



Deck The Halls


In November, the Village of Antioch will host its annual **Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting**. Enjoy the charm of downtown Antioch with family and friends at the annual **Antioch Christmas Parade on Friday, November 24th at 6:30 p.m.** The parade has been a family tradition

in Antioch for decades. Watch the streets come alive with twinkling lights, dazzling floats, and the jolly old man himself, Santa Claus. It's a magical evening that will fill your heart with holiday spirit. Immediately following the parade, the annual **tree lighting ceremony** will take place at the William E. Brook Entertainment Center (Antioch Bandshell).

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping on **Small Business Saturday, November 25, 2023**. Making holiday purchases at local businesses shows our support to Antioch merchants who work hard to carry unique items in charming boutiques and stores that make Antioch special. Enjoy warm, personal service that only small businesses can provide.

2024 Winter Wine Walk Tickets NOW ON SALE!
Saturday, January 20th, 2024

Tickets available at the Antioch Parks and Recreation office (806 Holbek Drive), or online at www.antioch.il.gov or scan QR code



VILLAGE OF Antioch

Community Update

Fall 2023



From The Mayor

Welcome to the debut edition of the Antioch Community Newsletter. The Board of Trustees and village staff are committed to re-establishing our "communications roots" with news delivered directly to your mailbox. As part of our overall communications strategy, we will be providing regular updates on major infrastructure projects, events, and other newsworthy items happening in our community.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are planning to enhance Village communications with residents by mailing two biannual newsletters in the spring and fall seasons. We will share these mailed publications in addition to continued real-time updates on our social media channels and village website. If you do not follow the Village of Antioch on Facebook or Nextdoor, we encourage you to get connected. As always, the village staff is eager to help answer questions or address concerns. Feel free to phone (847) 395-1000 for assistance.

I'm excited to provide you an update on the

progress we're making on the redevelopment of the village-owned property at Main and Orchard, at the North end of our downtown business district. This property has been vacant and blighted for years. From my first day as mayor, I have promised a transformation of this part of our community, and with the help of numerous contractors, we're achieving our goal of bringing upscale open space to our downtown.

This summer, we broke ground on the new public space, with the expected construction of a splash pad, performance pavilion, and other features, all surrounding the updated Sequoit Creek. We're planning for a grand opening celebration in the Summer of 2024.

We hope you are as excited about the progress we're making as a village, as we are. Your feedback is important as we seek to improve the community we all call home. Feel free to email me at sgartner@antioch.il.gov or call 847-395-1000.

Scott J. Gartner
Mayor, Village of Antioch

Read Mayor Gartner's weekly updates at: www.antioch.il.gov/mayorsmessage

Fall Leaf Vacuuming Update!

The village's leaf vacuuming program, provided as a service through our waste hauler, Groot, will run through November 24, 2023. Exact pick-up dates will vary depending on the weather. Residents are to rake leaves within 5 feet of the edge of the road. Not in ditches. This program is WEATHER PERMITTING. Groot trucks will be in different areas of the village on different days of the week to vacuum up the leaves. If the leaves are too wet, the vacuum truck will not be able to pick them up, and the program will be postponed or delayed. For more information, visit: www.antioch.il.gov



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Delivering on our Promises

Downtown Open Space Transformation

Earlier this summer the Village of Antioch held a groundbreaking ceremony for the downtown community open space redevelopment project at the village owned property at Main and Orchard. Residents, current and past members of the Antioch Village Board, other community leaders, and members of the public were in attendance as Mayor Gartner led the celebration of the project launch. The ceremony marked the beginning of the physical transformation of the existing blighted parcel into an approximate 4.5 acres of new park and community space, with an emphasis on the Sequoit Creek channel. Mayor Gartner said, "...this is a giant step forward in the transformation of downtown Antioch."

"This development project will provide a major boost in tourism and economic development opportunities for the Village of Antioch, while also addressing stormwater management issues and preserving natural open space in our community," said Gartner.

Not only will this project create ample recreation space near the downtown business district, but the exposed creek offers flood mitigation features, aiding stormwater management. The site cleanup removed decades of contaminated soil, elevating the parcel to bring top environmental standards.

In addition to the exposed Sequoit Creet water features, the site will have an accessible playground, splash pad, small performance pavilion, and a concession area. This Project is supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLT 3381 awarded to the State of Illinois by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Village Board Breaks Ground. (L-R) Trustee Brent Bluthardt, Trustee Ed Macek, Trustee Petrina Burman, Mayor Scott Gartner, Trustee Rebecca McNeill, and Trustee Scott Pierce

Community Safety Initiatives

The Antioch Police Department has been working at successfully bringing increased awareness to the community regarding "crimes of opportunity" happening within the Village. In general, the suburban Chicagoland area has seen an uptick in auto thefts and burglaries involving unlocked cars and garages. Unfortunately, Antioch is not immune to this issue. Starting in October 2021, the Antioch Police Department stepped up its awareness campaign to include a significant social media and public relations push. The messaging has so far, started to pay off, with tens of thousands seeing the social media posts, and hundreds of thousands watching Chief Guttschow appear on Chicago television news programs encouraging residents to use the #9PMRoutine as a reminder to make sure car and garage doors are locked every night. Chief Guttschow reports that these crimes have seen a decrease substantially among Village residents. "We've seen a correlation between our social campaign and



instances of these thieves coming from other communities into ours, and not having as much success," said Guttschow. "We're happy with how things have been trending, but I also want to remind residents to stay vigilant. Lock your doors at night, and if you see something questionable, call 9-1-1 immediately."

The #9PMRoutine offers a daily reminder for residents to:

1. Remove valuables from your car. (keys, wallets, cash, garage door openers, firearms, tablets, etc.).
2. Make sure vehicle and home doors and windows are shut and locked. (Car doors, garage doors, etc.).

3. Turn on exterior lights.
4. "See something, say something." Residents who witness suspicious activity, are encouraged to call the Antioch Police Department dispatch at 847-270-9111, or dial 911 for emergencies.

What a Summer!

Looking Back At The "Summer Of Music" In Downtown Antioch!

The "It's Thursday" Summer Concert Series wrapped up on August 10th, delivering a season of fantastic music and exciting memories. The closing show was truly exceptional, as Antioch's local businesses united to support a local community member in need.

This year's concert series featured renowned performers, drawing record crowds to the William Brook Entertainment Center (Antioch Bandshell). None of this musical magic would have been possible without the unwavering support of our local business community. In a new initiative, the Village of Antioch introduced various sponsorship opportunities, granting visibility at our summer concerts.

Our gratitude to this year's sponsors:
Presenting Sponsor: Raymond Chevrolet Kia
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Silver Sponsors: Lakeshore Beverage, Antioch Fine Wine & Liquors, Fischer

Paper Products, The Lakota Group, Merit Law Group, Inc., Your Boat Club & Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

The summer concert series kicked off with a bang! Through a collaboration between the Village of Antioch and US 99 Radio, country music star Rodney Atkins entertained a crowd of thousands! The rest of the summer treated us to a delightful blend of country, rock, and reggae. In July, music fans were also treated to three nights of music as part of 93XRT's Decades Weekend. The summer's

series recorded its highest-ever attendance, with more residents and visitors than ever coming together to enjoy *It's Thursday*.

Stay tuned for details on next years' concert series. The village staff is already hard at work to make these events bigger and better than ever.



Police Department Innovation Cuts Costs And Increases Productivity

The Antioch Police Department faced a dilemma that many residents are facing, determining how to replace older vehicles due to car dealer inventory issues. Additionally, once new squad cars are approved for purchase, the wait time for outfitting the squads with the appropriate equipment was nearly 12 months. Seeing an opportunity to speed up the outfitting process while also saving taxpayers approximately \$2,200 per vehicle, our police department found a way to provide the service with in-house manpower. The Village purchased six new squad cars this summer, so that's a saving to residents of approximately \$13,000!

