

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

I recently realized something about our village that is truly worth sharing. For years, Melrose Park was aptly nicknamed the “Corporate King.” However, as I scanned the Melrose Park village’s website, I discovered that it might be time to change our nickname to the “Food King.”

Our village offers a cornucopia of food choices, and with 83 various locations serving food and having 16 grocery stores in our community – we are blessed to have so many culinary options at our fingertips.

Dear Neighbors,

First and foremost, I want to thank our Public Works employees who toiled tirelessly around the clock in sub-zero temperatures in order to make our streets passable so the rest of us could go about our daily routines. Next, I would like to express my gratitude to the village workers who cleared the snow for over 200 homes that are registered in our Snow Removal Program for seniors and those with special needs.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the generous residents and businesses whose donations to our annual Toys for Tots drive resulted in several hundred toys being distributed to area children, bringing joy to the recipients on Christmas morning.

With all of the aforementioned duly thanked, I would like to move on to something I recently realized about our village that is truly worth sharing. For years, Melrose Park was aptly nicknamed the “Corporate King” in recognition of the many corporations that made our village their home. However, as I scanned the Melrose Park village’s website, I discovered that it might be time to change our nickname to the “Food King.”

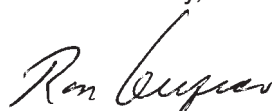
If you go to the village website at www.melrosepark.org/melrose-park-restaurants/ you will see 83 various locations that serve food. From Italian to Asian to American to Mexican and more, our village offers a cornucopia of food choices. Added to that number are the 16 grocery stores located within our village. When you put it all together, you come to realize how blessed we are as a community to have so many culinary options at our fingertips. Very few other suburbs can boast such a wide array of food choices.

Our village website at www.melrosepark.org has information to help you get ready for the warmer days ahead. When you arrive at the website, click on Village Services in the maroon bar at the top and from the drop-down menu, click on Village Services A to Z. Next, click on any of the following links that will help you prepare for the spring and summer months:

- Block Party Permit Request in English and Spanish (plan a neighborhood gathering).
- Construction Noise Ordinance Home/Business (rules regarding construction noise).
- Flood Relief Information/Forms (springtime can bring floods, be prepared).
- Garage Sale Dates for 2024 (offer up unwanted items like that treadmill).
- Indoor Construction Regulations (rules and the remodeling forms you need to file).
- J.U.L.I.E. Underground Digging Information (check on utility locations before digging).
- Rent Melrose Park’s Multi-Purpose Rooms (rooms for graduation parties or other events).
- Senior Free Painting Program Application for 2024 (spruce up your home’s exterior).
- Sidewalk Replacement Info for 2024 (replace damaged sidewalk squares).
- Summer Parking (begins April 1, learn the rules).
- Summer Residential Ordinances (ordinances regarding warm weather activities).
- Tree Planting Program for Residents (need a tree, we can help).
- Yard Waste Collection Rules (how to properly dispose of grass clippings, etc.).

And now it’s time for me to be off so I can try one of those tasty Melrose Park restaurants.

Sincerely,


Mayor Ron Serpico



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

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

**Early Voting for the March 19, 2024 – Presidential Primary Election
Runs Monday, March 4-Monday, March 18 at the
Melrose Park Village Hall (Multipurpose Room), 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park.
Early voting hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**





Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

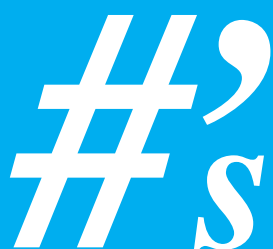
Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

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 MeetingsMarch 25, April 22

Village Hall Holiday ClosingsMarch 29

Resident Response

Dear Mayor Serpico ...

Many thanks to you for supporting our 13th annual Blast from the Past fundraiser for Misericordia. Together with your help and generosity we raised \$11,217 for Misericordia. Each year you have graciously donated to us the use of the Senior Center for our event, in addition to a generous monetary donation.

Once again, we want to thank the staff that helps us each year to set up and organize the Senior Center. They cannot do enough for us to make us feel comfortable and at home. We appreciate their time and effort.

We want to thank all the local businesses that donated food and/or gift certificates for our event. Our heartfelt thanks to Chickie's, Jewel/Melrose Park, Liborio's, Ozzies, Anthony B's, Bertolli's Pizzeria, The Great Escape, Taverna, Roberto's, Scudiero's, Debbie's Material Possessions, Schwings, il Vicolo, Positano, Jim and Pete's, Crab du Jour, Cuomo Catering, Maria's Mexican, Duck Inn, New Pot & Noodles, Nick Casscio Catering, Papaspiros, Elliz Beauty Salon, Al Piemonte Nissan, Sporty's, Tom's Steak House and Cefalu.

The children and adults of Misericordia Heart of Mercy Center thank you for the love and compassion in supporting our fundraising efforts.

Misericordia exists because of the good people who share our ministry and support our fundraising efforts. Please know you are helping children and adults who are not able to create a good world for themselves. Your kindness does not go unnoticed.

God bless you and yours for being there for us!

• Sincerely,

Jo, Tom and Matthew Halleran

Dear Mayor Serpico ...

I hope you're doing exceptionally well.

Thank you so much for including the Triton College Foundation in your philanthropic plans and a bigger thank you for continuing to support our cause.

Your generous donation toward our 25th annual golf outing during calendar year 2023 is going to go a long way to help shape the future of many Triton students – the ultimate beneficiaries.

Having you in our corner means the world to us and your response to our call for help will always be remembered.

It's people like you, who continue to give back during the best and worst of times, that make things better for those who don't have what others do ... And that means a lot!

We make each other better, we work as a team and I thank you.

You have the heart of a hero!

• With grateful appreciation,

Tom Olson, President

Triton College Foundation Board of Directors

19th Avenue Bridge Dedication Ceremony to be Held Later this Spring

Mayor Serpico and the village of Melrose Park will be hosting a dedication ceremony for the 19th and North Avenue bridge later this spring.

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 to join us for the celebration.

Dear Peggy DiFazio, Director of Senior Services ...

I want to thank you for all of your good advice, four years ago and then over the last two weeks. All of the advice was “spot on” and I am especially appreciative of having Lorena come over to Gottlieb to notarize the Power of Attorney Forms. I see now, that this is one of the first things to be done in such cases and I am so glad I followed up on your advice on this matter. I have been moving forward on all of the other recommendations that you made as well. Kudos to you and Lorena for your great support of seniors here in Melrose Park!

• Sincerely,
John Paluch

Dear Mayor Serpico ...

Thank you for your generosity toward the seniors, this sample letter of thanks can never truly express our appreciation enough for everything you have done to help our Senior Club, lunch was delicious and your presence was appreciated. You represent a commitment that goes way beyond the routine call of duty. Life is short and that you have given so many of yours in service of this lovely village of Melrose Park is remarkable and inspiring!

I would also like to thank the Police Department, Fire Department, medics, Library, Community Services, Public Works, Senior Services, etc. And a special thank you for the planning and growing business developments in Melrose Park – recently in my neighborhood, the new bridge at 19th and North Avenue, the bicycle trails and all of the improvements (I’m old – driving a bicycle most of the time), the new stores and big warehouses (Amazon, Pods and hundreds more), and the new warehouses on North Avenue, west of Menards. Everything’s really impressive. There are many amazing individuals who have served our village with distinction, all are true heroes who are keeping our streets safe. I am grateful for you. • Sincerely yours,
Chester Bednarz

Dear Mayor Serpico ...

My name is Suzanne Fleming and I just moved to Melrose Commons in January. I just wanted to thank you for the Dial-a-Ride service. From what I have seen, Melrose Park is a nice place to live. • Thanks again!
Suzanne Fleming



Notice Regarding Melrose Park Vehicle Stickers

2022-2023 Village Vehicle Stickers Expired Dec. 31, 2023.

2024-2025 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:

	NOW-FEB. 29	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 Fire DepartmentNEWS



*Rick Beltrame
Director of Fire Dept.*

A Message from Rick Beltrame, Director of Fire Department

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

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



SAFETY TIPS

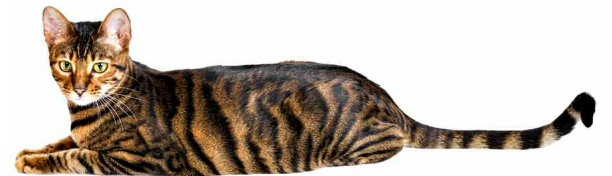
- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Pets and Wildfires

Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



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



**MELROSE PARK
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

Melrose Park Police Department

A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi
Director of Police*



Important Parking Notice for Melrose Park Residents

A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES

Effective April 1, 2024, parking will be permitted on both sides of the street on weekends (Friday, 5 p.m.-Monday, 9 a.m.) until Dec 1, 2024.

These hours do not include the Winston Park and West Melrose areas.
REMEMBER, PARKING IS NEVER ALLOWED ON EAST AND WEST STREETS – 2-6 A.M.

**ALL VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK
PARKING RESTRICTIONS WILL BE
STRICTLY ENFORCED AND
TICKETS WILL BE WRITTEN
FOR CARS VIOLATING CURRENT
AND FUTURE PARKING RULES.**

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.



Always Stepping Up ...

Melrose Park Police Department to Transform Operations with the Mark43 Records Management System

Industry-Leading, Cloud-Native Records Management System Will Support Officers in Their Mission of Addressing Crime and Engaging with the Community

Mark43, the leading cloud-native public safety software provider, recently announced that the Melrose Park Police Department has signed on to implement Mark43's cloud-native records management system (RMS). The partnership will provide Melrose Park's 70 sworn officers with a secure and reliable data-driven platform that supports the safety of the entire community.

Anthony Greco, deputy chief of the Melrose Park Police Department, said, "We are thrilled to be working with Mark43. Our officers deserve the best available technology, and the Mark43 RMS will give our officers real-time, mission-critical information so they can successfully support our community and keep our residents safe."

Matt Polega, Mark43 co-founder and president, said, "We are excited to partner with the Melrose Park Police Department to meet their mission of spending less time writing reports and more time on other critical priorities in their community. By moving away from an on-premises tech platform to one that is cloud-native, they are a clear leader in public safety for Illinois."

Mark43 RMS is an intuitive records management system that will be used by officers and staff in everyday policing. Hosted on AWS GovCloud, it enables faster report-writing, integrated compliance standards, and a superior user experience that leads to enhanced work performance and job satisfaction. The Mark43 RMS was built to automatically guide users to capture detailed information for National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), making it easier for agencies to comply with federal standards and supports more accurate crime reporting.

The new partnership also includes robust training to ensure that officers are adept at using the new platform, as well as 24/7 customer assistance to give Melrose Park ongoing customer support.

Mark43 continues to partner with new police departments in Illinois. This partnership follows the recent announcement of the Berwyn Police Department and the Hometown Police Department signing on to deploy the Mark43 Public Safety Platform.

About Mark43

Mark43 is the leading cloud-native public safety technology company. By delivering a modern, intuitive and mobile-first records management system, computer-aided dispatch and analytics platform, Mark43 empowers governments and their communities to improve the safety and quality of life for all. Working with more than 200 local, state and federal public safety agencies, Mark43 is transforming how first responders use technology to respond, engage and serve the community. Mark43 provides the tools, resources, expertise and security foundation that public safety needs today, tomorrow and beyond. For more information or to request a demo, visit www.mark43.com.

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.

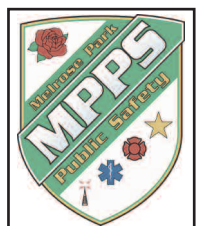


The Fire Rescue Division of Melrose Park's Homeland Security – Public Safety Will Always be Ready When Needed

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!



Melrose Park Police Department Introduces ALICE to Grant Elementary School

Help Fill the Buckets ... Donations of Emergency Supplies for Students Now Being Accepted

Melrose Park continues to take a proactive approach to school safety, now with ALICE safety presentations by trained police to instruct teachers and staff enhanced preparedness and responses to critical danger. The Melrose Park Police Department was most recently welcomed to the Grant Elementary School by Principal Andrew Maisonneuve to introduce the ALICE active shooter program.

The ALICE Program has over 20 years of experience with over 18 million trained in its strategies that saves lives, builds confidence and mitigates risk. In addition to the presentation, the Police Department had received donated supply containers (Go-bucket) to distribute to Grant's classrooms that will contain emergency supplies for students during a critical emergency.

If you would like to donate supplies or learn more on what supplies can help, please contact the Police Department at (708) 344-8409, Ext. 6107, or email mrieger@melroseparkpd.com for direct assistance.

Thank you to Ofc. Paul Rossi, Deputy Chief Anthony Greco, Ofc. Oscar Alvarez and Lt. Mark Rieger for their hard work and exceptional assistance with the ALICE Program presentation.



Melrose Park Police and Autism

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

In 2023, the Police Department conducted its annual training event hosted by state-certified specialists that introduced a new method to help identify situations involving persons with special needs. Alert notification emblems can now be affixed to a vehicle's rear window informing responders to an information card within the vehicle that specifies exactly what conditions will help mitigate the circumstances. The emblem and card can also be used at a residence for first responders to support with those responses.

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

ATTENTION 1ST RESPONDERS or POLICE
Driver and/or passenger(s) may have at least one of the following INVISIBLE DISABILITIES which may cause COMMUNICATION difficulties.**See information card inside vehicle**

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

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

ATTENTION 1ST RESPONDERS or POLICE

NAME: _____

CONDITION(S): _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

DOCTOR: _____

EMT INFORMATION: _____

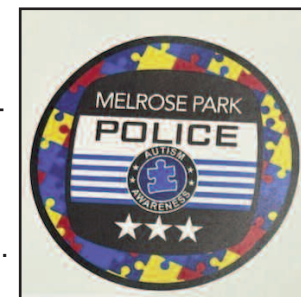
Courtesy of ASDwithME LLC www.asdwithme.com

Special MPPD Patches Raise Breast Cancer, Autism Awareness

During 2023 Taste of Melrose Park, several Melrose Park police officers were seen sporting one-of-a-kind uniform patches as part of a breast cancer awareness initiative organized by Director of Police Sam Pitassi.

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

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



Director of Police Sam Pitassi, Mayor Serpico and the Members of the Melrose Park Police Department Want You to Know that You're Not Alone.



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.**

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, March 19
Early Voting Runs Monday, March 4-Monday, March 18.

Vote Democratic!

MAYOR SERPICO
asks you to please consider voting
for the following candidates:

FOR PRESIDENT, U.S.	PUNCH
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.	1
FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	PUNCH
JESUS ‘CHUY’ GARCIA	11
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 7TH DISTRICT <i>(FOR ALL MELROSE PARK VOTERS WITH THIS CANDIDATE APPEARING ON THEIR BALLOT)</i>	PUNCH
EMANUEL ‘CHRIS’ WELCH	71
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 77TH DISTRICT <i>(FOR ALL MELROSE PARK VOTERS WITH THIS CANDIDATE APPEARING ON THEIR BALLOT)</i>	PUNCH
NORMA HERNANDEZ	71
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 78TH DISTRICT <i>(FOR ALL MELROSE PARK VOTERS WITH THIS CANDIDATE APPEARING ON THEIR BALLOT)</i>	PUNCH
CAMILLE LILLY	71
FOR CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, COOK COUNTY	PUNCH
MARIYANA T. SPYROPOULOS	92
FOR STATE’S ATTORNEY, COOK COUNTY	PUNCH
CLAYTON HARRIS III	93
FOR COMMISSIONER, BOARD OF REVIEW 3RD DISTRICT	PUNCH
LARRY ROGERS, JR.	112
FOR JUDGE, ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT (VACANCY OF BURKE)	PUNCH
JESSE G. REYES	122
FOR JUDGE, COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT (VACANCY OF PROPES)	PUNCH
RUSS HARTIGAN	152
FOR JUDGE, 7TH COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT (VACANCY OF SOLGANICK)	PUNCH
OWENS J. SHELBY	162

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.

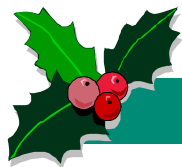
**Melrose Park Civic Center
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park**

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

Mayor Serpico/Melrose Park Youth Commission

Outdoor Holiday Decorating Contest Homes

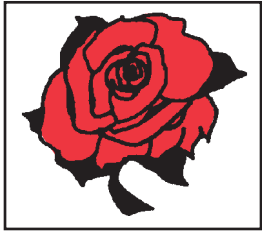
5 – \$150 Top Prize Winners



5 – \$50 Runners-Up Prize Winners



Thank you to everyone for joining in the seasonal fun!
Watch for details on our 2024 Holiday Decorating Contest in upcoming issues of *The Rose*!



Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

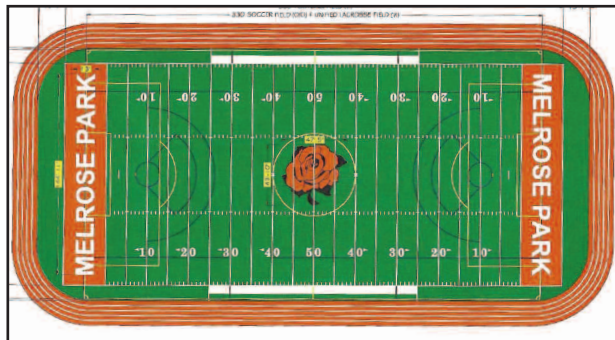
*From the Desk of
Gary Marine,
Director of Public Works*

19th and North Avenue Bridge

The 19th and North Avenue bridge is now open.
Please watch for details on our spring 2024 dedication ceremony.

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 northeast corner of 25th and Augusta has been paved for additional free parking for residents. The Civic Center's east and west lots have been repaved as well.

Street Parking Restriction Signs

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

Street Sweeping

The street sweeper 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.

2024 Fall Tree Planting Program

The list is now open for 2024 Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree for 2024, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.

2024 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program

If you would like to participate in the 2024 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program to request replacement of sidewalk squares, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128 for more information.

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.

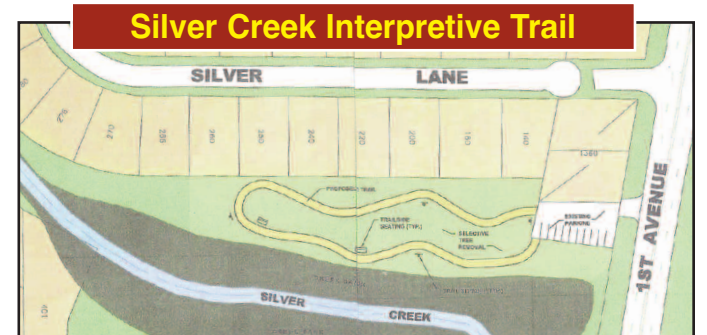
**Phase Five, Six and Seven of the
Silver Creek Restoration Project have been completed.
Phase Eight is in the final planning stages.**

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:



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.

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.



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.

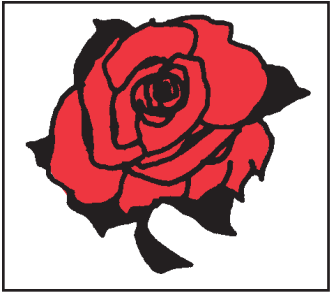
Benefit Access Program Benefits

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 Building Dept. Report

*From the Desk of
Ralph Sorce,
Building Commissioner*

A Note to All Melrose Park Residents Regarding Property Flood Protection, Flood Insurance, Village Assistance

The village of Melrose Park has earned a Class 7 Rating through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS); for this reason, flood insurance policies issued or renewed in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) qualify for a 15 percent discount off the premium cost.

Flood Protection Information

The village of Melrose Park strongly encourages these flood protection tips to be used:

- Stream Maintenance – Per the Clean Water Act and village ordinance, dumping into our ditches, creeks and sewers is strictly prohibited. This regulation helps prevent contamination to our water supply and lessens the chance of flooding. Grass clippings, leaves and branches can also cause problems as they can accumulate and plug the storm sewer channels. If your property is next to a ditch or creek, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Please feel free to contact the Public Works Department for information regarding the village's Creek Maintenance Program or reporting downed tree and other major blockages.

- Construction Requirements – Always check with the Building Department before you alter, re-grade or fill your property. A permit is needed to ensure that projects do not cause drainage problems to other properties and to ensure the general public welfare.

- Flood-Proofing – There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage – retrofitting (altering a building to eliminate or reduce flood damage) measures include:

- Elevations – This involves raising the house so that the lowest floor is above protection level.
- Relocation – Moving a building out of the flood zone is the surest way to protect it from a flood.
- Floodwalls – These work to keep water from reaching your home by constructing barriers out of fill or concrete between the building and the flood water.
- Dry Flood-Proofing – Makes the building's walls and floors watertight so water does not enter.
- Wet Flood-Proofing – Modifies the structure and relocates the contents so that when flood water enters the building there is little to no damage.

Important notice: Any alteration to a building or land requires a permit from the Building Department. Even re-grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit.

Flood Protection Assistance

If you have any concerns or issues with flooding or drainage, please call the Village of Melrose Park Sewer Department at (708) 531-5347 or the Building Department at (708) 343-4000. The Building Department can provide information, professional input and problem-solving measures without negatively affecting nearby neighbors. The Building Department can also provide a list of flood proofing contractors and conduct inspections.

Sand Bags

During a rainstorm or flood, sand bags are readily available for pickup at the Melrose Park Public Works Building located at 1002 N. 27th Ave. The Public Works Department also drops off sand bags throughout the village's high impact flood areas.

Flood Event Suggestions

Please keep in mind, during a flood the less water pumped into the village's storm sewer system the better. Please avoid excessive water use such as washing clothes, showering, washing dishes and toilet flushing. This provides time for the sewer system to stabilize and catch up to the large influx of water, thus, lowering the probability of a sewer backup in a building.

Be Prepared!

Have a plumber inspect sump pumps regularly!

If you experience flooding or drainage issues on your property, the village's staff may be able to help. Remember to televise and clean sewer laterals to prevent sewer backups.

Leaf Removal, Street Sweeping, Storm Sewers and Swales

It is a violation of village code and the Clean Water Act to directly or indirectly discharge illicit substances into a storm sewer. The village strongly encourages that all grass clippings, leaves and yard waste be placed in approved containers and placed at the designated location for garbage pickup on scheduled pickup days.

Community Effort

The Public Works Department kindly requests your help. Throughout the village's corporate boundaries there are many streets with curbside storm sewer catch basins, culverts and storm sewer pipes that are prone to trouble in heavy rains when they are blocked by leaves and grass clippings. The village street sweeping vehicle is not effective in removing large quantities of wet or dry leaves off the streets and curbed areas. The street sweeper's intended use is to remove road debris such as gravel, dirt and trash from the road surface by way of water and scrubbing brushes.

The Public Works Department respectfully asks that every village resident do their part in keeping our storm sewer grates, culvert pipe and swales in front of their property free from leaves and debris throughout the year. By doing this, this will greatly diminish the need for storm sewer cleanups, as well as, eliminating street inlet flooding due to leaves clogging the designed drainage path.

Flood Insurance

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. The village strongly encourages property owners to invest in flood insurance. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. In some cases, flood insurance is required by a bank when people purchase a property and get a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies typically only cover the building's structure and not its contents. During the types of flooding that occur in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and personal items than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage! Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection! In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

For more information regarding important Melrose Park flood information, please visit our village website at www.melrosepark.org and check under the Village Services tab. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding flooding in Melrose Park, please feel free to contact the Building Department at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4419. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Village of Melrose Park Building Department Development Progress – Winter 2024

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



- 100 W. North Ave. – Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change – Complete.
- 915 W. North Ave. – Chili's Restaurant – Near completion.
- 925 W. North Ave. – Pollo Campero – Under construction.
- 10400 W. North Ave. – Navistar Buildings 1, 2 and 3 – Nearing completion, fully leased.
- 2100 N. 15th Ave. – New Industrial Building – Under construction.
- 900 Winston Plaza – Bonchon Chicken – Under construction.
- 2001 Cornell – Industrial Shell Building – Complete, fully leased buildout for Pures Bakery in progress.
- 8311 W. North Ave. – Menards Public Storage – Under construction.
- Coming Soon – Andy's Frozen Custard.
- And much more!

Building Department Construction Project Resource Information

The spring weather is fast approaching and many residents and business owners will be performing construction projects to their homes and businesses.

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

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

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

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

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

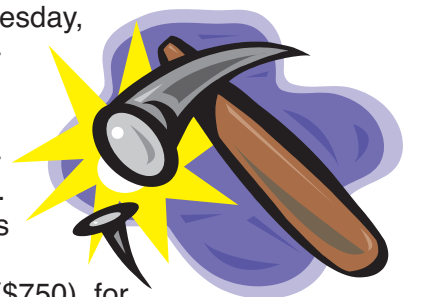
General contractors are responsible to assure that all their sub-contractors are licensed in Melrose Park. Failure to do so may result in citations, fines and work stoppage on site.

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

MP Construction Hours Policy

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

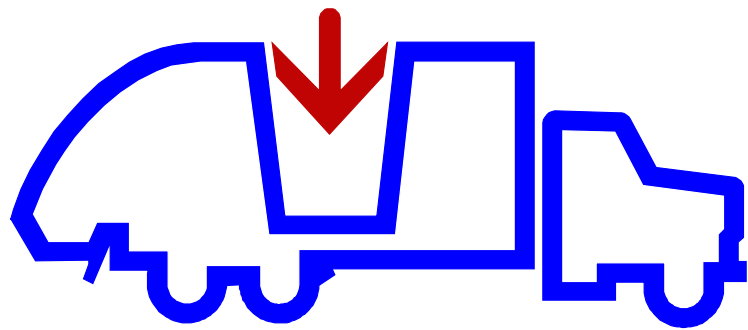
Any person violating this section shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50), nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750), for each offense, and each day's violation of the same shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.



Help Keep Our Village Clean!

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

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



Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Republic Services is contracted to pick up your regular, everyday garbage and household items, such as couches, tables, mattresses, box springs, desks and chairs, etc.

Recycling and yard waste is collected on Tuesdays from April through November and must be placed in a 33-gallon refuse can or biodegradable paper bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted.

All items are to be put out the night before or morning of scheduled garbage pickup.

Winston Park Area and West Melrose – Once garbage has been picked up, garbage container is to be removed from curb line and placed back on resident's property.

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

24th Avenue to 10th Avenue – North Side from Cortez to North Avenue – Monday

24th Avenue to 10th Avenue – South Side from Cortez to Main Street – Tuesday

Winston Park Area – Wednesday West Melrose – Thursday North of North Avenue – Thursday

The village of Melrose Park Public Works Department pickup items include all household remodeling items (homeowner/self – not contractor), such as kitchen and bathroom cabinets, drywall and cement.

All items are to be put out the night before or before 7 a.m. the morning of scheduled garbage pickup.

Once village trucks have passed and picked up items, the trucks will not pass again.

Any other garbage items are not to be left out and are to be put out for the next scheduled pickup.

This service is for Melrose Park residents in single and two-flat buildings only. Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

Village of Melrose Park Public Works regular hours are 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

This information is also available at www.melrosepark.org.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

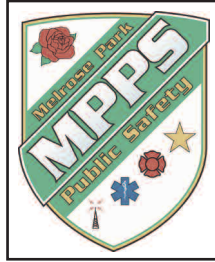
For a missing or damaged garbage can, please call Republic Services directly at (708) 345-7050 and ask for Customer Service to request a replacement garbage can.

REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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

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

Melrose Park Public Safety News



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

The Village of Melrose Park Notification System Provides Information that Matters to You the Most ... When You Need It, the Way You Want It

Mayor Ronald M. Serpico and the village of Melrose Park are committed to keeping the public safe and informed about events that may impact your lives. The village of Melrose Park Emergency Notification System allows the village to quickly and directly send messages to individuals or groups on various types of media and devices to keep you informed during any significant event in our village.

The Village of Melrose Park Emergency Notification System lets you sign up to receive emergency and community messages through a cellphone, work phone, home phone, text message or email. You can also choose locations you'd like to be contacted about if you like. You can receive notifications about emergencies that may affect your home, your parent's home, your workplace or your child's school – or any other location of interest and importance to you – as long as those locations are within Melrose Park.

Types of Notifications

The Village of Melrose Park Emergency Notification System allows the village to relay timely and essential information quickly. The system communicates two types of messages: Emergency Notifications and Community Notifications.

Emergency Notifications

In an emergency, the village will contact individuals or groups in a certain area that can be affected by a crisis. Emergency notifications are used in a situation that has an effect or may have an impact on a certain number of people involving immediate or pending threats to public safety or property, and where immediate notification is necessary. Emergency notifications can be sent village-wide at any time of day or night if the circumstances of the event dictate this type of widespread notification to be necessary. If inclement weather creates any hazards or situations that affect village services, the system is used to notify individuals of those affected services, such as road closures and utility outages.

Please note: The village of Melrose Park has a weather notification mode which will notify you of warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information for potentially threatening weather-related events. You may choose the types of warning and watches you want to be notified about and you can set a time for notifications, if you do not set the time, all weather notifications will be sent at anytime.

The village encourages residents and businesses to proactively seek weather-related information from official channels such as the National Weather Service or their preferred local media outlet. It is a best practice to have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio at your residence or business that broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, the National Weather Service issues official weather watches and warnings, and is authorized to send wireless emergency alerts with certain warning information, including tornado warnings. (These are automatic emergency messages with a unique tone sent to cellphones in areas where specific weather warnings are issued.) You can check your cellphone's settings to ensure this feature is not turned off.

Community Notifications

Community notifications are meant to notify residents and interested parties about events or projects that may temporarily impact their day-to-day routine but do not impact health or safety. The village will contact individuals with this type of information only if they choose to receive this type of news.

Community notifications will be sent between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Due to the nature of certain categories, messages may be sent in the earlier or later hours of this timeframe. The village will send notifications as it deems appropriate based on the need and type of message.

Listed here are the community notification categories the village of Melrose Park is making available:

- Utility Outages – Information about scheduled outages of any duration and unplanned outages anticipated to be four or more hours in duration or impacting a large segment of the village.
- Public Safety – Information about public safety topics, including safety tips and announcements, crime and fire prevention information, public safety events, crime alerts, code compliance information and animal control information.
- Road & Utility Work (Local) – Information about localized neighborhood road work and utility projects, such as parkway tree trimming, storm system repair, alley reconstructions, tree trimming, sanitary sewer lining, planned water main repairs and hydrant repairs/replacement.
- Special Event Alerts – Information about major and minor special events occurring in the village of Melrose Park, including dates, times, locations, street closures, parking lot closures and other important event information.
- Traffic Alerts (Major Roadways) – Information about major arterial roadway projects taking place in the village or unanticipated and sudden road closures.
- Winter Operations – Information on snow removal operations in the village, including plowing operations and anticipated snowfall, as well as reminders about the village's snow plowing.

Upon registration and sign-in with the system, individuals can select which any or all of the community notification categories they would like to receive.

For more information, please contact the village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security ~ Public Safety – (708) 649-8000.



Village of Melrose Park

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



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

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

Important Melrose Park Village Notice ...

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

WATER UPDATE

SORRY WE MISSED YOU

We were here on: _____
Please call us ASAP between 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

877-977-8626

Family _____
House Address _____

CODE 14

PERDON NO LO ENCONTRAMOS

Estuvimos Aquí: _____
Favor de comunicarse lo más pronto posible entre 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
We are a private company not related to the Water Department

877-977-8626

QUALITY WATER TESTING USA, INC.

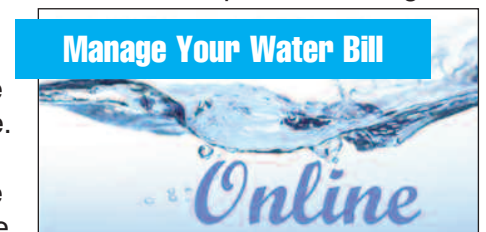
Manage Your Water Bill Online ... It's Easy!

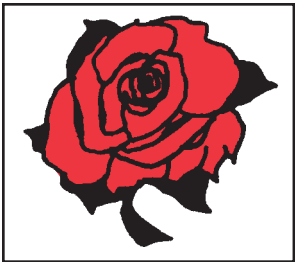
The village of Melrose Park provides residents with an option to manage their water bill online. Residents can visit www.melrosepark.org and by clicking on images as directed, you'll be linked to the online Water Account page. You will need your account number and the full name of the person listed on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





Melrose Park Public Library



M P Melrose Park
P L 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 prep. will take place at the Melrose Park Library on Monday mornings.

Appointments are required. Call Triton

College 708-456-0300 ext. 3835 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



M P Melrose Park
P L 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.



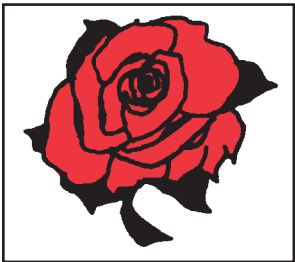
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MPPLibrary.org

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



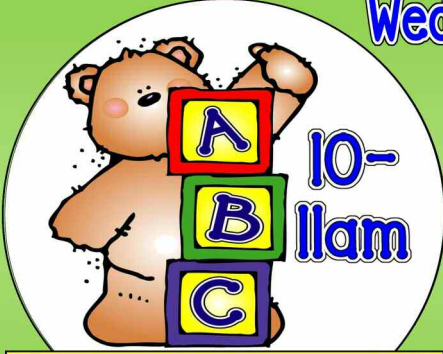
Melrose Park Public Library



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



Overnight Parking Procedures for Melrose Park

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

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

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

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

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

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



MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

A Note Regarding Your New Melrose Park Water Bill

Account No.	Due Date	Amount Due	After Due Date
45678-001	2/1/2024	0	0

Service Address	Remit Address
2345 MAIN ST MELROSE PARK, IL 60160	Village of Melrose Park 1000 N. 25th Ave. MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

Mailing Address
JANE DOE 2345 MAIN ST MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

Account No.	Service Address
45678-001	2345 MAIN ST

Service Period	Meter Readings					
1/1/2024 - 1/31/2024	Water & Sewer					
Meter No.	Read Dates	Days	Previous	Current	Usage	Unit Of Measure
23456789	1/31/2024 1/31/2024	0	1	2	1	100 CF

Previous Balance
0.00

Penalties
0.00

Adjustments
0.00

Payments Received
0.00

Balance at Billing
0.00

Current Billing	
Charge Code	Amount
WATER	

Current Charges
Balance Due

Due Date	After Due Date
2/1/2024	

Melrose Park has refreshed its
Water Bill layout and introduced a new format
effective Feb. 1, 2024.

Pictured is an example of the redesigned bill.

Residents are asked to please register their
accounts by visiting www.melrosepark.org,
clicking Water Bill Payment, then Water Bill Management.

You'll need your current account number and
the correct name on the account to complete the registration.

After registering your account,
click on EBILL ENROLLMENT to receive a copy of your bill.

By registering your account, you'll be able to
view current account information and past bills,
and receive your bill in a quicker, safer and
more reliable way than traditional mail.

For more information, send an email to
rv@melrosepark.org
or call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4435.

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.



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: March 25; April 22; Tuesday, May 28; June 10; July 22; Aug. 26; Sept. 23; Oct. 28; Nov. 25; and Dec. 23.

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

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: 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.

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.

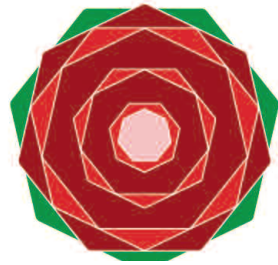
For an appointment or further information, please call Sr. Nila or Sr. Jan at (708) 567-5083, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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, médica, adicciones, control de la ira, abuso de sustancias, ropa y necesidades humanas básicas.

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. ubicación en Melrose Park.



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 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 or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you.



MP Senior Club Celebrates the Season!



On Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, the Melrose Park Senior Club held their annual Christmas Party with a gourmet meal luncheon at Taverna!

The members enjoyed many seasonal festivities that included being serenaded by accordion player Joe Martino.

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



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.**



Mayor Serpico's Christmas Lights Parade with Santa

A special team of village employees and volunteers brought a lot of merriment to the Melrose Park residents over the holidays as they helped with Santa's visit and the annual Christmas Lights Parade. Thank you to all for bringing so much joy to the children of our community!



Christmas in Proviso

Helping Families Throughout the Township Celebrate Christmas!

Mayor Serpico joined Illinois Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch, state and county leadership, and local mayors at the Christmas in Proviso event held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at Proviso West High School.





The 42nd Annual Taste of Melrose Park is Looking for VOLUNTEERS to Be a Part of a Great Weekend

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

All volunteers receive a 2024 Taste of Melrose Park T-shirt and we're sure you'll have plenty of fun!

Friday, Aug. 30 • 5:30-11 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 31 • 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-11 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 1 • 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-10:15 p.m.

To volunteer, please complete the
Taste of Melrose Park Volunteer Form and mail it to:
Taste of Melrose Park, Attn.: Lorena Anguiano,
1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160

Interested parties, please respond before Aug 1, 2024.
If submitting as a group, please send a main contact person's information.

Mayor Serpico and the Taste of Melrose Park Volunteer Form

Please print clearly.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____

Phone _____

Please check all that apply.

☐ Individual ☐ Group

Available to work: ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday

Would like to volunteer for:

☐ Ticket Booth ☐ Beverage Stand

For more information, call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.

**Real bankers,
real relationships.**

 **PAN AMERICAN
BANK & TRUST**
Dream bigger®

Let's get started. Call 708.865.5700.

 **Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender**

Follow us  **panamerbank.com**

**Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico**



Celebrating Our 42nd Year
August 30th Thru September 1st

©COURT 42-L

**FAMILY
FRIENDLY**

**FAMILY
AFFORDABLE**

**Melrose Park Campus
Near the NW Corner of
25th Ave. and Lake St.**

For 2024 Taste of
Melrose Park info,
e-mail us at:
taste@melrosepark.org
or visit: www.melrosepark.org
or call: 708-343-4000
ext.4448



WELCOME TO THE 42ND ANNUAL TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

Dear Friends of Melrose Park,

I am sending this letter in the hope that you will financially participate as a sponsor of the 42nd Taste of Melrose Park, which will take place over the Labor Day weekend, August 30th thru September 1st.

The Taste is a family-friendly food festival that hosts over 200,000 patrons every year. We are unique to the world of food festivals because the vast majority of our food vendors are local residents who serve up original family recipes. In addition to all the culinary delights, we also provide continuous free entertainment on our three stages.

Your sponsorship helps underwrite many of the costs associated with our Taste of Melrose Park. It is also a great marketing tool for your business or organization to have your name placed before the eyes of the thousands of food aficionados that visit our 3-day event.

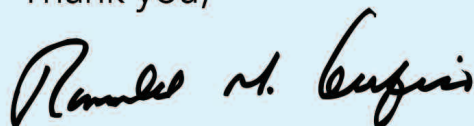
It is with your financial help that we can not only host this wonderful family affordable event but also help keep our per serving price at \$4 or less even though food costs have risen.

And to all of you, who so generously supported the Taste of Melrose in the past, I sincerely thank you and hope that you will kindly consider continuing your financial patronage in 2024; without your magnanimous backing we could never host such an ambitious undertaking.

Please read this flyer, it contains information about different Taste of Melrose Park sponsorship packages that can fit your budget. If you see a one that fits your budget then please fill out the separate application form found in this envelope.

If you need more information, please don't hesitate to email our Taste of Melrose Park Director Peggy DiFazio or Lorena Anguiano at: taste@melrosepark.org or at: 708-343-4000 ext. 4452 or 4448.

Thank you,



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor of Melrose Park





Your Donation Helps Underwrite More Than Just a Food Festival... It Helps Create a Better Melrose Park

Besides helping underwrite music and food, the most important result derived from your donation to the Taste of Melrose Park is the money raised for the *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund*. Since this fund was initiated, we have raised \$1.5 million dollars from the sale of beer and wine at the three-day festival.

The *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund* has only a 2% overhead with 98% being used to help underwrite youth athletics, senior citizen and veteran events, computer purchases for schools, donations to local charities, helping families in need, and much more.

When you donate to the Taste of Melrose Park you are not only helping underwrite a three-day food festival, but you are also helping make Melrose Park a better community to live, work and play. Long after the Taste folds its tents the smiles on the faces of those who benefit from the *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit* will endure... and helping our neighbors is what the Taste of Melrose Park is all about.



**Attention All
Area Businesses,
Community and
Public Service
Organizations ...
Etc., Etc., Etc.!**

The Taste of Melrose Park
is looking for area
businesses/organizations, etc.,
to purchase a spot on
Information Row at the
2024 Taste of Melrose Park,
Friday, Aug. 30-Sunday, Sept. 1.

This is a great opportunity
to showcase your
products and services
to the more than half a million
people expected to patronize
this year's big event.

For more information, please send an email to peg@melrosepark.org or call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

TASTE OF MELROSE PARK SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

\$8,000.00 PLATINUM SPONSOR PACKAGE

- 1 - Full Page Color Ad (9" wide x 10.5" tall)
10' x 10' Hospitality Tent
- 2 - Main Stage Video Walls
1 - 4' x 6' Banner
1 - 2' x 4' Billboard

- 1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run 6 times in *The Rose* newspaper
- Public Address System Announcements
- 2 - VIP Parking Passes

\$5,000.00 GOLD SPONSOR PACKAGE

- 1 - Half Page Color Ad (9" wide x 5.5" tall)
10' x 10' Hospitality Tent
Main Stage Video Wall
1 - 3' x 4' Banner
- Public Address System Announcements
- 1 - VIP Parking Pass

More Sponsorship Opportunities

\$3,000.00 T-SHIRT SPONSOR

- Your Company Logo
- Printed On 500+ Volunteer Shirts
(T-Shirt Space Will Be Limited)

★ **MUST SUBMIT BY JUNE 3RD** ★

\$3,500.00 SILVER SPONSOR PACKAGE

- 1 - Full Page Color Ad
Main Stage Video Wall
1 - 2' x 4' Billboard
- Public Address System Announcements

\$850.00 COLOR BANNER

- 1 - 3' x 4' Color Banner will be displayed throughout the grounds
- 1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run one time in *The Rose* newspaper

\$1,500.00 BRONZE SPONSOR PACKAGE

- 1 - 9.25" x 5.5" Color Ad
1 - 3' x 4' Banner
- Public Address System Announcements

\$500.00 COLOR BILLBOARD

- 1 - 2' x 4' Color Billboard, which can include your logo. Displayed the month of August facing 25th Avenue
- 1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run one time in *The Rose* newspaper

\$1,000.00 MAIN STAGE VIDEO WALL ADVERTISING PACKAGE

- Your Ad Will Scroll on an 8' x 15' Screen
6:00 PM - Close Each Night

2024

TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

If none of these packages meet your needs or budget, we will work closely with you to design a sponsorship package that will.

TASTE OF MELROSE PARK ORDER FORM

See Page 32 for the
42nd Annual
Taste of
Melrose Park
Sponsorship
Details!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

Please Return This Form With
A Check Or Money Order
No Later Than June 14th To:
Taste Of Melrose Park
1000 N. 25th Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160

42-L

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name and Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Call Peggy DiFazio or Lorena Anguiano at
708-343-4000, ext. 4448 and they will work with your company
to develop a sponsorship package that will meet your budget.

Please Select One of
the Following Packages:

____ \$8,000.00 PLATINUM SPONSOR

____ \$5,000.00 GOLD SPONSOR

____ \$3,500.00 SILVER SPONSOR

____ \$1,500.00 BRONZE SPONSOR

____ \$3,000.00 T-SHIRT SPONSOR
(Submit by June 3rd)

____ \$1,000.00 VIDEO WALL SPONSOR

____ \$850.00 3 X 4 COLOR BANNER

____ \$500.00 2 x 4 COLOR BILLBOARD

____ OTHER

Important Please Read!!!

No later than June 14th we need you to email us your billboard or banner
Camera Ready Artwork or email us the vital information we need for us
to create your billboard or banner to: taste@melrosepark.org

For more information or if you have a question, please call Peggy DiFazio
or Lorena Anguiano at 708-343-4000, ext. 4448 or email them at taste@melrosepark.org



**Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico**

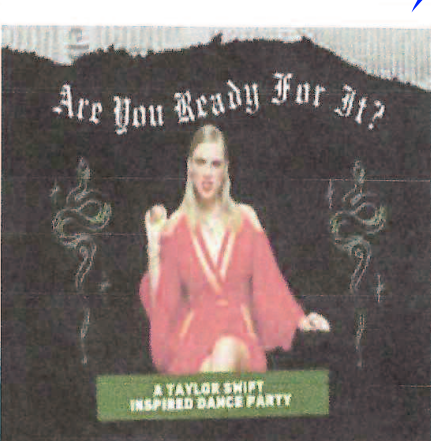
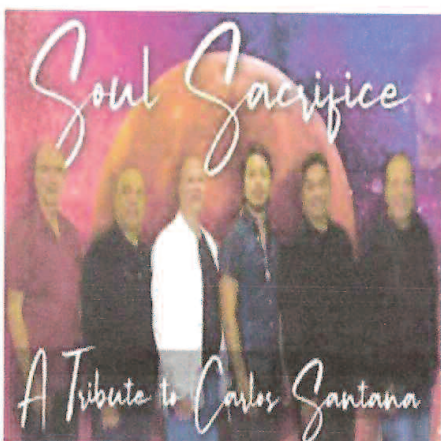
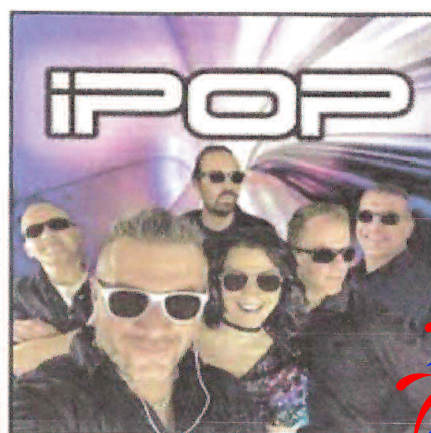
2024

Taste of Melrose Park

Celebrating Our 42nd Year
August 30th Thru September 1st



Check Out Some of This Year's Entertainment Features!



And ...
There's More
to Come!

Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Summer is Coming! Get Your Early Bird Pool Passes and Save Big!

Gouin Pool & Water Slides is located at 2400 N. Scott St., Franklin Park. Preseason passes are available for purchase now through April 27.

Purchase your Early Bird passes at George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park, or Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

An Early Bird individual resident pass is only \$50, that is a savings of \$25! Prices go up on April 28.

Gouin Pool opening day is Saturday, May 25.

For more information on Gouin Pool, call (708) 716-4822 or (708) 343-5270.

Fitness

Fitness Classes

Cimbalo Fitness Center offers a variety of fun, exciting fitness classes, including Zumba, Pump & Sculpt, Strong Nation, Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, Chair Yoga, CIRCL Mobility, Youth Fitness, Youth Speed Training, and Youth Boxing. Call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

Early Childhood

Alphabet Adventures! • Ages 2-5 (2's and 3's with Adult)

Each week your child will be introduced to different groups of letters in the alphabet, their sounds and shapes. Children will learn through books, flashcards, hands-on activities and crafts.

- Tuesdays, March 19-April 23, 10:15-11 a.m.; Class is held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$50/NR\$60.

Toddler Turf Time • Ages 2-5 (2's & 3's with Adult)

Join us for a morning filled with fun, fitness and sports challenges! Each day will include play-based themed stations, interactive circle time with music and movement. Please bring your child in comfortable clothing that is easy to move around in (no dresses or shirts) and a water bottle with their name on it.

- Mondays, 10-11 a.m.; Class is held at the George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR\$65.

Parent & Tot Yoga • Ages 2-5 (2's & 3's with Adult)

Join us for a morning filled with yoga, mindfulness and meditation! Ms. Victoria will provide you and your child an introduction to yoga in a fun and positive atmosphere. Each day will include interactive circle time, a yoga story and mini yoga sessions. Please bring your child in comfortable clothing that is easy to move around in (no dresses or shirts) and a water bottle with their name on it.

- Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.; Class is held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$50/NR\$60.

Creative Arts

Make Your Own Easter Basket Workshop • Ages 6+

Hippity-hoppity, hop your way to make a “glowtastic” Easter basket. Be cre-

ative, using mesh ribbons, paint, painted eggs and other festive materials.

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

Cinco De Mayo Workshop • Ages 6+

It's fiesta time! A party should always require a pinata. Join us in learning how to make a homemade pinata out of paper mâché and simple ingredients. After it's done, fill your pinata with colorful and tasty candies.

- Tuesdays, April 23 and 30, 5:45-7:45 p.m.; Workshop is held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park. Fee – R\$30/NR\$40.

Snack Attack (Two Locations) • Ages 5-10

Join us to embark on a tasty journey filled with fun, learning and mouthwatering snacks. Get ready to become a snack superstar and impress your family with your culinary talents. Snack time will never be the same! All necessary cooking equipment and ingredients will be provided during the class. Preregistration required. Registration deadline is April 4. Fee – R\$50/NR\$60 (for each location).

- Saturdays, April 13-May 4, 10-11:15 a.m.; Class is held at Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.
- Tuesdays, April 16-May 7, 5-6:15 p.m.; Class is held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park;

Travel with VPD

Halim Time & Glass Museum

Discover a world of beauty and craftsmanship on a guided tour featuring displays with over 1,100 time pieces, 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. Lunch options include turkey and Swiss on croissant; fresh farm grilled vegetables; olive oil balsamic and Italian bread or cobb chopped salad (romaine, tomato, cucumber, carrots, ham, Swiss and egg).

- Thursday, March 14, departure at 9:30 a.m. from Cimbalo Fitness Center (Melrose Park) or 9:45 a.m. from Grant Park (Northlake). Estimated return time is 2:45 p.m. Fee – \$85.

A Streetcar Named Desire

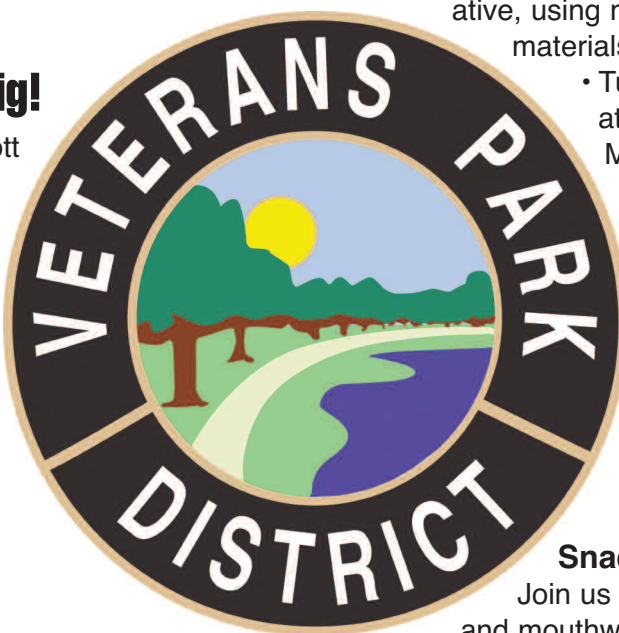
Stella loves her husband Stanley, who is hard drinking and hard fisted. Enter Blache, vulnerable and ready to break. *Streetcar* shows the tenuous relationship between hope and despair.

- Thursday, March 14, departure at 9:30 a.m. from Cimbalo Fitness Center (Melrose Park) or 9:45 a.m. from Grant Park (Northlake). Estimated return time is 2:45 p.m. Fee – \$85.

Youth Sports

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, April 1-April 22, 5-5:45 p.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

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, March 19-April 9, 4-4:45 p.m.; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70.

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, March 20-April 10, 5-5:45 p.m.; Classes are held at George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70.

For more information on Veterans Park District events and activities, call us at (708) 343-5270, visit our website at www.vpdpark.org or check out our Facebook Page.



Cuomo To Go

25 E. North Ave. • Northlake Ill.

Chef-prepared daily meals, salads, sandwiches, desserts and much more!

Take home HOT or COLD!

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



**WE ARE
HIRING**

**JOIN OUR TEAM
AT VPD**

We have seasonal opportunities for:

- ✓ **Lifeguards**
- ✓ **Head Lifeguards**
- ✓ **Swim Instructors**
- ✓ **Fitness Instructors**
- ✓ **Summer Camp Counselors**
- ✓ **Youth Sport Instructors**
- ✓ **Concession Stand Staff**

Veterans Park District is looking for energetic and talented individuals, who want to contribute to our fun summer atmosphere. Seasonal jobs for all ages!!! (Under 16 must have a workers permit.)

Apply at the following VPD locations:

- **Grant Park 44 W. Golfview Drive, Northlake**
- **Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th, Melrose Park.**
- **Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th, Melrose Park**
Monday – Friday 9 AM-5 PM

Download our job application at vpdpark.org/jobs

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





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



Games & GRUB

"formerly know as Bunco & Bites"

\$8.00
per person

**Mondays,
March 11
&
April 15**

11am-1pm

George A. Leoni Complex
800 N. 17th, Melrose Park,


www.vpdpark.org
708-343-5270

**Play the games you want to Play....!
socialize and enjoy some good grub !!**

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





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

VPD Active Adult / Senior Department

ST. PATRICK



CORNERED BEEF LUNCHEON

BULGER PARK

1601 N. Hirsch, Melrose Park

LIVE MUSIC • RAFFLES • FOOD

\$25 PER PERSON

Registration deadline is March 1st.

Catering by Harrington's Corned Beef
and live Irish music from
'CHARACTER FLEADH'

to register CALL 708-343-5270 / www.vpdpark.org



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





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

Easter

EGG HUNT



BULGER EGG SCRAMBLER
AGES 2-10 FREE FAMILY EVENT!
Friday, March 22 • 6:30 PM
Bulger Park Playground, Melrose Park

Veterans Park District and the Melrose Park Youth Commission are proudly sponsoring an Egg and Candy Hunt at Bulger Park playground in Melrose Park. Eggs and candy will be hidden high and low for children to find. Remember to bring your basket to collect your goodies.

THIS HUNT TAKES PLACE AT NIGHT, SO REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR FLASHLIGHT. Parents may help 2- and 3-year-old children. 4- to 10-year-old children can hunt on their own. This event starts EXACTLY at 6:30 PM, rain or shine.



(708) 343-5270 | VPDPARK.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!!

Child 5-17	\$20 R/ \$25 NR
Adult 18 & up	\$25 R / \$32 NR

Registration Deadline is April 1st.

708-343-5270
www.vdpark.org

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





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

FAMILY INDOOR GARAGE SALE & Flea Market

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 • 9 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

GRANT PARK GYMNASIUM, 44 W. GOLFVIEW DR. NORTHLAKE

Time to clean out your attic, closets, or garage for items to sell. Upsell your baby clothes, toys, games, tools, books and anything else you have. Or just come out and shop!

Concessions will be open for snacks.

Registration is required to reserve your space.

2 – 8×3 ½ tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Set up time is 8-9 A.M.

Call us for a registration form – (708) 343-5270.

*Registration
Deadline is
April 21!
Fee: R\$25/N\$35*



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Triton College
Career Services

WEI

WORKFORCE
EQUITY
INITIATIVE
Triton College



SPRING CAREER FAIR

Wednesday, March 6
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Triton College, B Building
Student Center Cafeteria
2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove

Employers from various industries will be recruiting for part-time, full-time and seasonal positions.

Bring plenty of resumes and dress for success.



Preregister at
bit.ly/TCSpringCareerFair
or scan the QR code.

Open to students, alumni
and community members.
It is free to attend.

**For more information, contact Triton College Career Services at
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3619, or careerservices@triton.edu.**



There's
a place
for you.



Triton College
triton.edu

Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.



Triton College NEWS

Summer Registration at Triton College is Now Open

Triton College is enabling students to get ahead with their education by offering summer courses. Registration opens Monday, Feb. 19. Summer classes help students get a jump-start in obtaining an associate degree, earn certificates to upgrade job skills or save money by taking courses closer to home from their four-year university.

Triton's summer schedule:

- First Five-Week Session – Classes begin Tuesday, May 28.
- Eight-Week Session – Classes begin Monday, June 10.
- Second Five-Week Session – Classes begin Monday, July 1.

Triton College offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs in state-of-the-art facilities to prepare students to meet the needs of today's global economy. The college's Adult Education Department offers programming to assist adults who wish to earn a high school diploma, learn English, connect to employment and job training opportunities, and more. Triton also offers high school students an opportunity to get on the fast track to earning college credit while still in high school through its Dual Credit Program.

Students in need of academic accommodations due to a medical condition or alternative abilities are encouraged to contact Triton's Center for Access and Accommodative Services. Learn more at triton.edu/caas.

Triton College takes pride in offering an affordable education. Information about financial aid is available at triton.edu/admissions-aid.

For more information, please contact admissions@triton.edu. To register for summer courses, visit triton.edu/summer.

Triton College Women Share Their Stories

In honor of Women's History Month, the Triton College Library is hosting Triton Women Share Their Stories, March 11-15, 11 a.m., in the Triton College Library Upper Commons.

Five Triton College representatives will share their stories:

- **Monday, March 11** – Dr. Kennedy Strickland-Dixon, '92, Triton adjunct instructor.
- **Tuesday, March 12** – Cassandra Hutchinson, web systems analyst.
- **Wednesday, March 13** – Kristine McCall, director of the Cernan Earth and Space Center.
- **Thursday, March 14** – Shelley Tiwari, director of Faculty Development and Student Success.
- **Friday, March 15** – Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

This is the second consecutive year the Triton College Library will host Triton Women Share Their Stories. The event is open to the public.

"When a wise woman speaks, smart people listen and learn from her,"

– Gift Gufu Mona, Woman of Virtue

For more information, contact librarians@triton.edu.

Observe the Partial Solar Eclipse at the Cernan Center

Prepare to experience one of nature's greatest spectacles on Monday, April 8, 2024, when a total solar eclipse will sweep across the continental United States. While totality will not be visible from the Chicago area, Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center is hosting an event to safely observe 93% of the sun eclipsed, weather permitting.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and

Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun, according to Kris McCall, director of Triton's Cernan Center.



"The rare occasions of solar eclipses, even just partial, become extra special when they are visible from your location," said Wayne Foster, an educator at the Cernan Center's Planetarium. "Watching the moon move slowly in front of the sun, through safe eclipse viewing glasses, of course, has filled so many with a sense of awe and wonder at the majesty of our universe and our place in the cosmos."

After this year, "the next total solar eclipse to cross the United States will not be until 2045," added McCall. "We want everyone to witness this eclipse in 2024 instead of waiting 21 years for your next opportunity."

In preparation for the 2024 solar eclipse, Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center will feature the show, *ECLIPSE: The Sun Revealed*, in its Planetarium starting March 1, 2024. This dramatic program explores the history and cultural views of eclipses, the unique geometry that causes eclipses, how to view a solar eclipse and shares the firsthand account of one eclipse chaser's experiences traveling to see a total solar eclipse in another country.

"Along with understanding the science, history and culture of this event, safety is the number one priority when it comes to observing the sun. Special eye protection designed for direct solar viewing is required and is already available for purchase at the Cernan Center's Star Store," said McCall. "Solar eclipse glasses and viewing cards cost just \$1.80 each, and the center is offering quantity discounts to schools, senior centers, scouts and other groups."

All ages are encouraged to come view the 93% partial solar eclipse from the Cernan Earth and Space Center on the Triton College campus. The projected schedule for the April 8 event is as follows:

- **9:30 a.m.** – The Cernan Center's Box Office and Star Store will open to sell Planetarium tickets and eclipse glasses, along with other merchandise.
 - **Noon-3:30 p.m.** – Weather permitting, visitors will observe the partial solar eclipse, which will begin at 12:51 p.m. CDT, as seen from Triton College. telescopes with full aperture solar filters and a variety of indirect viewing methods will be provided for all to enjoy. Over the next hour, more and more of the sun's bright disk will be blocked by the moon. Maximum eclipse will occur at 2:07 p.m. CDT. After that time, the moon will appear to cover less and less of the sun's disk until "last contact" at the end of the partial phase at 3:22 p.m. CDT.
 - ***ECLIPSE: The Sun Revealed*** will be showing in the Planetarium at 11:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 12:50 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$4 each for all ages.
 - After maximum eclipse, *Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon Cosmic Light Show* will be presented in the Planetarium at 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$5 each.
 - Throughout the afternoon enjoy music outdoors, watch livestreaming video of totality indoors, and make and take UV bracelets in the Cernan Center lobby.
- For information about Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center, visit triton.edu/Cernan.

For information all about solar and lunar eclipses, including interactive location maps, images, history and more, check out triton.edu/Cernan/eclipse.



Want to make a difference in your community?



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH RSVP

Put your talents and experience to work with the RSVP Volunteer Program of West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties. We can help by identifying volunteer opportunities in your community.

You can:

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

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

- Free membership in a national organization.
- A quarterly newsletter.
- Mileage reimbursement upon request.
- Supplemental auto insurance.
- Invitation to volunteer appreciation events.
- A feeling of accomplishment by giving back to the community and feeling good about yourself.

For more information, call the RSVP Volunteer Program at Triton College, (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3599, or email us at RSVP@triton.edu.

Triton College Active Retired Citizens Club

Looking for something to do in your retirement? Want to make new friends? Triton College's Active Retired Citizens Club is a social club that provides activities and networking opportunities to adults who are young at heart and want to expand their social and intellectual life.

For more information, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3896.



Presented by the Triton College Automotive Technology Department and Admissions Department.

**Wish Triton College a happy anniversary at our
Community Block Party and participate in one of
Triton's most popular events — the Car Show!**

Sunday, April 28, 2024

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Triton College West Campus

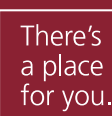
Fifth Avenue and Hemingway Drive

Check out dozens of classic cars and big rigs, then take a tour
of Triton's incredible Automotive Technology facilities.

FREE ADMISSION * CONCESSIONS * GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**For more information or to register your vehicle, please visit
triton.edu/carshow.**

In case of inclement weather, alternate date will be Sunday, May 5, 2024.



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triton.edu

Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.



—♦— *The Legacy Lives On!* —♦—

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For more than 50 years the mission of **Al Piemonte Ford** has been to treat our customers, employees and shoppers with professionalism and courtesy.

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Show Your Support for Our Veterans and Those Currently Serving Our Country! **Call the Village Hall Today to Reserve a Flag in Their Honor**



In 2014, Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Youth Commission launched Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags campaign and we're continuing our efforts.

Flags representing the United States of America, the state of Illinois, the village of Melrose Park, the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marines, United States Coast Guard, 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.



NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

D89 Community Service for MLK with Rock of Ages.



District STEM Family Night



A Special Thank You



Thanks to the generous donations of Mayor Ron Serpico, The Necahual Foundation, Rincon Family Services in collaboration with Rep. Norma Hernandez and Los Comales, all Melrose Park School students were able to receive a gift. Santa stopped by Melrose Park School along with our amazing benefactors to hand out presents to the children.

Our Mustang Leaders also did a wonderful job helping their community by running a hat, scarf and glove drive to help children in need during the cold winter months.

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

D89 Athletics Brief



Irving Boys JV Basketball Team wins IESA Regional Crown by defeating Cicero Unity 40-27.



Anthony Powell received the Sportsmanship Award for his play in the IESA Regionals.



Irving (photo, left) and Stevenson (photo, right) cheer squads – IESA State Competition participants.

School District 89 Parent Advisory Council Meeting



Stevenson Middle School ... A Very Warm Place

Stevenson Middle School is a very warm place. A place full of life and joy, students succeeding with tests and quizzes, and teachers doing what they do best. This school is a place for children to be themselves and have fun. Where teachers can connect with their students.

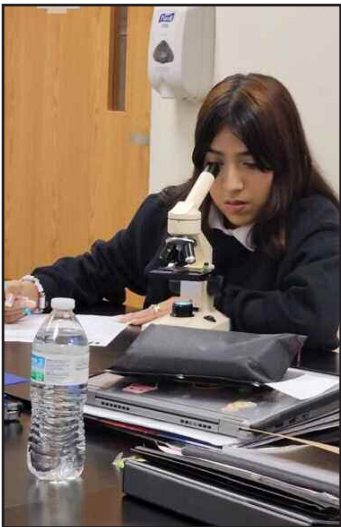
We went around and interviewed some students and teachers, asking them, "What do you love about Stevenson Middle School?" And the feedback was sensational. A student named Julieta Gonzalez had quite the bunch to say "I enjoy the school staff; they are kind and helpful. I also really like the incentives, such as out-of-uniform days, which we get rewarded by showing good behavior."

We also got feedback from Tammy Smith, one of the seventh grade teachers on the same question, she responded with a heartwarming answer, "The amazing teachers and students, they are all respectful and helpful in many ways." As you can tell, our teachers really like the school.

We began to interview the seventh grade reading teacher, Danielle Chepela. Fun fact about her – she studied abroad in Russia! And she responded with, "I enjoy the good co-workers, the delightful students and of course the complex school Library!"

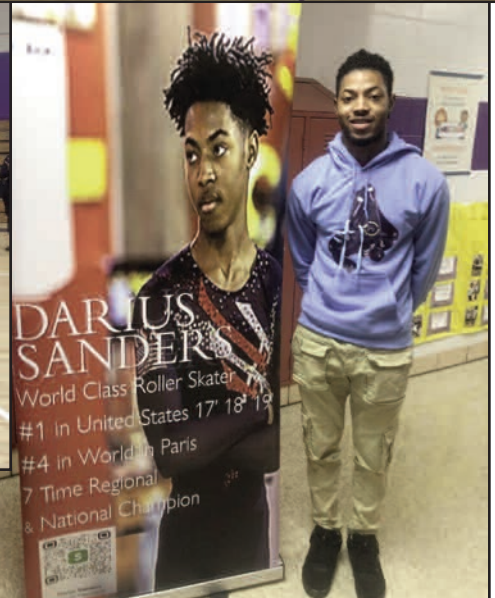
As you can see, Stevenson School has many concepts to enjoy and talk about. Which is why Stevenson Middle School is beloved and cherished by many!

Co-authored by: Giulianna Adame, Cindy Banos, Anna Kachappilly and Meraly Rodriguez.

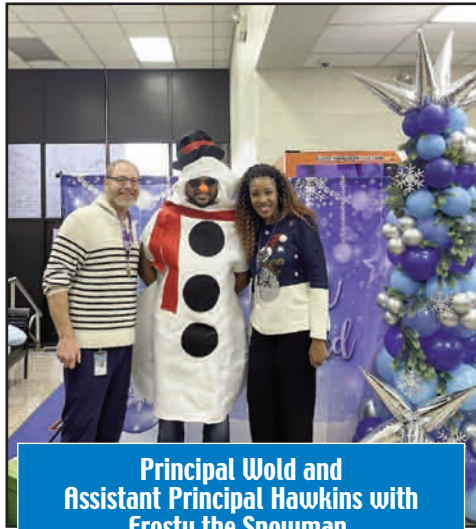


NEWS89 School District89BRIEFS

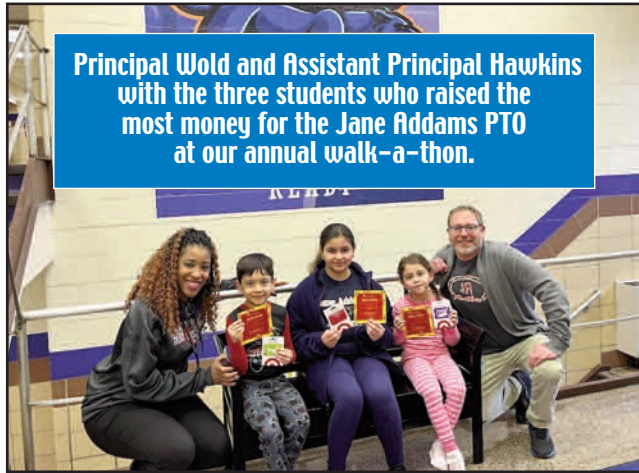
D89 Family Night – Cultivating Healthy Bodies and Minds



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Principal Wold and Assistant Principal Hawkins with Frosty the Snowman.



Principal Wold and Assistant Principal Hawkins with the three students who raised the most money for the Jane Addams PTO at our annual walk-a-thon.

Jane Addams School Briefs, Etc.

Jane Addams had their annual PTO Winter Wonderland on Dec. 19 for students, parents and staff to help raise money. Everyone had an amazing time!



Jane Addams girl's basketball team posing after a big win.



Jane Addams boy's basketball team members getting ready for game time.

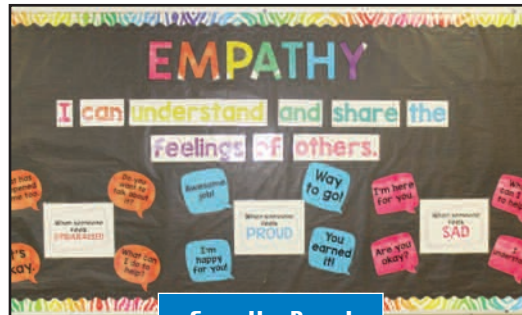


Jane Addams cheerleaders showing off their spirit.

Our Jane Addams sports teams that have competed this winter. They worked so hard at both practice and games.



Gratitude Board



Empathy Board



Making Friendship Board

Each month we have a social-emotional learning theme. It is important to teach children how to make friends. We taught our students all about showing gratitude and what it means to have empathy.

Garfield Celebrates 100th Day of School ...



Garfield Elementary just celebrated its 100th day of school! Our kindergartners are learning foundational math skills and were asked to creatively represent the number 100 as a poster. All scholars were able to celebrate 100th day in their own expressive way. Looking at the pictures ... we think they understood the assignment! We love our Giants!



We were so excited to welcome Cody the Therapy Dog into our STARS' classrooms. The presence of therapy dogs in elementary schools can greatly enhance social and emotional learning (SEL) for students.

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

BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM

Research shows learning an additional language is beneficial to both language and brain development.

Students who participate in the Dual Language Program have the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy in high school.

What is the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy? Students who demonstrate high proficiency in English and Spanish language through testing will receive a seal on their high school diploma as well as a note on their high school transcript. They can earn credits toward colleges and universities post-secondary. This honor can be used to distinguish students in college admissions, scholarship opportunities, and the job market.



Scan to fill out an application for WDLA.

708-450-2065

jill.zapata@maywood89.org

lourdes.perez@maywood89.org

<https://washington.maywood89.org>

WASHINGTON DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

The English-Spanish Two-Way Dual Language Program allows students in prekindergarten through eighth grade to learn in Spanish and in English. Each classroom is comprised of native English-speakers and native Spanish-speakers. The richness of our diverse student population is an added bonus for our community.

Now Enrolling Preschool For All Registrando Ahora Preescolar Para Todos

Apply online: www.maywood89.org/preschool
Applique en línea: www.maywood89.org/preschool

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- Preparase para kinder
- Desarrollo de lenguaje
- Destrezas sociales y de salud
- Oportunidades para que los padres se involucren y educación para los padres



3-5 YEARS OLD
3-5 AÑOS



2.5 hour AM & PM
Classes
Clases de AM & PM
de 2.5 horas



MONDAY-FRIDAY
LUNES-VIERNES

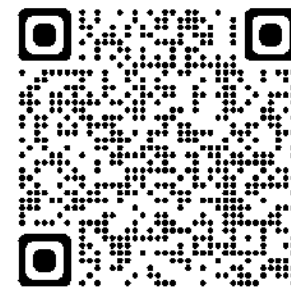
Screening dates are held
throughout the school year.



DISTRICT 89

MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW

Revised January 2024



SCAN ME

On Behalf of Melrose Park Free Methodist Church, We Would Like to Wish You a Happy New Year!

All are welcome to join us on Sundays, 11:15 a.m., 841 Elsie Dr. (corner of Ninth Ave. and Elsie Dr.).

We resolve to learn more about God in 2024!

For more information, please contact Rev. Jim Pagani at (708) 343-2386 or email melroseparkfmchurch@aol.com.



HAPPY EASTER! JOIN US FOR OUR FREE EGG HUNT!

All are welcome to come on by for our 22nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Sunday, March 31 • 10:30 a.m. – Arrive early ... This is a ready, set, go hunt!

The hunt will take place at the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church, 841 Elsie Dr., Melrose Park.

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

Need a Place to Meet?

Is your church, organization or group looking for a place to meet?

If so, we may be able to help you! We are located in Melrose Park at 841 Elsie Dr.

Reasonable rent, solid reputation in the community and easy to find building!

For more information, call (708) 343 2386.

Time for Some Fun! Well, How Good Did You Do?

Remember this photo from the last issue of *The Rose*? It's the Proviso East High School freshman baseball team circa 1972.



We wanted to have a little fun and see if you were able to identify the full team or even a majority of the players.

After doing some serious research and talking with a few of the pictured players, here's what we came up with: bottom row (left to right) – Tom Knack, Ralph Serpico, Barry Heinz, Charles Lewis, Dan Nickolson and Catrese Carswell; second row (left to right) – Emilio Reyes, Rocco Marzullo, Allen Scheiker, Scott Morgan, Phil Rueggar and Tom Griffen; third row (left to right) – Mike Sahly, Tom Osga, Anthony Cotton, Dan Williams, Emmit Clifton, John Gavelda and Clyde Bennish; and top row (left to right) – William Hannah, Doug Jazen, Ray Scannel, Steven Daudelin, Jim Crowley, Keth Dobberful, Allen Anderson, Jerry Montgomery and coach Dennis White. Well ... How did you do?

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

Greetings from Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel has remodeled its interior facilities. Now, we want to be a “home” of encounter prayer and interior conversion.

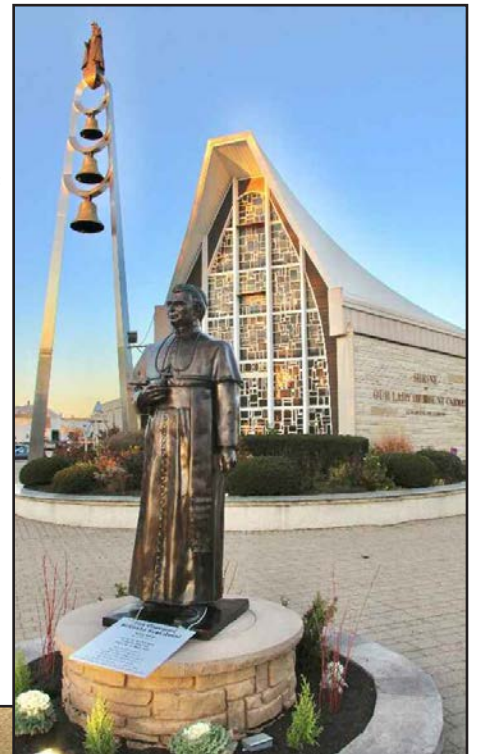
Currently, we are delighted to show that Our Lady of Mt. Carmel has a new floor, washed walls, repainted ceiling panels and new confessionals.

During last year’s Lent season, we remodeled our physical building. Now we want to be a space called home so people can interiorize and have a fresh redone new space where they can remodel and “convert” their soul into God’s home.

The conversion started with our church, an initiative to face the reality we needed to break ground. Reform! A word that might connect each Catholic to the season of Lent, a time where we are called to be more solemn. The sacrament of reconciliation – where we ask God for forgiveness – becomes more popular. The Stations of the Cross, a tradition often taking place on Fridays during Lent, allow us to pray with Jesus during his final hours.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will walk this journey of Lent, a journey of penance, reflecting about our missing pews and barren floors. A new begging for a time where society has changed, and we prepare our hearts to walk with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a home where everyone can be at home.

Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.
Pastor and Rector



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel March 2024 Special Masses and Events

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15 and 22 – Stations of the Cross, Trilingual in the Church, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8 – St. Anthony Annual Lenten Fish Fry, In the OLMC Gym, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
\$15 Donation (\$10 for Children Under 12)

Saturday, March 17 – Feast of St. Joseph, Italian Mass, 10:30 a.m.
Followed by Outdoor Procession and the Traditional St. Joseph’s Table (Donations accepted.)

Tuesday, March 19 – Easter Reconciliation, Community Confession, 7 p.m.
Followed by Outdoor Procession and the Traditional St. Joseph’s Table (Donations accepted.)

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday, Distribution of Palms at All Masses
Feast of Madonna del Arco • 10:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday, March 28 – Holy Thursday
Mass of the Last Supper – 6 p.m. (English and Italian)/8 p.m. (Spanish)
Pilgrimage to the Seven Churches (Bus departs from church at 7 p.m. Call the office to register – (708) 344-4140.)

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday
9 a.m.-Noon – Confession • 3 p.m. – Bilingual Service (English and Spanish)
4 p.m. – Via Crucis/Communion (Spanish) • 6 p.m. – Passione/Rosary-Liturgy Procession (Italian)

Saturday, March 30 – Easter Vigil, Trilingual Mass, 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter, Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

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

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel March / Lent 2024 Event Details

Stations of the Cross • Fridays, March 1, 8, 15 and 22

7:30 p.m. – Trilingual.

St. Anthony Society Annual Lenten Fish Fry • Friday, March 8

Enjoy an evening of food, fun and entertainment!

Feast on fish 'n 'chips, cole slaw, corn on the cob, coffee, soda and sweets. For an extra donation, there's a wine and beer bar! Dance the night away or just enjoy the sounds of live entertainment. Take your chance on a split-the-pot raffle or shop for St. Anthony religious items. The event runs 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the OLMC Parish Gym (22nd and Cortez, Melrose Park). Donation – \$15 (\$10 for children under 12).

Tickets Required – Call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140 or contact any St. Anthony Society member.

Feast of St. Joseph • Sunday, March 17

10:30 a.m. – Mass followed by an outdoor procession and the traditional St. Joseph Table. Donations accepted.

Easter Reconciliation • Tuesday, March 19

7 p.m. – Community confession.

Palm Sunday • Sunday, March 24

Distribution of palms at all Masses. Feast of Madonna del Arco – 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Holy Thursday • Thursday, March 28

The Mass of the Lord's Supper and the washing of the feet will be celebrated in English at 6 p.m. and in Spanish at 8 p.m.

After the 8 p.m. Mass, the Altar of Repose in the Shrine will remain open for adoration until midnight.

Altar & Rosary will be sponsoring a pilgrimage to seven churches, leaving immediately after the 6 p.m. Mass.

The bus will be outside of the church at 7 p.m., and will leave Mt. Carmel at approximately 7:15 p.m.

This year, seven churches on the north side of Chicago will be visited.

The list will be confirmed as all details become finalized.

Reservations are limited to the first 55 people and payment must be made at the time reservations are made.

Deadline to sign up is Monday, March 18, 2024.

The cost is approximately \$25 per person (covers the bus, the driver and any incidentals).

Call the Rectory for details or to make a reservation (708) 344-4140.

Good Friday – Via Crucis ... The Way of the Cross • Friday, March 29

9 a.m.-Noon – Confession • 3 p.m. Bilingual Service

4 p.m. – Via Crucis

The Hispanic community re-enacts the passion of the Lord with a procession through Melrose Park.

The procession starts at Melrose Park School on 17th and Rice, and proceeds through the town, ending at the Village Hall.

Come walk the Stations of the Cross with Jesus and feel the torture he endured as he carries his cross accompanied by the soldiers who walked with him and the ones riding horseback with their swords and shields.

6 p.m. – La Passione

Over 25 Italian societies that originally started the Comitato Venerdi' Santo, come to participate with the Italian community to continue the Good Friday traditions that are still carried out in Italy today.

The procession of banners into the church signals the start of the rosary, followed by reciting the *Lord's Passion* and *Veneration of the Cross*.

The presentation of Our Lady of Sorrow and Cristo Morto conclude the service.

As the band plays the funeral dirge, all banners and statues leave the church for a candlelight procession through the streets in town.

Easter Vigil • Saturday, March 30

Trilingual Mass – 8 p.m.

Easter • Sunday, March 31

Regular Sunday Mass schedule.



For more information,
on any of these OLMC events,
please call the Rectory
at (708) 344-4140.

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

PALM SUNDAY | March 23 / March 24

4:30pm (SAT) English Palm Sunday Mass at **Sacred Heart**
6:00pm (SAT) Spanish Palm Sunday Mass at **Sacred Heart**
8:30am English Palm Sunday Mass at **Sacred Heart**
10:30am Spanish Palm Sunday Mass at **Sacred Heart**
10:30am English Palm Sunday Mass at **St. Eulalia**
12:30pm Spanish Palm Sunday Mass at **St. Eulalia**
7:00pm Bilingual Palm Sunday Mass at **Sacred Heart**

HOLY THURSDAY | March 28

8:00am Prayer Service at **Sacred Heart**
7:00pm English Mass of the Lord's Supper at **Sacred Heart**
7:00pm Spanish Mass of the Lord's Supper at **St. Eulalia**

GOOD FRIDAY | March 29

8:00am Prayer Service at **Sacred Heart**
3:00pm English Stations of the Cross at **Sacred Heart**
3:00pm Spanish Stations of the Cross at **St. Eulalia**
7:00pm English Liturgical Service at **Sacred Heart**
7:00pm Spanish Liturgical Service at **St. Eulalia**

HOLY SATURDAY | March 30

8:00am Prayer Service (Laudes) at **Sacred Heart**
10:00am Blessing of the Food at **St. Eulalia**
3:00pm Blessing of the Food at **Sacred Heart**
7:00pm English Easter Vigil Mass at **Sacred Heart**
7:00pm Spanish Easter Vigil Mass at **St. Eulalia**



EASTER SUNDAY | March 31

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

Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish

ST. JOSEPH TABLE

Dinner & Desserts

Saturday
March 16, 2024

5:00pm to
8:00pm

Monetary
Donations
Accepted
at the Door

Cash Raffle

1st Prize - \$600

2nd Prize - \$400

3rd Prize - \$200

The Raffle Drawing will be held
Saturday, March 16, 2024

Winners need not be present to win
Tickets available at Parish Office



Sacred Heart Church
Marian Hall (Church Basement)
15th Ave & Iowa St.
Melrose Park, IL
708-344-0757

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fridays During Lent: Stations of the Cross

7:00pm English at **Sacred Heart**. 7:00pm Spanish at **St. Eulalia**.

First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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



Second Saturday Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Every Second Saturday of the month 3:00pm at **St. Eulalia**.

Thursday Adoration and Confession

March 7th & 21st at **St. Eulalia**. March 14th & 28th at **Sacred Heart**.



Women's Club Camaraderie Meeting on Friday, March 8

7:00pm in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**. Bring a snack to share!

Anointing of the Sick Service & Thursday Adoration

March 21st 7:00pm at **St. Eulalia**.



Breakfast Hosted by Parish Book Club on Palm Sunday

March 24 from 9:00am—12:00pm in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**.

Pozole Hosted by Parish Book Club on Saturday, April

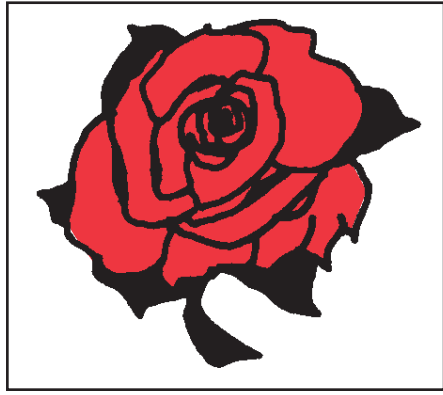
5:00pm—8:00pm in **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**.



Visit our website at **shsparish.org**.

Parish Phone: **708-344-0757**

Parish Email: **shseparish@archchicago.org**



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.

St. Joseph Day Table



**FOR
ADDITIONAL
DETAILS
REGARDING
THIS YEAR'S
EVENT,
PLEASE
CALL
(708)
343-2162.**

**Friday March 15, 2024 Noon-8:00pm
Missionary Sisters of St. Charles
Melrose Park Senior Building
900 N. 25th Avenue Melrose Park
Monetary Donations Accepted at Door**



A Message from Tim Bouman, Head of School

Greetings, Walther Family! – At a recent faculty devotion before school, we were contemplating the Transfiguration. It was a beautiful “mountaintop experience.” Peter wanted to stay up on that otherworldly, shining mountain. But after an appropriate time, Jesus led them back down into the real world – of a “demon-possessed boy” and, eventually, the cross. School can be like that sometimes. We have our mountaintop experiences, those events and experiences that are real highs, like the Gospel Choir lifting our spirits in Campfire, our girl’s basketball team dominating the opposition at Senior Night, a student finally “getting it” and acing a test, or the thrill of the whole school wearing our “Shine” T-shirts and doing a service project together. We need those moments and they sustain us. Because, like Peter, Lutheran school workers spend a lot of time down in the valley doing the really hard work, which is not always recognized and can be frequently difficult.

The Transfiguration has its limitations as a metaphor for a Lutheran school, I know! But it is a good reminder that a life in Christ has both brilliant beauty and a cross to bear. At Walther, we rejoice in our mini-mountaintop experiences and remember to “not grow weary in doing good” when the work is hard. Fortunately, our students give us a lot to celebrate! Please keep Walther in your prayers and thanks for all your support.

A Message from Sally Ruecking, Director of Advancement

Dear Walther Friends – We are busy! Our Bronco Benefit on Saturday, Feb. 24 at Maggiano’s in Schaumburg, Ill., is a benefit where our guests are treated to music provided by Walther student musicians and singers.

We are so grateful for our sponsors of this year’s event, who allow us to continue to support our students through scholarships and financial assistance throughout the year. Sponsorships also mean that donations from auction items and ticket sales will be used to directly support our students and school.

Many thanks to our Bronco Benefit 2024 sponsors – Jay Christopher, Concordia University Chicago, Old National Bank, Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, Village of Melrose Park, Scott Christopher, Best Packaging, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation and Frank Urso.

Additionally, we are grateful to all of the companies, organizations, and individuals who generously donated auction items.

And, our annual report for the fiscal year 2022-2023 has been completed! This report features some of our students and their activities throughout the year, as well as recognizes all of you who supported us with your gifts between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. It is because of your generosity that Walther can continue to offer a first-class education and all of the extracurricular opportunities each year.

Please visit <https://www.walther.com/annual-report-2022-2023/> to view the annual report on our website and enjoy reading about our students and our school.

Thank you for being a part of our Walther community!

Meet Head Football Coach Brad Hytrek

Brad Hytrek was recently hired as Walther’s head football coach. Coach Hytrek brings a wealth of experience coaching high school football at schools throughout Chicagoland, including Taft, Loyola Academy, Lake View and Westinghouse High School. We are excited that our new coach has the energy and passion to develop our players’ skills and performance, and to develop a team approach to winning. He has a track record of instilling discipline and hard work in all of his athletes. “While points on the scoreboard matter in the game, scores in the classroom matter as well,” explains Coach Hytrek as he describes his coaching philosophy. “I will partner with school administration and parents to ensure that our student-athletes are meeting those expectations.” Coach Hytrek emphasizes key values, such as trust, perseverance and respect. He was a former football player and knows the value of having a caring and dedicated coach who will make a lasting impact on a student. We wish our new coach well as he writes the next chapter of Bronco football and is promising to return the program to success that our Walther Community can once again be proud of. Go Broncos!



Brad Hytrek

Meet Matthew Swan, Senior

Matt is a great example of a student who has taken advantage of all the opportunities at Walther. For nearly four years he has been involved in Cross Country, Art Club, Drama, Christian Minstrels, Jazz Band, Pep Band and Baseball, which is his favorite sport.

Matt is excited to be attending Eureka College in Eureka, Ill., which is a small Christian college. Matthew came to Walther from the Westchester Public Schools and felt Walther was a smaller school with strong academics and many after-school activities to choose from, and feels that Eureka would offer a similar experience. His brother Michael attended Walther as well and is now attending Valparaiso University. Matt has spoken to Eureka’s representatives who visited Walther and made a campus visit that helped him make his decision.

He will be majoring in communication and media studies, focusing on broadcasting, and hopes to double-major in sports management. He has received a large scholarship based on his academics and has a spot on the baseball team with an additional scholarship. Matthew is working hard on a 4.0 GPA that will allow him to apply for the Ronald Reagan Scholarship, which will waive his entire tuition if he is accepted. President Ronald Reagan attended Eureka, graduating with degrees in economics and sociology. Matt already is looking at graduate schools to work on an MBA after Eureka! All the best to Matt and all of our 2023-2024 graduating seniors.



Matthew Swan

Upcoming Walther Christian Academy Events

Career Day, Friday, March 22, 2024 – This year, we would like to encourage more participation from alumni who graduated in the past 20 years and have never participated in Career Day. If you have wondered about the ways that you can support the students at Walther by sharing your “story” – this opportunity might be for you!

Our Career Day features Walther alumni who speak about their jobs and the steps they took to get to where they are today. We also have a College Fair featuring traditional colleges and universities, as well as trade schools.

If you are comfortable with public speaking and work in the following fields, please email Sally_Ruecking@WaltherAcademy.org. Fields we are seeking include:

- Education.
- Church work.
- Science.
- The arts (music, graphic design, journalism, etc.).
- Medical fields (including veterinary science).
- Sales and marketing.
- IT.
- Environmental studies.
- Philanthropy.
- Trades.

Bucking Bronco 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, June 1, 2024 – Come to walk, run, or even stroll through the Melrose Park neighborhood and our field. Enjoy a fun event filled with music, food and friendship! Please put this on your calendar and invite your friends and family to join in on the fun!

Alumni Dinner and Concert, Reunions and More – Spend the weekend of Oct. 25-26 with Walther Christian Academy. On Friday, Oct. 25, we will be hosting our annual Alumni Dinner at the school. You will be treated to a self-guided tour of Walther, a great dinner, a band, and a concert that you can even participate in ... and private reunion classrooms to kick off your reunion weekend! Last year, we hosted two class reunions that enjoyed wine and light appetizers in private classrooms, giving classmates a chance to reconnect.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, join us for a brief chapel service and then please cheer on the Bronco football team led by our new coach ... Broncos vs. Westmont! Most reunions gather on Saturday evening at a local restaurant or hotel ... start planning now! If you need contact information for your classmates by year, please email Sally_Ruecking@WaltherAcademy.org for a list.

Purchase a Paver!

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

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

Visit Walther.com and click on “Donate” for more information.



A Message from Norma Hernandez Illinois State Representative 77th District

Hernandez Lays Out 2024 Legislative Priorities

State Rep. Norma Hernandez, D-Melrose Park, is announcing her goals for the 2024 legislative session—highlighting issues such as housing, healthcare access, government transparency, education and addressing the difficulties posed by the ongoing spike in migrant arrivals.



*Illinois State Representative
Norma Hernandez*

“This year, I’m continuing to embrace our focus on getting the state back to work for working families,” Hernandez said. “Part of that is working to ensure that families have access to housing, access to care, public administration they can trust and rely on, and good schools for their kids. At the same time, we’ve all seen the situation unfolding in Chicago and the suburbs, with families just like ours continuing to arrive from Texas and elsewhere.

One bill Hernandez is continuing to pursue is House Bill 1377, which would create a 50% property tax exemption for newly constructed homes in eligible areas of Cook County or any other Illinois county that chooses to participate, for the first 10 years that it is occupied by the original owner. The intent of the bill is to encourage the construction of new housing, which Hernandez and others hope will help increase supply and counteract rising home prices.

“Families are the bedrock of the communities that make up Illinois and concentrating on making sure they have their needs met and access to opportunities is good for everyone,” Hernandez said. “When families thrive, so do communities. And that’s how we keep Illinois moving forward.”

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

Cook County Announces Call for Transportation and Community Grant Program Applications

Applications are Due March 22 for Programs that Promote Economic Development, Public Services and Transportation Improvements Throughout the County

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced a call for applications for the county's Department of Transportation and Highway's (DoTH) "Invest in Cook" grant program to assist communities with transportation infrastructure improvements. In conjunction, the county's Bureau of Economic Development (BED) is also accepting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to support economic development in the county through capital improvement, public service and emergency solution grant (ESG) programs.



*Cook County Commissioner
Frank J. Aguilar*

Department of Transportation and Highways Invest in Cook Grant Program

For the eighth year in a row, DoTH will make available \$8.5 million in Invest in Cook infrastructure grants to help prioritize transit and other transportation alternatives, support the region's role as North America's freight capital, promote equal access to opportunities, maintain and modernize what already exists, and increase investments in transportation.

Bureau of Economic Development Community Development Block Grant Program

These programs are designed to support street and sewer improvements, HVAC and roof repairs/replacements, as well as social service and homeless prevention needs in income-eligible areas of suburban Cook County. In 2023, over \$8.6 million was awarded to 72 applicants across all three programs.

How to Apply Invest in Cook

The application deadline for Invest in Cook is Friday, March 22, 2024, 5 p.m. CST.



Debra Fiorito Named 16th District's Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award Winner

Cook County's 2024 Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award winners have been chosen. Representing the 16th District is Debra Fiorito. Mrs. Fiorito, who currently lives in unincorporated Melrose Park, was chosen by 16th District elected officials, including 16th District County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar, 16th District Commissioner on Women's Issues Claudia Ayala, Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio and Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen. Mrs. Fiorito is one of 18 total award winners throughout Cook County who will be celebrated during an award ceremony in March.

"It was my pleasure to select Mrs. Fiorito as the 16th District's Unsung Heroine Award winner," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "I have known Debra to be a focused and proactive community leader, someone who sees her goals and initiatives through to the end. Her priority is her community, and I know she will continue to do great things for the 16th District."

Given to one woman in each of Cook County's 17 Districts, plus one countywide winner, the Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award seeks to honor outstanding women throughout Cook County who have made positive contributions in their communities. Any woman, as long as they are not an elected official, can be nominated. This award is designed to recover and tell the story of the powerful impact women have had throughout history on the development of our social, cultural, economic and political institutions.

"Debra Fiorito is a lifelong public servant and community leader," said Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio. "Her involvement in the community is decades-long, beginning when she organized local moms from the neighborhood to revitalize an area on Mannheim Road by successfully advocating for the removal of an adult entertainment establishment. Through the collective power of women and community organizing, Debra has contributed so much to so many."

Mrs. Fiorito joined the Parent Teacher Association and raised significant funding for local school programs. In 1994, she was elected as village clerk of Franklin Park as the first woman to serve in the position and went on to serve two consecutive terms. While Mrs. Fiorito has dedicated her life to educational and family initiatives, all while raising three children, she continued to stay involved as a Lions Club member and appointee for the Redevelopment of Mannheim Road, a local revitalization project.

All award winners will be honored at a countywide ceremony on Friday, March 8, at the Chicago Cultural Welcome Center. Then, on Friday, March 15, Mrs. Fiorito will be honored during the Third Annual 16th District Women's Power Brunch in Franklin Park. Also in attendance will be women elected officials from throughout Leyden Township. There, 16th District women leaders will be able to promote and collaborate on their initiatives and goals, while giving space to honor all those who have impacted our community for the better.

"The collective power of the Cook County Women's Issues Commission is real and evident from the commission's impactful and historical work since its inception in 1995. In this role, I have learned to identify what makes us different, and more importantly, what makes us come together to strengthen communities and each other," said 16th District Commissioner on Women's Issues Claudia Ayala. "What I love about each year is embracing the district in which the selected honoree comes from and everything about their issues and solutions, from the city of Berwyn, to the village of Lyons, every special place has an unsung heroine that is known to all, loved and respected for who they are and what they do for all those around them. I look forward to honoring Mrs. Fiorito alongside Cook County Commissioner Aguilar, Leyden Supervisor Biscaglio, Franklin Park Mayor Pedersen, and the women of Leyden Township and Franklin Park."

"I am both humbled and honored to receive this award," Mrs. Fiorito said. "Thank you to everyone who thought of me."

Cook County Celebrates Small Business Grants Awarded to 3,000 Recipients

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar joined County President Toni Preckwinkle, commissioners John Daley, Bill Lowry, Alma Anaya, Kevin Morrison, Tara Stamps, Bridget Degnen, small business owners, business support organizations and other partners at The Hatchery to celebrate the distribution of the 2023 Source Grant. The program represents a historic \$50 million investment in both city neighborhoods and suburban communities through the Cook County Small Business Source.

"Small businesses make Cook County run. We know who owns them, we know who works there. We are their neighbors, friends, and members of the same community," said Commissioner Aguilar. "This grant will deliver support for businesses that have been overlooked and under supported. When businesses succeed, particularly small businesses, communities succeed. It has been a pleasure to work closely with small-business owners and local chambers of commerce to expand the reach of this initiative and to ensure everyone who wants to apply has the access and tools needed to be successful."

Established in 2020, the Source provides coaching and guidance to entrepreneurs through one-on-one business advising services led by a network of 50+ business support organizations, through webinars and live events, and through a library of resources to support every business from a start-up to the seasoned entrepreneur.

After an application process that saw over 16,000 applications, the program's grant administrators – the Women's Business Development Center and Allies for Community Business – confirmed eligibility and submission of required documentation. Administrators then utilized a lottery process to select the 3,000 recipients from the pool of eligible applications.

"Cook County's small businesses have faced uncharted waters in the post-pandemic economy, and this grant provides the stability they need to thrive in 2024 and beyond," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Small businesses have shown a unique tenacity and staying power in surviving the pandemic, and they are important assets to our community."

To learn more, visit the Cook County Small Business Source website at www.cookcountysmallbiz.org.



Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Hosts Three Kings Celebration



On Friday, Jan. 5, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar hosted a Three Kings Celebration at his district office. Over 50 families and 100 children were present, receiving toys, drinking hot chocolate, and eating Rosca de Reyes with fellow members of their community. Partnering with Commissioner Aguilar were Rincon Family Services, who distributed community resources to residents. Also in attendance was Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, who spoke with attendees and joined Commissioner Aguilar for a media session.

"I'd like to thank Chicagoland Toys for Tots for helping make sure all children receive a toy this holiday season. I'd like to thank President Preckwinkle for her continued support for our residents and for being a true fighter for our district. I also want to say how grateful I am for Rincon Family Services for being on site for this event and for all they do for our district," said Commissioner Aguilar. "This is a wonderful time for residents to come together and celebrate our community and the things that unite us."

Three Kings Day, also known as the Feast of Epiphany, celebrates the last of the 12 days of Christmas. The holiday celebrates the biblical tale in which the three kings or three wise men, visit baby Jesus after his birth. In keeping with the Chicano culture of many 16th District residents, Rosca de Reyes, a sweet bread meant to represent a king's crown that is a mile long, was also available for residents to enjoy. Children were able to receive toys as well, which were donated by Chicagoland's Toys for Tots organization.

"I am proud to be in the 16th District to celebrate Three Kings Day," said President Preckwinkle. "It is a holiday celebrated widely within Cook County communities and a time when children are given gifts to celebrate – while everyone enjoys some Rosca de Reyes. In that spirit, it is a joy to give to the children who need it most."

"The fabric of family, community and collaboration runs deep in our community," said Rincon Family Services President and CEO Eddy Berrayo. "It is always an honor to participate in community events that bring family, community organizations and community leaders together. The Three Kings Celebration embodies a long tradition in the Latino community of hope, prosperity and joy."





News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Secretary of State Giannoulias Reveals 2023 License Plate Naughty List

More Than 300 Plates Rejected for Profanity, Offensive Language or Illegibility

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias rejected more than 304 vanity and personalized license plates this year that were deemed too obscene or defamatory.

The Secretary of State's Office received 54,768 requests for vanity and personalized plates in 2023, including the 304 that were denied because of their inflammatory or offensive nature or because they were difficult to read.

"I appreciate the creativity and pride Illinoisans take in choosing their own customized license plates, but they must meet the standards of good taste and decency," Giannoulias said. "We keep an eye out for anything tawdry, lewd or offensive, all of which are rejected and placed on our permanent rejection list.

"The Secretary of State's Office oversees the process by which Illinoisans may request specific vanity or personalized license plates for their vehicles. A small team of employees reviews each request.

According to state law, Giannoulias' office has the authority to reject any application for personalized or vanity plates that "creates a connotation that is offensive to good taste and decency" as stated in Illinois' Vehicle Code.

The office flags combinations of letters and numbers that can be construed as lewd or offensive, including expletives, racial epithets, sex and drug references, and allusions to violence.

Most of the rejected plates contained some sort of profanity or crude language. In some cases, like XKXKKXK or QOOQQOO, plates were rejected in 2023 because they are difficult to read and could pose problems for law enforcement.

The Secretary of State's Office maintains an ever-growing rejection list, which currently stands at more than 7,674 license plate combinations deemed offensive or difficult to read.

Illinois vehicle owners pay an extra \$94 for a new vanity plate, which contains all letters. They pay an extra \$47 for a new personalized plate, which is a combination of letters and numbers.

Currently, there is a total of 811,351 vehicles registered in Illinois with vanity or personalized license plates to Illinoisans. Of this number, 279,500 are vanity plates and 531,851 of the plates are personalized plates.

Most Illinoisans use the office's popular Pick-a-Plate feature on the website – apps.ilsos.gov/pickaplate – which allows the applicant to type in different combinations of letters or letters and numbers to see if they are available for purchase.

Giannoulias Announces \$1.4 Million in Grants to Support 2,713 Illinois Public School Libraries

Grant Funds Will Support Student Learning by Providing Valuable Resources and Services

Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias is awarding more than \$1.4 million to qualifying public school districts to the benefit of 2,713 school libraries throughout Illinois.

The grants, awarded once every fiscal year, will support school library services for 1.2 million students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Resources and services provided through the grant include library books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, multilingual materials, technology and programs.

"It's imperative that all Illinois students have access to necessary resources, including reading materials and learning services at our public school libraries," Giannoulias said. "School libraries serve as places of learning and discovery. These funds will ensure that our libraries are well-equipped to educate and inspire our future generations."

Based on a statutory formula, school districts receive \$0.885 per student for their enrollment at each school having a qualified library. Funding for the program originates from the General Reserve Fund and is appropriated for this purpose by the Illinois General Assembly.

"The members of the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) are pleased to receive these generous grants from Secretary Giannoulias to expand our libraries with a more robust offering of resources and services," said West Leyden High School librarian and President of AISLE Janine Asmus, which provides leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of the school library media profession and programs to

promote lifelong learning for the students of Illinois.

“This funding will allow library staff to maintain and bolster school library educational offerings, ensuring that all Illinois students have the opportunity to learn and explore their interests,” Amus said. “All of us at AISLE are most appreciative of the continuous support of our secretary of state and state librarian, Alexi Giannoulias.”

To view a list of the school libraries that received funding, visit https://www.ilsos.gov/news/2023/december/fy24_sdlgp_awards.pdf.

Giannoulias to Illinois Drivers: Ditch the DMV

Modernization, New Efficiencies Eliminate Most In-Person DMV Visits

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias told Illinois motorists recently to stay away from the DMV.

That’s because Illinoisans can now obtain more DMV services and complete more transactions online. In addition, Giannoulias unveiled a series of new measures aimed at reducing wait times if a DMV visit is required.

“Don’t come to the DMV, skip the trip!” Giannoulias said. “The truth is that most people no longer need to even come to a DMV because the services they need are available with just a few clicks. Our efforts to modernize the office and create efficiencies have led to a ‘Do-it-Online, Skip-the-Line’ approach, which saves Illinoisans time and headaches.”

Giannoulias noted that 2.25 million Illinoisans will need their driver’s license or state ID renewed in 2024. Of those, more than 1 million, or nearly half, have the ability to renew online.

In 2023, there were just over 1 million Illinois drivers who were part of the state’s “safe driver” program (those with clean driving records without a moving violation) that had the option of renewing without having to visit a DMV. Of those safe drivers, approximately 400,000 renewed online, 60,000 renewed by mail and 30,000 renewed over the phone, but nearly 560,000, more than 50%, visited a DMV unnecessarily.

The Secretary of State’s Office has made design changes to its website, www.ilsos.gov, to make all available online services more accessible to all customers.

The Skip-the-Line Program, which launched last September, has accommodated more than 800,000 Illinoisans by appointment, resulting in little to no wait times upon arrival at DMVs.

New Features

1. Expanding Eligibility for Online Driver’s License and State ID Renewal

To determine if you qualify to renew online, www.ilsos.gov has a new feature that determines a driver or resident’s eligibility for online renewal in real-time after entering their driver’s license or state ID number, Social Security number and date of birth. If a visit is required, the system will automatically direct customers to the appropriate appointment type.

In addition, eligibility for online renewals has been expanded to include customers who:

- 1) Are ages 75 to 78.
- 2) Have made an online address change to their driver’s license or state ID.

2. Launching Appointment Portal

By utilizing the appointment portal available at www.ilsos.gov, customers will now be guided to the correct service and appointment type they require or qualify for. Once they determine which service they wish to obtain, customers are routed to the appropriate appointment type or online service.

3. Implementing Text Message Notification for Appointments

After booking an appointment online, customers will now receive text notifications to remind them of their upcoming appointment.

Customers will receive a reminder notification 24 hours before their appointment. They will be instructed to respond “1” to confirm their appointment or “2” to cancel their appointment. If the appointment is cancelled, the free slot will be made available to other customers.

4. Establishing a Dedicated Phone Help Line to Assist with Online Service Access

Anyone encountering any difficulty accessing online services can now call a dedicated phone line, (800) 252-8980, and staff will provide them with assistance making appointments and answer any questions about requirements or eligibility. Specific options are built into the call-handling system for teen and senior drivers.

5. Expanding DMV facilities for Seniors and Behind-the-Wheel Tests

Since the launch of the Skip-the-Line Program in September, the office has opened a total of four “Senior Only” DMV Centers and four Road Testing Centers.

The “Senior Only” DMV Centers, which are designed specifically for the needs of seniors, provide walk-in service without the need for an appointment. The centers in Bridgeview, Calumet Park, Evanston and Westchester have served more than 21,000 seniors since Sept. 1, 2023.

The new Road Testing Centers are located in Addison, Lockport, Naperville and on Elston Avenue in Chicago. These dedicated testing centers will free up appointments at other DMV facilities to those who wish to conduct business that does not require a road test.

EVERY VETERAN HAS A STORY.
MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD.

HONORING

Our Patriots



The Illinois Veterans' History Project, launched in conjunction with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, creates a permanent record of the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served our country during war time. The project ensures that their contributions and experiences will not be forgotten.

In addition to U.S. veterans, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their invaluable experiences and memories.

For additional information about the Illinois Veterans' History Project
or if you would like to share your story, please contact
The Illinois State Library at 217-782-7596 or by email at ilsinfo@ilsos.gov.

Additional information about the Illinois Veterans' History Project can be found at

ilsos.gov

Illinois



Veterans' History Project

Illinois
Veterans' History Project



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
Secretary of State

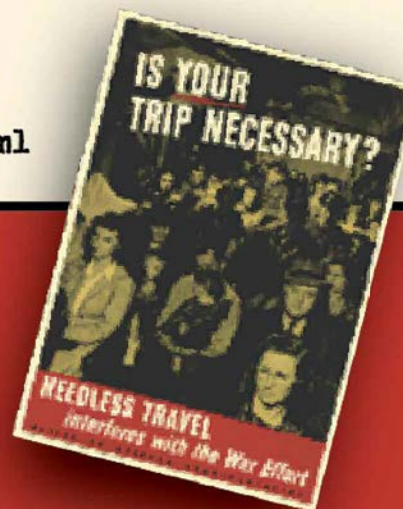
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. January 2023 – 1 – LDA 123.4



★ FACT SHEET ★

- ★ In 2000, the United States Congress passed a law authorizing the Library of Congress to collect and preserve the histories of American veterans and civilians who served in wars from World War I to the present. The Illinois Veterans' History Project was established shortly after.
- ★ The Office of the Illinois Secretary of State is a founding partner of the Veterans' History Project.
- ★ Nearly 6,000 digitized Illinois Patriot Forms can be accessed in State Library's Illinois Digital Archives.
- ★ The Illinois Court Reporters Association partners with the Illinois Veterans' History Project to provide interview transcriptions.
- ★ Hundreds of streamed interviews are available on the Illinois Veterans' History Project YouTube channel. In addition, links to the individual interviews are contained within the State Library's Illinois Digital Archives.
- ★ The State Library provides training for Illinois library employees to help them reach out to their area communities and conduct interviews with local veterans.

Information about the Project is available at:
ilsos.gov/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html



Illinois Veterans' History Project



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
Secretary of State

EVERY VETERAN HAS A STORY.
MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD.



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

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, January 2023 — 1 — EX 857

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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The ROSE

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highlight local individuals,
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that make Melrose Park
a unique and thriving
community!**

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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.**

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**

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 Croncich 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.

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

Treasurer Frerichs Returned \$276 Million in Missing Money in 2023

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office returned nearly \$276 million in missing money during 2023, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced recently.

Illinois' missing money program – also known as I-CASH – processed 314,154 claims last year. In December, the Treasurer's Office returned \$12 million through 11,477 claims.

"This money does more good for our state and our citizens in their hands than in a vault in Springfield," Frerichs said. "We have made it easier to file a claim for many cases and streamlined the system with the help of state lawmakers."

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.

Frerichs completely restructured the missing money process. 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.

When Frerichs first became state treasurer, there were 60,000 claims paid in a year. Today, more than 200,000 claims are paid each year.

During the fall, the State Treasurer's Office mailed 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. In some cases, when a matching name and mailing address was identified and confirmed, the unclaimed property owner received a letter from the State Treasurer's Office that described the amount and source of the money. The State Treasurer's Office conducted one additional security step before authorizing a check. All recipients had to do was watch the mail and cash the check.

In addition, Frerichs worked with state lawmakers to raise the limit on the amount of money that can be returned through money match to \$5,000. The total to be returned through the two rounds of Enhanced Money Match letters was 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 that are reforming their unclaimed property laws, rules and procedures.

The State Treasurer's Office recommends people check for missing money at least twice each year. You can check icash.illinoistreasurer.gov to see if missing money is waiting for you. Illinois holds more than \$5 billion in unclaimed property.

Paying for College

Updates to FAFSA Will Help Many 529 Account Holders

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid form – which uses parents' income and a litany of other information to determine a student's need for financial aid – has been updated.

The new FAFSA and related updates to the financial federal student aid program will be beneficial for many 529 account holders, including:

- **Grandparents** – Distributions from grandparent-owned 529 accounts previously reduced financial aid eligibility and cash support for the grandchild/student. The new FAFSA no longer considers distributions from grandparent-owned accounts, meaning it's a great time for grandparents to save for their grandchild's future with a Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan. Visit BrightStart.com/grandparents for more details.
- **Pell Grant Recipients** – Unlike student loans, Pell Grants are a form of federal student support that does not need to be paid back. Under new federal financial aid rules, families with adjusted gross income (AGI) less than \$60,000 will not have their assets (including 529 assets) considered when calculating Pell Grant eligibility. For more details, visit the Federal Student Aid Office website at <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/home/>.
- **All FAFSA Users** – For all families completing the FAFSA – no matter your background – the updates to the FAFSA aim to streamline the process, deliver more aid to students and give users an enhanced experience filling out the form, according to the Department of Education.

The process sometimes can seem insurmountable, but there are many articles that can help explain the changes.

Studentaid.gov, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, also has application information.

Finally, it is never too late to spread the good news of saving for college through Bright Start or Bright Directions.

Visit https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Individuals/College_Savings for helpful information.

A Reminder to Young Photographers: Explore Illinois Agriculture This Winter

Now is a great time for young photographers – ages 8 to 18 – to use their cameras and phones to capture winter-themed images of Illinois agriculture in preparation for the annual Cream of the Crop Photo Contest. Young photographers can take pictures now and submit them as contest entries in a couple of months. The contest is designed to encourage young people to share their vision of Illinois agriculture through photography.

The students who earn first, second or third place in each of three age categories will receive up to \$1,000 in scholarship prize money, said Treasurer Michael Frerichs, whose office oversees the contest. Cream of the Crop is part of the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Invest Program, which observed its 40th anniversary last year.

Keep watching for future announcements about the 2024 contest.

Magic Johnson and Investing in Communities

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs ran into basketball legend and entrepreneur Magic Johnson at a forum in Chicago recently, and the two chatted about the importance of investing in communities.

Across the United States, some communities struggle with unemployment, poverty, affordable housing and a lack of economic activity. Individuals, families and community organizations in these areas often can empower themselves – and stimulate economic activity in communities – with increased access to low-cost loans, such as those offered through an Illinois State Treasurer's Office initiative called Community Invest.

Through Community Invest, the Treasurer's Office partners with approved financial institutions to provide community loans – either lower rate loans or loans to individuals and families that would not otherwise qualify – to facilitate capital to underserved communities. In doing so, the Treasurer's Office seeks to boost economic activity in Illinois while earning a competitive return for the state.

After talking with Johnson about investing in communities, Frerichs took part in a panel discussion about infrastructure and spoke about the benefits of his office's new FIRST Fund. The FIRST Fund is a first-of-its-kind, evergreen, \$1.5 billion impact investment fund dedicated to building and strengthening Illinois' infrastructure and real estate.

Frerichs said the FIRST Fund will earn good investment returns for our state, improve Illinois infrastructure and help put people to work in good jobs.

"It's a win-win-win," Frerichs said.

The Chicago forum was organized by For the Long Term, a nonprofit organization that supports the nation's treasurers in their work to create fairer, more sustainable and more inclusive markets.



Magic Johnson and Treasurer Michael Frerichs are pictured at a recent forum in Chicago.

Financial Wellness

Take Charge of Debt Management in 2024

Is paying down debt on your list of New Year's resolutions? Whether your credit card balance grew over the holidays or you have existing loans to pay off, the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub – <https://illinoistreasurer.enrich.org/>) is here to help with free tools and resources.

Getting Started

One of the most important steps to paying off debt is getting organized. Start by creating a list of all your debts and include details like total amount owed, minimum monthly payment, interest rate and due date. Next, you'll want to assess your income and monthly budget. How much can you put toward paying down your debt each month?

Now that you have a clearer picture of your current situation, you're ready to check out some helpful resources on the FinWell Hub like the *5 Big Picture Tips to Help You Eliminate Debt* article or the managing debt video.

Tools for Success

Paying down credit card debt is a common goal and the FinWell Hub makes it easy by doing the math for you with their Credit Card Pay Down Tool. Input the balance and interest rate for each credit card and how much you can pay toward the debt each month (which you already have because you got organized!). Then the tool will calculate how quickly you can pay off the entire amount and how much you'll save in interest. If you want to know even more about tackling debt, check out the *Everything You Need to Know About Managing Debt* guide. It will help you determine if you prefer the avalanche or snowball method and much more. The FinWell Hub is online and on demand to answer your finance questions on your schedule. Create a free account today.



Visit <https://illinoistreasurer.enrich.org/> and check out all the free tools and resources that can help you take charge of debt management this year!



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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.



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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

Winter Artist Showcase – Now-Sunday, March 31 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

This winter season, we will be hosting Gathering Nature: Glass Mosaics and Assemblages, a mother/daughter art show by artists Judy and Bridget Steed. The exhibit will be on display through March 31, with viewing hours from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Walk & Talk: Women in Conservation – Saturday, March 2 • 9 a.m.

LaBagh Woods (Cicero Avenue, North of Foster Avenue, Chicago)

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who wants to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. Grove 1.

Registration required – Call (773) 758-8899.

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

Wildlife Connections – Tuesday, March 5 • 10:30 a.m.-Noon

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

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

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

2 at 2 Wednesday Prairie Hike – Wednesday, March 6 • 2 p.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Career naturalist, Cyndi Duda, will lead a hike on the 2-mile Phantom Prairie Trail. This hike is weather dependent, so please call ahead before arriving. Please be prepared to be outside for up to an hour.

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

Outdoor Cooking – Friday, March 8 • 5:30 p.m.

Camp Reinberg (1801 N. Quentin Rd., Palatine)

Cooking outdoors is easy and fun! Learn how to prepare food over a fire and on a stove. Ages 12-17 w/adult.

Registration required – Email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

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

Wildlife Connections – Tuesday, March 12 • 10:30 a.m.-Noon

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

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

Contact – (847) 824-8360. Cost – Free

Woodworking with Invasives – Thursday, March 14 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Camp Reinberg (1801 N. Quentin Rd., Palatine)

Repurpose the common European buckthorn into something new. Equipment provided. Ages 10 and up.

Registration required – Call (773) 758-8899.

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

The Energy of Water: A Forest Therapy Walk – Saturday, March 16 • 9-11 a.m.

Rolling Knolls (11N260 Rohrsen Rd., Elgin)

Join us as we gather with a grounding exercise that explores the movement of water all around us.

Participants will be guided through the walk discussing the ecosystems and how they help to sustain us.

We will end the walk with a tea ceremony and a water mandala activity.

Registration required – Call (773) 758-8899.

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

Fitness Hike – Saturday, March 16 • 9:30 a.m.

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

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness Hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. 7 miles.

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

Walk & Talk: Women’s History in Conservation Walk – Saturday, March 16 • 10 a.m.

Plum Creek Meadow (Burnham Avenue, North of 223rd Street, Near Chicago Heights)

Walk & Talk hikes are for the curious mind who wants to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. 1.8 miles.

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

Maple Syrup Festival – Sunday, March 17 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a special day of activities, including crafts, games, tree tapping and maple syrup history.

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

Spring Nature Camp – Wednesday, March 27-Friday, March 29 • 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Rolling Knolls (11N260 Rohrssen Rd., Elgin)

Learn the significance of spring in Native-American culture while participating in various timed activities with Trickster Cultural Center.

Registration required – Call (773) 758-8899.

Contact – (773) 758-8899/Experience.Nature@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

Camping 101 – Wednesday, March 27 • 5:30-7 p.m.

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

Join us for a workshop covering basic camping skills.

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

2 at 2 Wednesday Prairie Hike – Wednesday, April 3 • 2 p.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Career naturalist, Cyndi Duda, will lead a hike on the 2-mile Phantom Prairie Trail.

This hike is weather dependent, so please call ahead before arriving. Please be prepared to be outside for up to an hour.

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

Camping 101 – Wednesday, April 10 • 5:30-7 p.m.

Camp Reinberg (1801 N. Quentin Rd., Palatine)

Join us for a workshop covering basic camping skills.

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

Camping Leadership Immersion Course –

Saturday, April 13-Sunday, April 14

Camp Sullivan (14630 Oak Park Ave., Oak Forest)

Overnight training course to learn skills needed to plan and lead group camping trips. Covers safety, day-hiking, tent and stove setting up, teambuilding and leadership skills, and educational offerings. After training, gain access to gear library and group site. Ages 18 and up. Includes food and camping gear.

Registration required – Email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov.

Contact – (708) 771-1573/experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – \$25.

Wilderness Survival 101 – Saturday, April 13 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-2 p.m.

Deer Grove-East (Dundee Road, West of Hicks Road, Near Palatine)

This hands-on program demonstrates how to use the natural resources around you. Grove 4.

Contact – (773) 758-8899/Experience.Nature@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.

Earth Day – Saturday, April 20 • 9-11 a.m.

Busse Lake Boating Center (Higgins Road/Route 72, East of I-290/Highway 53, Near Elk Grove Village)

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. Supplies available to check out. Grove 25.

Contact – (773) 758-8899/Experience.Nature@cookcountyl.gov. Cost – Free.



Spring into creativity with Trailside Museum’s Birdhouse Building Contest, explore the trails and vote for your favorite design all summer long

Thank you for participating in our Birdhouse Contest, where we aim to emphasize the importance of nesting sites for birds while showcasing your creative building skills. Birdhouses constructed by registered participants will be displayed throughout the summer and judged by visitors. Prizes will be awarded to all participants!

How to Enter

Submit your birdhouse between March 15-May 15, 2024. Space is limited, so be sure to submit your entries early.

Voting

The birdhouses will be exhibited on our grounds throughout the summer. During this period (May 24-Sept. 1), visitors can cast their votes for their favorite bird-houses. Ballots will include the builder’s name and the birdhouse’s name.

Winners

The winners will be announced in early September on Trailside’s Facebook page. Winners will be notified and bird-houses can be picked up Sept. 6-Oct. 6.

Prize Categories

- 1. Most Creative.
- 2. Best for Birds.
- 3. Best Kids (Under 14 years old.)
- 4. People’s Choice

Eligibility

Everyone is encouraged to enter. Youth groups and participants under 18 must be registered by an adult. Employees of the Forest Preserves of Cook County can enter the contest, but are not eligible for prizes.

For more information, please call Trailside Museum – (708) 366-6530.

Take some time to explore our website at www.fpdcc.com for additional events and valuable information linked to the Cook County Forest Preserves experience!



News from the Zoo!

Your next visit to Brookfield Zoo isn't complete unless you've experienced the amazing things on hand.

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions. Be sure to check out our website at www.czs.org for additional happenings.

Want to make the most of your zoo experience? Become a member and you'll get exclusive discounts to most attractions, not to mention so much more!

Dolphins Return Home to Brookfield Zoo's Seven Seas

Brookfield Zoo is thrilled to announce that its seven bottlenose dolphins have made their journey home to Chicago following the completion of an extensive \$10 million renovation to their Seven Seas habitat. For the short period of time, the building will remain closed to guests while the dolphins—Lucky, 50; Tapeko, 42; Allie, 36; Kai, 29; Spree, 21; Noelani, 20; and Allison, 18 – become reacclimated to their environment. *Dolphins in Action* presentations are scheduled to resume on March 22 and guests will be able to see the animals from the Underwater Viewing Gallery beginning March 25.

For the past 15 months, the dolphins have been at fellow Association of Zoos and Aquariums'-accredited Minnesota Zoo being cared for by Brookfield Zoo's marine mammal team, who provided daily care to the dolphins and engaged with them in the same manner they do in Chicago.

The significant makeover to the 37-year-old facility aimed to enhance both animal well-being and guest experience.

"One of our priorities in the project was to add a variety of dynamic elements to the dolphins' habitat to enrich their daily lives," said Dr. Michael J. Adkesson, president and CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society and director of Brookfield Zoo. "These new features will make our already world-class care for our dolphins even more robust." The renovations were driven in part by results of the *Cetacean Welfare Study* published in 2021 that evaluated care of dolphins and whales in 43 zoos and aquariums around the globe. The Chicago Zoological Society and Brookfield Zoo's Conservation Science and Animal Welfare Research Department spearheaded this project. "Based on scientific results we know that dynamic enrichment programs and social management of bottlenose dolphins are much more linked to positive welfare than environmental characteristics, such as habitat size. While making it a more dynamic environment for the animals, we also hope the changes will be exciting for our guests who come to see these charismatic marine mammals," Adkesson added.

The upgrades to the dolphins' environment will encourage natural behaviors, including searching for food, playing, utilizing their echolocation abilities, chasing objects and interacting with each other. New additions in the dolphins' habitat include rockwork structures with anchors that animal care staff can attach a variety of enrichment items, such as kelp strips and floating objects, at different levels in the water. Located in the rockwork on the northeast side of the habitat, there is a shallow sand pit, where staff can hide enrichment items or food. The dolphins can use their echolocating skills to find the buried objects. During echolocation, a dolphin emits high-frequency sounds that travel through the water, bounce off objects and return to the animal as echoes, which they use to locate and identify an object. The two center rock elements also have built-in bubbler systems. The dolphins can play with the bubbles, roll over them or even maneuver an object like a ball over the bubbles to propel it. The bubbles also disrupt echolocation signals, allowing the animals to engage in a sort of underwater hide and seek.

In addition to infrastructure needs made inside the building, a number of aesthetic and storytelling elements for guests have been adopted as well. Exhibit theme now reflects the Sarasota Bay, Fla., area where the Chicago Zoological Society's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program is based. The program, now in its 55th year, is the longest-running study of dolphins in the wild that has provided information on the species' biology, behavior, health, ecology, social structure and communication that has benefited marine mammal conservation programs around the globe.

"Showcasing our conservation fieldwork in Florida with guests emphasizes that our commitment to caring for wildlife extends far beyond Brookfield Zoo's 235 acres to programs around the world. Sharing our passion for wildlife and nature can be a powerful catalyst to inspire others to also take action and care about preserving the natural world," said Adkesson.

The former Caribbean-themed façade has been removed and the building has been redesigned to depict the natural environment of Sarasota Bay. New artificial plantings that replicate species found in the Sarasota area, including mangrove trees and tall grasses, add to the ambiance throughout the stadium. Adkesson shares that, "Through scientific monitoring, we know that dolphins in Sarasota Bay spend their lives in the shallow waters of the bay in a relatively small area. We wanted to bring that environment to our guests here in Chicago to help them understand the importance of marine conservation."

Additionally, hydrophones (underwater microphones) have been installed to allow researchers and staff to listen to the animals' vocalizations, which will be valuable for scientific studies. When turned on, guests will also be able to hear the dolphins through the building's sound system. And, upgrades to the overhead cameras will also



Melissa Zabochnik, a senior animal care specialist at Brookfield Zoo, and Dr. Michael J. Adkesson, president and CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society and director of Brookfield Zoo, with one of Brookfield Zoo's bottlenose dolphins. The zoo's seven dolphins were temporarily living at another accredited zoo while their habitat was undergoing renovations.

Photo credit – Jim Schulz/CZS-Brookfield Zoo.

aid in future research efforts, as well as monitoring the animals. Later this year, the zoo is planning to install a 35-foot-diameter moveable floor in the south holding pool. This will allow staff to raise the lift along with a dolphin in a quick, low stress manner for any medical care that may be needed.

Other upgrades include a new roof, skylights and lining to the pools. Fluorescent lighting has been replaced with LED lights, making it more environmentally friendly and energy efficient. A new heating and cooling system allows for a better temperature-controlled climate in the building year-round and features a high-quality ventilation system, making the airflow better for both the animals and guests. And, two center front rows of benches have been removed to accommodate accessibility seating for wheelchairs during presentations.

Seven Seas' Underwater Viewing Gallery also received a refresh, including new signage and lighting projections. New digital monitors provide a look at the behind-the-scenes dolphin science and research conducted both at Brookfield Zoo and in Sarasota Bay, Fla. Much of what is discovered at the zoo helps to develop methods and technology needed to study wild dolphin populations. In turn, information gathered from studies on wild dolphins is used to continually improve animal well-being at Brookfield Zoo. Additionally, zoogoers will learn the important role science plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems and wildlife populations, as well as personal actions they can take to make a difference for animals everywhere.

The Seven Sea's renovations were made possible in part by funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act through Cook County and the Forest Preserves of Cook County, as well as many generous donors. The building's roof renovations are funded in part by the Public Museum Capital Grant Program through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Museum.

Join Us for These Exciting Events!

Bunny Hop – Zoowide/Saturday, March 23 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hop on in with the kids to visit with the Bunny and celebrate spring at Brookfield Zoo.

Enjoy the day's festivities including:

- Photo op with the Bunny at the Swan Pavilion from 1-4 p.m.
- An all-day scavenger egg hunt throughout the zoo.
- Educational spring activities.
- Bunny Hop dance party at Nature Plaza, noon-3 p.m.
- An additional seating for Breakfast with the Bunny (separate ticket required).
- Seasonal food and beverage for purchase (available while supplies last).

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/BunnyHop>.



Brunch with the Bunny – Discovery Center Saturdays, March 23 and March 30, and Sunday March 31 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Hop on over to Brookfield Zoo this spring to enjoy Brunch with the Bunny! In addition to a delicious brunch buffet, the event features visits with the Bunny, an interactive DJ with games and more. Tickets now available!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/BrunchWithTheBunny>.



Party for the Planet – Brookfield Zoo North Parking Lot/Saturday, April 20 • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Every day is Earth Day at Brookfield Zoo, but on this very special day, we'll be showcasing some of the steps you can take that will truly make a difference for animals across the globe!

If you've been storing items in your basement and garage, waiting for the perfect time and most Earth-friendly way to dispose of them, you can recycle them at Brookfield Zoo! On Saturday, April 20, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., the zoo will be collecting electronics, textiles and used books.

To access the recycling event, please enter through the gated entrance directly off of 31st Street, (around the corner from the main north lot entrance). Do not enter through the main North Gate parking lot to enter the recycling event.

The process is easy. Drive into the designated recycling area and representatives from the zoo and its partnering organizations will collect your items for recycling. Please note: the zoo can become busy during warm spring days. Coming before zoo hours or planning to arrive early to the zoo to recycle items is highly recommended.

There is no charge to drop off recycling – however, tickets or membership is required if you plan to visit the zoo.

For more information, please visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/PartyPlanet>.



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.



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Lung Transplant Recipient's Donation Creates Rehabilitation Area

Loyola Medicine recently celebrated the dedication of the Chris and Neil Blitstein Rehabilitation Track with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC). This newly renovated space is designed to inspire patients recovering from a transplant by giving them a cheerful place to walk and track progress toward their rehabilitation goals.

The Blitsteins' generous investment in the Chris and Neil Blitstein Rehabilitation Track has already made a positive impact on post-surgical transplant patients and their caregivers. Since its completion, patients have remarked that not only do they enjoy viewing the beautiful Chicago skyline as they walk, the track also inspires them to persevere and provides an opportunity to venture beyond the hospital unit where they spend so much of their day.

The Blitsteins, who live in Burr Ridge, made their generous gift in recognition of the exceptional care Mr. Blitstein received from Loyola Medicine's lung transplant team. Mr. Blitstein, who received his transplant in 2017, credits Loyola's lung transplant team with saving his life. Dan Dilling, MD, medical director of Lung Transplant at Loyola Medicine, said, "It has been a privilege for Loyola's multidisciplinary lung team to be entrusted with Mr. Blitstein's care and to see his life extended as a result."

"Capital improvements like this one are critical to patient care at Loyola and at times are only possible as a result of the generosity of philanthropic supporters like Chris and Neil Blitstein," said Tad Gomez, president of LUMC. "That is why we are so grateful to the Blitsteins for turning what before was simply a hallway into a source of beauty and inspiration for patients recovering from complex surgeries and working toward mobility and rehabilitation."

Loyola Medicine is grateful to the Blitsteins for their many avenues of support including additional philanthropic generosity and volunteer leadership of patient and caregiver support programs. The Blitsteins explained, "It is an honor to support Loyola Medicine and the many caregivers who have given so much to our family. We are grateful beyond words."

Loyola has the longest running and highest volume lung transplant program in Illinois. To date, our team has performed 1,195 lifesaving lung transplants for patients from across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.



"Heart-in-a-Box" Technology Expands Access to Organs for Transplant

Loyola Medicine recently completed its first transplant using TransMedics Organ Care System™ (OCS™), commonly referred to as "Heart-in-a-Box." The technology acts as a miniature intensive care unit to keep donor hearts alive and healthy by preserving them in a natural state that mimics the human body. Traditionally, a donor heart is placed in a plastic bag filled with a cold preservative solution and packed in a cooler filled with ice, which limits the amount of time the heart is healthy enough for transplant. With "Heart-in-a-Box," the organ stays viable for up to 12 hours, twice as long as cold storage. This means a donor heart can travel a longer distance, dramatically increasing the number organs available for patients waiting for a new heart.

For a 64-year old Loyola patient, the technology proved lifesaving. After suffering from heart failure for 13 years, his condition had deteriorated and he was hospitalized at Loyola waiting for a heart. Within days a donor heart that matched his rare blood type was located in another state, but the surgeon set to get on a plane to get the heart fell ill with COVID. Thanks to the extended time provided by the "Heart-in-a-Box," the Loyola team worked with Transmedics to identify another surgeon who could travel to get the heart before time ran out.

Edwin McGee, MD, surgical director of Heart Transplantation and Ventricular Assist Device Program at Loyola Medicine, says "Heart-in-a-Box" provides a new arrow in the quiver to procure healthy organs. "Allocation of donor hearts changed in 2018 to prioritize sicker patients, often meaning longer procurement runs. At Loyola, we're always looking for ways to make heart transplants safer and more accessible."

The National OCS™ Program allows for long distance retrievals, minimized resource requirements for transplant centers, standardized quality and increased transplant volume that helps benefit more patients on the wait list.

Dr. McGee noted that the "Heart-in-a-Box" has benefits beyond increasing the number of hearts available. By using perfusion technology to pump warm, oxygenated blood through the heart during transportation, the heart stays at the same temperature as the human body and is less likely to be damaged by freezing. Also, the "Heart-in-a-Box" gives doctors an opportunity to better evaluate the health of the heart which can lead to fewer failed transplants.

Katie Rettke, BSN, RN, cardiothoracic procurement coordinator at Loyola University Medical Center, was instrumental in getting the patient his heart. "Being able to call patients and tell them we have a heart for them is one of the best parts of this job." When the patient and his family discovered he was the first Loyola patient to benefit from the new technology, they were moved to tears.

Loyola Medicine has been providing exceptional outcomes for heart transplant patients since 1984. Our team offers the highest level of integrated, multidisciplinary care for advanced heart patients who are in need of a heart transplant. Loyola's cardiology and heart surgery care is known for taking on the most challenging cases, including patients turned down by other transplant centers.



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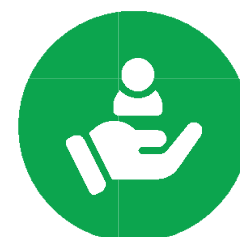
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Our Locations

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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
Tel: (847) 329-8500

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

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

1717 W Golf Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
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1837 Larkin Ave.
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Bill Payment Assistance Grants Available for Nicor Gas Customers with Past-Due Account Balances

Applications Now Open for Nicor Gas' Shield of Caring Program

Income-eligible Nicor Gas residential customers can apply for a grant of up to \$250 a year through the Shield of Caring Program, administered by The Salvation Army. Shield of Caring is an emergency assistance and homelessness prevention program that provides individuals and families in Nicor Gas' service area with natural gas bill payment assistance and support for other basic needs, including housing and rental assistance, grocery packages and warm winter clothing items.



Nicor Gas founded the program in 2021 with the support of The Salvation Army through an initial \$5 million contribution to help those impacted by the global health and financial crises. The company announced an additional \$5 million commitment to expand the program in 2022. Since that time, more than 14,500 Nicor Gas customers have been the recipient of a Shield of Caring grant and 28,000 have received basic needs support, including warm winter coats, food boxes and emergency disaster services.

"Our partnership with The Salvation Army began in 1983 and from the beginning we shared a mutual interest of doing the most good in the communities we serve," said Meena Beyers, vice president of Business & Community Development at Nicor Gas. "We know that the past few years have been a challenging time for our customers and the communities we serve. We remain committed to helping our neighbors receive the relief and assistance they need during these cold winter months, while keeping their homes warm all season long."

Residential customers with a household gross income in the last 30 days below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level can apply at www.shieldofcaring.com. If a customer is eligible to receive financial assistance grants from other programs, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, they should apply for a grant from these programs first to maximize their benefits. LIHEAP is a federally funded bill payment assistance program that helps low- and fixed-income families meet their energy needs. For eligibility and to apply, visit www.LIHEAPIllinois.com or call (877) 411-9276 (WARM).

In addition to Shield of Caring and LIHEAP, Nicor Gas currently offers additional resources to help customers pay and manage their natural gas bill and save on energy costs:

- **Sharing Program** – One-time annual grants of up to \$500 are given (with no requirement to be paid back) to qualified residential customers who meet the required income guidelines. Seniors and veterans approved for the program are provided an additional \$150 grant. These funds are administered by The Salvation Army and are funded through direct contributions from Nicor Gas' customers and employees.
- **Energy Aide Program** – Provides qualifying households with a grant of up to \$350 toward their past due balance and does not need to be paid back. Residential customers must be at or below 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- **Payment Arrangements** – Provides eligible customers with more time to pay past-due balances and brings their account current to avoid possible service disconnections. Customers can check their eligibility for a payment arrangement by visiting nicorgas.com/myaccount.
- **Budget Plan** – Helps customers with current accounts avoid unpredictable bills from month to month by evening out the seasonal highs and lows of their bills through a monthly budgeted amount. Owed monthly amounts may be adjusted every four months to ensure that payments are in line with actual usage and the price of gas. Customers can check their eligibility for the Budget Plan by visiting nicorgas.com/budgetplan.
- **Energy Efficiency Program** – Provides free home assessments, energy-saving products and incentives to help you save money and energy. Eligible income-qualified households may receive additional free services and equipment upgrades. Customers can call (877) 866-4239 or visit nicorgas.com/saveathome.
- **Community Connection Center (C3)** – Helps customers navigate all the above options, as well as basic needs resources. Customers can contact the C3 team at nicorgas.com/CCC or self-serve online and answer anonymous questions to get recommendations by visiting the Community Assistance Navigator Tool.

To learn more about bill payment assistance programs, visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance.

Nicor Gas Asks – Are Your Natural Gas-Fueled Appliances Ready for Change of Season?

It is an excellent time to inspect appliances and schedule routine maintenance. As your natural gas needs change with the seasons, keep these tips in mind.

- **Your Checklist** – Hire a qualified specialist to inspect your furnace's emergency shut-offs, controls and vents; Clear all heating systems of flammable materials or debris that might have accumulated during the summer; Check your vents for obstructions; Replace air filters; Lower your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Don't Do This** – Never use a gas range as a space heater; Never put a space heater near curtains or flammable objects; Never leave the fan compartment door of your furnace open.
- **Signs You Need Help** – Pale or wavy gas flames; Appliances that don't vent outside; Missing or damaged valves; Visible corrosion, clogs or bad seals; Soot near burners or vents; Discolored burners, burner access doors or vents.
- **Need Financial Assistance?** – Residential and commercial rebates; Illinois 2-1-1 community resources.; Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); Payment arrangement.

Learn more about energy assistance by visiting

<https://www.nicorgas.com/residential/billingandpaymentoptions/energy-assistance-programs.html>.

ComEd Named National Emergency Response Award Recipient for Outstanding Emergency Response Efforts

ComEd was recognized by The Edison Electric Institute (EEI), a national association that represents all American investor-owned electric companies, with two awards for its outstanding emergency recovery and assistance efforts in 2023: The Emergency Assistance Award, recognizing ComEd's assistance efforts restoring service to homes and businesses in the Midwest following the June 2023 derecho, a widespread, fast-moving collection of thunderstorms with destructive winds, and the Emergency Recovery Award, recognizing ComEd for its exemplary recovery efforts in response to severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in Illinois last July.

"As severe weather caused by climate change continues to become more commonplace, ComEd is committed to supporting our customers by building and maintaining one of the country's most reliable and resilient power grids," said David R. Perez, ComEd COO. "When severe weather hits, our 6,300 employees step up to ensure that our recovery process is as swift and efficient as possible, and we're honored that these awards recognize the incredible efforts of the employees who work around-the-clock to maintain the power grid in northern Illinois and lend their expertise to support other utilities around the country."

"America's electric companies are committed to serving their customers and communities and to restoring power safely and as quickly as possible following severe storms and other extreme weather events," said Dan Brouillette, EEI president and CEO. "ComEd's commitment to restoring service to its customers under challenging conditions following the Illinois tornados last summer deserves recognition. I also commend ComEd for aiding neighboring electric companies in their times of need. I am honored to present ComEd and its storm response team with these well-earned emergency recovery and assistance awards."

ComEd earned EEI's Emergency Recovery Award due to its recovery efforts in July 2023, when over 124,000 ComEd customers experienced outages following severe thunderstorms, high winds and six tornados landing in northern Illinois. Over 1,700 ComEd line crews supported the recovery process, totaling over 50,000 man-hours to restore ComEd's service territory. Thanks to the efforts of ComEd's team and grid hardening investments, 60% of customers were restored within four hours of their outage and 99% of customers were restored within 24 hours of their outage.

EEI's Emergency Assistance Award was earned by ComEd due to outstanding efforts helping other utilities restore power following the life-threatening derecho that hit the Midwest in June 2023. Severe thunderstorms produced dangerous wind gusts of up to 100 mph, causing significant damage throughout the Midwest. The derecho was particularly impactful to customers in southern Illinois and Indiana. ComEd deployed 368 employees and provided more than 600,000 hours of assistance for two utilities supporting customers in those areas.

The Emergency Recovery Awards are presented to EEI member companies twice a year. Presented to EEI member companies twice a year, the Emergency Response Awards recognize recovery and assistance efforts of electric companies following service disruptions caused by extreme weather or other national events. The winners are chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process and the awards were presented during EEI's winter board of directors and CEO meeting on Jan. 10, 2024. These awards are just the latest accolades earned by ComEd and follow the 2023 Reliability One® Outstanding System Reliability Award, presented to ComEd by PA Consulting in November of 2023. This award recognized the investment ComEd has made to harden its system and bring greater reliability to customers during severe weather and other events.

Since it began its smart grid investments, ComEd and its more than 6,300 employees have helped customers avoid more than 19 million outages, saving more than \$3.3 billion in outage-related costs.

ComEd Reminds Customers of Billing Assistance and Energy Management Tools Available During Severe Cold

Following two periods of sub-freezing temperatures recently, households and businesses across northern Illinois may have had to significantly increase their energy use, which could result in higher-than-expected bills for some customers. To help them navigate the situation, ComEd reminds customers that a variety of financial assistance programs are available and urges customers to contact the energy company immediately if they face difficulty paying their electric bills.

"ComEd is committed to ensuring all our customers have access to safe and reliable electricity to power their needs all year round, even in the bitter cold," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's chief customer officer and senior vice president of Customer Operations. "To do that, we look to connect customers to a wide range of programs that can help families pay their energy bills now, as well as options that can help them manage energy use to lower bills in the future."

To make it easier for families and individuals to find bill-assistance and energy-savings options that best fit their needs, ComEd encourages customers to use its Smart Assistance Manager (SAM), an online self-service tool that matches customers with programs that can help them manage their electric bills now and into the future. Customers can access SAM at ComEd.com/SAM to find more information on any of the following options.

Residential Bill-Assistance Options

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which, in Illinois, provides a one-time grant, per program year, with no payback required, based on a household's income and size. To qualify, a customer's annual household income cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines which, for a family of four, is \$4,625 a month.
- Payment arrangements of up to 12 months for eligible residential customers with past-due balances. Make a down payment on the amount owed and pay the rest through installments in addition to your regular monthly bill.
- Due Date Extensions of up to 21-days of a customer's due date.
- Budget billing, which provides a predictable monthly payment based on your electricity usage from the last 12 months.
- Deposit and late-payment charge waivers for one year to income-eligible customers, along with the return of any current deposit.
- High-usage alerts, which enable customers to receive alerts when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use, and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future energy bills.



- Catch Up and Save is a two-part program that provides monthly credits to an eligible customer's bill to eliminate past-due balances, as well as a free, energy-savings kit – which includes home products designed to help lower home energy use while supplies last – to help families save on future energy bills.
- Fresh Start Services provides customers with both online and person-to-person support to help customers become aware of and navigate the options available to manage bills and energy use. This program also offers customers tools that will alert them when their energy use is trending higher than usual and help them be aware of financial-assistance options for which they may be eligible.
- Credit Empowerment provides one-on-one support to help individuals improve their credit scores. In collaboration with Working Credit, the program provides an overview of how the credit system works, helps participants create a personalized credit action plan to help them improve their specific credit situation, and provides information on ComEd energy-efficiency offerings to the customer that will help the customer manage their energy use and energy bills.

To help customers manage energy usage and lower future bills, ComEd's energy efficiency program includes services and incentives to help income-eligible residential customers reduce energy use now and in the long term. Since 2008, the award-winning ComEd Energy Efficiency Program has helped hundreds of thousands of families and businesses across northern Illinois save money, energy and the environment. To date, the program has helped customers save a total of \$8.75 billion on their energy bills, as well as a total of 79 million megawatt-hours of electricity, which is enough energy to power more than nine million ComEd customers' homes for one year.

ComEd Encourages Residential Customers to Apply for New EV Charger and Installation Rebate

As part of a larger investment to accelerate an equitable adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in northern Illinois, ComEd has launched a new rebate program to increase access to EV chargers. Through the \$5 million EV Charger and Installation Rebate Program, ComEd customers can receive rebates of up to \$3,750 to offset the cost of purchasing and installing a Level 2 charger in their home in 2024. Level 2 chargers can charge an EV battery six to eight times faster than charging from a wall outlet, often referred to as a Level 1 charger.

To qualify, customers who live in a single-family home, or multi-family home with two units or less, must demonstrate purchase of a Level 2 charger on or after February 1, 2024. Rebates ranging from \$2,500-\$3,750 with funding not exceeding the total cost of purchase and installation, will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with low-income customers and customers residing in equitable-eligible communities qualifying for the highest rebate amounts. For more information on application requirements and to apply, visit [ComEd.com/clean](https://www.comed.com/clean).

"ComEd is thrilled to launch our new EV Charger Rebate program as part of our ongoing work to accelerate the benefits of transportation electrification throughout northern Illinois," said Melissa Washington, SVP of Customer Operations and chief customer officer at ComEd. "The air quality and sustainability benefits of EVs are clear, but we know this technology is not yet attainable for all our customers. Our new programs are working to eliminate barriers so more customers can reap these benefits, particularly those facing financial barriers and those who reside in communities most adversely impacted by pollution and air quality issues."

To make EVs more accessible, the program offers the highest rebates and reserves 50% of funds for equity-eligible communities, including low-income customers and customers living in equity investment eligible communities (EIEC), as defined by the state of Illinois. This EV charger and installation rebate program is part of a multi-year investment by ComEd, launched last year to accelerate adoption of electrified technologies, including EVs. Efforts to boost EV charging access for customers are key to advancing the goal of 1 million EVs on Illinois roads by 2030 set by the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA).

EVs are on the rise in Illinois, with 93,000 registered statewide, including 80,000 EVs driving in ComEd's service territory, up from 17,000 electric vehicles in the region in 2019. Despite the many environmental and cost savings benefits of EVs, barriers to their adoption continue to exist, including upfront financial costs, range anxiety (the fear that the EV battery charge won't cover the distance you are traveling) and the cost to purchase or install EV infrastructure like EV chargers. The new charger rebate program for residential customers aims to significantly expand access to charging equipment, eliminating one of the key demonstrated barriers to EV adoption. This new ComEd program will further increase access to EVs, building on the Illinois state EV rebate program and federal EV tax credits for new and used EV's that are helping make EV ownership available to more people.

EVs provide numerous benefits for customers. Not only do they offer fuel and maintenance cost savings and performance benefits, but communities can experience broad environmental improvements from reduced tailpipe emissions. Additionally, electrifying transportation – including cars, trucks and public transit fleets – can create tangible health benefits for all communities and families across northern Illinois, especially communities which have traditionally borne the brunt of climate change and air pollution.

"With dangerous air pollution still a regional challenge and with the burdens of asthma weighing more heavily on lower income communities, this new EV program will help reduce air pollution from the largest source in northern Illinois and make owning a clean, zero-emission vehicle more affordable precisely where they can provide the greatest health benefits," said Brian Urbaszewski, director of Environmental Health Programs at Respiratory Health Association.

"ComEd's investments to expand EV adoption will support our regional efforts to address climate change and enhance air quality by reducing tailpipe emissions," said Kevin Burns, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus chairman of the Executive Board, Environmental Committee and Energy Subcommittee. "New rebate programs from ComEd will complement the work our local governments are doing to develop infrastructure, policy and to lay the framework for an equitable EV future here in northern Illinois."

"The state is supportive of ComEd's efforts to bring sustainability and convenience to the homes of their customers by expanding options for customers to add EV charging in both single-family homes and multi-unit dwellings," said Megha Lakhchaura, EV officer for the state of Illinois. "According to the Department of Energy, 80% of charging happens at home – therefore, with this initiative, ComEd is helping more Illinois communities in overcoming a critical barrier to EV adoption which is access to home charging."

New residential rebates are just one aspect of ComEd's beneficial electrification investments. Coming soon, ComEd will launch business and public sector rebates for EVs and make-ready charging infrastructure – with a focus on serving businesses, mass transit agencies and local governments, among other eligible customers. All together, these efforts seek to promote equitable access to EVs, lower costs of EV adoption for customers and communities, and accelerate the buildout of a regional network of EV charging to serve more customers – a key factor to growing EV adoption.

Using ComEd's free EV Toolkit, residential, business, and public sector customers can generate detailed information about EV conversion cost savings and learn more about a variety of charging options and how to select the right choice to suit their needs at home, based on their driving habits. Also, customers can discover how to find publicly available charging near them. To learn more, visit the EV Toolkit at www.comed.com/ev.

Walgreens Leaders Make 10 Health Care Industry Predictions for 2024

From Artificial Intelligence Playing a Role in Just About Everything to Weight Loss Drugs and Value-Based Care, Hear What Five Walgreens Leaders Believe is in Store for the New Year

A new year means a fresh start, and the health care industry could certainly use it. A 2023 Harris Poll shows that more than 70% of Americans feel the health care system is failing to meet their needs in at least one way.

Building on our pharmacy strengths – access, trust, convenience and deep community relationships – Walgreens is uniquely positioned to be part of the solution to fix health care in our country. Here’s what some of our top leaders are predicting will be critical issues, trends and developments in 2024 across pharmacy, retail and health care.



1. Pharmacies as Health Care Hubs

“Pharmacies are poised for a transformative shift, becoming holistic health care hubs beyond their traditional roles. Offering vaccinations, screenings, disease management and counseling, pharmacy teams play a vital role in promoting proactive health and deepening patient engagement. These services, coupled with retail offerings for minor treatments and diagnostics, will meet the patient demand for convenience and comprehensive care in a single location.” – Rick Gates, Chief Pharmacy Officer

2. Leveraging AI to Forecast Retail Trends

“Artificial intelligence can drive forecasting using external data. With nearly 9 million average daily customer interactions across 200 million products, Walgreens has evolved processes and technology to create the best customer experience whether in-store or via delivery. Our investment across increasingly sophisticated technology takes in everything from weather patterns to social media trends to evaluate large sets of data and guide decisions on where to place inventory. This helped us predict regional and local trends during cough, cold and flu season earlier this year so Walgreens could ensure we had the over-the-counter products our customers and patients needed in stock throughout the season.”

– Tracey Brown, President, Walgreens Retail & Chief Customer Officer

3. Telehealth and AI Will Grow, Relieving Burden for Health Care Workers

“Telehealth has proven beneficial to consumers by providing convenient access to health care, but what it hasn’t done yet is provide relief in the physician shortage department. As we continue to look for alternate methods of care delivery, non-doctor telehealth services – for example, AI-driven chatbots and symptom checker apps – will help reduce the burden on the health care system by providing preliminary information, offering guidance and empowering individuals to manage certain health concerns without physician involvement. This will be a natural evolution of what’s happening in the consumer world, which is quickly becoming self-service.” – John Driscoll, President, U.S. Healthcare

4. Appropriate Access and Use of Weight Loss Drugs

“The emerging evidence on diabetes drugs that are being used to help people lose weight represents a promising answer in the long fight against obesity, but the industry has not yet found the best path to sustainably deliver these medications to those who need them most. In 2024, we will see meaningful advancements toward addressing this issue across insurers, employers, PBMs, providers and pharmacies. From the patient perspective, access to holistic wraparound services is crucial when using these drugs – services will need to go beyond medication provision, offering comprehensive support, education and resources.” – Dr. Sashi Moodley, Chief Medical Officer

5. Heightened Focus on Women’s Health Research

“One glaring gap that has been historically overlooked is the lack of research into diseases predominantly affecting women, despite them making up over half of the population. Fortunately, this oversight is gaining the attention it deserves. In 2024, we’ll see public and private organizations collaborate to develop technology-driven, data-informed, community-centric solutions to enhance women’s health research.”

– Ramita Tandon, Chief Clinical Trials Officer

6. New Tech Propels Pharmacy Evolution

“With innovations like AI-driven verification systems, robotic dispensing mechanisms and micro-fulfillment centers, our industry is poised to optimize operational efficiency, accuracy and overall performance in ways that have been unattainable until now. The progress we expect to see isn’t just about convenience – it’s about freeing up more time for pharmacists to spend with patients, empowering adherence and engagement, and offering an unparalleled and personalized health care experience.” – Rick Gates, Chief Pharmacy Officer

7. Consumer Value is Priority No. 1

“Accenture reports that while consumers are making difficult spending trade-offs spurred by economic constraints, they don’t plan to do so when it comes to health and fitness spending. With this environment, it’s important that retailers focus on consumer value, especially when it comes to health. Through Walgreens-owned-brand products, we are focused on increasing the breadth and value of our offering with an emphasis on quality, innovation and trust. Walgreens-owned brands will continue to be a priority across the business as we seek to deliver high-quality products.” – Tracey Brown, President, Walgreens Retail & Chief Customer Officer

8. More Value-Based Care Models

“Payers, providers and health systems will grow beyond entrenched fee-for-service models and embrace value-based care to improve patient outcomes and control costs. As a result, these entities will seek out strategic partners like Walgreens to co-navigate big issues like rising costs as well as streamline vendors and solutions. Patients will rightfully keep the pressure on for value, convenience and price transparency, pushing the health care industry to put them first and take a community- and patient-centered approach.” – Dr. Sashi Moodley, Chief Medical Officer

9. Using Real-World Experiences to Improve the Patient Journey

“Better representation in clinical trials hinges upon our ability to engage patients on their own terms. As the clinical trials landscape evolves, so does our understanding of how people's environments contribute to their well-being and quality of life. In the year ahead, engagement will continue to be personalized based on patient demographics and experiences leveraging insights on social determinants of health, new technology advancements and how our pharmacy teams can continue to serve as strong community researchers to bridge the gap between research and care.”

– Ramita Tandon, Chief Clinical Trials Officer

10. Generative AI Will Help Provide Culturally Competent Care

“AI has already proven to hold tremendous potential for health care – improving diagnostics and supporting the decisions doctors make in addition to tackling administrative tasks and leaving more time for humans to connect to humans. As a next step, I’d like to see the health care industry start thinking about how to combine the right data with the right prompts so we can get to the point of AI helping us to provide culturally competent care. The tools are there, we just need to give these systems the right information.” – John Driscoll, President, U.S. Healthcare

Walgreens Partners With Colleges of Pharmacy to Advance the Pharmacy Profession

The Walgreens Deans Advisory Council will Collaborate to Address Key Issues, Including Staffing Challenges and Decreasing Pharmacy School Enrollment

As a trusted, convenient local health care destination that millions of Americans rely on every day, Walgreens is expanding its long-standing relationships with colleges of pharmacy through the formation of the Walgreens Deans Advisory Council to enhance the pharmacy profession and better support pharmacists as they provide valuable care to their local communities.

The new council, consisting of 17 pharmacy school deans and Walgreens leadership is sponsored by Rick Gates, chief pharmacy officer at Walgreens; co-chaired by John Colaizzi Jr., PharmD, FNPPhA, vice president, Pharmacy Practice at Walgreens, and Angela Kashuba, dean, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and Lorri Walmsley, director, Walgreens Pharmacy Affairs, who will serve as the vice chair.

Pharmacists have been a cornerstone of health care in communities across the United States for decades, providing timely interventions and filling gaps in care. While the demand for pharmacy services is expected to increase over the next several years, like many other health care entities and a wide range of other industries, pharmacy is facing a pronounced labor shortage. Pharmacy school applications were down 22% in 2022-2023 compared to the previous year and have decreased by more than 60% over the past decade. The pharmacy operating model needs to evolve, and pharmacy school deans are critical partners in helping Walgreens and the industry overall solve for the current workplace challenges that are also impacting pharmacy school enrollment.

“Collaboration within the pharmacy profession has never been more important and I’m grateful to the many academic leaders who have joined the Deans Advisory Council as we work to transform the future of pharmacy,” said Gates. “I look forward to working with the deans to ensure Walgreens expands our reach beyond neighborhood pharmacies into the fast-growing areas of health care and drives outcomes that matter most to our pharmacists, patients and partners.”

Members of the council will meet quarterly with the goal of identifying ways to attract, recruit and create a dynamic workplace for current and future pharmacists. The council’s initial objectives include:

- Rebuilding the talent pipeline and focusing on recruitment efforts, including through programs that expose high school students to careers in pharmacy.
- Elevating community pharmacy as a practice setting of choice through direct feedback from colleges.
- Addressing staffing challenges and helping pharmacists experience greater job satisfaction and better patient interactions.
- Evolving the community pharmacy business model and advocating for pharmacist practitioner services.
- Advising on all aspects of community pharmacy strategy, practice and administration-related topics.

“As the recent pandemic highlighted, pharmacists are the most accessible, trusted health care providers. They serve as the front door to health in their communities, yet community pharmacy remains one of health care’s most underutilized resources,” said Kashuba. “Our schools train pharmacists to fill health care gaps and improve patient care through disease screening, prevention and treatment. I’m excited to collaborate with Walgreens to better align workplace conditions with training to transform the future of community pharmacy.”

The council will serve as a sounding board and play a key role in helping Walgreens build upon recent initiatives deployed by the company to reimagine the community pharmacy operating model. These include leveraging centralized services and micro-fulfillment, deploying flexible store and staffing models and eliminating all task-based retail metrics from annual performance reviews.

The council’s first meeting is scheduled for early March 2024.

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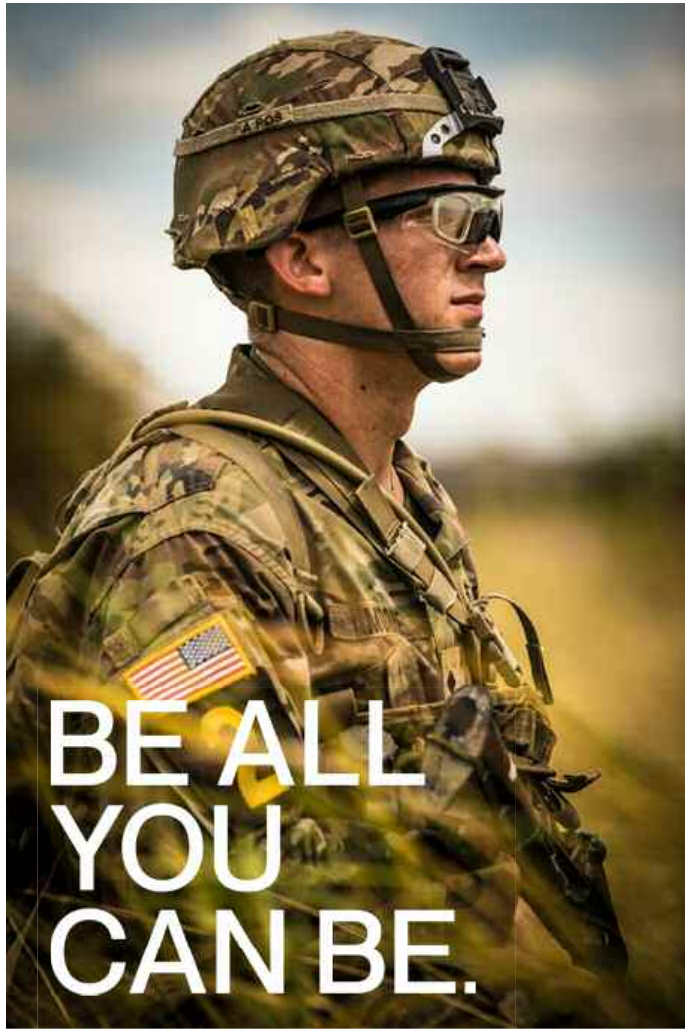
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Obituaries

Altamira

Juan Altamira. Dearly beloved husband of Francisca Altamira; loving father of Adan Altamira, Jilliane Gaffney, Eva and Spencer Raisanen; beloved son of the late Alfonso and Maria Altamira; fond grandfather of Nalu and Alejo Altamira; dear brother of four; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Battista

Joe Vito Battista. Dearly beloved husband of the late Consiglia Battista; loving father of Michael, Giuseppe and Guy; beloved son of the late Michele and Adele Battista; cherished grandfather of Jaydon and Carter; dear brother of Guy Battista, Lisetta Battista, Rachele Di Cosola and Anna Angelilli; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Cervone

Judith Cervone, nee Bondmass, passed away surrounded by her loving family and friends. Dearly beloved wife of the late Guy John Cervone Jr.; loving mother of Ric Cervone; beloved daughter of the late Seymour Rubenstein and Jean Rubenstein (nee Palermo); cherished niece of James “Dukie” Palermo; loving aunt, niece, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven.

Colantonio

Anita “Pat” Patricia Colantonio, nee Severino, March 18, 1933-Jan. 29, 2024, of Roselle, Ill., was called to her eternal glory to be with Jesus on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at the age of 90 years. Pat was born March 18, 1933, to the late Angelo and late Josephine (Luto) Severino while they lived on Taylor Street in Chicago. She was married to her beloved husband, Anthony J. Colantonio, Sr., on Feb. 8, 1958, 66 years ago. They spent most of their married life in Niles, Ill., many sunny days in Florida and at their present home in Roselle, Ill. They were blessed with three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Angelo (the late April) Colantonio and their two children – Angelo “AJ” (Amy) Colantonio, and Andrea (Dale) Medved; son Anthony, Jr (Suzanne) Colantonio and Phyllis (David) Hemmelgarn, and their two children – Gregory (Alicia) Hemmelgarn and Derrick (Megan) Hemmelgarn; and great-grandchildren, Alexis and Peyton Hemmelgarn. Anita was preceded in death by her parents, Angelo and April; her sisters and their husbands, Concetta and Edward Louis, Rosemary and Morie Frez, and Josephine and Antoine Bettuzzi; her sister-in-law, Anna (Sal) Varacalli; and brother-in-laws, Ernesto (Anna) Colantonio and John (Theresa) Forte. She is survived by loving in-laws, many nieces and nephews, and a host of long-time friends and relatives. She cherished wonderful memories with all! She had a passion for her faith, was faithful to her family and enjoyed cooking for all family celebrations. The family would like to extend special thanks to the nursing staff at Abbington Rehab & Nursing Center and Suncrest Hospice for the loving care and professional assistance over the last few months; to Severino Funeral Directors; and Carbonara Funeral Home. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery.

Colon

Robert Rafael Colon. Beloved son of Lana Colon and the late Rafael Colon; cherished brother of Salena Colon and Jose Monet; loving uncle of Joseph, LeStat and Selene Ronowski; cherished friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Cruz

Isaiah A Cruz. Beloved son of Michelle Rivera and the late Angelo Cruz; cherished grandson of George and Maria Cruz, and William and Carmen Rivera; dear brother of Amber Cruz, Alexa Cruz, Jorge Cruz, Ojani Cruz, Julissa Quinones and Jazlyne Quinones; loving nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Carmel Cemetery.

DeAngelo

Libertina M. DeAngelo. Loving mother of Angela DeAngelo and Alexandria DeAngelo; beloved daughter of the late Alberto and Sylvia Rodia; dear sister of Lorenzo (Laureen) Rodia, Rose (Natale) Panzeca, Domenica Calcagno, Silvio (Terry) Rodia and the late Sabina (the late Ralph) Matta; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Elmore

Wanda Elmore. Loving mother of Wardon Ojedapo; beloved daughter of William and the late Francis; cherished sister of Carmella, Sylvia, William and the late David; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Faraci

Cecilia M. Faraci. Beloved wife of Frank Faraci; loving mother of Cindy Faraci, Diane (Dave) Wayman and Patty (Bob) McKinney; beloved daughter of the late William and Gertrude Beckhoff; fond grandmother of Jenn (Steve) Kaplan, Jimmy (Jackie) Norrie, Jackie (Larry) Pesz and Samantha Norrie; fond great-grandmother of Jocelyn, Liam and Jensen; dear sister of Larry, the late Charlotte, Cookie and Dolly; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Funeral service private.

Fricke

Sharon Kay Fricke, nee Vilt. Beloved wife of the late Robert Fricke; loving mother of Marc (Nancy) Fricke and the late Michael; dear sister of the late Carol (the late Arden) Wills; beloved aunt of Krissy (Lance) Ropes, Greg (Tiffany) Wills and Darin (Nikki) Wills; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Gibbs

Camille Gibbs. Dearly beloved wife of Clayton Gibbs; loving mother of Darren (Michele) Gibbs; beloved daughter of the late Ettore "Lefty" and Eleanor Contini; cherished grandmother of Maia, Hayden and Gia Gibbs; dear sister of Michael (Linda) Contini; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Giglio

Joseph Giglio. On July 23, 2023, Joseph Michael Giglio, age 77, passed away peacefully at his home in Glenview, Ill. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Marguerite; son Michael (Tereza); daughter Nicole (Tim Olson); and granddaughters, Sofia and Olivia Giglio. He was a devoted son and son-in-law, loyal brother and brother-in-law, loving uncle, cousin and dear friend to many. Joe enjoyed a successful career as a Cook County prosecutor, a criminal defense lawyer in private practice and the village attorney to multiple municipalities. In his personal life, he shared his passion for travel, sports, trivia, games and music, to name a few, with all those close to him. Everyone loved the great trips he planned for his family and friends. In his retirement, he was a proud member of the Chicagoland

Italian American Charitable Organization (CIACO), where he chaired the annual golf outing for three years. Joey, as he was lovingly called, was a mover and a shaker with a kind heart, generous spirit, sharp wit, great sense of humor and larger than life personality. He will be greatly missed.

Grasso

Josephine Grasso. Beloved wife of the late Aniello Grasso; loving mother of Maria (Cesare) Paliferro and Caterina (Bobby) Villa; beloved daughter of the late Severino and Anna Maria Cocchia; fond nonna of Anthony (the late Annalisa), Cristina (Adam) Peters, Natalie (Christian) D’Agostino, Rosanna (Elio) Desantis and Silvana (Jay) Del Rosario; fond great-grandmother of Domenico, Luciano, Emilia, Elianna, Milana, Emina, Jay and Arianna; dear sister of Concetta (the late Albert) Porcellino, the late Salvatore (the late Julia) Cocchia and the late Pasqualina (the late Golfredo) Trombetta; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Proud member of the Saint Anthony Society. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Guerine

Sandra Guerine. Dearly beloved wife of the late Guy "Deon" Guerine; loving mother of Gordon (Shirle), Deandra Tidaback, Joseph and the late Ken (Tina); beloved daughter of the late Melvin and Ruby Duncan; cherished grandmother of Jeff Guerine, Troy and Katelin Tidaback; dear sister of Michael Duncan, Pamela Taylor, the late Jerry Duncan, Larry Duncan and Beverly Irwin; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Hasselberger

Jack Hasselberger. Beloved husband of Merle (nee Pater); loving father of Jeff Hasselberger; cherished son of Frank and Jean Hasselberger, and Albert and Dorothy Pater; dear brother of Robert (Linda) Hasselberger; dear brother of the late William and James Hasselberger; proud brother-in-law of Nancy and Eileen Hasselberger; devoted uncle to many nieces and nephews. Jack and Merle met in grade school and reconnected in high school, they were married in 1962. Jack began working for the US Postal Service as a mailman. Jack and his brother Bill bought the gas station in Rosemont on River Road and Higgins Road. This led to Jack's eventual career in Rosemont as a public safety officer (police and fire combined). He went on to become the director of Public Safety for 25 years, retiring in 1996. He then continued to serve his community as a Rosemont trustee for many terms. He loved to spend time at the family cottage in Stone Lake, Wis., and loved golfing with his friends. Jack always helped everyone he could and was a respected member of the Rosemont community, just a classy guy who everyone loved and will be missed. Arrangements by Severino Family Funeral Directors. Visitation Carbonara Funeral Home.

Hernandez

Elias Hernandez. Beloved son of Jesus and Rose Mary Hernandez; dear brother of Jesus E. Hernandez, Luis A. Hernandez, Gabriel Hernandez and Lorena P. Hernandez; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Edens Cemetery.

Holmes

Robert "Bobby" Holmes Jr. Loving father of Theresa (Victor) Gonzalez and Stephen; beloved son of the late Robert and Betty Holmes; cherished grandfather of Xavier Rivera and Adriana Holmes; dear brother of Silvio, Nicholas and Kim; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Klaput

Donald Klaput. Dearly beloved husband of Susan Klaput (nee Spring); loving father of Kevin (Kristy) and Kristin (Dan) Lukas; cherished grandfather of Connor Lukas, Ella Klaput and Ryan Lukas; dear brother of Sharon (the late

Samuel) Canino and Thomas (Patricia) Klaput; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Lauermann

Edwin Lauermann. Dearly beloved husband of the late Rita Lauermann; loving father of Mark (Robin), Brian and Michelle (Steven) Cappellucci; cherished grandfather of four; dear brother of Pearl (the late James) Kelly; cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Louis

Edward John Louis, age 64, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023. Beloved husband of the late Jeannette Louis (nee Fedele); loving father of Maria and Eddie Louis, and his beloved pet Casper; Beloved son of the late Edward and Concetta Louis; dear brother of JoAnn (Joe) Louis Saenger and the late Sara Louis Kott; cherished brother-in-law of Angela (Tony) Emelio, Mary Jo Fedele and Dominick (Linda) Fedele; proud uncle and great-uncle of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Christ the King Mausoleum.

Marquez

Michelle Marquez. Loving mother of Giselle (Brandon) Samuels and Brandy Roldan; cherished grandmother of Nykkol, Nykolis, Joseph, Jaylyn, Olivia and Lenox; dear sister of Victoria, Nilda, Doris, Victor, Ruben, and the late Frank, Pito, Tina and Michael; significant other of Moises Cruz; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Mellace

Carla A. Mellace. Loving mother of Peter Caruso, Ariana (Drew) Voelsch, Vincent Caruso and Lisamarie Caruso; cherished daughter of Angela and the late Aldo Mellace; caring lala of Viviana Voelsch, Peter Caruso and Michael Caruso; dear sister of Frank (Kristi) Mellace, Sam (Gina) Mellace, Lisa Mellace and the late Maria Mellace; better half to Richie Pynakker; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Militello

Cheryl Militello, nee Gleason; Lovingly known as Ms. Cheryl by countless students and families for over 20 years as the secretary at Sacred Heart School. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth Militello; loving mother of Renee (Patrick) O’Connor, Colette (Craig) Collisi and Tricia Militello; beloved daughter of the late John and Elaine Gleason; cherished grandma of Natalie and John Collisi, and Paige and Erin O’Connor; dear sister of Timothy (Paulette) Gleason, Michael (Margaret) Gleason, Donald (Vera) Gleason, Daniel (Martha) Gleason and Nancy (Don) Unger, and the late Patrick (Deanna) Gleason, John “Jack” (the late Judith) Gleason and Kevin Gleason; cherished companion of Joseph Panico; loving aunt, sister-in-law, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Ocampo

Guillermo Rodriguez Ocampo. Dearly beloved husband of Maria Luisa Rodriguez; loving father of Martha Tereza, Juan Guillermo, Aydee, Francelia, Marlene, Jose Luis, Selene and Uriel y Victor Hugo Rodriguez; grandfather of 24 and great-grandfather of eight; dear brother of the late Mario, Rafaela and Felicitas Rodriguez Ocampo. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Pones

Judith L Pones. Dearly beloved wife of 58 years to the late Anthony Frank Pones Jr; loving mother of Anthony III (Sandy), Andrea (Steve) Saviozzi, Judith and John; proud grandmother of Nina and Isabella Saviozzi;

cherished sister of Carol (Ralph) Leef (and the late Ray Amerlan), the late Bonnie (the late Dusty) Rhodes and the late Alexander (Georgene); loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Principe

Andrea Therese Principe. Beloved daughter of Vera and the late Daniel; cherished sister of Maria and Joe (Elena); loving aunt of Micah, Zoe and Nico; doting cat mom to Louie; loving cousin, pet lover and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home

Raffaelli

Francine M. Raffaelli, nee Caliendo. Dearly beloved wife of Ron Raffaelli; loving mother of Frankie Raffaelli and Anthony (Claudia) Raffaelli; cherished nana of Angelina, Anthony and Analisa; dear sister of the late Camille "Cookie" Benko; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Saint Joseph Cemetery.

Rossi

Ruth Elaine Rossi, nee Williamson, age 96, of Melrose Park, passed away peacefully on Feb. 4, 2024. Dearly beloved wife of the late Paul R. Rossi; loving mother of Cynthia (David) Kass, Paula (Paul) Karch, Michael (Karen), David (Elizabeth), the late Gail (Michael) Farmer and the late Paul Michael; adored grandmother of 14; proud great-grandmother of 11; fond aunt of many; preceded in death by her parents, Jeremiah and Rose (Albrecht) Williamson, 10 siblings, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Ruberte

Harvey Ruberte. Loving father of Sara (Anthony) Brines and Airielle (Alexander) Ruberte; cherished grandfather of Amira and Alexander; dear

brother of Michael (Deana) Ruberte; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Tassi

Gene Tassi, age 93, a resident of Naperville, Ill., since 2001, born and raised in Melrose Park, Ill., passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Edward Hospital in Naperville. Gene was born on Sept. 20, 1930, in Melrose Park. Beloved husband of Mary "Mitzi" Tassi, a resident of StoryPoint of Naperville, whom he married on May 16, 1959. Gene was loving father of Mary Frances (Bob) Sammarco (of Glen Ellyn, Ill.), Sue (Victor) Bellisario, (of Naperville) and Dave (Katie) Tassi (of Naperville); adored grandfather of Gina, Jimmy (Jackie) and Natalie Sammarco, Samantha Bellisario and Juliet (Mike) Borkowski, and Lisa and Anne Tassi; cherished great-grandfather of Robert and Rose Sammarco; devoted son of the late Maria and Nicola Tassi; son-in-law of the late Julia and John Mocnik; fond brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle and friend of many. Gene was born in his parents' home in Melrose Park, Ill., and graduated from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Grade School and Proviso Township High School (now Proviso East) in Maywood, Ill. After one year training to be a jockey at Thistledown Race Track in North Randall, Ohio, he returned and earned a technical degree from DeVry in television repair. Gene opened his own business in the early 1950s and was a respected business owner known for his honesty and fairness. In 1977, as TVs evolved to solid state technology, he reversed course and opened Gee's Hot Dogs, a classic Chicago hot dog stand in Melrose Park. For 10 years, Gene served the many patrons great food, friendly conversation and a lot of laughs. His last employment was with the Street Department in the very same village where he was born. A lifelong sports fan, Gene was especially fond of bowling and baseball, coaching Little League and cheering on his beloved Cubs. But most important to him was family and the examples he left will forever be cherished. Arrangements by Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment private.

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