



HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

December 2025 | Volume 29 / Issue 12



MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

November 1 was a great day! Beautiful weather greeted us at Leone Schmidt Park for the grand opening of Warrenville's pop-up marketplace, officially named- The **Warrenville Mercantile**.



Mayor Andy Johnson

Why Warrenville Mercantile? Well, this name pays homage to the history of the

site dating back to Warrenville's earliest days. In the 1840s, Hiram Leonard, one of our city's founding fathers, had a mercantile shop on the site.

Hiram served as postmaster from 1861 until his death in 1878, which was a very prestigious job in the 1800s and a mercantile shop

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A Grand Opening

SMILE. WAVE. REPEAT. THE WARRENVILLE WAY

This season, the City's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness Commission (IDEC) invites everyone to take part in a new community initiative — **Warrenville Smiles**.

Warrenville Smiles encourages simple acts that make a big difference: a friendly smile, a quick wave, or a kind word to a neighbor.

These small gestures help everyone in our community feel welcome, seen, and valued.

The campaign's theme, "Smile. Wave. Repeat. The Warrenville Way," celebrates the warmth and connection that makes Warrenville special.

Throughout the year, you'll see Warrenville Smiles – Spotlight Stations pop up at local businesses and community spaces.

Each station will feature giveaways, photo opportunities, and ways to spread kindness.

The first Spotlight Station will be hosted by Two Brothers Tap House



at 30W315 Calumet Ave W., throughout the holiday season.

Stop in, snap a photo, and share it using #WarrenvilleSmiles to join the movement!

Organizations interested in hosting a future Spotlight Station can contact IDEC at idec@warrenville.il.us for details.

Smile. Wave. Repeat. That's the Warrenville Way.

MERRY MARKET RETURNS DECEMBER 5

Shop local and kick off the season at the City's **Merry Market on Friday, December 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at City Hall.

Last year's first market drew strong interest from residents and small businesses. We are excited to bring it back!

Browse gifts from local makers, bakers, and small businesses:

- Handmade crafts and artwork
- Seasonal décor
- Baked goods and treats
- Unique gifts and stocking stuffers



Find the vendor list and products on the City's website at warrenville.il.us under "News & Spotlights."

STAY CONNECTED ON THE GO



-  **PAY BILLS ONLINE**
-  **MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT**
-  **MAKE SERVICE REQUESTS**
-  **APPLY FOR PERMITS**

DOWNLOAD NOW






The City of Warrenville App is an on-the-go connection for City resources, news, and more from your smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer.

- Pay your utility bill
- Request a building permit
- Apply for a license
- Report issues (tree down, streetlight out, damaged mailbox, etc.)
- Make a service request
- And much more!

The app improves communication with the City and allows you to track project status.

Scan one of the QR codes above or visit:

<https://warrenvilleil.citysourced.com>

Warrenville Park District's

Hometown HOLIDAYS

DRIVE-THRU & FOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY | DEC 11
6:00-7:00P

Pack up the family and join us for a festive drive through downtown Warrenville! Along the way enjoy trees decorated by local businesses and organizations.

- Festive holiday decorations
- Children's craft to go (Limited to the first 200 guests)
- Hot cocoa & cookies to go (Limited to the first 200 guests)
 - Caroler groups
- Santa and our inflatable snow globe
- Drop off your letter to Santa at Santa's mailbox for express delivery to the North Pole

Enter the drive-thru at the corner of Tracy Place & Warren Avenue. Donate non-perishable food items to support the Immanuel Presbyterian Church Food Pantry located here in Warrenville.



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was one that catered to many needs...think general store.

At various times the location hosted a cider shop (maybe hard cider?), post office, carriage-trimming shop, poolroom, cigar store, dairy, and an apothecary/pharmacy.

And don't forget the Albrights had an artists' studio right next door in the building that now houses the Warrenville Museum.

Now we'll have local merchants, some of whom are selling artistic wares, located on a spot that nearly 200 years ago had a similar business purpose. So, in a way the site has come full circle.

The marketplace will open full-time next spring for eight local small businesses to have a "bricks and mortar" presence here in town. Our hope is that The Warrenville Mercantile will serve as a catalyst to move these small businesses from their home bases to the pop-up market, and then to a more permanent place here in town.

In the 1960s and 70s here in Warrenville, we relied on small businesses for everything. The nearest "chain" store of any kind was perhaps the Jewel in Naperville. Some, like the local printer, the shoe repair shop, and my father's TV sales and repair business, were literally home-based businesses, not unlike the businesses that will reside at The Warrenville Mercantile.

Thanks to our fantastic City staff for shepherding this development along from the initial discussions to the current day. Former Mayor Dave Brummel and Plan Commission Chair Tim Cosgrove took field trips to neighboring similar marketplaces to research the idea. DuPage County, with the strong support of our then County Board member, now Township Supervisor, Sheila Rutledge, awarded the initial funding to launch the market.

I think this is a great place for these market shops and I hope you will make it a point to frequent The Warrenville Mercantile when it is up and running next year. Watch social media and your Hometown Happenings newsletter for more details as we turn the corner to warmer weather once again.

In the meantime, I also hope you will make an extra effort to shop locally. We have a great variety of businesses here that need our support. Buy your groceries at Tom's or Target, dine at our many great restaurants, have your hair cut and fill up your car right here in Warrenville.

Office hours on Tuesdays at City Hall: If you are interested in chatting in person, please send me a note to schedule an appointment at ajohnson@warrenville.il.us, or call (630) 797-0188 and we can arrange to meet.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Dial 9-1-1 for Police, Fire, and after-hours water and sewer emergencies



MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER!
TOYS FOR TOTS

Deadline for donations:
December 10




<https://secure.toysfortots.org/a/donatelocal>

Donate: Drop off unwrapped toys in original packaging, newborns to 12 years old.
When: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. by December 10.
Where: Police Department, 3S245 Warren Avenue.
Online donations: Check the box for "I'm donating on behalf of a company or organization."
 Use "IL-Warrenville" as the "Organization Name."
 Scan the QR code, above, or go to:
secure.toysfortots.org/a/donatelocal

Items accepted include:

- new toys
- athletic equipment
- cosmetics
- arts and crafts
- model kits
- hand-held electronics
- jewelry sets

Holly Days
Fri, Dec 5, 6:00-8:00P

Located at the corner of Manning & Warren Avenue

- *Santa's Arrival Parade
- * Mayor Johnson Lighting the City Holiday Tree
- *Horse Drawn Carriage Rides
- * Warm up by one of our fire pits
- *Hot chocolate and cookies
- * A visit with Santa
- *Entertainment provided by local schools

Warrenville Holiday Tree Showcase
 Visit the beautiful Holiday Trees decorated by local businesses and organizations along Stafford Place.

Merry Market
 Visit City Hall to check out the booths from local crafters, bakers & more!

Project sponsored in part by the City of Warrenville Hotel Tax Fund.

STAFF MILESTONES

Hometown Happenings announces new employees, staff promotions, and staff anniversaries.



Todd Mossey
 Police Corporal
 Police Department
 25 years

PARTNER NEWS



Warrenville Fire Protection District
 Get the latest news and events on their website. warrenvillefire.com

Warrenville Historical Society
 The last open Sunday of the season is December 14. warrenvillehistorical.org



Warrenville Park District
 NEW! Sensory Santa Experience December 12, 4:00-5:00 p.m. warrenvilleparks.org

Warrenville Public Library District
 Sunday Music Matinee: Geof Bradfield jazz trio December 7 at 2:00 p.m. warrenville.com



Warrenville Veteran's Center
 Enjoy monthly spaghetti nights - open to the community! warrenvilleveteranscenter.com



Warrenville's 2026 4th of July bash will mark 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence!
 Become part of something extra special by donating today.
Scan the QR code to chip in!





City of Warrenville
3S258 Manning Avenue
Warrenville, IL 60555

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CITY IN BRIEF

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS:

Regular meetings held at 7:00 p.m.,
City Hall Council Chambers.

- **City Council**
December 1 & 15
- **Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals**
December 4 & 18
- **Public Works and Infrastructure Committee of the Whole**
December 8

For agendas, scan the QR code on the right.
Or, visit our website at:
warrenville.il.us/agendacenter



WINTER SAFETY: NO STREET PARKING AFTER 2" SNOWFALL:

The City prohibits on-street parking for 24 hours after two inches (2") or more of snow falls, or until the street or roadway has been cleared. This allows crews to efficiently and safely remove snow curb-to-curb.

They plow primary streets first, followed by side streets, cul-de-sacs, and school crossings near schools.

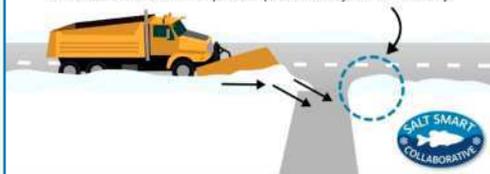
Learn more at: warrenville.il.us under "News & Spotlights."

Snow plows will push snow into driveways when clearing roads.

This is unavoidable. Snow plows can't clear roads efficiently after a storm any other way.

Shoveling snow back into the street is against ordinance and will create dangerous conditions at the end of your driveway.

TIP: Pile snow to the right of the driveway to reduce the amount of snow that plows push into your driveway.



City of Warrenville Holiday Hours

All City offices & the Police Department will be closed:

December 24th, 25th & 31st and January 1st

For police emergency assistance during closed hours, please use the red phone located between the Police entrance doors or dial 9-1-1 from your cellular phone.

WINTER HOLIDAY WATER TIPS:

Hosting guests for the holidays? Spread out showers, laundry, and dishwashing to maintain consistent water pressure and hot water. Defrost frozen foods in the fridge instead of under running water to save gallons during meal prep.

WATER SURVEY MAILING:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires every public water supplier to run a Cross Connection Control Program to prevent drinking water contamination.

A cross connection happens when drinking water pipes connect to a non-drinking water source. That can allow contaminated water to flow back into the public water system.

In January 2026, Aqua Backflow will mail residents a short survey. It takes only a few moments to respond to the survey, and there is no cost to residents.

Learn more at warrenville.il.us under "News & Spotlights."

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS:

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Commission (IDEC) honors federally recognized heritage and history months as part of its work to build an inclusive community.

In December, we recognize **International Day of Peoples with Disabilities** on

December 3 to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.



December is also **International Human Rights Day**, December 10.

IDEC welcomes feedback, ideas, and suggestions to further the mission of inclusivity and respect for all in Warrenville.

Submit comments to IDEC at: idec@warrenville.il.us