

Village of Forest View

# NEWSLETTER



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

2025



I've always enjoyed this time of year. With school back in session, followed by Halloween, Thanksgiving, and finally Christmas—the true crescendo of the season—it's a wonderfully busy and meaningful stretch.

As we approach the holidays, I encourage everyone to take a moment to step back, reflect on the past year, and appreciate all we have to be thankful for. Enjoy time with family, friends, and neighbors.

Next year will be an active one for our Village as we begin several projects aimed at improving our infrastructure. More information will be shared in our spring newsletter.

Forecasters are predicting a colder, snowier winter, so please take a moment to check in on your neighbors when you can.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

**David Liska**  
Village President



# VILLAGE OF FOREST VIEW

## CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATING CONTEST

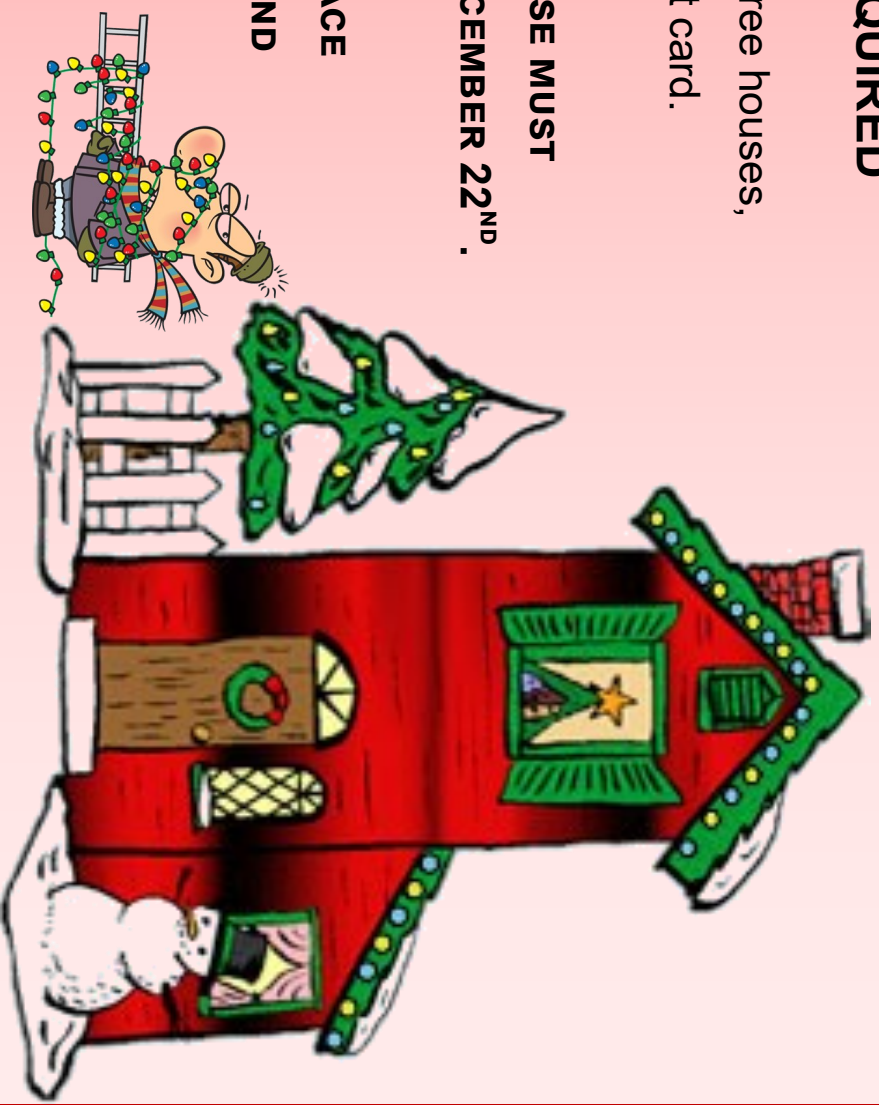
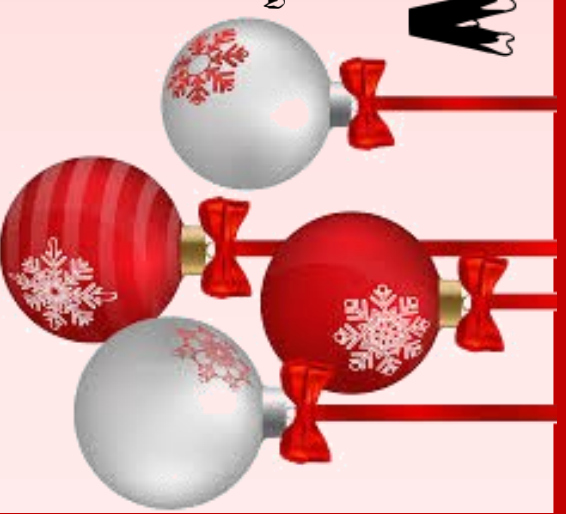
Show off your holiday spirit and decorate for the Village of Forest View's Christmas Outdoor Home Decorating Competition.

### NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We will be awarding the top three houses, winners will receive a gift card.

**THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE MUST  
BE DECORATED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

**JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>  
AFTER 5:00 PM.**







November, 2025

## Happy Holidays - An Important Update for All Children on Santa Claus

Dear Children and Parents of the Village of Forest View:

As President of the Village of Forest View, I am proud to announce that **after years of negotiations with the North Pole**, our Village has created a direct line of communication between the **Village of Forest View and Santa Claus himself!**

For many years, my office has been working on building a connection with the North Pole, and I am happy to report that **the magic and the believers in this village have made it possible!** Thank you for your help in making it happen!

Because of this connection, I invite all of you to write your letters to Santa Claus. Then, **stop by Village Hall, 7000 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Street by Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

We will get your letters up to Santa himself, and he will even provide you with a response!

Please see the sample letter that Santa sent to us to get to you to fill out. **Don't forget to put your address on your letter so that Santa can respond to you!**

Thank you all for believing - I offer you and your family my warmest thoughts and best wishes during this holiday season. All the best to you in 2026!

Sincerely,

David Liska  
President, Village of Forest View



# Dear Santa,

Hello! This Christmas, I will be \_\_\_\_ years old, and my teacher is \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ School!

This year I have been...



- ☐ Good all of the time
- ☐ Good some of the time
- ☐ Naughty (but I can explain)

I am proud of myself, because this year, I did some nice things - including: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What I would like most for Christmas this year is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

and I promise to leave out \_\_\_\_\_ for you!

## Merry Christmas Santa!



Love,

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**P.S. Please tell \_\_\_\_\_ I said hello!**



**WED. DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**(CHRISTMAS EVE)**

**CAPTURE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
AS SANTA ARRIVES FROM THE  
NORTH POLE AND WILL TRAVEL THRU  
THE FOREST VIEW COMMUNITY  
BY FIRE TRUCK  
GREETING THE YOUNG AND OLD.**

**SANTA'S TOUR WILL BEGIN  
5:00P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The Fire Truck Will Start in the  
4600 Block of Maple and  
Continue Thru Town Ending in the  
4600 Block of Oak Park.**

**(Bundle Up and Watch for  
Santa at the Curb)**

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of our Fire Fighters, myself & Cinder, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope your holidays are extra special.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone to have a safe and happy season.....

- While putting up the lights both inside and on the tree, check to make sure they are in good condition. Check for bare wires and missing bulbs. Be aware of how many sets you are connecting; you do not want to overload the circuit.
- Be careful where you run extension cords. You do not want to run an extension cord under a rug or
- through any doorways; they may crimp or become damaged with the closing of the door.
- If you have a live tree, remember to keep it watered.
- Watch the use of candles. Do not leave them burning unattended.
- Test your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## How To Report Utility Issues

### For Emergencies (Gas Leaks, Downed Power Lines, etc.)

For immediate safety hazards, the first step is to evacuate the area if necessary and then call emergency services and the utility provider's emergency hotline.

- **Natural Gas Leaks:**
  - Evacuate the area immediately.
  - From a safe distance, call **911** and your gas provider's emergency number:
  - **Nicor Gas:** 1-888-Nicor4U (1-888-642-6748)
- **Power Outages/Downed Lines:**
  - Stay away from downed power lines and assume they are energized.
  - Call **911** for downed power lines.
  - Contact **ComEd:** 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661)

### For Non-Emergency Utility Problems or Disputes, Contact:

**ComEd** 1-800-334-7661

**Nicor Gas** : 1-888-642-6748

### Water/Sewer Issues:

FV Public Works Department at 708-788-3429



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### LEAVING HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS???

Just a reminder, the Forest View Police Department offers free house security checks if you're leaving town over the holidays. Please contact the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 for more information.

### HOLIDAY GUESTS - PARKING

Parking on some streets in Forest View is "residential only". Therefore, should you have guests gathering at your home for the holidays please notify the Police Department at the non-emergency number 708-788-0318 when a non-resident visitor(s) will be parking on the street and then the vehicle(s) will not be ticketed. Also, residents are reminded that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. All vehicles must be off the street between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.



### HOLIDAY CRIME

Holidays are the easiest times for burglars to score. Once the house is empty, criminals know that you will be gone for hours, and that they don't have to rush to take all your precious property. Many burglaries occur on holidays such as Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the best one, believe it or not, is the Super Bowl. If you're not home when the game begins, you're probably not coming back until the game ends! Sad but true. See following holiday safety tips.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are a special and joyous time of year. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The following tips from the Forest View Police Department can help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, garage, or vehicle even for a few minutes.

When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel snow, pick up the mail and newspapers. Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.

Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.

Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

Don't post travel plans on Facebook.

While on vacation, don't post vacation pictures on Facebook.

### FRONTLINE

Did you know you no longer have to call our non-emergency number for parking permission or a vacation watch?

We are now a part of the Frontline Public Safety Solutions public portal, which offers residents an additional, convenient way to request overnight parking, Vacation watch, Pet management or add information for at risk residents. Visit <https://www.frontlinepss.com/forestviewil> for more info.

Please visit our website @ <https://www.forestview-il.org> for latest updates in our area.

**The men and women of the Forest View Police Department would like to wish all of our residents a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!**





## **Welcome Chief James Ritz**

### **Dear Village of Forest View Residents and Friends:**

It is an honor to introduce myself as your new Chief of Police. It is truly a privilege to join the Village of Forest View community and to lead a dedicated team of police officers and staff who are committed to serving our residents.

I bring an understanding of the community values that the Village of Forest View shares with growing up in this area and attending Haley School for a couple of years, graduating from Morton West High School and then from Morton College in the Law Enforcement program. I have always been committed to pursuing higher education and advanced training opportunities during my career in law enforcement by earning a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal social justice from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, and after graduating from the FBI National Academy (FBINA) Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Development program, I then went on to earn a second Master of Science Degree from DePaul University in Public Service Management.

My law enforcement experience includes being in executive leadership positions over the past fifteen plus years as a chief of police and as a city administrator. During my career, I've had the honor of serving as President of the West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association, serving as the Director of the WESTAF Major Crimes Task Force, and as the Director of MCAT which is our local major crimes task force. My background also includes a wide range of teaching experience in undergraduate and graduate level studies in Criminal Justice and Leadership and Organizational Management. I am currently teaching in the Criminal Justice program at Morton College. I've also had the privilege of teaching various law enforcement courses to law enforcement professionals across the country as a Certified Trainer in Crisis Communications and Critical Incident Management.

My goal as Chief is simple — to build strong relationships in expanding our community outreach programs and youth engagement efforts. Together, in building strong community relationships we can strengthen trust, prevent crime, and make a lasting difference. Over the coming months, I'll be out in the community — attending neighborhood meetings, local events, and community gatherings. Please let us hear your thoughts, learn about your experiences, and talk about how we can continue making the Village of Forest View a welcoming and safe city for everyone.

I'm proud to be a part of the Village of Forest View community and look forward to meeting many of you soon. I invite everyone to stay involved in our community, share your ideas, and participate in our community policing efforts.

Thank you again for this tremendous opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully,

James Ritz  
Chief of Police

# PUBLIC WORKS



## SNOW REMOVAL/ PARKING BAN

Snow removal is vital to safe driving. **After a snowfall of two inches (2") or more, it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked on the street until the snow has been removed, and provided that the snowfall has stopped.**

Observe "NO PARKING AFTER 2" SNOWFALL/TOW-AWAY ZONE" signs. The NO PARKING ban WILL be enforced! Cars parked illegally WILL be subject to tow. The Public Works crew works long and hard to keep the Village streets clear and safe. We need and appreciate your cooperation.

## GARBAGE CANS

In the event of snow, please do not place garbage/recycling cans in the street.

## SHOVELING/SNOW BLOWING



Please do not throw snow back into the street after public works has completed their snow plowing. You innocently may be trying to cause the snow to melt faster, however the newly formed snow mound may create a hazard for unsuspecting drivers. Instead we ask that you use the deflector on your snow blower to direct the snow onto the parkway. Pile it up, do not push it out.

Also, during major, wet snowfalls (only), public works will push aside furrows at the end of driveways which were caused by previous snow plow runs.



## SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

Public Works offers snow removal to senior citizens who are disabled, handicapped and/or have severe health problems and have no one else who is able to help them with snow removal. The public works crew will make one shovel width pass from the street to the front door thus providing exit route in an emergency situation. This work will be done *after* all the roads have been cleared first, followed by end of driveways, and then eligible senior sidewalks. Those in need of snow removal must complete an application available at the Village Office.

## Sidewalk Snow Removal

Public Works will be cleaning Village sidewalks with our smaller Bobcat and brush attachment for all of our residents. This will only take place after significant snowfalls have finished and the streets have been cleared. ***Please note that parked cars and holiday decorations may result in sections of sidewalks being skipped over.***



# PUBLIC WORKS



## WINTERIZE YOUR WATER PIPES

Frozen water pipes are not life-threatening; however, frozen or broken water pipes do cause damage to homes each winter. If pipes in the walls aren't properly insulated, they can freeze and rupture. An eighth-of-an-inch crack in a pipe can release up to 250 gallons of water a day, soaking floors, rugs, and furniture. To prevent the mess and aggravation frozen pipes cause, protect your home by following these simple steps:

## BEFORE COLD WEATHER

Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing – typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in the attic. Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved). Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located. Disconnect garden hoses, shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.



## WHEN IT'S COLD

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get at uninsulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.

Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.

If you plan to be away short term, have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is on to prevent freezing. For a prolonged period of time, drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkling systems).



## IF PIPES FREEZE

Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water if pipes freeze to minimize damage. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.

**Never** attempt to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.

Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.



# FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE...

## **GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Garbage and recycling collection will remain the same through the Holidays. Christmas trees will also be collected during regular refuse removal. Trees must be placed at the curb and free of any decorations.



**During the winter season, it would be helpful to place garbage cans behind the curb line – not in the street, so the snow plows can effectively clear the streets. We thank you for your cooperation.**

## **SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION**

If you turned 65 years of age during the tax year for which you are applying, remember you must complete the Senior Citizen Exemption application in order to receive reduction/savings.

If you have applied for a Senior Citizen Exemption in the past, that will roll over. Senior Citizen Freeze will need to be re-applied for annually.

Please call the Township of Stickney Assessor's Office for assistance at 708-788-9100.

## **"HEADS" UP**



On occasion, a resident will come to the Village Office and maintain their water bill is "never that high". Immediately, the first thing that is checked is the flushing mechanism inside the toilet water tank. Frequently it reveals the rubber flap or cone is hung-up or did not "seat" properly and allowed the water to flow continuously. As a result, considerable water usage occurred without the resident's awareness, thus the high bill. Consequently, it pays to exercise a "heads" up for faint water flow sounds.

## **2026 Village Observed Holidays**

The Administrative and Public Works Department will observe the following holidays in 2026:

- New Year's Day—Thursday, January 1
- Presidents' Day—Monday, February 16
- Memorial Day—Monday, May 25
- Independence Day (observed)—Friday, July 3
- Labor Day—Monday, September 7
- Thanksgiving Day—Thursday, November 26
- Day after Thanksgiving—Friday, November 27
- Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24
- Christmas Day—Friday, December 25
- New Year's Eve—Thursday, December 31

## **EXCITING NEWS**

Please visit us at <https://www.forestview-il.org> for exciting information and to make any payments.

## **OUTSIDE DROP BOX**

For your convenience, residents are able to drop-off water bill payments, police ticket fines, and other Village business, in the locked drop box located by the back entrance (parking lot side) of the Village Hall.

## **BOARD MEETING**

We would like to invite you to a Village Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 as we honor our Mail Carrier Teawona for 30 years of service, 10 of those years here with us in Forest View.

On behalf of the Village Board, Employees & Residents, we would like to wish Teawona a very Happy Retirement!



## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY - JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

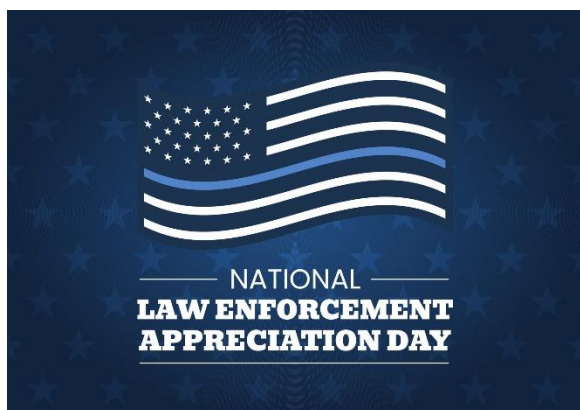
Each year on January 9, communities across the country come together to recognize National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (LEAD). This special day is dedicated to honoring the men and women who serve and protect our communities every day.

Law enforcement officers not only respond to emergencies and uphold public safety, but they also assist with many calls that go beyond traditional police work—helping residents in ways that strengthen and enhance our community.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was established in 2015 to highlight the gratitude and support the public holds for law enforcement professionals. It also serves to raise awareness of the challenges and sacrifices officers face while performing the work they love.

In recognition of this day, we encourage residents to take a moment to thank our Village Police Officers—whether by offering a kind word when you see them, sending a note of appreciation to Village Hall, or dropping off a treat for the department to enjoy.

Let's show our officers that their dedication and service are truly appreciated!



## CAN I RECYCLE IT?



You can recycle more than you may think, but maybe not everything that you want. During this holiday season, consider the following guidelines featured in this newsletter's Can I Recycle It?

The **cardboard box** for my new [TV, appliance, monitor, remote-controlled car, etc.] – Yes! The box is definitely recyclable – but the Styrofoam, plastic air pockets, packing peanuts inside are NOT. Please remove these, flatten the box and put the box in recycling, and the non-cardboard packing materials in the trash. Plus, kids of all ages can have fun popping air pockets before tossing them in the trash or taking them to a local grocery store to be recycled (many local grocers offer special collection bins)!

**Broken Christmas lights** –The Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Lowe's stores often accept these, but specific locations may have different collection policies. Unwanted or broken lights should NOT go in our recycling collection bins.

**Christmas trees, holiday wreaths, garlands** – Anything plastic should go in the trash. Natural trees, wreaths, and garlands can be collected with yard waste but ALL nonorganic material must be removed. All ornaments, tinsel, wires, ties, ribbons, and/or frames MUST be removed, or it will damage the chipping equipment, as trees are recycled into mulch. If your items are not collected with yard waste collection, one of these items in the tree/wreath/garland may be the answer. Unless you completely strip your natural wreath or garland of these items, you should put them in the trash.

As a reminder, **plastic bags** can **never** go in our recycling bins. This includes the large plastic garbage bag (or other plastic bag) used to contain the recycling materials. Doing so may result in the entire load going into the trash and not being recycled. Simply put your rinsed-out recyclable materials loose in the bin, or you can put them in a paper bag.



# FALL HIGHLIGHTS









# Upcoming Events



**55 and older**

Bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 for a fun game (something you would want to win) for guy or gal

## Senior Coffee Christmas Party

**Wed. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-noon**

Show your spirit with your favorite Christmas attire!  
**COME READY FOR SOME FUN!**

- Breakfast, Coffee, Conversation & Christmas Cheer

Contact Dawn at [recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org) or at (708)800-1654 with questions

**FOREST VIEW PARK DISTRICT**  
4621 WENONAH, FOREST VIEW

The Forest View Park District presents...

## Gingerbread House Craft Night

**Thurs. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Join us at the Rec Building to decorate your very own Gingerbread house craft. We will have all the supplies, just bring your creativity!

**\$3 per person**

**Family Fun... All Ages Welcome!**

Making memories at the park!

**4621 Wenonah**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**  
Please register through email with names & ages to [recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org) or by text to (708)800-1654.

**BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO**

## HO HO ZOO

### FOREST VIEW SENIORS (65 & up)

**MON. DEC. 15th**  
**6PM sharp**

## BROOKFIELD ZOO HOLIDAY MAGIC BUS TOUR


Join us for a magical night as we ride a bus through Brookfield Zoo for a Holiday Lights Tour! No stepping off the warm bus!

**LIMITED SPACE!!**  
**\$15 per Senior, due by Dec. 3rd**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!** Email to [recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org) or text Dawn at 708-800-1654.

Bus will leave Village Hall at 6pm sharp, tour through Brookfield Zoo, stop at McDonald's after for Hot Chocolate, and return to Village Hall around 8:30.

FOREST VIEW PARK DISTRICT PRESENTS...

 **VS.** 

## SENIOR COFFEE SUPER BOWL 2

**WED. JAN. 14th**  
**10am - noon**

Coffee \* Bakery \* Conversation \* FUN \* and some "friendly" competition

Any new recruits 55 and older are invited to join the FUN

Forest View Rec Building 4621 Wenonah



55 &  
over

# Forest View's Senior Coffee

2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of Every Month 10am-noon

January 14th

February 11th

March 11th

April 8th

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th \* 11am special time

August 12th

September 9th

October 14th

November 18th\*

December 9th

Coffee  
Food  
Conversation

**FUN**



4621 Wenonah, Forest View

Forest View Park District Presents...

## DRAWING CLASS

with local artist  
Mike Grossi



Hey Kids 6 and over, join us for our class where you will learn step by step how to draw some favorite cartoon characters...you will be amazed at your finished projects!

• 2 nights of classes

THURS. JAN. 15TH 7-8PM

THURS. JAN. 22ND 7-8PM

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

Please register through email with names & ages to [recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org), by text to (708) 800-1654, or through our website [forestviewparkdistrict.org](http://forestviewparkdistrict.org)

**Free Fun for 6 and over!**

4621 Wenonah, Forest View



Forest View Park District presents...

## ADULT DRAWING CLASS

with artist Mike Grossi



Thurs. Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm

Join us for a FUN night of drawing some of the Classic Cartoons, Mike will teach us step-by-step! You will be amazed at your drawing skills!

**DRAW - REMINISCE - LAUGH - MAKE MEMORIES**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

Please register through email with names to [recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org](mailto:recreation@forestviewparkdistrict.org), by text to (708) 800-1654, or through our website [forestviewparkdistrict.org](http://forestviewparkdistrict.org)

4621 Wenonah, Forest View



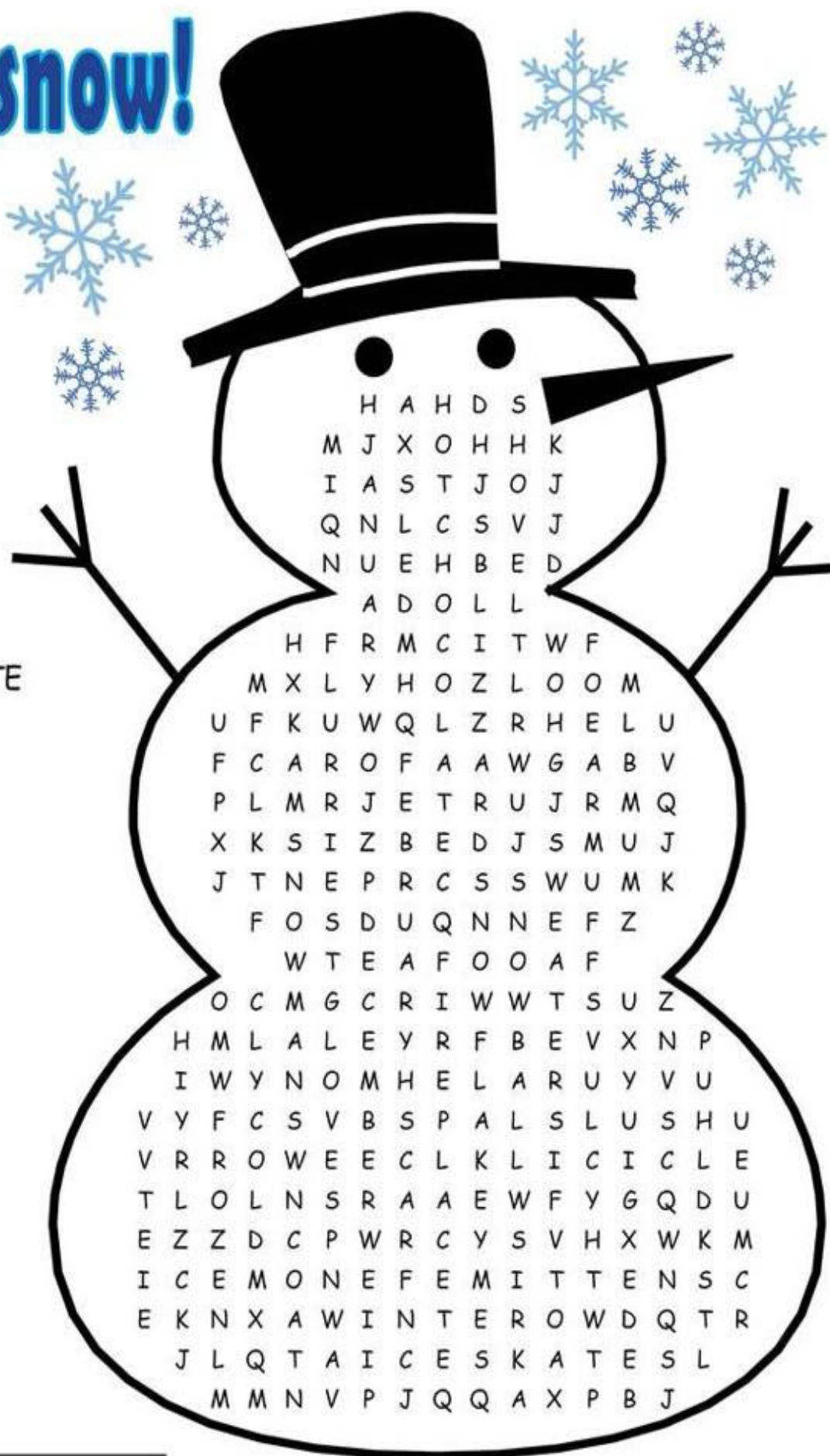
bitly

# Check out our new Website!

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

# Let it snow!

BLIZZARD  
 COAT  
 COLD  
 DECEMBER  
 EARMUFFS  
 FEBRUARY  
 FIREPLACE  
 FLURRIES  
 FROZEN  
 GLOVES  
 HOT CHOCOLATE  
 ICE  
 ICE SKATES  
 ICICLE  
 JANUARY  
 MITTENS  
 SCARF  
 SHOVEL  
 SLED  
 SLUSH  
 SNOWBALL  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 SNOWMAN  
 SWEATER  
 WINTER



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS FOR MAKING THE ARTIST CORNER LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL.  
WE ARE SO PROUD TO DISPLAY YOUR GORGEOUS ARTWORK. PLEASE DROP YOUR PICTURE OFF AT  
THE VILLAGE OFFICE.



