



Annual Meeting –
Special Edition
Newsletter

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEETING

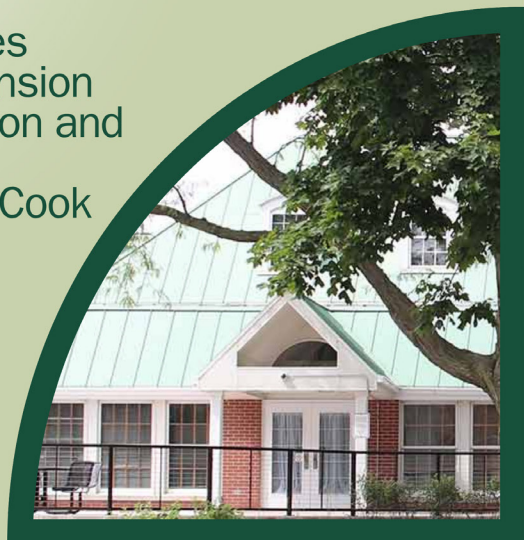
Mary Lubko Center
208 W Union Ave, Wheaton IL

November 1, 2026
2:00 - 4:00 pm

The program will include:

- Illinois Prairie Path Business
- DuPage County Trail System Updates and Future Initiatives
- IPP Main Stem Eastern Extension
- Preserving History: Restoration and Staging of Car 321
- Maywood Trailhead & Other Cook County Projects
- Question & Answer Session

Roger Kotecki will provide live musical entertainment. Please stay for light refreshments and conversation afterwards.



Annual Meeting Topics and Speakers

DuPage County Trail System Updates and Future Initiatives



John Loper

DuPage County Division of Transportation

Topic

John will provide an update on the trail system within DuPage County which will include highlights and updates from the 2026 season and information on current projects that the County is working on. Additionally, he will discuss upcoming County projects and future initiatives for the Prairie Path and adjoining trails.

About the Presenter

John Loper is an experienced public infrastructure professional currently serving as the **Chief Transportation Planner and Impact Fee Administrator** for the DuPage County Division of Transportation in Wheaton, Illinois. With a robust background in regional transit design, infrastructure budgeting, and community development, he plays a key role in orchestrating the county's long-term Mobility Framework and strategic highway planning. In addition to his regional planning oversight, John is responsible for managing the county's impact fee systems, ensuring that new regional developments align with and fund critical infrastructure advancements. A highly educated professional with deep academic roots in geography and urban infrastructure, John holds a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University and a Master of Science in Geography and Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

IPP Main Stem Eastern Extension



Joe Seymour

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Topic

Joe will provide an update on eastern extension of the IPP Main Stem from 1st Avenue (Maywood) to the CTA blue line station (Forest Park).

About the Presenter

Joseph Seymour, AICP, is a dedicated urban professional specializing in multimodal planning, traffic safety, and sustainable community design. Originally from Michigan, where he earned his undergraduate degree summa cum laude at Hope College, he later completed his Master's Degree in Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Currently serving as the **Lead Planning Specialist for the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways**, Joseph spearheads the regional integration of the "Safe System" approach and "Complete Streets" engineering models across the Chicago area. Prior to this role, he spent six years as a Transportation Planner at VHB in North Carolina, leading multidisciplinary teams in developing complex pedestrian policies, traffic safety assessments, and travel demand modeling.

Annual Meeting Topics and Speakers

Preserving History: Restoration and Staging of Car 321



Kevin Patrick

Villa Park Village President

Topic

Villa Park is restoring Car 321, a 1914 Chicago Aurora & Elgin electric railcar, for permanent display along the Illinois Prairie Path beside the historic Ardmore Avenue Train Station. Work includes exterior preservation, interior stabilization, a station-style shelter, and an accessible viewing area. Arrival is expected in May 2027. Residents and businesses can leave a lasting tribute through the Commemorative Brick and Bench Program.

About the Presenter

Kevin Patrick has called Villa Park home since 1994 and graduated from Willowbrook High School in 2000. He served ten years in the U.S. Coast Guard, including Hurricane Katrina search and rescue operations and deployments to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

His public safety and national security experience includes roles with the Department of Homeland Security, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Illinois Department of Corrections. He holds degrees from Elmhurst University and Arizona State University, where he specialized in Community Resilience.

Before becoming **Village President** in May 2025, Kevin served on Villa Park's Fire and Police Commission and Video Production Commission. He has also coached youth football, basketball, and soccer.

Maywood Trailhead & Other Cook County Projects



Ralph DiFebo

Director Illinois Prairie Path Board

Topic

Ralph will provide a brief update on Maywood Trailhead improvements, path reconfigurations at Mannheim road and 25th avenue, and new Cook County signage.

About the Presenter

Ralph DiFebo is a bicycle enthusiast and community advocate who has served on the **Illinois Prairie Path Board** for four years. He has a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Loyola University and worked as a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser at the Cook County Assessor's office for 30 years.

