

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

Ho-Ho-Ho Neighbors,

I recently read an article that stated the end of an era; the iconic Barbie has been replaced as the most requested toy of young girls by the Disney characters from *Frozen*.

Though not a big story, it did conjure up memories of all those “must-have” toys that filled Christmas Wish Lists over the past few decades. All this reminiscing led me to research what happened to all those magical toys of yesteryear. What I found is that some are still popular and often included in letters to Santa, while others have been cosigned to a lesser status or even worse, garage sales. Nonetheless, my research resulted in happy memories and produced the following list.

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 1950s

Barbie – Silly Putty – Fisher-Price Little People – Colorforms – Paint-by-Number Kits – Play-Doh – Mr. Potato Head – Matchbox Cars – Tonka Trucks – Frisbees – Hula Hoops – Chatty Cathy – Davy Crockett items – Lego Building Sets

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 1960s

Etch A Sketch – Ken Doll – Slip 'n Slide – Chatter Telephone – G.I. Joe – Twister – Easy-Bake Oven – Creepy Crawlers – Rock'em Sock'em Robots – See 'n Say – Lite-Brite – Hot Wheels – Barrel of Monkeys – Radio-Controlled Cars – Barbie's Dream House

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 1970s

NERF Ball – Weebles – Paddington Bear – Baby Alive – Shrinky Dinks – Rubik's Cube – Stretch Armstrong – Star Wars Action Figures – Mattel Classic Football – Simon – Speak & Spell – Star Trek Electronic Phasers

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 1980s

Cabbage Patch Kids – Nintendo Game System – Transformers – Masters of the Universe Action Figures – Care Bears – My Little Pony – Trivial Pursuit – Teddy Ruxpin – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – ColecoVision – Wrestling Buddy – Smurfs – Glo Worms

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 1990s

Barney – Tickle Me Elmo – Beanie Babies – Little Tikes Log Cabin – Super Soaker – Toy Story Action Figures – Little Tikes Cozy Coupe Car – American Girl Doll – Furby – Nintendo 64 – Game Boy – Teletubbies – Mighty Morphin Power Rangers – Pogs

Top Selling Christmas Toys of The 2000s

Xbox 360 – iPod Touch – Bratz Dolls – Razor Scooters – Nintendo Wii – PlayStation 3 – Mindflex – Zhu Zhu Pets – Pokemon – FurReal Cat – Robosapiens – Squinkies

I hope my trip down Memory “Toy” Lane reminds us of how much joy a special toy can bring a child on Christmas morning and how many years of happy memories it leaves.

A final note; construction of the railroad overpass over the Union Pacific railroad tracks on 25th Avenue is about to begin. Once construction begins, 25th Avenue between the RR tracks and Lake Street will be closed to traffic for approximately 18 months.

On behalf of your elected village officials, village employees, my wife Donna and myself, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! And as I end all my Christmas *Rose* letters ... “Please make some great holiday memories for your children and grandchildren.”



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

Check Out www.MelrosePark.org to Learn More About Our Community!

Sincerely,

Ron Serpico
Mayor Ron Serpico



Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico
Village Clerk
Mary Ann Paolantonio

Village Trustees
Anthony N. Abruzzo
Jaime Anguiano
Cathy Cossident Italia
Arturo J. Mota
Anthony J. Prignano
Mary Ramirez Taconi

And the
Employees
of the
Village of
Melrose Park



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

Trustees

Anthony J. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano

Cathy Cossident Italia • Arturo J. Mota

Anthony J. Prignano • Mary Ramirez Taconi



To Know

Village Hall.....(708) 343-4000

Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Birth Certificates • First Copy – \$12, additional copies \$2 each

Death Certificates • First Copy – \$14, additional copies \$4 each

Water, Tickets, Etc.

Office of the Mayor(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4410

Police Emergency.....911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-8409

Animal Control.....(708) 344-8409

Fire Emergency.....911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-1210

Public Safety/Homeland Security(708) 649-8000

Library.....(708) 343-3391

Public Works.....(708) 343-5128

Building and Code(708) 343-4000

Civic Center(708) 450-0555

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

Community Service(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448

Senior Services(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448

Taste of Melrose Park, The Rose Newsletter

Dial A Ride(708) 343-7047

Proviso Township Assessor.....(708) 449-4304

Economic Development(708) 865-8809

Important Upcoming Dates

Village Board MeetingsDec. 22, Jan. 12 and 26

Village Hall Holiday ClosingDec. 24 (1/2 Day), Dec. 25

Dec. 31 (1/2 Day), Jan. 1, Jan. 19

Senior Club MeetingsJan. 8, Feb. 12

Resident Response

Dear Mayor Serpico and Melrose Park Community Residents...

On behalf of Aspire, I want to express my sincere thanks to Mayor Serpico for 20+ years' support of our business, Aspire on Broadway Resale Shop.

Many thanks to the members of the community who supported Aspire through countless donations and purchases at Aspire on Broadway. Your contributions provided essential program supports to hundreds of individuals and families with developmental disabilities at Aspire of Illinois.

- Sincerely,
Shevawn Weber
Aspire of Illinois

Dear Mayor Serpico...

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your participation in the re-dedication celebration for our Church Worship Center on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014.

You are an important part of First Baptist Church's Kingdom work and I, along with the entire membership, thank you for your consistent and valuable cooperation and support.

We truly appreciate your time as well as your proclamation and the kind remarks of encouragement which you offered to me and our congregation.

Your presence helped to make this event the great success that it was.

We pray God's blessings upon you, your family and the village of Melrose Park.

- Because of Christ,
Rev. John L. Belzer
Pastor



Dear Melrose Park Trustee Arturo Mota...

Thank you for your continued support of the Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy Library.

The students are enjoying the most recent book in their beloved series because of your coordination efforts and all the contributors.

Thank you again for your consideration and kindness.

- Sincerely,
Shoshana Fiala
LRC Librarian

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Sam Pitassi and the Melrose Park Police Department...

Thank you so much for helping Sacred Heart School students Safety Walk to Bulger Park for our annual walk-a-thon.

We greatly appreciate your assistance.

- Sincerely,
Susan Golding and Teresa Colella
PTO Presidents

Dear Melrose Park Trustee Arturo Mota...

Thank you for your generous gift and ongoing support of our service club here at West Leyden.

Your donation will ease the burden for many of our students.

- Sincerely,
Wil Wagner
Principal

Dear Mayor Serpico...

I'm writing to express our sincere gratitude for your very generous gift to the Christian Life Center Food Pantry.

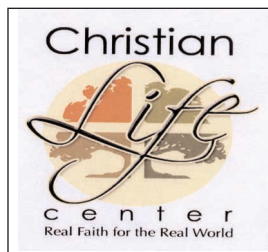
It arrived just in time for the grand opening of our soup kitchen on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Your donation will help us in so many ways, including purchasing all of the remaining items needed to get us through a busy time of the year.

As you are well aware, many families are facing great need the last couple of years and they rely on the food they receive from our pantry to be able to feed their families. Our numbers have steadily increased and we could not continue without the generous support of people like you.

Thank you again for your generous support. May God bless you for helping us serve the less fortunate.

- Sincerely,
Rachel Jumpa
Pantry Director



Dear Melrose Park Fire Chief Rick Beltrame...

Once again, thank you for your participation in the Guatemalan Independence Day Parade this past Sept. 14. It was an honor to have the Melrose Park Fire Department representing the community of Melrose Park among our Central American people.

Your willingness to be of service to our communities speaks very highly of the dedication to the people of Melrose Park and different diverse groups in this great land.

Our non for profit organization continues to hold events like this to promote unity among our people, as well as fulfilling our commitment to bring aid to the children in Patzun, Chimaltenango, Guatemala. The children in this orphanage count on our contributions to provide funds to have a yearly birthday party for these children.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to your participation next year.

- Sincerely,
Rommy Cisneros-Alfaro
Secretary/Public Relations, Sociedad Civico Cultural Guatemala



Dear Mayor Ronald Serpico and Building, Planning, Zoning Department Director Ralph Sorce...

I would like to let both of you know about the excellent service one of your employees was able to provide for us in helping find the information to pass along to a local taxpayer that came into the Proviso Township offices to find out information on how to voice his displeasure with a billboard located at Lake Street and Mannheim Road.

The billboard in question is for a local Spanish-speaking radio personality that the taxpayer, as a father of young children, found offensive and did not want his children exposed to and wanted to voice his concern.

The gentleman first contacted Regina Rivers, who is the Youth Services director. Ms. Rivers then contacted the Proviso Township Assessor's Office, since she thought we would be able to find the correct information. We made a number of phone calls without finding the information and then called Mr. Sorce's department where I was able to speak with an employee named Martha. Martha knew of the billboard in question and was able to give me several phone numbers to call. She did tell me that the property is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad.

Thanks to Martha's information, the taxpayer has the information to voice his concerns over the billboard.

Proviso Township Assessor Steven Zawaski and I have always received excellent customer service and results whenever we have called the village of Melrose Park for assistance.

- Sincerely,
Roxanne C. Lesus
Proviso Township Deputy Assessor

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Sam Pitassi...

Early on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, we called 911 for our wife, mother, grandmother and sister Jacqueline McMillan, who was experiencing a sudden medical emergency.

We wish to acknowledge the following members of your department – Lt. Steven Rogowski, police officers Lido Graziani, Mark Loochtan and Leslie Shankle.

They showed extreme professionalism, care and assistance to Jackie and our family.

We know that this had to be difficult for them also – since they knew Jackie.

You should be very proud of these wonderful officers.

Our deepest thanks to you and your department.

- Sincerely,
The Family of Jacqueline "Jackie" McMillan

Dear Melrose Park Fire Chief Rick Beltrame...

We wish to extend our deep gratitude for the exemplary care that was given to our wife, mother, grandmother and sister Jacqueline McMillan.

Early on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, we called 911 for Jackie, who was experiencing a sudden medical emergency.

The care that was administered by your medics and firemen was above and beyond.

We know that this had to be difficult for them also – since they knew Jackie.

We would like to personally thank paramedics Craig Smith and Luke Muzyka, firefighters Lt. Jack Giuffre, Frank Scudiero, Anthony Raffaelli, Steve Saviozzi, Frank Urso and Anthony Figueroa for their care and kindness.

You have a wonderful department and we extend our heartfelt thanks to you and your men.

- Sincerely,
The Family of Jacqueline "Jackie" McMillan

Dear Members of the Melrose Park Police Department...

This letter is in appreciation of the members of the department that gave their personal time and service in the funeral of Marlane Montino.

Please know that your support did not go unnoticed and was truly appreciated by Marlane's family and friends.

In this time of sorrow, it did truly help to know that there are people that care and were there for us.

- With warm regards,
Gary Montino and Family

Dear Melrose Park Fire Chief Rick Beltrame...

Every day our Emergency Department staff and the Melrose Park Fire Department work together to fulfill the same mission – to provide the best care possible for our patients. Please know that the partnership, excellent care and communication you provide is something we value and appreciate.



On Aug. 6, 2014, paramedics Jason Kezios and Sean Swords responded to a call at the business office where a 51-year-old man was experiencing severe chest pain and numbness in his arms. The man explained that he didn't feel right all morning and was concerned about the symptoms he was feeling because he has a history of hypertension, high cholesterol, cigarette smoking and is borderline diabetic.

As a precaution, the patient took aspirin before the paramedic's arrival but didn't know how much he took and stated the aspirin had no effect. The crew was able to get the patient to the ambulance and transferred to Elmhurst Hospital's ER without incident.

We would like to commend the Melrose Park paramedics for their excellent documentation of this incident and their clear communication to the Emergency Department at Elmhurst Hospital. The patient was released from the hospital and doing well thanks to the quick response from the Melrose Park team.

Please express our sincere thanks to your paramedics for their lifesaving efforts.

- Sincerely,
Mary Lou Mastro
President and CEO, Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare

Dear Mayor Ron Serpico...

I wanted to take a few moments and let you know that you have some excellent police officers on the Melrose Park Police Department.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, my wife and I were attacked by a young thug on the corner of North Avenue and Mannheim Road. He slammed a heavy bag against our car windshield and then on the passenger side of my car which caused a large amount of damage.

Thank god the windshield didn't break otherwise my wife would have sustained very serious injuries.

Within four minutes after calling 911, officers Robert Anzaldi and Jessica Ortiz arrived on the scene. The young thug ran away but was apprehended a short time later by officers Phil Negrón and John Amabile on Armitage, east of Mannheim.

After discussion with our attorney, I signed two complaints and pressed charges for criminal damage to property and assault. Sgt. Nunzio Maiello handled the situation and was very kind and professional. The young thug was arrested.

I won't go into further background on this terrifying event, but the officers responded quickly to this event and were professional, caring and helpful.

- Very truly yours,
Joseph L. Houdek
Resident of Franklin Park

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Sam Pitassi...

I am writing to commend two of your officers. Officer Amabile and Lt. DiMaio, for their assistance during an investigation into the theft of numerous furnaces from a business in Mokena.

On Nov. 17, Mokena detectives developed a lead that took them to a storage garage in Melrose Park. Having probable cause to believe that the garage contained stolen property, we began the search warrant process.

As a result of the warrant, eight high-end furnaces were recovered and a suspect was identified.

The assistance and cooperation by your department and by Officer Amabile and Lt. DiMaio are a prime example of the spirit of teamwork that we foster. Without the assistance from your department, the recovery of the stolen furnaces could have been hampered, if not made impossible.

Thank you again for your assistance.

- Steven Vaccaro
Chief of Police, Village of Mokena Police Department

Dear Mayor Serpico...

On behalf of the employees and customers of Al Piemonte Ford, I would like to thank you and compliment the fine officers of our Melrose Park Police Department.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, there was a possibility of a situation at the dealership that could've caused a disruption in our businesses and a potential inconvenience to our customers.

Deputy Chief Michael Castellan, along with Lt. John Scatchell, met with our staff and formulated a remedy that assured the normal course of our business would not be impeded and our customers could enjoy their visit at the dealership.

Lt. Scatchell's ability to assess the situation at hand, diffuse it in a positive manner and offer a final resolution is a fine example of the professionalism and genuine concern for our citizens and businesses on a daily basis.

It is through this type of leadership and professionalism that make the village of Melrose Park a great place to live and do business – thank you again.

- Respectfully,
Charles A. Pezzuto
General Sales Manager, Al Piemonte Ford



FRENOS CON TARJETA MEDICA BRACES WITH THE MEDICAL CARD

**Text BRACES or FRENOS to 25827
For More Information**

(708) 498-4410

www.allkidsdentalcenter.com

WE ACCEPT ALL INSURANCE PLANS!

**1812 N. Broadway
Melrose Park, IL 60160**

(708) 498-4410

Navistar Returns to Village Hall for Free Influenza Vaccine Event

This fall, Navistar hosted their annual flu shot event at the Melrose Park Village Hall.

Community members had the opportunity to get this year's influenza vaccine from Nurse Glee Lim of Navistar.

The vaccine reduces an individual's chances of getting the flu during the cold weather months.



A Hearty Thanksgiving Feast On Behalf of Mayor Serpico and a Big Thank You

A special thank you from Mayor Serpico to the team of volunteers who helped deliver close to 150 hearty meals on Thanksgiving Day to our residents. The group, that was out in full force, included employees from the village, Fire/Police/Public Safety departments, Veterans Park District and several Melrose Park residents.

Thank you to all for making the annual Thanksgiving Dinner Program a huge success.



A Message from Police Chief Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi
Melrose Park Police Chief*



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are a special and busy time of the year. Unfortunately, many people forget to be careful about their property and personal safety, leaving them especially vulnerable to theft and other crime. The Melrose Park Police Department provides tips to help keep your holiday safe:

SHOP SAFELY:

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; instead pay with credit cards or a check.
- Watch your credit card during transaction to make sure it is used to print only one transaction. Make sure the cashier returns it to you.
- Keep your wallet in your front pants pocket or coat breast pocket.
- Keep purses close to your body, in front of you where it can be seen, and cover the clasp or flap with your hand. Keep the purse closed, snapped or zipped until you need to enter it.
- Never flaunt your money, expensive jewelry or clothing.
- Walk confidently and be alert. Be especially mindful of pickpockets in crowded areas such as stores, bus stops or trains.
- Never overload yourself with packages; being overburdened may make it difficult for you to keep track of your purse or wallet or to respond to a personal threat.
- Park in a well-lit space and always lock your doors and windows.
- Hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in your vehicle for any length of time while shopping.
- Teach children that if they get separated from you, they should go to a security officer or store clerk and say they are lost.
- Tell them NEVER to leave the store or go to the parking lot to look for you

WATCH OUT FOR CON GAMES AND FRAUDS:

- Give only to charities that are familiar to you.
- Ask to see official identification when someone asks for a donation on the street or at your home.
- Ask for written documentation on how your donation is going to be used and if it is tax deductible.
- Be suspicious of charities that only accept cash.
- Only make checks out to the organizations, not the individuals.
- Never give your credit card information over the telephone. For tele-marketing solicitations, offer to mail your donation.

PROTECT YOUR HOME:

- Never display gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Always lock doors, windows and garage doors when you leave the house, even if you will only be away a short time.
- Always ask for official identification when someone comes to your home asking for donations or claiming to be delivering a package. Never let anyone into the house who cannot provide this information.
- Call the Melrose Park Police at (708) 344-8409 and place your house on the Vacation Watch if you will be away for the holiday.



Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS



*Rick Beltrame
Melrose Park Fire Chief*

A Message from Fire Chief Rick Beltrame

Winter Safety Tips

Please follow these guidelines for a safe winter season:

1. Have your heating system checked by authorized service personnel annually.
2. Change your furnace filter regularly.
3. Keep areas around the furnace and hot water heater clear at all times.
4. Do not use space heaters with frayed or damaged cords or plugs. Keep space heaters at least 12 inches away from walls, furniture, clothing or flammable items.
5. Do not leave the clothes dryer on when going to bed or when leaving the house.
6. Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries when you change your clocks during spring and autumn.
7. When going outside, wear layered clothing and keep skin covered to avoid frostbite and hypothermia.
8. Keep walkways and steps clear of ice and snow.
9. Keep cell phones charged so they will be functioning in case of emergencies.
10. Keep your car's gas tank full, make certain tires are in good condition and perform other automobile maintenance to avoid being involved in an accident or becoming stranded.
11. Stock your vehicle(s) with these items in case you do become stranded:
 - a. Non-perishable snacks.
 - b. Water.
 - c. A flashlight and extra batteries.
 - d. A shovel.
 - e. Blankets or extra winter clothing.
12. Stock up on non-perishable groceries and other staples in order to avoid frequent shopping trips across snow-covered or icy roads.
13. Check on neighbors – especially the elderly or infirmed.

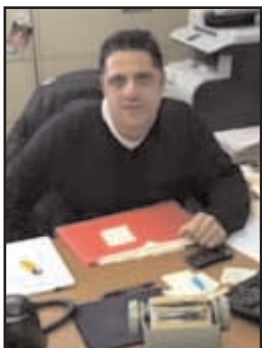


Buried Fire Hydrants Can Pose Danger

Living in the Chicago Metropolitan area, we always expect a snowy winter. However, residents never know for certain how much snow will blanket the area. Hopefully, this winter will not result in the massive snowfall we experienced last year. Melrose Park residents know only too well the obvious difficulties and hazards that accompany a hard winter. However, many do not realize the dangers and difficulties that can result when fire hydrants are buried in snow. Such conditions make it difficult, if not impossible, for firefighters to locate and uncover hydrants in their efforts to extinguish fires. Fire Chief Rick Beltrame hopes that residents will help firefighters by clearing nearby fire hydrants when they shovel or plow their sidewalks and driveways. The cooperation of all neighbors will go a long way toward keeping Melrose Park's residents safe this winter.

From The Office of Ralph Sorce, Building Commissioner

The cooler weather is here and many residents and business owners will be performing indoor construction projects to their homes and businesses.



Ralph Sorce
Building Commissioner

The Building Department of the village of Melrose Park is pleased to see the improvements within our neighborhood. Remember, before starting any construction project; obtain a building permit from the Building Department. All contractors performing work are required to obtain a contractor's license with the village. Rough and final inspections are to be performed to make sure work is being performed to code.

If you are planning to update your home or business, or if you have any questions, please come into the Building Department at 1000 N. 25th Ave., or call us at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4470.

Go to www.melrosepark.org to obtain the following Building Department forms.

- New 2011 Village of Melrose Park Zoning Map
- Building Permit Application
- Building Codes
- Certificate of Compliance Application
- Contractors Registration Application
- Electrical Permit Application
- Form 3500
- Form 4000
- Items Covered in Cert of Compliance Inspection (Sale)
- Sign Application
- Process of Selling a Property
- Vending and Amusement License Application

Please note that registration does not replace building permits or other required information.

General contractors are responsible to assure that all their sub-contractors are licensed in Melrose Park. Failure to do so may result in citations, fines and work stoppage on site.

Building Department Report

I am very excited about the continued economic growth in Melrose Park. Below is a list of construction jobs presenting economic growth within the corporate limits of the village of Melrose Park. This is only a partial list.

- 3215 W. North Avenue – Menards – Under Construction
- 1101 W. North Avenue – Xsport Fitness – Under Construction
- 1413 W. North Avenue – Mattress Firm – Under Construction
- 701 W. North Avenue – Subway – Open
- 1950 Mannheim Road – Sureway Tool – Construction Complete

Flood Map Information Service for Village of Melrose Park

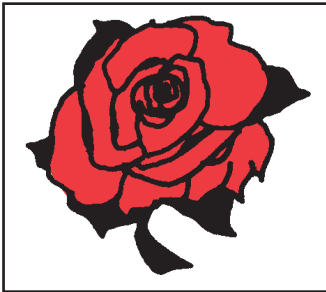
As a public service, the Building Department will provide you with the following information upon request:

- 1 – Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Village of Melrose Park.
- 2 – Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM zone, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or depth, if shown on the FIRM.
- 3 – We have a handout on the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement that applies to people who are getting a federally backed mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.
- 4 – Access to Elevation Certificates that have been processed in Melrose Park if they exist for a certain property.
- 5 – We have copies of Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMRs) on file in our office.

If you would like to make an inquiry, please have the address and property's legal description available. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. You may reach us by telephone at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4470, or send us an e-mail at rsorce@melrosepark. You may also inquire in person at the Building Department. Our staff will be willing to assist you any way we can. There is no charge for this service.

Help Keep Our Village Clean!

Now that winter is here, help keep our village clean by making sure you keep all garbage in your 90 gallon blue garbage container to keep garbage from blowing throughout the neighborhood and getting buried under snow. The village is proud of the garbage and debris services it provides our residents. Help keep the parkways clean and in the front and rear of your house or building. The village is dedicated to working with and for our citizens; together we can make Melrose Park look even better!



Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

From the Desk of
Gary Marine,
Director of Public Works

2014 Streetscape Enhancements, Division Street Gateway

The streetscape enhancement for the Division Street Gateway will be starting in the spring.

Parking Lot Construction

Constructing a brand new municipal lot on east side of 25th Avenue across from the Civic Center and football field. This parking lot will be utilized for parking for football games, soccer games, the Taste of Melrose Park, HispanoFest and other events held at the Civic Center.

The lot will be paved in late spring.

Streets Repaved

The following streets have been paved this year:

Thomas – 36th to 31st Avenue
Cornell – North Avenue to Armitage
Hirsch – 14th to Ninth Avenue
10th Ave. – Augusta to Iowa
Soffel Ave. – 35th to 31st Avenue
33rd Avenue – Soffel to LeMoyne
Haddon – 12th to 11th Avenue

Caryl – Lake St. to Soffel
Park Dr. – 14th to Ninth Avenue
Division – 31st to De Prizzio Dr.
Norwood – 14th to Ninth Avenue
Grant – Davis to Winston Dr.
Haddon – 15th to 14th Avenue
Main St. – 19th to 17th Avenue

New Streetlights

The old high pressure sodium vapor streetlights are being replaced with new LED lights. In comparison to the old vapor lights, the new LED lights provide improved illumination performance, consume less energy and require less maintenance than traditional lighting solutions.

This government program will provide brighter illumination deterring crime and does not cast shadows.

Approximately 1600 lights have been changed to the new LED lighting and this project is now complete.

Nicor Gas Phase 2

Nicor Gas Phase 2 is in its final stages of upgrading gas supply services in all homes in the village and the restoration of parkways and sidewalks will be completed.

Sidewalk Program

The 2014 Sidewalk Program has been completed. If you would like to participate in the 2015 Sidewalk Program and request sidewalk square replacement, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128 for more information.

TV Pickup

For TV pickup, please call and make arrangements with the Public Works Street Department for pickup before putting out your TV.

Snow Routes

Please follow all snow route signs throughout the village streets
Please remove your vehicle from the snow route
when 2 inches or more of snow falls.

This will help expedite snow removal quickly.

Snow Removal Program for Disabled with Special Needs and Seniors 65 and older

If 6 inches of falling snow is predicted, please call (708) 649-4450 for information.



It's been a productive few months for the Public Works Department and with Mayor Serpico's guidance, all village summer and fall projects have been successfully completed.

The Public Works employees are busy preparing all plows for the first snowfall and the winter months ahead.

The Department of Public Work Employees Wish All Residents a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Melrose Park Sports & Fitness Club

Fitness for All Ages

1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park • (708) 450-0555

BOXING

Instruction by retired professional Rocky DiFazio
Tuesdays and Thursdays • 4-9 p.m.
Saturdays • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

AEROBICS

Instruction by Lena
Step • Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays • Noon-1 p.m.
Sr. Exercise (Low Impact) by Barb Rubright
Monday-Friday
9-10 a.m. • Senior Center

MARTIAL ARTS

Monday-Friday • Residents – \$50, Nonresidents – \$60
For additional information,
call (708) 450-0555.

CYBEX AND NAUTALUS MACHINES

Crunching Machines

Wrist and Forearm • Arm • Abdominal • Shoulder Fly
• Chest Press • Rowing • Lateral Pulldown
Lifefitness Treadmills • Gauntlet Stairmasters
Life Cycle Bikes • Free Weights

ROOM RENTALS

Multi-purpose Room

Birthdays • Anniversaries • Graduations
Religious Celebrations
Weddings • Business Meetings • Etc.

150 Maximum Capacity

Days and Nights Available

Mondays-Saturdays • 9 a.m.-Midnight
Sundays • 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Rentals Include:

Four Hours • Setup of Table and Chairs
Security • Use of Kitchen and Ice Machine

**HALL RENTALS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
IN THE SENIOR BUILDING (900 N. 25th Ave.)**

Call (708) 450-0555 for info.

Come visit our surrounding park.
Perfect for taking pictures for all occasions.
Stop by our front desk and we can answer any questions
you may have about your next party or event.

We can accommodate most party requests.

For more information, call (708) 450-0555.

Summer Hours (Memorial Day-Sept. 30)

Weekdays – 7 a.m.-8 p.m. • Weekends – 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Winter Hours (Oct. 1-Memorial Day)

Weekdays – 7 a.m.-10 p.m. • Weekends – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Holiday Happenings!

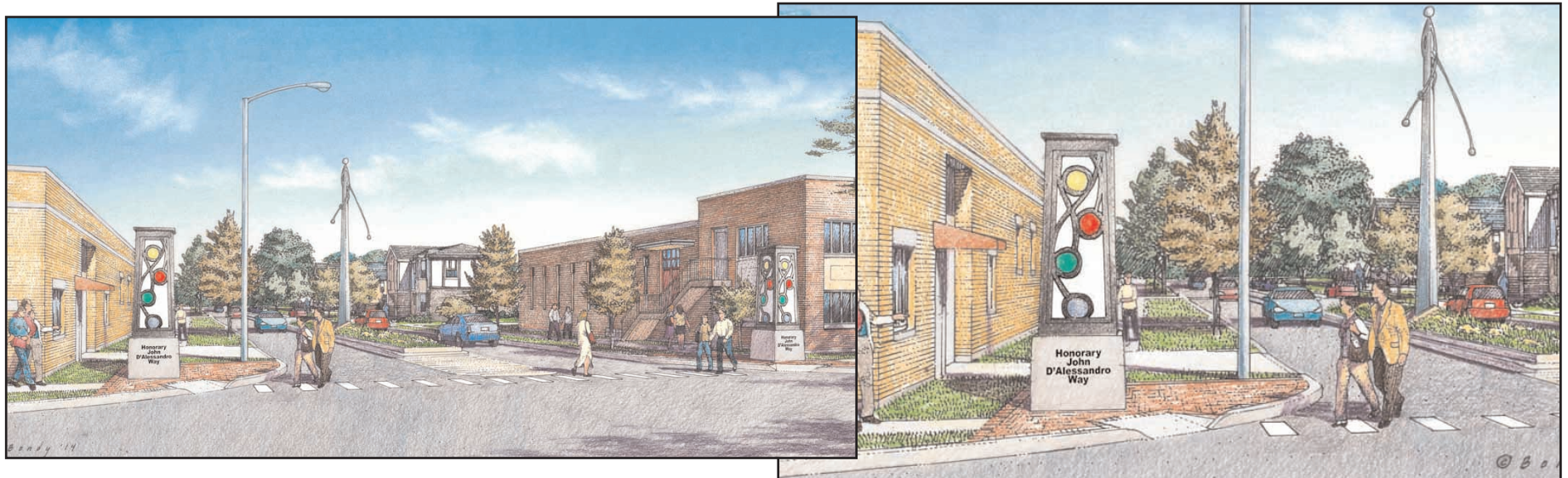


**Winston Plaza's
Holiday Celebration**

Sacred Heart School's Christmas Bazaar

Division Street Gateway Enhancement to Begin Spring 2015

The streetscape enhancement for the Division Street Gateway will be starting in the spring of 2015. Pictured are renderings of the project as well as the proposed monument highlighting the naming for Division Street as Honorary John D'Alessandro Way. John was a lifelong Melrose Park resident who suffered an untimely death. Monuments will be installed on the north and south side of Division Street and 25th Avenue.



Melrose Park Public Safety News

From the Desk of
Philip C. Schwartz,
Chief of Public Safety –
Homeland Security



For more information,
please call
Melrose Park
Public Safety ~
Homeland Security
at (708) 649-8000,
or visit us on the
World Wide Web at
www.mpdhs.us.

Winter Storms... The Deceptive Killers

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

Know the Difference

Winter Storm Outlook – Winter storm conditions are possible in the next two to five days.

Winter Weather Advisory – Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch – Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning – Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

Put Together a Supply Kit

- Water – at least a three-day supply; one gallon per person per day.
- Food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food.
- Flashlight.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible).
- Extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.).
- Multipurpose tool.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).
- Cell phone with chargers.
- Family and emergency contact information.
- Extra cash.
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers).
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl).
- Tools/supplies for securing your home.
- Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery.
- Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots, and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members.
- Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood- or coal-burning stoves.

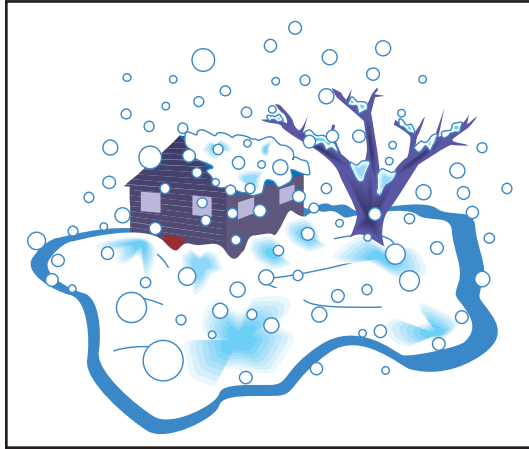
Winter's Impact

Storms with Strong Winds

Sometimes winter storms are accompanied by strong winds creating blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow, severe drifting and dangerous wind chill. Strong winds with these intense storms and cold fronts can knock down trees, utility poles and power lines. Storms near the coast can cause coastal flooding and beach erosion as well as sink ships at sea. In the west and Alaska, winds descending off the mountains can gust to 100 mph or more damaging roofs and other structures.

Extreme Cold

Extreme cold often accompanies a winter storm or is left in its wake. Prolonged exposure to the cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life-threatening. Infants and elderly people are most susceptible. What constitutes extreme cold and its effect varies across different areas of the United States. In areas unaccustomed to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered "extreme cold." Freezing temperatures can cause severe damage to citrus fruit crops and other vegetation. Pipes may freeze and burst in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. In the north, below zero temperatures may be considered as "extreme cold." Long cold spells can cause rivers to freeze, disrupting shipping. Ice jams may form and lead to flooding.



Ice Storms

Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees, electrical wires, telephone poles and lines, and communication towers. Communications and power can be disrupted for days while utility companies work to repair the extensive damage. Even small accumulations of ice may cause extreme hazards to motorists and pedestrians.

Heavy Snow Storms

Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, stopping the flow of supplies and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can collapse buildings and knock down trees and power lines. In rural areas, homes and farms may be isolated for days, and unprotected livestock may be lost. In the mountains, heavy snow can lead to avalanches. The cost of snow removal, repairing damages and loss of business can have large economic impacts on cities and towns.

Winter Precipitation

Snow

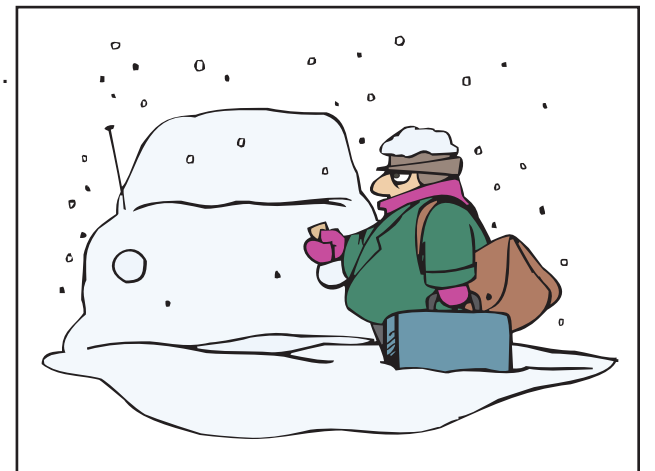
- FLURRIES – Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation or light dusting is all that is expected.
- SHOWERS – Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.
- SQUALLS – Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant. Snow squalls are best known in the Great Lakes region.
- BLOWING SNOW – Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility and causes significant drifting. Blowing snow may be snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind.
- BLIZZARD – Winds over 35 mph with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to near zero.

Sleet

Raindrops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

Freezing Rain

Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.



Winter Storm Facts: What Makes a Winter Storm?

Cold Air

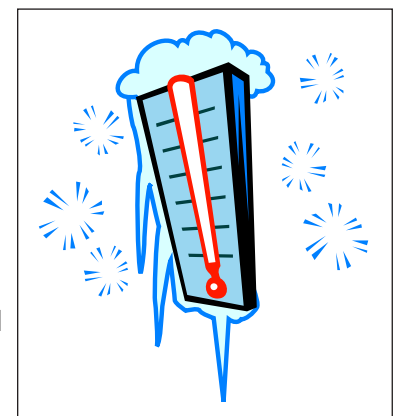
Below freezing temperatures in the clouds and near the ground are necessary to make snow and/or ice.

Moisture

To form clouds and precipitation. Air blowing across a body of water, such as a large lake or the ocean, is an excellent source of moisture.

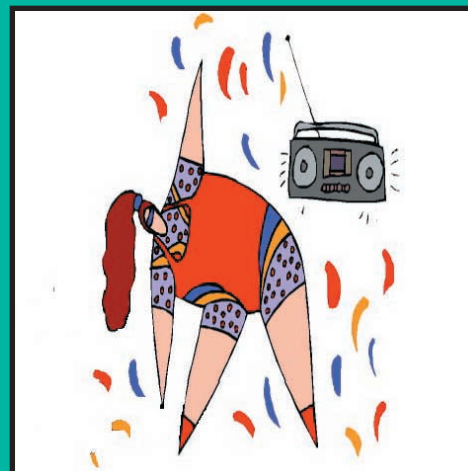
Lift

something to raise the moist air to form the clouds and cause precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise over the cold dome. The boundary between the warm and cold air masses is called a front. Another example of lift is air flowing up a mountain side.



**For more information, contact the
Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety
at (708) 649-8000 or visit our Web site at www.mpdhs.org.**

Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors



*Come Join in the Fun with
Instructor Barb Rubright
of Rube's Garage!*

Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.

**Melrose Park Senior Center
900 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park**

For more information, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.



Village of Melrose Park Senior Club News

*From the Desk of Peggy DiFazio,
Director of Senior Services,
Special Events and
Taste of Melrose Park*

2015 Meeting Dates

Jan. 8 • Feb. 12 • March 12 • April 9 • May 14 • June 11
July 9 • Aug. 13 • Sept. Cancelled • Oct. 8 • Nov. – TBD • Dec. 10

Meeting dates are scheduled that include lunch meetings and coffee and ... meetings. Bingo will be played at all meetings. Registration must be made two weeks prior to meeting date.

Registration for New Memberships

We're looking for new members to join our club and we're inviting current members to renew their memberships.

You must be 55 years or older and a Melrose Park resident. Cost is \$10 per year and includes a picture ID. Each meeting cost \$5 per person and includes lunch, informative speakers and more. Preregistration for meetings is required.

It's a good place to make new friends and renew old ones.

For membership information, call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

Senior Services

Need help with Medicare, circuit breakers, etc.? Need sources for home health care, equipment, etc.? Have questions you need resources for? We can help.

Call Peggy DiFazio at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

Mayor Serpico Offers Free Painting Program for Seniors

Mayor Serpico recently announced the village of Melrose Park will offer a free residential painting program for individuals 65 years of age and older who reside and own a single family home in Melrose Park.

Those who qualify and need light paint work around their homes – fences, garage doors, railings, etc. – are encouraged to complete the MP Painting Program Request Form and mail it to:

Village of Melrose Park, Attn: Patti Dindia,
1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160

Mayor Serpico's MP Painting Program Request Form

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____

Item(s) to be painted (please circle): Fence Garage Door Railings

Other: _____

Melrose Park Senior Club 2015 Renewals

*It's that time of the year to
renew memberships
for calendar year 2015.*

*Senior Club members,
your memberships must be
renewed before the 2015 meeting.*

*To renew, please complete the
Melrose Park Senior Club
2015 Membership Renewal Form
and mail it with your renewal fee of \$10 to:*

Village of Melrose Park

Attn: Peggy DiFazio

1000 N. 25th Ave.

Melrose Park, IL 60160

Please make checks payable to the Melrose Park Senior Club.

Melrose Park Senior Club 2015 Membership Renewal Form

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact
Phone _____

Birthdate _____



Melrose Park Public Library

In Person. Online. We Bring You the World.

Get that Job!

Free Workshop Series
January 17th & 24th

Resume Workshop
Saturday
January 17th
11am - 1pm

Interviewing Skills
Saturday
January 24th
11am - 1pm

Bob Schlacks, Human Resource Expert and presenter for Illinois Worknet Aurora, will be conducting two workshops at the Melrose Park Library in January 2015.

Resume Workshop

- What should and shouldn't be on your resume
- The 5 categories of information your resume must contain
- How to make your resume move to the top of the stack
- Breaking down your work experience using action verbs
- Examples of actual resumes

Saturday, January 10: 11am

Interview Skills Workshop

- What "soft skills" companies are really looking for
- What to do before, during and after an interview
- The importance of appearance, punctuality, and non-verbal communication
- The 5 different kinds of interviews
- The 12 most commonly asked questions
- Having the variables within your control working for you

Saturday, January 17: 11am

Register for these programs online at mpplib.org or phone 708-343-3391 x2 .

Library Closure

The Melrose Park Public Library will be closed for renovations, December 15 – January 5.



www.MPPLibrary.org

801 N Broadway, Melrose Park, IL 60160



mps@mpplib.org

(708)343-3391

Cozy Comfort Foods With Chef Michael Maddox

Chef Michael Maddox returns to the Melrose Park Public Library with an all new cooking and tasting demonstration. Three Cozy comfort classics will be prepared and all participants are invited to stay and sample the goodies. Recipes will be provided to take home with you.

- Julia Child-style Coq au Vin
- Winter Squash & Thyme Soup
- Creamy Three Cheese & Portobello Risotto



Saturday, February 21: 11am

Register for these programs online at mpplib.org or phone 708-343-3391 x2 .

Board Games @Your Library Saturday, January 10: 11am

Join us at the Melrose Park Library to play strategy and designer games for ages 8 to 88+. We'll have plenty of games to play on the second Saturday of each month or feel free to bring your own. All skill levels welcome.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-8:00pm

Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, Closed

Closed last Saturday of the month



Melrose Park Public Library

In Person. Online. We Bring You the World.

Youth Services



Family Movie Night

Spend an exciting evening at the library with your family and friends, watching a special movie and enjoying some snacks! For all ages.

Wednesdays, Jan. 7th, Feb. 4th — from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Stay and Play

Join our new lively and interactive play-time for great fun with books, music, puzzles and toys. For families with children 5 years old or younger.



Thursdays, January 8th through February 26th from 10:00-11 a.m.



Lego Club

Join us for some new exciting adventures in Lego Club! The library will supply the Legos, you bring your imagination! Kids in grades K-6th are invited to attend; kids ages 3-5 must attend with a parent.

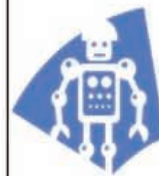
Tuesdays, Jan. 13th, Feb. 4th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Winter Wonderland Storytime

Cozy up and listen to some wonderful winter stories! This storytime is the perfect thing to keep you warm this winter. We will also make a special winter craft! Grades K-3.



Wednesday, January 14th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.



Ready! Set! TECH!

Join our new monthly club and have fun experimenting with our amazing new tech toys and gadgets! Grades 2nd-5th

Wednesdays, Jan. 21st, Feb. 18th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Arts & Crafts

The library is hosting a monthly craft event for kids in grades K-6th to make a special treasure to take home. Crafts are limited to 15 kids; be sure to register early to reserve your spot!



Thursday, Jan. 15th, Feb. 11th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.



Penguin Party!

Let's party and celebrate National Penguin Awareness Day! We'll have stories, special activities, and some fishy snacks in honor of the incredible penguin. For kids ages 3-7.

Tuesday, January 20th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Mad Hatter Madness

Come to Lewis Carroll's Unbirthday Party! Join us in celebrating the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and his many creative characters!



We will have games, a tea party, and crafts.

Wednesday, January 28th — from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Teen Book Club

Read, talk about books, and socialize! Grades 7th-12th

Tuesdays, Jan. 27th, Feb. 24th — from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

All programs at the library are **free**, and registration is required. To register, call Youth Services at (708) 343-3391. ext. 7484.



www.MPPLibrary.org

801 N Broadway, Melrose Park, IL 60160



mps@mpplib.org

(708)343-3391

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-8:00pm

Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, Closed

Closed last Saturday of the month

MELROSE PARK YOUTH COMMISSION

1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160 • (708) 343-2015



New Year Night time **Camp Fun**

REGISTER NOW! CAMP BEGINS JAN. 6!

The Melrose Park Youth Commission is holding a Night-time Camp Fun for children 4-7 years of age. Children who register will participate in a number of fun activities geared towards learning, athletics and having fun with others.

The program includes a number of arts and crafts activities, kids sports – basketball, soccer, etc., make and bake nights, movie nights, tutoring, holiday parties, video game nights, field trips and more.

Our Night-time Camp Fun runs three nights a week (Mondays-Wednesdays, 6:15-8:30 p.m.) Jan. 6-Feb. 12.

Cost is \$25 per child for Melrose Park residents and \$100 per child for nonresidents

Why not join us? Come on and have some fun.

Registration can be made at the Youth Commission located on the first floor of the Melrose Park Civic Center, Mondays-Fridays.

For more information, call (708) 450-0555.

A Special Message to the Parents of Melrose Park Children from the MELROSE PARK YOUTH COMMISSION

Dear Parent,

The Melrose Park Youth Commission is compiling a mailing list of children who attend an elementary school that is not located in Melrose Park.

We are trying to reach all children from our community and let them know of the great events and programming options the Youth Commission offers throughout the year.

If you have a son or daughter attending an out-of-town school or children who are being home schooled, please take some time to complete this form and mail it to:

**Melrose Park Youth Commission
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160**

Once we receive this form, we will add your name to our database and follow up with a courtesy phone call to introduce ourselves and provide information about our organization.

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

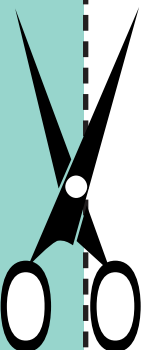
Age of Child #1 _____

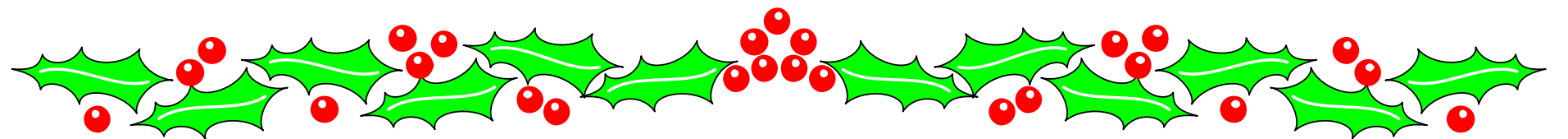
School Attending _____

Age of Child #2 _____

School Attending _____

For more information, please call us at (708) 450-0555.





Senior Club Celebrates the Season!



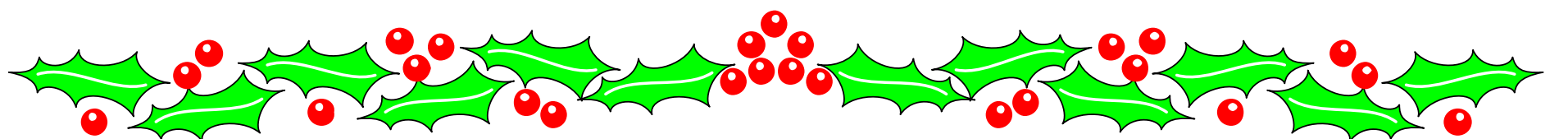
On Thursday, Dec. 11, the Melrose Park Senior Club kicked off the holidays with a luncheon that included a gourmet meal prepared by Mr. Joe Rosa, son of Slicker Sam.

The members enjoyed the seasonal festivities as well as a visit from Santa Claus, Mayor Serpico and representatives from Carbonara Funeral Home & Cremations, who gave out gift bags and calendars.

Congratulations to the \$100 Bingo winner – Ms. Anna Nova.



*Happy Holidays to All from the
Melrose Park Senior Club!*





A Special Thank You From the Melrose Park Little League To Our Proud Sponsors!

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HUDAPACK METAL TREATING • SLICE FACTORY
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RAINBOW PEDIATRICS • CRAVEN CLOSEOUTS • SIGNCO INC. • COUNTY INN PIZZA**

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MANNY CONSTRUCTION • ANTHONY B'S PIZZA • FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 19
THE MARINE FAMILY • GUERINE AND COMPANY**



Melrose Park Little League Announces 2015 Registration Dates



Baseball/Softball FEES

T-Ball 4-6 \$60	Coach Pitch 7-8 \$80	Minor League 9-10 \$95	Major League 11-12 \$110	Junior League 13-14 \$140
-----------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------

ONLINE - Open Registration as of January 1st

www.melroseparklittleleague.org

Registration Sign-up Dates at Melrose Park Civic Center

Jan. 24 Jan. 31 Feb. 7 Feb. 14
Feb. 21 Feb. 28 March 7 - FINAL

Late Registrations After March 8th up to March 28th \$20 Late Fee

All registrations will be on Saturdays from 10am – 2pm

Melrose Park Little League

1000 N. 25th Ave

Melrose Park, IL 60160

melroseparklittleleague@gmail.com

Facebook: Melrose Park Little League

Twitter: MelroseParkLL

WANTED: COACHES & MANAGERS

Home of the 2014 12U State of Illinois Softball Team

Play60



SPRING LEAGUES

CO-ED - AGES 5-18

\$135 / PLAYER



Medieval Times

DINNER & TOURNAMENT



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HOME CARE | MEDICAL STAFFING
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REGISTER TODAY - (740) 844-FLAG

CHICAGOFLAGFOOTBALL.COM

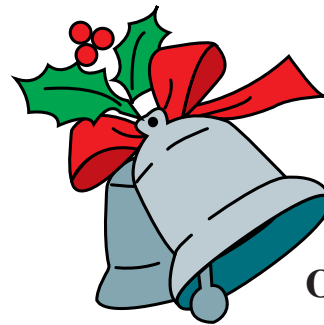
SERPICO MEMORIAL FIELD - 1000 N. 25TH AVENUE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

MARK'S
QUALITY LANDSCAPING
1639 N. 23rd Ave.
Melrose Park
(708) 681-3384
www.marksquality.com



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Joseph A. Casale

- Minister of Care
- Assistant Director/Food Pantry
- Pastoral Council Member

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH
1101 N. 23rd Ave. • Melrose Park
(708) 935-0094 • jcasalechief@yahoo.com

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With this coupon. Must mention coupon when making appointment.
Not valid with any other offer or prior services. Expires 4/30/15.

Call (630) 622-4001 or E-mail Us Today – INFO@TOTALFENCING.COM.



Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military

Attention Residents

The village of Melrose Park would like to know if any of our residents are serving in the military.

If so, please contact Peggy DiFazio via e-mail – peg@melrosepark.org or phone – (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

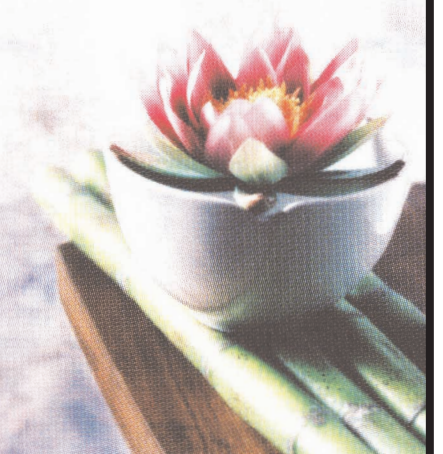
Melrose Muscle Therapy

Luisa Berardi Caraballo

Owner/Massage Therapist

1811 N Broadway Ave
Melrose Park, IL 60160
(708) 612-9228

Book your appointment online at www.MelroseMuscleTherapy.com



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Fax / 312.265.6862

Email / erick@matosenterprises.com

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House of Real Estate
3152 W. Devon Ave. #C3
Chicago, IL 60659

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Veterans Respectfully Honored at Annual Veterans Park District Observance Ceremony



On Friday, Nov. 7, Veterans Park District held its annual Veterans Day Observance in honor of those who served our country.

Several community members attended the event to salute veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The program included an opening Flag Ceremony by the American Legion Franklin Park Post #974, prayers by Fr. Francisco Ortega of Sacred Heart Church, *The Pledge of Allegiance* by VPD Executive Director Donna Peluso and Bulger Park's Preschool Class, the National Anthem performed by WWII Army Veteran Angelo Provenzano, Veterans Roll Call by VPD Board President Denise Knox, In Remembrance by VPD Commissioner Tom Olson, speeches by Provenzano, Vietnam War Veteran Angelo Egizio and Mayor Serpico, and *God Bless America* performed by Jesse Avila.

It's an honor and a privilege to salute our veterans and we thank them for their courage and service to our country.



Show Your Support!



**Mayor Ronald M. Serpico/
Melrose Park
Youth Commission
Avenue of Flags**

Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Youth Commission recently launched Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags campaign.

Flags representing the United States of America, the state of Illinois, the village of Melrose Park, the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marines, United States Coast Guard and POW/MIA were displayed on lightpoles within the village.

The intent of this Youth Commission project is to continue the beautification efforts of Mayor Serpico – enhancing and providing a new, respectful and fascinating look to our streets.

Contributions are still being accepted and additional flags will be flying in the spring.

Donations of any amount to support this creative project are appreciated and can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. 60160.

Please make checks payable to the Melrose Park Youth Commission or Melrose Park Sports & Family Benefit Fund.

For additional information, please call the Youth Commission at (708) 450-0555.

Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Especially for Seniors

The “Biggest Walker”

Great way to walk off those winter blues and maybe unwanted pounds! Like the results from the TV show *The Biggest Loser* Join us at our George A. Leoni complex walking track for winter session. A walking contest and healthy snack will be provided. Winner of the session will be awarded a prize for the most laps logged. Snack will include yogurt and fruit.

- Wednesdays – January 14, 21 and 28, February 11, 18 and 25 – 10-11 a.m. – George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park – \$5 per session per month

Italian Sub Bingo

We will be serving the all-time favorite Italian sandwich with fresh Italian sliced deli meats or a Lent-friendly sandwich of pepper and egg on a fresh baked bun. A mug of meatless Fagioli soup and chips will go nice with the lunch. We’re serving a fabulous large bakery fresh dessert. Cold beverages and hot coffee or tea will be provided.

- Friday – March 6 – Noon-2 p.m. – George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park – \$8 per person

Funny Valentine

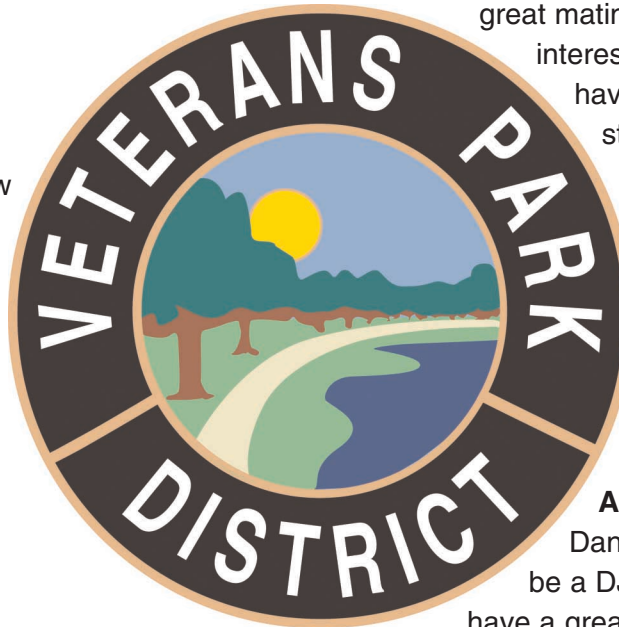
Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and Bobby Darin, just to name a few, sang the great romance songs of the century. Since we can’t get guys back, the next best singing sensation is Peter Oprisko, who will perform all vocal Valentines of the romance celebrities of our time. If you want, you can come dressed in 60’s style. This was the essence of cool at the time – men wearing suits, ladies dressed in cocktail dresses, tipped hats, jewelry, beehives. Contest for the best dressed 60’s participants. Don’t miss this party – it’s all about fun.

Lunch will include: steak Florentine, stuffed shells, chicken limone, tossed salad, rolls and butter. A Valentine dessert and cold beverages, hot coffee and tea will be provided. Raffles games and prizes will make for a memorable time.

- Thursday – Feb. 12 – Noon-2 p.m. – Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview, Northlake – \$16.50 per person

Fabulous Vegas Guys at Starved Rock Lodge

Starved Rock Lodge is proud to offer groups an impressive show from Tribute to the Stars Series, where talented vocalists take you back in time as you listen to their renditions of solid gold hits. Sit back and enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer with The Fabulous Vegas Guys. From the Rat Pack and Elvis to Neil Diamond and everything in between! Mixing comedy, great music and dead-on impressions, this is truly a must-see show! This



great matinee show will include a fabulous lunch buffet and the interesting gift shops that you’ll always find something you have to have. Enjoy the day in this beautiful 1930s era stone and log lodge facility located within Starved Rock State Park.

- Monday – March 23 – Departure: 8:30 a.m., Cimbalo Fitness Center, Melrose Park/8:45 a.m., Grant Park Recreation Center, Northlake – Return Time: 6 p.m. – \$59 per person

VPD’s Special Recreation

Winter Wonderland Dance

Ages: High School to Adults

Dance the night away in a winter wonderland! There will be a DJ and food. Bring your dancing shoes and get ready to have a great time.

- Saturday – Jan. 17 – 5-9 p.m. – George A. Leoni Complex, Melrose Park – \$10 per person

Special Recreation Winter Break Camp

Ages Groups: 6-12 and 13-17

Are you always bored over winter break? Veterans Park District can help you change that! Gather your friends and spend winter break with us! We will have a day full of crafts, activities, movies and, if weather permits, some outside fun! Bring a lunch, snacks and something to drink. Water will be available.

- Ages 6-12: Dec. 22, 23 and 26 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Ages 6-12: Dec. 29, Dec. 30 and Jan. 2 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Ages 13-17: Dec. 22, 23 and 26 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Ages 13-17: Dec. 29, Dec. 30 and Jan. 2 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Fee Per Week: \$42 In District/\$48 Out of District
- Location: Trumbull Park, River Grove

Winter Camp (Ages 6-12)

This camp will combine the best of both worlds – daily camp activities and sports camp! The day will be broken up with different options for each child. If your camper doesn’t like arts and crafts, an option of sports will be available. Not athletic but love to participate in other games and activities? This camp will also meet your needs! Veteran’s Park District is excited to offer this brand new Winter Camp out of our brand new sports complex, the George A. Leoni Community Complex, as well as the Grant Park Recreation Center. Campers will participate in every sport imaginable as well as many more activities and a field trip. This camp is new and not to be missed!

Sports that will be offered are basketball, baseball, lacrosse, dodgeball, kickball, soccer, hockey, volleyball and much more.

Other activities – arts, crafts, games of all sorts, holiday-themed special events and much more!

- Your initial registration includes:
 - One Winter Camp T-shirt (Required on Field Trip Days)
 - All Field Trip Fees/Special Events – Craft Materials – Snacks
- Location: Leoni Complex (Melrose Park) and Grant Park (Northlake)
- Dates: Dec 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and Jan 2 – 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Fee: \$120 In District/\$140 Out of District
 - Before Care: 8-9 a.m. – \$25 In District/\$30 Out of District
 - After Care: 4-5 p.m. – \$25 In District/\$30 Out of District
 - Extended Care: 4-6 p.m. – \$50 In District/\$60 Out of District
- Pre-registration is required.
- Fees must be paid in full one day prior to the session start date.

Kids Crossfit

Veterans Park District is excited to announce a brand new and exciting class we are holding in partnership with O'Hare Crossfit. Crossfit is sweeping the nation and our instructors have found a way to tailor it perfectly to children interested in improving their athleticism and overall fitness. Come and join many others who are looking to have fun while working out and preparing themselves for a new sports season.

- Wednesdays/5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays/9-10 a.m. – Jan. 28-Feb. 28 or March 11-April 11 – Ages: 7-12 – Leoni Complex, Melrose Park – \$60 per person – Instructors: O'Hare Crossfit Instructors

VPD Swim Academy

(Ages 6 and Older)

Sign up for Veterans Park District Swim Academy! All classes are taught by Ellis certified lifeguards. This 6 level program will teach your child to develop their swimming skills and strokes. Each level will review and enhance the skills your child has already learned and introduce them to new strokes and techniques.

- Level 1: Basic Water Skills: floating, gliding, kicking; Level 2: Advanced Water Skills: streamline kicking on front and back; Level 3: Introduction to Strokes: side stroke, elementary backstroke, front crawl; Level 4: Introduction to Strokes II: front crawl, backstroke, treading water; Level 5: Introduction to Strokes III: breaststroke kick, front crawl flip turns; Level 6: Introduction to Strokes IV: breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke flip turns.
- Mondays and Wednesdays – 7-7:40 p.m./Levels 1-6
Session 5: Jan. 5-28 – Session 6: Feb. 2-25
- Mondays and Wednesdays – 8-8:40 p.m./Levels 1-6
Session 5: Jan. 5-28 – Session 6: Feb. 2-25
- Tuesdays and Thursdays – 7-7:40 p.m./Levels 1-6
Session 5: Jan. 6-29 – Session 6: Feb. 3-26
- Tuesdays and Thursdays – 8-8:40 p.m./Levels 1-6
Session 5: Jan. 6-29 – Session 6: Feb. 3-26
- Fee: \$50 In District/\$55 Out of District

For more information on Veterans Park District events and activities, call (708) 343-5270 or visit www.veteransparkdistrict.org.

VPD and MP Youth Commission Host Fright Night

Bulger Park was the place to be on Friday, Oct. 24, as hundreds participated in the annual Veterans Park District and Melrose Park Youth Commission Fright Night at Bulger Park.

Children – and grown-ups – dressed for Halloween and made their way through the scary haunted house.

Crafts, games and complimentary refreshments were all part of the fun.





Rethink Registration

Effective spring 2015, class registration will close at 11:59 p.m. on the day before the scheduled start date of each class. Registration for classes already in session will not be allowed.

During the Schedule Adjustment (100-percent refund) period, if you are currently enrolled in classes, you may be allowed to adjust your schedules. However, you will not be allowed to enroll in a class if it has already started without written permission. The Schedule Adjustment period for each class is determined by the length of the session (e.g. 16 week, 11 week, etc.). Please see your class schedule in your MyTriton portal for deadline dates.

If you are dropped for non-payment, you may be allowed to re-enroll in the same class through the midterm date of the class with permission of the instructor. Students receiving financial aid must be re-enrolled by the last day of the 50-percent refund period for the course in order to receive financial aid.

This change will impact all credit, non-contractual courses.

For more information, go to www.triton.edu/rethink.



Triton College • 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove, IL 60171 • (708) 456-0300

Serpico, Viverito TC Foundation President's Reception Honorees

Current and future Triton College students received an outstanding show of support at the 22nd Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception on Nov. 19. The annual event brought together more than 500 people and raised funds toward student scholarships, and new programs and services to benefit students' education, while also honoring Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico and Secretary of the Triton College Board of Trustees Diane Viverito.



Pictured at the 22nd Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception are Triton College President Dr. Patricia Granados, Triton College Trustee Diane Viverito, Mayor Ronald M. Serpico, Triton College Board Chairman Mark Stephens and Triton College Foundation President Tom Olson.

Serpico and Viverito, were recognized for their commitment and contributions to Triton and the Foundation. Both have always been proud proponents of the Foundation's mission, promoting quality student achievement, and the success of Triton's milestone 50th anniversary celebration.

Those who attended the evening event were there in support of student success as well as to commend Serpico and Viverito on their deserving award.

A silent auction, composed of one-of-a-kind items that included autographed sports memorabilia, gift baskets, event tickets, restaurant/hotel/spa packages, and artwork raised funds to support the Foundation.

The event was further complemented by entertainment from Triton's Faculty Jazz Trio and by the faculty and students of Triton's Hospitality Program, who prepared and served some of the food. Clavio's, Elmcrest Banquets by Biancalana, Jim and Pete's, Maria's Mexican Restaurant and Royal Garden Banquets/Saranecki Brothers Catering also each added to the delectable spread at the event.

"On behalf of the Triton College Foundation, I would like to thank everyone who generously gave to make the Foundation President's Reception a huge success," said Triton College Foundation President Tom Olson. "And with grateful appreciation, I want to thank Ronnie and Diane for the strong, substantial commitment and loyalty each of them have to Triton College, and the well-being of our students, as well as the generous support they have given to the Triton College Foundation.

"The devotion and generosity of our donors keeps the Foundation solid and a golden resource for our students, who are the ultimate beneficiaries."

Recent Economic Study Shows Value in Illinois Community College Education

As an Illinois community college, Triton College served as a participant in a new study released by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) that finds an Illinois community college education increases earnings for workers, even during a recession.

For Illinois community college graduates, the return on investment equates to a total lifetime earnings gain of more than \$570,000 and an average annual rate of return of 14.2 percent. Triton College reports a similar rate of return at 14 percent.

The study also shows that by taking courses at an Illinois community college, a student can increase their earnings by 25.3 percent over pre-enrollment wages, while Triton reports a 33 percent increase, which supports the immense value of a community college education in Illinois that Triton upholds.

"Investing in a Triton Community College education is an investment toward one's future," said Dr. Doug Olson, vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Triton College. "It opens doors for gainful employment, other educational opportunities and improving one's quality of life, and it lessens, or even eliminates, massive loan debt for students. It's a valuable gift with a high return on investment."

"Graduating from an Illinois community college pays off," said Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the ICCB. "With a rate return of over 14 percent, investing in an Illinois community college education provides a far greater financial return than home ownership or even the stock market."

Illinois community colleges add skills to the workforce and boost business competitiveness. Nearly nine out of 10 Illinois community college graduates remain in Illinois after completing college and contribute to the state's economy.

"The state's investment in community colleges stays right here in Illinois," said ICCB Chairman Alexi Giannoulis. "Illinois community college graduates generate billions of dollars in state and federal tax revenues and provide a skilled workforce for the jobs of the 21st century."

As major employers and business entities, Illinois community colleges generate substantial economic benefits for communities through local expenditures and employment. According to the report, in fiscal year 2012, Illinois community colleges generated a total economic output of \$3.1 billion and almost 51,000 jobs.

"Community colleges are the lifeblood of many local communities in Illinois," Dr. Anderson said. "Investing in Illinois community colleges is not only good for students, but also good for local communities that benefit from significant economic growth and job creation."

"Overall, this study clearly demonstrates that, for a small investment, Illinois community colleges are unmatched in their long term payoff to Illinois' students, employers and local communities," Giannoulis said.

The economic impact study was conducted by Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies. The study is unique from many other state and national higher education economic impact analyses because student-level data was matched with employee-level wage data to determine student economic impacts throughout their employment and earnings gains.

The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges. Illinois is home to 48 community colleges in 39 districts and has the third largest community college system in the nation, serving nearly 1 million residents each year in credit and noncredit courses.

For more information, including a copy of the full report, visit <http://www.iccb.org/eis.html>.

For more information about Triton College, visit www.triton.edu.

Proviso Children Eligible for Full Range of Dental Services

Commission Partners with Pediatric Dentist to Coordinate Care

The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC) today announced a partnership with All Kids Dental & Orthodontics in Melrose Park to provide dental services to children through age 21 in Proviso Township. All insurance plans and Medicaid are accepted.

“People may not know that with Medicaid in Illinois, their children are eligible for dental coverage,” said Jesse D. Rosas, executive director of the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission. “We want to provide a holistic approach to health care and dental is a big part of that.”

This is the first time PTMHC is providing care coordination services for dental care as a prevention means to avoid future behavioral issues brought on by pain and discomfort that can lead to problematic behaviors. Care coordination is managing all of a client’s health care needs under one roof, PTMHC’s mission. Clients who need a variety of services, especially mental health services, can come to PTMHC for help.



“All Kids Dental provides bilingual dental services for the entire family including specialists in pediatric dentistry, orthodontics and oral surgery,” Dr Scott Goldman, of All Kids Dental & Orthodontics, said.

It’s never too soon to start dental care. Forty-four percent of all U.S. children will have at least one cavity by kindergarten.

Procedures offered include complete care for all ages, crowns, deep cleanings, emergency care, extractions (including wisdom teeth), fillings, orthodontics/braces, pulpotomies and root canals. General anesthesia and nitrous oxide are available.

All Kids Dental & Orthodontics will be reserving time for patients referred by PTMHC.

Proviso residents who are interested in making an appointment should call PTMHC at (708) 449-5508.

PADS Holiday Drive Gets Boost From Proviso Township Mental Health Commission Gift Registry at Target Created for "House-to-Home Kit"

The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC) and West Suburban PADS are helping formerly homeless individuals and families turn their new apartments into homes by sponsoring a holiday “House-to-Home Kit” collection drive. Target has created a special gift registry that can be used to donate household items online.

“We have 65 households, 83 people, who have transitioned into housing from shelters and the streets,” PTMHC Executive Director Jesse D. Rosas said. “Transitioning or moving into a new home can be stressful and we are doing our part to help families stay as stress free as possible. Sometimes the smallest things can help the most.”

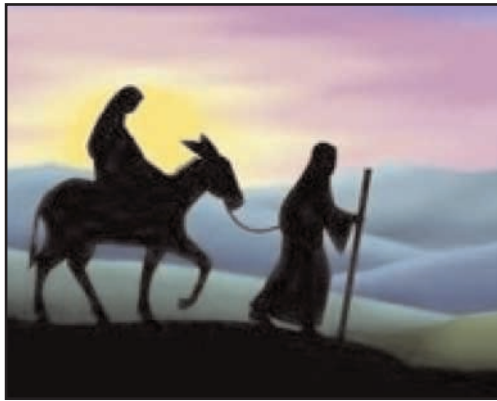
Individuals can view the TARGET registry and make purchases by going to <http://tinyurl.com/otjq7w>. The final day to make a donation is Dec. 19. TARGET will ship the items to PADS.

Items on the registry range from towels, to pots and pans, to buckets and mops. Prices for the items begin at \$3.99 for kitchen sponges. “There’s something for everyone’s budget,” Commission President Mike Corrigan said. “It’s a heartwarming housewarming and a great way to share the joy of the holidays.”

People who would like to donate can also drop off new home essentials at the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission offices at 4565 W. Harrison St., 3rd Floor, Hillside.

The deadline for donations is Dec. 24, 2014. For more information call (708) 449-5508 or email Joe Vasilevski at joev@ptmhc.org.

"Las Posadas" – Hispanic Christmas Eve Celebration at St. Paul, Melrose Park



On Dec. 24, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., St. Paul's Hispanic group will celebrate Christmas Eve the way it is celebrated in some Spanish-speaking countries, with the tradition of "Las Posadas." Mary and Joseph are looking for a place to stay, going from place to place until they find a "Posada" (an inn). In those countries, it takes place for several days and in different houses, ending on Dec. 24, when they finally are allowed into an inn. At St. Paul, we will form two groups, the Pilgrims (with Mary and Joseph), and the Innkeepers. Then we will walk through different areas of our building singing the beautiful traditional songs, the Pilgrim's songs asking for a place to stay, the Innkeepers rejecting them, until both groups reach the entrance of the church, where the Innkeepers finally allow Mary and Joseph to stay and all walk into the sanctuary to hear the message of Jesus' birth.

Afterwards, we will go to the cafeteria for some "champurrado" (hot chocolate Mexican style), sweet bread, and also a piñata for the kids and bags with fruits and candies.

We hope many people from the community can join us. See you on Dec. 24 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lake Street and 10th Ave., Melrose Park.

"Las Posadas" – Celebración de la Nochebuena del Grupo Hispano de la Iglesia San Pablo, Melrose Park

El 24 de Diciembre de 2014, a las 4:30 pm, el grupo hispano de la Iglesia San Pablo va a festejar la Nochebuena como se hace en algunos países de habla hispana, con la tradición de "Las Posadas". María y José buscan donde hospedarse, yendo de lugar en lugar hasta que encuentran una Posada. En nuestros países de origen, la celebración dura varios días y se lleva a cabo en diferentes casas, finalizando el 24 de Diciembre. En nuestra celebración en San Pablo formamos dos grupos, los peregrinos (con María y José), y los posaderos. Caminamos por las distintas partes del edificio entonando las bellas canciones tradicionales, donde los peregrinos piden por una posada, y los posaderos los rechazan, hasta que ambos grupos se unen a la entrada de la iglesia, y allí los posaderos permiten que María y José se queden, y todos juntos ingresamos al santuario para oír el mensaje del nacimiento de Jesús.

Posteriormente vamos a la cafeteria y compartimos champurrado y pan dulce, y para los más pequeños una piñata y frutas y golosinas. Esperamos que mucha gente de la comunidad se pueda unir a nosotros. Los esperamos en la Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, calle Lake y avenida 10, Melrose Park.

Franciscan Resource Center Offers Local Assistance

Melrose Park-based Franciscan Resource Center is a nonprofit center for persons seeking help in their human needs, such as health, depression, domestic problems, hunger, medical aid, addictions, anger management, substance abuse, clothing and basic human needs.

The resource center refers persons to area agencies and follows up on each person's needs.

For an appointment or further information, please call Sr. Nila or Sr. Jan at (708) 567-5083, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., or send an e-mail to franciscanresourcecenternfp@gmail.com.

Centro De Recursos Franciscanos, NFP

El Centro de Recursos Franciscanos es un centro sin fines de lucro para personas que buscan ayuda en sus necesidades humanas, como la salud mental depresión inmigración, problemas internos, hambre, ayuda, medica, adicciones, control de la ira, abuso de sustancias, ropa y necesidades humanas basicas.

Este centro de recursos ayuda a referir a personas, a las agencias adecuadas y hacen el seguimiento para que las personas reciban la ayuda necesaria.

Por favor llame a la hermana. Nila o hermana. Jan al (708) 567-5083 para hacer una cita ... Lunes-Viernes 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ubicación en Melrose Park.

Public Notice Regarding Scheduled Board Meetings

Take notice that the village of Melrose Park, Cook County, Ill., will conduct the regular scheduled meetings of the president and the board of trustees on the second and fourth Mondays of each calendar month, unless otherwise noted, at 6 p.m. at the Village Board Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Melrose Park Police Department, 1 N. Broadway Ave., Melrose Park.

The remaining schedule for calendar year 2014 is: Dec. 22.

The schedule for calendar year 2015 is: Jan. 12 and 26; Feb. 9 and 23; March 9 and 23; April 10 and 24; May 11 and Tuesday, May 26; June 8 and 22; July 13 and 27; Aug. 11 and 25; Sept. 14 and 28; Tuesday, Oct. 13 and Oct. 26; Nov. 9 and 23; and Dec. 14 and 28.

For more information, call (708) 343-4000.

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014; Christmas Day – Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014; New Year's Day – Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, Jan. 19, 2015; Presidents Day – Monday, Feb. 16, 2015; Good Friday – Friday, April 3, 2015; Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2015; Independence Day – Friday, July 3, 2015; Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 7, 2015; Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 12, 2015; Veterans Day – Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015; Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 27, 2015; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) day – Thursday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day – Friday, Dec. 25, 2015; and New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015,

Residents are asked to make note of the dates listed.

For more information, call the Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.



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A Message from Kathleen Willis

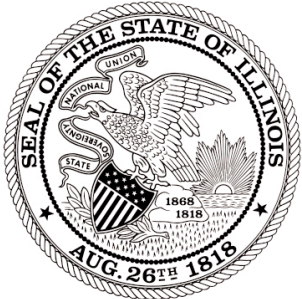
Illinois State Representative • 77th District

112 N. Wolf Road • Northlake, IL 60164

Phone: (708) 562-6970 • Fax: (708) 562-6974 • Web site: www.repwillis77.com

Email: repwillis77@gmail.com • Facebook & Twitter: [repwillis77](#)

Rep. Willis Joins Forces with Toys for Tots for Collection Drive



State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison) will open her office as a drop-off location for toy donations for the annual Toys for Tots charity parade. Residents of the 77th District are welcome to stop by the district office to donate toys that will be given to children in-need this holiday season through the charity event, which continues through Dec. 19.

"I am excited to partner with Toys for Tots because I support their mission of working to ensure children know that, even if their family situation is unstable, there are people who care about them and are willing to give back to make sure they have a happy holiday," said Willis.

The Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade is one of the largest motorcycle parades in the world. It began in 1978 and continues through today, donating thousands of toys each year to children throughout the region. People are urged to donate toys even if they are unable to participate in the parade. Toys for Tots asks that only new toys be given and requests no stuffed animals. Residents interested in making a donation are urged to call Rep. Willis' district office at (708) 562-6970 or the Toys for Tots Organization at (773) 866-TOYS.

"I urge all residents to help make a child's holiday special by donating to this worthy cause," said Willis. "There are times when we all need a helping hand and if we are able to aid somebody this holiday season, I believe we should do so."

Kathleen Willis is serving her first term in the Illinois General Assembly as state representative of the 77th District, which includes O'Hare Airport and portions of Addison, Bellwood, Bensenville, Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Stone Park and Wood Dale.



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Donations are Currently Being Accepted for the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Archives

In January 2012 the Parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel announced a historical event: the formation of a long overdue parish archive. The mission in creating a parish archive was fourfold:

1) To locate whatever available documents and memorabilia was left by previous generations, with the hope of uncovering outright treasures from the past, or usable data to build upon.

2) To evaluate, catalogue, and preserve all that is donated by individual parishioners, by the various parish societies and organizations, by the public, and by former parishioners that have moved out of town.

3) To facilitate and encourage the documentation of significant parish events of the present, for many of the records created and maintained today will become our historical collective memory of tomorrow.

4) To eventually create a permanent historical exhibit for all to enjoy.

Due to the fact that there existed no assigned and secure space to serve as a depository to encourage the preservation of material documenting the development of our parish, very little remains for us of its early years. Most likely, after the owners of the treasured documents departed, the bulk of their material was discarded by those that survived them. Let us act today, and keep this unfortunate scenario from taking place tomorrow.



The success of our archive depends on how much interest, assistance, suggestions and material our parishioners are able to provide. And while your participation is critical to the new archive by donating material that you own, and in seeking material from people that you know, it does not require a lot of your time, nor does it require long-term involvement. Convince others that now, for the first time, we can assure everyone that what they donate to the parish archive will be as safe as it has been in their own home, and will remain so for generations to come. This is a time of commitment for all of us to record the history of our parish going back to the arrival of the revered Our Lady of Mount Carmel statue in 1894, the erection of a wooden chapel at 908-910 N. 24th Avenue in 1895, followed by its designation as the official parish church of Melrose Park in May 1903.

Postponing doing something usually results in its demise; therefore you need to react promptly. You need to consider the historical value of this initiative and participate with dedication and determination. How can you help? Examine those forgotten cardboard boxes residing in closets, basements and attics for any type of memorabilia, correspondence, printed material, newspaper articles, old church bulletins, photos, slides, film, videos, old certificates, flyers of past events, etc. Also, seek relevant information such as the names and dates of members of the various parish societies and organizations, the names of our pastors and clergy, and the names of the nuns and priests who actually were born in Melrose Park and graduated from our grammar school. And most importantly, information relating to the genealogy of our predecessors who played a pivotal historical and religious role in the history of our parish, such as relatives and families of the

foundress of our church, Emanuela De Stefano; this would be invaluable.

To help, you need to put down on paper what you yourself remember and what you have heard from your parents and older relatives, for in doing so you will honor their memory. Another way of seriously committing to help would be to contact your friends and relatives, including those that have moved out of town, and who might still be coming back to participate in our yearly Feast. Tell them about our new archive, give them this article and ask them if they have anything to donate, such as pictures that captured events in our 1908 church, such as feasts and weddings or items salvaged when the church itself was demolished in 1966. Perhaps you can convince them to put in writing details or simple personal stories, recalling what they remember or heard of the early Feasts, our nuns, priests and pastors, our churches, rural Melrose Park or what they recall hearing from their parents and older relatives. Recording verbal information from those older than you might open new windows into forgotten areas. If so requested, the archive can make copies of material that people entrust to us and we can then return the originals to the owner; please do not write on the originals, rather make all notations on a separate piece of paper.

Handwritten contributions need not be in some elegant format, nor do they have to read like a novel; they simply need to be informative and legible. Your story could relate to something quaint or something important. It could describe segments of your personal story growing up and maturing in Melrose Park or recall the early years of our parish that you heard from your grandparents. But this is a task that cannot be done effectively in one sitting.

For those managing and sustaining the archive, their involvement and work has no end. You can help them by looking for dormant material, but also by providing information obtained through actual personal research, by interacting with others that you know and by offering relevant suggestions and information. They are counting on you.

This archive initiative is not a one- or two-person effort. It requires the cooperation and help of others, especially older parishioners who might be able to provide material and information essential in writing our unique story – a story born out of strong ethnic traditions and profound devotion to La Madonna del Carmine, which has remained undiminished for the past 120 years. The driving force for all of us is the unwavering devotion to the Mother of God, a personal tribute to our immigrant ancestors and a desire to lay out a path for the next generation to follow.

The archive is managed by our parishioner, Victor Nicodemo. You can reach Victor at (708) 681-3818. Also, you can mail or hand-deliver documents to the parish rectory in a manila envelope identified as “OLMC Archive;” please include your name, address and phone number. We thank you for any help that you can provide.

Fight the Flu

Hai Solomon, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. and Gloria Kroc, R.N., M.L.I.S.

Cold temperatures, overheated buildings, coughing and sneezing all around. Flu season is here again. Each year, thousands of people in the United States die from the flu and flu complications. Getting a yearly flu vaccination is the most effective thing a person can do to avoid the flu.

Influenza (flu) is a viral infection that attacks the respiratory system. Common symptoms of the flu are fever, aching muscles, cough, headache, chills, and fatigue. Flu is spread through the air when an infected person breathes, talks or coughs. Flu germs also can live a long time on objects that have been touched by an infected person and can be spread to someone else who touches those objects. The virus is very contagious. Those who are most susceptible are children, adults over 65, people with weakened immune systems, and those with other chronic diseases. These people are also more likely to be sicker and get complications such as pneumonia, if they do get the flu.

If a healthy person gets the flu, usually he can recover at home in about a week. Plenty of rest, drinking more liquids and taking over-the-counter pain relievers will ease the symptoms. If an older person or someone with a chronic illness gets the flu, he may need to be monitored by a doctor and prescribed antiviral or other medication. Chances are his recovery will be slower than that of a healthy person.

Prevention is the best weapon against the flu. Frequent hand washing, using hand sanitizers, disinfecting much-used surfaces like doorknobs, computer keyboards, television remotes and telephones will eliminate many germs. Sneezing or coughing into a tissue and keeping hands away from the face also helps, as does staying out of crowds as much as possible. And if you or a family member does get sick, stay at home and away from other people for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.

The best preventative measure against the flu is to get a yearly flu shot. These are widely available at convenient locations, such as local pharmacies. Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance policies will pay for all or part of the cost. Only a small number of people should not get a flu shot. These are those with certain allergies, such as to eggs, if they have had a previous bad reaction to the shot or had Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which is a severe paralyzing illness. Your doctor can best guide you if you have doubts about being immunized. As with any vaccine, a person should not receive this when they are feeling unwell. It is better to come back later when healthy.

It is no fun to be sick. It is inconvenient and often painful. Everyone has a personal responsibility to keep themselves as healthy as possible. Get a flu shot!

Hai Solomon, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. • Gynecology

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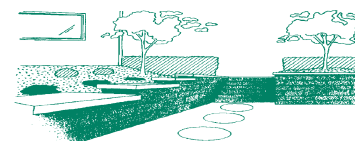
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New Chapters for a Building ... and a Family

Starting over again is never easy. For Melrose Park resident and funeral director Michael Carbonara, starting over again after decades of service to area residents amid the familiar surroundings of a chapel at Cumberland and Lawrence in Norridge was an especially daunting task. Decisions were almost as difficult as those he had helped grieving individuals make for over 30 years. Similarly, it was the unconditional support of friends and family that eventually inspired him to give up “freelancing” in the industry and begin a new chapter in his career.

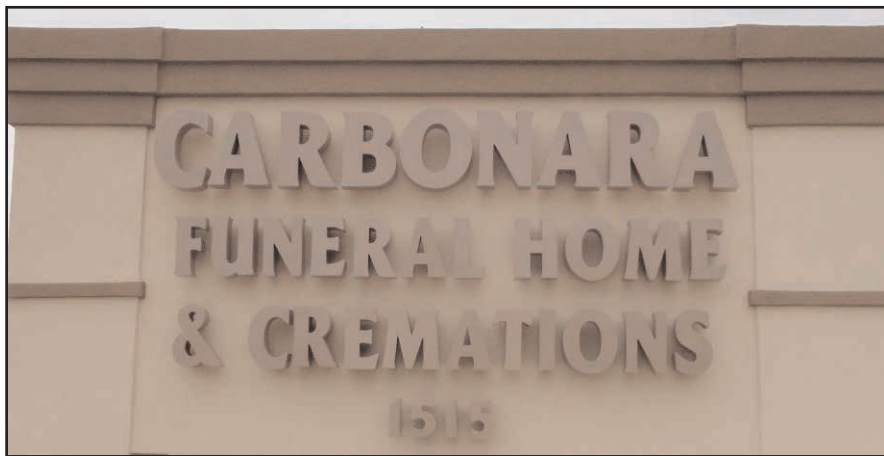
After looking at available properties in the area with his wife, Mary Lynn, a most unlikely parcel in Melrose Park has been transformed into a warm and welcoming gathering place for the bereaved to mourn, reflect, cry, laugh and pray together.

The property at 1515 N. 25th Ave., in Melrose Park, had been the home of Jay-Tee Screw Machine Products for many years until the company was acquired by L.D. Redmer. Built in the early 1960s, the building had seen better days but was still architecturally sound. After closing on the purchase in April 2014, Carbonara contacted former Melrose Park resident Luca Mariconda, vice president of the Joseph Nicholas Construction Group for expert advice.

After drawing up design plans for the 10,000 square ft. property and getting them approved by Michael, Mary Lynn and their sons, Joseph and Michael, Mariconda and his crews set out to work, taking on the challenge of converting the deteriorating machine shop into a functioning and comforting chapel. “The bottom line was that the building had to be completely gutted before anything else could be accomplished,” Mariconda explained.

Carbonara continued to work through local chapels while passers-by on busy 25th Avenue watched the transformation take place over the next 14 weeks – from dingy and dilapidated Jay-Tee to a modern and spacious Carbonara Funeral Home & Cremations facility. At a recent private ceremony for immediate family and friends, Michael invited Pastor Miguel Alvarez of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Pastor Francisco Ortega of Sacred Heart Church to bless the building and those who come through its doors. An inviting foyer with a fireplace and seating leads the way to two chapels which can accommodate up to 80 people in each; the two rooms can also be converted into one large chapel, if needed. Offices, a conference room, a receiving area for flowers and a spacious coffee room are all on one level and ample parking for nearly 60 cars is adjacent to the building.

“I truly believe that we made the right decision for Melrose Park by improving this blighted property and for the people from all over who entrust us with arrangements for their loved ones,” said Carbonara. “My family and I consider it a blessing to locate here and a privilege to continue to serve the community.”



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Obituaries

Costa

Josephine Costa. Dearly beloved daughter of the late Joseph and Josephine Costa; loving sister of John (Carole), Rosalie (the late Felix) DeVivo, Frank (Jeanne), Marie (Sia) Zandpour and the late Frances Gullo and Sam; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

De La Torre

David De La Torre, age 27, passed away on Oct. 31, 2014. Beloved husband of Fabiola Ballesterus; loving father of Sophia and Eveline; cherished son of Bertha and the late Ismael; dearest brother of Carlos (Carmen), Alfonso (Angelica), Beronica (Luis), Otoniel (Yeraldin), Maria (Manuel) and Jennifer; devoted uncle of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Gillogg

Joanne Gillogg, age 65, formerly of Melrose Park, passed away on Oct. 24, 2014. Beloved wife of Joseph; dear mother of Lisa Marie (John) Gergen, Angela (Reinhard) Gergen and Gina Edith Butterfield; loving grandmother of Brittny, Michael and Haley; fond sister of Angela Frosolone; dear daughter of the late Frank and Pat Frosolone; friend of Carmen Gaudio. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home.

Gonzalez

Ricardo Gonzalez, age 65, of Melrose Park, passed away on Oct. 25, 2014. Beloved husband of Rosa; loving father of Richy, Karla and Rosy; dear grandfather of Richy, Tristan, Max and Alfonso. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Interment private.

Gurrieri

Carmen P. Gurrieri, age 92, U.S. Navy WWII veteran; Devoted husband of Marie "Babe" (nee Guzzone); beloved father of Rosalind (Bob) Nonneman, Karen (Keith) Clark, Maria (Rick) Beltrame and Rick (Christine) Gurrieri; loving grandfather of Michael, Nicholas, Christopher, Brandon, Brittany, Kaitlyn, Carly, Christina, Mia and Michele; dear brother of Mary (the late Paul) Alongi, Josephine (the late Robert) Knackstadt, the late John (the late Theresa) Gurrieri and the late Sue Fox; fond uncle to many. Carmen was a member of Italian American War Veterans Belmonte Post #4, Divine Savior Holy Name Society, Past State Commander of ITAM and a member of the St. Joseph Di Bagheria Society. Arrangements by Cumberland Chapels. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Christ the King Mausoleum.

Impastato

Catherine Impastato. Dearly beloved wife of the late Michael; loving mother of Carol (Louis) Cervone, Catherine (Vincent) Cuomo, Cathleen (Phil) Torina, Susan (the late Craig) Bastek, and the late Michael Impastato; cherished grandmother of seven; great-grandmother of nine; dear sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Krajnovich

Virginia Krajnovich, nee Meyer, age 83, passed away on Oct. 16, 2014. Beloved wife of the late George; dear mother of George (Linda), Michael, Arleen, Robert, Debbie, David and Danny; loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Virginia was a caregiver to all who knew her. She loved taking care of her feral cats, squirrels and birds as well as the occasional deer that visited her at her Wisconsin home. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Interment Elm Lawn Cemetery.

Lullo

Dolores Lullo, age 84, of Melrose Park. Wife of the late Daniel Lullo, Sr.; mother of Tony (Rhonda), Michael (Sandy), John, the late Daniel Lullo, Jr., and the late Thomas Lullo; grandmother of Gabriel (Kelsey), Amanda, Kelly (Ronald), Michael, Lauren, Shelley (Heath), Natalie, Gianna (Eric), Stephanie and Zachary; great-grandmother of Anthony Spata and Addison Lullo; aunt to many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Millitello

Joseph L. Millitello, Master Sgt. of U.S. Army. Dearly beloved husband of Anna Marie Mari (nee Millitello); loving stepfather of John (Leslie); cherished grandfather of Jillian, Allyssa, Brittny; dear brother of Father Cosmo; fond uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven.

Pernice

Richard J. "Ricky" Pernice Jr., age 32. Beloved son of Richard, Sr., and Mary Rose (nee DeFelice) Pernice; cherished brother of Rosina Patsy Pernice; cherished grandson of the late Patsy DeFelice, the late Rose Cecola, and Mary and the late Joseph Pernice; loving nephew of Joseph (Diane Warner) Pernice, Salvatore and Michael DeFelice and the late Fenno DeFelice; special friend of many. Arrangements by Montclair Lucania Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Ricky loved the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Cubs.

Reyes-Sanchez

Salvador Reyes-Sanchez, age 54, of Melrose Park, passed away on Oct. 21, 2014. Beloved husband of Rafaela. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Interment private.

Wuttke

Hildegard Wuttke, age 94, of Melrose Park, passed away on Oct. 24, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Alfred; loving mother of Linda; dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held at First English Lutheran Church Whitewater, Wis. Interment was at Richmond Cemetery in Whitewater, Wis.

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