Engagement

The New Year is also a great time to think about how you can be an active participant in local government. Attend village meetings, provide input on community planning initiatives, or share ideas for improving local services. Every voice matters, and your engagement helps make the village stronger.

Small Changes, Big Impact

Remember, personal transformation doesn't have to be drastic. Even small, consistent actions—like choosing to walk a different route, connecting with neighbors, or volunteering a few hours—can create a ripple effect that benefits both you and the community.

This year, the Village invites residents to embrace the spirit of renewal. Focus on your health, growth, and connections, and take pride in contributing to a thriving, vibrant community. A "New Year, New You" isn't just about individual goals—it's about strengthening the bonds that make our village a great place to live.



1951 Ontarioville Road: A Storied History

Written by Lisa Mueller, Poplar Creek Public Library Local History Librarian



The three-story building that is currently home to The Prairie Station Pub & Grill, at 1951 Ontarioville Road, has had a long, rich life. Now a bar and grill, it started as a dairy.

Farmers would bring their milk to Ontarioville to be shipped by train (the train tracks were laid down in 1873), and these farmers established a dairy. This business began around 1873 and was owned by Sidney Wanzer, a name you may recognize for his Chicago dairy company.

After serving as a creamery for several years, the building became a tavern. It was advertised as a "Soft Drink Parlor" in 1925, most likely because of Prohibition. After Edward Feuerhaken's tavern, you may remember going to Hank & Bob's, Tony & Maria's, Brixie's, or Billy D.'s.

You can find more Hanover Park history by visiting Poplar Creek Public Library's collection at pclub.org/localhistory. Email history@pclub.org or call (331) 808-3535 with any research questions. Our website shares images provided by the Hanover Park Historic Committee. If you are interested in helping preserve Hanover Park history, the Historic Committee meets at Village Hall every fourth Tuesday of the month.



THE VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
AND FRIENDS OF SISTER CITIES ARE PLEASED TO HOST

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR
BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

Leadership, Civility, and Civic Engagement

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**

**MY CELEBRATION PARTY ROOM
1190 LAKE ST., HANOVER PARK, IL**

Table \$150.00 (8 person)
Tickets \$20.00 (per person)

Breakfast will be provided.

Tickets are available for purchase through
Friends of Sister Cities Hanover Park 501(c)(3).
Email: friendsofsistercitieshp@gmail.com

For more information
sistercities@hpil.org
630-823-5577

FREE



SCHOOL YEAR DROP-IN

OPEN TO GRADES 5-12!

Come hang out after school,
play games, enjoy snacks,
get homework help, and make
new friends in a welcoming,
teen-led space.

**NO SIGN-UP NEEDED!
JUST DROP IN!**

DROP-IN
TUES - THURS
2:30 - 6:00PM

HW CAFE & TUTORING
WEDNESDAY
2:00 - 6:00PM



1211 CATALINA DR. HANOVER PARK, IL
INSIDE GREENBROOK TANGLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER



Start Your Year By Prioritizing Home Fire Safety: A Comprehensive Guide to Escape Planning



In the event of a home fire, advance preparation is paramount for ensuring the safety of your household. Fires can spread with alarming speed, leaving as little as one to two minutes for a safe escape once smoke alarms sound.

Key Steps for Effective Fire Escape Planning:

- 1. Develop a Household Plan:** Gather everyone to create a detailed escape plan. Walk through your home, identifying all potential exits and escape routes. For homes with children, drawing a floor plan that marks two exits (windows and doors) from each room, along with smoke alarm locations, is highly recommended.
- 2. Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms:** Install interconnected smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Interconnected alarms ensure that when one sounds, they all sound, providing earlier warning.
- 3. Clear and Accessible Escape Routes:** Regularly check that escape routes are free of obstructions and that all doors and windows can be opened easily.
- 4. Establish an Outside Meeting Place:** Choose a safe, designated meeting spot a good distance from your home (e.g., a neighbor's house, a light post). Mark this location on your escape plan.
- 5. Ensure Visible House Numbers:** Confirm that your street number is clearly visible from the road to assist emergency personnel in locating your home quickly.
- 6. Memorize Emergency Numbers:** Every household member should know the fire department's emergency phone number to call from a safe location once outside.
- 7. Assist Vulnerable Individuals:** Assign individuals to assist infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations during a fire drill and a real emergency, including a backup person.
- 8. Security Bar Safety:** If your home has security bars, ensure they are equipped with emergency release devices inside for immediate escape.
- 9. Inform Guests and Practice Away from Home:** Share your fire escape plan with guests. When staying elsewhere, inquire about their plan and offer to help them create one if they don't have one, especially important for children at sleepovers.
- 10. Practice Regularly:** Conduct home fire escape drills at least twice a year, making them as realistic as possible. Determine if everyone awakens to the smoke alarm and assign someone to wake those who don't.
- 11. Second-Floor Escapes:** For two-story homes, all family members should be able to escape from second-floor rooms. Consider escape ladders, practice their use from a first-floor window with adult supervision, and store them accessibly.
- 12. Crawl Low Under Smoke:** Practice getting low and going under smoke to your exit, as the safest air is closest to the floor. Closing doors on your way out can slow fire spread.
- 13. "Sealing In for Safety" (High-Rise/ Apartment Dwellers):** If escape is blocked, practice sealing yourself in by closing doors, sealing cracks with tape or towels, and opening windows at the top and bottom. Call the fire department and signal your location.
- 14. Stay Out Once Out:** Never re-enter a burning building. Inform the fire department dispatcher if someone is missing; firefighters are equipped for rescues.

By following these guidelines and consistently practicing your home fire escape plan, you significantly increase your household's chances of a safe escape in the event of a fire.

Source: <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/escape-planning>

Cold-Weather Preparedness Tips for a Safer Season

Living in the Midwest means that we all know the challenges that arise during the winter months. Heavy snowstorms, ice storms and a seasonal polar vortex are just around the corner. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe!

This winter, consider making a storm prep kit for you and your pet! Pet safety in the winter can include keeping them warm and indoors, cleaning paws after walking through salty areas and checking under your car for stray animals. Stray cats like to hide near warm engines to keep warm during the winter months.

Be sure to remain weather aware by following the National Weather Service- Chicago office for alerts and storm tracking. Storm systems can vary from a light dusting to several inches of snow within a day. Check out www.Weather.gov/lot for the NWS Chicago office.

Pet Friendly Winter Tips

- HIDING IN THE HOOD**
Warm engines attract cats and small animals. Bang on your hood before starting the engine.
- PAW PATROL**
Check regularly and wipe away salt after outdoor walks.
- BE ALERT**
Signs of hypothermia include: shivering, whining, sluggish or anxious behavior.
- SWEATER WEATHER**
Play dress up with cozy sweaters and coats.
- STAY INDOORS**
Keep cats and dogs inside. Consider providing dry, well-insulated shelter for feral and neighborhood cats.
- STORM PREP**
Create disaster kit with food, water and medication that can last 5 days.
- GET COZY**
Provide warm beds for naps.
- LIMIT CAR TRAVEL**
Never leave your pet in your car.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be recycled throughout the Village on Saturday, January 3, 2026, and January 10, 2026. Christmas trees picked up after these dates will need a yard waste sticker. Place your Christmas tree in the parkway and follow these guidelines:

- Do not put trees in plastic bags.
- Remove the stand and all decorations, including lights, garland, tinsel, and metal (such as nails).
- Dispose of artificial or natural wreaths in the regular household garbage.
- Do not place artificial trees at the curb for recycling.
- Groot Industries will collect Christmas trees with your regular garbage collection. This service will be provided to the homeowners' associations regularly serviced by Groot.

Questions? Call the Public Works Department at 630-823-5700 or Groot Industries at 866-782-5161.

Public Works Prepares for Winter: What to Expect This Season

As winter continues, our Public Works Department is ready to keep our streets, sidewalks, and public spaces safe and accessible. Snow and ice control is one of the most visible services the Village provides, and with each winter storm, our crews work around the clock to respond to changing conditions. Here's a look at some of the most common winter issues we address—and how residents can help keep our community running smoothly.

Snow and Ice Removal

Every storm is different, and our plow crews prioritize main streets, school routes, and emergency access points first. Once those are cleared, we move into residential areas. Don't forget that cul-de-sacs are contracted out, so different crews will handle snow removal there. During heavy or back-to-back storms, it may take crews longer to reach every street. Residents can assist by moving vehicles off the roadway during snow events and observing posted parking restrictions.

Safety Notice: Snow Forts

While we encourage winter recreation, building snow forts in parkways, right-of-ways, or cul-de-sacs is strictly prohibited due to significant safety risks. Visibility is often reduced during plow operations, and drivers may not see children playing in snowbanks near the road. For the safety of our families, please restrict play to yards and areas away from the street.

Mailboxes and Parkway Damage

Despite our drivers' best efforts, mailboxes or parkway turf may occasionally be damaged during plowing operations. If this happens, residents are encouraged to contact Public Works so we can assess and address the issue.

Installing a sturdy, properly placed mailbox can also help minimize impacts during heavy snowfall.

Stormwater and Drainage Concerns

Winter freeze-thaw cycles can block storm drains with ice and debris, leading to localized street flooding. Our crews work to keep catch basins clear, and we appreciate residents who adopt the drain near their home to help prevent pooling water and refreezing. If you can't physically clear the drain of snow, please call the Public Works Department at 630-823-5700 and let us know that a drain is blocked and might cause flooding.

Water and Sewer Emergencies

Cold temperatures can lead to frozen pipes, water service disruptions, and sewer backups. Our utility crews remain on standby throughout the season to respond quickly to emergencies. Residents are encouraged to insulate exposed pipes, keep a slow trickle of water running during extreme cold, and report any sudden service issues. If your home regularly experiences frozen pipes, you should review the insulation in your home closely, or if something has changed. Has a basement window been left open? Is there an unknown draft. Any situation leading to frozen pipes should be corrected immediately.

Staying Informed

Communication is key during winter weather. The Village will continue to share updates through our website, social media, and alerts when significant storms are forecast. We encourage residents to stay informed about plow operations, parking restrictions, and safety reminders throughout the season.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER CPR (BLS)

2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

All 2026 Scheduled Classes will be Healthcare Provider (BLS).
Classes are held at Fire Station 15
6850 Barrington Road.
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 17 | July 18 |
| February 21 | August 15 |
| March 21 | September 19 |
| April 18 | October 17 |
| May 16 | November 21 |
| June 20 | December 19 |

**HCP CPR Class Fees:
Resident and Non-Resident \$65**

To Register for a class and for payment options, click on the QR code.

For questions about CPR classes, please contact the Fire Department at (630)823-5800



HANOVER PARK RECEIVES 2025 HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



U.S. Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer recognized the Village of Hanover Park as one of the 888 recipients of the 2025 HIRE Vets Medallion Award. Hanover Park is proud to have earned the Gold Award for the 6th consecutive year. The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act (HIRE Vets Act) Medallion Program is the only federal award program that recognizes employers who successfully recruit, hire, and retain veterans.

Mayor Craig stated, "I am so proud of this award. Hanover Park prides itself on hiring Veterans. Veterans bring so much to our workforce and serving our community."

Hanover Park joins 887 other companies from 49 states, plus the District of Columbia, who have shown a commitment to hiring veterans, but also ensuring that they have a long-term career and growth plan that uses the diverse skills they acquired through their military service. Hanover Park is one of only 3 municipalities in Illinois to receive this honor.

Recipients of the 2025 HIRE Vets Medallion Award meet rigorous employment and veteran integration assistance criteria, including veteran hiring and retention percentages; availability of veteran-specific resources; leadership programming for veterans; dedicated human resource efforts; pay compensation and tuition assistance programs for veterans.



2121 W. Lake St., Hanover Park, IL 60133
www.hpil.org

Elected Officials

Village President - Rodney S. Craig

Village Clerk - Kristy Merrill

Troy Albuck, Trustee
Jennifer Broccolino, Trustee
Yasmeen Bankole, Trustee
Liza Gutierrez, Trustee
Jon Kunkel, Trustee
Herb Porter, Trustee

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