



Sun River Terrace

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
2026

Looking Ahead

With new investments, meaningful celebrations, and strong community partnerships, the Village of Sun River Terrace continues to move forward with purpose. We encourage all residents to stay engaged, attend events, and remain informed through village communications. Together, we honor our history, celebrate our culture, and build our future.

Mandisa Rucker, Mayor

Village Board Meeting

February 23 & March 23

6:00 PM

Ralph J. Bailey

Community Center

The SRT 2026 Village Fest will be coming up in September. If you are interested in being on the Planning Committee, please email the mayor at mayor.bonds@sunriverterrace.com.

Bring Your Ideas!

From the Mayor's Desk:

Dear Residents of the Village of Sun River Terrace,

As we welcome the first quarter of the year, I am pleased to share exciting news and meaningful opportunities for community connection. It is with great pride that I announce the Village of Sun River Terrace has been awarded a **\$600,000 grant** to develop a **new community park located across the street from the Ralph J. Bailey Community Center**. This investment reflects our continued commitment to creating safe, vibrant, and inclusive spaces for our residents and future generations.

This quarter also gives us the opportunity to celebrate **Black History Month**, honoring the legacy, resilience, and contributions of Black Americans whose influence continues to shape our nation and our village. We are especially excited to partner with the **Alkebuland History Center** and the **Black Oaks Center** to host a special Black History event on **February 27th and 28th** at the Ralph J. Bailey Community Center. Please review the enclosed flyer for full event details.

Thank you for your continued engagement, pride, and partnership as we move Sun River Terrace forward together.

With gratitude and service,

Mandisa Rucker Mayor,
Village of Sun River Terrace



Spring



Black History Facts – February

- Black History Month was established in 1926 by historian **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** as Negro History Week and expanded to a full month in 1976.
- **Madam C.J. Walker** became one of the first self-made female millionaires in the United States through entrepreneurship and community investment.
- The first Black mayor of a U.S. city was **Robert C. Weaver**, who also became the first Black U.S. Cabinet member.
- First Black mayor of the Village of Sun River Terrace, IL was **Casey Wade, Jr.**, July 1980.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have played a critical role in educating generations of leaders, educators, and innovators

IN MEMORY OF Leonard R. Slaughter, SR.

Mr. Leonard Slaughter, SR. moved into the community in 1975. At that time, part of the Village was known as El Dorado Terrace. In 1980, he decided to become actively involved in the incorporation efforts of his community with two other communities, Sunset Hills and Riverwood. With the aid of his fellow citizens the communities were successfully incorporated in July 1980 and became known as the Village of Sun River Terrace.

Mr. Leonard Slaughter was an entrepreneur in the village, owning and operating Slaughter Barber Shop. Later he added to his achievements by becoming treasurer of the Village of Sun River Terrace. He was also a supporter of the Boy Scouts in the Village.

Leonard Slaughter served in the Armed Forces during WWII. He will be remembered by all, especially the youth in the community for his eloquent teachings of history and philosophical lessons of life. In his lifetime he studied black history extensively and traveled to Mother Africa to learn about his roots.

Dumpster at Pole Barn

Items can be dumped into the dumpster on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12pm. Please call 815-937-1200 to schedule having the gate opened for your convenience. ID is required and you must be a Village of Sun River Terrace Resident.

Remember large items are picked up on the last Monday of every month on the curb!



Upcoming Events



The Kankakee Public Library will honor Black History Month with a range of activities. There library will host a young authors event, special programs, live entertainment, and local food vendors. Events for families include a Martin Luther King Jr.

Open House on Saturday, February 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., hosted by Dr. Patricia Polk on the second floor. In addition, there will be the Sounds of Blackness, an event for all ages on the second floor to experience how songs tell stories of history at 11 a.m. For adults the Soul Collections book club meeting on Thursday, February 26, will be featuring the book James by Percival Everett on the third floor starting at 5:30 p.m.

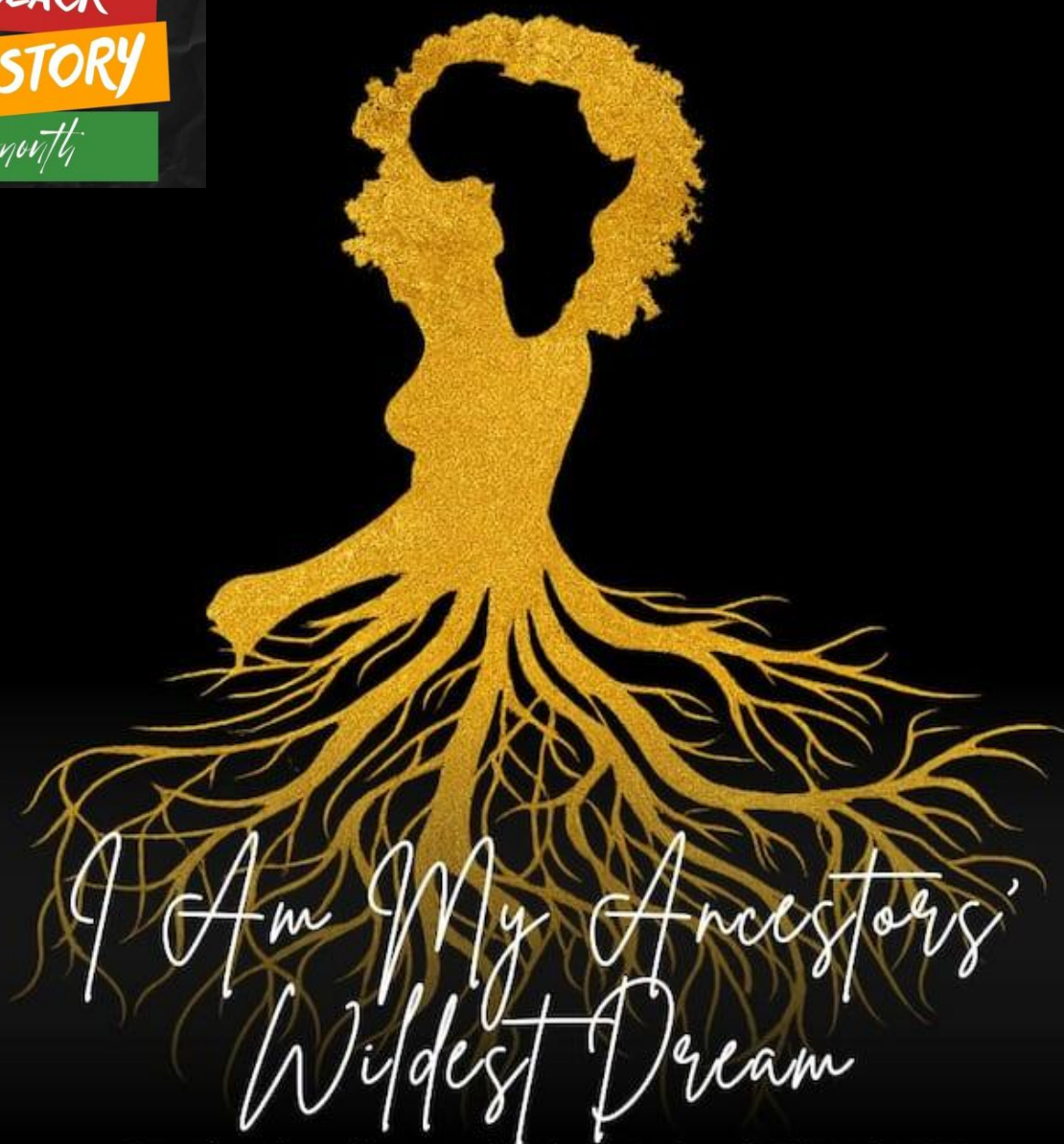
More children's programming includes a Young Author Celebration on Friday, February 13 at 5 p.m. on the second floor featuring authors Pearson E. Taylor and Stevie Ann Smith presenting their books, inspirations, and writing processes. On Tuesday, February 24 kids can get a Taste of History as they learn about the inventions of some popular foods by Black innovators. For teens grades 7-12, every Monday at 5 p.m. come test your Black History knowledge with Battle of the Brains. On Saturday, February 7 at 11 a.m. take on a music trivia challenge with Drop the Beat Name the Beat.

Taste of Soul will return all month long on the first floor every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to enjoy offerings from local Black-owned food vendors, accompanied by live entertainment. The featured vendors include Essential Smoothies on February 6, Simply Scrumptious on February 13, BRDIVI Catering on February 20, and Mac's BBQ on February 27. Performances include LeVar Kellogg on February 6, Chris and Corran Clark on February 13, Tonita Butler on February 20, and to close out the event N-Deep on February 27. Patrons will have the opportunity to purchase from their menus. All events and programs are free to attend and open to the public. Any questions should be directed to Shanelle Robinson: srobinson@lions-online.org

FEBRUARY 2029

**BLACK
HISTORY**

month



*I Am My Ancestors'
Wildest Dream*

Production by Kankakee School District 111

Friday, February 20th @ 7 PM

An evening of Black History, Black excellence, local Black-owned businesses, and powerful student performances.

Kankakee High School
1200 W Jeffery St.,
Kankakee, IL 60901



Vendor Fair Begins
at **5:00 PM** in the
Main Gym at KHS

Seasonal Tips & Village Reminders

Spring Cleaning Tips

- Declutter one room at a time to avoid feeling overwhelmed.
- Properly dispose of unwanted household items and check for local recycling options.
- Clean gutters and check outdoor drains to prepare for spring rains.
- Refresh your home by opening windows and deep-cleaning carpets and upholstery.

Snow & Ice Parking Reminder

During snow and ice storms, **please avoid parking on village streets**. Keeping streets clear allows our public works crews to remove snow more efficiently and helps ensure safe travel for emergency vehicles and residents alike. Your cooperation is essential and greatly appreciated.

Friendly Reminder: **Roaming Pets**



As a courtesy to all who live in the Village of Sun River Terrace, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of keeping pets safely secured and supervised. Recently, we have received reports of pets roaming freely throughout the community.

Unattended or roaming animals can pose safety concerns for neighbors, drivers and the pets themselves. To help keep our village safe and enjoyable for all:

Please ensure your pets are kept on a leash when outdoors

Do not allow pets to roam the neighborhood unattended

Make sure your yard fencing or tie-outs are secure

Be mindful of noise, waste, and interactions with other residents' pets

Your cooperation helps us maintain a peaceful, safe, and welcoming environment for everyone.

Thank you for being responsible pet owners and valued members of our community.

Women's History Facts – March

- Women's History Month celebrates the contributions of women to history, culture, and society and grew out of Women's History Week in 1980.
- **Shirley Chisholm** was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first to seek a major party's nomination for president.
- **Ida B. Wells** was a pioneering journalist, and civil rights advocate whose work laid the foundation for modern investigative reporting.
- **Shirley Byrd** was the first black woman mayor of the Village of Sun River Terrace.
- Women continue to lead in government, education, healthcare, and community service, shaping progress at every level.



PLACE BASED: NORTH EAST ILLINOIS

BLACK OUR-STORY

SUN RIVER TERRACE

&

PEMBROKE TWP.

Join us to put the puzzle of our roots together



so our youth, future generations know who they are!

Bring family/community legacy stories and memorabilia to share

Lunch Served

FEB 27 2026

11-7 EXHIBIT, LUNCH, SUN RIVER TERRACE

FEB 28 2026

11-4 EXHIBIT, LUNCH, PEMBROKE TWP

RALPH J. BAILEY COMMUNITY CENTER
7219 E. CHICAGO ST. SUN RIVER TERRACE IL. 60964

Sponsored by: Sun River Terrace, The Alkebuland History Center and Black Oaks Center

R.J. BAILEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DIRECTOR: KENNETH SHAW

OFFICE PHONE # 815.304.4498 — EMAIL: communitycenter@sunriverterrace.com
7219 East Chicago Street

SOUL LINE DANCING



*With Rod Sessions -
Every Monday Night
6:00pm - 8 :00pm*

THE GOLDEN GEMS & GENTS



Senior Nutrition Program



When: Every Wednesday
Program Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Lunch will be provided between 11:30 am & 12:00 pm, with games immediately following! [Games include Bingo, Bid Whist, Dominoes, Checkers, etc.]

- ❖ AGE 60+
- ❖ SPOUSES OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, REGARDLESS OF AGE
- ❖ INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES RESIDING WITH AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL

“Inspirational Old Fashioned Country Brunch”



The Ralph J. Bailey Community Center Presents its' Annual Fundraiser for the Summer Food Meals Program

When: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: 7219 E. Chicago Street,
Sun River Terrace, IL 60964)

Menu items include turkey sausage patties, bacon, Biscuits and Gravy, Shrimp and Grits, eggs, smothered potatoes, Salmon Croquette, Rice, Juice, Coffee, Tea,

The tickets are \$15.00 per person

Kicking off the Summer Healthy Meals, Educational Enrichment, Arts and Crafts, and Physical Activities.

ALL Donations are Welcome

For advance ticket sales please contact Kenneth Shaw, Ralph J. Bailey Community Center at (815) 304-4498 or [email: Communitycenter@sunriverterrace.com](mailto:Communitycenter@sunriverterrace.com)

Proceeds go to sponsoring the Summer Meals Service Program

Thank you for your support.



SUN RIVER TERRACE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

ACTING DIRECTOR:

OFFICE PHONE # 815.370.5244 — EMAIL: dtlibrary@comcast.net

LIBRARY HOURS: TUES.-THURS. 4:00-6:00 pm; MON., WED., & FRI. CLOSED

Sun River Terrace Public Library Celebrating Black History Month

Saturday Feb. 21, 2026

1pm-4pm

Join us as we celebrate Black History Month with an afternoon of fun, creativity and reading!



BINGO

Learn Black history while playing BINGO for prizes



Event held at the
**Sun River Terrace
Public Library**
7219 E. Chicago
Phone 815-352-6877

**Event for Everyone,
Youth and Adults**



CRAFTS

Themed Crafts for All
Ages to create and take
home



Library Hours
Monday 1pm-5pm
Tuesday 2pm-7pm
Wednesday 10am-5pm

Additional times
available upon request

**Library Closed Monday
Feb. 16, Presidents Day**



EXPLORE

Black History through
books and
games



Explore our Black
History titles honoring
Black History and
culture

We're connected to
Libby for Audibooks
and eBooks..Sign up
and start reading
digitally the same day



Free Adult Computer Class

Empower Yourself with Technology!

When: Every Wednesday at 2:00 PM **Where:** Sun River Terrace Library

- Learn basic computer skills in a welcoming environment
- No experience required—beginners welcome!
- Bring your tablet, iPad, laptop, or use the library computers
- Hands-on guidance and support
- Free resources provided

For more information: Email srtpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call 815-352-6877, or stop in during library hours.

Take the next step—join us and get comfortable with computers!

Project Next Generation STEAM Club

Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math!

Where: Sun River Terrace Library

Who: Youth in grades 5–12 are welcome to join!

- Club activity meetings every week
- Hands-on projects and fun learning experiences
- Make new friends while exploring STEAM topics

For more information: Call 815-352-6877 or email srtpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Ready to discover, create, and innovate? Join the PNG STEAM Club and unleash your curiosity!