

# City of Loves Park Newsletter



February 2016  
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Loves Park Community Development, 100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, Illinois 61111, (815) 654-5033



## The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and, most importantly, romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.



## Recommendations for Valentine's Day

**Valentine's Day Restaurant:** **Ciao Bella Ristorante** located at 6500 E. Riverside Boulevard, (815) 654-9900

**Florists:** **Nelson's Flowers**, 430 River Park Road, (815)633-8323 or **Bella Rose Florist**, 1928 Riverside Boulevard, (815) 986-0503

1930's



1940's



1950's



1960's



1970's



1980's



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Visit our website at [www.loves-park.il.us/newsletter](http://www.loves-park.il.us/newsletter) If you have an idea for an article or would like to feature your business in the City's newsletter, email us and let us know.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful** is making free mulch available at various locations in the region. The free mulch will be available at 14 local sites listed below. Christmas trees are chipped at locations in Belvidere, Cherry Valley, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Roscoe, Rockton, Rockford and Pecatonica. Mulch will be cleared by the end of February; availability varies by location. Picking up mulch is self-serve using your own containers and shovels. Sites are not staffed. (The tree drop-off ended January 15). "Christmas tree mulch returns nutrients to the earth while beautifying landscapes," said Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Executive Director Lori Gummow. "Pine chips make great walkways, fence borders and a good weed-deterrent for acid-loving plants such as roses, lilacs, azaleas and evergreens," she said.

## Rockford

- Alpine park, 950 South Alpine Road
- Andrews Park, 850 North Central Avenue
- Blackhawk Park, 101 15th Avenue
- Don Schmid Youth Sports Center, Riverhahl Park, 871 Sandy Hollow Road
- Gambino Park, 4421 Pepper Dive
- Levings Lake, South Johnston entrance

## Cherry Valley

Baumann Park  
South Walnut Entrance

## Pecatonica

- Pecatonica Wetland Forest Preserve, 4550 North Pecatonica Road

## Rockton

- Rockton Boat Ramp parking lot, 830 E. Main Street
- Williams Tree Farm, 4661 Yale Bridge Road

## Loves Park

Martin Park  
Park Ridge Road north lot

## Roscoe

- Valley View Farm, 6440 Belvidere Road

## Belvidere

City of Belvidere Street Department  
515 West Locust Street  
Monday—Friday  
7 am—3:30 pm

## Machesney Park

Machesney Town Center  
8750 N. Second Street  
South Mall Drive, southwest lot

For more information call 815-637-1343 or visit their website at [www.knib.org](http://www.knib.org)

## Public Notice regarding Riverside Boulevard Bridge Replacement

The City of Loves Park is seeking public comments on the effects that the proposed replacement of a bridge on Riverside Boulevard (Section 08-00068-00-BR) will have on Wantz Park. Wantz Park is classified as public land protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966. For the construction of the bridge replacement, Loves Park seeks a Section 4(f) "de Minimis" impact finding from the Federal Highway Administration based on the determination that the project does not adversely affect the features, attributes or activities that qualify these lands for protection under Section 4(f). The bridge to be replaced is located on Riverside Boulevard, 0.2 miles east of IL Rt 251. The construction will include relocating a City water main and widening of the bridge to accommodate four lanes of traffic and pedestrian walks. The construction of the bridge and water main is intended to have minimal impact on the adjacent park land, will improve safety, and will enhance pedestrian access at the park by providing an 8-foot wide walk on the north side of the bridge. In order to construct this project, the City will need to acquire permanent and temporary easements at the bridge. Detailed documents for this project will be available at the following location during normal business hours of Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm:

Loves Park City Hall  
Community Development & Public Works Departments  
100 Heart Boulevard  
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

This is an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the effects of the project to the activities, features, and attributes that qualify Wantz Park for protection under 4(f). Written comments may be mailed, emailed, or submitted to the office of McClure Engineering. Comments must be received by February 19, 2016 to be considered as part of the public record. All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

McClure Engineering  
Attn: Christopher Baer  
7282 Argus Drive  
Rockford, Illinois 61107  
[c.baer@mcclureengineering.co](mailto:c.baer@mcclureengineering.co)

## Scheduled City Meetings

- 01 City Council
- 02 Community Development Committee Meeting
- 08 City Council
- 15 City Council
- 18 Zoning Board of Appeals
- 22 City Council
- 29 City Council

City Council meetings are at 6:00 pm;  
Community Development & Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 100 Heart Boulevard

## ROCK RIVER DISPOSAL YARD WASTE PICKUP

Yard waste collection that ceases seasonally over the winter months will resume on Monday March 30, 2016 and continue until the week of December 1 to 4th, 2016. Please be advised that yard waste will only be collected when placed in compostable paper bags or in garbage cans clearly marked with a large "X" visible from the street. Branches and limbs less than 4" in diameter bundled with string or twine may be placed for collection as long as they don't exceed three to five feet in length.

This does not include leaf vacuuming, which will begin again in the fall.

ROCK RIVER DISPOSAL SERVICES

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