Dear Neighbors,

I cannot believe how much has changed since my last Rose letter. People are being told to remain in their homes and are being limited to what they can purchase at the grocery store. Major sporting events have been delayed or cancelled. Wedding receptions, celebrations of all kinds, and long-planned vacations have been put on hold indefinitely. Funerals are confined to immediate family. Most church services are held over the Internet. Police and fire departments are dispersing crowds wherever they encounter them.

In that vein, this year’s Taste of Melrose Park and Hispanofest, that attract thousands, have been cancelled due to our concern for people’s safety.

Not since World War II has America collectively come together to fight a common enemy. Today, our real heroes are the doctors, nurses, scientists, first responders, postal employees and those in retail businesses who on a daily basis put their own lives at risk to treat, protect, serve or work with people who could be carriers of this disease.

Almost as frightening as the disease itself, is not knowing when this will end, or how, or what we as a country and a community will look like when it does. Just as the Great Depression, World War II, the 1960s, and 9/11 all changed America, so will COVID-19, which even in its short duration has taken a foothold and changed us already.

We now find purpose and pleasure in the simpler things, such as enjoying family dinners around the table, rediscovering long-ago pleasures like reading books, doing jigsaw puzzles, playing board games or just engaging in conversation. This is a time like no other, the distractions of our once normal everyday life have disappeared, affording us an opportunity to re-examine our priorities, and rediscover what is really important, which for the majority of us will be family and home, which in a time of crisis is truly our safe haven.

And in order to do our part in keeping you safe, visit our village website at www.melrosepark.org for the latest updates on the coronavirus epidemic. I also want to thank our Police, Fire, Homeland Security and Public Works departments for their extreme efforts in keeping Melrose Park safe and clean.

As we continue to overcome the challenges due to the pandemic, I encourage you to take time to complete the important 2020 census survey. Now, more than ever, is the time for Melrose Parkers to be counted in order for our municipality to get the federal resources needed for our community and the economy.

The census data is used for securing resources for services and infrastructure in Melrose Park, including health care, senior centers, jobs, government representation, roads, schools and businesses. More than $670 billion in federal funding flows back to the states and local communities each year based on census data which translates to $1,500 per person counted per year. Every person not counted will cost Melrose Park about $15,000 over the next 10 years.

Your responses to the 2020 census are safe, secure and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics, they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to the US Census Bureau surveys are kept completely confidential. The Census Bureau has sent survey information to each of your homes. In addition, they are using the Internet to collect this information in an effort to process your data more efficiently. You can access and take the brief survey online at https://my2020census.gov. If you prefer to do it by telephone, please call one of the following numbers: 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish).

Lastly, the coronavirus may have confined us to our homes, but it will never confine the American spirit. Hang in there Melrose Parkers!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron Serpico
Important
Melrose Park Village Hall Notice ...
Effective as of April 27, 2020,
all Village of Melrose Park employees and visitors
conducting business at the Village Hall will be
required to wear protective masks.

New Stickers Can be Purchased at the Village Hall.
Sticker Fee for Passenger Vehicles is
$30 for Two Years (2020-2021).
Truck Fees Vary Based on the Type of Class/Plate
and Are Good for One Year Only (2020).
Seniors Over 65 Years of Age are Free.
One free two-year sticker for a passenger vehicle or
one free one-year sticker for a B-Truck vehicle
registered to a senior in the household,
a second senior sticker will be sold for half price.
Acceptable proof for a senior sticker is
a valid driver’s license or state ID card,
For more information, please call (708) 343-4000
or visit www.melrosepark.org.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO PURCHASE STICKERS.
NO EXCEPTIONS.
We are Still Learning About COVID-19, How it Spreads and the Severity of the Illness it Causes

From the Desk of Chief Phil Schwartz
Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security – Public Safety

It is thought that COVID-19 is mainly spread through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. Some people who are infected often have symptoms of illness. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). If you need to go out, please stay at least 6 feet away from others.

Practice social and physical distancing. Do not gather in groups. Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings. Please stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people.

It may be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Wash your hands before touching your eyes, nose or mouth because that’s how germs enter our bodies. Wash your hands after you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc.

Mayor Ronald M. Serpico wants all Melrose Park residents to be as informed as possible about COVID-19. Listed below is a partial list of websites, for more links and information visit the village website at www.melrosepark.org or visit the department’s website at www.mpdes.org.

The mayor has also set up a voicemail and email for village questions on the coronavirus. You can send your questions to covid19@melrosepark.org or you can leave a message on our COVID-19 voicemail – (708) 649-8077.

The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America:
Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU):
https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html.
Special Shopping Hours for Seniors & Vulnerable Populations (Statewide): https://irma.org/covid-19-senior-shopping/.

Important Village of Melrose Park Notice Regarding Use of Face Masks ...

On April 27, the village board passed Ordinances 2317 and 2318, which require the use of face masks or other facial coverings at all village facilities and at essential businesses. Village employees and visitors will be required to wear face coverings while at village facilities. Essential businesses, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations, will also require all visitors and employees to wear masks or face coverings while on premises. Other social distancing practices, like maintaining a 6-foot distance between people at these locations, will also be required under the ordinances. The village board took these measures based on CDC recommendations as ways to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found on the village’s website — www.melrosepark.org.
Questions and Answers Concerning the Reopening of Westlake Facility
Westlake Facility Opening FAQs

This is the most up-to-date information on the Westlake facility.
As new information becomes available, these FAQs will be updated.
This $17 million project is being paid for 75 percent by the Federal Government and 25 percent by the state of Illinois.

• When is the Westlake facility opening?

• Can I go there for COVID-19 (coronavirus) testing?
  No. Admissions are only for patient transfers from existing hospitals.

• Will the facility be dangerous to the community?
  No.

• Will it reopen as a general hospital when this pandemic crisis is over?
  Not determined at this time.

• Who is operating the facility?
  Not decided yet.

• Where can I find more information or who can I call for further details?
  No contact information is available at this time.

• Can I go there for NON COVID-19 medical issues?
  No.

• Will the facility accept Medicare and Medicaid?
  Not applicable at this.

• Who will have oversight of the facility?
  Presently this project is being handled by the Army Corp of Engineers and complete oversight of the facility has not been determined yet.

• Who is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations?
  Not finalized at this time.

• Will the facility have professional credentialed medical staff and if so where will they be coming from?
  Not determined at this time.

• Will the facility allow visitors in the event a relative is hospitalized there?
  Most likely yes.

• What is the process for being admitted to Westlake?
  Only existing patients being transferred from other hospitals will be admitted to the Westlake facility.

• In the event I have the COVID-19 virus and my condition worsens, can I go directly to the Emergency Room at Westlake and be evaluated/admitted there for care?
  No.

• What is being done to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within and around the Westlake facility?
  There will be adequate security and medical requirements in place to ensure the safety in and around the facility.

• What measures are being put in place to ensure the Westlake facility has appropriate isolation areas for COVID-19 patients?
  Regulatory isolation measures and infrastructure requirements are being constructed as part of the current renovation process.

• What is the care capacity at Westlake for a larger number of patients in the event there is an escalating outbreak?
  The facility will have increased patient capacity from 200 beds to 435 beds.

• Will Westlake remain open after the COVID-19 pandemic is over?
  Not determined at this time.

• What is the telephone number of Westlake?
  Not available at this time.

• Will any of the 600+ employees previously at Westlake have an opportunity to work at the new Westlake facility?
  If qualified, they may be employed.

• Will Westlake remain open as our preferred community hospital after the COVID-19 needs are over?
  Not determined at this time.

• Will any of the previous services like Occupational Therapy and Senior Services at Westlake be available when it re-opens for COVID-19 care?
  No.

• Will Westlake be hiring operational and medical personnel and if so, where does one apply?
  Not determined at this time.

• When can patients with confirmed COVID-19 be discharged from Westlake?
  The decision to discharge a COVID-19 patient will be made in consultation with the patient’s clinical care team.

• Will there be an emergency room?
  No.
Resident Response

Dear Mayor Serpico …
On behalf of the city of Northlake and our Police Department, I want to thank you for the assistance offered our city during the COVID-19 test site operation.

During the planning stage of the test site, Director Pitassi extended full mutual aid to our city to manage the security concerns due to anticipated high traffic volumes. Northlake was in crisis phase when Sam was the first law enforcement officer to step forward. I realize I do not have to tell you this, but in times of trouble, you quickly realize who your real friends are. I know Northlake can count Melrose Park and your leadership team as one of them.

The professionalism of the public safety officers assigned speaks to the type of leadership he brings to the village. Many persons were tested at the Northlake site and the Melrose Park Police Department had an important part in keeping the operation safe while testing was being performed.

Please extend our thanks to the officers and let Sam know our city stands ready should Melrose Park require police assistance in the future.

• Yours truly,
   Norman Nissen, Jr.
   Chief of Police, City of Northlake

Dear Director of Police Pitassi and Special Assistant Caira …
I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Officer Verde who recently provided a squad funeral escort to Ret. Detective Brendan O. Dobbin to his final resting place at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. The professional assistance with this event provided by your department is not to be overlooked. Please know that we stand ready to return the courtesy.

Please extend my appreciation to your officer for his assistance.

• Sincerely,
  David Disselhorst
  Chief of Police, Village of Norridge

Dear Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame, Fire Department Members and EMTs …
Prior to our mother’s passing on Feb. 28, 2020, she needed ambulance service on several occasions. The service provided was not just quick and professional, but exhibited a level of care and concern that each would want for their own family members.

Once again we were reminded why we are proud to call Melrose Park our home.

• With great respect and thanks,
  The Family of Madelene Panico
  Louis Panico III, Nancy Ann Lorenzo,
  Joseph Panico and Francine Tindall

Dear Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame …
It has been brought to the attention of the EMS Office of the excellent pre hospital care that was provided by James Bretz, Jason Kezios and members of the Melrose Park Fire Department on Oct. 29, 2019.

Crew responded for the possible shooting victim. Once the scene was secured the crew found an 18-year-old female with several gunshot wounds to the face and neck. Bystanders were holding pressure to the face and neck when crew assumed care of the patient. Patient was found to have an entry wound to the left jaw, GSW to the left shoulder and a laceration to the right thumb. Due to the nature of her injuries, cervical immobilization was done, bleeding controlled and ALS care initiated. Patient was stabilized and taken to the operating room for repair of her injuries.

The excellent teamwork of all crew members involved provided the best possible outcome for this patient.

The patient continues to recover at home from her injuries with no neurological deficits.

The EMS Office recognizes these individuals for their delivery of exemplary pre hospital care.

• Mark Cichon, D.O., FACEP, FACOEP (dist)
  Professor and Chair
  Department of Emergency Medicine
  Medical Director of EMS and Aeromedical Services
  Loyola University Chicago-Stritch School of Medicine

Dear Mayor Serpico …
On behalf of the city of Northlake and our Police Department, I want to thank you for the assistance offered our city during the COVID-19 test site operation.

During the planning stage of the test site, we called a meeting and I was very relieved to see Phil Schwartz in attendance. Having the chief of Melrose Park Department of Public Safety – Homeland Security in attendance to assist with mutual aid played a very important role in our plan.

As I have said, in crisis phase you realize who your real friends are. I know Northlake can count Melrose Park and your leadership team as one of them.

The professionalism of the public safety officers assigned speaks to the type of leadership Phil brings to the village. Many persons were tested at the Northlake site and the Melrose Park Public Safety – Homeland Security Department had an important part in keeping the operation safe while testing was being performed.

Please extend our thanks to the officers and let Phil know our city stands ready should Melrose Park require police assistance in the future.

• Yours truly,
  Norman Nissen, Jr.
  Chief of Police, City of Northlake

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi …
A little note and a bag of goodie to show our appreciation for what you do for our community, especially in these everchanging times. We are fervently praying for your peace and protection over you and your family. We hope you find comfort in God’s promises in verses Psalm 91:10-11.

• New Life Community Church
  Melrose Park

Stay Home – Save Lives!

Check Out www.MelrosePark.org to Learn More About Our Community!
COVID-19 Resources to Help Businesses Survive the Coronavirus

The coronavirus has been causing financial difficulties for businesses throughout our community and the U.S. The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce & Community Development (MPCCCD) has put together a COVID-19 (coronavirus) resource page on their website (www.mpcccd.org) which includes access to resources that can help businesses and industries navigate this difficult situation.

As government authorities continue to move on strategies for economic recovery of the economy, it’s important to understand what resources you have available to you as a business owner. From disaster assistance loans to fee forgiveness from banks and credit card companies, there are many resources offering relief to struggling small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Connect with the MPCCCD to stay informed and take advantage of the resources that can lessen the impact of this crisis on your business. Visit www.mpcccd.org for a complete listing of resources.

SCAN the QR Code (at right) with your smart phone or visit https://mpcccd.org/covid19-resources/ to access information and resources for businesses regarding COVID-19.

Here are Some of the Key Resources Included on the MPCCCD Website . . .

Disaster Assistance Loans from the Small Business Association (SBA)
The SBA is offering disaster assistance low-interest loans for small businesses affected by the coronavirus. These loans can be used to pay off outstanding debts, payroll and any other bills they are unable to pay.

Paycheck Protection Program
An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance
This loan advance will provide up to $10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties.

SBA Express Bridge Loans
Enables small businesses that currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly.

SBA Debt Relief
The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)
Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) are local offices sponsored by the Small Business Association (SBA) that can help small businesses navigate through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes extensive help with access to resources and recovery planning.
Statewide Economic Injury Declaration
Small businesses may be eligible for low-interest, economic injury disaster loans up to $2M per business. The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is working with federal and local partners to ensure assistance is available for small businesses seeking loans, counseling and preparedness planning. The DCEO Regional Economic Development Team will be working with local businesses to secure these resources.

Illinois Treasurer Office – Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program
The Illinois Treasurer Office has launched an impact investment loan program of up to $250 million in deposits available to financial institutions throughout the state. Through this program, the Illinois Treasurer’s Office works with approved financial institutions to provide loans to small businesses or nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
For more information, please visit https://illinoistreasurer.gov/Invest_in_Illinois/Small_Business_COVID-19_Relief_Program.

COVID-19 and Unemployment Benefits
The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributable to COVID-19. IDES adopted emergency rules that make the unemployment insurance system responsive to the pandemic issue.

EXIM Assistance to U.S. Customers and Lenders
The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced relief measures for exporters and financial institutions that may have been affected by COVID-19 (coronavirus).

For additional assistance and guidance with COVID-19 economic recovery programs, please contact the MPCCCD at info@mpcccd.org.

Everyone Has the Right to Live Where They Choose
In the exercise of its power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare, it is declared to be the public policy of the village to assure fair housing and freedom from discrimination throughout the community, to protect the community from the effects of residential segregation by race, color, religion, sex, physical or mental handicap, familial status or national origin, and to secure to its citizens the economic, social, and professional benefits of living in an integrated and stable society.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Administers The Federal Fair Housing Act
Every first Monday of the month the Fair Housing Review Board meets at 6 p.m. in the Village of Melrose Park (1000 N. 25th Ave.). If you feel you have been discriminated in any way while renting, purchasing or selling a home you are welcome to attend our meetings to present your case.

Village of Melrose Park • James M. Vasselli, Office of the Village Attorney • (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4487
2020 Census
Safety and Security

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe.
Your responses to the 2020 Census are protected by law. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies you individually. Every Census Bureau employee and contractor is sworn for life to always protect your information. Violating that oath carries stiff penalties for all Census Bureau workers — a fine up to $250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

The Census Bureau uses your information for statistical purposes only, such as helping to inform decisions for new hospitals, schools and roads.

Responses to the 2020 Census are secure.
The Census Bureau has a team of cybersecurity experts who monitor and protect all agency technology around the clock. Our cybersecurity meets the highest standards for protecting your information. From the moment we collect your responses, our goal — and legal obligation — is to keep them safe. The Census Bureau’s technology is protected by strong authentication and authorization methods and is fully “locked down” so that it can only be accessed by fully vetted individuals who are trained in data and cyber security. These individuals make sure we keep pace with evolving threats and security advancements.

No matter how you respond, your information remains protected.
The Census Bureau designed the information collection process with layers of security to keep your information safe and secure.

Whether you respond online, by phone, by mail, or if a census employee comes to your door, your information is collected, transmitted and kept secure throughout the process. When you are on our secure website, you can verify it’s safe by making sure the address begins with ‘HTTPS’ and includes a lock symbol. If you’re visited by a census employee, know that the technology they use has the same strong security controls, and is fully compliant with the standards mandated for Federal systems.

The Census Bureau works with the federal intelligence cyber community and industry experts to stay abreast of emerging cyber threats to continuously update protections and safeguards for your information.

Connect with us:
@uscensusbureau
For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Shape your future
START HERE >
We are now about one month into the 2020 Census and we have had nearly 45 percent of the households in Melrose Park that have completed the brief Census Survey and many of those have been completed online ... Thank You!

For those that have not yet completed the census, please complete it for your residence today. Completing the census has always been important and for everyone that is counted it represents about $1,500 per year in funding for local communities or about $15,000 over the 10 years before we will be doing the 2030 Census.

Obviously, every dollar is critical but that statement has never meant more than it means now with all of the emergency dollars that are being distributed related to the coronavirus pandemic, which will undoubtedly have a significant impact on normal funding over the next 10 years.

If you haven’t completed your census yet, please review the FAQs below for more information regarding this year’s census and most importantly, please take the census today!

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**WHAT IS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS?**
Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provides the basis for distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs – impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. It also is used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts, and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?**
Responding to the census is not only your civic duty, it also affects the amount of funding our community receives, how we plan for the future and our representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census is used to:
- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses, and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

**WHEN WILL I COMPLETE THE CENSUS?**
In March, everyone received notices in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. The census is now open and needs to be completed online, over the phone or by mail. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Census Bureau is temporarily changing how we collect information through our ongoing demographic and economic activity surveys. Instead of visiting you in person, the bureau will likely contact you by phone to participate in one of our surveys if you have not completed it for your address. Later in the summer, census workers may go door-to-door for anyone that has not completed the census, but not before the “social distancing” policy allows it.

Please take it online at https://my2020census.gov/login or by phone at 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish). If you have not completed your census questionnaire, please take it today!

**WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REQUESTED?**
The decennial census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. When completing the census, you should count everyone living in your household on April 1, 2020.

**WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED?**
The Census Bureau will never ask for:
- Social Security numbers.
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

**WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**
Strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents’ information private. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment for up to five years, or both. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI or CIA) can access or use your personal information at anytime. Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes that help inform important decisions, including how much federal funding our community receives.

The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

**WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE?**
You can learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting https://www.census.gov.
Birth Certificates
Birth Certificates – $15 each, $4 per additional certification or copy requested.
We only provide birth certificates if the individual was born in Melrose Park. Birth certificates can be only be obtained by the individual themselves, a parent, or legal guardian.
A valid ID is required or in a legal guardian case, the proper documentation is required along with the valid ID.

Death Certificates
Death Certificates (Including Fetal Death) – $17 each, $6 per additional certification or copy requested.

Vehicle Sticker Information
New stickers can be purchased at the Village Hall. Pricing varies based on type of vehicle.

Important Melrose Park Village Hall Notice ...
Effective as of April 27, 2020, all Village of Melrose Park employees and visitors conducting business at the Village Hall will be required to wear protective masks.

Mayor Serpico, Director of Police Pitassi and Members of the MP FOP Lodge 19 Provide Meals for Workers at Westlake and Gottlieb

Mayor Serpico, Director of Police Sam Pitassi and Melrose Park Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 19 representatives Steve Pesce, Sam Chiappetta, Dennis Natale and Michael Scudiero recently delivered meals provided by Jimmy’s Red Hots and Scudiero’s to the team of construction workers rebuilding the Westlake facility as well as to the doctors and nurses at Gottlieb Hospital.
The mayor and reps from the Police Department thanked the groups for their efforts and hard work, and expressed how grateful and blessed the world is to have dedicated people like them selflessly doing what they can to help others during this critical time. They are all heroes.
All Melrose Park Garage Sales and Block Parties are Cancelled Until Further Notice.

As of March 30, Bulk Pickup and Yard Waste Pickup is Temporarily Suspended – Regular Trash Day and Recycling Collection Will Continue

Bulk pickup and yard waste pickup is temporarily suspended due to the demands being placed on trash collection companies during this difficult time.

Regular trash-day collection will continue on your scheduled days.

You will be notified when bulk and yard waste pickup is once again operational.

Thank you for your understanding.

Lend a Helping Hand . . .
Donate to Help Those Impacted by the Coronavirus

Want to help others in our community?

Please consider making a charitable contribution to your church, your favorite charity or the Melrose Park Sports & Family Benefit Fund at 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160, to assist those less fortunate and impacted by the COVID-19 disease.

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


**In Memory of Melrose Park Police Officer Joseph T. Cappello III**

*Nov. 6, 1964-April 24, 2020*

Officer Joseph T. Cappello III was an important part of the Melrose Park Police Department and he will be missed. Always dependable and trustworthy, Officer Cappello worked hard to build relationships in the community. He served the people of Melrose Park with integrity and will be remembered as a dedicated public servant.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Officer Joseph T. Cappello III.

Officer Joseph Cappello, or as I knew him, Uncle Joe, Uncle Joe Da Cop, or even a lispy “Unca Josef” when I was really young, would always have some kind of smart aleck joke ready for me as I walked in the door of the house he shared with my Auntie Barb and my late Grandma Virg. From his perch in the kitchen he would remark “Oh, you’re a tough lacrosse player chick now?” when I was in high school. When I moved to Atlanta after college, he had a triumphant smirk after I told him I went to a shooting range and shot a gun for the first time with some co-workers. “Now you’re gonna have to get a gun of your own,” he would say and joke about having me come back to hunt with him sometime.

But, the teasing that has stuck out the most in my memories is how he would refer to me as “Lois Lane” when I was pursuing a degree in journalism and entered the media world post-grad. So here I am, fulfilling my aunt’s request and trying to channel my best Lois Lane Action. Time for Joe to check in with a new status – “Angel Action.”

Joseph T. Cappello III was born Nov. 6, 1964. Chicago was always his home and he grew up being a typical “neighborhood boy.” If you’ve grown up in and around Chicago, especially in Melrose Park, you know exactly what that means and how that feels. Family can always be found in the neighborhood, whether you are related or not. He went to grammar school at St. Tarrissus in Chicago, Ill., and graduated in 1979. He went on to attend Notre Dame Boys High School in Niles, Ill., and graduated in 1983.

His career in law enforcement started on Dec. 16, 1985, when he became a Cook County Sheriff’s Court Service Officer. Most of his 31 years with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office was spent in the Warrant and Eviction Unit, or as many knew it from his Facebook check-ins – “Eviction Action” or “Warrant Action.”

One of the most notable accomplishments whilst working for that unit happened the week of his birthday in 1999. Cappello was with his partner at the time, Joe Chause (you can’t walk more than a block in Melrose Park without running into a “Joe.” Us Italians aren’t exactly creative when it comes to names, but I digress), on a routine eviction. They found the resident, Eugene Lamont Stinson, to be suspicious when he refused to answer several routine questions. You can tell this was the ’90s, because all the articles about this eventual capture and arrest make sure to highlight the magical powers of the state’s computer system tracking Stinson down as someone on the top of the FBI Most Wanted List.

Joe retired from the Cook County Sheriff’s Office Nov. 30, 2016, but he couldn’t hang up his police hat just yet. Being a first responder was all he knew and it was in his blood. His grandfather was in the police force as a sheriff and was then a Chicago fireman for 25 years. His father was a Chicago Police Department officer who retired with over 30 years of service. So, Joe did what he did best and took on the role of a part-time patrolman with the Melrose Park Police Department in December 2016, a role he held up until the time of his death.

For Coppo, as many of them on the force called him, seeing his police lineage continue with his son Joey becoming a Chicago Police Department officer was one of the proudest moments of his life. The proudest moment besides marrying his wonderful wife, Barb, on May 22, 1993, of course.

Family and friends of all forms (and species) were the most important to Joe. And if you were in his circles, you could feel it. I mean, the 152 cars that came out in a procession for him is Exhibit A.

Before his mother-in-law Virginia De Stefano died, you could find him watching History Channel specials, old movies, and shooting the breeze with her while one of her cigarettes sat burning in the ashtray on the kitchen table. He was a constant fixture in that kitchen to keep her company. He would make sure to show his grandson Dominic some of “city life” so he wouldn’t be too much of a “corn-fed country boy.” His dogs and hunting were his happy place and you could always tell his delight with new pheasant prizes to put up on his walls. His former partner at the Cook County Sheriff’s Office, Ray Greves, recently died of cancer, and Joe did all that he could to make sure his wife and kids were taken care of and had the support they needed in their time of grief.

Although Joe spent his life preventing and protecting people from trouble, he was known for causing a special formula of his own trouble. It was in the forms of trying to play matchmaker for his son, poking fun at all of his nieces and nephews for living in “prissy” Chicagoland counties and giving goofy nicknames to those he loved. He is back with his partner Greves now, hopefully not getting into too much aforementioned trouble.

So, in honor of “Joe Da Cop” or Coppo, here’s my best attempt of some Lois Lane Action. Time for Joe to check in with a new status – “Angel Action.”

A tribute from Veronica Lynn De Stefano, niece of Officer Joseph T. Cappello III.
A Message from Director of Police
Sam C. Pitassi

Visit the Melrose Park Police Department Website at www.melroseparkpd.com

- For Melrose Park Police Department General Information
- To Pay Tickets
- To Obtain Police Reports

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.

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The Melrose Park Police Department Would Like to Graciously Thank the Many Individuals, Businesses and Organizations That Have Provided Much-Appreciated Support for Our Team During These Challenging Times

Athenian Foods
Avlon Industries
Cafe 23
Cerniglia Company
Chelas
Clyde’s Donuts
Costco
D & P Construction
Home Depot
Josephine Caira
Menards
Midwest Foods

New Life Church
NorthPark Medical Group
Dr. Anthony J. Martino
Pan American Bank
School District 89
Dr. David Negron Superintendent
Scudiero’s
Taverna
Walther Christian Academy
Tim Bouman, Principal
Windy City Car Wash
A Message from
Director of Fire Dept.
Rick Beltrame

Home Fire Safety
Learn how your family can prevent home fires, escape from a home fire in two minutes and recover after a home fire.

Did you know that if a fire starts in your home you may have as little as two minutes to escape? During a fire, early warning from a working smoke alarm plus a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives. Learn what else to do to keep your loved ones safe!

Top Tips for Fire Safety
• Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
• Test smoke alarms every month. If they’re not working, change the batteries.
• Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
• If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out and call for help. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.

Home Fire Preparedness
Get tips on escaping from a home fire, plus learn smart habits that can prevent a fire from starting.

The Seven Ways to Prepare for a Home Fire
• Install the right number of smoke alarms. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
• Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
• Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home.
• Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.
• Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell “Fire” to alert everyone that they must get out.
• Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.
• Teach household members to stop, drop and roll if their clothes should catch on fire.

Fire Safety Tips

Fire Safety for Kids – Protecting and Educating Your Children
Prevent Your Child from Starting Fires
The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that 300 people are killed and $280 million in property is destroyed each year as the result of children playing with fire.

• Keep matches, lighters and other ignitable substances in a secured location out of your child’s reach. Only use lighters with child-resistant features.
• Invest in flameless candles. These candles contain a light bulb rather than an open flame and take the danger out of your child knocking over a candle.

Help Your Child Survive a Fire
• Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
• Once a month check whether each alarm in the home is working properly by pushing the test button.
• Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low.
• Teach your children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
• Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home, and where to meet up outside.
• Practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year and at different times of the day. Practice waking up to smoke alarms, low crawling and meeting outside. Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.
• Emphasize “get out, stay out.” Only professional firefighters should enter a building that is on fire – even if other family members, pets or prized possessions are inside.
• Use quick-release devices on barred windows and doors. Security bars without release devices can trap you in a deadly fire. If you have security bars on your windows, be sure one window in each sleeping room has a release device.
• Consider getting escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the windows.
• Teach household members to stop, drop and roll if their clothes should catch on fire.
Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday
Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday
West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday
North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Republic Services is contracted to pick up your regular, everyday garbage and household items, such as couches, tables, mattresses, box springs, desks and chairs, etc.

Yard waste is collected on Friday from April through November and must be placed in a 33 gallon refuse can or biodegradable paper bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted.

All items are to be put out the night before or morning of scheduled garbage pickup.

Winston Park Area and West Melrose – Once garbage has been picked up, garbage container is to be removed from curb line and placed back on resident’s property.

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

24th Avenue to 10th Avenue – North Side from Cortez to North Avenue – Monday
24th Avenue to 10th Avenue – South Side from Cortez to Main Street – Tuesday
Winston Park Area – Wednesday
West Melrose – Thursday
North of North Avenue – Thursday

The village of Melrose Park Public Works Department pickup items includes all household remodeling items (homeowner/self – not contractor) such as kitchen and bathroom cabinets, drywall and cement.

First truck load (one) pickup free – after first truckload a fee will be charged or removed by the homeowner.

All items are to be put out the night before or before 7 a.m. the morning of scheduled garbage pickup. Once village trucks have passed and picked up items, the trucks will not pass again. Any other garbage items are not be left out and are to be put out for the next scheduled pickup.

This service is for Melrose Park residents in single and two-flat buildings only. Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

Village of Melrose Park Public Works summer hours are 7 a.m.-3 p.m. This information is also available at www.melrosepark.org.
MELROSE PARK STRONG
The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department is open during this difficult time. Public Works employees are in full force, diligently working, as always, striving to keep the Village of Melrose Park clean and well-maintained.
If you have request, please feel free to call Gary M. Marine, director of Public Works, at (708) 343-5128. Please note: Summers hours are in effect now. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

STAY SAFE.
2020 Senior Painting Program – Apply Now!

Mayor Service announced the Village of Melrose Park will once again offer the 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., (no interior painting or no interior or exterior carpentry) – are encouraged to complete the MP Painting Program Request Form (right) and mail it to:

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works
Attn.: Gary M. Marine, Director of Public Works
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160

2020 Senior Painting Program list will be closed July 31, 2020.
Only one item will be painted per year.
Get your request in early as the list fills fast.

Mayor Serpico’s MP Painting Program Request Form

Please print clearly.

Name _______________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________
Phone_______________________________________________
Age_________ Birthdate _______________________________
One item to be painted (please circle one only):

Fence    Garage Door    Railings
Other _______________________________________________

Village of Melrose Park Dial A Ride for Residents

The Village of Melrose Park Dial a Ride Program was initiated in 2000 to provide residents of our community with a new transportation resource to any location in the Melrose Park boundaries. Residents are encouraged to use the program to do their everyday needs such as grocery shopping, doctor appointments, etc. We are also handicapped accessible.

This service is available to residents Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make a reservation, please call (708) 343-7047. You can make appointments from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. We are closed on Saturdays and Sundays and all major holidays. To book an appointment or make a cancellation, you must call at least 24 hours in advance.

Policies and Procedures

Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Only two appointments a week can be made for miscellaneous use such as grocery shopping etc. Anyone using the van for doctor appointments, etc., may use the van up to three times a week.

You must stay at your destination you are going to for a minimum of an hour. Any residents of Victory Centre MUST go with the group provided at their center for grocery shopping, etc. Any doctor appointment can be made with us.

Only three shopping bags per rider. Forgotten items in the van will be returned at the next pickup date. Please note that our service is getting more popular every day so we will try to accommodate your needs to the best of our ability.

Call (708) 343-7047 for service.

MP Awarded Funds for Silver Creek Trail/Canoe & Kayak Launch

The village of Melrose Park was recently awarded $163,000 through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program for the development of the Silver Creek Interpretive Trail and Canoe & Kayak Launch. This project, located on the north bank of Silver Creek just west of First Avenue, will greatly enhance the improvements made in this area and will turn an overlooked natural area into an educational, relaxing and recreational new attraction for our community.

The development includes, new landscaping, native plantings, educational signage, a looped walking path, small picnic shelter, picnic table trailside benches and a canoe/kayak launch giving access to the Des Plaines River. All improvements will be designed to be ADA accessible.

The project is in partnership with Veterans Park District and construction should begin in the fall of this year.
A Note to All Melrose Park Residents Regarding Property Flood Protection, Flood Insurance, Village Assistance

As of Oct. 1, 2015, the Village of Melrose Park has earned a Class 8 Rating through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS); for this reason, flood insurance policies issued or renewed in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) qualify for a 10 percent discount off the premium cost.

Flood Protection Information
The Village of Melrose Park encourages these flood protection tips to be used:
- Stream Maintenance – Per the Clean Water Act and village ordinance, dumping into our ditches, creeks and sewers is strictly prohibited. This regulation helps prevent contamination to our water supply and lessens the chance of flooding. Grass clippings, leaves and branches can also cause problems as they can accumulate and plug the storm sewer channels. If your property is next to a ditch or creek, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Please feel free to contact the Public Works Department for information regarding the Village’s Creek Maintenance Program or reporting downed tree and other major blockages.
- Construction Requirements – Always check with the Building Department before you alter, re-grade or fill your property. A permit is needed to ensure that projects do not cause drainage problems to other properties and to ensure the general public welfare.
- Flood-Proofing – There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage – retrofitting (altering a building to eliminate or reduce flood damage) measures include:
  - Elevations – This involves raising the house so that the lowest floor is above protection level.
  - Relocation – Moving a building out of the flood zone is the surest way to protect it from a flood.
  - Floodwalls – These work to keep water from reaching your home by constructing barriers out of fill or concrete between the building and the flood water.
  - Dry Flood-Proofing – Makes the building’s walls and floors watertight so water does not enter.
  - Wet Flood-Proofing – Modifies the structure and relocates the contents so that when flood water enters the building there is little to no damage.

Important notice: Any alteration to a building or land requires a permit from the Building Department. Even re-grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit.

Flood Protection Assistance
If you have any concerns or issues with flooding or drainage, please call the Village of Melrose Park Sewer Department at (708) 531-5347 or the Building Department at (708) 343-4000. The Building Department can provide information, professional input and problem-solving measures without negatively affecting nearby neighbors. The Building Department can also provide a list of floodproofing contractors and conduct inspections.

Sand Bags
During a rainstorm or flood, sand bags are readily available for pickup at the Melrose Park Public Works Building located at 1002 N. 27th Ave. The Public Works Department also drops off sand bags throughout the village’s high impact flood areas.

Flood Event Suggestions
Please keep in mind, during a flood the less water pumped into the village’s storm sewer system the better. Please avoid excessive water use such as washing clothes, showering, washing dishes and toilet flushing. This provides time for the sewer system to stabilize and catch up to the large influx of water, thus, lowering the probability of a sewer backup in a building.

Be Prepared!
Have a plumber inspect sump pumps regularly!
If you experience flooding or drainage issues on your property, the village’s staff may be able to help. Remember to televise and clean sewer laterals to prevent sewer backups.

Leaf Removal, Street Sweeping, Storm Sewers and Swales
It is a violation of village code and the Clean Water Act to directly or indirectly discharge illicit substances into a storm sewer. The village strongly encourages that all grass clippings, leaves and yard waste be placed in approved containers and placed at the designated location for garbage pickup on scheduled pickup days.

Community Effort
The Public Works Department kindly requests your help. Throughout the village’s corporate boundaries there are many streets with curbside storm sewer catch basins, culverts and storm sewer pipes that are prone to trouble in heavy rains when they are blocked by leaves and grass clippings. The village street sweeping vehicle is not effective in removing large quantities of wet or dry leaves off the streets and curved areas. The street sweeper’s intended use is to remove road debris such as gravel, dirt and trash from the road surface by way of water and scrubbing brushes.

The Public Works Department respectfully asks that every village resident do their part in keeping our storm sewer grates, culvert pipe and swales in front of their property free from leaves and debris throughout the year. By doing this, this will greatly diminish the need for storm sewer cleanups, as well as, eliminating street inlet flooding due to leaves clogging the designed drainage path.

Flood Insurance
Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. The village strongly encourages property owners to invest in flood insurance. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. In some cases, flood insurance is required by a bank when people purchase a property and get a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies typically only cover the building's structure and not its contents. During the types of flooding that occur in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and personal items than there is to the structure.

Be sure you have contents coverage! Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection! In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

For more information regarding important Melrose Park flood information, please visit our village website at www.melrosepark.org and check under the Village Services tab. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding flooding in Melrose Park, please feel free to contact the Building Department at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4419. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
Building Department
Construction Project
Resource Information

Many residents and business owners will be performing construction projects to their homes and businesses.

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., call us at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4470, or send an email to rsorce@melrosepark.org.

Go to www.melrosepark.org to obtain the following Building Department forms.
• Debris Hauling Contractor’s License Application
• Vacant Property Registration
• Permit Application Page 1
• Permit Application Page 2
• Building Codes
• Certificate of Compliance Application
• Contractor’s 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.

The Village Zoning Map is available on the home page of the Village of Melrose Park website www.melrosepark.org.

MP Construction Hours Policy

No construction or alteration activities shall be carried on between the nighttime hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. On Saturday, no construction or alteration activities shall be carried on between the nighttime hours of 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. On Sunday and federal holidays, no construction or alteration activities shall be carried on between the nighttime hours of 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. Construction and alteration activities on Sundays and federal holidays shall not be accompanied by loud or annoying noises except in the case of an emergency. Emergency operations necessitating deviation from this section shall not be initiated until special permission is obtained from the director of Public Works. Construction or alteration activities with regard to public improvements and public service utilities, shall be exempt from this section.

Any person violating this section shall be fined not less than fifty dollars ($50), nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars ($750), for each offense, and each day’s violation of the same shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

Important
Melrose Park
Flood Relief
Information

It is that time of year when inclement weather can cause havoc with your most prized possession – your home. Arm yourself ahead of time by visiting the following links.

To determine if your house is in a floodplain and eligible for flood insurance:
www.melrosepark.org/docs/Determine_if_your_house_is_in_a_floodplain_and_eligible_for_flood_insurance.PDF

To find out what to do in case your home is flooded:
www.melrosepark.org/docs/What_to_do_in_case_your_home_is_flooded.PDF

To help prevent flooding in Melrose Park:
www.melrosepark.org/docs/Help_prevent_flooding_in_Melrose_Park_.PDF

For a FEMA Registration Flyer on how to apply for disaster relief:
www.melrosepark.org/docs/FEMA_REGISTRATION_FLYER(1)_(1).PDF

To view Real-Time River Gauge Near Melrose Park to Determine River Level:

To view or download Flood Inundation and Response 3 Stage Map:
www.melrosepark.org/docs/_inundation%20&%20Flood%20Response.pdf

The following two links give you important information regarding flood insurance regulations, qualifications, floodplain maps, and how to apply.

FEMA Flood Insurance Program:
http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/index.shtm

FEMA Map Service Center:
www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/map-service-center

The following link provides very important information on where to go for disaster assistance when a flood hits and answers many of a homeowner’s questions regarding disaster assistance.
http://www.disasterassistance.gov/
Lightning: What You Need to Know

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).

Lightning Safety Myths and Facts

**Myth:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year.

**Myth:** If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. “Bolts from the blue” can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

**Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

**Fact:** Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, not the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

**Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

**Fact:** The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

**Myth:** If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

**Fact:** Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

**Myth:** If you are in a house, you are 100 percent safe from lightning.

**Fact:** A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

**Myth:** If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

**Fact:** Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or lifelong injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.
Tornados

Before a Tornado

Know the terms used to describe tornado threats.

Tornado Watch – Tornados are possible. Watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter. If you see any rotating funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately by telephone to your local law enforcement agency. If you live in a mobile home, this is the time to move to a more substantial structure.

Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television and wait for the “all clear” announcement by authorities. Determine the best location in your home and office to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. Conduct periodic tornado safety drills with your family.

During a Tornado – Take the following actions when a Tornado Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, when sirens have been activated or when a tornado has been sighted near your area.

At Home – Go at once to your predetermined shelter (storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building). In a basement, go under the stairs, under a heavy piece of furniture or a workbench. Stay there until the danger has passed. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a small inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.
   - Go to the center of the room. Outside windows and walls may be penetrated by high speed, wind-borne missiles.
   - Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold onto it.
   - Use pillows, mattresses or cushions to protect your head and neck.
   - If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. If there isn’t a substantial shelter nearby, seek shelter in a low-lying area. Shield your head with your hands.

In a School, Nursing Home, Hospital, Shopping Center or at Work – Go to the designated storm shelter, basement or to an inside hallway on the lowest level.
   - Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and large hallways. Stay away from windows and open spaces.
   - Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold onto it. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself the smallest target possible. Squat low to the ground. Put your head down and cover your head and neck with your hands.
   - If in a high-rise building, go to small, interior rooms or hallways on the lowest level possible and seek protection as detailed above. Stay away from windows and outside walls.
   - Learn how to shut off the utilities to your home. Decide how and where your family will reunite.
   - If you live in a mobile home, identify a safe shelter outside of your mobile home such as a community park shelter, a neighbor or friend’s house, or a nearby public building.
   - In a mobile home, consider installation of an underground shelter that is large enough to accommodate you, your family or several other nearby mobile home residents.
   - Consider retrofitting your house with special fasteners, connectors and reinforcing bands to strengthen the structural integrity. Also, consider installing a reinforced concrete and steel “safe room” as a small room within your house, or excavated and installed beneath your garage floor.

In a Vehicle – Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Heavy rain, hail and traffic may impede your movement. Tornados can change directions quickly and can easily lift up a vehicle and toss it through the air.
   - Get out of the vehicle immediately and try to take shelter in a nearby building. Do not park under a bridge or underpass.
   - If there isn’t time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch, culvert or low-lying area away from the vehicle.

For more information, please call Melrose Park Public Safety ~ Homeland Security at (708) 649-8000.
In 2014, Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Youth Commission launched Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags campaign and we're continuing our efforts.

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 have been displayed on lightpoles within the village.

If you know of a veteran or someone currently serving from the community and would like to have a flag displayed on a lightpole near to their home, please call the Melrose Park Village Hall at (708) 343-4000 with details on their U.S. military branch.

Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military

Attention Residents
The village of Melrose Park would like to know of any residents who are currently serving in the military. If you have a family member or know of a resident who is, please contact Patti Dindia via email – pd@melrosepark.org or phone – (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4410.
A Special Message to the Parents of Melrose Park Children from the MELROSE PARK YOUTH COMMISSION

Dear Parents,
To ensure the safety of our Camp Funners, this year’s annual camp has been cancelled. We will be hosting a special Fall Night-Time Camp Fun, beginning in October, that’ll include many of the fun and enjoyable activities that happen during our summer session and more!
If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Youth Commission at (708) 343-2015.
Be safe, take care of yourselves and do what you can to help others.

Thank you so much,
The Board and Staff of the Melrose Park Youth Commission
Digital Services are Open 24/7!
www.mpplibary.org

Get a Digital Library Card
If you don’t have a Melrose Park Library Card you can register online for a
digital card that will give you access to all our online resources
Including Media on Demand, hoopla, Kanopy, Freegal, & more!

hoopla
hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by
your local public library that allows you to borrow movies,
music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on
your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV!

kanopy
Get free access to thousands of movies with your library card!
Enjoy critically-acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries,
award-winning foreign films and more!

Media on Demand/Libby
Media on Demand is the library’s largest and most popular collection
of ebooks and audiobooks, offering more than 60,000 fiction and
nonfiction titles, as well as 1,000 videos. Libby, an app for Media on
Demand is available on iOS, Android, and Microsoft Windows 10+

Freegal
Get free access to thousands of movies with your library card!
Enjoy critically-acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries,
award-winning foreign films, music, and more!

Beanstack
Look for our virtual summer reading program coming soon!

www.MPPLibrary.org
801 N Broadway, Melrose Park, IL 60160
mps@mpplibary.org
(708)649-7400

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00am - 9:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Closed, the first of the month
Memorial Day - Labor Day closed every Saturday
Sunday, Closed
Senior Services
Need help with Medicare, veterans benefits, 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.

The Melrose Park Senior Center is currently accepting donations of canes, wheelchairs, walkers, etc., that can be given to those in need.
If you have something you would like to donate, please call Peggy DiFazio at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

For more information, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448 or Ext. 4452.

Save the Dates!
Next Issue – June 2020
(Deadline for material May 25, 2020.)
Schedule for 2020
June, August, October and December

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Profile of Mayor Ronald Serpico written by Paul Basile, all other profiles written by Terry Quilico.
Ron Serpico's roots run deep into the soil of Melrose Park. His paternal grandparents moved to the near western suburb from Italy more than a century ago, his dad was born there, and his mom moved there with her family when she was an infant. Ralph "Babe" Serpico and Josephine Luzzi were married at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and raised four boys in the community. Ron and his wife, Donna, followed suit, raising three kids of their own. By the '80s, Ron was surrounded by nearly four dozen extended family members.

"It was great growing up around so many aunts, uncles and cousins," Ron recalls. "With the way the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel brought us together, the entire village was like one big family."

Melrose Park was overwhelmingly Italian American when Ron was young, and he has fond memories of Neapolitan boarders sitting outside his grandmother's home in their sweaters and ties, of bocce games played for glasses of homemade wine in her backyard, and of enormous parties at his dad's house the Saturday of feast week.

"My mom used to walk to the Branda candle house in the procession for as long as I could remember," he explains. "Since becoming mayor, I've walked with the Branda family in the morning and at the front of the procession in the afternoon, to honor my family and my position."

Ron attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Grade School, Proviso East High School and Illinois State University before pursuing a law degree at DePaul University and going into practice back home. His undergraduate career in Normal, Illinois, was the only significant time he spent living outside the village limits. His dad was a longtime Democratic committeeman, and it was only a matter of time before Ron followed in his footsteps.

"My dad was a natural politician, and I would go everywhere with him," he explains. "It was time for a change, and I had the youth and the energy and the love of Melrose Park, so I started knocking on doors, and the next thing you know I was mayor!"

That was back in 1997, and Ron immediately set to work making his vision for Melrose Park a reality. In the process, he helped usher his beloved village into the 21st century.

"Babe" Serpico Athletic Field and Sam Cerignola Memorial Park thanks to Ron's initiative. He spearheaded the creation of a railroad overpass at 25th Avenue and rallied seven suburbs to execute an award-winning overhaul of the area water system. In 2020, he privatized the village's ambulance service, assuring that each ambulance arrives on the scene with a paramedic.

"I think I'm most proud of that improvement, because it saves lives," Ron says.

His dedication to the welfare of his constituents led him to create the Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund in 1997. Since then, the fund has donated more than $2 million to local youth and senior causes.

"As a mayor, nothing feels better than doing something that improves the lives of your residents," Ron explains.

On the economic development front, Ron has overseen the transformation of hundreds of acres of abandoned industrial land, cleared the way for a cutting-edge renovation of the Al Piemonte Ford dealership, sparked the revival of the once-moribund Melrose Crossing shopping center, and brought major retailers like Costco, Menard's and Tony's Finer Foods to the village.

"With an older suburb like Melrose Park, you either evolve or die," Ron notes. "I'm proud of the growth and change we've brought to the village."

His multistate efforts paid off when Governor Pat Quinn presented Melrose Park with his Hometown Award in 2013 and Chicago magazine named the village the best area for first-time home buyers in 2019.

Over the decades, the Melrose Park family has grown to include a vibrant Mexican-American population. Ron has welcomed them with open arms, offering them jobs with the village and creating a Center for Integration and Development that teaches English as a second language to adults, operates a computer lab, provides legal aid and offers small-business assistance.

"I look at our Mexican-American residents, and I see the Italian-American community when my grandparents were just starting out," Ron observes. "They're hard-working, family-oriented and Catholic; they've braved discrimination and prejudice to make a better life for their kids; they're doing jobs that no one else wants to do; and their kids and grandkids are going to college and joining the American mainstream."

"I'm proud of my Italian heritage, but I'm just as proud to be the mayor of my whole community. I want to celebrate all our victories and make Melrose Park a better place for us all to live."
When Sam Pitassi was attending Proviso East High School in Maywood, it was a place of racial unrest and discord. The situation got so bad at one point school administrators asked police officers from Melrose Park and other western suburbs to patrol the halls.

“I admired their commitment and resolve in keeping us safe,” Sam recalls. “Plus, my uncle and godfather (Nick Perrino) was a police officer in Chicago in the 1960s. He inspired me to pursue law enforcement as a career.”

The son of Peter and Christine (nee Millonzi) Pitassi, Sam moved to Melrose Park with his family from the Grand Avenue Italian enclave in Chicago when he was 4. After high school, he earned an associate’s degree in police science at Triton College in 1972 and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Lewis University in 1974. He joined the Melrose Park Police Department that same year; married Rosa Ruotolo, a native of Naples, Italy, in 1985; and steadily rose through the ranks until he was appointed chief in 2007. That position was upgraded to director in 2016.

Having worked the beat himself, Sam finds it easy to relate to the younger officers under his command. “When they’re working on holidays and dealing with changing shifts in a job that tends to keep them away from their families, I’ve been there,” he says. “I enjoy being able to provide guidance to fellow officers.”

That compassion earned him a letter of commendation from Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, a national organization that strengthens ties between employers and the military personnel who work for them. He also earned a special mayoral commendation in 2001 and the Man of the Year Award from the Flowers of Italy Club in 2008.

As much as law enforcement has evolved in the 40 years since he entered the force, it remains rooted in the same principles, according to Sam. “Everything has changed when it comes to the economy, salary and pensions,” he explains. “One thing that will always be the same is our mission to keep the public safe.”

Sam is proud of the fact that his son has joined the force, and he’s equally proud to be able to protect the community he grew up in.

“I spent my whole life in Melrose Park, and I plan on spending the rest of my life here, too,” he says. “As long as I’m in this position, I’m going to work to make sure that this is the most professional department it can be.”

Growing up in Melrose Park, Rick Beltrame didn’t have to look far to know which direction in life to head. Both his father and brother were police officers for the village, and he knew he wanted to serve and protect in one capacity or another.

The son of Richard and Jackie Beltrame, he attended Stevenson Grade School, Holy Cross High School and Western Illinois University, where he earned a bachelor of science in social justice. Except for his four years in college, he’s lived his entire life in Melrose Park, marrying Maria Gurnier in 1997. The couple has one daughter.

After graduating, he took both the police and fire tests, and when the call came from the Melrose Park Fire Department, he answered and never looked back. On June 1, 1981, he became a firefighter. Fewer than 25 years later, on May 1, 2005, he rose to the rank of chief, which he looks back upon as the high point in his career.

“It was a dream come true for me, especially with my dad serving on the police force,” he says. “I never thought I would be in this position, and now I’m able to make decisions every day that help the community.”

Rick recalls his years as a fireman fondly. “You work 24 straight hours. You live with a group of men — holidays, Sundays — it doesn’t matter the day. And they become your family for that one day,” he explains. “It isn’t your typical 9-to-5 job. And it takes a while to get used to.”

The key to being a good fire chief is managing each firefighter differently, according to Rick. “You have to deal with those personalities to get the best work out of them: not the most, but the best,” he explains. “You have to be able to get respect from your men so they will work for you and do their job.”

Given Rick’s deep roots in the community, it was only a matter of time before the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast Committee and Flowers of Italy honored him as Man of the Year, which they did in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

As for his own career path, Rick wouldn’t change it for anything. “It’s a fulfilling job where you help people who need help,” he says. “I feel lucky and blessed to be able to reach the position of fire chief in the village I’ve lived in my whole life.”
The Village of Melrose Park

Village Counsel

MICHAEL DEL GALDO

Michael Del Galdo first met Ron Serpico while working on Ron's campaign for mayor in 1997. It's clear Serpico saw something special in his young volunteer.

"I was in law school at the time, and when he took office, he hired me as the law clerk for the village. I've been the law clerk and then attorney for Melrose Park since June of that year," Mike recalls. "That was my first position after graduating from the DePaul College of Law. Not only that, the mayor drove me to get sworn in, and he organized my graduation party!"

Mike traces his family roots to Naples, Salerno, Abruzzo and Germany. He was born in New York and lived in New Jersey before moving with his family to Illinois. He attended high school in Wheaton and earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Before he became an attorney, he interned for a congressman in Washington, D.C. "I've always been interested in politics and government," he explains.

Mike's career has taken off since then. As the founder and principal of the Del Galdo Law Group, he sits at the head of the third largest municipal law firm in the state, with 27 attorneys and a staff of 43. "We have 100-plus government clients, and I am proud that it all started in Melrose Park," Mike says.

At the time of the 1997 election, industry was flagging in the village, and major corporations were moving out of state. "Mr. Serpico changed the face of the village by convincing companies like Target and a Fortune 500 developer to invest and build in the community," Mike explains.

He toiled with the mayor for 10 years to pave the way for Costco to take over the property once occupied by the iconic Kiddieland Amusement Park. "The mayor has done a great job of staying ahead of the real estate market and convincing business to come to or stay in Melrose Park," Mike says. "It has eased the tax burden on the individual residents."

Mike takes pride in doing legal work that improves the lives of his fellow Melrose Parkers. "It's great to have a lasting impact on the community, to be able to drive by something and tell your kids you had something to do with it," he says.

"The decisions the mayor makes, that I'm charged with turning into policy or law, help shape our future, and I'm proud to be a part of that."

Village Clerk

MARY ANN PAOLANTONIO

Everybody knows what mayors do, but what about village clerks? According to Mary Ann Paolantonio, a bit of everything. "We wear a lot of hats," she says of the post she's held since 2001, adding with a laugh, "Basically, we do all the jobs that no one else does."

Among them are record keeper, freedom of information officer and chief local election official. She's also more than happy to answer any questions that come her way. "I'll be at the bank and someone will come up to me and say that they need a tree trimmed or a sidewalk fixed, and I'll let them know who to talk to."

Mary Ann is proud that Melrose Park employees are required to live in the village. "It gives us a real sense of investment in the community that we serve," she says. "And it gives our residents great access because we shop at the same grocery stores and take our clothes to the same cleaners."

Mary Ann's paternal grandparents came to Melrose Park from Potenza, Basilicata, in 1915, and her mother, Carmella, and she were both born in the village. Her father, Silvio, grew up in Shelter Island, New York. He and Carmella met during family visits in the summer, became pen pals and eventually fell in love. "Like a true Melrose Park gal, she had her way, and my dad moved here to get married in 1950," Mary Ann says.

Her maternal grandmother began the family tradition of carrying a candle house in the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel procession in 1921, and Mary Ann is honored to walk in her nonna's footsteps as the annual act of devotion approaches its 100th anniversary. "No matter where you go, when you say you're from Melrose Park, people always mention the feast," she points out with pride.

Mary Ann graduated from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Grammar School, Mother Guerin High School, Triton College and DePaul University. She began working for the village in 1997, and her involvement with the Missionaries Sisters of St. Charles predates that by several years. A member of their Provincial Guild since 1993, she is a past president and longtime chair of the Dinner Dance and St. Joseph Table committees.

"Sister Michael was my kindergarten teacher, and she always wanted me to join the guild," she explains. "You can't say no to the sisters; they're just so wonderful, you can't help but admire them."
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There is an electric charge that runs through Gary Marine every time he steps into the office. He has a hard time controlling his enthusiasm for his job and his love for his town and family. That electricity radiates from him as he goes out to the Public Works garage to check on a utility truck he’s bringing back to life.

Melrose Park’s Director of Public Works was raised along with five brothers on Chicago’s West Side. He has lived in Melrose Park for 48 years and has spent 47 of those years married to the former Pamela Zito. He has two children and two grandchildren.

His parents, Charles and Mary (Favee) Marine, met before World War II on a baseball field through friends. Mary played in the women’s professional baseball league that sprang up during World War II, and Charles played ball, too. “It’s funny how my wife and I met,” Gary says. “I worked for a contractor, and during the winter months, my boss rented space at 31st and Lake where we would service the backhoes and end loaders. My future wife worked next door, and every day she would come in and get a bottle of pop out of the machine and play with his two German shepherds.”

He finally got up the courage to ask the owner of the shop to introduce him to Pamela. They chatted every day but never dated. “A year later, she pulled next to me in a car on Lake Street and 19th Avenue. I yelled over to her, ‘Hey, I’ll call you tonight,’ and we’ve been together ever since,” Gary says.

Mayor Ronald Serpico, who is a longtime friend of Pamela’s family, began to hear good things about her husband. “The mayor was aware of my background in construction,” Gary says. “One day he asked me if I would be interested in working for the village, and I’ve been here ever since. I was hired first as lead building inspector in 2002 and then appointed Director of Public Works in 2007.”

In his current position, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the Street, Landscape, Electric, Water and Sewer departments, and is involved in the everyday maintenance of the village fleet. “I love my job,” Gary enthuses. “I really enjoy dealing with the public, and I enjoy operating the equipment on special projects. I’m a blue-collar, hands-on guy.

“I’m proud to work for Mayor Serpico and serve my community. I will never leave Melrose Park. I’m a lifer.”

Peggy DiFazio is the driving force behind one of the premier events in the near western suburbs: the Taste of Melrose Park. In operation since 1881, the event took wing when Peggy was put in charge in 1997, after the election of Mayor Ron Serpico.

She helms the Taste as the village’s Director of Special Events, getting the ball rolling in early February when she contacts vendors and reaches out to sponsors. “It takes about eight months to bring it all together,” she explains.

When the Taste began, it featured 40 food vendors. Now it boasts 66, with crafters and businesses also part of the mix. “We will have more than 200 tents, including stages, dressing rooms and homeland security,” she notes. “It grows every year, and we always strive to provide the best entertainment.”

“There is no other festival like ours,” Peggy attests. “It shows the village as a diverse, family friendly community.” She laughs when she thinks about her long tenure with the event. “I could do it in my sleep. People ask where a specific tent is, and I can tell them without looking. It’s embedded in my brain.”

But that’s just the start of Peggy’s involvement with the village. She also serves as Director of Senior Affairs. A lifelong resident whose ties to the village span six generations, she sees herself as part of a much larger extended family.

“We have a lot of seniors whose children no longer live in Melrose Park,” says Peggy, whose maiden name is Larry. “They have no one to turn to, so we help them with Social Security, circuit breakers, their income tax returns, and power of attorney for medical and financial matters.”

Her department recently introduced a new initiative aimed at veterans, who must navigate a challenging paper trail on the way to receiving the benefits they’ve earned. “They fought for our country and should be getting something back,” Peggy asserts. “My husband is a Vietnam vet, and I learned how to handle his paperwork, and now I’m helping others do the same.”
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**FLOWERS OF ITALY**

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**SANDY CIANCIO**

Sandy Ciancio has been involved with the Flowers of Italy Club in Melrose Park since she was a child. Her father, Frank, was one of the original members, serving as president from 1989-90. He arrived in Melrose Park from Cosenza in 1966, and his future wife, Rose Mastronuzzi, has lived there since 1959.

Sandy works as director of an occupational health clinic and spends much of her free time at the club, where she serves as vice president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Her many responsibilities include organizing parties, excursions, and the annual Carnivale and dinner dance.

Once open only to men of Calabrian descent, the club now welcomes all who have Italian ancestry and gears its activities to families and friends. Their facility on Lake Street has a full kitchen, a meeting/dining area, and an outdoor patio and bocce court.

Sandy is particularly proud of the scholarships the club bestows, as well as the grants, called Mission Awards, it gives to families in need. “We extend these not just to members of the club but to the community at large,” she notes. She is currently working through the club with the mayor’s office and officials in Italy to forge a sister-city bond with Paola, Cosenza, Calabria.

For her, the club is a “place where we can foster our culture and language for future generations, keeping the traditions and paesans together.”

---

**SCALABRINIAN**

**Sister**

**MARISSONIA DALTOE**

The Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo have played a pivotal role in shaping Melrose Park for more than a century. Better known as the Scalabrinians, the religious order of priests and nuns built two parishes, a seminary, a provincial house and three convents in the village and neighboring Stone Park. Sr. Marissonia Daltoe has witnessed much of that history.

She taught at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School from 1968-71, making quite an impression on the future mayor’s brother Terry, who attended kindergarten under her tutelage.

She lived at the provincial house in Melrose Park from 1978-89 and returned from 1999-present, serving as provincial superior for much of that time. In that capacity, she oversaw the Scalabrinian Sisters in North America, the Philippines, India and Indonesia. She also worked closely with the local community to stage the sisters’ popular St. Joseph Table.

Born in the Brazilian town of Encantado to immigrant parents from Piemonte and the Veneto regions of Italy, she has served immigrant communities in Mexico, Canada and California. She even spent 1989-95 in Italy as superior general of the order, but Melrose Park still feels like home to her.

“I was sent here because there was a need,” she says. “My family asks me if I want to return home (to Brazil), and I tell them, ‘If they send me, I will go, but my calling is here.’”

---

**SACRED HEART**

**School Principal**

**BARBARA CICONTE**

At a time when so many Catholic schools and churches are consolidating or closing, the Sacred Heart School in Melrose Park is thriving.

At the heart of this educational revival is Barbara Ciccone. A graduate of the school, she served as a teacher there for 14 years and as the principal for another 14. “My family connection with the school and parish goes all the way back to my grandparents,” she says. “My whole family has been educated here.”

Her inspiration was a former pastor, Fr. Cosmo Militetto. “He was the one who encouraged me to go back to school to get my master’s in administration at Dominican University. He always told me, ‘Whenever you go to meet someone to get help for the school, always say it is for the kids because how can you turn that down?’”

When she became principal, the enrollment was down to 121 students. Under her watch, it has risen to 170. “Our greatest challenge is financial, always trying to find out what we can get to help those who are in need, those who are struggling,” she shares. “We’re always looking to enhance our programs without raising tuition.”

For Barbara, the biggest reward is seeing the kids with that ‘ah ha!’ moment, when you know they get it. It’s also great when they want to come back and help. It shows that we have done something well.”
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There have been many milestones in the 127 years the parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel have celebrated their feast in honor of the Blessed Mother.

Families have walked in procession, carried candle houses and erected lawn shrines for generations, but one endurance record may be unmatched. “My great-great-grandfather started the procession marshals in 1925, and he was the grand marshal until 1971,” says Sebastian Lorenzo. “My grandfather held that position from 1971-97 until he passed, and I took over in 1997.”

Even more remarkably, all three have shared Sebastian’s first and last name. And so it has gone, from great-great-grandfather to great-grandson for 95 years.

The semaphore system that was instituted in 1925 to stop and start the huge procession has given way to walkie-talkies, but the responsibility for keeping order remains the same. “It’s a sacred trust that every marshal takes very seriously,” Sebastian says.

Sebastian has broken with tradition in one regard. His father expected him to take over the family’s lumber and millwork business, but Sebastian pursued a career as a firefighter instead.

“At the time, my dad wasn’t too enthusiastic, but now he says it was a great move on my part,” Sebastian shares.

His schedule of 24 hours on, 48 hours off, has afforded him the opportunity to also run a sign company and work as a real estate investor and developer. But come feast week, his heart belongs to the Blessed Mother.

Tina Valentino wears many hats. She is the executive editor, contributor and publisher of Neighbors magazine, which she founded 18 years ago. Working hand-in-hand with account executive Dee Tintori, the dynamic duo puts out a publication read by 20,000 residents in 13 near western suburbs. Free copies are available at distribution points throughout the area.

Neighbors earned the Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism despite bucking journalistic conventions and focusing mainly on good news. Local nonprofits and individuals who work at food pantries and with veterans are what make headlines in Tina’s world.

She is equally devoted to the cause for the canonization of Venerable Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli, founder of the Sinsinawa Dominicans. She became familiar with Fr. Mazzuchelli while earning an English degree at Rosary College, which is run by the religious order.

“For 10 years, I have had the honor to work with the sisters on this cause,” Tina says. “Fr. Samuel left Italy and worked throughout Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin as a missionary, establishing churches and schools and spreading the faith throughout the region.”

Tina’s ties to her community and passion for her craft run deep. “My grandfather and my mother were born here, and my strongest bond is to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,” she explains. “When you do what you love, when you feel you have a story to tell, a mission to accomplish, it really isn’t work.”
Every day is a celebration for Italian Americans. We cherish our food, family and culture, and proudly share those gifts with each other and the world.

That same spirit shines through in the pages of Fra Noi. Each issue is a feast of arts, entertainment, cuisine, news and views that nourishes our souls and entices others to the table.

This month, we’re shining the spotlight on the Italian-American community of Melrose Park, showcasing Mayor Ronald Serpico and other village leaders as well as a half-dozen hometown heroes.

Wherever you trace your roots — to Italy or beyond — we hope you enjoy the bounty we’ve prepared for you, and we invite you to become a part of our family.

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We hope all of you are staying safe and healthy, hope to see you soon.

– Veterans Park District

**Early Childhood**

*Lil’ Gardeners, Ages 2-6*

Children will plant flowers and vegetables in the Bataan gardens, and use their hands to explore in the dirt! Families can come visit their garden creation all summer long when classes are over (under 3 years requires an adult).

- Wednesdays, June 3-17; 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Residents $29/Nonresidents $44; Location: Bataan Park, 1220 N. Ninth Ave., Melrose Park.

*Diaper Dippers – Parent-Child Aquatics, Ages 6 months-3*

Splash, splash! Join us in this fun parent/baby class at Gouin Pool! Learn how to be safe in the water with a baby, play games, sing songs and begin to help your child learn to swim. This class will cover kicking, blowing bubbles, floating and other basic skills to introduce your child to swimming.

- Wednesdays, June 10-July 1; 10-10:40 a.m. or 10:50-11:30 a.m.; $40; Location: Gouin Pool, 2400 Scott Street, Franklin Park.

**Youth Classes**

*Drawing & Painting, Ages 6-Adult*

Get your creative juices flowing while learning some drawing and painting techniques. The instructor will work with you as a group, then work individually with each student. Supplies are included with your class.

- Fridays, June 5-July 17 (No class July 3.); 6-7 p.m.; Residents $48/Nonresidents $58; Location: Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

*Tumbling*

Level is based on child’s ability/prior experience/skills. The ages below are merely suggestions. It is intended for children to progress into next level after mastering skills from prior level. Instructor will assess and advise if a different level is more appropriate.

- **Level 1:** Beginner tumblers will learn forward rolls, cartwheels, bridges and jumps. Strength and flexibility are also needed to progress into the higher-level classes. Parents may stay with young children.
  - Ages 4-5; Mondays, June 1-July 20; 5-6 p.m.; Residents $45/Nonresidents $60.

- **Level 2:** This class is designed to perfect your child’s beginner skills and add new skills. Skills to be taught are backbends, handstand forward rolls and round-offs.
  - Ages 6-10; Mondays, June 1-July 20; 6:10-7:10 p.m.; Residents $45/Nonresidents $60.

- **Level 3:** This class is designed to take your child’s skills to the next level and also to learn new skills, such as back walk-over and back hand spring. Children must be able to safely execute the following skills before attending this class: backbends, handstand, forward rolls and round-offs.
  - Ages 6-10; Mondays; June 1-July 20; 7:20-8:20 p.m.; Residents $45/Nonresidents $60.
  - Location: Levels 1-3 are held at Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

**Youth Fit (Fitness for Kids), Ages 7-14**

Keep the young ones active and healthy! Start them on a healthy path as early as possible! Kids and teens can have fun and get some energy out while learning basic exercise techniques. Obstacle courses and other activities will create a healthy, competitive atmosphere to keep them engaged.

- Thursdays, July 2-Aug 6; 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Residents $35/Nonresidents $50; Location: Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

**Youth Athletics**

*Soccer League, Grades K-2*

This league is an indoor-recreational soccer league. There will be eight weeks of games (Saturdays and Sundays). The final week will be a single elimination tournament. The league is for children, kindergarten through second grade. The registration will include a jersey. The games and practices will be held at our George A. Leoni Complex. The teams will consist of 10 players per team. All players will have equal playing time. At this level, we stress the importance of teamwork and fun.

- Saturday and Sunday game days; Practices one day per week, Monday-Friday, 5-7 p.m.; June 20-Aug. 23; Practices start the week of June 1; No play the week of July 4; Residents $110/Nonresidents $125.*
  - *$10 lineup fee will be collected by every team before every game.
  - This is $2 per week, per child.

For registration details, please visit www.vpdpark.org.

*Golf, Ages 8-12*

The student will have the opportunity to develop basic golf skills through demonstration, drills and game play, and gain knowledge of golf etiquette.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 21-Aug. 27; 6-7 p.m.; Residents $50/Nonresidents $65; Location: George A. Leoni Complex Turf, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park.

**Adult Fitness**

*Half Marathon Training – NEW, Ages 18+*

This is a 12-week program. It is intended to prepare participants to run in a half marathon. The anticipated run is the Hoka One One Half Marathon. The half marathon is optional, it is not a requirement of the program. If you would like to train for the run, this is the class for you! The race entry fee is not included in the program fee.

- Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 6-7, a.m.; July 15-Sept. 27; Residents $160/Nonresidents $175; Location: Grant Park outdoor walking track, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.
**Mat Pilates – NEW, Ages 15+**
This class offers a low impact workout done on the floor with use of a mat. Controlled poses help build flexibility and muscle tone, while strengthening the entire core (especially abs, back and hips). Helps with balance and muscle control.
- Wednesdays, July 1-Aug. 5; 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Residents $35/Nonresidents $50; Location: Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

**Active Adults**

**Flamingo Luau Luncheon**
Aloha! The weather is warm and it’s time to pull out your Hawaiian shirt or moo moo dress. The aloha spirit comes alive with the “Ukulele Moonshiners” entertainers. This luncheon party will make you feel like you’re on a tropical beach. It’s going to be a really big show with lots of laughs and smiles. Lunch from Rose’s Catering includes sliced baked ham, sweet potato, Hawaiian salad, tossed salad, Hawaiian rolls and dessert will be an ice cream bar with all the fixins.
- Friday, June 26; Noon-2 p.m.; $17 per person; Location: Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Drive, Northlake.

**Day Trip to Wandering Tree Estate**
Wandering Tree Estate is the proud home of two very large and elaborate model train layouts and various botanical gardens. The outdoor layout, known as the Glow and Triumphant Garden Railway, runs on over 10,000 square feet of land. These large G-Scale trains pass through bridges, over waterfalls and model vignettes. Then you will head inside into the Harvey Silets Memorial Chicago Model Railroad Museum. Lunch will be served at Chessie’s Restaurant in Barrington – a unique dining experience served in a 1920s Illinois train car.
- Thursday, June 18; Departure: 9:15 a.m. – Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park/9:30 a.m. – Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Drive, Northlake; Return: 4 p.m.; $77 per person.

**Farmer Joe’s Picnic Bingo**
We’re planning to have an old-fashioned style picnic at VPD. There will be plenty to eat and great bingo prizes. So make your plans now and write down the date because we would love the opportunity to “ketchup” with you. Come hungry because Rose’s Catering has prepared crispy fried chicken, tomato and cucumber salad, potato salad and watermelon for dessert.
- Friday, June 12; Noon-2 p.m.; $10 per person; Location: Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch Street, Melrose Park.

Visit vpdpark.org for opening day!

VPD program and special event dates are subject to change. For current updates go to www.vpdpark.org or our Facebook page and sign up for notifications.
Onsite registration at facilities are temporarily closed. Please call (708) 343-5270, email frontdesk@vpdpark.org or log on to our website at www.vpdpark.org to register, for updates and additional information.

For more information on Veterans Park District events and activities, call (708) 343-5270 or visit www.veteransparkdistrict.org.
These are Free Family Events!
Free Popcorn While Supplies Last!

VPD program and special event dates are subject to change. For current updates go to www.vpdpark.org or our Facebook page and sign up for notifications. Onsite registration at facilities are temporarily closed. Please call (708) 343-5270, email frontdesk@vpdpark.org or log on to our website at www.vpdpark.org to register, for updates and additional information.
It’s about affordable summer classes that will get students ahead this fall.

It’s about you.

Register now for summer!
CLASSES BEGIN MAY 26, 2020

All summer session courses will be delivered in an online learning format.
The goal of providing a high-quality, state-of-the-art education cannot be realized without the commitment of significant resources. It takes teamwork. Partnerships between business and education offer new hope for the continuance of the United States as a leader in the world economy.

As the demands on the workforce for increased productivity accelerate and as knowledge and skill levels become more technologically complex, it seems impossible for any one segment of society to meet today’s challenges alone. Many businesses and industries turn to educational institutions for help in providing the necessary training for their employees. Partnerships become essential if the nation is to survive this technological revolution. At the same time, concern must be given to preparing for the meaningful use of the individual’s growing leisure hours. Triton College is committed to meeting these multiple educational demands for the local community, as well as for the state.

In order to meet this goal, the college must rely heavily upon others. The Triton College Foundation has been established as a nonprofit corporation to provide a means for individuals like you, organizations, business and industry to work with the college in meeting these broad-range educational purposes.

In this way, the Foundation provides a means for the entire civic and business community to participate in a rewarding partnership that is essential if the college is to continue to serve as a community, state and national resource. Functioning as a separate entity, the Foundation can obtain and accept monetary and equipment donations on behalf of Triton College.

What is the Foundation?
The Foundation is governed by an independent board of directors with day-to-day operations managed by the staff of the Foundation. The Foundation is continuously seeking interested citizens who wish to participate actively in its activities. If you would like to participate, call the Foundation at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758.

How You Can Help
There are many ways to give to the Triton College Foundation.

Undesignated Gifts
Gifts of this type are not restricted by the donor and enable the Foundation to meet any of its goals in providing educational and/or culturally enriching programs and events. It also allows the Foundation to allocate funds to projects considered to be of greatest importance at any given time.

Designated Gifts
These gifts stipulate a specific use, such as student scholarships, specialized program needs, equipment and teaching resources, Library improvements, a performing arts series, capital construction or general development.

Scholarships
The Foundation firmly believes that tuition costs should not be a barrier to a first-rate college education. This is a unique partnership opportunity for individuals, businesses and organizations to sponsor specific career and academic scholarships.

The Scholarship Program seeks endowed scholarships for students who demonstrate both academic promise and/or financial need.

Under an endowed scholarship arrangement, funds would be generated from interest income to provide scholarships to outstanding students.

Currently, the Foundation offers the following scholarships:
- Adreani Foundation Scholarship
- Albert Bruno Scholarship
- Alumni Legacy Scholarship
- Automotive Scholarship
- Bakers Club of Chicago Scholarship
- Biancalana Family Memorial Scholarship
- Bobbie Tammel Memorial Hospitality Scholarship
- Cancer Federation Scholarship
- Carlos Granados Memorial Scholarship
- Carol Casten Memorial Nursing Scholarship
- Engineering Technology Scholarship
- Eugenia Pawlik Zeitlin – Future Teachers Scholarship
- Friends of the Foundation Scholarship
- Gassmann Memorial Cancer Scholarship
- Holubek Family Scholarship
- IFFSF Health Care Scholarship
- IFFSF Health Trust Scholarship
- Irene Mandock Scholarship
- Jack Scanlon ESL Scholarship
- Jean McAlpine Powell Memorial Scholarship
- Jerome J. Drosos Scholarship
- Joan Lally Musker Memorial Scholarship
- Joanne and Marian Mota Memorial Scholarship
- John F. Ruzic Jr. & Frances B. Ruzic Memorial Scholarship
- Josephine Prignano Athletic Scholarship
- Judy Baar Topinka Scholarship
- June Sark Heinrich Senior Scholarship
- Kay Langston Scholarship
- L.H. Lavin – Liz Huber Scholarship
- Lou Ricchio Memorial Scholarship
- Library Scholarship
- Mary Cecilia Kelley Allied Health Scholarship
- Mayor Katrina R. Thompson/Village of Broadview Scholarship
- Mayor Ronald M. Serpico/Village of Melrose Park Scholarship
- Merlyn C. Pontikes Memorial Scholarship
- Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
- Northlake Scholarship
- OPRF Transfer Student Scholarship

Triton College Foundation + You Equals An Unbeatable Educational Team
Your Helping Hand Means a Lot...
offices and classrooms from $5,000 to $25,000; and larger labs, lecture benches located throughout the campus that range from $1,000 to $2,500; sponsorship include: beautifully landscaped trees, bushes and garden $275. Sponsored seating in either the auditorium of Cernan Earth and ing or to memorialize a loved one. A larger paver stone is available for $125 for a brick with a customized message featuring a name, favorite say-\text{ings, academic achievements or in memory through the Pathway to Success Naming Opportunities Program.}

Donors can select from a wide range of naming options – starting from $125 for a brick with a customized message featuring a name, favorite say-\text{ings, academic achievements or in memory through the Pathway to Success Naming Opportunities Program.}

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Foundation President’s Reception
The Foundation President’s Reception is the prima-\text{ry fundraising event each year. It is an opportunity to honor a distinguished member of the community. It also is an occasion to introduce community mem-\text{bers to the work of the Triton Foundation. This eleg-\text{ant event features refreshments prepared and served by Triton’s Hospitality students, a silent auc-\text{tion, music, a program/ad book, special presentations and much more.}}}

Foundation Annual Golf Outing
The Foundation holds an annual, casual fundraiser with the summer golf outing. The outing is a benefit to raise money for student scholarships and educational equipment not otherwise obtainable through college funds. Through the generosity of participants, the Foundation can continue to provide financial support to assist students in meeting their educational goals.

A dinner follows the golf outing and allows those not interested in golfing the opportunity to participate. Additionally, those who cannot or choose not to golf can contribute to the fundraiser by sponsoring a hole and/or by donating raffle prizes to be given away to golfers at the event.

Raffle tickets are sold as well, with many attractive valuable prizes. A car also is given away to a golfer who gets a hole-in-one at a designated hole.

Pathway to Success Naming Opportunities Program
Individuals and organizations can now be remembered for their contribu-\text{tions, academic achievements or in memory through the Pathway to Success Naming Opportunities Program.}

Donors can select from a wide range of naming options – starting from $125 for a brick with a customized message featuring a name, favorite say-\text{ings, academic achievements or in memory through the Pathway to Success Naming Opportunities Program.}

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Gifts and Pledges
Gifts and pledges may be sent at anytime to the Triton College Foundation Office located at 2000 Fifth Ave., Room A-317, River Grove, Ill. 60171.

The Foundation accepts property and securities, as well as monetary dona-\text{tions. Outright gifts of money, securities, real estate, insurance policies, equipment, personal property, books and art are acceptable.}

Future charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder unitrusts, life income plans, testimony trusts, bequests and memorial gifts also should be considered. When a gift of property, personal or real, is contemplated, the donor or his/her attorney is requested to contact the Triton College Foundation Office so that a mutual understanding can be achieved as to the form and terms of the gift. Any real estate should be conveyed by a duly executed deed to the Triton College Foundation. Gifts of personal property, other than securities, should be dis-\text{cussed with the Foundation staff to determine individual terms.}

Security certificates should be properly endorsed and authenticated, as called for on the certificates. For the donor’s protection, they must be sent by registered mail to the Triton College Foundation Office.

Taxes
Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. As a receiving agent for contribu-\text{tions in support of the college’s programs, the Foundation is a nonprofit corporation and is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.}

Under this provision, contributions by individuals, corporations, organiza-\text{tions and other foundations are qualified as tax deductible. Contributions are exempt from federal estate tax and federal gift tax, and appreciated securities and other property may be exempt from federal capital gains tax when transferred to the Foundation. Such gifts are deductible at the fair market value on which they are made.}

Your Support is Vital
Triton College enjoys a reputation for excellence. It has risen from the “idea” state in the mid-’60s to become one of the nation’s leading commu-\text{nity colleges. Triton graduates can be found among the ranks of today’s highly training professionals, technologists, technicians and service personnel who support industry’s increasingly sophisticated operations.}

The college has been a pioneer in establishing relationships with health care delivery systems, businesses and industries that have had a signifi-\text{cant impact on the quality of the workforce and Triton delivers educational programs at a significant cost savings to fire houses, high schools, grade schools and health care facilities.}

With the assistance of the Foundation, Triton College will continue to play a role in the revitalization of our state and nation.

For more information on how you can help the Triton College Foundation, call the Foundation Office at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, visit our website at www.triton.edu/foundation or send an email to tcfoundation@triton.edu.
Standards Based Grading

District 89 had planned on piloting Standards Based Grading (SBG) with fourth grade students throughout the district during the fourth quarter of this academic year. However, as a result of the current suspension of onsite learning and in order to effectively implement SBG, the timeline for piloting SBG for fourth graders will now be moved to the first and second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

Pictured is a SBG planning meeting held on Feb. 18.

aimsweb®Plus

On Jan. 30, 2020, educators from elementary and middle schools in D89 attended aimsweb®Plus training at the District Office with representative Cherie Davis. The group was comprised of literacy coordinators, instructional coaches, ESL resource teachers, speech and language pathologists and SPED resource teachers. aimsweb®Plus is a powerful and proven tool that informs instruction and improves student performance. It is proven to uncover learning gaps quickly, identify at-risk students, and assess individual and classroom growth.

MPFD/Jane Addams IMSA Fusion Students

The fourth and fifth grade IMSA Fusion students at Jane Addams have been fighting fire with STEM. Students have been involved in both hands-on and inquiry-based activities to develop an understanding of the type of knowledge and skills necessary to become a firefighter. Some of the activities involve topics like fire tactics, rescue procedures, fire behavior and combustion, fire scene investigation, and innovations of fire prevention and suppression equipment.

On Feb. 6, students received a special visit from the Melrose Park Fire Department and had a chance to show how much they have learned. Thank you MPFD for being a part of our #D89Community!
On Feb. 5, 2020, Stevenson Middle School visited Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization that donates meal packages overseas. 39 students participated in a two-hour packing session, putting together meals for Zimbabwe. Together, the team packed 5,980 meal pouches, enough to feed 16 children for an entire year. Stevenson's National Junior Honor Society, HOPE Students, and Fearless and Courageous 6 Councils were in attendance for this great service opportunity!

In October 2019, the Board of Education approved a Geothermal project that will provide Emerson, Garfield, Irving, Lincoln, Melrose Park, Roosevelt and Washington Dual Language Academy (WDLA) with updated Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). The system will be installed over the next 18 months. Construction has started at Melrose Park, Lincoln, and Garfield Schools this month and you may have already noticed some heavy equipment and materials being delivered to the schools. More information regarding the project’s timeline, frequently asked questions and other updates while construction is occurring can be found on the district website.

Mrs. Bosse led a D89 Staff Academy on phonics instruction on Feb. 19. Ongoing teacher development leads to higher growth and achievement for students. #D89AlwaysLearning

Congratulations to the Spelling Bee winners from Jane Addams School and Melrose Park School. You were outstanding!
D89COVID-19 Response

Grab & Go Meals
We recognize the significant impact the closures have had on every member of our school community and remain committed to doing all we can to support our students and families. District 89 has a Grab & Go Breakfast and Lunch Program at all schools within the district. Meals can be picked up from each family’s nearest school location. The schedule is posted on the district website. Thanks to the incredibly dedicated staff who are supporting this effort in our schools!

e-Learning
To help support students and families while schools are closed, the district has posted e-Learning opportunities, enrichment resources and materials at www.maywood89.org/elearning. Hard copies of these materials are available at all schools during the Grab & Go schedule. Educators and parents can access these resources and build upon these materials as they see fit to keep children engaged.

Census 2020
D89 included Census Activity Books during Grab & Go Meals. Thank you to Proviso Census 2020 for providing the activity books and ensuring we Count All Kids. If you have not already, please make sure you are counted in the 2020 Census by going online: www.2020census.gov

Additional Supports
Please see the district website at www.maywood89.org for additional and up-to-date information.
Kindergarten Rainbows

On Tuesday, March 31, kindergarteners at Jane Addams were challenged to create a rainbow to hang in their window to spread some joy to their neighbors during this time at home.

Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”
Jane Addams fifth grade students were asked on April 7 to try and get a picture with the Super Pink Moon (the largest supermoon of 2020) that took place that night. Although it was cloudy, some students had family or friends send them what they saw.

Students pictured include Jessica C., Cody A., Allison S., Jacob M. and Angelica M. Alabama, Indiana, Texas and Florida pictures are from family and friends of Cody Adams. Ecuador picture is from family of Emily R. Melrose Park picture was taken by Julian P. and Angel P. Plano, IL picture is from Jane Addams School teacher, Mr. Lantgen.
Now Enrolling
Preschool For All

3-5 YEARS OLD
8:10-10:40AM & 11:40-2:10PM CLASSES
MONDAY-FRIDAY

• High-quality instruction
• Educational field trips
• Kindergarten readiness
• Language Development
• Health and Social Skills
• Opportunities for parental education and involvement

Screening Dates are held throughout the school year.

Apply online: www.maywood89.org/preschool

Call if you have any questions: 708-209-0276

DISTRICT 89
MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW

www.maywood89.org • Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”
We believe great families with great children deserve the Best Schools

It’s about finding a school filled with quality faculty who bring a **commitment to academic excellence**. It’s about an atmosphere that ignites a love of learning; a culture that is welcoming and supportive; a community that works together and a place where special traditions and fun all come together.

Throughout Cook and Lake Counties, our schools are each unique centers of learning offering distinctive programs and experiences. They are all committed to providing a **values-based education** ensuring that students have the foundation to be thoughtful, moral and compassionate leaders for the future.

Find a school. Find a career. Find ways to give. **Sacred Heart School**

Para más información en español, por favor llámenos al 708.681.0240

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL**

815 N 16TH AVENUE
MELROSE PARK IL 60160
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Sacred Heart School
815 North 16th Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
(708) 681-0240

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✓ Pre-K through 8th Grade
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✓ Before and After School Care
✓ Basketball, Volleyball, Track & Field
   and Cross Country
✓ Families are active participants in
   the life of the school
✓ Teaching our children faith, morals,
   & discipline
✓ After School Enrichment Classes
✓ Two Computer Labs
✓ Differentiated Instruction
✓ Financial Assistance Available
✓ Student Council and Altar Serving
✓ Building Relationships and Partnerships

SACRED HEART SCHOOL PROVIDING AN ATMOSPHERE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
WWW.SHSMELROSEPARK.COM
The Flowers of Italy Club’s 59th Annual Dinner Dance set for Saturday, May 30, has been postponed. Please visit our Facebook page for updates as more details become available.

For more information, please call Sandy Ciancio at (630) 688-3153, or send an email to sdciancio@gmail.com.
127th Annual Italian Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Ave del Carmine – July 10-19
Outdoor Festivities – July 17-19
Music and Italian Food Specialties!

Solemn Mass – Sunday, July 19 at Noon
Followed by Procession

For more information, please call (708) 344-4140 or send an email to feast.olmc@gmail.com.

OLMC Feast Committee • 1101 N. 23rd Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160
www.olmcparish.org • www.facebook.com/olmcparish
Melrose Park Free Methodist Church

Free Fun – Rescheduled!
Our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt – June 7!

All are welcome to join us for our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt will begin at 11 a.m. sharp on Sunday, June 7, at 841 Elsie (corner of Ninth and Elsie, Melrose Park)! This is a ready, set, go hunt, so please arrive early!

This event is sponsored by the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church working with our local community. We are bilingual and all are welcome! For more information, call (708) 343-2386.

The Melrose Park Free Methodist Church is located directly behind the Target department store.

How Money Works Seminar to be Held at Melrose Park Free Methodist Church

The three root causes of the financial problems most families face are failure to plan, being uninformed, and misinformation.

The How Money Works informative seminar will discuss the following issues: the rule of 72; debt stacking; revolving debt traps; and how your life insurance policy works.

Understand and apply these principles, and you could change the face of your financial situation.

Seminars are held the last Thursday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church, 841 Elsie Dr., Melrose Park.

For more information, call Ken Smith, independent representative of Primerica, at (708) 203-6677, or send an email to ken@newlifedixon.org. Primerica's local office is located at 1400 E. Touhy, Suite 170, Des Plaines, Ill. 60018 (Representing Primerica Life Insurance Company – Executive Office, Duluth, Ga. 30099).

Nicro Gas Contributes More Than $1 Million to Local Nonprofits in Support of COVID-19 Relief Efforts

Part of Southern Company Gas’ $2.5 Million Overall Commitment to Help Those Hardest Hit by the Pandemic

Nicro Gas is donating more than $1 million to Illinois nonprofit organizations to support work providing essential programs and services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Nicro Gas’ donation is part of an effort led by its parent company, Southern Company Gas, which announced that it will contribute $2.5 million across its operations footprint.

“Supporting our communities has been a longtime commitment of Nicro Gas, especially in times of uncertainty,” said Melvin D. Williams, Nicro Gas president. “What impacts our communities also impacts our employees. These donations and our continued partnerships with these worthwhile organizations are essential to efforts to help our customers address their needs during the COVID-19 health crisis.”

The $1 million donation will be distributed to a number of organizations focused on providing energy assistance and supporting food insecurity, family services and homelessness. These include the 25 United Way chapters located in Nicro Gas’ northern Illinois service area, with the largest being the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago; The Salvation Army; the American Red Cross; and community action agencies such as CEDA.

Nicro Gas is committed to investing in critical organizations throughout northern Illinois so they have the resources needed to continue operating at the highest levels to be able to service those in need. These efforts follow a March 14 decision by Southern Company Gas’ local distribution companies, including Nicro Gas, to institute a moratorium on disconnections for nonpayment, continuing service for those economically impacted by COVID-19.

Taking Steps to Support Public Health and Ensure Safe, Reliable Service

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Nicro Gas would like to reassure customers that we have comprehensive plans and processes in place to address the implications of the outbreak while maintaining safe, affordable, reliable service.

Our customer service representatives remain available to provide assistance as needed, and you may see our crews working in your neighborhood or in the area. Please recognize that our employees have been advised to take precautions when interacting with customers and taking all necessary hygiene precautions, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including avoiding handshakes, maintaining a 6-foot distance and wearing protective gear, when necessary and appropriate.

Please minimize any contact with utility workers who might come to your home or the home of a neighbor to service natural gas equipment, including meters. Rather than confront the utility worker with your questions or concerns, it would be safer to call Nicro Gas at 888-Nicor4U (888-642-6748) or email our Customer Care Center at customercare@nicorgas.com.

We are committed to doing our part to keep you healthy, and we ask that you join us in our efforts to minimize exposure, too. If you have an appointment with us but have been advised to stay at home by a health official for the coronavirus or experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, like fever, cough or shortness of breath, please reach out and let us know. There are times when our employees may need to enter customers’ homes and businesses. When they do, they will ask you some questions before entering to ensure they are taking the appropriate precautions.

Our focus remains on delivering clean, safe, affordable, reliable natural gas to our customers – a commitment we’ll keep throughout this public health emergency.
ComEd Warns Customers About COVID-19-Related Energy Scams

Imposters Take Advantage of Individuals Who are Self-isolating to Steal Money and Personal Information

As the state of Illinois and the world navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, ComEd reminds customers to be on alert for potential scams targeting individuals and small-business owners. Imposters posing as ComEd employees are taking advantage of the uncertainty brought on by this health crisis to approach individuals and steal their personal information and money.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, ComEd has received reports of scammers, posing as utility representatives, approaching customers who may be self-isolating or having difficulty paying their bills. These imposters threaten to shut service off or offer cash or credit incentives to obtain a customer’s personal or financial information.

In some cases, scammers will “spoof” ComEd’s name and phone number so that a call appears to be from ComEd. They may demand a customer to make a direct payment with a prepaid cash card. In other instances, scammers ask victims to call them back at a different phone number and provide personal information. They may duplicate the recorded message that customers hear when calling a legitimate company, so when customers call the number provided by the scammer, it sounds like an actual business.

“We are committed to doing everything we can to protect our customers from scammers who use the public’s concerns around health and financial uncertainty for deception and harm,” said Nichole Owens, ComEd vice president of customer channels. “Because these imposters are constantly changing their tactics, we provide our customers with the latest information to help them ward off would-be scammers and help put a stop to their ongoing attempts.”

Tips to Help Identify Scams
ComEd will never come to a customer's home or business to:

• Demand a payment.
• Ask for immediate payment with a prepaid cash card.
• Ask for your ComEd account number or other personal information, such as a driver’s license number.

ComEd will never call a customer to:

• Ask for their account number.
• Ask for personal information such as their Social Security number or bank information.
• Ask them to make a direct payment with a prepaid cash card.

To identify an actual ComEd employee, remember:

• All ComEd field employees wear a uniform with the ComEd logo, including shirt and safety vest.
• ComEd employees visibly display a company ID badge with the ComEd logo and employee's name.

ComEd urges anyone who believes he or she has been a target or victim of an energy-related scam to contact ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661).

For more tips on identifying energy-related scams, visit ComEd.com/ScamAlert.

ComEd Extends Suspension of Disconnections Through at Least June 1

As our communities work together to follow stay-at-home orders and ensure public safety, we understand that COVID-19 is imposing ongoing financial strain on many families and businesses.

That’s why ComEd is voluntarily extending through at least June 1, 2020, its suspension of disconnections for customers who cannot afford to pay their electric bill. We are also extending our waiver of new late payment charges through the same period.

So, if you were disconnected prior to our suspension of disconnections, please contact our customer care team at 800-334-7661, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., so that we can work to safely restore your service.

A ComEd customer care representative can work with you to try to identify a flexible payment arrangement or financial assistance option.

Information about these options are also available at ComEd.com/CARE.

The safety and well-being of you, our employees and our communities are our top priorities. The last thing we want you to worry about is whether you will be without power. On behalf of ComEd, thank you for being a valued customer and please stay safe.

90-Year-Old Lyle Spratt Hits a Big Hole-in-One!

Congratulations to Melrose Park resident, Mr. Lyle J. Spratt, who had a magnificent hole-in-one at the Shell Point Golf Course in Ft. Myers, Fla., a course that’s known for its challenging fairways and winding water hazards as well as six tees on every hole that provide challenges and rewards for golfers at every skill level.

The 90-year-old Spratt, while out with his son-in-law, Bob Muir, and a fellow golfer, had his big hit with a four wood at the par 3, 107-yard fourth hole on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.

Lyle, who worked for Northwestern Railroad for 42 years, retired in 1991 and started golfing at the age of 60 with a 50 handicap.

For Mr. Spratt, there may be no better place to share his hole-in-one golf experience than at the Shell Point course.

Lyle is pictured with the award he received recognizing his accomplishment that contains the score-card and a photo with his fellow golfers from the day of the event.

Mr. Spratt – Melrose Park congratulates you on this great accomplishment!
New Travel Programs Offered by Brookfield Zoo

TANZANIA: A TREASURE TROVE OF WILDLIFE AND CULTURE
Oct. 31-Nov. 11, 2020

Your first animal-viewing opportunity is at Lake Manyara National Park, which boasts over 350 bird species: Verreaux’s eagle, a variety of vultures, swifts and swallows winging their way atop the spectacular cliffs overlooking a shimmering Lake Manyara. Flocks of flamingos, pelicans, and storks can give the lake a pinkish hue. Springs in the park's northern end support a dense groundwater forest. Baobab trees are home to blue and vervet monkeys and baboons.

Next up is Ngorongoro Crater, an extinct volcano that plays host to lions, hyenas, wildebeests, zebras, porcupines, buffalo, elephants and more – including rare black rhinos.

At the famous Olduvai Gorge, where the renowned Louis and Mary Leakey made some of archaeology’s most amazing discoveries, you can tour the museum before heading out into the spectacular Serengeti, where millions of wildebeests and hundreds of thousands of zebras migrate each year, followed by predators such as cheetahs and leopards.

Explore the Serengeti Wildlife Research Centre to discover all you would want to know about this World Biosphere Reserve.

Walk in the footsteps of Hemingway in the Grumeti River area, which features pools of fierce creatures like crocodiles and hippos. Also among this area's residents are lions and leopards, which you can watch from your camp, an elegant Victorian-era, tented outpost set upon a hill.

Coming in 2021 ...

THE AMAZON VOYAGE: GREATEST VOYAGE IN NATURAL HISTORY
March 19-27, 2021

Join Brookfield Zoo members and Shedd Aquarium members for adventure as an elegant riverboat becomes your home for seven days. Gaze at the stars and hear amazing stories told by guides as you float your way from Iquitos to the confluence of the Marañón and Ucayali rivers – the western origin of the Amazon.

Hop aboard excursion boats to search for oriole blackbirds, green ibises and yellow-headed caracaras, as well as monkeys and sloths. Folklore and science come alive as you look for pink river dolphins and squirrel monkeys.

Explore Pacaya-Samiria Reserve aboard excursion boats and hike the rain forest on the lookout for capybaras, caimans, bats and other animals at night. During the day, you may be able to find scarlet macaws, hoatzins, black-collared hawks and red howler monkeys.

Stop over at a riverbank village owned by the Ribereño people, and visit a school and talk to the shaman. Continue your adventure with more birdwatching and try your hand at fishing for piranhas.

Shedd Aquarium’s vice president of environmental quality, Allen LaPointe, will lead this trip.

For up-to-date information on travel programs, please call (708) 688-8348.
Great Manufacturing Jobs

Fresenius Kabi is a global healthcare company that specializes in life-saving medicines and technologies for infusion, transfusion and clinical nutrition.

We offer employees of diverse cultures and backgrounds a wide range of fulfilling and challenging career and personal growth opportunities both domestically and internationally.

We offer growth and development opportunities, competitive salary and excellent benefits.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For a full list of open positions or to apply online, please visit www.fresenius-kabi.us/career.html, call (708) 450-7511, or text Melrose at 313131.

FULL-TIME POSITIONS (MELROSE PARK)

QUALITY INSPECTOR

Responsible for visually inspecting filled product off the filling line following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and current Good Manufacturing Processes (cGMP).

MACHINE OPERATOR (CLEAN ROOM)

Responsible for setting up, operating and monitoring fill equipment per Standard Operating Procedures and current Good Manufacturing Practices.

CAPPING MACHINE OPERATOR

Responsible for operating and monitoring aseptic capping machine operations. Monitors fill volume and process quality by applying both automated and manual statistical process control as well as visual inspection of in-process samples.

Other science, engineering and administrative positions available.

Ross Dress for Less Opening Soon in Winston Plaza

Since 1982, the Ross focus has been on bringing customers a constant stream of high quality department and specialty store brands at extraordinary savings a.k.a. bargains, while providing an easy, fun and organized shopping experience.

So what’s Ross’ secret? The power of saving!

They’re big – as the nation’s largest off-price retail chain, they have a great deal of purchasing power. They’re savvy – their buyers search the globe for the best brands and latest styles. They work directly with manufacturers to negotiate the best deals!

They believe in “no frills” – no window displays, mannequins, fancy fixtures or decorations in the stores, so they can pass more savings on to their customers.

Ross loves new buys – they keep it simple so they can get the great buys into the stores quickly which means almost every day!

Stay tuned Melrose Park! Watch for more information on the Ross Dress for Less opening in upcoming issues of The Rose!

www.rossstores.com
Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul
Consumer Resource Directory

This resource directory contains contact information for state and federal agencies and other organizations to help you handle a wide range of issues.

Illinois Attorney General Senior Consumer Fraud Hotline
Call 1-800-243-5377 or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Attorney General Consumer Fraud Hotlines
• Chicago: 1-800-386-5438 TTY: 1-800-964-3013
• Springfield: 1-800-243-0618 TTY: 1-877-844-5461

Illinois Attorney General Military and Veterans Rights Hotline
Call 1-800-382-3000 (TTY 1-800-964-3013) or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Attorney General Charitable Trust Bureau
Before you give to a charity, call 312-814-2595 or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Attorney General Disability Rights Bureau
Call 312-814-5684 or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Attorney General Health Care Hotline
Call 1-877-305-5145 or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Attorney General Identity Theft Hotline
If you have been the victim of identity theft or believe your personal or financial information may have been compromised, call 1-866-999-5630 (TTY: 1-877-844-5461) or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Department on Aging Senior Helpline
To obtain a Benefit Access Application for the Seniors Free Transit Ride Program, Persons with Disabilities Free Transit Ride Program and Secretary of State License Plate Discount, call 1-800-252-8966 (TTY: 1-888-206-1327) or visit www.state.il.us/aging.

Illinois Department on Aging Protective Services Hotline
(Formerly the Elder Abuse Hotline)
Call the 24-hour hotline at 1-866-800-1409 (TTY: 1-888-206-1327) or visit www.state.il.us/aging.

Illinois Department on Aging Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
Contact SHIP for free statewide health insurance counseling for Medicare at 1-800-548-9043 or visit www.state.il.us/aging/SHIP/default.htm.

Illinois Commerce Commission
Report towing companies and household goods movers at 217-782-4654 (press 1) or visit www.icc.illinois.gov.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Check regulation, licensure and discipline of Illinois professionals at 1-888-473-4858 or visit www.idpr.com.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation: Cemetery/Funeral Oversight
To request information or make a complaint about a cemetery, call the Cemetery Consumer Helpline at 1-888-756-8331 or visit www.idph.state.il.us.

Illinois Department of Insurance
For information on the regulation of health, homeowner, auto and life insurance, or to file a complaint, call 1-866-445-5364 (TTY: 1-866-323-5321) or visit www.insurance.illinois.gov.

State of Illinois Comptroller
For information on pre-need licensing and certification, call the Cemetery Care and Burial Trust Hotline at 1-877-203-3401 or visit www.ioc.state.il.us.

State of Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline

Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission (IARDC)
To request an investigation of an Illinois licensed attorney, contact the IARDC at:
• Springfield: 1-800-252-8048
• Chicago: 1-800-826-8625 www.iardc.org

Illinois State Treasurer
Call the Unclaimed Property Division at 217-785-6998 or visit www.treasurer.il.gov.

Illinois Secretary of State
Call the Public Service Line at 1-800-252-8980 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Illinois Secretary of State Police
For information about the regulation of new and used auto dealers, auto parts, auto repairers and auto builders, call 217-782-7126 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/police/home.html.

Illinois Secretary of State Securities
For information about the regulation of the securities industry in Illinois and protection of investors, contact: Chicago: 312-793-3384; Springfield: 217-782-2256; or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/securities/home.html.

Illinois Department of Human Rights

Illinois Department of Human Services
Call the Customer Helpline at 1-800-843-6154 (TTY: 1-800-447-6404) or visit www.dhs.state.il.us.

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
For information regarding health care coverage for adults and children who qualify for Medicaid, visit www2.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/default.aspx, call the Child Support Services Call Center at 1-800-447-4278 (TTY: 1-800-526-5812) or visit www2.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/default.aspx.

Illinois Department of Public Health
To file a complaint against a nursing home, call the Nursing Home Hotline at 1-800-252-4343 or visit www.idph.state.il.us.
Illinois Department of Labor
To file a complaint regarding unpaid wages, call 312-793-2800 or visit www.illinois.gov/idol.

State of Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board
To file a complaint regarding judicial misconduct or the failure/inability of a judge to perform judicial duties, call 1-800-227-9429 (TTY: 312-814-1881) or visit www2.illinois.gov/jib/Pages/default.aspx.

Social Security Administration
Call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778) or visit www.ssa.gov.

Medicare
For specific questions about your claims, medical records or expenses, call 1-800-633-4227 or visit www.mymedicare.gov.

Report Medicare Fraud
Report fraud to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service Inspector General at HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov or call 1-800-447-8477 (TTY: 1-800-377-4950).

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Customer Service
Call 1-800-829-0582 (Ext. 462) or visit www.irs.gov.

Federal Trade Commission
If you receive unsolicited email offers or spam, you can forward the messages to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov or call the FTC consumer helpline at 1-877-382-4357 (TTY: 1-866-653-4261) or visit www.ftc.gov.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center
To report potential e-scams, visit www.ic3.gov.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
For assistance with mortgage, credit card and student loans or other consumer financial products, call 1-855-411-2372 (TTY: 1-855-729-2372) or visit www.consumerfinance.gov.

National Do Not Call
To avoid telemarketing or solicitor calls, register for the Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236) or www.donotcall.gov.

Opt Out
To opt out of receiving pre-screened credit card offers, call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com.

Mail Preference Service
To reduce unwanted junk mail, contact the Direct Marketing Association at 212-768-7277, www.dmachoice.org or P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.

Credit Reporting Agencies
• To get your free annual credit reports, call 1-877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com.
• To place a security freeze on your credit, contact:
  • Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348
  • Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); www.experian.com; P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013
  • TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com; P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19022

Illinois Better Business Bureaus
• Central Illinois: 309-688-3741
• Chicago: 312-832-0500
• Rockford: 815-963-2226

The Circuit Court of Cook County Elder Justice Center (EJC)
For legal assistance for residents age 60 and older, call 312-603-9233 or visit www.cookcountycourt.org/ABOUTTHECOURT/CountyDepartment/ElderLawMiscellaneousRemediesDivision/ElderJusticeCenterEJC.aspx.

www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov
**Alek**
Matthew Alek, proud veteran of the United States Marines, passed away March 22, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. Dearly beloved husband of Barbara (nee Bilbrey); loving father of Annie and Mandi; dear brother of John Alek; cherished grampa of Kyle and Rocco; second father to many, especially his two Katie’s; loving brother-in-law of Johnny (Nina), Billy (Gabri), Bobby (Sharon), Jimmy, Tasha, Susie (Mike) and Mike; will be missed by his dog Lucy and his Bingo Ladies; beloved uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

**Alvarez**

**Amendola**
Daniel Amendola, veteran of the United States Navy. Dearly beloved husband of Joanne (nee Dominguez); loving father of Lisa (Mark, MPPD) Rieger and Christine (Michael) Losordo; cherished grandfather of Adelaide, Aaron, Amelia, Andrew, Madelyn and Michael; dear brother of Caroline (Robert) Forsberg; fond brother-in-law of Joseph (Rebecca), Paul (Indira), Michael (Deborah) and the late Stephen; dear uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Melrose Park.

**Bunch**
Fernando “Goldie” Bunch. Fernando is preceded in death by his father, James Bunch Sr; two brothers, James Jr. and David; Fernando is survived by his wife, Tosha; his son, Carl; his granddaughter, Naomi; his mother, Freddie Mae Bunch; his siblings, Cecilia Bunch, Johnny (Rita) Bunch, Lavon Bunch, Zonnie Bunch-Smith (Anthony-deceased), Denise Jackson (Orlando), Donna Coaxum (Harry) and Dwayne Bunch; he is also survived by his dedicated mother-in-law, Ann Lewis; sister-in-law, Toni Lewis-Rogers (Lloyd), special goddaughter Jennifer Henderson-Jones (Kwame); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Cameron**
Fay R. Cameron. Dearly beloved fiancée of Harry Mc Grath; loving mother of Marcia (Bob) Troy and Anthony Carbonara; dear step-mother of Joe Mc Grath; cherished grandmother of Michael and Kevin Troy; dear sister of the late Mickey and the late George Schroeder, the late Jack Sweeney and the late Marty Sweeney; fond aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Cappello**
Joseph T. Cappello III, policeman of the village of Melrose Park and 31-year sheriff for Cook County. Dearly beloved husband of Barbara (nee De Stefano); loving father of Joseph Cappello, CPD; beloved son of Joseph Jr., Ret. CPD (Sylvia) and Sharron Joziwak; cherished grandfather of Dominic; dear brother of Dawn (Joseph) Helwig and the late Anthony Cappello; loving brother-in-law, uncle and friend of many, especially his brothers and sisters in BLUE. Member of the Illinois Police Association, Italian American Police Association and the F.O.P. Lodge #9. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

**Cascio**
Theresa Cascio, nee Manietta, May 15, 1926, to April 8, 2020. Dearly beloved wife of Russell; loving mother of Russell (JoAnne) and Robert (Denise); cherished grandmother of Cara, Deanna, Anthony, Robert Jr, Dominick and Tony; great-grandmother of Sophia, Mia, Daniel, Maria, Bella and Vincent; dear sister of the late Genevieve Bellino; loving aunt of Sharon Schwartz; fond aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Member of Queen of the Americas Society.

**Catizone**
Anthony “Catman” Catizone, veteran of the Korean War. Dearly beloved husband of the late Dolly; loving father of Frank (Gina), Darlene (Dennis) Esposito and the late James Reamer; fond grandfather of Ashley, James, Theresa and Germaine; dear brother of Richard, the late Peter (Mary), the late Frank Jr. (Shirley) and the late Josephine; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Elmwood Park Cemetery.

**Ceja**
Rodolfo Ceja. Beloved son of Amelia and the late Juan Ceja; dear brother of Carlos L.; dear nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

**Cicero**
Constance “Connie” Cicero, nee D’Alesio. Dearly beloved wife of the late John Sr.; loving mother of James (Nancy), Joseph (Donita), the late John (Nancy) and the late Steve Cicero, and the late June Marler; beloved daughter of the late Vincent and Filomena D’Aleosio; cherished grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of 23; dear sister of the late Genevieve Bellino; loving aunt of Sharon Schwartz; fond aunt, cousin and friend of many. Member of St. Charles Borromeo (Stone Park) Altar and Rosary Society. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Coyne**
James L. “Jim” Coyne, AKA Coins or Matey. Former resident of Melrose Park. Dearly beloved husband of the late Anita (nee Spino); loving father of Annamari (Craig) Kamman; cherished grandfather of Randi, Cassandra, Samantha and Vanessa; great-grandfather of Evan and Adam; dear brother of Jack (the late Kay) Coyne and Daniel (Bonnie) Coyne; dear brother-in-law of Larry (Nancy) Spino; fond uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Member of IBEW #134.

**Di Costanzo**
Joseph Di Costanzo, veteran of U.S. Army. Dearly beloved husband of Mary (nee Giannotti); loving father of Charlene and Nicholas (Colleen); cherished grandfather of Tianna, Nicholas Jr., Colin and Michaella; dear brother of Gloria (Bill) Nash, Dr. Anthony (Mary Lou) Di Costanzo and the late Phyllis Di Costanzo; fond brother-in-law of Victor and Irene Giannotti. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Burial private.

**Dickerson**
Florence M. Dickerson, nee Franconi. Dearly beloved wife of the late William Charles; loving mother of Tom (Dolores), Carol (James) Neuzil, Steve, Barbara and Mary (Shawn) Downs; beloved daughter of the late Peter and Josephine Franconi; fond grandmother of Peter (Kellee), Cathie (Guy) Seemann, Christopher (Amanda) Franconi, Becky Pasco and Amanda (Joe) Mellens; great-grandmother of Carrie Seemann, Ryan Seemann, Jack, Dalenee, Gabriel, McKinlee Pasco-Sax, Piper Pasco-Sax and Kennedy Mellens; dear sister of Peter “Sonny” (the late Isabel) Franconi; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

**Dziura**

**Egliske**
Josephine Egliske, age 94, of Eddyville and formerly of Chicago, passed away Friday, March 20, 2020, at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in
Paducah, Ky. She was a homemaker and was of the Catholic faith. Survivors include two daughters, Harriet Egilske of Arizona and Patty White (Tom) of Eddyville, Ky.; three sons, Jerome Egilske (Joan) of Rockford, Ill., Albert Egilske (Sharon) of Rosemont, Ill., and Larry Egilske of Texas; 12 great-grandchildren and 24 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Adalbert J. Egilske; her parents, Frank and Tonina Nuccio Amato; one son, Frank Egilske; seven sisters and one brother. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Fernandez
Maria Fernandez. Dearly beloved mother of Susan (Hector) Pagan, Stacey (Samuel) Lopez, Carmen Beck and Josie Machado; fond grandmother of nine; great-grandmother of 15; dear sister of 14; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Garippo
Rose Garippo, nee Anisi, 85, of Melrose Park, Ill., passed away March 1 after a long illness. She was preceded in death by the love of her life and husband William in 1970. Rose was the extraordinary and beloved mother of Anthony (Coleen), Joseph, Sabina (Mark) Matza and Lisa (Robert) Fitzsimmons; loving sister to the late Christ (Irene) Anisi, the late Angie (David) Purkey, Boris (MaryAnn) Anisi, Annie (Vincent) DePinto and Mary Anisi; grandmother to Angelo (Amy) Christophell, Francesca, William F., William G., Joseph, Annie, Brenna, Sofia and Michael; great-grandmother to Ayn and Aislynn; loving aunt to numerous nieces and nephews; dear friend to many; and well loved by her caretakers.

Rose was born in Chicago in 1934 and raised in the Pilsen neighborhood. A 1952 graduate of Harrison High School, she attended Northern Illinois University until she married William in 1956. Upon being widowed in 1970, she devoted herself with unwavering love, care and strength to raising her four young children in Melrose Park. She soon became a teacher’s aide at Elm School for several years and then moved on to the Construction Department of Jewel Foods supporting the team for over 25 years until she retired. Her balance of freedom, discipline, values and priorities gave her children the foundation to broaden their scopes beyond anything they could have imagined. She always lived her life with grace and dignity, providing a glowing example to anyone who had the privilege to know her. As a single parent, she became the steady center of family life, creating a household that was filled with warmth, love and stability, and a sanctuary for anyone who entered. And above all, she always kept her sense of humor.

Food was central to her family’s life, whether eating or serving. Rose was an amazing cook who loved to feed her family, hosting Sunday dinners for her children, grandchildren and absolutely anyone who wanted to join in. She hosted annual parties during the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Melrose Park that were legendary. Rose attended nearly every event in which her children participated in and many of her grandchildren, and enjoyed watching all Chicago sports teams, whether in the park or at home. She often spent time with her many lifelong friends, taking weekend trips to catch up, laugh and enjoy each other’s company. She enjoyed music, especially Tony Bennett, and would take her sisters to see jazz greats when they were younger. Rose was an extraordinary woman and mother who left an indelible mark on everyone whose lives she touched. Arrangements by Salerno’s Galewood Chapels, Scarabia Funeral Directors. Interment Elmwood Cemetery.

Heidenberger
Doris Heidenberger. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Herrera
Alex Herrera, of Franklin Park. Dearly beloved son of Onofre and Lydia Herrera; loving brother of Aracely (Gerardo) Perez, Melissa, Daisy, Cynthia (Daniel) Garcia and Angel; dear nephew, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Holmes
Betty Joy Holmes, nee Orlanducci. Dearly beloved wife of Robert Holmes; loving mother of Silvio, Robert, Nicholas and Kimberly; fond grandmother of eight; great-grandmother of three; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Iacobazzi
Josephine Iacobazzi, nee Santilli. Dearly beloved wife of the late Vito; loving mother of Mark and Don (Karen); loving daughter of the late Nazzareno and Santa Santilli; cherished grandmother of Kelly and Kimberly; dear sister of the late Rinaldo (Ann) Santilli, the late Lenina Santilli and the late Berardino (the late Eleanor) Santilli; fond sister-in-law, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

James
Corinne E. James. Dearly beloved wife of Daniel; loving mother of Mark (Linda), Daniel Jr. (Jean), Julie (Terry) O’Brien, Carol (Jeff) Lemke, Margaret Reedy, Anne (Tom) Ruied and Mary (Jim) Paschall; cherished grandmother of Kelly, Matthew, Brian, Erin, Jennifer, Kevin, Therese, Patrick, Christopher, Nicolas, Noah, Alex, Danielle, Harry, Grace, Clare, Catherine, Daniel, Joseph, Elizabeth, Bridget, James, Theresa, Joseph, Maria and Andrew; great-grandmother of Oliver, Sadie, Hudson, Lily, Elizabeth, Corinne, Santiago and Aleksander; dear sister of Judy (the late Harrison) Nordstrom, Carol (the late Gene) Connery and Susie (the late Tom) Cunningham; fond sister-in-law, aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Jandrisits
Dolores Jandrisits. Dearly beloved wife of the late Leo; loving father of Laura (Rick) Zaksas, Joyce (Dr. Joe) Illig and Joe (Bobbie) Jandrisits; cherished grandmother of Leslie (David) Goode, Matt (Gina) Zaksas and Christopher Illig; dear sister of the late Josephine (the late Walter) Anker and the late Gene (the late Dorothy) Bratko; fond great-grandmother, aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Leverenz
Ted E. Leverenz, 78, of Melrose Park, Ill., passed away peacefully on April 8, 2020. Beloved husband to his bride Kathleen Jarecki-Leverenz; loving father of Tracy (William Bergh) Leigh Bergh, Kevin (Jamie Francis-Leverenz) Leverenz, Brian (Gina) Jarecki and Michael (Chiraq Badlani) Jarecki; gentle grandpa to Melanie, Christina, Abigail, Ethan, Brian, Jr. and Ronen; dear brother of Thomas (Sonia) Leverenz and uncle to many; dedicated doggie dad to many, including Bailey, Bella and Mia. Ted served as an Illinois state representative from 1974 to 1991, including as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and a senator from 1991 to 1993. He is remembered as a dedicated public servant who “Never Had a Bad Day,” with a smile to prove it. His loving nature and kindness will be forever cherished and carried on by his family, loved ones and many friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Mahnke
Lucille Mahnke, nee Manoni, passed away shortly after contracting the coronavirus. Devoted wife of the late George Mahnke; beloved daughter of the late Livio and Catherine Manoni; best mother ever to Christine (Nick) Delpercio, George (Sarah) and Lisa (Frank) Oshman; doting nana to Elyse (Tom) Klein, Natalie Delpercio, Christian Mahnke, Allyson Mahnke, Oliver Oshman, Georgia Mahnke and Hunter Oshman; proud bisnonna of Quinn and Charlotte Klein; cherished sister of the late Christine, the late Joann, Augustino, the late John, the late Ona, the late Clara, the late Anzo and Secondo Manoni; loving “Aunt Lou” to many nieces and nephews and too many friends to count! Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Montenegro
Isaura Montenegro. Dearly beloved wife of the late Eladio Montenegro; loving mother of Arnoldo (Irma), Delfino (Doriclea), Alberto (Socorro), Luz Maria (Felipe) Ocon, Guadalupe (Arturo) Resendez, Olivia (Jose) Cepeda and Magdalena Montenegro; cherished grandmother of 20; great-grandmother of 17; dear sister of six; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Moore
Clifford Moore Sr. Da Juan leaves to carry on his legacy a devoted mother, Sharon Mayes Walker (Lionel); his father, Clifford Moore (Emily); seven brothers, Cherrord Moore Sr., Corian Moore, Patrick Moore, Keith Moore, Brian Moore, Kevin Moore, Dushawn Glen and Bashuan Caldwell; two sisters, Jasmine Walker and Carmen Hodges; grandparents, Rosie and Ray Thomas; great-aunts, Daisy, Katherine and Mildred, he had lovely aunt proceeded in
death, Cynthia (Leonard); Mary (Jimmy); Lydia, Nivia (Jovon); Jeanie (proceeded in death Robert); Felitha (Bucky); Janice (proceeded in death Bill); Jetant (Stan) and Rachel; six uncles, Louis, Clyde, William, David, Calvin and Mitchell; his wife, Balthia; his six children, Ka-Juan-Keke (Andrew), Keith-Big guy, Keitrell-Ki (Kelaiah), D’Arne-Dede, Da’Juan King and Clifford Jr.; two grandchildren, Keitrell Jr.-Kj; expected delivery of Addison Unique Moore-Robertson and a host of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Nicola
Gheorghe Nicolaie. Dearly beloved husband of Wanda; loving father of the late Giorgiana; beloved son of the late Constance and Alessandra; dear brother of 10; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

O’Neal
Lonnir R O’Neal. Cherished pearl of the late Lucille O’Neal; dear brother of Joyce, Maple, Jacqueline, Al Maurice, Annette, Sharon, Mary Jo, Judy, Laware, the late Bonnie, the late Debra and the late Glen; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Panico
Louis Panico III. Dearly beloved husband of Virginia; loving father of Michelle, Patricia and Gina; beloved son of the late Louis Jr. and Madelene Panico; fond grandfather of eight; dear brother of Nancy Lorenzo, Francine and Joey; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Panico
Madelene Panico, nee Sciortino. Dearly beloved wife of the late Louis Jr.; loving mother of Louis III (Virginia), Nancy Ann Lorenzo, Joseph (late Diane) and Francine (Joseph) Tindall; cherished grandmother of Sebastian, Michelle, Rose Ann, Carla, Danielle and Nicolette; great-grandmother of eight; dear sister of Tommy Sciortino and the late Ann Cangiolo, the late Dorothy Consolo, the late Mary Di Maggio and the late Carmen Sciortino; fond sister-in-law, aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Partipilo
Anthony Partipilo, retired Chicago police officer of 30 years. Dearly beloved husband of Diane (nee Pagnoni); loving father of John (Kim) and the late Kristin; fond grandfather of Evening Rose, Joanne and Konner; great-grandfather of Zayden, Kalvin and Fiona; dear brother of Mickey (John) Martino, John (Pat), the late Vito (the late Nellie), the late Rena (the late John) Gervase, and the late Rosa (the late Joe) Musilli; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Picardi
James Picardi Jr. Beloved husband of Patricia (nee Giannola); loving father of Bernadette (Dante) De Julius, Michele (the late Bill) (Jim Gorski) Santapa, Lenore (Steve) Pohlabel, Salvatore “Sam” (Anna) Picardi and Matthew; fond grandfather of Alex and Anthony De Julius, Frank and Jimmy Santapa, Nick Gort, and Nick, Lisa, Caleb and Jake Pohlabel; fond great-grandfather of Anthony and Jack Pohlabel, and Evan and Aaron; dear brother of Michael (Vera) and Joseph Picardi; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Sacchetta
Nunzio J. Sacchetta, Sr., passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family in the tranquility of his own home on March 29, 2020. Beloved Husband of Gemma (nee Leone) Sacchetta. Devoted father of the late Julie, James and Nunzio (the late Nancy) Sacchetta; loving son of the late Nunziato and the late Carmella Sacchetta; fond grandfather of Joseph (Alicia) Miele, the late Nicole Miele, Charise Sacchetta, James Sacchetta, JR., and Nunzio (Alicia) Sacchetta; loving great-grandfather of Nikoletta Miele, Jakson Hirschuber, Julianne Miele, Bentley Sacchetta and Nunzio Miele; dear brother of the late Frank (the late Mary) Sacchetta, the late Maria (the late Louis) Baldo and the late Dorothy (the late Steve) Mele; dear uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Russo’s Hillside Chapels. Funeral private.

Scanlon
Angel Scanlon. With heavy hearts, we regret to inform you that our mom, Angel Carbonara, passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2020. Angel was born on Sept. 10, 1923, to Susie (Pompilio) and Pat Carbonara. She was delivered at home by a midwife in her Chicago home which was around the corner from her grandmother’s bakery on Milwaukee Avenue. She was the oldest and dear sister to Alex, Vito and Jean. She attended Mitchell and Talcott Elementary Schools, graduated from James Otis Elementary School and Wells High School. Angel studied piano at the Chicago Conservatory of Music as well as cosmetology after which she became a licensed hair stylist. Later, she continued her education, studying college business classes for two years, emerging as a full-time bookkeeper. Angel married twice – to Mike Emma and later to Jack Scanlon. With Mike she has three loving daughters – Cher, Susan and Michele; their spouses John, Greg and Lee are also treasured by her. Her daughters have given her six beautiful grandchildren – Brooke (Matt), Jay (Heather), Eric (Lynn), Kristen, Lindy (Matt) and Dan. These grandchildren have blessed Angel with 13 great-grandchildren – Abbie, Dylan, Chloe, Tyler, Bryce, Kailey, Rachel, Kyle, Brandon, Skylar, Ella, Maddie and Danny. If you saw Angel’s face when her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were around, you would know she was abounding with love. Angel’s favorite hobbies were dancing, bowling and playing cards. She will be remembered as a gentle and loving woman with a nickname that most definitely reflected her personality. She will be deeply missed by all, but will look down upon us with undying love. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Severino
Helen Severino, nee Palermo. Beloved mother of Camille and John Severino; cherished grandmother of Angelina and John Jr.; loving sister of Mary, Nancy (Glenn) Compton, Louise and Phyllis (Lenny) Zullo; devoted aunt of many nieces and nephews; proud friend of Mary Adams. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Stolfe
Marc J. Stolfe. Dearly beloved husband of Jennifer (nee Childe); loving father of Alexandra, Andrew and Benjamin; stepfather of Eric; beloved son of James and Patricia Stolfe; dear brother of Laura Sue (Louis) Colella, Brian (Cynthia) and Michael (Martha) Stolfe; fond nephew, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Trombetta
Consolata Trombetta, nee Ercolana. Dearly beloved wife of the late Generoso Trombetta; loving mother of Vince; fond nonna to Gina and Jessica; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Villagomez

Zanzola
Vito Zanzola, veteran of the United States Army. Dearly beloved husband of the late Lucille; loving father of Geri (Rick) Moralez; cherished grandfather of Kim Coverly and Dana (Jason) Adams; great-grandfather of Joey, Nico, Antonella, Anthony, Michael, Breyana and Bryce; dear brother of the late Ray Alfieri, the late Tom Alfieri, the late Rose Locante the late Grace Johnson, the late Lucille Bravieri, the late Nick Zenzola and the late Ceil Pacwa; loving uncle to many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.
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 siguimiento 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. ubicacion 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.

The schedule for calendar year 2020 is: May 11 and Tuesday, May 26; June 8 and 22; July 13 and 27; Aug. 10 and 24; Sept. 14 and 28; Tuesday, Oct. 13 and 26; Nov. 9 and 23; and Dec. 14 and 28.

Board meeting arrangements have changed. Please call Patti Dindia at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4410, for details.

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

Residents are asked to make note of the dates listed.

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

Carbonara Funeral Directors
Pre-Arrangements, with or without prepayment of services
Chapels available near your home

Bus: (708) 343-6161  Home: (708) 865-8124  Cell: (708) 724-7500

Now Open at 1515 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park
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MAYOR
Ronald M. Serpico

CLERK
Mary Ann Paolantonio

TRUSTEES
Anthony N. Abruzzo, Jaime Anguiano, Arturo J. Mota, Sonny Nicotera, Anthony J. Prignano, Mary Ramirez Taconi

VILLAGE HALL HOURS
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS
Second and fourth Monday of each month (unless otherwise indicated)
at 6 p.m., 1 N. Broadway

Washland Laundry
116 N. 19th Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160

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