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January 9, 2026

Community Safety Alert: Catalytic Converter Thefts



The Village is reminding residents to remain vigilant due to an increase in catalytic converter thefts being reported throughout the region. These crimes are typically quick and opportunistic, often occurring late at night or during the early morning hours, and can take place in just a few minutes with minimal noise or attention.

Most thefts occur overnight in residential driveways, apartment parking lots, and commuter parking areas. To help reduce the risk, residents are encouraged to park in a garage whenever possible or choose well-lit areas when parking outside. Parking vehicles close together, installing catalytic converter cages or shields, engraving a license plate or VIN onto the catalytic converter, and using motion-activated lighting or security cameras can also help deter thieves.

Residents are asked to remain alert and report suspicious activity, including individuals crawling under vehicles, lookout vehicles idling nearby, or the sound of metal cutting or sawing, particularly during late-night hours. If suspicious activity is occurring, call 911 immediately. For non-emergency reports or incidents discovered after the fact, contact the Police Department's non-emergency number, 847-359-9000.

If you suspect your catalytic converter has been stolen, contact the Police Department immediately and avoid driving the vehicle if it appears unsafe.

New Illinois Law for Batteries

All household batteries
must now be brought to
special collection.
It's the law!



Batteries Are Everywhere

#KnowBeforeYouThrow



Beginning January 1, 2026, all household batteries must now be recycled - it's the law!

This means NEVER dispose of loose batteries - OF ANY TYPE - in your curbside recycling bin or trash!

The Illinois Portable and Medium Format Battery Stewardship Act (**SB3686**) requires battery manufacturers to fund battery collection, with NO COST to the consumer!

While "it's the law" may sound daunting to some and welcome to others, this requirement is a win for everyone. It does three important things:

- Protects people and property by reducing fires and explosions caused by lithium batteries.
- Protects the environment by keeping hazardous materials out of landfills and reducing the need for additional mining of natural resources.
- Makes proper management EASY by providing convenient, local, FREE drop-off locations for residents.

Call2Recycle is the approved battery stewardship organization in Illinois and offers recycling for all loose, household batteries. They have developed a locator to make it easy for residents and businesses to find a convenient, FREE, local, drop-off point for both primary and rechargeable household batteries! The locator can be found [here](#).

[Learn More](#)

Palatine Police Announce Holiday Enforcement Results

This past holiday season, Palatine Police teamed up with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement agencies statewide for the "Drive Sober or Get

Pulled Over," "Drive High. Get a DUI." and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns. From Dec. 12 through Jan. 5, officers focused on removing impaired drivers from the road and ensuring that motorists were properly buckled.

During the enforcement period, Palatine Police took the following enforcement actions:

- 1 DUI arrest
- 3 Drug arrests
- 1 Fugitive apprehended
- 7 Suspended/revoked license
- 1 Other felony/ misdemeanor arrest
- 18 Seat belt citations
- 9 Uninsured motorist citations
- 11 Speeding citations
- 65 Distracted driving citations



The holiday enforcement campaign was administered by IDOT with federal highway safety funds managed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is part of Illinois' "It's Not a Game" statewide media outreach program.



Christmas Trees and Wreaths

Live Christmas trees and wreaths can be placed at the curb on your scheduled collection day throughout January.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health Division at 847-359-9042 or visit our [website](#).



Holiday Light Recycling Program

Holiday string lights can be dropped off at the Palatine Village Hall, Village Services Counter (first floor), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until January 31, 2026.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Community Events

Palatine Winter Farmers' Market
Palatine Train Station
Saturday, January 17, 9:00 a.m.

Bingo
American Legion
Saturday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.

Winterfest
Salt Creek Sports Center
Saturday, January 17, 12:00 p.m.

Sammy's Bingo Bash
Birchwood Recreation Center
Sunday, January 18, 1:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive
St. Theresa Dolan Center
Sunday, January 11, 7:45 a.m.

Tales for Tots
Immanuel Lutheran
Thursday, January 15, 10:00 a.m.

Parents Night Out
Rose Park
Friday, January 16, 6:00 p.m.

Paint and Craft Night
Twin Lakes Clubhouse
Friday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.

School's Day Out
Salt Creek Park District
Monday, January 19
Tuesday, January 20

Kindergarten Spotlight
Immanuel Lutheran School
Wednesday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

Education Panel-Emotional Dysregulation
Buehler YMCA
Thursday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

(click on the event name for more details)



Winter Explorers Brunch

Join the Palatine Fire Dept. for their Explorers Winter Brunch:

- Sunday, January 11, 2026,
- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- American Legion Hall (122 W. Palatine Rd.)

Bring the family out for a delicious winter brunch while supporting a great cause! All proceeds directly benefit the Palatine Fire Department Explorers Program, which gives young people hands-on experience in fire service, leadership, teamwork, and community service.

Dog Park Memberships Available

Dog Park Memberships, for 2026, are available for the Palatine Park District's Dog Park located at Plum Grove Reservoir, on the Harper College Campus. The dog park season begins in January and lasts through December. Registration is accepted year-round.



[Learn More](#)

WE'RE HIRING!

- CIVIL ENGINEER I OR CIVIL ENGINEER II
- ELECTRICIAN
- ENGINEERING INTERN
- FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

Learn more at palatine.il.us



[Meetings & Agendas](#) | [Employment](#) | [Event Calendar](#) | [Service Request](#)

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
847-358-7500



Village of Palatine | 200 E Wood Street | Palatine, IL 60067 US

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