

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

There are several resources available on the Melrose Park website that can enhance your summer enjoyment. Visit www.melrosepark.org for significant details. Note that there's several warm-weather-friendly services you might find interesting.

Dear Neighbors,

Over the past couple of weeks, we enjoyed several days with temperatures soaring into the 70s. It was nature's way of reminding us that summer is just around the corner.

With this in mind, I want to inform Melrose Park residents about several resources available on the Melrose Park website that can enhance your summer enjoyment. Visit our website at www.melrosepark.org, then click on "Village Services" in the maroon bar at the top of the homepage. From the drop-down menu, select "Village Services A to Z." You will then see a list of village services.

Here are a few warm-weather-friendly services you might find interesting:

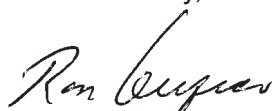
- 1) Block Party Permit Request: Available in both English and Spanish. There's no better way to connect with neighbors than hosting a block party where everyone can bring food and drinks to share. The police will block off traffic on your street so kids can play freely, people can BBQ and everyone can enjoy each other's company.
- 2) Dog Park Information and Permit: A great opportunity for your family dog to run off those extra pounds they may have gained while lounging on the couch during winter. The dog park is located at 13th Avenue and Main Street and is open daily, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
- 3) Garage Sale Dates for 2025: Garage sales will occur between May and September on the third weekend of each month. This is a fantastic way to sell items you no longer need, like that treadmill that's now just an item that holds clothes!
- 4) Rent Melrose Park's Multi-Purpose Rooms: Our multi-purpose rooms can accommodate up to 150 people, and come equipped with tables, chairs and a kitchen – all for a low rental price. Consider planning that graduation party, wedding shower or family reunion, today!
- 5) Senior Free Painting Program Application for 2025: If you are 65 or older, take advantage of this unique program to spruce up your home for free.
- 6) Sidewalk Replacement Information for 2025: The village will cover 50% of the cost to replace the sidewalk in front of your home.
- 7) Tree Planting Program for Residents: If you need a tree for your parkway, summer is the perfect time to utilize our free Tree Planting Program.
- 8) Summer Residential Ordinances: Review our village ordinances regarding summertime outdoor activities intended to help make living in Melrose Park pleasant for everyone.

On Page 2 of the homepage, you'll also find a menu item titled "Local Events of Interest." Clicking on this will reveal a pop-up menu with links to events from Veterans Park District, Memorial Park District, Cook County Forest Preserves, Trailside Museum and Brookfield Zoo. This is a great way to plan fun summer activities!

Additionally, get your steps in by walking or jogging around the track located on the football field next to the Village Hall. Now open daily, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Taste of Melrose Park, which will be held on Aug. 29, 30 and 31. It's the perfect way to conclude your summer.

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!**

THE TASTE OF MELROSE PARK IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!
Interested parties, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

Trustees

Anthony N. 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.

Snow Removal.....(708) 649-4450

Senior Services(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448

Taste of Melrose Park

Dial A Ride(708) 343-7047

Proviso Township Assessor.....(708) 449-4304

Economic Development(708) 865-8809

Important Upcoming Dates

Village Board Meetings.....May 27, June 23

Village Hall Holiday Closings.....May 26, June 19, July 4

Resident Response

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

On behalf of myself and the members of the Berwyn Police Department, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Det. Fogg, who, as a member of the West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (WESTAF), assisted the Berwyn Police Department on April 5, 2025, in response to a shooting that left one person dead and another critically injured.

The response of the WESTAF team was organized and professional. The assistance provided by them resulted in the successful apprehension of the offender and the recovery of significant physical evidence.

Please extend my sincere thanks to your detective for an exceptional performance and job well done.

• Sincerely,
Michael D. Cimaglia,
Chief of Police, Berwyn Police Department

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

Greetings in the name of the of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude for the Melrose Park Police Department's assistance with the homegoing service for Deacon John Belser on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, here at First Baptist Church.

Please know that we value and appreciate the awesome assistance provided by your Police Department.

It is our prayer that God will continue to keep you and the Melrose Park police officers safe as you continue to provide valuable services to the residents of Melrose Park.

• Yours in Christ,
Rev. John L. Belser
Pastor

Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

Thanks for your gift to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

May your attention and dedication be blessed by God. Count on my prayers always and I appreciate your service to our village and community.

• Grazie Mille,
Fr. Leandro Fossá, c.s.

You Can Manage Your Water Bill Online

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 Village Officials Take Oath of Office



Our Community Welcomes Re-Elected Leadership at Swearing-In Ceremony

The village of Melrose Park proudly held its official Inauguration and Swearing-In Ceremony on Thursday, May 1, 2025, marking the beginning of a new chapter in community leadership and service. The event took place at Village Hall and was attended by residents, dignitaries and community leaders from across the region.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presence of Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon, who graciously served as the officiant and administered the oath of office to the recently elected officials in her first swearing-in ceremony since being elected county clerk. Her participation underscored the importance of civic engagement and support across all levels of government.

The following officials were sworn in at the ceremony – Mayor Ron Serpico, Village Clerk Mary Ann Paolantonio and village trustees Anthony Abruzzo, Mary Ramirez-Taconi, Louis “Sonny” Nicotera and Anthony “Tony” Williams.

Trustees Arturo Mota and Jaime Anguiano were sworn in at the Village board meeting by Village Clerk Paolantonio on Monday, April 28, 2025.

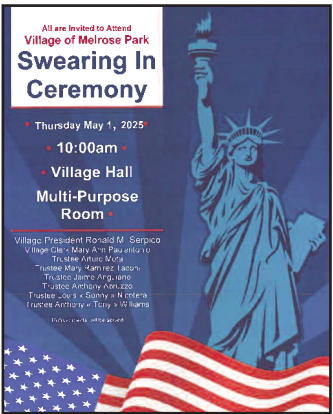
All of the elected officials remain committed to representing the interests and well-being of Melrose Park residents.

In his address, Mayor Serpico expressed deep gratitude to the community and a renewed commitment to progress.

“Today’s ceremony is not just about swearing in elected officials — it’s a reaffirmation of our shared promise to serve Melrose Park with integrity, vision and compassion,” stated Serpico. “I am honored to continue leading this great village and I look forward to working with our dedicated team to build a stronger, more united community.”

The event reflected Melrose Park’s enduring values of leadership, inclusivity and collaboration. With dedicated officials at the helm, the village is poised to continue its legacy of progress while addressing the evolving needs of its residents.

For more information about the village of Melrose Park and its leadership, visit www.melrosepark.org.



Cook County Clerk
Monica Gordon



Melrose Park Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico



Melrose Park Village Clerk
Mary Ann Paolantonio



Melrose Park Trustee
Anthony Abruzzo



Melrose Park Trustee
Sonny Nicotera



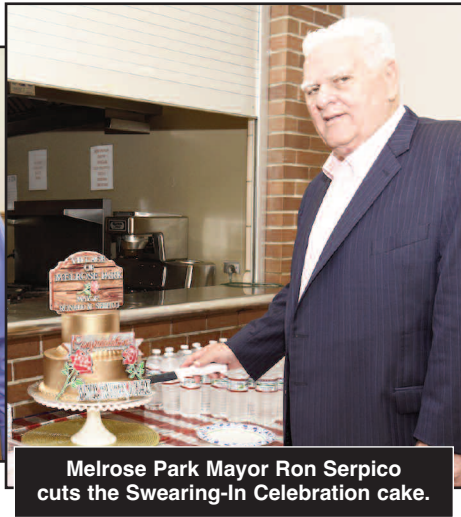
Melrose Park Trustee
Mary Ramirez-Taconi



Melrose Park Trustee
Tony Williams



Melrose Park trustees
Jaime Anguiano (left) and Arturo Mota (right)
with Village Clerk Paolantonio.



Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico
cuts the Swearing-In Celebration cake.



Emcee Dr. Doug Olson, County Clerk Gordon,
Village Attorney Mike Del Galdo
and Mayor Serpico.

HOW MELROSE PARK VOTED ... APRIL 1,

FOR MELROSE PARK VILLAGE PRESIDENT

RONALD M. SERPICO, SR.1,308

FOR MELROSE PARK VILLAGE CLERK

MARY ANN PAOLANTONIO1,284

FOR MELROSE PARK VILLAGE TRUSTEE

ANTHONY N. ABRUZZO.....1,207

JAIME ANGUIANO1,156

ARTURO J. MOTA1,183

LOUIS T. “SONNY” NICOTERA1,149

MARY RAMIREZ-TACONI1,167

ANTHONY “TONY” WILLIAMS1,125

FOR MELROSE PARK LIBRARY TRUSTEE

JUDITH DeLAMORA MACIAS1,139

STEVE PESCE1,093

FOR PROVISO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN.....1,082

Tracy Jennings.....178

FOR PROVISO TOWNSHIP CLERK

ANTHONY “TONY” WILLIAMS1,226

FOR PROVISO TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

STEVEN J. ZAWASKI1,188

FOR PROVISO TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER1,057

EVELYN CHAVEZ1,099

GAY F. CHASE.....1,006

TOM OLSON1,139

Stacy Armstrong270

2025 – Consolidated Election Results

FOR VETERANS PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

RONALD W. BOSCACCY	1,043
THERESA NARDIELLO	1,138

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 88 BOARD

DOROTHY C. SMITH	56
TONY A. MORTON	56
SHELIA DAY-FOX	50
JASMINE MENDEZ	68
Constance (Connie) Riales.....	13

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 89 BOARD

LAIGHTON SCOTT	936
TERI LEA CERVONE	1,027
SANDRA CIANCIO	1,051

FOR PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 209 BOARD

Rolandra Morris	404
William Fisher	386
Nicole “Molly Bee” Molinaro	464
Ebony “Nicki” Smith	295
Candice Ross	762
Zihualpilli Hernandez	723
Arbdella “Della” Patterson	703
Jerry L. Jenkins	696

FOR TRITON COLLEGE TRUSTEE

Princess Dempsey.....	400
RICH REGAN	1,033
GLOVER “TRES” JOHNSON	942
DIANE M. VIVERITO	1,041

Totals are combined results from votes cast in Melrose Park precincts only.
Boldface names indicate winning candidates based on the total amount of votes cast in all precincts for each race listed – municipality, library, township, park district, elementary school district, high school district and community college district.



BILL CARO
PRESIDENT

(312) 726-4950
(888) 308-8210

2210 W. NORTH AVENUE
MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

EMAIL – LEGION_911@YAHOO.COM

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL BODYGUARD
PERSONAL SECURITY FOR
PRIVATE GATHERINGS

SPORTS FIGURES

AUTOGRAPH SIGNINGS

ENTERTAINERS

CONCERT TOURS

PRIVATE ESTATES

PRIVATE FAMILY
PROTECTION

JEWELRY TRANSPORT
PROTECTION

SPECIAL EVENTS

BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECURITY CONSULTING

CONSTRUCTION SITE
SECURITY

BUSINESS | ESTABLISHMENT
SECURITY

BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATIONS

ALL SERVICES

HAVE THE OPTION OF
BEING ARMED & UNARMED

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.





Always Stepping Up ...

MPFD Welcomes New Firefighters

Village of Melrose Park Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame recently swore in two new firefighters – Dominic Prunotto and Anthony Raffaelli, Jr.

The ceremony took place in the training room of Melrose Park Fire Station #3 as family, friends and well-wishers looked on.

Mayor Serpico and Director Beltrame welcome these fine men, and wish them and their families good luck as they embark on new careers as Melrose Park firefighters.

As probationary firefighters Prunotto and Raffaelli recently attended Romeoville Fire Academy and graduated on Friday, May 2, 2025.



Firefighter Prunotto being sworn in.

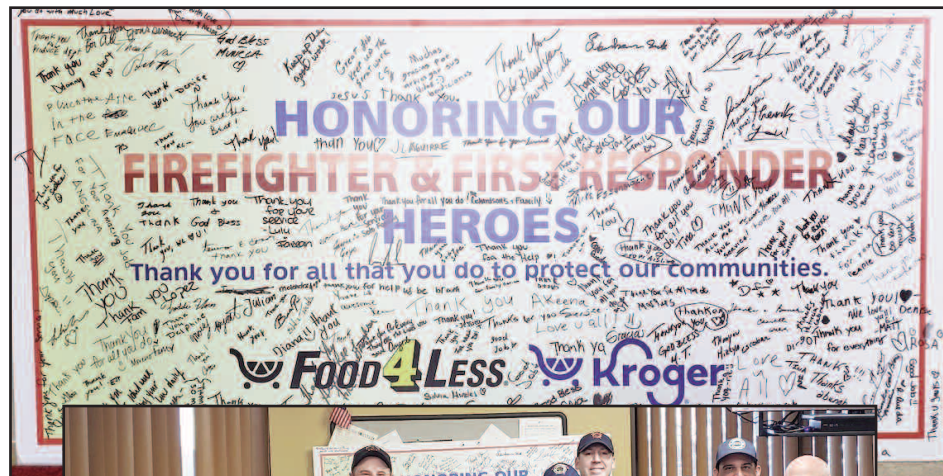


Firefighter Raffaelli being sworn in.



Melrose Park's newest firefighters are pictured at the swearing-in ceremony with Director Beltrame, Lead Inspector of Code Enforcement Billy Campanelli and Assistant Fire Chief Steve Morella.

Food4Less Recognizes Firefighters/First Responders



Melrose Park's Food4Less grocery store, located at 25th and North Avenue, recently held a special initiative for customers to express their appreciation for area firefighters and first responders.

Early this spring, Food 4Less employees hosted an in-store setup for shoppers to write a special one-of-a-kind note of thank you on a large poster to firefighters and first responders for them going above and beyond to provide critical assistance and keep the community safe during emergency situations. The layout was later given to members of the Melrose Park Fire Department.

Pictured are Food4Less representatives with MPFD members Jimmy Wrosch, Chris Bojko, Guy Le Gal, Sam Ciancio, Rick Klugger and Asst. Chief Steve

Congrats Asst. Chief Morella!



Melrose Park Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame hosted a special gathering on Wednesday, April 30, to congratulate Asst. Chief Steve Morella on his retirement after 32 1/2 years as an MPFD first responder.

Pictured are Director Beltrame, new Asst. Chief Dom DiFazio, Capt. Mark Hardy, Asst. Chief Morella, and inspectors Frank Pope and Frank Urso.

Steve, the Melrose Park community thanks you for your exemplary service and wishes you all the best for a happy retirement!



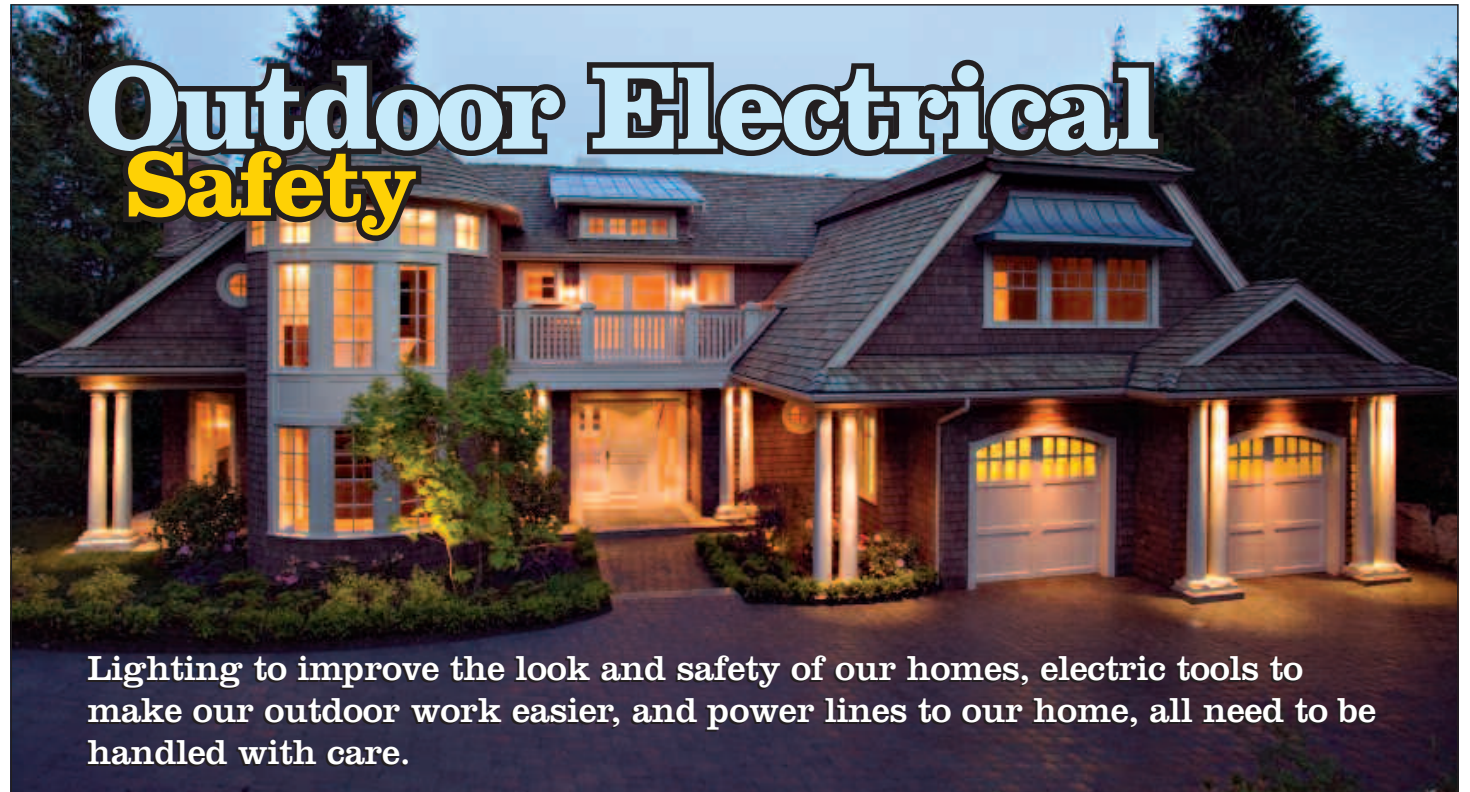
Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



*Rick Beltrame
Director of Fire Dept.*

A Message from Rick Beltrame, Director of Fire Department

The Melrose Park Fire Department and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame want to ensure the safety of our residents by providing these outdoor electrical 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 safety!



Outdoor Electrical Safety

Lighting to improve the look and safety of our homes, electric tools to make our outdoor work easier, and power lines to our home, all need to be handled with care.

Outside Electrical Work

- Have a qualified electrician do all electrical work.
- To prevent an electrical shock, make sure all your outside electrical receptacles are GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) protected.

Equipment Safety

- Use lighting and power tools that are listed by a qualified test laboratory and make sure they are made for outdoor use.
- Store your electrical tools indoors.
- Keep electric tools away from children.
- Keep the area around your electric meter and other electrical equipment clear.
- Check lighting and extension cords for damage before using. Replace any damaged cords right away.
- Use extension cords that are listed by a qualified test laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Extension cords are not meant for long-term use.

POWER LINES

Have a professional tree cutting service trim branches that might fall on electric wiring. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder outside. Keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live, stay a safe distance away. Report downed wires to authorities right away.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call **"Before You Dig"** (8-1-1) before any digging on your property. They will mark where your underground utilities are located. **It's a free service!**



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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



**MELROSE PARK
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

Melrose Park Police Department Reminds Residents of New Overnight Parking Program

The village of Melrose Park ordinance 10.44.080 states that parking is prohibited during certain hours on certain streets. It is unlawful, during the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., for any motor vehicle to be parked on any and all of the following streets:



- a) From Ninth Avenue to 25th Avenue, all streets traveling in an easterly and westerly direction in the village.
- b) From 31st Avenue to 37th Avenue.
- c) In the area commonly known as "Winston Park".

As a “courtesy” the Police Department realizes that issues may arise where street parking is necessary. The Police Department will allow parking as indicated below.

Some streets (or portions of) allow west-side/east-side parking during these hours.

Permission cannot be granted on the west-side/east-side streets and in the event the computer system grants permission in error you are still liable. If you need to park your vehicle overnight you must submit your request using the online form at <https://melrosepark-il.dacragov.com/il/melrosepark/nightparking>.

If a resident needs overnight parking for more than three days due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the Melrose Park Police – Traffic Department, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at (708) 344-8409. Each request will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Police Department reserves the right to revoke the privilege of those utilizing this night park system if a person is found to be falsifying or manipulating the system in order to obtain extra days of parking.

- Requests must be received prior to the midnight cutoff.
- Overnight parking is limited to three nights within a 30-day period.
- Any incorrect information entered resulting in the issuance of a citation will not be a reason to dispute the citation in question.
- Overnight parking cannot be granted for residents of multi-family (apartment) buildings.
- Overnight parking will not be granted when there is two inches or more of snowfall.
- Motor vehicle must be legally parked.

For more information, visit melroseparkpd.com

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

As of April 1, 2025, parking is permitted on both sides of the street on weekends (Friday, 5 p.m.-Monday, 9 a.m.) until Dec 1, 2025.

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.

STREET SWEEPING BEGAN TUESDAY, APRIL 1

The street sweeper has been out sweeping roadways since April 1.
Please follow all street sweeping signs located on village roadways.
Remember to remove your vehicle from the street to help expedite sweeping.

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.

flock safety

The Melrose Park Police Department is participating in a new public safety program that will enable the people of Melrose Park to help keep their community safe.



Your participation will greatly enhance emergency preparedness by enabling police, fire, and public safety professionals to better assess and rapidly respond to criminal activity and emergency situations. It will also enable investigators to easily gather evidence in case of an incident.

3 Ways to Get Involved

- 1 REGISTER YOUR CAMERA**
Your participation will greatly enhance emergency preparedness by enabling police, fire, and public safety professionals to better assess and rapidly respond to criminal activity and emergency situations.
- 2 INTEGRATE YOUR CAMERAS**
Businesses and residents can take community security one step further by giving the Melrose Park Police Department and first responders direct access to your camera feed in case of a nearby emergency.
- 3 PURCHASE CAMERAS**
Businesses and residents can purchase a camera that directly integrates with the Melrose Park Police Department and first responders. We'll even handle the installation.



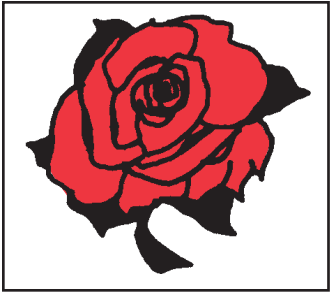
"The Melrose Park Police Department is excited to offer a new way for citizens to contribute to the reduction of crime in Melrose Park through the use of technology and the Melrose Park Safe program."

MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

flock safety

flocksafety.com

(886) 901-1781 | support@flocksafety.com



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 Public Works Report

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

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.

2025 – Fall Tree Planting Program

The list is now open for 2025 – Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree for 2025, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.

2025 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program

If you would like to participate in the 2025 – 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.

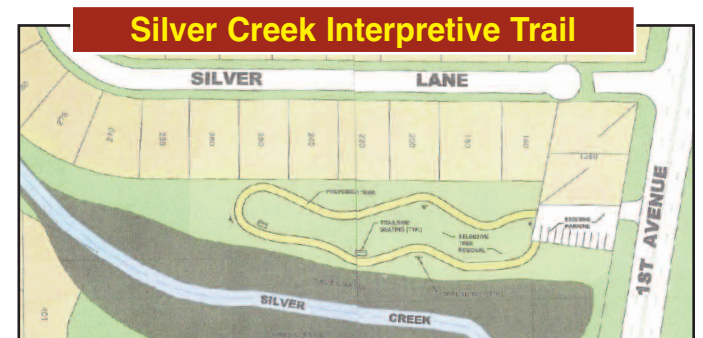
**Phase 5 and 6 of the
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.
Phase 7 is underway.**

This stabilization 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. Fishermen 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 2025 Senior Painting Program!

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



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

The 2025 Senior Painting Program list will be closed July 31, 2025.
Only one item will be painted per year.
Get your request in early as the list fills fast.

Mayor Serpico's 2025 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. The 2025 list will be closed July 31, 2025.



Village of Melrose Park Senior News

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

Senior Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

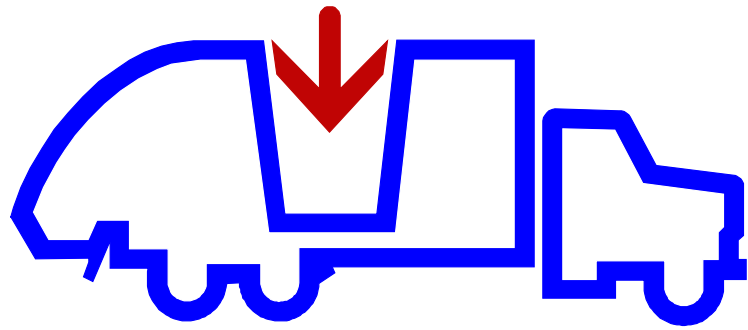
Benefit Access Program Benefits

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

Beneficio de Acceso para el Programa de Beneficios

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

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



Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This service is for Melrose Park residents in single and two-flat buildings only.

Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

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

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

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

For a missing or damaged garbage can, please call the Melrose Park Public Works Department directly at (708) 343-5128 to request a replacement garbage can.

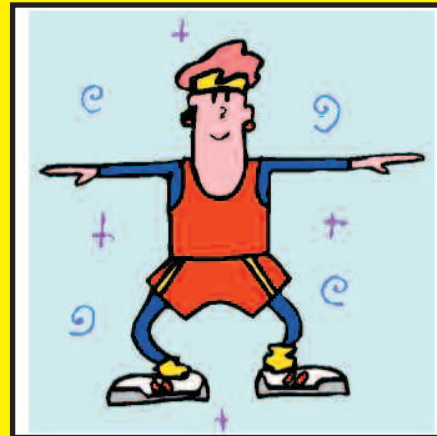
REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

For the new larger recycling cans, please call the Melrose Park Public Works Department directly at (708) 343-5128 to request a recycling can. The smaller recycling can will no longer be available at the village Public Works Department or from Republic Services.

Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially
Distanced
Activity*

*Face
Masks
Required*



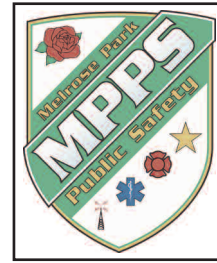
*Come Join in the Fun with
Instructor Barb Rubright
of Rube's Garage!*

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.

Melrose Park Public Safety News



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

Lightning: What You Need to Know

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

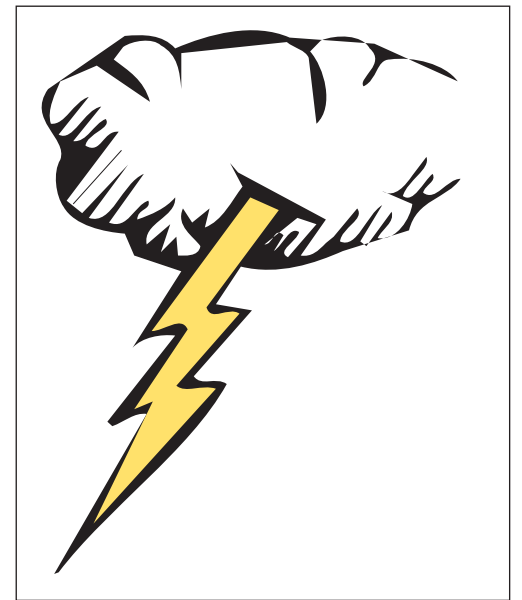
Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).



Lightning Safety Myths and Facts

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year.

Myth: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, not the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

Myth: If you are in a house, you are 100 percent safe from lightning.

Fact: A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

Myth: If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

Fact: Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or lifelong injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

Myth: Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.

Fact: Height, pointy shape and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter – don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railings, bleachers, etc.

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

Tornados

Before a Tornado

Know the terms used to describe tornado threats.

Tornado Watch – Tornados are possible. Watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter. If you see any rotating funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately by telephone to your local law enforcement agency. If you live in a mobile home, this is the time to move to a more substantial structure.

Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television and wait for the "all clear" announcement by authorities. Determine the best location in your home and office to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. Conduct periodic tornado safety drills with your family.

During a Tornado – Take the following actions when a Tornado Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, when sirens have been activated or when a tornado has been sighted near your area.

At Home – Go at once to your predetermined shelter (storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building). In a basement, go under the stairs, under a heavy piece of furniture or a workbench. Stay there until the danger has passed. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a small inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.

Go to the center of the room. Outside windows and walls may be penetrated by high speed, wind-borne missiles.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold onto it.

Use pillows, mattresses or cushions to protect your head and neck.

If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. If there isn't a substantial shelter nearby, seek shelter in a low-lying area. Shield your head with your hands.

In a School, Nursing Home, Hospital, Shopping Center or at Work – Go to the designated storm shelter, basement or to an inside hallway on the lowest level.

Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and large hallways. Stay away from windows and open spaces.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold onto it. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself the smallest target possible. Squat low to the ground. Put your head down and cover your head and neck with your hands.

If in a high-rise building, go to small, interior rooms or hallways on the lowest level possible and seek protection as detailed above. Stay away from windows and outside walls.

Learn how to shut off the utilities to your home. Decide how and where your family will reunite.

If you live in a mobile home, identify a safe shelter outside of your mobile home such as a community park shelter, a neighbor or friend's house, or a nearby public building.

In a mobile home, consider installation of an underground shelter that is large enough to accommodate you, your family or several other nearby mobile home residents.

Consider retrofitting your house with special fasteners, connectors and reinforcing bands to strengthen the structural integrity. Also, consider installing a reinforced concrete and steel "safe room" as a small room within your house, or excavated and installed beneath your garage floor.

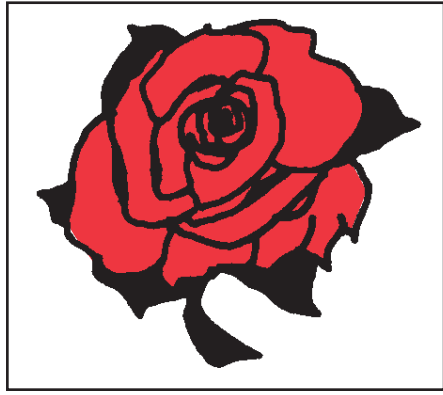
In a Vehicle – Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Heavy rain, hail and traffic may impede your movement. Tornados can change directions quickly and can easily lift up a vehicle and toss it through the air.

Get out of the vehicle immediately and try to take shelter in a nearby building. Do not park under a bridge or underpass.

If there isn't time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch, culvert or low-lying area away from the vehicle.



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



Village of Melrose Park Dial A Ride Program for MP Residents

Convenient Ride Service Now Available 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Village of Melrose Park Dial A Ride Program provides public transportation to any location within Melrose Park's boundaries. No one is turned away from utilizing this service. Riders are encouraged to use the program to do their everyday needs, such as grocery shopping, doctor appointments, etc. We are also handicapped accessible.

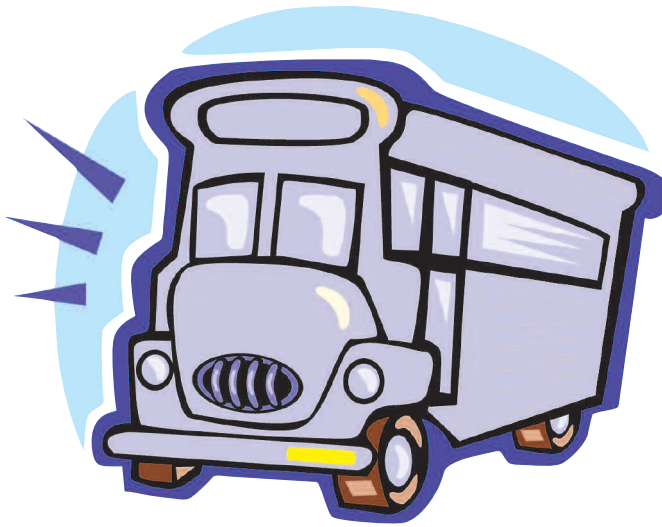
This service is available to residents Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

To make a reservation, please call (708) 343-7047. You can make appointments between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-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

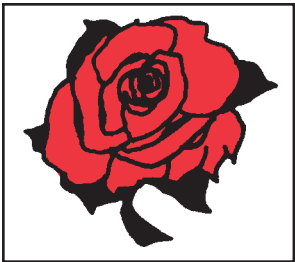
- 1) Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 2) Only two appointments a week can be made for miscellaneous use, such as grocery shopping, etc. Anyone using the van for doctor appointments, etc., may use the service up to three times a week.
- 3) You must stay at the destination you are going to for a minimum time 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.
- 4) 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.



Melrose Park Public Library



www.mpplibrary.org

Adult Programming May & June

Adults & Senior Summer Program

Yap & Yarn

Do you crochet or knit? Do you want to socialize with other crafters at the library?

Join us for Yap & Yarn!

Please bring your own supplies.

Thursday, May 8th from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Registration Required
Online: mpplibrary.org
Call: (708) 649-7485
Email: mpref@mpplibrary.org

ADULTS | SENIORS PROGRAM

CHAIR YOGA

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

FRIDAYS: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

2025 DATES

May 10th
June 20th
July 18th
August 15th
September 10th
October 17th
November 14th
December 19th

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

Register Now!
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY...

Adult | Senior Program

MEDITATION SOUNDBATH

Yoga instructor Rhonda Fentry leads a form of meditation using ambient overlapping sounds and vibrations from crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, tapping into your subconscious and awakening new energy.

Please bring your own yoga mat

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

Register Now!

Saturdays 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

2025 Dates:
May 17th
October 18th

Adults & Seniors

Saddle Shoe Sisters: Best of 40s, 50s & 60s

The Saddle Shoe Sisters are bringing us harmony through the decades! Hear the best music of the 40s, 50s & 60s from a fabulous retro girl group who sing and play their own instrumental!

Thursday, June 5th @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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

Family Summer Programs

Family Summer Program

EVIYOLI CREATIONS LLC

Mexican Tazos Game

Join Yolanda Prado in learning about the history of the Mexican tazos game and making your own to play! Battle your family out at the end for prizes!

Friday, June 13th @ 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Registration Required
Online: mpplibrary.org
Call: (708) 649-7485
Email: mpref@mpplibrary.org

FAMILY GAME FRIDAY!

Bring your family and friends to the library for a Friday filled with board games! We will have a variety of games available to play.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH 3PM - 4PM
For Children and Families
This is a Drop-in event

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



Melrose Park
Public Library

Youth Services



Get Ready for Summer Reading at the Library!



Summer Reading @ MPPL
May 30th to July 25th

Our theme is "Color Our World!"

Check out our website for all the details and special programming coming soon!



Summer Reading Kick-Off!
Friday, May 30th

Children and families are invited to stop by the library for a sweet treat and sign up for summer reading!

Stop in anytime between
3pm-4:30pm
to get your reading log and check out what events we have planned for the summer!

May Programming



May
Make it Mondays

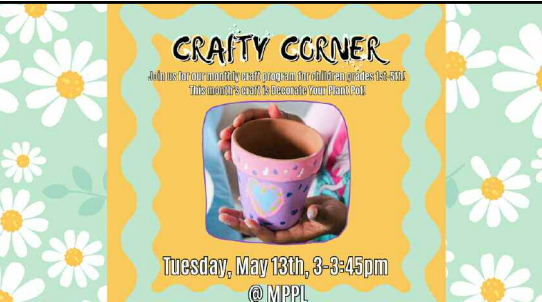
NEW CRAFT VIDEO EVERY MONDAY ON THE MELROSE PARK LIBRARY OFFICIAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Online Storytimes
FIND THEM ON OUR WEBSITE

Two Little Raindrops
A fun adventure through the water cycle
Every 1st Wednesday of the month

Little Plants | Plantitas
A bilingual book about emotions
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month



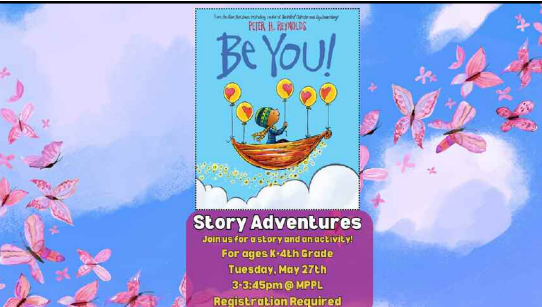
CRAFTY CORNER
Join us for our monthly craft program for children ages 4-8!
This month's craft is Decorate Your Plant Pot!

Tuesday, May 13th, 3-3:45pm
@ MPPL
Registration Required

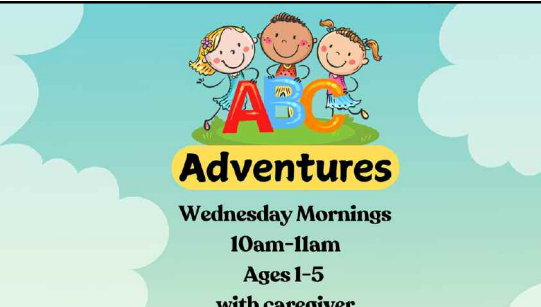


FULL STEAM AHEAD
Join us for our monthly STEAM program for children grades 1st-5th!
This month's activity is Homemade Ice Cream!

Tuesday, May 20th
3-3:45pm @ MPPL
Registration Required

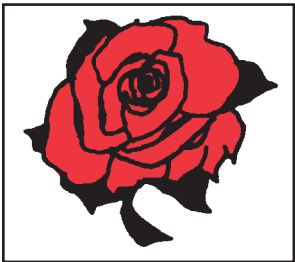


Be You!
Story Adventures
Join us for a story and an activity!
For ages K-4th Grade
Tuesday, May 27th
3:3-4:5pm @ MPPL
Registration Required

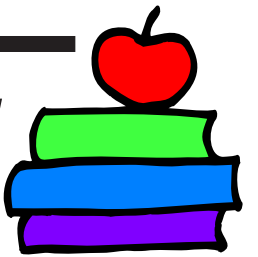


ABC Adventures
Wednesday Mornings
10am-11am
Ages 1-5
with caregiver

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.



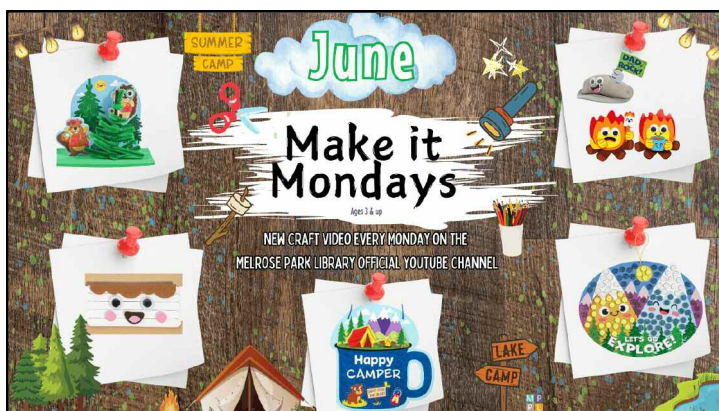
Melrose Park Public Library



Melrose Park
Public Library

Youth Services

June Programming



Join us Wednesdays at 10am for ABC Adventures
Ages 1-5 with caregiver



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.



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.

The**ROSE**

Wants to Hear Your Story ...

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

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

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

Please send all your exciting details
by direct mail to:

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

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

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



Village of Melrose Park

Garage Sale Notice

Garage Sales are Back ...

It's Time to Sell All Those Treasures

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

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

The dates for 2025 are May 15-17, June 19-21, July 17-19, Aug. 21-23 and Sept. 18-20.

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

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

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

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

A copy of garage sale rules is available at www.melrosepark.org.





**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.



Meals on Wheels Foundation
of Northern Illinois *A non-profit organization*

Community Nutrition Network
and Senior Services Association *A non-profit organization*



You Can Change a Life!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

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

AGEOPTIONS

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.**



Village of Melrose Park

COMMUNITY NOTICE



Time to Celebrate ... Melrose Park Block Parties with Street Closures are Now Allowed

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

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025; Juneteenth – Thursday, June 19, 2025; Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025; Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 1, 2025; Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 13, 2025; Veterans Day – Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025; Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 28, 2025; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025; Christmas Day – Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025; and New Year's Day – Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

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

Public Notice Regarding Scheduled Board Meetings

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

The remaining schedule for calendar year 2025 is: Tuesday, May 27; June 23; July 28; Aug. 25; Sept. 22; Oct. 27; Nov. 24; and Dec. 22.

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

Franciscan Resource Center Offers Local Assistance

Melrose Park-based Franciscan Resource Center is a nonprofit center for persons seeking help in their human needs, such as health, depression, domestic problems, hunger, medical aid, addictions, anger management, substance abuse, clothing and basic human needs.

The resource center refers persons to area agencies and follows up on each person's needs.

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

Centro De Recursos Franciscanos

El Centro de Recursos Franciscanos es un centro sin fines de lucro para personas que buscan ayuda en sus necesidades humanas, como la salud mental depresión inmigración, problemas internos, hambre, ayuda, medica, adicciones, control de la ira, abuso de sustancias, ropa y necesidades humanas basicas.

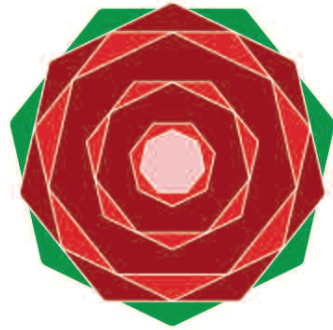
Este centro de recursos ayuda a referir a personas, a las agencias adecuadas y hacen el seguimiento para que las personas reciban la ayuda necesaria.

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

Melrose Park Can Help You Remove Unwanted Animals From Your Home

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





MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Welcome New Members

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed six new businesses as members to the chamber in March and April 2025, and now has over 220 current members! Please help us welcome Chick-fil-A Melrose Park; Solutions for Care; Windy City Auto Spa; Glen Una Investment & Management Co., Inc; Municipal Solutions Group, LLC; and Arepa Express LLC on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the 11 businesses that renewed memberships in March and April, and continue to participate in networking events, information sessions and provide feedback and surveys to help the chamber connect them with the resources and solutions needed to support and fuel economic growth in our community. Please join us in thanking and supporting these local businesses – they are Way Back Inn; Merrill Lynch; Development Services Corp.; Eskrine Boody IV/Janice R. Johnson Cancer Lupus Association; Insperity; High View Hair Salon; Toms Steak House; The Joint Chiropractic; Macid, Inc.; West Central Municipal Conference; and the Triton College Foundation.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 220 members and the list continues to grow each month. If you are not currently a member of the MPCCCD, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at lbazbaz@mpcccd.org or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

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

Chamber Hosts Record-Breaking Annual Legislative Breakfast

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development proudly hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast on Monday, April 14, featuring distinguished panelists Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch. The event brought together a remarkable assembly of elected officials from various levels of government, including state, municipalities, county, school boards, townships and park districts to discuss critical legislative issues affecting local businesses and community organizations.

With over 240 registrants and representation from nearly 100 different businesses and organizations, this year’s Legislative Breakfast marked the largest attendance in the chamber’s history. Attendees engaged in vibrant discussions and extensive networking, creating a dynamic forum for collaboration and growth.

The Legislative Breakfast provided a vital platform for local leaders to engage with state officials, share insights and learn about initiatives that will impact this growing community. The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development looks forward to continuing to foster these essential connections and drive positive change.

To learn more about the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, visit our website at <https://mpcccd.org> or call (708) 343-9500 today about future events and initiatives.



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

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

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

Melrose Park Welcomes Four New Businesses



Andy's Frozen Custard



Chick-fil-A



Garden Berry Cafe



Sistas Beauty



The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development joined Mayor Ron Serpico in welcoming four new businesses to Melrose Park with ribbon-cutting celebrations in March and April.

On March 17, Mayor Ron Serpico and MPCCCD reps joined the team from Andy's Frozen Custard to welcome customers (and the spring/summer season) to its new location at 1319 W. North Ave., Melrose Park. Although Andy's opened in late October, they wanted to hold the official ribbon-cutting until the spring and summer season to celebrate the outdoor grand opening their team and the customers that have strongly supported them since they opened.

On March 24, Mayor Ron Serpico and MPCCCD Executive Director, Isaac Bazbaz were on hand to officially welcome Garden Berry Café to its newest location at 129 N. Broadway, Melrose Park. Garden Berry is open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and a place where you can get breakfast or lunch made "Fresh, Fast!"

On April 4, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce team along with representatives from the village of Melrose Park joined the new owner operator, Vikas Bhala, Chick-fil-A Melrose Park, to celebrate a grand opening for its customers and the community. Chick-fil-A has been a local favorite for several years and the new leadership team is ready to carry those traditions forward and strengthen its roots in the community. It probably goes without saying, but Chick-fil-A is located on North Avenue in Winston Plaza.

On April 5, the MPCCCD team and representatives from the village of Melrose Park, joined hundreds of excited customers to cut the grand-opening ribbon and open the doors at Sistas Beauty located in Winson Plaza, 1000 W. North Ave., Melrose Park. If you haven't stopped by to see the new 45,000-sq.-ft. store, put it on your calendar to visit soon – you will be amazed at the items available for everyone in your home.

Connecting Businesses and Strengthening Community

On March 11, the MPCCCD hosted its first quarterly Chamber After Hours Networking Event for 2025, which was attended by over 40 business and community leaders that were able to enjoy conversation with old friends, make new connections and identify potential customers. A special thanks to everyone for attending and for helping us grow the chamber and most importantly for helping us to fuel growth in our community.

The MPCCCD would also like to thank Mayor Ronald Serpico and representatives from the village of Melrose Park for their constant support of local businesses and for their regular attendance and participation on MPCCCD events to connect with local business owners and leaders.

Planning is underway for the next Chamber After Hours networking event, which will be held in June and details will be provided through email, social media and available on the chamber website event calendar page at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.





The 43rd 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 2025 Taste of Melrose Park T-shirt and we're sure you'll have plenty of fun!

Friday, Aug. 29 • 5:30-11 p.m.

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

Sunday, Aug. 31 • 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, 2025.
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.

**Selling or Buying Property Representative
For the Good, Bad and Ugly**

50 Years Experience Any Type of Real Estate

RON FABIANI SR.

YOUR "REAL ESTATE" SPECIALIST

**MID-AMERICA REALTY & MORTGAGE
MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SALES AWARD WINNER
FREE PROPERTY APPRAISALS – ALWAYS CUTTING CORNERS**



**EVERYTHING I TOUCH TURNS INTO
SOLD, LEASED AND NEGOTIATED
HANDLING ALL OF ILLINOIS, INDIANA
AND PARTS OF WISCONSIN**

**CALL RON AT 1 (708) 415-2484
FOR YOUR PRIVATE APPOINTMENT/7 DAYS A WEEK**

Join Melrose Park Boy Scout Troop 4112 Today!



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

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

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



Your Financial Help Makes This All Possible!

***Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico***



Celebrating Our 43rd Year

August 29th, 30th & 31st

**FAMILY
AFFORDABLE**

**FAMILY
FRIENDLY**

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



WELCOME TO THE 43RD ANNUAL TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

Dear Friends of Melrose Park,

I am writing to invite you to participate as a sponsor for the 43rd Taste of Melrose Park, which will be held over the Labor Day weekend, from August 29th to August 31st.

The Taste of Melrose Park is a family-friendly food festival that attracts thousands of attendees each year. What sets us apart from other food festivals is that most of our food vendors are residents who showcase their unique family recipes. In addition to the delightful culinary offerings, we provide continuous free entertainment on our two stages.

Your sponsorship will help cover many of the costs associated with the event. It also presents a fantastic marketing opportunity for your business or organization, allowing you to showcase your name to the thousands of food enthusiasts who attend our three-day festival.

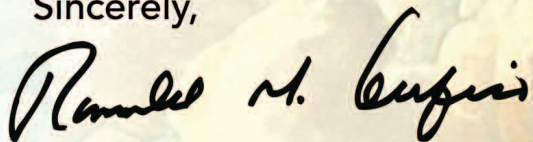
With your financial support, we can continue to host this wonderful family-oriented event and keep our food prices at \$5 or less per serving, despite rising food costs.

To those who have generously supported the Taste of Melrose Park in the past, I sincerely thank you and hope you will consider continuing your sponsorship in 2025. Without your generosity, we would not be able to execute such an ambitious event.

This insert contains information about various sponsorship packages that can fit your budget. If you find a package that suits you, please cut out the application form located on Page 35.

For additional information, please feel free to email our Taste of Melrose Park Director, Peggy DiFazio, or Lorena Anguiano at taste@melrosepark.org, or call 708-343-4000 ext. 4452 or 4448. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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
2025 Taste of Melrose Park,
Friday, Aug. 29-Sunday, Aug. 31.

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 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

\$3,500 SILVER SPONSOR PACKAGE

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

\$1,500 BRONZE SPONSOR PACKAGE

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

\$1,000 MAIN STAGE VIDEO WALL ADVERTISING PACKAGE

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

MORE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$3,000 T-SHIRT SPONSOR

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

★ **MUST SUBMIT** ★
BY JUNE 6TH

\$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

\$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

**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 34 for the
43rd 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 May 16th To:
Taste Of Melrose Park
1000 N. 25th Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60160

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 detach this order form on the dotted line and return with your payment.

Important Please Read!!!

No later than June 13th 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

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 6th)

____ \$1,000.00 VIDEO WALL SPONSOR

____ \$850.00 3 X 4 COLOR BANNER

____ \$500.00 2 x 4 COLOR BILLBOARD

____ OTHER



TASTE OF MELROSE PARK 2025 FOOD VENUE

ALL ITEMS PRICED AT \$5 OR LESS

Camaci's Italian Sausage
Camaci's Arancini
Goofy Grapes
Sam & Sammy's Italian Egg Rolls
Shwings Fried Shrimp
Carlotta's Sweet Aroma Linguine w/Garlic&Oil
"Cata's" Chicken Flautas
Mickey's Italian Beef
GALS Hot Dogs
Larry's BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
Putt's Breaded Steak Sandwich
Richie's Curly Fries w/Cheese
Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Horchata
Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Tacos
The Roasted Cob
A&M Maxwell Street Polish
Cilla's Steak Teriyaki
Cervone's Homemade Cannoli
Ron & Debbie's Fried Dough
Siciliano's Old Fashioned Fried Bologna
5 Star Sports Cheese Enchiladas
Levato Affogato
Paula's Fried Meatball Sandwich
Nacho Mama's
Soon's Tres Leches Cake
Jackie's Bavarian Cream Donuts
Carm's and Gino's Fried Calamari
Uncle Frankie's
Mostaccioli in Tomato Basil Sauce
Nikki's Zucchini Cheese Puffs
Lil Jimmy's Pierogies
Cody's Root Beer Floats
Cheesy Mac and Cheese

Athenian Foods Greek Chicken w/Rice
Strawberry Slushies
Squire's Cotton Candy
Pepe's Ceviche
Nutella Crepes
Nirvana's Brownie Sundaes
J.T.'s Italian Meatball Sandwich
Antney's Italian Lemonade
Ashley's Snow Cones
Tony & Teresa's Fried Oreos
Volunteers of M.P. Hot Pretzels
Marilyn's Delicious Hamburgers
Riccio's Chocolate Frozen Bananas
Scudiero's Pizza
Scudiero's Pepperoni Rolls
Clara's Dippin Dots
Eli's Cheesecakes
Lil Dean's Lyza & Nella Ravioli's
Vinnie Laraia's Baked Clams
Top Butcher Market The Sinatra Sandwich
Jessica's Tamales
Paco's Cuban Sandwich
Diana's Mozzarella Sticks
Corz Kids Garlic Shrimp
Corinne Ariola Principe's Artichoke Casserole
Elio's Funnel Cakes
Missionary Sisters of St. Charles "Sfingi"



THE TASTE OF MELROSE PARK IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!
Interested parties, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.



Entertainment Schedule

Unlimited Carnival Rides!

Saturday and Sunday,
\$30 Wristbands Each Day,
1-5 p.m.,
All You Can Ride!

MAIN DRIVE SHOWS

JESSE WHITE TUMBLING TEAM

Saturday, Aug. 30 and
Sunday, Aug. 31
2:30 p.m.

CHICAGO GARDA PIPES & DRUMS

Sunday, Aug. 31, 3:45-4:30 p.m.

XPLOSIVE SOUNDS DJ ENTERTAINMENT

North Beer Booth,
All Three Days!

Fireworks Display

Sunday, Aug. 31 • 9:30 p.m.

Melrose Park
Chamber of Commerce
and
Community
Development

BINGO AND 50/50 RAFFLE

Friday, Saturday
and Sunday
(In the Gym)

Main Stage

Friday, Aug. 29

7-8 p.m. –

Forevermore Dance & Theatre Arts

8:30-10:30 p.m. – The Disco Circus

Saturday, Aug. 30

6:30-8 p.m. – Soul Sacrifice Band

A Salute to Santana

8:30-10:30 p.m. – ARRA

Classic Rock Band

Sunday, Aug. 31

5:15-6:45 p.m. – Are You Ready for It?

A Taylor Experience

7:15-9:30 p.m. –

Chicago Piano Man Band

Peroni Garden

Friday, Aug. 29

7-10:30 p.m. –

Tony Ocean & The Rat Pack

Saturday, Aug. 30

3:30-5 p.m. – Lake Effect

5:30-7:30 p.m. – The Chicago Hitmen

8-10:15 p.m. – Deja Vu

Sunday, Aug. 31

4-5:30 p.m. – Jersey Girls

6:15-9:15 p.m. – R-Gang

Continuous Free Entertainment All Weekend Long!

Sabor de Mexico Stage ... To be announced.
Watch for information as it becomes available.



Village of Melrose Park
Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor



Anti-Cruelty in partnership with Village of Melrose Park
and Cook County Animal and Rabies Control

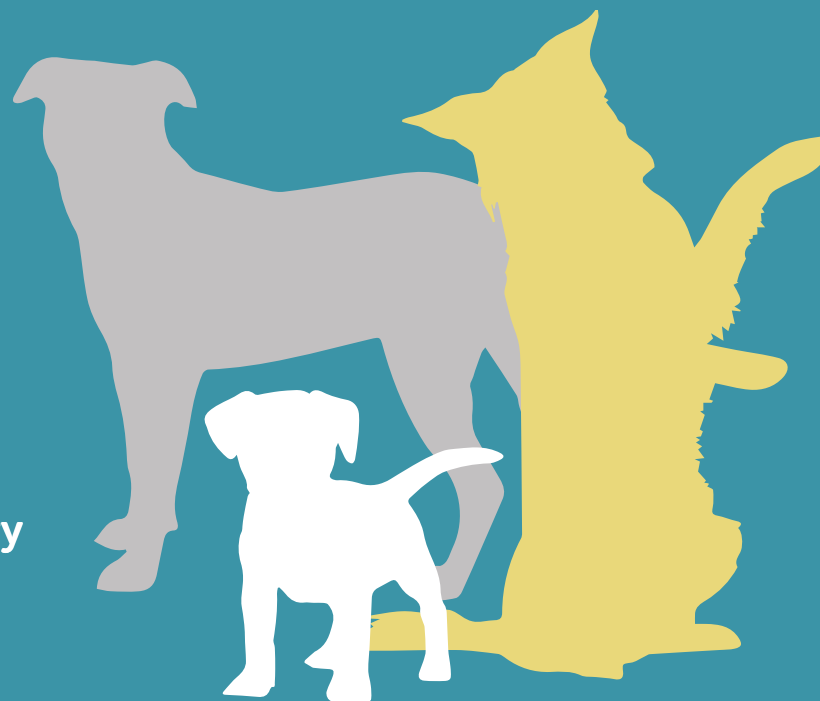
Dog Wellness Fair

Saturday, May 17
11a.m.–2p.m.

Melrose Park Civic Center
1000 N. 25th Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160

FREE:

-  Physical Exams
-  Core Vaccines: Rabies, DHPP (Distemper), and Leptospirosis
-  Microchipping
-  Referrals to other Anti-Cruelty programming
-  Sign-up for free Spay/Neuter surgery
 - Leashes required
 - Bring your own muzzle
 - Limit 75 dogs; first come/first served



Visit us online for more information:
anticruelty.org/wellness



Melrose Park Resident Carl Verde Appointed to Mount Prospect Police Department

The family of Melrose Park resident Carl Verde is pleased to announce his appointment to the

Mount Prospect Police Department that occurred in January 2025.

The 21-year-old Officer Verde successfully completed the 16-week police training program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-



Mount Prospect
Police Officer
Carl Verde

Champaign Police Training Institute and participated in the Class #25-01 Graduation Ceremony for Basic Law Enforcement on April 24, 2025.

Carl has now resumed his everyday policing responsibilities and will utilize what he learned at the police training institute to strengthen the community protection mission of the Mount Prospect Police Department.

Verde is the son of Melrose Park Police Officer Steve Verde and Michelle Verde.

In 2024, Ofc. Verde graduated with a degree in fire science from Triton College.

***Carl, you've made
your family and friends in
Melrose Park proud.
We wish you bright blue skies
and all the best in
your new and
respected career.***



Officer Verde is pictured with his parents Steve and Michelle, sister Ashlee Kingery, grandparents Francis and Albina Verde, grandfather Jerry Stout, and girlfriend Giovanna Aiuppa following his January appointment to the Mount Prospect Police Department.



Melrose Park Police Officer Steve Verde was honored to pin the Mount Prospect Police Department badge on the uniform of his son Carl.



Officer Verde being sworn in.



Officer Verde accepting his diploma at the graduation ceremony.



Officer Verde displays his diploma alongside his parents Michelle and Steve, and sister Ashlee Kingery



Officer Verde received well-deserved, sincere congratulations and strong words of support from Mount Prospect Police Chief Eterno.

Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Pee Wee Tot Camp Ages 3-5

We are thrilled to welcome our youngest camper to our preschool-aged camp, a place where fun and learning come together! Our summer-themed topics will spark curiosity and create excitement for hands-on learning in a relaxed environment. Whether it's through art, music, outdoor play or interactive projects, your child will enjoy their time with VPD!

- Monday-Thursday, June 2-26 and July 7-31, 9 a.m.-noon; Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R/NR \$300 per session or \$75 per week. Participants must meet program requirements. Payment deadlines are one week before the scheduled start date. Minimum number of participants per session/week is five.

Tiny Tot Pool Parties Ages 6 and Under

Make a splash this summer with our fun-filled Tiny Tot Pool Parties! Each themed event includes games, music and more to keep your little ones entertained.

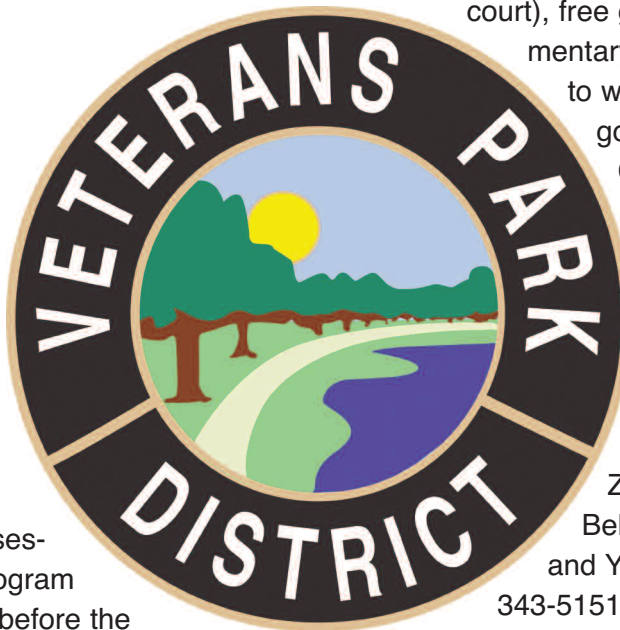
- Friday, June 13 and July 18, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Gouin Pool and Waterslides, 2400 Scott St., Franklin Park; Fee – R\$10/NR\$15 per person/per date (fee includes a boxed lunch, swag bag filled with surprises and free admission to the pool after noon). Parent or guardian must attend.



Fitness Center Open House

Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cimbalo Fitness Center will be holding an open house on Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. This is an opportunity to try out our Fitness Center! Free day-long access to the Fitness Center, as well as a full slate of free fitness classes, open court play for racquetball/handball/pickleball (nonregulation



court), free golf simulator access (time limited per person), complimentary refreshments, giveaways and a raffle with a chance to win fitness class passes, Gouin Pool season passes, golf simulator vouchers and a free one-year Fitness Center membership. We will also have promotional tables from several of the area's local health-related businesses. Come stop by and see everything Cimbalo Fitness Center has to offer!

Fitness Classes

We offer a variety of fun, exciting fitness classes for all ages and fitness levels. Our classes include Zumba, Pump & Sculpt, Strong Nation, Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, Chair Yoga, CIRCL Mobility, Youth Boxing, and Youth Fitness. Call Cimbalo Fitness Center at (708) 343-5151 for more information.

Pickleball Lessons (Youth, Adult, Senior)

Head over to Cimbalo Fitness Center to check out our new Pickleball Lessons! The rules are simple and easy to learn, making it fun for athletes of all ages. We offer lessons for a variety of age groups and skills levels. Please call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

Sand Volleyball • Ages 8-12

In this class participants will play various games up to 11 with a partner or 3 vs. 3.

- Wednesdays, July 16-Aug. 6, noon-1 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70; Gouin Park, 2400 Scott St., Franklin Park.

Soccer • Ages 8-12

VPD staff will lead players in specific drills while they improve their overall understanding of the game while having a blast! Each class lasts for one hour and players will rotate through different stations and drills.

- Thursdays, July 17-Aug. 7, noon-1 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70; Bulger Park Field, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.

Summer Basketball • Ages 8-12

Never miss a beat and sign your kids up for our Summer Basketball clinics at VPD. These clinics will run through warm-ups and go right into scrimmage.

- Fridays, July 18-Aug. 8, 6-7 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70; Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

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

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Veterans Park District *Programs & Happenings*





FITNESS CENTER OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, May 17 • 8 AM-2 PM

Come join us for an exciting Open House event with:

- Free all-day access to the fitness center.
- Complimentary fitness classes offered throughout the day.
- Open court play for Racquetball, Handball, and Pickleball (non-regulation court).
- Free golf simulator access (limited time per person).
- Complimentary refreshments and giveaways.
- RAFFLE prizes including:
 - » Fitness class passes
 - » Gouin Pool season passes
 - » Golf simulator vouchers
 - » Free 1-year fitness club membership
- Promotional tables from local health-related businesses

Don't miss out on the chance to explore all that Cimbalo Fitness Center has to offer!
For more information, contact Anthony at (708) 343-5151 or aarena@vpdpark.org.

If you are a local health or wellness business and would like to set up a promotional table, contact us today.

FITNESS CENTER HOURS
Monday-Friday • 6 AM-8 PM
Saturday-Sunday • 8 AM-2 PM

(708) 343-5151
f vpdfitness
@CimbaloFC





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





Veterans Park District *Programs & Happenings*



SCHOOL'S OUT! SUMMER CAMP IS IN!

Make lasting memories with old friends and new ones through exciting off-site field trips, all-camp swim days, park field days, themed arts and crafts, friendly competitions, wacky games, and fun park party events! Our dedicated, trained staff foster teamwork, boost self-confidence, and work to improve social skills in a safe and fun environment. **FREE LUNCH INCLUDED!**

EARLY BIRD MINI-SESSION • GRANT PARK

Tuesday, May 27–Friday, May 30 (No camp on May 26)

Camp Hours: 9 AM–4 PM **FEE (R/N): \$107/120**

Before Care: 8–9 AM \$22/27

After Care: 4–6 PM \$25/30

CAMP HOURS: 9 AM–4 PM **FEE (R/N): \$400/450**

Before Care: 8–9 AM \$75/105

After Care: 4–6 PM \$150/210

DATES:

Session 1: Monday, June 2–Friday, June 20

Session 2: Monday, June 23–Friday, July 11* (No camp July 4)

Session 3: Monday, July 14–Friday, August 1

CAMP LOCATIONS:

Bulger Park Community Center
1601 Hirsch Street, Melrose Park

Grant Park Recreation Center
44 W. Golfview Drive, Northlake

MAX: 100 campers per location



SUMMER DAY CAMP SWIM LESSONS

Learn to swim at the Day Camp VPD Swim Academy! On the first day, each swimmer will be assessed and receive instructions on their skill level. Transportation to and from swim lessons is included. For more information, please call us!

CAMP ORIENTATION

MEET OUR SUMMER CAMP STAFF! THURSDAY, MAY 22

Grant Park 5:30–6:15 PM • Bulger Park 7–7:45 PM

We welcome all parents and guardians – both new and returning – to join us for our upcoming Family Orientation. Discover the exciting updates and gather essential information for an amazing camp experience. Don't forget to bring your questions!

Campers will have the chance to meet their counselors and take part in fun activities. Campers attending will receive their 2025 camp shirt and the camp activity calendar.



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Veterans Park District

*Programs
&
Happenings*

TINY TOT POOL PARTIES



Tiny Tot Pool Parties At Gouin Pool & Water Slides

2300 Scoot Street, Franklin Park

Make a splash this summer with our fun-filled Tiny Tot Pool Parties!
Each themed event includes games, music, and more to keep the little ones entertained!

June 13 • Hawaiian Beach Party

July 18 • Fiesta Fun by the Pool

Time: 10:30 AM-12 PM

Ages: 6 & under (parent or guardian must attend)

R/N Fee: \$10/15 per person (free admission to the pool after 12 PM)

Min/Max: 5/40

What's Included:

- Exciting poolside games for tots
- Delicious boxed lunch for each attendee
- Special swag bag for each child (filled with surprises)
- Fun, interactive activities for kids and parents to enjoy together

Register in advance as space is limited! Don't miss out on this chance for your child to enjoy these unique themed parties at the pool. After the event ends, stay and enjoy the pool with free admission for the rest of the day (12 PM onwards)!

Extra Fun! Don't forget to check out Page 8 for information on our pool rental packages, perfect for your next birthday party or family gathering.



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**Veterans
Park
District**

*Programs
&
Happenings*



Volo Auto Museum & Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction Fish Boil

Join us for a summer outing to the Volo Auto Museum in Volo, Illinois, home to classic cars, rare vehicles, and fascinating exhibits, including a Military Veteran Museum and Titanic artifacts.

After exploring, enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat Fish Boil at Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction, featuring fresh fish, tender chicken, and classic sides. A perfect mix of history, adventure, and great food!

Date	Day	Fee	Location
July 15	Tu	\$109	Volo, IL
Departure: 11 AM from Grant Park Recreation Center			
Return: 6:30 PM			
			



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

Get ready to rev up your engines for a night of high-octane fun at our Annual Family Music & Movie Night!

Become
a program/event
SPONSOR



Family **Music & Movie** *Night*



Full Throttle Fun!

Wednesday, July 23 • 5-11 PM

Bataan Park, Melrose Park



Fun starts at 5 PM!

- Bumper cars
- A CARS-themed jump house
- Cotton candy & more treats
- Burgers & Hot Dogs
- Beer & wine

At 6 PM, enjoy the rockin' sounds of The StingRays.

Then, at 8:15 PM (dusk), catch the screening of CARS!

Food, sweet treats, and beverages are available for purchase from our vendors.

Plus, all moviegoers get free popcorn (while supplies last).

Free fresh popcorn during movie, while supplies last. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets.

Dogs are not allowed on park properties.

All VPD Special Event dates, locations, and advertised activities are subject to change. Call (708) 343-5270 or check the VPD Facebook page for rain out details.



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Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings



Enjoy hot grilled food along with a cold beer or hard seltzer, while you watch the games

Men's 16" Major/ Open Roster Men's 16" A/B Division Coed 14" Mushball

Veterans Park District hosts its Annual Softball Tournament at Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.

Team spots fill up fast for this yearly event so register your team now! We are looking for:

- 8 Men's 16" Major teams 'Open Roster'
- 12 Men's 16" A/B Division teams
- 12 Coed 14" Mushball teams

Don't miss this action-packed weekend of softball, food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic).

- A deposit is required to hold your spot or you can pay the fee in full.
- Registration will be taken throughout the spring and early summer.
- Monetary prizes and trophies will be awarded to all winning teams of each tournament.

Game times to be announced.

Non Refundable Deposit: \$100 (applied towards balance).

Fee: \$200

Check quickscores.com/vpd for league updates.

For more information or to register a team, contact Joe Serpico at (708) 870-4780.

Thursday, July 31 -
Sunday, August 3



Bocce Ball Tournament Saturday, August 2-Sunday, August 3

Join Veterans Park District as we celebrate the tradition of Bocce Ball, a game that can be enjoyed by all ages. Sign up your team for the 2025 Tournament now!

Call Nico at (708) 343-5270. There must be two players on a team. Court times will be assigned the day of the tournament. Preregistration required: \$20 per team.

WEEKEND LINE UP:

Thursday & Saturday
A/B games

Saturday
Major Games

Friday & Sunday
Coed Games

Saturday & Sunday
Bocce Tournament

Interested in marketing your business to hundreds of residents, participants and local businesses? Become a VPD Softball, Bocce Ball Tournament sponsor! Call Greg Stanczyk at (708) 343-5270 or email: gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org



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**Veterans
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*Programs
&
Happenings*



City Cruises

Chicago Signature Lunch Cruise & Navy Pier Shopping

Set sail on the City Cruises Chicago Signature Lunch Cruise for a relaxing afternoon on Lake Michigan.

Enjoy a delicious lunch, stunning views of the Chicago skyline, live music, and a chance to dance. After the cruise, explore and shop at Navy Pier, making this a perfect day of relaxation, music, and fun!

Date	Day	Fee	Location
August 7	Th	\$111	Chicago, IL
Departure: 10 AM from Grant Park Recreation Center			
Return: 5:30 PM			



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The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

Save the Dates!

Next Issue – June 2025
(Deadline for material May 25, 2025.)
Schedule for 2025
June, August, October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

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

or Email to: therose@melrosepark.org w/pdf or jpeg file.

(Checks need to be made to the order of Village of Melrose Park.)



Rates – Full Color Ads

Full Page
\$400 per issue (9 x 10 1/2)
Half Page
\$200 per issue (9 x 5 1/4)
1/4 Page
\$100 per issue (4 1/2 x 5 1/4)
1/8 Page
\$50 per issue (4 1/2 x 2 5/8)

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Phone _____ Fax _____

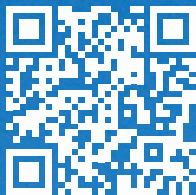
The  ROSE

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



There is still time
to register for summer!

Classes begin May 27.
triton.edu/summer



Triton College





Triton College NEWS

Respiratory Care Program Thrives on Campus

Triton College's Respiratory Care Program is experiencing strong success since its launch last fall – both in the classroom and in the field. Students are thriving in the newly upgraded classrooms equipped with the latest technology, creating an immersive, hands-on learning environment.

“Respiratory therapists are highly in demand,” said Dr. Peter Jaswilko, chair of Triton College’s Allied Health. “Our students are being recruited by every health system and hired as interns. Health providers appreciate all the skills our students learn in the lab. This is a critical moment in the evolution of respiratory care.”

Respiratory care student Nicole Elbacay agrees – “Respiratory therapists have a very important role in a hospital. During COVID, many people experienced respiratory issues. We offer very critical care.”

Why Triton’s Respiratory Care Program Shines

A key strength of Triton’s program is its broad network of clinical partnerships, offering students valuable hands-on experience at some of the top, well-known health care facilities.

The program also earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) with zero citations or recommendations – an achievement that sets it apart.

A Curriculum Built for Success

The program uses an eight-week course model, allowing students to focus on two classes at a time.

Students train on state-of-the-art equipment, including four ventilators for adult, pediatric and neonatal care, high-frequency oscillator ventilator (HFOV), diagnostic pulmonary function testing (PFT) machines, and high- and low-fidelity simulators. Dr. Jaswilko also rents new equipment regularly to keep students up to date with the latest in respiratory care technology.

About Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists perform a wide range of duties, including diagnostic testing, managing ventilators, administering medication, drawing blood and assisting in high-risk deliveries. They work with patients from newborns to the elderly, treating conditions such as asthma, COPD and organ failure. Therapists may also work in research, education, rehabilitation, emergency care, outpatient clinics, sleep labs and even flight transport. The median salary is approximately \$85,000, with entry-level salaries starting between \$65,000-\$70,000. With 25% of the workforce nearing retirement, job opportunities are growing rapidly – up 14% from 2022 to 2024. Hospitals are offering generous incentives, including signing bonuses of up to \$30,000 and student loan forgiveness.

Ready to Begin?

Prospective students are encouraged to attend an upcoming information session – offered both in person and online – to learn more about the program and its requirements.

“We try to offer students different tools and resources,” Jaswilko said. “We want students to succeed in this booming field.”

**To learn more about the Respiratory Care Program,
visit triton.edu/respiratory.**

We’re Bringing Good People
Together Again for Something
Incredibly Special!

Triton College Foundation 27th Annual Golf Outing Thursday, June 26

White Pines Golf Club • Bensenville
Individual Golfers – \$175
Foursomes – \$700

Hole-in-One Special!
Birdie Sponsor – \$1,100

**Includes a foursome, signage at welcome area and
two hole signs on both courses being used for the outing,
as well as name/logo on promotional material and website.**

It’s that time again! The Triton College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, will host its 27th annual golf outing on Thursday,



June 26, at White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville. The event, open to novice and skilled golfers alike, will kick off at 10 a.m., with an 18-hole round of golf, golf carts, goodie bags, continental breakfast, lunch, dinner and prizes.

Golfers may register as individuals for \$175 per person or as a foursome for \$700.

Exclusive corporate, par and hole sponsorships are available as well. Sponsorships

begin at \$200. The Foundation is also accepting prizes for its annual Super Raffle. Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible.

Proceeds from the annual golf outing will benefit Triton College Foundation scholarships and more.

**To register for the event or to become a sponsor,
contact the Triton College Foundation for details!**

**Call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or
send an email to tcfoundation@triton.edu.**

Reading Takes Flight: Stevenson Students Dive Into *Feed* with a Lunar Launch



At Stevenson Middle School, Ms. Daoust, Ms. Cohen and Ms. Dozier kicked off the novel *Feed* by M.T. Anderson with an unforgettable, space-themed experience. Their classroom was transformed into a lunar landscape with twinkling lights, ambient space sounds and moon imagery. Dressed as astronauts, the teachers welcomed students into a setting that mirrored the novel's opening scene – a field trip to the moon and a futuristic party – immersing them in the story's world from the start.

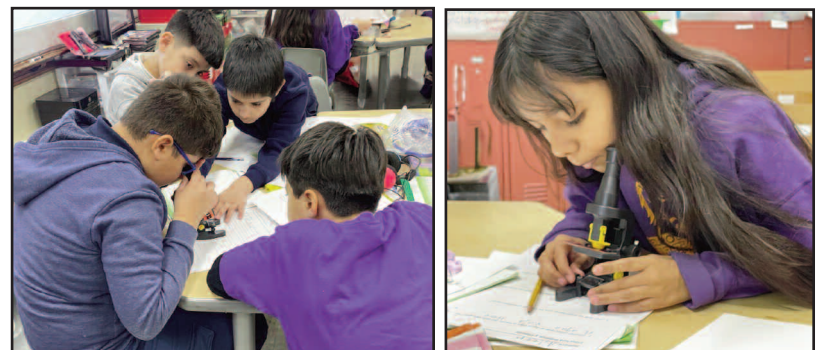
Students dove into discussions about thought-provoking themes, including technology, consumerism and identity. They explored how characters like Titus and Violet experience a society where internet-like “feeds” are implanted in their brains, shaping their thoughts and relationships. Through interactive discussions, creative writing and a mock moon landing, students reflected on how the novel's futuristic world compares to ours. The experience sparked imagination and critical thinking, setting the stage for an exciting journey through the pages of *Feed*.

Exploring Science and Stories in Ms. Yaquian's Fourth Grade Class at Melrose Park Elementary

In Ms. Yaquian's fourth grade class at Melrose Park Elementary, students engage in rich academic experiences that blend reading, writing and hands-on science exploration.

In reading, the class is diving into the fantasy genre while learning how to identify and analyze points of view. They also explore the essential question: How can we help our friends feel welcome? Students develop empathy and communication skills through guided discussions and literature while strengthening their reading comprehension.

In science, students have launched an exciting new unit on plants and animals. They've already conducted two engaging experiments, one exploring how plants absorb water using colored water and celery, and another observing how worms react to different environments. To deepen their understanding, students had the opportunity to use a microscope for the first time. They examined plant cells and tiny organisms, making detailed observations and drawing conclusions from what they saw. These hands-on experiences help students connect scientific concepts to the real world and spark curiosity about the natural environment around them.



Jane Addams Second Graders Explore Volcanic Eruptions Through Hands-On Science



Jane Addams Elementary second graders explored the exciting world of earth science through the STEM scopes lesson Quick Changes to Land. Led by Mrs. Eifrid and Mrs. Taylor, students investigated the question: How can a volcanic eruption change the land around it? Using classroom materials, students created their volcano models and simulated eruptions to observe how lava flows and reshapes the surrounding land.

This hands-on activity brought science to life, allowing students to visualize the powerful effects of natural events like volcanic eruptions as they observed their models, students connected to real-world geography and natural disasters. The engaging experience deepened their understanding of how Earth's surface can change quickly and sparked excitement about the world of STEM!

Building Strong Writers in Ms. Witt's Fifth Grade Class at Lincoln Elementary



In Ms. Witt's fifth grade classroom, students become confident writers by learning to organize their thoughts and support their ideas with evidence and reasoning. Through focused writing instruction, students are making connections between different writing strategies, such as CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning), RACE (Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain), and outline organizers.

During recent writing lessons, students practiced opinion writing, using their reasons as evidence to support their claims. They then took it a step further by adding reasoning, explaining why their evidence matters and how it supports their opinion. These strategies are helping students strengthen their responses to writing prompts and develop a deeper understanding of how to structure their writing.

By equipping students with tools to break down writing tasks and clearly express their ideas, Ms. Witt is helping to build strong, thoughtful communicators ready to tackle any prompt.

Washington Dual Language Academy Students Dive Into Nonfiction Literacy

In Ms. G. Martinez's third grade Spanish Language Arts class at Washington Dual Language Academy, students have been immersed in a powerful literacy experience that combines history, research and language development.

As part of Quarter 3's focus on nonfiction texts, students explored the Spanish versions of the popular *Who Was* and *What Was* book series. Each student selected a title of personal interest and dove into the content to gather key facts. From there, they created detailed timelines to sequence significant historical events related to their chosen figure or topic.

The project culminated in student presentations, allowing them to showcase their work and practice oracy and public speaking skills – all in Spanish. This engaging activity promoted a love of reading and strengthened essential research, sequencing and oral language skills.

Ms. Martinez's literacy centers continue to foster a vibrant, student-centered learning environment where curiosity and confidence grow together.



Garfield Fourth Graders Build Skills with Number Lines and Talk Time.



Garfield Elementary is exciting as students dive into math using our newly implemented I-Ready curriculum. In Mrs. Whowell's fourth grade classroom, scholars master the art of adding and subtracting fractions using number lines. This visual approach helps students make meaningful connections between numbers and enhances their understanding of fractional relationships. With differentiated instruction at the core, Mrs. Whowell ensures every scholar is supported at their level while being challenged with grade-level content. As she prepares to retire in June 2025 after 21 years of dedicated service to District 89, her commitment to student success remains as strong as ever.

One key strategy Mrs. Whowell uses to promote collaboration and critical thinking is "Turn & Talk." During lessons, students work through problems independently and then turn to a partner to explain their thinking, compare strategies and justify their answers. This powerful strategy deepens their understanding, and builds confidence and communication skills.

www.maywood89.org

Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"



Roosevelt School Spotlight: Learning Weather Words with Mrs. Barone's Kindergarten Class

Mrs. Barone's kindergarten students at Roosevelt School are diving into the world of science by learning about different types of weather! Students explored weather words like rainy, sunny, cloudy and stormy using colorful flashcards. This fun and interactive activity helped students build vocabulary and recognize how the weather

changes daily. Mrs. Barone's young scientists loved identifying the weather outside and connecting it to the words they learned in class!

Irving Middle School Girls Explore the World of STEM at Loyola University

A group of curious and passionate young scientists from Irving Middle School recently spent a day immersed in hands-on discovery at Loyola University's Women in Science Program. The event offered an exciting deep dive into STEM, with activities like examining mock crime scenes, extracting DNA from bananas and even making lava lamps in test tubes.

Led by master's and PhD students in health sciences, the sessions gave students a firsthand look at real-world scientific work and helped them see how classroom learning can translate into future careers.

Mrs. Gross, a sixth grade science teacher at Irving, chaperoned the trip and eagerly joined the students in the fun and learning. A three-time attendee, she sees this experience as a powerful way to ignite interest in STEM and health sciences.

Our Irving girls brought their energy, knowledge and enthusiasm, leaving a lasting impression on the students and professors at Loyola. Go Tigers!



Emerson Elementary Students Strengthen Fraction Skills Through I-Ready



Math is in full swing at Emerson Elementary School, where Ms. Floral's third-grade students are diving into fraction comparisons with focus and enthusiasm. Using the I-Ready Curriculum, students work in pairs to determine which fractions are more significant – a key step in building a deeper understanding of numerical relationships.

This hands-on practice supports collaboration and reinforces foundational skills as students scaffold toward mastering equivalent fractions. The activity is part of an ongoing effort to develop confident, critical thinkers in math.

It's inspiring to see Emerson students engage with the material, support one another, and grow their math confidence day by day. Great work, scholars!



Walther's Next Principal

Dr. Terence Swims has been offered and has accepted the position of Walther's next principal beginning in the 25-26 school year. He will join Head of School Tim Bouman, Assistant Principal/Dean of Students Dr. Edmond Kelly, and the rest of Walther's faculty and staff in achieving our mission to "nurture and prepare learners to fulfill their unique God-given potential through academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service, leadership and enrichment opportunities."



Dr. Terence Swims

After graduating from Walther as a student active in the fine arts as well as athletics, Dr. Swims earned his BA in music education at Wartburg College, his MA in teaching and learning at Nova Southeastern University, and his EdD in educational leadership at City University of Seattle. He has over 12 years of teaching experience ranging from elementary to high school and has five years of administrative experience, having served as a dean of students, assistant principal, and acting principal. He has served at public, charter and Lutheran schools, and now is excited to be "coming home" to Walther.

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Swims back to the Walther family and wish him success as he takes on the educational and day-to-day leadership responsibilities beginning this fall. It's a great day to be a Bronco!

Walther Alumni Spotlight

On Friday, March 21, 18 alumni ranging from the Class of '84 to the Class of '20 were at Walther to speak with our students about their careers for our annual Career Day. Three alums even came from out of state to present to our students. Students were able to pick careers they were interested in learning about and each alum presented three sessions to groups of 15-20 students. Afterward, the students attended the College and Career Fair in the Multi-Purpose Room while alumni gathered for lunch and fellowship.

Thank you to the following alumni for taking time to give back to their alma mater – Greg Gatewood '84/Electrician; Dennus Bishop '96/Federal Agent; Mike Schroeder '00/Athletic Training; Brian Boos '01/Information Technology; Dar'Rell Campbell '03/Secret Service; Joel Saeedi '07/Physician; Josh Easter '10/Entrepreneur/Nonprofit; Terry Jones '10/Counseling Troubled Teens; Deidre Kruckenberg '12/Safety Engineer; Emmanuel Perez '12/Counseling/General; Nick Schumacher '12/Information Technology; Ashya Winters '12/Fashion/Small Business Owner; Anna Strong '13/Attorney; Arra Strong '13/Accounting; Allison Gonzalez '16/School Counseling; Natalia Roder '18/Environmental Technician; Jordan Holliday '19/Church Music; and Kirsten Steiner '20/Nursing.

If you are interested in speaking at a future Career Day, contact Bill Koehne at (708) 344-0404, Ext. 230, or bill_koehne@waltheracademy.org.

Walther's Athletic Hall of Fame

In October of 2024, Walther inducted seven individuals, two teams, and one coach into its Athletic Hall of Fame. This was the first induction ceremony in 26 years with around 100 people in attendance.

Plans are underway for the 2025 induction to be held on Homecoming Day, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. Nominations are now open for the next class of inductees. Use the link below to nominate an individual, team or coach. Nominations close on May 31, 2025, with the new induction class being selected early in June. Any person or team who was nominated last year stays in the pool of candidates for 2025 and does not need to be nominated again.

The Hall of Fame is organized for the purpose of recognizing the rich tradition of success academically, athletically and spiritually, in service to our community. The Hall of Fame serves as a means of honoring alumni by recognizing the milestones and historic moments achieved by those individuals and teams throughout Walther's history, honoring coaches who made a significant impact on the student-athletes here at Walther and acknowledging the contributions of supporters of Bronco athletics over the years. The Walther Hall of Fame honors the contributions and accomplishments of these individuals and teams who are worthy of recognition as examples of Walther's rich athletic history.

Anyone can nominate an individual athlete, a coach or athletic program supporter, or a team.

You can download a nomination form here: <https://www.walther.com/athletic-hall-of-fame/>.

Eligibility/Criteria as Stated in the Bylaws

- Individuals, teachers, athletes, coaches, teams, administrators or supporters, living or deceased, shall be eligible for induction subject to the criteria. All nominees must represent the Walther Christian Academy/Walther Lutheran HS tradition of excellence and the values and teachings of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- An individual athlete shall become eligible for Hall of Fame nomination 10 years after graduating from Walther.
- A team shall become eligible for Hall of Fame nomination after 10 years.
- A coach shall become eligible for Hall of Fame nomination 10 years after first becoming a coach at Walther.
- Supporters of Bronco athletics may be nominated after having been directly involved in supporting the Bronco athletic department for at least five years.

For more information and to download a nomination form, please visit <https://www.walther.com/athletic-hall-of-fame/>.

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

Greetings from Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.

Alleluia, Alleluia ... Christ is Alive

Dear Friends!

“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” These are the words of Mary Magdalene after realizing that the stone of the tomb is removed, words of fear, concern, desperation, and anxiety.

Glory to God in the Highest. We have waited for 40 days to sing the glory and now we rejoice because our Lord and Savior is risen alleluia, alleluia. We have lived for months in fear, anxiety, and concern because of the war in Ukraine and the uncertainty of COVID-19. Some people are still afraid to get out of their home, while others are mourning the departure of a dear family member, still others are living in a foreign country because their homes have been destroyed.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that He is alive, and we no longer die because of our sins. We are so accustomed to hearing that Jesus is risen and we might say “I know all about it” and miss the whole mystery of Easter. It is because of Easter that the Roman Catholic Church exists; It is on the HOLY NIGHT that Eucharist becomes the center of our liturgies and the sure hope that DEATH is not the end.

Easter is a celebration of life. And as the psalm says, “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.” Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever. His mercy has conquered darkness, and His mercy is the sign that we celebrate life today.” My dear friends, today we proclaim that poverty, war, political chaos, distrust, misunderstanding, indifference ... have no power over God’s Resurrection. Jesus Christ is risen today so that the poor and those in the outskirts of society may have Hope.

Jesus Christ is risen today so that we pray for the end of abortion in America.

Jesus Christ is risen today so that people who have become refugees may find a better world and may reach the hope that their country is not offering.

Jesus Christ is risen today so our elders may hope to receive what they deserve in their retirement years: love, company, and human presence.

Jesus Christ is risen today so our veterans may hope that they have not fought a lost battle, but are important for today’s freedom.

My dear friends, Jesus Christ is Risen Today, and He offers what this world cannot – life in abundance. And this is the day that the Lord has made, let all the Earth rejoice.

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



MAY 2025

Special Masses and Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

PARISH & SHRINE



Mother's Day
Mass dedicated
to all mothers
Regular Sunday
Mass Schedule



22

St. Rita Feast Day
THURSDAY Pilgrimage to
Shrine of Saint Rita
Departure 4:00pm
Donation \$22. Reservation deadline May 9



24

First Holy Communions
SATURDAY MASS &
CEREMONY
ENGLISH 10:00am



25

Mass for Padre Pio
SUNDAY
ITALIAN: 10:30am
Followed by reception



26

Memorial Mass
MONDAY
TRILINGUAL (English,
Italian and Spanish)
9:00am



30

**Feast of Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
MASS AND ROSARY
in the Shrine
SPANISH: 6:30pm Church
ENGLISH: 7:00pm Chapel

PARISH & SHRINE



13

Our Lady of Fatima Feast
SPANISH: 6:30pm - Mass in the Church
ENGLISH: 7:00pm - Mass in the Shrine
Holy Rosary in the Plaza, followed by
Reception



17

St. Rita Feast
SATURDAY MASS, 9:00am
Breakfast following the Mass



17

First Holy Communions
SATURDAY MASS CEREMONY
ENGLISH 10:00am 1:00pm

📍 1101 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL
☎ (708) 344 - 4140
🌐 www.olmcparish.org

**OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL**

JUNE 2025

Special Masses & Events

ORGANIZE YOUR BLESSED MOMENTS

01
Sunday

ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
ST JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI
12:00 Trilingual Mass (It/Sp/Eng)
Mass, Relic Veneration, Reception
Celebration with all the community cultures

07
Saturday

PENTECOST VIGIL
Prayer, Reception and Prayer
English 6:30pm
Reception 7:30pm
Spanish 8:30pm

08
Sunday

PENTECOST SOLEMNITY
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

12
Thursday

ST. ANTHONY FEAST, Triduum
English 7:30pm - **First Night**

13
Friday

ST. ANTHONY FEAST DAY
English 7:30pm - **Second Night**
Follow by Reception at the Gym

14
Saturday

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH CONFIRMATIONS
Mass celebrated
English 10:00am Bishop Maldonado
English 1:30pm Bishop Perry
ST. ANTHONY FEAST, Triduum
English 5:30pm - **Third Night**

15
Sunday

HOLY TRINITY SOLEMNITY
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
FATHER'S DAY
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Mass dedicated to all fathers.
ST ANTHONY FEAST MASS
Procession, Blessing of the bread, veneration of relic and reception.
Italian 10:30am

22
Sunday

CORPUS CHRISTI SOLEMNITY
Solemn Mass and Holy Eucharistic Procession
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Procession after 12:00pm Mass

29
Sunday

MASS FOR PADRE PIO
Italian 10:30am Followed by reception.



*St John Baptist Scalabrini
"Father of Migrants",
Pray for us.*

📍 1101 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL
☎ (708) 344 - 4140
🌐 www.olmeparish.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
PARISH & SHRINE

Pilgrimage to Italy



JOIN FR. LEANDRO FOSSÁ ON A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE THROUGH ITALY

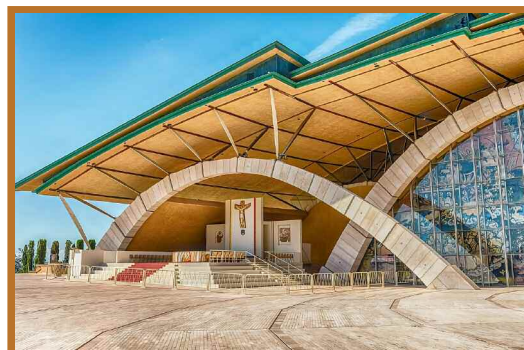
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airfare from Chicago to Rome and back
 - Transfers by motor-Coach bus all throughout the itinerary
 - 10 nights accommodations (4 star Hotels)
 - Daily Breakfast and Dinner
 - Whisper headset
 - All entrance fees as per program
 - English speaking tour guide all through the itinerary
 - Celebrate Masses
 - Name Tags
 - Porterage in and out of Hotels
 - Wine Tasting
 - Farewell Dinner
- ✦ \$500 DEPOSIT AT THE TIME OF RESERVATION AND THE REST OF THE AMOUNT CAN BE PAID IN INSTALLMENTS.
- ✦ FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE 101 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE DATE. (JULY 18, 2025)

THE VATICAN CITY



SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO (ST. PADRE PIO)



For more information or to register, please contact the Parish office at:
olmtcarmelchurch@gmail.com or call +1 (708)-344-4140

1 VISITING

Rome * Orvieto * Florence * Siena * Vatican City (Papal Audience with Pope Francis) * Assisi (St. Francis) * Monte Cassino * San Giovanni Rotondo (St. Padre Pio) * Monte Sant'Angelo (St. Michael)

2 12 DAYS (OCT. 27 - NOV. 7) 2025

Price: \$4600 Per Person (LIMITED SEATS)

3 2025 JUBILEE YEAR

Jubilee Year happens once every 25 Years celebrated in Rome & The Vatican City. It is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. It's a time to reconnect with God.


Lumilitas

MISSIONARIES OF ST. CHARLES
SCALABRINIANS

Save the Date!

The Feast of **OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL**

2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 4-12

- 7:30 p.m. Solemn Novena presided by Fr. David Mowry
Refreshments will be served each night after the Novena
Grand Raffle with drawing to be held on July 12, 2025, after Novena

TUESDAY, JULY 8

- 7 p.m. Banner Presentation

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

- 6 p.m. Rose Presentation

THURSDAY, JULY 10

- 7 p.m. Memorial Service for deceased members of Feast Committee
Caliendo's Banda Napoletana marches through the streets

FRIDAY, JULY 11

- 6 p.m. Feast Celebration Dinner

SATURDAY, JULY 12

- 3 p.m. Mass in Spanish
5:30 p.m. Mass in English

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Caliendo's Banda Napoletana & the Sicilian Band of Chicago will perform during the processions.

- 7:30 a.m. Mass in English
9 a.m. Solemn Mass in Italian
10:30 a.m. Statue leaves Church in Procession to the Field Mass
Noon Field Mass on Church grounds with
Bishop Robert Lombardo and Fr. Leandro Fossá, CS
1:30 p.m. Traditional Procession continues through the streets
4 p.m. Statue returns to Church, followed by Benediction
5 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Ad Book will be available for our sponsors & friends!

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church & Shrine • 23rd & Augusta • Melrose Park

www.olmcparish.org | www.facebook.com/olmcparish | feast.olmc@gmail.com | 708.344.4140



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish

You Are Invited to Come Celebrate the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Nightly from **Thursday, June 19** to **Friday, June 27**
at **6:30pm** at **Sacred Heart Church** in Melrose Park.

Friday, June 27

8:00am

Morning English Mass

5:30pm

Neighborhood Procession with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Statue

6:30pm

Welcoming of Sacred Heart of Jesus statue into Church

7:00pm

Solemn Mass (*Family Candles & Intentions with offertory of flowers.*)
There will be an ice cream social after Solemn Mass in Marian Hall.

Saturday, June 29

4:30pm

English Mass

6:00pm

Spanish Mass

Sunday, June 30

8:30am

English Mass

10:30am

Spanish Mass

9:00am to 3:00pm

Sacred Heart Feast Festival

Come and enjoy good food, music and raffles!

Sunday Masses at St. Eulalia Church

10:30am English Mass

12:30pm Spanish Mass

Sacred Heart Feast Festival Raffle

1st Prize: \$1,000

2nd Prize: \$300

3rd Prize: \$200

4th Prize: \$100

You may purchase raffle tickets for
\$2.00 each at our Rectory Office or The
Day of the Festival. Please call
708-344-0757 for more information.



Sacred Heart Church
St. Eulalia Church

819 N. 16th Ave., Melrose Park, IL
1825 S. 9th Ave., Maywood, IL

708-344-0757
shsparish.org



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



WEBSITE: shsparish.org

PHONE: 708-344-0757

EMAIL: shseparish@archchicago.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

Upcoming Date – June 6

Second & Third Saturday Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Every **Second Saturday** of the month in **English** and every **Third Saturday** of the month in **Spanish** at **3:00pm** in **St. Eulalia**.



Thursday Adoration and Confession at 7:00pm

May 15 & May 29, June 19, July 3, 17 & 31 at **Sacred Heart**.

May 22, June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24 at St. Eulalia.



Adoration & Anointing of the Sick on MAY 15

7:00pm at **Sacred Heart**.

Taco Sale on MAY 18

11:00am—3:00pm in **St. Eulalia Parish Hall**
after 10:30am & 12:30pm Masses.



Women's Club Camaraderie Meeting on JUNE 5

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



You are welcome to join us for our weekly Masses at Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish. Below are our weekly Mass times. For more information, please visit our website at shsparish.org.

WEEKDAYS **8:00am English** at **Sacred Heart**

SATURDAYS **4:30pm English** at **Sacred Heart** **6:00pm Spanish** at **Sacred Heart**

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



Proviso Township Handyman Program

Spring 2025 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Do you need blinds repaired or new ones installed? Do you need to repair or install handrails? Time to open the windows and let the fresh air in! We can help take your storm windows off, put them away and install window screens.

It's time to slide a new filter in your furnace in preparation for summer.

Do you have a rain barrel that needs to be connected to your gutter? We can do that for you!

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

Call us at (708) 547-4001 to schedule an appointment and register for our program.



**Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside ·
LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside · Northlake
· Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs**

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township +

**Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor**

**Anthony "Tony" Williams
Clerk**

**Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor**

**Gay F. Chase • Evelyn Chavez • Joseph Christopher • Clarence E. Thomas
Trustees**

Proviso Township Handyman Program



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

- Minor repairs only.
- \$5 per visit plus cost of parts, if needed.
- Provide referrals on a variety of home maintenance issues.
- Appointments are 45 minutes or less.

The Proviso Township Handyman Program Only Serves Homeowners Within the Boundaries of Proviso Township.
Bellwood • Berkeley • Broadview • Brookfield • Forest Park • Hillside • LaGrange Park
Maywood • Melrose Park • Northlake • North Riverside • Stone Park • Westchester • Western Springs

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

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



TOWNSHIP OF PROVISO
4565 Harrison St.
Hillside, IL 60162
P: 708-449-4307
F: 708-202-1265
www.provisotownship.com

PROVISO TOWNSHIP – *Your Neighbors, Your Government*

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR

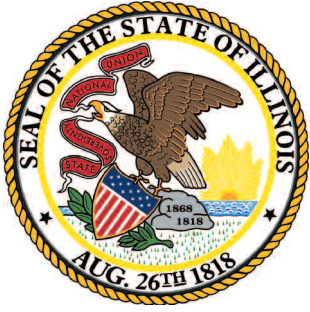
Anthony "Tony" Williams, Clerk • Steven J. Zawaski, Assessor

Gay F. Chase, Trustee • Evelyn Chavez, Trustee

Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Clarence E. Thomas, Trustee

Here to Serve Melrose Park & Surrounding Communities

Thank You Mayor Serpico!



Illinois State Representative
NORMA HERNANDEZ
77th District



*Illinois State Representative
Norma Hernandez*

Springfield Updates – Rep. Norma Hernandez Moves Five Bills Out of the House of Representatives

Following her inauguration, State Rep. Norma Hernandez has initiated great advancement during her time in Springfield and continues to do so. Rep. Hernandez is dedicated to ensuring that her community's voices are heard and their interests are represented in Springfield through her continued advocacy for legislation. For education, state Rep. Norma Hernandez is advancing mental health support for Illinois college students through House Bill 3385 to strengthen the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act. Her bill mandates expert panels at public colleges and universities to develop mental health training and response procedures, while also requiring institutions to establish partnerships with local providers and meet staffing benchmarks to ensure timely, accessible mental health care for all students.



State Rep. Norma Hernandez championed House Bill 2676, which updates and expands the Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce Act to strengthen Illinois' health care system in shortage areas. The bill revises definitions, broadens eligibility for scholarships and loan repayment to include more medical roles and facilities, and establishes stronger repayment enforcement to ensure health care providers serve in designated underserved communities. With House Bill 3160, state Rep. Norma Hernandez leads efforts to enhance transparency in disability services with her introduction of a bill requiring the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide updated rate sheets to providers of home and community-based services at least annually. The legislation also mandates that any changes in client reimbursement rates be reflected in an updated rate sheet within 60 working days, ensuring providers have timely and accurate funding information.

For clean energy, state Rep. Norma Hernandez is spearheading the extension of Illinois' commitment to clean energy by advancing legislation that moves the repeal date of the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law from 2025 to 2030 with House Bill 3374. Her bill ensures continued support for renewable energy initiatives and energy efficiency programs for an additional five years. Rep.

Hernandez is also taking a leading role in shaping Illinois' response to emerging technologies through her passage of House Bill 3646, which expands the scope and mandate of the Generative AI and Natural Language Processing Task Force. The bill charges the Task Force with investigating the impact of AI on privacy, education, workforce, public services and civil rights, ensuring Illinois remains proactive and protective in the face of rapidly evolving AI advancements.

77th District of Illinois Hosts Second Annual MUJERES Business and Fitness Fair

On Sunday, March 16, state Rep. Norma Hernandez hosted the second annual MUJERES Business and Fitness Fair in honor of Women's History Month. The MUJERES Business and Fitness Fair (B.F.F.) is a women-focused community event aimed at promoting both physical and mental wellness in a supportive and inclusive environment for the 77th District of Illinois. These businesses were spotlighted through tabling opportunities and specially curated fitness programming that included CrossFit, yoga, self-defense and pilates. The event brings together local women, elected officials and community leaders to emphasize the importance of self-care and holistic health.

At the heart of the event is the celebration and support of women-owned businesses and local organizations. The fair offers a platform for these entrepreneurs and owners to showcase their services and connect with the community, helping to raise awareness of the valuable resources available within the area. Among them was O'Hare CrossFit, owned and operated by Melrose Park's very own instructor Susie Castro, located in Franklin Park. Instructor Valeria Sanchez and Tequihua Self Defense brought all the action with valuable instruction on how to remain physically safe through self-defense. Instructor Dania Zalez from Club Pilates featured pilates. Ivette Cano with the Illinois Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Joey Moore from Carmona Strategic Solutions provided the community with free business courses during the duration, as well.

This not only boosts local economic development but also fosters a stronger network of women-led initiatives that can inspire and empower others.



Speakers told motivating stories and shared their journeys by addressing the struggles of maintaining women’s physical health, and emphasized the importance of women’s mental health issues throughout our community.

Rep. Norma Hernandez expressed, “Thank you to all those who stopped by and joined us, especially to our speakers. We know how important it is to integrate fitness into our daily lives. We also wanted to make sure we highlight some of the great women-owned businesses that exist in our district.”

Rep. Hernandez Joins Gov. Pritzker for a \$19 Million Grant Announcement in Melrose Park

State Rep. Norma Hernandez recently joined Gov. JB Pritzker in announcing the expansion of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program at RR Trade School in Melrose Park. In partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois is awarding more than



\$19 million in funding to 38 organizations across the state, which includes Melrose Park’s very own RR Trade School. This strategic investment supports a diverse and inclusive pipeline of qualified talent entering the construction and building trades, industries critical to the state’s economic growth and infrastructure development.



Originally launched in 2021, the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program was created to address the long-standing need for greater representation and access in the skilled trades, especially for individuals from historically marginalized communities. The program provides comprehensive training designed to help participants build foundational knowledge, technical skills and industry awareness necessary for success in registered apprenticeship programs. By fostering connections between participants and employers, the initiative plays a vital role in breaking down systemic barriers and opening doors to lifelong, family-sustaining careers.

Offered at no cost to participants, the program also provides stipends and wraparound services, such as career counseling and transportation assistance, removing financial and logistical obstacles that often hinder entry into the trades. Upon completion, participants earn industry-recognized credentials that strengthen their eligibility for union and nonunion apprenticeships throughout Illinois.

The program is part of a broader effort of Illinois leadership to build a skilled, resilient workforce that reflects the diversity of the state. Through strategic partnerships with community-based organizations, labor unions, educational institutions and employers, Illinois Works aims to ensure that economic opportunity is accessible to all.

Rep. Hernandez Carries on Youth Engagement Programming With The “Student Advisory Assembly”

Last spring, state Rep. Norma Hernandez launched the 77th District’s first-ever Youth Advisory Council and implemented a participatory budgeting component. \$5,000 in funds were donated towards the youth council by Rep. Hernandez so participating students could have a budget to discuss and decide on how to properly allocate funds towards projects that would be most beneficial to youth in the 77th District. Students from local area high school districts overlapping with the 77th District convened every month to share their ideas and discuss which projects were the best to select and fund for the coming year.

A winning project from last year’s cohort is our new Student Advisory Assembly, which was the second among two selected projects by our young participants. The Student Advisory Assembly Program engages students in local governance by requiring participants to attend monthly school board meetings. The program brings together high school and college students from the 77th District to trade discourse from their schools and communities. The Student Advisory Assembly serves as a think tank, empowering students to propose creative solutions and initiatives. Using our office as a resource, students have the opportunity to develop ideas based on insights gathered from the meetings they attend.

This youth program consists of 10 students who were selected through an application process to become student representatives. The body consists of a speaker and secretary from Triton College and College of Dupage, with student representatives from a high school district that overlaps with the 77th District. These student representatives participate in attending their school board meetings and attend their monthly general body meetings. The Student Advisory Assembly serves as a platform for the students to share and discuss their experiences, as well as what they’ve learned from these meetings.

Some of the recent updates the Student Advisory Assembly established are the various guest speakers introduced into the assembly, including IL-04 District Director Adrian Calderon, High School District 209 Board Member David Ocampo and Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya. These guest speakers are all able to provide information surrounding their communities, the journey to their role and invaluable mentorship that allows exciting exposure to youth members.



Safe Streets, Safe Communities – Infrastructure Investment Continues to Come to Cook County's 16th District

Three Projects Received Funding for Transportation Improvements

Investment in 16th District infrastructure is continuing into 2025. Cook County's Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) has announced updates on over 30 projects throughout the county. Within the 16th District, three major projects are currently active, providing increased safety and accessibility for both residents and visitors in the district.



*Cook County Commissioner
Frank J. Aguilar*



The city of Northlake, the village of Maywood and the Central Avenue Bridge located in the villages of Stickney and Forest View are all receiving funding from Cook County to make improvements in street safety, sidewalk accessibility, water drainage and more.

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

These projects show the sustained influx of county money into the 16th District. Commissioner Aguilar, DOTD Superintendent Jennifer Killen and local mayors have worked closely over the last five years to identify areas of needed infrastructure improvements and have developed plans to effectively use available funding.

"Cook County values the partnership with our local cities, villages and townships," said Jennifer "Sis" Killen, superintendent of the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. "Together we advance priority transportation projects that improve safety, increase mobility and improve quality of life for our residents."

Some of the benefits included throughout these projects include roadway lighting and surfacing improvements, sewage and stormwater maintenance, and bridge maintenance allowing freight and mass transit to safely and quickly move to their destinations.

For more on information, please read a detailed description of each project below.

- **Northlake** – The project provides reconstruction of County Line Road, Lake Street, North Avenue and Northwest Avenue, channelization of County Line Road to accommodate future I294 exit ramp work, reconfiguration of the North Avenue and Lake Street intersection with County Line Road, Lake Street bridge over North Avenue improvements, construction of a multi-use path and sidewalks, drainage improvements, installation of retaining walls, and street lighting and traffic signal improvements. Work completed is storm sewer improvements, reconstruction of County Line Road, Frontage Road and

Northwest Avenue, and excavation of three detention ponds. Work to be completed in 2025 is reconstruction of the WB Lake Street bridge, construction of Gateway Road, traffic signal and lighting improvements, sidewalk improvements, landscaping, and pavement resurfacing and striping.

- **Village of Maywood** – Work will take place on Harrison Street on 21st Avenue, Ninth Avenue, and First Avenue. The improvements include Hot Mix Asphalt pavement patching.

- **Central Avenue Bridge** – The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) initiated the rehabilitation of the Central Avenue Bridge that spans over the Sanitary & Ship Canal near the western border of Chicago and travels through the villages of Stickney and Forest View. This four-lane, 0.71 mile-long bridge serves many neighboring industrial sites and provides a vital connection to Interstate 55 and Midway Airport. The scope of this project includes full replacement of the bridge deck, repairing the steel girders and concrete piers, and repainting the bridge girders. These improvements will bring the bridge to a state of good repair and support continued serviceability to freight movement in the region. The project is being funded by DoTH using Rebuild Illinois bond funds. Construction began in July 2023.

Cook County Moves Forward With \$15M Relief Fund to Support Homeowners Facing Property Tax Increases

County to Provide \$1,000 Payments to Residents Hit Hardest While Long-Term Reform Efforts Continue

The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution establishing the eligibility criteria for the Cook County Homeowner Relief Fund, which is a \$15 million program to assist homeowners who have experienced a substantial increase on their property tax bills in recent years.

This program will provide immediate relief to residents as Cook County continues to pursue long-term property tax reform efforts at the state and local levels. These broader efforts are being led by the Property Tax Reform Group (PTAX), which includes the separately elected offices that make up the property tax system, as the county works to identify and advance system-wide reforms.

"Property tax relief is always one of the top concerns of our constituents," said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "Elected officials must exhaust all

options to find avenues to relief and support for homeowners to ease their tax burden, and to make sure what they are paying is accurate and fair. I am so happy to see this fund become a reality and will lead to real money saved for those whose tax bill increased so substantially.”

Under the direction of the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, the Homeowner Relief Fund will provide one-time payments of \$1,000 to eligible households. The application is expected to open this summer with the payments issued shortly after.

“It is vital that we provide relief to homeowners throughout the county who are experiencing hardship due to their property tax bills increasing,” said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. “This fund will provide short-term support to those who need it most while my administration continues to work with the PTAX Reform Group to develop long-term solutions.”

In order to be eligible, households must have an income at or below 100% of the Area Median Income for their respective household size. Under these guidelines, for example, a four-person household making \$119,900 or less would be eligible. Applicants must have also seen their property tax bill increase by at least 50% in any year since the 2021 tax year.

AidKit, Inc., will serve as the administrator for this program, creating the application website, offering applicant support, reviewing applications and providing the \$1,000 payments. If needed, the Bureau of Economic Development and AidKit will implement a lottery system to select applicants.

Commissioner Bridget Gainer (10th District) convened a public hearing in September to discuss the issue and hear directly from homeowners.

“As we’ve met with over a thousand homeowners during the last few years to assist with property taxes, we’ve heard firsthand the need for a lifeline. Property taxes are rising faster than homeowners’ ability to pay, forcing people to leave neighborhoods they love and undermining the best ability to build wealth – homeownership,” said Commissioner Bridget Gainer. “I’m proud of the work we’ve done to launch the Homeowner Relief Fund and provide much-needed relief in the short term, while we seek solutions for sustainable property tax relief in Springfield.”

Following that hearing, in October 2024, the County Board approved the creation of the \$15 million Homeowner Relief Fund, which was then included in the county’s 2025 budget approved in November.

Aguilar Meets With Elected Officials in Springfield

Discussions Centered Around Providing Flooding Relief to Homeowners

On Wednesday, March 19, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar traveled to Springfield to meet with legislators and stakeholders about ways to further support Cook County and the 16th District. Commissioner Aguilar spoke with state officials in Springfield to discuss measures to protect homeowners and residents from flooding damages, making sure initiatives and programs are in place to provide relief in the future, and protecting the value people have in their homes.

“Weather events are becoming more intense, causing bigger damages and destroying the wealth people have in their homes,” said Commissioner Aguilar. “I will continue to work together with federal, state and local officials to create avenues of relief for homeowners, businesses and residents who need support.”

For more information on Commissioner Aguilar’s proposed initiatives to provide relief for homeowners, please read his full letter to legislators below.

Full Letter from Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar

After a massive storm in July of 2023, Cicero, Berwyn, Stickney and other areas in Cook County’s 16th District were overwhelmed by flood water. In the days that followed, after urgent requests from our office, the state of Illinois and the federal government declared a disaster area, which allowed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to step in with resources for our residents.

Through FEMA, we were able to receive funding for the massive damages our community faced. These funds have been essential in rebuilding our communities. Through careful coordination, the 16th District office worked hard to ensure that as many people as possible who were in need of assistance received it. But more must be done to prepare for future extreme weather.

At the County Board of Commissioners, I introduced legislation to secure funding that will assist with flooding on the county level in the future:

- To aid our residents in the face of destructive weather events, I am proposing a property tax relief fund for affected lower- and fixed-income homeowners.*
- I am also exploring avenues to create a reimbursement fund for major appliances that have been damaged by weather events so that families are able to ensure their houses are safe and fully equipped.*

Programs to address flooding are important because:

- This is a matter of equity. For so many residents of Cook County, a family's wealth is maintained through homeownership.*
- Storms could significantly affect their home’s value, which in many cases is a family’s largest source of wealth and biggest investment for their futures.*
- Remediation of flood damage needs to happen in a timely manner or the damage can grow exponentially.*

*Your consideration is greatly appreciated,
Frank J. Aguilar,
Cook County Commissioner – 16th District*



Commissioner Aguilar meeting with Commissioner Tara Stamps, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Chris Welch and Cook County Forest Preserves Legislative Coordinator Luke Turck.



News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Giannoulias Launches Multifaceted Effort to Curb Distracted Driving

Public Safety Campaign Targets Teens, Boosts Awareness, Steps Up Enforcement

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias kicked off the office's multifaceted "One Road. One Focus" public safety campaign that raises awareness about the dangers and consequences of distracted driving.

The effort features – 1) A new video requirement for student drivers; 2) Billboard ads to raise awareness; and 3) Expanded distracted driving patrols.

Geared toward younger drivers, the initiative coincides with Distracted Driving Awareness Month, observed every April to raise awareness and encourage safer driving practices. In 2023, nearly 3,300 people were killed and over 300,000 people were injured in car crashes involving distracted drivers, latest figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reveal.

"Despite understanding the dangers, people still give in to the temptation to pick up their phone while behind the wheel. This 'intoxicated driving' is the drunk driving of our time and is 100% preventable," Giannoulias said. "Our 'One Road. One Focus' campaign seeks to spark a cultural shift in our collective behavior to make Illinois roads safer and save lives."

"Distracted driving threatens the safety of other motorists, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists, and causes tragic reverberations throughout communities," said Rita Kreslin, executive director of Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM), which has developed its own distracted driving prevention and education program. "To ensure the safety of our roadways, we must instill good habits that protect everyone who uses them."

Video Requirement for Teen Drivers

The Secretary of State's Office has instituted a new requirement for teen drivers to watch a video that details the consequences of distracted driving when applying for a learner's permit. The video, titled "One Road. One Focus," illustrates how the tragic effects of dangerous driving behaviors ripple through families, friends and communities. Over 165,000 high school students seeking their learner's permit this year will watch the video.

Awareness Billboards

The office has rolled out a billboard campaign encouraging travelers to "Stop Texting, Start Driving." A total of 15 billboard ads, which have been donated by Springfield-based WC Media Inc., are currently placed throughout the state.



Distracted Driving Patrols

Using \$77,000 in grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the office is also coordinating additional Illinois Secretary of State Police patrols to enforce distracted driving laws in high-volume crash areas throughout the year. The patrols will issue tickets and also serve as a deterrent to drivers who may be tempted toward distraction.

Giannoulias Unveils Secretary of State Flagship Center in Chicago's Loop

First-of-Its-Kind Center Showcases Modernization Efficiencies and New Service Offerings

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias launched the office's Secretary of State Flagship Center in Chicago – a new state-of-the-art two-story DMV featuring a suite of agency services under one roof for the first time.

Located at 125 W. Monroe St., the Flagship Center highlights the office's modernization initiatives with cross-trained employees offering drivers and vehicle services from a single counter, an on-site Fast-Lane kiosk and an extensive list of services from the office's Business, Index, Personnel and Administrative Hearings departments all in one place.

"Our new Flagship Center showcases the efficiencies generated by all our modernization initiatives working in unison. It offers a wide array of services from several of our departments, all at one convenient location in Chicago's Loop," Giannoulias said. "Our continued effort to modernize the office allows us to not only create efficiencies, but also to reimagine the services we can provide and come up with innovative ways to meet customer's needs, getting them in and out the door quickly."

At 24,000 square feet, the center is nearly five times the size of the office's Chicago Central DMV at 160 N. LaSalle St., which officially closed recently and often experienced long lines and wait times because of its small size. With the larger footprint, the new center will more efficiently provide DMV services, while also offering other agency services not available at the Central facility.

The two-floor Flagship Center will provide a more efficient flow for transaction processing by serving customers with express service needs, such as driver's license and vehicle registration renewals on the ground floor and offering more detailed services on the lower level.

Giannoulias plans to regularly hold "office hours" at the Flagship Center to provide customers and residents with an opportunity to chat with the secretary and give feedback on their experience with the office.

More than 60 Secretary of State employees will staff the center, most from the now-shuttered Central location and others from leased locations in the downtown area the office plans to close.

The Flagship Center will offer a hybrid system of both walk-in and appointment services, 7:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Residents can schedule an appointment by visiting www.ilsos.gov or calling (800) 252-8980.

The services offered at the Flagship Center include:

- **Administrative Hearings & Reinstatements:** Informal hearings for drivers whose privileges have been suspended or revoked for a single DUI, an offense not involving a fatality or lesser moving violations; and reinstatement fee payments.
- **Business Services:** In-person expedited services; obtaining certified copies of business records; filing documents, including articles of incorporation and amendments for corporations and various types of LLCs; filing reinstatements to return their business to good standing; and filing trademarks with the office.
- **Index Services:** Walk-in service for customers obtaining apostilles and certificates of authority for foreign use documents. Due to the sensitive nature of the documents being certified, customers must provide physical original copies and services are not offered digitally.
- **Personnel Services:** Employment testing required for most entry-level and all DMV employees. The office will also offer a hub of public-use computers for those with limited access or need assistance to submit job applications.
- **Fast-Lane Kiosk:** Renew driver's licenses, state IDs and purchase vehicle stickers in less than two minutes. The kiosk prints vehicle registration stickers and temporary identification documents for customers immediately on site.
- **One-Stop-Shop:** The Flagship Center is the 18th Secretary of State facility to adopt the One-Stop-Shop model. Employees at One-Stop-Shop DMVs are cross-trained to provide driver's and vehicle services, allowing customers to access both sets of services at a single customer service counter.

Giannoulas Kicks Off 2025 Summer Job Program

Summer Employment Opportunities Offered for College, Trade, Grad and Law Students

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas' office is now accepting applications for its third annual summer job program.

Approximately 150 positions are available for college, trade school and graduate school students or graduating high school students who are enrolled in college or trade school in the fall. Job offerings include working in one of the 25 departments in the Secretary of State's Office or at a DMV.

"Our summer job program allows young people to explore career opportunities, earn money and build valuable skillsets," Giannoulas said. "This type of hands-on work also builds toward future academic and professional success and can translate into long-term benefits for our communities."

Along with building job and people skills for students, the program bolsters the office's customer service efforts during the busy summer months.

Available positions include working in Secretary of State offices in Chicago, surrounding suburbs, Springfield and downstate facility locations. Under the program, college and trade school students earn \$17 per hour, and specific contractual intern positions for graduate and law school students earn \$25 per hour.

Interested applicants can apply at www.ilsos.gov/summerjobs and must submit a resume, application and cover letter explaining their interest in working at the Secretary of State's Office. Applicants may list up to three choices for their preferred work location.

Summer employees can begin their employment as early as May 12, 2025.

75th Annual Illinois Secretary of State's Vehicle Show Set for Sept. 6

Chrysler 300 Commemorative Plate Available Until June 10

Celebrating the Secretary of State's 75th annual Vehicle Show this fall, Illinois Secretary Alexi Giannoulas is highlighting the 70th anniversary of the iconic Chrysler 300.

Giannoulas also announced that the Vehicle Show will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in downtown Springfield.

A limited number of commemorative license plates featuring the Chrysler 300 and promoting the Vehicle Show are now available for \$35 per pair until June 10. Illinois vehicle owners who purchase the plates may display them on their vehicles for up to 60 days before the show, July 8-Sept. 6, 2025.

"The Secretary of State's Vehicle Show is a treasured tradition that brings families and enthusiasts together from across the Midwest," Giannoulas said. "This year's show celebrates 75 years of classic cars and family fun. We look forward to hosting the event in downtown Springfield so people can take in the sites of our capital and provide a boost to the local economy."

"The Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show is more than just a display of classic cars – it's a celebration of innovation, history and community," said Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher. "Now in its 75th year, this milestone event highlights the creativity and craftsmanship that define classic cars, while giving us a chance to welcome visitors and showcase the very best of Springfield – our local shops, restaurants and our beautiful historic downtown."

The show's advisory committee will honor one vehicle with the Illinois State Champion Award, given to the best vehicle in show. First-, second- and third-place winners will also receive awards across 60 categories.

Credited with ushering in the American muscle car era, Chrysler introduced the C-300 in 1955. These early models were known for their Hemi V8 engines, strong performance and luxurious interiors. The 300 later underwent numerous redesigns, positioning the car as a family-friendly, full-size sedan that would appeal to a broader market. The 300 was discontinued in 1971, but returned when Chrysler debuted the new 300 concept car in 2003. It was finally discontinued in 2023.

First held in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Secretary of State's Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors. The Vehicle Show draws 1,000 visitors to downtown Springfield annually with more than 600 Illinois drivers purchasing specialty plates.

For more information or for a brochure, including a Vehicle Show Registration Form, please call (312) 793-8876 or email vehicleshow@ilsos.gov.

The plate order form and full show schedule is available at http://www.ilsos.gov/services/vehicle_show/home.html.





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

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Opens 2025 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest Contest for Young Photographers Marks Its 13th Year

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is encouraging young Illinois photographers to submit photos for the 2025 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, which provides students with a creative opportunity to share their vision of agriculture in our state. Students ages 8 to 18 may submit contest entries until the deadline of June 13, 2025.

Bright Start scholarships of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be awarded to students who place first, second or third in each of the three age categories.

"I'm excited to announce the opening of the contest because it's a great opportunity for students to go out, explore and use their cameras to highlight the beauty of Illinois agriculture," Frerichs said. "Illinois is a leader in the agricultural industry because of our skilled, hardworking farmers, millions of acres of rich farmland and diversity in products."

The Treasurer's Office is accepting electronic submissions for the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com. Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories – ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Each student may submit up to two photos by June 13, 2025.

To read the rules, terms and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com or contact Teri Whitfield at (217) 900-0075.

Now in its 13th year, the photo contest offers Illinois students an opportunity to showcase their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. More than 750 students have participated in the contest since it debuted in 2013 and they have submitted over 1,400 photos.

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest is part of the Illinois state treasurer's Ag Invest Program. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and next year's Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation's largest agricultural linked deposit programs, celebrating 42 years in 2025. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The Treasurer's Office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses operating lines of credit and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses and livestock purchases.

Treasurer Frerichs Presents Awards to Eight Illinois Leaders in Honor of Women's History Month Illinois Teacher of the Year, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra Leader, Marion Nonprofit Founder, Member of U.S. Women's National Amputee Soccer Team Among Those Recognized View Video at <https://cms.illinois.gov/agency/media/video/videos.html>

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs recently hosted a celebration to commemorate Women's History Month and honor the enduring impact of women in shaping history.

The event, held in the Illinois Room at 555 W. Monroe St., was an opportunity to reflect on the great achievements and ongoing contributions of women leaders in Illinois. The eight award recipients included a consultant, a food depository CEO, an award-winning teacher, a nonprofit founder, a state senator, a labor leader, a soccer player and an orchestra executive director.

"We gather to celebrate individuals who are dedicating their lives to helping others through education, mentorship and leadership," Frerichs said. "Illinois boasts a rich legacy of women activists, from those who fought for the right to vote to those who continue to advocate for equality and progress today. Women of all backgrounds have long recognized that true justice and equity cannot be achieved on an uneven playing field. We are grateful to these honorees for making our communities better places to live, work and raise a family."

The origins of Women's History Month go back more than 100 years. In 1911, the U.S. first participated in International Women's History Day. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring National Women's History Week. Seven years later, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month.

Treasurer Frerichs honored the following individuals for their outstanding commitment to the community: Outstanding Service in Business – Bukola Bello, Principal Consultant/VISION M.A.I. Consulting; Outstanding Service in Leadership – Kate Maehr, Executive Director and CEO/Greater Chicago Food Depository; Outstanding Commitment to Community Service – Lynne Chambers, Founder and Executive Director/Legacy Training, Marion; Outstanding Commitment to Education – Dr. Rachael Mahmood, 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year and Educational Consultant/Indian Prairie School District, Aurora; Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official – Hon. Julie Morrison, Illinois State Senator and Majority Caucus Whip/29th District; Outstanding Achievement in Workforce and Labor – Brandi Bradley, Director of Government Relations/Ullico Inc.; Outstanding Achievement in

Sportsmanship – Christina Kreil, Member, U.S. Women’s National Amputee Soccer Team/Teacher, Richards High School, Oak Lawn; and Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanities – Jennie Oh Brown, Executive Director/Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Illinois Treasurer Frerichs Returns \$22 Million to Residents in January Through I-CASH

National Unclaimed Property Day Media Blitz Results In Record 38,000 New Claims Filed

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs returned \$22 million to nearly 19,000 people in January through I-CASH, the state’s missing money program.

“Returning this money to the rightful owners is better than keeping it in our bank vaults,” Frerichs said. “It helps our state’s economy when people have a little more money in their pockets to spend at local businesses.”

Companies and banks turn over uncashed rebate checks, unpaid life insurance claims, forgotten checking accounts and the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes to the Illinois Treasurer’s Office after a few years. The state treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owners or their heirs, no matter how long it takes.

One way the office tries to return missing money is by highlighting National Unclaimed Property Day (Feb. 1) to encourage people to check the I-CASH website. Media coverage helped set a record this year. For the week ending Feb. 2, the State Treasurer’s Office saw 38,389 claims initiated – the most ever. For context, the office averages about 11,000 claims initiated in a week.

“You don’t have to wait for the next National Unclaimed Property Day to visit our I-CASH website,” Frerichs said. “It’s a good idea to check the website at least a couple of times a year to see if you, your family or your friends have cash or property to claim.”

Under Treasurer Frerichs, the office has set records for the number of claims and dollar amounts returned. More than \$2.2 billion in unclaimed property – the most in state history – has been returned to people on Treasurer Frerichs’ watch.

In 2024, the office returned nearly \$300 million to more than 330,000 claimants. The average claim was \$902.

Treasurer’s Office staff members attend public events to help people search their name in the I- CASH database and start to file a claim. In 2024, the office was out at nearly 1,200 events in 67 Illinois counties.

Frerichs and state lawmakers teamed up to get more money back to more people by creating the Enhanced Money Match Program. It allows the State Treasurer’s Office to automatically return money to individuals without the need to file a claim.

Last year, the Treasurer’s Office put up a Spanish-language I-CASH website, es.icash.illinoistreasurer.gov, to make it easier for people to claim missing money.

Also added to the I-Cash website is a “share” button. People can search the name of a family member or friend, select the “share” icon and provide the person’s email address. Frerichs’ office will send an email that mentions the missing money, along with the name of the friend or relative who spotted it. Then, that person can start the process of claiming it.

Frerichs Announces Purchase of \$10 Million in Israel Bonds

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs has announced his office has purchased an additional \$10 million in Israel Bonds.

“We continue our state’s commitment to invest in the State of Israel, one of our nation’s longest and most important allies,” Frerichs said. “Israel Bonds provide stable returns and are a strong investment for Illinois, where the program’s roots date back to the early 1950s.”

Frerichs’ office has invested in Israel Bonds since he became state treasurer in 2015. The three previous state treasurers from both political parties also invested in Israel Bonds.

Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds offers Israel Bonds in the United States. The bonds will mature in five years with an interest rate of 5.72%, among the highest in 20 years. That outpaces a five-year U.S. Treasury Note by about 159 basis points or 1.59 percentage points.

At the time of Frerichs’ announcement, the total amount invested in Israel Bonds was \$100 million and mentioned to drop to \$95 million on May 1. That represents less than one-fourth of 1% of the \$37.5 billion state portfolio.

The Illinois State Treasurer’s Office also has invested in \$15 million in Republic of Poland Bonds. Treasurer Frerichs announced the first-ever purchase of the Polish Bonds on Casimir Pulaski Day.

One of the benchmarks is that a nation must meet its bond payment obligations for at least 25 years, which the Republic of Poland has done. In addition, State Treasurer’s Office guidelines require that the bonds must be rated in the three highest classifications of at least two rating services. Poland maintains those ratings from Moody’s, S&P and Fitch.

Israel has never defaulted on Israel Bonds’ payments in more than 70 years. The rates are locked in, so any ratings downgrades do not impact Illinois’ rate of return.

The investment diversifies the state’s portfolio and draws attention to a global partnership between the state’s economy and the State of Israel. Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, first considered seeking direct investment through Israel Bonds in 1950 and the first sale in the United States was completed in 1951.

The relationship between Illinois and Israel Bonds goes back to that beginning. Peoria resident Sam Rothberg was a founder of the Israel Bonds Program. Worldwide sales of Israel Bonds have exceeded \$53 billion since “Sam from Peoria” became a part of Israel Bonds in 1951.

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs wants to help people be financially secure, so he launched the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub) to help all Illinois residents plan a better financial future. Visit https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Education/IL_Financial_Wellness_Hub for free resources!



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***

World Migratory Bird Day: Bird Walk & Big Sit – Saturday, May 10 • 8 a.m. Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Celebrate migrating birds on guided bird walks or drop in for a bird watch from a fixed location. All birding levels welcome – binoculars available to borrow.
Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 381-6592.

Chicago River Day – Saturday, May 10 • 9 a.m.

Beaubien Woods (Doty Avenue, Southeast of 130th Street and Ellis Avenue, Chicago)

Celebrate the 33rd anniversary of Chicago River Day. Help clean and restore our waterways and the land around it.

Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 939-0490.
Registration required – <https://chicagoriver.org/>.

Kite Fest – Saturday, May 10 • 10 a.m.

Carl R. Hansen Woods (Sutton Road/Route 59, South of Shoe Factory Road, Cook County)

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with all things kites. Join us for fun activities, crafts and much more.

Contact – (630) 837-0301

Nature Paint By Step – Saturday, May 10 • 10 a.m.

Evans Field (Bloomingdale Avenue and Thatcher Avenue, River Grove)

Guided nature painting for all levels with supplies included. Ages 18 and up.
Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.
Registration required.

Nature Wellness Walk – Saturday, May 10 • 10 a.m.

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

Reconnect with nature. Relaxing mindfulness and meditative practices will be led during a leisurely walk by the University of Illinois-Extension.

Cost – Free. Registration required – <https://extension.illinois.edu/cook/events>.

Sunrise Hike – Sunday, May 11 • 5:30 a.m.

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

Come join us for a “before hours” hike to experience the dawning of a new day.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897.
Registration required.

Mother’s Day Spring Nature Walk – Sunday, May 11 • 10:30 a.m.

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

Join us for a casual walk and take in the sights, sounds and scent of spring.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.
Registration required.

Moms in Nature – Sunday, May 11 • 11 a.m.

(9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs)

Celebrate Mother’s Day in nature by creating special arts and crafts gifts for mom.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897.
Registration required.

Beautiful Sounds at Twilight – Monday, May 12 • 7:30 p.m.

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

Spend time outdoors on a full-moon night with the sounds of nature and soothing instruments. We will perform a series of mindful movements, meditation and deep measured breaths around a fire with a certified instructor. Bring your own chair, yoga mat or blanket. Ages 18 and up.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897.
Registration required.

Little Red Rocks – Tuesday, May 13 • 7 p.m.
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs)
Perform or listen to music and poetry at an open-mic night on the grounds at sunset.
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897.
Registration required.

Wee Wonders: Migration – Wednesday, May 14 • 10 a.m.
Sand Ridge Nature Center (15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland)
Learn about nature through sensory experiences, stories and artmaking. Ages 2-5 w/adult.
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyil.gov.
Registration required.

Pond Paddle – Wednesday, May 14 • 4 p.m.
Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)
Enjoy an afternoon out paddling. Instruction, equipment and kayaks provided.
Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.
Registration required.

Nature Thursdays 'Birds' Drop-In – Thursday, May 15 • 2:30 p.m.
Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)
Connect to nature through fun activities for adults and kids. This event is led by the University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalists. Drop in. Learn about and see local and migrating birds, make a craft and participate in a "Big Sit" bird count.
Cost – Free.

Archery – Thursday, May 15 • 4 p.m.
National Grove-South (Groveland Avenue, North of 31st Street, North Riverside)
Attend this session to learn the basics of archery. Equipment provided. Ages 10 and up.
Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

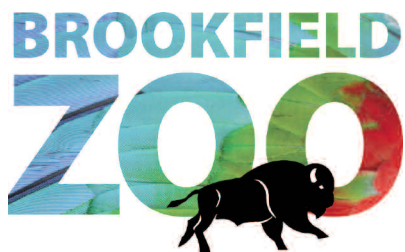
Night Hike – Friday, May 16 • 7:30 p.m.
River Trail Nature Center (3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook)
An evening walk to learn about nocturnal animals at River Trail. All ages.
Cost – \$5 per person. Contact – (847) 824-8360.
Registration required.

Community Science: Frog Monitoring – Friday, May 16 • 8 p.m.
Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)
Contribute to science by collecting data on local frog species with a naturalist. Ages 12 and up. Must be able to walk 1.5 miles over uneven ground in the dark.
Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 381-6592.
Registration required.

Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon – Sunday, May 18 • 8 a.m.
Dam No. 2 Woods (Des Plaines River Road, South of Euclid Avenue/Lake Avenue, Cook County)
The second oldest continual canoe race in the United States begins in Libertyville and ends at Dam No. 2 Woods. Live music and refreshments.
Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.
Registration required.

Adaptive Adventures: Kayaking – Thursday, May 22 • 1 p.m.
Trailside Museum of Natural History (738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest)
We've got the equipment so everyone can create their own adventure. Join us to discover what equipment is available for checkout at the Forest Preserves of Cook County for paddling adventures. Caregivers, service providers and supporters are welcome to join in too and get trained by Adaptive Adventures on our accessible kayaks. Learn how to use and check out equipment that will be available at Forest Preserves nature centers and campgrounds. After instruction, everyone can try out the adaptive equipment. This event, hosted at Thatcher Pond, will include the following activities – 1-3 p.m./instructional training; 4-7 p.m./practice paddling and trail walk. Funding for this program provided in part by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
Cost – Free
Registration required at experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

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



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!

Brookfield Zoo Chicago Offers Complimentary Admission for Low-Income Families Through Museums for All **New Program Amplifies Brookfield Zoo Chicago's 'Zoo for All' Initiative by Providing More Opportunities for Community Members to Connect with Wildlife and Nature**

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is offering complimentary admission for low-income families through Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that aims to ensure that every family and child has access to a high-quality experience at cultural institutions.

This new benefit builds on the zoo's Zoo for All initiative, which aims to offer meaningful experiences to all Brookfield Zoo Chicago guests in a modern, inclusive and accessible environment. Zoo for All is the zoo's commitment to remove barriers to access and learning, serving as one of seven commitments anchoring its Next Century Plan.

As of early April, community members receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits can receive complimentary admission to Brookfield Zoo Chicago. With the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card (known in Illinois as a Link card) on site, free admission will be provided for up to four guests per card per day. Parking, add-on experiences, event tickets and attractions are not included.

"We want all community members to feel like Brookfield Zoo Chicago is a place for them – a welcoming environment to explore, learn and connect with wildlife and nature," said John Buranosky, Brookfield Zoo Chicago vice president of guest and member services. "Joining Museums for All is one more way we're making sure that cost isn't a barrier for guests to walk through our arches and have these meaningful experiences."

Museums for All, which is administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), helps expand access to and raise public awareness about how cultural institutions in the United States are reaching their entire communities. More than 1,350 institutions representing all 50 states participate in the initiative, including art museums, children's museums, science centers, botanical gardens, zoos, historic sites and more.

Brookfield Zoo Chicago participates in a variety of initiatives to offer convenient and equitable access for community members of all backgrounds. This includes Explore More Illinois passes available to Chicago Public Library cardholders, participation in the Museum Adventure Pass Program and free admission to military personnel, as well as school groups and more. A full list of discounts, access programs and free day updates are available by visiting brookfieldzoo.org/DiscountsAndAccessPrograms.

About Brookfield Zoo Chicago: Connect. Care. Conserve

Since 1934, Brookfield Zoo Chicago has been a global leader in animal well-being and conservation, inspiring conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife and nature. The zoo is a private nonprofit organization that operates on 235 acres of land owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County and is home to more than 3,500 animals representing over 500 species – including many of Earth's most endangered. Brookfield Zoo Chicago was the first zoo in the world to be Humane Certified™ by the American Humane Society for the care and welfare of its animals and is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, and ArbNet. For more information, visit www.brookfieldzoo.org or follow @BrookfieldZoo on Instagram, Facebook and Threads.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. Learn more at www.imls.gov.

About the Association of Children's Museums (ACM)

Started in 1962, the Association of Children's Museums (ACM) champions children's museums worldwide. With more than 470 members in 50 states and 11 countries, ACM is the world's foremost professional society supporting and advocating on behalf of children's museums and those who work at and otherwise sustain them. It leverages the collective knowledge of children's museums through convening, sharing and dissemination. Learn more at www.childrensmuseums.org.

Join Us for These Exciting Events!

Mother's Day Brunch – Discovery Center

Sunday, May 11 • 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Noon

Join us this Mother's Day for a one-of-a-kind brunch experience at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, where the beauty of nature meets the joy of family.

- Savor a Delicious Brunch: Indulge in a gourmet brunch buffet featuring an array of savory and sweet treats, crafted by our talented culinary team.
- Live Music: Enjoy the vibrant sounds of live music, setting the perfect backdrop for a wonderful Mother's Day celebration.
- Bottomless Mimosas: Toast to the incredible mothers in your life with our bottomless mimosas, ensuring your brunch is as bubbly as it is delicious. We will also have a full cash bar available for those that would like other options.
- Special Mother's Day Gift: Each mother will receive a specially selected take-away gift of our house-made jam as a token of appreciation.
- Explore the Zoo: Your brunch ticket includes full-day access to explore Brookfield Zoo and enjoy the exhibits and animals at your leisure.

Tickets are available for purchase at www.brookfieldzoo.org/mothersdaybrunch.



Zoo Uncorked: Tequila & Tails – Zoowide/Saturday, June 14 • 6-9 p.m.

Roar into the wild at Tequila & Tails! Enjoy refreshing drinks while exploring the fascinating lives of big and small cats and learning about our efforts to protect these incredible creatures and their habitats. This exclusive 21+ event offers the perfect mix of fun, education and socializing – all while supporting conservation.

Tickets are on sale now at www.brookfieldzoo.org/flocktailsandfeathers! You can also save by purchasing the Zoo Uncorked 3-Event Passport (\$150 for Mocktail or \$250 for Cocktail), which includes admission to all three of our 2025 Zoo Uncorked events: Flocktails & Feathers (May 10), Tequila & Tails (June 14) and Wines & Vines (Aug. 23).

Get your tickets today!



Roaring Nights: Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Summer Concert Series East Mall/June 21, July 18 and Aug.16

Create your ultimate summer evenings at Roaring Nights, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's premier summer concert series! Get ready to turn up the volume for unforgettable nights of live music, dancing and good vibes, uniquely located along the legendary Route 66. If you're seeking the top things to do across the Chicagoland area for a memorable summer, grab your tickets, bring your crew, and join us for this one-of-a-kind concert series while supporting animal care and conservation!

Tickets are on sale now and will sell out fast! Visit www.brookfieldzoo.org/roaringnights for the concert lineup and more information.



Zoo Uncorked: Wines & Vines – Tropical Forests/Saturday, Aug. 23 • 6-9 p.m.

Sip, savor and explore at Wines & Vines, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's exclusive 21+ event featuring the grand opening of our breathtaking Tropical Forests habitat! Enjoy a selection of fine wines and cocktails as you explore the lush beauty and vibrant atmosphere of the rainforest.

This unforgettable evening is perfect for wine enthusiasts, nature lovers and anyone seeking a unique night out. Don't miss your chance to be among the first to experience our stunning new exhibit while indulging in great drinks and a lively ambiance. Join us for a one-of-a-kind celebration of wine, nature and adventure.

Tickets are now on sale at www.brookfieldzoo.org/winesandvines! You can also save by purchasing the Zoo Uncorked 3-Event Passport (\$150 for Mocktail or \$250 for Cocktail), which includes admission to all three of our 2025 Zoo Uncorked Events: Flocktails & Feathers (May 10), Tequila & Tails (June 14), and Wines & Vines (Aug. 23). Get your tickets today!



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

ComEd Academy Training Programs Reach More Than 1,000 Served.

ComEd Job Training Programs – CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Academy and Craft Academy – Graduate 73 New, Local Job Seekers for Careers in Construction and the Utilities

ComEd and a coalition of community and corporate partners recently celebrated a new class of 73 graduates from ComEd job training programs, CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Academy and Craft Academy – marking more than 1,000 local residents served by “Academy” job training programming since 2013. Designed to build a skilled and diverse talent pipeline, these free programs prepare job seekers for entry-level positions that lead to rewarding careers in the construction and utility fields.

In partnership with eight workforce community agencies and 40 sponsoring companies, educational institutions and labor organizations, ComEd is connecting local talent to the knowledge and skills needed to break into the growing energy sector. A 2023 study, commissioned by ComEd, found that as many as 150,000 jobs will come to Illinois by 2050 to support the energy transformation.

“There’s never been a better time to join the construction and energy industry,” said Gil Quiniones, ComEd president and CEO. “These are areas that will make the most impact on the future of our communities as we face increasingly inclement weather and evolving energy needs. ComEd and its partners are dedicated to opening doors to local job seekers from the communities we serve who are ready for the challenge that comes with good-paying careers.”



ComEd Academy programming, including the Power Up Academy, a design- and engineering-focused job training program, is designed to grow the pool of qualified, diverse job candidates by providing adult participants the opportunity to earn industry-required certifications, and receive testing preparation and hands-on experience. Together, these programs have placed more than 70% of participants in entry-level positions across ComEd and partner employers. Program graduates have reflected the vibrant communities of northern Illinois, with more than 95% being people of color and 25% being women. This year’s CONSTRUCT and Craft Academy class is no different, more than 90% are people of color and nearly 20 percent are women.

“I am proud to see local investment in workforce development like the ComEd CONSTRUCT and Craft Academies that have a profound and lasting impact in the lives of Chicagoans,” said Congressman Danny K. Davis of Illinois. “They provide hardworking individuals in our communities the chance to pursue family-sustaining wages and a better quality of life. It’s a momentous day for the programs’ graduates as they embark on paths that lead them to building our future infrastructure.”

CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Academy

In its 13th year of programming, the CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Academy celebrates 64 new graduates joining nearly 900 program alumni. During the 11-week program, participants earned industry certifications, such as a Class A CDL (Commercial Driver’s License) and OSHA-10 (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) safety training, studied modules of the NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) Basic Construction Skills, and had the unique opportunity to shadow and learn from industry partners. This year, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Chicago, CONSTRUCT participants helped build homes across Chicagoland’s South and Southwest Sides as part of their trades training curriculum while giving back to their communities.

“From the build day to the job shadows and coursework, the CONSTRUCT Program gave me the boost I needed to build my professional network, be challenged and find new opportunities,” said Britney Evans, 2025 CONSTRUCT graduate. “It really helped me understand the daily realities and benefits of the construction industry, and now my classmates and I will be able to break through all the glass ceilings and advance further in our lives and careers.”

“United Scrap Metal is proud to partner with ComEd in expanding career opportunities for more community members while building a stronger, more diverse workforce for the construction field,” said Sadzi Oliva, senior vice president of Government Relations & Community at United Scrap Metal. “Through CONSTRUCT, we have hired several talented individuals who have thrived on our team and are making a lasting impact on our communities.”

Craft Academy

Over the course of six weeks, nine participants of the Craft Academy trained for entry-level trades roles at ComEd that require pole climbing and other physical attributes. Graduates of the Craft Academy are eligible for a scholarship to the Dawson Technical Institute Overhead Electrical Line Worker Program to advance a career in the electric utility industry.

“We are honored to have joined forces with ComEd over the last 13 years in connecting members of our communities to training opportunities that can change the trajectory of their lives,” said Karen Freeman-Wilson, president and chief executive officer at Chicago Urban League. “The CONSTRUCT and Craft programs represent a gateway to lucrative jobs that can provide the chance to build lasting careers and generational wealth.”

Since a 2018 agreement with IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 15, ComEd has hired more than 1,000 entry-level workers, aided by training opportunities, such as CONSTRUCT and Craft Academy. To prepare for the wide variety of future talent needs, ComEd offers a range of trades training and STEM education programs – last year, these reached 2,400 local residents. To learn more about ComEd programs, visit ComEd.com/CleanEnergyJobs or contact WorkforceDevelopment@ComEd.com.

ComEd Urges Customers to Act Now and Use Assistance and Energy Management Programs to Manage Electric Bills

More Than \$133 Million in Financial Assistance and Other Support Options Secured by Customers in 2024, With Similar Support Available Now

As residents transition from winter to the warmer weather months, a transition that sees an increase in the use of air-conditioning and other recreational equipment, ComEd says customers should take action now to connect with bill-assistance and energy-management options to help manage their future energy needs.

To help customers connect with solutions to manage rising energy costs, ComEd launched a new information website at ComEd.com/BillSupport.

“ComEd’s commitment to ensuring access to safe and reliable electricity means making investments and providing support options that will keep the lights on,” said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at ComEd. “When economic conditions create hardships for families and businesses, ComEd will work to ensure there is easy access to these options and that they continue to meet customers’ changing needs.”

To help customers deal with rising energy costs, ComEd can help connect customers to a variety of bill-assistance options, including grants and payment arrangements. Last year alone, ComEd connected more than 229,000 eligible customers to over \$133 million in financial assistance and other support options, which is the most support ComEd has provided since the pandemic. Through February of this year, ComEd has helped connect approximately 74,000 customers to \$26 million in various bill-assistance options.

To help administer bill-support options, such as grants through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), ComEd works with several community and intake agencies like the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA).

“CEDA is dedicated to ensuring that Cook County residents have access to utility bill assistance before they reach a crisis point. With rising costs and economic challenges creating hardships for many families, we encourage households to apply for LIHEAP now – don’t wait until you receive a disconnection notice,” said Latoya Butler, CEDA’s vice president of Energy Services. “Applying early can help prevent service interruptions and provide peace of mind. However, if you’ve already received a disconnection notice, assistance may still be available. Our goal is to make the application process as simple and accessible as possible so families can get the help they need when they need it. Visit CEDA at CEDAorg.net/Bills to apply online or find a partner intake site.”

ComEd Bill-Assistance Options

ComEd works with its community partners to connect customers to grants and other assistance programs. This includes ComEd’s nationally recognized Powering Lives Resource Fairs, which are collaborations with community organizations to identify and deliver services that local families need the most. Through nearly a half dozen fairs across northern Illinois in 2024, ComEd provided 1,600 families in underserved neighborhoods with education and tailored support services, including bill-assistance options, workforce development opportunities, family care programs and health screenings. ComEd successfully connected more than three-quarters of those families to financial assistance and other support options. Among these options are:

- LIHEAP provides a one-time grant per program year, with no payback required, while funding remains available. To be eligible, household incomes cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines which, for a family of four, is \$5,200 a month or \$62,400 a year.
- Payment arrangements of up to 12 months for eligible residential customers with past-due balances. Make a down payment on the amount owed and pay the rest through installments in addition to your regular monthly bill.
- Budget billing, which provides a predictable monthly payment based on your electricity usage from the last 12 months.
- Deposit and late-payment charge waivers for one year to income-eligible customers, along with the return of any current deposit.
- High-usage alerts, which enable customers to receive alerts when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use, and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future energy bills.
- Energy-efficiency offerings, including award-winning services and incentives designed to help income-eligible residential customers reduce energy use now and in the long term.

Nicor Gas Reminds Customers, Community to Call 811 During Safe Digging Month

Warmer temperatures have finally arrived and before springing into outdoor home projects, Nicor Gas reminded customers and communities to “call before you dig” in observance of Safe Digging Month this April. This includes jobs such as mailbox and fence installations, planting trees or putting in a pool. It also applies to professional excavators when performing work such as paving, tunneling or blasting.

Contacting 811 is free and there is no cost to have underground utility lines marked. It’s also a law designed to help to protect both customers and communities to ensure the underground infrastructure that powers our lives is not damaged and stays safe and connected.



Customer pre-marking is required for all locate requests, by physically marking your proposed excavation or route with white paint, flags or chalk, electronic white lining (when software is available), or possibly by providing a verbal description that is narrow and explicit enough to limit markings beyond the actual excavation area.

Nicor Gas maintains more than 34,300 miles of natural gas infrastructure across northern Illinois. In addition to those lines, there are underground communications cables, water and sewer lines, and other utility lines on every property. Knowing where underground infrastructure is before putting a shovel in the dirt helps prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient service outages.

To protect these underground utilities and help ensure communities stay safe and connected, Nicor Gas offers the following safe digging guidelines:

- Call before you dig – Before starting an outdoor digging project, contact 811 or visit www.illinois1call.com to request having underground utility lines marked at least two days prior to digging, excluding the day of the notice, but no more than 10 days prior to the proposed excavation.
- Allow the required time for marking – After contacting 811, allow time for the underground utility lines to be marked before digging. The approximate location of the lines will be marked with color-coded spray paint, flags or stakes that correspond to the utility. The natural gas markings will be yellow.
- Respect the marks – Only use hand-digging tools in areas near the utility line markings.
- Excavate carefully – Make sure the marks remain visible during the project. If the markings are no longer visible, contact 811 to have lines remarked.

If a natural gas line is damaged accidentally or the distinctive rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas is present, call 911 or the Nicor Gas 24-hour emergency phone line at 1-888-642-6748 from a safe location.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit nicorgas.com/811.

Nicor Gas Shares Spring, Severe Weather Safety Tips Energy Efficiency Resources Help Customers Save on Their Monthly Energy Bill

Nicor Gas’ delivery system is designed to reliably meet customer demand, even during unpredictable spring weather that can bring wind, rain, hail, tornadoes and snow, all within 24-hours.

Some severe weather can bring high winds, and heavy ice and snow that could damage above ground systems or lines. But Nicor Gas’ resilient and modernized natural gas delivery system and storage facilities are located below ground, allowing our teams to meet customers’ heating needs, even when the weather turns.

To help your family stay safe before, during and after a storm, please remember these important tips:

- Know the location of your natural gas meter and make sure it’s visible before a storm – This is crucial for safety and quick access in case of an emergency. Also, keep the area surrounding the meter free of trash and debris. Mechanical equipment used during the storm cleanup can damage an unseen meter.
- Unplug natural gas appliances – If severe lightning is predicted, unplugging these appliances can help avoid possible electrical damage.
- Leave gas meters on in homes and businesses – This helps maintain proper pipe pressure and prevents water from entering if flooding occurs. Most gas appliances have safety valves that automatically shut off the flow of gas if the pilot light goes out. Only Nicor Gas or emergency personnel should turn the valve off.
- Wait for safe conditions – If your natural gas service was interrupted due to a severe storm, restoration time depends on when water recedes in flooded areas, homes and businesses and are free of standing water before Nicor Gas personnel can safely enter.
- Check for damage – Damage to natural gas meters or exposed gas lines is dangerous. If you notice any damage, immediately leave the area and call Nicor Gas’ 24-hour emergency response number at 888-642-6748.
- Contact 811 before digging – If any cleanup and repair are necessary, including removing downed trees, remember to call 811 as they can become entangled with natural gas lines.

In addition to severe weather safety precautions, the arrival of spring is a good time to focus on energy-efficient home improvements and activities that can help save on monthly energy bills, including:

- Program your thermostat – Setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when not home can help reduce energy costs by approximately 10%.
- Use ceiling fans – Cooling homes with ceiling fans can offset up to a four degree increase in your thermostat. Ensure blades are rotating counter-clockwise to push cool air down.
- Cook outdoors – Cooking with an oven heats a home, but grilling outside is a great alternative that will help reduce natural gas use.
- Caulk air leaks – Sealing cracks and openings in a home ensures that heat does not come in or escape. Weatherizing with insulation and duct sealing can further improve a home’s efficiency year-round while increasing overall comfort.
- Get an equipment tune up – Spring is a great time to have HVAC systems and water heaters inspected and tuned up. This helps prevent mechanical issues and can provide peace of mind in your equipment’s reliability.

Residential customers can apply for rebates for eligible energy efficiency products and upgrades from DIY smart thermostats to air sealing and insulation improvements by working with a program-approved contractor. For more energy savings tips, rebates and other Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program offerings, visit nicorgas.com/waystosave.

NEWS FROM LOYOLA MEDICINE, A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH

Loyola Medicine Allergy Count Returns

For more than 20 years, Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital has provided the Chicago area with updated allergy counts every weekday during allergy season. This year's official count resumed on April 1. Allergy sufferers can follow @LoyolaAllergy on X (formerly known as Twitter) or visit loyolamedicine.org/allergy-count for the latest numbers.



"Spring allergies often lead to itchy, watery eyes, a runny nose, sneezing, nasal congestion and post-nasal drip," said Rachna Shah, MD, lead of the Loyola Medicine Allergy Count. "Difficulty breathing, coughing, wheezing and/or shortness of breath can also be triggered by seasonal allergies, so it's important for allergy sufferers to remain informed of the allergy count."



www.loyolamedicine.org

Due to unseasonably warm weather in March, tree pollen season arrived a little early this year. When pollen levels are high, Dr. Shah advises individuals with severe pollen allergies to stay indoors. However, if that's not feasible, she suggests, "Pollen counts are highest before 10 a.m., so try shifting your activities to later in the day. Additionally, if you engage in outdoor activities for more than a couple of hours, it can be very helpful to come inside, rinse off and change clothes."

In a recently featured video posted online, Dr. Shah explained how the count is performed. Pollen samples are gathered every weekday morning from the roof of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. Pollen grains and mold spores are collected from a cubic meter air sample and counted under a microscope. The counts include daily numbers for mold, tree, grass and weed pollens.

Allergy season commonly runs from March through the first hard freeze in October. Tree pollen generally begins to rise in late March to April, grass pollen arrives in May and June, while weed pollen is most prevalent in July to August. Ragweed typically peaks from late August to the first frost and mold can strike in damp conditions throughout the season.

For more information, please visit loyolamedicine.org/allergy-count.

Allergist Warns of Thunderstorm Asthma

April showers can bring more than just May flowers. The combination of grass pollen and thunderstorms can create a phenomenon known as "thunderstorm asthma" for allergy sufferers.

Rachna Shah, MD, lead of the Loyola Medicine Allergy Count, is warning the public about this rare weather occurrence. Grass pollen, which is prevalent from mid April until the end of May, which combined with rain, lightning and strong winds, can be the perfect storm.

"This phenomenon occurs when there is grass pollen in particular," said Dr. Shah. "The rain and lightning break the pollen into even smaller particles, which can get deeper into our respiratory system, causing asthma-like symptoms."

Patients with a history of asthma, grass allergy or worsening allergies are at higher risk. "It's important for these individuals to use preventative medications that have been prescribed to control allergies and asthma, carry an albuterol inhaler in case of worsening asthma, keep windows closed and keep track of the pollen count," said Dr. Shah.

For more than 20 years, Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital has provided the Chicago area with updated allergy counts every weekday during allergy season. Allergy sufferers can follow @LoyolaAllergy on X (formerly known as Twitter) or visit loyolamedicine.org/allergy-count for the latest numbers.



A video of Dr. Shah conducting the allergy count can be viewed at <https://trinityhealth.canto.com/s/VG2QB?viewIndex=0>.

Acetaminophen vs. Aspirin vs. Ibuprofen

When you walk into your local pharmacy looking for pain relievers, you may be struck by the number of choices. The many different medications for pain and the array of doses, formulations, names and combinations can be overwhelming. So you will probably have questions and we have the answers — specifically, about three of the most common pain relievers available over the counter: acetaminophen, aspirin and ibuprofen.

What is Acetaminophen Used For?

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is used for minor aches and pains, such as headaches, muscle aches and backaches. It is also used as a fever reducer.

How Does Tylenol Work?

We don't know exactly how Tylenol (acetaminophen) works. We know it works in the central nervous system by altering the way the body senses pain, but there are different theories as to how it does this.

One theory is that Tylenol blocks enzymes that help to produce prostaglandins, which are compounds that signal pain in the body.

Another way Tylenol might work is by activating what's called the cannabinoid system in the central nervous system, contributing to a pain-relieving effect.

A third mechanism of action that's been theorized is that Tylenol relieves pain by targeting serotonin and thereby influencing signals between nerves in the central nervous system.

Is Acetaminophen an Anti-Inflammatory?

No, acetaminophen is not an anti-inflammatory. Some other pain relievers are classified as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs. As the name implies, these medicines help treat inflammation, such as the swelling caused by arthritis. Acetaminophen, however, is not an anti-inflammatory, so it doesn't reduce inflammation. Therefore, it may not be helpful for certain inflammatory conditions, like osteoarthritis.

Is Tylenol an NSAID?

No, Tylenol is not an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug). It is an analgesic medication, but it is not an anti-inflammatory.

Is Tylenol an Anti-Inflammatory?

No, Tylenol is not an anti-inflammatory. It's effective for pain and fever but not for reducing inflammation.

Does Tylenol Reduce Swelling?

No, Tylenol does not reduce swelling or fight inflammation. Despite working to inhibit prostaglandins, which can cause inflammation, acetaminophen (Tylenol) does not help against swelling or inflammation.

Does Acetaminophen Thin Blood?

Acetaminophen does not have blood-thinning effects. Most NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), such as aspirin, will affect blood clotting (coagulation), an effect commonly called "thinning the blood," but acetaminophen does not cause this side effect. However, if you are taking a blood thinner medication, such as warfarin, you should ask your health care provider before taking an OTC pain reliever, as certain OTC medications may interact with your medication.

Acetaminophen may also have other side effects, though. If taken at higher doses, or even at regular doses, but for long periods of time, it can cause liver damage. People who already have liver or kidney damage should not take acetaminophen. Also, people who drink three or more alcoholic beverages a day should not take acetaminophen unless advised otherwise by a health care provider.

Can Children Take Acetaminophen?

Most children can take acetaminophen in measured doses according to their weight and age. However, infants younger than 12 weeks should not be given acetaminophen unless advised by a doctor.

Is Tylenol Good for Headaches?

Tylenol (acetaminophen) can be effective for minor aches and pains like headaches. Pain relief is one of the main reasons people take acetaminophen. It can be a good option for those with acid reflux or sensitive stomachs when compared to other pain medications.

Does Tylenol Reduce Fever?

Tylenol (acetaminophen) can be used as an effective fever reducer for adults and children. Unlike some other fever reducers, Tylenol can be given to infants when appropriate and necessary.

NSAID vs. Acetaminophen

There are differences between NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and acetaminophen (Tylenol). Acetaminophen is not good for reducing inflammation or the pain caused by inflammation. So if you have a muscle sprain or arthritis, it may be better to take an NSAID that can treat the inflammation causing the associated pain. Your health care provider or pharmacist can help you choose the best type of painkiller for your particular issue. Some common over-the-counter NSAIDs include aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen sodium.

What is Ibuprofen?

Ibuprofen (sold under the brand names Advil and Motrin) is an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug) that's found in a variety of medications for pain, fever and inflammation.

Can Children Take Ibuprofen?

Children and infants age 6 months and older can usually take ibuprofen according to the label directions. Be cautious not to exceed the recommended dose and ask your health care provider before giving children this medication.

Is Advil Ibuprofen?

Yes, Advil contains the medication ibuprofen. Advil is the brand name.

The Walgreens logo is written in a red, cursive script font.

Is Motrin Ibuprofen?

Yes, Motrin contains the medication ibuprofen. Motrin is the brand name.

Is Ibuprofen an Anti-Inflammatory?

Yes, ibuprofen is classified as an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory). Because it's an NSAID, it can help to reduce inflammation and swelling.

Is Motrin an NSAID?

Yes, Motrin contains the medication ibuprofen which is an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory).

Does Ibuprofen Reduce Swelling?

As an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory), ibuprofen can help to reduce swelling from conditions such as arthritis, and injury to joints and muscles.

Does Ibuprofen Reduce Fever?

Ibuprofen can be an effective fever reducer. Many people take ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) specifically for the purpose of reducing a fever.

Is Ibuprofen the Same as Tylenol?

No, ibuprofen is not the same as Tylenol (acetaminophen). While both ibuprofen and Tylenol are pain relievers and fever reducers, they are two different types of medications.

Is Advil Acetaminophen?

No, Advil does not contain acetaminophen. Acetaminophen is sold under the brand name Tylenol. Advil contains ibuprofen, which is a different medication.

How Does Aspirin Work?

Aspirin is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medicine that is used to relieve pain, fever and inflammation. Aspirin works by inhibiting an enzyme that helps to form prostaglandins, which are chemicals in our body that produce these symptoms.

Is Aspirin an NSAID?

Yes, aspirin is classified as an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory).

Is Acetaminophen Aspirin?

No, acetaminophen is not aspirin. While both acetaminophen and aspirin help to reduce pain and fever, these are two different medicines.

Is Tylenol Aspirin?

No, Tylenol is not aspirin. Tylenol contains the medication acetaminophen, not aspirin. These are two different medicines.

Is Ibuprofen Aspirin?

No, ibuprofen is not aspirin. Ibuprofen and aspirin are both effective for pain, fever and inflammation, as they are both NSAIDs. However, they are different medications.

Does Ibuprofen Have Aspirin in it?

No, ibuprofen does not have aspirin in it. Some combination medications will have two pain relievers together, but usually not ibuprofen and aspirin combined. Be sure to read labels carefully, especially those on over-the-counter cough and cold medicines.

Naproxen vs. Ibuprofen

Naproxen and ibuprofen are both NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and are frequently taken for inflammation, pain relief and fever reduction. Ibuprofen is sold under the brand names Motrin and Advil. Naproxen is sold under the brand names Aleve and Naprosyn. The effects of Naproxen last longer than other NSAIDs. It should not be taken more than every 12 hours.

Can You Take Aspirin and Tylenol Together?

Use caution if you are considering taking aspirin and Tylenol (acetaminophen) together. You can always check with your pharmacist or health care provider if you're unsure about combining these medications. If you are on daily aspirin, Tylenol may be recommended when you have pain or fever because it is not an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug). Aspirin is an NSAID and should not be taken with another NSAID.

Can You Take Naproxen with Tylenol?

Taking naproxen and Tylenol (acetaminophen) at the same time may be effective in reducing pain and inflammation. However, it may be better to alternate the doses between the two medications or take lower doses of each in order to reduce possible side effects. Because naproxen is an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory) and Tylenol is not, the side effects will be different. But if your pain is severe enough that you need two medicines, consult your health care provider to make sure there isn't a better alternative for you. And if you do alternate, you need to make sure you're taking the correct medicine at the correct time interval so you don't take too much.

Can I Take Ibuprofen with Tylenol?

It's generally safe to take ibuprofen with Tylenol at the same time because ibuprofen is an NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory) and Tylenol (acetaminophen) is not. In fact, there are now dual action pain relief products available on the market with a combination of ibuprofen-acetaminophen (Advil Dual Action and Motrin Dual Action).

Other Medicines that Contain Common Painkillers

Many over-the-counter cough and cold medicines may contain acetaminophen, aspirin or ibuprofen. Therefore, you should be careful when taking multiple medications. If you're taking one of the combination medicines, read the label carefully so you don't accidentally take too much acetaminophen, aspirin or ibuprofen overall and cause serious side effects.

It's tempting to assume that because a medicine is sold over the counter, it must be safe. But these commonly used medications can cause some serious side effects, especially in people in certain age groups or who have other health conditions. However, when used as advised, these pain medications can help relieve pain, fever and inflammation. If you find that these medications aren't helping your symptoms, you're experiencing any side effects or you have any questions about the products, consult with your health care provider.

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

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



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Obituaries

Babowice

Janet Babowice, nee Buonaro, passed away peacefully in the late evening on March 31. The oldest of Mary and James Buonaro's two daughters, Janet was born Sept. 30, 1933, in Chicago. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend, a steadfast champion of her husband John, Janet was gregarious and a friend to everyone she met. Perhaps she is best known for her gracious hospitality on the annual mid-summer Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Melrose Park, where her family, their friends and their friends' friends have gathered for decades to pay tribute to the Blessed Mother and enjoy a bountiful Italian meal under a tent.

Janet's father and mother both immigrated from Naples, Italy, to Chicago in the early 1900s where their relatives resided. Her father was a mechanic for the Pullman Company and her mother worked in retail. The family of four lived in an apartment on Mozart and Sacramento streets in the Humboldt Park neighborhood where Janet and her sister Lori walked to school. The girls would spend one week each summer at their Albachario cousin's home in Melrose Park, exchanging hot city air for tree-shaded streets and green open lots.

When cousin Carm Albachario announced her marriage, the Buonaros were eager to attend the wedding. Janet was only 14, and as the song goes, the event became *Some Enchanted Evening*, whereby two strangers locked eyes across the room and found their love. Janet met the love of her life, Melrose-Park-native John G. Babowice, then 16. The Buonaro family purchased a home in Melrose Park, Janet transferred to Proviso High School where John was on the football team and the two became inseparable. On her graduation night, John invited Janet to Russell's Barbecue in Elmwood Park. He proposed marriage. Janet, thoroughly smitten and deeply devoted to John, said yes, postponing the wedding until his Army duty in Japan during the Korean conflict was completed. In the meantime, Janet and her sister Lori shared a bench on the Metra commuter train to Chicago each day where they worked for the Federal Reserve Bank.

John returned with hand-painted wedding china and crystal goblets for his beautiful fiancé Janet. They were married on Sept. 11, 1954, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The reception for 300 was held at Westward Ho Golf Club in Northlake. Years later, the club ultimately was sold and became Casa San Carlo independent living, where Janet spent the final years of her life.

Janet was an unparalleled homemaker, proud mother and adoring wife. In 1960, the couple purchased Janet's family home where they raised their four children – Cathy, Jim, John and Janice. Those who entered Janet's home would admire a den wall meticulously hung with dozens of portraits capturing family at all of life's best moments – graduations, weddings, new babies, vacations and the Feast. Janet, an apron thrown over her shoulders and a welcoming smile, would stand behind the kitchen counter and invite guests to take a seat around the oak kitchen table, coffee in hand and a fresh pot brewing. Janet and John would treat each guest like family.

As her children started grammar school at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Janet stepped into leadership roles as Cub Scout den mother and president of the PTA. She supported her husband as he pursued public service as a Melrose Park village trustee. Janet's strong family-first and faith-born values, and encouragement for educational pursuits, became driving forces for visits to her children and grandchildren's colleges. She'd root for her family at sports and theater events. She'd shout for joy at graduations. She'd follow their sports teams with almost equal fervor, but everyone

knew she really loved Notre Dame football the best.

Life was an adventure. Janet had a flair for the arts and enjoyed seats at musicals, opera performances and visits to the Art Institute of Chicago. Stories of vacations were legendary where the family was packed into the station wagon and John drove cross country to Florida, visiting an uncle who owned a restaurant, or South Dakota, where John had attended college. One family story included the time when Janet, a rockhound at heart, spied a rugged outcrop with gleaming white quartz crystals and begged John to pull the station wagon to the side of the road. She was desperate to take a piece home, so John got out the tire iron, whacked a hunk off the rock, tossed it in the car and hopped back behind the wheel. Janet and John traveled to Arizona, California, Canada, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, North Carolina and the Pacific Northwest, and spent many happy times at Disney World with their children and grandchildren. The couple found their way back to the Magic Kingdom in their older years. As her children grew from grade school to high school and college, Janet accepted a job at Jewel Food Stores, then based in Melrose Park, working her way up from the mailroom to the Accounting Department as a bookkeeper. Embracing Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," Janet and her lifelong friends volunteered at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, providing to those in need.

After retirement, John and Janet spent a month each winter on Sanibel Island, Florida. Each day they felt the tides wash over their toes as they meandered along the pristine beaches, combing for shells and spotting an occasional dolphin. They orchestrated visits to children and grandchildren in Ohio, Indiana and North Carolina. Janet, her sister Lori and their Albachario cousins spent an action-packed two weeks in Italy, visiting relatives in Naples and making the pilgrimage to Rome.

Janet's positive outlook, her faith and strength helped her endure her beloved John's four-year cancer illness and subsequent death. The inseparable duo had been married for 60 years. Despite this terrible heartbreak, Janet persevered even as her own health diminished. She devoted herself to family, traveling to Pennsylvania and South Bend, and even rode Amtrak's Capitol Limited, reserving a sleeper berth, on a return trip to Chicago. She drew on her values of family and faith as she moved into Casa San Carlo. Her passions revived her – bonds made with new companions quickly developed. Tablemates became dear, loving friends in no time, weaving the coda "I love you" into their goodbyes. Her family and friends truly infused a new life in Janet. So it was a terrible shock when Janet, who seemed so vital, embraced loved ones, offered her loving kisses and promised "I love you" for the very last time.

Janet is survived by her children Cathy (Rick) Szeghy, Jim (Hope) Babowice, John (Laurie) Babowice and Janice (Don) Jacklich; grandchildren Matt (Elise), Melissa (Dustin), James (Meghan), Zoë (Shannon), Michael (Kiki), John Franklin (Tracee), Elizabeth (Nathan), Jack, Annie (Brad), Tim and Colleen; and great-grandchildren Connor, Emma, Anthony, Ava and Otto. She also is survived by her sister Lori Buonaro, Carol Moss, niece Diana (Beckham), nephew Eddie (Ruth), their children, her dear cousins and many, many dear friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Barragan

David Cardenas Barragan. Dearly beloved husband of the late Ramona;

loving father of David (Laura), Juan (Jacqueline), Martha (Jose Manuel), Gabriel (Maria), Elena (Gabriel Manzo), Miguel (Araceli), Alejandro (Ivanessa), Gustavo (Blanca) and Carlos (Magaly); cherished grandfather of 33; dear brother of Abraham, Samuel, Ruben and Jesus; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Burkiewicz

Anna Z. Burkiewicz. Dearly beloved wife of the late Roman Burkiewicz; loving mother of Henry (Marianna) and the late Wanda Quitter; cherished granny of Daniela, Nicole and John; dear sister of the late Michael and George; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Inurnment All Saints Cemetery.

Cichy

Andrew Joseph “Chick” Cichy, 78, of Chicago, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2025, surrounded by those he loved most.

Drafted during the Vietnam War, Chick proudly served his country for two years. A patriot at heart, he believed deeply in protecting others – and in keeping those he loved safe, grounded and close.

Chick was a natural jokester, a sharp wit with a glint in his eye and a master of sarcasm with perfect comedic timing. He loved to laugh and loved even more when the joke was on him. He never missed a moment to make someone smile and his playful spirit left a mark on everyone he met.

He is survived by his beloved wife Rose Marie “Rosie” Cichy; sons Anthony (Tammy) and Jeff (Angel); grandsons Jeffrey (Olivia), Andrew (Amanda), Matthew, Anthony and Joseph; sisters Sally (Mike) and Joanne; and brother Anthony (Christine). He also leaves behind countless one-liners, inside jokes and the kind of warmth that made people feel truly seen.

What mattered to him was simple: stay close, protect your family and make ’em laugh along the way.

Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

DiFazio

Victor Salvatore DiFazio, aka “Rocky”, of Melrose Park, Illinois, passed away peacefully leaving behind a legacy of courage, resilience and unwavering love. A proud Italian-American, he is survived by his wife Peggy DiFazio (nee Larry); his adoring children Dominic (Ashley) DiFazio and Trisha DiFazio; and his cherished grandson Leo Fredrick DiFazio. He was not only a loving family man, but also a devoted brother to Capt. De (the late Marie) DiFazio, Patti Sue (James) Stolfe and the late Fredrick DiFazio; cherished uncle, cousin and friend to many. Rocky was a proud Vietnam combat veteran, 25th Infantry (1968-1974) and a formidable middleweight boxing contender (1971-1976). Rocky embodied loyalty and strength both in the ring and in life. His gentle spirit was often encapsulated in his soft spoken one-liners: “you’re never hurt, you’re never tired, you’re never scared”. These words were reflective of his resilient outlook and will forever inspire all who knew him. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to share his journey. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Ferrara

Carmelo Ferrara, 88, of Schiller Park, formerly of Stone Park, was born into eternal life on April 20, 2025, after a courageous six-year battle with lung cancer. He was the loving father of Rena (the late Michael) McClead, Andrew Ferrara, Maria/Betty (Michael) Zumpano and Josephine Ferrara; fond grandpa of Michael (Jenny) McClead, Deanna (Eddie) Lagunas,

Carmen (Briana) Ferrara, Andrea (Paul) Cantu, Maria Buttacavoli, Dominic Zumpano, Lianna (Byron) Nolasco, Nina Ferrara and Jonathon Esposito; fond great-grandpa of 17 plus one more on the way; loving zio and uncle to many nieces and nephews; beloved and loyal friend to so many.

Carmelo came to America with his wife Maria and his two children in March of 1963 from Acquedolci Messina, Sicily, Italy. He worked hard as a cement laborer and ultimately became foreman for Schaefegas Bros. Construction Co. from 1963-2011 until he finally retired at age 75.

He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, especially on Sundays when he had a full house of love, laughter and memories.

“Famiglia” was #1 for him. Carmelo was one of the few great men left and will be tremendously missed by so many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Gibbs

Clayton Gibbs. Beloved husband of the late Camille; loving father of Darren (Michele) Gibbs; beloved son of the late Kent and Eleanor Gibbs; fond grandfather of Maia, Hayden and Gia Gibbs; dear brother of Mary Tinat and the late George Gibbs; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Gralow

Garland J. Gralow. Proud letter carrier in Melrose Park for over 60 years, serving several generations of families. Dearly beloved husband of the late Bernice; loving father of Linda, Elayne and the late James; cherished grandfather of Garland Stephen Bellicini; dear brother of Sandra Hendry, the late Beverly Mae Harrison and the late Vyonne Vogelsang; cherished uncle, cousin and friend of many. Born and raised in Chicagoland, Garland loved his Chicago Cubs. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home and Fairview Memorial Cemetery.

Landerghini

Catherine Landerghini. Beloved wife of the late Armand A. Landerghini; loving mother of Catherine Ann Thompson, Armand (Clara) Landerghini, Mark (Gary Petersen) Landerghini and Elizabeth (Randy) Frink; cherished grandmother of Andrew, Elizabeth, Emma, Samuel, Olivia, Colin, Mary and Isabella; great-grandmother of Sofia, Julianna, Samantha, Michael, Ella and Cody; beloved daughter of Michael Benak and Katerina Bohovic Benak; dear sister of Mary Ann Benak, the late Victor Benak, Louis Benak, John Benak, Anne Hall, Emil Benak, Michael Benak and William Benak; loving aunt, sister-in-law, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Krkoch

Anna Marie "Chickie" Krkoch. Dearly beloved wife of the late Frederick Frank Krkoch; loving mother of Frederick A. Krkoch; cherished grandmother of Christen (Brian) Celler and Patricia (Aaron) Schulte; great-grandmother of Jake Celler, Sam Celler, Madison Schulte and Daphne Schulte; dear sister of 10; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Martinez

Maria Elisa Martinez, age 75, of Mexico, formerly of Chicago, passed away April 22, 2025. Beloved wife of Juventino Presa; loving mother of Clara Presa, Laura Presa, Lucy (Jose') Mijangos, Juventino Jr. (Azucena), Jesus (Teresa), Eliseo (Noemi), Jose (Juany), Edgar (Jannira) and Diego (Maria) Presa; cherished abuela of 21 and bisabuela of four; devoted daughter of

the late Alejandro Martinez and Consuelo Flores; dearest sister, aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment in Mexico. Services entrusted to Anello Funeral & Cremation Services, P.C.

Nardella

Elizabeth "Ducky" Nardella. Dearly beloved wife of the late James Nardella; loving mother of Angelo, Jimmy Jr. and Michael; caring daughter of the late Philip and Catherine; cherished grandmother of Michael Jr.; dear sister of Margaret Bergs and the late Samuel Loconti; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Vazquez

Rey O. Vazquez. Beloved son of Luz Maria Vazquez and the late Julio Vazquez; dear brother of Carmen, Julio, Nilda, Jose "Joe", Minsita, Alexi, Marilyn and Lucy; loving "Pops" of Julian Cortes; cherished uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Elm Lawn Cemetery.

Zito

Gregory Alan Zito, age 72, of Wayne, Illinois, entered his heavenly home on April 2, 2025. He passed peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Greg was born in Oak Park, Illinois, to Theresa Lasasso and Vito Zito on March 7, 1953. He is survived by his wife Stephanie; his four beloved children – Nicholas, Gabrielle, Dylan and Nathan; his most cherished grandson Cayden James; his much-loved sister Cindy and her husband Al (Meo); his dear cousin Michelle (Gentile); and many more cousins. He graduated from Proviso West Township High School in 1971, where he was a member of the Youth in Government delegation that traveled to Russia. He worked his way through Triton College, then completed his

bachelor's degree at Illinois State University in Bloomington, Illinois. While in Bloomington, Greg worked at Avanti's Italian Restaurant, where he became a regular customer on his commutes to Springfield, Illinois. Greg began a grassroots initiative in Melrose Park, where he was loved and supported as the hometown favorite by his local community. He served as executive assistant to the mayor and then began his own political career becoming the youngest member elected to the Illinois House of Representatives from 1981-1983. His service in the General Assembly continued after being elected as state senator from 1983-1992, serving the 26th district. Greg's most personal and recognized legislation involved "saving the Chicago White Sox," as their owners were being courted by Florida to move his favorite baseball team in 1988. After retirement from the legislature, Greg continued work in government relations with prominent companies, as well as serving as a political mentor for many. Greg was a lifetime member of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA) and Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Holy Name Society. Greg met the love of his life, Stephanie (Simmel) of Indianapolis, Indiana, whom he married in 1989 after meeting at the Indy 500. They raised their four children in the home that Greg designed, planned and built with love and passion in Wayne, Illinois. Greg has formed many true and loyal friendships throughout his life that he treasured immensely. His many passions included history, golf, music, art, fishing, cars, baseball and food. Greg was a foodie long before the term became popular. Greg's most cherished title was Papa to his beloved grandson CJ. Greg is now celebrating with his beloved family members who preceded him in death and surely welcomed him into Heaven with pasta and meatballs, much hugging and celebration. Arrangements by Bucaro Funeral Home & Cremation Center. Inurnment Queen Of Heaven Catholic Cemetery.

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