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# Santa to visit Schaumburg during tree lighting Nov. 29

Submitted by the Village of Schaumburg

The public is invited to attend Schaumburg's free annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 29. Highlights include caroling and a visit from Santa Claus.

The evening's activities will begin at 6 p.m. with holiday caroling by the Schaumburg Choral Program at the Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts, 201 Schaumburg Court. Santa will be escorted by the Schaumburg Fire Department and will arrive at 6:30 p.m. to light the tree in the Jack Siegel Memorial Plaza, just west of the Prairie Center.

A 22-foot tree and holiday decorations will be featured in the plaza and provide opportunities for photos. Decorations include a gold sleigh to sit in and a large picture frame decorated with garland to stand behind to take photos, along with lighted gift boxes. Ornaments crafted by area youth groups and organizations will also be



Guests pose among vibrant holiday lights and decorations at a previous Village of Schaumburg Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's ceremony will be Friday, Nov. 29.

displayed.

Santa will be greeted by village officials, who will assist him with his lighting duties. After the tree

lighting, Santa will meet with children in the Prairie Center's Maggie Atcher Theatre, where families are encouraged to bring their

cameras for photos. Seasonal entertainment will be featured, and refreshments will be sponsored by Bright Horizons.

Attendees are encouraged to bring nonperishable food and household items to this event for the Schaumburg Township Food

Pantry. Requested items include nonperishable food items, paper goods, personal care items, baby formula and diapers. All items can be placed in the designated boxes located at each of the Prairie Center entrances.

Schedule of Activities:

- 6-6:30 p.m.: Caroling by the Schaumburg Choral Program in the Maggie Atcher Theatre

- 6-8:30 p.m.: Holiday balloon twisters

- 6:30 p.m.: Santa arrives in a firetruck to light the tree outside with village officials in the Jack Siegel Memorial Plaza

- 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Character appearances featuring a reindeer and an elf

- 6:45-8:30 p.m.: Santa will be available for photos with children in the Maggie Atcher Theatre

For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator Roxane Benvenuti at rbenvenuti@schaumburg.com, or dial 311 in Schaumburg.

## Two Palatine congregations come together for Thanksgiving dinner

Submitted by Robin Turpin

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, and 403 years later, two disparate peoples came together once again to break bread and give thanks.

St. John United Church of Christ has shared its sanctuary with St. Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church since

2023, and on Sunday, Nov. 24, the two faith congregations celebrated the traditional American holiday together.

The St. John steeple has been a familiar sight at the corner of Algonquin and Roselle roads for 178 years. It's an open and accepting congregation, widely known for its support of all faith communities across the Northwest suburbs.

Just like the first celebration in 1621, there were language and cultural barriers, but nothing that good food and open hearts couldn't easily cross.

"Even small churches can do great things," said Pastor Sandy Kolar. "And we are honored to partner with our Palatine community."

For information on St. John UCC, contact



Members of the St. John United Church of Christ and St. Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church share an early Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 24 in the basement of the 178-year-old historic St. John Church in Palatine.

stjohnUCCpalatine@gmail.com or see www.

stjohnuccpalatine.org. Call (917) 565-3773 for

information on St. Archangel Michael Church.

## Fire: Department members honored for their dedication

Continued from Page 1

other water rescue team members resulted in a number of lifesaving rescues, evacuations, assistance to those sheltering in place and to local fire and emergency response organizations.

Swat said his team arrived prior to the storm and stayed during it.

"We were out in the field, trying to get people

out of harm's way," he said. "It was pretty chaotic those first few days."

He spent much of his time in Swannanoa, North Carolina, describing it as a humbling experience.

"We just wake up the next day and go to work and keep on doing it, because you see the people out there that really need it. I think that's what drove us. We saw the need,

how many people were affected," he said.

Swat previously received a Humanitarian Award for his swiftwater deployment to Hardin, Illinois, in 2019.

Mitchell Winkelmann was recognized for completion of the Illinois Professional Development Series Certification in Emergency Management. The curriculum consists of more than a dozen independent Federal

Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security courses.

Winkelmann recently celebrated his fifth anniversary with the department, serving as an emergency management assistant for the last two and a half years. During that time, he has played a critical role in developing

the village's emergency operations plan, as well as emergency action plans for such village events as the annual Block Party and Fourth of July Parade.

"The fire service is largely a reactive environment," Mount Prospect Fire Chief John Dolan said at the Nov. 19 village board meeting. "Like all our fire prevention efforts, however, emergency

management is all the preemptive steps we take to minimize risk to the community.

"These behind-the-scene efforts, while less glamorous, are some of the most important things we do as a fire department. They are the proactive steps we take to keep not only the community safe, but our own personnel safe."

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR WHEELING TOWNSHIP

- I. A Public Hearing will be held at Wheeling Township, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL on December 10, 2024 at 8:00 PM to discuss the 2024 proposed property tax levies for the Town and General Assistance Funds.

Any person wishing to appear at the Public Hearing to present testimony to the taxing district may contact Regina Stapleton, Wheeling Township's Director of Finance and Administration at 847-259-7730.

- II. The extended 2023 levy for the Town Fund was \$2,242,191 and the General Assistance Fund was \$419,174. The aggregate extended levy for 2023 was \$2,661,365.

- III. The proposed 2024 levy for the Town Fund is \$2,242,191 and the General Assistance Fund is \$419,174. The proposed aggregate levy is \$2,661,365.

This represents no change over the previous year.

By order of:

Kathleen M. Penner, Supervisor

Joanna M. Gauza, Township Clerk

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR RIVER TRAILS SCHOOL DISTRICT 26 MOUNT PROSPECT, ILLINOIS

- I. A Public Hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for River Trails Elementary School District 26, Cook County, Mount Prospect, Illinois, will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at River Trails Middle School 1000 N Wolf Road Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Any person desiring to appear at the Public Hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Jodi Megerle Superintendent of Schools, River Trails Elementary School District 26, 1900 East Kensington Road, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056, (847) 297-4120.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2023 were \$26,107,146.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$27,150,000. This represents a 4.0% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$1,342,740.

The estimated property taxes to be extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$1,297,400. This represents a 3.4% decrease over the previous year.

The total property taxes extended for 2023 were \$27,449,886. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$28,447,400. This represents a 3.6% increase over the previous year.

*Donna M. Johnson*  
Donna M. Johnson, Board Secretary