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*Village*  
*of*  
*Bartlett*  
ILLINOIS

# Trending NOW



April 30, 2024

## NEWS

**Memorial Day Walk & Remembrance -- May 27!**



For more than three decades, Bartlett has honored its deceased veterans with a Memorial Day Walk and Remembrance. Please come and join this commemoration on Monday, 5/27.

It begins at 10 a.m. at Bartlett Park, Oak and North Avenues, with an American Legion flag retirement ceremony. At 10:30 a.m. veterans, scouts, civic groups, bagpipers and residents line up for the walk to Bartlett Cemetery, which steps off at 11 a.m.

At the cemetery, the remembrance continues with a cannon salute and a brief program that will include a celebration of one of Bartlett's "Hometown Heroes." Working from the Bartlett History Museum archives, this year's hometown hero story will feature Elmer Hecht.

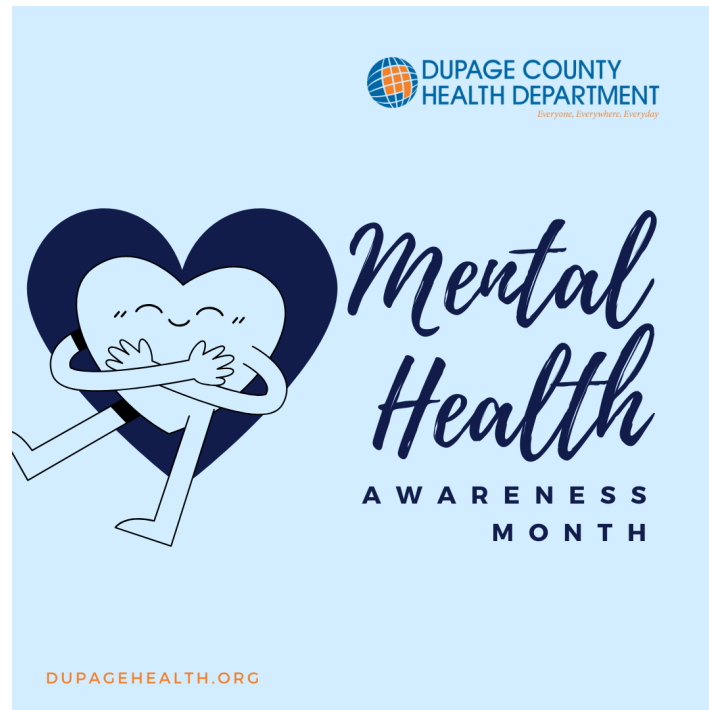
Hecht moved to Bartlett at age 12, during the Great Depression. He registered for the draft in February of 1944, while still a senior at Elgin High School. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on May 5, 1944 and was stationed at the Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma until May 1945. This air force base was home to the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron, which in April of that same year, earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for executing an attack on a jet fighter base in Germany. Later, he was stationed at the Enid Army Air Field in Oklahoma, where a total of 8,995 pilots completed training.

He was honorably discharged on November 2, 1945, returned to Bartlett, and in 1949, he married Mary Airhart. The couple eventually welcomed three children, Marla, Gayle, and Chad.

In 1952 he joined the Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department, and eight years later he was appointed the Hanover-Wayne Fire Protection District Chief. In 1968, he became the district's first full time employee, again being appointed fire chief. While he held this position, some of his accomplishments included assisting with the restoration of the 1896 Howe Hand Pumper, advocating for firefighter education and enforcing new programs, as well as overseeing the build of two new fire stations in Bartlett.

Elmer retired in 1994 after serving the Bartlett community for 42 years. He passed away in 2002. Come and help the village commemorate Elmer and all of Bartlett's hometown heroes at this year's Memorial Day Walk & Remembrance.

Bartlett Police Department will be providing traffic control assistance along North Avenue between N. Eastern Avenue and Oliver Street for the Memorial Day Walk. Motorists traveling in the area of the Memorial Day Walk might experience slight traffic delays.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. While mental health is important to address year-round, Mental Health Awareness Month was created to educate the public about mental illness, raise awareness surrounding mental health services, and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. It is a dedicated time for people, organizations, and communities to join together and broadcast the message that mental health matters.

- It's okay not to be okay, but it is essential to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness in ourselves and others to get the help that is needed.
- Get some exercise and sunshine, eat nutritious foods, and practice self-care. Pursuing mental well-being is crucial to our health, but it's also important to realize we can't be perfect every day. Sometimes we have a bad day and fall short, and that's okay. Just pick yourself up and start again.
- Have you done a mental health check-in? Take a few minutes to check in with yourself. If you're struggling and need support, don't hesitate to reach out to someone.
- Be patient. Mental health is a journey, not a destination. Take the necessary steps to improve your mental well-being - get a good night's sleep; keep your focus on the present; establish a connection with others; think differently about unhelpful thoughts; maintain a healthy lifestyle; make time for yourself.
- Did you know DuPage County Health Department staffs highly trained crisis counselors who provide free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24/7? If you're struggling and need support, don't hesitate to reach out to someone. If you or someone you know is in a crisis, text REACH to 741-741 or call or text 988 for support or chat at [988Lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).



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## Welcome New Bartlett Police Officers



Congratulations to Bartlett's newest police officers Daniel Rochotte and Vince Tringali, who were sworn in last week. They will be attending the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

Last week, Bartlett Police also welcomed back Officers Michael J. Kmiecik, Nicholas Judd, Mark Perez, Noah Merges, and Andrew Keyser, who graduated from the 16-week Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois. They are starting their field training program this week.

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## Steam Train to Pass Through Bartlett



Have you ever seen an operating steam train? The distinctive huffing, chuffing, and hissing of the engine is quite amazing. On Thursday, 5/9, CPKC's historic Final Spike Anniversary Steam Tour will pass through Bartlett on the downtown Metra tracks with the 1930 #2816 Empress steam engine leading the way.

The train is expected to travel through Bartlett at approximately 8:20 to 8:30 a.m.,

on its way from Franklin Park to Davenport, Iowa. This is only an estimated timeframe; it is possible that the pass through may be earlier or later.

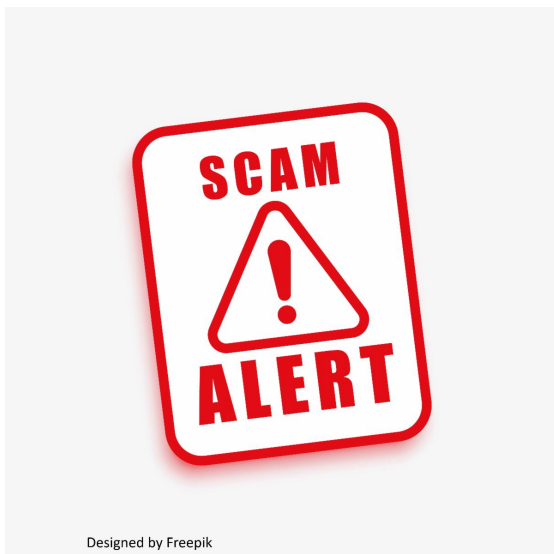
Please note, the train **WILL NOT STOP** in Bartlett. If you want to get a closer look at the train, you can go to Franklin Park, 9748 Franklin Avenue, on Wednesday, 5/8, where the train will be parked and open for viewing from 3 to 8 p.m.

After the train passes through Bartlett, kiddos are welcome to immediately stop by the Bartlett Depot Museum, 100 W. Railroad Avenue, for a free goodie bag (while supplies last), a storytime and craft.

The engine image was retrieved from the CPKC website, the sponsor of the Final Spike Anniversary Steam Tour. To learn more, please visit the railway website.

CPKC  
Website

## REMINDERS



Neighboring communities have reported door-to-door driveway scams. Tips to avoid falling victim to this common scam:

- Do not let the solicitor inside your house
- Get multiple bids on the project.
- Be leery of contractors that tell you that you don't need a permit, or will do the job cheaper if one isn't pulled.
- Call Bartlett's Building Division at 630-540-5920 to verify that the contractor is registered or if your project requires a permit.
- Get a building permit, you can apply online [using the village building division driveway link](#)



In mid-May, the Chicago region will see a remarkable natural phenomenon that only occurs once in 17 years: an emergence of periodical cicadas. For about four to six weeks there will be millions of big, red-eyed insects flying around and making an ear-splitting noise, especially in areas with lots of old trees.

Ahead of the 2024 emergence of periodical cicadas in Illinois, the experts at The Morton Arboretum are answering some FAQs:

### **Do periodical cicadas bite?**

No. They do not have biting mouthparts, stingers, or pincers. Their piercing-sucking mouthparts only work on trees and shrubs. Cicadas can be annoying, but they are not a danger to people or pets.

### **Will cicadas attack me or my pets? Are they harmful to pets?**

No. They might accidentally blunder

- Get a contract in writing, explaining the materials used and the total cost of the project.

- Do not pay in cash



All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse. Building codes are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, stores, manufacturing facilities, and entertainment venues.

Building Safety Month is an international campaign that takes place in May to raise awareness about building safety and reinforce the need for the adoption of modern, regularly updated building codes. Bartlett's building division observes Building Safety Month each May to highlight the building and fire codes that protect both the economic value and the structural integrity of the homes and buildings in the village.

These modern building codes, developed by the International Code Council, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org), and implemented by the building division through permitting and inspections, also include safeguards for natural disasters, such as snowstorms, tornadoes, wild fires, floods and earthquakes.

Building Safety Month 2024 will explore how building safety impacts all of us on personal, local and global levels. The weekly themes for this year's campaign are:

### **May 1 to 5: Week One**

#### **"Understanding the Mission"**

covers the basics of building safety. It's mission critical – building safety

into you while trying to find a cicada of the opposite sex, but they are not interested in you or your pets. If a cicada lands on you, just brush it off. Dogs and cats like to eat cicadas. The insects are edible and nontoxic. The only danger is if a pet gorges on too many cicadas and gets an upset stomach, just as it would if it ate too much of any food.

#### **Will they be very loud? Why?**

Yes, they will be very loud in areas where there are a lot of them. The mating call of a male cicada can sometimes be as loud as a lawnmower, and there will be millions of them. The males sing to attract females. Only males sing; if a cicada is singing, it's a male.

#### **What does an adult periodical cicada look like?**

It is a large flying insect about 1 ½ inches long, with a black body, burnt orange to red wings with lacy veins, and bulging red eyes. Cicadas are clumsy fliers and can only fly short distances.

#### **Will the periodical cicadas hurt my flowers and green plants?**

No. Your garden is safe. Cicadas do not have the mouthparts required to chew leaves or stems.

#### **Will they hurt my trees?**

They do no serious harm to any healthy mature tree. The only trees at risk of significant damage are very young trees that were planted within the last couple of years, or have a trunk diameter of 2 inches or less, and older trees that are unhealthy or stressed.

#### **How can I protect a young tree?**

First, make sure all your trees, old or young, are well watered and healthy, with no unaddressed disease problems. Healthy trees are always better able to withstand any pests and diseases. For young trees, wrapping their branches in netting will keep cicadas out so they can't lay eggs in twigs, while still allowing air and sunlight to reach the tree.

#### **Will the cicadas be messy?**

Yes. When the cicada nymphs first emerge, they will shed their exoskeletons. After a few weeks, once they have mated and laid eggs, the insects will all die. When you are



is the responsibility of us all.

**May 6 to 12: Week Two "Preparing a Building Safety Plan"** highlights the things we can do at home to stay safe, such as fire and water safety tips; home maintenance best practices; how to prepare for a disaster; how to plan ahead to limit damage to buildings from natural hazards in your community; and how to be more sustainable to ensure a cleaner and greener tomorrow.

**May 13 to 19: Week Three "Learning from the Pros"** looks into the world of building safety professionals and also provides examples of when you should call a building safety professional, specifically for permitting, home renovations or buying a house.

**May 20 to 26: Week Four "Engaging Your Community"** shares how we all have a part to play in making sure the places where we live, work and play are safe for ourselves, and for family, friends and neighbors.

**May 27 to 31: Week Five "Celebrating Success in Building Safety"** highlights individuals and communities who are making a difference in building safety not just in May, but all year long.

walking or driving in cicada-affected neighborhoods, take care, because crushed cicadas on pavement can be slick.

### **What should I do with dead cicadas at home?**

Sweep or shovel them onto your garden beds or your lawn or under trees, where they will decompose and be valuable fertilizer. If you put cicadas in your compost, make sure they are mixed with plant matter.

### **How do the cicadas affect wildlife?**

A cicada emergence is a bonanza for animals. You may see many kinds of animals feeding on them, including squirrels, raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and dozens of bird species. The feeding frenzy can have complicated ripple effects on the local ecosystem. For example, with an ample food supply, more songbird hatchlings survive, so populations of some bird species increase. At the same time, birds that have plenty of cicadas to eat may not bother to eat caterpillars or other insect species, allowing more of those insects to survive. Foxes and coyotes that fill up on cicadas may not hunt other prey, leading to an abundance of rabbits. Meanwhile, the blast of fertilizer from the decay of the cicadas causes a burst of tree and plant growth the next year.

### **Will they stink?**

Yes. As the cicadas decay, there will be an odor of decaying cicadas for a couple of weeks.

### **Are cicadas edible?**

Yes. People can eat them, and you can find recipes for cicadas on the internet.

*This information is from The Morton Arboretum. For more expert tips about trees and cicadas, visit the arboretum website.*

Morton Arboretum  
Website

## Meetings & Events

THURSDAY, 5/2 @ 7 p.m.  
Planning & Zoning Commission

## Police Department 2023 Annual Report

Bartlett Police Department has

Meeting - cancelled

SATURDAY, 5/4 @ 9 a.m.  
1st Saturday Children's Craft

SATURDAY, 5/4 @ 9 a.m.  
Artisan Marketplace & Craft Show

SATURDAY, 5/4 @ 9 a.m.  
Growin' Green Garden Market

TUESDAY, 5/7 @ 7 p.m.  
Village Board Meeting

TUESDAY, 5/7 @ 7 p.m.  
Committee of the Whole Meeting

MONDAY, 5/13 @ 7 p.m.  
Economic Development  
Commission Meeting

WEDNESDAY, 5/15 @ 10 a.m.  
Breaking Bud: Tree & History  
Walking Tour

SATURDAY, 5/18 @ 9 a.m.  
Tri-Village Garden Club Plant Sale

released its 2023 Annual Report. The report represents the department's unwavering commitment to "Serving with Care and Protecting with Confidence" through continued efforts to foster positive partnerships, improve traffic safety, prevent and reduce crime, and promote employee development.

The police department was awarded its eighth reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in November. This accreditation places the department among the top 7% of police agencies in the United States and only 48 in Illinois that CALEA accredits.

Throughout the year, the department continued to find new ways to connect better and engage with the Bartlett community. It was awarded second place by the National Association of Town Watch in its population category for the 2023 National Night Out celebration. Several police department employees and the village's benefits coordinator were honored with the Hanover Township Supervisor's Community Service Award for organizing and coordinating several community events that support township residents, such as the Senior Giving Tree, Stuff the Squad Toy Drive, Cupid Diaper Drive, and the National Night Out school supplies and food drives.

The department was presented with the 2022-23 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge second place award as part of its determined commitment to making village roadways safer. Last year, the department initiated 8,262 traffic stops, 78 DUI arrests, and 278 aggravated speeding arrests. It also worked with public works and neighboring communities to reduce the number of commercial vehicles traveling on North Avenue, reduce traffic crashes at the Army Trail Road and Munger Road intersection, and improve traffic flow and safety near Prairieview and Sycamore Trails Elementary Schools.



The department was dispatched to 13,397 9-1-1 calls for service and initiated 21,431 calls for service. It achieved a nearly 25% decrease in Part I & II crime rates from 2022 (3.2) to 2023 (2.4). The department also partnered with the DuPage County Health Department to provide free Narcan kits to Bartlett residents, the first program of its kind in DuPage County.

The department provided its sworn and non-sworn officers with 15,930 hours of training, including ICAT de-escalation training developed by the Police Executive Research Forum. This training equips Bartlett officers with the skills and tools they need to de-escalate situations with persons who are unarmed or are armed with weapons other than firearms and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis.

"We are proud of our achievements and...confident that our efforts to provide exceptional police service will continue to make Bartlett safer," writes Chief of Police Geoffrey Pretkelis.

See More Meetings & Events on the [Website Calendar](#). Please know that meeting agendas are not posted to the website until they are finalized, generally the week before the meeting date.

The Police Annual Report

## Project Updates



### Water Main Replacement Project

On Monday, 4/22, work began on the initial phase of the 2024 water main installation project. By the end of the first week, the contractor had finished placing

watermain along Oak from Bartlett Ave to North Ave.

During the week of 4/29, the contractor will saw cut at the North Ave and Oak intersection on Monday and should finish construction of watermain at the intersection on Tuesday. They will re-pave the road from Bartlett Ave to North Ave on Wednesday, and after this point the road should be open to traffic. Access to the closed section of Oak Ave for residents, business patrons, and emergency vehicles will always be allowed.

This project is in preparation for the resurfacing of North Avenue in 2025 and the eventual resurfacing of Oak Avenue (dependent on federal fund availability) in the years shortly after.

This year, the project will include the installation of 10,000 linear feet of 8-inch water main, system valves, fire hydrants, lead water service replacements, and restoration as needed. The limits of construction will be along North Avenue between Western Avenue and Prospect Avenue, and along Oak Avenue between Bartlett Avenue and Lake Street.

For the safety of both workers and drivers, small detours will be set up to guide traffic around the work zone. These detours may last up to a few weeks and will change as work progresses. Please use caution while traveling through work zones and be alert for altered traffic patterns. No work will be allowed in the vicinity of Bartlett Elementary or Eastview Middle School while school is in session. The substantial completion date for this project is set for 11/27/2024.

If you live within the project limits, additional information that will further explain the project and include information on lead service replacements will be passed out via door hangers. Please keep an eye out for these notices as some may be time sensitive.

The village understands that this type of project can be disruptive; your patience is appreciated. If you have any questions related to the project, please contact the Village of Bartlett Public Works Department at 630-837-0811.

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## **RR Crossing Rehab**

Starting Wednesday, 5/29 at 7 a.m. Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corp., "Metra," will start removing the existing railroad crossing located on Western Avenue between W. Bartlett Road and W. Railroad Avenue. Western Avenue will be closed at the railroad crossing. Detour signs will be posted.

On 5/29, workers will start cutting the asphalt roadway and removing the rubber panels in and around the tracks. They will remove all rock and debris and will fabricate new rail panels onsite. Crews will be working through the weekend to remove and install new rail panels and ballast rock.

After the new rail panels have been installed, workers will start installing new concrete panels that will replace the old rubber style. Crews will begin leveling the roadway and laying down new asphalt along with new striping if needed.

This replacement project will take approximately nine days to complete. Western Avenue is expected to reopen at 7 a.m. on 6/6/2024.

- \* Village of Bartlett Employment Opportunities
- \* Learn more & sign up for Code Red Emergency Notifications
- \* Learn about the Bartlett Connect mobile app

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[bartlett.il.gov](http://bartlett.il.gov)



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