

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

Do you remember these few holiday traditions that are slowly disappearing or have vanished completely and are now just fond memories ... Midnight Mass, caroling in the neighborhood, dressing up in your best clothes for Christmas dinner, circling the toys you wanted in the Sears or Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs and buying gifts in person rather than online to make the season magical? This year, please make some great holiday memories for your family and friends!



Season's Greetings!

Dear Neighbors,

As parents, grandparents and a community, we are always trying our best to shield our children from those people and things that would do them harm. For this reason, I am proud to announce that the village of Melrose Park has allocated \$1.3 million dollars to our local schools to be used for public safety measures to better ensure our students' well-being. The allotted money was derived from proceeds awarded to the village from the closing of Westlake Hospital. The funds will be spent by the schools on items such as better doors and locks, surveillance cameras, and window coverings. This being the season of gift giving, we should and must protect our most precious gift ... our children.



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

Speaking of children, I started reminiscing about Christmas traditions from my own childhood that are slowly disappearing or have vanished altogether.

When I grew up almost every home had a natural Christmas tree, except for the odd few that featured an aluminum or an artificial flocked tree. I remember crawling under the balsam fir that adorned our living room and pouring sugar water into the tree stand to keep it alive. Despite my best efforts, the tree would start dropping its needles, which led to the daily chore of sweeping up the needles. Today, a reported 82 percent of all households proudly display their ornaments on a manufactured tree.

Another tradition that has gone by the wayside is the use of silver tinsel (made with lead) to dress up the tree. There were two ways people would employ the shiny strands – 1) You painstakingly took a few strands of the tinsel and gingerly placed it on one branch at a time; or 2) You used my favorite method which amounted to tossing the tinsel willy-nilly at the tree, which in the end gave the tree the look of something from a science fiction movie.

Another tradition on the wane is the Christmas card. Every holiday season, my family and I would eagerly await the arrival of the mailman so we could retrieve the latest holiday cards from friends, neighbors and relatives. After the cards were read, they would be artfully displayed for all to see. Sadly, Facebook, Instagram, JibJab, and other social media outlets have begun to replace the greetings once found in our mailboxes.

Some other Christmas traditions that are slowly disappearing or have vanished completely are Midnight Mass, caroling in the neighborhood, dressing up in your best clothes for Christmas dinner, circling the toys you wanted in the Sears or Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs and almost all holiday gift buying was done in person rather than over the internet. These are just a few holiday traditions from my youth that are now just fond memories.

On behalf of the village clerk, the village trustees and my wife Donna, I wish you and yours the warmest of season's greetings and a healthy and prosperous 2024. As for a holiday tradition that is timeless ... please make some great holiday memories for your children and grandchildren!

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



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.

Sincerely,

Ron Serpico
Mayor Ron Serpico



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

Trustees

Anthony J. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano

Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera

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 MeetingsJan. 22, Feb. 26

Village Hall Holiday ClosingsDec. 22 (1/2 Day), Dec. 25,

Dec. 29 (1/2 Day), Jan. 1 and Jan. 15

Resident Response

Mayor Serpico Recently Announced the Mid December Opening of the 19th Avenue Bridge Dedication Ceremony to be Held Spring 2024

Mayor Serpico has announced that the village of Melrose Park has scheduled a mid December opening of the replaced 19th and North Avenue bridge.

A dedication ceremony, currently in planning stages, will be held in the spring of 2024. Please visit our website (www.melrosepark.org) and social media pages, and check out the next issue of *The Rose* for full details. The public is invited. We hope you'll join us for the celebration.

Dear Members of the Melrose Park Police Department ...

All our thanks and deepest appreciation to the detectives and tact officers who helped locate my husband recently.

• Mrs. Gulino and Members of the Gulino Family

Dear Members of the Melrose Park Fire Department ...

I want to thank you fine men for always coming to my rescue when you have been called to my house.

You see I've fallen and I couldn't get up, but it's not funny when you can't get up.

You are all Angels of God. We are blessed to have you all in our fire house. Keep doing God's work to keep us safe, putting your lives on the line for us.

Thank you isn't enough to say about you all. I appreciate all your efforts and will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

• Thankful,
Donna Ruiz

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi and Deputy Chief Anthony Greco ...

Thank you very much to Melrose Park Police Officer Paul Rossi (#91) for his time and expertise in assisting us with our recent training in the basement of City Hall.

It's great not only for the sake of his experience and expertise, but it's very nice to have this relationship with surrounding police departments.

If we can ever help in return, please contact us.

• Thanks again,
Ken Beres, Chief of Police, Northlake Police Department

Dear Melrose Park Resident Wayne Kessling and Ms. Dawn Zuffante ...

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

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

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



Happy Holidays

from

**Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico**

Village Clerk

Mary Ann Paolantonio

Village Trustees

Anthony N. Abruzzo, Jaime Anguiano,

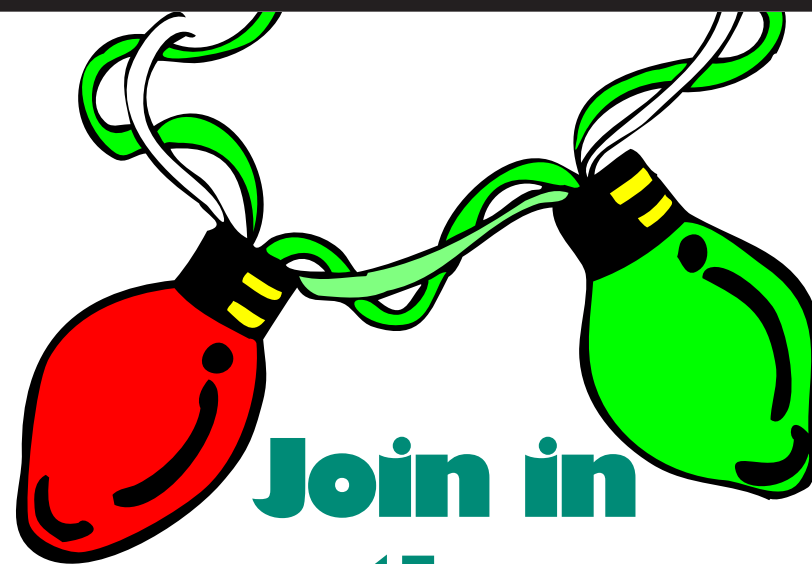
Arturo J. Mota, Sonny Nicotera,

Mary Ramirez Taconi,

Anthony "Tony" Williams

and the

**Employees of the
Village of Melrose Park**



Join in the Seasonal Fun!

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

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

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

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

**Take a nighttime photo of your home all lit
and email it to therose@melrosepark.org
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.**



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	MARCH 1 AND LATER	JULY 1 AND LATER
Passenger Vehicles	\$30 Every Two Years	\$40 Every Two Years	\$55 Every Two Years
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.



Melrose Park Funds New Security and Safety Systems at Schools

On Monday, Nov. 13, Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico distributed grants totaling \$1.3 million to assist the schools in his community in developing more advanced safety and security initiatives to better protect students and avert potential threats. Serpico made the announcement at a meeting with leadership from five schools and first responders from Melrose Park.

“The safety and protection of our children is the highest order of business for any community and this money will go toward ensuring that protection,” Serpico said. The money, which are being made available from unused economic development funds, can be spent on a variety of safety enhancements in the school districts, including such items as better doors and locks, surveillance cameras, and window coverings.

Melrose Park recently convened a security expo for school districts in the village to talk to different vendors and see safety systems and protocols firsthand before deciding which ones to purchase. The village has previously assembled and convened a School Safety Task Force which included school leaders and police and fire first responders to examine broad security issues.

“We believe that by bringing together school leaders and first responders we can assist in the development of stronger more effective security systems and mechanisms that help keep our children safe,” Serpico added. “We are allowing schools to pick and choose whatever safety, and systems and security measures they believe they most need, since they have a firsthand knowledge of those requirements.”

District #88 Superintendent Dr. Victoria Hansen Stockton said the funds are most welcome at a time when student safety issues are paramount. “Anything we can do as educators to protect children in our schools is worthwhile and I am grateful to Mayor Serpico and the people of Melrose Park for assisting us in that endeavor,” Dr. Stockton said.

The program is believed to be one of the first ever in the state where discretionary funds were made available to school districts for safety and security measures.



Pictured (left to right) at the school security and safety meeting are Melrose Park Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco; Melrose Park Asst. Fire Chief James Wrosch; Dr. David Negron (School District 89 Superintendent); Mayor Serpico; Dr. Victoria Hansen Stockton (School District 88 Superintendent); Jim Prather (Rhodes School District 84.5 Superintendent); Bob Malek (Joseph Academy Principal); and Tim Bouman (Walther Christian Academy Principal).



Mayor Serpico announced to local school representatives that grant funds have been made available on behalf of the village of the Melrose Park.



Mayor Serpico and Dr. Doug Olson, director of Strategic Initiatives and Business Development, discuss the village's new school security and safety initiative.



Mayor Serpico proudly presented discretionary grant funds to (top row) Dr. Hansen Stockton, Bob Malek and Dr. Negron; and (bottom row) Jim Prather and Tim Bouman. The funds were made available for security and safety measures.



Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



*Rick Beltrame
Director of Fire Dept.*

A Message from Rick Beltrame, Director of Fire Department

With the holidays fast approaching, the Melrose Park Fire Department and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame want to ensure the safety of our residents by providing these Christmas tree safety tips on behalf the Red Cross and National Fire Protection Association.

Please follow these tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season!

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



**MELROSE PARK
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

3501 W LAKE ST, MELROSE PARK IL 60160 PH (708) 344-1315, FAX (708) 531-6304

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

On Friday, Oct. 27, the Melrose Park Firemen's Association held their Annual Fall Raffle Dinner to help raise funds for charitable contributions to organizations the association works with throughout the year. On behalf of the Melrose Park Fire Department, the association would like to graciously thank all those who helped make this year's dinner and commemorative ad book an incredible success, including the following supporters as well as current and retired MP firefighters ...

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor, Village of Melrose Park
Norcomm/Superior Ambulance Service
Restore Disaster Restoration Experts
Cerami Construction Company, Ltd.
Cerniglia Co.
Macqueen Emergency Pierce
Pan American Bank & Trust
Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc.
Elite Electric Co., Inc.
Veterans Park District
Suburban Sporting Goods
Joseph A. Casale/Richard D. Dalitto
C & O Window Cleaning LLC
Illinois State Rep. Norma Hernandez
Flowers of Italy Club
Tom Olson, President, Triton College Foundation
Signco
Swaporama
Scores Chicago O'Hare
R.J.N. Supplies, Inc.
Caputo Cheese Company

Kushner Medical
Air One Equipment
Spicer Construction, LLC
Action Painting Company Inc.
Carbonara Funeral Home
AA Rental Center
Construction Management Service Corp.
Fairway Custom Landscaping, Inc.
The Law Offices of Carlos H. Davalos
Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention Co.
Dynamic Remanufacturing
Torque Converters
Midwest Industrial Funds
CXI Trucking
Al Piemonte NISSAN
JKS Ventures
Kreher Steel
Darley
CSL Plasma
Top Butcher Market
Planet Group Inc.

Area Towing
PPS Power Plant Services
Fox Outdoor Products
Maximum Towing & Recovery
Carnicerias Jimenez
JB Food & Beverage
Scudiero's Italian Bakery
DARS Logistics Corp.
Alpha & Omega Learning Center
Enviro Tech
VPI Melrose Place
Carmel Hall Bingo
Fair Bridge Inn Express





Always Stepping Up ...

ANSWER THE CALL ...

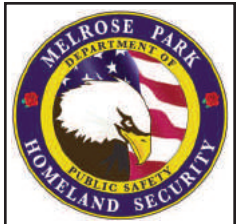
Melrose Park's Homeland Security – Public Safety Departments Are Recruiting!

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 Will Always be Ready When Needed

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!

MP Fire Dept. Notice – Buried Fire Hydrants Can Pose Danger

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

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**



From the
**MELROSE PARK
FIRE DEPARTMENT
RICK BELTRAME
DIRECTOR OF FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**JAMES WROSCH STEVE MORELLA
ASST. FIRE CHIEF ASST. FIRE CHIEF**

*Season's
Greetings!*



From the
**MELROSE PARK
POLICE DEPARTMENT
SAM C. PITASSI
DIRECTOR OF POLICE**

**ANTHONY G. GRECO
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE**

Melrose Park Police Department

A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi
Director of Police*



IMPORTANT PARKING NOTICE

**AS OF FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 2023,
PARKING IS NO LONGER PERMITTED ON
BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET ON WEEKENDS.**

**OVERNIGHT PARKING RESTRICTIONS REMAIN THE SAME
IN THE WEST MELROSE AND WINSTON PARK AREAS.**

**PARKING IS ONLY ALLOWED ON DESIGNATED SIDES OF
THE STREET DEPENDING ON THE DAY OF THE WEEK**

**AS INDICATED ON NOTICE SIGNS
POSTED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.**

**REMEMBER, PARKING IS NEVER ALLOWED ON
EAST AND WEST STREETS – 2-6 A.M.**

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

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.

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 Public Safety News



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

Winter Storms ... The Deceptive Killers

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

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

Know the Difference

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

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

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

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

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

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

Put Together a Supply Kit

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

Winter's Impact

Storms with Strong Winds

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

Extreme Cold

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

Ice Storms

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

Heavy Snow Storms

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

Winter Precipitation

Snow

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

Sleet

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

Freezing Rain

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

Winter Storm Facts: What Makes a Winter Storm?

Cold Air

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

Moisture

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

Lift

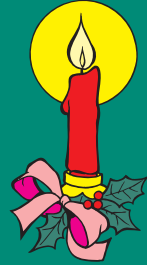
something to raise the moist air to form the clouds and cause precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise over the cold dome. The boundary between the warm and cold air masses is called a front. Another example of lift is air flowing up a mountain side.

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



**Happy
Holidays!**

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



*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

**Village of
Melrose Park
Public Works
Department**



**Season's
Greetings!**

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



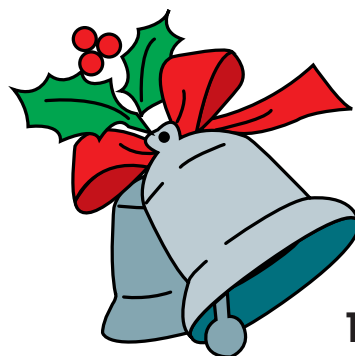
*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

**MELROSE PARK
SENIOR SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**



*Happy
Holidays!*

**Village of
Melrose Park
Building Department**



**Happy
Holidays!**

**MELROSE
PARK
YOUTH
COMMISSION**

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



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.**



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 open soon. 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 includes a walking path and a pavilion/gazebo, along with a canoe/kayak launch.

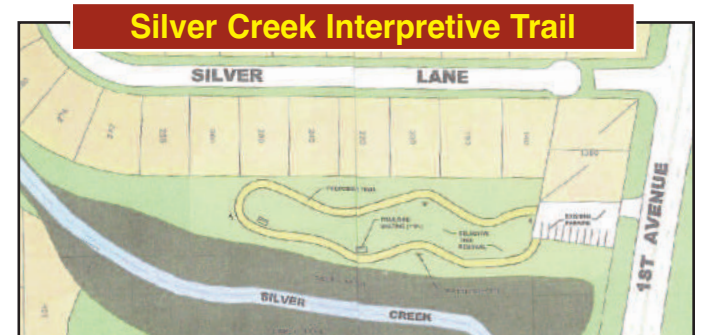
Phase Five, Six and Seven of the Silver Creek Restoration Project have been completed. Phase Eight is in the final planning stages.

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.

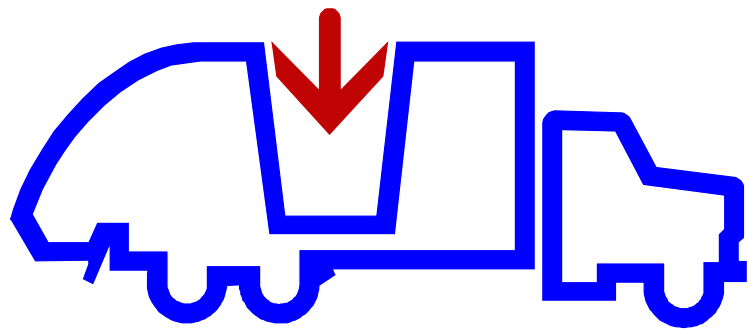
Benefit Access Program Benefits

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.



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.



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 ...

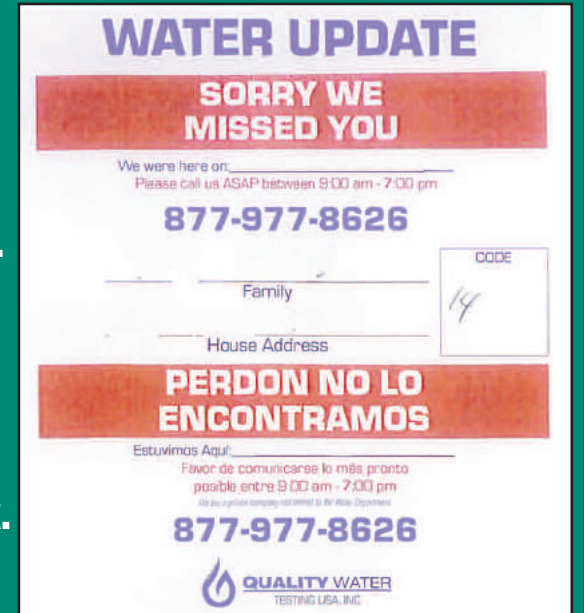
**Alert, Alert, Alert!
Water Update Flyer Being Circulated is
Not from the Village of Melrose Park.
Do NOT Contact This Company!**

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.



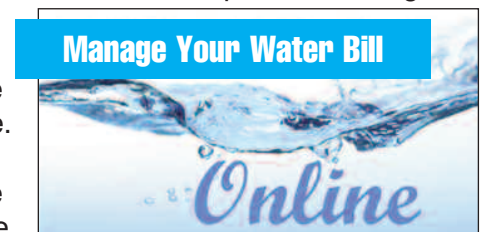
Manage Your Water Bill Online ... It's Easy!

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.

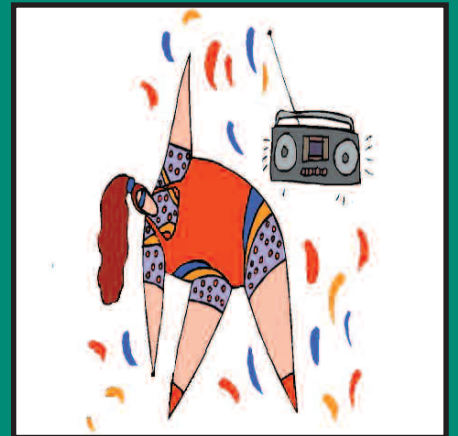
For more information, please call the Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.



Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially
Distanced
Activity*

*Face
Masks
Required*

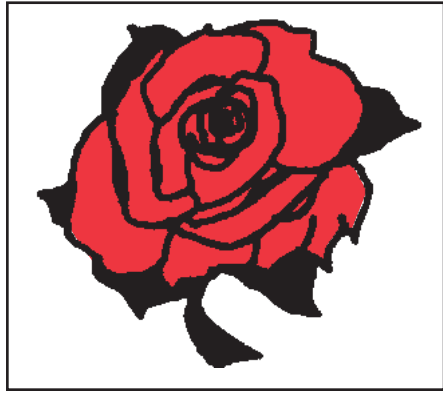


*Come Join in the Fun with
Instructor Barb Rubright
of Rube's Garage!*

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 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.



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.**



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.

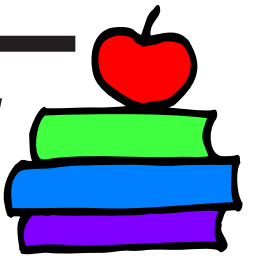
Vehicle Sticker Information

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 Library



www.MPPLibrary.org

CHAIR YOGA

Rhonda's Rhythms

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



2024 Schedule

FRIDAYS

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

DATES

January 19th	July 19th
February 16th	August 16th
March 15th	September 20th
April 19th	October 18th
May 17th	November 15th
June 21st	December 13th

Registration Required

[Click here to Register](#)

PHONE: (708) 649-7485

EMAIL: mpref@mpplibrary.org

Begin Your Journey...



RSVP Free Tax Counseling for the Elderly from low-to-moderate income households hosted by Triton College.

Tax preparation will take place at the Melrose Park Library on Mondays beginning February 5, 2024.

Appointments are required. Call Triton

College 708-456-0300 to schedule an appointment

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



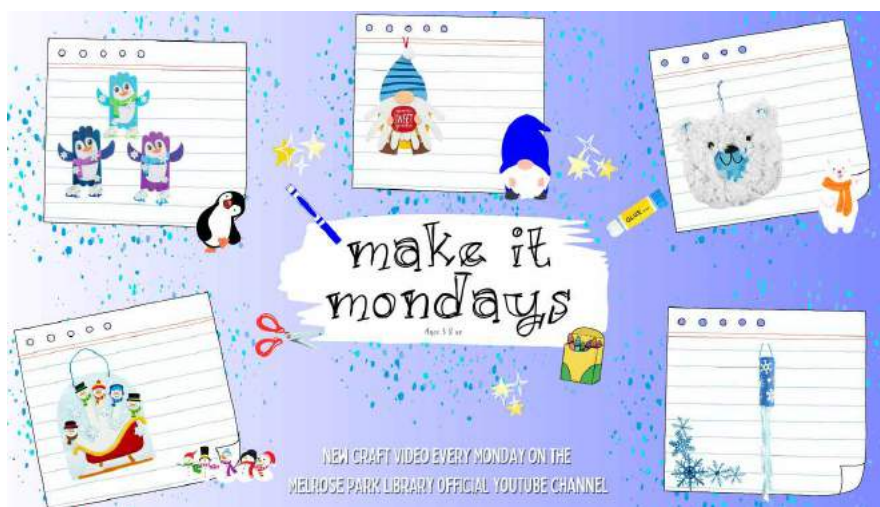


Melrose Park Public Library



www.MPPLibrary.org

Youth Services



Make It Mondays

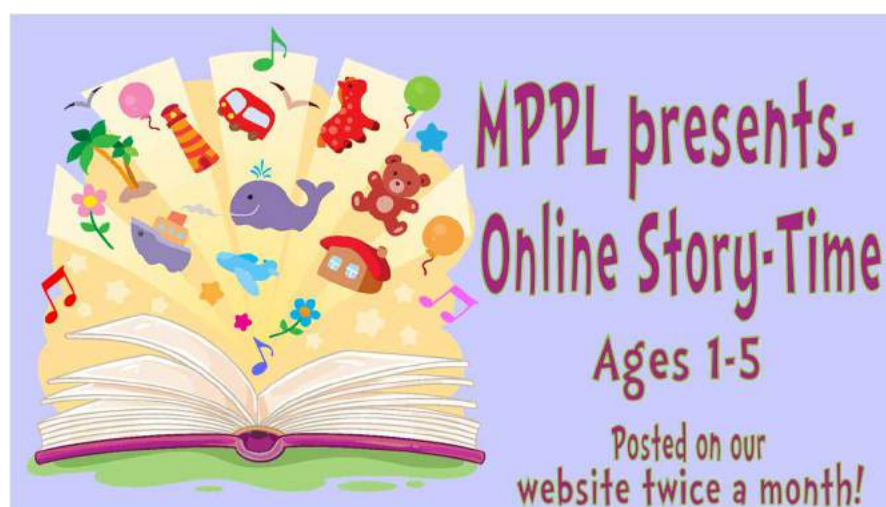
Weekly Crafts on YouTube

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

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



Overnight Parking Procedures

**Approved Vehicles Will
Avoid Being Ticketed**



MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
1 NORTH BROADWAY, MELROSE PARK, IL 60160
(708) 344-8409 www.MelroseParkPD.com

PARKING PERMISSION REQUEST FORM

LIMIT 3 DAYS PER MONTH

DATE OF REQUEST: _____

TIME OF REQUEST: ____:____ AM / PM until ____:____ AM / PM

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

VEHICLE INFORMATION:

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Year: _____ License Plate: _____ State: _____

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

REASON FOR REQUEST: (Circle)

Visitor | Driveway Repair | Family Emergency

Other: _____

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

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

Shift Supervisor Signature Date

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.

Mayor Ronald M. Serpico



Taste of Melrose Park

Celebrating Our 42nd Year!

See You in 2024

Save the Dates!
42nd Annual
Taste of Melrose Park
Labor Day Weekend
Friday-Sunday,
Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2024

Send an email to
peg@melrosepark.org
 for more information.

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 22, 2023; Christmas Day – Monday, Dec. 25, 2023; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Friday, Dec. 29, 2023; New Year's Day – Monday, Jan. 1, 2024; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, Jan. 15, 2024; Presidents Day – Monday, Feb. 19, 2024; Good Friday – Friday, March 29, 2024; Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024; Juneteenth – Wednesday June 19, 2024; Independence Day – Thursday, July 4, 2024; Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 2, 2024; Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 14, 2024; Veterans Day – Monday, Nov. 11, 2024; Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 29, 2024; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024; Christmas Day – Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024; and New Year's Day – Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

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

Public Notice Regarding Scheduled Board Meetings

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

The schedule for calendar year 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.

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.



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.

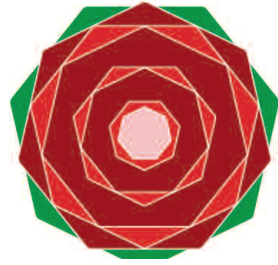
For an appointment or further information, please call Sr. Nila or Sr. Jan at (708) 567-5083, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shop Melrose Park this Holiday Season!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development encourages you to shop and eat local this holiday season!

We have so many businesses in Melrose Park that support our community in many ways throughout the year and they need our support, too! We certainly understand that online shopping and even ordering a meal are transactions that are done through phones, tablets or laptops, but we encourage you to use the local businesses that support our community with jobs, revenue and drive our local economy. Even doing an in-store pickup at the big national-brand stores that have a location in Melrose Park helps to keep the dollars and the business in our community.

We also want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

New Chamber Members and Renewals

In October and November, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed four new members and had three more membership renewals.

Please help us welcome Amigo Pest Control; D&A Candy Corner & More, LLC; Melrose Park Currency Exchange; and Community Nutrition Network & Senior Services to our growing list of members/partners that are now part of the MPCCCD.

We would also like to recognize and thank Pan American Bank, Madden Creative and CSL Plasma for their recent membership renewals.

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@mpcccd.org or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

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

Connecting Local Businesses to Resources and Grant Programs

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development and our team of community navigators have been working with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Cook County Small Business Source, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and many other agencies to connect businesses to grant programs and other resources to support growth, expansion, job creation, workforce development, etc.

We are proud to announce that through the most recent round of Back 2 Business Grants from the state of Illinois to help restaurants, hotels and creative arts that were most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to inform and assist local businesses in applying for grants. Although not every business that applied received a grant award, several did and our local businesses received over \$1.1 million with \$510,000 going to local restaurants, \$431,000 to area hotels and \$220,000 was received by businesses in the creative art sector.

In the coming weeks, Cook County will be announcing the recipients of the Cook County Source Grant and we look forward to learning which businesses in the area receive support from this program! Although several of the grant programs we have been working to assist businesses in applying for have been related to COVID-19 relief efforts from the state and Cook County, there are ongoing programs to assist businesses and the MPCCCD community navigators will continue to lead the way in these efforts. That said, new requirements from DCEO and the SBA require businesses and nonprofits applying for grants to have a current UEI, SAMS and GATA registration number.



For information or assistance in completing your UEI, SAMS or GATA Registration, you can email Navigators@MPCCCD.org or call the chamber at (708) 343-9500. We also have trained staff available to assist you in the online registration process, Monday-Thursday between the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the MPCCCD Office and Business Resource Center at 900 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park. Appointments are recommended.

MPCCCD Helping Businesses GET CONNECTED!



On Nov. 14, over 40 business owners were on hand for the MPCCCD training and information session on Digital Marketing Strategies for Small Businesses. A special thank you goes out to Andrew Madden and Madden Creative for a great event covering everything from website strategies, SEO, keywords and phrases, website analytics, social media strategies, etc.

If you were not able to attend the session, but would like to review the content presented, it can be viewed as a free e-book at <https://tinyurl.com/MaddenCreative1114>.

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 by participating in community events.

Although dates have not been finalized, upcoming events include:

- January – Grants and Small Business Resources available through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) presented by representatives from DCEO.
- February – Access to Capital, a panel discussion of special programs available through local banks. This will be the fourth annual Access to Capital event and it has been one of the most in demand sessions each year!

The Chamber After Hours Networking Event in February will be the kickoff of the year of our very popular quarterly networking events. 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.

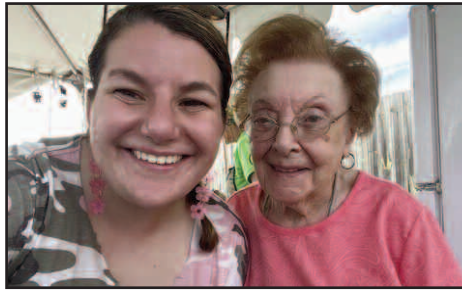
Watch for information and details on MPCCCD Events on the event calendar on the MPCCCD website at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.

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.

It Was Another Great Taste of MP!



We Hope You
All Had
Tons of Fun!



Check Out These Winston Park Plaza Photos from Way Back



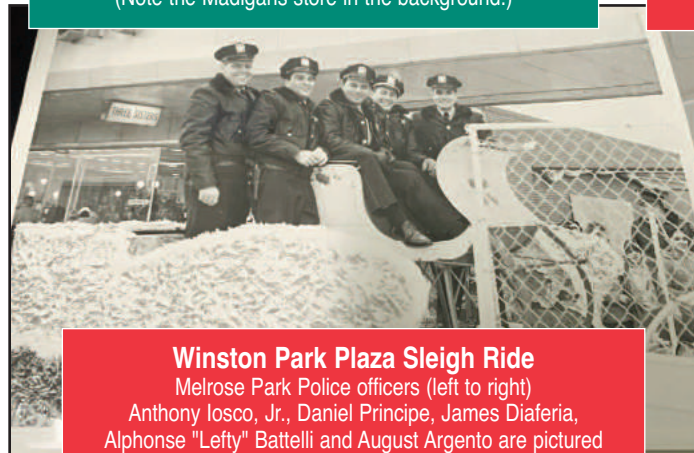
A Summer Day at Winston Park Plaza
MPPD officers Jerry Esposito (seated) and Anthony Iosco, Jr., are pictured with one of Melrose Park's three-wheel motorcycles on a summer day in the plaza. (Note the Madigans store in the background.)



Winston Park Plaza Art Exhibit
Pictured in front of the Hanover Hallmark store at the annual Winston Park Plaza Art Exhibit are (left to right) Ofc. Anthony Iosco, Jr., art exhibitor Stella Zito, and officers Jerry Esposito and Robert Nardella, Sr.



Carol Lawrence Day in Melrose Park
Broadway star Carol Lawrence (nee Laraia) is escorted through Winston Park Plaza by Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Iosco, Sr. Ms. Lawrence was brought to the plaza by helicopter. She was there for the celebration of Carol Lawrence Day in Melrose Park. This hometown girl originated the role of Maria in the Broadway hit *West Side Story*.



Winston Park Plaza Sleigh Ride
Melrose Park Police officers (left to right) Anthony Iosco, Jr., Daniel Principe, James Diaferia, Alphonse "Lefty" Battelli and August Argento are pictured in front of the Three Sisters store enjoying the holidays.



Keeping Winston Park Plaza Safe
Biagio Cascio (left) and Ofc. Anthony Iosco, Jr., are pictured in circa-1955-style uniforms during a busy shopping day at Winston Park Plaza.

Photos and caption information courtesy of Beth Ann Iosco-Tarallo.

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.

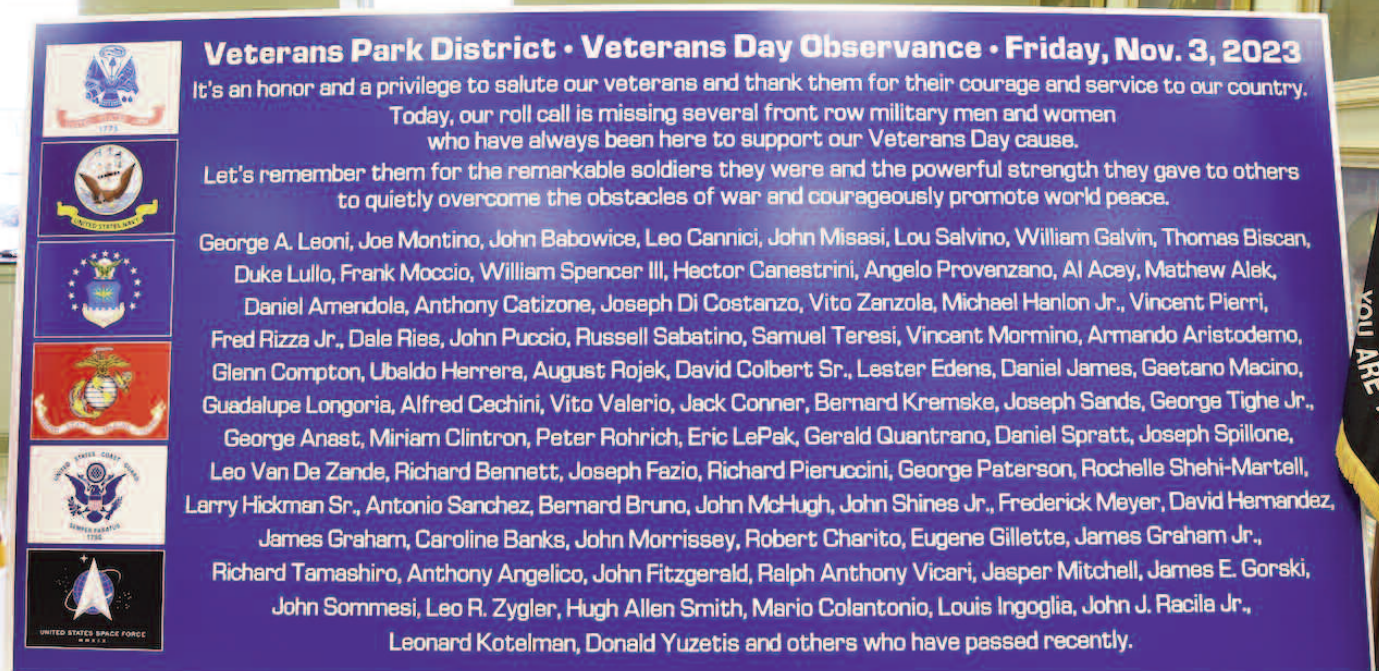
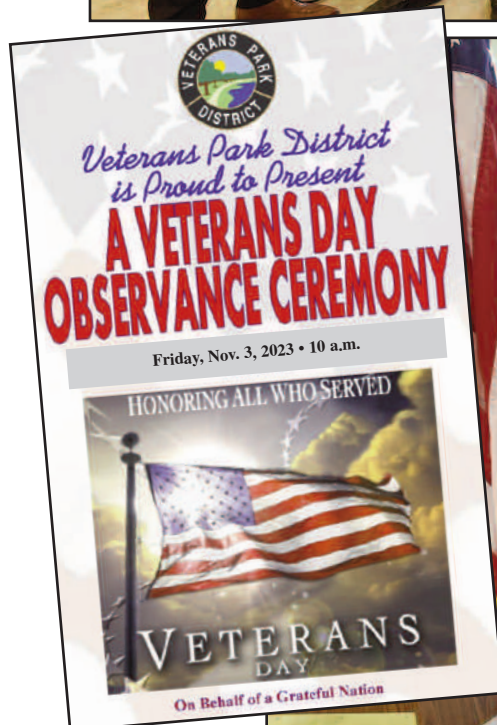
Donations of any amount to support Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags initiative are appreciated and can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. 60160. Please make checks payable to the Melrose Park Youth Commission or Melrose Park Sports & Family Benefit Fund.

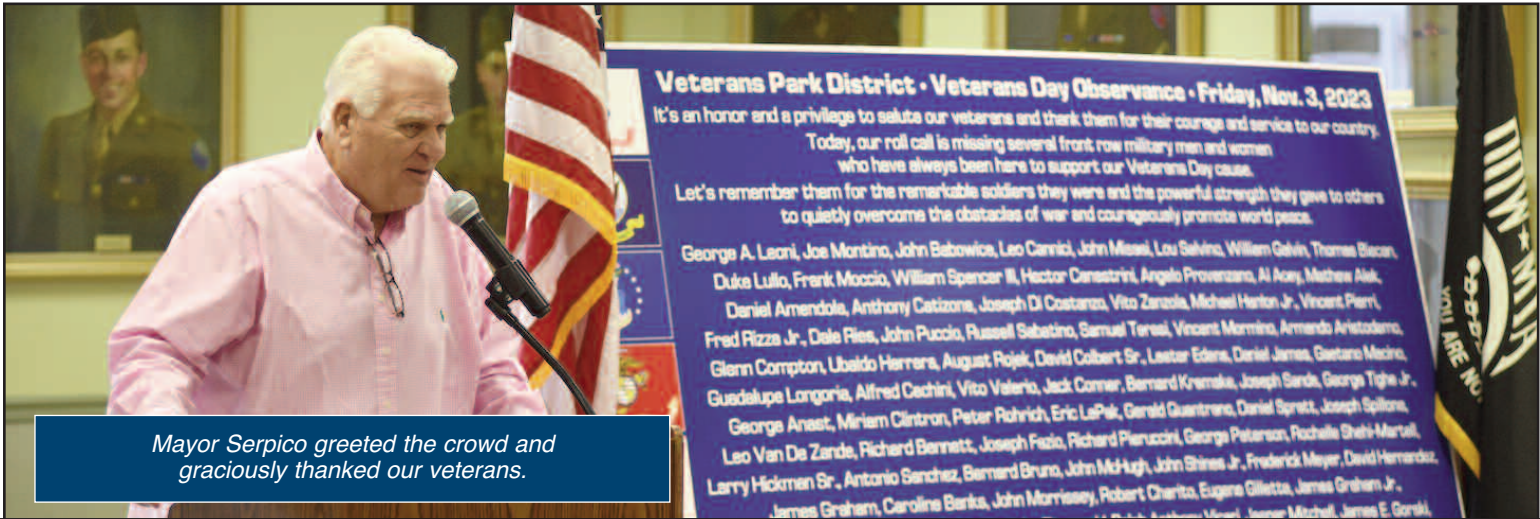


Veterans Park District Proudly Honors All Who Have Served

A Salute to Our Veterans ...

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





Mayor Serpico greeted the crowd and graciously thanked our veterans.

Veterans Park District • Veterans Day Observance • Friday, Nov. 3, 2023
 It's an honor and a privilege to salute our veterans and thank them for their courage and service to our country. Today, our roll call is missing several front row military men and women who have always been here to support our Veterans Day cause. Let's remember them for the remarkable soldiers they were and the powerful strength they gave to others to quietly overcome the obstacles of war and courageously promote world peace.

George A. Leoni, Joe Montino, John Babowicz, Leo Cannici, John Miesel, Lou Selvin, William Galvin, Thomas Bican, Duke Lullo, Frank Moccio, William Spencer III, Hector Cencostini, Angelo Provenzano, Al Avey, Mathew Alek, Daniel Amendola, Anthony Catizone, Joseph Di Costanzo, Vito Zanzola, Michael Horton Jr., Vincent Piant, Fred Pizze Jr., Dale Riles, John Puccio, Russell Sebatino, Samuel Terezi, Vincent Mormino, Armando Aristodemo, Glenn Compton, Ubaldo Herrera, August Rojek, David Colbert Sr., Lester Edens, Daniel James, Gaetano Macino, Guadalupe Longoria, Alfred Cachini, Vito Valerio, Jack Comer, Bernard Krenakia, Joseph Sando, George Tighe Jr., George Anest, Miriam Clinton, Peter Rohrich, Eric LaPak, Gerald Guentoro, Daniel Spratt, Joseph Spillone, Leo Van De Zande, Richard Bennett, Joseph Fazio, Richard Pierucci, George Peterson, Rachelle Shahi-Martell, Larry Hickman Sr., Antonio Sanchez, Bernard Bruno, John McHugh, John Shires Jr., Frederick Meyer, David Hernandez, James Graham, Caroline Banks, John Morrissey, Robert Charito, Eugene Giletta, James Graham Jr., James Graham, Caroline Banks, John Morrissey, Robert Charito, Eugene Giletta, James Graham Jr., James Graham, Caroline Banks, John Morrissey, Robert Charito, Eugene Giletta, James Graham Jr.



Veterans Park District Board President Tom Olson presented the "In Remembrance" and the annual branch of service "Roll Call."

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

On Friday, Nov. 3, Veterans Park District held its annual Veterans Day Observance in honor of those who have served our country. Community members came out to salute veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force. Observance ceremony speakers and participants included American Legion Franklin Park Post #974, Fr. Francisco Ortega, Mayor Serpico, VPD Executive Director Bill Otte, Vocalist Gianna Capra Uroni, Korean War Veteran Eugene Piltaver, State of Illinois Veteran of the Year Dan Bogojevich (Evanston American Legion Post #42), Vietnam War Veteran Angelo Egizio and Veterans Park District Commissioner Tom Olson.

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



Vocalist Gianna Capra Uroni



Korean War Veteran Eugene Piltaver



Vietnam War Veteran Angelo Egizio



State of Illinois Veteran of the Year Dan Bogojevich



Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Cimbalo Fitness Center Open House

Come kick off the New Year right and start your fitness journey with us here at Cimbalo Fitness Center! Stop by and visit us at our New Year Open House on Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. We will be offering free day-long access to the Fitness Center, as well as free fitness classes/demos, open court play for pickleball/handball/racquetball, refreshments, giveaways and a raffle with a chance to win fitness class passes, Gouin Pool season passes, golf simulator vouchers and a free one-year Fitness Center membership. We will also have several tables from local health-related companies offering free samples, discounts and other giveaways. With our state-of-the-art equipment, family atmosphere and friendly, knowledgeable staff, Cimbalo has everything you need to achieve your fitness goals!

Golf Simulator

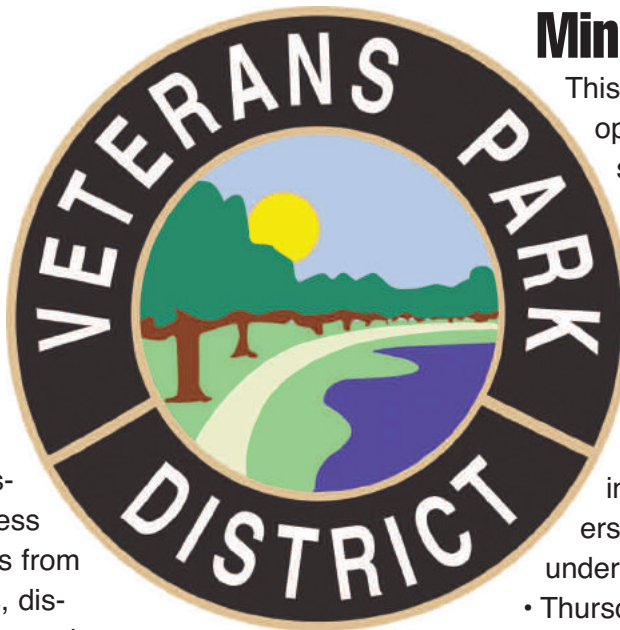
Come experience Cimbalo Fitness Center's Golf Suite! Featuring a state-of-the-art Full Swing® golf simulator, our golf suite allows you to have a fun, realistic golf experience year-round. Our golf simulator offers something for everyone of all ages and experience levels, from the super competitive golfer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

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

Volleyball, Ages 10-15

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

- Mondays, Jan. 8-Feb. 5 (no class Jan. 15), 5-5:45 p.m.; Fee is R \$55/NR \$70; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.



Mini Basketball, Ages 4-7

This four-week clinic, led by VPD staff, focuses on developing ball handling, passing and shooting. Players will significantly improve their basketball skills!

- Tuesdays, Jan. 9-30, 4-4:45 p.m.; Fee is R \$55/NR \$70; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

Baseball, Ages 8-12

- Each class lasts for 45 minutes. Players will rotate through different stations and drills. Learning and having fun is the number one goal! VPD staff will lead players in specific drills while they improve their overall understanding of the game while having a blast!
- Thursdays, Jan. 11-Feb 15, 5:45 p.m.; Fee is R \$55/NR \$70; Classes are held at George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park.

Halim Time & Glass Museum

Active adults – Discover a world of beauty and craftsmanship on a guided tour featuring displays with over 1,100 timepieces, including tower clocks, pocket watches, automations and more. The Louis Comfort Tiffany tour features his paintings, housewares, decorative arts, mosaics and his beautiful windows. Lunch in the Museum Café is provided. After lunch, there will be time to shop in the museum's gift shop.

- Thursday, March 14; Departure from Cimbalo Fitness Center in Melrose Park at 9:30 a.m., or Grant Park in Northlake at 9:45 a.m.; Estimated return – 3 p.m.; Fee is \$85.

A Street Car Named Desire

Active adults – Stella loves her husband Stanley, who is hard drinking and hard fisted. Enter Blanche, vulnerable and ready to break. *Street Car* shows the tenuous relationship between hope and despair, and battle for beauty and tenderness.

- Wednesday, April 10; Departure from Cimbalo Fitness Center in Melrose Park at 10 a.m., or from Grant Park in Northlake at 10:15 a.m.; Estimated return – 4:30 p.m.; Fee is: \$115.

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

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




VPD

PEE WEE PLAYTIME

BULGER PARK HALL

Thursdays
9:30am–11:30am
Starting Thursday November 30th.

\$3 per child/Adults free

708-343-5270
WWW.VPDPARK.ORG



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





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

CIMBALO FITNESS CENTER AND MUSEUM

1203 N. 24TH AVENUE, MELROSE PARK 708-343-5151 www.vpdpark.org

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 6 • 8 AM-2 PM

Join us in starting the New Year on the right foot and kickstart your fitness journey at Cimbalo Fitness Center!

We're excited to offer you a day of complimentary access to our top-notch fitness facility, along with free fitness classes and demonstrations. You can also enjoy open court play for sports like Pickleball, Handball, and Racquetball.

We've got a fantastic lineup for the day, including refreshments, giveaways, and an exciting RAFFLE with incredible prizes, such as fitness class passes, Gouin Pool season passes, golf simulator vouchers, and even a free 1-year fitness club membership!

Furthermore, we've partnered with local health-related companies who will be hosting tables with free samples, discounts, and various giveaways.

FREE CLASS SCHEDULE

8:30-9:15am Strong Nation

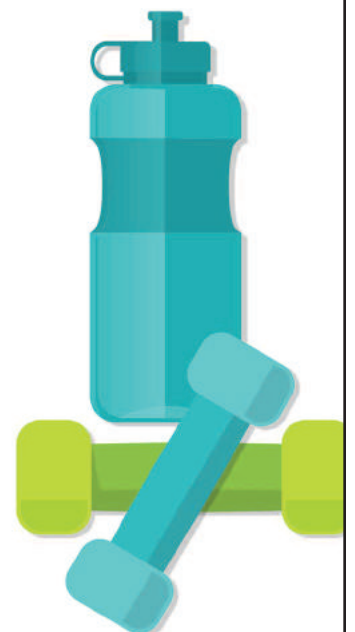
9:30-10:15am CIRCL Mobility

10:30-11:15am Zumba

11:30-12:15pm Pump & Sculpt

12:15-1:00pm Belly Dance

[Scan the QR code to link to our website !](#)



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





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

Help your child gain independence in the Kitchen by learning basic culinary skills at our new cooking class.

SNACK ATTACK

wholesome bites & tasty treats

Classes begin the week of January 16 🍅

Tuesday 1/16-2/6 5-6:15pm Bulger Park Community Center
Saturday 1/20-2/10 10-11:15am Grant Park, After School Care Room

\$55 R / \$ 65 NR per session
Ages 5-10

DEADLINE TO REGISTER is January 11

To register
call
708-343-5270





www.vpdpark.org
708-343-5270





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





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

Fiestado!
Family Dance Party

Friday, February 23
6-8pm
Bulger Park Hall, Melrose Park

Join us for some family fun! Music, games, entertainment and a taco bar!

\$10R /\$15 NR per person
Registration Deadline February 16

www.vpdpark.org
708-343-5270



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





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



Ready Set GO !!
Mobile Racing Challenge

**6-8pm
FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

Bulger Park Hall, Melrose Park
Bring the family out to race RC cars
round an indoor track.
Pizza and refreshments included.
RC cars provided!!

**\$20 R/ \$25 NR Child
\$25 R / \$32 NR Adult**

Registration Deadline is April 1st.

708-343-5270
www.vpdpark.org

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



VPD Crowns Bocce Ball Champions!



Veterans Park District's Fall Indoor Bocce Ball League season came to a close on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the George A. Leoni Complex, with Mary Ann Paolantonio and Gina Ciolino leading the charge for their Purple Penguin team to win a hard fought bocce battle and secure the league championship.

Mary Ann (left) and Gina are pictured with their awards in hand being congratulated by Veterans Park District Commissioner Tom Olson.

Great job, ladies! Good luck next season!

For information on VPD's Spring Bocce Ball League, call (708) 343-5270 or visit VPDpark.org.

Let Us Do the Cooking For You!



Meals to go for anyone age 60+ at a **MEALS on WHEELS** location near you!

PROVISO COMMUNITY CAFE
Sharp Community Center
1609 N. 36th Ave.
Melrose Park

Monday-Friday • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Please call (708) 316-7488
for information or to reserve meals.



MP Senior Club Hosts Thanksgiving Luncheon

Early in November, the Melrose Park Senior Club gathered at Division Street Lounge for their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon.

More than 50 people attended the get-together and had a great time meeting with Mayor Serpico, enjoying a good meal and sharing conversations with their friends from the community.

For Senior Club membership details and information on upcoming events, call Peggy DiFazio at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 4448.





Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



**Veterans
Park District**

(708) 343-5270 • www.vpdpark.org

Season's
Greetings!



Triton College

(708) 456-0300
www.triton.edu

Season's
Greetings!



DISTRICT 89

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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!

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AND
Happy New Year!



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www.mapofhopefoundation.org

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



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VPD and MP Youth Commission Haunt on Hirsch

HAUNT ON HIRSCH STREET FAMILY BLOCK PARTY



Veterans Park District and the Melrose Park Youth Commission hosted their annual Fright Night on Friday, Oct. 20, at Bulger Park. Hundreds of children and their parents were in attendance dressed for this year's celebration.

Refreshments, games and trips through the scary Gallery of Spooky, Haunted Displays were open to all.

Youth Commission and VPD representatives, Frank Matarrese, John Modugno, Mario Montoya, Carmen Tapia, Eddie Coco, Bill Otte and Tom Olson were also there to mingle with the Halloween fun-goers. The excitement was amazing!



HALLOWEEN



Scary, Fun and Frightfully Boo-tiful!

The Nadia Zuazo/Martinez family couldn't wait for this year's Halloween to happen!

They decorated their home early and displayed some boo-tiful Halloween decorations, including a scary but comical witch, ghosts, goblins, pumpkins and more!

Great job on the creepy yet mischievous setup ... Everything looked fang-tastic!

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

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

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

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

English Classes

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

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

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

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

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

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

English Classes for Women

Clases de Inglés para mujeres

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.**



Holy Cow ... It's Anthony Alfano Doing the Play by Play!

Dressed the best again this year is former Melrose Park resident Anthony Alfano in this year's Halloween setting as Cubs announcer Harry Caray calling a big game from the WGN Booth! Anthony invited some friends to join him in singing *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* during the seventh-inning stretch!

Anthony, now 14, is the son of Deanna and Tony, and currently resides in Collierville, Tenn., but still gets recognized for his incredible Halloween outfits by Chicago media outlets.

Holy Cow ... What a costume!

Time for Some Fun! Recognize Anybody?

Pictured (at right) is the Proviso East High School baseball team circa 1972.

Get yourself some paper and a pencil, and jot down the names of everyone you know (or think you know) in the photo.

We're going to do our best to identify all those who appear in the picture and have their names listed in the next issue of *The Rose* so you can see how good you did. Stay tuned!

If you have any old Melrose Park-related photos that you would like us to publish in an upcoming newsletter, please send them via email to therose@melrosepark.org and a representative will contact you for further details.



Join Melrose Park Boy Scout Troop 4112 Today!



The Melrose Park Boy Scouts Program is Looking for New Members.

Any boys interested in joining the troop are encouraged to call Fred Crancich at (708) 609-5539.

To learn more about the Boy Scouts of America, including information on exploring, activities, membership details and more, visit www.scouting.org.



—◆— *The Legacy Lives On!* —◆—

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Triton College NEWS

Super Saturday Registration Events Set for Jan. 13 and 20!

Score big this spring with an affordable education! Super Saturday is your one-stop-shop for all things spring registration. You can register, talk to financial aid, meet your advisor, tour the campus and more. We'll also have giveaways and snacks available while supplies last.

Your super path to success awaits!

Saturday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. • Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130, or visit
triton.edu for more information.**

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

Get into the holiday spirit with Triton College's Holiday Festival of Trees drive-through event, now-Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, on Triton's Circle Drive.

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

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

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



Celebrate the Holidays with the Cernan Earth and Space Center's *A Trans-Siberian Christmas* Light Show



Feel very merry at the Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center's *A Trans-Siberian Christmas* light show on Saturdays, Dec. 16, 23 and 30, 8:30 p.m. This festive show is enjoyable for the whole family.

"Celebrate the holidays with the classic rock sounds of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra accompanied by brilliant laser lights, stars and digital effects," said Kris McCall, director of the Cernan Earth and Space Center. "Dramatic music and visuals will combine to ignite the mood and hope for the season."

During Triton College's winter break, there will be a several matinees:

- **Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 26-29, 2023** – *STARS: Powerhouses of the Universe* at 1:30 p.m.; *A Trans-Siberian Christmas* at 3 p.m.
- **Tuesday-Friday, Jan. 2-5, 2024** – *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast* at 1:30 p.m.; *Laser Taylor Swift* at 3 p.m.

Tickets for *STARS: Powerhouses of the Universe* and *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast* are \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors (55 and over) and \$4 for children (2-17). Tickets for *A Trans-Siberian Christmas* and *Laser Taylor Swift* are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors (55 and over) and \$5 for children (2-17), and can be purchased at the box office starting at 6:30 p.m. (1 p.m. for matinees) before each show. Triton students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a valid ID.

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

For more information, visit <http://triton.edu/Cernan> or contact cernan@triton.edu.

To follow the Cernan Earth and Space Center on Facebook, visit facebook.com/cernancenter/.



A 501(c)(3) organization.
Gifts to the Foundation are
tax deductible as allowed by law.

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

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

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

Visit www.triton.edu/about/triton-foundation/foundation-pledge and make a contribution to the fund of your choice.

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

Triton College Offering Health, Sport & Exercise Science Intersession Courses

Are you a student who wants to get ahead on credits while on winter break? Triton's intersession courses are fully online and can be completed in a short, two-week period. Many students who enroll in these courses are guest students transferring the credits into their primary university.

Triton College will be offering the following courses from Jan. 8-19, 2024:

- **Science of Personal Health (HTH 104 370)** – This is a three-credit-hour class that will explore how individuals interact with their environment and how those interactions impact holistic, personal health. Various dimensions of health will be examined, such as physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual, occupational and environmental.
- **Sport and Exercise Psychology (PED 196 370)** – This is a three-credit-hour class that explores the psychological and mental skills needed to improve athletic performance and exercise. Mental techniques include imagery, meditation and motivation to reduce anxiety and build confidence.
- **Sociology of Sport (PED 197 370)** – This is a three-credit-hour class that examines the primary social institutions of sport, including participants, functions, consequences and effects on society. It will also dive into the influence sport has on family, religion, education and different economic backgrounds.

To register, visit triton.edu/spring. For more information, please email juliannemurphy@triton.edu or call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130.

ReUp Education Partners with Triton College to Expand Opportunities to Engage and Support Adult Learners

ReUp Education, a leading tech-enabled provider empowering adult learners, has announced a new partnership with Triton College, a public community college founded in River Grove, Ill. This new partnership expands on both Triton College's and ReUp's commitments to help stopouts and adult learners enroll and graduate as part of their journey to pursue economic and social mobility in a 21st century economy. In this partnership, ReUp will bring a unique combination of technology, data and personalized one-on-one coaching to Triton College, and support their mission of providing learners with a professional education.

As of 2020, 35 percent of learners were over the age of 25, according to data from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). However, adult learners still have lower completion rates than their younger peers, often due to a wide range of barriers that include time poverty, childcare, financial constraints and more. Completing a college degree has profound impacts on social and economic mobility. Those with a degree are half as

likely to be unemployed as those with a high school diploma and demonstrate significantly higher levels of happiness, health and community involvement.

Since 2015, ReUp has been helping higher-ed institutions engage, enroll and support adult learners. Leveraging patented technology and one-on-one personalized coaching services, ReUp's approach will help Triton College reach learners who have previously put a pause on their education. This partnership will provide Triton College learners with specialized holistic support from ReUp that takes into consideration the key factors that impact a learner's decision to re-enroll and their unique journey towards earning their degree

"Our partnership with ReUp evolved out of our college-wide Strategic Plan focus on serving returning adult students. Though we are early in our partnership, we've already benefited from insights – about adult learners in general and specifically about our own students – the ReUp team members have shared with us," said Dean of Academic Success Hilary Meyer.

As part of the partnership, ReUp will also serve as an expert on adult learners for Triton College, offering institution-specific insights and strategic recommendations based on industry trends, millions of data points on adult learners and direct learner feedback.

"As a former adult learner, I know only too well the challenges that face other adult learners as they pursue a degree. Time, money and a support system are all crucial elements of a learner's journey through higher ed, yet for too many of these degree-seekers, these factors are massive barriers to completion," said Terah Crews, CEO of ReUp. "Through our new partnership with Triton College, we are helping expand the support and resources available for adult learners, in turn helping to make the roller-coaster ride of higher education just a little less turbulent."

Get Away for the Day with Triton's School of Continuing Education

This coming spring, plan your travels with Triton as we visit some of the most interesting and well-known locations in the Chicagoland area. Guided community day trips are planned once a month from January through May 2024.

Please save the dates and get away with us for a day of fun and excitement. Here's what we have scheduled so far:

Home Alone Filming Locations – Winnetka, Ill.
Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 • Fee: \$109 • Course no.: TRV C01 301

Groundhog Day – Woodstock, Ill.
Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 • Fee: \$109 • Course no.: TRV C01 302

The Blues Brothers Filming Locations – Chicago Loop
Saturday, March 9, 2024 • Fee: \$109 • Course no.: TRV C01 303

Wrigley Field – Go Cubs Go!
Sunday, April 14, 2024 • Fee: \$109 • Course no.: TRV C01 304

The World's Fair – Jackson Park
Saturday, May 4, 2024 • Fee: \$109 • Course no.: TRV C01 305

For more information, please call the Triton College School of Continuing Education at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3500, or visit triton.edu/ce.

Starting or restarting college?

Spring to it!

Register now for the best
selection of classes.

Spring Classes Begin
Jan. 22, 2024



There's
a place
for you.



Triton College
triton.edu

NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

Jane Addams School Briefs, Etc.

Ms. Mattick's JA kindergarten classroom was super excited for our PBIS Pep Assembly.



Two of our JA fifth graders enjoying our annual PTO Walk-a-Thon.



The JA staff was all set and ready to do their annual costume parade for the JA Panthers!



Ms. Kiwan's JA kindergarten classroom was excited for our Chick-Fil-A fundraiser.

Literacy While Reading



School District 89 celebrated Literacy while Reading Under the Stars! Educators, students and community members dressed up as their favorite book character! We had hundreds of people attend the event.

D89 Integrates WOZ ED Digital Animation



SD 89 teachers engage in learning and planning for student success. The district is excited to integrate WOZ ED Digital Animation into their Art Curriculum!

www.maywood89.org • Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”

Melrose Park School Briefs, Etc.



Melrose Park School celebrated Unity Day by wearing orange on Oct. 18th to promote unity, share kindness, champion acceptance, encourage inclusion and prevent bullying.



Scientists at work in our Woz Ed Club! Woz ED is a personalized learning program geared towards supporting and preparing students to enter the technology field.



Melrose Park students who earned 50 Dojo points for the month of October for modeling and practicing positive behaviors of being respectful, responsible and ready, got to attend a Glow in the Dark Party!



We love having our families join us for learning! Our Preschool for All Program hosted a Parent Workshop where families were able to participate in classroom activities with their children.



American Therapy Dogs Visit D89 Classrooms

The Department of Student Services has partnered with American Therapy Dogs (ATD) to have therapy dogs visit the classrooms of students with special needs. Cody, a 6 year old Grand Pyrenees mix was rescued himself from a kill shelter in Alabama when he was a year old by Mike and Susan Cardamone. He went through the therapy dog training program, and he visits schools, hospitals and nursing homes. The students at Stevenson welcomed Cody with open arms, asked his handlers questions and fed him treats. Therapy dogs benefit individuals in many ways including, bringing joy, laughter, comfort and relationship building. He will be visiting all the schools throughout the school year. ATD is a national organization out of Washington, it is non-for profit and run by volunteers.



NEWS89 School District89BRIEFS

District 89 Fall Sports

District 89 fall sports came to a conclusion and would like to recognize those Teams and Individuals that excelled over the last few months.



Jane Addams – D89 Cross Country Champions



Overall Boys Champion – Damien Smith (Garfield)



Stevenson Middle School Varsity Boys Cross Country – Second Place at the West Suburban Middle School Conference meet held in Bedford Park on Oct.17.

Varsity Team Members: Jerimiah Jimenez, Nathaniel Clark, Sebastian Ortega, Angel Ayala, Sammy Avalos and Damian Hernandes.



Emerson – D89 Girls Basketball Runners-Up



WDLA – D89 Boys Futsal Champions



Melrose Park – D89 Boys Futsal Runners-Up



Lincoln – D89 Girls Basketball Champions



Melrose Park – D89 Girls Cross Country Champions

District 89 Sports Activity Dates ...

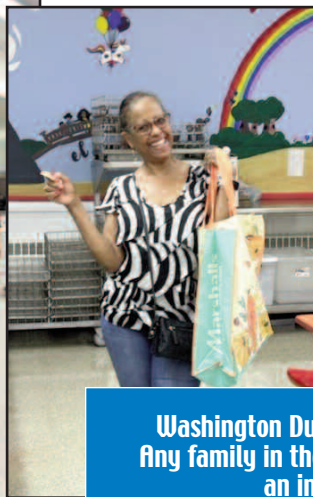
- WSMSC Boys Basketball – Underway.
- District 89 Boys Basketball – Underway (All games at the Melrose Park Civic Center).
- District 89 Girls Volleyball – Underway.
- WSMS Wrestling – Jan. 11.
- WSMSC Girls Volleyball – Jan. 17.
- District 89 Wrestling – Feb. 5.
- IESA Middle School Cheer Competition – Feb. 7, Peoria, Ill.
- District 89 Cheer Competition – TBD.

www.maywood89.org • Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”

A Few Recent District 89 Highlights ...



District 89 representing in the HispanoFest Parade.



Washington Dual Language Academy Informational Meeting. Any family in the District 89 community was welcome to attend an informational session and have a tour of the school on Saturday, Aug. 26. Any families interested in Washington Dual Language Academy can apply, visit maywood89.org for more information.



Dual Language teachers and leaders at La Cosecha Dual Language Conference in Albuquerque, N.M.



Teaching Language Across the Content Areas Professional Development for District 89 staff. Participants learned new strategies on how to support multilingual learners.



NEWS 89 School District 89 BRIEFS



PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD-89

About the Program

- 2.5 hour program Monday through Friday
- Two sessions:
 - AM: 8:10am-10:40am
 - PM: 11:40am-2:10pm
- Children must attend a screening to be considered.
- Limited enrollment- placement is not guaranteed
- State funded- no cost to families

Sign Up Here!



Contact us

Preschool For All Program Assistant



america.torres@maywood89.org



708-450-2460 ext. 1153

www.maywood89.org • Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”

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



St. Scalabrini has Arrived at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, the unveiling of the statue of newly canonized Saint Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini happened at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

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 did the unveiling of the statue.

Viva St. Scalabrini.



*May the light of the season glow and fill your soul
with peace, joy and love.*

*Wishing you and your family, all of God's blessings this Christmas
and throughout the new year.*

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine
Fr. Leandro Fossá, cs • Fr. Miguel Angel, cs • Fr. Adriano Barbiero, cs*



Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine

December 2023 Events

Holiday Mass/Event Schedule

Posadas Navideñas • Saturday, Dec. 23
7 p.m. • Drinks and Pinatas in the Gym

Christmas Eve Masses • Sunday, Dec. 24
Regular Sunday Schedule • Midnight Mass (Trilingual, Christmas Carols Begin at 11 p.m.)

Christmas Day Masses • Monday, Dec. 25
Italian/10:30 a.m. • English/Noon • Spanish/1:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Masses • Sunday, Dec. 31
Regular Sunday Schedule

New Year's Day Masses • Monday, Jan. 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Italian/10:30 a.m. • English/Noon • Spanish/1:30 p.m.

January 2024 Events

New Year's Day Masses Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Monday, Jan. 1

Italian/10:30 a.m. • English/Noon • Spanish/1:30 p.m.

Epiphany • Sunday, Jan. 7 Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Baptism of the Lord • Monday Jan. 8

Masses – English/8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. • Spanish/6:30 p.m.

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

National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Monday, Jan. 22

Masses – English/5:30 p.m. • Spanish/6:30 p.m.

Mass for Padre Pio • Sunday, Jan. 28

Italian/10:30 a.m. • Reception Follows

February 2024 Events

Presentation of the Lord • Friday, Feb. 2

Candelaria – Mass Followed by the Blessing of Candles and the Infant Jesus
English-Italian/6 p.m. • Spanish/7 p.m.

Feast of St. Blaise • Saturday, Feb. 3 and Sunday, Feb. 4

Mass Followed by the Blessing of the Throat
Saturday, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m. • Sunday, Feb. 4, All Masses

Our Lady of Lourdes • Friday, Feb. 9

Trilingual Mass Followed by Anointing of the Sick, 6:30 p.m.

World Day of the Sick • Sunday, Feb. 11

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule (No Anointing)

Ash Wednesday • Wednesday, Feb. 14

Distribution of Ashes

English/8 a.m., Noon, 6 p.m. • Village/9 a.m. • Italian/5 p.m. • Spanish/3 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m.

Stations of the Cross • Fridays, Feb. 16 and 23

Stations of the Cross in English, Italian and Spanish, 7:30 p.m.

Altar & Rosary Evening of Recollection • Thursday, Feb. 22

With Fr. Joseph Tito

6 p.m. Mass Followed by Dinner and Reflection • OLMC Gym, \$20 Donation

Feast of St. Toribio Romo • Saturday, Feb. 24

Spanish Mass and Indoor Procession, 3:30 p.m.

St. Padre Pio • Sunday, Feb. 25

Italian Mass Followed by Reception, 10:30 a.m.



Merry Christmas
Buon Natale • Feliz Navidad



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

**A Savior is Born
Unto us This Day**



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

St. Eulalia Church
1825 S. 9th Ave. Maywood, IL

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

Christmas Eve – DEC. 24

4:00pm Christmas Carols at **Sacred Heart**

5:00pm Bilingual Mass at **Sacred Heart**

Christmas – DEC. 25

8:30am English Mass at **Sacred Heart**

10:30am Spanish Mass at **Sacred Heart**

10:30am English Mass at **St. Eulalia**

12:30pm Spanish Mass at **St. Eulalia**

– The Solemnity of Mary –

New Year's Eve – DEC. 31

5:00pm Bilingual Mass at **Sacred Heart**

New Year's Day – JAN. 1

8:30am English Mass at **Sacred Heart**

10:30am Spanish Mass at **Sacred Heart**

10:30am English Mass at **St. Eulalia**

12:30pm Spanish Mass at **St. Eulalia**

*Christmas Blessings to You
and Your Loved Ones*

Parish Phone
708-344-0757

Parish Website
shsparish.org

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

Thursday Adoration and Confession

January 11th & 25th and **February 8th & 22nd** at **St. Eulalia**.

January 18th and **February 15th & 29th** at **Sacred Heart**.

Women's Club Meeting

January 12 at **7:00pm** in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**.

Domestic Violence Prevention Seminar

January 20 from **1:00pm—3:00pm** in **St. Eulalia's Parish Hall**.

Tamale Sale

January 21 from **9:00am—12:00pm** in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**.

Guatemalan Breakfast Hosted by Parish Book Club

January 28 from **11:00am—3:00pm** in **St. Eulalia's Parish Hall**.

Men's Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

February 9th in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**. Doors open at **6:00pm**.



\$55
per ticket

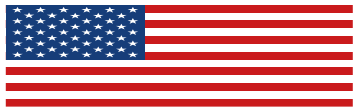
Includes dinner, dessert and unlimited beer. Please call 708-344-0757 for tickets.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Feb. 14

There will be English Mass at **8:00am** at **Sacred Heart** and Bilingual Ash Wednesday Mass at both **Sacred Heart** and **St. Eulalia** at **7:00pm**.

Ashes will be distributed from **11:00am—1:00pm** at **Sacred Heart** and **4:00pm—6:30pm** at both **Sacred Heart** and **St. Eulalia**.

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



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Triton College
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Happy Holidays!



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the
**Savaglio
Family**



Happy Holidays!



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Cook County Officials Join Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade

Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Rides in Annual Parade

On Sunday, Dec. 3, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar attended the Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade. The parade, starting at 83rd and Western and going to Western and Addison, is Chicagoland Toys for Tots' 46th Annual Parade. This parade brings in thousands of toys each year,



*Cook County Commissioner
Frank J. Aguilar*



with each motorcycle rider required to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate during the parade. Also in attendance with Commissioner Aguilar was Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County commissioners Tara Stamps and Stanley Moore, and Illinois Appellate Court Judge Jesse Reyes.

"Chicagoland Toys for Tots' impact on families everywhere cannot be overstated," said Commissioner Aguilar. "I have been a proud member of Toys for Tots for more than two decades, and I am so excited to join motorcycle riders from all parts of this country in such an important day for children and families throughout Chicagoland."

Called "The World's Largest Motorcycle Parade," the Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade has become one of the most anticipated and exciting motorcycle events in America. Each year, on the first Sunday in December, motorcyclists come to Chicago to donate toys and ride their bikes. There are Chicagoland Toys for Tots Drop Boxes located all around Chicagoland, ensuring that underprivileged children from all corners of our county are able to open a toy this holiday season. The parade raises funds through the sales of Chicago Toys for Tots Parade merchandise. Some of these funds are used to purchase additional toys, while some are given directly to deserving children, families and organizations who assist children.

A list of those Drop Box locations can be found on the Chicagoland Toys for Tots website – www.chicagolandtft.org.

Monetary donations can also be made by check to Chicagoland TFT, P.O. Box 388500, Chicago, IL 60638. You can also donate directly to Chicagoland

Toys for Tots on the website's donation page <https://chicagolandtft.org/direct-donations>.



Cook County and City of Chicago Officials Celebrate Día de Los Muertos

Officials Remember Deceased Cook County Residents at Ofrenda in the Cook County Building

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, Cook County and city of Chicago officials came together to celebrate Dia de Los Muertos ("Day of the Dead"). In attendance was Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Chicago Deputy Mayor of Immigration Beatriz Ponce de Leon,

Cook County commissioners Frank J. Aguilar, Anthony Quezada, Alma Anaya and John Daley, ofrenda artist Gloria Contreras and representatives from the Mexican Civic Society of Illinois. To close the celebration, residents and officials gathered in front of the ofrenda (altar) located in the lobby between County and City Hall to honor deceased Cook County residents and celebrate the contributions of the Latino/a/x community.

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

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

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

An ofrenda is a traditional altar with a collection of objects placed on a ritual display during the annual Día de Muertos celebration. An ofrenda is created for individuals who have died and is intended to welcome them to the altar setting.

This is the third year Ms. Contreras’ ofrenda has been featured in the Cook County lobby and the first year Cook County has partnered with the city of Chicago for Dia de Los Muertos. The combination of stakeholders from different levels of government reaffirm Cook County and Chicago’s commitment to Meso-American culture, our history and to always remember those who came before us.

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

Cook County Officials Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Officials, accompanied by musical guests, honored notable Hispanic and Latine residents for their contributions to Cook County and highlighted the passage of Resolution 23-4982

On Thursday, Oct. 12, Cook County commissioners and the Office of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in the lobby of the Cook County Building. This event was held to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and to highlight the passage of Resolution 23-4982, which designated Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Commissioners Alma Anaya, Anthony Quezada and Frank J. Aguilar co-sponsored the resolution, which was passed unanimously by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

“Hispanic and Latine individuals of every generation have made immense contributions through their courageous service in government, the arts, education, mathematics, science, literature, technology and philanthropy – both in Cook County and around the globe,” said President Toni Preckwinkle. “We’re proud to celebrate that legacy all month long.”

The event began with remarks from President Preckwinkle and commissioners Aguilar, Anaya and Quezada, followed by an award ceremony honoring Elvira Arellano, Eddy Fernando Borrayo and Sylvia Puente. After the award winners gave their remarks, Mariachi Los Jinetes of Morton East High School from Cook County’s 16th District gave a special musical performance. After the performance, guests were invited to a luncheon, featuring the Morton East High School Folkloric Dance Group and the Cuarto Band.

“Latine and Hispanic-Americans have made contributions throughout every corner of Cook County. We are proud of our heritage, of our culture, and the communities we have built and sustained in America,” said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. “This is an opportunity to celebrate our shared history. It is a celebration of our lives and culture in the present. It is a promise to continue honoring our culture and contributions in the future. This was also an opportunity to celebrate, to listen to the music of our communities and honor three Hispanic and Latine Americans who have contributed so much to our county.”

National Hispanic Heritage Month was founded to celebrate the heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latine communities and was first recognized by Cook County on Sept. 15, 2014. Hispanic and Latine individuals have long been part of the fabric of Cook County, first being reported on the Illinois census in 1850 and reaching a reported population of 25,211 by 1930. Cook County is proud to celebrate the diversity of its residents and the richness of culture – the Hispanic and Latine population has now increased to 1,382,778 and represents the largest minority group in Cook County.

“The Hispanic and Latine community is a strong pillar of our county, contributing to our social and economic growth,” said Commissioner Alma Anaya. “I am proud to represent one of the largest Latina communities in Illinois, ensuring our voices and life experiences are considered at the county level. We celebrate the resiliency of our people not just this month, but every day.”

There are more than 50,000 Hispanic- and Latine-owned businesses across Cook County and this entrepreneurial vibrancy has helped revitalize numerous communities in Chicago and suburban communities. Cook County’s economy has always been a magnet for immigrant laborers from all over the world and immigrants from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America in particular, and Cook County continues to welcome and value their contributions.

“I am proud to celebrate this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month as a first-generation American and as the first Costa Rican elected to the board of commissioners and in the state of Illinois. Cook County is home to a diverse tapestry of Central and South American communities that make us a beautiful and vibrant county. I encourage everyone to celebrate and enjoy the rich contributions to history, art, music, food, and culture that Latine and Hispanic communities have brought to our neighborhoods,” said Commissioner Anthony Quezada.





News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Illinois DMV Workers to Sport New Look Vests Will Benefit Customers and Workers

Illinois Secretary of State employees have been sporting brand new navy-blue vests at all 138 DMV facilities statewide as part of a rebranding effort aimed at improving the overall customer experience, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced recently. As part of the announcement, Giannoulias' office released a video displaying the new vests, which were union made in Illinois, that the more than 1,800 DMV employees are now wearing. "The vests will make it easier for all DMV visitors to immediately identify employees as they walk in while creating a sense of professionalism and approachability that will improve customer satisfaction," Giannoulias said. "They will also help build a sense of teamwork and enhance the workplace environment for employees." The rebranding effort will also include redesigning DMV facilities to improve flow and functionality; negotiating new leases to enhance DMV office space, add amenities and reduce costs; and standardizing signage throughout all DMVs.

"Our goal at the Secretary of State's Office is to update and modernize our DMV facilities and operations, reduce wait times and make the DMV a more pleasant experience for Illinois residents," Giannoulias added.

Giannoulias Urges Illinois Military Vets to Share Their Stories

Secretary of State's Veterans History Project Preserves Accounts for Future Generations

In advance of Veterans Day this year, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced a new effort to encourage Illinois military veterans to share their stories, photos and mementos for future generations as part of the Illinois History Project.

In addition, Giannoulias also announced his office is forming a Veterans Advisory Board to advise on issues important to veterans and to ensure Illinois veterans are aware and take advantage of the programs and services the Secretary of State offers.

As the state's librarian, Giannoulias' office administers the Illinois Veterans History Project, a statewide initiative launched in response to the national effort of the Library of Congress that collects, preserves and makes accessible firsthand recollections of veterans and civilians who served the military branches.



"It is an honor to commemorate the brave Americans who have served our country," Giannoulias said. "Our state's Veterans History Project shines a spotlight on veteran voices and serves as a permanent record for Illinois veterans to memorialize their experiences and contributions to ensure they are not forgotten."

Currently, more than 6,700 records from Illinois veterans have been submitted as part of the program, including 675 oral histories, dating from the Civil War to those serving on active duty.

Knowing that many of those who served are getting older, Giannoulias encourages veterans and their family members to submit materials so his office can digitize them and make them available online.

"We're asking family members to play a role by helping upload photographs and other mementos to help preserve their legacies," Giannoulias added. "Veterans are often reluctant to tell their stories of heroism, so it's up to us to ask, listen and make sure they are heard."

Giannoulias encourages the public to visit www.idaillinois.org and search Veterans History Project to view submissions, which can be searched by name, war and hometown of veterans who have submitted materials. Oral history interviews are also available on the project's YouTube page at youtube.com/user/ilveteransproject.

How to Submit Information

Veterans, civilians and their families are encouraged to share oral histories, photos, memoirs, obituaries, letters, service records and more to be preserved in the project.

To submit an entry, visit www.ilsos.gov/veteranshistoryproject and complete and submit an Illinois Patriot Information Form to the Illinois State Library. Completed forms can be submitted electronically to ilvhp@ilsos.gov or by mail to the Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1796.

Stories and mementos from veterans of all ages, whether they saw conflict or not, are welcome. Any civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts, including war industry workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers and more, are encouraged to submit their experiences and memories.

For more information about the Illinois Veterans History Project, call (800) 665-5576, Ext. 4, email ilvhp@ilsos.gov or visit the website at www.ilsos.gov/veteranshistoryproject.

Giannoulas Announces Two Additional Pop-Up DMVs

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced his office has opened two additional Illinois Driver and Motor Vehicle facilities (DMVs), following the success of two “Senior Only” walk-in DMVs that opened in September.

The two new facilities opening include:

- A “Senior Only” DMV Center in Westchester, located at 10300 W. Roosevelt Rd. It is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. This is a no appointment, walk-in facility that offers the following driver and motor vehicle services: REAL IDs, driver’s licenses and state identification cards; vehicle registration stickers; organ and tissue donor registration; voter registration; and in-car driving tests.

- A Road Testing Center in Addison, located at 50 E. Oak St. It is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Driver’s licenses will be issued as part of the road tests. Vehicle registration stickers and temporary disability placard cards are also offered.

For more information, online renewals and to schedule an appointment, call 800-252-8980.

The pop-up facilities are part of Giannoulas’ effort to improve the Skip-the-Line Program and eliminate long lines at DMVs. Since launching Sept. 1, Illinois DMVs have seen over 638,500 customers statewide, and customers are experiencing little to no wait times.

“I’m excited to announce the opening of our two new DMVs geared toward serving seniors and offering road tests,” Giannoulas said. “Our Skip-the-Line Program has been functioning at a high level since its launch in September, but I know that we can always improve so that our DMVs are as efficient as possible for Illinoisans statewide, especially for our seniors.”

“This new senior-only facility will be an excellent addition to our Westchester community and the surrounding area,” said House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch. “The DMV has almost become synonymous with long lines and wait times, so I appreciate Secretary Giannoulas’ effort to improve the overall experience for all of Illinoisans, including our seniors.”

“Making our state’s SOS facilities more accessible and efficient benefits all of us, especially our seniors and working families juggling busy days,” said Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (39th District-Oak Park). “This new road testing center is a win for our community, facilitating a process that is specifically designed to accommodate and meet the needs of Illinois drivers.”

“I applaud the secretary of state for opening this road testing center in DuPage County which serves those drivers who are required to take road tests upon obtaining or renewing a driver’s license,” said Rep. Norma Hernandez (77th District-Melrose Park). “This center located within the 77th District is an exciting addition to Secretary Giannoulas’ Skip-the-Line Program that is saving Illinoisans valuable time while shortening lines and reducing wait times at regular DMV facilities.”

Giannoulas’ office previously opened two “Senior Only” walk-in centers in Evanston and Bridgeview on Sept. 25. Other improvements made to the Skip-the-Line Program include increasing the number of available appointments 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; and adding new features to the appointment website so users can filter DMVs by ZIP code, highlighting appointment openings closest to them.

Giannoulas Announces Long-Awaited Launch of State’s Monarch Butterfly Plate

After more than seven years, Illinois residents who placed deposits for the state’s Monarch Butterfly Specialty License Plate can finally redeem it, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced recently.



The Monarch Butterfly License Plate is the first Universal Specialty Plate issued by the state of Illinois – even though the General Assembly approved it in 2016.

“This is an important issue, not just because it will positively impact the environment and preserve the Monarch’s cultural significance, but also because it finally makes good on a long-awaited promise,” Giannoulas said. “Government needs to work more efficiently and deliver for its residents, which means people shouldn’t have to wait seven years to get what they paid for.”

In 2016, Illinois lawmakers passed legislation to create a “universal” license plate to limit the number of specialty license plates – all designed differently and deemed problematic for law enforcement. At the time, there were 109 different specialty plates. The legislation stated that any new charitable organization would need at least 2,000 Illinoisans to place deposits that benefitted an organization or charity before any new specialty plate could get issued. Furthermore, the new specialty plates would have a universal, standardized design, but include a decal on the left side depicting the cause or charity it supports.

The Monarch plate reached the necessary 2,000 deposits in 2018, yet it was never produced despite residents having already paid the necessary \$10 to pre-order the plate. The money raised from Illinoisans’ deposits goes toward protecting the Monarch from extinction.

On the campaign trail, Giannoulas heard from residents inquiring about the status of the plate and he committed to ensuring that those who supported the Monarch’s charity get the opportunity to obtain the plate.

The \$10 deposits are allocated to the Roadside Monarch Habitat Fund, which is part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. If renewed, \$23 of the universal special license plate renewal fee will benefit the fund. The Monarch Butterfly, Illinois’ state insect, is considered endangered.

The fund helps foster habitats to support the butterflies during their twice-yearly migratory journey from Mexico to Chicago with a goal to add 150 million new milkweed stems and other nectar resources to the Illinois landscape in the next 15 years.

The Monarch Butterfly plate is available to order at ilsos.gov/monarch or by calling (217) 785-0005.



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

Common Banking Terms

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs wants to help people be financially secure, so he recently launched the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub). It provides free resources to help all Illinois residents plan a better financial future. Below is an example of the information you can find there.

Part of understanding how banking works is getting a handle on the industry's vocabulary. Here are some terms that will help you as you open and manage accounts.

Types of Financial Institutions

Traditional Bank – The type of financial institution where most consumers have traditionally gone to deposit funds in checking and savings accounts. The major national banks in the United States are all traditional banking facilities.

Credit Union – A financial cooperative whose members can open and access checking and savings accounts as well as borrow from the institution's pooled deposits at a low interest rate. Credit unions are typically nonprofit and members are their shareholders.

Commercial Bank – A financial institution that offers its services to general consumers, as well as business customers. Commercial banks may also make short-term loans to businesses or individuals.

Savings and Loan – A specialized bank that accepts savings at interest and lends money out for home mortgage loans. Savings and Loans were created to assist people looking to buy a home.

FDIC – The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, is the federal agency that insures deposits in U.S. banks against loss in bank failures. Created in 1933, the FDIC exists to maintain public confidence in banks and encourage economic stability.

NCUA – The National Credit Union Administration, or NCUA, is the independent federal agency that regulates, charters and supervises federal credit unions.

Basic Banking Terms

Savings Account – An account that encourages saving due to its higher interest rate. Many savings accounts have restrictions on how many times per month you can withdraw money.

Checking Account – An account that allows the holder to deposit and withdraw money as needed to cover daily expenses.

Deposit – Money that is added to an account.

Withdrawal – Money that is taken out of an account.

Balance – The total funds that are in an account.

Interest – A percentage of an account balance that is paid to the account holder periodically. Banks use interest to reward account holders for letting them hold their money.

Minimum Deposit – The lowest dollar amount necessary to deposit in order to open a new account.

Minimum Balance – The minimum balance that a bank requires account holders to maintain in their accounts each day. If an account goes below the minimum balance, the bank may charge the account holder a maintenance fee.

Overdraft – If an account holder tries to withdraw more money than they have available in their account, that is called an overdraft. If an account is overdrawn, the bank may charge the account holder an overdraft fee.

Account Statement – A monthly summary of all account activity sent by the bank to the account holder either in the mail or online.

Direct Deposit – An electronic transfer of money from one account to another. For example, a worker could use direct deposit to have every paycheck sent directly to their checking account. Some banks will waive fees on checking accounts if the account holder receives a minimum direct deposit amount each month.

Checking Account Terms

Bounced Check – A check that is returned because there are not enough funds in the account to cover the amount of the check.

Debit Card – A plastic payment card that withdraws funds from the user's checking account.

Stop Payment – In case a check is stolen, the account holder can issue a stop payment notice to their bank. This notice protects the account holder from fraudulent charges.

Transfer – Sending money from one account to another. You can transfer money between your own accounts or from an account that you own to another person's account.



State Treasurer Michael Frerichs wants to help people be financially secure, so he 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!

State Treasurer Returns \$18.9 Million In Missing Money

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office returned more than \$18.9 million in missing money during October, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced recently.

The total includes more than \$18 million in cash and interest, and more than \$900,000 in stock value. All told, 33,845 claims were paid.

"We help Illinois' economy by putting money back in people's pockets," Frerichs said. "Our efforts to improve the efficiency of reuniting people with their missing money are paying off."

Illinois' missing money program — also known as I-CASH — is one of the state's oldest consumer protection initiatives. The state treasurer is tasked with safeguarding unclaimed property, such as the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. Illinois holds more than \$5 billion in unclaimed property.

The Treasurer's Office has returned more than \$1.84 billion during Frerichs' time in office. When Frerichs first became treasurer, there were 60,000 claims paid in a year. Today, more than 200,000 claims are paid each year.

So far this year, the Treasurer's Office has returned more than \$220 million through more than 223,700 claims.

The record-setting performance is the result of a complete restructuring of the missing money process under Frerichs. The State Treasurer's Office has added electronic claims, eliminated red-tape that slowed small-money claims and leveraged technology to allow payments to be made without a claim even needing to be filed.

In recent months, the Treasurer's Office has sent out letters to more than 140,000 people through the Enhanced Money Match Program, which leverages data already collected by the state and crossmatches it with the treasurer's unclaimed property database. When a matching name and mailing address is identified and confirmed, the unclaimed property owner will receive a letter from the Treasurer's Office that describes the amount and source of the money. After one additional security step is concluded, a check simply is issued to the owner. All they have to do is watch for the mail.

Frerichs worked with state lawmakers to raise the limit on the amount of money that can be returned to \$5,000. The total to be returned through the two rounds of Enhanced Money Match letters is about \$76 million.

Frerichs also has added a Friends and Family "share" feature. When visitors to the I-CASH website come across the name of someone they know, they can select the "share" icon and provide the email address of their friend or relative. Frerichs' office then will notify the individual by sending an email that mentions the missing money, along with the name of the friend or relative who spotted it. Then, that individual can start the process of retrieving it. Illinois is a national leader in the unclaimed property space and is frequently consulted by other states who are reforming their unclaimed property laws, rules and procedures.

The Treasurer's Office recommends that people check for missing money at least twice a year. You can check icash.illinoistreasurer.gov to see if missing money is waiting for you.

Helping a Man Fulfill His Late Sister's Wishes for Her Children

When Fredrick walked into the state government building in late September, he was at his wit's end. About a decade ago, he'd had some cashier's checks drawn up to pay for his daughter's college tuition. But she changed plans and he ended up not using them.

He decided to hold on to the money and when the time came, help put his late sister's children through college.

Fredrick attempted to use the cashier's checks, only to find out they had expired. After jumping through some hoops with a bank, he discovered that under the law, the bank turned them over to the Illinois Treasurer's Office, which is tasked with safeguarding unclaimed property, such as the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and the like.

Fredrick visited the Treasurer's Office to seek help on a Friday in September.

Ashton, who oversees the Unclaimed Property division, normally works out of the Springfield office. She happened to be in Chicago that day and worked with a team to help Fredrick with his situation. Treasurer's staff reviewed Fredrick's paperwork, which was in order, and helped him file a claim. By Monday, the claim had been approved. By the following weekend, a \$100,000 check had arrived — the amount the Illinois Treasurer's Office had been holding for him.

"Ashton was a blessing," Fredrick said. "I said 'Lord, I don't know what you did by bringing that angel there. She helped me so much.'"

Now, his niece is looking at studying pre-med at Howard University in Washington, D.C. His nephew is considering a business degree at North Park College in Chicago. And his other nephew is interested in community college.

Fredrick said he is very satisfied with the help he received from State Treasurer Michael Frerichs' office.

"When I think about my sister and the things she wanted for them, she wanted her children to go to college," he said. "I just want them to make it. I just want to be a helping hand."

To see if we have missing money waiting for you, please check your name at <https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/>.



ComEd Named Most Reliable Electric Utility in America

ComEd Wins National Reliability Award at PA Consulting's 23rd Annual ReliabilityOne® Awards

In recognition of ComEd's successful efforts to provide industry- and nation-leading reliability for the more than 9 million people it serves in northern Illinois, PA Consulting, a consultancy that's bringing ingenuity to life, recently awarded the electric company the 2023 ReliabilityOne® Outstanding System Reliability Award, as well as the 2023 ReliabilityOne® Award for Outstanding Reliability Performance in the Midwest Region.

"It wasn't that long ago that most ComEd customers expected power outages and considered them commonplace," said ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones.



"Over the last decade, however, our investments in grid modernization have resulted in significantly fewer and shorter outages, allowing our customers to benefit from nation-leading reliability. This award is a testament to those smart grid investments and it's a credit to the 6,300-plus employees who work around the clock to deliver reliable, resilient power to families and businesses across northern Illinois."

All utilities operating electric delivery networks in North America are eligible for consideration for the ReliabilityOne® Award. PA Consulting selects eight metropolitan service regional awards, including Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Plains, Mountains, West, Southeast and Southwest. The ReliabilityOne® National Reliability Award is given to the regional award recipient that has demonstrated

sustained leadership, innovation and achievement in the area of electric reliability.

The ReliabilityOne® Award is given annually to utilities that have excelled in delivering reliable electric service to their customers. All utilities operating electric delivery networks in North America are eligible for consideration for the ReliabilityOne® Award. Selection of provisional recipients is based primarily on system reliability statistics that measure the frequency and duration of customer outages. After provisional recipients are selected, each company undergoes a certification process, which provides an independent review and confirmation of the policies, processes and systems used to collect, analyse and report a company's reliability results. This year's National Award winner was identified for the 23rd Annual ReliabilityOne Awards Program based on its record-setting reliability and innovation in bringing clean energy solutions to customers.

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

ComEd Reminds Customers that End of Daylight Savings Time Does Not Mean End of Manageable Energy Bills

Energy Doctors Have Tips to Manage Energy Use for Longer Nights and Cooler Temperatures

With the conclusion of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, Nov. 5, longer nights and colder temperatures mean an increase in energy use for many customers staying indoors longer and looking to stay warm. To help homeowners manage both energy use and the cost of their utility bills, ComEd's Energy Doctors offer tips that involve little to no money to implement.

ComEd's Energy Doctors are a resource for customers who want to keep energy costs low as outside temperatures start to drop. They offer no-cost and low-cost tips to anyone looking to hold the line on energy bills year round, and may be able to answer questions unique to the design and construction of a customer's home.

"No matter the season, ComEd offers customers tools and tips to manage their energy use and save money," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's chief customer officer and senior vice president of Customer Operations. "Oftentimes, there are subtle changes you can make that can result in significant reductions in energy use and the cost of your electric bill."

Energy-Saving Tips for Cold-Weather Months

During the cold-weather season, ComEd's Energy Doctors remind customers that they can manage energy use and save money on their electric bills by following a few tips:

- When the sun is shining, open shades on south-facing windows and take advantage of natural light for warmth. Close shades during the night to help insulate your home.
- Set your thermostat to as low a temperature as possible to maintain personal comfort. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall heating bill will be. Overnight, you can also save by turning your thermostat down a few degrees while sleeping.
- Clear area around heating and cooling vents. Furniture, carpets and other objects can block vents and prevent heated air from circulating in your home.
- Unplug electronics when they're not in use. Some devices, like televisions, game consoles and computers, continue to draw electricity even when turned off, so unplug electronics when you don't need them.

"As the weather gets colder and the sun goes down earlier, energy bills tend to go up. In addition to taking advantage of free, energy-saving tips, making your home more energy efficient with simple upgrades like LED bulbs, power strips and smart thermostats allows you to cozy up with your cocoa while keeping your energy bills low," said Paige Knutsen, MEEA executive director.

Energy-saving tips come courtesy of the award-winning ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded in compliance with state law. It is one of the largest programs in the nation offering residents, businesses and the public sector ways to control energy costs, including services and incentives that help them cut back on their energy use to reduce energy bills and help the environment.

In addition to saving customers more than \$8 billion on their energy bills since 2008, the energy-efficiency program has helped customers save approximately 76 million megawatt-hours of electricity, which is enough energy to power 8.6 million ComEd customers' homes for one year.

To get started, ComEd offers free home energy assessments that evaluate the interior of a home or unit to find ways to lower energy costs. Since 2014, more than 130,000 homeowners and renters across northern Illinois have saved a total of approximately \$17.5 million on their energy bills through home assessments, based on 2021 rates.

ComEd Bill-Assistance Options

For anyone facing difficulty paying their electric bill, ComEd offers payment assistance programs to help customers avoid late notices and disconnection, including grants, deferred payment plans and energy-saving tips. For information, visit [ComEd.com/PaymentAssistance](https://www.comed.com/PaymentAssistance) or call 800-EDISON1 (800-334-7661) Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Through September alone, ComEd has helped connect more than 170,000 eligible customers to \$72 million in grants and other bill assistance.

To make it easier for customers to sort through ComEd's payment assistance, as well as energy-efficiency programs that can help customers manage future energy costs, ComEd offers its Smart Assistance Manager at [ComEd.com/SAM](https://www.comed.com/SAM). SAM, an online self-service tool that can match customers with payment-assistance programs and energy-efficiency offerings to help them manage their electric bills now and into the future.

ComEd, Better Business Bureau Find Latest Scams Bilking Customers Out of Larger Sums of Money

For Utility Scam Awareness Day, ComEd Also Sees Increase in Scams Involving Cryptocurrency and QR Codes

Based on a ComEd analysis of reported scams for the first eight months of 2023, the energy company found that, while the number of reported incidents stayed the same compared to 2021, the amount of money lost per incident increased significantly. In recognition of Utility Scam Awareness Day (Wednesday, Nov. 15), ComEd and the Better Business Bureau shared tips to help its customers identify – and hopefully avoid – the latest scam trends.

Through August of this year, the number of scams reported into ComEd decreased slightly as compared to the same timeframe in 2021 (1,156 vs. 1,151). Unfortunately, the total amount of money lost as a result of these reported scams more than doubled (\$86,771 vs. \$175,604).

Reason to Remain Vigilant

As the holiday season approaches, ComEd and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Chicago and Northern Illinois ask customers to be heightened alert for imposters who will call or visit homes and businesses, then threaten to turn off service if payment is not immediately made.

"Scammers use the holiday season as the time to increase their attempts to separate us from our money and even personal information, like Social Security or bank account numbers," said Melissa Washington, ComEd chief customer officer and senior vice president of Customer Operations.

"Scammers know that we're busier this time of year; distracted with plans and paying less attention to our spending and bill-paying habits. They use urgency to make their demands sound more believable. But what our customers need to know is that ComEd will never demand immediate payment under threat of disconnection."

Last year, ComEd noticed a rise in scammers demanding payment through mobile banking apps because they often have higher transaction limits than prepaid cash cards. In some instances, the scammer will falsely claim not to have received a payment to get the victim to transfer money two or three times, allowing imposters to scam victims out of thousands of dollars with a single encounter.

Steve J. Bernas, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau, says "Utility scams against businesses are also more prevalent during the holiday season because many restaurants and retail businesses depend so much on November and December for the peak sales for their businesses. The fear of losing power closing down their business often clouds common sense necessary to act before they think. It's a busy time of the year for reports of both utility and online scams being reported to the BBB Scam Tracker."

Scammers Turn to Crypto and QR Codes

Recently, ComEd also noticed two additional trends scammers use to steal money from businesses and individuals. The first includes demands for bogus payments in the form of cryptocurrency since transactions are harder to trace. The second trend involves scammers' use of QR codes to solicit fraudulent payments. In this latter instance, imposters provide customers with QR codes and instructions to present the code to foster payment through retailers like Walmart and Walgreens, without the knowledge or consent of those stores.

Tips to Help Identify Scam Attempts

ComEd will never call or visit your home or business to:

- Ask for direct payment with a prepaid cash card, cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin, or third-party payment apps like Cash App, QuickPay, Venmo or Zelle.
- Demand immediate payment.
- Ask for personal information, such as a Social Security number, driver's license number or bank information; we also will not ask for your ComEd account number unless you contact us first to enroll in a program or service.

Tips to Help Identify a True ComEd Employee

- All ComEd field employees wear a uniform with the ComEd logo and visibly display a company ID badge with the logo and employee's name.
- ComEd recently changed its logo, so customers may continue to see the former ComEd logo on uniforms, badges and vehicles until the logo is phased out.
- If customers are ever unsure about whether a person knocking at their door is a true ComEd employee, they are encouraged to close and lock their door, and call ComEd from a trusted phone number – which is 800-EDISON1 (800-334-7661). A true ComEd employee will not mind waiting.

Assistance With Past-Due Balances

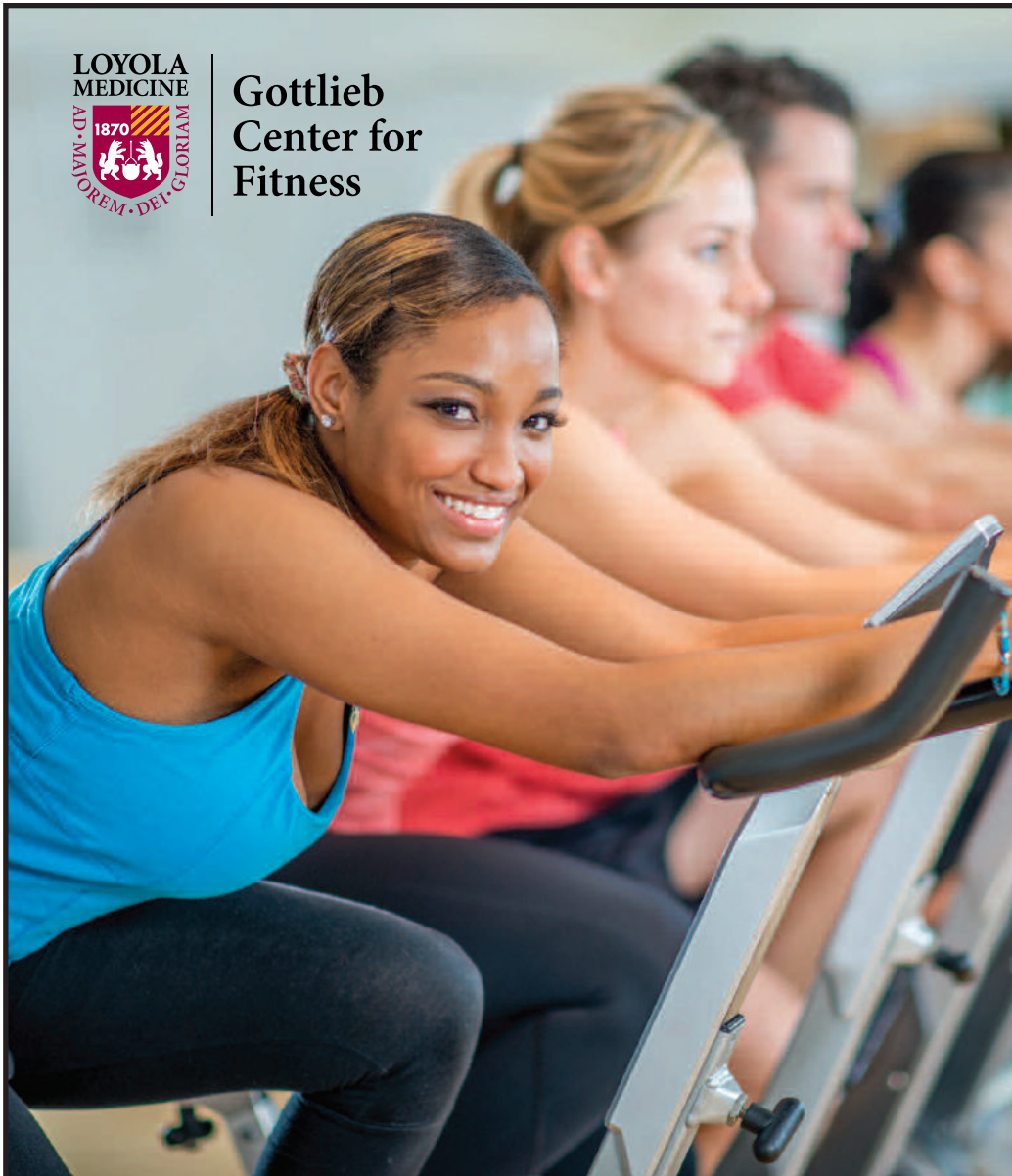
Scammers sometimes find success with individuals and businesses who may be behind in their bills and pressure them into sending immediate payment.

For anyone facing difficulty paying their electric bill, ComEd offers a number of bill-assistance programs to help customers avoid late notices and disconnection. For information, visit [ComEd.com/PaymentAssistance](https://www.comed.com/PaymentAssistance).

To make it easier for customers to find assistance options and energy-saving tips, ComEd offers its Smart Assistance Manager (SAM), an online self-service tool that can match customers with payment-assistance programs and energy-efficiency offerings to help them manage their electric bills now and into the future.



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Here's Some Tips from Nicor to Save Money and Energy

The energy choices you make are important. They affect the environment, certainly. They also affect how comfortable you are in your own home. And very importantly, they affect how much money you spend. If you're using natural gas today, you've already made a good choice for the environment, your home and your finances.

Tips for Efficient Water Heating ...

About Water Heaters

Natural gas water heaters can heat up to twice the amount of water in the same amount of time as an electric model – which means you're less likely to run out of hot water when you need it. Natural gas water heaters are available in tank and tankless models. Both have significant advantages over electric and propane water heaters. With fewer parts to wear out, natural gas water heaters are generally considered more durable than electric models. If the power goes out, most gas water heaters continue to deliver plenty of hot water.

Water Heating – Set your water heater to 120 degrees; Take five-minute showers; Install low-flow showerheads and faucets; Insulate water heater pipes; Turn your water heater off or down when you're away; Choose an Energy Star® water heater.

Water Heaters and Furnaces – Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees; Put an insulation wrap around the sides of your water heater. (But remember, never put insulation on the top of the heater or near the bottom.)

Sinks and Showers – Fix leaky faucets; Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.

Washers and Dryers – A natural gas dryer can dry two loads of clothes in the same time it takes for one load in an electric dryer. This precision allows your dryer to keep pace with your washing machine. Less tumbling means that natural gas dryers are gentler on your clothes. Natural gas dryers dry clothes more quickly and with less static electricity and fewer wrinkles than electric dryers.

- Use a water-level setting that matches the size of the load you're washing.
- Select the proper setting and time for the clothing type and load size.
- In your dryer, separate heavier clothes (towels, heavy cottons) from the lightweight fabrics (synthetics) for more efficient drying.
- Dry full loads, but be sure not to overload your dryer.
- Clean the dryer's lint filter before every load.
- Don't add wet clothes during the drying cycle.
- Don't over-dry clothes. Use the automatic moisture control if your dryer has one or select the appropriate amount of time on the automatic timer.
- Be sure the outside dryer vent is free of any obstructions and the vent cover fully opens when the dryer is in use.

Clothes Drying

- Clean the lint filter.
- Replace leaky exhaust terminals.
- Check the outside dryer exhaust terminal.
- Avoid overloading the dryer.

Heating Your Home ...

Furnaces

Natural gas furnaces heat your home faster. Air from a natural gas furnace is up to 25 degrees warmer when it comes through the vent than air from an electric heat pump. Most new high-efficiency furnaces have an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating of 90 percent or higher. The higher the AFUE, the more efficient the unit and the more money you can save.

Look for these high-tech features that improve furnace efficiency:

- Electronic spark ignitions or "hot surface" ignitions eliminate the need for continuously burning pilot lights that waste fuel and increase operating costs.
- Condensing furnaces recapture some of the heat from water vapor, which is wasted by traditional furnaces. The exhaust gases from a condensing furnace are cool enough that they can be vented through a wall with plastic piping.
- Pulse furnaces burn natural gas in small pulses, much like a car engine, allowing maximum heat to be extracted from the fuel. These furnaces can achieve AFUE ratings as high as 97 percent.
- Automatic vent dampers close the flue pipe when the burners are off and reduce the amount of heated air drawn up and wasted.

Gas Space Heaters

Energy-efficient gas space heaters are growing in popularity – and for good reason, they operate even during power outages. They're also great solutions for heating small rooms – or whenever you need a bit more warmth.

The two basic types of gas space heaters are:

- Vent-free models – virtually 99 percent fuel-efficient and require no electricity. You can control them manually or with thermostats and they can be mounted on walls or floors.
- Vented models – thermostatically controlled and sit on the floor

Fireplaces

Natural gas logs and fireplaces provide the warmth and charm of a glowing fire without the mess and bother of firewood and ashes. More homeowners are discovering the lasting benefits of gas logs:

- Operate without electricity.
- Enhance room décor.
- Produce no odors or ashes.
- Provide space heating.
- Environmentally friendly.

Tips

- Install a smart or programmable thermostat and set it to automatically adjust the temperature each day.
- Keep your heating system tuned up and clean.
- Improve your home's insulation by sealing air leaks, weatherstrip windows and doors, and add insulation in your attic.
- Upgrade your old heating equipment and have the system inspected and maintained regularly.
- Clean or replace your furnace filters every one to three months.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Lower the thermostat when no one is home.
- Keep heating and return vents free of all obstructions for proper airflow.

For additional information, visit Nicorgas.com and search for “ways to save” or “energy saving tips.”



Walgreens Launches Rx Savings Finder to Help Patients Save on Prescription Medications

On Nov. 30, Walgreens announced the launch of its new Rx Savings Finder, a simple-to-use digital tool designed to help customers save money on prescription medications. Rx Savings Finder finds free, third-party discount cards, providing patients with a quick and easy way to find lower prices on their Walgreens medications.

"Inflation not only impacts our pockets but can have serious implications on health," said Rick Gates, chief pharmacy officer, Walgreens. "Over one-third of Americans have avoided a prescription refill to reduce costs and with over 131 million Americans taking at least one prescription medication, this is very concerning. That is why we have launched Walgreens Rx Savings Finder – to empower our customers with transparent prescription costs and help them save money on medications."



The Walgreens Rx Savings Finder tool helps to alleviate cost concerns for patients by offering savings on thousands of medications, as well as providing transparent pricing before they reach the checkout counter. Available online at Walgreens.RxSense.com, the tool is available to all Walgreens customers for free, with no monthly subscription or yearly membership needed.

The Walgreens Rx Savings Finder tool is available to all Walgreens customers at no cost. Patients can access the discount card prices by text message or email, which can be presented to a Walgreens pharmacy team member so the savings can be applied to the price of their prescription medications. With Rx Savings Finder, customers can feel confident they are making informed decisions at the pharmacy counter for themselves and their families.

By consolidating the search process across multiple discount card websites, Walgreens not only saves our patients valuable time and reduces the cost of vital medications, but also takes an important step in alleviating the workload of our pharmacists.

"At Walgreens, we are committed to empowering customers to find lower deals at Walgreens while unlocking the full potential of our pharmacists. The response to our pilot program has been overwhelmingly positive, with both customers and our dedicated pharmacy staff reporting significant time and cost savings. One striking instance involves a pharmacist's recent account where our Rx Savings Finder tool helped a customer save over \$75 on their prescriptions during a single visit," said Rick Gates. "This tool is just one facet of our evolving suite of pharmacy solutions. Our digital innovations, spanning telepharmacy, micro-fulfillment and cutting-edge technologies align with the evolving needs of patients and pharmacists. Beyond the conventional role of medication dispensing, our vision encompasses fostering meaningful patient connections, looking at their holistic health profiles, and collaborating with health care partners for a more comprehensive and community-centric approach to health care."

Rx Savings Finder is now available at Walgreens pharmacies nationwide. For more information on the Walgreens Rx Savings Finder tool and how it can help you save on your prescription medications, please visit Walgreens.RxSense.com or visit a Walgreens pharmacy today.

Five Steps to Healthier Skin this Winter

Winter Weather Can be Harsh on Your Skin ... A Walgreens Beauty Expert Shares Her Routine and Offers Tips for Taking Care of Your Complexion in the Cold

Dry winter air. If you've experienced it, you know the negative impact it can have on your skin.

Cracked, dry, chapped skin is not only uncomfortable, it can also make you more susceptible to infection and a host of skin conditions, from dermatitis to eczema to psoriasis. So it's crucial to your overall health that your skin remains healthy and intact.

"The key to healthy skin in harsh winter weather is to create a simple skincare routine and then follow it consistently," says Amanda Simons, a beauty area expert for Walgreens in Tennessee.

"When it comes to developing your skincare routine, remember that what works for me may not work for you," says Simons. "But a good standard regimen is to start by cleansing your skin, then layering with a serum and then a moisturizer."

Simons spells out her five-step winter skincare routine, and offers tips and product recommendations that may help improve your skin health this winter.

1. Cleanse your skin – "If you don't clean your face first, you're leaving all the dirt and debris from the day on your skin, and you don't want to apply anything over a dirty face," says Simons. "You want a healthy base to work from, so get all the bad stuff off your skin using a gentle cleanser like Walgreens Hydrating Cleanser that removes dirt, oil and makeup without stripping away moisture."
2. Apply a serum – Because serums act as treatments to address specific skin concerns, not all serums are alike, so choose the one (or ones) that meets your unique needs. Walgreens offers a number of different serums, including Walgreens Hydrating Hyaluronic Acid Serum and Walgreens Refining Retinol Serum for smoother skin, and No7 Radiance+ 15% Vitamin C Serum for skin that's brighter and more radiant.

Simons saves her biggest serum raves for No7 Future Renew. "Future Renew is the best serum I've ever used," she says. "It's the only serum on the market that uses Peptidology™, two key peptides that work in different ways to regenerate the skin and reverse damage. Peptides are amino acids that stimulate the production of collagen to help make skin more elastic, supple and plump, which improves your overall appearance. Future Renew is great for a variety of skin types, including sensitive skin, and can be used both during the day and at night before bedtime."

Simons notes that while you can layer multiple serums, you should be aware of possible contraindications in the products you want to use to make sure they work together and don't cause an adverse reaction. She suggests speaking with a Walgreens pharmacist for direction on the proper pairing of skin-care products.

3. Moisturize – Adding a moisturizer over a serum is the next step of the skincare regimen and an especially important one in winter. Moisturizers are products that protect and hydrate the skin, and the best time to use them is immediately after stepping out of the shower when your skin is still damp to retain the water. But Simons cautions to not take showers that are too hot, as hot water dries skin out more quickly.

“There are several moisturizers I love to recommend to customers,” says Simons, “Vichy Mineral 89 Hydrating Face Moisturizer is my favorite facial moisturizer and my favorite lotion is La Roche-Posay Lipikar Triple Repair Lotion, which is a cream that’s fantastic for all-over hydration.”

4. Don’t forget sunscreen during the day – Simons adds another step to her routine as necessary, emphasizing the importance of including a layer of at least SPF 30 after moisturizing if you’re going outside in the sun, even during the winter, when the effects of harmful ultraviolet light can be multiplied when reflected off snow. UVB rays are the No. 1 cause of skin damage, like premature aging and skin cancer, so sunscreen is an absolute and shouldn’t be ignored in the wintertime.

“Walgreens offers many sunscreen products that work well to protect skin from UV, including Walgreens Moisturizing Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 and La Roche-Posay Melt-In Milk Face and Body Sunscreen Lotion SPF 60,” she says. “Getting into the practice of using sunscreen regularly, even in the winter, is a great habit to build.”

5. Try ‘slugging’ for extra moisture – A recent trend in skincare – but a moisturizing treatment that’s been around for years – called “slugging,” refers to the moist, glossy skin of a slug as a look to replicate. Slugging is the final step of a nighttime skincare routine when an occlusive product like Walgreens petroleum jelly is applied over your skin to create a protective barrier that locks in the moisture from the serum and moisturizer.

“An occlusive locks all of the products into your skin, so it’s going to protect it and you’re going to wake up looking super radiant and nourished,” says Simons.

Simons says that while slugging is typically practiced on the face, you can also slug other parts of the body that you want to keep moisturized. Using CeraVe Healing Ointment anywhere on the body occludes products into the skin and protects against a dry, itchy winter. Simons even uses it on her lips nightly to keep them from getting chapped.

Masks are an efficient way to occlude highly concentrated ingredients to the skin, says Simons, and using one once or twice a week is a great way to keep your skin hydrated and nourished.

“I’m a big fan of masks, especially sheet masks,” she says. “They only take a few minutes to let the ingredients absorb into your skin, so they’re a great addition to any winter skincare routine, especially right after a shower when your pores are open and the ingredients on the mask can penetrate more. Walgreens new line of Modern Expressions masks offer something for everyone at a great price, and with 16 versions to choose from in the collection, they cover everything from head to toe.”

NEWS FROM LOYOLA MEDICINE, A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Celebrates Renovation of Patient Care Unit with Ribbon Cutting

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital unveiled the \$1.1 million renovation of their 3 West Patient Care Unit with a ribbon cutting and unit tours on Thursday, Nov. 9. The renovation was made possible with gifts of \$1 million from the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Foundation and \$100,000 from the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for the 3 West Patient Unit.

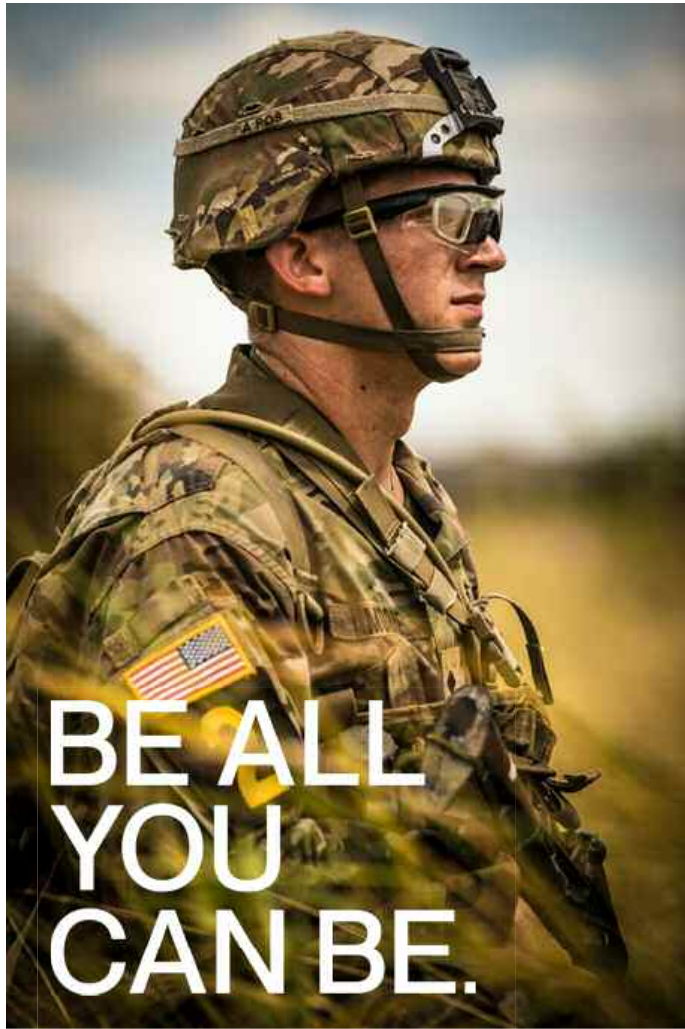
"The renovation of the 3W Unit would not have been possible without the funding from the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary," said Elizabeth Early, president of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. "This will be a much-needed change for the comfort and care of our patients and families at Gottlieb."

The 3 West Unit was the last of the medical surgical units at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital to be refreshed in recent years. The unit was the primary COVID unit during the pandemic and has been a thriving patient care unit since. The upgraded space is brighter and more comfortable, which assists in improving patient experience and creating a more relaxed environment for visitors.

"This hospital was a labor of love for my grandparents, parents and entire family, and has continued to be important to me and the next generation of Gottlieb families," said Jack Weinberg, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital board chairman who spearheaded the donation. Gottlieb Memorial Hospital was founded in 1961 by community leaders, including Jack’s grandparents David and Dorothy Gottlieb, who lived in Oak Park, and raised \$4 million to start the hospital, including their personal \$750,000 gift. Jack’s parents, Marjorie and Judd Weinberg, and uncle, Alvin Gottlieb, were founding members of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital’s board.

"We appreciate the Gottlieb Foundation Board, the auxiliary, Jack Weinberg and the Weinberg-Gottlieb family’s longstanding partnership and generosity," said Shawn Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "Together, we are able to provide exceptional care to patients we have the privilege of serving."





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The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

Save the Dates!

Next Issue – February 2024
(Deadline for material Jan. 25, 2024.)
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.)



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The  ROSE

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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

Wildlife Connections – Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.-Noon

Dec. 19 and 26; Jan 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; Feb 6, 13, 20 and 27; March 5
River Trail Nature Center (3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook)

Stop by the visitor center to learn about animals from the residents of Misericordia – Heart of Mercy.
 Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – Free.

Open Nature Play Day – Wednesdays • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dec. 27; Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28;
Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center (Western Avenue and 87th Street, Chicago)

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

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

Forest Preserves of Cook County Nature Express Bus

Is your community group or nonprofit organization interested in visiting the Forest Preserves of Cook County?

Have you been limited by the cost of transportation?

Our Nature Express Bus Program can help your group access Forest Preserves events or visit our partner organizations, the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Brookfield Zoo. Best of all, it's free.

Program Overview

Groups can visit one of our big annual events, including Teen Exploration Day, Beaubien Woods Celebration, Fall Paddle Fest or Kids Fest. A trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden or Brookfield Zoo includes the price of admission (restricted dates include the Garden's Orchid Show, Light Scapes, and Night of 1,000 Jack-o-lanterns and the Zoo's Holiday Magic light festival).



Application Process

- Ensure that your group has a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 44 passengers for the bus.
- Designate one or more group leaders – they will be the main contact for all Nature Express Bus communications.
- Complete the application and email it to experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.
- Groups can expect to hear back with a decision within five business days of the form submission.
- The Forest Preserves will provide your group leader with a copy of the bus confirmation.
- Report back! After your trip, you will be sent a survey to complete. Let us know about your group's experience and share two fun photos that sum up your trip.

Requirements

To qualify, your group must have a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 44 passengers, and demonstrate a need for transportation funding. In order to provide equal access, groups are limited to one free bus per calendar year.

- School field trips through the Nature Express Bus Program are only permitted on weekends.
- In order to be eligible for a Nature Express Bus next year, applicants must complete their post-trip survey.
- Please list your two preferred trip dates and times.
- Groups must submit their application a minimum of three weeks prior to their proposed trip date.
- Be based in Cook County and serve primarily Cook County residents.

Questions? Contact experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Forest Preserves of Cook County Sledding

When the Snow Starts Falling, Nothing Says “Winter Fun” Like Sledding in the Forest Preserves.

Sledding Hill Locations

Sledding hills are open when the ground is frozen and covered with a minimum of three inches of snow.

Public safety requires the temporary closing of some Forest Preserves parking areas during the winter season. However, our Maintenance Department prioritizes the clearing of parking areas serving winter activities. Always call ahead to make sure sledding hills and parking areas are open.

With Lighting

Sledding hills with lighting are staffed and open Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10a.m.-8:30 p.m. daily, when conditions allow.

Caldwell Woods – Devon Avenue and Nagle Avenue, Chicago. Call (847) 647-2240 for sledding hill status.

Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center – Western Avenue and 87th Street, Chicago. Call (773) 233-3766 for sledding hill status.

Swallow Cliff Woods-North – Calumet Sag Road/Route 83, west of La Grange Road/96th Avenue, near Palos Park.

Call (708) 839-5617 for sledding hill status. Requires a minimum of six inches of snow.

Westchester Woods – Cermak Road, east of Mannheim Road/La Grange Road, near LaGrange Park.

Call (708) 447-0090 for sledding hill status.

Without Lighting

Sledding hills without lighting are open 10 a.m. to sunset daily, when conditions allow.

Deer Grove – Quentin Road, north of Dundee Road, near Palatine.

Sledding hills located at both Picnic Grove #4 and Picnic Grove #5. Call (847) 437-8330 for sledding hill status.

Pioneer Woods – 107th Street, east of Willow Springs Road/Flavin Road, near Willow Springs.

Call (708) 839-5617 for sledding hill status.

Thaddeus S. “Ted” Lechowicz Woods – Central Avenue, north of Elston Avenue, Chicago. Call (847) 647-2240 for sledding hill status.

Schiller Woods-East – Irving Park Road, west of Cumberland Avenue, Chicago. Call (773) 625-0606 for sledding hill status.

Sledding Rules and Regulations

- Children under the age of 12 should wear a bicycle or multi-sport helmet and be supervised by an adult.
 - Properly use appropriate sledding devices in good repair with no sharp edges.
 - Use of skis, non-winter tubes, carpets, toboggans and metal rail sleds is strictly prohibited.
- Unauthorized building of ramps, bumps, moguls, hills or jumps out of any material is strictly prohibited.
 - Pets and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on sledding hills.
 - Sledding hills may be closed due to lack of snow cover or for safety-related reasons.
 - Use of Forest Preserves of Cook County sledding hills is at visitor’s own risk.
- Forest Preserves staff reserves the right to turn away visitors who do not comply with these rules and regulations.

Forest Preserves of Cook County Photography and Filming

**Share Photos, Join Our Annual Photo Contest or
Find Out if You Need a Permit for Your Photography or Filming.**

Share Your Photos

We love seeing photos from our visitors. When you capture a great photo out in the Forest Preserves, be sure to share it with us in one of the following ways:

- Post your photos directly to our Facebook page.
- Post your photos on Twitter and mention @fpdcc.
- Post your photos on Instagram and mention @fpdcc.

Bonus: If you are willing to grant us permission to use your photos for brochures, social media or fpdcc.com, we will credit you as the photographer anytime we use them.

Reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email fpdcc.info@cookcountyl.gov.

Annual Photo Contest

Each September we search for the very best photos of the Forest Preserves.

Winners of this contest are included in the Annual Forest Preserves Wall Calendar and receive a prize package.

Photography and Filming Permits

Taking photos during a hike or stopping by to snap a few wedding day photos? No permit needed.

But if your photography or filming uses special equipment, impacts other visitors or occurs in restricted areas, you may need a permit.

**Permit applications may be submitted in person at the Forest Preserves General Headquarters,
or via fax (708) 771-1071 or email (fpd.permits@cookcountyl.gov).**

**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!**



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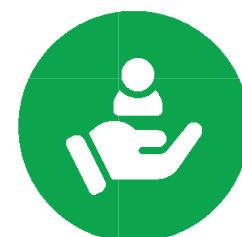
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Our Locations

1210 S. Highland Ave.
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**2225 W. North Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160
Tel: (708) 344-2273**

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

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

5200 Main Street
Skokie, IL 60077
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1024 S McHenry Ave.
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Justice, IL 60458
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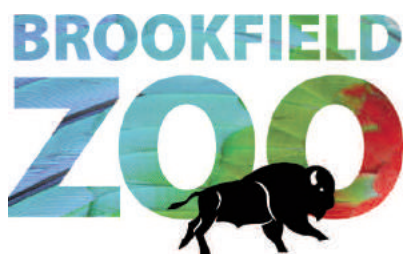
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info@saharahomecare.com



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!

Tickets on Sale Now for Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic® As it Returns for Another Dazzling Season

Gather with friends and family at Brookfield Zoo's 42nd annual Holiday Magic®, Chicagoland's longest-running lights festival, presented by ComEd and Meijer®. Holiday Magic takes place now through Dec. 17, Dec. 21-23, and Dec. 26-31, 3-9 p.m. (Brookfield Zoo will not open until 3 p.m. on these dates.)



Brookfield Zoo's 42nd annual Holiday Magic features more than 2 million LED lights that transform the park into a winter wonderland.

Credit – CZS-Brookfield Zoo.

During the fun-filled evenings, the park is illuminated with 2 million LED lights, creating a magical winter wonderland to be enjoyed by guests of all ages. Light displays of giant animals – bison, reindeer, giraffe and bear – can be seen throughout the zoo, and guests are sure to get in the holiday spirit as they stroll through two, 300-foot light tunnels synchronized to seasonal tunes. Adding to the ambience are the nearly 900 lit and decorated community and corporate trees located on the zoo's malls and around Roosevelt Fountain.

The fun doesn't stop at holiday lights! Nightly entertainment from 5-8 p.m., takes place throughout the zoo. At the North Pole, located in The Pavilions, guests can take in performances by Those Funny Little People and juggling elves, and youngsters can share their wish lists and have their photos taken with Santa. Youngsters can also deposit their holiday wish lists in the Santa Letter Drop Box. On the Nature Stage, zoogoers can watch professional ice carvers create frozen works of art from giant blocks of ice. And, while strolling the walkways, join in the merry-making with the roaming carolers as they sing holiday songs.

Plus, jolly dance parties take place at the Polar Plaza (aka Hamill Family Nature Plaza). Additionally, guests can take a festive spin on The Carousel and check out

the zoo's seasonal virtual reality experience, "Elf Power," featuring Santa's helpers on a magical VR journey with reindeer who are bringing holiday cheer to all (an extra fee applies to both attractions).

Throughout the park are opportunities to take memorable photos to remember your visit to Brookfield Zoo, including inside the ever-popular luminous 20-foot-tall orb, presented by Ford, that is aglow with thousands of sparkling LED lights, and in front of a 41-foot-tall tree all decked out in colored LED lights and choreographed to festive music. Or, take a photo next to a 16-foot-tall 3D gingerbread house and a holiday-themed festive frame.

Several indoor and outdoor animal habitats are open during Holiday Magic, including Tropic World, Big Cats, The Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Reptiles and Birds, Desert's Edge, Clouded Leopard Rain Forest, The Living Coast, Hamill Family Wild Encounters (reindeer and goats only), Great Bear Wilderness, Australia House, and Hamill Family Play Zoo. All indoor animal buildings close at 8:30 p.m., except for Tropic World and Hamill Family Play Zoo, which close at 8 p.m.

Those who work up an appetite can stop by the zoo's restaurants and food stands for some standard menu items as well as holiday favorites, such as hot chocolate, cookies and mulled wine. The zoo's shops will also be open and have plenty of gift options that are perfect for every member of the family.

Admission to Holiday Magic is \$29.95 for adults, \$20.95 for children, and \$24.95 for seniors 65 and older. Parking is \$17-\$20. Advanced reservations are not required for entry at the North Gate, however, guests are encouraged to secure admission and parking online prior to their visit. For South Gate entry, advance reservations and parking fees are required for all attendees, including zoo members. While making your reservation, take advantage of the opportunity to secure exclusive commemorative Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic merchandise – a snow globe and hot chocolate travel cup. To make reservations and for more information, visit CZS.org/HolidayMagic.

Brookfield Zoo's Online Holiday Guide Offers Unique Gifts

The holiday season is here, and whether you are the best of planners or the worst of procrastinators, finding the perfect gift for family and friends can be difficult. This year, make it easy and shop online at Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Gift Guide, that offers unique options for the animal lovers in your life while supporting the zoo's animal care and conservation efforts.

The Holiday Gift Guide, which can be found online at CZS.org/holidaygiftguide, features:

- **Penguin Encounter** – In need of a unique experience gift? Purchase a Penguin Encounter with the zoo's Humboldt penguins for a special and up-close encounter. During the program, the birds are free to roam and waddle up to anyone they choose, and participants may even get the opportunity to touch them. During the approximately half-hour program, animal care staff will share facts about the penguins and details of the zoo's conservation work at Punta San Juan in Peru, South America. When checking out, you will select the date and time for the visit. The price per person ranges from \$40 to \$50. Additionally, Wild Connections programs, available in 2024, may also be purchased online. Choose from up-close experiences with the zoo's macaws, North American river otter, rainforest birds, American flamingos and animal ambassadors. Prices vary depending on the program.
- **Brookfield Zoo Membership** – Give the gift of a Brookfield Zoo membership so your loved ones can visit the zoo any day of the year for free. Memberships also include free parking at the zoo's north entrance and discounts at restaurants inside the park, education programs and much more! Prices range from \$89 for a one-year senior membership to \$1,013 for a two-year sustaining unlimited membership. Individual tickets to Brookfield Zoo, including during Holiday Magic, also make great stocking stuffers. Prices range from \$24.95 to \$29.95.
- **Animal Adoptions** – Animal adoptions directly support the care of Brookfield Zoo's animals and are a thoughtful choice for animal lovers. This year, you can gift an adoption of Kinda, the giraffe calf born this past summer, or the new meerkat mob found in the Desert's Edge. Animal adoptions start at \$35, with options to add on plush animals, ornaments and more. Additional animals are also available to adopt as gifts.
- **Reindeer Cameo** – Want to send your loved ones a gift they'll never forget? Book a personalized video cameo featuring the zoo's reindeer! Cameos are \$50.
- **Punta San Juan, A Conservation Story (Coffee-table Book)** – For travel lovers and environmentalists, grab a copy of the new photography book *Punta San Juan, A Conservation Story*, with more than 250 images of wildlife and landscapes of Punta San Juan, a conservation reserve in Peru, South America. The Chicago Zoological Society is a long-time partner and leader in the Punta San Juan program, which works to deepen the knowledge on marine-coastal ecosystems of the Humboldt Current and promotes the conservation of biodiversity as a value of local and worldwide importance. The book price is \$99.99.
- **Pao Pangolin (Children's Book)** – For young readers and conservationists in your life, pick up a copy of *Pao Pangolin*. Written by a former Brookfield Zoo intern, *Pao Pangolin* is a story of courage and hope about a young pangolin surviving the illegal wildlife trade. All proceeds benefit the North American Pangolin Consortium, which supports conservation efforts for the species. Brookfield Zoo is a founding member of the consortium. Hardcover is \$17.50, paperback is \$9.99.
- **Holiday Plush Collection** – The limited-edition holiday plush collection features penguins, sloths, palm pals and more for the cuddly kids in your life. Grab one of the always-popular plushies, starting at \$14.99.
- **Holiday Ornaments** – Start a new decorating tradition and choose a special holiday ornament for your tree! Pick from a penguin, tiger, dolphin, polar bear and more. Ornaments are \$22.99.

Brookfield Zoo's Ring-tailed Lemurs Treated to a Special Thanksgiving Feast

The annual tradition of an early Thanksgiving feast for Brookfield Zoo's ring-tailed lemurs took place recently. This year's meal featured a special theme in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the popular *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*, which aired for the first time in 1973.

Those familiar with the nostalgic holiday special, may recall that the Thanksgiving meal the lead character prepared for his friends did not feature the usual fare of turkey, dressing and cranberry sauce, but instead included an array of snack food items.

The zoo's creative animal care staff replicated the iconic meal while still keeping it nutritious for the two ring-tailed lemurs – Ramses and Moses, who are both 16 years old. The primates seemed to enjoy their feast of popcorn (air-popped, no salt or butter); toast, which was made of primate biscuit mixed with honey; jelly beans that were created with strawberry and lime sugar-free gelatin in coffee bean molds; pretzel sticks made of primate biscuits; and apple juice in cups featuring the zigzag pattern on the cartoon character's shirt. Additionally, the lemurs were treated to pies made of a primate biscuit crust and filled with mashed sweet potatoes garnished with almonds and puffed rice cereal. (Ice cream parfaits, which did not interest the lemurs, were made of tissue paper and were strictly for décor.)



Credit – Jim Schulz/CZS-Brookfield Zoo.

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.

Proviso Township Handyman Program

Proviso Township Handyman News

Winter is fast upon us! If you have not called to have your home winterized, call now. The weatherproofing is best done before the cold weather sets in to ensure the caulk or plastic covers will adhere for the winter season. Have your filter in your furnace changed to help your furnace run efficiently.

Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go. Are you ready for the holidays? Give us a call and we will help bring out your boxes of decorations! It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

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

Call us at (708) 547-4001 to register for our Proviso Handyman Program.

Handyman Program for homeowners over the age of 60 and/or disabled residents of Proviso Township

- **Minor repairs only**
- **\$5.00** per visit plus the cost of parts, if needed
- **Provide referrals on a variety of home maintenance issues**
- **Appointments are 45 minutes or less**

Please call us if you have any questions and to schedule your appointment at 708-547-4001

WE DO	WE DO
Blinds/Curtain Rods - Install/Repair	Mailboxes - Install/Repair/Replace
Boxes Stored (50 lbs. limit)	Outdoor Furniture - Put Away/Take Out
Carpentry-Minor repairs i.e.: Replace loose/rotten boards	Outdoor Lighting - Repair or Replace (Height Limit of 6 feet)
Caulking - Minor interior only - No removal of existing caulk	Outdoor Water Spigot - Shut Off/Turn On
Ceiling Fans - Repair Switches Only	Picture - Hang Only
Decks - Minor Repairs Only	Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only Not Recommendations
Doorbells - Repair/Replace Buttons	Screens - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Door Locks - Repair/Replace	Shower Heads - Repair/Replace/Install
Door Sweeps - Repair/Replace/Install	Shower Wands - Repair/Replace/Install
Doors - Plane, Repair/Replace Hinges	Sink Drains Pipes & Stoppers - Repair or Replace
Electrical Outlets & Switches - Replace	Smoke Detectors/CO Detectors - Install or Replace Batteries
Electrical GFCI Outlets - Replace & Install	Storm Doors - Repair (No Installations)
Faucets - Repair or Replace	Storm Windows - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Furniture Assembly (Small pieces only) (no IKEA)	Supply Valves - Replace, Kitchen & Bath Only
Furniture Moving - 50 lbs. limit	Threshold - Repairs & Replacement
Furniture Repair - Minor Only	Toilets - Minor Repairs - 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	



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Obituaries

Alvarado

Ricardo Alvarado. Dearly beloved husband of Leticia Alvarado; loving father of Armani, Brianna and Clarissa Alvarado; beloved son of Salvador and the late Maria Lourdes Alvarado; dear brother of Salvador "Chava" Alvarado, Jaime Alvarado and Veronica Alvarado; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery.

Alvarez

Adolfo Alvarez. Dearly beloved husband of Cynthia (nee Mozdziesc); loving dada of Demecio Alvarez; loving son of Maria Cruz Raygoza and Pascual Alvarez; cherished brother of Irma (Abel), Belen (Dwayne), Socorro (German), Lupe (Humberto), Pascual Jr., Norma, Millie (Jesus), Sally (Marcos), Evelio (Lorraine) and Angel (Geneva); loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Barnish

Donna Barnish, educator and musician. Beloved wife of Michael; loving mother of Megan and Debra; beloved daughter of Michael and Barbara Daviduke; dear sister of John Daviduke and Denise Baron; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Beltrame

Donald Beltrame. Dearly beloved husband of the late Angie Beltrame; loving father of Michael (Kim), Donald Jr. (Natalie), James (Nicole), Michelle (Larry) and Angelo; cherished grandfather of Anthony, Alyssa, Larry Jr., Stella, Dominic and Luca; dear brother of James (Gwen) Beltrame; fond uncle, cousin and friend of many. Lifelong member of Maywood Sportsmen's Club and owner of Suburban Sporting Goods. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery.

Berardi

Aldo Berardi. Beloved husband of the late Emilia; loving father of Kristina, Michael (Katy), Nicholas, Gianna and Derrick; beloved son of the late Francesco and Vittoria Berardi; cherished papa of Dylan, Noah, Keegan, Joey, Jayden, Ayva, Remii and Ophelia; dear brother of Maria, Giuseppe, Luigi, Palma, the late Giovanni and the late Francesca; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment All Saints Mausoleum.

Calvin

Louis Edward Calvin. Beloved husband of Margaret Louise Calvin; loving father of Sharon Stringfellow-Johnson, Louis Calvin Jr., Seniece Graham, John Graham, Lee Graham, Tony Graham, Corey Pool, Tansley Pool, Angelo Pool and Jamar Pool; loving grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Corona

Emil J. Corona, age 78, passed away peacefully Oct. 12, 2023. Beloved husband of Kathleen (nee Woolverton); loving son of the late Anthony and Rose Corona; dear stepfather of Teresa (the late Edwin) Walsh and Karla Woolverton; cherished brother of the late Anthony Jr.; papa of Amie, Kristinn,

Michael, Chuck and the late Jeff; great-grandfather of Nikolas, Jordyn, Xander, Jemma and Frankie; fond uncle to many nieces and nephews; cousin of many; a loving friend to all; missed by fur babies Isabella and Bailey. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Cumbo

Irene Cumbo. Dearly beloved wife of the late Sam Cumbo; loving mother of Gary (Linda) Cumbo, Gail (Ed) Worthman and Linda (Chuck) Weyer; beloved daughter of the late Fiore and Louisa Angelico; cherished nani of Nicholas (Amy), Kristin (Elizabeth), Kyle, Kara (Alex) Born and Carissa (Brian) Hess; great-grandmother nani of Aubrey, Landon, Haisley, Maggie, Mallory, McKenna and Frankie; dear sister of the late Rose, Anthony "Russ," Rae and Fiore; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Dargento

Maria Dargento. Dearly beloved wife of Pietro Dargento; loving mother of Angela Dargento, Frank Dargento and Pasquale Dargento; cherished grandmother of Angelica Mondragon and Giuliana Dargento; dear sister of Rocco (Rosalba) Battista; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

DeVita

Joyce DeVita, nee Marino. Dearly beloved wife of Joseph DeVita; loving mother of Angela (Jeffrey) Costantino, Elisa (Glen Penning), Anthony (Laura) and Gina (Jim) Gerardi; beloved daughter of the late Virginia and Michael Marino; cherished grandmother of Joseph (Maria) Recchia, Christina (Jim) Vocos, Frankie (Kathy) Recchia, Briana Gerardi, Nikole DeVita, Gia Gerardi, Joseph DeVita and the late Nicole Recchia; great-grandmother of Kylie Recchia, Brooklyn Recchia, Johnny Vocos, Emory Recchia, Joey Recchia and Francesca Recchia; dear sister of Shirley and Michael Marino; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Ditusa

Daniel Ditusa Sr. Loving father of Daniel Jr. (Dana); beloved son of the late Salvatore and Catherine; fond grandfather of Russell; dear brother of Salvatore (Teresa) Ditusa and Robin (Steve) Wiegel; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Earl

Christian Earl, passed away Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023. Christian Rinell Earl, a proud veteran of the US Army, passed away peacefully at Edward Hines JR. VA Hospital in Hines, Ill., to be with his Lord Jesus Christ. Chris was born on Tuesday, March 3 1981, in Florissant, Mo. At the age of 11 years old, Chris moved to Oak Park, Ill., to live with his Aunt Linda Moore "who Chris called mom," and his Aunt Latrice Earl. He attended Emerson Elementary School and graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School. Shortly after his move to Oak Park, Chris joined Living Word Christian Center and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. While attending Oak Park River Forest High School, Chris developed his passion for the culinary arts and he took opportunities to compete in regional and state cooking competitions. Chris' goal was to attend the Culinary Institutes of America to become a renowned chef. After graduation, Chris joined the Army. In the US Army, Specialist

Christian R. Earl served three years active duty as an infantryman in the US Army and was honorably discharged. While in the military, Chris received several decorations, medals and badges including the Combat Infantry Badge, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award) and German Army Marksmanship Silver Medal. Upon his honorable discharge, Chris worked for Jesse Brown VA in Chicago and later moved to Colorado where he worked for the VA. However, in 2019 Christian suffered a heart condition that changed his life. It was then that Chris decided to travel and see the world, meet new people, learn about other cultures and enjoy life to the fullest. His travels included Argentina, Chile, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Thailand, Cambodia and Japan, and all across the United States. His friends say that Chris cared immensely about people and that he was amazing and the most phenomenal person they have ever met. His spirit would light up the room. His brotherhood, he honored and he loved his family dearly. The impact that Chris had on the lives of people reaches around the world. He served his country, saved lives and touched the hearts of everyone who knew him, you knew it. Chris is survived by Mary Annette Earl, mother; Linda Moore, auntie-mom; Billie Michelle Earl, sister; two brothers Byron McBride and Jayon Neal; his grandmother Mae Payne; nephews Jaylen, Jayden and Jayson Jr.; and a host of other relatives and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Enlow

Irene Enlow. Beloved daughter of the late Robert and Catherine Enlow; loving sister of Robert (Olga) Enlow, Katherine (Ronald) Barajas and Diane (Jeffrey) Trusco; cherished aunt of Jacob Barajas, Kimberly (Craig) Graaff, Kristin Trusco, Ana (Aaron) Hauser and Matthew Barajas; great-aunt of Caius Hauser, Amelia Graaff and Henric Hauser; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Flores

Jose Flores. Beloved husband of Ivonne Acevedo-Flores; loving father of Maricela Flores; beloved son of Maria and the late Jose Flores; dear brother of Juan and Laisa; fond uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Fuentes

Maria Fuentes. Dearly beloved wife of the late Bonifacio Fuentes; loving mother of Susan Fuentes, Ralph Fuentes and Alice Zaragoza; cherished grandmother of Lorraine and Marlene Zaragoza; dear sister of six; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Johnson

Josephine Johnson. Dearly beloved wife of the late Carl W. "Bill" Johnson; loving mother of Robert and Susan; beloved daughter of the late Raffaele and Ralphaela Serpico; dear sister of Theresa (the late Tony) Cimino; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

LaMontagna

Phyllis LaMontagna. Dearly beloved wife of the late Pasquale and the late Ed Robish; loving mother of Dennis (Mary Ann) Venute, Frank (Mary Ann), Patrick (Laura) and Andrew (Nancy); fond grandmother of 13; fond great-grandmother of 14; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Leal

Maria Leal. Dearly beloved wife of the late Andres; loving mother of Blanca, Andres, Javier and Maria Elena; beloved daughter of the late Miguel and Paula Benavides; cherished grandmother of eight; great-grandmother of 11; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Louis

Jeanette Marie Louis, nee Fedele, age 65, passed away peacefully Friday Oct. 27, 2023, surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of Edward; loving mother of Maria and Eddie; beloved daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Fedele; dear sister of Angela (Tony), Mary Jo and Dominick (Linda); cherished sister-in-law of JoAnn (Joe) Louis Sprenger; proud aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews; friend of her beloved pet Casper. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Christ the King Mausoleum.

Mondo

Dolores Jean Mondo, nee Lombardi. Beloved wife of the late Dominic J. Mondo Sr.; loving mother of Dominic J. (Kimberly) Mondo Jr., Victoria (Dean) Moroni, Anastasia Mondo and the late Joseph (d.1962); fond nana of Mario (Jaclyn) Palermo, Francesco (Antonietta) Palermo, Giavonna (Dustin) Pettit, Peter Pasquini, Dominic Mondo, Kristin (Brian) McNair and Samantha (Tony) Borrelli; fond great-nana of 10; dear sister of the late Mary (Mickey) Michi, Josephine (Richard) Muratori, Peter (Jeanette) Lombardi, Clarice Lombardi and Rosemarie (Walter) Gravedoni; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Services private.

Mondo

Dominic J. Mondo Sr., veteran of the United States Army. Beloved husband of the late Dolores Jean Mondo (nee Lombardi); loving father of Dominic J. (Kimberly) Mondo Jr., Victoria (Dean) Moroni, Anastasia Mondo and the late Joseph (d. 1962); fond papa of Mario (Jaclyn) Palermo, Francesco (Antonietta) Palermo, Giavonna (Dustin) Pettit, Peter Pasquini, Dominic Mondo, Kristin (Brian) McNair and Samantha (Tony) Borrelli; fond great-papa of 10; dear brother of the late Benom, Guydie, Mary, Madeline, Philomena, Lucy (Gino) Pasquinelli and Anthony; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Montino

Carl Michael "Harpo" Montino. Cherished partner of Lisa Haeger; loving father of Lauren Haeger-Montino; beloved son of the late Carl and Bettie Montino; beloved husband of the late Catherine; dear brother of Gary (the late Marlane); fond uncle of Michael and Alexia; fond cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Sandeen

Betty Marie Kennedy Sandeen, May 4, 1921-Oct. 28, 2023. Betty passed away peacefully in her home on Oct. 28, 2023. She is proceeded in death by her husband Lawrence V. Sandeen; her son Wayne Sr.; and her grandson Wayne Jr.; she is survived by two of her children (Timothy Sandeen and Deborah Sandeen Guimon (Martyn)), five grandchildren (Philip Sandeen, Martyn Guimon Jr. (Leslie), Michael Guimon, Zachary Sandeen and Alyssa Sandeen) and five great-grandchildren (Jessica, Daniel, Cole, Cecilia and Samantha). Her sisters Nancy Curtin and Ruby Kennedy (Ron) will remember her as she joins their deceased siblings, Howard Kennedy and Ron Kennedy. Betty grew up on Natchez Avenue in Chicago. She attended Trinity High School (Class of 1939) in River Forest and then attended Barat College

in Lake Forest. During World War II, she met and married Lawrence Sandeen, eventually settling in Melrose Park where they lived for 67 years. During that time, she raised her three children and was active in the Fenwick High School Mother's Club and became a life trustee of Fenwick. As the children got older, she became a real estate broker and eventually founded her own company, Sandeen and Associates, in 1973. She loved reading, single malt scotch, Tom's Steak House, Cadillacs, entertaining, trips to Colorado, good conversations and generally being Irish! And her first passion, her family, will remember her best by a Katherine Hepburn quote that most exemplified her: "I never realized until lately that women were supposed to be the weaker sex." Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Shurn

Louellen Shurn. Beloved wife of Fred D. Shurn; loving mother of Tammy M. Washington, Tonya M. Jeudy and Trina M. Hardiman; beloved daughter of the late Henry Thompson and Viola Turner; fond grandmother of Rickey Blackwell, Taiyana Shurn, Bruce Shurn, Mario Williams, Matthew Welch and the late Frederick Blackwell; fond great-grandmother of 10; fond great-great-grandmother of four; dear sister of Marilyn, Billy and Grenel; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Sullivan

Richard Sullivan. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Talamantes

Phyllis Talamantes. Loving mother of Theresa (Sam), Estela (Byron), Mauricio (Katherine), Gabriel (Karina), Carlos (Andrea) and Laura (Juan); beloved daughter of the late Josephine Villa; cherished grandmother of

Christopher, Felicia, Eric, Gary Jr., Gregory, Nikko, EnRikko, Francesca, Anthony, Gabriel, Joseph, Destiny, Nicollete, Mikki, Phayth and B.J; great-grandmother of 13; dear sister of the late Gene, Louie, Fran and Mary; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Tornatore

Dino James Tornatore. Loving father of Nick (Aneta Motyka) and John (Zoila); beloved son of the late Jack and Joyce Tornatore, and the late Frank and Stella Pupillo; fond grandfather of Johnathan, Joshua, Ari, Nicholas and Aiden; dear brother of Tony (the late Mary), Jack (the late Rafaela), Peter, Valerie (Ken) Dick and Theresa DePhillips; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Virruso

Charles Virruso. Beloved husband of Sandra; loving father of Lisa Shofstall and Bill DeBoer; fond papa to Sean Stafford Kalina and Kaiden Shofstall; fond brother to Charlene Galvin, Andrew Virruso and John Virruso; loving nephew, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Charles was a Vietnam veteran and served Melrose Park, Ill., as a fireman through assistant fire chief. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Witczak

Ann Witczak. Beloved wife of the late Raymond "Smitty" Witczak; loving mother of Bonnie Witczak and the late Peter Witczak; beloved daughter of the late Peter and Raphael Matranga; dear sister of Pasquale Matranga, Bonita Yanahan and the late Frank Matranga; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Services private.

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