

## A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*The most important fact to know about the Taste of Melrose Park is that the nearly \$1.3 million dollars raised from the sale of beer and wine has been donated to the Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund.*

Dear Neighbors,

Once again, it is almost time for that culinary delight, the Taste of Melrose Park, which will be held Sept. 1-3. What makes our food festival unique is that out of 60 food vendors, only a handful will be operated by restaurants. The vast majority of the Taste food booths are family operated, which is appropriate since we pride ourselves on being the most family-affordable food festival in Illinois.



**Ronald M. Serpico**  
Mayor

This year, some food booths were forced to raise their long-standing price of \$3 to \$4 due to inflation. However, in light of the inflationary infused food prices, I believe \$4 is still a bargain, though I am happy to report that a few vendors were able to hold their food offerings to \$3. To see the list of food vendors, visit the Melrose Park website at [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org), scroll down the home page and click on Read 2023 Food Booths and Entertainment Schedule.

The Taste of Melrose Park is my favorite village event. I love strolling the grounds and watching people laugh and interact with friends, neighbors and family. It is an event that for many caps off the end of summer.

In the spirit of fun, I did some research and found a few interesting facts about some of the Taste of Melrose Park food items, such as Italian beef, which is unique to the Chicago area. Its origin is traced back to the early 1900s Chicago Italian community where they celebrated what was called "Peanut Weddings." Most of the newly arrived Italian families were impoverished, so when they hosted a wedding the only items they could afford to serve were peanuts and low-grade beef, which they would slice into very thin pieces and simmer in spices so they could feed their guests.

Tacos, a mainstay for centuries in Mexico, first appeared down in Texas in the early 1900s. Most Americans had no idea what a taco was until the late 1950s when this tasty import made its way into restaurants like Taco Bell. According to NationalTacoDay.com, an astonishing 4.5 billion tacos were consumed in America in 2022.

Tomato sauce ladled over many dishes at the Taste of Melrose Park is thought of as originating in Italy, but that perception is wrong. Italy had no tomatoes until they were brought over from the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th century via the Aztecs.

The Missionary Sisters of St. Charles serve a popular Taste of Melrose Park confection called Sfingi. It is only appropriate that the good nuns chose this confection as their offering, as its origins date back to the Middle Ages when it was first created by another order of sisters, the Nuns of St. Francis Stigmata in Palermo, Sicily.

Many Taste of Melrose Park dishes are created using a form of pasta. The average person in Italy eats 51 pounds of pasta a year compared to Americans who consume 17 pounds.

The most important fact to know about the Taste of Melrose Park is that the nearly \$1.3 million dollars raised from the sale of beer and wine has been donated to the Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund. This fund has supported many youth programs, senior citizen groups, local charities and educational endeavors. Thank you for supporting this cause over the years.

Bon Appetit,

*Ron Serpico*  
Mayor Ron Serpico

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



Follow us on facebook



**Celebrate the Taste!**  
**Labor Day Weekend · Fri., Sat. & Sun., Sept. 1-3, 2023**

Ethnic Foods Priced at \$4 or Less! FREE Parking, Admission, Entertainment & Trolley Service  
Village of Melrose Park Complex • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL  
Friday, 6-10:15 p.m. • Saturday, Noon-10:15 p.m. • Sunday, Noon-10 p.m.

**See the Taste of Melrose Park 2023 Entertainment/Food Info and Sponsor Ads on Pages 24-71**



# Village of Melrose Park

**Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor**

**Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk**

## Trustees

**Anthony J. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano**

**Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera**

**Mary Ramirez Taconi • Anthony "Tony" Williams**



## 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.....Aug. 28 and Sept. 25**

**Village Hall Holiday Closings.....Sept. 4 and Oct. 9**

# Resident Response

## *Dear Mayor Ronald Serpico ...*

It is with a full heart and the deepest gratitude that we are writing you today.

Recently, a dear friend and neighbor of ours passed away. His name is Larry Kuppisser and he was a former police officer in Melrose Park for many years. When we found out he was having a service in Glen Ellyn, we reached out to Director of Police Sam Pitassi to inquire about the possibility of having an officer come on site for the service.

Without any hesitation, Director Pitassi assured me that someone would be there to honor our friend and retired officer of many years.

Lt. Mark Rieger volunteered to be the officer and he could not have been a better person to represent your Melrose Park Police Department.

We would like to thank you. What these men did for us and our family is beyond words and needed to be commended.

Director Sam Pitassi and Lt. Mark Rieger are wonderful examples of the village of Melrose Park and we cannot thank you enough for the kindness and generosity.

• Regards,  
Russell and Rose Cooper

## *Dear Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame ...*

In July, I called 911 because my 94-year-old mom was in cardiac A-fib.

Your staff was there in three minutes – saving her life.

They are truly the kindest and the best!

• Sincerely,  
Nan DeVito

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

I want to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by your officers Rossi and Schiller at our Community Days Summer Festival on Saturday, July 8.

As you know, this was a joint event with Leyden and Veterans Park District.

We had approximately 7,000 people attend this event (between the carnival and the fireworks) and not one single police-related incident. I can only attribute this to the increased police presence of which, of course, your Police Department was a part of.

On behalf of Northlake Mayor Sherwin, Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio and Veterans Park District Executive Director Bill Otte, thank you and your officers for your support.

• Sincerely,  
Ken Beres, Chief of Police  
City of Northlake

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

Can you please do me a favor and pass this message to Mayor Serpico.

Mayor Serpico ... on June 22, 2023, I was driving west on North Avenue, when suddenly my truck was crashed into that caused it to roll on its side.

When the truck rolled over, it caused my legs to be pinned with the steering wheel. I was immobile and in pretty bad shape.

My family and I would like to send a special thank you to Director of Police Sam Pitassi, Sgt. A. Rodriguez and to the Melrose Park Fire Department for being supportive throughout the process of saving me. They kept me calm and they gave me hope. Their response time was unbelievable.

Words can't explain how grateful I am for all the help I received.

Mayor Serpico, I only have a few bruises. People say I was lucky. I believe I was blessed by your Police Department and Fire Department for their outstanding work.

They will always hold a special place in my heart.  
Again, a special thanks to Director Pitassi and Sgt. A. Rodriguez.

- Thanks again,  
Marco Ayala

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

The Kerry Melrose Park team wanted to extend our appreciation for your team’s involvement in the community.

A recent event across the street at a sister plant in Rome, Ga., had an active shooter, which led us to prioritize active shooter training.

Lt. Rieger was able to come on site to perform a site assessment, conduct active shooter training and join us for our monthly townhall.

Overall, a positive impact was left to demonstrate that we aim toward providing a safe working environment.

We look forward to working with your team in the future on more events and building community relations.

Please enjoy some of our coating products manufactured at our facility.  
We just can’t thank you enough.

- On behalf of the Kerry Melrose Park team ... Thank you,

***Dear Melrose Park Police Lt. Mark Reiger ...***

The Kerry Melrose Park team would like to extend our appreciation for taking time out of your day to join us for active shooter awareness.

We thank you for serving our country and sharing your expertise to help employees understand that they all play an integral role in mitigating impacts of an active shooter by following the training taught in the “Run, Hide, Fight” Program.

We look forward to working with you on future community events.  
We hope you enjoy some of our coating products manufactured at our facility.  
We just wanted to let you know how much you’re appreciated.

- On behalf of the Kerry Melrose Park team ... Thank you,

***Dear Melrose Park Resident Betty Ann Crisp ...***

On behalf of the residents of Melrose Park, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation and support of the Mayor Serpico/Melrose Park Youth Commission Avenue of Flags initiative.

We’re hoping our efforts continue throughout every street in Melrose Park in support of our veterans and the beautification efforts of Mayor Serpico.

- With grateful appreciation,  
The Board and Staff of the Melrose Park Youth Commission

***Dear Department of Homeland Security Chief Phil Schwartz ...***

I want to personally thank you again for helping to provide volunteers from your department to ensure our third annual Bucking Bronco 5K was a success. The safety you provide to our participants, volunteers and spectators is invaluable. Our runners and walkers are comprised of alumni, teachers, students, people who live in the surrounding area as well as people who come from all over Illinois to participate. We are proud of our school and this is a great opportunity to highlight who Walther Christian Academy is! Thank you for being an integral part every year.

Walther Christian Academy serves students who live in 50 zip codes throughout Chicagoland. However, the majority of our students live in our community. When the village of Melrose Park and Mayor Serpico, the Department of Homeland Security, the Fire Department and Police Department work together, our school and village can all be proud of where we live, work and play.

Please thank your team for me and I look forward to seeing you again next year!

- Sincerely,  
Sally A. Ruecking, Director of Advancement  
Walther Christian Academy

**The 41st Annual Taste of Melrose Park is  
Looking for VOLUNTEERS to Be a Part of a Great Weekend**

Mayor Serpico and the Taste of Melrose Park are seeking volunteers for the beverage booths (individual or groups of eight or less) or ticket booths (a group of six or less) to help support this year’s big event and we appreciate any assistance you can provide over the three-day festival.

All volunteers receive a 2023 Taste of Melrose Park T-shirt and we’re sure you’ll have plenty of fun!

**Friday, Sept. 1 – 5:30-11 p.m. • Saturday, Sept. 2 – 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-11 p.m.  
Sunday, Sept. 3 – 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-10:15 p.m.**

**For more information or to volunteer,  
please call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.**



**Melrose Park Police Department  
Releases Speed Enforcement Numbers**

The Melrose Park Police Department conducted a traffic safety campaign July 6-31, 2023, reminding motorists to slow down to save lives. The speed enforcement effort was conducted by the Melrose Park Police Department, and other state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois to reduce highway fatalities.

During the campaign, the Melrose Park Police Department issued 72 speeding, two possession of cannabis, two suspended/revoked licenses arrest, four uninsured motorists, seven expired registrations and four driving while holding cellphone citations.

We continue to urge residents and others traveling through our community to slow down and obey speed limits,” said Deputy Chief Anthony Greco. “The choices you make behind the wheel could help save lives.”

The speed enforcement effort was made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.





# Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS

## *Save the Date!*



*Rick Beltrame  
Director of Fire Dept.*

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



## **Melrose Park Firefighters' Association**

### **FALL RAFFLE DINNER**



**Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 • 6 p.m.-???**

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

**\$7000 Top Prize  
(\$10,000 in Total Cash Prizes)**

**\$100 Per Ticket • Only 200 Tickets Will Be Sold  
(Cost Includes raffle entry, dinner and more.)**

**Proceeds will be used to make charitable contributions to various organizations.**

### **MELROSE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 AD BOOK**

**To complement our Fall Raffle Dinner, the Melrose Park Firefighters' Association  
will be producing a commemorative ad book showcasing the  
many businesses that have supported us in the past.**

**Cost of a full page ad is \$200 and half page ads can be purchased for \$125.**

**To purchase tickets or for ad book information,  
please call Steve Morella at (708) 906-9383.**

**Deadline to purchase raffle tickets or to reserve an ad is Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.**



# A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi  
Director of Police*



## MELROSE PARK DOORBELL CAMERA PROGRAM

The Village of Melrose Park is planning a program to help residents cover the cost of home doorbell 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)

## 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).

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.

# 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, United States Space Force and POW/MIA are being 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 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 Jasmine Mendez via email – [jmendez@melrosepark.org](mailto:jmendez@melrosepark.org) or by phone – (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4414.

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

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







# Always Stepping Up ...



## Melrose Park Police Department Mickinzie-Vertuno F.O.P. Lodge 19 Car Show

On Saturday, July 29, the Melrose Park Police Department F.O.P. Lodge 19 held their annual Car Show at the Melrose Park Civic Center.

The crowd was pleased with the vehicles that were on display and enjoyed a fun day viewing the classic cars.

Director of Police Sam Pitassi, Deputy Chief Anthony Greco and several police officers who were responsible for the big event took some time for photos.

## Mayor Serpico Opens Second Avenue of Flags

On Saturday, July 1, Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Youth Commission dedicated Riverwoods Drive as Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags – East with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Residences of Riverwoods (located on the south side of North Avenue between First Avenue and Thatcher).

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



*In attendance and part of the of the ribbon-cutting were Mayor Serpico; village trustees Tony Williams and Arturo Mota; Youth Commission representatives John Modugno (US Army vet), Eddie Coco, Mario Montoya, Frank Matarrese and Tom Olson; State of Illinois Veteran of the Year Dan Bogojevich (US Army); and US Army veterans Chuck Cusumano (cutting the ribbon) and Jim Craig. Community members who attended the event were treated to complimentary red, white and blue Italian lemonade.*

Flags representing the United States of America, the state of Illinois, the village of Melrose Park, branches of the military and POW/MIA are now displayed on the lightpoles that stretch from the north side to south side of the Riverwoods main thoroughfare.

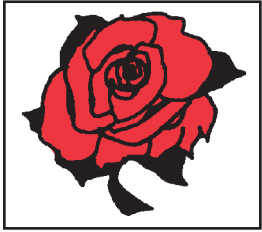
The intent of this Youth Commission project is to continue the beautification efforts of Mayor Serpico – enhancing and providing a new, respectful and fascinating look to our streets.

Contributions are still being accepted to continue and help support this creative project throughout the village. Donations can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. 60160.

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

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





# Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

*From the Desk of  
Gary Marine,  
Director of Public Works*

## 19th and North Avenue Bridge

The 19th and North Avenue bridge is in the process of being replaced. The bridge will be closed from now through mid-December.

## Multi-Purpose Field

A new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose field has been set in place at the Ralph

“Babe” Serpico Memorial Field on 25th Avenue. The new diverse field can be used for a football field, soccer field, unified lacrosse field and a new walking track.

The field is now open to the public.



## 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.

## 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 north-east 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 has been out sweeping roadways. Please follow all street sweeping signs located on village streets. Please remove your vehicle from the street to help expedite sweeping.

## 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.

## 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.



## Silver Creek Restoration Project

Under the direction of Mayor Ronald M. Serpico, the Village of Melrose Park Public Works employees constructed 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, Six and Seven of the Silver Creek Restoration Project have been completed.**

**Phase Eight is in the final planning stages.**

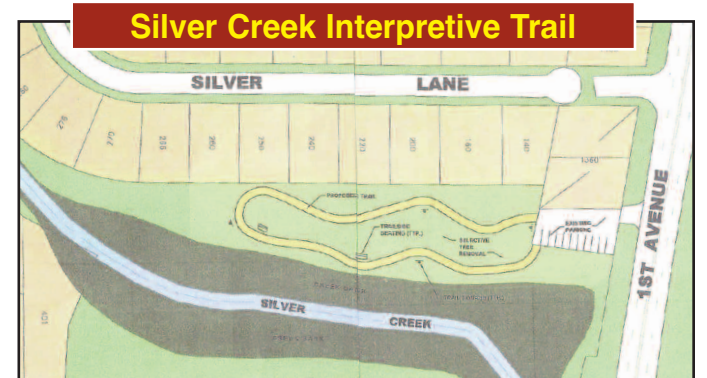
This restoration project restores the natural balance of the creek by restoring the embankment, and bringing back native landscape and shrubbery along with aquatic habitat. This is an invaluable stream system that provides storm water runoff, flood management and many other benefits for the residents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



## Silver Creek Trail Park

The Silver Creek Trail Park is located off of First Avenue. The trail is centered off the pond between Silver Creek and its tributary, the Des Plaines River. Native plants of this area were once lost to development and are now being reintroduced to the area. With the help of these native plants, more wildlife is returning to the area –

from the Bald Eagle (sighted in the area), the Northern Pike, Red Foxes, Black-Crowned Night Herons and Cooper’s Hawk, to name a few.



### Do’s and Don’ts While Visiting the Silver Creek Trail Park

1. No littering. Please clean up after any activities.
2. Pets must be leashed.
3. Smoking or fires are prohibited.
4. Please clean up pet waste and dispose of it.
5. Do not disturb any plants, trees or wildlife.
6. No loitering.
7. No hunting.
8. Fisherman must clean up any cut line, bail containers and all litter.
9. Park opens one hour after sunrise and closes one hour before sunset.
10. Enjoy the park.

*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.*



# 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**



## Melrose Park Senior Club Celebrates Summer

This past July, the Melrose Park Senior Club gathered at the newly opened Division Street Lounge (formerly Abruzzo's) located at 15th Avenue and Division Street.

Members enjoyed a great meal, good conversation, a comfortable atmosphere and the opportunity to come together for a day of fun and a lot of laughs!



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



## Time to Celebrate... Melrose Park Block Party with Street Closure is Now Allowed

Residents wishing to have a block party must bring or mail in an application for a special permit in the Building Department at the Village Hall. The permit is free, but must be submitted to the village trustees for approval since traffic must be rerouted to accommodate a party. The village will provide barricades on both ends of the block. Any questions, please call (708) 343-4000 and ask for the Mayor's Office.

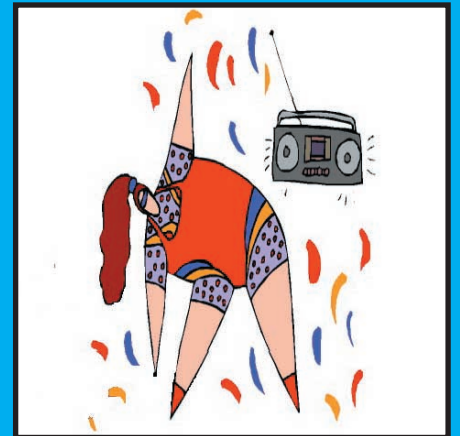
For a Block Party Permit Application, visit [MelrosePark.org](http://MelrosePark.org).



# Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially  
Distanced  
Activity*

*Face  
Masks  
Required*



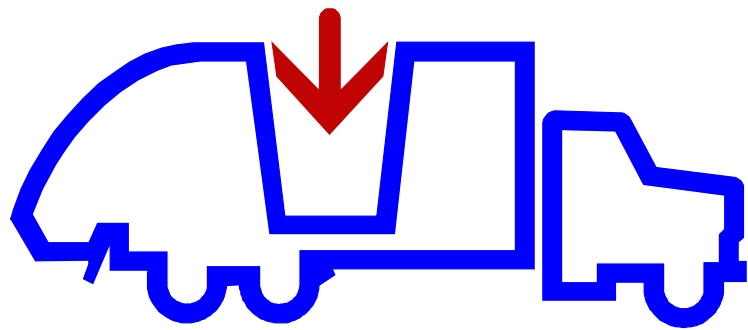
***Come Join in the Fun with  
Instructor Barb Rubright  
of Rube's Garage!***

**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 to 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).

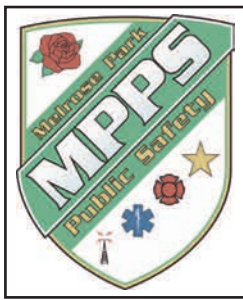
## ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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.



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

## Public Information Regarding Resident Safety Outdoor Warning System

Melrose Park has a siren warning system at multiple locations throughout the community. The system consists of several sirens strategically located throughout the village and is intended to provide outdoor warning of impending danger. You may only hear the sirens if you are outside. Please review the following information as it explains the function, operation and procedures associated with the Village of Melrose Park Outdoor Warning Siren System.

### Warning System Activation

The system is designed to notify the community by alert warning and attack warning signals. The signals are standardized for outdoor warning devices by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### Alert Warning

An alert warning signal is a three- to five-minute steady siren. This signal is used during a severe weather emergency or funnel cloud sighting. The reporting area includes a 10-mile perimeter around the village. The alert warning signal shall indicate to all persons to "immediately seek shelter, turn on your radio or television and listen for essential emergency information." Please note, severe weather watches are reports of weather conditions in which tornados could occur. The warning system is not activated for severe weather watches.

### Attack Warning

An attack warning signal is a three- to five-minute wavering siren. This signal means that an actual attack against the United States has been detected and that the Federal Emergency Broadcast System has been activated. According to federal government guidelines, this signal will be used for no other purpose and will have no other meaning. The use of indoor warning systems is essential, as most residents and businesses will not hear the warning system unless they are outside. An indoor warning system includes commercial broadcast radio, television stations, cable television override systems, tone activated radio receivers and public address systems in public buildings.

### Listen for the Siren Testing the First Tuesday of Every Month at 10 a.m.

It is important that the village system be tested on a regular schedule to ensure proper operation and to assist in educating the public to recognize the different warning signals. Testing occurs the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Federal and state guidelines indicate that monthly warning system tests should occur in the following manner:

- Alert warning signal (steady siren) will sound for one minute.
- One minute of silence.
- Attack warning signal (wavering siren) will sound for one minute.

This testing procedure will establish a test pattern different from that used in an actual emergency when the signals are sounded for three to five minutes.

### Reactivation

Once it is activated, the warning sirens will not be reactivated for the same incident. The warning sirens will be reactivated for new, confirmed incidents.

### All Clear

In keeping with established policies, the village of Melrose Park will not issue the all clear for any alert or attack signals. Please monitor commercial radio and television for further information.

## Sheltering In Place

### Should I Shelter at Home?

Taking appropriate shelter is critical in times of disaster. Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment or other location when disaster strikes. Sheltering outside the hazard area could include staying with friends and relatives, seeking commercial lodging or staying in a mass-care facility operated by disaster relief groups.

To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard. For example, for a tornado, a room should be selected that is in a basement or an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls.

The safest locations to seek shelter vary by hazard. Be Informed about the sheltering suggestions for each hazard.

There may be situations, depending on your circumstances and the nature of the disaster, when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside by sheltering in place.



The length of time you are required to shelter may be short, such as during a tornado warning, or long, such as during a winter storm or a pandemic. It is important that you stay in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave. Additionally, you should take turns listening to radio broadcasts and maintain a 24-hour safety watch.

During extended periods of sheltering, you will need to manage water and food supplies to ensure you and your family have the required supplies and quantities.

### **Guidelines for Staying Put (Sheltering In Place)**

Whether you are at home, work or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside.

There may be circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sealing the room," is a matter of survival.

Use common sense and available information to assess the situation and determine if there is immediate danger. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires preplanning.

#### **Additional Sheltering in Place Guidelines**

- Bring your family and pets inside.
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
- Take your emergency supply kit, unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet.
- Duct tape plastic at corners first and then tape down all edges.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.



**For more information, call (708) 649-8000 or visit [www.mpdes.org](http://www.mpdes.org).**



**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**

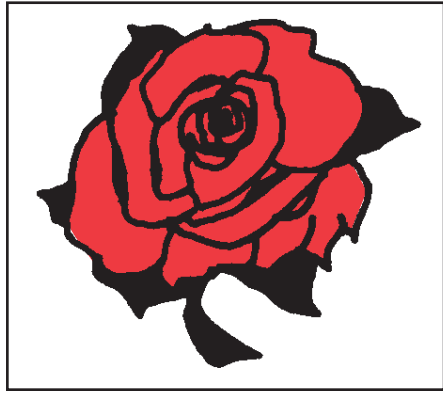
Death Certificates (Including Fetal Death) – \$17 each, \$6 per additional certification or copy requested.

### **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.**





# 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.**

# Village of Melrose Park

## Garage Sale Notice

### Garage Sales are Back ... It's Time to Sell All Those Treasures

The rules on garage sales held in the village of Melrose Park are as follows:

Garage sales will be held on the third weekend only during the months of May, June, July, August and September. Sales are to be conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the designated weekends. No sales are allowed on Sundays.

The remaining dates for 2023 are Sept. 14-16.

Garage sales shall be conducted only during the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

No permit is needed for garage sales, however the following rules must be followed:

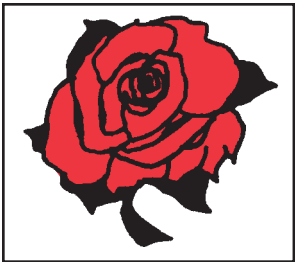
- No garage sales may be conducted in apartment buildings.
- No garage sales in the frontyard, i.e., on the grass.
- All garage sales to be conducted in backyard, garage or on driveway.
- All sale items to be displayed on tables, not on the ground.
- No sale items shall be located and no sale activity shall be conducted in the frontyard area, on the premises of any public sidewalk, parkway area or other public property.
- No sale signs, handbills or other advertising material shall be located or posted upon public parkway or on public property, signs, poles or light poles within the village of Melrose Park.
- Signs advertising the sales shall not exceed 3-by-5 feet and may be located only in the frontyard (private property) of the address having the garage sale, and must be removed immediately after the sale.
- The sale will be conducted without the use of outdoor loud speakers, amplification equipment or illuminated advertising devices.

Any person violating these rules shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.

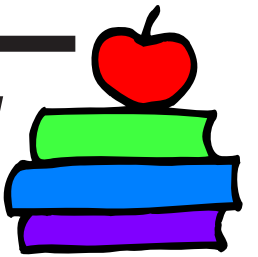
A copy of garage sale rules is available at [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).







# Melrose Park Public Library



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

Welcome Fall with a colorful arrangement of flowers!



## Floral Arrangement Class

Peggy Garvin will guide you in the basics of floral arrangements and provide the supplies.

**Thursday, September 28th @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Registration is required. Limited to 15 participants.

Visit our website for more details: [MPPLIBRARY.ORG](http://MPPLIBRARY.ORG)

PHONE: (708) 649-7485 | EMAIL: [mpref@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mpref@mpplibrary.org)



## CHAIR YOGA

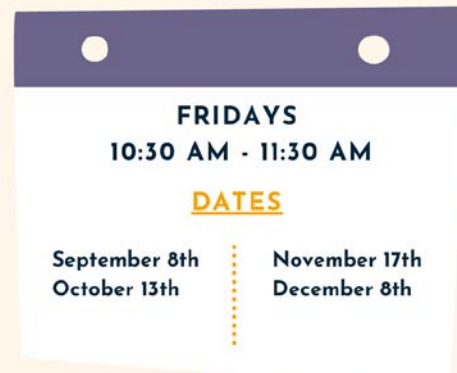
Designed for all levels. The classes include breathing, meditation, stretching in the chair, some standing poses, & ends with relaxation. No equipment needed.



for Adults & Seniors | Registration is required

Visit our website for more details:  
[MPPLIBRARY.ORG](http://MPPLIBRARY.ORG)

PHONE: (708) 649-7485  
EMAIL: [mpref@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mpref@mpplibrary.org)



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

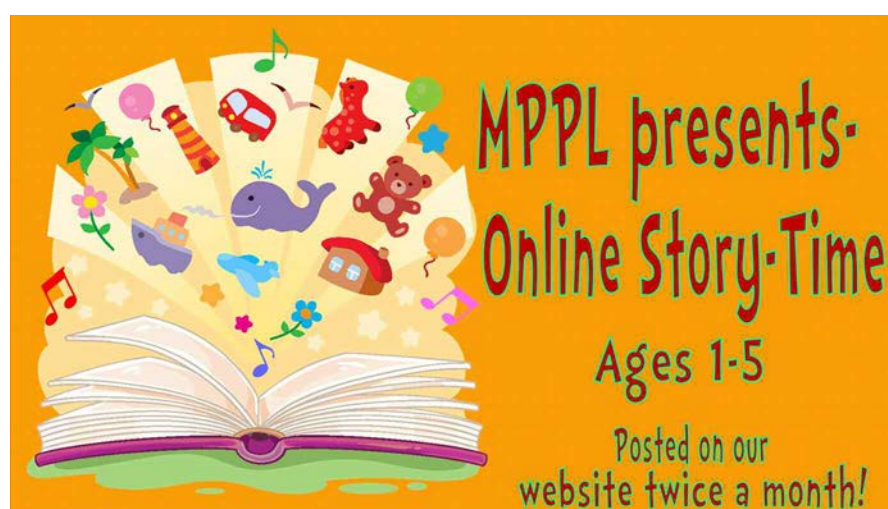
Weekly Crafts on YouTube

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 our Website

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 our website.



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



# Melrose Park Public Library



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

## Youth Services

**Wednesday Mornings**  
**10-11am**  
**Ages 1-5 with a caregiver**  
**ADVENTURES**  
Registration Required

### ABC Adventures

Join our interactive playtime for fun with stories, music, puzzles and toys.

Ages 1-5 with a caregiver.

**Wednesdays**

**10:00am - 11:00am**

### Tinker Tuesday

Drop in for some fun activities, crafts and cool games at the library every Tuesday afternoon. Bring your friends too!

Ages 6-11

**Tuesdays**

**2:30pm - 3:30pm**

IT'S TIME FOR A FUN CRAFT & GAME HANGOUT AT THE MELROSE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY!

DROP IN FOR...

**Tinker Tuesdays**

Every Tuesday @ 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Ages: 6-11

All dates and times are subject to change without prior notice. Please see the website, or call us for updated programming information. All programs at the library are free but registration is required. MPPL card holders have first priority. To register, or with any further questions, please call 708.649.7400

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





# Village of Melrose Park

**Mayor Serpico  
and the  
Village of Melrose Park  
are Seeking  
Landscaping and  
Snow Removal Professionals  
to 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.

## Important Melrose Park Village Notice ...

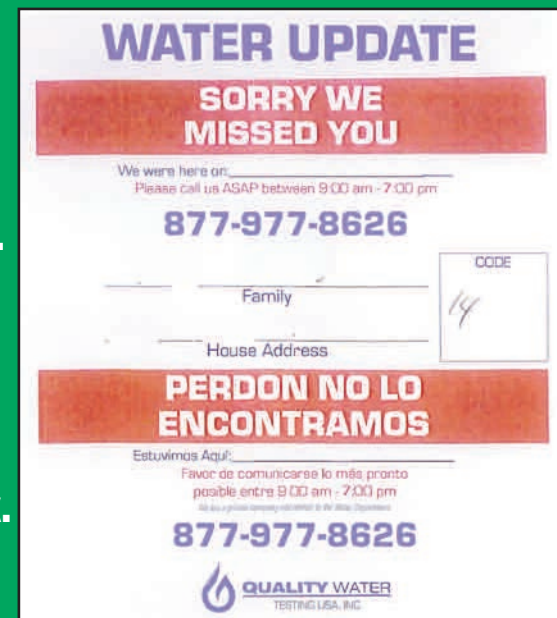
**Alert, Alert, Alert!  
Water Update Flyer Being Circulated is  
Not from the Village of Melrose Park.  
Do NOT Contact This Company!**

Dear Residents,  
Please be advised, the pictured flyer is being distributed in the village from Quality Water Testing USA, Inc. regarding a water update.

Please do not call this company as they are not affiliated with the village of Melrose Park.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rose in the Melrose Park Water Department by calling (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4435.

Thank you.



## Manage Your Water Bill Online ... It's Easy!

The village of Melrose Park provides residents with an option to manage their water bill online. Residents can visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org) and by clicking on images as directed, you'll be linked to the online Water Account page. You will need your account number and the full name of the person listed on the water bill to log in and utilize this feature.

If you do not know your account number, please send an email to [RV@melrosepark.org](mailto:RV@melrosepark.org) and your account number will be sent to you.

By using this online platform, you'll be able to view and pay your water bill; review all your present and past bills as far back as 2012; run a water use consumption analysis; view your account history for bills paid and any bill adjustments; and enroll for an eBill statement which will notify you by email that your bill can be viewed online, which avoids any direct mail delays.

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





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

## New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed four new members in June and July and received 14 membership renewals during this period. Please help us welcome Custom Direct, Inc., Playas Nayaritas, Imperial Hair Design and Globe Liberty Life Insurance to our growing list of members/partners that are now part of the MPCCCD!

We would also like to recognize and thank the 12 businesses that renewed memberships the past two months for their partnership and continued support of the chamber. They are Norcomm Public Safety Communications Inc., Precision Repair Inc., D & R Press, Zagone Studios, LLC, Westlake Urgent Care NFP, Consumers Meat Packing Co., Special T Unlimited, Alpha and Omega Learning Center, North Park Medical Group, Flood Brothers Disposal Company, Triton College Foundation, and Skipper's Clippers Barber and Beauty.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 150 members and the list continues to grow each month. If you are not currently a member of the MPCCCD, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at [lbazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:lbazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

For information about membership, please visit the chamber website Membership page at [www.mpcccd.org/benefits-dues/](http://www.mpcccd.org/benefits-dues/).

## Bingo/50-50 Raffle is Back at the Taste of Melrose Park

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce will be back at the Taste of Melrose Park 2023. MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz said that “one of

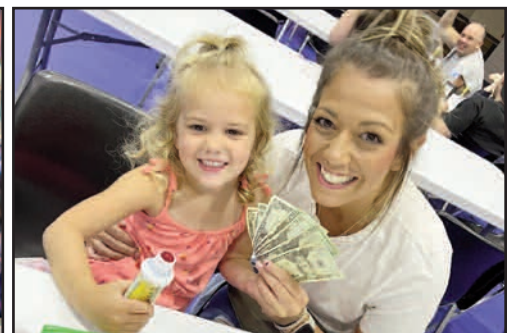


the cornerstones of the work of the chamber is to connect with the community and make a difference and both were achieved at last year's Taste of Melrose Park through the Bingo/50-50 Raffle hosted by the MPCCCD.” Bazbaz said that “Bingo raised \$2,500 which was donated to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Food Pantry that will again be the recipient of the Bingo/50-50 Raffle at the Taste.” It is also good to note that the food pantry regularly gets food from the Chicago Food Depository, where they receive \$10 worth of food for every \$1 spent. Bazbaz

said “that’s the best part, the \$2,500 raised is good, but the \$25,000 it becomes to help people in our community is really special!”

Bingo will again be in the gymnasium in the Melrose Park Civic Center. The gymnasium entrance is located at the northeast corner past the food vendors near the Peroni Garden Stage.

Bingo/50-50 Raffle hours at this year's Taste of Melrose Park are Friday, Sept. 1, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 2, 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 3, 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.



## Recent Chamber Highlights!

During June and July, the Melrose Park Chamber was doing what it does every day ... connecting businesses to resources to help them grow.

On June 15, the chamber hosted an information session with representatives from Cook County Economic Development and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), and Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar to inform local manufacturing companies of grants and resources available to them through the Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented Grant Program. Owners and managers from nearly 40 local manufacturing companies were in attendance and learned about the grant that will provide up to \$25,000 in support related to specific programs to fuel growth and stability in the manufacturing sector in suburban Cook County.

There are 12 separate programs offered in four defined areas, including operational, leadership, growth and workforce solutions.

For specific information on the Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented Grant, visit [www.ccmfg.org](http://www.ccmfg.org).





On June 27, the MPCCCD hosted an exclusive event with Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi where Assessor Kaegi shared valuable insights on how money-saving tools and property tax optimization to help businesses reduce cost, improve profits and enable them to make investments in their business and their workforce.

Over 50 business owners and executives were on hand for the assessor's presentation that included nearly an hour of questions and answers in a very engaging townhall-type format.

On several occasions, Assessor Kaegi discussed how transparency and accurate data collection are critical to functions of his office. He also said, "no one knows more about the business than the business owner, if the information we have is not correct, file the appeal so it can be corrected if necessary."

To see more information regarding these events, you can visit [www.mpcccd.org/news-insights/](http://www.mpcccd.org/news-insights/) on the News and Insights page on the MPCCCD website.

To get information regarding events, trainings and other resources before the event happens, be sure to sign up for the *MPCCCD Newsletter* and emails at the bottom of the homepage at [www.mpcccd.org](http://www.mpcccd.org).



## Connecting Businesses to Grants and Resources

Since 2021, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development has been assisting local businesses to grants and other programs available from public and private entities, including IL DCEO, Cook County, village of Melrose Park, the Small Business Administration, etc.

In addition to information sharing to over 3,000 businesses in and around Melrose Park through emails, door-to-door flyer distribution, social media, etc., by the chamber's community navigators, the chamber has also provided direct technical assistance to hundreds of businesses needing help and support in completing the online applications that are required to apply for support.

The most recent grant application effort is the 2023 Cook County Source Grant which will provide qualifying businesses with less than 20 employees grants of \$10,000 or \$20,000.

During the first 10 days that the Source Grant was available, the chamber navigators distributed over 2,000 flyers with information on how businesses can apply and also provided direct technical assistance to over 30 businesses in completing applications at the Chambers Business Resource Center at 900 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park.

To stay informed of grants or other resources to help your business, sign up to receive emails and newsletters from the chamber at [www.mpcccd.org](http://www.mpcccd.org).

## 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, networking sessions and participation in community events.

### Upcoming Events

- **September** – Creating or Improving Your Digital Footprint to Connect with New and Existing Customers.
- **October** – Understanding and Navigating Procurement Opportunities with the State of Illinois (specifically working with IL Capital Development Board (CDB) on sessions regarding construction and building trades sector opportunities).
- **November** – Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and MBE/SBE Certification. This program will help minority, women, veteran and other disadvantaged businesses get their business certified to position them for contracting opportunities or even make them a preferred vendor with other private entities looking for minority businesses to work with.
- Chamber After Hours Networking Events present opportunities to reconnect with business and community leaders in the area, as well as to meet new contacts, potential vendors and potential customers. Watch for dates and further information in chamber emails and on our website, and join us for some good old-fashioned, in-person networking. Get your business cards ready for these events!

Watch for information and details on MPCCCD events on the event calendar on the MPCCCD website at [www.mpcccd.org/events/](http://www.mpcccd.org/events/).

## Learn More About the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development!

If you are not getting emails from the MPCCCD about events, training or technical assistance offered for certifications, grant applications, etc., sign up for our newsletters at [www.mpcccd.org](http://www.mpcccd.org). You can also follow the chamber on Facebook or LinkedIn to stay current on chamber activities!

To schedule an appointment to learn more about the chamber or to get information on membership, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at [lbazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:lbazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you.



# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## Overnight Parking Procedures for Melrose Park

### Approved Visitor, Construction or Family Emergency Vehicles Will Avoid Being Ticketed

The village of Melrose Park has established parking procedures for residents requiring overnight parking availability on village streets near their home.

Residents seeking permission to park any visitor, construction or family emergency vehicles on streets with overnight parking restrictions can visit the Melrose Park Police Department website at [mppd.com](http://mppd.com), download the Melrose Park Police Department Parking Permission Form (under forms), complete all details and then submit it to the MP Police Department Front Desk.

After review, a Police Department supervisor will contact the requestor to notify them of approval or disapproval. The form can only be used for three days per month and is not valid until a supervisor signs off on it.

If approved, the permission will not allow the violation of village ordinances or parking laws. All violators will be ticketed.

**For more information, please call (708) 344-8409.**



#### MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

1 NORTH BROADWAY, MELROSE PARK, IL 60160  
(708) 344-8409 [www.MelroseParkPD.com](http://www.MelroseParkPD.com)

### PARKING PERMISSION REQUEST FORM

*LIMIT 3 DAYS PER MONTH*

DATE OF REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF REQUEST: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ AM / PM until \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ AM / PM

ADDRESS: (Vehicle must be parked at this address or permission will be invalid)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### VEHICLE INFORMATION:

Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REASON FOR REQUEST: (Circle)

Visitor | Driveway Repair | Family Emergency

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If approved this permission will not allow the violation of village ordinances or parking laws. All violators will be ticketed.*

*Form must be filled in and returned to the Melrose Park Police Department to be approved*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shift Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

As of Saturday, April 1, 2023, parking is allowed on both sides of the street on weekends, Friday, 5 p.m.-Monday, 9 a.m., now until Dec. 1, This does not include the West Melrose and Winston Park areas. 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.

## Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: 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: Aug. 28; Sept. 25; Oct. 23; Nov. 13; and Dec. 11.

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



# You're Invited! Tom's Steak House is Celebrating its 70th!

## It'll be a Fun Week Celebrating a Huge Milestone ...



From Monday, Sept. 11-Thursday, Sept. 14, Tom's Steak House will be celebrating its 70th anniversary! It is actually 71 years, but with all the amazing remodeling that's occurred recently, the big bash was pushed to this year.

Lunch and dinner specials will be offered all week long as well as fun giveaways and raffles with some incredible prizes. Affordably priced Tom's swag will be available for purchase each day.

We're looking forward to enjoying a fun week celebrating a huge milestone!

On Thursday, Sept. 14, we'll cap it all off with a special live performance by Tony Ocean, from 6-9 p.m. The whole restaurant will be utilized and dinner reservations are required.

Tom's is located at 1901 W. North Ave., Melrose Park (corner of Broadway and North).

For more information, please call (708) 345-2766 or visit [tomssteakhouse.com](http://tomssteakhouse.com), [instagram.com/tomssteakhouse](https://www.instagram.com/tomssteakhouse) or [facebook.com/tomssteakhouse.com](https://www.facebook.com/tomssteakhouse).

## Melrose Park Residents Proudly Celebrate the Itasca Quilters Guild's 35th Anniversary



The Itasca Quilters Guild, celebrating 35 years, meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., at the Itasca Community Library (500 W. Irving Park Rd., Itasca).

The guild is made up of members from Itasca's neighboring communities, as well as Melrose Park, River Grove and River Forest. Its purpose is to meet informally, to quilt, to learn, preserve and promote the art of quilting, to share ideas, to improve skills, and for fun fellowship and friendship. Guests and new members are always welcome.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the guild is hosting a fall open house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Itasca Park District Fitness and Recreation Center, 350 Irving Park Rd., Itasca. Learn how a quilt is made by observing our "How to Make a Quilt" demonstration.

Children are invited to participate in our Make and Take Project. Admission is free.

For more information on the Itasca Quilters Guild or its fall open house, please send an email to [IQGpresident@aol.com](mailto:IQGpresident@aol.com).

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

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

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

## Melrose Park Can Help You Remove Unwanted Animals From Your Home

For any animal control issues on residential property like skunks, raccoons and bats ... call the Melrose Park Police Department non-emergency phone number at (708) 344-8409 to report the problem and they will contact an outside contractor to eradicate the issue.





*Mayor  
Ronald M. Serpico*



**Celebrating Our 41st Year**

**September 1st Thru September 3rd**

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visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org)





# Welcome to the 2023 Taste of Melrose Park

## Celebrating Our 41st Year!



If you enjoy a smorgasbord of delicious homemade food, rocking out to great local bands, and are closely watching the family pocketbook, you have come to the right place ... the 41st annual Taste of Melrose Park.

The Taste of Melrose Park has many more food vendors than the Taste of Chicago, and more importantly, all food items cost a mere \$4 or less. Besides our affordable food prices, all our entertainment is free, parking is free, the trolley service is free, and a great time shared with family and friends is not only free, it's guaranteed!

The Taste of Melrose Park is dedicated to providing a safe and fun atmosphere for kids of all ages, 1 to 100. Most of our food booths are operated by Melrose Park families who are committed to treating every "Taste" patron as part of their extended family.

This year's "Taste" features 60 one-of-a-kind ethnic food items. We also provide continuous multicultural entertainment programs and venues that will delight one and all.

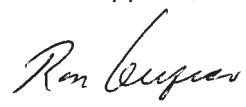
Please visit our Beer and Wine Tent where all the net proceeds are deposited into the "Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund." Due to your past generosity, nearly \$1.3 million has been donated to the fund that has supported many youth programs, senior citizen groups, local charities and educational endeavors.

At this point, we must admit to one little problem that everyone strolling the "Taste" grounds seems to encounter, and that is the, "I'm So Full I Can't Eat Another Bite Dilemma!" When this condition occurs we recommend resting your palate by sampling the entertainment offerings on any of our stages. Just about the time that you've had your fill of great entertainment, you should be ready to sample more of the best epicurean delights found at any food fest in the country.

And let it be known that we could not even attempt to host such a large event without the financial assistance of our fabulous business community or without the many volunteers who are responsible for making the Taste of Melrose Park run so smoothly.

Lastly, it is due to your overwhelming positive response to our philosophy of treating all fest goers as part of the family that makes the Taste of Melrose Park the most friendly and affordable food festival in all of Illinois.

Bon Appetit!,

  
Mayor Ron Serpico





# Entertainment Schedule

**Saturday  
and  
Sunday  
Unlimited  
Carnival  
Rides!**

**All You Can Ride ...  
Noon-4 p.m.  
Each Day!  
(With \$30 Wristband.)**  
.....

## **MAIN DRIVE SHOWS**

**JESSE WHITE  
TUMBLING TEAM**  
Saturday, Sept. 2 and  
Sunday, Sept. 3  
2:30 p.m.

**EXPLOSIVE SOUNDS  
ENTERTAINMENT**  
All Three Days!  
2:30 p.m.

**PIPES & DRUMS OF  
EMERALD SOCIETY  
BAGPIPERS**  
Saturday, Sept. 2  
3 p.m.

**Street Performer  
JOE MARTINO**  
Walkaround  
Accordion Player  
Saturday, Sept. 2  
3-7 p.m.

.....  
**FIREWORKS  
DISPLAY**  
Sunday, Sept. 3  
10 p.m.

## **Main Stage**

**Friday, Sept. 1**  
6:30-7:30 p.m. – Lake Effect  
8-10 p.m. – Boy Band Review  
**Saturday, Sept. 2**  
6-7:30 p.m. –  
Soul Sacrifice Santana Tribute  
8:15-10:15 p.m. –  
Chicago's Own Piano Man Band  
**Sunday, Sept. 3**  
4:15-5:15 p.m. – Pretty the Wolf  
6:15-7:15 p.m. –  
Them Schultz Girls & Friends  
7:45-9:45 p.m. – IPop

## **Peroni Garden**

**Friday, Sept. 1**  
7-8:30 p.m. – The Rat Pack  
8:30-10:30 p.m. – Tony Ocean Show  
**Saturday, Sept. 2**  
3-5 p.m. – JP & Jenny  
5:30-7 p.m. – Ollie Bolds & 3 Flights Up  
8-10 p.m. – The Wayouts  
**Sunday, Sept. 3**  
3-5 p.m. – Jersey Girls  
6-9:30 p.m. – R-Gang

## **Sabor de Mexico Stage**

To be announced. Watch for information as it becomes available.

**Continuous Free Entertainment All Weekend Long!**



# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK 2023 FOOD VENUE

Camaci's Italian Sausage – \$4	Cody's Root Beer Floats – \$3
Camaci's Arancini – \$4	Cheesy Mac and Cheese – \$3
Honey Hot Boneless Chicken Bites – \$4	Athenian Foods Greek Chicken w/Rice – \$4
Sam & Sammy's Italian Egg Rolls – \$2.50	Strawberry Slushies – \$3
Carlotta's Sweet Aroma Linguine w/Garlic&Oil – \$4	Squire's Cotton Candy – \$4
Shwings Fried Shrimp – \$3	Pepe's Ceviche – \$4
Iannelli's Panzerotti – \$4	Nutella Crepes – \$3
Mickey's Italian Beef – \$4	Nirvana's Brownie Sundaes – \$3
Chrissy's Hot Dogs – \$4	J.T.'s Italian Meatball Sandwich – \$4
Putt's Raw Clams – \$4	Antney's Italian Lemonade – \$3
Larry's BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich – \$4	Capt. D's Seeds & Nuts "Homemade Lupinis" – \$3
Richie's Curly Fries w/Cheese – \$4	Ashley's Snow Cones – \$2
Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Horchata – \$3	Volunteers of M.P. Tiramisu – \$3
Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Tacos – \$3	Riccio's Italian Pasta Salad – \$4
The Roasted Cob – \$4	Scudiero's Pizza – \$3
Blast from the Past Sherbert – \$3	Scudiero's Pepperoni Rolls – \$3
Cilla's Steak Teriyaki – \$4	Clara's Dippin Dots – \$4
Cervone's Homemade Cannoli – \$3	Patty's Eggplant Parmesan Sandwich – \$4
Ron's Famous Fried Dough – \$4	Eli's Cheesecakes – \$4
Siciliano's Old Fashioned Fried Bologna – \$4	Lil Dean's Raviolis – \$3
Levato Affogato – \$4	Vinnie Laraia's Baked Clams – \$2.50
Marilyn's Delicious Hamburgers – \$4	Tri-Cafe Garlic Chicken Parmesan Tenders – \$4
Fried Meatball Sandwich with Cheese Sauce – \$3	Jessica's Tamales – \$3
Nacho Mama's – \$3	Paco's Cuban Sandwich – \$3
Soon's Tres Leches Cake – \$3	Diana's Mozzarella Sticks – \$4
Italian Stuffed Mushrooms – \$4	Corz Kids Garlic Shrimp – \$3
Carm and Gino's Fried Calamari – \$4	Corinne Ariola Principe's Artichoke Casserole – \$4
Uncle Frankie's	Elio's Funnel Cakes – \$4
Mostaccioli in Tomato Basil Sauce – \$3	Missionary Sisters of St. Charles "Sfingi" – \$3
Nikki's Zucchini Cheese Puffs – \$3	Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Food Carry Trays – \$1
Lil Jimmy's Pierogies – \$3	

**THE TASTE OF MELROSE PARK IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**  
Interested parties, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.



# Check Out Some of This Year's Entertainment Features!



**Boy Band Review**  
Friday, Sept. 1 • 8 p.m.  
Main Stage



**Chicago's Own Piano Man Band**  
Saturday, Sept. 2 • 8:15 p.m.  
Main Stage



**Jersey Girls**  
Sunday, Sept. 3 • 3 p.m.  
Peroni Garden Stage



**Carnival Rides - Lots of Fun!**  
**Special Saturday and Sunday Offer ...**  
All You Can Ride ... Noon-4 p.m. Each Day! (With \$30 Wristband.)



**Enjoy the 41st Annual  
Taste of Melrose Park**  
*Compliments of  
Mayor Ronald M. Serpico  
Village Clerk Mary Ann Paolantonio  
&  
Village Trustees  
Anthony Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano  
Arturo Mota • Sonny Nicotera  
Mary Ramirez-Taconi • Anthony “Tony” Williams*

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**Thank You to  
All Volunteers for  
Your Dedicated Service  
to the  
Taste of Melrose Park!**

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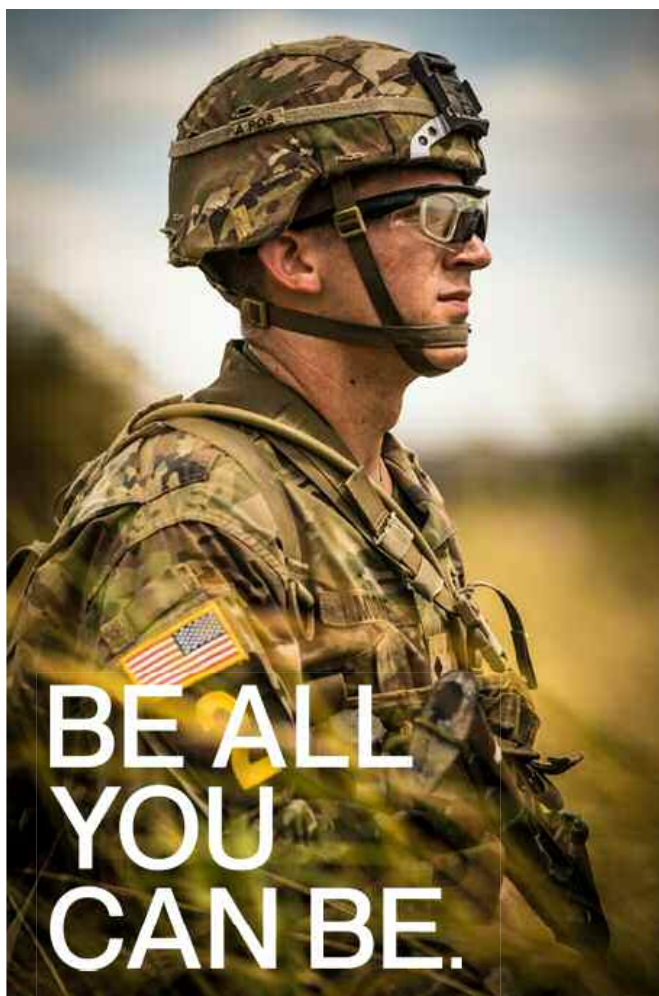
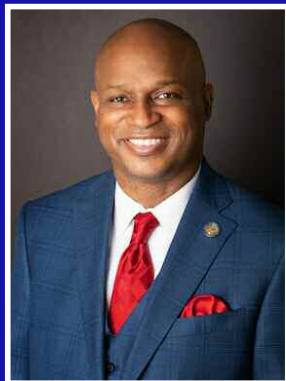
**Melrose Park, Illinois  
(708) 343-5570**



Best wishes to  
Melrose Park on  
a delicious and  
successful Taste of  
Melrose Park 2023!

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## WE'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



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**Best Wishes  
to the  
2023  
TASTE OF  
MELROSE PARK!**





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***Congratulations and Continued Success to  
Mayor Ron Serpico  
and the  
41st Annual Taste of Melrose Park!***



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Proud Supporter  
of the  
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of the  
TASTE OF  
MELROSE PARK!



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*Have a Great Taste!*

The logo for Taverna on Division is presented within a light beige rectangular background. The word "TAVERNA" is written in a large, bold, black, serif typeface. Directly beneath it, the words "ON DIVISION" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif typeface, with the letters spaced out.

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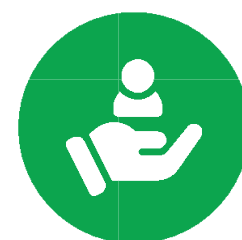
**Shopping**



**Laundry**



**Doctor Visits**



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Help**

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4310 W. **Lawrence** Ave.  
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**2225 W. North Ave.**  
**Melrose Park, IL 60160**  
**Tel: (708) 344-2273**

489 W. Boughton Road  
**Bolingbrook**, IL 60440  
Tel: (630) 679-1580

1830 W. Army Trail Rd.  
**Hanover Park**, IL 60133  
Tel: (630) 372-2475

5200 Main Street  
**Skokie**, IL 60077  
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1024 S McHenry Ave.  
**Crystal Lake**, IL 60014  
Tel: (815) 455-2273

8104 S. Roberts Rd.  
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1717 W Golf Road  
**Mount Prospect**, IL 60056  
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to the

## 2023 Taste of Melrose Park!



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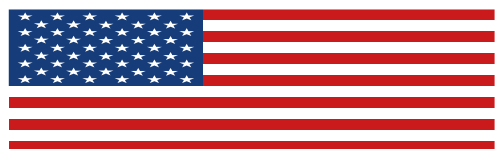
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# **Best Wishes on the 41st Anniversary of the TASTE OF MELROSE PARK!**



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# Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Taste of Melrose Park!



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Triton College

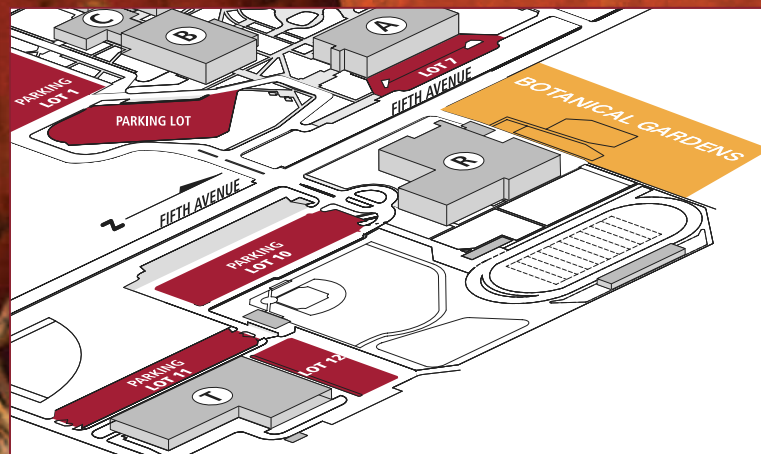
# *Fall Family Fun Fest*

**Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023**  
**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Triton College Botanical Gardens (East Campus)**

**Come enjoy food, games and seasonal entertainment.**

Go to [triton.edu/fallfest](https://triton.edu/fallfest) for future updates.



The Botanical Gardens are located on the east side of the Triton College campus, directly behind the R Building.



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# Cermak

## FRESH MARKET

Cermak Fresh Market is a premier Chicago Supermarket Chain located in the Midwest, United States. Our company specializes in a variety of ethnic foods catering to Mexican, Puerto Rican, Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian and other European and Latin American cultures. We serve our customers only the best quality in hand picked fresh produce, local and international groceries, superior meats from the Certified Angus Beef brand, fresh fish selects, wholesome dairy, a fresh bakery and a large selection of beverages both foreign and domestic.

Cermak Fresh Market accepts multiple forms of payment. Although we do not accept personal checks, work checks can be accepted in particular instances per management approval. We accept all major credit cards, Illinois Link Card (visit DHS to apply for Link) and WIC Program Payments (apply at the FNS at the USDA).

At Cermak, we believe our success is testament to our superior fresh foods and the utmost quality of customer service. Aside from our competitive prices, you'll clearly notice the difference when you walk into one of our beautiful local neighborhood stores.

Our courteous staff is dedicated to serving our customers with the best possible grocery shopping experience. In instances where special foods are requested, we'll do our very best to meet your needs and fulfill any order. If your looking to purchase produce or other store items in bulk, Cermak has the flexibility to meet your needs. As a leading food wholesaler in the Chicago land area we're determined to take any measure to ensure that your request is met.

Cermak Fresh Market is committed to the belief that if we continue to provide our customers with what they want at the highest of service, we will succeed in our mission; To forever be your friendly neighborhood market.

**[www.cermakfreshmarket.com/](http://www.cermakfreshmarket.com/)**





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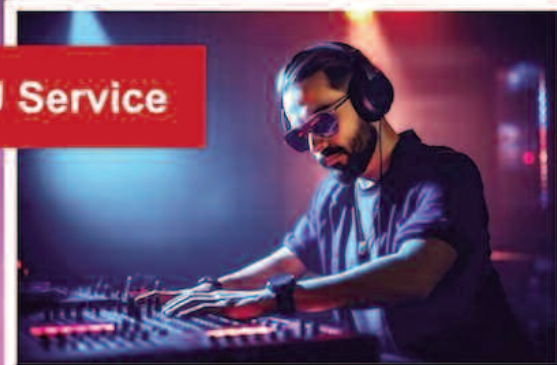
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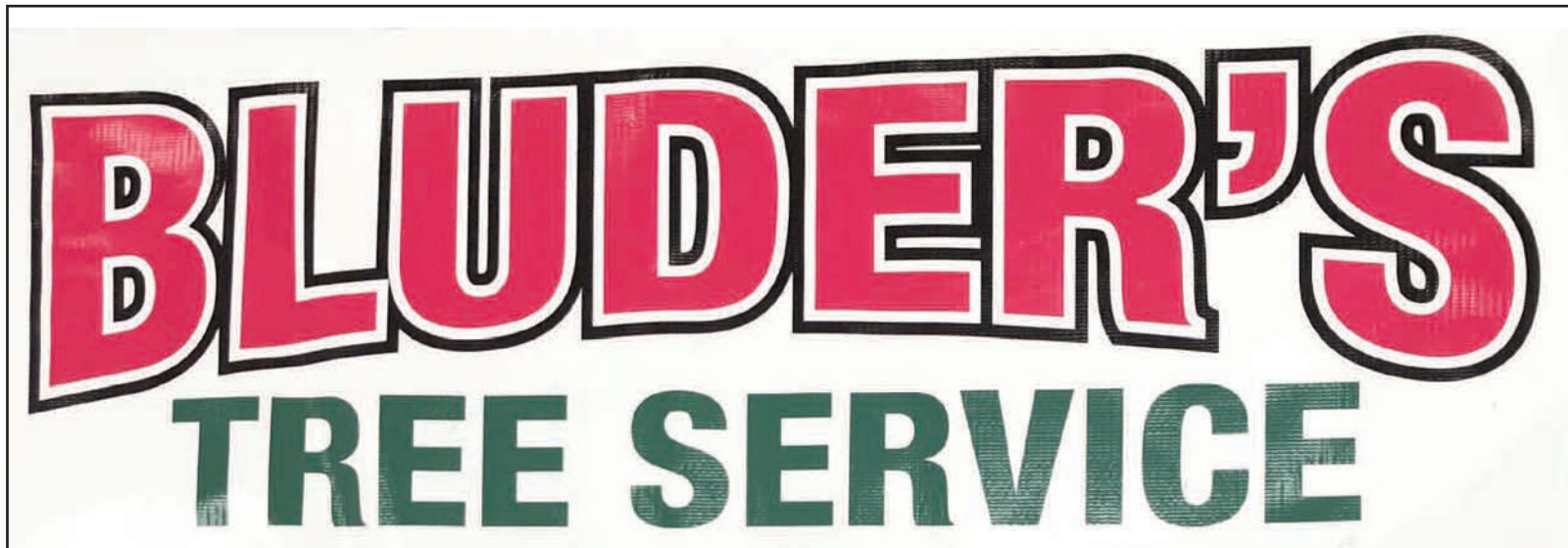
  
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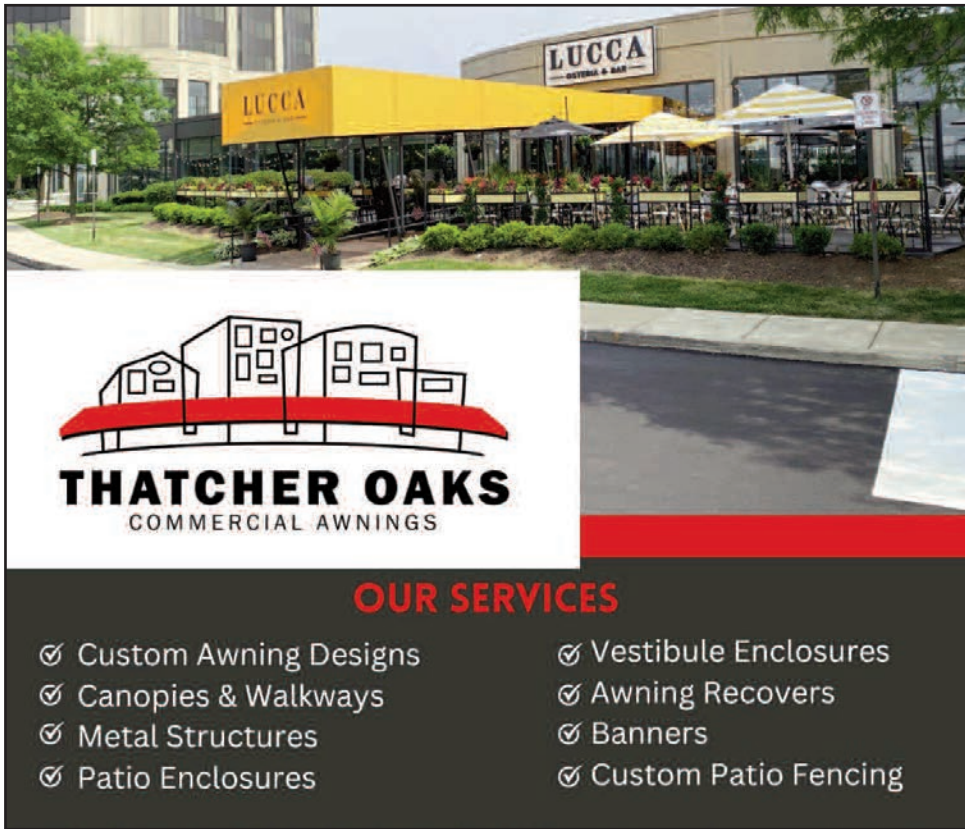
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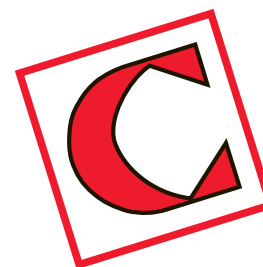


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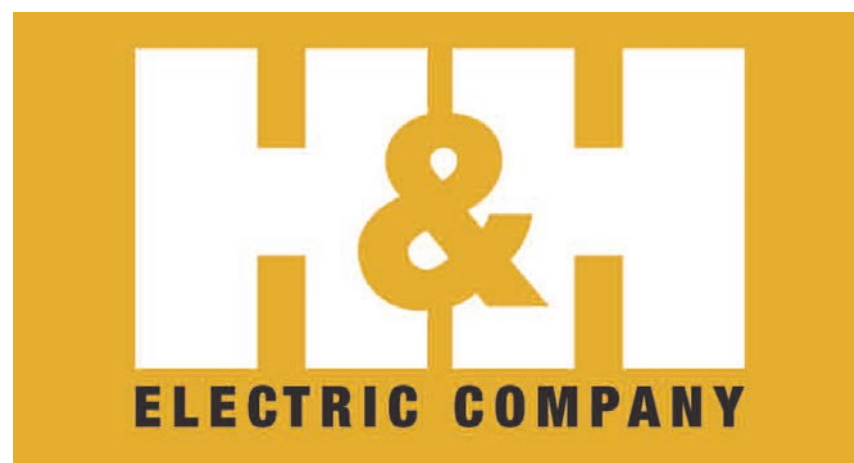
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# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Pickleball Lessons

Get in on the fun with one of America's fastest growing sports – pickleball! The rules are simple and easy to learn, making it fun for athletes of all ages, but can also develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. We have lessons for both adults and seniors. Pickleball lessons are starting Sept. 6 (adults), 6 p.m., and Sept. 8 (seniors), 10 a.m. Classes are held at Bataan Park 1220 N. Ninth Ave., Melrose Park. Call now while spots are available. Call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

### CIRCL Mobility™, Ages 16 and Up

Based on the science of functional movement, this class focuses on flexibility, breathwork and mobility exercises to help you move better and longer. Set to a soundtrack of healing tones and sound frequencies to help your mind focus and release stress.

- Thursdays, Aug. 31-Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.; Classes are held at Cimbalò Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

### Pump & Sculpt, Ages 16 and Up

Offering the challenge of adding resistance by using light weights, this class helps you focus on specific muscle groups so you can stay engaged and firm up.

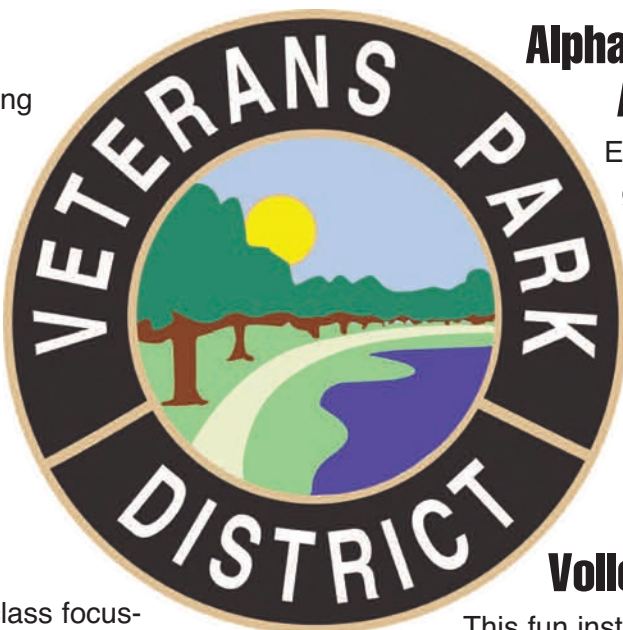
- Wednesdays, Aug. 30-Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.; Classes are held at Cimbalò Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$40/NR\$55.

### Start with Art, Ages 2-5 (2s and 3s with Adult)



Each week young minds will listen to a different story before they create a special craft. Our weekly art projects will promote a love for learning!

- Mondays, Sept. 18-Oct. 23, 10-10:45 a.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$50/NR\$60.



### Alphabet Adventures, Ages 2-4 (2s and 3s with Adult)

Each week your child will be introduced to a different group of letters in the alphabet, their sounds and shapes. Children will learn through books, flashcards, hands-on activities and crafts. At the end of the program your child will have created their very own book of ABCs.

- Tuesdays, Sept. 19-Oct. 24, 10:15-11a.m.; Classes are held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$50/NR \$60.

### Volleyball, Ages 10-15

This fun instructional program prepares young players to succeed in volleyball. Players will improve their serving, bumping, setting and spiking skills.

- Mondays, Sept. 11-Oct. 2, 5:45 p.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

### Mini Sports, Ages 4-7

Start your little one early at this fun mini-sports class! Participants get to choose a new sport each week, including soccer, T-ball, hockey and basketball.

- Wednesdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 4, 4-4:45 p.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park Field, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

### Baseball, Ages 8-12

Calling all baseball players! Grab your glove and join us at the George Leoni Complex. In this class kids will be taught the proper mechanics to throw, hit and field.

- Thursdays, Sept. 14-Oct. 5, 5-5:45 p.m.; Classes are held at George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.



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## Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings



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AGES  
3-5



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The preschool program follows the Creative Curriculum, endorsed by the National Association of Education of Young Learners. Teachers also follow the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, which are aligned with the Illinois Kindergarten Standards and Common Core State Standards to promote readiness for Kindergarten.

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Now!

### REQUIREMENTS

Parents must complete a registration packet before a child is allowed to register. Packets are available at our Bulger Park, Grant Park, and George A. Leoni Complex facilities. You may also download our parent packet at [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org).

The following checklist is due at registration:

- Completed Registration Packet
- Child's Birth Certificate
- Current Physical and Medical Requirements (found in registration packet)
- A picture ID AND utility bill with name and current address
- Child must be 3 years old by September 1st and potty trained
- Non-refundable \$100 registration fee will be required

### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake  
George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park

Call (708) 731-5290 or send an e-mail to [gstanczyk@vpdpark.org](mailto:gstanczyk@vpdpark.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

### PRICING

Please Note: Tuition is based on a full nine-month program, broken into easy monthly payments.

Classes will run based on minimum requirement.

All children are provided with a snack, included in tuition.

Tuition due on the last service day of each month, one month in advance.

Day	Time	R/N Fee
M-F	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$282/312
M W F	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$203/233
Tu Th	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$141/171

For more information please call the preschool office  
at (708) 731-5290 or contact us via e-mail at [gstanczyk@vpdpark.org](mailto:gstanczyk@vpdpark.org).

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







**Veterans  
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# MUSIC

## IN THE PARK

**TAKE A MIDWEEK BREAK AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT LIVE MUSIC! THIS IS A FREE EVENT.**

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, snacks or pack a picnic. Dogs are not allowed on park properties.

**Bands start at 7 PM.**

**OUR PATIO BAR WILL OPEN AT 6 PM  
SERVING COLD BEER AND WINE!**



## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

**Bulger Park  
1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park**

# TRABUCO

*Chicagoland's Hottest Energetic Salsa Band.*

**Trabuco**



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# Fall Concert in the Park

**Wednesday, September 13**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park  
1800 Riverwoods Dr., Melrose Park

Featuring  
**Swingset Big Band**

Band starts at 7 PM.

Our Patio Bar will be open at 6 PM.

Serving wine, Prosecco, beer and more!

All VPD Special Event dates, locations, and advertised activities are subject to change. Please visit [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org) for current information. Always check our Facebook page for updates: [facebook.com/vpdparks](https://facebook.com/vpdparks).



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# **Stress Management & Coping Skills Workshop for Active Adults/Seniors**

**September 21 & September 28**

**10:30am-12noon**

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

Learn the connection about the mind body balance from two older adults who have experienced love, loss, retirement, and many like challenges in our later years.

The 2-week workshop will start with a stress inventory and then explore different practical strategies for managing stress. This is meant to be an upbeat learning experience.

Pam Mauro and Peggy Markey have 50 years of experience in both education and mental health. Among the topics presented will be: resetting and rebooting the mind, body and emotions through a variety of strategies, i.e., humor, meditation, and relaxation techniques. Interactive discussions about the various presented topics will be encouraged.

Lite lunch buffet will be served after the workshop.

*Registration is required in advance, no walk-ins. Space is limited.*

**Register  
NOW  
for this FREE  
program!  
CALL (708) 343-5270**



**(708) 343-5270 | VDPARK.ORG | FOLLOW US ON**







**Veterans  
Park  
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*Come By  
for Some  
Fall Fun!*

# Autumn Fest

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 • 11 AM-3 PM**  
**GOVIN PARK, 2400 SCOTT STREET, FRANKLIN PARK**

**\$15 Wristband for unlimited use or \$1 per ticket per attraction:**  
**Trackless Train • Pony Rides • Petting Zoo • Inflatables**

**Car Show  
Touch a Truck  
Free pumpkin for each family\***

\* While supplies last

**Roasted Corn on the Cob  
Concession Stand will be open.**

**Follow us on Facebook**  
**(facebook.com/vpdparks)**  
**or sign up for email notifications**  
**at vpdpark.org.**

**RAIN OR SHINE!**



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**Sammy Alfano**  
**sammya@apnissan.com**



## The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

### Save the Dates!

Next Issue – October 2023  
(Deadline for material Sept. 25, 2023.)  
Remaining Schedule for 2023  
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



**Want to make  
a difference in your  
community?**

#AmeriCorpsSeniorsWorks



# **MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH RSVP**

Put your talent and experience at the service of American communities. Join the AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Triton College. We can help identify a volunteer match in your community.

**You can:**

- Work at a local food pantry.
- Help ESL students practice their English conversational skills.
- Give companionship by visiting, listening, talking or reading to older adults.
- Serve as a mentor.
- Work with children.
- And more.

**What you will receive in return is the joy of  
volunteering, as well as:**

- Free membership in a national organization.
- A quarterly newsletter.
- Mileage reimbursement upon request.
- Supplemental auto insurance.
- Invitation to volunteer appreciation events.

**Call the RSVP Office at  
Triton College for more information.  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3599.**





# Triton College NEWS

## Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center Presenting *Laser Taylor Swift* Cosmic Light Show

Are you ready for it? The Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center is presenting *Laser Taylor Swift* cosmic light show on Saturdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, at 8:30 p.m. This 45-minute show incorporates brilliant laser light, thousands of stars and giant digital effects! The show is enjoyable for the whole family.

We had a blank space in our schedule and, long story short, knew all too well just which artist to fill it with. As August slips away and this cruel summer comes to

an end, we're enchanted to present *Laser Taylor Swift*. It's been a long time coming, but September nights feel like the perfect nights to dress up like it's the Eras Tour all over again. Make the friendship bracelets, bust out your best dress and get ready to experience your favorite songs in a whole new way. We'll be dancing like we're made of starlight on each Saturday in September, so come out and make the Cernan Center shimmer!

Taylor Swift is one of the biggest pop stars on the planet. With over 200 million records sold, a shelf full of Grammys and an army of fans, Taylor Swift is an inspiration for generations. *Laser Taylor Swift* takes her biggest hits and brings them to life in dazzling laser light. If you can't score tickets to her concert, *Laser Taylor Swift* is the next best thing.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors (55 and over) and \$5 for children (2-17), and can be purchased at the box office starting at 6:30 p.m., before each show. Triton students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a valid ID.

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

To follow the Cernan Earth and Space Center on Facebook, visit [www.facebook.com/cernancenter/](https://www.facebook.com/cernancenter/).



## Triton College Hosts Annual Free Event, Movie on the Mounds

Triton College's Office of Student Life will host the annual Movie on the Mounds on Friday, Sept. 22. *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, will begin at sundown, approximately 7 p.m. No registration is required and community members are invited. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early.

Movie on the Mounds is a free event, including free popcorn, hot dogs and beverages while supplies last. No alcohol is allowed on Triton's campus.

Attendees must bring their own blankets and lawn chairs.

"Community is very important to Triton College," said Johnny Urbina, director of Student Services. "Movie on the Mounds is a great time for the entire family while enjoying Triton's beautiful campus."

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Student Center Cafeteria (B Building).

For more information, please contact [studentlife@triton.edu](mailto:studentlife@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3383.



## Triton College Meal Pantry Receives \$711 Grant from 7-Eleven in Melrose Park

7-Eleven, located at 120 W. North Ave in Melrose Park, held their grand opening and ribbon cutting on Thursday, Aug. 3, featuring giveaways, balloon vendors, games and free Slurpees. 7-Eleven also presented a \$711 grant to the Triton College Meal Pantry.

The grant is a part of 7-Eleven's Project A-Game, a community outreach program dedicated to providing opportunities through education. Project A-Game has awarded more than 5,000 grants, with a community investment of more than \$3.5 million.

7-Eleven hopes that their contribution will help students who utilize Triton's Meal Pantry.

"We appreciate 7-Eleven for assisting with the Triton College Meal Pantry and we're looking forward to this great partnership," said Julia Willis, dean of Students.



Triton College representatives along with 7-Eleven staff pose with a \$711 check that will be donated to the Triton College Meal Pantry.

**(708) 456-0300 • [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu)**

# **LOOKING FOR A CHURCH?**

## **All Are Welcome to Join Us at Indo American Community Church Sundays at 12:30 p.m.**

We are located at 841 Elsie Dr., in Melrose Park (at the corner of Ninth Avenue and Elsie Drive).  
Our worship time includes singing of hymns, liturgical readings, prayer and a biblical message.  
For more information, please call (708) 715-2715.

# **The 14th Big Bash Buffet for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL.**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 17 • NOON-5:30 P.M.**

**UNDER THE TENT AT THE MELROSE PARK CIVIC CENTER  
1000 N. 25TH AVE., MELROSE PARK**

**\$35 Donation - Call (224) 600-0333 for tickets.  
It's the only way to guarantee a seat!**

**Nonstop Food, Beer, Wine,  
Raffles and Entertainment**

**FEATURING JIMMY'S RED HOTS & TAMALES • BEER & WINE FROM TINY TAP  
PIZZA FROM PIZZA BOY, CHICKIE'S BEEF & PIZZA AND ARMAND'S PIZZA  
BUFFET BY CUOMO CATERING, BLOSSOM CAFÉ**

**ENTERTAINMENT FROM NOON-5 P.M. BY DJ/MC JERRY JAMZ RENDA  
TONY OCEAN'S RAT PACK • BILL SERRITELLA AND ELLEN WIMBUSH • DIVA MONTELL • REGINA KARMA  
PIANO MAN NICK PSYHOGIOS • STEFANIE LEMMON BRINEGAR • JOHN ANTHONY**

**Nonstop Raffle Prizes Worth \$100 to \$2000!**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

**TAVERNA ON DIVISION ST. • TOP TIER VALET • CHICKIE'S BANQUETS & CATERING • ELITE ELECTRIC  
ONESTI ENTERTAINMENT • VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK • TINY TAP LOUNGE • PAN AMERICAN BANK  
VETERANS PARK DISTRICT • GRECO AND SONS • LAURA OCEAN SOLUTIONS**



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

## **DEAR PARISHIONERS AND DEVOTEES ETERNALLY GRATEFUL. ABUNDANCE OF BLESSINGS AND THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE.**



On the celebration of the 130th Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, I want to commend the entire Feast Committee, the Altar and Rosary, the Spanish community and groups, the altar servers, the choir and all the volunteers. Without you this Feast would not have happened, and with no reluctance, this year was a remarkable one.

Your service and dedication helped once again the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel become a center of genuine religious devotion to the Blessed Mother, a sacred place of prayer, recollection, and spiritual refreshment for hundreds of people who have participated in the Novena and Feast Day.

Thank you.

Blessings to all of You.

VIVA LA MADONNA DEL CARMINE

Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S.

Pastor and Rector





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

## August 2023 Events

### St. Pio Society Monthly Mass Schedule

The St. Pio Society invites you to celebrate a Mass dedicated to St. Pio of Pietrelcina on the last Sunday of the month at the 10:30 a.m. Italian Mass.

The schedule is listed below. A luncheon, donation only, will be held in the St. Anthony Room following the Mass.

All are welcome to come and pay homage to St. Pio.

New! – Come visit the outdoor shrine to Padre Pio. The new cupola has been completed and benches have been placed for prayer or meditation.

Sunday, Aug. 27 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 24 – Feast at Casa Italia • 10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29 • 10:30 a.m.

## The Feast of Maria S.S. Addolorata 2023 (Our Lady of Sorrows)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel welcomes the return of The Societa' Maria SS Addolorata (Our Lady of Sorrows) to celebrate their feast of the Blessed Mother with us.

The society has celebrated la festa de Maria SS Addolorata at Mt. Carmel for over 15 years.

In paying homage to the Blessed Mother, they have participated in the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and the Good Friday Passione.

This patron saint of Mola di Bari will be venerated with a Novena, a celebratory Mass and procession. All are welcome.

**Novena • 7:30 p.m.**

Monday, Aug. 28-Thursday, Aug. 31 and Friday, Sept. 1; Tuesday, Sept. 5-Friday, Sept. 8

**Feast**

Sunday, Sept. 10

Noon • Bilingual Mass (Italian/English) Followed by an Outdoor Procession

The statue will remain at Mt. Carmel for the actual feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows on Friday, Sept. 15.

There will be a 6:30 p.m. healing Mass followed by refreshments.

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

## September 2023 Events

### Altar & Rosary – Outdoor Rosary with a Reflection By Fr. Leandro Fossá

### Friday, Sept. 8/7 p.m. • Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Patio/Weather Permitting (In case of rain, it will be in the church.)

Refreshments will be served after the Rosary, along with a special raffle for a Fontaninni nativity set.

Seating is limited, so please call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140 or Linda Basili at (312) 315-9554 to reserve your seat.

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



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## **For Those Who Serve and Protect Monday, Sept. 11/6:30 p.m.**

- A celebratory Mass of thanks and tribute to police, fire, security, military, medical, emergency and other first responders.
- During the offertory, there will be a wreath presentation to honor our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
    - A silent procession of vehicles will be held after the Mass.
  - To conclude the evening, an outdoor reception will be held on the church patio.

Come join us in thanking these brave men and women as the Blessed Mother, protectress of us all, blesses them to keep them safe.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine – 1101 N. 23rd Ave., Melrose Park  
Call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140 for more information.

## **Our Lady of Sorrows Healing Mass Friday, Sept. 15/6:30 p.m.**

Trilingual Mass followed by Anointing of the Healing.

Commemorate the profound union of heart ... the seven sorrows the Blessed Mother endured and reminds us of compassion, consolation and peace.

- The First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon and Anna ...
- The Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt. ...
- The Third Sorrow: The Loss of the Child Jesus ...
- The Fourth Sorrow: The Condemnation of Jesus ...
- The Fifth Station: The Crucifixion of Jesus ...
- The Sixth Station: The Retrieval of Jesus' Body ...
- The Seventh Station: The Burial of Jesus.

## **Altar & Rosary – Summer Garage Sale Saturday, Sept. 16/9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Come Shop “Under the Tent” – You’ll find trinkets, bargains, holiday decorations, Christmas gifts and little treasures you never knew you needed.

The Garage Sale will be held at the outside patio of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine – 1101 N. 23rd Ave., Melrose Park.

In case of rain, the sale will be held in the St. Anthony Room.

## **St. Pio Feast • Sunday, Sept. 24/7 p.m.**

**Procession, Mass and Reception Beginning at 10 a.m.**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine will celebrate the Feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina on Sunday, Sept. 24, with a procession, Mass and reception, beginning at 10 a.m.

The procession will begin with a blessing at 10 a.m. in front of the St. Pio statue on the side of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 1101 N. 23rd Ave., in Melrose Park.

After the blessing, the procession will begin from Mt. Carmel to Casa Italia on 39th Avenue in Stone Park, where an outdoor Mass will be celebrated.

Following the Mass, there will be food and entertainment.

All are welcome to come and pay homage to St. Pio. For more information, please call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.

## *October 2023 Events*

## **St. Anthony Society Annual Breakfast Buffet Sunday, Oct. 1/8:30 a.m.-Noon**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Gym**

Come enjoy a buffet of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, fruit, desserts and more. Cost – \$8 Adults • \$4 Children (12 and Under)

For tickets or more information, see any St. Anthony member or call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.

## **The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi – The Blessing of the Pets Wednesday, Oct. 4/6:30 p.m.**

Bilingual Mass. Bring your pet in front of the church before or after Mass for a special blessing.



# the **BASILICA** of Saint Josaphat

A Ministry of the Conventual Franciscans



## **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Altar & Rosary Pilgrimage**

### **Tour the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023**

In the Catholic church, basilica status is reserved for the largest, most beautiful and most historically important churches. There are about 60 basilicas in the United States. Chicago is one of the few cities to be lucky enough to have three, all of which have been visited during Mt. Carmel's Holy Thursday pilgrimages.

Now, we are visiting the next closest basilica to Chicago, St. Josaphat on the south side of Milwaukee in historic Lincoln Village. In 1929, St. Josaphat Church was named the third basilica in the United States. It is as close as we get to a European cathedral. It is the largest church in Milwaukee, with a seating capacity of over 1,000 on the main floor, hundreds more can be accommodated in the galleries. A ministry of the Conventual Franciscans, it is a center for prayer and spirituality, inspiration and beauty. It remains a testament to the faith of the Polish immigrants who created it. The bricks used for the Basilica were from the old Chicago Post Office and were shipped by rail from Chicago to Milwaukee. Ground was broken in 1896 and completed in 1901.

#### **Itinerary**

**12:30 p.m. • Departure from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (A snack will be served on the bus.)**

**2 p.m. • Arrival at the Basilica**

- Welcome/Blessing by the Friar
- Browse the Gift Shop
- Rosary or Individual Meditation in the Chapel (Elevators are available.)
- Guided Tour with a Docent (Approximately one hour. Not a lot of walking ... benches available.)

**4:30 p.m. • Mass in the Basilica**

**5:45 p.m. • Departure to Chicago (A boxed lunch will be served on the bus.)**

**7:30 p.m. • Approximate Arrival at Mt. Carmel**

#### **Cost**

(Price includes bus, all charges and tips, a box lunch and snacks.)

Early Registration – \$45 (Must be reserved and paid by Aug. 28, 2023.)

Regular Registration – \$50 (Reserved and paid between Aug. 29-Sept. 15, 2023.)

Late Registration – \$55 (Reserved and paid after Sept. 15, 2023.)

**For more information, please call the Rectory Office at (708) 344-4140 or Lucia at (312) 860-2530.**



# You're Invited! Be a Part of Something Big...

## Beauty with a Purpose Set for Sunday, Sept. 17

### Hosts Daisie Foundation and Pink Pewter Foundation Are Focused on Giving Back to the Community

The Daisie Foundation (DF) and The Pink Pewter Foundation (PPF), both organizations focused on giving back to the community, are hosting The Beauty with A Purpose event on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, at Hilton Oakbrook Suites in Oakbrook, Ill.

The Beauty with A Purpose event will feature beauty industry leaders – artists and brands – all joining together to help aspiring and leading beauty professionals receive the support and inspiration they need to succeed. Proceeds from the event will be used for scholarship and grant awards for beauty professionals.

To thrive in today's beauty world, you need to excel beyond technique. There will be networking opportunities, social media engagement, a panel of accomplished entrepreneurs and CEOs, and much more to spark encouragement for those looking to grow their beauty careers. DF and PPF are not only excited to inspire and empower the next generation of beauty professionals, but we are equally ecstatic to give back and make the biggest impact in our community.

**For tickets or more information, please visit [www.pinkpewter.com/BWAP2023](http://www.pinkpewter.com/BWAP2023).**

# BEAUTY *with a purpose!*

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@THEBENMOLLINPROJECT



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JOHN MOSLEY  
@POPULAR\_NOBODY



ADINA PIGNATARI  
@ADINA\_PIGNATARI



KIM ROXIE  
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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023  
9AM - 5PM**

**THE HILTON OAK BROOK HILLS  
3500 MIDWEST RD, OAK BROOK, IL**

EACH FOUNDATION WILL BE USING THE  
PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT TO AWARD  
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS TO BEAUTY  
PROFESSIONALS.

*and more to come!*



SCAN ME



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@DANIELLE.KEASLING



MICHELLE O'CONNOR  
@MICHELLEOCONNORBEAUTY



ANNA MANUKYAN  
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NICK STENSON  
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JENNY STREBE  
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CHRISTOPHER AARON  
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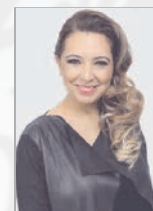
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MIREYA VILLARREAL  
@MIREYA.VILLARREAL

**TICKETS: [WWW.PINKPEWTER.COM/BWAP2023](http://WWW.PINKPEWTER.COM/BWAP2023)**

Visit our website at **shsparish.org** or call us at **708-344-0757** for more information.

## SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



819 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. | Melrose Park, IL 60160

*"United by the Cross of Christ"*

1845 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. | Maywood, IL 60153

*Our Pastor Father Francisco Ortega welcomes you to  
join us for Mass at one of our following Mass times:*

### **SACRED HEART CHURCH**

#### **SATURDAYS**

**4:30pm English**

**6:00pm Spanish**

#### **SUNDAYS**

**8:30am English**

**10:30am Spanish**

**7:00pm English/Spanish**

#### **WEEKDAYS**

**8:00am English**

### **ST. EULALIA CHURCH**

#### **SUNDAYS**

**10:30am English**

**12:30pm Spanish**

### **First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Every First Friday of the month **7:00pm** at Sacred Heart.

### **Thursday Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament and Confession**

Every Thursday except the week of the First Friday of the month,  
alternating between Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia churches at **7:00pm**.

### **The Nativity of the Blessed Mother**

**Friday, September 8, 8:00am** morning Mass.

**7:00pm Rosary** at Sacred Heart followed by a Women's Group Social.

### **Anointing of the Sick Mass & Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament**

**Thursday, September 21 at 7:00pm at St. Eulalia**

### **POZOLE SALE**

**Saturday, September 23** we will have a Pozole sale sponsored by our Book Club from **5pm to 8pm** in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**.

### **Food Tray Booth at the Taste of Melrose Park**

Visit our Food Tray Booth at the Taste of Melrose Park on  
**September 1, 2 & 3** next to the Ralph "Babe" Serpico Memorial Field &  
Bocce Court. Food Tray take home containers or flat trays for **\$1**.



# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

## FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**Wednesday, October 4, 8:00am Mass.**

Pet Blessing will be at **4:30pm** in the **Sacred Heart Courtyard.**

## PASTA DINNER & SHOW

**Saturday, November 4, 6:00pm** at **Sacred Heart.** Dinner includes Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Bread & Dessert, Pop & Coffee. Cash Bar. Entertainment Show by "The Bros" after dinner. Tickets available at the parish office.

## TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Fr. Francisco Ortega invites you to a trip to the Holy Land from **February 19-28, 2024.** Total Cost is **\$3,650** per person. Save \$150 by reserving before September 10!

## **Religious Education Program 2023-2024**

Registration for our Religious Education Program is open! Please register at our Rectory office at Sacred Heart Rectory Office located at 819 N. 16th Avenue in Melrose Park.

**FIRST COMMUNION**  
**(2 Year Program)**

**CONFIRMATION**  
**(2 Year Program)**

# REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Baptism Certificate
- ◆ 1st Communion Certificate  
(For 1st Year of Confirmation)



**REGISTER  
NOW!**

Religious Education Program classes will be held **Saturdays** at **Sacred Heart Church** in **Melrose Park.**

English classes will be held from **9:00am** to **10:30am.**

Spanish classes will be held from **4:30pm** to **6:00pm.**

Visit our website at **shsparish.org** or call us at **708-344-0757** for more information.



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# 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

## A Message from Norma Hernandez Illinois State Representative • 77th District Hernandez Bill Promoting Better Enforcement of Water Sanitation Regulations Becomes Law

Cook County's water management agency will be able to more quickly and efficiently hold accountable those who violate the law by improperly discharging waste into the sewage system – under a new law introduced by state Rep. Norma Hernandez, D-Melrose Park.

"When hazardous waste is being introduced into our sewer system by unscrupulous businesses or other entities, we can't afford to let that go on any longer than it has to," Hernandez said. "Having to wait for a letter to arrive in the mail and for the offender to read it takes too long and results in additional contamination, and longer and more expensive cleanup."

Under existing law, when a person or entity was found to be unlawfully discharging waste into the sewer system, notices and orders – including cease-and-desist orders – had to be sent either by certified mail or by official courier.

Hernandez's House Bill 3133 permits Cook County's Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to implement an electronic reporting system that, once operational, can be used to serve notices and orders to violators via email. It also stipulates that such electronic notices have the same validity and effect as those delivered by mail or by hand.

The bill was signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker on July 28 and took effect immediately.

"Protecting the water supply that Chicago families depend on is far too important for authorities to be forced by outdated policies to drag their feet," Hernandez said. "I'm confident that by updating the tools at their disposal, we're empowering the MWRD to better protect public health, the environment and our economy from the effects of sewage violations."

For more information about House Bill 3133 and all Illinois legislation, visit [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov).



**Illinois State Representative**  
**Norma Hernandez**  
125 N. 19th Ave., Ste. B  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
Phone: (708) 365-8498  
Email: [district@repnormahernandez.com](mailto:district@repnormahernandez.com)

# Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Introduces Ordinance to Create a Property Tax Credit Program for Storm Relief

## Introduced to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, the Ordinance Would Give Tax Credits to Uninsured and Underinsured Homeowners Who Experienced Damage from Storms and Flooding

On Thursday, July 20, during the Cook County Board of Commissioners meeting, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar (16th) introduced a property tax credit for uninsured and underinsured homeowners who experience damages due to storms and flooding. The ordinance moved forward to the Finance Subcommittee, where it will undergo further discussion and evaluation.



*Cook County Commissioner  
Frank J. Aguilar*

Flooding and flood mitigation are significant issues in Cook County that plague thousands of residents every year. Flooded homes require immediate remediation to salvage the properties afflicted. The structural damage to buildings and homes caused by flood water can be catastrophic and the cost to property owners can be a burden that results in the abandonment of property.

The ordinance is aimed to provide relief to Cook County property owners, who otherwise would be forced to incur and expend unforeseen costs due to storm damage. The economic impact of flooding can be financially devastating because for so many residents, homeownership is their pathway to generational wealth, particularly in communities of color, communities that are already vulnerable and communities that already lack livable, affordable housing.

"Throughout Cook County, homeownership is one of the best ways to ensure some sort of generational wealth," said Commissioner Aguilar. "When homes are damaged, it can take years for residents to get back to a level of economic comfortability that homeownership should lead to. This ordinance will put money back in the pockets of our residents so that they are able to prevent wide-scale loss of home value in the present, which will protect their livelihoods for decades to come."

Rates and severity of flooding in various parts of Cook County are contingent upon not only rainfall, but on the underground water removal and sewage system. Throughout Cook County, small towns and villages are incapable of managing the stormwater that is thrust upon them by other municipalities. As a result of climate change, extreme weather events are becoming more devastating, causing these local municipal systems to be more frequently overwhelmed.

In an effort to alleviate part of the financial burden to Cook County residents and businesses caused by catastrophic storm water, the ordinance would establish a real property tax credit program for disaster relief. The relief program will allow property owners who undertake certain types of storm damage repairs or remediation to submit provable evidence of the costs of the repairs to Cook County, which, if approved, would allow for a real property tax credit in the amount of the provable repairs.

If affected municipalities elect to participate, the tax credit will not exceed the amount of the real property tax bill for that tax year, as assessed on behalf of Cook County and the municipality where the property is situated. As proposed, the financial responsibility of the tax credit will be borne on a pro rata basis among Cook County and all the taxing districts located

within the corporate limits of any municipality which passes an ordinance or resolution electing to participate in the relief program.

Municipalities that wish to participate must submit their request to Cook County within 30 calendar days of the declaration of a disaster. If municipalities do not pass, approve, and submit an ordinance or resolution electing to participate in the relief program to Cook County within 30 calendar days of the passage and approval of this ordinance, such municipalities will be ineligible to participate in the relief program for this disaster.



## Cook County Board Reminds Residents County Wheel Tax was Eliminated on July 1

### Effort will Relieve Cook County Residents from County Vehicle Registration Fees and Fines

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle reminded residents living in unincorporated Cook County that one less tax exists in the area as the repeal of the Cook County Wheel Tax went into effect starting July 1. Sponsored by Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison, the county board voted unanimously to repeal the tax during its September 2022 board meeting.

"We're proud to alleviate any financial burden imposed by the Wheel Tax and ensure that taxpayers are able to keep more of their hard-earned money," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "We are immensely proud of the hard work and fiscal stewardship that made this possible. I am thankful for Commissioner Morrison's leadership on this initiative and our board of commissioners for voting to eliminate this tax."

Created in the early 1970s, the now eliminated tax required a Cook County Vehicle License costing between \$80 and \$200 for all motor vehicles owned and operated by residents of unincorporated Cook County.

"This is a common sense approach to addressing inequity, eliminating a tax that is far too often punitive. Cars are a necessity for so many people in our county to get to work, to get to community services, to receive health care and much more," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "This is a regressive tax, plain and simple, one that hurts our residents more than any justification to keep it. I applaud Commissioner Kevin Morrison for authoring this ordinance, and stand with my colleagues on the board to continue delivering relief and support for all of our residents."



The Cook County Bureau of Finance estimates that around 8,000 staff hours dedicated to administering the tax can be redirected to other services. They also estimate that the revenue lost from eliminating the tax will be partially offset by savings on administrative costs and new county revenues. In terms of impact to the county's overall budget, revenues from the Wheel Tax constitute less than half of a percent of the more than \$8.7 billion budget. The lost revenue from eliminating this tax is negligible in comparison to the cost savings to individual families. The ordinance repealing the Wheel Tax was officially effective starting June 30, 2023.

# **Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar, Bureau of Economic Development and IMEC Partners with Melrose Park's Chamber of Commerce for Manufacturing Reinvented Event**

## **The Event was Held to Increase Manufacturing and Economic Development Throughout Cook County's 16th District**

On Thursday, June 15, Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar partnered with Melrose Park's Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, and Cook County's Bureau of Economic Development for a Manufacturing Reinvented seminar and workshop in Melrose Park. The event, which attracted over 50 organizations, was held to inform 16th District manufacturers about available grants for their businesses and to offer onsite application assistance.

"You can not separate Cook County from manufacturing," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "These grants reward manufacturers for initiative for doing the work needed to drive Cook County forward. Events like today do such important work getting resources to interested parties in a highly accessible manner, making these opportunities more easily obtainable. I'd like to thank the village of Melrose Park, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and IMEC for their great work today, connecting these many interested businesses directly to this amazing resource."

These grants are funded through the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, in partnership with Cook County's Bureau of Economic Development, to boost operations for manufacturers and businesses over a wide range of subjects. Interested parties could apply for grants to help with website design, cybersecurity, employee retention and promotion, business marketing and more. In total, \$5 million of grant funding is available to Cook County manufacturers.

"Cook County manufacturers are already experiencing the benefits of this novel grant program," said David Boulay, president of IMEC. "With projects available in all areas of the organization, it's exhilarating to watch these companies receive the support they need and help them lead the way for the future of manufacturing in Illinois."

The event began with a networking session, as representatives from the attending organizations discussed their work, goals and business needs. After the networking session, a presentation was conducted by the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development and IMEC that gave an overview of the program and the needed qualifications to be eligible to apply. After the presentation, a Q&A session was held while manufacturers could simultaneously receive onsite assistance with their applications.

"This program provides a much-needed resource to local manufacturers as the economy recovers and firms work to reposition themselves," said President Preckwinkle. "Manufacturing represents the state's largest industry when ranked by contribution to GDP, and with 182,000 people, Cook County boasts the largest number of workers in Illinois employed in manufacturing. Cook County is proud to make this investment to support this critical industry."

This Manufacturing Reinvented seminar highlighted the benefits of collaboration between different levels of government and community organizations. By partnering with community organizations that have an established infrastructure, such as the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, more organizations are able to be reached, leading to more effective grant-funding outcomes.

"This program will be instrumental in bolstering our manufacturing sector and strengthening our existing businesses," stated Isaac Bazbaz, executive director of the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development. "Melrose Park is eager to fully embrace Cook County's Manufacturing Reinvented initiative and capitalize on the resources it offers."

The vast majority of the manufacturers who attended were new to this grant program and now have the tools to successfully apply for these grants while also making strong connections with their peers and the municipalities that will serve them in the future.

"The Cook County Manufacturing Reinvented Program aligns perfectly with our goals of fostering economic development, attracting new businesses and creating employment opportunities for our residents," said village of Melrose Park Mayor Ronald Serpico. "We are grateful for the Cook County Board and Commissioner Aguilar's support and resources this program brings to our community."





# News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

## Giannoulias Implementing Skip-the-Line Program at Busiest DMVs

### Scheduling Appointments/New Extended Hours Part of Initiative to Save Customers Time

- Push for More Illinoisans to Renew Online
- Required Appointments will Reduce Wait Times
- Extended Hours Offer More Availability

In an effort to improve customer service and eliminate the unpredictability of wait times at Illinois DMVs, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias will begin implementing a Skip-the-Line Program starting Sept. 1.

The Skip-the-Line Program includes:

- **Simplified Online Services** — Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the many services offered online at [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov), including renewing their driver’s license or ID card and license plate sticker online.
- **Appointment Scheduling** — Customers will be required to make appointments for in-person visits at 44 of the busiest DMVs including all Chicago and suburban locations, and some central and downstate DMVs for those seeking REAL ID, driver’s license and ID card services, and in-car driving tests. Those seeking vehicle-related services, such as title and registration or renewing their license plate sticker, do not need to make an appointment and can just walk in. Upon arrival, customers will check in with DMV staff and “Skip the Line,” eliminating lines and unpredictable wait times. Illinoisans may visit [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov) or call (844) 817-4649 to schedule an appointment.
- **New Extended Hours of Operation** — All DMVs statewide will extend hours of operation, with 16 facilities open six days a week – Monday through Saturday.
- All DMVs will change their days and hours of operation from Tuesday-Saturday to Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 16 DMVs will also be open on Saturday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., as noted below.

“Customers will save time by skipping the line,” said Giannoulias. “Our goal is to eliminate the Time Tax that has plagued Illinoisans for years, forcing them to stand in long lines wasting time – just to conduct basic services. Extending hours at all DMVs and requiring appointments at our 44 highest-volume facilities is the most efficient way to get the services you need quickly and without the headache of unpredictable wait times.”

The appointment-only facilities include 24 Chicago and suburban DMVs, and 20 DMVs in central and downstate Illinois that are within 10 miles from a population center of at least 25,000 residents. The list of these facilities is below, along with their days of operation.

Facilities – Chicago	Address	Days of Operation
Chicago North	5401 N. Elston Ave.	Monday-Saturday
Chicago South	9901 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive	Monday-Saturday
Chicago West	5301 W. Lexington St.	Monday-Friday
Diversey Express	4642 W. Diversey Ave.	Monday-Friday
Facilities – Suburbs	Address	Days of Operation
Aurora	339 E. Indian Trail	Monday-Friday
Bridgeview	7358 W. 87th St.	Monday-Friday
Chicago Heights	570 W. 209th St.	Monday-Friday
Deerfield	405 Lake Cook Road	Monday-Saturday
Des Plaines	1470 Lee St.	Monday-Friday
Elgin	595 S. State	Monday-Friday
Joliet	201 S. Joyce Road	Monday-Friday
Lake Zurich	951 S. Rand Road	Monday-Friday
Lockport	1029 – 31 East 9th St.	Monday-Friday
Lombard	837 S. Westmore B27	Monday-Saturday
Melrose Park	1903 N. Mannheim Road	Monday-Friday
Midlothian	14434 S. Pulaski	Monday-Saturday
Naperville	931 W. 75th St., Ste. 161	Monday-Saturday
Orland Township	14807 S. Ravinia Ave.	Monday-Friday (4:30 p.m. Close)
Plano	236 Mitchell Drive	Monday-Friday
Schaumburg	1227 E. Golf Road	Monday-Saturday
St. Charles	3851 E. Main St.	Monday-Friday
Waukegan	617 S. Green Bay Road	Monday-Friday
*West Chicago (CDL only)	721 Kress Road	Monday-Saturday
Woodstock	428 S. Eastwood Drive	Monday-Friday



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# **Giannoulas Launches Enhanced Secretary of State Website**

## **Redesigned Website Simplifies Customer Experience; Offers Faster and Easier Transactions, More Functionality**

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office launched a redesign of its website, making it easier to navigate and adding new functions for services that users can access remotely, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced recently.

"The revamped website is more intuitive and prioritizes our most popular programs and services so customers can find the information they want and need faster and more conveniently," Giannoulas said. "Whether it's renewing your driver's license, searching for information about a business or looking for a job, making these changes and adding new functionality to the website reflect our commitment to residents and understanding their needs."

Along with creating a new and consistent look throughout the website that is easier to view and navigate, other enhancements include:

- Simplifying the homepage to prominently feature key services and most frequently sought information.
- Consolidating the process of renewing a driver's license or ID card online by eliminating unnecessary and confusing steps.
- Developing a job portal allowing people to search and apply for available Secretary of State positions.
- Adding new functionality to Businesses Services that allow users to submit more filings online, including terminating an LLC.
- Creating a new Business Entity search function that details more information about all Illinois corporations, LLCs, and other businesses and allows the entity to perform transactions such as ordering a certificate of good standing or filing an annual report.
- Enhancing the search function to allow for detailed searches and a reformatted page to display more information about lobbyist activities.
- Streamlining the search functions for business entities and lobbyists to allow the user to use the back button on the browser to return to the list of entities generated by the user's initial search entry. The old website feature took the user back to the original blank search page.
- Uploading essential lobbyists' information maintained by the office to the State of Illinois Data Portal.

Giannoulas emphasized that his office will continue implementing new features on the website in conjunction with the efforts to modernize the office's antiquated IT infrastructure.

"This is only the beginning," said Giannoulas. "I hope people explore [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov) to see what services they can conduct online. We will continue modernizing the website and adding capabilities to ensure customers can access the resources they need. We look forward to feedback from the public about their experience with the new functions on the site and incorporating more updates and improvements in the future."

Giannoulas has spearheaded efforts to modernize the office since taking office in January, and this represents another step in the ongoing process.

# **Giannoulas Announces Illinois to Receive Part of \$12.4 Million Settlement from RJFE**

## **Illinois is Among Five Other States that Found Raymond James Financial Entities Charged Unreasonable Commissions on Trades**

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced that Illinois is part of a \$12.4 million settlement with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Illinois is among five other states that discovered Raymond James entities had charged unreasonable commissions on trades that have harmed main-street investors, including Illinoisans.

As part of the settlement, Raymond James will pay at least \$8.2 million in refunds to clients nationwide and \$4.2 million in penalties and costs to state securities regulators.

"This case will help ensure that investors are treated fairly by broker-dealers and financial services firms," Giannoulas said. "These companies must comply with protections currently in place. No matter how large or small an investor's transactions are, the state securities regulators in Illinois will ensure investors are protected."

Giannoulas noted that Illinois customers will receive \$328,000 in restitution. The Secretary of State's Securities Department levied a \$75,000 fine and will receive an additional \$25,000 reimbursement for the cost of the investigation.

An investigation by the state securities regulators from Illinois, Alabama, California, Massachusetts, Montana and Washington concluded that Raymond James charged excessive commissions on over 270,000 low-principal amount equity transactions nationwide. The investigation found that Raymond James' commissions on transactions were more than 5 percent of the principal value and Raymond James took up to 100 percent of proceeds from customer sales. Over five years, this amounted to more than \$8,250,000 of excess commissions.

Raymond James agreed to confirm that its policies and procedures have been recently enhanced to ensure that commissions are fair and reasonable. One year after demonstrating its new policies and procedures, Raymond James will conduct a review to confirm they are being properly implemented. The review will be reported to the states involved in the investigation.

Giannoulas encouraged investors to contact the Illinois Secretary of State Securities Department at (800) 628-7937 for investment questions or concerns. The Illinois Securities Department ensures that any person offering securities or providing financial services complies with the state's laws.

The Securities Department licenses and regulates financial services, including investment advisers, loan brokers and business brokers. Information about the Securities Department is available at [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov).

# Illinois Secretary of State Office in Melrose Park Offers an Abundance of Important Services

The Illinois Secretary of State Office, located at 1903 N. Mannheim Rd. (Melrose Park), is open for business and provides the following services ...

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- **Administrative Hearings Officer**
- **Commercial Drivers License**
  - Duplicate/Corrected
  - Renewal
  - Vision Screening
- **Disability Placards**
  - Temporary First Time Issuance
  - Temporary Replacement
- **Drivers License**
  - Duplicate/Corrected
  - First Time Issuance
  - Instruction Permit Duplicate/Corrected
  - Instruction Permit First Time Issuance
  - Instruction Permit Renewal
  - Motorcycle Road Test
  - Motorcycle Written Test
  - Non-Visa Temporary Visitors (TVDL)
  - Renewal
  - Road Test
  - REAL ID
  - Vision Screening

- **Drivers License**
  - Written Test
- **License Plates**
  - Renewal Stickers
  - Sticker Replacement
- **Non Sufficient Funds**
- **Non-CDL Road Test**
- **Non-CDL Written Test**
- **Organ Donor Registry**
- **Reinstatement Fees**
  - Discretionary Suspension (Traffic related)
  - Failure to Appear Suspension
  - Parking Suspension
  - Tollway/Automated Traffic Suspension

- **State ID**
  - Duplicate/Corrected
  - First Time Issuance
  - Renewal
  - REAL ID
- **Vehicle**
  - Registration Renewal
  - Sticker Replacement
  - Seven-Day Drive Away Permits
- **Voter Registration Applications**

**For more information, visit  
[www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov).**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas  
Secretary of State



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Please send all your exciting details  
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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  
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to reserve meals.**



# \$2 Billion for You

We just set another record: \$2 billion in investment earnings.

As Illinois State Treasurer, I serve as the state's chief investment and banking officer. When money comes into the state, be it \$15 for a state fishing license or \$15 million to settle a legal dispute, it is deposited with our office.

We then invest the money with a focus on the preservation of capital and liquidity. Some of our investments are as short as overnight and others are as long as 10 years.

The record-setting \$2 billion validates our approach to be prudent, to be thoughtful and to always respect the taxpayer. Our approach and our programs create a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state.

Our investments help families pay for college and trade school, workers save for a dignified retirement and local governments process bill payments more efficiently so they can pass along the savings to you.

We provide financial institutions money to loan to farmers, small-business owners and qualified individuals at below-market rates because better jobs create stronger communities.

In addition to \$2 billion we earned for you, we also earned \$1 billion for cities, villages, school districts, counties and other units of local government that take part in The Illinois Funds. This highly rated investment pool is a safe, liquid investment that exceeds industry benchmarks. In fact, Fitch Ratings, a national credit ratings agency, recently reaffirmed The Illinois Funds' top AAA rating.

The Illinois Funds is designed to complement, not replace, local banking relationships.

We also administer the state's largest consumer-protection initiative, the unclaimed property I-Cash Program, which has returned a record-breaking \$1.8 billion since 2015.

What does this mean to you? It means more money for programs to help provide job training, more money for schools, and more money for roads and bridges.

It means every dollar we make through smart, safe investing is a dollar that does not need to be raised in taxes or cut from the budget.

It means the opportunity to create better jobs and stronger communities.

Yes, the Illinois State Treasurer's Office is an economic engine because we are invested in you.

• Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer

**From the Office of Michael W. Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer**



## Building a Better Community Charitable Trust Applications Accepted

Communities are stronger when we help each other.

Small nonprofits that help people with housing or workforce and economic development assistance are encouraged to apply for grant funding through the Charitable Trust Stabilization Program operated by the Office of Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

Grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 30.

"We are helping these organizations fulfill their important role in securing housing, employment and job training for people in need," Frerichs said. "The Charitable Trust Program offers an excellent opportunity for small nonprofits to have an even greater impact on the people they serve."

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund assists small nonprofits with annual budgets of \$1 million or less. The fund's money comes from filing fees that nonprofits pay when incorporating in the state of Illinois – not from personal or property tax dollars.

This is the second grant cycle of 2023 and up to \$200,000 is available. The maximum award amount for an organization is \$20,000. An independent 11-member committee, which oversees the management and guidelines of the fund, will select the grant recipients.

Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply if the term of their grant has been complete for at least one calendar year.

Visit [ilcharitabletrust.com](http://ilcharitabletrust.com) to complete an application online or contact the Treasurer's Office at (217) 836-4590.

Since the grant program was established in 2017, more than \$4.1 million has been awarded to 178 nonprofit organizations throughout the state.

## Bright Start College Savings Invest for College with Confidence

Parents can open a 529 Bright Start college savings plan knowing that should the investment not be needed, there are other uses for the money.

If the child decides not to attend college, that's OK. Another family member can use the money.

If the child earns a scholarship, that's OK. Parents can make a withdrawal in the amount of the scholarship – tax free and without penalty – to use as they wish.

If the child might want to go to college, but not right after graduating high school, that's OK. Keep the money in the account and watch it grow. It will be ready when the child is ready.

That is why opening a Bright Start college savings plan is a wise investment.

Let's say a child is 18 when she graduates high school. If a Bright Start account was opened 18 years ago, with an initial investment of \$2,500 and



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monthly deposits of \$50, it would be worth more than \$23,000 today.

If you could set aside \$100 each month, it would be worth more than \$41,000 today.

If you could invest \$250 each month, it would be worth more than \$93,000 today.

Investments grow tax-free when the proceeds are used to pay for qualified education expenses, such as tuition housing or a laptop computer. In Illinois, the deposits also qualify for a substantial income tax deduction.

If your child decides not to go to college, there are options to consider so you can avoid paying taxes or penalties and keep more of your hard-earned money.

- The Bright Start funds can be used to pay for community college, trade school, vocational school or other post-secondary education at an eligible institution.
- Change the Bright Start beneficiary to a sibling or other qualifying family member.
- Use the money for your own continuing education.
- Save the money for a future grandchild.

You do not need a crystal ball to know that opening a Bright Start college savings account is a wise investment. Research shows that students who know they have a college savings account are three times more likely to attend college. A college savings account sends them the message that they're smart and that someone believes in them.

That is a message that changes lives.

## Don't Fall Prey to Scams

An Illinois woman reports that a man claiming to be from the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators had called her to say that she has money, but then insisted she must pay a lawyer in a different state to receive it.

This is a scam and the woman did not fall for it.

The association never calls and demands money to receive unclaimed property. Neither does the Illinois State Treasurer's Office, which administers the program in Illinois.

The woman said the scammer demanded to be paid \$2,865 using three money orders of \$1,000, \$1,000 and \$865 in order for her to receive her unclaimed property. The woman also said the caller telephoned her several times, was aggressive and threatened to come to her home.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, these tactics of bullying and intimidation are common in scams. Other red flags include seeking immediate payment through gift cards, a wire transfer or mobile payment apps.

Some scammers call with stories, such as a child is hurt or imprisoned and needs money right away, a charity seeking assistance after a specific disaster, or offers to fix your computer.

When in doubt, hang up the telephone.

## Helping People with Disabilities to Build Financial Independence

IL ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts make it possible for people with disabilities and their families to save and invest their money for expenses related to living with a disability. Account withdrawals can be made tax-free to use for a wide range of qualified disability expenses, including, but not limited to, housing, health and wellness, transportation, education and legal fees.

Aubrie, who was featured in an Office of the Illinois State Treasurer video, uses an IL ABLE account to help take care of Ruby, a service dog.

Get inspired by Aubrie and find financial independence without risking federal benefits by opening an IL ABLE account today.

For more information, visit [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Individuals/ABLE](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Individuals/ABLE).

## Building a Better You

For many people, a financial setback can swell into a tsunami. Once treading water, too many people feel the pressure of the moment pushing them down. It does not have to be that way. There are steps you can take to prepare for an unexpected expense and even save money for the future. The State Treasurer's Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell) has practical tools and resources to help you plan a brighter financial future.

Build an emergency fund. Consider opening a separate savings account for this emergency fund. Make a deposit each payday. Make it a routine. Remember, pay yourself first. To learn more, take a 30-minute FinWell course on setting up an emergency fund.

Create a budget. How much is rent? Insurance? Food and clothing? Fast food and other discretionary expenses? Writing a budget helps people see where their money goes. When we see where the money goes, we also can see where we can make changes. The FinWell Hub has you covered with a budget tool that includes a section for all your savings goals, like your emergency fund. If you need some additional guidance before getting started, check out the FinWell goal setting and budgeting webinar.

Tackle high-interest debt. Using that credit card is easy. Paying off the credit card, not so much. Start small. Paying off small balances first can be motivating. And, with an emergency fund in place, we increase the chance that we will not have to finance unexpected bills with a credit card. The FinWell Credit Card Paydown Tool will do the math for you and help you determine the fastest way to pay down your credit card based on your budget.

Reduce long-term debt. Consider refinancing a mortgage or car loan at a lower interest rate.

Learn more about managing debt, visit [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/).

The Treasurer's Office stands ready to assist you on your financial journey.

# Melrose Park Native Bob Nardella Named Head Coach of Chicago Wolves

The Chicago Wolves didn't have to look far when it came to naming the 13th head coach in franchise history. In June, the Wolves announced that Bob Nardella has been named head coach of the American Hockey League team, continuing the legacy of one of the most accomplished figures in team history that began when he was a defenseman during the inaugural season in 1994-1995.



Bob Nardella

Nardella was promoted to assistant coach on July 12, 2017, after serving two seasons as skills development coach and three seasons as a part-time assistant for the franchise.

During his six seasons as a full-time assistant, the 55-year-old Nardella helped lead the Wolves to the 2022 Calder Cup championship, the 2019 Calder Cup finals and four Central Division crowns — 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022.

"Having been a member of the Wolves family for decades, no one embodies the organization's team philosophy more than Bob," Wolves general manager Wendell Young said. "His accomplishments as a player are well-documented, but it's his skills as a coach that make him the perfect man to lead the Wolves during the 2023-2024 season."

Nardella ranks second on the team's all-time regular-season list for games (476), fifth in assists (239) and sixth in points (298) after spending six full and three partial seasons with the Wolves. He was a key player when Chicago captured the 1998 and 2000 Turner Cups, as well as the 2002 Calder Cup.

"It's a thrill," Nardella said of being named head coach. "I never really dreamed to be the head coach of the organization that I played with and coached under, so I'm very lucky. It's worked out great."

We fully expect to win championships here and our first step is to get back in the playoffs so we can try to accomplish that."

The Melrose Park, Ill., native made his Wolves debut during the '94-95 season and later after spending one season in Italy and another in Germany — punctuated by his first of two appearances in the Winter Olympics with Italy's national team — Nardella returned to the Wolves as a player in 1997.

"We're going to try to make all the Chicago Wolves fans proud by working hard, acting the right way and playing the right way," Nardella said. "I'm extremely fortunate to be in the position."

The Wolves, who will play as an independent AHL team without an affiliation to an NHL club during the 2023-2024 season, have announced that their '23-24 home opener is scheduled for Oct. 14 at Allstate Arena.

To keep track of the progression of the Wolves' roster for the 2023-2024 season, visit [ChicagoWolves.com](http://ChicagoWolves.com).



## Chicago Wolves 2023-2024 Regular Season Schedule

### OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

### NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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	11	12	13	14	15	16
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	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30				

### DECEMBER

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	27	28	29	30	31	

### JANUARY

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	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

### FEBRUARY

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### MARCH

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	27	28	29	30	31	

### APRIL

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	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

### OPPONENTS KEY

CLEVELAND MONSTERS - CLE	ROCKFORD ICEHOGS - RFD
GRAND RAPIDS GRIFINS - GR	SAN DIEGO BULLS - SD
IOWA WILD - IA	TEXAS STARS - TEX
MANITOBA MOOSE - MB	TUCSON ROADRUNNERS - TUC
MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS - MIL	

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## White Sox Superstar Luis Robert Jr. Visits Playas Nayaritas

White Sox superstar, all-star and one of this year's Home Run Derby participants, Luis Robert Jr., made a dinner stop in Melrose Park this past July.

Robert visited the Playas Nayaritas restaurant located on 15th Avenue and Division.

Pictured (left to right) are Playas Nayaritas chef/manager Fernando, Luis Robert Jr., a White Sox fan, and Adriana and Sergio Aguirre of Northlake Realtors.



## MP Boy Scout Troop 4112 Tidbits ...

Melrose Park Boy Scout Troop 4112 went to the Owassippe Scout Reservation in Michigan for a week of summer camp. The boys went swimming and hiking, and participated in activities to earn Merit Badges needed to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

In April, the Scouts held their annual Scouting for Food Drive. They collected approximately 400 items which were donated to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Food Pantry.

Any boys between the ages of 10 1/2-18 who are interested in joining the Boy Scouts can call Scoutmaster Fred Crancich at (708) 609-5539 for details.

## Everyone Has the Right to Live Where They Choose

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

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers The Federal Fair Housing Act.

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

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## A Message from Tim Bouman, Head of School

Hello, Bronco Family!

Welcome to the 23-24 school year, Walther's 70th! We are so excited to begin another year of preparing learners to fulfill their unique God-given potential through academic excellence, spiritual growth and service, leadership and enrichment opportunities. Our theme verse this year comes from Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." In a spiritual sense, we are all asked, as Christians, to continually follow Christ: in loving one another, in serving our neighbor, in following his commands. Although the life of a believer is not always easy, we are reminded that we do reap rewards. At Walther, our teachers, staff and students work so hard all year long to achieve godly excellence, and at times, the work can be tiring. This verse reminds us to push on and achieve all of our goals!

This year will be an exciting one. We anticipate our largest freshman class in a very long time, at over 80 students – and counting! We have spent the summer preparing to welcome our students back to a beautiful school.

Thanks for your support and please come visit for Homecoming Weekend! God bless you, and Go Broncos!

• Tim Bouman, Head of School

## A Message from Sally Ruecking, Director of Advancement

Dear Walther Friends,

Our students have returned to Walther Christian Academy! This year, we are welcoming nearly 300 students. And, we are ready for them! A very special thank you to our facilities director Jayson Devries and his team for making our school shine!

Our "We Are Walther" newsletter highlights stories about our students and alumni whose lives have changed for the better, thanks to Walther Christian Academy. If you have a transformational and inspirational story you'd like to share, please let me know. I'm happy to tell your story!

Many of our students have used their summer break as a time to grow their passions. One such student is Maya Cooper, the recipient of the generous Zimmer Family Scholarship Fund. Maya attended the month-long Lutheran Summer Music Program at Valparaiso University, now in its 42nd year. The program focuses on music, faith and community, in addition to advanced musical instruction and numerous performance opportunities. It is considered the premier faith-based music academy for high school students.

You can read more about Maya on this page.

Please mark your calendar for our Homecoming Weekend that starts on Friday evening Oct. 13. There will be a dinner and concert (that former choir and band students can be a part of!) and a chance to reconnect with your classmates and others who attended Walther. If you are interested in having a private classroom for a class reunion event that evening, please email me at Sally\_Ruecking@WaltherAcademy.org soon. On Saturday, Oct. 14, you can attend a chapel service led by Tim Bouman, join an alumni softball game and enjoy the traditional homecoming football game.

If you haven't already donated to the Alumni Campaign, please consider a gift today. You can easily donate right on our website, [www.walther.com](http://www.walther.com). Thank you for your continued support!

• Sally Ruecking, Director of Advancement

## Meet Maya Cooper

I was thrilled to attend Lutheran Summer Music Academy at Valparaiso University this summer and I already plan to attend again next summer. Valparaiso University and Concordia University Chicago are the two colleges I am considering after graduating from Walther.

I'm currently in the Ministry Choir at Walther, as well as in my church choir. My desire to be used by God is my calling, and he blesses me with a voice to sing with. At Walther, our Ministry Choir toured New York, Ohio and Indiana, and sang at different churches. We praised and sang to the Glory of God! It brings me joy to share gospel music with others.

I want to use my gift to minister and inspire children, teenagers, young adults and the elderly to walk with the lord and do his will. Someday I'd like to be a mentor and a role model to children.

At Walther, I've participated in volleyball since my freshman year which has helped me to practice team-building skills and work together with my peers, all while enjoying the sport.

Also since my freshman year, I have participated in the Gospel Choir which has really taken my singing abilities to another level and I am grateful to God to be able to sing to his glory.

Choir has also been a part of my life in both my freshman and sophomore years. Boosting my courage to pray in front of fellow believers, preparing and equipping me for my ministry to come and more, and being a part of the Drama Club which has encouraged me to sing, dance, act and worship all on the same stage has been a wonderful experience at Walther Christian Academy.

I'm looking forward to this upcoming school year.



Maya Cooper

### UPCOMING EVENTS ... SAVE THE DATES!

- Alumni Reunions and Homecoming Events – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13 and 14, 2023
- Bronco Benefit – Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 • Career Day – March 22, 2024



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# Nicor Gas Announces \$100,000 in Funding for Educational Programming

Expanding on its commitment to enhance opportunities and social mobility for the communities it serves, Nicor Gas is announcing \$100,000 in funding to support secondary and post-secondary educational programs, as well as technical and vocational programs.

As of July 1, community nonprofit organizations may apply for these grants from Nicor Gas to support their educational programming that align with the company's workforce development initiatives. Applications are available at [www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](http://www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving) through Sept. 30 with funding decisions by Nov. 30. Each community nonprofit organization selected will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.



The company is committed to supporting initiatives that provide a path to social mobility and enhanced opportunities through education and career readiness programming, including institutions that offer areas of study important to the energy industry.

"At Nicor Gas, we are committed to investing in education and workforce development opportunities that develop the next generation of energy professionals," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Affairs. "We are also committed to investing in organizations that offer areas of study important to our business, including STEM programs as well as programs that foster diversity, equity and inclusion."

Last year, the company provided grant support to:

- **Heartland Community College** – Nicor Gas provided a grant that supports curriculum that integrates robotic quadrupeds into classroom learning.
- **Boys and Girls Club of Livingston County** – Nicor Gas provided a grant that supports comprehensive science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) programs and learning opportunities among traditionally underserved groups.
- **Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs** – Nicor Gas provided a grant to support summer manufacturing camps that provide youth in Cook and McHenry counties with hands-on experiences to strengthen their technical, analytical and communication skills.

To submit an application for the education and career readiness grants, visit [www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](http://www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving).

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## Walgreens Announces Vaccine and Testing Appointments in Preparation for Fall Respiratory Virus Season

### Schedule an Appointment at [Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine](http://Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine) or Via the Walgreens App

Walgreens is offering flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination appointments nationwide. Individuals ages 3 years and older can receive a flu shot, and eligible individuals ages 60 years and older can receive an RSV vaccine.\* Patients can visit the pharmacy or schedule an appointment through the Walgreens app, by visiting [Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine](http://Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine) or by calling 1-800-WALGREENS.

Walgreens makes it easy to help get ahead of respiratory virus season with convenient and timely options for vaccination, testing and treatment all in one place.



**Vaccinations** – We offer flexible vaccination appointment openings, including nights, weekends and walk-ins.

**Testing** – For individuals experiencing sniffles, cough or other respiratory symptoms, Walgreens neighborhood community pharmacists are equipped to offer testing options to help determine which virus is causing symptoms.

**Treatments** – Walgreens pharmacists can help patients manage symptoms and potentially receive treatment. Walgreens also offers 24-hour same day delivery for medicine cabinet essentials.

**Incentives** – Immediately following a vaccination, a \$5 Walgreens Cash Reward is earned and a \$10 Walgreens Cash Reward can be earned this September.

"We know our trusted pharmacy teams will be relied upon this fall to prevent the spread of seasonal viruses, as patients see their pharmacist almost twice as often as they see their physician or other health care provider," said Rick Gates, Walgreens chief pharmacy officer. "All of us need to do our part to stay healthy and neighborhood pharmacies are the most accessible destinations for the quick, routine and preventative care that patients have come to expect post-pandemic."

When community spread of flu, COVID-19 and RSV picks up this fall, Walgreens has additional services planned.

**Vaccinations** – Walgreens continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines and will provide the new CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine once available, which will better protect against the most prevalent COVID-19 strain. Walgreens pharmacists can provide additional guidance on which vaccines are right for each individual and optimal timing, including scheduling multiple respiratory and routine immunizations during the same visit.

**Testing** – Walgreens will have several convenient options for testing, including a low-cost, rapid antigen test that can detect COVID-19 and Flu A/B in one visit.

**Treatment** – Simplifying a path to recovery for patients, Walgreens pharmacists will be able to prescribe COVID-19 treatments nationwide and flu treatments in select locations.

Later this year, the Walgreens Flu Index® will also launch for the 2023-2024 season. Respiratory illness activity will also be tracked via the Walgreens COVID-19 Index, one of the last remaining surveillance trackers in the U.S., to help communities monitor flu activity and COVID-19 positivity data.

# ComEd Launches New Programs to Continue Support for Customers in Need

To help individuals and families in need of financial support, ComEd recently announced two new programs that will provide financial assistance for residential electric bills and help customers with their credit scores while educating them about financial literacy.

The announcement was made at ComEd's Community Resource Fair, held in collaboration with the Arthur Lockhart Resource Institute's (ALRI) 35th annual Say No to Drugs & Violence Parade and Resource Fair in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. The event blended entertainment with access to community resources. Joining the event were U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis, Illinois State Rep. LaShawn Ford and Chicago Alderman Emma Mitts.

"To help address the needs of the communities we're privileged to serve, ComEd is continuously working to find new and innovative ways to help customers who may be struggling to make ends meet," said Gil C. Quiniones, ComEd CEO. "At ComEd, we strive to provide support that goes beyond simply helping families pay their bills. By connecting customers with community organizations that provide relevant services, ComEd is helping customers directly access available assistance within their communities."



The July 29 Community Resource Fair, which began under the stewardship of the late West Side clergyman and progressive community advocate, Rev. Dr. Arthur Lockhart, provides an in-person forum where a diverse group of assistance providers work directly with customers to connect them with needed assistance and education, including, but not limited to, bill-assistance options, health screenings, child support services, housing support and job training programs.

"For more than 35 years, the ALRI has dedicated its services and programs to the advancement and improvement of the residents on the West Side of Chicago," said Dr. Elizabeth Lockhart, executive director at ALRI. "ALRI focuses on providing health, education, and economic growth to children, seniors, veterans and low-income families."

## ComEd's New Assistance Programs

- **Bill Payment Assistance** is ComEd's newest program to help income-eligible customers pay their ComEd bills. Eligible ComEd customers with household incomes of 80 percent or less of the average median income may receive one-time bill credits of \$150 to \$500, based on the customers' account status and while funds are available.

- **Credit Empowerment** provides one-on-one support to help individuals improve their credit scores. In collaboration with Working Credit, the program provides an overview of how the credit system works, helps participants create a personalized credit action plan to help them improve their specific credit situation, and provides information on ComEd energy-efficiency offerings to the customer that will help the customer manage their energy use and energy bills.

"Today, credit is increasingly foundational to creating a strong path to financial security. Credit is not just relevant for big-ticket items like purchasing a house or a car. Credit impacts rental housing options, the cost of monthly expenses, the ability to finance a new cellphone and the ability to weather an economic shock," said Morgan Spears, chief community engagement officer at Working Credit. "Working Credit is thrilled to provide equitable and accurate credit education and one-on-one credit-building counseling to ComEd's customers through its Credit Empowerment Program. Building credit builds so much for people and their families and serves as a key stepping stone towards financial freedom."

ComEd's two new offerings add to a growing range of programs to which ComEd can connect income-eligible families and individuals to help them manage energy bills and access clean-energy options. They include payment assistance options, energy-efficiency offerings, and more.

ComEd customers who are unable to attend its community events can learn more about these programs through the energy company's Smart Assistance Manager (SAM) or ComEd.com/SAM. SAM is a free, online self-service tool that helps families and individuals more easily access financial-assistance and energy-saving options that are available to them, based on their income and household size. Customers without internet access can call ComEd at (800) 334-7661 (800-EDISON1), Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

## ComEd Community Energy Assistance Ambassador Program Earns National Recognition

ComEd's work to connect customers in need with bill assistance while also providing temporary, part-time employment to residents from low-income neighborhoods, was recently recognized by utility-industry association Chartwell Inc., one of three awards presented to ComEd and its parent company, Exelon.

ComEd won Chartwell's 2023 Best Practices Bronze Award in the category of Serving Vulnerable Customers for its Community Energy Assistance Ambassador (CEAA) Program. The CEAA Program, originally launched in 2020 in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, was designed with community-based organization Chatham Business Association (CBA) to increase both education and access to financial assistance options that can help income-eligible customers pay their electric bills, while creating local employment opportunities for this same vulnerable population.

"At ComEd, ensuring all our customers can access safe and reliable electricity is just as important as delivering it," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's chief customer officer and senior vice president of Customer Operations. "It's important to us that families and businesses know they can turn to us for help from the moment they start electric service and through any changes and hardships they may encounter. It's a tremendous honor to be recognized by the utility industry for these efforts."

Since its inception, the CEAA Program has provided employment to approximately 300 residents from Chicago's underserved south and west sides. During the 2022-2023 winter season alone, CEAA's reached out to approximately 1,800 families; 27 percent of whom received a total of more than \$59,000 in assistance. This effort contributed to ComEd helping connect more than 87,000 eligible customers to more than \$26 million in bill assistance during the first quarter of 2023. For ComEd, this is the largest amount of assistance provided – and second-largest number of customers supported – for any first quarter dating back to at least 2019.

The annual Chartwell Best Practices Awards recognize excellence among electric and gas utilities with respect to customer-oriented projects, programs and service initiatives. Each year, judges, made up of members of Chartwell's research team, select the best projects for recognition. More than 90 entries were



submitted across all six categories for this year's selection process.

"Chartwell's Best Practices Awards are truly the mark of excellence in utility service and marketing, and that's because awards are judged by industry experts," said Russ Henderson, director of Research, Chartwell Inc. "It feels like Best Practices Awards submissions get better and better every year, and I think that's because utilities continue to raise their game in serving their customers. Customer expectations have risen in recent years and utilities like ComEd keep raising the bar to meet those expectations."

In developing the CEAA Program, ComEd analyzed 40 communities with the lowest median incomes within the areas it serves. Research showed that many low-income customers, despite qualifying for bill assistance, did not apply for resources that were available to them. To increase education about available resources, ComEd and CBA hired individuals who live and work within these same communities to foster relationships and educate customers about energy assistance programs available.

"I am grateful for ComEd's trust in CBA to manage the CEAA program," said Melinda Kelly, CBA chairman and president. "ComEd looks to CBA to collaborate with reputable community organizations and stakeholders so that, together, we can provide the type of education and outreach that helps anyone access the assistance they need."

#### **Other Chartwell Best Practices Awards**

Chartwell also presented ComEd the Gold Customer Service Award for its development of an Email Welcome Series for new and relocating ComEd customers. These customers receive a series of four emails, which begin shortly after their electric service is activated, that provide guidance on the full range of programs and offerings available by ComEd and address questions most frequently asked of customers establishing or moving their electric service. The goal is to proactively address customer needs, boost awareness and participation in programs that help the customer, and lay the foundation for a superior customer service experience.

Exelon earned the Silver Digital Experience Award for the development of its "I Sign Up & Move" (ISUM) Program that further simplifies the process for customers establishing a service account or transferring service with each of Exelon's utilities, including ComEd. The program provides customers with more personalization, autonomy and simplicity in creating and managing their utility accounts. It also streamlines the account-registration process and provides customers with real-time review and edit capabilities for stopping, starting and moving their electric service. Since its launch, Exelon has increased customer-satisfaction rates and seen a reduction in operational costs.

Visit the Chartwell website for the full list of 2023 Best Practice Award winners.

# **ComEd's New and Enhanced Online Solar Calculators Help Customers Navigate Clean Energy Options**

ComEd announced it has introduced new enhancements to its private rooftop and community solar calculators to make it easier for customers to learn more about costs, benefits and savings as demand for these options continues to grow and contribute to the goals of Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), one of the nation's most ambitious plans for renewable energy development.

"The updates to the new solar calculators make it easy for customers to determine their best options for accessing the benefits of solar energy, including the positive environmental impact they can make by reducing their carbon footprint through solar energy," said Louie Binswanger, ComEd's senior vice president of Government and External Affairs. "We are available to support customers in every step of their solar journey."

The number of ComEd residential and business customers who have installed solar systems has grown from 837 at the end of 2016 to 41,270 customers through May of this year. Additionally, there are more than 82 community solar projects in ComEd's northern Illinois service territory and the company estimates there will be more than 100 projects serving more than 25,000 customers by the end of this year. Community solar is a popular option for customers whose roofs are not suited for rooftop solar, do not own their roofs or want to combine rooftop solar with community solar.

Not every home is well suited for rooftop solar, which is why ComEd offers a tool to help customers get the facts to decide if rooftop solar is right for them. The interactive rooftop solar calculator evaluates a roof's solar energy potential, including factors such as roof direction, slope and shading. To ensure that rooftop solar estimates will reflect a customers' energy requirements, the calculator allows customers to include future electric usage that would result from electric vehicle charging or the replacement of gas appliances with electric alternatives. Customers receive a personalized report that combines current and estimated future energy usage and includes the number of solar panels required to meet their energy needs, project costs, rebates, incentives and payback period.

The calculator also provides information on a rebate program that is newly available to residential customers through CEJA. It offers a rebate of \$300 per kilowatt for an eligible distributed generation facility, such as a private solar system, and a rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour for an associated energy storage device. Customers are able to compare their potential payback with and without incorporating the rebate, enabling them to see how it would impact their estimated payback period.

ComEd also has launched a new community solar calculator, which provides estimated savings based on current energy usage. Community solar allows all ComEd customers to subscribe to a solar energy "farm" of solar panels owned by an independent developer and earn credits on their monthly ComEd bills for their portion of the energy produced by the project.

The rooftop and community solar calculators provide information on customer assistance programs, including Illinois Solar for All, which helps customers who may qualify for more affordable solar installation or community solar subscriptions through state incentives. CEJA, which was enacted in 2021, increases funding for Illinois Solar for All from \$30 million to \$70 million annually.

The multi-year grid and rate plans ComEd filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) earlier this year outline the proposed investments required to support this rapid expansion of renewable energy and help ensure equitable access to the benefits of clean energy under CEJA. The plans align with ComEd 2030, the company's recently announced vision for a carbon-free energy future that will benefit all communities and meet customers' changing needs for the rest of this decade and beyond.

To learn more about ComEd's new and improved solar calculators, visit <https://secure.comed.com/MyGeneration/>.



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

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

## **Pedal the Preserves: Salt Creek Greenway – Saturday, Aug. 26 • 10 a.m.-Noon** **26 Street Woods-West (26th Street, East of 25th Avenue, Near La Grange Park)**

Join us for a family-friendly biking event! Safety demonstration, techniques, tips and guided ride.

Helmets/loaner bikes available. In partnership with Ride Illinois.

Registration required – Call (312)533-5751.

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

## **Colors of the Forest – Natural Dyes – Saturday, Aug. 26 • 10:30 a.m.** **Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)**

Hands-on class teaching the traditional uses of plants and trees as dyes. In partnership with Trickster Gallery as part of a botanical photography exhibit at Trailside. Ages 18 and up.

Registration required – Call Trailside at (708) 366-6530.

Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

## **Busse Night Ride – Saturday, Aug. 26 • 6-11 p.m.**

**Busse Lake Boating Center (Higgins Road, East of I-290/Hwy 53, Near Elk Grove Village)**

Don't miss this unique opportunity to ride the Busse Woods trail at sunset, twilight or in the dark! Ticket includes live music, bonfires, refreshments and more.

Registration required – Register at <https://www.egvbikes.org/busse-woods-night-ride.html>.

Contact – (773) 758-8899/Experience.Nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free-\$35

## **Fitness Hike – Sunday, Aug. 27 • 9 a.m.**

**Brezina Woods (La Grange Road, South of Cermak Road, Near La Grange Park)**

Fitness Hikes are over 3.1 miles, offer less information and are at a faster pace. Five miles.

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

Cost – Free.

## **Sit and Sip: Hummingbirds – Sunday, Aug. 27 • 9-10 a.m.**

**Sand Ridge Nature Center (15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland)**

We will be inside while observing hummingbirds at our feeders outside. Ages 13 and up.

Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free

## **Yoga In the Woods – Sunday, Aug. 27 • 10-11 a.m.**

**Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs)**

Enjoy an all-levels yoga class with certified instructor, Maura. Then enjoy a self-guided walk. Ages 18 and up.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

## **Wellness Walks in Thatcher Woods – Sunday, Aug. 27 • 1 p.m.**

**Thatcher Woods (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)**

Join Roberta Jannsen, Univ. of IL Extension volunteer, for a mindful and calming forest walk. Ages 18 and up.

Registration required – Call Trailside at (708) 366-6530.

Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

## **The Buzz on Bees – Sunday, Aug. 27 • 1:30 p.m.**

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

Visit our beehives and meet the beekeepers to learn about bees, pollination and honey.

Registration required – Call River Trail at (847) 824-8360.

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

## **OWLS: Older Wiser Learners – Hummingbird Sit – Tuesday, Aug. 29 • 10 a.m.**

**Sagawau Environmental Learning Center (12545 W. 111th St., Lemont)**

Start your day with refreshments and fellow OWLS. A casual conversation followed by a nature-themed program.

Contact – (630) 257-2045. Cost – Free.



### **Bird Walk – Wednesday, Aug. 30 • 8 a.m.**

#### **Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center (Western Avenue and 87th Street, Chicago)**

Join a naturalist as we explore while looking for migrating and resident birds. Limited supply of binoculars available for lending.

Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

### **Open Nature Play Day – Wednesday, Aug. 30 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

#### **Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center (Western Avenue and 87th Street, Chicago)**

Bring your little ones for open nature play time and help them connect with nature. Enjoy stories, art and exploration each time.

Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

### **History of the Lagoons Paddle – Wednesday, Aug. 30 • 4-6 p.m.**

#### **Tower Road Boat Launch (Tower Road, West of Forestway Drive, near Winnetka)**

Explore the uniqueness of the Skokie Lagoons by water. Equipment provided. Group reservations required.

Contact – (773) 758-8899/Experience.Nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

### **Twilight Canoe at Crabtree – Wednesday, Aug. 30 • 6 p.m.**

#### **Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)**

Explore natural wonders surrounding a local lake in a canoe at twilight. Ages 12 and up.

Registration required – Call Crabtree at (847) 381-6592.

Contact – (847) 381-6592/Crabtree.NatureCenter@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

### **Moon Walk – Wednesday, Aug. 30 • 8:45 p.m.**

#### **Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs)**

Let the full moon be our guide as we hike in the largest urban night sky place in the world.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

### **Camping 101 – Thursday, Aug. 31 • 6-7:30 p.m.**

#### **Camp Bullfrog Lake (9600 Wolf Rd., Willow Springs)**

Free workshop covering basic camping skills. All ages.

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

Cost – Free.

### **Introduction to Capoeira Angola – Sunday, Sept. 3 • 1:30-3 p.m.**

#### **Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs)**

Participants will learn the rich history of Capoeira in Brazil, be introduced to basic movements (dance, acrobatics, self-defense) and learn how to play several percussive instruments, and sing songs in Portuguese.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

### **Self-Love Series: Summer's End, Peaceful Autumn – Saturday, Sept. 9 • 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

#### **Sauk Trail Woods-Central (Forest Preserve Drive, South of 26th Street, South Chicago Heights)**

Peace healing circle.

Contact – (312) 415-2970

Cost – Free.

### **Migrating Monarchs Celebration – Saturday, Sept. 9 • Noon-3 p.m.**

#### **Thatcher Woods (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)**

Learn about and view live monarch butterflies as we raise, tag and release them so they can journey to Mexico.

Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

### **Wildlife Connections – Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26, and Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 • 10:30 a.m.-Noon**

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

Stop by the visitor center to learn about animals from the residents of Misericordia – Heart of Mercy.

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

**Take some time  
to explore  
our website at  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com) for  
additional events and  
valuable information  
linked to the  
Cook County  
Forest Preserves  
experience!**



# 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!

## Check Out These Zoo Events ... Coming Soon!

### First Responders Day – Sunday, Aug. 27

#### Brookfield Zoo

Join Brookfield Zoo in celebrating and showing appreciation for firefighters, EMS workers, police officers and other first responders on Sunday, Aug. 27, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Those entering the zoo's south gate will pass under an American flag displayed between ladder trucks from Brookfield and Riverside's fire departments.

At the zoo's Roosevelt Fountain guests can meet with representatives from approximately 30 agencies from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, who will be on hand to showcase the vehicles and equipment they use to keep their communities safe.

Zoo goers can take photos with first responders as well as meet K-9 and therapy dogs from Cook County and Brookfield Zoo's own K9 police dogs. Youngsters will receive special giveaways (while supplies last) to remember their day.



### ZooRun – Sunday, Sept. 10

#### Throughout the Park

Join us on Sept. 10 for the Brookfield Zoo Run – with courses entirely within the world-renowned Brookfield Zoo! Each year more species lose their race for survival and disappear from the wild. But it is a race we can win and you can help! The Chicago Zoological Society Animal Care and Conservation Fund is dedicated to making a difference for these species across the globe and with each race entry, we will raise both awareness and funds for this great cause.

• **5K Chip-Timed Race/Walk** – \$40 + signup fees. • **1-Mile Kids Dash** – \$30 + signup fees.

All proceeds benefit the Chicago Zoological Society Animal Care and Conservation Fund. Don't forget you can bring your family and friends for free to help cheer you on and enjoy the zoo.

#### Race Day Schedule

6:30 a.m. – Registrants enter and check in at the North Gate Entrance. • 8:30 a.m. – Chip-timed 5K race begins. • 9:30 a.m. – 1-mile kids race begins. 10 a.m. – Awards are announced in the Discovery Center parking lot. • After the Race – Registrants and families can enjoy the zoo.

#### Awards

Awards will be given out at 10 a.m. on the stage in the Discovery Center Parking Lot in the following categories: Top 3 Male, Top 3 Female and Top 3 Kids.

#### FAQs

Can I walk the race? – Yes, you can walk the race. You will line up by mile time when you start the race.

Are strollers allowed? – Strollers are allowed during the 5K race. Runners/walkers with strollers will line up in a designated corral. Strollers are not permitted on the 1-mile Kid's Dash course.

Are wheelchairs allowed? Yes, wheelchairs are permitted on the course.

Are all runners chip-timed? – Yes, all racers (including runners and walkers) are chip-timed. Official race results will be available via the QR code printed on your bib.

Is parking and admission included? – Yes, all racers and their families and friends will receive free parking and admission by entering through the North Gate Entrance prior to the race.





My child is running the 1-mile race. Can I run with them? – Yes, if you feel your child may need assistance during the 1-mile run, you can run with them without registering. If you do not want to run with your child, please note course marshals will be present along the course to make sure children stay on the designated paths. We also recommend writing the phone number of a parent/adult on the child's bib, in case of emergency.

What happens if it rains? – Zoo Run is a rain or shine race. In case of inclement weather, we encourage all participants to be prepared with proper clothing and footwear.

## Oktoberfest – Saturday, Sept. 23

### East Mall • Sponsored by Leinenkugel's

Celebrate Oktoberfest on the East Mall on Saturday, Sept. 23!

- Zoogoers can toss on their lederhosen and enjoy live polka music, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
  - Oktoberfest beer, along with a seasonal menu with bratwurst, sausages, pretzels with cheese and more will be available for purchase.
  - Spot the Leinie's mobile pedi-cab roaming the zoo!
- Prost!



## Fall Recycling Day – Saturday, Sept. 30

### Brookfield Zoo North Parking Lot

If you've been storing items in your basement and garage, waiting for the perfect time and most Earth-friendly way to dispose of them, you can recycle them at Brookfield Zoo! On Saturday, Sept. 30, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., the zoo will be collecting electronics, textiles, and used books (please review the list of acceptable and unacceptable items below).

Location – To access the recycling event please enter through the gated entrance directly off of 31st Street (around the corner from the main north lot entrance). Do not enter through the main North Gate Parking Lot to enter the recycling event.

The process is easy. Drive into the designated recycling area and representatives from the zoo and its partnering organizations will collect your items for recycling. Please note – the zoo can become busy during warm days. Coming before zoo hours or planning to arrive early to the zoo to recycle items is highly recommended.

There is no charge to drop off recycling; however, tickets or membership is required if you plan to visit the zoo.

#### What You Can Donate

**Electronics (eWorks)/Batteries must be removed from items.** • **Acceptable Items** – Computers; Laptops; Servers Holiday String Lights; Wire, Cable, Adapters; Power Supplies; Cell Phones; Modems; Tablets; Phones; Docking Station; Cable Boxes; Video Game Consoles; Microwaves; Small Metal Appliance (Toaster, Crock Pot, etc.); Metal Fans; iPods/MP3 Players; iPads/Tablets; Handheld Gaming Systems; Chargers; Converter Boxes; Satellite Receivers; Printers; Scanners; VCR, DVD Player; Keyboards, Mice; Radios; Plastic Appliances; Plastic Fans; and Flat Screen Monitors. • **Unacceptable Items** – All TVs; Wooden Speakers; Smoke Detectors; Lightbulbs; Refrigerators; Dehumidifiers; AC Units; Vacuum Cleaners; Power Tools; Bags and Plastic Containers; and Batteries.

**Textiles (UsAgain)** • **Acceptable Items** – Blouses; Pants; Swimsuits; Sweaters; Socks; Coats; Shirts; Undergarments; Dresses; Tuxedos; Children's Clothing; Paired Shoes and Boots; Ties; Hats; Gloves; Scarves; Purses; Totebags; Backpacks; Belts; Plush Toys/Stuffed Animals; Bedding (Sheets, Comforters, Pillowcases); Quilts; Curtains; Towels; and Drapes. • **Unacceptable Items** – Pillows; Rugs; Sleeping Bags; Carpet; Foam Mats; Mattresses; Cushions; Vinyl Shower Curtains; Ice/Roller Skates; Single Shoes; Extremely Damaged or Broken Shoes; Plastic and Wooden Toys; Dolls; Luggage; Wet or Smelly Items; Kitchen Supplies; Furniture/Foam Furniture; Office Supplies; Tools; Household Items/Appliances; Paper; Games; Strollers; Metal/Glass/Plastic Items; Dishes; Lamps; Blinds; Wrapping Paper; Puzzles; Car Seats; and Fabric Scraps.

**Books (Discover Books)** • **Acceptable Items** – Fiction; Nonfiction; Craft Books; Cookbooks; Children's Books; Textbooks; and Graphic Novels.

• **Unacceptable items** – Instructions copy, examination copy, annotated instructor editions, or any book that has any of the following text – review copy, sample copy, exam copy or not for resale; Water damaged (or any liquid staining); Missing pages; Torn spines; Writing that obscures the text: highlighting, underlining, or notes in the margins; Workbooks that have any writing; Books with a foul or strong odor; and Books missing their accessories.

Additional questions? Contact us at [marketingteam@czs.org](mailto:marketingteam@czs.org).

## Boo! at the Zoo – Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 7-22

### Various Locations

Gather your ghoulfriends, little ghosts, and goblins for this fun-filled family event. Check out the creatures, creepy crawlers, and more in your costumes at the Halloween-themed event that's perfect for family photos. All ages are in for a fang-tastic time and the kids will leave with a sweet treat. More information coming soon!



**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.**

# PROVISO TOWNSHIP HANDYMAN PROGRAM

## Proviso Township Handyman News

Are you having problems with your door or gate locks?  
We can replace those for you!

It's time to replace your furnace filter  
in preparation for the fall months.

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves  
homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled home-  
owners who are residents of Proviso Township.

**Call us at (708) 547-4001 to schedule an  
appointment and register for our 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

**Bianchi**

William Bianchi Sr. Dearly beloved husband of Patricia (nee Karlow); loving father of William Bianchi Jr.; beloved son of the late Richard and Phyllis Bianchi; dear brother-in-law of JoAnn Kuelbs and Bernard (Michelle) Karlow; dear brother of the late Barbara Pynakker and the late Richard Bianchi; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Bilenko**

Virginia "Ginny" Bilenko. Loving mother of Gina (Ronnie) De Angelis, William (Kelley) Del Percio, Lisa (Vince) Del Vescovo; cherished grandmother of Samantha (Jake) Michelson, Cassie De Angelis, Gianna Del Percio, Juline Del Percio, Jenna Del Vescovo and Vinnie Del Vescovo; great-grandmother of Emma and Harley Zuniga; fond sister of Syl (Ed) Lindroth and the late John Bilenko; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Blackwell**

Milton Leon Blackwell was born Jan. 17, 1933, in Corinth, Miss., to Robert E. Blackwell and Jessie Lee Mays, and was raised by his stepfather, John D. Crawford. They all proceeded him in death. Milton had two sisters – Louise and Jo Mary, and four brothers – Robert Lee, JD and George Crawford, who all proceeded in death, and Hubert Crawford of Corinth, Miss. Milton met Ernestine Davis and two children were born from this union, Leon Crawford and Ray Charles Crawford. Milton worked as a machinist from 1968 until he retired from Columbia Pape in 1995. He lived a long full life. He leaves to cherish his memory – two sons, Leon Crawford (Chicago, Ill.) and Ray Charles Crawford (Rosetta) (Maywood, Ill.); two grandchildren – Helen Hutchinson and Lashawn Crawford; one great-grandchild – Serah Curry; one brother – Huburt Crawford (Corinth Miss.); his loving longtime companion – Juel Jones; her daughter – Judy; grandchildren – Juel Jones and TJ Jones; godchildren – Victoria, Jesse and Angela; and a host of family and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Campana**

Susan Carol (Marino) Campana was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She left this world suddenly on June 28, 2023, at the age of 82. She was born to Joseph and Constance Marino on Jan. 13, 1941. After graduating from high school, Sue received an AA degree in art. She then met her husband, Rich Campana, and was wed in 1963. Together, they had two children, Richie (Jan) and Chris (Kelly). They also had two grandchildren, Ricky and TJ. Sue loved spending time in the kitchen and entertaining while creating delicious meals for family and friends. Both her and her husband were frequent cruisers, and traveled the world and spent many weeks every winter in Hawaii. Her passion was crocheting and donating baby blankets to local shelters or anyone that had a newborn. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Coglianesese**

Daniel V. Coglianese. Dearly beloved husband of Nancy Gerat Coglianese; loving father to Angelo (Michelle), Lisa, Guy and Danny; beloved grandfather of Ava Catherine, Mary Frances, Donato and Paige; dear brother of the late Dolores; fond uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

**Colantonio**

Mario Colantonio. Proud paratrooper of the United States Army. Loving father of Josie; beloved son of John and the late Yvonne; dear brother of Patsy, JC (Tina), Jimmy (Jenee) and Yvonne; cherished companion of Angelica; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

**DePietro**

Rosalie C. DePietro. Dearly beloved wife of the late Robert "Yearbo" DePietro; loving mother of Joseph and the late Robert (Venus); fond grandmother of Tina, Anthony, Theresa and the late Robert; cherished godmother of Patti; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Dohra**

Kim "Kimmy" Frank Dohra. Loving father of Michelle Louise Cleary and Tiffany Marie Taylor; fond grandfather of Jazzminn, Isaiah, Liliana, Noah and the late Daisy; dear brother of Jill Vranic; fond unkie of the late Natalia Marina; fond friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Member of the Elks Club.

**Healy**

Michael J Healy. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

**Ostah**

Karen Ann Ostah, 69, of Melrose Park, Ill., passed away in her home of natural causes on July 10, 2023. She will be sorely missed and is greatly loved. She left behind her husband of 43 years – Mohsen Ostah; and her grandchildren – Christopher Osta, Angel Vargas, Isabella Concepcion and Sophiah Osta. She took her last breath and is now home with her late son Adam Ostah. Always in our hearts and never forgotten. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Pones**

Anthony Frank Pones Jr. Retired lieutenant from the Melrose Park Fire Department. Loving husband of 58 years of Judith L. Pones (nee Gorr); father of Anthony III “Tonyboy” (Sandy), Andrea “Chickie” (Steve) Saviozzi, Judith “Tootser” and John “Johnboy”; proud grandfather of Nina and Isabella Saviozzi; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

**Raflores**

Vanessa A. Raflores. Beloved wife of Mary Ann Paolantonio; loving daughter of Jaime and Imelda Alzate Raflores; dear sister of James (Carmen), Jason (Jane) and John (Alice); dear sister-in-law of John (Nancy) Paolantonio and Butch (Honey) Paolantonio; loving niece of Marietta Alzate; loving tita of Kayla, James, Jillian, Jason, Michael Raflores, Maria (Andy) Winklehake, Gina (Eric) Suess, Lisa and Kristina Paolantonio, Francesca, Jack and Carmella Winklehake, and Zander and Hudson Suess; loving cousin and friend of many. Treasurer of Map of Hope Foundation, member of Melrose Park Planning and Zoning Board, volunteer for numerous charities and organizations. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven.

**Rende**

Paul Rende. Loving father of Nina Rende, Lily Rende and Paolo Rende; beloved son of Ida and the late Francesco; dear brother of John, Pete, Pam, Tony and Mary; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

**Werckenthien**

Ronald M. Werckenthien, age 62, formerly of Melrose Park, passed away at his residence on May 21, 2023. Beloved son of the late Charles C. and Grace M. Werckenthien; dearest brother of Charles (Karen) Werckenthien; cherished uncle of Lauren Wilson and Evan Werckenthien. Ron spent many years working as a chef for Amtrak. This led to his passion of cooking for his friends and family. He loved to travel and enjoyed spending time at the beach. Ron was passionate about his cars, especially his Mustangs and Corvette. Ron will be missed dearly by all of those who loved him. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home.

**Zito**

Philomena Zito. Dearly beloved wife of the late John; loving mother of George (Lisa), Michael (the late Cindy), Rock (Misty), the late Jon "J.B." (Dawn) and the late Angela; fond grandmother of Peter, George, Frank, Tara, Nico, Giovanna, Mickey, Sunnie Mae, Rocky (Melinda), Philomena, Samantha, Anthony, Johnny, Jody, Anthony and Angelique; great-grandmother of Nicholas, Sammy, Michael, Tessa, Millie, Ava, Alyssa, Gio, Stewart, Grant, Leah, Michael, Mia, Avey, Rocky, Zoe, Ariani and Madison; dear sister of the late Jimmy, Frank (wink), John (chink), Jerry and Vito; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.



Village of Melrose Park  
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**MAYOR**

Ronald M. Serpico

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