



## Season's Greetings!

### A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

Dear Neighbors,

This time of year, I pen a holiday-themed letter for this column. Recently, I overheard people talking about the Hallmark Channel featuring Christmas movies every day from mid-November through Christmas Eve. I then determined this year's letter would be about a few beloved holiday movies. By the way, almost all Hallmark Channel holiday movies are filmed in Canada with a budget that usually includes \$50,000 for making snow.



**Ronald M. Serpico**  
Mayor

And now, let's dig into a few of my favorite holiday movies. The first is *A Christmas Carol*. As a young boy I couldn't wait to watch this movie, it both scared and delighted me. I often had to close my eyes when the Ghost of Christmas Future appeared. This Charles Dickens' classic is the most adapted Christmas movie with 134 different filmed versions.

As a child I looked forward to *Miracle on 34th Street*. I was fascinated by 8-year-old Natalie Wood's character, who believes that the Macy Department Store Santa is truly the real deal. Even when the camera was not rolling Ms. Wood believed that Ed Gwenn (the actor who played Santa) was really Santa Claus. And what Christmas movie season would be complete without hearing Judy Garland sing *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. This movie was based on a novel by Sally Benson, who would later write the script for Elvis Presley's most successful film, *Viva Las Vegas*.

There's always the Grinch, the Christmas character everyone loves to hate until they don't. I remember despising the grumpy Grinch in the cartoon *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and then cheering for him as the Who family teaches him that Christmas is about more than presents. Fun fact, most people know the Grinch as a bright green creature, but Dr. Seuss initially had the Grinch drawn in black and white.

No list would be complete without mentioning the film that critics rate as the best holiday movie of all time, *It's a Wonderful Life*. I admit to still tearing up at the end when George Bailey, surrounded by family and friends, realizes his angel, Clarence, just received his wings. Interesting story, everyone associates Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, but initially, the part was to be played by Cary Grant.

And last but not least, my personal favorite, *A Christmas Story*. Just like Ralphie in the movie, what boy growing up in the '40s, '50s and '60s didn't want to own a BB gun? Noteworthy trivia ... *A Christmas Story* is the only holiday movie that airs for 24-hours straight. This year the 24-hour movie event airs Christmas Eve on TBS and TNT.

Space limits me from writing about more of my favorite holiday movies such as *Christmas Vacation*, *Home Alone*, *Elf*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and the list goes on.

On behalf of the village clerk, the village trustees and my wife Donna, I wish you and yours the warmest of season's greetings. And remember to make some great Christmas memories for your children and grandchildren by sharing with them some of your favorite holiday movies.

**Check Out [www.MelrosePark.org](http://www.MelrosePark.org) to  
Learn More About Our Community!**



Sincerely,

*Ron Serpico*  
Mayor Ron Serpico



# Village of Melrose Park

**Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor**

**Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk**

## Trustees

**Anthony J. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano**

**Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera**

**Anthony J. Prignano • Mary Ramirez Taconi**



## To Know

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

**Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Birth Certificates • First Copy – \$15, additional copies \$4 each.**

**Death Certificates • First Copy – \$17, additional copies \$6 each.**

**Water, Tickets, Etc.**

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

**Police Emergency .....911**

**Non-Emergency .....(708) 344-8409**

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

**Fire Emergency .....911**

**Non-Emergency .....(708) 344-1210**

**Public Safety/Homeland Security .....(708) 649-8000**

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

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

**Building and Code .....(708) 343-4000**

**Civic Center .....(708) 450-0555**

**Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.**

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

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

**Taste of Melrose Park**

**Dial A Ride .....(708) 343-7047**

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

**Economic Development .....(708) 865-8809**

## Important Upcoming Dates

**Village Board Meetings .....Jan. 9 and 23, and Feb. 13**

**Village Hall Holiday Closings .....Dec. 23 (1/2 Day), Dec. 26,**

**Dec. 30 (1/2 Day), Jan. 2 and Jan. 16**

# Resident Response

## ***Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...***

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to Officer Scarpelli.

On Sept. 4, while attending the Taste of Melrose Park, my vehicle was towed.

Officer Scarpelli assisted me by finding out the location of my vehicle and by making arrangements for me to pick up the vehicle that evening.

Please extend my thanks to Officer Scarpelli.

• Sincerely,  
Richard C. Nickels  
Aurora, Ill.

## ***Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...***

I would like to extend our gratitude to you and Officer Rovito for helping us out with the Tour de Proviso bike ride on Oct. 1.

The event was a well-attended bike ride that took place on the weekend when the weather was great. I have no doubt that the assistance your officer provided to our village, its residents, officers, drivers and all the Tour de Proviso participants made this a safe event and a more enjoyable experience for all.

We know your department is engaged with many calls of its own and we are truly appreciative that your officer made time to come out and assist ours with this event.

We appreciate the support of you, your agency and community. Needless to say, anytime we can be of assistance or support to you, please do not hesitate to call!

• With appreciation,  
Joseph Ballerine  
Riverside Village President  
Matthew Buckley  
Director of Public Safety

## ***Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...***

On behalf of the River Forest Police Department, I would like to thank your department for assisting us with the traffic crash with critical injuries to a juvenile that occurred on Oct. 24.

A juvenile was riding her bicycle on Lake Street at Jackson in River Forest when she entered the roadway and was struck by a vehicle driving on Lake Street. The young girl was thrown from her bicycle and had experienced life-threatening injuries. A request was made for the WESTAF Crash Unit to respond to the scene to assist with the investigation.

Officer Castellan from your department responded to the scene and provided vital expertise and skill during this investigation.

On behalf of the River Forest Police Department, I would like to thank you for sending assistance. Without intergovernmental cooperation, we would have had a difficult time investigating the crash. I am grateful for the personnel that responded.

• Respectfully,  
James O'Shea, Chief of Police  
River Forest Police Department

## ***Dear Director of Public Works Gary Marine ...***

I just wanted to share some genuine appreciation for the new roadway markings and signs at 18th Avenue and Lake Street. Your personal attention and direction ensured that this busy school crossing would get the bright crosswalk markings and flashing yield signs now present.



# ***SEASON'S GREETINGS***

from

**Mayor  
Ronald M. Serpico**

**Village Clerk  
Mary Ann Paolantonio**

**Village Trustees  
Anthony N. Abruzzo,  
Jaime Anguiano,  
Arturo J. Mota,  
Sonny Nicotera,  
Anthony J. Prignano,  
Mary Ramirez Taconi  
and the  
Employees of the  
Village of Melrose Park**

As being regularly assigned to this location, I am very familiar with the many parents and children that use this crossing to get to and from school every morning. I was proud and happy to see each and every parent being thankful for the new additions, but just didn't have the time to explain where the credit was due.

So on behalf of all of the many people that I help at this crossing, big and small, thanks again for making safety a priority and looking out for all of us as we cross the street!

- Sincerely,  
Ofc. Frank Guzman  
Melrose Park Police Department



## **Join in the Seasonal Fun!**

**Is your home decorated  
for the holidays ...**

**Send us a photo for the  
next issue of The Rose!**

**You could win a prize  
on behalf of  
Mayor Serpico  
and the Melrose Park  
Youth Commission.**

**Five top prizes (\$150 each) and  
five runners-up prizes (\$50 each)  
will be awarded for the best decorated!**

**Take a nighttime photo of your home all lit  
and email it to [therose@melrosepark.org](mailto:therose@melrosepark.org)  
on or before Jan. 8, 2023.**

**Type Mayor Serpico/MPYC Holiday Decorations  
in the subject line of your email and include your  
name, address and a phone number  
that's best to reach you at.**

**For more information,  
please call the  
MP Youth Commission at  
(708) 343-4000.**



# *Village of Melrose Park*

## **Mayor Serpico's Snow Removal Program for Senior and Special Needs Residents**



**RESIDENTS  
MUST  
PRE-REGISTER  
EVERY  
SEASON.**

**This service is offered to seniors (65 and older),  
disabled with special needs and  
those who have no family or neighbors to help.**

**AT 4 INCHES OR MORE OF PREDICTED FALLING SNOW,  
YOUR NAME WILL BE ADDED TO THE SNOW REMOVAL LIST.  
WE WILL DO A PATH FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR TO THE STREET  
AND A SWIPE OF YOUR DRIVEWAY.  
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ONLY (NO RENTALS) – NO ALLEYS  
– NO ALLEY SKIRTS TO GARAGE – NO BACKYARDS.**

For more  
information,  
please call  
(708) 649-4450.

TO RESERVE SERVICES FROM THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM  
FOR THE FULL WINTER SEASON, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL  
THE MAYOR SERPICO AND THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK SNOW REMOVAL RESERVATION FORM TO:  
Village of Melrose Park, Snow Removal • 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160



### **Mayor Serpico and the Village of Melrose Park Snow Removal Reservation Form**

TO RESERVE SERVICES, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**MELROSE PARK RESIDENTS – PLEASE TRY TO HELP SENIOR AND  
DISABLED NEIGHBORS IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER – THANK YOU.**



# A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi  
Director of Police*



## Melrose Park Police Department

### Provide an Anonymous Crime Tip

The Melrose Park Police Department relies on individuals to help prevent and solve crimes in our community. If you have information about criminal activity, please submit it. However, if you would like to be contacted by a police officer, just include a telephone number or email address where you can be reached. Submit to [tips@melroseparkpd.com](mailto:tips@melroseparkpd.com).

## IMPORTANT PARKING NOTICE

### A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES ...

As of Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, parking is no longer permitted on both sides of the street on weekends.

Overnight parking restrictions remain the same in the West Melrose and Winston Park areas.

Parking is only allowed on designated sides of the street depending on the day of the week as indicated on notice signs posted throughout the community.

Remember, parking is never allowed on east and west streets – 2-6 A.M.

**ALL VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK PARKING RESTRICTIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND TICKETS WILL BE WRITTEN.**

Visit the Melrose Park Police Department Website at [www.melroseparkpd.com](http://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.

## Mayor Ronald M. Serpico Announces a New Overnight Parking System

The village of Melrose Park, in conjunction with the Melrose Park Police Department, the Melrose Park Homeland Security ~ Public Safety Departments and Frontline Public Safety Systems, have developed a new overnight parking system to make it easier for village residents to request overnight parking.

The Overnight Parking module is a secure online database that allows residents to create entries of authorized vehicles and their locations. This information is posted immediately after approval. Residents can request overnight parking from our website at ...

<https://www.frontlinepss.com/melrosepark>

Residents with computers can fill out a simple online form. Residents without a computer or needing help with the online form can call (708) 344-8409 and the desk officers can help you with your request.

**The new overnight parking system will start on Jan. 1, 2023.**



**Melrose  
Park  
Police  
Department**

*Connecting  
You to  
Community  
Resources!*

# MELROSE PARK SECURITY CAMERA PROGRAM

The Village of Melrose Park is planning a program to help residents cover the cost of home security cameras, while at the same time keeping our community safe.

Residents who wish to participate in the new program can contact Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Greco at [cameras@melroseparkpd.com](mailto:cameras@melroseparkpd.com).

Residents must then fill out a form for participation in the program.

The form will be found at [www.melroseparkpd.com](http://www.melroseparkpd.com), and then choosing the Camera Program link on the side menu.

Receipts for camera systems must be provided for reimbursement after an inspection proves that the camera system is installed and properly functioning. Cameras including views of interior of a home not eligible.

Camera Program will be launched in early 2023.



**MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1 N. Broadway Ave. Melrose Park, IL 60160

[www.MelroseParkPD.com](http://www.MelroseParkPD.com)





**Melrose  
Park  
Police  
Department**

*Connecting  
You to  
Community  
Resources!*

### **Give a phone - save a life. Donate your old cell phones today**

The Melrose Park Police Department is hosting a charity event through the month of December for [911cellphonebank.com](http://911cellphonebank.com).

Anyone that has an old cell phone laying around collecting dust can now give back to the community by donating them to help victims of domestic violence and other crimes. The phones do NOT need to be in working condition. After we receive the phones, they are sent off to [911cellphonebank.com](http://911cellphonebank.com) for secure erasure of any data still on the phone, repaired (if needed) and then given to victims free of charge. The donations are tax deductible. Phones can be dropped off between the hours of 8am and 4pm at the Melrose Park Police Department located at 1 N. Broadway in Melrose Park. For more information on the program, please feel free to contact Lt. Michael Scudiero at (708)344-8409 or visit [911cellphonebank.com](http://911cellphonebank.com)



# Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



*Rick Beltrame  
Director of Fire Dept.*

## A Message from Rick Beltrame, Director of Fire Department



**Merry  
Christmas  
and  
Happy  
New Year!**

**From the  
Melrose Park  
Fire  
Department**



With the holidays fast approaching, the Melrose Park Fire Department and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame want to ensure the safety of our residents by providing these winter holiday safety tips on behalf the Red Cross and National Fire Protection Association. Please follow these tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season!

## Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Our holiday traditions can increase the risk of home fire. Learn how to stay safe while you celebrate.

From Thanksgiving to New Year, it's time to enjoy our favorite holiday traditions, celebrating around the table, and making new memories with friends and family. To ensure that the festivities are both happy and safe, here are some useful holiday season fire safety tips from Red Cross regions across America.

### Cooking and Baking

No holiday celebration would be complete without a feast, but be sure to take precautions against kitchen fires when you're cooking and baking. That includes keeping children and flammable items such as grocery bags and kitchen towels away from the stove and oven. Clean up greasy spills as you go to remove another fire hazard. If you're deep frying a turkey, keep the fryer well away from structures and trees, make sure your turkey is fully thawed, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for your fryer. See the National Fire Protection Association's guidelines for Cooking Safety at [www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Top-fire-causes/Cooking](http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Top-fire-causes/Cooking).

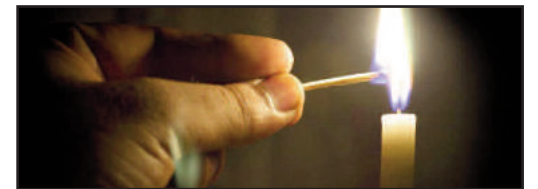
### Christmas Trees

Old fashioned Christmas celebrations featured wax candles on live tree branches – inside homes! Today we know better, but risks still remain. If your family prefers real trees, be sure to water yours every day because dry needles and wood catch fire more easily. Go ahead and use many strings of light, but don't plug more than three strings into each other (opt for a power strip instead). Discard light strings that are worn or broken. And be sure to always unplug the lights before leaving the house or going to sleep.



### Menorah or Kinara

It's possible to buy electric menorahs and kinaras, but if you prefer traditional candles you can still celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in a fire-smart way. Keep flammable items, including curtains and holiday decorations, at least 3 feet away from your candles. Place your menorah or kinara on a non-flammable surface to catch the melting candle wax, such as a tray lined with aluminum foil. Never leave lit candles unattended.



### Fireplaces

Nothing takes the chill off winter holidays like the light and heat of a fire on your hearth. Just be sure to keep "fuel" – from wrapping paper to rugs to clothing – at least 3 feet away from the flames. Use a fire screen to keep embers and logs from escaping. Lastly, make sure all embers are fully extinguished before you turn in for the night.



### Fireworks

We usually talk about firework safety for the Fourth of July, but many New Year celebrations also include fireworks. If you'll be setting off fireworks at home, choose a location away from buildings and trees. Be sure your spectators, including children and pets, stay well back. Keep a supply of water or fire extinguisher at hand. If you live in an area that's experiencing a drought, consider cancelling the show this year – a stray spark that lands on dry grass or leaves can lead to a wildfire.



Source: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



# A Gracious Thank You from the Melrose Park Fire Department and the Melrose Park Firemen's Association

On Friday, Oct. 28, the Melrose Park Firemen's Association held their Annual Fall Raffle Dinner to help raise funds for charitable contributions to organizations the association works with throughout the year. On behalf of the Melrose Park Fire Department, the association would like to graciously thank all those who helped make this year's dinner and commemorative ad book an incredible success, including the following supporters as well as current and retired MP firefighters ...

**Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor, Village of Melrose Park**  
**Superior Ambulance Service**  
**Restore Disaster Restoration Experts**  
**Cerami Construction Company, Ltd.**  
**Cerniglia Co.**  
**Macqueen Emergency Pierce**  
**Pan American Bank & Trust**  
**D & P Construction Co., Inc.**  
**Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc.**  
**Elite Electric Co., Inc.**  
**Special T Unlimited**  
**Veterans Park District**  
**Suburban Sporting Goods**  
**Joseph A. Casale/Richard D. Dalitto**  
**C & O Window Cleaning LLC**  
**Flowers of Italy Club**  
**Tom Olson, President, Triton College Foundation**  
**Signco**  
**Enviro Tech International, Inc.**  
**Flexible Staffing Services**  
**B & G Sales Inc.**  
**Washland Laundry**  
**MEM Electric**

**Swaporama**  
**Tone Products Inc.**  
**Scores Chicago O'Hare**  
**R.J.N. Supplies, Inc.**  
**Flood Brothes Disposal**  
**Caputo Cheese Company**  
**Kushner Medical**  
**En-Chro Plating, L.P.**  
**Air One Equipment**  
**Spicer Construction, LLC**  
**Tony's Fresh Market**  
**Lucky Dog**  
**D & S Construction**  
**V.I. Truck and Trailer Repair**  
**Chicago Soccer Fields**  
**Small World Learning Center**  
**Mark's Quality Landscaping**  
**Aqua Fiori Inc.**  
**Duke of Oil**  
**Joe's Lazy Boy Furniture**  
**Action Painting Company Inc.**  
**Carbit Liquid Coating Solutions**  
**Carbonara Funeral Home**

**3MD Relocation Services, LLC**  
**Melrose Auto Repair**  
**AA Rental Center**  
**Construction Management Service Corp.**  
**Fairway Custom Landscaping, Inc.**  
**The Law Offices of Carlos H. Davalos**  
**Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention Co.**  
**Dynamic Powertrain**  
**Melrose Dental Center**  
**Midwest Industrial Funds**  
**CXI Trucking**  
**Best Packaging**  
**Rogers Pump Sales**



# How Melrose Park Voted ...

## Nov. 8, 2022, Gubernatorial Election Results

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION

**YES.....2,231**  
No .....915

### FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, STATE OF ILLINOIS

**JB PRITZKER & JULIANA STRATTON.....2,219**  
Darren Bailey & Stephanie Trussell.....1,229  
Scott Schluter & John Phillips .....70

### FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ILLINOIS

**KWAME RAOUL.....2,218**  
Thomas G. DeVore .....1,204  
Daniel K. Robin.....73

### FOR SECRETARY OF STATE, STATE OF ILLINOIS

**ALEXI GIANNOULIAS.....2,351**  
Dan Brady .....1,114  
Jon Stewart.....59

### FOR COMPTROLLER, STATE OF ILLINOIS

**SUSANA A. MENDOZA .....2,429**  
Shannon L. Teresi.....1,064  
Deirdre McCloskey .....36

### FOR TREASURER, STATE OF ILLINOIS

**MICHAEL W. FRERICHS .....2,240**  
Tom Demmer .....1,161  
Preston Nelson .....71

### FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**JESUS “CHUY” GARCIA.....2,363**  
James Falakos.....1,070  
Edward Hershey .....80

### FOR STATE SENATOR, 39TH SENATE DISTRICT

**DON HARMON .....2,298**

### FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 7TH DISTRICT

**EMANUEL ‘CHRIS’ WELCH.....327**  
Eddie L. Kornegay, Jr.....110

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 77TH DISTRICT  
**NORMA HERNANDEZ.....1,608**  
Anthony Airdo. ....641

FOR COMMISSIONER,  
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
**PATRICIA THERESA FLYNN.....2,005**  
Mariyana T. Spyropoulos .....1,820  
Yumeka Brown.....1,411  
R. Cary Capparelli .....1,226  
Mark E. Buettner.....393

FOR CLERK, COOK COUNTY  
**KAREN A. YARBROUGH.....2,211**  
Tony Peraica .....1,164  
Joseph Schreiner.....82

FOR SHERIFF, COOK COUNTY  
**THOMAS J. DART.....2,015**  
Lupe Aguirre .....923  
Brad Sandefur.....74

FOR TREASURER, COOK COUNTY  
**MARIA PAPPAS.....2,154**  
Peter Kopsaftis .....815  
Michael Murphy .....62

FOR COMMISSIONER, 9TH COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT  
**MAGGIE TREVOR.....126**  
Matt Podgorski.....68

FOR COMMISSIONER, 16TH COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT  
**FRANK J. AGUILAR.....2,075**  
Kimberly Jagielski .....1,129

FOR JUDGE, 4TH COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT (VACANCY OF GAVIN)  
**NICK KANTAS.....866**

FOR JUDGE, 4TH COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT (VACANCY OF ROGERS)  
**SHAWNTE RAINES-WELCH.....855**

VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK – CEASE HOME RULE  
**NO.....2,603**  
Yes .....607





# Always Stepping Up ...

## Melrose Park Police Department and Area Towing to Launch Catalytic Converter Painting Program Next Spring

The Melrose Park Police Department is partnering with Area Towing of Melrose Park for the catalytic converter painting Program that will take place in early spring 2023.

The effort to begin painting catalytic converters so they can be more easily identified as a way of deterring thieves.

Law enforcement agencies across the Cook County communities have partnered in an effort to mitigate the alarming trend of increasing catalytic converter thefts over the past few years.

A catalytic converter is a device that converts toxic exhaust gasses from an internal combustion engine into less-toxic pollutants. The converters contain precious metals in a muffler-like package attached to the exhaust pipe. It's readily accessible underneath the car and thieves can steal them within minutes. They sell them for the precious metals and it can cost car owners thousands to replace.

Law enforcement officials are hoping that painting the expensive car parts will make it difficult for them to be sold to purveyors of the stolen parts as they could be easily identified as stolen, and therefore a liability to scrap yards and other potential buyers.

The details of the program will be available soon on the village and Police Department websites. The program is in the development stages at this moment.

## A Note from the Melrose Park Fire Department Buried Fire Hydrants Can Pose Danger

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

## Melrose Park Fire Department Personnel Welcome Grant School Students

Students and teachers from Grant School had a tour of Melrose Park Fire Station Three at 36th and Lake Street. Students toured the living quarters, training room, workout room, kitchen and apparatus bays, along with viewing fire trucks and ambulance.







# Melrose Park Departments of Fire, Police and Homeland Security – Public Safety Assist Santa Claus with His Visit to Melrose Park

On Nov. 19, Santa Claus made a special visit by helicopter to Winston Park and took time out of his busy schedule to take photos with the children present. The Melrose Park Fire, Police and Homeland Security – Public Safety were on hand to be sure Santa had a safe landing and visit.

Photos by S. Schwartz, Melrose Park Homeland Security.



## Homeland Security – Public Safety, Assist Gottlieb Memorial Hospital With Drills

On Nov. 28 and 29, evacuation drills were conducted on the 6th floor West and 4th South of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park.

The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate the actual physical movement/evacuation of patients from the fourth and sixth floors down to the ground level and into a waiting ambulance.

Members of the Melrose Park Fire Department and Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security – Public Safety participated in this drill. Their role was that of observers, safety and instruction. At the beginning of each drill, the evacuation policy was reviewed, as well as the acronym RACE (Rescue, Alert, Contain, Extinguish), command responsibilities at the Incident Command, unit and evacuation team levels were discussed, the role of first responders during such an event and safety protocols for the drill were explained. The drill commenced with the decision to evacuate having been made. The drill was conducted multiple times on each shift to ensure all colleagues had a chance to participate. Each drill ended with the patient being placed into a waiting ambulance.

Photos by D. Wujcik, Loyola Medicine, and Zachary Plunkett, Melrose Park Public Safety.



## Answer the Call ...

### Melrose Park's Homeland Security and Public Safety Departments are NOW Recruiting!

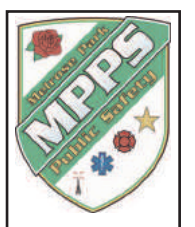
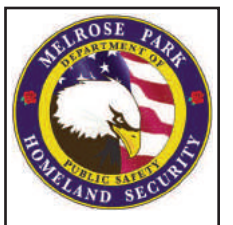
- Interested in public safety, emergency services and first responder volunteer opportunities? Become a member of the Village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety.
- Team members gain real-world emergency services experience in the areas of police, fire, criminal justice, public safety, computer IT, telecommunications and weather-related disasters.
- Learn on state-of-the-art technologies and equipment that will give you expert training for potential career opportunities.
- We are seeking individuals who take pride in wearing the uniform and helping to provide public safety to our community.

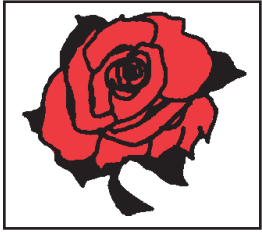
### We are Currently Recruiting for ...

- Adults for both volunteer and paid positions in our 311 Telecommunications Centers, as well as reserve (auxiliary police) officers.
- High school students (14 years and older) to join our cadet programs – a unique experience which gives students the opportunity to gain public safety career exploration and training.

Call us at (708) 649-8040 or email us today at [training@mpdhs.net](mailto:training@mpdhs.net) to join one of the most prestigious public safety departments in the region!

Visit our website at [www.mpps.us](http://www.mpps.us) for more information about our department.





# Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

From the Desk of  
Gary Marine,  
Director of Public Works

## TV Pickup

Please call and make arrangements for pickup with the Public Works Street Department at (708) 343-5128 before putting your TV out.

## Feeding Wildlife

Attention Winston Park Area Residents – Please refrain from feeding wildlife, especially deer, around the Winston Park area. The food is attracting skunks and raccoons, and they are becoming a nuisance throughout this area.



## Attention Residents Along Silver Creek Embankment

Please refrain from throwing grass clippings and any other yard waste into the creek.

## Apply Now for the 2023 Senior Painting Program!

Mayor Serpico 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 (below) 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**

2023 Senior Painting Program list will be closed July 31, 2023.

Only one item will be painted per year.

Get your request in early as the list fills fast.



## Mayor Serpico's 2023 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

Only one item will be painted per year. 2023 list will be closed July 31, 2023.

## 2023 Fall Tree Planting for Parkways

If you are interested in a tree for the parkway for 2023 (one tree per household), we are compiling a list for 2023 Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128. The 2022 Fall Tree Planting Program is now closed.

## 2023 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program

If you would like to participate in the 2023 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program to request replacement of sidewalk squares, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128 for more information. The 2022 50/50 Sidewalk Program is now closed.

## 25th Avenue Municipal Lot

Under Mayor Serpico's direction, the lot on 25th Avenue and Augusta has been paved and open for free parking to residents. The lot on the northeast corner of 25th and Augusta has been paved for additional free parking for residents.

The Civic Center's east and west lots have been repaved as well.

## Street Parking Restriction Signs

Please follow all street parking restriction signs posted throughout the village.



## Street Sweeping

The street sweeper is out throughout the village. Please follow all street sweeping signs located on village streets. Please remove your vehicle from the street to help expedite sweeping and do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street. Grass clippings and leaves are to be picked up and bagged in a biodegradable bag or tickets will be issued.

## Silver Creek Restoration Project

Under the direction of Mayor Ronald M. Serpico, the Village of Melrose Park Public Works employees are constructing at the Silver Creek Eagles Nest Park. This is a natural preserve that will include a walking path and a pavilion/gazebo, along with a canoe/kayak launch.

**Phase Five and Six of the Silver Creek Restoration Project  
will be completed this year.**

This restoration project restores the natural balance of the creek by restoring the embankment, and bringing back native landscape and shrubbery along with aquatic habitat. This is an invaluable stream system that provides storm water runoff, flood management and many other benefits for the residents of Melrose Park.

**SNOW  
ROUTE**

**NO PARKING**

**AFTER 2 INCH SNOWFALL  
OR MORE UNTIL REMOVAL  
IS COMPLETE**

**VEHICLES WILL  
BE TOWED**

## Snow Routes

Please follow all snow route signs throughout the village streets. Please remove your vehicle from the snow route when 2 inches or more of snow falls. This will help expedite snow removal quickly.

*The Public Works employees are always in full force, working  
to keep the village of Melrose Park clean and well-maintained.  
If you have a request, please feel free to call Gary M. Marine, director of Public Works at (708) 343-5128.*



# Republic Services Announces Service Day Change for Yard Waste and Recycling

Republic Services has instituted a service day change for the residential services it provides in the village of Melrose Park. Prior to April 5, the village was serviced twice per week (on Tuesdays and Fridays) for trash and once per week (on Fridays) for yard waste and recycling. Effective Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the service day for recycling and yard waste was moved to Tuesday. The service days for trash will remain unchanged.



## Republic Services Announces 2022 Holiday Schedule for Garbage Pickup

The 2022 holiday schedule for garbage pickup in the village of Melrose Park will be as follows:  
• Christmas Day/Sunday, Dec. 25 – Pickup will be delayed by one day.



### Melrose Park Dog Park

The village of Melrose Park Dog Park hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m., seven days a week throughout the summer and fall. The fenced-in Dog Park is located at 13th and Main Street. Dog Park licenses are available at the Village Hall. Please follow rules posted at the park.



### Public Works Department Resurfacing Projects Completed

- 14th Avenue from Division to LeMoyne • 15th Avenue and Main from 11th Avenue • 17th Avenue from Division to LeMoyne
- Armitage Avenue from 19th Avenue to 17th Avenue • Harold from Division to Soffel • Lee from Division
- Superior Street from 11th Avenue to 14th Avenue • 37th Avenue • Main Street from Ninth Avenue to 11th Avenue

A 2023 street resurfacing list is being compiled for next year's street projects.



## Village of Melrose Park Senior News

From the Desks of Peggy DiFazio, Director of Senior Services, Special Events and Taste of Melrose Park,  
and Lorena Anguiano, Bi-Lingual Services

### 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.**

### Donation of Mobility Need Items – Canes, Wheelchairs, Walkers, Etc.

**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.**

### Benefit Access Program Benefits

**Senior Ride Free Transit Benefit • Persons with Disabilities Free Transit Ride • Secretary of State License Plate Discount**

### Beneficio de Acceso para el Programa de Beneficios

**Beneficio de Transporte Gratuito para personas Mayores de 65 años • Transporte Gratuito para Personas con Incapacidades  
Descuento para la Placa de su Carro en la Secretaria del Estado**

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

# Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially  
Distanced  
Activity*

*Face  
Masks  
Required*



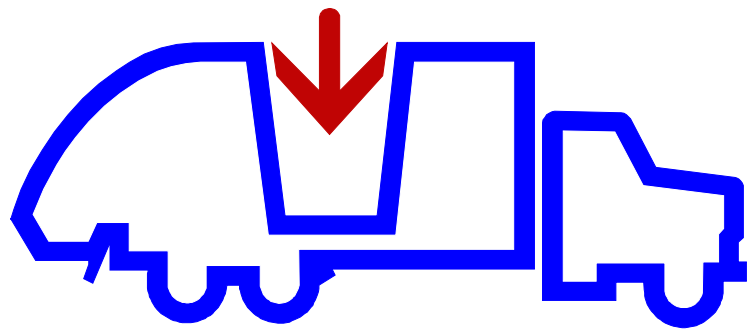
*Come Join in the Fun with  
Instructor Barb Rubright  
of Rube's Garage!*

**Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.**

**Melrose Park Civic Center  
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park**

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





# Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

## 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.

Recycling and yard waste is collected on Tuesdays 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 include all household remodeling items (homeowner/self – not contractor), such as kitchen and bathroom cabinets, drywall and cement.

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 regular hours are 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

This information is also available at [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

For a missing or damaged garbage can, please call Republic Services directly at (708) 345-7050 and ask for Customer Service to request a replacement garbage can.

## REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

For the new larger recycling cans, please call Republic Services directly at (708) 345-7050 and ask for Customer Service to request a recycling can.

The smaller recycling can will no longer be available at the village Public Works Department or from Republic Services.



# Notice Regarding Melrose Park Vehicle Stickers

**Village Vehicle Stickers Expired Dec. 31, 2021.  
New Stickers Can be Purchased at the Village Hall.**

**Sticker Fee for Passenger Vehicles is \$40 for Two Years (2022-2023).**

**Truck Fees Vary Based on the Type of Class/Plate and Are Good for One Year Only (2022).**

**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 person over 65 years in age. Limit one free sticker per household.

If there is a second passenger or B-Truck vehicle registered to a senior in the household, a second senior sticker will be sold for half price (\$15).

Acceptable proof for a senior sticker is a valid driver's license or state ID card.

## Vehicle Sticker Fee Details

Sticker fees are as follows: Passenger Plates – \$40 for two years (2022-2023); Senior Citizen – One free per household for two years (2022-2023); Trucks – Good for one year (2022 only). The fees for vehicle licenses for each vehicle are as follows if paid on the dates set forth as listed here:

**NOW-DECEMBER 2022 OR 2023  
(Depending on Type of Vehicle)  
\$55 Every Two Years**

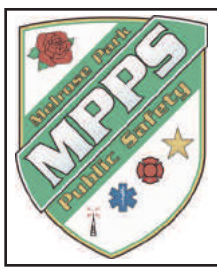
### Passenger Vehicles

B Plate	\$95
D Plate	\$145
F Plate	\$145
H Plate	\$145
J Plate	\$155
K Plate	\$155
L Plate	\$175
M Plate	\$185
N Plate	\$195
P Plate	\$205
Q Plate	\$205
R Plate	\$215
S Plate	\$225
T Plate	\$245
V Plate	\$265
X Plate	\$285
Z Plate	\$305

**ALL VEHICLES REGISTERED TO  
MELROSE PARK RESIDENTS  
AND ALL TRUCKS REGISTERED  
TO BUSINESSES LOCATED IN  
THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK  
ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE  
MELROSE PARK  
VEHICLE STICKERS.**

**For more information, please call (708) 343-4000 or visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).**

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO PURCHASE STICKERS. NO EXCEPTIONS. LATE CHARGES MAY APPLY.**



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

# IDPH Reports 63 Illinois Counties are at Elevated COVID-19 Community Levels

With COVID-19 cases and other respiratory viruses on the increase around Illinois, the Illinois Department of Public Health is reminding the public to take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones during the holiday season. This includes being fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19 and the flu, and getting tested for COVID-19 before attending holiday gatherings, especially if you'll be visiting someone at high risk for severe outcome. Public health officials also urged Illinoisans who test positive to immediately contact a health care provider and discuss whether they should take one of the widely available and effective treatments for COVID-19.

Data indicates that the risk of hospitalization and severe outcomes from COVID-19 is much higher for unvaccinated people than for those who are up to date on their vaccinations. All data are provisional and are subject to change.

The CDC authorized two new bivalent booster vaccines on Sept. 1 that include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against COVID-19 and an added mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant.

“As the weather continues to get colder, Illinois is beginning to see an anticipated increase in COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu,” said IDPH director, Dr. Sameer Vohra. “Please continue to take all preventative measure to protect yourself, your family and friends, especially very young children and individuals over 65 who are most vulnerable to severe outcomes. These effective strategies include COVID-19 testing, especially if visiting someone at risk for severe disease; enhanced ventilation; good hand hygiene; staying home if sick; and getting up to date with both the COVID-19 bivalent booster and the flu shot.”

### Medium Community Level

In counties at the Medium Community Level, persons who are elderly or immunocompromised (at risk of severe outcomes) are advised to wear a mask in indoor public places. They should also get up to date on COVID-19 vaccines or get their bivalent booster, if eligible.

IDPH has been supporting pharmacies and health care providers in efforts to increase their inventories of the various FDA-authorized treatments. There are over 1,200 treatment locations in Illinois – including all the major retail pharmacies. More than 96.7 percent of the state's population is within a 10-mile radius of one of these locations.

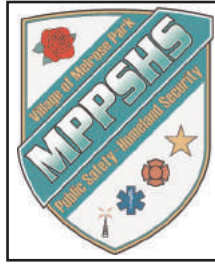
A total of 25,393,251 vaccines have been administered in Illinois. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 13,865 doses, including the bivalent booster and first doses. Since Nov. 25, 97,052 vaccine doses were reported administered in Illinois. More than 1.9 million people in Illinois have received the new bivalent booster dose since it was authorized. Of Illinois' total population, more than 78 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, more than 70 percent have completed their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, and of the eligible population, more than 16 percent have received the bivalent booster dose, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### High Community Level

The CDC recommends the following measures for people in areas that are rated at High Community Level for COVID-19 transmission:

- Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings).
- If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease:
  - Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection.
  - Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.
  - Talk to your health care provider about whether you need to take other precautions.
  - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing).
  - If you test positive: Talk to your health care provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals and monoclonal antibodies.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:
  - Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact.
  - Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible.
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

# Melrose Park Public Safety News



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

## Winter Storms ... The Deceptive Killers

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

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

### Know the Difference

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

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

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

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

### How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

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

### Put Together a Supply Kit

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



# Winter's Impact

## Storms with Strong Winds

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

## Extreme Cold

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

## Ice Storms

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

## Heavy Snow Storms

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

# Winter Precipitation

## Snow

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

## Sleet

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

## Freezing Rain

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

# Winter Storm Facts: What Makes a Winter Storm?

## Cold Air

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

## Moisture

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

## Lift

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


**For more information, please call  
Melrose Park Homeland Security ~ Public Safety at (708) 649-8000.**



# Melrose Park Public Library



[www.MPPLibrary.org](http://www.MPPLibrary.org)



Rhonda Fentry  
M.S. CPT. CYT.


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Call: (708) 649-7485  
Email: [mpref@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mpref@mpplibrary.org)






Begin your journey



SAVE YOUR SPINE



Friday, January 13th  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

For Adults and Seniors  
Registration Required



## ComicsPlus now available at MPPL!

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels, manga, and more!

Ask a Librarian for more details!



COMICSPLUS #ReadAllTheComics





Check the website or call for the most current information on hours and procedures.



Mon	Wed	Fri	9:00am - 5:00pm
Tue	Thu		11:00am - 7:00pm
Sat			10:00am - 2:00pm

Last Saturday of the month - Closed  
Sunday - Closed  
Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

**MPPLibrary.org**  
801 N Broadway  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
[mps@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mps@mpplibrary.org)  
(708)649-7400





# Melrose Park Public Library



[www.MPPLibrary.org](http://www.MPPLibrary.org)

## Youth Services



### Make It Mondays

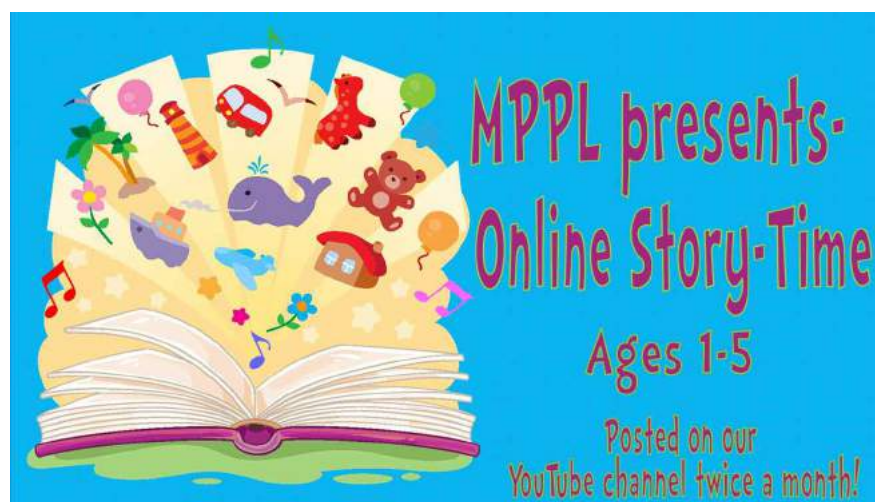
Weekly Crafts on YouTube

Make something special every week with us on the Melrose Park Library Official YouTube Channel! Contact us for information, or drop by the library to pick up the weekly craft supplies. Ages 3 & up.

### Online Storytime

Bi-Monthly on YouTube

We are posting virtual story times online the first and third Wednesdays of every month! We will also have available for pick up at the library an activity package and unique craft to celebrate the story time theme! You will find all our videos on the Melrose Park Library Official YouTube channel.



### Tinker Tuesdays

It's back by popular demand! Drop in for some fun activities at the library every Tuesday beginning January 17th. Time: 2:30 pm-4:00 pm. Ages: 6-11



Check the website or call for the most current information on hours and procedures.



Mon Wed Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Tue Thu 11:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat 10:00am - 2:00pm

Last Saturday of the month - Closed  
Sunday - Closed

Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

[MPPLibrary.org](http://MPPLibrary.org)

801 N Broadway  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
[mps@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mps@mpplibrary.org)  
(708)649-7400



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

**MELROSE PARK  
SENIOR SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT**



***MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

**VILLAGE OF  
MELROSE PARK  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT**



**Season's  
Greetings!**

**Melrose Park  
Public Library**

**801 Broadway • Melrose Park  
(708) 649-7400  
MPPLibrary.org**



**Happy  
Holidays!**

**Melrose Park  
Departments of  
Homeland Security ~  
Public Safety**

***Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!***

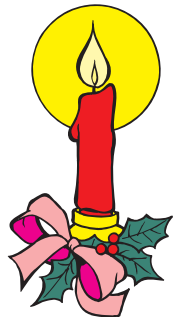
**MELROSE PARK  
BOY SCOUT  
TROOP  
4112**



***Happy  
Holidays!***

**Village of  
Melrose Park  
Building Department**





# Season's Greetings!



## Veterans Park District

(708) 343-5270 • [www.vpdpark.org](http://www.vpdpark.org)



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*The team at Proviso Handyman wants to wish you a holiday season filled with joy and laughter. We wish you prosperity in the coming year and look forward to continuing the successful work. We want to give a warm holiday wish to all of you that have helped us this year. Thank you and we truly appreciate your support!*

**PROVISO TOWNSHIP  
HANDYMAN DEPARTMENT**

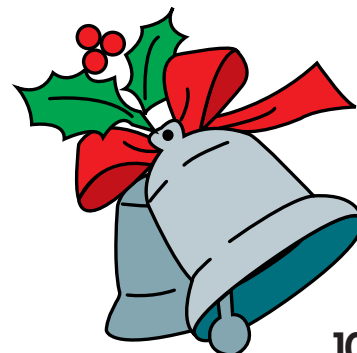
(708) 547-4001

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**MARK'S  
QUALITY LANDSCAPING**  
Mark and Mike Kessling  
1639 N. 23rd Ave.  
Melrose Park  
(708) 681-3384  
[www.marksquality.com](http://www.marksquality.com)



# Happy Holidays!



## MELROSE PARK YOUTH COMMISSION

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

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND Happy New Year!



(708) 279-0519

[www.mapofhopefoundation.org](http://www.mapofhopefoundation.org)

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

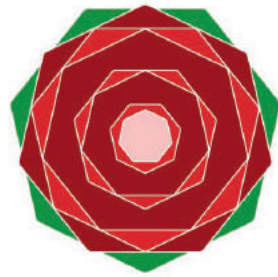


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Melrose Park

(708) 483-8574

[www.YamosSausage.com](http://www.YamosSausage.com)



## MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Welcome New Chamber Members!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomes 10 new members in October and November! Please help us welcome Bery & Lorent Family Hair Care, Victor Exterior Construction, My Dog's Groomer, PEPIN, Maxinflables Inc., Leyden Township, We Care 2 Agency, Flags of the Heart NFP, Salud es Vida and West Regional Enterprise Zone.

We also want to recognize and thank Action Painting Co., Kreher Steel Co., Elite Electric, D&P Construction, Development Services Corp., Aqua Fiori Inc., Broadway Banquets, and Cozzi Recycling LLC for their recent renewals and continued partnership with the MPCCCD.

If you are not currently a member of the MPCCCD, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at [ibazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:ibazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

### New Business Opens in Melrose Park



The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) and representatives from the village of Melrose Park joined Northern Tool & Equipment Store Manager Bill Stewart for the opening of Northern Tool & Equipment's newest location at 930 Winston Plaza in Melrose Park. Bill said that although the Melrose Park store is only the second store in the Chicago area and third in Illinois, the company is over 40 years old and prides itself in serving its customers and community in areas around their current 120 locations in 22 states and growing.

Congratulations to Bill and the team at Northern Tool and Equipment, and thank you for choosing Melrose Park to be your second store in the Chicago area!

To learn more about Northern Tool & Equipment, stop by their store in Winston Plaza and be sure bring your Christmas list! Please shop Melrose Park this holiday season!



### Not a Chamber Member? Join Now!

The MPCCCD is a fast-growing business and community-based organization that helps drive economic development opportunities in and around the Melrose Park area. Join the MPCCCD today and become a member and partner supporting the MPCCCD and its efforts to support the local community!

For information about the benefits of membership and the packages available, contact Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at [ibazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:ibazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-3715 and we will schedule a time to meet.

### Sign Up for Our Newsletter and Follow Us on Facebook

Stay up to date on what's happening at the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development by signing up for our newsletters at [MPCCCD.org](http://MPCCCD.org). You can also follow the chamber on Facebook or LinkedIn to stay current on chamber activities.



# Grants, Access to Capital and Tax Incentives!

On Nov. 15, the MPCCCD was joined by representatives from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the West Regional Enterprise Zone to discuss current and upcoming programs and support to help businesses fuel growth of their existing business, expand/update their current location and even to start a new business!

Over 80 local businesses were on hand and heard from Sacella Smith, DCEO regional manager, as she shared programs to support businesses on everything from site selection and access to capital to workforce development and grant opportunities. Diana Alfaro, DCEO business development manager for OMEE with DCEO presented opportunities and supports for minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses, as well as other small business programs available through DCEO. Jack Stonebraker, board chairman for the West Regional Enterprise Zone, shared information regarding tax incentives available to businesses in Melrose Park, Bellwood, Broadview and Maywood as part of the enterprise zone that was approved by the state and took effect January 2020. Stonebraker indicated that to date over 60 businesses have taken advantage of the zone benefits and have saved over \$21.5 million in state sales tax while investing over \$220 million in improvements to existing businesses as well as new construction!

One message that was clear from all presentations at the Nov. 15 meeting was that although there are several programs available, as well as grant opportunities for businesses, the state of Illinois now requires any business or nonprofit receiving grants to be SAMS-, UEI- and GATA-certified to receive grant funds from the state. For information on or assistance in completing your SAMS, UEI and GATA, contact the MPCCCD at (708) 343-9500.

Businesses were encouraged to complete the certification processes before grants are even announced as the process can sometimes take six to eight weeks for approvals and when grants are announced they usually have an application window of 30 days or less.



## Upcoming Events, Training and Information Sessions

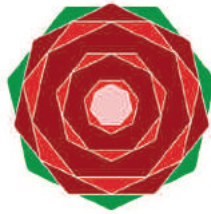
One of the primary functions of the MPCCCD is to connect businesses to resources to help support growth and to make a difference in the community. Although this takes many different shapes and approaches, one of the primary efforts is to host monthly training events, informational meetings and networking sessions, and participating in community events.

Below are topics and events currently planned for the first quarter of 2023:

- Jan. 19 – Digital Marketing for Small Businesses. Connecting with new and existing customers through effective use of digital media (websites, social media, email campaigns, etc.).
- Feb. 20 – MPCCCD Job Fair to connect businesses with applicants! Registration for businesses will be sent in January. Booths/tables for businesses will be limited to about 40 and spaces have sold out quickly in the past. Mark your calendars for this one!
- April 20 – American Shredding will host a shredding event at the MPCCCD to help businesses discard and protect old records, documents, menu, etc., as part of Earth Week!
- Chamber After Hours Networking events will be held in February and April.



# A Holiday Reminder!



**MELROSE PARK**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**SHOP LOCAL!**  
**SHOP**  
**MELROSE PARK!**

During this holiday season, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development encourages shoppers to patronize the businesses that support our community every day. Melrose Park businesses fuel our local economy and are the backbone of where we live, learn, eat, work and play! Even if you're a Cybershopper, you can still support local by choosing in-store or curbside pickup for your online orders!

**67 CENTS**  
**of every dollar spent at**  
**local businesses sticks**  
**around in your local**  
**economy!**

shift your  
shopping this season.  
it matters.

learn more about how the Chamber  
helps local businesses prosper:  
<https://mpcccd.org>





# Season's Greetings!

## GIFT YOUR TEAM WITH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING!

*Customized Training Designed for Your Company's Needs*

Contact me today!

Laura Fisher, Center for Business and Professional Development  
laurafisher@triton.edu or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3768



**Triton College**

Center for Business and Professional Development



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## *Hair Gallery*

1419 Division • Melrose Park, IL 60160  
708-344-6613



# Happy Holidays!



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## MAY YOUR WORKOUTS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

**Gottlieb Center for Fitness**

gottliebfitness.org  
708.538.5790



**Gottlieb Center for Fitness**



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Providing the Best Care

Merlie Raspado  
Agency Manager

1440 North Ave. Suite 303A  
Melrose Park, IL 60160

708-315-3671  
harmonycarehomeservices@gmail.com

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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# Show Your Support for Our Veterans and Those Currently Serving Our Country!

**Call the Village Hall Today to Reserve a Flag in Their Honor**



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](mailto:pd@melrosepark.org) or phone – (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4410.





# Veterans Park District Proudly Salutes the Courageous Men and Women Who Have Served Our Nation

*A Salute to Our Veterans ...*

*We are grateful for your service to our country and will always embrace you as true and trusted friends, who proudly stood, and still stand, side by side with your colleagues to keep the United States of America strong and the greatest country in the world to live and raise a family.*



On Friday, Nov. 4, Veterans Park District held its annual Veterans Day Observance in honor of those who have courageously served our great country. Community members came together to respectfully show their appreciation for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, and those currently serving.

Observance ceremony speakers and participants included American Legion Franklin Park Post #974, Fr. Francisco Ortega, VPD Executive Director Bill Otte, Vocalist Robyn Vitson, Korean War Veteran Eugene Piltaver, State of Illinois Veteran of the Year Dan Bogojevich (Evanston American Legion Post #42), Honor Flight representative Denise Iosco, and Veterans Park District commissioners Ron Boscacay and Tom Olson.

Thank you to all attendees who came out to help recognize our veterans and those who are remembered, but no longer with us.

## Piano Classes for All Ages

### In Melrose Park

#### Private Piano Lessons (In person or Online)

Broad repertoire of classical and modern music, including Bartok, Kodaly, Anime, Disney and other movie songs.



#### Information and Registration

<https://pianogalaxy7.com>  
or  
[pianogalaxy7@gmail.com](mailto:pianogalaxy7@gmail.com).



## Season's Greetings!

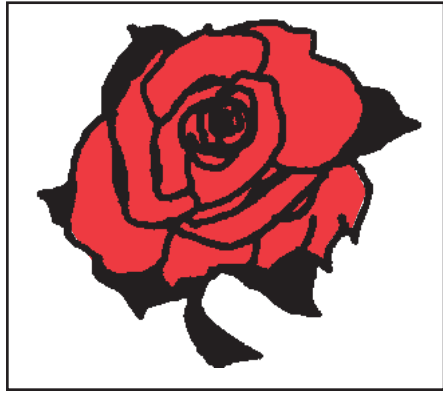


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224-245-0025 - Cell  
[www.bbholidaydecorating.com](http://www.bbholidaydecorating.com)  
[Patrick@bbservicesinc.com](mailto:Patrick@bbservicesinc.com)

*No Hassle Holiday Decorating*



# Village of Melrose Park Dial A Ride Program for MP 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.



***Mayor Serpico  
encourages  
residents  
to use this  
convenient  
transportation  
resource  
for their  
everyday  
needs,  
such as  
shopping,  
doctor  
appointments,  
etc.***

## **Call (708) 343-7047 for service.**



# Haunt on Hirsch – Another Fun Ghoulish Night!

On Friday, Oct. 21, Veterans Park District and the Melrose Park Youth Commission joined forces once again to host Haunt on Hirsch Street at Bulger Park. The screamworthy Halloween event was fang-tastic and full of excitement for all, including Melrose Park's Halloween superstar Anthony Alfano – who showed up in his *The Goonies* Bone Organ costume – with his parents (Deanna and Tony). Everyone had an incredibly good time!



## It was Absolutely Boo-tiful!

Dina Serpico and her family were excited about this year's Halloween! Pictured are the frightful and fun decorations they set up to celebrate the day of make-believe, spine-chilling, creepy, crawly, fun and mischievous activities! Everything was absolutely boo-tiful!







## COMMUNITY NOTICE

*Mayor Ronald M. Serpico*



Celebrating Our 41st Year!

*See You in* **2023**

**Save the Dates!**  
**41st Annual**  
**Taste of Melrose Park**  
**Labor Day Weekend**  
**Friday-Sunday,**  
**Sept. 1-3, 2023**

**Send an email to**  
**[peg@melrosepark.org](mailto:peg@melrosepark.org)**  
**for more information.**

### Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 23, 2022; Christmas Day – Monday, Dec. 26, 2022; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 30, 2022; New Year's Day – Monday, Jan. 2, 2023; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, Jan. 16, 2023; Presidents Day – Monday, Feb. 20, 2023; Good Friday – Friday, April 7, 2023; Memorial Day – Monday, May 29, 2023; Independence Day – Tuesday, July 4, 2023; Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 4, 2023; Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 9, 2023; Veterans Day – Friday, Nov. 10, 2023; Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 24, 2023; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 22, 2023; Christmas Day – Monday, Dec. 25, 2023; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 29, 2023; and New Year's Day – Monday, Jan. 1, 2023.

Residents are asked to make note of the dates listed.  
For more information, call the Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.

### Public Notice Regarding Scheduled Board Meetings

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

The schedule for calendar year 2023 is: Jan. 9 and 26; Feb. 13 and 27; March 13 and 27; April 10 and 24; May 8 and 22; June 12; July 10; Aug. 28; Sept. 25; Oct. 23; Nov. 13; and Dec. 11.

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

### 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.

### Centro De Recursos Franciscanos

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, migración, problemas internos, hambre, ayuda, medica, adicciones, control de la ira, abuso de sustancias, ropa y necesidades humanas basicas.

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

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

# A Request to Melrose Park Residents Residing in the Winston Park Area

Dear Melrose Park Residents – If you are the original owner of a home located in the Winston Park area and still reside in the same house, we want to hear from you. We're tracking some history and would love to see how many original homeowners still reside in their Winston Park homes from the time the homes were built and purchased.

If you are someone who qualifies or know of someone who does, please send a note (include your address and a phone number that's best to reach you at) to *The Rose* c/o Village of Melrose Park, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160, or you can send an email to [therose@melrosepark.org](mailto:therose@melrosepark.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Watch for a Special Section in the Next Issue of *The Rose* with Material Showcasing the Development of the Winston Park Area on Behalf of Melrose Park Resident Tony Renelli.**

## **The ROSE Wants to Hear Your Story ...**

**We want to provide readers with helpful information and highlight local individuals, organizations, businesses or special events that make Melrose Park a unique and thriving community!**

Do you know any interesting people in town who are worthy of recognition?  
Is there great news about an organization or business that you are involved with  
that you want others to know about?

If you answered "Yes," then we want your story!

Please send all your exciting details by direct mail to:

The Rose c/o The Village of Melrose Park  
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160

Or you can send an email to [TheRose@melrosepark.org](mailto:TheRose@melrosepark.org).

**Please include your name and a phone number that's best to reach you at.**

## **We Buy Houses**

**Fair Prices.  
Cash Deals.  
Quick Closings.**

*Over a decade in business in the community.*



✓ As is  
✓ Pay No Commission

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**Se Habla Español.**

Disclaimer: Sergio Aguirre, principal of Oliady Investments, LLC, is a Licensed Real Estate Broker in IL. This is not intended to solicit listings of other real estate brokers. This is an offer to buy a property for investment purposes.





**A Note from  
Cook County  
Public Health ...  
Don't  
Miss  
This  
Opportunity!**

# **Lead Hazard Home Improvements Reduction Program Free Home LED Inspection and Repairs**

Who can apply? An adult living in a grant community, who has a child under six years old living with them or visiting with them regularly or a pregnant woman in the household can apply.

Who qualifies for the program?  
Applicants will qualify if they...

- live in a grant community
- lived in a house built before 1978
- live with children under six years old
- babysit or have children under six years old who visit them often or
- have income below the grant program limit



**This program is available to all of the communities in West Suburban Cook County. For more information and to find out if you qualify, contact the West Suburban Neighborhood Preservation Agency (WSNPA) Office at (708) 410-2300 or (708) 278-3860, or by sending an email to [wsnpa@hotmail.com](mailto:wsnpa@hotmail.com).**

## **What is Lead Poisoning?**

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental illness of children.

Lead is a poisonous metal that our bodies cannot use. Lead was used in paint before it was banned in the United States in 1978. Deteriorating lead-based paint, lead dust from renovation or deterioration in buildings and contaminated soil remain the most likely sources of childhood lead exposure. Water from lead pipes, make-up, imported spices and candy can also be sources of exposure.

Lead poisoning is hard to see, but it is very harmful. There is no safe blood-lead level.

Lead can cause lowered IQ and learning problems; trouble concentrating and paying attention; speech disorders; anemia (a disease caused by low iron levels), which can result in tiredness, shortness of breath, and difficulty paying attention; and when exposed children become adults, they have a higher risk of high blood pressure and heart disease.



# Taste of Melrose Park Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Photos by Terry Saether.





Photos by Terry Saether.

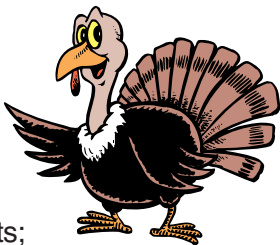




Photos by Terry Saether.



# Mayor Serpico Says Thank You to All Melrose Park Thanksgiving Day Volunteers!



Thank you to all the community members who took some time out of their day on Thanksgiving to assist with Melrose Park’s Meal Delivery Program.

Close to 250 meals were delivered to Melrose Park’s senior and disabled residents.

Representatives from Melrose Park’s Homeland Security – Public Safety; Fire, Police and Public Works departments; the MP Senior Program; MP Youth Commission; and Veterans Park District helped deliver the holiday meals prepared by Cuomo Catering, Northlake.

Mayor Serpico thanks all the volunteers for making our community members’ Thanksgiving Day extra special!



## Chicago Fire Comes to Melrose Park



In October, NBC’s *Chicago Fire* TV show filmed at Gottlieb Hospital in Melrose Park. MP Fire Department personnel who were on shift that day visited the set and met with actresses Kara Killmer and Hanako Greensmith.



# MP Senior Club Visits Taverna for Holiday Lunch

On Thursday, Dec. 8, Mayor Serpico joined members of the Melrose Park Senior Club at their annual Holiday Luncheon. Club members launched this year's festivities with fun, festive food and drink to celebrate the spirit of the season. Happy Holidays to all!



## DHS Announces Extension of REAL ID Full Enforcement Deadline

### States to Have Additional Time to Meet Requirements

On Monday, Dec. 5, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its intent to extend the REAL ID full enforcement date by 24 months, from May 3, 2023 to May 7, 2025. Under the new regulations published to execute this change, states will now have additional time to ensure their residents have driver's licenses and identification cards that meet the security standards established by the REAL ID Act. As required by the law, following the enforcement deadline, federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will be prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet these federal standards.

"DHS continues to work closely with U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories to meet REAL ID requirements," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "This extension will give states needed time to ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card. DHS will also use this time to implement innovations to make the process more efficient and accessible. We will continue to ensure that the American public can travel safely."

The extension is necessary, in part, to address the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ability to obtain a REAL ID driver's license or identification card. REAL ID progress over the past two years has been significantly hindered by state driver's licensing agencies having to work through the backlogs created by the pandemic. Many of these agencies took various steps in response to the pandemic, including automatically extending the expiration dates of driver's licenses and identification cards, and shifting operations to appointment only.

Passed by Congress in 2005, following a 9/11 Commission recommendation, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. Security standards include incorporating anti-counterfeiting technology, preventing insider fraud and using documentary evidence and record checks to ensure a person is who they claim to be. Under the new regulations, beginning May 7, 2025, every traveler 18 years of age or older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another TSA-acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints for domestic air travel.

Since enactment of the REAL ID Act in 2005, advancements in technology have enabled TSA to make significant improvements in checkpoint screening, particularly in the areas of identity management, on-person screening, accessible property screening and alarm resolution. Through the deployment of technologies, such as Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT), Advanced Technology (AT) X-ray, then Computed Tomography (CT), Bottled Liquids Scanners (BLS), and Credential Authentication Technology (CAT), as well as deployment of Passenger Screening Canines (PSC) and the rollout of TSA PreCheck®, TSA has continually advanced its security capabilities. TSA also increased its vetting capability through Secure Flight, a risk-based passenger prescreening program that enhances security by identifying low- and high-risk passengers before they arrive at the airport by matching their names against trusted traveler lists and watchlists. REAL ID requirements will strengthen these improvements further by providing an additional layer of confidence in the identity of the traveler.

All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and four of five U.S. territories covered by the REAL ID Act and related regulations are issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. These standards have significantly improved the reliability and accuracy of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

**For more information on REAL ID, visit [www.dhs.gov/real-id](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id).**



# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Golf Simulator

**Come Experience Cimbalo Fitness Center's Golf Simulator Suite!**

Featuring a state-of-the-art Full Swing® golf simulator,



our golf suite allows you to have a fun, realistic golf experience year-round. Our golf simulator offers something for everyone of all ages and experience levels, from the super competitive golfer to the super casual. With over 85 courses, multiple skill challenge courses, a driving range, and a variety of challenge games/modes of play, we can provide users with a great experience customized to their goals. Improve your golf game or just have fun! Pricing is \$40 for one hour and \$20 for a half hour rental, please call ahead to

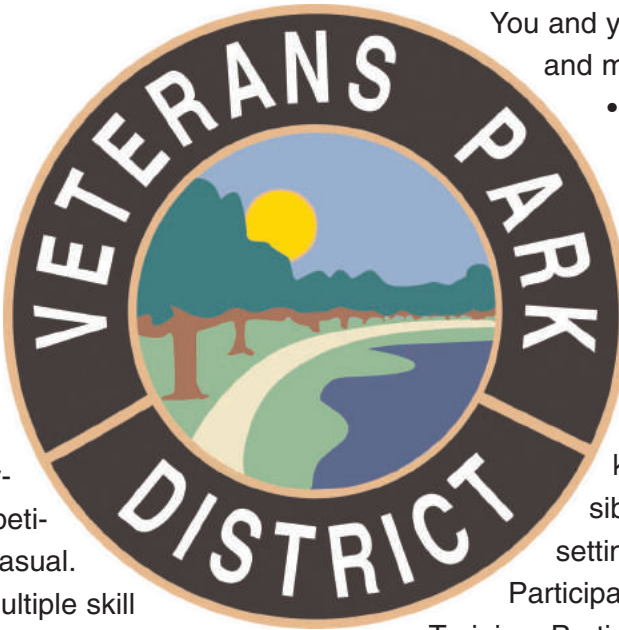
reserve a time slot. Cimbalo Fitness Center is located at 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park. Call (708) 343-5151 to reserve a time.

### Fitness Classes

Cimbalo Fitness Center offers a variety of fun, exciting fitness classes, including Zumba, Zumba Toning, Strong Nation, Piloxing, Pound, Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, Chair Yoga, Youth Fitness and Youth Speed Training. We will also be adding several new programs this winter/spring, such as pickleball lessons, boxing classes and self-defense seminars. Call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

### PeeWee Playtime (With Adult)

This is a great opportunity for you and your child to socialize. The room is set up with tables, fun toys, games, mats, big wheels and even a ball pit!



You and your child can play, interact, make a craft, enjoy music and movement, and have lots of fun!

- Ages up to 5 on Thursdays, 9-11 a.m.; Fee is \$1 per child, first adult is free, \$1 for additional adult and free coffee. Drop-in class held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.

### Babysitter Training with Pediatric CPR/First Aid

This class is designed for young people to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care to infants and children in a residential setting. Learn about basic child care and basic first aid. Participants receive a certificate of completion for Babysitter's Training. Participants also receive a two-year certification for Pediatric CPR/First Aid. An adult must be present the entire length of the training.

- Ages 11-15 on Wednesday, Dec. 28 and Thursday, Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.; Fee is R \$194/NR \$204; Class held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.

### iCook

Students will learn many culinary skills, such as how to chop, dice, peel, slice, strain, core, bake, whisk, fold and mix. Delicious and healthy recipes are a key ingredient of every cooking class. iCook instructors teach how to read recipes and measure ingredients. Students will also practice their math and problem-solving skills. Students leave this program excited about nutrition, healthy eating and learning recipes for from the world cuisine.

- Ages 5-10 on Tuesdays, Jan. 31-March 21, 5-6 p.m.; Fee is R \$165/NR \$175; Class held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.



**Call us for more information on our upcoming programs, (708) 343-5270, or check our website at [www.vpdpark.org](http://www.vpdpark.org) or our Facebook Page for updates.**

# CONNECT WITH US!



**Cuomo To Go**  
25 E. North Ave. • Northlake III.  
**Chef-prepared daily meals, salads,  
sandwiches, desserts and much more!**  
**Take home HOT or COLD!**  
**Visit our website – [CuomoToGo.com](http://CuomoToGo.com).**  
Delivery available through GrubHub and DoorDash.





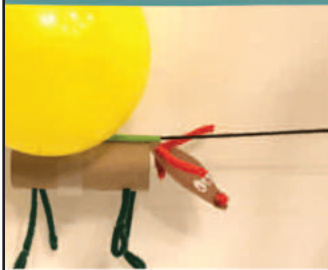
**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs  
&  
Happenings*

**Veterans Park District**

# **WINTER BREAK STEAM CAMP**

Students will participate in hands-on experiments and activities using art to create scientific models. We will explore different STEAM subjects including, ecology, chemistry, art, nature journaling, and more. Students will enjoy age appropriate, hands-on science experiments, games, arts and crafts, and more!



**Ages 5-10**

**9AM-4PM**

**R\$60 / NR \$70**



**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

**Dec 27- 29**



**Grant Park Recreation Center  
44 W. Golfview Dr, Northlake**



(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







**Veterans  
Park  
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*Programs  
&  
Happenings*

# Veterans Park District Babysitter Training

**WITH FIRST AID & CPR CERTIFICATE**



**American  
Red Cross**

*Babysitting  
Certification  
Course*

Designed for young people to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care to infants and children in a residential setting. Learn about basic childcare and basic first aid. Participants receive a certificate of completion for Babysitter's Training. Participants also receive a two-year certification for Pediatric CPR/First Aid.

**Ages 11-15**

**Wednesday, Dec. 28 & Thursday, Dec. 29**

**9AM-3:15PM**

**R\$194 / NR\$204**

**Bulger Park Community Center 1601 Hirsch St, Melrose Park**



(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs  
&  
Happenings*

# After-School Cooking Class



## Why choose us?

- Hands-On
- Educational
- Fun



## Cooking Classes for Kids

- Kids will learn how to make healthy and delicious recipes
- Master cooking safety, measuring, mixing, dicing, chopping, zesting and more
- Learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits
- Explore international cuisine
- Further develop social-emotional learning and executive functions skills

**Where:** Bulger Park

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 5:00-6:00pm

**Dates:** Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>

**No Class Dates:** N/A

**Grades:** k-4

**Min/Max:** 10/12

**Price:** R \$165 / NR \$175

To learn more visit  
[iCookAfterSchool.com](http://iCookAfterSchool.com)

**To REGISTER** visit: [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org)  
or call 708-343-5270 for more info

**Call or email with any questions:  
(773) 900-7074 and [iCookAfterSchool@gmail.com](mailto:iCookAfterSchool@gmail.com).**



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**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs  
&  
Happenings*



# After-School Science Class



**iSTEAM**  
After School

## **STE(A)M Classes for Kids**

- Students will learn how to identify a chemical reaction.
- We will conduct fun experiments involving color changing, making things foam, and changing color and shape.
- At the end of the course, students will understand pH levels, non-Newtonian fluid, what a catalyst is, and so much more!
- Our young scientists are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, experiment, and explain their reasoning and problem-solving.

### **Why choose us?**

- Hands-On
- Educational
- Fun



**Where:** Bulger Park

**Day:** Thursdays

**Time:** 5:00-6:00pm

**Dates:** Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>

**No Class Dates:** N/A

**Grades:** k-4

**Min/Max:** 10/12

**Registration Deadline:** Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Price:** R \$165 / NR \$175

To learn more visit  
[iCookAfterSchool.com](http://iCookAfterSchool.com)

**To REGISTER** visit: [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org)  
or call 708-343-5270 for more info

**Call or email with any questions:  
(773) 900-7074 and [iSTEAMAfterSchool@gmail.com](mailto:iSTEAMAfterSchool@gmail.com).**

(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







**Spring 2023 online registration is now open!**



The Melrose Park Little League offers a safe and positive environment for girls and boys. Online registration is as easy as 1,2,3! Register today don't delay!

## STEP #1

**Go to the little league website & log in**

[www.melroseparklittleleague.org](http://www.melroseparklittleleague.org)

Registration is open now through Jan. 31, 2023.

Registrations after Jan. 31  
are subject to additional late fees.

**SCAN  
HERE!**



### Group 1

Choose at least one  
of the following:

Driver's License

School Records

Vehicle Records  
(Ex.: Registration,  
Lease, Etc.)

Employment Records

Insurance Documents



### Group 2

Choose at least one  
of the following:

Welfare/Child Care  
Records

State Records

Federal Records  
(Ex.: Federal Taxes,  
Social Security, Etc.)

Local (Municipal)  
Records

Support Payment  
Records

Homeowner or Tenant  
Records

Military Records



### Group 3

Choose at least one  
of the following:

Voter's Registration

Financial Records  
(ex.: Loan, Credit,  
Investment, Etc.)

Utility Bills

(Ex.: Gas, Electric,  
Phone, Heating,  
Etc.)

Medical Records  
Internet, Cable,  
Satellite Bills

## STEP #2

**Register your player &  
upload your documents**

Please note one document from each  
category is required for your player's  
registration profile.

## STEP #3

**Pay your fees**

Pants will not be provided this season.

Register with early-bird pricing  
now through Dec. 31, 2022,  
for a \$30 discount per player.

**Note – Fees are non-refundable.**

### 2023 REGISTRATION FEE

DIVISION/AGE	FEE
T-Ball 4-6	\$85
Coach Pitch 7-8	\$110
Minors 9-10	\$125
Majors 11-12	\$145
Junior 13-14	\$175

### Volunteer Opportunities

MPLL officials are all volunteers please consider joining. There are many opportunities to help make  
this season a success.

**Email us at [melroseparklittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:melroseparklittleleague@gmail.com) for further inquiries.**

# SPRING BACK



**It's the perfect time to get  
back to Triton College!**

**Register Now for Spring!**  
**Classes begin Jan. 17, 2023**  
**[triton.edu/spring](https://triton.edu/spring)**



There's  
a place  
for you.



**Triton College**





# Triton College NEWS

## Triton's Cernan Center Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 17 Mission with a Moon Rock Display

Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center will display a NASA moon rock collected during the Apollo 17 Mission in 1972. The celebration began Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, and will run through Saturday, April 8, 2023. Admission to the exhibit is free.

The lunar sample, known as a moon rock, was collected during Gene Cernan's Apollo 17 mission, NASA's final Apollo mission to the moon. The moon rock is encased within a lucite pyramid and will sit atop a lighted pedestal, which has been provided to Triton by NASA. This display will be viewable for free during normal business hours, including Saturday evenings.



To complement the lunar sample, adjacent exhibits will examine lunar geology, the origin of the moon, equipment needed for living in space and Apollo in popular culture.

A permanent addition to the Cernan Center will be an interactive activity presented on a large, flat-touch-screen table. The table will run a program called "Colonize Mars" in which multiple users can work to develop a colony on Mars through several stages of objectives. Players can work individually or together to build their colony as quickly as possible.

The Cernan Center's Planetarium will be featuring several shows, such as *Dawn of the Space Age*; *Forward! To the Moon*; *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure – Early Explorers*; *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast*; as well as a holiday-themed laser show, *A Trans-Siberian Christmas*.

The Planetarium admission is \$4 for youth ages 2-17 and seniors 55+, and \$8 for adults.

The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m. The Cernan Center is closed on Sundays.

For more information, contact [cernan@triton.edu](mailto:cernan@triton.edu) or visit [triton.edu/Cernan](http://triton.edu/Cernan).

## Triton Offers Free Tax Assistance to Seniors

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be offering free tax assistance to individuals aged 60 or older from low- to moderate-income households. This service is by appointment ONLY. Appointments can be made starting on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

This free service is made possible by the grant-funded IRS program, Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE). Volunteers are trained and certified to help seniors.

This year's tax sites include:

- Triton College (River Grove).
- Elmwood Park Public Library.
- Eisenhower Public Library (Harwood Heights).
- Melrose Park Public Library.
- Proviso Township Office (Hillside).
- Seniors Assistance Center (Norridge).
- Leyden Township Westdale Park (Melrose Park).
- Schiller Park Community Center.
- La Grange Park Public Library.

For more information or to make an appointment, call the RSVP tax line at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3895.

## Triton College Offering Total Fitness Class this Spring

Ready to get fit while staying safe and having fun? Triton College will be offering Total Fitness for credit (PED 106) or noncredit (PED C37) continuing education. The class will be held in Triton's Fitness Center in the R Building. Tuition is affordable and the class is worth one college credit hour. Total Fitness teaches students the safe and effective way to use strength



## During This Season of Giving, Please Consider the Triton College Foundation for Your Year-End Gift ...

Your helping hand means a lot and together we can do some amazing things for our students!

The Foundation works to provide funding for scholarships, new programs and services, equipment and books, and helps maintain and operate Triton College facilities – benefitting the thousands of students and community members who visit the campus every day.

Visit [www.triton.edu/about/triton-foundation/foundation-pledge](http://www.triton.edu/about/triton-foundation/foundation-pledge) and make a contribution to the fund of your choice.

For more information, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or send an email to [tcfoundation@triton.edu](mailto:tcfoundation@triton.edu).

and cardio exercise equipment. The goal of the class is to improve body composition, physiological strength and flexibility. The course can be repeated for a maximum of four accrued credits.

Those registered for PED 106 will have access to the Fitness Center during class time as well as during regular operating hours. The pool is also available during class for those registered.

Student-athletes are allowed entrance to the Fitness Center during their designated time with coaches. If athletes want to use the Fitness Center for their personal needs, they must register for a class and also earn credit.

- PED 106 001 or PED C37 302 – Mondays, Wednesdays, 7-7:50 a.m., beginning Jan. 18, 2023.
- PED 106 002 or PED C37 306 – Mondays, Wednesdays, 8-8:50 a.m., beginning Jan. 18, 2023.
- PED 106 004 or PED C37 308 – Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8-8:50 a.m., beginning Jan. 17, 2023.
- PED 106 005 or PED C37 309 – Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-9:55 a.m., beginning Jan. 17, 2023.
- PED 106 006 or PED C37 310 – Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:30-1:20 p.m., beginning Jan. 31, 2023.
- PED 106 009 or PED C37 316 – Mondays, Wednesdays, 1-1:55 p.m., beginning Jan. 30, 2023.
- PED 106 010 or PED C37 317 – Mondays, Wednesdays, 5-5:55 p.m., beginning Jan. 30, 2023.

To register, visit [triton.edu/spring](http://triton.edu/spring).

For more information, please email [juliannemurphy@triton.edu](mailto:juliannemurphy@triton.edu) or call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130.

# Triton College Offering Lifeguarding Classes this Spring

Triton College will be offering an entry-level lifeguarding course for individuals ages 15 and up. The course will teach participants the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies. Students will learn to provide support or aid for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illness, until an EMS responder arrives.

Those who take the course must meet several requirements, such as being able to swim 300 yards non-stop; tread water for two minutes using only their legs; complete a timed event within one minute, 40 seconds, starting in the water; swimming 20 yards; and performing a surface dive to a depth of 10 to 12 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object, then return to the surface and swim 20 yards on their back to return to the starting point, then complete the exercise by exiting the water without using steps or a ladder.

Those who successfully complete the course will receive an American Red Cross Certificate for Lifeguarding, valid for two years.

- PED 198 001 – Thursday, Friday, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 26-28, 2023.
- PED 198 003 – Thursday, Friday, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., May 25-27, 2023.

To register, visit [triton.edu/spring](http://triton.edu/spring).

For more information, contact [juliannemurphy@triton.edu](mailto:juliannemurphy@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130.

# Triton College Adult Education Program Now Hiring ESL Instructors Those Interested Should Visit Triton's Website

Triton College's Adult Education Program is currently hiring English as a Second Language (ESL) adjunct instructors. The Adult Education Department is hoping to recruit individuals passionate about teaching and helping non-native speakers.

Available positions include part-time (adjunct) instructors to teach morning and evening classes to beginning, intermediate and advanced non-English adult students. Instructors will receive \$47.24 an hour.

Those interested must have a bachelor's degree. Some teaching experience is preferred but not required, e.g., kindergarten through 12th grade, or foreign language or bilingual education and ESL endorsement. Prior adult education experience is also preferred.

Jacqueline Lynch, Triton's dean of Adult Education, said instructors will be provided access to a fully built-out, standards-aligned, online ESL curriculum. There is no need to be able to speak the native language of the students.

“Due to the influx of students coming from both the Ukraine and Latin American countries, there's been a greater demand for ESL instructors,” said Dr. Susan Campos, vice president of Academic Affairs. “Teaching can be very rewarding.”

Those interested in applying should go to [jobopenings.triton.edu](http://jobopenings.triton.edu) and search for “adjunct faculty” to get more detailed job descriptions and further information.

Schedule for spring 2023:

15-week classes, starting Jan. 23.

- Monday and Wednesday mornings (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).
- Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6-9:30 p.m.).

10-week classes, starting Feb. 27.

- Monday and Wednesday evenings (6-9 p.m.).
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings (9 a.m.-noon).

For more information about these teaching positions, please contact Nathan Rearden, director of Adult Education Faculty & Instruction, at [nathanrearden@triton.edu](mailto:nathanrearden@triton.edu).



# Triton College Register Now!

A new semester means a fresh start.  
Spring back with a high-quality Triton College education  
that's close to home.

We can help you get on track and stay on track.  
We're ready to help you achieve your goals!

**Call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130, or visit  
[triton.edu/spring](http://triton.edu/spring) for more information.**



# Triton College Dedicates George T. Jorndt Athletic Complex to Honor Former Triton President

## Dedication Ceremony Brought Together Dr. Jorndt's Friends, Family and Colleagues

Triton College held a dedication ceremony for the unveiling of the George T. Jorndt Athletic Complex on Monday, Nov. 21. The dedication honored former Triton College President Dr. George T. Jorndt.

The event consisted of remarks and refreshments in the R Building (R-221), with the unveiling held outside.

Mark Stephens, Triton College's board chairman, described former President Jorndt as a "wonderful man," and "an honor and privilege to work with."



"It was my good fortune to call George Jorndt my friend," said Chairman Stephens. "In addition, he was my colleague who was instrumental in our efforts to transform Triton College. With George as our president, Triton regained its status as an outstanding educational institution focused on serving the residents of the Triton district. There isn't anyone who deserves this honor more than George Jorndt."

Dr. Jorndt's daughter Gretchen Reyes, described how her father's legacy will always live on through Triton College.

"I stand here today in front of so many people that my dad loved on a campus where he spent his best years," she said. "I know he wanted the best for the college and the students. I am so honored that his name, the stories and the passion that he had for Triton College will live on for years to come."

Mary-Rita Moore, current Triton College president, said she has "incredible memories with Dr. Jorndt," and "he always gave his personal touch with kindness and respect."

"For more than 30 years, Dr. Jorndt was a good steward of our Community College District 504, serving as an educator, leader, coach, cheerleader and mentor," said President Moore. "As a lifelong learner, no matter what the role or activity he was involved in, Dr. Jorndt always gave it his personal touch while performing his responsibilities with kindness and respect. It is fitting that our athletic complex bear his name."

Dr. Jorndt's friends and family in attendance expressed that he always wanted what was best for Triton.

"Triton meant the world to him," said Mary Jorndt, Dr. Jorndt's wife. "He absolutely loved it."

Jorey Reyes, Dr. Jorndt's granddaughter, said that Triton is a big part of their lives because of her late grandfather.

"It's amazing he's being recognized by an institution that we all really love," she said. "He was really important to us."

Garrick Abezetian, associate vice president of Athletics and Athletic Activities, and John Lambrecht, associate vice president of Operations and

Maintenance, performed the unveiling of the athletic complex, located outside the R Building on Fifth Avenue, while surrounded by his friends, family and colleagues. The celebration ended with cake and refreshments.

Dr. Jorndt began working at Triton in August of 1969 as a full-time faculty member as well as the college's swimming and diving coach. In 1973, he became the director of Admissions and Records, and within one year, he raised enrollment from 12,500 students to over 16,000 students. After five years in the position, Triton's admission was over 23,000 students. He began serving as president in 1992 and retired in 2001.

Dr. Jorndt grew up on the north side of Chicago. He received his doctorate degree in public administration from University of Utah in 1972.

He is survived by his wife Mary; three children - Douglas Jorndt, Bryan Jorndt and Gretchen Reyes; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Jorndt passed away on June 27, 2021, surrounded by his family. His daughter Gretchen Reyes is currently a professor of business at Triton College.

For more information, contact [tritonathletics@triton.edu](mailto:tritonathletics@triton.edu).

## Triton College Offering Psychology of Religion Class

Triton College will be offering Psychology of Religion (PSY 296), Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 17-May 11, from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Those enrolled will learn about the psychological dimensions of religion through the study of feelings, behaviors, thoughts and motivations.

The path of the course is guided by the students' interests. Each class is different. Discussions are at a maximum. Professor Jim Ellison feels that students will like the fact that there's no textbook since material is pulled from various sources.

Since the PSY 100 course is not a prerequisite, any student can enroll.

After many months of designing the class, Ellison began teaching Psychology of Religion in the fall of 2022. Students reported that it was one of the best classes they've ever taken. Early registration is advised.

"Religion is a toolbox to help us with our spirituality. Our psychology creates the toolbox. We then use it to connect to spirit. A healthy psychology creates a healthy toolbox," Ellison said. "A healthy toolbox reflects a healthy psychology."

Ellison holds a master's degree in integration of psychology and religion, and has been teaching psychology for 15 years.

For more information, please contact [jimellison@triton.edu](mailto:jimellison@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3833.

## Triton College Presents Holiday Festival of Trees Enjoy Triton's Holiday Lights Celebration

Get into the holiday spirit with Triton College's Holiday Festival of Trees drive-through event, now-Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, on Triton's Circle Drive.

Everyone's invited to drive through our main campus entrance and experience the rows of brightly lit trees. Selfies and family photos are encouraged.

The speed limit of Circle Drive is 10 m.p.h. Please use caution and watch for pedestrians and children.

For more information, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3290.





# NEWS 89 School District 89 BRIEFS

## Now Enrolling Preschool For All Registrando Ahora Preescolar Para Todos

Apply online: [www.maywood89.org/preschool](http://www.maywood89.org/preschool)  
Applique en linea: [www.maywood89.org/preschool](http://www.maywood89.org/preschool)

FREE  
PROGRAM!  
PROGRAMA  
GRATIS!



**3-5 YEARS OLD**  
3-5 AÑOS



**2.5 hour AM & PM  
Classess**  
Classes de AM & PM  
de 2.5 horas



**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
LUNES-VIERNES

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

- Instruccion de alta-calidad
- Paseos educativos
- Preparase para kinder
- Desarrollo de lenguaje
- Destrezas sociales y de salud
- Oportunidades para que los padres se involucren y educacion para los padres



**DISTRICT 89**  
MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW

Screening dates  
are held  
throughout the  
school year



**DISTRICT 89**  
MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW



SCAN ME

[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org) • Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”



# NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

## SMS ArtClub

Students at Stevenson have the opportunity to attend Art Club after-school. Here are pictures of students experimenting with air dry clay, getting messy, creative and having fun!



## MP ArtClub

Students attending the Melrose Park School Art Club created gingerbread houses.



## OperationNorthPole

The Board of Education recognized Operation North Pole for their generous donation of winter coats this school year. The coats were given to all students in grades PreK through fifth grade district wide.

[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org)





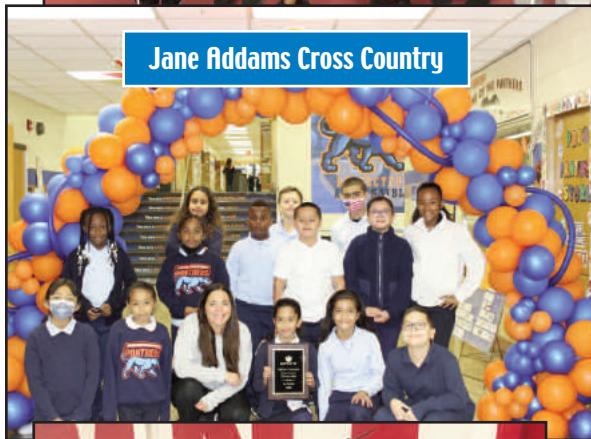
Irving Cross Country



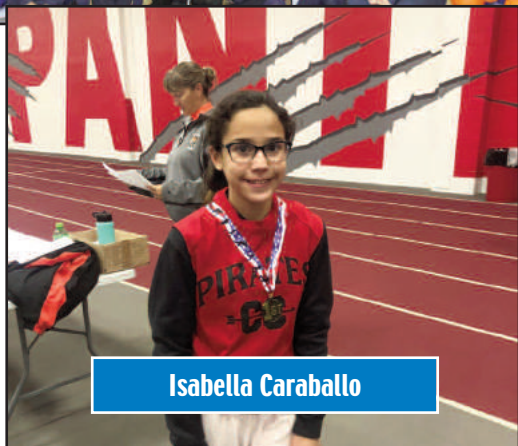
WDLA Boys' Futsal Champs



Garfield Girls' Basketball



Jane Addams Cross Country



Isabella Caraballo

# D89FallAthletics

The fall sports season has wrapped up as we head into the winter months. We thank the coaches for the tireless efforts they put in so our students can participate in athletics in District 89. For the first time we had all teams represented throughout the elementary schools in cross country, girls' basketball, boys' soccer and cheerleading. If you're counting, that's approximately 500 athletes and over 30 coaches that make this program a success and this is just the fall season. When you add the middle school teams, it brings the total number of student-athletes to over 650 and 42 coaches. Here are the individual and team highlights from the fall season.

## Elementary School Athletics

### D89 Elementary Cross-Country Championships:

*Top Boys Finishers:* Terrell Johnson (Garfield) 11:37, Jacob McGee (Roos.) 12:14, Damien Smith (Garfield) 12:23  
*Top Girls Finishers:* Jackie Garduno (JA) 11:52, Bridget Montano (MP) 12:22, Lianet Escoto (JA) 12:41  
*Top 3 Boys Teams:* 1st Garfield, 2nd Melrose Park, 3rd Roosevelt  
*Top 3 Girls Teams:* 1st Jane Addams, 2nd WDLA 3rd Emerson

D89 Conference Boys Futsal Championships: First Place-WDLA, Second Place-Jane Addams

D89 Conference Girls Basketball Championships: First Place-Garfield, Second Place-Roosevelt

## Middle School Athletics

### West Suburban Conference Cross Country Championships

JV Girls Division-Overall Champ: Isabella Caraballo (Stevenson) 16:20  
JV Girls Team Division: Second Place overall-Irving Middle School



# D89BilingualParentAdvisoryCommittee

On Nov. 16, parents with students in bilingual programs met to learn about the goals, rules, regulations and responsibilities of the D89 Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC).

Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”



# NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS



## Melrose Park Fire Department Visits Jane Addams

The Melrose Park Fire Department came out to speak with our kindergarten and first grade students about fire safety. We appreciate all that you do to keep us safe!

## D89 Language Growth

On Nov. 22, D89 Dual Language and ESL resource teachers serving kindergarten through eighth grade had the opportunity to come together to collaborate and discuss impactful strategies they are using to support language growth. The session focused on building relationships.



## Lakeshore Learning D89 Workshop

On Nov. 7, Jessie Stowell, the Lakeshore Learning Materials content manager, provided a professional development for the D89 Preschool For All teachers and instructional assistants. The workshop centered around ECERS-3: Room Arrangement for Play & Learning Activities.



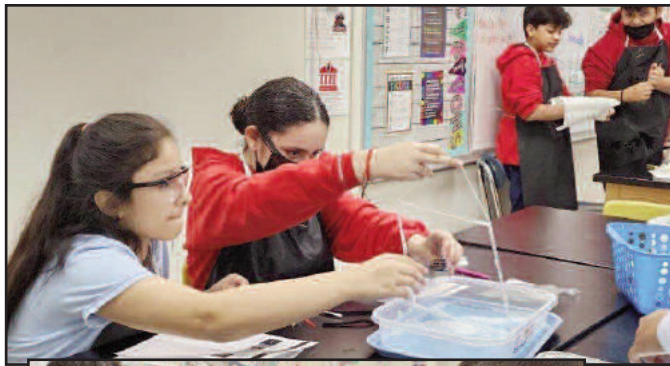
## JA Fourth Graders Enjoy Earth Science

Fourth graders at Jane Addams have been having lots of fun in science learning about weathering, erosion and deposition, and how they change landforms over time.



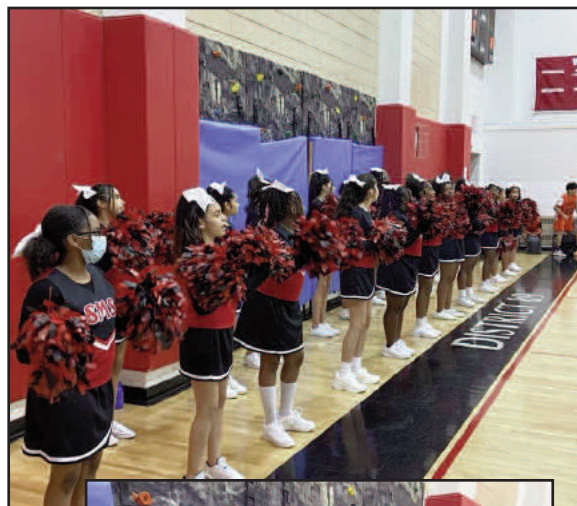
[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org)





## SMSScienceStudentsGetCreative

Cell-Bucks: Seventh grade students are applying their knowledge of the cell organelles structures to create an analogy to Starbucks. They got to enjoy a yummy treat when finished from their teacher Barista!



## SMSStudentCouncil

Under the sponsorship of 6th grade teachers Ms. Wanicek and Ms. Infante, the student council, Future 25, raised over \$700 dollars for Guitar for Vets in honor of Veteran's Day. Guitars for Vets is an organization that helps veterans cope with PTSD through music. Some veteran volunteers will be coming to SMS to play music with our students next month. Thank you, Vets, for your service, and thank you to everyone who donated to the cause. Future 25 is also collecting items for their food drive taking place until December 16. All donated food will go towards the food pantry run by the Parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Melrose Park.

## Stevenson CheerTeam

Stevenson Middle School's 2022 cheer team has been cheering on the sidelines for the boys' basketball games this season. This new team, made up of SMS Pirates and WDLA Wildcats, will be headed to competition in February, so watch out for the cheer team!

# Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"



# A Savior is Born Unto us This Day



*Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish*

Sacred Heart Church  
819 N. 16th Ave. Melrose Park, IL

St. Eulalia Church  
1845 S. 9th Ave. Maywood, IL

*Please join us for our Christmas  
& New Year's Services!*

## Christmas Eve – DEC 24

4:30pm English Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
6:00pm Christmas Carols at **St. Eulalia**  
7:00pm English Mass at **St. Eulalia**

## Christmas – DEC 25

8:30am English Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
10:30am Spanish Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
10:30am English Mass at **St. Eulalia**  
12:30pm Spanish Mass at **St. Eulalia**

*—The Solemnity of Mary—*

## New Year's Eve – DEC 31

4:30pm English Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
5:00pm English Mass at **St. Eulalia**  
6:00pm Spanish Mass at **Sacred Heart**

## New Year's Day – JAN 1

8:30am English Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
10:30am Spanish Mass at **Sacred Heart**  
10:30am English Mass at **St. Eulalia**  
12:30pm Spanish Mass at **St. Eulalia**

*Christmas Blessings to You  
and Your Loved Ones*

Parish Phone  
**708-344-0757**

Parish Website  
**shsparish.org**



# A Message from Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S., Pastor The Parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

## *Greetings from Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.*

This Christmas is special for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It is so good to say the words St. John the Baptist Scalabrini. Our patron has been canonized as the father to the migrants figure, an Italian bishop who sent missionaries to serve the Italian immigrants to America in 1887. Those same missionaries came to serve the Italians in Melrose Park and the rest is history.

***“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”***

Today, the Savior has been born. This is the good news of this Christmas Eve. Like every Christmas, Jesus is born again in the world, in each home, in our hearts. But unlike what our consumerist society celebrates, Jesus is not born in an environment of waste, purchases, comfort, whim and meals. Jesus is born in the humility of the Nativity scene.



Jesus wants to be born for those who have lost family, property, and friends in the war in Ukraine. Jesus wants to be born in the hearts of those who have lost dear ones in the violent streets of Chicago. Jesus wants to be born in the hearts of those marginalized, the poor, aliens or simply different from us, because in Christmas we celebrate peace, solidarity and love.



**JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI  
(1839-1905)**

BISHOP OF PIACENZA

APOSTLE OF CATECHISM

FATHER TO THE MIGRANTS

Founder of the Missionaries of Saint Charles -  
Scalabrinians and of the Missionary Sisters of  
St Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians

Inspirer of the Scalabrinian Secular  
Missionaries

I wish a Merry Christmas to all the families of Melrose Park. I know that your home will be open to welcome those you love and, please, save a space to those who might show up unexpectedly and have nowhere to go nor no one to welcome them.

Merry Christmas! Christ has born! Yes, amid so much unexpected diseases, masks, violence, COVID and desperation ...

Christ has born again. HE is our hope and the best gift from Christmas!

Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.

Pastor and Rector



## **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Holiday Mass Schedule**

**Dec. 16-23, 2022 – Posadas Navideñas (Reception with Hot Drinks and Piñatas)**

**7 p.m. in the Parish Gym**

**Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 – Christmas Carols (Trilingual Carols) 6 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve/Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 – 5 p.m. (English Mass), 7 p.m. (Spanish Mass),  
Midnight Mass (Trilingual/Christmas Carols Begin at 11 p.m.)**

**Christmas Day/Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022 – Regular Sunday Schedule**

**New Year's Eve/Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 – 5 p.m. (English Mass), 7 p.m. (Spanish Mass)**

**New Year's Day/Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Regular Sunday Schedule**





# Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine

## January 2023 Events

*Sunday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary (Holy day of Obligation)*

Masses: English 7:45am and 12:00pm (Saturday 5:30pm)

Italian 10:30am

Spanish 9:00am / 1:30pm / 5:00pm

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*Sunday, January 15: Knights of Columbus Breakfast*

Served 10:30am – 3:00pm



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*Monday, January 23: St. Vincent*

*National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*

Tri-Lingual Mass

6:30pm

**For more information, please call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.**



# February 2023 Events

*Thursday, February 2: Presentation of the Lord (Candelaria)....*

*6:30 pm Spanish / 7:30pm English- Italian*

*Mass followed by the blessings of the Nativity and candles*

*Bring in your "baby Jesus" or candles for a blessing.*

---

*Friday, February 3: St. Blaise (San Biagio)*

*6:30pm Spanish - 7:30pm English / Italian mass*

*followed by*

*The blessing of the throats*



*Friday, February 10: World Day of the Sick / Our Lady of the Lourdes... 6:30pm*



*Tri-lingual mass followed by*

*The blessing and anointing of the sick*

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*Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday*

*Distribution of ashes*

*8:00am / 12:00pm / 6:00pm English 5:00pm Italian*

*3:00pm / 7:00pm / 8:00pm Spanish*

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*Friday, February 24 stations of the cross 7:30pm (tri-lingual)*

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*Sunday, February 28: Italian Mass for Padre Pio.... 10:30am*

*Mass followed by reception*





# Dominican Literacy Center Continues to Provide English Instruction and More ...

The Dominican Literacy Center originally began in Chicago, at the request of the pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in 1996. In 2008, the building housing the center was deemed to need extensive repairs and could not be used. In June of 2008, the center was graciously welcomed to rent a part of Sacred Heart Convent in Melrose Park, where it has continued to provide English instruction for the past 14 years.

The goal of the Dominican Literacy Center is the empowerment of persons who experience personal and economic limitations within our English-speaking society. Through literacy education and personal relationships, we strive to provide a small step toward eliminating racial and cultural prejudice and stereotypes, as well as a step up for persons seeking improvement in their personal, familial and economic abilities.

The Dominican Literacy Center provides weekly one and half hour tutored sessions in which one student meets with one tutor. The center provides tutoring in speaking, reading and writing English, as well as tutoring in preparation for the Citizenship interview and exam. This individualized instruction is provided for immigrant women and men (ages 17+) who are – endeavoring to reduce literacy and its consequential effects of isolation (due to their inability to communicate in English with health care providers, children's teachers, neighbors, co-workers, community leaders and/or first responders); in low-level jobs (due to lack of training or skills, or an inability to demonstrate their already achieved skills and knowledge); powerless to supervise their adolescent children or to influence systemic change; lacking confidence to enroll in traditional classes and or fear of requesting help when needed.

## English Classes

English classes are provided for those who want to learn to speak, read or write in English. One student meets with one tutor, once a week.

These classes are offered at the Dominican Literacy Center, 1503 Rice Street, in Melrose Park (near Sacred Heart/St. Eulalia Parish).

Our program also assists persons studying for their Citizenship interview/exam.

We presently offer classes on Monday through Thursday, in the mornings and afternoons.

Please call Sr. Judith Curran at (708) 338-0659.

**Dominican Literacy Center**  
1503 Rice Street • Melrose Park, IL 60160

## English Classes for Women

### Clases de Inglés para mujeres

Clases de Inglés para aprender como hablar, leer y escribir.

Clases para mujeres que quieren aprender a leer, escribir y hablar en Inglés serán ofrecidas en el Centro Dominicano de Alfabetización, 1503 Rice St.

Nuestro programa tambien ayuda a hombres y mujeres que están estudiando para pasar el examen de ciudadanía.

En este momento, tenemos maestras disponibles para clases por las mañanas.

Si a usted le gustaria aprender Inglés mejor, por favor llamar a Hermana Judith Curran – (708) 338-0659.

**Centro Dominicano de Alfabetización**  
Calle Arroz 1503 • Parque Melrose, IL 60160

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Melrose Park Free Methodist Church and the Indo American Community Church

## Join Us for Sunday Worship Services

On behalf of the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church and the Indo American Community Church, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Melrose Park Free Methodist Church – Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m.

The Melrose Park Free Methodist Church invites you to join us every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. for worship. All are welcome. We are a bilingual church.

For more information, please call (708) 343-2386.

### Indo American Community Church – Sunday Worship, 5:30 p.m.

The Indo American Community Church invites you to join us every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. for our traditional service. All are welcome. We are hosting a New Year's Eve service beginning at 11 p.m.

**The Melrose Park Free Methodist Church and the  
Indo American Community Church are located at 841 Elsie,  
at the corner of Ninth Ave. and Elsie Drive.**



# Happy Holidays!

**MELROSE PARK  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
INDO AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**





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**Wishing You a  
Happy Holiday and  
A Joyful New Year**

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# D&R Press Celebrates 50 Years in Business

## Melrose-Park-Based Company is Gold Standard and the Epitome of Printing Excellence

### A Little D&R History from David L. Ransom, Jr., Founder ...

First, I thank GOD for His many blessings He has bestowed upon my family and me. I also thank Him for giving me a family that has been supportive of me and my printing business from the inception to this day. He has provided me many good times and brought me through the troubled times. Not to mention supplying D&R PRESS with great employees and many loyal customers over the past 50 years.

The Beginning: My being in printing started while I attended Austin High School back in 1970. I was a junior at the time. My cousin Dennis, a sophomore, told me how

much he liked the Graphic Arts (printing) class. He explained that he intended to take another advanced class and asked me to sign up with him in hopes that we may be in the same class together. So I

signed up for Graphic Arts in my senior year. Dennis and I ended up being in different classes.

Needless to say, I really enjoyed the class, so much so that my skills quickly surpassed my fellow classmates. I soon became one of the best hand-set typogra-

phers in the class. Because I was so far ahead, my teacher, Mr. Gerkhe, put me on the press while waiting for the rest of the class to catch up. He then asked me to do a special project, which I quickly agreed to. The project was for me to design and print anything of my choice and I chose to create recipe cards for my mother. I came up with the layout, set the type, completed a proof, made the plate, printed the recipe cards and presented them to my mother.

At that point, there was about five weeks left until graduation. I asked Mr. Gerkhe how I should go about furthering my edu-

cation in graphic arts. He said I should attend Washburn Trade School for printing. He also mentioned a couple of colleges. He further explained that companies often call the school looking for students that are interested in an apprenticeship. About three weeks before graduation in June 1971, he pulled me aside and told me of a printing company that called looking for such a student and asked if I was interested. I immediately said, "yes". He then gave me the phone number and I called to set up an interview with Mr. Sam Ranis of Ranis Menu Printing.

Sam was a Greek immigrant that had settled in the US about 20 years prior to my meeting him. His company printed 85 percent of the daily menus in the city of Chicago and the suburbs. He was running the same type of press that I learned to run in high school. After meeting with Mr. Ranis, he offered me the job and I gratefully accepted. This became my first job in printing. The position required me to be downtown in the Chicago Loop everyday after school. My duties included running the press and making deliveries to the restaurants daily, Monday through Friday. Once I graduated, I immediately went to work full time for Sam.

I was at Ranis about seven months before I was introduced to Kim Jue, a friend of Sam's. Kim, also an immigrant, printed menus for the Chinese restaurants in Chicago's China Town district. A short time later, I ran into Kim and he asked me if I would like to work for him at night running a 17"x22" Webendorfer – a fairly large offset press on which I was never trained. He said he would teach me and being enthusiastic to acquire any knowledge I could, I accepted. So, after working a full day from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. with Sam at Ranis Menu, I would leave and go upstairs in the same building to work for Kim until 10 or 11 p.m., two to three nights per week.

I really had a blast learning all I could on these presses and it was pretty cool to work

for both Greek and Chinese printers. I learned a lot about their heritages, but mostly I learned a work ethic that remains with me until this day. Their energy and enthusiasm was to be admired. At this point I did not realize that I was working in the heart of the famous Printer's Row of Chicago.

We were located at 529 S. Dearborn in Chicago, Ill. Every building within an area two blocks east, three blocks south and three blocks west were printing-related companies. This included printers, paper companies, binderies, printing equipment dealers, printing supplies and everything related.

Early in 1972, my cousin Sam Bianchi called to tell me of a friend of his (Joe Rossi) that worked the night shift in his full-time position for Hall Printing, where they printed magazines and books. Joe was looking for a kid to come in a couple of times a week to clean up his part-time printing business, Beacon Press, which he ran during the day. I accepted the position with Joe.

I worked with Joe for a while, keeping his shop in order and learning all I could. Due to financial issues, Joe was no longer able to keep me on his payroll. I was willing to do anything I could to be around printing, so I volunteered to continue on without pay – just to be in the printing atmosphere and learn. Joe didn't feel right about this and initially refused the offer. So, I brought up the old hand-feed letterpress Joe had sitting idle in the corner of his shop. I explained I could use that machine for my own printing orders. I imagined I could use the press to print business cards, Christmas cards, invitations, etc. Joe explained that he didn't actually own the press, but put me in contact with the owner who was a friend of his.

Immediately after Joe gave me the name and number, I called and asked if I could use the press. His response was "How would you like to buy the press, kid?" This reply shocked me. I hesitated to answer, because I had no idea what a machine like this was worth. My pause caused him to say, "How about a hundred dollars?" I was stunned. I agreed and asked when and where we could meet. After the paperwork was completed, I informed Joe that I would be moving the press. He then explained that he occasionally uses the machine and offered me a \$35 per month lease.

At that point on Sept. 2, 1972, D&R Press was in business on Pulaski Road, two blocks south of Addison Street in the city of Chicago.

Within a few months, Beacon Press lost its lease, forcing me to junk that press because it was not worth the cost to move it. However, I was under pressure because I had weekly printing jobs to produce. So, I rented a press from my friend and owner of Federal Typesetting which was located at 525 S. Dearborn and just a couple of floors above Ranis Menu Printing. I was able to work at Ranis during the day for eight hours and then head upstairs to Federal Type to print my jobs because their second shift usually kept them operating most nights until 11 p.m.

Unfortunately, this only lasted a few months, because Federal Typesetting Company was a union shop and the owner was told by his employees that they would walk off the job if I continued to operate there. So, to avoid causing him any trouble, I finished the jobs I had to complete and departed.

Thankfully, I contracted my work with an elderly printer at Meredith Printing Company on the west side of Chicago. This gave me time to shop for and find a press in the *Tradin' Times*. This press was originally part of the fleet of presses at Cuneo Press. After purchasing it, my father, David, Sr., and my friend George Spathies, helped me move it into my dad's garage at 5468 W. Rice St., on the west side of Chicago, in the Austin neighborhood.

From the middle of 1973 until April of 1976, I ran D&R Press out of my parents' garage. In 1976, I moved the company to Printers Row at 525 S. Dearborn on the fifth floor of a seven-story building that housed printing companies and related services. I was still working for Ranis Menu Printing, which was on the first floor of this same building.

During the years of 1976-1980, I continued to work full time for Ranis Menu Printing. We had a great working relationship. I would work eight hours at Ranis during the day





and then go upstairs and work at D&R for six to eight hours every night and then eight hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

In 1980, the 525 S. Dearborn building fell prey to the urban development of condos in the Printers Row district. I located the Patten Building in the South Loop. D&R moved into its new location on the third floor of 161 W. Harrison Street. This was a 12-story building full of printers, binderies and graphic art supply companies, simply nothing but printing and related services.

During the next 15 years at 161 W. Harrison, we grew to 10 presses with a full dark room and Prepress Department, including typesetting and design capabilities. At one point we had 8,000 square feet of space. But as urban growth would have it, this building also went condo in 1995 and D&R Press was forced to move yet again to a new location.

Through my old contact, Steve Ranis (Sam's son) I learned of a printer that was looking to retire but still had a lengthy lease. I agreed to assume the lease and take over the equipment. The shop was over 5,000 square feet at 329 W. 18th Street in the South Loop area.

This acquisition allowed us to sell some of our older equipment and purchase the existing shop without moving large machines. The new shop contained two large offset presses, as well as some sophisticated bindery equipment. By January 1996, our operation was in full swing.

D&R Press was no longer a small player in the Chicago printing market. We were bigger and more efficient, now employing up to 15 people at our peak.

We enjoyed a non-stop, steady growth of 10 percent every year until 2000, when we noticed a change in the economy. Then 2001 brought 9/11 and changed the world as we knew it.

We continued through tough times. We lost key people starting with a department head leaving Chicago for a warmer climate in 2002. My mom, Esther, who was our receptionist for over 13 years, passed away in 2003. Our foreman moved back to Puerto Rico in 2004 to be with his ailing father and our head pressman of 19 years retired in 2005. Businesses continued to fail and print orders dwindled. We were thankful that we didn't have to let people go and my Faith in God kept me going.

While enduring the effects of a bad economy, declining business, the digital revolution, inflation and rising gas prices, we contemplated moving out of Chicago, where operating a small business became increasingly difficult. Some of our friends in the industry had already successfully moved to the burbs and felt they should have done it sooner.

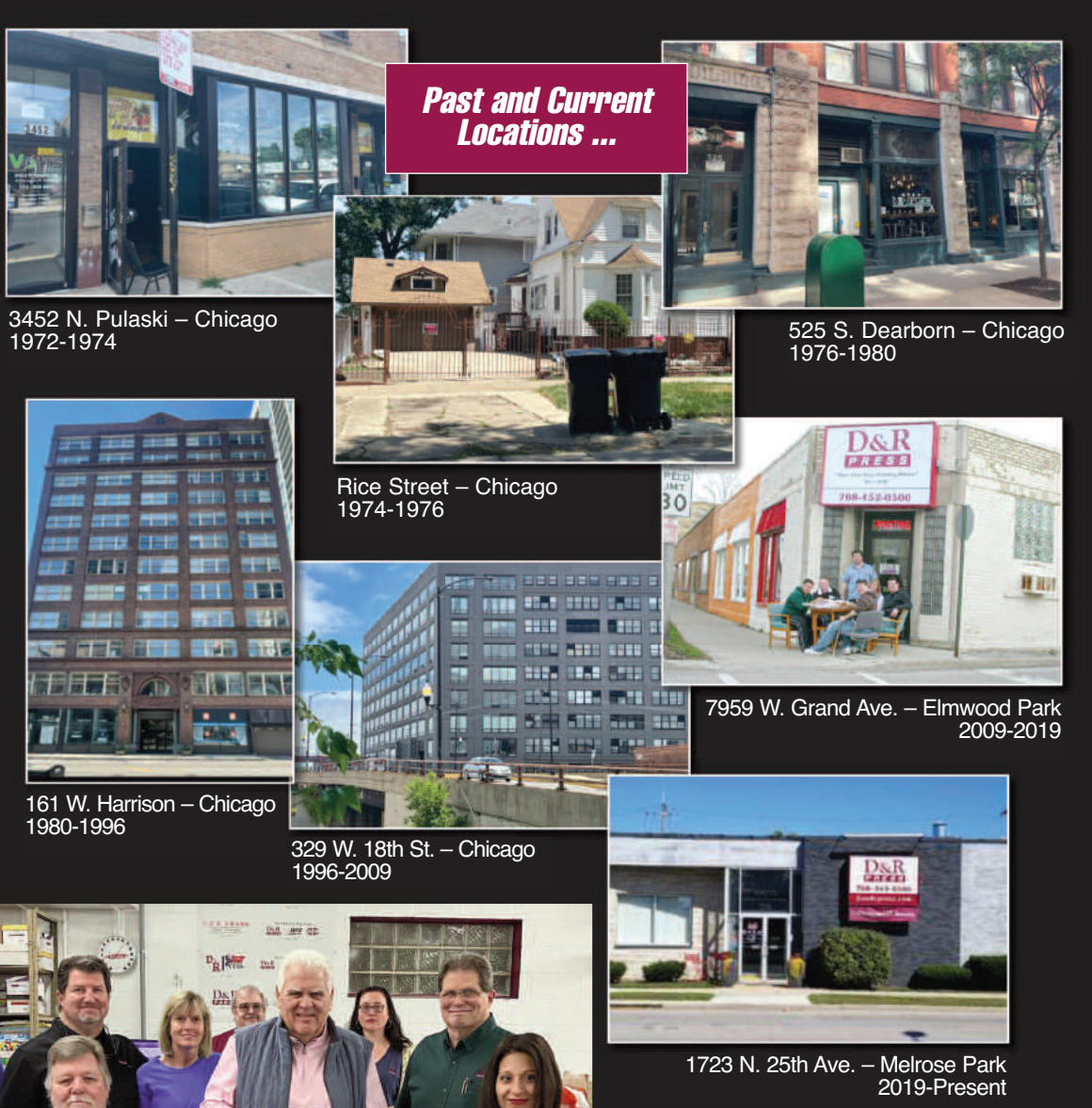
In August of 2009, we approached our landlord of nearly 14 years about renewing our lease. We could not come to an agreement. So I mentioned to my son, David III, to take a "look around town" to see if there were any suitable spaces available for our new plant. David informed me of a storefront building with 5,000 square feet, an overhead door, a sufficient electrical supply and pre-built office space. This was perfect for D&R to set up shop.

As of Oct. 1, 2009, our new location was 7959 W. Grand Ave., Elmwood Park, Ill. Business continued to decline, but our lower overhead allowed us to stay afloat. The move and build-out was costly and we continued to struggle, but an opportunity arose that provided us with a needed influx of work at wholesale prices. Though it wasn't extremely lucrative, it supplied us with work and cash-flow – yet another example of God's Grace.

In the beginning of 2012, one of our business associates approached me with an opportunity that was a Godsend. Tony needed to exit the industry due to health problems and asked me if I was interested in taking over his shop. My simple and quick answer was, "I'm interested." As I left his shop that day, I was praying for answers on how to make this work with no money.

All the while, we were heavily involved with the U.S Department of State – being selected as the exclusive printer for The NATO Summit being held in Chicago that May. Tony persisted and sent us all of his financial records in an attempt to convince us to make an offer to buy out Rapid Copy.

Once the NATO project was completed, I conferred with my brother, Daryl, and my accountant of 30 years, and we made him an offer. Within five days, a deal was struck and D&R Press doubled in size, over night! I know it was God who sent this to me, because in my mind, I never thought I could make an offer that would work and yet the



offer I made was accepted. This acquisition changed our course and we began to grow; God had brought us through, yet again.

In February 2015, I lost my father – the man that let me set up shop in his garage more than 40 years prior. Broken-hearted, yet still grateful and Blessed, my God sent

another Blessing when we were approached by the 25-year pressman of another local printing company. Within a few weeks, D&R Press owned Romel Press and the D&R Press Print Group was formed. We were fast becoming a well-known local printing company in the suburbs while maintaining our client base in the city of Chicago.

Business continued to be steady and 2019 presented us with a hurdle; our "herb-friendly" neighbor caused a real estate tax increase on our building, forcing us to find a new place to call home. Steve, the son of my first boss, Sam Ranis, had established himself as a real estate agent in the area and located a beautiful building and by Christmas 2019, we relocated to our current home at 1723 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill.

The end of March 2020, brought the great "shutdown" and business went south, but only until God responded with our next Blessing and by December, Bulldog Printing joined our group buoying us up for the next chapter.

As we moved forward and the industry evolved, we were approached with an opportunity to venture into a new market; wide-format printing. The summer of 2021 brought us Urban Imaging – which rounds out The D&R Press Print Group as we know it today.

Now, I find myself in 2022, with 50 years behind me; Blessed beyond belief and my success should only be measured by my Faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus. His Name be praised.

- Thank you, Lord.  
David L. Ransom, Jr.





## *Village of Melrose Park*

**Mayor Serpico  
and the  
Village of Melrose Park  
are Seeking  
Snow Removal and  
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Provide Affordably Priced  
Assistance to Our Residents  
When Needed ...**



Interested parties will be listed on a special property maintenance services page in upcoming issues of *The Rose*.

To be considered, please send a copy of your business card to Director of Senior Services Peggy DiFazio (peg@melrosepark.org) or you can call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448, for more information.

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# Bonchon is Bringing the Crunch to Melrose Park

## Popular U.S.-Based Korean Fried Chicken Signs Lease ... Calling on Melrose Park to Join the 'Crunch Out Loud' Movement

Hear that crunch? It's the sound of the Korean fried chicken wave closing in on Melrose Park as a surge of the Hallyu movement is sweeping through the nation.

Bonchon, the wildly popular Korean fried chicken restaurant concept with over 115 U.S. locations, recently announced that it has signed a lease to open a 2,800 square foot location at 900 W. North Ave., within the Winston Plaza shopping center. The forthcoming restaurant will bring the brand's world-famous signature menu to the market, which includes hand-battered, double-fried, crispy Korean fried chicken.

Suleman Merchant and Sadaf Siddiqui are the Chicago-based entrepreneurs and experienced operators spearheading the new Melrose Park location.

"Chicagoland has already shown it loves Bonchon, so we're confident that the new Melrose Park location will become a mealtime destination for even more local residents," said Greg Buchanan, chief administrative officer at Bonchon. "Continuing to add talented operators like Suleman and Sadaf to the Bonchon family is at the core of our growth as we tap into more communities that crave our delicious Korean food. With more restaurant operators joining the Crunch Out Loud movement every day, demand for Bonchon continues to be at an all-time high."

The Melrose Park Bonchon location marks the brand's eighth restaurant to open in Illinois, which includes the upcoming opening in Skokie and Aurora locations. This lease announcement comes during an exciting growth era for the brand, which has 385-plus units worldwide, including in the countries of Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Australia, Thailand and Vietnam. Bonchon also recently announced it is ramping up its growth initiative in key cities across the United States.

In addition to the brand's growth across the nation, there are several other factors driving Bonchon's impressive momentum, such as reaching a 21 percent\* five-year growth rate and securing several commitments from franchise groups. Also notable, current average unit volume has reached \$1.57 million\*\* and according to Black Box Intelligence™ data, Bonchon has consistently outperformed all other segments and cuisines in its two-year metrics (2021 vs. 2019) with positive 23 percent same store sales as of Dec. 25, 2021. The brand has displayed its perseverance and the ability it has to thrive in all market conditions.

As its unwavering commitment to strategic expansion continues and as Bonchon locations sustain consistent sales growth, multi-unit operators

have placed a high priority on adding the concept into their portfolios. An ideal Bonchon franchise candidate has restaurant experience, is dedicated to operational excellence and maintains a commitment to customer service and product quality.

Bonchon, which translates from Korean to English as "my hometown," is known for its signature Korean fried chicken that is hand battered, double fried to achieve its signature, crave-worthy crunch. Every piece of chicken is hand brushed to make each bite perfectly flavorful. Born in Busan, South Korea, in 2002, Bonchon's founder Jinduk Seo dreamed of sharing his favorite flavors with the world. In 2006, U.S. fans were able to Crunch Out Loud with the global sensation as the brand continued to expand across the country.

For information on franchising with Bonchon, visit [franchising.bonchon.com](https://franchising.bonchon.com).

### About Bonchon

Bonchon is a global brand of fast-casual dining restaurants known for distinctive Korean double-fried chicken, Asian fusion cuisine and Korean specialties. Born in Busan, South Korea, in 2002, the concept was established in the heart of New York City in 2006. Bonchon sets out to have its fans "Crunch Out Loud" by sharing the joy of hand-battered, double-fried, crazy crispy Korean fried chicken with the world.

The brand has earned several accolades – it was recognized by *Business Insider* as "the gold standard for fried chicken" as well as included on *Nation's Restaurant News* 2021 "Top 500 Restaurants", *Fast Casual Magazine's* 2021 "Top 100 Movers & Shakers" and *Entrepreneur's* 2021 "Franchise 500 List." Bonchon is positioned for strategic growth and has outlined an aggressive five-year expansion plan, aimed at having 400 locations in the U.S. by 2026.

For more information about Bonchon, visit [bonchon.com](https://bonchon.com). To learn more about its franchise opportunities, visit [franchising.bonchon.com](https://franchising.bonchon.com).

\* Five-year growth rate is based on number of units for the year ended Dec. 31, 2021.

\*\* This amount reflects the average annual gross revenues for 100 franchised Bonchon restaurants in the system that were open from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021, as published in Item 19 of our March 4, 2022 Franchise Disclosure Document.



## RR Trade School Opening Soon in Melrose Park

The RR Trade School plans new facility to open in Melrose Park. RR Trade School is committed to providing rigorous and relevant career and technical education in a dynamic, hands-on learning environment that results in skill based knowledge and experience prepared for the evolving trades industry.

The Melrose Park campus, located at 815 N. 16th Ave., will be opening on Jan. 9 of 2023, offering weekday and evening classes in HVAC and Electrical. The 24-week term will provide hands-on training aligned with a trade curriculum of choice and bundled with CPR and OSHA certifications. RR Trade school will prepare students for the exam and opportunities for job placement after the successful completion of the program requirements. Open house/orientation will take place on Sunday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m.-noon.



For more information, please visit the school's website at [rrtradeschools.com](https://rrtradeschools.com).



**From the E-Newsletter of  
Michael W. Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer**

## **Gifting Yourself ... Give Yourself the Holiday Gift of Financial Planning**

Although holiday planning is featured on the to-do list for millions of us, we also should financially prepare for next year.

### **Taxes**

Few people like paying taxes. Even fewer like preparing to pay taxes. However, finding last year's tax return and using it as a blueprint to know what is needed for this year's tax return can relieve some of the stress.



- Can you reduce tax liability by contributing more to a Bright Start college savings account? Or an ABLE account? Consider opening a Bright Start or ABLE account.
- Maybe you can withhold more taxes from each paycheck and, as a result, lessen your tax bill, according to Brian Mawhinney, certified financial planner and head of financial planning with MassMutual. Additional withholding might help some people with their budgeting, but it isn't the best tactic for everyone.
- Individuals who pay income taxes on a quarterly basis might review their records and determine if an additional payment in January is appropriate.

### **401(k) and Roth IRA**

- In a traditional 401(k), employees contribute money into the account before taxes are taken from the paycheck (pre-tax). This lowers your taxable income and the money grows tax-deferred, but you likely will pay taxes on the withdrawals when you grow older.
- Look at your 401(k) and determine if you can make the maximum contribution.
- With a 401(k), if you do not set aside at least the amount the employer will match, you are losing money.
- Roth contributions are made after taxes are taken from the paycheck (post-tax). Roth contributions do not lower your taxable income, but you likely will not pay taxes on withdrawals when you grow older.
- You can set aside 401(k) and Roth contributions for tax year 2022 up until April 2023.
- Always consult your tax advisor, if possible.

### **Charitable Deductions**

- Should you have the ability to donate money to a favorite charity, please consider doing so. If you itemize your taxes, be sure to obtain a receipt.
- If you do not have the ability to donate money, please consider donating your time.

### **Emergency Funds**

- Emergency funds are important for families of all income levels.
- Single-earner households should strive to set aside six months' worth of expenses, according to Brian Mawhinney, certified financial planner and head of financial planning with MassMutual. So should households with variable income levels. Dual-income earners should strive to set aside three months' worth of expenses.

### **Give Yourself the Gift of Starting Over**

Mistakes happen. Setbacks occur. They do not have to define you. Simply reset and start again.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*



We would like to extend our best wishes during this Holiday Season to all our friends at the Village of Melrose Park and to our friends and family, and wish you a new year full of health, peace and happiness.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**Jaime and Lisa Reyes**



**Happy  
Holidays!**

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**Merry Christmas  
and  
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# Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Hosts Second Annual 16th District Family Resource Fair

## Over 80 Residents Attended the Fair Which Brought a Mix of Health and Financial Services

On Saturday, Oct. 22, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar hosted the Second Annual 16th District Family Resource Fair. Commissioner Aguilar was joined by multiple government agencies and community organizations, including the U.S. Department of Labor, the Illinois Treasurer, the Illinois Department of Health, Cook County Department of Health, and Rincon Family Services. Over 80 residents attended The Family Resource Fair, which had something for everyone. Some of the services included free COVID-19 vaccines, free flu shots, face painting, snacks and more family-fun activities.



*Cook County Commissioner  
Frank J. Aguilar*

"I'd like to thank all of our partners for bringing these services to our district, and I'd like to thank everyone who attended this very successful Family Resource Fair," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "I am thrilled that we were able to bring such a wide range of services, supporting our residents' health and their pocketbooks at the same time. There is always work to do, and I am so grateful that the 16th District is filled with organizations and residents willing to put in the time to make the 16th District as strong as it can be."

Commissioner Aguilar believes that it is not enough to just offer services and resources to residents. Public officials must do more than that – they must ensure that all efforts to support the communities they serve are easily accessible. Commissioner Aguilar and his office's coordination with multiple government agencies at the federal, state and local level allowed for a wide-range of services to be offered to attendees, protecting both their physical health and their financial security.

"Returning money through our unclaimed property program is a responsibility I take very seriously," Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs said. "We continue to fight on your behalf so your money can be in your pocket and not the state's vault."

Building trust between residents and community organizations was a critical part of this Family Resource Fair. It doesn't matter who one partners with when having an event if the residents one serves does not know or trust those partners.

Commissioner Aguilar and his office continue to build relationships between 16th District residents and the many community organizations who have been doing the work on the ground to provide relief and resources to the communities they serve.

"It is working with leaders such as Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar that we are able to bring hope and love to our community," said Eddy Borrayo, president and CEO of Rincon Family Services. "The measurement of success is through the smile of a child."



# Cook County Board Votes to Approve Commissioner Aguilar's Proposal for a Helicopter

## Helicopter Funding Approved for Sheriff's Office to Improve Public Safety

On Thursday, Nov. 17, the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to approve Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar's proposal to lease a helicopter to the Cook County Sheriff's Office. While Cook County is among the largest metropolitan areas in the nation, its helicopter fleet lags far behind other large urban areas. The Los Angeles metropolitan area has 35 police helicopters and the New York City Police Department has recently purchased two additional helicopters, increasing their fleet to nine.

"This is an incredibly important investment by the county," Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said. "I appreciate the county board realizing how important of an asset this is to the Sheriff's Office and am grateful they allocated the financial resources necessary to help protect the safety and security of Cook County residents."

The budget amendment approved reserves of \$11.4 million in the FY2023 budget for the procurement of a helicopter and related equipment. The reserve is being carried forward from funds that were underutilized in the current fiscal year.

"The addition of a helicopter to the Sheriff's Office will be invaluable," said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "This initiative improves public safety and emergency preparedness by leaps and bounds. Helicopters will allow for officers to track carjackers and kidnappers without the need for high-risk chases in residential or commercial areas. It will also allow for first responders to navigate traffic, train schedules, closed roads, and more to ensure that emergency workers can get to where they need to be as quickly as possible in order to save lives and livelihoods. I want to thank my colleagues on the board for their support and look forward to seeing this measure's impact on our communities public safety."

"Commissioner Aguilar was instrumental in securing the necessary funding for this helicopter. He and his colleagues helped establish broad consensus on the county board around the critical need for this important public safety tool, which ultimately led to the approval of the budget amendment," said Sheriff Dart.



# Cook County Officials Celebrate Día de Los Muertos

## County President and Commissioners Remember Deceased Cook County Residents at Ofrenda in the Cook County Building

On Monday, Oct. 31, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar, Commissioner Alma Anaya, ofrenda artist Gloria Contreras and representatives from the Mexican Civic Society to celebrate Día de Los Muertos (“Day of the Dead”). After remarks, a song presentation was given by representatives of the Mexican Civic Society. To close the celebration, residents and officials gathered in front of the ofrenda (altar) located in the lobby of the Cook County Building to honor deceased Cook County residents and celebrate the contributions of the Latino/a/X community.



“The celebration of Día de Los Muertos acknowledges that we still have a relationship with our ancestors and loved ones that have passed away. Today, we invite those Cook County residents who have left us to come back into our lives, if only for a moment, and remember the impact they had on all of us,” said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

Held annually on Nov. 1 and 2, Día de los Muertos is a traditional Meso-American holiday dedicated to the ancestors; it honors both death and the cycle of life. It is observed as a day to honor deceased family members and loved ones by “welcoming them back” through various customs, including making dedicated altars (ofrendas), laying out special food offerings and visiting their graves.

“The Día de Los Muertos ofrenda represents a memorial to remember and honor the lives of loved ones who passed on. It’s remembering the good times we’ve had spent with them, keeping their memory alive in our hearts,” said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar.

An ofrenda is a traditional altar with a collection of objects placed on a ritual display during the annual Día de Muertos celebration. An ofrenda is created for individuals who

have died and is intended to welcome them to the altar setting.

Joining County Officials was the artist who created the ofrenda, Gloria Contreras, along with representatives from the Mexican Civic Society and State Farm, who sponsored Ms. Contreras’ work.

“Día de Los Muertos is universal. We are all skeletons underneath our skins after our time is done,” said artist Gloria Contreras.

# Cook County Announces \$5.5 Million to Increase Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Accessibility Throughout Suburban Cook County

## Four-year Initiative Will Bring Up to 75 Charging Stations to Underserved Communities

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced \$5.5 million in funding for the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Program, an initiative led by the County’s Department of Environment and Sustainability and Bureau of Asset Management, to increase the number and access to public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout suburban Cook County.

“There are large gaps in access to public EV charging stations throughout the suburbs of Cook County, specifically in traditionally underserved communities on the south and west sides,” said President Preckwinkle. “Bridging these gaps in access provides more residents the opportunity to consider the economic benefits of electric vehicle ownership.”

The goal of this four-year initiative is to install up to 75 dual port public EV charging stations. Cook County will cover the cost of the EV station hardware, construction and installation, as well as networking and warranty fees for the first five years.

“As the need for electric vehicles rises every year, we must be proactive to ensure all communities have the resources to serve residents with electric vehicles,” said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. “It is not enough to simply say, ‘buy an electric vehicle.’ We must build the necessary infrastructure needed to support residents who wish to own electric vehicles. This investment into charging stations throughout suburban Cook County is a crucial step.”

The county is seeking input from municipal leaders, residents, business owners and community organizations to find the most suitable locations for the public charging stations. Examples of public charging station locations could be a city hall, public library, community center, house of worship, housing complex, shopping complex or any other location that would offer convenient access to charging. Station locations within disinvested communities will be prioritized.

“Gas powered vehicles may have a cheaper initial price but can wind up costing more over the lifetime of the vehicle,” said Deborah Stone, chief sustainability officer and director of the county’s Department of Environment and Sustainability. “Without access to a charging station, an electric vehicle is not a feasible option for residents, especially those who can’t charge at home. This program will help change that.”

The county is providing funding for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The county allocated over \$100 million in ARPA funding to support a clean environment for all and to fight climate change.

For more information and to suggest a site for a public EV charging station, visit [www.cookcountyl.gov/EVcharging](http://www.cookcountyl.gov/EVcharging).



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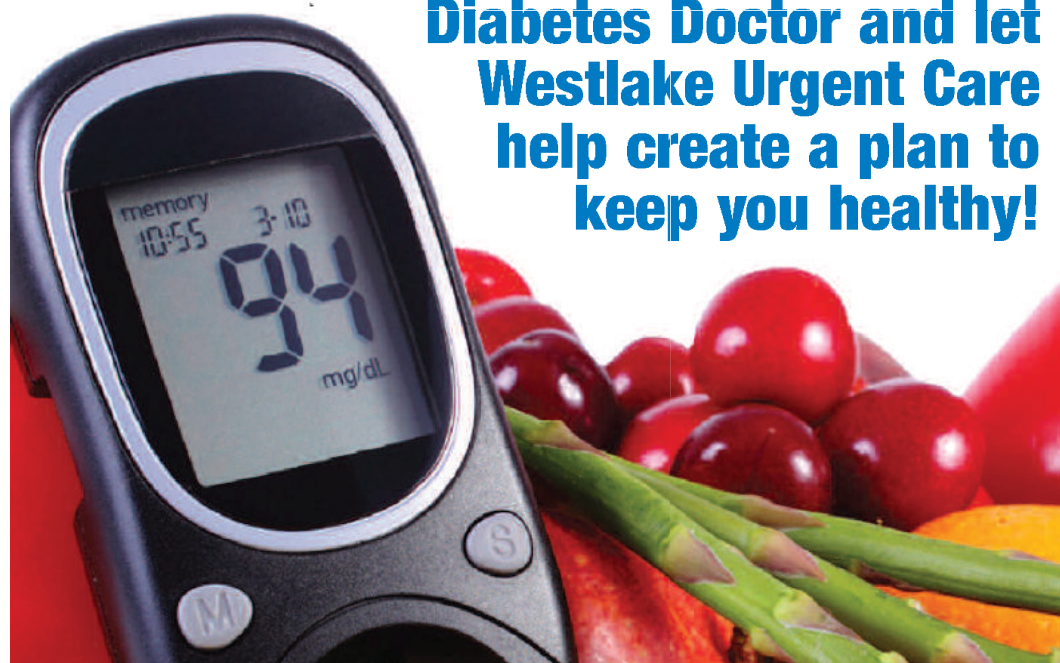
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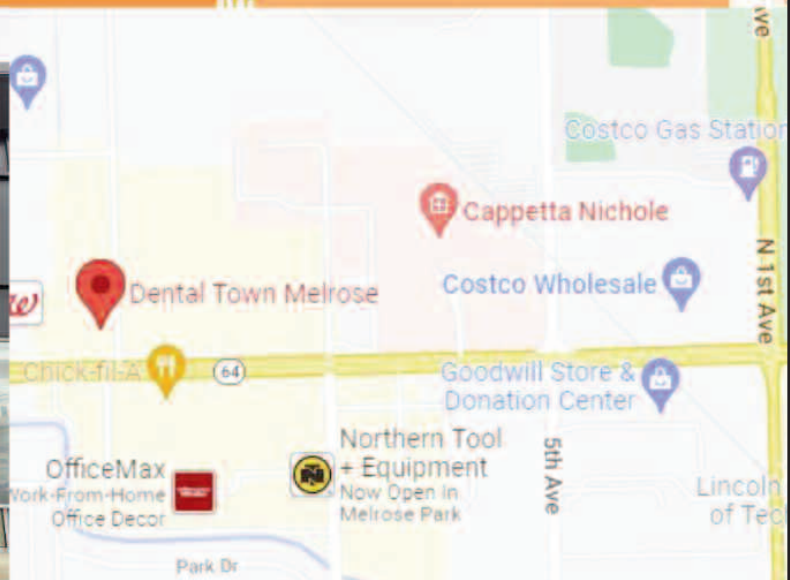
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# New Tool Available to Help Spanish-Speaking ComEd Customers Lower Bills and Energy Use

## Online Resource Customizes List of Financial-Assistance and Energy-Efficiency Offerings for Eligible Customers En Español

To support Spanish-speaking customers in identifying the bill-assistance and energy-management support they may need, ComEd has made its Smart Assistance Manager (SAM) available in Spanish.

SAM is an online self-service tool that helps families and individuals more easily access financial-assistance and energy-savings options that are available to them, based on their household information such as energy usage and billing history. Customers who create an online account with ComEd through the "My Account" tool can log in while using SAM to get a list of eligible programs more tailored to their needs.

"ComEd remains committed to enabling all customers access their account information anywhere and on their own time – especially the assistance they need to keep the lights on at their homes and businesses," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's chief customer officer and senior vice president of Customer Operations. "Offering our SAM tool in Spanish helps to remove the language barrier that will help our Spanish-speaking customers access information in the language with which they are most comfortable."

SAM matches customers with the payment-assistance programs they may be eligible for – including deferred-payment arrangements and financial-assistance options like Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – then provides guidance and links to apply. SAM also provides ways to control energy costs through energy-efficiency offerings, including free home energy assessments and discounts on energy-saving products.

Customers interested in accessing this free tool can visit [es.ComEd.com/SAM](https://es.ComEd.com/SAM).

### Assistance Options Available through SAM

Financial-assistance programs like the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and ComEd's Supplemental Arrearage

Reduction Program (SARP), which is available to ComEd residential customers who qualified to receive energy-assistance benefits from LIHEAP.

A flexible deferred payment arrangement of up to 12 months for eligible residential customers with a past-due balance. Make a down payment on the amount owed, and the balance is paid through installments in addition to your regular monthly bill.

Budget billing, which provides a predictable monthly payment based on your electricity usage from the last 12 months.

Flexible payment options like extensions on a customer's due date by 21 calendar days.

High-usage alerts, which enable customers to receive alerts when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use, and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future energy bills.

Energy-efficiency offerings, including services and incentives designed for income-eligible residential customers, that can help reduce energy use now and in the long term.

To further support eligible, low-income residential customers struggling to pay their electric bills, ComEd no longer assesses late-payment fees or deposits. The energy company also no longer assesses additional fees for any customers when they use a credit card, debit card or electronic check when paying their ComEd bills month to month. And, to offer more convenience, all customers can pay their ComEd bill with PayPal. More information on each of these options is available at [ComEd.com/Pay](https://ComEd.com/Pay).



# ComEd No. 1 in U.S. in Providing Reliable Electric Service to Customers, Benchmarking Shows

## Strong Performance Continues in 2022 with Reliability for the First 10 Months of the Year Better Than in Any Prior Year

Families and businesses served by ComEd experienced fewer power outages on average than customers of any comparable electric company for a fifth consecutive year in 2021, based on industry-standard measures for reliability. And, when ComEd customers did experience an outage last year, their service was restored as fast or faster on average than customers of the other electric companies. This is according to a company analysis of 25 peer U.S. energy companies with approximately 1 million customers or more.

"Our customers appreciate that the energy we deliver is some of the cleanest and lowest cost in the nation, but what they value most is the 24/7 reliability of our critical service," said ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones. "It's gratifying to see the difference a decade's worth of investment to make our power grid stronger and more intelligent has made for the 9 million people we have the privilege of serving every day."

ComEd has continued its consistent record of strong reliability performance in 2022. Overall reliability for the first 10 months of the year was better than in any prior year and 82 percent better than when ComEd began to increase its smart grid improvements in 2012. More than 3.6 million of ComEd's 4.1 million customers have experienced either zero or no more than one outage in 2022. Since it began its smart grid investments, ComEd and its more than 6,200 employees have helped customers avoid nearly 19 million outages, saving more than \$3 billion in outage-related costs.

ComEd continues to provide industry-leading reliability at some of the lowest costs to customers in the nation. Based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2021, the average monthly bill for a ComEd residential customer was lower than the average in 49 out of 50 U.S. states. The average monthly residential bill for ComEd customers in 2022 is less than it was at the same time last year.



# Average ComEd Bill Lower Than Bills in 49 of 50 U.S. States in 2022

## ComEd Offers Industry-Leading Value Based on Latest U.S. EIA Cost Data

The average monthly ComEd customer bill in the fourth quarter of 2022 was lower than the average charges paid by customers in 2021 in 49 out of 50 U.S. states, based on an analysis of the latest information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

ComEd's work to manage costs has contributed to Illinois having the lowest average 2021 bill in the Midwest for a 10th year in a row and among the five lowest in the U.S, according to a recent announcement by the Citizens Utility Board. The average ComEd monthly bill is currently lower than it was last year, even as inflation has driven many costs higher, and it is no greater than 10 years ago.

"ComEd is working to support customers through reliable, clean and affordable energy," said ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones. "We've worked over the last decade to control costs while focusing on enabling more clean energy and

improving the overall reliability of our grid. Our investments are providing our customers with the best electric value in the nation."

The combination of nuclear, wind and solar facilities in the northern Illinois region generates enough clean energy to meet 95 percent of ComEd customers' demand when they consume it.

In addition to consistently providing competitive rates, ComEd has continued its record of strong reliability performance in 2022. Overall reliability for the first 10 months of the year was better than in any prior year and 82 percent better than when ComEd began to increase its smart grid improvements in 2012. Since it began its smart grid investments, ComEd and its more than 6,200 employees have helped customers avoid nearly 19 million outages, saving more than \$3 billion in outage-related costs.

# ComEd Recognized as Most Resilient Power Grid in the U.S. With 2022 ReliabilityOne® Award

## Reliability Work Also Recognized with ReliabilityOne® Award for Outstanding Reliability Performance in the Midwest Metropolitan Service Area

In recognition of ComEd's successful efforts to drive more reliable and resilient energy for its customers, PA Consulting yesterday presented the electric company the 2022 ReliabilityOne® Outstanding System Resiliency Award.

The ReliabilityOne® Award is presented to a company that has optimized system resiliency efforts, worked to mitigate climate change impacts on its system and integrated planning efforts including reliability and grid modernization initiatives.

"We are grateful to be recognized for the positive impact our investments in a reliable and resilient power grid have delivered for customers," said Terence Donnelly, president and COO of ComEd. "The families and businesses we serve have benefited from significantly fewer and shorter outages as a result of the work we've done in the last decade to strengthen and modernize our system."

ComEd has made investments to harden its system and bring greater resiliency during severe weather and other events. The company has also introduced advanced technology like a first-of-its-kind superconductor technology installation, connecting two substations, that provides additional resilience to families and businesses should one of the substations be impacted by extreme weather or other threats.

Recent benchmarking also shows that ComEd has the top reliability of any utility in the U.S. Overall reliability for the first 10 months of 2022 was better than in any prior year and 82 percent better than when ComEd began to increase its smart grid improvements in 2012. More than 3.6 million of ComEd's 4.1 million customers have experienced either zero or no more

than one outage in 2022. Since it began its smart grid investments, ComEd and its more than 6,200 employees have helped customers avoid nearly 19 million outages, saving more than \$3 billion in outage-related costs.

At the same time, the electric company has achieved industry-leading value with an average bill lower than 49 of 50 states, based on an analysis of the latest information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). The average monthly ComEd customer bill currently is lower than it was last year, even as inflation has driven many costs higher, and is no greater than it was 10 years ago.

"Grid sustainability continues to be a major issue that the industry must take more seriously," said Gregg Edeson and Derek HasBrouck, PA Consulting's ReliabilityOne® co-program directors. "This year we are celebrating utilities that are providing high levels of reliability and resilience while integrating clean energy assets and greater clean resource diversity into their operations. Congrats to ComEd for their clean energy efforts."

All utilities operating dense electric delivery networks in North America are eligible for consideration for the ReliabilityOne® Awards. There are eight metropolitan service regional awards, including Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Plains, Mountains, West, Southeast and Southwest. The selection of provisional recipients is based primarily on system reliability statistics that measure the frequency and duration of customer outages.

After provisional recipients are selected, each company undergoes a certification process, which provides an independent review and confirmation of the policies, processes and systems used to collect, analyze and report a company's reliability results.

# Nicor Gas Awards \$100,000 in Grants to Support Basic Needs, Energy Assistance Across Its Service Territory

On Nov. 7, Nicor Gas announced \$100,000 in grants to support the basic needs of our customers including food, clothing and shelter through community organizations across its service territory.

“At Nicor Gas, we have a goal to support the basic needs of 250,000 families across our communities through agencies that address food, housing and clothing insecurity,” said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Engagement at Nicor Gas. “Nearly 11 percent of residents in the state of Illinois currently live in poverty. Providing for the most critical needs of our customers ensures our neighbors are able to not just survive, but thrive.”

This year, Nicor Gas is proud to award 24 organizations with grants to support their basic needs programming:

## Cook County

- Faithful Meals in Motion – This program provides boxed meals for school-age children during extended school breaks and weekends.
- Neighborhood Housing Services – This program provides a package of 10 freshly prepared meals to 50 senior households per week, for 24 weeks of the year.
- Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry – This program provides a drive-through pantry, a traditional in-person community market, pop-up food pantries and a home grocery delivery program.
- PADS to Hope – This program provides emergency shelter, supportive services, case management and medical care for the north and north-west suburbs of Metro Chicago.
- South Suburban PADS – This program provides emergency shelter, food and case management for families in the south suburbs of Metro Chicago.
- WINGS Program, Inc. – This program provides critical emergency housing for domestic violence victims.

## DeKalb County

- Family Services of DeKalb – This program supports low-income individuals, connecting them to resources for food, shelter, clothing and disaster relief.

## DuPage County

- CASA DuPage – This program provides a trained special advocate that ensures children in high-risk trauma situations are placed in safe homes and receive supportive services.
- DuPage Senior Citizen's Council – This program provides meal delivery to homebound older adults.
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services – This program provides food distribution for children and seniors in DuPage County.
- People's Resource Center – This program's food pantry serves as an entry point for services, including hygiene products, clothing, financial assistance and education.

## Fox Valley Area

- Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry – This program supports mobile pantries throughout Fox Valley, including food, diapers, hygiene, baby formula and other basic need items.

- Big Hearts Fox Valley – This program provides clothing, shoes, warm coats, gloves and hygiene products to families in need.
- Hesed House – This program provides overnight emergency shelter, including meals, bathing facilities and laundry facilities.
- Mutual Ground, Inc. – This program provides emergency shelter, emergency room response and a 24-hour crisis line for victims of domestic violence.



## Grundy County

- Grundy Area PADS – This program provides emergency shelter and case management for families in Grundy County, to ensure clients are working toward obtaining stable housing and independence.

## Kane County

- Food for Greater Elgin – This program delivers food to vulnerable immigrant populations in Elgin at schools, apartment complexes and churches.
- PADS of Elgin – This program provides emergency shelter, showering and laundry facilities, meals and clothing to those experiencing homelessness in and around Elgin.

## Lake County

- Community Action Partnership – This program provides at least one hot meal per weekday that includes healthy choices to individuals in homeless shelters and low-income seniors throughout Lake County.

## McHenry County

- Home of the Sparrow – This program provides transitional shelter in a dorm-style environment for individuals and families throughout northern Illinois, including case management to work toward housing independence.
- Refuge for Women Chicago – This program provides long-term and transitional housing for women over 18, in Chicagoland and beyond, who have escaped human trafficking.

## McLean County

- Home Sweet Home Ministries – This program provides daily meals to homeless shelter residents and low-income community members across several counties in central Illinois.

## Winnebago County

- Rock River Valley Pantry – This program provides dairy items to those experiencing food insecurity in the Rockford area.
- Shelter Care Ministries – This program provides emergency housing, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing to those experiencing homelessness in and around Rockford.

To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to basic needs and energy assistance initiatives, visit [www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](http://www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving).



# Nicor Gas Offers Tips to Protect Customers, Marked Nov. 16 as Utility Scam Awareness Day

The safety of our customers is a top priority for Nicor Gas and that includes protecting their personal information. Utility scams are on the rise and it is more important than ever for customers to be vigilant and know what steps to take to prevent themselves or their families from falling victim.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, utility scams cost American consumers more than \$2.3 billion last year. Nicor Gas joined 150 U.S. and Canadian energy companies and marked Nov. 16 as Utility Scam Awareness Day. The purpose was to raise awareness of and help educate consumers of the tactics commonly used by scammers. Many natural gas, electric and water customers throughout the country are being targeted by impostor utility scams each day.

In recent years, scammers have gotten deceptively creative with increased calls, texts, emails and in-person tactics, contacting natural gas and electric customers asking for immediate payment to avoid service disconnection. Nicor Gas strongly encourages customers to stay vigilant of potential scam activity such as:

- Threats to disconnect their natural gas service if payment is not made.
- Requests that payments be made from a specific method, such as a debit card, prepaid card, checking account, cryptocurrency or to send funds via a mobile app to make a bill payment.
- Claims they have overpaid and their bank account or credit card number is needed for a refund.
- Requests to vacate their home so that a meter or other natural gas equipment can be replaced.
- Suggestions through social media that their bill will be covered by a charity after they make a partial payment by way of a wire transfer.

We hold ourselves accountable to our customers first and foremost and will never use aggressive or intimidating tactics to pressure customers into making a payment toward their natural gas bill. Nicor Gas customers can

expect clear, open and honest communication from the company:

- By phone: When a customer service representative contacts a customer by phone regarding the status of their account or to discuss payment, they will identify themselves as a Nicor Gas employee. To verify legitimacy, customers can request that the representative confirm information about their account that only they and the company would know, for example:
  - The date of last payment.
  - The amount of the last payment.
  - Account number.
- By email: We will never ask for account or credit card information in an email. Customers can safely access and make changes to their account information and payment methods using our My Account online portal.
- In-person: When a field service representative visits your home or business, they'll wear branded uniforms that include navy pants, hats and jackets, a variety of beige shirts and neon yellow safety vest. Employees will always provide Nicor Gas identification.

As an additional safety measure, customer can sign up to receive Keep Me Informed appointment status text messages that include a photo of the technician assigned to perform work at their property.

#### Suspect fraud?

Customers who suspect or experience fraud should contact local authorities and then call the customer care center phone number listed on their billing statement. Customers who want to confirm that a Nicor Gas representative is scheduled to perform work at their premise should contact the Customer Care Center at 888.Nicor4U (888-642-6748).

**For more information, visit [www.NicorGas.com/FraudProtection](http://www.NicorGas.com/FraudProtection).**

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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  
Brian Miller, Office of the Village Attorney  
(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4487



Village of  
Melrose Park



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**Melrose  
Park**

## Village Hall News

Village Hall Hours – 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday  
(May be subject to change.)

### 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.

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



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## The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

### Save the Dates!

Next Issue – February 2023  
(Deadline for material Jan. 25, 2023.)

Schedule for 2023  
February, April, June, August, October and December

Dear Community Member,

The Village of Melrose Park publishes *The Rose* (the official newsletter of the Village of Melrose Park) and mails the publication to all Melrose Park residents and businesses. We are offering advertising space and would greatly appreciate your participation.

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

If you are interested in advertising in one or more issues that will be delivered every other month, please complete this form and mail with completed ad to:

**The Rose c/o Village of Melrose Park • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160**

**or Email to: [therose@melrosepark.org](mailto:therose@melrosepark.org) w/pdf or jpeg file.**

(Checks need to be made to the order of Village of Melrose Park.)



### Rates – Full Color Ads

Full Page

\$400 per issue (9 x 10 1/2)

Half Page

\$200 per issue (9 x 5 1/4)

1/4 Page

\$100 per issue (4 1/2 x 5 1/4)

1/8 Page

\$50 per issue (4 1/2 x 2 5/8)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

The  ROSE

Ad Size (Please Circle): Full Page 1/2 Page 1/4 Page 1/8 Page



# Check Out These Seasonal Events and Activities at the Cook County Forest Preserves

Join Our Programming  
Teams and Naturalists  
for These Upcoming  
Fun, Educational  
In-Person and  
Virtual Offerings

Take some time to explore  
our website at  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com).

## **Fitness Hike – Saturday, Dec. 17 • 10 a.m.**

### **Midlothian Meadows (Crawford Avenue, North of 159th Street)**

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 2.6 miles.

Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **What's On The Menu? – Saturday, Dec. 17 • 3 p.m.**

### **River Trail Nature Center (3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook)**

Join us at feeding time to learn about our ambassador animals and their habits. All ages.

Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – Free.

## **What's On The Menu? – Sunday, Dec. 18 • 3 p.m.**

### **River Trail Nature Center (3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook)**

Join us at feeding time to learn about our ambassador animals and their habits. All ages.

Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – Free.

## **Winter Fire Building Workshop – Thursday, Dec. 22 • 6 p.m.**

### **Camp Dan Beard (200 Portwine Road, Northbrook)**

Learn fire-building skills and stick around for a story and s'mores around the fire. All ages.

Registration required – Email [experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov).

Contact – (708) 771-1573/experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **Fitness Hike – Thursday, Jan. 12 • 10 a.m.**

### **Teason's Woods**

#### **(Willow Springs Road, South of Calumet Sag Road/Rte. 83, Near Palos Park)**

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 4 miles.

Registration required – Register at <https://www.tinyurl.com/fittw>.

Contact – (312) -533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **Fitness Hike – Thursday, Jan. 19 • 10 a.m.**

### **Country Lane Woods**

#### **(95th Street, East of Flavin Road/Willow Springs Road, Near Willow Springs)**

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 5 miles.

Registration required – Register at <https://tinyurl.com/fhclw2>.

Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **Fitness Hike – Saturday, Jan. 21 • 10 a.m.**

### **Vollmer Road Grove**

#### **(Vollmer Road, West of Crawford Avenue, Near Country Club Hills)**

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 3.6 miles.

Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

## **Walk & Talk – Saturday, Jan. 21 • 10 a.m.**

### **Oak Forest Heritage Preserve**

#### **(East Fieldcrest Drive, Southwest of Crawford Avenue, Oak Forest)**

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who want to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. 1.7 miles.

Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **Walk & Talk – Wednesday, Jan. 25 • 11 a.m.**

### **Chicago Portage National Historic Site (Harlem Avenue, South of 47th Street, Lyons)**

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who want to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. 1 mile.

Registration required – Register at <https://tinyurl.com/wtcpnhs>.

Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.



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**Fitness Hike – Saturday, Feb. 4 • 9 a.m.**  
**Cermak Woods (7600 W. Ogden Ave., Lyons)**

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness Hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 4.5 miles.  
Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

**Walk & Talk – Saturday, Feb. 18 • 10 a.m.**  
**Kickapoo Woods (Halsted Street, South of 144th Street, Riverdale)**

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who want to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. 1 mile.  
Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

**Walk & Talk – Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 10 a.m.**  
**Theodore Stone Forest (67th Street, East of La Grange Road, Hodgkins)**

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who want to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. 2 miles.  
Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## Volunteer with the Forest Preserves of Cook County

If you have time, skills and enthusiasm to give, consider volunteering with the Forest Preserves of Cook County to help make your preserves healthier. Our Volunteer Resources team works with volunteer site stewards leading ecological restoration at more than 90 sites across the Forest Preserves, and manages programs that allow you to get involved with nature education, trail safety, scientific monitoring and more.

### Find a Volunteer Opportunity

Forest Preserves volunteers include youth, adults, retirees, nature lovers, people who want to build job skills, people looking for a new experience, people who want to experience nature with a welcoming group – and everything in between. With all the diversity in our volunteer opportunities, there's bound to be an activity that's right for you!

### Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering with the Forest Preserves means taking care of the land while you take care of yourself. Spending time outside in nature can help improve your mental and physical health. Volunteers learn about local nature as part of our volunteer community, as well as through formal training and professional development opportunities. And, volunteers have the opportunity for personal growth by trying activities outside of their comfort zone or discovering a new group of friends.

Volunteering with the Forest Preserves also means giving back to your community. Volunteers make visitors feel welcome in the Forest Preserves, support the ability of preserves to provide clean air and water, and protect these important natural areas now and for future generations. And, volunteers restore and maintain diverse natural areas, making them resilient in the face of climate change impacts – helping people, plants, animals and other organisms adapt to warmer temperatures and extreme weather.

Volunteers can also earn Forest Preserves volunteer-branded items, nature-related guides and books, and outdoor clothing and gear when you help us track volunteer impact by reporting your hours in our Online Volunteer System.

Whether you volunteer for personal growth, your community, or native plants and animals, we're glad you're here – and thank you.

### Online Volunteer System

The Forest Preserves uses an Online Volunteer System to help volunteers sign up for opportunities and report their hours. When volunteers report hours they can earn Forest Preserves volunteer-branded items, nature-related guides and books, and outdoor clothing and gear. Every volunteer that reports hours helps us track the impact of the thousands of volunteers that dedicate their time to the Forest Preserves.

### Contact the Volunteer Resources Team

Our team supports volunteers with tools and supplies, training and permits for all our volunteer programs. We are here to answer questions and help you prepare to volunteer in the Forest Preserves. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have a question, suggestion or concern – Mathew Bieszczat, Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N. Central, Chicago, Ill. 60646; (773) 631-1790; or volunteer.FPD@cookcountyil.gov.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

Our vibrant volunteer community is the result of efforts led by volunteers to improve the preserves that date back to the 1970s. Today, thousands of your neighbors volunteer in their local forest preserve, giving tens of thousands of hours of service to community-based conservation.

Whether you have volunteered for an hour or 20 years, you help continue this legacy of service and assure that future generations can explore a forest carpeted with spring wildflowers, a tallgrass prairie rippling in the wind or a wetland echoing with the calls of migrating birds – all in one of the most populated urban areas of the country.

Thank you to all our past, current and future volunteers. We appreciate your contribution to these wild and wonderful places in the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

As a thank you to our Forest Preserves volunteers, we invite you to go on an audio-guided forest therapy walk celebrating you: Belonging: Forest Therapy Walk.

**For more information, visit <https://fpdcc.com/volunteer/>.**



# News from the Zoo!

Your next visit to Brookfield Zoo isn't complete unless you've experienced the amazing things on hand.

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions. Be sure to check out our website at [www.czs.org](http://www.czs.org) for additional happenings.

Want to make the most of your zoo experience? Become a member and you'll get exclusive discounts to most attractions, not to mention so much more!

## Holiday Magic® at Brookfield Zoo Returns for Its 41st Dazzling Year

Light up the festive season with family and friends at Brookfield Zoo's 41st annual Holiday Magic®, presented by ComEd and Meijer. Chicagoland's longest-running lights festival runs now-Dec. 18 and Dec. 26-31, 3-9 p.m.

(Brookfield Zoo will not open until 3 p.m. on Holiday Magic dates.) Prior to arriving at the zoo, guests who prefer to park in the south lot will need to secure advanced reservations (including zoo members), as well as admission and parking tickets online at [CZS.org/HolidayMagic](http://CZS.org/HolidayMagic). Advanced reservations are not required for those who use the north parking lot, however, guests are encouraged to secure admission and parking online prior to their visit.

Holiday Magic® features over 2 million twinkling LED lights creating an evening filled with shining moments. The "Sea of Lights" returns with a new exciting design featuring two miles of colorful, sparkling lights synchronized to music on the zoo's entire West Mall. The transformation into a magical creation of moving lights will immerse guests in the holiday spirit as will the adjacent 600-foot-long Tunnel of Lights, presented by Xfinity, that zoogoers can walk through.

Brookfield Zoo's 41-foot-tall tree lit with brilliantly colored LED lights and choreographed to seasonal tunes will greet guests as they enter the north entrance. Strolling along the zoo's malls and around Roosevelt Fountain, guests also can view 750 community and 70 corporate lit trees decorated with ornaments.

Holiday Magic is the perfect opportunity for taking dazzling family snapshots. Remember your visit with a picture inside a luminous 20-foot-tall orb aglow with thousands of sparkling LED lights or next to a 16-foot-tall 3D gingerbread house, a holiday-themed festive frame and even a Santa Claus cutout. Larger-than-life illuminated animal sculptures, including a giraffe, bison, bear and reindeer, add to the ambiance throughout the park.

Guests of all ages are invited to embark on a fun-filled scavenger hunt in search of 27 sneaky gnomes in this year's Game of Gnomes. Each gnome measures between 12 to 20 inches high and are hidden around the zoo's grounds.

Several indoor and outdoor animal habitats are open during Holiday Magic, including Tropic World (South America and Asia sections only), Pachyderm House, Big Cats, Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Reptiles and Birds, Living Coast, Hamill Family Wild Encounters (reindeer and goats only), Great Bear Wilderness, Australia House (access to front section only) and Hamill Family Play Zoo. All indoor animal buildings close at 8:30 p.m., with the exception of Tropic World and Hamill Family Play Zoo, which close at 8 p.m.

Kids can deposit their written holiday greetings and drawings for the animals in a designated box, as well as drop off letters to Santa Claus in a giant red box, both located on the zoo's South Mall.

The fun doesn't stop at holiday lights – guests can take a spin on the skating rink, located on the East Mall. Open on Holiday Magic dates only, the rink is made of synthetic plastic known as Glice® – a material composed of heat-pressed layers of polymers – so no water or electricity is required for operation. The cost for unlimited time for all skaters on the rink is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for a \$5 fee. Skaters are welcome to bring their own skates.

Stop by the zoo's shops for unique holiday gifts to share the cheer. The zoo's restaurants and food stands will also offer holiday-themed food and drinks for purchase.

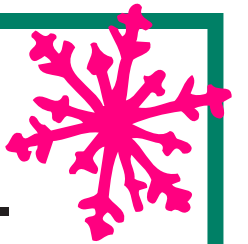
Admission to Brookfield Zoo is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children ages 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15. For more information about Holiday Magic, visit [CZS.org/HolidayMagic](http://CZS.org/HolidayMagic).





# Have a Wild Birthday at Brookfield Zoo!

## Read on for Event Information About Hosting a Birthday Party at Brookfield Zoo ...



### BROOKFIELD ZOO BIRTHDAY PARTY FAQs

#### What is the recommended age for a Birthday Party at Brookfield Zoo?

We recommend parties for all kids, ages 3-11.

#### How long do the Birthday Parties last?

Our Birthday Party time slots are: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m., or 3-4:30 p.m. only. The package price includes our outdoor Bramsen Picnic Pavilion. However, we also offer some indoor spaces and upgraded experiences for an additional cost. Please call the Catered Events Department at (708) 688-8355 for more information about these upgrade options.

#### How many guests can I invite to my Birthday Party?

In order to have a private, reserved area for your Birthday Party you must have a minimum of (15) guests. The maximum number of guests is (40). If your party is going to have more than (40) guests, do not panic! You can reserve one of our other event spaces and order your food and beverage options from our Daytime Menus. Please call the Catered Events Department at (708) 688-8355 for more information about Daytime Menus and offerings.

#### Do we have access to the zoo all day?

Yes, your package includes an admission ticket for all your guests. Which means they are welcome to arrive prior to the start of the Birthday Party. However, they are not allowed access to the private area until the start of your reservation. Guests are also welcomed to stay afterward, but will not be able to stay in the private area or store their belongings in the private area either.

#### Can we decorate?

Yes, you can decorate for your Birthday Party. However, early access is not permitted to do so. You must be able to decorate and clean up within your scheduled reservation. All décor items must be approved by the zoo prior to the event date. Additionally, décor cannot be hung from ceilings and cannot block walkways or doorways. The following items are strictly prohibited: confetti, glitter, pinatas, rice, bird seed, balloons, candles, glass containers, plastic straws, loud music, bouncy balls, bouncy houses, frisbees, roller skates and noise makers of any kind. This is not an all-inclusive list, so please make sure to talk with your sales manager for further direction.

#### Are we allowed to bring a birthday cake?

Yes, you are more than welcome to bring birthday cake and/or birthday cupcakes for you and your guests. However, they must be covered and protected upon entry of the zoo. Please note that Brookfield Zoo will not store these items for you, so please plan appropriately. You are limited to (1) cake-cutting knife only (which you may also bring yourself).

#### Do you offer any other fun activities?

Yes, we can provide you with several fun entertainment ideas! From face painting to strolling magicians. Just ask your sales manager for more information.

#### Does the package price apply to both kids and adults?

Yes, the price of our Birthday Party packages applies to anyone who is 3 years or older.

#### What if it rains or snows on the party date?

Brookfield Zoo is a "rain or shine" facility. Although we cannot fully predict the weather, if you feel that the upcoming forecast is not conducive to hosting your Birthday Party, then please call the Catered Events Department at (708) 688-8355 to work out an alternative plan. There are limited indoor spaces that are available (price increases may apply, and availability is not guaranteed).

#### Some of my guests have zoo memberships. Do I still need to pay for their admission?

Essentially, yes. Our Birthday Party packages are loaded with value, above and beyond admission into the zoo. This includes food, beverage and more. Therefore, anyone that will be present for the birthday party will be included in the final guest count and charged for accordingly.

#### How do I confirm my Birthday Party at the Brookfield Zoo?

Birthday Parties are offered on a "first-come, first-served" basis. If you want to confirm your birthday party, you will need to provide us with a signed contract and a 25 percent deposit. Deposits are nonrefundable, so please be sure that the details of your birthday party are locked in before moving forward with this process.

**Have questions? Contact us at (708) 688-8355.**



**For more details or a complete listing of the fun, family activities happening at Brookfield Zoo, check out [www.CZS.org](http://www.CZS.org) or call (708) 688-8000.**



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FIRST ANNUAL

# PROVISO HANDYMAN

\* Now-Dec. 31 \*

# FOOD



# DRIVE

## DONATION

ACCEPTING NON-PERISHABLE CANNED FOODS AND UNEXPIRED GOODS TO  
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### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NEEDED

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BEANS, RICE, CANNED VEGGIES, PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED TUNA, CEREAL.

For the month of December We will be **WAIVING** the \$5 fuel surcharge for an  
exchange of canned goods.

Please help us donate to those in need.

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT

**WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY**

WESTCHESTER  
FOOD PANTRY



**Drop-off Locations:**

4565 Harrison St., Hillside, IL or 2619 Congress St., Bellwood IL



# PROVISO TOWNSHIP HANDYMAN PROGRAM

## Proviso Township Handyman News

Winter is fast upon us! If you have not called to have your home winterized, call now. The weatherproofing is best done before the cold weather sets in to ensure the caulk or plastic covers will adhere for the winter season. Have your filter in your furnace changed to help your furnace run efficiently.

Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go. Are you ready for the holidays? Give us a call and we will help bring out your boxes of decorations! It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township.

Call us at (708) 547-4001 to register for our Proviso Handyman Program.

Handyman Program for homeowners over the age of 60 and/or disabled residents of Proviso Township

- Minor repairs only
- **\$5.00** per visit plus the cost of parts, if needed
- Provide referrals on a variety of home maintenance issues
- Appointments are **45 minutes or less**

Please call us if you have any questions and to schedule your appointment at **708-547-4001**

WE DO .....	WE DO .....
Blinds/Curtain Rods - Install/Repair	Mailboxes - Install/Repair/Replace
Boxes Stored (50 lbs. limit)	Outdoor Furniture - Put Away/Take Out
Carpentry-Minor repairs i.e.: Replace loose/rotten boards	Outdoor Lighting - Repair or Replace (Height Limit of 6 feet)
Caulking - Minor interior only - No removal of existing caulk	Outdoor Water Spigot - Shut Off/Turn On
Ceiling Fans - Repair Switches Only	Picture - Hang Only
Decks - Minor Repairs Only	Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only Not Recommendations
Doorbells - Repair/Replace Buttons	Screens - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Door Locks - Repair/Replace	Shower Heads - Repair/Replace/Install
Door Sweeps - Repair/Replace/Install	Shower Wands - Repair/Replace/Install
Doors - Plane, Repair/Replace Hinges	Sink Drains Pipes & Stoppers - Repair or Replace
Electrical Outlets & Switches - Replace	Smoke Detectors/CO Detectors - Install or Replace Batteries
Electrical GFCI Outlets - Replace & Install	Storm Doors - Repair (No Installations)
Faucets - Repair or Replace	Storm Windows - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Furniture Assembly (Small pieces only) (no IKEA)	Supply Valves - Replace, Kitchen & Bath Only
Furniture Moving - 50 lbs. limit	Threshold - Repairs & Replacement
Furniture Repair - Minor Only	Toilets - Minor Repairs - <b>No Rodding</b>
Grab Bars - Install or Replace	TV/TV Converter Box - Install & Program (NO Comcast)
Handrails - Install or Replace	Weather Stripping - Doors & Windows
Light Bulbs - Change	
Light Fixtures - Repair or Replace	



TOWNSHIP OF PROVISO  
4565 Harrison St.  
Hillside, IL 60162  
P: 708-449-4307  
F: 708-202-1265  
[www.provisotownship.com](http://www.provisotownship.com)

The Proviso Township Handyman Department Only Serves Homeowners Within the Boundaries of Proviso Township.

Bellwood • Berkeley • Broadview • Brookfield  
Forest Park • Hillside • LaGrange Park  
Maywood • Melrose Park • Northlake • North Riverside  
Stone Park • Westchester • Western Springs

# Obituaries

## ***Alek***

Barbara Alek, nee Bilbrey. Beloved wife of the late Matthew Alek; loving mother of Annie and Mandi; like a mother to many; fond grandmother of Kylie and Rocco; dear sister of Johnny (Nina), Billy (Gabi), Jimmy, Bobby (Sharon), Michael, Susie (Mike), the late Tasha and the late Nor; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

## ***Andrade***

Margarita Andrade. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## ***Balice***

Sabino Balice. Dearly beloved husband of Grace; loving father of Cesaria (Angelo) Tonini and Joseph (Nina); beloved son of the late Giuseppe and Cesaria; fond grandfather of Joseph, Anthony, Kai and Lilia; dear brother of Anna (the late Vito) Accettura, Angela (the late Pasqual) Chieco, Maria (the late Sebastiano) Fazio and the late Carmela Balice; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment All Saints Mausoleum.

## ***Biscan***

Rosalie Biscan, age 93, a lifelong resident of Melrose Park, Ill., went to be with the Lord on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. She was born Jan. 6, 1929, in Melrose Park to Gaspero and Frances Palermo.

Rosalie met the love of her life, Tom Biscan, at Hines V.A. Hospital. They married on Sept. 23, 1950.

Her faith was an important part of her life and she was an active member of Melrose Park Christian Assembly (New Life Community Church), where she was a deaconess, served in many church ministries and taught Sunday School. Her life was centered around her five children and family, and she loved bringing joy to others through her baking.

She is survived by her four children – Tom (Debbie) Biscan of Wayne, Sandy (Ed) Bisinger of Bluffton, S.C., Ron (Janet) Biscan of Melrose Park and Francine (Frank) Quintero of Glenview; 12 grandchildren – Deanna, Aaron, Darci, Caleb, Carl, Stephen, Elizabeth, Matthew, Mariah, Claudia, Gabriella and Sophia; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom, her daughter, Rosalyn Moorhead, and eight siblings.

Arrangements by Hultgren Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Emblem Cemetery.

## ***Buvak***

Georgia Ann Leoni Buvak, passed away on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, surrounded by the love of her two daughters, sister and niece.

Georgia was born in Melrose Park on July 25, 1942, to Lena Petruzzi and George A. Leoni.

Georgia was mother to Carlene (Greifelt) and Michalene (Tjeerdema). She raised her children with an abundance of Italian cooking, sprinkled with love and a quick wit. She was a best ever mother-in-law to Jim Tjeerdema and Ken Greifelt.

Georgia was most proud of being nana to Jona and Jimmy Tjeerdema, and Jake and Logan Greifelt. She spoiled and doted on them with love and affection.

Georgia was the loving older sister to Donna Leoni Peluso. She was a fun aunt to Roberta Heintz, George Peluso and Anthony Peluso.

Georgia was great-aunt and Christmas cookie-making instructor to the Heintz brothers – Bowie, Blaise and Nico.

Georgia was a fond dog nana to Zuzu and dog auntie to Teddy.

Georgia worked at her family's restaurant, Leoni's, located in Melrose Park, where she fed and nourished many friends for many years.

Georgia will be fondly remembered as aunt, cousin and friend to many. Arrangements by Salerno's Rosedale Chapels. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## ***Calabrese***

Giulia Calabrese. Dearly beloved wife of the late Liberato Calabrese; loving mother of Vince Calabrese and Maria (Jimmy) Hoalt; loving nonna of Dan (Danielle) Hoalt, Vince (Breanne) Hoalt, Liberty (Joe Giannini) Hoalt, Giulia Calabrese, Liberato Calabrese and Angela Calabrese; great-nonna of Payton Hoalt, Michael Hoalt and Gino Giannini; dear sister of Liberata and the late Stefano, Silvia, Cadona, Biondino and Domenica; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## ***Catizone***

Richard Catizone. Loving father of Richard (Nicole) and Tarris (John) Turek; beloved son of the late Frank and Grace Catizone; fond grandfather of Olivia, Chase and Ava; dear brother of Josephine, Pete (Mary), Anthony (Dolly) and Junior (Shirley); loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## ***Cozzi***

Angeline Cozzi. Dearly beloved wife of the late Vincent Cozzi; loving mother of Michael A. Cozzi; cherished grandmother of Gianna (Zachary) Center and Joseph N. Cozzi; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

## ***Dean***

Mary Dean, nee Vozella. Beloved wife of Larry Dean; loving mother of Nicole and Anthony; cherished grandmother of Easton and Oakley; loving daughter of the late Joseph Sr. and Ida Vozella; dear sister of the late Joseph Jr. and Angela Mauer, the late Peter (Janet) and Carol (Joseph) Giunta; dear aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

## ***Giovenco***

Marie Giovenco, nee Paglini. Dearly beloved wife of the late John Giovenco; loving mother of John (Dawn), James and Joseph Giovenco; beloved daughter of the late Carl and Josephine Paglini; cherished grandmother of Sarah, Brandee, Samantha, Andrew, Christina, John III, Michael and the late Elizabeth; great-grandmother of Matthew, Mari, Mia, R.J, Trevin, Brodee and Olin; dear sister of Roseanne (James) Whalen, Constance (John) Hughes, Chuck (Marilyn) Paglini, the late Gregory (Gail) Paglini and the late Joseph (Charlis); loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Saint Joseph Cemetery.

## ***Grayer***

Jacqueline Ann Grayer, affectionately known as "Jackie," was born Dec. 3, 1952, in Chicago, Ill., to Walter L. Grayer Sr. and Zaddie Mae Grayer Blumstein. She attended Chicago Public Schools and was a graduate from John Marshall High School in 1970.

Jackie is preceded in death by her mother Zaddie Mae Grayer Blumstein; father Walter L. Grayer Sr.; stepfather Robert W. Blumstein; three brothers – Walter L. Grayer Jr. (Butch), Kenneth J. Grayer Sr. (Kenny) and Harold A. Grayer Sr. (Tony); sister Pamela Grayer Boyd (Pam); nephew Harold A. Grayer (Lil Tony); and niece Celisa Renee Grayer (Lisa). Jackie confessed her love and belief in Christ and began her spiritual journey at an early age. Jackie loved her sister Pam and very rarely did you see one without the other. One hundred twenty two days after Pam went to be with the Lord, Jackie joined her. Jackie had immeasurable love for all of her family.



She was also very protective over the ones she loved. Jackie leaves so many memories to be cherished by family and friends. In passing, she leaves to mourn Michael Grayer (brother), Scott Blumstein (stepbrother), Andrea Blumstein (stepsister), Jodi Blumstein (stepsister) and a host of aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Kalin**

Mickey Kalin. Loving father of Anthony Kalin; Beloved son of the late Antole and Maria. Thirty plus years at *Chicago Tribune* and the River Grove Police Office. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Lindquist**

Fred Lindquist. Beloved husband of Myrtle Helen Lindquist (nee Windebanks); loving father of Nancy (Dr. Arthur) Nazarian, Alyssa (Keith) Becker, Julie (Eric) Schuemer and the late Dawn (Tony) Floramo; fond grandfather of Kenneth (Lauren), Nicholas, Jessica, Owen, Maggie, Benjamin and Ryan; dear brother of the late Ruby (the late Dick), the late Gerri (Ed), the late Gloria (Al) and the late Audry (Glenn); loving uncle, brother-in-law, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Mazzacane**

Peter Mazzacane. Dearly beloved husband of Tina; loving father of Vito (Lisa) Mazzacane and Elayne (Mark) De Salvo; loving son of the late Vito and Nicoletta Mazzacane; fond grandfather of Anthony (Taylor) De Salvo, Michael De Salvo, Peter Mazzacane and Alissa Mazzacane; dear brother of Tina Mancini and Lina Mancini; fond uncle of Lori (Scott) Pomorich, John Fanella, John (Linda) Mancini, John Matteo Mancini and Alma Contacessi. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Mojica**

Augustin Cruz Mojica. Dearly beloved husband of Maria; loving father of Victor Chacon, Nilda Pena, Ruben Chacon and Doris Gutierrez; beloved son of the late Generoso and Saturnina; fond grandfather of 14; great-grandfather of 19; dear brother of Lucy, Benjamin "Benji", Iris, the late Primitiva, Minin and Haydee; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Olive Cemetery.

**Murillo-Campos**

Jesus Murillo-Campos. Dearly beloved husband of Nicolasa Pereida Robles; loving father of Ernesto Murillo, Rosa Murillo, Hermelinda Rodriguez, Otilia Murillo, Jesus Jr. Murillo, Brenda Murillo and Gabiola Murillo; grandfather of 14; great-grandfather of one; dear brother of Santos, Andres, Alfredo, Eliodoro, Luis, Celia and Socorro; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Pitts**

Freddie Lee Pitts. Dearly Beloved husband of Ethel Pitts; loving father of Gerald (Dawn), Gregory (Cheryl), Forenzo "Ren" (Sharron), Darryl "Mont", Fred III (Ashley), Cedric (Carletha) and the late Jonathan "Terrell" (the late Katrina); fond grandfather of 21; fond great-grandfather of 21; loving son of the late Elizabeth Hunt Pitts and Freddie Lee Pitts Sr.; dear brother of Dorothy, Almarie, Milton, Bertha, Ivy, Rose, Anita, Elijah "Roy" and the late Terry; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Concordia Cemetery.

**Skaarbrevik**

Maria Asuncion Skaarbrevik, affectionately called by many as "Asuncion", was born on March 29, 1925, in Bayamo, Cuba, to the late Policarpo and Belen. Maria is the beloved wife of the late Gustav; an adoring mother of twin sons – Gustavo (Arelys) and Nestor (Cristina), Siri (Michelangelo) and the late Hector (Maria). She was one of 11 children which have all predeceased her.

Maria had enormous love for all of her family and was very protective over the ones she loved the most. She adored all of her grandchildren – Michelangelo, Greg, Lauren, Danielle, Nestor, Astrid, Vicky and the late Gustavo. She was also a loving great-grandmother and aunt to many. Maria leaves an abundance of memories to be cherished by her extended family and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Wojcicki**

Isabella Wojcicki. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Maryhill Cemetery.

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708.343.4000 FAX 708.343.9745

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