



# WILMINGTON CONNECTS



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024 / 2025

# IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS



CITY OF WILMINGTON



## The Gemini Giant Homecoming

Please join Mayor Dietz, the City Council and other dignitaries for a homecoming celebration like no other.

**Date:** November 30, 2024

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Place:** South Island



There will be fun for the whole family including live music from the Route 66 Band, Route 66 Diner, Route 66 Sodas, and Route 66 Merchandise for sale! There will even be a barrel train ride for your little ones :-)



## Senior News You Can Use

### FREE HOME ASSESSMENTS AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY KITS

The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program offers free energy assessments for homeowners and renters. Assessments are available to customers living in homes with two units or less, townhomes, duplexes, and individually owned and metered condos. Owners and renters are eligible to participate. You may be eligible to receive the following energy-saving products at no-cost during your home assessment:

**WaterSense® certified showerheads**

**WaterSense certified faucet aerators for your kitchen and bath**

**Hot water pipe insulation for your water heater**

**Programmable thermostat installation or energy-saving reprogramming if you have an existing thermostat**

**Select LEDs (ComEd customers only)**

Get started by calling 855.660.9378 or complete the online scheduling form at <https://eesavings.com>.



## City of Wilmington Receives Powering The Holidays Grant!

The City of Wilmington is thrilled to announce the acceptance of a grant from ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to install celebration lights in the downtown area. This year was highly competitive, with more than 68 applications submitted. "Being selected as one of the 24 awardees, is a reflection of the wonderful community-focused holiday lighting event you have organized," remarked Ben Schnelle, Program Manager.



Public Works crews will be installing lights just in time for the November 30th Park District Christkindlmarket and the Chamber of Commerce Lighted Holiday Parade!

## WINTER 2025



Winter can bring challenges, and snow removal is a crucial task in maintaining accessibility and safety in the City of Wilmington. As snow plows work diligently to clear streets, it's inevitable that snow may be pushed onto sidewalks, especially at intersection corners. We kindly remind all residents and business owners that it's their responsibility to clear these snow berms from the corners, ensuring they are moved onto the parkway rather than back into the street.

**Additionally, please remember that on-street parking is prohibited by City Ordinance Section 76.01 during snowfalls of 1 inch or more.**

Your cooperation by keeping vehicles off the streets greatly aids our Public Works teams in clearing the roads efficiently. **Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping Wilmington safe and accessible during snow events!**

### TOWN HALL MEETING



The annual Town Hall Meeting is a fantastic opportunity for residents to engage directly with city leadership :

**February 12, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Wilmington City Hall  
1165 S. Water Street**

Hosted by the City of Wilmington, the meeting is open to all members of the public. It serves as a platform to reflect on the achievements of 2024 and discuss the goals set for 2025. **Mayor Ben Dietz will also entertain a Question and Answer/Public Comment session.**



CITY OF WILMINGTON



# Youth Programs

## Toddlers Classes

Lil Adventurers: Tuesdays @ 10am

Work your toddlers fine & gross motor skills while building social skills along the way!

Toddler Fit & Fun: Friday's @ 9am

Get your little ones moving and stretching with friends

Art Explorers: 4th Wednesday @ 1pm

Learn some new art skills + practice direction following!

## Kid's Club Winter Break Camp!

Join us at Kid's Club Winter Break Camp! From 12/23 to 1/6, kids will enjoy games, crafts, and activities to keep them active and entertained all break long. Camp is just \$215 for the full two weeks or \$30 per day. We'll be closed on 12/24, 12/25, with a half-day on 12/31, and closed again on 1/1. Make this winter break unforgettable—register now!

## The Greatest Show: Daddy Daughter Gala!

Step into a magical evening on February 15th, from 5pm-8pm with the Wilmington Park District. This unforgettable night will be filled with dancing, laughter, and circus-inspired fun, perfect for creating cherished memories. Don't miss out on the magic! Tickets go on sale Jan 15th!

## Athletics

### Youth Basketball League

Let's play! Join this program to refine skills, gain confidence, make new friends and experience the excitement of a team sport with knowledgeable and experienced coaches.

### Homeschool PE

This program is designed to support homeschool families by offering a structured, engaging physical activity curriculum.

### Dodgeball Tourney!

Grab your friends and pick out that team name! Dodgeball is coming to town! Look for more info soon.

## Dance Classes

Join Miss Kaylen for a new session of ballet & tumbling!  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:15-6pm

\*Check website for additional information

### Holiday Hours

11/30 - Close at 1pm  
12/24 - Close at 12pm  
12/25 - CLOSED  
12/26 - 7am-8pm  
12/31 - Close at 12pm  
1/1 - CLOSED  
1/2 - 7am-8pm

\*Register online or at front desk\*

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



# Adult & Family Programs



## Holidays 2024

Nov 15th - Holiday Paint Night  
Nov 24th - Turkey Trot 5k & Fun Walk  
Nov 30th - Christkindlmarket & Holiday Parade  
Dec 6th - Holiday Trees & Storywalk OPEN  
Dec 7th - Breakfast with Santa  
Dec 7th - Kids Night Out HOLIDAY Edition  
Dec 9th - Behind the Market: Beaver Rub Spice  
Dec 16th - Behind the Market: Local Sourdough  
Dec 20th - Nutcracker @ Rialto Bus Trip

## Choose Happy & Healthy in 2025

**\*NEW\***

Unlimited Group Fitness Class Membership PLUS **\*FREE\*** Gym Access and a t-shirt (while supplies last)! Don't miss out on this chance to Choose Happy in 2025!

A study published in the International Journal of Social Sciences found that 95% of those who started a program with friends completed the program, compared with 76% who went it alone.

## Behind the Market Series

Market season is now gone but have you ever wondered how our artisans and makers do what they do? Well, they are giving us a behind the scenes look this winter as we look forward to the next season! Check our website for all of the latest and to register for a class!

**\*Prices vary\***

## Group Fitness Classes

Yoga  
Cardio Box  
Low Impact Chair  
HIIT (Day & Evening)  
Fly Dance Fitness  
Breathworks  
Seated Tai Chi

Check out our new membership options to attend unlimited classes every month! **\*Check the calendar for dates and times!\***

## Senior Series

11/18-01/21 - Seated Tai Chi presented by Catholic Charities  
01/30 - Longterm Care planning, presented by Oak Knoll Financial.  
Ask us about FREE senior hours, Silver Sneakers and discounted memberships!

## Adult Athletics

Let's get & STAY Active together with an open gym on Sundays!  
Volleyball 4:30-6pm  
Basketball 6-8pm

**\*Register online or at front desk\***

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



WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT



# December 2024

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 <b>Spice Club: Gingerbread Spice</b>	2 <b>Ugly Sweater Party @5pm Genealogy Club @6pm</b>	3 Comprehensive City & Master Parks Plan Hearing @5pm City Council Mtg. @7pm	4 Christmas Decoration Exchange @9:30am-1:30pm Art Explorers @1pm	5 Bus Trip to Jacob Henry Mansion @10am-3pm Planning & Zoning Mtg. 5pm	6 Christmas StoryWalk & Trees Opening Day!	7 Breakfast with Santa @10am Percy Jackson Book Club @1pm Kids' Night Out & Cookie Crawl
8	9 LEGO Club @3:30pm Behind the Market: Beaver Rub Spices @6pm WCHC Meeting @6:30pm	10 Charles Dickens Party @5pm Committee of the Whole Mtg. @5:30pm	11 In-person Craft: Jean Angels @1pm Gingerbread House Decorating Party @3:30pm	12 Electronics Recycling @5-7pm Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	13	14 Percy Jackson Book Club @1pm Open Crafting: Holiday Cards & Gift Tags @1pm
15	16 Blood Drive @3-7pm Behind the Market: Local Sourdough @5pm	17 Homeschool Fun @10am City Council Mtg. @7pm Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm	18 BINGO @1pm	19	20 Bus Trip to Rialto: The Nutcracker	21 
22 	23 Winter Break Camp Starts! Barbie Club @3:30pm Book Club @6pm	24 	25 	26	27 LIHEAP @9-11:30am Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm	28 
29	30	31 				

\*WPLD Weekly Recurring Programs:  
Homework Happy Hour: Wednesdays @3:30pm; Coffee, Tea, My Toddler, & Me: Thursdays @11am;  
Kidz Crafternoon: Thursdays @6pm

## CALENDAR KEY

CITY HALL

LIBRARY: ADULT SERVICES

LIBRARY: YOUTH SERVICES

PARK DISTRICT: ADULT PROGRAM

PARK DISTRICT: YOUTH PROGRAM

OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZER

# January 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY






Spice Club: Turmeric

Percy Jackson Book Club @1pm

5	6 Last Day of Camp! "Souper Senior" Lunch @12:30pm Behind the Market @5pm Genealogy Club @6pm	7 Homeschool Fun @10am City Council Mtg. @7pm	8 In-Person Craft: Faux Winter Mugs @1pm	9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. @5pm Electronics Recycling @5-7pm	10	11
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12 Youth Basketball Starts @2pm	13 LEGO Club @3:30pm Behind the Market WCHC Meeting @630pm	14 Committee of the Whole @5:30pm	15 Daddy/Daughter Date Night Tickets on Sale @10am! BINGO @1pm	16 Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	17 Homeschool P.E. @11am	18 Behind the Market @10am Percy Jackson Book Club @1pm
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19 	20 Wintercraft @1pm MLK Craft @4:30pm Library Board Meeting @7pm	21 Homeschool Fun @10am Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm City Council Mtg. @7pm Breathworks @7pm	22 Art Explorers @1pm	23	24 LIHEAP @9-11:30am Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm	25 
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26 	27 Barbie Club @3:30pm Book Club @6pm	28	29 Birthdays & Books Bash @1pm	30 Long-Term Planning w/ Oak Knoll @10am	31
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Coffee, Tea, My Toddler, & Me: Thursdays @11am;  
Kidz Crafternoon: Thursdays @6pm

\*Park District Weekly Recurring Classes (1/12-3/22 unless noted):  
Volleyball Open Gym: Sun @4:30-6pm; Basketball Open Gym: Sun @6-8pm; Low Impact: M/W/F @10am;  
HIIT Day: M/W @11am; Belly Dance: M @6pm; Li'l Adventurers (1/14-3/7): T @10am;  
Seated Tai Chi (through 1/21): T @11am; Ballet & Tumbling: T/Th @5:15pm; HIIT Evening: T/Th @6pm;  
Throw Down Dance Fitness: W @5:30pm; Yoga: W @6:30pm; Cardio Box: Th @11:30am;  
Toddler Fit & Fun (1/14-3/7): F @9am

## CALENDAR KEY

CITY HALL	LIBRARY: ADULT SERVICES	LIBRARY: YOUTH SERVICES	PARK DISTRICT: ADULT PROGRAM	PARK DISTRICT: YOUTH PROGRAM	OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZER
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# February 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						February Spice Club: Vanilla Beans	1 Dodgeball Tourney! "Smitten with Books!" Winter Reading Program Starts!
2	3 "Souper Senior" Lunch @12:30pm Genealogy @6pm	4 Homeschool Fun @10am City Council Mtg. @7pm	5 In-Person Craft: Heart Tote Bag @1pm Valentine's Day Boxes @TBA	6 Planning & Zoning Mtg. @5pm	7		8 Behind the Market @10am
9	10 LEGO Club @3:30pm WCHC Meeting @6:30pm	11 Committee of the Whole @5:30pm	12 Town Hall Mtg. @City Hall @6pm	13 Electronics Recycling @5pm	14	HAPPY VALENTINES DAY	15 Daddy/Daughter Date Night
16	17 Library Board Mtg. @7pm	18 Homeschool Fun @10am Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm City Council Mtg. @7pm Breathworks @7pm	19 BINGO @1pm	20	21 Homeschool P.E. @11am		22
23	24 Barbie Club @3:30pm Book Club @6pm	25	26 Birthdays & Books Bash @1pm Art Explorers @1pm	27 Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	28 LIHEAP @9-11:30am Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm Winter Reading Program Ends!		

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Li'l Adventurers (1/14-3/7): T @10am; Ballet & Tumbling: T/Th @5:15pm;  
HIIT Evening: T/Th @6pm; Throw Down Dance Fitness: W @5:30pm; Yoga: W @6:30pm;  
Cardio Box: Th @11:30am; Toddler Fit & Fun (1/14-3/7): F @9am

**CALENDAR KEY**

- CITY HALL**
- LIBRARY: ADULT SERVICES**
- LIBRARY: YOUTH SERVICES**
- PARK DISTRICT: ADULT PROGRAM**
- PARK DISTRICT: YOUTH PROGRAM**
- OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZER**



Save the Date!

THE  
GREATEST  
SHOW:

DADDY DAUGHTER GALA



ADMIT ONE

Couple

315 Water St. Wilmington IL

February 15, 2025

Wilmington Park District

Christkindlmarket

Saturday, November 30th  
220 N. Water St.

2PM - 7PM

A N D  
L I G H T E D



Holiday Parade

5PM

## CHRISTMAS DECORATION EXCHANGE



Do you have too many Christmas decorations cluttering up your storage areas? Maybe last year's Christmas style is not going to cut it this year, but you'd rather spend the money on gifts. Join us for our annual Christmas decoration exchange on December 4th, 2024.

Here's how it works: Bring in your unwanted Christmas decorations beginning November 20th and receive an early entry ticket to shop for "new" items. If you bring in 5 items, your ticket will show that you may take 5 items, etc... Early entry will be at 9:30 am December 4th for those who brought in items to exchange. Within that first hour we will have a 10 item limit regardless of how many items you bring in. Beginning at 10:30 am until 1:30 pm anyone can join us and choose a few "new" items for free! All leftover items will be donated to a nonprofit organization.



## JACOB HENRY MANSION HOLIDAY BUS TRIP

WILMINGTON, IL — The Wilmington Public Library District is thrilled to invite adult patrons on a festive holiday outing celebrating the spirit of Christmas on State Street in Chicago! Join us on December 5, 2024, for a memorable day at the historic Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet. Participants will enjoy guided tours, a traditional pot roast lunch, and an engaging presentation by historian Dr. Leslie Goddard, who will recount the nostalgia of Chicago's iconic holiday displays. The trip costs \$40 per person, payable upon registration. Patrons should arrive at the library by 9:45 AM, as the bus will depart promptly at 10:00 AM. The itinerary includes a 10:30 AM guided tour of the Jacob Henry Mansion, followed by a traditional pot roast lunch at 11:30 AM. At 1:00 PM, Dr. Leslie Goddard will present "Christmas on State Street," sharing stories of Chicago's famous holiday displays. Afterward, attendees will enjoy a tour of Old Central Church at 2:00 PM before departing back to Wilmington at 2:30 PM. Seats are limited, so don't miss out on this heartwarming holiday experience! Reserve your spot by calling the Wilmington Public Library District at 815-476-2834.



## UGLY SWEATER PARTY

Kids, join us in kicking off December with an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Monday December 2nd at 5:00 pm. Wear your best (or absolutely worst) ugly sweater as we play games and make a craft.

## CHARLES DICKENS PARTY



This holiday season, step back in time to Victorian London and immerse yourself in the classic world of "A Christmas Carol." We are thrilled to invite you to our family friendly Charles Dickens Christmas Party on Tuesday December 10th at 5:00 pm. This event is for both our adult and youth patrons. Dress in your best Victorian inspired attire and join us as we nibble on traditional treats. Call to reserve your spot as we expect this to fill up quickly! 815-476-2834

## NOTICES

The Library will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 31st for Christmas and New Years Eve, and and January 1st for New Years Day.

## LIBRARY SHELFIE DAY

Every year on the fourth Wednesday of January, libraries and book lovers across social media share selfies with bookshelves using the perfect hashtag—#LibraryShelfie! On January 22, 2025 we will have a cute background set up for you to come in and take a "shelfie" to post.



## S'MITTEN WITH BOOKS!

### WINTER READING PROGRAM

Our Winter Reading Program will run the entire month of February. Sign up beginning February 1st and complete your final book check in by February 28th, 2025. Earn raffle tickets for fun prizes just by reading! Adult patrons will earn one raffle ticket per book and Youth patrons will have weekly check-ins to earn raffle tickets.

### Library Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 8pm  
Friday and Saturday 9 am- 5 pm  
Sunday 12- 5pm

Library Phone Number  
815-476-2834

Get our PrairieCat Mobile app in the Google Play Store or in Itunes

In 2026, Route 66 will be 100 years old. Across the eight Route 66 states, there are cities, organizations, businesses, attractions, non-profits, and individuals planning activities to celebrate, commemorate, and honor the Route 66 Centennial. The Route 66 Centennial Certification program officially recognizes these efforts, aligning them with the National Route 66 Centennial celebration.



The City of Wilmington is proud to announce that the Gemini Giant Homecoming event has been named the inaugural Route 66 Centennial Certified Event by Bill Thomas, Commissioner of the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission!

This event is brought to you in part by:

**Rep. Anthony Deluca**



**JOLIET AREA  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**



*Grief? Depression? Bullying?*

**Text 476-HELP**

*Students. Parents. Youth.*

**Free & Confidential** community

help line available 24/7

