

**Issue 35  
February 2026**



**Village of Sauk Village  
21801 Torrence Avenue  
Sauk Village, IL. 60411  
708-758-3330**

**IN THIS ISSUE- Election Information, Senior News ,  
Library News, Black History Month, What’s Happening  
in and Around Sauk Village**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**As we approach the 2026 March 17th Primary Election there will be information shared in this and the March edition of the Sauk Talk. Please share this information with your neighbors and family.**

**Two great events were held during the month of January. Both the Town Hall Meeting and the 2nd Annual Unity Breakfast were very well attended despite the freezing temperatures. Senator Elgie Sims was inspiring and thought provoking while at the same time engaging with the young people in the room as he honored the remarkable legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Longtime resident Nathan Griffin was acknowledged as a member of the original Negro Baseball League.**

**We look forward to the next in the series of Town Hall Meetings on February 28, 2026 at 10:00 am where Energy Resources and Programs will be shared by LIHEAP, ComEd and Nicor to assist residents with their utility bills.**

**The Town Hall Meetings are funded by a Low Income Energy Efficiency Outreach and Engagement Grant. Thanks to everyone involved in sponsoring and achieving this grant for our residents.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**I am looking for residents who are interested in working together on the upcoming “Keeping Up the PACE” Committee. Please send an email to: [dwilliams@saukville.org](mailto:dwilliams@saukville.org)**



**Participation  
Appreciation  
Communication  
Envision**

**Village Clerk Debbie Williams 630/921-1352**

# Village Clerk Debbie Williams (Cont.)

Sauk Village board meetings are posted weekly on the front and back windows of the Municipal Center and online at

[www.saukvillage.org](http://www.saukvillage.org). The minutes for 2025 have been added to the website. Additional minutes from past years are being added moving backward

All past financial information has been recovered and is on the site. (Latest reports available)

There is a search bar visible upon opening and a village calendar at the bottom of the opening page

You can also access the current and past Sauk Talks from the opening page

Sauk Talk now has a FIRM deadline so information can get to residents timely. Please be patient as the Mayor, board of trustees, department heads and myself work to bring timely information to our residents. This is a work in progress, and most definitely one that we all feel passionate about.

Stay tuned - MORE TO COME!

[saukvillage.org](http://saukvillage.org)

[www.saukvillage.org](http://www.saukvillage.org)



## File your tax appeal before February 18, 2026



**BLOOM**

Open: 1/20/2026

Close: 2/18/2026



COOK COUNTY

**ASSESSOR'S  
OFFICE**

We're here to help.

By email.

[Send us a message](#)

By phone.

[\(312\) 443-7550](tel:(312)443-7550)

On Facebook.

[Send us a message](#)

In-person.

[Schedule an appointment](#)

## File an Appeal Online

### STEP 1

Check to see if your township is "open for appeals"

An appeal can only be filed during certain timeframes. [Check to see if your township is open for appeals.](#)

Starting a file before your township is open may result in a deleted file.

### STEP 2

Have an email address ready

An email address is required to create an account. A Filing ID and Docket Number will be created and emailed to you for your filing record.

### STEP 3

Begin your application

You can save a draft, which allows you to return, modify, and upload attachments before submitting your application.

### STEP 4

Submit by the deadline date

Please only submit one application by the deadline date.

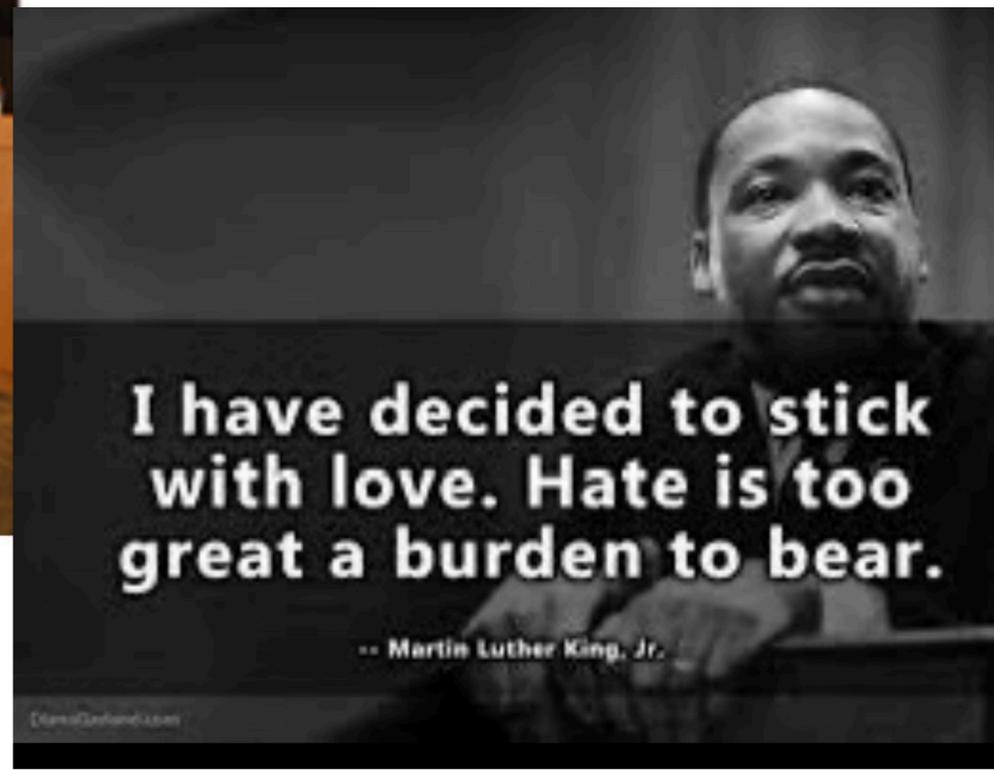
### STEP 5

Await results by mail

You will receive an initial email confirming your submission and a second email containing your appeal docket number used to reference your appeal. The results of your application will be sent by mail.



**This Black History Month, we celebrate history in the making right here in the Village of Sauk Village. For the first time, our corporate authority is led by an all-female African American leadership team. Representation matters—and so does our continued commitment to equity, inclusion, and progress for our community.**



## Honoring the Past. Inspiring the Future.

By: Trustee Michelle Sterling

*I find myself reflecting not only on the history we honor, but on the responsibility we carry forward. Black History is not just a collection of moments in the past. It is a living story of resilience, creativity, leadership, faith, and determination. It can be found in the voices that refused to be silenced, the families that persevered through hardships, and the young people of today who will continue to shape what our future will become.*

*That is why an initiative like the "Black History Minute Video Contest" matter. This gives our youth and residents the opportunity to learn, reflect, and share what Black history means to them in their own words. So, when young people engage with history, they don't just memorize it; they connect to it, grow from it, and carry its lessons forward.*

*This month is also a reminder that awareness should not be limited to one season. Understanding one another's stories helps strengthen our community, build empathy, and create a village where everyone feels valued.*

*I hope that this season we can encourage conversation, learning, and unity. Not only in February, but throughout the year.*

*Let us honor the past, uplift the present, and continue building a future rooted in respect, opportunity, and shared progress. And, I hope to hear from our youth by participating in the "Black History Minute Video Contest".*

*Many Blessings,*

*Trustee Michelle Sterling*

## BLACK HISTORY MINUTE YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST

Hosted by

**TRUSTEE  
MICHELLE STERLING**



**Sauk Village Students Ages 10-18**

**February 1 – February 20, 2026**

Create a **60-SECOND VIDEO** on:

- A Black Leader or Inventor
- A Moment in Black History
- A Local Role Model
- How Black History Inspires You

**PRIZES & CERTIFICATES FOR TOP VIDEOS!**

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO:**

- Message via Facebook   Google Form Upload   Email to: [msterling@saukvillage.org](mailto:msterling@saukvillage.org)  
Google Drive Link   YouTube (Unlisted)

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2026**



## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO



**SEND YOUR 60-SECOND VIDEO HERE:**



**Facebook Message to:**

[facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575024007094](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575024007094)



**Google Form Upload**

Quick, Easy & Private



**Email To: [msterling@saukvillage.org](mailto:msterling@saukvillage.org)**



**Google Form Upload**



**Email To: [msterling@saukvillage.org](mailto:msterling@saukvillage.org)**



**TEXT: 630-921-1385**



**YouTube Links (Unlisted)**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

Parent Permission Required



## 2026 TOI SCHOLARSHIP

Seven \$2,000 Scholarships

### CHECKLIST:

- Cover Letter
- 500+ word essay
- Application
- Recent Transcript
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- Interview Township Official

### APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

**MARCH 2, 2026**

3217 Northfield Drive  
Springfield, IL 62707

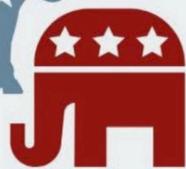
Find the application and full details at [toi.org](http://toi.org)

### FOR MORE INFO:

TJ Ruenger  
[teresa@toi.org](mailto:teresa@toi.org)  
(217) 744-2212



# Party Affiliation



**Illinois does NOT require people to declare a party affiliation when registering to vote.**

Instead, a voter will state which party's ballot they would like when they go vote at the primary. A voter can change which party's ballot they pull each primary.

**If you chose non-partisan when applying for a Vote-by-Mail ballot, you may not receive a ballot, as there may not be any non-partisan issues to vote on in the primary.**



## COOK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE



# BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE TODAY!

Do your part for local Democracy and earn some cash in the process!

**BILINGUAL JUDGES ALWAYS NEEDED!**

## POLL WORKERS NEEDED IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY FOR MARCH 17, 2026, CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION

**ELECTION JUDGE**  
**\$250**

Greets voters, signs them in, and ensures smooth polling place operations.

**POLLING PLACE TECHNICIAN**  
**\$400**

Assists with election supplies, equipment setup, and maintenance, in addition to Election Judge duties.

### HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested individuals should apply as soon as possible to complete the required training.
- Apply online today at:
- [cookcountyclerk.com/work](http://cookcountyclerk.com/work)

SCAN HERE



## Community Consolidated Schools District 168

21899 S. Torrence Ave. • Sauk Village, IL 60411-4497 • 708-758-1610 • FAX 708-758-5929



Dr. Donna S. Leak  
*Superintendent of Schools*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

Tammy N. Jones  
*President*  
Brandie Jackson-Williams  
*Vice President*  
Sene' Garrett  
*Secretary*

Branard Barrett  
Serena Durr-Jones  
Sabrina Fisher

ADMINISTRATION  
Dr. Sonya Whitaker  
*Director of Instructional Services*

Leonard Moody  
*Chief School Business Official*

Dr. Stephanie Jones  
*Director of Special Education*

Dr. Jennifer Camilleri  
*Director of Technology*

WAGONER ELEMENTARY  
Mrs. Brianne Malatt  
*Principal*

STRASSBURG ELEMENTARY  
Mr. Brian Lawson  
*Principal*

RICKOVER JUNIOR HIGH  
Mr. Philip Bazile  
*Principal*

### Notice of Vacancy-Board of Education

In conformity with Illinois School Code section 105 ILCS 5/10-10, the Board of Education of Community Consolidated Schools District 168 hereby gives notice that it will accept letters of interest from individuals who would like to be considered for appointment by the Board to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of one of the school board members. The successful applicant for the position will serve until the next election in April 2027. At which point, he/she would have to run again for re-election should he/she want to remain on the Board.

A candidate for the position **must** be a citizen of the United States of the age of 18 years or over, shall be a resident of the State of Illinois and of the Community Consolidated Schools District 168 for at least one year, and shall be a registered voter as provided by the general election law.

Letters of Interest should include:

1. Reasons for applying; and
2. Proof of legal qualifications.

A candidate may also wish to include the following in their letter of interest (where applicable):

3. List any involvement in Community Consolidated Schools District 168 public schools and/or other background in education.
4. List any history of participation in community activities; and
5. List any suggested goals for the Board of Education and the School District if appointed.

A letter of interest should be addressed to: Board President Mrs. Tammy Jones at the Administration Center for Community Consolidated Schools District 168, 21899 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, Illinois, and must be received in that office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026. The Board will notify the applicant of the procedure to be followed for the interview.

Every Child Every Day



# TRUSTEE

**DR. WINSTON**  
Community Support Network (CSN)

## ABOUT US

Established a local resource hub dedicated to connecting Sauk Village residents with essential services and support systems.

Under Trustee Winston's leadership, CSN offers residents direct access to professionals who can assist with social service applications, healthcare resources, financial education, employment support, and comprehensive community empowerment.

## OUR SERVICES

Location: McConathy Public Library  
21737 Jeffrey Ave, Sauk Village, IL

When: Every 3rd Saturday

Time: 10am to Noon

Bringing Resources, Support, and Solutions to Residents

## Community Support Network (CSN)

offers residents direct access to professionals who can assist with:

- Social service applications
  - Healthcare resources
  - Financial education
- Educational enrollment
  - Veteran services
  - Employment guidance
- Comprehensive community empowerment

Stop searching—the support you need is right here!

Call (773) 848-0959



Learn more at Trustee DrTonyia Winston

CSN – Empowering Sauk Village, One Connection at a Time

## COMMUNITY NOTICE

We are pleased to share that the Community Support Network (CSN) will be providing ongoing support services for residents of the Village of Sauk Village **every 3rd Saturday from 10am to Noon**. CSN is designed to connect residents directly with caring professionals who are ready to help navigate everyday needs and life challenges.

These services will be facilitated by Trustee Dr. Tonyia Winston, as part of a continued commitment to ensuring Sauk Village residents have access to meaningful resources and trusted support.

We warmly encourage residents to take advantage of these services as they become available. Details regarding dates, locations, and scheduling will be shared regularly.

## Love your Heart

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH



Heart Disease is the #1 cause of death in the United States. But that doesn't mean it's inevitable. **80% of Heart Disease can be prevented!**

### TAKE CONTROL of your HEART HEALTH



Participate in exercise and/or physical activity

Eat healthy



Control your cholesterol

Avoid tobacco products



Manage your blood pressure

Maintain a healthy weight



Get out and exercise for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week.

Learn more about healthy living & your heart at [heart.org](http://heart.org)



Schedule an appointment & talk to your doctor about your heart!



-SAUK VILLAGE SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTS  
SAUK VILLAGE SENIOR CENTER 21801 S. TORRENCE AVE SAUK VILLAGE, IL

CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
Seniors 50 and Over



# FOOD Pop-Up PANTRY

SENIOR FIT CLASS  
Every Tues. & Thurs.  
10:30 -11:30 am

Stress Relief & General Fitness



BREAKFAST BINGO  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
Enjoy Breakfast and Bingo  
Sponsored by Jen Care Senior Medical Center

GAME NIGHT  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 4-8 PM  
Dominoes, Whiz, Spades and more!



JOIN THE SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meetings are the first Thursday of the month  
5pm in the Senior Center  
Contact Carol Coleman for details  
773/426-0176



Meals in the Meantime is partnering with the Village of Sauk Village for our next drive-thru food pantry.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 | 10AM**  
First come, first served – **1 bag per vehicle**

**Sauk Village Municipal Center**  
21801 Torrence Avenue  
Sauk Village, Illinois 60411

#### PARTNERS & SUPPLIERS



[mealsinthemeantime.org](http://mealsinthemeantime.org) 708.400.9261

SCAN AND GIVE



## BLOOM TOWNSHIP YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Youth Conservation & Leadership Corp (Y.C.L.C.)

### 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program

If you are 14-17 years old and live in the Bloom Township area, you can:

- Gain real-world work experience
- Earn \$13.00 per hour by interning 16 hours per week
- Get job readiness training prior to starting at the worksite
- Participate in Life Skills Trainings during your time in the program



**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT:**

**THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP CENTER**

**425 S. HALSTED**

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL 60411**

(Office Hours 9:00am-4:30pm)

**FROM: 01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026**

**Limited positions available!**

Work Permit required for ages 14 & 15, if selected

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST LIVE WITHIN BLOOM TOWNSHIP**

## Utility Assistance

Bloom Township Residents Only

**Monday through Thursday: 9:00 to 12:00 & 1:00 to 3:00**  
**Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00**

**No Appointments needed**

**Where: 425 S. Halsted Street, Chicago Heights**  
**708-754-9400**

#### Documents Needed Are:

- Driver's License
- Utility Bill (water, electric, gas)
- Proof of all household income
- Social Security Cards for all household members.
- Lease or Mortgage Statement

All documents must have the same address to qualify, and must be in the applicant's name.

We do not assist with bills over \$500 without proof of payment arrangements from the utility company. Applicants can apply once in a 12-month period.

**Maximum Grant: \$200.00**

**Minimum: amount of the bill NO CREDIT**

# Fire Department News- Chief Keith Damm

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## Winter Driving Safety: Protect Yourself and Protect Our First Responders

As winter settles in across Sauk Village, our roads can quickly become hazardous. Snow, ice, and reduced visibility make even short trips more dangerous, and every driver plays a role in keeping our community safe. The Sauk Village Fire Department is reminding all residents to take extra precautions behind the wheel during the winter months.

### Recent Crashes Highlight the Risks

On a recent morning with icy road conditions, the Sauk Village Fire Department responded to four separate crashes on Illinois 394. One of these incidents required the use of extrication equipment to free a trapped occupant. On another incident, while our crews were actively working on the northbound side of the highway, another crash occurred on the southbound side, underscoring just how quickly conditions can deteriorate and how vulnerable both motorists and first responders are during winter weather.



Fire Department News-  
Chief Keith Damm

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**Drive carefully during cold weather. Cold Weather brings challenges that require patience and preparation. A few simple habits can make a big difference:**

**Reduce your speed. Snow and ice dramatically increase stopping distances.**

**Increase following distance. Leave extra space between your vehicle and the one ahead.**

**Clear all windows before driving. Frost, snow, and fogged glass limit visibility.**

**Brake gently. Sudden braking can cause skidding on icy roads.**

**Use headlights in snow or low-light conditions. Being seen is just as important as seeing the road.**

**Slow Down and Move Over for Emergency Vehicles**  
**When firefighters, police officers, and paramedics respond to crashes, they work just feet away from moving traffic—often in poor weather and low visibility.**

**Illinois' Move Over (Scott's) Law requires drivers to: Slow down significantly when approaching emergency vehicles with flashing lights.**

Fire Department News-  
Chief Keith Damm

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Winter weather is unpredictable, but safe driving doesn't have to be. By taking your time, staying alert, and giving emergency crews the space they need, you help keep our roads safer for everyone.

The Sauk Village Fire Department thanks you for doing your part to protect yourself, your neighbors, and the first responders who serve our community

Best Regards,

Keith

Keith Damm

Fire Chief

Sauk Village Fire Department

Office: 708-758-2225

Cell: 773-848-0982

# McConathy News

# FEB

21737 Jeffrey Ave Sauk Village, IL 60411

Phone: 708-757-4771

Fax: 708-757-3580

[www.mcconathypubliclibrary.org](http://www.mcconathypubliclibrary.org)

### New Library Hours

- Monday - Friday 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
- Saturdays 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
- Closed Sundays



\*FOL= Friends of the Library

\*All programs are in person unless listed

\*All programs with costs are as listed

\*All programs are open to everyone unless listed.

## Join us for Library Lovers Month

We will have surprise treats/activities all month long

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 CLOSED	2 Senior Movie 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	3 Kid's games and crafts 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	4 Craft Bag Pick-Up	5 Kid's cooking 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	6 Bunco 5:00 pm \$5.00	7 CLOSED
8 CLOSED	9 Senior Movie 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	10 Kid's games and crafts 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	11 Craft Bag Pick-Up	12 Kid's cooking 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	13 Valentines Ice Cream Social 3:00pm - 4:00 pm	14 CLOSED
15 CLOSED	16 CLOSED	17 Kid's games and crafts 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	18 Craft Bag Pick-Up	19 Kid's cooking 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	20 Senior Movie 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	21 Community Support Network Meeting 10:00 am- 12:00 pm
22 CLOSED	23 Senior Movie 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	24 Kid's games and crafts 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	25 Craft Bag Pick-Up	26 Kid's cooking 4:00pm - 5:00 pm	27 Black History Month info Online	28 CLOSED

Join us for the Clerk of the Circuit Court Mobile Unit

Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00p - 5:00p

## Plate stickers now sold here!

Total cost is \$160.50 Cash or Credit only





**Mariyana T. Spyropoulos**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

# CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT **MOBILE UNIT**

WEDNESDAY  
FEB. 11

MCCONATHY LIBRARY  
21737 JEFFREY AVE  
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

2-5PM

The Clerk of the Circuit Court's Mobile Justice Unit is designed to help you understand your legal rights using Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO). You will have access to attorney-written articles, step-by-step guides, and resources.

## FIND INFORMATION ON

- Expungements
- Protective Orders
- E-Filing
- Divorce
- Child Support
- Guardianship
- Wills
- Evictions
- Foreclosures
- and more!



# McConathy News

DO YOU HAVE ANY VACANT UNITS?

## Say Yes to the Address!

### 1 Stable and Reliable Tenants

We connect landlords with tenants who are committed to maintaining stable housing and have access to supportive services which help them succeed as tenants and maintain consistent rental payments.

### 2 Financial Assistance and Support

Tenants have assistance with rental payments, security deposits, and other financial challenges. This minimizes the risk of missed payments and ensures a steady income stream for your property.

### 3 Professional Guidance

Dedicated case management staff provide guidance on tenant screening, lease agreements, and best practices for working with individuals experiencing homelessness.

### 4 Positive Community Impact

Safe and secure housing is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty. By offering a stable home, you are making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families.

## Join us! Fill out our Landlord Directory Form.

SCAN HERE

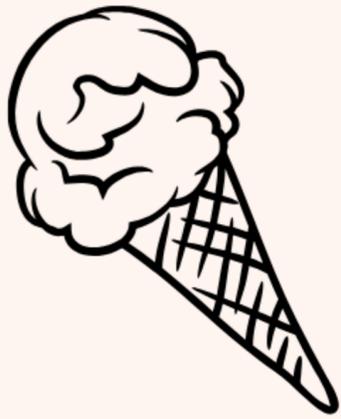


Our community continues to seek landlords with available units who are interested in joining our Yes to the Address efforts. Landlords with available units in suburban Cook County are invited to complete the Landlord Directory Form by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at [www.suburbancook.org/yes-to-the-address](http://www.suburbancook.org/yes-to-the-address)



The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County is the lead agency for the Cook County Continuum of Care (IL-511) and is responsible for coordinating the homeless response system for the 130 suburbs of Cook County located outside the City of Chicago.

[www.suburbancook.org](http://www.suburbancook.org)



# Valentine's Party



**FEBRUARY, 13TH 2026**  
**3:00- 4:00PM**

**JOIN US FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
AND SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE THIS  
HOLIDAY!**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE!  
OPEN TO ANY AGE! CHILDREN 12 &  
UNDER MUST HAVE PARENTAL HELP!**

**McConathy Public Library**  
**21737 Jeffrey Ave ,Sauk**  
**Village IL, 60411**

Please RSVP by February 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure your spot at this lovely event. Space is limited. We look forward to celebrating the season of love with you... For more information call (708 )757-4771



# *Leprechaun Hunt 2026*

Nancy L. McConathy Public Library  
21737 Jeffery Avenue Sauk Village, IL 60411

*Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00 pm*

**SPACE IS LIMITED!!!**

To reserve your spot, please  
call the Library at 708-757-4771  
by March 12th 3:00 pm



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBER 911

MUNICIPAL CENTER 708/758-3330 M-F 8am-5p

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 708/758-1331

FIRE NON-EMERGENCY 708/758-2225

MCCONATHY PUBLIC LIBRARY 708/757-4771

DIST. 168 ADMINISTRATION 708/758-1610

BLOOM TOWNSHIP 708/754-9400

COOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 708/210-4500

RESPOND NOW EMERGENCY SERVICES 708/755-4357

COMMON WEALTH EDISON 1-800-334-7662

REPUBLIC DISPOSAL SERVICES 708/385-8252

NICOR 888/642-6748

CEDA 800-571-2332