



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

## New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) has already welcomed eight new members to the growing list of businesses that are now partners with the chamber. Please help us welcome Alpha and Omega Outreach Ministries, Aracely's Bakery, Gateway Auto Service, Inc., MACID, Inc., Malu Trucking Corp. and Smith Maximum Security LLC, as new members of the chamber, as well as 5 Star Sports, Inc., and the Jimenez Realty Team – RE/MAX Loyalty for joining at premier sponsor levels.

We also want to recognize and thank Action Painting, Aseret Development, Kidz Korner Daycare, Leyden Township, Maxinflables, Inc., NameOnAnything.com, Northern Tool + Equipment and Salud Es Vida Nutricion for recently renewing memberships and their continued support of the MPCCCD!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 180 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 [ibazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:ibazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

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

## Burlington Grand Opening at Winston Plaza, Feb. 16!

On Friday, Feb. 16, there was a little more “Wow” at Winston Plaza as Burlington – Deals.Brands.WOW! had the grand opening of its newest location in Melrose Park.

Mayor Serpico and representatives from the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, the Village of Melrose Park, Jane Addams Elementary School and Winston Plaza/Newmark Merrill were on hand to help the Burlington team cut the ribbon and open the doors at 1060 Winston Plaza.

From what we've heard, Burlington puts “Wow” in the deals and brands every day, but the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the grand opening weekend was special. Plan a visit to the Winston Plaza Burlington in the near future. We're sure it'll be enjoyable!

Congratulations to the staff and students of Jane Addams Elementary School, the recipients of a \$5,000 donation on behalf of Burlington.



## \$1,840,000 in Cook County Grants Awarded to Area Businesses!

In July and August 2023, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development and its Community Navigator Team, worked with the Cook County Small Business Source to communicate information to area small businesses regarding the Cook County 2023 Source Grant that was designed specifically for small businesses (less than 20 full-time employees) that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MPCCCD Team was able to distribute flyers, email businesses and provide direct technical assistance to businesses that needed assistance to businesses in Melrose Park as well as nine other neighboring villages as part of its work with the county.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the county released the final list of 3,000 businesses that received grant awards in January 2024 of \$10,000 or \$20,000 to help these businesses recover and grow. We are happy to announce that the list included 24 businesses in Melrose Park, which received a total of \$420,000. Through the MPCCCD's efforts in all 10 communities served, 101 area businesses received grant support through this program totaling \$1,840,000 in Cook County grants awarded to area businesses!



*Representatives from business associations and referral partners.*



*Business owners attending Feb. 6 event.*



# Connecting Our Businesses to Resources!

The MPCCCD hosted two workshops in January to connect business owners and managers to resources and programs that may help their business in 2024!

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, Diana Alfaro, from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), shared information about current grants, as well as other access to capital programs to support local businesses and fuel economic growth, and create jobs, as well as technical assistance resources available at no cost to the business.



Over 50 businesses were represented at the seminar and made their way through adverse weather conditions to be on hand for this information session, which has become a regular event hosted by the chamber at the request of local businesses.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Nancy O'Leary, from Custom Direct, Inc., facilitated a workshop specifically targeting manufacturing companies to discuss website and digital marketing best practices in the manufacturing sector and to share information on accessing up to \$25,000 in grant support from Cook County and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center to help companies create or improve their digital connection to customers they serve.

Thanks to all who were able to attend.

## 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 to participate in community events.

### Upcoming Events Include:

#### Thursday, March 14, 2024 – The Chamber After Hours Networking Event

The Chamber After Hours event is a good old-fashioned, in-person networking event! You will want to bring several business cards to this networking event which is regularly attended by 50-75 business leaders and community leaders in and around Melrose Park.

#### Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – Legislative Breakfast

Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch will lead conversation and be on hand for a Q&A session regarding current and upcoming legislative issues that impact the business community and economic development in the state and our region. The Annual Legislative Breakfast has become a signature event for MPCCCD and is regularly attended by 150-200 business and community leaders, as well as additional elected officials.

#### Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – Workforce Development and Programs to Support Hiring and Training Needs

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 [ibazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:ibazbaz@mpcccd.org) or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you.