

# The Village of Minooka

[www.minooka.com](http://www.minooka.com)

2025

Wishing you a very

*Happy  
New Year!*

May this year be full of  
love, peace and beautiful  
moments with family  
and friends

## INSIDE FEATURES

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Inaugural Minooka  
Downtown Christmas  
Market 2024

Photo Credit: Kyle McGrath,  
Sealbreeze Aerial Solutions LLC

# To Serve You Better Welcome to Your Newsletter

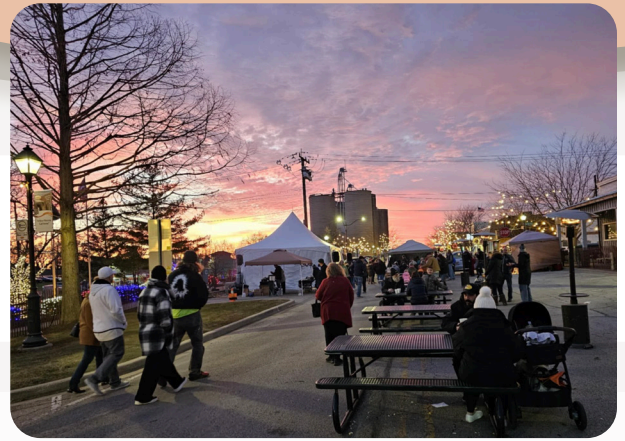
## Mayor's Message

Hi Folks,

A big thank you to all the people who came and attended our 1st Annual Christmas Market. Our Public Works Department did a great job in dressing up Veterans Park and our Event Coordinator, Dawn Niner, worked very hard in corralling the vendors and food/beverage establishments. Next year we plan on having more of each. The weather wasn't bad if you had enough clothes on. Thanks for making it a wonderful day!

From all of us here at the Village, we wish you health and happiness in the New Year!

Respectfully,  
Ric Offerman



## The Village Administrator Dan Duffy, Village Administrator



Minooka is happy to announce the new hire of our Economic Development Officer, Mr. Jack Guldenbecker. Jack was born and raised in Minooka and brings a wealth of experience including owning his own business in Minooka to most recently being employed with the Will County Workforce Services. He has a double major from the University of St. Francis in Marketing & Entrepreneurship, as well as a Masters in Management from St. Francis. Jack's responsibilities include working with programs, policies and people that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for Minooka as a community. From business retention, to business attraction and investment the overall goal is guiding Minooka as it grows! Jack's start date is January 2, 2025 and we look forward to him joining our team!

## Congratulations OUTSTANDING CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

GRUNDY COUNTY  
**Chamber**  
of COMMERCE



*The Grundy County Chamber team: Events & Marketing Director Lena Wickens, President & CEO Christina Van Yperen and Administrative Director Christy Kelly receive the Outstanding Chamber of the Year Award Nov. 15 at the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives conference in Springfield.*

SPRINGFIELD - The Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry was recognized Nov. 15 by the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives during its annual conference held this year at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Double Tree hotel.

Annually the IACCE recognizes Outstanding Chambers of the Year in two membership size categories among its more than 140 members. The award recognizes organization excellence in chambers of commerce and provides a unique benchmarking opportunity to assess a chamber's strengths. The award is based on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce accreditation process for local chambers and highlights accomplishments in the areas of leadership/governance, finance, advocacy and membership development. Recipients are chosen by members of the Mid-American Chambers Executives, an organization for chamber professionals in the six-state area of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

## Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

RYLA is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

The Rotary Club of Channahon-Minooka was proud to sponsor 5 Minooka High School students for the 3 day retreat held in Wisconsin this year.



### Officers:

President--Rachel Timm  
VP--Stella Donley  
Secretary--Ava Kay  
Treasurer--Tlanextli Sanchez

### RYLA :

Rachel Timm, Stella Donley  
Alexa Flores, Leslie Franco Gomez  
Madeline Schiro

## Holiday Closures

### New Years Day - January 1

Village offices will be closed.  
Trash services will be delayed one day this week.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 20

Village offices will be closed.  
Trash services will be on schedule this week.

### Presidents Day - February 17

Village offices will be closed.  
Trash services will be on schedule this week.

## PARK PAVILIONS

The Village of Minooka

### LIONS PARK AND SUMMIT PARK

Pavilion Reservations Begin:

**RESIDENTS**  
March 3, 2025  
8:00 AM  
\$50 Check Only Damage Deposit

**NON-RESIDENTS**  
April 1, 2025  
8:00 AM  
\$100 Check Only Damage Deposit

Call (815) 467-2151 to Reserve

MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# Incoming Freshmen NIGHT

January 22, 2025

### Learn About:

- Administration & Department Chairs
- Athletics & Activities
- School Counselors
- Registration
- School Hours & Class Schedules
- Course Selections
- Honors Information
- Special Education
- Student Services
- And more!

mchs.net



Please join Minooka Community High School as we invite you to our Incoming Freshmen Night 2025! This is your chance to get a sneak peek at South Campus and prepare for your next steps.

**Session 1**  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
MJHS (A-F), CJHS,  
Private School

*\*All band students must attend Session 1, which includes a mandatory band meeting.*

**Session 2**  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
MJHS (G-Z),  
TMS,  
Private School



## NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th**  
**7:00AM - 12:00PM**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 12863 ST ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOCATION: PARISH HALL  
24500 S Navajo Dr, Channahon 60410

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED  
WALK INS WELCOME  
Please book an appointment on-line using this QR Code



*There is no substitute for blood and your donation truly makes a difference*

**DONATE BLOOD**

FOLLOW OUR EVENT:



## 2025 SPRING CRAFT FAIR & RAFFLE

PRESENTED BY MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR BOOSTERS

MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
SOUTH CAMPUS  
26655 W Eames St, Channahon

~ONE DAY ONLY~

**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 22 | 9AM-3PM**

Visit the library's events calendar at [trpld.org/events](http://trpld.org/events) to view the full range of events and to register for library programs. The library district is closed New Year's Day, January 1 and President's Day, February 17.



### **Tiny Art Show: All Ages**

**December 28-January 11, both library locations**

Pick up a kit, while supplies last, to paint, weave yarn, attach shimmering gems, or beads to create a masterpiece! Submit your completed artwork to either library January 2-11 to have it showcased in our exhibit. *No registration is required.*

### **Team Puzzle Race: All Ages**

**Saturday, January 11, 10am at Channahon Library**

Teams of 4-6 players will race to see who is the fastest at completing the same puzzle. Refer to our site for full rules regarding teams. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

### **Game & Character Workshop: Adults & Teens 14+**

**Wednesday, February 26, 6pm at Minooka Branch**

Learn about game design and design your own fantasy character portrait. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

## **Youth Programs:**

### **Candy Bar Bingo: Families**

**Sunday, January 12, 1:30pm at Minooka Branch**

Join us for classic bingo, where the rewards are candy bars. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

### **Stay & Play: 0-4 years w/caregiver**

**Mondays, January 13-February 24, 10am-12pm at Minooka Branch**

Drop in for free-play time in the meeting room. *No registration is required.*

### **Learn to Crochet: 10 years+**

**Fridays, January 19, February 7, 4pm at Minooka Branch**

This fun new club welcomes beginners and those with crochet experience. Hooks and yarn will be provided, or bring your own. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### **Crafternoon**

**Monday, January 20 at Minooka Branch**

**Kids 7-12 years: 1:30pm OR Teens 13 years+: 3pm**

Enjoy a fun and relaxing afternoon of crafting with us. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

## **Adult Programs:**

### **Movie Mondays: Adults 18+**

**Mondays, January 6, February 3, 1pm at Minooka Branch**

Drop in to enjoy a free popcorn and a matinee. *No registration is required.* January: It Ends With Us, February: American Fiction

### **Reading Deeply Yoga: Adults 18+**

**Mondays, January 20, 6:30pm at Minooka Branch**

Learn gentle yoga poses that allow you to read while you hold. *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

### **Financial Wellness: Adults 18+**

**Thursdays, January 16 & February 20, 6pm at Minooka Branch**

January: Discover strategies to build a simple budget and pay off debt, February: Identify personal obstacles to budgeting and create a structure to track and analyze spending. *Registration is required for these in-person programs.*

### **Pints & Pages Book Club: Adults 18+**

**Wednesday, January 22, 7pm**

**at Iron & Glass, 104 Ridge Rd, Minooka**

Enjoy a beverage while you discuss How to Stop Time by Matt Haig. Copies available at both libraries. New members are welcome! *No registration is required.*

### **Read with Pride Book Club: Adults 18+**

**Mondays, January 27 & February 24, 6pm**

**at Starbucks, Rt 6 & Yellow Pine, Channahon**

Drop in for our newest book club partnership! New members are welcome. Book selections are available at both library locations. *No registration is required.* January: Outlawed by Anna North, February: Better Living Through Birding by Christian Cooper

### **Book Bingo: Adults 18+**

**Sunday, February 9, 2pm at Minooka Branch**

Play traditional Bingo to win book prizes! *Registration is required for this in-person program.*

## HOW DOES SALT MELT SNOW AND ICE?

### Use Salt, But Be Salt Smart

Salt can play a key role in removing snow and ice to clear roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and driveways. However, using salt is not without consequence. Each year our local rivers and lakes are getting saltier and saltier. When rain falls on streets and other salted surfaces, it picks up the salt and brings it into storm drains that connect directly to rivers.

Winter road salt affects the water quality of these rivers and can even hurt the fish and aquatic insects that live there. That's why it's important to not use any more salt than is necessary to melt snow and ice.

### Our Public Works optimizes the use of salt by performing the following:

- Clean snow from streets entirely before applying salt
- Wet the salt with liquid brine (or a stronger chemical if needed) as it comes out of the truck
- Pre-applies anti-icing liquid to high-risk routes and hills throughout the Village
- Monitors pavement temperature on when to apply salt and which chemical solution we should mix with salt as it leaves the truck.

### Key Takeaways:

- Salt works by lowering the freezing point of water.
- Sodium chloride becomes much less effective below 15 degrees. At low temperatures, it's best to switch to a deicer that contains magnesium chloride or calcium chloride.
- Be Salt Smart to limit your environmental impact. Use the amount of salt necessary to melt snow and ice. Don't go overboard — after a certain point, more salt doesn't mean more melting power.

**HELP US GET TO YOUR STREET FASTER**

**KEEP STREETS CLEAR FOR SNOW PLOWS!**

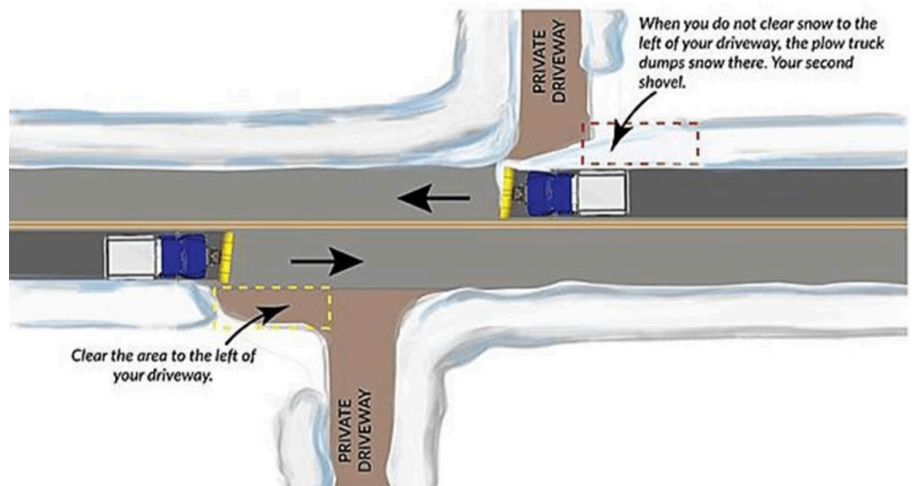
Cars and garbage bins in the street slow down snow plows and make it harder to clear streets. If there is a forecasted snow storm, please keep cars and garbage bins in the driveway if possible.

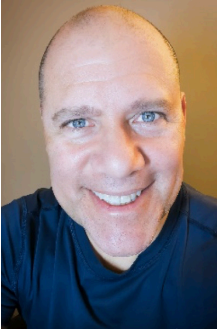
**Visit [saltsmart.org](http://saltsmart.org) to learn more.**

**SALT SMART COLLABORATIVE**

Created by The Conservation Foundation for the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition and the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group.

### How to Prevent the “Second Shovel”





## Chaplain's Corner

### Seeing to the New Year

Well... the holidays are over. The bills are starting to arrive. Some of us are glad that 2024 is over, and some of us hope 2025 is as good or better than 2024! Time and change are relentless. We have to purchase more birthday candles or, we'd rather not think about our birthday and we wonder, where did the time go? The New Year brings a sense of hope and new possibilities, and at the same time it can feel like nothing seems to change. Time, and our perception of time, brings us face to face with a longing that, I believe, all humans have: deep within us all is a need for something to be constant, unchanging, solid, reliable. We need some kind of reference point to anchor our souls and to help us make sense of ourselves, our relationships, and the world around us.

In the book of Ecclesiastes we read, "He (God) has planted eternity in the human heart..." We know that there must be more than this life. We long for more than what this world offers. Through all the change, in the midst of all the effects of time in and around us, God has placed a reference point... a constant... something reliable... within us. A desire for a reality beyond this world. Exploring that longing before our Creator is worth our... wait for it...time. Let's make 2025 a year where we discover how to satisfy that longing for something that is real and that lasts. "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." - C. S. Lewis. To talk about this, or anything else on your mind, I would be glad to treat you to a cup of coffee. You can contact me at [carlosgarcia@missionbible.church](mailto:carlosgarcia@missionbible.church)

**Carlos Garcia, Chaplain**

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## NEWS FROM WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE

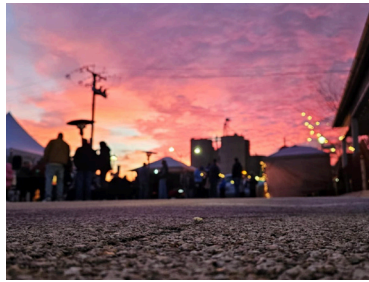
As much as we all dread it, winter is right around the corner, and that means it's time to remind everybody of our winter snow ordinance.

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

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



## 2024 Minooka Christmas Market a Success!



# NEWS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES

## CHRIST FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### Worship:

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

   Christ First Baptist Church

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

**AWANA Clubs** January 5, 12, 19, 26 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

All kids from Preschool-12th grade can sign up at [www.christfirst.church/awana/](http://www.christfirst.church/awana/)

**Men's Breakfast:** January 11 - @ 7:30 am

**AWANA Clubs** February 2, 16, 23 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

All kids from Preschool-12th grade can sign up at [www.christfirst.church/awana/](http://www.christfirst.church/awana/)

**Men's Breakfast:** February 8 - @ 7:30 am

## MINOOKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Minooka United Methodist Church Is Open on Ridge Road!

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

Online maps still seem to be figuring out our new address, 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 & Youth Group

**Sunday School** for children in Preschool-5th grade meets at 10:45 AM following our worship service.

**Youth Group** for students in 6th-12th grades meets Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:00 PM.

All our Sunday School teachers and Youth Group leaders complete Safe Gathering training and a background check

### Grief Support Group

Our Grief Support Group meets January 9th and February 13th, the second Thursday of each month, at 12noon. It is open to anyone grieving a death. There is no cost and a light lunch is provided.

 1210 S. Ridge Rd., Minooka, 60447  [minookaumc.com](http://minookaumc.com)  Minooka United Methodist Church

### The 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 the Starbucks located at Route 6 and Yellow Pine Drive in Channahon the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM: January 14th and February 11th

### What's Cookin'? Class

This monthly group is a time to learn and share together ways to make cooking fun, economical, and easy – and meet some new friends along the way! This class is free but registration is necessary. Please call our church office to reserve your spot: 815.467.2322.

Meets Sunday, January 19th at 2:00pm and Monday, January 20th at 6:00pm to talk sauces. February dates and theme TBD.

### Senior Luncheon

"Forever Young" Senior Luncheon is a free lunch for those 55+ years old. It is held at St. Mary's Parish and is a delightful joint venture between our two congregations. Senior Luncheon does not meet in January but returns Wednesday, February 19th at 11:30am. Please reserve your spot by calling our church office: 815.467.2322

## MISSION BIBLE CHURCH



We are excited to invite you to Mission Bible Church where we believe in being Real with God, Real with Each Other and Real in the World.

 [missionbible.church](http://missionbible.church)

 Mission Bible Church

 Mission Bible Church

 412 N Wabena Ave, Minooka, IL 60447

**Mission Minooka** 412 N. Wabena in Minooka

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

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

## 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 9:00 and 10:30 am. Kid Village classes will be open for both services, infant-grade 3. **Pulse 45** (grades 4-5) and **Pulse Jr.** (grades 6-8) meet during Sunday morning services.

**\*New Service Time Will Be Added Starting Sunday, January 26 at 8 AM.** Kid Village and Pulse rooms will not be open for this service only.

### Winter Wonderland

Get ready for an enchanting evening of holiday fun at our Winter Wonderland Event! Join us on January 24th from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM for an unforgettable experience filled with joy, laughter, and festive activities for the whole family.

Take photos with Elsa and Anna. Make memories with creative crafts and exciting games that will keep the little ones entertained. Head outside for the petting zoo and sit by the outdoor fire pit and have some s'mores. The snowflake café will be serving up piping hot chocolate and treats to warm you up.

Don't miss the chance to create lasting memories with your loved ones and celebrate the holiday season in style! Admission is free, and the joy is priceless. See you at our Winter Wonderland Event!

 [thevillagechristianchurch.com](http://thevillagechristianchurch.com)

 [TheVillageChristianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

 The Village Christian Church

 8965 South Bell Road, Minooka Illinois 60447

### 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](http://thevillagechristianchurch.com/students) for more information.

## ST. MARY'S PARISH

**Weekday Mass** - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30am

**Thursday** - Adoration - 7:30am, Mass - 8:30am

**Saturday Mass** - Confession - 4:00pm, Adoration - 4:00pm, Mass - 5:00pm

**Sunday Mass** - 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am

**Youth Group Ministry (Thrive)** - Tuesdays; 7:00 – 8:30pm

 [stmarysminooka.com](http://stmarysminooka.com)

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

**January 15th** - Senior Luncheon/Must have reservation; call 815 467-2322

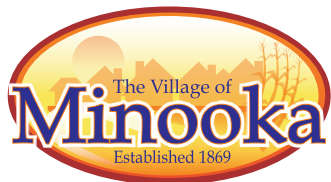
**January 26th** - French Toast Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - 8am - 11am

**January 18th** - Euchre in Parish Center 6:00pm

**February 15th** - Euchre in Parish Center 6:00pm

**February 19th** - Senior Luncheon/Must have reservation; call 815 467-2322

**February 23rd** - Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - 8am - 11am



121 E. McEVILLY ROAD  
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS 60447

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## VILLAGE INFORMATION

The Village of Minooka encourages all residents to visit and participate in the Village Board and Committee meetings. Regular meetings of the Village Board are held the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Committee of the Whole meetings also take place at the Village Hall on the Wednesday before the Village Board Meeting. To verify a meeting date, please call the Village Hall at (815) 467-2151.

### Village President

Ric Offerman (815) 258-5270

### Village Administrator

Dan Duffy (815) 467-2151

### Village Trustees

Terry Houchens (815) 467-4605	Barry Thompson (815) 353-9188
Dennis Martin (815) 693-6596	Gabriela Martinez (815) 216-7000
Ray Mason (815) 954-0762	Robin White (815) 671-6008

### Getting You Where You Need to Go!



#### 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!**



### EVERBRIDGE MOBILE APP

New Way to Receive FREE Village of Minooka Alerts!



Aim your camera at the QR code to download the Mobile App from Google Play or iOS App Store.

By downloading the Everbridge Mobile App, you can select to receive notifications concerning community events, time-sensitive alerts and/or emergency info that may impact your area.

- Allow Everbridge to send Push Notifications
- Select "Find an Organization or Subscription"
- Search "Minooka"
- Select "Village of Minooka"
- Log in with your Everbridge username and password. If you don't have credentials, create them now.

**ONE DELIVERY METHOD MUST BE PROVIDED (PHONE OR EMAIL) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ALERTS**



Get the Everbridge App!



## MINOOKA SCHOOLS

# DENIM & Diamonds

March 8, 2025  
6 - 10 PM

- Appetizers 6-7 PM
- Family Style Dinner 7-8 PM
- Raffles & Auction 6-9 PM  
(Cash & Credit Cards Accepted)
- Entertainment/Open Bar 6-10 PM

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center

Music by: Southtown Entertainment

### Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsor Levels	Diamond	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Presenting Sponsor	◆				
Food Sponsor		◆			
Entertainment Sponsor			◆		
Table of 8 (valued at \$750)	◆	◆			
Recognition on Video Board w/Foundation	◆	◆	◆		
Business Name and URL on Foundation Web Page	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Donor Recognition Breakfast Invitation	◆	◆	◆	◆	
DJ Shoutout & Logo Displayed	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Social Media Sponsor Thank You	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$500

Learn more at [mchsdistrict111foundation.org](http://mchsdistrict111foundation.org)

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