

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

A Heartfelt Thank You ...

We May Have Hosted the Greatest Taste of Melrose Park Ever!

I Want to Welcome Cermak Fresh Market to Our Community ...

*No West Suburban Town Offers as
Many Grocery Options as Our Village – We're Lucky to Live Here.*

Dear Neighbors,

I think we may have hosted the greatest Taste of Melrose Park ever this past Labor Day weekend. The crowds were the biggest we have experienced in many years, despite the blistering 95-degree temperature on the last day. And the heat could not keep people away from enjoying all of the musical acts, which garnered rave reviews from all who attended. The three-day event culminated in a spectacular fireworks show that amazed all.

Of course, none of this would be possible without Peggy DiFazio and her hardworking volunteers, who make everything run smoothly, from sanitation to parking to crowd control and so much more. These miracle workers truly deserve a special shout-out for doing the impossible, magically transforming a village complex into a food oasis in less than 10 days. I also want to commend the nearly 60 vendors who provided the delicious food offerings, despite the unrelenting heat.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our many businesses and individuals who generously help underwrite the cost of hosting the Taste of Melrose Park. Their generosity allows us to make the Taste of Melrose Park the most family-affordable food festival in Illinois.

On the subject of food, I want to welcome our newest grocery store, Cermak Fresh Market, located in Winston Plaza. I recently read about rural areas and sections of Chicago that are considered food deserts, which makes me think how lucky we are to live here. In addition to Cermak Fresh Market, the following stores are also located in Melrose Park: ALDI, Jewel, Costco, Target, Food4Less and Tony's Fresh Market. This list doesn't even include the many smaller Melrose Park food markets like Caputo's, Scudiero's, Carnicerias Jimenez, Super Mercado Torres and many more. No west suburban town offers as many grocery options as our village.

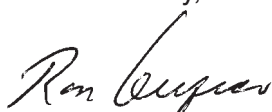
And in other good news, I am happy to announce that after years of planning, the village of Melrose Park recently completed the Streambank Stabilization Project, Phase 5. The work occurred along Silver Creek between 15th Avenue to approximately 12th Avenue (extended), on the southwest side of Winston Plaza.

This project included stabilization along 2,756 linear feet of eroded streambanks, installation of four natural rock riffle structures, vegetation management with 1.6 acres of native plantings along the creek, replacement of broken concrete banks and concrete channel bottom areas with rock placement.

This project will give us long-term slope protection (as opposed to past concrete banks that became weaker over time). It will offer protection against some areas of extreme bank erosion that recently affected the access road along the streambank. The roadway erosion made it necessary for the village to install concrete barriers to deter traffic away from sensitive areas.

Lastly, on Oct. 31, Halloween trick-or-treating hours will be from 3-6 p.m. Please be aware of children running around frantically filling their trick-or-treat bags with Snickers, Hershey Bars, Nerds and other sugary delights that only a kid would pass up a good steak for!

Sincerely,


Mayor Ron Serpico



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

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



Follow us on facebook



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 Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-8409

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

Fire Emergency911

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.....Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11

Village Hall Holiday Closings.....Nov. 10 and Nov. 23-24

Resident Response

Dear Mayor Ronald Serpico ...

Accolades for the Public Works Department!

I want to let you know that I can't thank Gary Marine and Carl Dote enough for the fantastic, speedy job they did in getting our street refinished.

Thank you for having such conscientious and helpful employees. And ... thanks to all the Public Works Department employees for their efforts, It is so gratefully appreciated.

• Mary C. Siebler

Dear Mayor Ron Serpico ...

I am a lifelong resident of Melrose Park. Over the Labor Day weekend, I attended the Taste of Melrose Park with my family.

With all the recent unrest going on during public events, I can't tell you how safe we felt at the Taste.

I would like to single out some individuals who I thought did a fantastic job. First and foremost are Director of Police Sam Pitassi and Deputy Chief Anthony Greco.

Everywhere we walked and looked, we saw police officers. From the tops of buildings to the front entrance, there was significant police presence. It was also reassuring to see the officers checking bags at the entrances.

When we didn't see a human police officer, we saw drones in the air scouting the entire area from above.

My family and I have not felt that safe in public with that kind of umbrella of security they provided in a long time.

Second, I would like to commend Chief Phil Schwartz of Melrose Park's Homeland Security and his staff who were also reassuring and had a significant presence.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to acknowledge Peggy DiFazio. Once again, she and her crew put on the best Taste in any suburb. The food was excellent ... The entertainment was phenomenal. The entire event was so well organized and impressive.

Once again, Mayor Serpico, thank you for putting on this spectacular family event that is the yardstick for all other Tastes to shoot for, but fall short.

It makes me proud to say my family lives in Melrose Park!

• Paul Ranieri

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

I am writing to express my gratitude for the exceptional support your agency provided for the Taste of Bellwood in our jurisdiction on Aug. 12-13, 2023.

Ofc. Paul Rossi and Ofc. John Menolascino gave us specialized support during the event which was detrimental to its success.

Both the officers acted professionally throughout their time here. Please let them know how much we appreciated them.

As with any assistance we understand it may have caused a strain on your department during the absence of the officers from your department and we appreciate it. It just goes to show how collaboration amongst neighboring communities strengthens the relationship which is crucial to the success of any event.

Also, let your Homeland Security Department know we appreciate them as we do every year when they come and assist us.

• Sincerely,

Jiminez Allen #300, Chief of Police
Bellwood Police Department

Dear Mayor Ron Serpico ...

I, Aaron Canino, dropped off the form for the Taste of Melrose Park at your office on Aug. 18 to participate in the event.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to let me share my artwork.

- Thank you,
Disability adult Aaron Canino of Hillside

Dear Chief Phil Schwartz and

Members of Melrose Park Homeland Security – Public Safety ...

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. On behalf of Veterans Park District, I wanted to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated men and women of the Melrose Park Homeland Security Department for volunteering their time and service at our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament.

Your unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community has always been an inspiration to us, and your participation in our event reaffirms the strong bond between our organization and your department. Your presence not only added a sense of security to the tournament, but also brought an extra layer of camaraderie and community spirit that we deeply appreciate.

We understand that the responsibilities of your department are vast and

demanding, yet you chose to spend your valuable time with us. Your professionalism, dedication and the positive interactions with our participants did not go unnoticed. It is this kind of community support that makes Melrose Park such a special place.

The success of our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament would not have been possible without your invaluable contribution. Your presence contributed to the overall enjoyment of the event and it created lasting memories for all involved. We are truly grateful for your selfless service and for making our event a resounding success.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration and fostering a stronger partnership between our organizations in the future. Your presence at our event serves as a reminder of the great work you do for our community and we are honored to have you as our friends and supporters.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedication, time and service to our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament. We are immensely grateful for your support and commitment to making Melrose Park and Veterans Park District a safer and more vibrant place.

- Sincerely,
Bill Otte, Executive Director
Veterans Park District

Melrose Park Police Department Awarded Ill. Dept. of Transportation Traffic Enforce Grant

On Oct. 1, the Melrose Park Police Department announced it has been awarded a Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program Grant to conduct additional traffic safety efforts. The STEP Program focuses on high-visibility enforcement and strategies aimed at saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing traffic crashes.

“We’re pleased to receive this grant to step up our road safety efforts with the goal of saving lives,” said Director of Police Sam Pitassi. “Our mission is to make travel safer through directed, proactive patrols and to stop, cite and arrest those who choose to violate traffic laws.”

During the STEP Grant year, which runs Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024, the Melrose Park Police Department will conduct additional enforcement dates scheduled during some of the deadliest times of the year.

The supplemental efforts will focus on the leading contributory causes of crashes: speeding, impaired driving, electronic device use, failure to yield and disobeying traffic control signals, as well as occupant restraint violations.

The Step Grant is funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS ...

Trick-or-treating will be allowed in the village of Melrose Park
from 3-6 p.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 31.



Is Your House Decorated for Halloween? Do You Want to Showcase Your Display?

Email photos of your humorous haunt or frightful dwelling to
TheRose@MelrosePark.org and we'll get them in our next issue!
In the subject line, please list Halloween Photos, and include
your name, address and phone number in the email.

It's Time for Some Halloween Fun!



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 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.





Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



Rick Beltrame
Director of Fire Dept.

A Message from Rick Beltrame, Director of Fire Department

The Melrose Park Fire Department and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame want to ensure the safety of our residents by providing these Halloween safety tips on behalf of the National Fire Protection Association.

Please follow these tips to ensure your family's well-being!

BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.

HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »»» **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- »»» **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »»» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »»» **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »»» **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »»» **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »»» **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly **800** reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



MELROSE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

3601 W LAKE ST, MELROSE PARK, IL 60160 PH (708) 344-1315, FAX (708) 531-5304



Always Stepping Up ...

Melrose Park Police and Autism

Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi has long supported the Melrose Park Police Department with autism and special needs training to assist police personnel while responding to calls for service.

ATTENTION 1ST RESPONDERS or POLICE

Driver and/or passenger(s) may have at least one of the following INVISIBLE DISABILITIES which may cause COMMUNICATION difficulties.**See information card inside vehicle**

Autism___	Hearing or visually impaired___
Bipolar Disorder___	Lupus___
Diabetes___	Mental Health___
Depression___	Personality Disorders___
Epileptic Seizures___	OTHER___

Courtesy of ASDwithME LLC www.asdwithme.com Justinhoucek@asdwithme.com

Earlier this year, the Police Department conducted its annual training event hosted by state-certified specialists that introduced a new method to help identify situations involving persons with special needs. Alert notification emblems can now be affixed to a vehicle's rear window informing responders to an information card within the vehicle that specifies exactly what conditions will help mitigate the circumstances. The emblem and card can also be used at a residence for first responders to support with those responses.

Please contact Lt. Mark G. Rieger at mrieger@melroseparkpd.com for more information or assistance with this program.

ATTENTION 1ST RESPONDERS or POLICE

NAME:

CONDITION(S):

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

DOCTOR:

EMT INFORMATION:

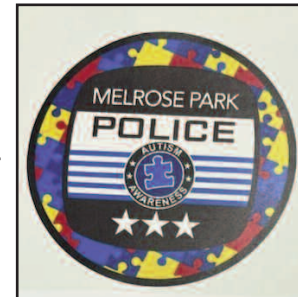
Courtesy of ASDwithME LLC www.asdwithme.com

Special Melrose Park Police Department Patches Raise Breast Cancer, Autism Awareness

During this year's Taste of Melrose Park, several Melrose Park police officers were seen sporting one-of-a-kind uniform patches as part of a breast cancer awareness initiative organized by Director of Police Sam Pitassi.

This public awareness campaign brought local attention to the war against breast cancer and the need to support research organizations in battling this horrible disease.

In past months, a large majority of officers have also added specially designed patches to their uniforms to express support for individuals with autism.



Save the Date and Support the Melrose Park Police Department, Mickenzie-Vertuno Memorial F.O.P. Lodge #19 ...



BBQ/Octoberfest

Join Us for a Day of
Great Food, Drinks,
and a Cash Raffle!



Saturday, Oct. 28 • 2-9 p.m.

Melrose Park Civic Center • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Donation – \$50 Per Person

For tickets and additional information, contact Gerry Manzo, Dennis Natale or Steve Pesce at mvfoplodge19@gmail.com or call (708) 649-6122 and leave a message.

A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi
Director of Police*



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

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

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.

Melrose Park Police Department

Melrose Park Police Ofc. William Bianchi Recognized at MADD September Event

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) believes in the importance of acknowledging the hard work that law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges do across the country in preventing crashes by patrolling and taking impaired drivers off our roads. Every year, MADD Illinois holds a Law Enforcement Recognition Banquet to recognize the men and women who have led the fight against drunk/drugged driving and underage drinking within their communities during the prior year. This year, the event was held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Crowne Plaza-Springfield.



The Melrose Park Police Department congratulates one of our brothers in blue, Ofc. William Bianchi, who was awarded the 2023 Dan Stafiej Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) of the Year Award named after Daniel Stafiej, who passed away earlier this year. Ofc. Stafiej served as a police officer and DRE at the Carol Stream Police Department from 2007-2023 and found his niche in the traffic unit. As a senior DRE instructor, Ofc. Stafiej became a leader in the DRE community and taught thousands of prosecutors and officers in DRE, ARIDE and SFST classes.

Congratulations to Melrose Park's Illinois MADD Hero Award winner William Bianchi! Your fine work is appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

IMPORTANT PARKING NOTICE

**A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES ...
PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET
FRIDAY, 5 P.M.-MONDAY, 9 A.M.,
NOW UNTIL DEC. 1, 2023.**

**THESE HOURS DO NOT INCLUDE THE
WINSTON PARK OR WEST MELROSE 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.**

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.



Village of Melrose Park

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Age _____

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

Mayor Serpico's

Thanksgiving



Dinner Delivery

**RESERVATION MUST BE
RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE
NOV. 3, 2023.**

**MAYOR SERPICO AND THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK ARE NOW
ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS TO DELIVER FREE THANKSGIVING DINNERS
TO SENIORS (65 AND OLDER) AND SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS ONLY ON THURSDAY, NOV. 23.**

We will deliver a meal that will bring the holiday aromas into your home.
The day will be filled with warmth, holiday cheer and a feast to remember.

**TO MAKE A DELIVERY RESERVATION, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE
THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATION FORM AND MAIL IT TO:
Village of Melrose Park, Thanksgiving Delivery
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160
NO CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED. FORMS ONLY!**

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to
help with delivery, etc.,
on Thanksgiving Day.
Interested parties, please
call Lorena Anguiano at
(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3, 2023.

Meals will be delivered between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

YOU MUST BE HOME TO ACCEPT THE MEAL. MAXIMUM TWO PER HOUSEHOLD.

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



Mayor Serpico and the Village of Melrose Park Thanksgiving Dinner Reservation Form

TO MAKE A DELIVERY RESERVATION, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

Phone _____ / _____ Please check: ☐ Senior ☐ Special Needs ☐ One Meal ☐ Two Meals
House Cellphone

(Melrose Park Residents Only. Limit Two Meals Per Household.)



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 ore late December. See route detour signs that are posted.

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 Program

The list is now closed for 2023 Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree for 2024, 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.

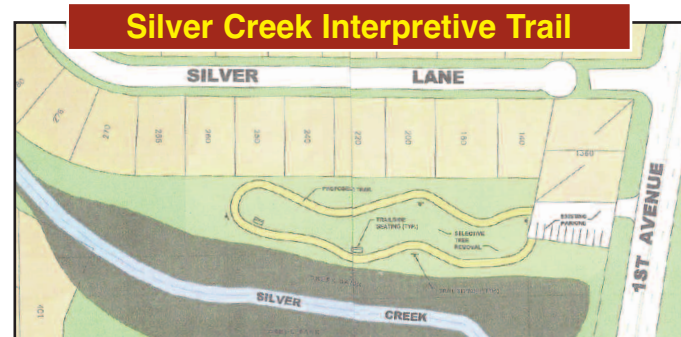
Phase Five, Six and Seven of the Silver Creek Restoration Project have been completed. Phase Eight is in the final planning stages.

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.

Apply Now for the 2024 Senior Painting Program!

Mayor Serpico announced the village of Melrose Park will once again offer the free Residential Painting Program for individuals 65 years of age and older who reside and own a single family home in Melrose Park. Those who qualify and need light paint work around their homes – fences, garage doors, railings, etc., (no interior painting, or no interior or exterior carpentry) – are encouraged to complete the MP Painting Program Request Form (right) and mail it to:

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

2024 Senior Painting Program list
will be closed July 31, 2024.

Only one item will be painted per year.
Get your request in early as the list fills fast.



Mayor Serpico's 2024 MP Painting Program Request Form

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____

One item to be painted (please circle one only):

Fence Garage Door Railings

Only one item will be painted per year. 2024 list will be closed July 31, 2024.



Village of Melrose Park Senior News

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

Senior Services

Need help with Medicare, veterans benefits, circuit breakers, etc.?

Need sources for home health care, equipment, etc.?

Have questions you need resources for? We can help. Call Peggy DiFazio at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

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

**The Melrose Park Senior Center is currently accepting donations of canes,
wheelchairs, walkers, etc., that can be given to those in need.**

If you have something you would like to donate, please call Peggy DiFazio at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

Benefit Access Program Benefits

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

Beneficio de Acceso para el Programa de Beneficios

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

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

Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially
Distanced
Activity*

*Face
Masks
Required*

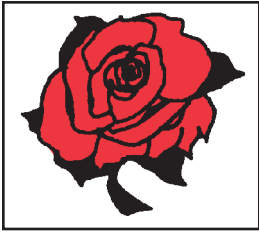


***Come Join in the Fun with
Instructor Barb Rubright
of Rube's Garage!***

Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.

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

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



Village of Melrose Park Building, Planning & Zoning Report

From the Desk of Ralph Sorce, Building Commissioner

Building Department Development Progress – Fall 2023

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

- 100 W. North Ave. – Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change – Under construction.
- 120 W. North Ave. – 7/11 Gas Station – Open
- 3225 W. North Ave. – Belle Tire – Open
- 550 W. North Ave. – Discount Tire – Open
- 10400 W. North Ave. – Navistar Buildings 1, 2 and 3 – Currently under construction.
- 2621 W. North Ave. – Midwest Express Clinic – Open.
- 950 Winston Plaza – Cermak Foods – Open.
- 930 Winston Plaza – Northern Tool – Open.
- 915 W. North Ave. – Chili's Restaurant – Under construction.
- 1384 Winston Plaza – Crab To Go Restaurant – Open.
- 2100 N. 15th Ave. – New Industrial Building – Under construction.
- 900 Winston Plaza – Bonchon Chicken – Under construction.
- 1710 W. Lake St. – All State Insurance – Open.
- 1502 N. 19th Ave. – Freeway Insurance – Open.
- 2001 Cornell – Industrial Building – Complete.
- 1618 Division – Remodel Division Cleaners – Nearing completion.
- 1418 N. 15th Ave. – Playas Nayaritas Mexican Seafood Restaurant – Open.
- And much more!

Building Department Construction Project Resource Information

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

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

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

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

- Debris Hauling Contractor's License Application • Vacant Property Registration • Permit Application Page 1 • Permit Application Page 2
- Building Codes • Certificate of Compliance Application • Contractor's Registration Application • Electrical Permit Application
- Form 3500 • Form 4000 • Items Covered in Cert of Compliance Inspection (Sale) • Sign Application
- Process of Selling a Property • Vending and Amusement License Application

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

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

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

MP Construction Hours Policy

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

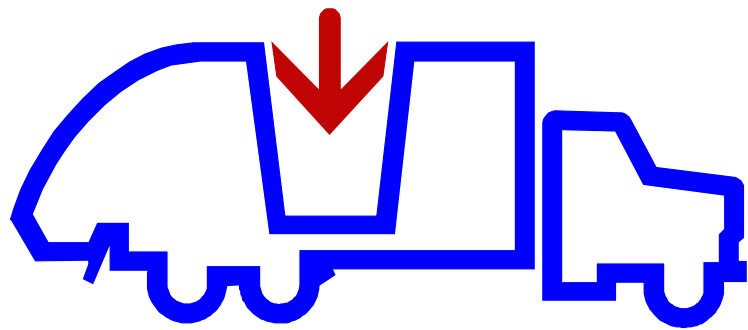
Any person violating this section shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50), nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750), for each offense, and each day's violation of the same shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.



Help Keep Our Village Clean!

Help keep our village clean by making sure you keep all garbage in your 90-gallon blue garbage container to keep garbage from blowing throughout the neighborhood. The village is proud of the garbage and debris services it provides our residents. Help keep the parkways clean and in the front and rear of your house or building.

The village is dedicated to working with and for our citizens – together we can make Melrose Park look even better!



Village of Melrose Park 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.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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

REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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

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



Notice Regarding Melrose Park Vehicle Stickers

Village Vehicle Stickers Will Expire Dec. 31, 2023. New Stickers Can be Purchased at the Village Hall

Sticker Fee for Passenger Vehicles is \$30 for Two Years (2024-2025).

Truck Fees Vary Based on the Type of Class/Plate and Are Good for One Year Only (2024).

Seniors Over 65 Years of Age are Free.

One free two-year sticker for a passenger vehicle or one free one-year sticker for a B-Truck vehicle registered to a person over 65 years in age. Limit one free sticker per household.

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

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

Vehicle Sticker Fee Details

Sticker fees are as follows: Passenger Plates – \$30 for two years (2024-2025);

Senior Citizen – One free per household for two years (2024-2025); Trucks – Good for one year (2024 only).

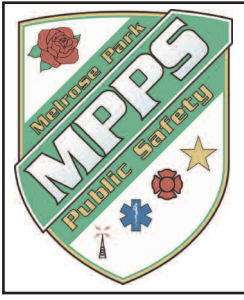
The fees for vehicle licenses for each vehicle are as follows if paid on the dates set forth as listed here:

	JANUARY 1 \$30 Every Two Years	MARCH 1 AND LATER \$40 Every Two Years	JULY 1 AND LATER \$55 Every Two Years
Passenger Vehicles			
B Plate	\$50	\$65	\$95
C Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
D Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
F Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
H Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
J Plate	\$80	\$95	\$155
K Plate	\$80	\$95	\$155
L Plate	\$90	\$105	\$175
M Plate	\$95	\$110	\$185
N Plate	\$100	\$115	\$195
P Plate	\$105	\$120	\$205
Q Plate	\$105	\$120	\$205
R Plate	\$110	\$125	\$215
S Plate	\$115	\$130	\$225
T Plate	\$125	\$140	\$245
V Plate	\$135	\$150	\$265
X Plate	\$145	\$160	\$285
Z Plate	\$155	\$170	\$305

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

For more information, please call (708) 343-4000 or visit www.melrosepark.org.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO PURCHASE STICKERS – NO EXCEPTIONS. LATE CHARGES MAY APPLY. VEHICLE STICKERS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL VEHICLES REGISTERED UNDER A MELROSE PARK ADDRESS, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT LOCATED, PARKED OR STORED AT THE HOUSE AND MUST BE PURCHASED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RESIDENCY.



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

CDC Recommends a Yearly Flu Vaccine

Take Time to Get a Flu Vaccine

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- Flu vaccines help to reduce the burden of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths on the health care system each year.
- This season, all flu vaccines will be designed to protect against the four flu viruses that research indicates will be most common.
- Everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine, ideally by the end of October. Learn more about vaccine timing.
- Vaccination of people at higher risk of developing serious flu complications is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- People at higher risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant people, people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease, and people 65 years and older.
- Vaccination also is important for health care workers and other people who live with or care for people at higher risk to keep from spreading flu to them. This is especially true for people who work in long-term-care facilities, which are home to many of the people most vulnerable to flu.
- Children younger than 6 months are at higher risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.

Take Everyday Preventive Actions to Stop the Spread of Germs

- Take everyday preventive actions that are recommended to reduce the spread of flu.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - If you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with viruses that cause flu.

What is the Difference Between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) first identified in 2019. Flu is caused by infection with a flu virus (influenza viruses).

From what we know, COVID-19 spreads more easily than flu. Efforts to maximize the proportion of people in the United States who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, remain critical to reducing the risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death. Compared with flu, COVID-19 can cause more severe illness in some people. Compared to people with flu, people infected with COVID-19 may take longer to show symptoms and may be contagious for longer periods of time.

You cannot tell the difference between flu and COVID-19 by the symptoms alone because they have some of the same signs and symptoms. Specific testing is needed to tell what the illness is and to confirm a diagnosis. Having a medical professional administer a specific test that detects both flu and COVID-19 allows you to get diagnosed and treated for the specific virus you have more quickly. Getting treated early for COVID-19 and flu can reduce your risk of getting very sick. Testing can also reveal if someone has both flu and COVID-19 at the same time, although this is uncommon. People with flu and COVID-19 at the same time can have more severe disease than people with either flu or COVID-19 alone. Additionally, some people with COVID-19 may also be affected by post-COVID conditions (also known as long COVID).

For more information, call (708) 649-8000 or visit www.mpdes.org.

ANSWER THE CALL ...

Melrose Park's Homeland Security – Public Safety Departments Are Recruiting!

Interested in public safety, emergency services and first responder opportunities? Become a member of the Village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety.

- We are seeking individuals who take pride in wearing the uniform and helping to provide public safety to our community.
- Team members gain real-world emergency services experience in the areas of police, fire, criminal justice, public safety, computer IT, telecommunications and weather-related disasters.
- Learn on state-of-the-art technologies and equipment that will give you expert training for potential career opportunities.

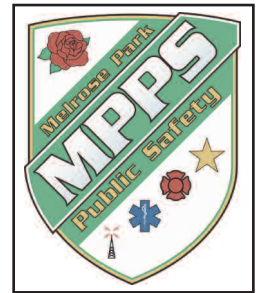
We are Currently Recruiting for ...

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



The Fire Rescue Division of Melrose Park's Homeland Security – Public Safety is Now Preparing to Start it's Fall Training Program

The fire team works in conjunction with the Melrose Park Fire Department. The team equipment includes a squad truck, an engine and two ambulances. We provide automatic aid to working fires within Melrose Park to assist the Fire Department. In addition to emergency calls the team also responds to major events and many special activities in and around Melrose Park. The team meets for training and checking apparatus to ensure that our equipment will always be ready when needed.



Questions?

Please call us at (708) 649-8040 or email us today at training@mpdhs.net for more information about our department or to join one of the most prestigious public safety departments in the region!

FALL TRAINING CLASSES BEGIN THIS MONTH, DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION.



**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

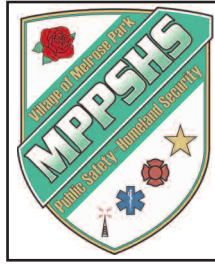
Death Certificates (Including Fetal Death) – \$17 each, \$6 per additional certification or copy requested.

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.

Melrose Park Public Safety News



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

Are You Prepared for Winter Weather?

Winter weather too often catches people unprepared. Researchers say that 70 percent of the fatalities related to ice and snow occur in automobiles and about 25 percent of all winter related fatalities are people that are caught off guard, out in the storm. What winter weather preparations are being made in your area and what are the appropriate steps to take that will ensure your winter weather safety? Help your readers, viewers and listeners make sure their homes and cars are ready for the worst winter has to offer.

Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories – What Do They all Mean?

The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. A Winter Storm Watch means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area, but its occurrence, location and timing are still uncertain. A Winter Storm Watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather. A Winter Storm Watch is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set plans in motion can do so. A watch is upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected. Winter weather advisories inform you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening. A Blizzard Warning means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts and life-threatening windchill. Be sure to listen carefully to the radio, television and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest winter storm watches, warnings and advisories.

Why is Predicting the Exact Amount of Snowfall So Challenging?

Snow forecasts continue to improve, but they remain a challenging task for meteorologists. Heavy snow often falls in small bands that are hard to discern on larger resolution computer models. In addition, extremely small temperature differences define the boundary line between rain and snow.

What is Wind Chill?

One of the gravest dangers of winter weather is windchill. The windchill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also effected by wind-chill.

		New Wind Chill Chart												
		Wind (mph)												
Temperature (°F)		Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
		40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25
	35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17	
	30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10	
	25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3	
	20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4	
	15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11	
	10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	
	5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	
	0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	
	-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	
	-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48	
	-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55	
	-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62	
	-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69	
	-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76	
	-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84	
	-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91	
	-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98	

Frostbite occurs in 15 minutes or less

Wind Chill (°F) = $35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$
Where, T = Air Temperature (°F)
V = Wind Speed (mph)

About Winter Storms ...

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

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

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

Know the Difference

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

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

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

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

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

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

Put Together a Supply Kit

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



Protect Your Pets During Snowstorms

Make Sure Your Pets are Prepared for Winter Weather

Winter weather can be hard on all of us. It can be particularly difficult on our pets that rely on us for their well-being, especially for outdoor dogs and cats. To help keep your entire family safe and warm, the American Red Cross has winter safety reminders for both you and your pets.

Pet Safety in the Winter

- If possible, bring your pets inside during cold winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas and make sure they have access to non-frozen drinking water.
- If the animals are outside, make sure their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles.

The following tips on winter pet safety are provided by the Humane Society of the United States:

- If pets cannot come indoors, make sure they are protected by a dry, draft-free enclosure large enough to allow them to sit and lie down, but small enough to hold in the pet's body heat. Raise the floor a few inches off the ground and cover it with cedar shavings or straw. Turn the enclosure away from the wind and cover the doorway with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate a pet's paws. Wipe their paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach.

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

Do You Have a Disaster Supplies Kit?

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit

- ☐ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ☐ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps



Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Maintaining Your Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trash can, camping backpack or duffel bag.

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



The ROSE

Advertising Contract

Complimentary 2023 Holiday Greeting Ads

Dear community member,

This year *The Rose* (the official newsletter of the village of Melrose Park) is offering an opportunity to reserve a special complimentary greeting ad in the Holiday 2023 issue.

If you are interested in reserving an ad, please complete this form, attach a copy of your business card or ad copy, and mail it to:

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

All ads must be received on or before Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023. For more information, call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

Size/Rate

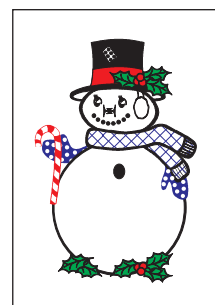
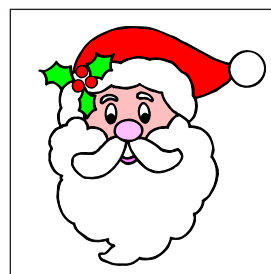
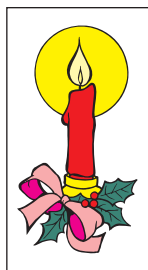
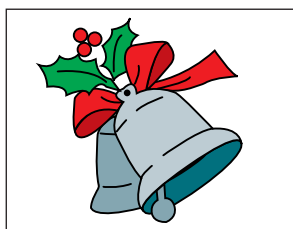
Business Card Size.....FREE

Greeting (Please check)

☐ Season's Greetings ☐ Happy Holidays ☐ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Art Element (Please check)

☐ Bells ☐ Candle ☐ Gift ☐ Santa ☐ Snowman ☐ Tree



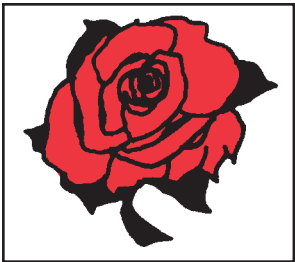
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Thank you in advance.
Your reservation is greatly appreciated!*



Melrose Park Public Library



www.MPPLibrary.org



**Psychic Entertainer
Barbara G. Meyer Presents**

INTRODUCTION TO TAROT CARD READINGS



Melrose Park Library
Thursday, November 2
5:30pm-6:30pm

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

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

FRIDAYS	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	
DATES	
September 8th October 13th	November 17th December 8th

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



Mon Wed Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm
Tue Thu 9:00am - 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
(708)649-7400



Melrose Park Public Library



www.MPPLibrary.org

Youth Services



Make It Mondays

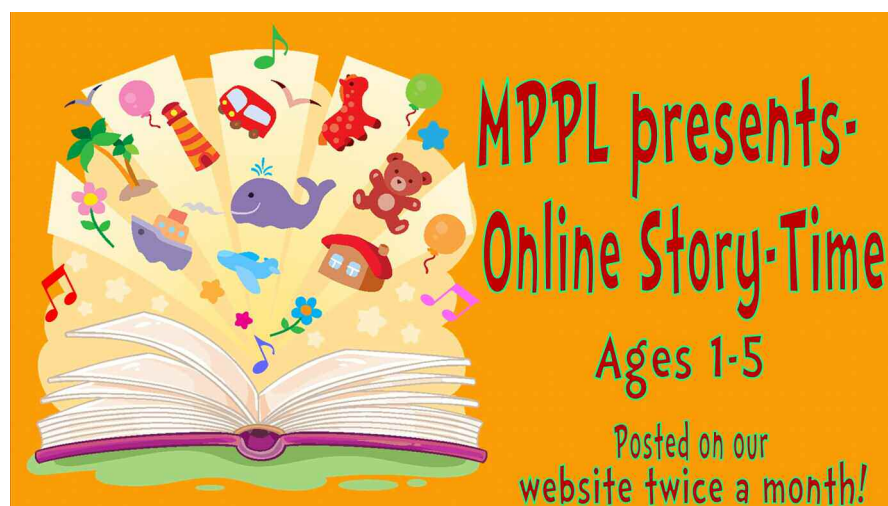
Weekly Crafts on YouTube

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.



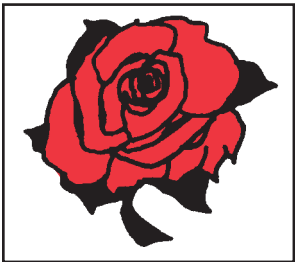
Check the website or call for the most current information on hours and procedures.



Mon	Wed	Fri	9:00am - 5:00pm
Tue	Thu		9:00am - 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
(708)649-7400



Melrose Park Public Library



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

DROP IN FOR...
TINKER TUESDAYS
Come play with lots of fun & creative toys!
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		9:00am - 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
(708)649-7400

Congratulations to Last Year's
Mayor Serpico/MP Youth Commission
Holiday Decorating Contest Winners!



Michelle Carlini and Sean



Lorenzo Moreno and Francesca



Jerry Mraz



Michelle DeCarlo and Gianna



Joe Padula



Enriqueta Monreal



Monica Saldana



Mayra Sanchez



Nadia Zuazo



**Join in
the
Seasonal Fun!**
Decorate your home
for the holidays ...
And send us a photo for the
Winter 2024 issue of *The Rose*!

**You could win a prize
on behalf of
Mayor Serpico
and the Melrose Park
Youth Commission.**
**Five top prizes (\$150 each) and
five runners-up prizes (\$50 each)
will be awarded for the best decorated!**
**Take a nighttime photo of your home all lit
and email it to therose@melrosepark.org
on or before Jan. 8, 2024.**

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

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

Al Piemonte

AL PIEMONTE NOW OFFERS BUICK AND GMC
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SAME GREAT AL PIEMONTE PRICES
SAME GREAT AL PIEMONTE COMMITMENT
TO CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



Sammy Alfano
sammya@apnissan.com



The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

Save the Dates!

Next Issue – December 2023
(Deadline for material Nov. 25, 2023.)

Schedule for 2024
February, April, June, August, October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

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

or Email to: therose@melrosepark.org 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 _____

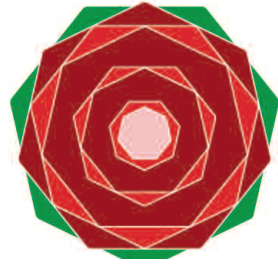
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

The  ROSE

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



MELROSE PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New Chamber Members and Renewals

In August and September, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed seven new members and received 12 membership renewals.

Please help us welcome S & S Towing, The View 1701, Winston Brands, Melrose Park Currency Exchange, Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services, Winston Plaza and Signco Chicago 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 Small World Learning Center; Caputo Cheese; La Orquida Banquet Hall; Walther Christian Academy; Best Packaging; PLCCA; High View Hair Salon; RR Trade Schools, Inc.; Thatcher Oaks; Triton College Foundation; Crab Du Jour; and Tom's Steak House.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 175 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@mpccd.org or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

For information about membership, please visit the chamber website Membership page at <https://mpccd.org/benefits-dues/>.

The Newly Renovated Gottlieb Center for Fitness is Open for Business!

The chamber of commerce joined Mayor Ron Serpico and the Gottlieb Center for Fitness team members as they cut the ribbon and celebrated the grand reopening of the newly renovated fitness center.

For information on membership opportunities and everything the center has to offer, visit their website at www.loyolamedicine.org/gottlieb-center-for-fitness/ or call (708) 538-5790.



Gottlieb Center for Fitness Grand-Reopening Celebration

Chamber After Hours Networking Event at Tom's Steak House

On Aug. 29, Tom's Steak House hosted the chamber's After Hours Networking Event. In addition to the outstanding food and service that have been synonymous with Tom's Steak House for over 70 years, more than 50 business and community leaders enjoyed conversation with old friends and potentially new customers. Thanks to everyone that was able to attend and for helping us grow the chamber, and most importantly for fueling growth in our community.

We would also like to thank Mayor Ron Serpico and representatives from the village of Melrose Park for their support of our local businesses, and for their regular attendance and participation in MPCCCD events to connect with local business owners and leaders!

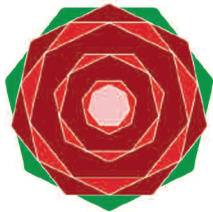


After Hours Event at Tom's Steak House

Having Fun and Making a Difference

August and September are always big months for the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development with a little extra emphasis on community through participation and support in the District 89 Annual Back-to-School Picnic and for sponsoring and hosting Bingo at the Taste of Melrose Park on Labor Day weekend.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz and several representatives from the chamber joined Mayor Ron Serpico, School District 89 Superintendent Dr. David Negron,



MELROSE PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

and several vendors and sponsors as they hosted the annual picnic to kick off the 2023-2024 school year.

Pictured (at right) are Mayor Serpico, Dr. Negron and Isaac Bazbaz as they drew the winning raffle tickets to announce the eight students who won new bicycles that were donated by the MPCCCD.

Executive Director Bazbaz said that this is the third consecutive year that the MPCCCD has participated in the D89 picnic and that the chamber looks forward to participating again next year. Bazbaz also indicated that the event gave him an opportunity to celebrate with several sponsors/vendors, since nearly half are current MPCCCD members.

Sept. 1-3, the MPCCCD hosted bingo and a 50/50 Raffle at the Taste of Melrose Park for the second consecutive year. Over the three days, more than 60 games of bingo were played with winners getting half the pot from each game. In addition to bingo, the chamber added a 50/50 raffle this year and the sales of raffle tickets seemed to gain momentum each day, reaching a final total of \$3,480 with the winning ticket holder receiving \$1,740.

Although everyone who won a game of bingo as well as the raffle winner were genuinely excited with their win, Executive Director Bazbaz said the big winners are the people in the community who will receive a little extra help and support this year.

On Sept. 21, Bazbaz joined Mayor Ron Serpico as they presented a \$5,000 check from the bingo and raffle proceeds to representatives of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and the Food Pantry, that opens its doors to serve clients every Wednesday.

Thanks to everyone that joined us for bingo or bought a raffle ticket this year. We look forward to seeing you playing bingo at the Taste in 2024!



School District 89 Back-to-School Picnic



MPCCCD Participated in the Taste of Melrose Park



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.

November – Creating or improving your digital footprint to connect with new and existing customers.

December – Financial planning and tax planning for small businesses with information that is specifically focused on businesses with two to 20 employees.

Chamber After Hours Networking Event – October is the perfect time for an Octoberfest! This event will give attendees an opportunity to connect with business and community leaders in the area, and 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!

Watch for information and details on MPCCCD events on the event calendar on the MPCCCD website at <https://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 <https://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 or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you.



Cermak Fresh Market is Now Open in Winston Plaza

On Thursday, Sept. 14, the MPCCCD joined Mayor Ron Serpico and representatives from the village of Melrose Park, as well as representatives from Winston Plaza and the owners of Cermak Fresh Markets for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and most importantly to open their doors to greet hundreds of anxious customers who have been waiting to welcome the new grocery store to our community.

The chamber would like to again congratulate and thank Cermak Fresh Markets on the opening of store #19 which is located in Winston Plaza.



The ROSE

Wants to Hear Your Story ...

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

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

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

Please send all your exciting details
by direct mail to:

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

Or you can send an email to
TheRose@melrosepark.org.

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



Village of Melrose Park

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, 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	
<small>1 NORTH BROADWAY, MELROSE PARK, IL 60160 (708) 344-8409 www.MelroseParkPD.com</small>	
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: _____	
<small>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.</small>	
_____ Shift Supervisor Signature	_____ Date

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

The form will be found at 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



SANTA ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER!

SAT, NOV 18, 2023
12PM - 3PM • Santa arrives at Noon
Parking lot next to Cermak

FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA

**Winston Plaza
MELROSE PARK**

**RSVP Today at
Eventbrite.com and
Search for Winston Plaza!**



Oct. 31 is Halloween! Celebrate at Tom's Terrifying Tuesday

Save the date, Oct. 31! Come enjoy Tom's Terrifying Tuesday with some friends. Tom's Steak House will be rocking again – featuring the sounds of DJ Jerry Jamz, food, drink, and a '50s and '60s Motown and '70s retro party! The Halloween bash runs 6:30-9:30 p.m. Our banquet room will be fully decorated with a larger dance floor for your spooky, scary dances, a convenient back bar, and plenty of seating and high tops to mingle at! Costume contests will be held with some incredible prizes for the winners.

Call now for more information or to make your reservations – (708) 345-2766. You can also visit tomssteakhouse.com, [instagram.com/tomssteakhouse](https://www.instagram.com/tomssteakhouse) or [facebook.com/tomssteakhouse.com](https://www.facebook.com/tomssteakhouse.com) for updates. Tom's is located at 1901 W. North Ave., Melrose Park (corner of Broadway and North).

We're looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Get your costumes ready ... Who will be dressed the best?

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.



Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: 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 remaining schedule for calendar year 2023 is: Oct. 23; Nov. 13; and Dec. 11. The schedule for calendar year 2024 is: Jan. 22; Feb. 26; March 25; April 22; Tuesday, May 28; June 10; July 22; Aug. 26; Sept. 23; Oct. 28; Nov. 25; and Dec. 23.

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



Village of Melrose Park

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

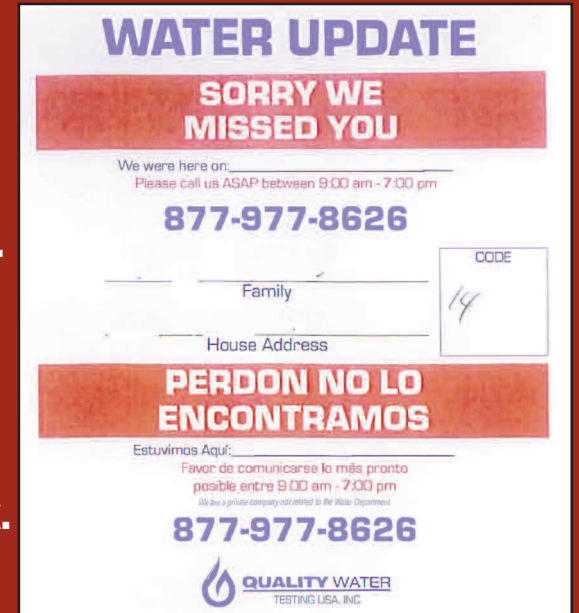
**Alert, Alert, Alert!
Water Update Flyer Being Circulated is
Not from the Village of Melrose Park.
Do NOT Contact This Company!**

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.



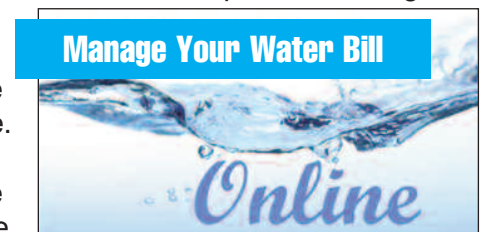
Manage Your Water Bill Online ... It's Easy!

The village of Melrose Park provides residents with an option to manage their water bill online. Residents can visit www.melrosepark.org 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 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.





Thank You

Mayor Serpico Thanks You for Supporting Another Successful Melrose Park Event!

*On behalf of the Village of Melrose Park,
I would like to once again take this opportunity to
graciously thank all the volunteers, village employees,
department heads, Taste sponsors, local businesses and
supporters for their yearlong dedication and endless hours
of hard work to ensure the Taste of Melrose Park
continues its historical tradition of being the most
family-friendly and family-affordable food festival
in all of Illinois!*

With Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation,

*Mayor Ronald M. Serpico
Village of Melrose Park*

Thank You

Gracias

Grazie

Dziękuję

Merci

Danke

Aciu

Kamsamnida

Dýmo arigatý

**Go raibh mile
maith agat**

Obrigado

Shokron

Thoins, Moite

Tak

Dank U wel

Kiitos

Efharisto

Toda

**SPASIBO
BALSHOYE**

Hvala

Ahsante Sana



Taste of Melrose Park Celebrates 41st Anniversary





**Watch for more Taste of Melrose Park photos in the Holiday Issue of The Rose.
If you have any that you'd like to share and have published,
send them to TheRose@MelrosePark.org!**





Lake Book
Manufacturing, LLC

2085 Cornell Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160

(708) 345-7000
Lakebook.com

G R O U P



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FLEA MARKET

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MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS 60160

708-344-7300

www.swaporama.com



—◆— *The Legacy Lives On!* —◆—

HOME OF THE \$100 DOWN!

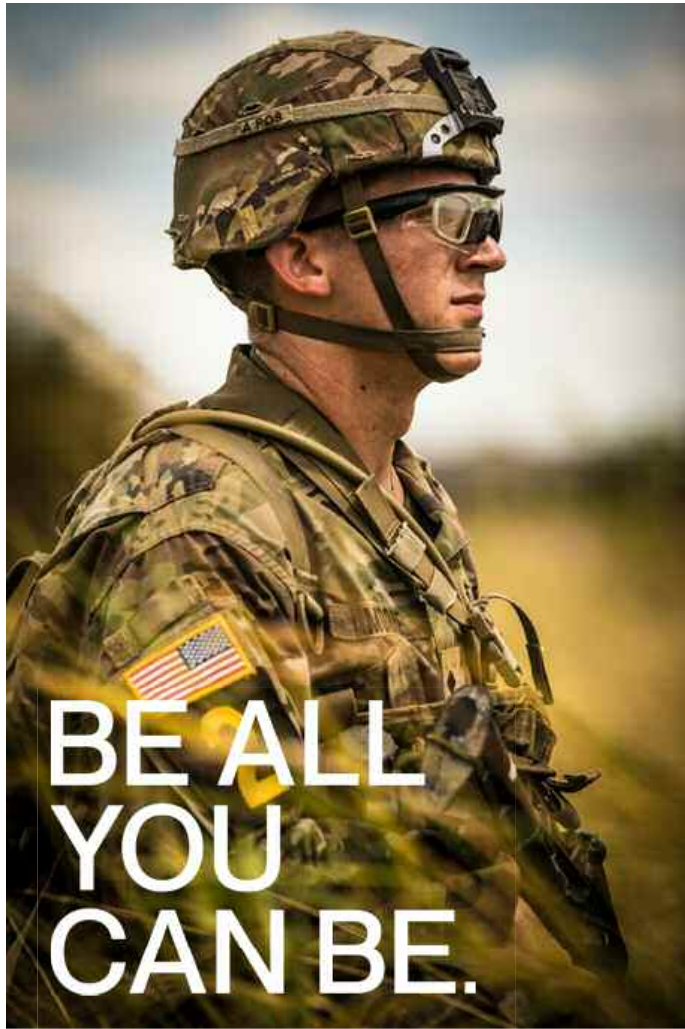
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IN MELROSE PARK

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apford.com



U.S. ARMY

(708) 316-2031

   @ArmyChicago





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CHICAGO CHAPTER

Developer of the Year
2021, 2019, 2015


CHICAGO COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE AWARDS

Developer of the Year
2018, 2015, 2011

WWW.BRIDGEINDUSTRIAL.COM

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LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO | SEATTLE | LONDON



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minerals and other vital nutrients
into your bloodstream quickly.*

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Westlake Urgent Care Can Help.

IV Nutritional Therapy offers countless natural benefits. Appointments are available on Saturdays and Sundays.

IV Options include:

- ✓ Myer's Cocktail: Immunity/energy
- ✓ Quench: Combat dehydration
- ✓ Reboot: Fight hangover symptoms
- ✓ Get Up & Go: Burn fat, get energy
- ✓ Immunity: Feel better faster
- ✓ Brainstorm: For cognitive function
- ✓ Inner Beauty: Treat acne, wrinkles

Visit our website at

www.westlakeurgentcareil.com

or call to learn more and book an appointment.

IDOT PHYSICALS

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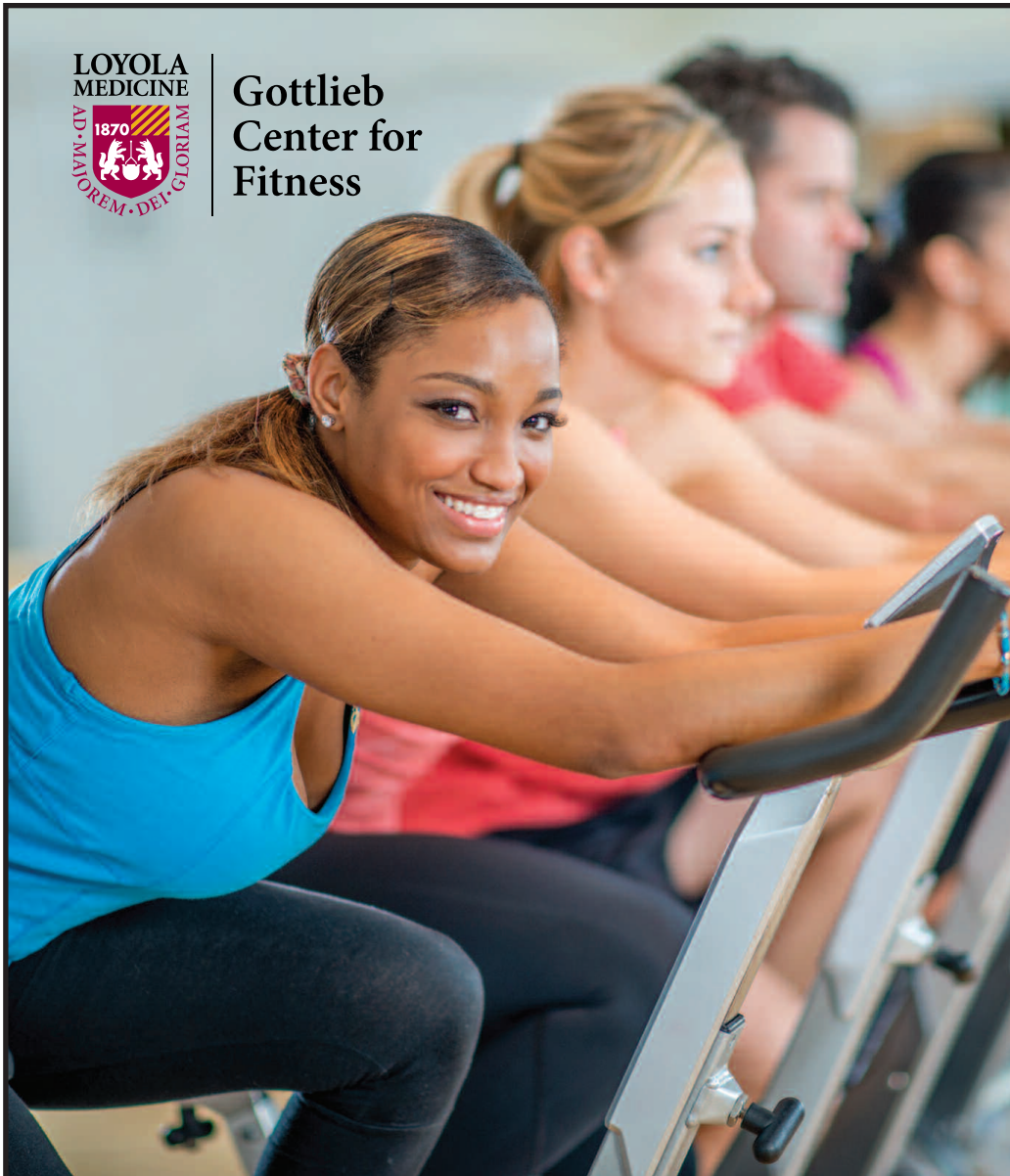
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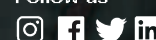
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**Veterans
Park
District**
*Programs
&
Happenings*



Veterans Day

OBSERVANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

BULGER PARK, MELROSE PARK

CEREMONY STARTS AT 10 AM

Veterans Park District observes Veterans Day with a ceremony attended by community members, friends, employees, local schools, churches, and war heroes. Everyone is invited to honor our veterans and remember our soldiers during this moving ceremony.



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



Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Youth Sports

Soccer, Ages 8-12

In this four-week program, VPD staff will lead players in specific drills to improve their overall understanding of the game. Learning and having fun is the number one goal!

- Oct. 19-Nov. 9, 4-4:45 p.m.; Classes meet at the George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

Mini Sports, Ages 4-7

Start your little athlete early at this fun and instructional mini-sports class! Participants choose a new sport each week, including soccer, t-ball, hockey and basketball.

- Tuesdays, Oct. 18-Nov. 8, 4-4:45 p.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park Field, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

Baseball, Ages 4-12

Calling all baseball players! Grab your glove and join us at Bulger Park baseball diamond to learn and improve the proper mechanics of hitting throwing and fielding.

- Thursdays, Oct. 19-Nov. 9, 5-5:45 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

Early Childhood

Alphabet Adventures, Ages 2-5

Each week toddlers are 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 children will have created their very own book of ABCs.

- Tuesdays, Nov. 6-Dec. 11, 10:15-11 a.m.; Classes are held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$50/NR\$60.

Creative Arts

Pour Painted Christmas Ornaments, Ages 6 and Above

In this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to create stunning and unique holiday ornaments, using acrylic pour paint. Whether you choose to incorporate traditional holiday colors or experiment with a more abstract approach, each ornament will be a one-of-a-kind work of art to be cherished for years to come.

- Tuesday, Dec. 12, 5:45-7:45 p.m.; Workshop is held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$30/NR\$40.

iCOOK, Ages 5-10

Veterans Park District's iCOOK eight-week program believes that a healthy variety of foods equals a healthy life. We want to teach young chefs that healthy food can be delicious, good for the body and lots of fun to make. Recipes tend to be easy and colorful using mostly fresh ingredients. Young chefs learn an array of culinary skills, how to read recipes and measure ingredients, while practicing math and problem-solving skills.

- Tuesdays, Nov. 7-Dec. 26, 5-6 p.m.; Classes are held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$181/NR\$191.

iSTEAM, Ages 5-10

iSTEAM is a fun hands-on, eight-week, after-school program that brings science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics education to elementary-age students. This program offers learning through hands-on, project-based activities. Students learn to solve real-world problems through



out-of-the-box thinking and develop the skills that are necessary to excel in the technologically-advanced world. iSTEAM classes are committed to deepening students' collaboration, creativity and critical thinking skills as well as their understanding and interest in science.

- Thursdays, Nov. 2-Dec. 28, 5-6 pm.; Classes are held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee R\$181/NR\$191.

Active Adults

A VPD active adult is anyone age 55 and better.

Registration is required in advance for all VPD Active Adults events and programs. Call (708) 343-5270 to register.

Crafts & Coffee

Enjoy coffee and sweet rolls, while you create and socialize with your friends. New easy to follow crafting projects are offered. All materials are supplied by Veterans Park District.

- Tuesdays, Nov. 9 and Dec. 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Classes are held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – \$10 per person.

Films with Friends

Enjoy some hot freshly popped popcorn, light snacks and beverages, while watching a film with your friends. Screening dates are Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park. Show begins at 11:30 a.m. This program is free to residents of Veterans Park District. Check our Facebook page for movie titles.

Cimbalo Fitness Center

1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park • (708) 343-5151

Come check out our new, expanded weightroom and new warm-up/ab area. The new weightroom features two new squat racks, two new Olympic barbells, three new hex barbells and over a 1000 pounds of new Olympic bumper plates. The warm-up area features mats, foam rollers, stretching straps and medicine balls. We also offer a wide variety of fitness classes for all age groups and fitness levels.

Golf Simulator @ the Cimbalo Fitness Center

Come experience Cimbalo Fitness Center's Golf Suite featuring a state-of-the-art Full Swing® golf simulator. Our golf suite allows you to have a fun, realistic golf experience year-round. Our golf simulator offers something for all ages and experience levels, from the super competitive golfer to the super casual. With over 85 courses, multiple skill challenge courses, a driving range, and a variety of challenge games and modes of play. We can provide users with a great experience customized to their goals, whether that be improving their golf game or just having fun. Price is \$40 for one hour and \$20 for a half-hour rental. Please call ahead to reserve a time slot – (708) 343-5151. Golf lessons coming soon! Cimbalo Fitness Center is located at 1203 N. 24 Ave., Melrose Park.

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

Congrats to VPD Tournament Champs and Runners-Up!

Veterans Park District held its annual Tournament Weekend on Friday, Aug. 4-Sunday, Aug. 6. The big event featured a men’s softball and co-ed mushball tournament, as well as a bocce ball tournament.

VPD would like to congratulate Bocce Ball Tournament champions – Anthony and Greg Sommesi (son), and runners-up – Mike and Greg Sommesi (father); the Men’s Softball Tournament champions – Fish; the Men’s Tournament runners-up – Moist; the Co-ed Softball Tournament champions – Slap N Tickle; and the Co-ed Tournament runners-up – Athletics HQ.

Pictured with the teams and fans are VPD Executive Director Bill Otte, tournament directors Billy Otte and Pete Eleuteri, and commissioners Orlando Velasquez and Tom Olson.

Thank you to our sponsors who supported this year’s Veterans Park District Tournament Weekend – Al Piemonte Nissan; Alpha Olympic Pest Control; Aqua Fiori; Automated Flagpoles; Braun Paint Company; CDE, Inc.; CMS Corp.; County Line Cafe Vending; Cuomo Catering; D-R Rosemont, LLC; Duke of Oil; Dynamic Manufacturing; Eco-Cleaning Maintenance; Elite Electric Co., Inc.; Evans Electric; Fairway Custom Landscaping; Grand Stand Pizza; Guerine and Company; In Particular/Neighbors; JKS Ventures Inc.; Leyden Bears; Mackie Consultants; Maxx Contractors; May-Aire Heating & Air Conditioning; Mayor Barrett Pedersen/Franklin Park; Mayor Dave Guerin/River Grove; Mayor Jeffrey T. Sherwin/Northlake; Mayor Ron Serpico/Melrose Park; Mickenzie-Vertuno Memorial FOP Lodge 19; Molitor Athletic Fields; NuToys Leisure Products; Pan American Bank; Parkreation; Petrungaro & Associates; Precision Repair; Prospects Baseball/Softball Club; R.J.N. Supplies, Inc.; Republic Services; Rosemont Masonry; Rose’s Catering; Russo’s Pool & Spa; Scudiero’s Italian Bakery; Signco; Special T Unlimited; Statewide Amusement; Storino Ramello & Durkin; The House of Safety; Triton College; Triton Steamer, Inc.; Underpass Lounge; West Suburban Special Recreation Association; and Veterans Park District Commissioner Tom Olson.



Bocce Ball
Tournament Champions



Bocce Ball
Tournament Runners-Up



Men’s Tournament Champions – Fish



Men’s Tournament Runners-Up – Moist



Co-ed Tournament Champions – Slap N Tickle



Co-ed Tournament Runners-Up – Athletics HQ

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**GLOW
IN THE
DARK**
SUGAR SKULL
PAINTING
WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 26
6:00PM-7:30PM
\$ 30 R/40NR

Bulger Park Community Center,
1601 Hirsch, Melrose Park

Space is limited.
Register by October 16.

VPD ACTIVE ADULT EVENT

JUST A BUNCH
OF
HOCUS
POCUS

**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

Costumes
Optional

**& MARSHALL BRODTEN JR.
MAGIC SHOW**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
GRANT PARK REC CENTER, NORTHLAKE
LUNCH SERVED AT 12PM MAGIC- SHOW AT 1PM
\$25 PER PERSON

Raffles

**FAMILY
PUMPKIN
CARVING PARTY**

Friday, October 27 • 5:30-8 PM
Bulger Park Community Center
1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park

We supply the pumpkin and carving tools. You carve, we clean. Each person receives a pumpkin, pizza and punch.
Dress in a costume!

\$10 R / \$15 N per person / Ages 3 and up
Register before October 23. Space is limited.



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**Veterans
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*Programs
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VETERANS PARK DISTRICT ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE

NOVEMBER 1–DECEMBER 15

Help provide food for the hungry and toys for needy children. Please bring nutritious, non-perishable canned or packaged foods (no glass please) or a NEW toy or game to the following locations:

- Grant Park Recreation Center, Northlake
- George A. Leoni Complex, Melrose Park



Thank you for your donations!



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**Veterans
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Winter WONDERLAND

**GRANT PARK RECREATION CENTER, NORTHLAKE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF NORTHLAKE**

Friday, December 8 • 5 PM

**Holiday fun! Visit Santa Claus!
Free family event with inflatables,
holiday-themed crafts, family bingo,
free hot dogs* and sleigh rides!**

***While supplies last.**

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



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





**Veterans
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Veterans Park District *Active Adult / Senior* *Holiday Day Trips*

**CHRISTMAS
CROONER
SHOW**



Starved Rock

Monday, December 11

SCROOGE
THE MUSICAL



Fireside Theatre

Tuesday, December 19

Call for more information

708-716-4822 / 708-343-5270



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**Veterans
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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 • 10 AM-12 PM
BULGER HALL, MELROSE PARK

INCLUDES:

- * Visit with Santa
- * Hot Breakfast
- * Gift from Santa for Each Child
- * Gingerbread House*
- * Hot Cocoa Table
- * Special Holiday Mug for Children

* One per family, \$15 extra fee for each additional house

**Resident registration is now open ...
Nonresident registration opens Nov. 1.**

FEE:

R	N	
\$20	\$25	Ages: 3-10
\$25	\$30	Ages: 11-Adult

Children under 3 are admitted free, but still need to be registered for the gift count. Max 125 people. Registration Deadline December 1st.



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



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Triton College NEWS

Celebrate Italian American Heritage Month with a Panel and Discussion

Triton College is celebrating Italian American Heritage Month with a panel and discussion, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2-3 p.m., in the Library Upper Commons (A Building). The Triton community, faculty and staff are invited to attend. Ciao!

The panel will feature:

- Frank Di Piero (Moderator) – Host of the *Keepin' It Real with Frankie D* podcast; author of *My Big "Family," Teddy Bianco Goes to Italy* and *Nonno's Magical Garden*; director of Casa Italia in Stone Park; Triton College alumnus; District 234 Board of Education member.
- Maryann Pisano – Staff writer at Triton College; author of *Caterina's Journey* and **The Decision**; school board member for Rhodes School District 84.5.
- Louis H. Rago – Triton College Foundation board member; president of the Original Rago Brothers Funeral Homes.
- Tony Renelli – Triton College Operations and Maintenance Department.
- Colleen Rockafellow – Associate vice president of Business Operations at Triton College.
- Katie Rullo – Associate dean of Continuing Education at Triton College.
- Peter Volpe – President of Wintrust Bank Chicago – Norridge/Mont Clare; Casa Italia board member; board member for Elmwood Park Community Unified School District 401; Triton College alumnus.

Di Piero will ask panelists how the Italian-American experience has inspired and influenced their lives, as well as their individual stories. Enjoy pizzelles (traditional Italian waffle cookies) and coffee!

For more information, please contact maryannpisano@triton.edu.

Triton College Offering Triton Tour Day Trip

Participation is Open to All

Escape for the day with a Triton Tour Day Trip! Triton's experienced tour guides will help you navigate your next great adventure. The trip includes transportation from Triton's campus to the guided destinations, tickets and gratuities. The cost for a trip will be \$150 per person per tour.

Depending on the tour, a lunch stop may be part of the agenda for the day. Lunch is not included in the price of the tour and will be paid for by the participant out of pocket.

Participate in one of the following tours:

- Saturday, Nov. 11 – Wine Tasting at Lynfred Winery
- Saturday, Dec. 9 – Home Alone Holiday

Visit triton.edu/ce for more details on the tours.

To register, call Continuing Education at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, or email ce@triton.edu.

The Triton College Theater Department Presents *Frankenstein*

Fall into the spooky season with Triton College's production of *Frankenstein*, by R.N. Sandberg, Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 27-28, 7-8:30 p.m., in the George R. Cox Auditorium located in the Fine Arts Building (J Building).

Directed by Oskar Westbridge, this

classic tale will get audience members excited for Halloween

Entry is available with a \$5 donation. Admission is free with a Triton ID.

For more information, please contact archaweedhamavasi@triton.edu.



Start Any Party with Triton's "Hot and Cold" Appetizers Class

Triton College will be offering "Hot and Cold Appetizers" (HIA C14 202) on Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This noncredit class will be held in the B Building, Room B-200.

Ready to entertain your guests this fall? This class will teach students how to create the perfect hot or cold party appetizers.

For more information, please visit triton.edu/ce, send an email to askce@triton.edu or call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500.

Triton College Embarking on Alumni Oral History Project

The Triton College Archives is embarking on an Alumni Oral History Project! The goal of the project is to see how Triton has impacted the lives of many alumni.

Alumni will be asked questions pertaining to their time at Triton, including their previous goals, hobbies and how they spent their free time while students at Triton.

Besides the Alumni Oral History Project, the Archives is also hoping to identify people and events by going through thousands of pictures, taken during the 1960s to the 2000s. The Archives is hoping alumni (or faculty and staff) will schedule in-person or online appointments to identify the people in these photos.

"We hope our alumni get the satisfaction in knowing their efforts are helping us make these archival materials more accessible to the Triton community and to the public," said Leah Lestina, reference librarian and archivist.

"We also want our alumni and the Triton community to know that our Archives are here for them to visit and use!"

To participate in the project, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3406, or email leahlestina@triton.edu.

Advanced Registration for the Spring Semester Begins Monday, Oct. 23!
Register early for the best selection of classes!

For more information, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130, or visit www.triton.edu.



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- 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.

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- Invitation to volunteer appreciation events.

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

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.

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Family Medicine Physicians Offer Acupuncture for Chronic Pain

When Catherine Harvey mentioned her chronic pain to a friend, they recommended she go to Kit Lee, MD, a family medicine physician at Loyola Medicine, for acupuncture treatments. Harvey was already familiar with acupuncture as a mode of treatment for chronic pain and knew it was an option for her ankle pain. There was only one problem. "I'm terrified of needles," Harvey said. "To think that there's more than one you're going to put in? Oh no."

Acupuncture is a process in which very thin needles are painlessly inserted through the skin at strategic points on the body. This stimulates the nerves, muscles and connective tissue, boosting the body's immune response. Kit Lee, MD, is one of three family medicine physicians at Loyola certified in acupuncture, along with Aaron J. Michelfelder, MD, chair of Family Medicine, and Haemi Choi, MD, from the department of Family Medicine and Sports Medicine. Lee specializes in integrative medicine, an evidence-based approach to treating the whole person that integrates conventional approaches and complementary therapies, including acupuncture. She views it as a particularly helpful option for patients with chronic health conditions: "there are some conditions where we've sort of reached the limits of what Western medicine can do. It's always nice to have a complementary technique to bring to bear. Even with the things that we do in traditional medicine, to look at something differently or have a non-pharmacologic option is nice."



LOYOLA
MEDICINE

Such was the case for Harvey, who had already seen doctors for her ankle pain and was diagnosed with arthritis. After six years, during which she tried treatments, such as massage therapy and wearing a brace, her condition worsened to the point where she couldn't put weight on her ankle. The pain was so great she was willing to overcome her fear of needles if it meant relief. She made an appointment to see Dr. Lee, who immediately put her at ease. "The orientation lasted maybe an hour because I had so many questions," she said. "Dr. Lee listens to what you're saying, even if it's not directly related to the acupuncture treatment. She addresses issues and shares information with you."

A typical session usually lasts about an hour. After the treating physician positions the needles, she hooks them up to a machine that gives a small stimulus. Then a heat lamp is turned on, relaxing music fills the room and a timer is set for when the session is completed. Then they re-enter the room, turn the lights up a little and gently remove the needles one by one. "The patient doesn't even feel it," said Dr. Michelfelder. Then the physician double checks everywhere needles were placed to be sure they were all removed. Sometimes needles can be intentionally left in for days to weeks with medical tape over them to make the treatments stronger.

Nine years later, Harvey has continued her acupuncture treatment and found it has made an enormous difference. "Before an appointment, I'm hobbling along," she said. "But after, I feel like I can climb Machu Picchu, can walk the Great Wall of China."

The most common conditions for which people seek acupuncture are chronic pain, particularly lower back pain, neck pain and knee pain. The three acupuncture physicians at Loyola all practice family medicine, a discipline that overlaps well with the holistic approach of acupuncture, according to Dr. Michelfelder. In 2022, he authored an editorial about acupuncture published in the journal *Family Medicine* that outlines these overlapping principles and offers an expanded definition of what family medicine means: "acupuncture clinicians are one example of professionals who should be included when we think 'family medicine.'" "A large barrier to receiving acupuncture has been lack of insurance coverage, although this has improved after Medicare began covering acupuncture for lower back pain in 2020. In recent years, several commercial insurance companies followed suit. Another barrier can be misconceptions around the practice of acupuncture, particularly involving the amount of training acupuncturists receive. Some people feel that acupuncturists, particularly those who are not physicians, may not be as well trained," said Dr. Michelfelder. "But in Illinois they have either a master's degree or a doctorate degree. Our licensed acupuncturists are excellent and so are our physician acupuncturists."

Harvey encourages anyone considering acupuncture to try it. "You just need to bite that bullet about being afraid of needles. There is no pain, no discomfort. Dr. Lee tells you what she's doing and why she's doing it," she said. Acupuncture has made a huge difference in Harvey's life and the lives of other patients. "One of the things my primary care physician always asks me is if I'm still seeing my acupuncturist," Harvey said. "When I tell her yes, she says: 'never stop.'"



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HIRING CAREGIVERS / CNA FOR SENIOR CARE

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and Franklin Park!

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Cooking



Cleaning



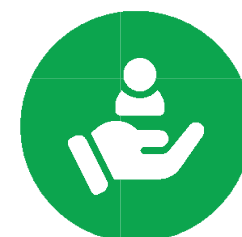
Shopping



Laundry



Doctor Visits



**Other Needed
Help**

Our Locations

1210 S. Highland Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
Tel: (630) 953-1950

4310 W. **Lawrence** Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
Tel: (773) 685-2273

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
Tel: (847) 329-8500

1024 S McHenry Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Tel: (815) 455-2273

8104 S. Roberts Rd.
Justice, IL 60458
Tel: (708) 594-2273

1717 W Golf Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
Tel: (847) 427-2273

1837 Larkin Ave.
Elgin, IL 60123
Tel: (847) 608-9352

2900 W. **Devon** Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659
Tel: (773) 274-1380

www.saharahomecare.com



info@saharahomecare.com

Mayor Serpico Attends District 88 and District 89 Back-to-School Events



As the summer came to an end, school districts 88 and 89 held their annual back-to-school events.

Mayor Serpico was on hand along with Illinois Speaker of the House Chris Welch, Bellwood Mayor Andre Harvey, Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson, school district board members, staff members and Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce representatives, as well as an overwhelming number of students and their families.

Everyone who attended enjoyed the fun activities and snacks that were offered, along with the MP Chamber Bicycle Raffle.

The children were super excited to kick off the new school year and connect with their classmates.



You Can Change a Life!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Monday thru Friday mornings
Volunteer 1 day a week or more!
Mileage reimbursement available!



Funds, in whole or in part, for this publication were provided through AgeOptions under Title III of the Older American Act as administered through the Illinois Department on Aging and the Federal Administration on Aging.

**Contact Us at (312) 207-5290 or
Email Volunteer@cnnssa.org.**

Rhodes School Celebration Showcases New Addition



Rhodes Elementary School (District 84.5) in River Grove held a ribbon cutting and celebration on Friday, Sept. 22, to showcase their new building addition. The new facilities include state-of-the-art classrooms, a new library, a courtyard and play areas for young children. The event consisted of welcoming remarks from School Board President Jan Roeder, as well as other board and community members. Those in attendance were able to tour the new building and see the exciting, new learning opportunities for Rhodes School students. School board members Kevin Polen, Maryann Pisano, Nina White, Jan Roeder, Jim Di Paola and Laura Danek were joined by Superintendent James Prather (far left photo) to do the ribbon cutting. The evening concluded with a delicious dinner from Tri Café that was served in the gymnasium.

Illinois Office of Tourism Reps Visit MP Will Be Promoting Melrose Park in Upcoming Tourism Campaign

Welcome to Melrose Park! Daniel Thomas, deputy director of the Illinois Office of Tourism, and his team made a special visit to the village recently to experience the culture of our community and also dined at Illinois Made awardee Scudiero's Italian Bakery & Deli. Owner Frank Scudiero was on hand to meet with the group and enjoyed sharing stories about our community. The deputy director and Illinois Office of Tourism will be promoting Melrose Park and surrounding suburbs as part of a larger tourism campaign to boost economic development for the region. Watch for more information on this exciting initiative in future issues of *The Rose*.



Smiles at Shriners Children's Chicago



Village of Melrose Park and the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission partnered with Double Good Popcorn to provide the super-hero staff at Shriners Children's Chicago with complimentary bags of delicious popcorn. The gifts brought plenty of smiles to all. Pictured in the top row, far left photo are Melrose Park Trustee Arturo Mota (third from left) and Proviso Township Mental Health Commission representative Joe Vasilevski (center) who thanked the staff for their constant hard work and much-appreciated dedication.



A Message from Tim Bouman, Head of School

Greetings from Walther!

Thanks be to God, the 2023-2024 school year is officially underway! This year's scripture verse is 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." It was chosen as a reminder to students (and teachers!) that as hard as the school year (and life in general) may get, we have a God who encourages us to stay the course and keep doing what is good. We also have a supportive Walther family who encourages one another when "not growing weary" can be a challenge.

Although the school year is new, things are already well underway. On a recent Monday, I walked around the building and grounds after school, and was so pleased to see how active our students are outside of classes. We had students participating in football, cheerleading, cross country, volleyball, Chess Club, Aura, Student Council, Drama, choir, tutoring and more. It is wonderful to see our students getting so many service, leadership and enrichment opportunities – and this was just the tip of the iceberg, outside of classes!

Things are good at Walther. We welcomed a freshmen class of 79 students this fall and continue to seek more opportunities for our students and to make improvements in our programming, as well as in our facilities. Come visit us and see what Walther looks like in 2023!

May God bless your fall!

Tim Bouman, Head of School

A Message from Sally Ruecking, Director of Advancement

Dear Walther Friends,

Our students have happily returned to Walther Christian Academy and are already busy! This year, we are welcoming nearly 300 students. It's a joy to hear the noise in the halls and on the field again.

Our extracurricular clubs are meeting, and I am really proud of the several new students who have joined our Aura Magazine Art and Literature Club. Many students are sixth graders, eager to explore their creative sides and grow their interest in writing and painting. This year, one of the students asked if we could explore a contemporary museum of art on our spring field trip. Working with these students is a great way for me to articulate to alumni and donors who our students are and what their hopes are for the future. A special thanks goes out to Jeff Carnehl, who is helping to talk about Aura to his Art Club students ... and is sharing his classroom with me!

Finally, I am so grateful for the alumni and donors who financially support this wonderful school. Your gifts support each and every student who walks our halls. Would you please consider setting up a monthly donation on our website? Just \$10 a month means \$120 a year that we can count on for tuition assistance and more. Also, 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!

Thank you for all that you do to make Walther Christian Academy successful today ... and tomorrow!

Sally Ruecking, Director of Advancement

Meet Tracy Wright, Student Services and Security

Tracy is the face of Walther to anyone who enters our building. She makes sure everyone in our building has checked in and is accounted for.

Tracy started working at Walther in 2022, but has been a part of our family for many years. She is the mother of a current sophomore and of two alumni who graduated years ago.

Tracy enjoys being a part of her daughter's education and extracurricular activities, and feels strongly that she ensures her daughter is receiving the best education and high school experience possible.

She also enjoys being a mentor to any Walther student who needs her help and advice. We are very grateful to have her!



Tracy Wright

UPCOMING EVENTS ... SAVE THE DATES!

• **Bronco Benefit – Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024** • **Career Day – March 22, 2024**

Meet Adriana Szczesny, Spanish Teacher at Walther

My name is Adriana Szczesny. I am a native Spanish speaker from Argentina. I have a master's degree in education with specialization in Spanish from Webster University. I have had the opportunity to work at Shedd Aquarium as an inclusion specialist for the Learning Department.



Adriana Szczesny

Before moving to Chicago, I taught middle school and high school, including teaching at Lutheran High School North in Saint Louis for three years. I have experience teaching Spanish III and IV classes as an adjunct instructor for Saint Louis University. As a native speaker, I provide an authentic and inside knowledge of Spanish culture to the classroom.

I lived in St. Louis, Mo., for 17 years, and I recently moved to Chicago. I have two daughters, Sofia and Julieta. This year Sofia is starting medical school and Julieta is studying nutrition at UIC. I enjoy spending time with my daughters, walking with my dog and kayaking during the summer. I have a big family living in Argentina, my daughters and I travel as much as possible to visit them. In the past, I traveled to Spain, France and Germany with students and teachers. Last summer, I studied at SLU Madrid, Spain. It was a great experience that I like to share with my students.

Purchase a Paver!

Do you want to support Walther and leave your mark? Or, purchase a gift for someone you love?

The time is now to become a permanent part of Walther by purchasing an engraved paver. You can purchase one on our website by choosing the paver purchase option to honor your time at Walther, thank a parent for sending you here, thank a teacher, honor a memory or give recognition to your business! The pavers are \$200 each.

Visit Walther.com and click on "Donate" for more information.



Walther Would Not Exist Without You!

To all alumni – We are asking every one of you, regardless of where you are in life, to consider including Walther Christian Academy in your will.

Leaving a legacy at Walther means that more students will experience the joy of attending a school that truly cares about them and that your legacy will be helping students tomorrow.

Please contact Sally_Ruecking@WaltherAcademy.org to discuss your wishes.



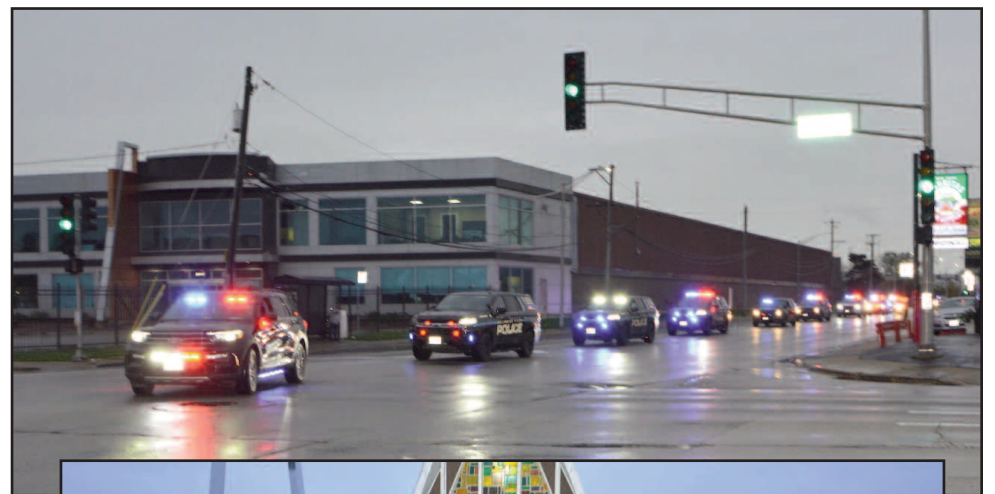
★**SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**★
**Good Luck to the
2023-2024
Lady Broncos
Flag Football Team on
Its First Season!**

A Night of Thanks ... A Night of Remembrance ... A Night of Community ... A Night of Socializing

Even the sporadic rain on Monday night, Sept. 11, couldn't diminish the feeling everyone had as they gathered in front of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church to watch the awe-inspiring silent procession of fire and police vehicles.

Police and fire vehicles of 10 neighboring communities participated in a procession from Wolf & Lake in Berkeley to 25th Avenue in Melrose Park. The anticipation grew as the flashing lights of this procession proceeded north on 25th Avenue to Division and then came down 23rd Avenue.

As they approached the church, Fr. Leandro Fossa', pastor of Mt. Carmel, greeted each car with a blessing and a medal of Our Lady, the protectress of all.



Some vehicles went traveled back to their town and several were able to stay for the Mass. The police and fire personnel, who were able to stay, were joined by representatives from the Air Force, Army, hospital medical staff, nurses, veterans and other first responders. As the bagpipes played, they entered church for a Mass of appreciation by Fr. Leandro.

During the offertory, Phil Schwartz, director of Homeland Security, rang the fire bell, followed by *Taps*, as Mayor Ron Serpico presented a wreath to Our Lady of Sorrows in memory of those who made the greatest sacrifice.

As *America the Beautiful* played, everyone exited the church and enjoyed a panini, pizza and sweets under the tents on the church patio. It was a truly memorable evening for those who serve and protect, and for all of us to take time and show our appreciation.



Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine

November 2023 Events

All Saints Day/Holy Day of Obligation • Wednesday, Nov. 1

Masses

6 p.m. – English/Italian • 7 p.m. – Spanish

All Souls Day/Remembrance Mass • Thursday, Nov. 2

Masses

6 p.m. – English/Italian • 7 p.m. – Spanish

**Altar & Rosary International Game Night • Tombola – Italian Bingo
Friday, Nov. 3**

7 p.m. – St. Anthony Room • \$10 (Includes Refreshments and Prizes)



Spend the evening in Italia with Altar & Rosary.

Tombola – An easy to learn game that's fun for all ... it's bingo with a twist

There are prizes and snacks to be enjoyed!

For ticket information, call Laura Fioretti, any Altar & Rosary member
or the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.

Last day to purchase tickets is Monday, Oct. 30, 2023.

St. Charles Borromeo • Saturday, Nov. 4

Mass for the 80th Anniversary

6 p.m. – St. Charles Borromeo Parish • All are Invited

Italian Community Mass for Mother Cabrini • Sunday, Nov. 12

10:30 a.m. – Italian Mass

Refreshments Served After Mass

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

Scalabrini Comes to Mt. Carmel • Sunday, Nov. 12

Blessing/Unveiling/Reception • 3 p.m. – Parish Front Entrance

On Sunday, Nov. 12, there will be an unveiling of the statue of newly canonized saint – Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini.

In celebration of his one-year anniversary as a saint, a bronze statue of St. Scalabrini has been created and made its home outside Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine on 23rd and Augusta in Melrose Park.

Bishop Scalabrini, founder of the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians) and the Mission of Sisters of St. Charles, is the patron saint of immigrants and migrants and now stands in front of the church to welcome everyone to Mt. Carmel Church and Shrine.

Fr. Leandro Fossá, cs, pastor and rector, along with provincial superior, Fr. Miguel Alvarez, cs, and members of the Missionaries of Saint Charles Congregation will unveil the statue at 3 p.m.

Following the unveiling will be a reception in Parish Hall. All are welcome.



Feast of Mother Cabrini • Monday, Nov. 13

**The First American to be Canonized a Saint
76th Anniversary of Sainthood – 1946-2023
7 p.m. – Trilingual Mass**

Frances Xavier Cabrini M.S.C., (Mother Cabrini), was an Italian-American Catholic nun and the first American to be canonized into sainthood. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a religious institute that was a major support to her fellow Italian immigrants to the United States. She founded Columbus Hospital, renamed Mother Cabrini Hospital in New York and in Chicago's Little Italy area.



Thanksgiving • Thursday, Nov. 23
10 a.m. – Trilingual Community Mass

Christ the King • Sunday, Nov. 26

Last Day of Liturgical Calendar • Year-end Reports at All Masses

December 2023 Events

Advent Evening of Recollection • Wednesday, Dec. 6 Fr. Richard Fragomeni

**6 p.m. – Mass/Dinner/Reflection • \$20 Donation
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Gym – 22nd Avenue and Cortez**

Fr. Richard Fragomeni, rector of The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, an Italian-American spiritual center in Chicago's historic Little Italy, and the first Scalabrinian parish.



Fr. Fragomeni also preaches parish missions and gives national and international presentations. He most recently celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in 2022 and returned to bring us the relic of St. Simon Stock.

In addition, Fr. Fragomeni is a member of the Chicago Theological Union faculty and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University.

Because it's St. Nicholas Day ... instead of filling shoes with candy for children, Altar & Rosary is collecting gently used purses and travel size toiletries, and will fill the purses for "women in need."

Please join in the Christmas spirit and bring a donation with you. Thank you.

To make reservations or for more information, see an Altar & Rosary member, call Lucia or the Rectory at (708) 344-4140. Last day for reservations is Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023.

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

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



819 N. 16th Ave. | Melrose Park, IL 60160



1845 S. 9th Ave. | Maywood, IL 60153

"United by the Cross of Christ"

*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**.

All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation) & All Souls Day

ALL SAINTS DAY: **November 1, 7:00pm Mass** at both **SH** and **SE**.

ALL SOULS DAY: **November 2, 7:00pm Mass** at both **SH** and **SE**.

Thanksgiving Mass

Thursday, **November 23** at **9:00am** at **Sacred Heart**.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena and Mañanitas

Novena from **December 3** to **December 11, 6:00pm** at **St. Eulalia**.
Mañanitas & Mass held on **December 12** at **5:00am** in **Sacred Heart**, then
later in the evening, Mass will be held at **7:00pm** in **St. Eulalia**.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses

Friday, **December 8** at **8:00am** & **7:00pm** in **Sacred Heart** and
7:00pm in **St. Eulalia**. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

Anointing of the Sick Mass & Adoration

December 14 at 7:00pm in **Sacred Heart** with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following afterwards. Confessions will be available.

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.

We welcome you to join us for our Parish's Pasta Dinner. Live entertainment will be provided by "Brothers". Additionally, we also invite you to participate in our annual Christmas Craft Show. Details for both events are below. We hope to see you there!

Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Pasta Dinner & Show

Saturday, November 4th - 6:00pm
(Doors Open 5:30pm)

Sacred Heart Church Marian Hall

819 N. 16th Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160
Church Basement (Use Parking Lot Entrance)

*****Dine In Only*****
Ticket Pre Sales Only



Cost: \$ 18 Adults
\$ 15 Seniors (65+)
\$ 10 Children (-10)

Pasta, Meatballs, Salad,
Bread, Dessert,
Pop & Coffee.
Cash Bar.

Live Entertainment
by Fr. Francisco & Fernando
"Brothers"



• Split-The-Pot
• Gift Baskets
Raffle

For Tickets

Call:

(708) 344-0757



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish, 819 N. 16th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160
www.shsparish.org - (708) 344-0757



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

presents

"SLEIGH BELLS ARE RINGING" CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 2023

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

10:00am to 5:00pm

Sacred Heart Church Marian Hall
15th and Iowa Streets, Melrose Park, IL

"REINDEER" RESALE SHOP - Food Court - Bakery Table

Shop for Holiday Gifts, Jewelry, Scarves & Hats,

Jelly & Jams, Christmas Crafts, Pet Gifts,

Wood Crafts, and Gifts for all!

**FREE
SANTA SELFIE
SNAPSHOTS**

Grand Raffle

1st Prize:

\$ 600 + \$600

2nd Prize: \$ 500

3rd Prize: \$ 250

& More Prizes...

Infinity and Beyond Opens in Melrose Park

Tumbling and Trampoline Classes Offered for Youth Ages 2 to 18



Infinity and Beyond Academy take a Giant Leap! Opening a second Location in Melrose Park offering Tumbling and Trampoline Classes for local youth ages 2 to 18 years old. Located inside of 5 Stars Sports Inc., 1150 N 27th Avenue.

Students at the Infinity and Beyond Academy, headed by former Brazilian gymnast Cassia Cantelmo, will learn tumbling and trampoline skills tailored to their individual level of experience. Infinity and Beyond Academy focus on building self-confidence and leadership for these young students,” Cantelmo says. She added that all students work for months during practice on learning how to control their bodies and work on their social development in taking turns on recreational and competitive level while supporting their friends in class during practice.

Cassia Cantelmo, who started her Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and United States Tumbling and Trampoline Association (USTA) affiliate program at the Elmwood Park Recreation Center in September 2018 has more than 30 years of experience coaching and mentoring children in the surrounding communities, said she hopes that through their training and performance her students will be “strong and confident.”

For more information about Infinity and Beyond Academy Tumbling and Trampoline program at Melrose Park, contact Infinityandbeyondacademy@yahoo.com or call (708) 209-8376.

Also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @Infinity and Beyond Academy.



We Hope You had Fun at These Winston Plaza August and September Free Family Events



Visit Winston-Plaza.com and register to receive Winston's electronic newsletter for our latest news and offers, or check out www.instagram.com/winstonplazamelrosepark/ or www.facebook.com/winstonplaza/.

16th District Awarded with Over \$1.3 Million in Invest in Cook Grant Funding

Five Projects Totaling \$1,376,845 in County Funding will Improve Transit, Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths, as Well as Road and Freight Transportation

Cook County's 16th District will receive nearly \$1.4 million in funding through the Invest in Cook Program. Five projects totaling \$1,376,845 in county funding will improve transit, pedestrian and bicycle paths, as well as road and freight transportation across the 16th District. Berwyn, Brookfield, and LaGrange each received funding through the Invest in Cook Program. Two more projects relate to countywide transit improvements, which are located throughout Cook County.



*Cook County Commissioner
Frank J. Aguilar*



This funding through the Invest in Cook Program will allow for a total of \$5,287,135 in infrastructure spending to occur throughout the 16th District in combined county and local funding. The \$1,376,845 in funding from Cook County in the 16th District accounts for nearly 18 percent of the total \$7.8 million in 2023 Invest in Cook funding for the entire county.

"This investment will have a real day-to-day impact on 16th District residents," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "Funding our transportation infrastructure is crucial to keeping residents safe and allowing them to access everything their communities have to offer. It is amazing to see the partnership between 16th District municipalities and Cook County work together to provide improvements to our communities. I'd like to thank Superintendent Killen and all local officials who helped make this possible."

"Invest in Cook grants help municipalities further their priority transportation projects by providing the gap funding required to advance the planning, engineering or construction associated with transportation improvements," said Cook County's Department of Transportation and Highways Superintendent Jennifer "Sis" Killen. "Making equitable investments to ensure that each community has a robust transportation infrastructure is essential to creating a more vibrant Cook County."

This is the seventh year Invest in Cook grant funding has been awarded for transportation-related projects. Invest in Cook has awarded \$56.4 million in grants for a total of 243 projects throughout Cook County since its inception in 2017.

The county's investment of \$7.8 million leverages significant additional local, state and federal funds, allowing nearly \$26 million in transportation infrastructure engineering and construction to advance. Past projects funded by Invest in Cook have gone on to receive \$3 of local, state or federal funding for every \$1 of Invest in Cook awards.

"Making commuting easier and more accessible will ultimately make Cook County a more appealing place to live and work," said President Preckwinkle. "I am incredibly proud that approximately 60 percent of this year's Invest in Cook funding has been awarded to under-resourced areas. That is the highest rate yet and I look forward to expanding our investments into communities that need support the most."

Invest in Cook grants help municipalities further their transportation projects by providing the gap funding required to advance investing in the planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction associated with transportation

improvements sponsored by local governments and private partners. Funding early project phases is crucial to unlock follow-on grant-funding opportunities.

DoTH evaluated the nearly 80 grant applications submitted by local governments and transit agencies based on priorities detailed in Connecting Cook County:

- Prioritize transit and other transportation alternatives.
- Support the region's role as North America's freight capital.
- Promote equal access to opportunities.
- Maintain and modernize what already exists.
- Increase investments in transportation.

To view the complete list of 2023 Invest in Cook grant recipients and projects, visit: www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook.

Commissioner Aguilar Shares information on Grant Programs Available to Residents of the 16th District

Starting Block Grants

Cook County announced the Starting Block Grant initiative designed to provide capacity building resources and support to community-based nonprofit organizations serving Cook County residents. Cook County Starting Block Grants will support small organizations looking to build internal capacity and develop their infrastructure to promote organizational health, growth and sustainability. This initiative goes beyond traditional grants for organizations to deliver services and allows them to focus on strengthening how they run.

The 2023 grant application period was open from Aug. 7-Sept. 8, 2023. Applications submitted after the deadline are being considered for the next round of funding in 2024, based on the availability of funding.

For more information and to apply, visit cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants.

Pollution Reduction Program Grants
Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced \$10 million in funding for the Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Program, an initiative led by the county’s Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES). This program is available to dry cleaners, auto body and repair shops, and metal finishers, as well as food and beverage manufacturers in suburban Cook County and helps reduce their environmental impact through pollution reduction.

Businesses interested in the free assessment can fill out an interest form in English, Spanish or Korean. Additionally, any eligible businesses that have had a similar environmental assessment conducted by a DES partner or other third party since 2018 may apply directly for the grant.

For more information, visit www.cookcountyil.gov/BRITE.

Appealing a FEMA Decision



FEMA

Everyone has the right to appeal a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decision. An appeal must be filed in the form of a signed letter, by the applicant, within 60 days of the date on the decision letter. In the appeal, explain why you disagree with the decision. Include any requested information and supporting documentation.

Be sure to include the following:

- Applicant’s full name, current address and phone number.
- Address of the applicant’s pre-disaster primary residence.
- Applicant’s signature and the date.
- Applicant’s registration number (on every page).
- FEMA disaster declaration number (on every page).

If the person writing the appeal letter is not the applicant or a member of the applicant’s household, a statement must be included granting the writer authorization to act on your behalf.

Appeal letters and supporting documentation can be uploaded quickly to your account on DisasterAssistance.gov or faxed to (800) 827-8112. Please ensure all faxes include the cover sheet provided with your FEMA decision letter.

Your appeal may also be submitted at a Disaster Recovery Center where staff are available to assist you.

Find your nearest center by visiting the Disaster Recovery Center Locator.

Appeals can also be mailed to:

FEMA National Processing Service Center
P.O. Box 10055 • Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

For more information about FEMA appeals, visit www.fema.gov.

Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village Named to Best Nursing Homes List

Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village (Northlake) has been recognized on *Newsweek’s* America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024 list. This prestigious award is presented by *Newsweek* and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider. The awards list was announced on Sept. 27, 2023, and can currently be viewed on *Newsweek’s* website.

The America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024 ranking lists the nation’s leading nursing homes in the 25 states with the highest number of facilities according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The evaluation is based on five data sources:

- **CMS Data** – Used to determine the performance of nursing homes.
- **National Online Survey** – Thousands of medical professionals (registered nurses, nursing home managers and administrators, licensed practical nurses/licensed vocational nurses, nursing assistants, therapists and physicians) were surveyed.
- **Management of the COVID-19 situation** – A COVID-19 score for each facility was calculated, with the objective to award nursing homes which have had the best possible response and protocols during the pandemic.
- **Resident Satisfaction Data** – National Patient Safety Goals from the Joint Commission and Google reviews were included.
- **Accreditation** – Data on nursing homes provided by The Joint Commission (TJC) and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Based on the results of the study, Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village is ecstatic to be recognized as one of *Newsweek’s* America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024.

“This designation is a testament to the dedication, personalized care and service provided by every member of our care teams who are driven by a commitment to delivering quality care and living out our mission,” said Eliana Mejia, executive director, Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village. “It is an honor to have Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village nationally recognized by this leading publication.”

To learn more about Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village, visit www.ascensionliving.org/casascalabrini.

About Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village

Ascension Living Carroll Manor offers a range of care, services and support options, including independent living, short-term rehabilitation, memory support, as well as intermediate, respite and skilled nursing care. For more information about Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini Village, call (708) 562-4300 or visit www.ascensionliving.org/casascalabrini.

Ascension Living (www.ascensionliving.org), based in St. Louis and part of Ascension, is a mission-driven senior living provider deeply connected to our Catholic faith that cares for the physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being of all individuals we serve. Our mission calls us to provide spiritually centered, holistic care to seniors, particularly those most in need. We offer a wide range of programs tailored to meet the unique needs of older adults. Regardless of everyone’s stage in life, our goal is to provide seniors with opportunities designed to make their lives joyful, enriching and satisfying. With communities in 11 states and the District of Columbia, our ministries are continually developing and adopting new best practices in care that enhance the experiences of our residents, program participants and patients.

Ascension (www.ascension.org) is one of the nation’s leading nonprofit and Catholic health systems with a mission of delivering compassionate, personalized care to all with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2022, Ascension provided \$2.3 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes approximately 139,000 associates and 36,000 aligned providers and operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 139 hospitals in 19 states.

HOW TO WRITE AN APPEAL

The appeal must be postmarked within 60 days of the date on the award or denial letter from FEMA.

Your FEMA Registration #
FEMA Disaster Number

Name
Current Mailing Address
Phone #
XXXX-XXXX-X
DR-XXXX-STATE

Dear FEMA,

On MM/DD/YYYY, I received a letter stating [describe the letter with which you disagree]. I am appealing your decision because [include detailed justification on why you believe you are eligible or should receive more funds]. I have attached the following supporting documentation [ensure you provide documentation supporting your appeal such as receipts, verifiable contractor estimates, or other supporting documentation].

Signature

I hereby declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Include This Statement
*This is not required but recommended

3 Ways To Submit Your Appeal

Online DisasterAssistance.gov (Upload to your account)
By Fax 800-827-8112 (Attention FEMA)
By Mail FEMA National Processing Service Center
P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055



News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Giannoulias Announces Additions to Skip-the-Line Program

Plan Includes Opening Two "Senior Only" Centers in Chicago Metro Area Additional Appointment Capacity Added to Accommodate Driver's License Services

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced his office is implementing a number of additions to the Skip-the-Line Program, which launched in September.

From Sept. 1-21, Illinois driver and motor vehicle facilities (DMVs) have seen more than 165,000 customers by appointment throughout the state. Customers with appointments are experiencing little to no wait times upon arrival at DMVs, which is a vast improvement compared to the hour-plus waits that Illinoisans had come to expect when visiting DMVs before adopting the Skip-the-Line Program.

"The Skip-the-Line Program had been functioning at a high level in the first few weeks since its official launch," Giannoulias said. "But we can make improvements with targeted adjustments and I am focused on implementing these to benefit all of our customers, especially our seniors."

Giannoulias announced his office will implement the following additions, many of which are tailored specifically toward seniors:

- **Opening two "Senior Only" walk-in centers in the Chicago area.** The two locations include the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 N. Ridge Rd., in Evanston, and Seat Geek Stadium, 7000 S. Harlem Ave., in Bridgeview. Seniors at these locations will not need appointments, as these walk-in centers are specifically designed to meet their needs. By offering this targeted option, the office is prioritizing seniors without impacting customers at DMVs who have made appointments. Seniors still have the option to make a standard appointment at these and other locations.
- **Increasing the number of available appointments.** Expanding scheduling availability will increase the number of in-car/road test appointments at Chicagoland DMVs by over 40 percent or nearly 1,300 more per day.
- **Adding additional call center features to serve seniors aged 70 and older who require a road exam.** These callers will be routed directly to operators who will provide on-the-spot information, schedule appointments or assist with online renewals. Seniors may call (800) 252-8980.
- **Adding new features to the appointment website.** Customers can now filter DMVs by ZIP code, highlighting appointment openings at DMVs closest to them.

Giannoulias Recommends Increasing Requirement for Drive Tests from 75 to 79

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias released a report that recommends adjusting the age requirement for mandatory driving tests from 75 to 79, making Illinois more consistent with other states.

For the past dozen years, Illinois has been the only state in the nation that requires senior drivers to have their behind-the-wheel skills tested on a regular basis. The last two states that mandated driving tests for seniors did away with them in 2011 (New Hampshire) and 2005 (Indiana).

"As secretary of state, road safety is a top priority of mine," Giannoulias said. "Statistics show that seniors are among the safest drivers of any age category. This change would make Illinois driving standards for senior drivers more consistent compared to other states while keeping Illinois as one of the strictest states for license renewals."

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) statistics in 2022 included a full year of data relating to the emergency rule that raised the age to 79. IDOT reported virtually no change in crash rates for drivers 75 and older, with a crash rate of 24.39 per 1,000 drivers, which is lower than every age range of drivers between 16 and 69 years old.

"AARP applauds Secretary Giannoulias' recommendation to permanently reduce the number of older drivers subject to age-based license renewals," said Ryan Gruenenfelder, senior manager of Outreach and Advocacy for AARP Illinois. "Though AARP maintains age alone is not determinative of driving performance, this is a step in the right direction. We look forward to continuing to work with Secretary Giannoulias to identify policy solutions that assess all drivers' ability to be safe on the road."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois General Assembly passed a measure modifying driver requirements in response to the unprecedented public health crisis. The act temporarily raised the age of driving tests from 75 to 79 and was scheduled to expire on Jan. 1, 2023. Lawmakers extended the act to Oct. 1, 2023, and requested the Secretary of State's Office recommend whether the age increase should be made permanent.

There are more than 9.1 million licensed drivers in Illinois. Of those, approximately 280,000 individuals are between the ages of 75 and 78, or 3 percent of the driving population – who would be impacted by the permanent implementation of this legislation.

In neighboring Wisconsin, where there are no requirements specifically geared toward older drivers, all drivers are required to renew their licenses every eight years and are not required to take a driving test, regardless of age. Crash rates among senior drivers there are nearly identical to those in Illinois.

The act regarding the change only pertained to drivers 75 to 78 required to take the driving tests.

Current Illinois law would remain unchanged when it comes to renewing drivers for other age groups:

- All drivers below the age of 81 must renew their licenses every four years.
- Drivers aged 79 and 80 must take a vision and driving test (if their four-year renewal is up during this time period).
- Drivers aged 81 to 86 must take a vision and driving test every two years.
- Drivers aged 87 and older must take a vision and driving test every year.

Giannoulas urged the state to adopt the rules immediately so seniors would not have to take driving tests after the Oct. 1 deadline and before the requirements are made permanent.

He added that the Secretary of State's Office will continue to monitor state driving laws and advocate for changes as long as our roadways remain safe and Illinois drivers, pedestrians and cyclists are protected.

Giannoulas Awards More Than \$2.4 Million to the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force to Combat Carjackings and Vehicle Thefts

In an effort to continue operations and expand specialized investigations into carjackings and vehicle thefts, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas awarded the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force (MEATTF) with a \$2.4 million grant. This grant follows four consecutive years of funding provided by the Secretary of State's Office to bolster MEATTF operations.

Recent statistics show that the infusion of funding is working, as MEATTF recovered 547 stolen vehicles valued at over \$8 million in a 12-month period from July 2, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

In July 2023, Giannoulas awarded the task force with a \$2.4 million grant to continue operations and expand specialized investigations into crimes related to vehicular hijacking, auto theft, insurance fraud and recyclable metal theft.

"The rate of return on our investment in MEATTF is astounding," said Secretary Giannoulas. "Combatting vehicle hijacking, auto theft and recyclable metal theft crime helps increase safety and protect the property of Illinoisans. Families should be able to go to the grocery store or park in their driveway without feeling like they will be a victim of an auto crime."

Based out of the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office, MEATTF was reestablished in 2019 and consists of partnerships with area law enforcement agencies, and Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties. In the past four years, MEATTF recovered 1,928 stolen vehicles valued at over \$26 million.

"Effective operations include proven investigative techniques in addition to the increased utilization of technology," said Captain Matt Jany, director of MEATTF. "To build successful prosecutions, we are utilizing data from the vehicles' infotainment systems, which may include GPS data, call logs and text messages that help prove when and where crimes occurred. We appreciate the support of Secretary Giannoulas. Our efforts are clearly making a positive difference."

Secretary Giannoulas' office oversees the 11-member Illinois Vehicle Hijacking and Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council, which awards funding to assist law enforcement entities with auto theft prevention measures. The Secretary of State's Office convenes regular meetings of council members to discuss strategies to combat vehicle hijacking, auto theft and recyclable metal theft crimes.

The Secretary of State's Office collects an annual \$1 assessment on automobile insurance policies from the insurance industry to fund grant awards. In addition, the Illinois General Assembly appropriated an additional infusion of \$30 million in 2022 to combat statewide carjacking and motor vehicle theft.

Giannoulas Awards \$27 Million to Support Public Library Services and Literacy Efforts

In support of libraries, education and lifelong learning, Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulas announced that he has awarded over \$21.4 million in grants for library services and over \$5.7 million in adult literacy grants for local literacy programs to more than 140 Illinois recipients.

"As state librarian, it's a privilege to provide these resources to support and enhance local library services and adult literacy programs across Illinois," said Giannoulas. "Without properly funding programs, staff and educators, learning is difficult. These grants have the ability to position individuals for success and change lives by serving the unique needs of local communities."

Giannoulas awarded the grants to projects that:

- Support educational mentoring programs that engage students in active learning.
- Fund online catalogs and provide resources aimed at narrowing the digital divide.
- Provide educational and training opportunities for library staff.
- Train volunteers who tutor older teens and adults in basic reading, math, writing and language skills.
- Enhance family literacy programs for parents and children that focus on basic reading, math, writing and language skills.
- Provide workplace literacy programming to employees of Illinois businesses.
- Allow access to news and reading materials for those who are vision impaired or have other physical limitations.
- Expand free statewide sharing and delivery of materials between libraries and patrons.

The Secretary of State's Office awarded grants for library programs and services using combined state funds and federal Library Services and Technology Act funds. The Adult Literacy Program is funded with state funds and is administered by the Secretary of State's Illinois State Library Literacy Office.

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office administers multiple grant programs each fiscal year, amounting to nearly \$65 million annually.



Know your options.

Make the choice that is right for you.

Beginning **May 7, 2025,**

the federal government will require you to use a valid **U.S. passport*** or obtain the new Illinois **REAL ID** to fly domestically.

* For a complete list of acceptable REAL ID-compliant documents, visit www.tsa.gov.

You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.



The federal government requires REAL ID applicants to provide documentation confirming identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card;
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation;
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.



If you have a valid U.S. passport, you are NOT required to have a REAL ID to fly.

Current Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards will continue to be accepted at airports until May 7, 2025.

For additional information:

REALID.ilsos.gov
833-503-4074



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
Secretary of State

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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 ...

- **Address Change**
- **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.**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas
Secretary of State



Everyone Has the Right to Live Where They Choose

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

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

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



*Village of
Melrose Park*



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

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

Your Money

Five Big Picture Tips to Help Eliminate Debt

Getting out of debt can seem like an uphill battle. However, taking control of your finances is possible when you have the right tools and the right plan.

Highest Interest Rates First

Financial professionals often call this the avalanche method. Attacking debt with the highest interest rate first will minimize how much interest is paid over the long term. Individuals must continue to make at least the minimum payments on their other debts while pouring any other money into the highest interest rate.

Once the highest interest rate debt is paid off, apply the same plan to the next highest interest rate. Rinse and repeat.

Try to Lower the Interest Rate

If you pay your bills on time each month, call your credit card company, remind them that you are a good customer and ask them to lower your interest rate.

If your bills come due all at the same time and that causes a cash crunch, ask a biller if they will move your due date.

Or, if you are experiencing a life situation that has prompted a hardship, ask for help. Finance companies sometimes will offer interest rate reductions due to a customer's hardship.

Cut Spending

When you're working to pay off debt, every dollar counts. Look for ways to lower your spending in your everyday life. Start with a review of your budget and work from there.

If you don't have a budget, make one. This helps you see where your money goes each month and identify which expenses are a must and which are not.

Is that cable package really necessary? Fast casual for dinner again? Can you do without the gold-plated cellphone plan? Don't forget the library has movies and video games in addition to books. Small changes can lead to big results.

Improve Your Credit Score

Credit scores directly impact the interest rate you pay for a car loan. Someone with a 500 credit score will pay hundreds of dollars more each month than someone with a 750 score for the same car. The same can be said for a mortgage, credit card and other financial products.

The better your credit score, the better the deal. Those with higher scores often are viewed as more qualified borrowers because they present a lower risk to the lender.

To increase your credit score, make payments on time. Keep the credit card balance low – no more than 30 percent of the credit limit or \$3,000 on a \$10,000 limit credit card.

And the story of carrying a credit balance to build a credit history is just that – a story. If you can pay the bill, pay the bill.

Build an Emergency Fund

Yes, it's hard to save money when you are in debt. However, an emergency fund can keep you out of debt – or at least lessen the blow when that unanticipated car repair or medical bill pops up.

Final Thoughts

Paying off debt can be challenging, especially when you don't know where to start. Whether it's through the avalanche method, cutting back on spending, or – better yet – a combination of all of these, there are many options available to pay down debt more quickly.

Four Common Financial Distractions and How to Avoid Them

When it comes to taking care of financial matters, it's easy to get distracted. This is especially true if you don't particularly enjoy tasks such as budgeting, investing or retirement planning. But taking the time to manage your finances and stay focused on your financial goals is critical if you want to experience financial freedom and reduce financial stress.

Here are four things that may get between you and your financial goals – and steps you can take to get back on track.

Financial Anxiety

Whether you're afraid of what you'll find when you look at your finances or you're overwhelmed by everything you need to do, know you're not alone. Many people feel money-related stress. But not confronting money problems won't make them go away. Rather, it will only make them grow until they become too big for you to handle. So, instead of avoiding working on your finances, try approaching them in a different way.

Consider setting a "money date" with yourself to make the experience more enjoyable. You can put on some music, make a nice snack and pour your favorite beverage to set the stage. Then, hunker down with your laptop, credit cards and banking apps, and start checking things off your list. This might include paying your bills, transferring money into your savings and investing accounts, and reviewing recent purchases. If you put your money date on the calendar for every week or every month, it can make it feel less intimidating over time.

Ultimately, getting into a money routine and making that routine more enjoyable can help you rethink managing your finances. In turn, this can then help reduce your financial anxiety and motivate you to make progress on your goals.

Complexity

Financial matters can be complex. What's the difference between savings bonds and I bonds? How do you open a brokerage account and why would you need one in the first place? When do you invest in an IRA and when do you invest in a 401(k)?

Questions like these are a dime a dozen, but you don't have to answer them all at once.

The best way to face complex financial matters and learn the lingo is to take one step at a time. For instance, start by thinking about your financial goals. If your goal is to save more, you might focus on learning about high-yield savings accounts. Or, if your goal is to invest more, you might consider taking an online course on investing or speaking with a financial professional.

There are incredible resources that can break down complex financial topics and make them easier to understand. When you land on the right resource, it can help motivate you to stay on task and reach your goals. And, as you learn, it will seem less and less complicated.



Peer Pressure

Almost everyone can relate to the phrase “keeping up with the Joneses.” We are all influenced by those around us (or on social media) to some extent and it's easy to let what others have distract us from our own financial goals. Before we know it, we're buying the jeans instead of putting that extra \$100 in our Roth IRA or toward the vacation we want to take.

Fortunately, there are a couple of ways to not let peer pressure distract you from your financial goals. The first is to get really clear on what your goals are so you can remind yourself of what you're working toward when you feel the pressure to make a purchase. The second is to limit your exposure to things that tempt you.

For example, you may decide to unsubscribe from emails from places you like to shop or unfollow people who tend to influence you to spend more. Saying no to financial peer pressure is like a muscle – the more you work it, the easier it becomes.

Emergencies

Emergency expenses are one of the easiest ways to send someone's finances into a tailspin and distract them from their goals. Emergencies not only can break the budget but can also lead to debt. Hospital bills, car repairs and essential home renovations typically aren't cheap, but they happen, so it's essential to be prepared for them. For this reason, it's important to build up an emergency fund.

Most experts recommend saving at least three to six months' worth of living expenses in an emergency fund. However, everyone's financial situation is different, so you can start with a smaller goal and work your way up. Once you have this amount set aside in a savings account, you can be better financially prepared for when an emergency does occur, such as in the case of a car accident or job loss. This way, it will be only a temporary distraction and won't upset all the financial progress you've made.

Final Thought

We all get distracted at times, but when we can identify what our distractions are and take steps to prevent them, we have the tools to stay focused on our financial goals and reach them sooner rather than later.

If you found this information helpful, you can find additional resources at the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub, a service of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

Protecting Your Money Money on Your Payment App Might Not Be Safe

Money stored on popular payment apps likely are not FDIC-insured, a federal government agency recently warned.

“Popular digital payment apps are increasingly used as substitutes for a traditional bank or credit union account, but lack the same protections to ensure that funds are safe,” according to Rohit Chopra, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

Nonbank payment apps such as PayPal, Venmo and Cash App have grown rapidly. However, unlike traditional bank and credit union accounts which have deposit insurance, funds stored in these nonbank payment companies might not be protected, according to the CFPB.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a government agency funded by member banks, generally covers deposits of up to \$250,000 per depositor, per member bank, in the event a bank collapses.

Credit unions have comparable protection through the National Credit Union Association.

In contrast, financial technology companies operate most payment apps and are not part of the FDIC insurance program.

**State Treasurer Michael Frerichs wants to help people be financially secure,
so he recently launched the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub)
to help all Illinois residents plan a better financial future.**

**Visit https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Education/IL_Financial_Wellness_Hub
for free resources!**

ComEd Reminds Customers of Bill-Assistance Options During the LIHEAP Application Period

Through Aug. 31, ComEd Helped Connect 167,000 Eligible Customers to \$68 Million in Grants and Other Bill Assistance

As the state of Illinois launches the three-phase application period for utility-bill assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), ComEd reminds customers that it offers a wide-range of support options for customers of all income levels.

"ComEd and the state of Illinois share a commitment to support families experiencing difficulty in paying their energy bills and we want to help our customers understand changes to the LIHEAP application process," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's chief customer officer and senior vice president of customer operations. "To ensure that families most in need of assistance are prioritized in receiving support, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will use a 'priority-period' approach to accepting applications. But even as families await the opportunity to apply for LIHEAP grants, ComEd has programs that can support our customers now."

Each fall, LIHEAP accepts applications for a one-time grant, per program year and with no payback required, until funding is exhausted. This year, to ensure LIHEAP funds are prioritized for customers most in need of financial assistance, eligible customers can apply for funding after one of three dates:

- As of Monday, Oct. 2, seniors aged 60 and older, people with disabilities and households with children under the age of 6 years have been able to apply for LIHEAP assistance.
- Beginning Nov. 1, households that are disconnected from service or have a disconnection notice can start applying for LIHEAP assistance.
- Beginning Dec. 1, all other income-eligible households can start applying for LIHEAP assistance.

An income-eligible customer's annual household income cannot exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, which for a family of four is \$5,000 a month. Homeowners, renters and subsidized housing tenants are also eligible to apply for assistance. Families and individuals do not have to be behind on their bills to receive a grant. Eligibility details and online Request for Services Form are available at helpillinoisfamilies.com.

ComEd Bill-assistance Options

ComEd administers its Catch Up and Save. This two-part program provides monthly credits to an eligible customer's bill to eliminate past-due balances, as well as a free energy-savings kit – which includes home products designed to help lower home energy use while supplies last – to help families save on future energy bills. Other options ComEd offers to help customers with their bills now and into the future include:

- Payment arrangements of up to 12 months for eligible residential customers with past-due balances. Make a down payment on the amount owed and pay the rest through installments in addition to your regular monthly bill.
- Budget billing, which provides a predictable monthly payment based on your electricity usage from the last 12 months.
- Deposit and late-payment charge waivers for one year to income-eligible customers, along with the return of any current deposit.
- High-usage alerts, which enable customers to receive alerts when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future energy bills.
- Energy-efficiency offerings, including services and incentives designed to help income-eligible residential customers reduce energy use now and in the long term.

"Prioritizing accessibility and a seamless application process is our unwavering commitment to empower Cook County residents in securing an LIHEAP grant," said Latoya Butler, vice president of Energy Services for the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA), one of the agencies that administers LIHEAP and other utility assistance programs in Cook County.

To make it easier for customers to sort through these and other bill-assistance options and energy-efficiency programs, ComEd offers its Smart Assistance Manager (SAM) at ComEd.com/SAM. SAM is an online self-service tool that can match customers with the programs for which they may qualify. Customers without internet access can call ComEd at 800-EDISON1 (800-334-7661), Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Customers Save More than \$8 Billion on Energy Bills Through Award-Winning ComEd Energy Efficiency Program

ComEd Offerings Ranked First in Midwest by National Energy-efficiency Research Organization

Since 2008, hundreds of thousands of families and businesses across northern Illinois have saved a total of more than \$8 billion on their energy bills by participating in the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program.

The award-winning program, which is funded in compliance with state law, is one of the largest in the nation offering residents, businesses and the public sector a variety of options that help them cut back on their energy use, which reduces energy bills and helps the environment.

In addition to saving customers more than \$8 billion on their energy bills, the program also helped customers save approximately 76 million megawatt-hours of electricity, which is enough energy to power more than 8.6 million ComEd customers' homes for one year. The program has also helped reduce



from the air nearly 65 billion pounds of carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, which is the equivalent of removing more than 6.3 million cars off the road for one year or planting nearly 35 million acres of trees.

"As ComEd works to provide customers with clean, reliable energy, we've also worked over the last decade to control costs and keep rates competitive," said Erica Borggren, vice president of Customer Solutions at ComEd. "Part of that effort is through the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, which enables customers to take control of when and how they use electricity to help them manage costs and lower their electric bills."

In January, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) recognized ComEd's Multi-Family Energy Savings offering with an Inspiring Efficiency Award. The offering, one of many available through ComEd's Energy-efficiency Program, features assessments and free or discounted energy-saving products to help residents and owners of multi-unit dwellings lower their energy use and electric bills. In May, the program also received the highest level of recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence Award.

"Energy efficiency plays a crucial role in meeting our nation's energy needs," said Mike Specian, utilities manager at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and lead author of the recently released *Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, which ranked the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program first among Midwest utility programs and fourth nationally. "It lowers customer energy bills, reduces energy burden, improves in-home comfort, enhances resilience and improves indoor air quality."

The scorecard evaluated 53 of the largest U.S. electric utilities on their policy and program efforts related to energy efficiency during 2021. The scorecard also looked at how utilities managed customers at risk of having their electric service disconnected, which can severely damage people's health and well-being by depriving them of safe living temperatures, refrigeration and the use of medical equipment, as well as evaluated utilities on how they ensure diverse workforces for their efficiency programs.

How Customers can Benefit from Energy-saving Programs

ComEd residential customers interested in taking advantage of any of the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program offerings can view a full list of services, incentives and rebates at ComEd.com/HomeSavings. Offerings for business customers are available at ComEd.com/BizSavings.

For customers who want help getting started, ComEd recommends establishing a free, online account at ComEd.com/MyAccount. Once logged in, customers can compare their current bill with last month's bill and last year's bill to learn more about their energy use. They can even view their bill forecast to see an estimate of their upcoming bill, so customers can make changes in energy use to manage costs before their next bill. With an online account, customers can also:

- Click on My Usage and then Tips to find personalized, energy-saving suggestions based on the information provided in their home profile. These tips can help customers find ways to save money and energy, by cost, season and more.
- Sign up for free bill notifications, such as High-Usage Alerts that send notifications when energy use is trending higher than usual, and Weekly Usage Reports that summarize your daily use so you can spot trends and adjust usage before your next bill arrives.
- Access View My Usage to obtain graphs of existing costs and energy-use patterns. In the Neighbors tab, customers get a relative comparison of energy use from about 100 comparable homes within a certain radius. To increase the accuracy of the comparison, customers can go to My Home Profile to add or change details about your home.

ComEd Encouraging 75 Latino Students to Pursue Careers in STEM During ComEd STEM Labs

ComEd Developing Next Generation of STEM Leaders During Hispanic Heritage Month

As part of its annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and to help diversify the pipeline of students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, ComEd hosted an event in which local Latino high school students worked alongside ComEd engineers to learn about batteries and STEM careers while building their own Bluetooth speakers.

"ComEd is committed to developing a skilled, local, diverse workforce by providing opportunities for communities that are historically under-represented in STEM to build experience and confidence in this space," said Dave Perez, senior vice president of Distribution Operations at ComEd. "As we move toward a cleaner energy future, we need to build a tech-savvy workforce. We hope that programs like ComEd STEM Labs will inspire larger numbers of diverse students to pursue a STEM-focused career."

The event, part of ComEd's STEM Labs Program, engaged 75 Latino high school students from across Chicagoland and northern Illinois on Saturday, Sept. 30, at ComEd's Chicago North facility. The students worked with ComEd mentors and special guest, Dr. Kate Biberdorf, a renowned author, chemist and science educator to explore a variety of STEM activities, including learning about batteries and building their own Bluetooth speakers. In addition to building Bluetooth speakers and networking with ComEd mentors and executives, each student received a \$250 scholarship upon completing the program.

Latino Americans make up 17 percent of the U.S. workforce, but only 8 percent of STEM workers. Studies show that despite being as interested in STEM as other ethnic groups, Latino students are less likely to take STEM courses in high school, which decreases the likelihood they will pursue opportunities that lead to careers in STEM, according to the Student Research Foundation.

ComEd STEM Labs is one example of how ComEd is preparing more students of color and women to become leaders in the clean-energy transition. Additional STEM and scholarship programs include the ComEd EV Rally, Power of STEM, Future of Energy Scholarships and Drop Me In. These programs all focus on giving diverse groups of students greater exposure to the possibilities of STEM. ComEd STEM Labs is one of the many programs ComEd sponsors to encourage more students of color and women to pursue STEM careers.

Students, parents and educators interested in being notified about upcoming ComEd STEM youth programs and when to apply can submit their email address at STEMsignUp.com/ComEd.

Nicor Gas Helps Customers Warm Up to Fall Savings

As the seasons change and temperatures drop, thermostats go up, increasing natural gas usage to keep homes comfortable and warm. Now is the time to prepare for cooler weather with energy efficiency offerings that can help you use less energy.

Making a few home improvements can add up to significant savings on utility bills. Here are just a few ways to begin saving money and energy:

- **Turn it down** – Fall means breaking out favorite sweaters, but that also means thermostats are likely to go up as nighttime temperatures dip. The U.S. Department of Energy suggests setting day-time thermostats no higher than 68°F for heating. Save an estimated 10 percent on heating costs by lowering thermostat temperatures to an energy-saving level of 60-63°F overnight or when away.
- **Get smart** – Installing a learning or “smart” thermostat will make energy savings even easier, as the thermostat will adjust throughout the day for you. The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program offers its customers rebates for replacing outdated thermostats with smart thermostats. To learn more, visit nicorgas.com/smartstat.
- **Improve your home's insulation** – Improving a home's insulation can be the single most effective action to save energy. Improvements to insulation will help you stay warm during colder months while reducing home heating costs by an average of 15 percent. Nicor Gas offers rebates to its customers that have home air and duct sealing performed, as well as for the installation of attic and wall insulation. Learn more about the available rebates at nicorgas.com/sealandinsulate.
- **Seal out the cold** – Leaky windows and doors, as well as uninsulated outlet and switch plates, allow unwanted drafts into a home. Cost-effective shrink wrap for windows, as well as weatherstripping, and caulk for doors and windows are available at home improvement stores and are easy do-it-yourself projects. Door sweeps that block drafts from under doors and foam gaskets that are installed behind outlet and switch plates are also excellent means of preventing unwanted drafts.
- **Use less hot water** – A long shower may feel great, but it also affects heating costs due to increased hot water use. Free water-saving kits are available for all Nicor Gas residential customers to help prevent your budget from going down the drain. Each kit contains up to two high-efficiency showerheads, bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators, and a shower timer to help you get in the habit of shorter showers, which will save water and energy. Kits can be requested at nicorgas.com/freekit.

The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program helps customers manage their costs by lowering out-of-pocket expenses for energy efficiency improvements through rebates, free home energy assessments and free energy-saving products. To learn more, visit nicorgas.com/waystosave.



Nicor Gas Invests \$377M with Diverse Companies More Than Half 2022 Investments Made with Illinois-based Minority-, Women- and Veteran-owned Business Enterprises

On Sept. 7, Nicor Gas announced \$100,000 in grants to support diversity initiatives that address the lack of access to opportunities for those experiencing discrimination based on race, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, veteran status and physical disabilities.

“We are proud to support several organizations across our service territory that are dedicated to making our communities stronger every day,” said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Affairs at Nicor Gas. “As the largest natural gas provider in Illinois that provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable service to 2.3 million customers, we believe that promoting diversity and inclusion opportunities, education and access to resources to groups that have been under-served and under-represented is critical to the success of our state and its growing workforce.”

This year, Nicor Gas is proud to award several organizations with grants of up to \$5,000 to support their diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, including the following metro Chicago and Cook County business enterprises:

Metro Chicago

- **Chicago Sinfonietta** – Supports classical music education residencies throughout Chicago that are designed to eliminate socioeconomic and geographic barriers while providing interactive programming and services.
- **Chicago State University Foundation** – Supports the institution’s Pre-Freshman in Engineering Program for students whose demographics are traditionally underrepresented in the STEM fields.
- **Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.** – Supports economic stability for diverse and low-income women by increasing their financial stability and psychological self-sufficiency.
- **National Latino Education Institute** – Supports meaningful employment programming and opportunities.
- **Sisters Working It Out** – Supports programming aimed to increase access to and timely use of quality cancer screening services for women in underserved communities.
- **Women Employed** – Supports programming to address the wealth gap at the intersection of race and gender.
- **YWCA Metropolitan Chicago** – Supports career pathway programs for women and people of color to obtain credentials and access to high-demand positions.

Cook County

- **American Association of Blacks in Energy, Chicago Chapter** – Supports funding for student scholarships.
- **Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero** – Supports mental health resources and community presentations by Spanish-speaking clinicians.
- **Hispanic Business Network Foundation** – Supports funding for scholarships to support first-generation college students.

To learn more about Nicor Gas’ commitment to protecting the environment and giving back to the communities it serves, visit www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving.

Walgreens Now Offering Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments

With the FDA and the CDC authorization for the new vaccines targeting newer coronavirus variants, Walgreens stands ready to provide critical access to COVID-19 vaccines for all eligible individuals.

Appointments can be scheduled by visiting Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine, using the Walgreens app or calling 1-800-WALGREENS. Additional appointments will be added daily as inventory arrives at stores.

Our trusted pharmacy teams are prepared to help keep our communities protected by ensuring everyone gets the appropriate prevention, testing and treatment they need this respiratory illness season.

The CDC is contracting with select pharmacies, including Walgreens, to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations to uninsured and underinsured adults through the Bridge Access Program. Walgreens remains focused on driving equitable and convenient access to lifesaving vaccines.



Walgreens Announces New Vaccination and Testing Offerings Ahead of Fall Respiratory Virus Season

The Offerings Reflect What Matters Most to Consumers this Fall Respiratory Virus Season Based on New Survey Insights

Walgreens is offering in-store vouchers and off-site vaccination clinics through its Employer Vaccination Program, and is rolling out a low-cost test for flu and COVID-19 this fall respiratory virus season. These new services support insights gleaned from a recent consumer survey commissioned by Walgreens that reveals many prefer going to local pharmacies because of their ease and convenience.

Key findings from a survey of more than 1,000 adult consumers include:

- When asked about how consumers feel coming into this year's flu season, the top three feelings mentioned were calm (37 percent), aware (32 percent) and prepared (30 percent); as opposed to less than 10 percent of consumers noting anxiety (9 percent), reluctance (7 percent) or worry (6 percent).
- When asked about important factors in deciding to get a flu shot, time was most frequently mentioned (41 percent), as people want a quick and easy experience. Expertise (38 percent) and efficacy (38 percent) were tied as the second most important factors.
- More than half of respondents said they view pharmacies as easy and time efficient for flu shots (57 percent), convenient to home and/or work (51 percent) and cost-effective (50 percent).

"These insights demonstrate that people recognize pharmacies as a convenient and easy place to receive vaccinations," said Kevin Ban, MD, chief medical officer, Walgreens. "To meet this demand, we are removing friction to help keep our communities protected this fall. Our expert pharmacists are prepared to ensure everyone gets the appropriate prevention, testing or treatment they need this season through offerings such as our in-store vouchers for employees or new, low-cost test for COVID-19 and flu."

Walgreens' new services will help communities to get ahead of respiratory virus season with accessible and timely options for vaccination, testing and treatment all in one place.

- **Employer Vaccination Program**
 - Walgreens is offering an in-store voucher program to employers which would allow employees to schedule an appointment and come into a Walgreens location at a time convenient to them.
 - Off-site employer vaccination clinics are another convenient offering and option for eligible individuals to receive their seasonal and routine vaccines. These clinics will be staffed by our highly trained pharmacists, who can answer questions and educate individuals on the latest health guidance.
 - Employers interested in hosting a vaccination clinic at their workplace can visit WagsOutreach.com/Immunization-Contact-Us.
- **COVID-19/Influenza A and B Test**
 - For individuals 3 years and older experiencing respiratory symptoms, Walgreens is making it easier to get tested by offering an easy testing option for COVID-19 and influenza A and B. The low-cost test will be administered by a pharmacist via a single swab, with results within 30 minutes.
 - Based on increasing positivity rates shown in the Walgreens COVID-19 Index and higher or earlier flu activity in several Southern Hemispheric countries compared to what was seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **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.

Walgreens is offering flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination appointments nationwide and will provide the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended COVID-19 vaccine.

To make a vaccination or testing appointment, individuals can visit Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine or Walgreens.com/Testing, download the Walgreens app or call 1-800-WALGREENS.



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

Fall Color Walk (In Polish) – Sunday, Oct. 22 • 10 a.m.

Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)

Take a guided walk in the woods in celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

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

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

Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, Oct. 22 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Find all the hidden pumpkins on our Giants Hollow Trail during this fun scavenger hunt. Costumes encouraged, but not required.

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

Bone Appetit – Sunday, Oct. 22 • 3 p.m.

Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)

Join us during feeding time to learn about our ambassador animals.

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

Teen Exploration Day: Pumpkin Carving – Thursday, Oct. 26 • 4 p.m.

Rolling Knolls (11N260 Rohrssen Rd., Elgin)

Carve a pumpkin while surrounded by the natural beauty within the Forest Preserves. Supplies provided.

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

Cost – Free.

Stars, Spooky Stories, & S'mores – Friday, Oct. 27 • 4-7 p.m.

Thatcher Woods (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue)

Join a family-friendly evening with a cozy fire, S'mores, a “spooky” story trail, star gazing, pumpkin painting and more. Costumes encouraged!

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

Jack O'Lantern Trail – Saturday, Oct. 28 • 6-9 p.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Enjoy a night walk on our trails lit with carved pumpkins. Register for a time slot.

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

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

The Return of Scary Stories – Saturday, Oct. 28 • 8 p.m.

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

Enjoy some spooky storytelling around the campfire. Ages 8 and up.

Registration required – Call River Trail at (847) 824-8360 (Deadline – Oct. 25).

Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – \$3.

Fall Bird Walk – Sunday, Oct. 29 • 8 a.m.

Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)

Take a guided bird walk to see both resident and migratory birds. All welcome, binoculars available to loan.

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

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

The Un-haunted Forest – Sunday, Oct. 29 • 10:30 a.m.

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

Bring the children for a magical hike through the forest.

Registration required – Call River Trail at (847) 824-8360 (Deadline – Oct. 27).

Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – \$3.

Cub Scout Adventure Series – Sunday, Oct. 29 • 2:30-4 p.m.

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

Scouts are invited to attend: Oct. 29 – Bear-Fur, Feathers, and Ferns; and Nov. 26 – Webelos-Into the Wild.

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

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

Día de los Muertos – Monday, Oct. 30-Thursday, Nov. 2

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

In celebration of Día de los Muertos, stop inside to learn about Mesoamerican tradition and view our altar dedicated to extinct and endangered animals.
Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.
Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

I Am a Scientist (Arachnologist) – Wednesday, Nov. 1 • 10 a.m.

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

Ignite your child's sense of wonder and curiosity as we explore, experiment and make discoveries. Ages 4 and up w/adult.
Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.
Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free

Día de los Muertos Night Hike – Thursday, Nov. 2 • 6:30-8 p.m.

Eggers Grove (East 112th Street and South Avenue East, Chicago)

Celebrate the history of Día de los Muertos on a guided hike.
Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

National Native American Heritage Month History Walk – Friday, Nov. 3 • 4 p.m.

Sauk Trail Woods-Central

(Forest Preserve Drive, South of 26th Street, South Chicago Heights)

Take a stroll and learn the origin of the name Sauk Woods. Walk is 3.4 miles on a paved loop.
Contact – (312) 415-2970. Cost – Free.

ENTICE Workshop: Coyote Track – Saturday, Nov. 4 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this workshop will focus on coyote ecology and behavior related to data collected from radio-collared coyotes. CDPU's available.
Registration required – Register at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/>.
Contact – (630) 257-2045. Cost – Free.

Day Hiking Leadership Training – Saturday, Nov. 4 • 11:30 a.m.

Bemis Woods-North (Wolf Road, South of 31st Street, Near Oak Brook)

For teachers/youth educators! DHLT gives you all the tools to take groups out into the preserves for the day.
Registration required – Email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov.
Contact – (708) 771-1573/experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

GPS Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, Nov. 5 • 12:30 p.m.

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

Learn about and participate in a technology-inspired scavenger hunt. Call to reserve an hourly time.
Registration required – Call River Trail at (847) 824-8360.
Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – Free.

Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam – Sunday, Nov. 5 • 1-3 p.m.

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

Make a simple musical instrument or bring your own and join the jam by playing or listening.
Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

Wee Wonders (Bats) – Wednesday, Nov. 8 • 10 a.m.

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

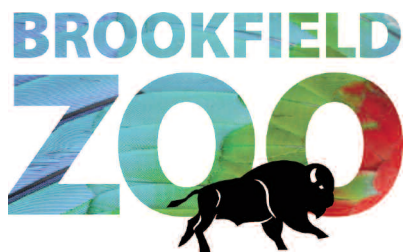
Preschoolers, with an adult, are invited to learn about nature through music, movement, stories and artmaking.
Registration required – Call Sand Ridge at (708) 868-0606 or email sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov.
Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov
Cost – Free.

Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, Nov. 8 • 1 p.m.

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

Join other seniors for a moderately paced, 1-mile fitness walk. Led by Roberta Jannsen, Univ of IL Extension volunteer.
Registration required – Call Trailside at (708) 366-6530.
Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

**Take some time
to explore
our website at
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 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!

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Saturday, Oct. 28

and Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023

10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Zoowide



Come alive and celebrate the Day of the Dead with Brookfield Zoo on Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29!

Zoogoers can immerse themselves in the holiday's traditions, including face-painting (separate fees apply), sugar skulls (while supplies last), coloring sheets and take your photo with the catrinas (traditional skeleton characters).

You can also enjoy music and admire the latest vehicles of the Chevy family throughout the park.

WINES IN THE WILD

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

6-10 p.m. • Discovery Center



Wines in the Wild features the perfect blend of wildlife and - you guessed it - wine! Save the date for November 4, 2023, and join us for food and wine, animal ambassadors, silent auction & more.

More details are coming soon. For more information, please contact morgan.shaughnessy@czs.org.

For more details or a complete listing of the fun, family activities happening at Brookfield Zoo, check out www.CZS.org or call (708) 688-8000.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Discovery Center

To honor the men and women who have proudly served our nation, the Chicago Zoological Society invites the public to a special Veterans Day ceremony at Brookfield Zoo's Discovery Center. On Veterans Day, admission to free for all guests.

Schedule of Activities at Discovery Center:

11 a.m.-2 p.m. – A display of military memorabilia and vehicles.

– Learn about the Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Program, Honor Flight Chicago and Wounded Warriors.

11-11:30 a.m. – Ambassador Animals. **Noon-12:45 p.m.** – Enjoy a performance by the Legacy Girls.

12:45-1 p.m. – See the posting of colors and a performance of the national anthem. **1-1:10 p.m.** – Welcome.

1:15-1:50 p.m. – Jesse White Tumblers. **2-2:30 p.m.** – Meet and greet with special guests. **2:30 p.m.** – Retiring the colors.



TREE TRIM

Saturday, Nov. 11

and Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023

Zoowide

Does your community group want to get into the holiday spirit early?

Join Brookfield Zoo in gearing up for our Holiday Magic celebration by participating in Tree Trim!

Sponsoring a tree is a beautiful way to support the zoo and celebrate the 42nd annual Holiday Magic. School groups, scout troops, families and companies are all welcome to participate in Tree Trim on Saturday, Nov. 11 and Sunday, Nov. 12.

Pick either the Nov. 11 or 12 date that works best for your group, bring your tickets and come out to decorate.

All registrations are final. No refunds will be made. Event will proceed rain, shine or snow. Programming subject to change.

Questions? Check out our *Frequently Asked Questions* or email us at Tree.Trim@CZS.org.



REINDEER RUN

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

7 p.m. • Zoowide

Grab your glow sticks and running shoes and join us on Saturday, Nov. 18, for the Reindeer Run. With a 2-mile course entirely within Brookfield Zoo, you and your family can “fun run” under the lights and be the first to see the lights of Holiday Magic.

Space is limited, so don't wait to register!

Two-Mile Fun Run

Start Time: 7 p.m. • Non-Member Registration: \$30 Race Fee + Sign-Up Fee • Member Registration: \$25 Race Fee + Sign-Up Fee

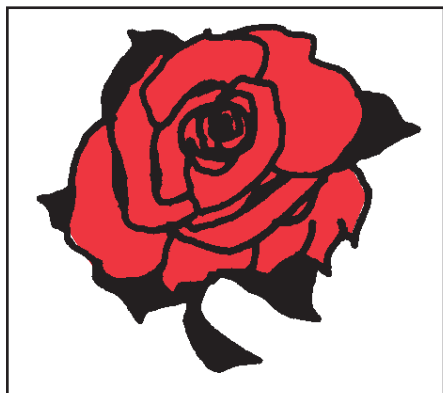
Fun run individually or with your family and friends! Strollers are welcome and children riding in strollers during the race do not need to be registered. Only those walking or running need to be registered.



BE A PART OF THE FUN AT BROOKFIELD ZOO'S HOLIDAY MAGIC!

Nov. 24-26 and 30, Dec. 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 21-23 and 26-31, 2023

This holiday season, get ready to visit Chicagoland's longest-running lights festival featuring over 2 million twinkling LED lights! Watch for more information as it becomes available or visit www.czs.org today!



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.

Proviso Township Handyman Program

Proviso Township Handyman News

Time to close your windows and keep the cooler air out! We can help take your screen windows off, put them away and install your storm windows. Do your rain barrels and hoses need to be put away? We can do that for you! Weatherproof your windows and doors for preparation for the winter months ahead.

Winter is fast upon us! If you have not called to have your home winterized, call now. The weatherproofing is best done before the cold weather sets in to ensure the caulk or plastic covers will adhere for the winter season. Have your filter in your furnace changed to help your furnace run efficiently. Last call for work that needs to be done on anything outdoors (light bulbs, light fixtures, furniture put away, rain barrels put away or spigots covered for the winter).

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township.

Call us at (708) 547-4001 to 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 - No Rodding
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

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

Alvarez

Andrea Alvarez. Dearly beloved wife of Francisco Alvarez; loving mother of Sixto and Cassandra; beloved daughter of Rafael and Irasema Perez; fond granddaughter of Blanca and the late Felipe Rincon; dear sister of Ruben and Rafael; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Babowice

Carole M. Babowice, known to many people of all generations as Aunt Carole and AC. Beloved only daughter of Marion and John Babowice (deceased); loving sister of former Melrose Park Trustee John G. Babowice and Bobby Babowice (both deceased); dear sister-in-law to Janet Babowice; much loved aunt of Cathy (Szeghy), Jim, John and Janice (Jacklich) and their spouses, 11 great-nieces and great-nephews, two great-great nieces and two great-great nephews; lifelong friend with many. Entered eternal life on Sept. 24, 2023. Carole was born on July 30, 1936, at Oak Park Hospital. In her first 63 years, she lived with her family in a white stucco home built by her grandfather on 23rd Avenue in Melrose Park. She attended Mt. Carmel Grammar School and Proviso East High School. Carole's father encouraged her to seek higher education, so she matriculated at Elmhurst College, becoming the first in her family to earn a college degree, and majored in English. While she attended college classes at night, Carole worked full time as an administrative assistant for Northern Illinois Gas (NICOR) which underwrote the college costs. Carole had enduring faith. She attended Mass weekly for her entire life at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, one block from her home. She and her family were devoted to the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Year after year, she was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society, attended novenas, prepared roses for the Masses, attended to the welfare of the statue of the Blessed Mother, gathered religious articles for friends and family members, recited prayers and at a younger age, walked the miles-long procession. For Carole, the year centered on the Feast, a special time when family would gather from near and far. Carole's family home was on the central route of the procession, a gathering of hundreds of faithful devoted to the Blessed Mother who celebrate her July Feast Day by walking behind a platform bearing the life-sized statue of Mary embracing the infant Jesus. The procession has wound through the streets of Melrose Park for 130 years, intertwined with the strains of *Ave del Carmine* and punctuated by firecrackers as the statue passes by. Carole's family understood her passion for the parish and gifted her with a special brick placed near the church entry that reads, "With love to Aunt Carole." She and her late brother John were integral in the steps to declare the legendary statue of the Blessed Mother at Mt. Carmel Parish-Shrine. Carole enjoyed traveling throughout the United States. She also saw the world with her friends, flying to England, Germany, Italy and France, and with her dear friends she made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where six children had witnessed a vision of the Blessed Mother. After retirement, her travels with friends often took her to casinos in the Midwest, slot machines being her preference, and she would report to her family that she won a little each time. Carole was truly happy when she could visit her great-nephews and great-nieces at their college campuses where she reveled in their accomplishments. Nothing made her happier than when they called and visited her, even if it meant that the conversation would stray to teasing just like when she was with her brother John. Like her brother, Carole believed in civic duty, and most recently served as president of the Veterans Park Bulger Seniors Club in Melrose Park. In the last few years, Carole spent Saturday nights enjoying dinner with friends after Mass, occasionally sneaking a little Baileys in their Dunkin' Donuts coffee. Carole's illness was sudden and shocking to her family and friends. Even in her final hours, she prayed her rosary, never letting it leave her beautifully mani-

cured hands, and asked family to recite the *Our Father* with her. Carole exited this earthly plane listening to the sounds of *Ave del Carmine* as she gave her last breath. Carole's wit, smile and unending love will forever be in the hearts of all who had the honor of knowing her. The family expresses its deepest gratitude to the health care workers at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital for their genuine compassion. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Battista

Consiglia Battista. Dearly beloved wife of Joe Battista; loving mother of Michael, Giuseppe and Guy; beloved daughter of the late Giuseppe and Maria Cataldo; cherished nonna of Jaydon and Carter; dear sister of Maria (the late Renato) Cataldo, Franco (Mena) Cataldo, the late Luisa Cataldo and the late Luis "Gino" Cataldo; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Condon

Richard M. Condon. Beloved son of the late Leroy and La Verne Condon (nee Carpino); dear brother of Cathey (John) Filetti, Patti Condon and Susie (the late Don) Malpede; loving uncle of Jordyn (Dan CPD) Goon, Michael CPD (Nora Lenburg) Filetti, Camryn (Ryan Graal CPD), Gianna Kuta (Steve Chamberlain), Bianca Kuta CFD, Christopher Malpede and Colin Malpede; great-uncle of many nieces and nephew; cherished nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

DeJulius

Geraldine DeJulius. Dearly beloved wife of the late Alex DeJulius; loving mother of Sharon (the late Roman) Zahorodnyj, Francine (Jeffery) Rybarski, Dante (Bernadette), the late Alex (the late Joann) and the late Marlane (Gary) Montino; cherished grandmother of Roxanne, Dionne (Bobby), Alex, Nicholas (Anita), Alex (Sarah), Anthony (Alexa), Michael and Alexia; great-grandmother of Luciana, Mila, Livia and Vivienne; dear sister of the late Donald (Arlene) Adamski; cherished aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Figueroa

Tomas Garcia Figueroa. Beloved son of Eustacia Figueroa and the late Felipe Garcia; loving brother of Javier Garcia, Ruben Garcia and Guadalupe Garcia-Moreno; cherished uncle of Frankie Garcia, Sebastian Moreno, Millie Garcia and Michael Moreno; dear cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Olive Cemetery.

Fonseca

Maria Fonseca. Loving mother of Guadalupe, Arnulfo and Raquel; fond grandmother of Justinn, Arianna, Andrea, Emma and Liam; dear sister of Jose Luis, Ascencion, Irene, Josefina, Esperanza, Silvia, the late Juan, the late Jose and the late Guadalupe; loving aunt, cousin, godmother and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Franchi

Gloria A. Franchi, age 92. Beloved daughter of the late Dominic and the late Mary; cherished sister of the late Mary Perritano and the late Ben (Glenna); loving aunt of Nancy Perritano, Joseph (Cathy) Perritano, Rosanne (Mark) Sitkowski, Anthony Perritano, Mark (Heather) Perritano, Dawn Gamberale and Eric Franchi; great-aunt of Vincent Perritano (Hatice Unsal), Michael Sitkowski

(Elizabeth Lehman), Jaclyn Sitkowski (Jay Matuska), Natalie Perritano, Christine Perritano, Mia Gamberale and Matthew Gamberale; great-great-aunt of Oliver Perritano and Asa Joseph Lehman-Sitkowski. Gloria lived her life in service of others, through her family, friends, a cherished and devoted Chicago Public Schools teacher for over 40 years. Her wit and wisdom will be missed. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment private.

Juarez

Jose Quinonez Juarez. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Maratto

Michael Maratto. Dearly beloved husband of Susan (nee Misasi); loving father of Joseph (Krista) and Jonathan; beloved son of the late Joseph and Anne; cherished papa of Benjamin Wagner, William Michael and Noah Graham; dear brother of the late Deborah (the late Timothy) Reilly; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Sanchez

Florencio Sanchez Jr. Loving father of Angelica, Anthony, Jonathan and Sofia; beloved son of Ignacia Meraz Sanchez and the late Florencio Sanchez; fond grandpa of Adrian Alexander Hernandez; dear brother of Maria “Rocio,” Gustavo, Raul, Norma, Leonor, Charlie and the late Antonia; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Selvaggio

Michael Mario Selvaggio II, age 33, of West Palm Beach, Fla., passed away suddenly on Sept. 14, 2023. Michael was born on Feb. 24, 1990, in Downers Grove, Ill.; beloved son of the late Deborah (nee Sikora) and Michael Mario Selvaggio; lov-

ing father of Antonella and Michael; cherished brother of Nico and Vincent; dear friend of a host of family members and friends. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Michael was buried at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery in Royal Palm Beach, Fla. Obituary provided by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Sperando

Jerry M. Sperando. Beloved son of the late Joseph and Josephine Sperando; dear brother of the late Frances, Marie “Dolly” and June (the late Anthony Stellato Jr.); cherished uncle of the late Joseph “Pepe” Stellato, Kerry-Jo Stellato, Richard (Toni) Sperando, Vincent (Deborah) Sperando, Dina (John) Peso and Joseph (Helene) Sperando; great-uncle of Joseph, Remi, Anthony, Matthew, Richie, Hugo and Joey; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Zarlenga

Vincent Zarlenga. Served as an officer on the District 89 School Board for 29 years. Dearly beloved husband of Cecilia “Ce” (nee Bongiovanni) of 64 years; loving father of Cynthia Zarlenga, Vincent Zarlenga II and Joseph (Olga) Zarlenga; beloved son of the late Felix and Linda Zarlenga of Melrose Park; fond grandfather of Hayden, Alexander and Phillip; dear brother of Sandy (the late Lester) Stephens, Collette (Jimmy) Marshall and the late Arlene (the late Carm) Paladino; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum. Proud member of the P.A.E.C. (the Proviso Township Exceptional Children) board. Vincent worked for Bongi since 1959 as a supervisor until they closed in 1988. Vincent then worked for Archon as a superintendent and in connection with OSHA. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

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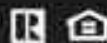
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